

WJCS 2024 Gala: A Resounding Success!



(From left) Stephanie Marquesano, 2024 Gala Honoree; Seth Diamond, WJCS CEO; Meira Fleisch, 2024 Gala Honoree

Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) held a hugely successful Gala at Brae Burn Country Club on Tuesday, April 16th, with hundreds of Westchester community and business leaders, government officials, and Westchester residents, all passionate advocates for helping those in need in Westchester County.

The event honorees were Meira Fleisch of Larchmont, a child and family advocate and longtime WJCS Board member who was an Early Learning Specialist in the WJCS Parent-Child+ program for many years, and Stephanie Marquesano of Ardsley, founder of the harris project. Marquesano is a partner with WJCS in promoting the importance of identifying and treating the co-occurring disorders of substance use and mental health.

The evening was filled with inspiring words and stories shared by WJCS clients who

shared their struggles before coming to the agency and how the organization transformed their lives.

"Since 1943, WJCS has been here for the people of Westchester. Today we provide programs and services for 20,000 Westchester residents of all ages and backgrounds. This year's Gala theme was "Support. Resiliency. Well-Being." That captures the transformative impact that WJCS supporters make possible," said WJCS CEO Seth Diamond. "With the support of our partners in government, philanthropic foundations, community organizations, and donors, we look forward to continuing to fulfill our mission of helping individuals in Westchester address mental health, educational, cognitive, social, aging, and financial challenges and shape positive futures."

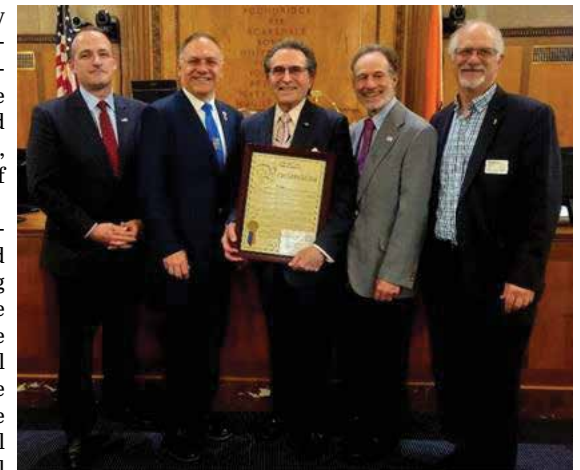
View our gala videos and highlights at wjcs.com/get-involved/wjcs-events/gala.

Westchester County Board of Legislators Observes Jewish-American Heritage Month

On May 20, the Westchester County Board of Legislators observed Jewish-American Heritage Month with a hybrid in-person and virtual ceremony recognizing the critical work of the County's Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center (HHREC), and the vital, humanitarian efforts of Health Care Advocate, Jill Ratner, M.D.

Board Chair Vedat Gashi (D- New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) convened the program, which began with a moving invocation by Rabbi Sruli Deitch of the Chabad Jewish Center of Eastchester. The Chairman said, "Typically, we would call this a 'celebration,' but we strike a more somber tone this year as we await the safe return of the Israeli hostages, and a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza."

"Tonight, we will present two proclamations. The first proclamation is presented jointly by the Board of Legislators and the Westchester Jewish Council (WJC). WJC is an invaluable organization - working tirelessly on behalf of the County's Jewish community, and connecting with other ethnic and faith-based groups to promote greater understanding. We would like



Chair Vedat Gashi, Leg. Judah Holstein, Mitch Ostrove, Marc Klee, and Michael Gorney

to give special thanks for their collaboration and guidance in identifying those in the Jewish community deserving of special recognition."

Legislator Judah Holstein (D - Eastchester, New Rochelle, Tuckahoe) presented the first proclamation with WJC Vice President, Marc Klee, at his side. He said, "Jewish tradition emphasizes the significance of 'Kavod HaBriyut,' or human dignity

as so vital that one may violate Jewish law to preserve it. Tonight, we proudly recognize the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center, whose mission to preserve Holocaust memories and champion human dignity perfectly embodies this principle."

"As a Jewish American, the work of the HHREC resonates deeply within me. My own grandparents were fortunate enough to escape Nazi tyranny, but left behind parents and siblings who perished in Treblinka ... Given the present and ongoing challenges faced by Jewish communities, businesses, and students, whose only 'crime' is being Jewish, the HHREC's mission is more vital than ever. The HHREC's



Leg. Erika Pierce and Dr. Jill Ratner

UJA-Federation of New York's Annual Westchester Celebration

UJA-Federation of New York held its annual Westchester Celebration on May 15 at the Quaker Ridge Golf Club, where the women of Neshamot Impact Philanthropy Fund were recognized. From left: Susan Weisfeld, Ellen Brown, Karen Sobel, Shelly Kivell, Heidi Rieger, Martine Fleishman, Ellen Horing, and Lois Kohn-Claar. Photo Credit: Michael Priest Photography



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Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust Presents Annual Gathering of Remembrance at Temple Emanu-El of New York City

Several hundred New Yorkers came together on Sunday, May 5, to honor the memory of those who were lost during the Holocaust, as well as survivors and their descendants, at the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust's Annual Gathering of Remembrance at Temple Emanu-El of New York City.

Amid an increase in antisemitic incidents across the globe, the memorial served as a reminder of the dangers of intolerance and hate. The Annual Gathering of Remembrance took place a few hours before the start of Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, and exemplified the Museum's mission to "never forget." Visit youtube.com/MuseumJewishHeritage to watch the ceremony.

The program featured remarks and musical performances. Among the speakers were Museum President and CEO Jack Kliger, Board Chair Bruce Ratner, US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, US Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Temple Emanu-El Senior Rabbi Joshua M. Davidson, New York's Fifth Avenue Synagogue Cantor Malovaney, and Park Avenue Synagogue Assistant Cantor Mira Davis, as well as from Holocaust Survivor Martin Bloch, and grandson of a Holocaust survivor, Jordan Farkas.

"Let us remember, the Holocaust did not begin with violence—it started with words. The Annual Gathering of Remembrance is very much for and about the 6 million and the survivors," said Jack Kliger, President and CEO of the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. As we embark on this journey of remembrance, let us carry the torch of hope in our hearts. Let us vow to be vigilant guardians of toler-

ance and peace. Let us never forget that it is only through unity and compassion that we can truly honor the memory of those we have lost.

"This year's event is particularly poignant as we remember not only those who perished during the Holocaust but also the survivors who have died in the past year. Their stories, their resilience, and their unwavering spirit in the face of unimaginable adversity will forever inspire us," said Museum Board Chairman Bruce Ratner. "As Elie Wiesel once said "Without memory, there is no culture. Without memory, there would be no civilization, no society, no future." As we gather to remember today, we solidify our future – a future where all are taught the lessons of the Holocaust; where all learn from the resiliency of survivors; where everyone stands against prejudice."

Consul General of Israel Ofir Akunis said, "We are here today to remember, to remember the victims of the Nazi genocide against the Jewish people, the Holocaust - to understand the reality that six million Jews, one-third of our people, were murdered in cold blood for no reason other than being Jewish. Each victim had a name, a

continued on page 4



Holocaust survivor Ray Kaner, with family members, as she lights a Memorial Candle

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The JCC Mid-Westchester Spring Benefit 2024 Savoring Traditions Jewish Foods from Around the World

On May 22, the JCC Mid-Westchester (JCCMW) celebrated Jewish foods and traditions from around the world at their annual Spring Benefit on Wednesday, May 22. Westchester chef and writer, Danielle Rehfeld Colen, introduced Beejhy Barhany, owner/chef of Ethiopian-Jewish Tsion Café, Leah Koenig, chef and author of Portico: Cooking and Feasting in Rome's Jewish Kitchen, and Liz Reuven, founder/editor of Kosher Like Me. The chefs/authors discussed their passion for food and their culinary journeys with the host of the evening, Shannon Sarna, cookbook author and founding editor of The Nosh. Attendees then enjoyed a specially curated dinner comprised of a tasting menu inspired by each of the evening's guest chefs.

The JCCMW honored three teen leaders—Bailey Goldberg, Ethan Klein, and Lexie Klein—recognizing their hard work and dedication to projects and efforts that helped strengthen the Westchester community and the organization's mission. "Bailey, Ethan, and Lexie are the light our community needs right now. They are our future, and each has made our community richer," said Elise Dowell, CEO of JCCMW. "They represent the very best of Westchester and the Jewish community and it gives us great pleasure to celebrate them this year."



Spring Benefit Chefs on stage

Bailey Goldberg serves as the volunteer coordinator of the JCCMW Sunday Funday program. Her exceptional leadership skills have helped to ensure that all children have an equal opportunity to develop relationships and social skills.

Ethan Klein, in addition to volunteering with the Sunday Funday program, developed a new, inclusive program, FUNdamentals of Golf, where he worked with elementary school children of all abilities to improve their coordination, critical thinking, communication, self-control, and confidence—all while learning the foundations of golf.

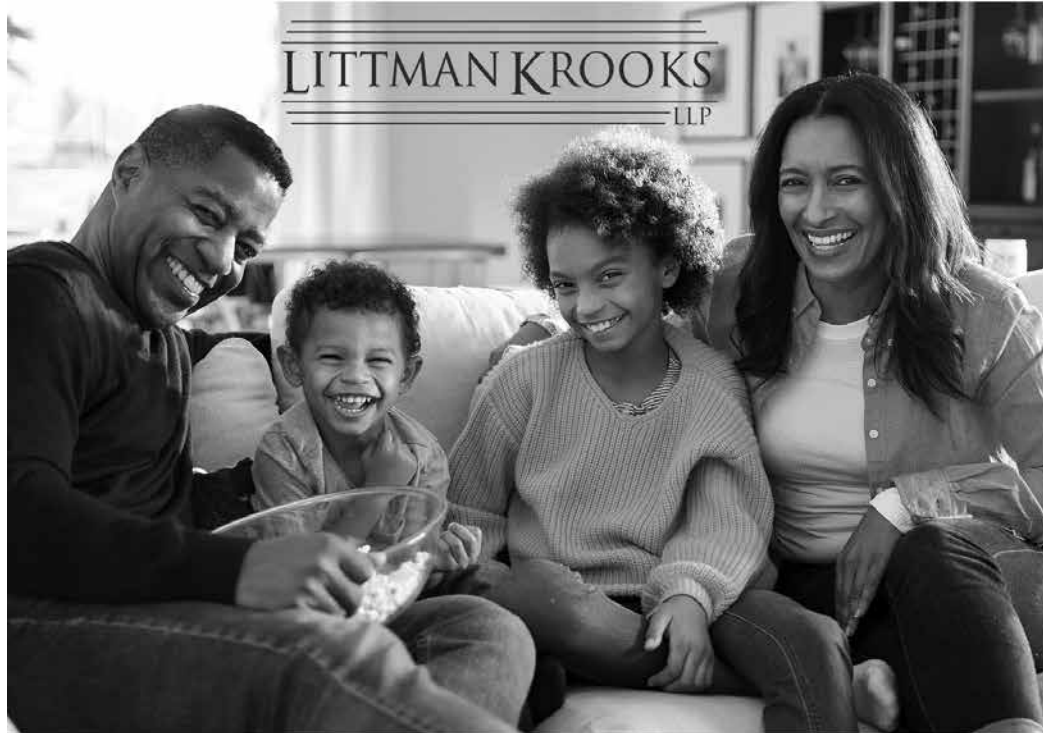
Lexie Klein is a JCCMW gymnastics coach and mentor who has positively impacted many young gymnasts. Her love of the JCC is contagious, her passion for the sport has been inspirational, and her dedication has served to strengthen the program on many levels.

The JCCMW Spring Benefit was an evening of community, appreciation, and celebration attended by many friends, partners, government representatives, and organizations who support the JCC's mission and the important work they do. Visit www.jccmw.org/donate if you were unable to attend but would like to support the work of the JCC, and visit www.jccmw.org to learn more about the JCCMW.



Spring Benefit honorees

The JCC Mid-Westchester is a nonprofit organization that supports the community by offering outstanding recreational, cultural, educational, and human services programming to all people regardless of age, background, religion, gender identification, or sexual orientation. Programs are grounded in Jewish values and are open to all! The JCCMW enriches families, connects friends, strengthens community, and helps people lead joyful lives.



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The JCC Mid-Westchester Announces Pride Celebration

The JCC Mid-Westchester, in partnership with Keshet and WJCS, is excited to invite the community to celebrate Pride with a fun, meaningful, colorful, family-friendly afternoon of unity and togetherness! Attendees will braid rainbow challah, make special crafts, play games, and enjoy music, activities, and refreshments.

Rakhel Silverman-Gitin from Keshet will lead a discussion with author Jeff Bender about his book *Apparel Has No Gender*. Amram Altzman, Keshet's Associate Director of Youth Programs, will explore the meaning of allyship with teens and tweens.

This event is FREE of charge. People of all

ages, genders, backgrounds, and identities are welcome to join the fun! Rainbow-colored clothes and accessories are encouraged!

Visit www.jccmw.org/pride-jccmw to learn more and to register.

The JCC Mid-Westchester is a nonprofit organization that supports the community by offering outstanding recreational, cultural, educational, and human services programming to all people regardless of age, background, religion, gender orientation, or sexual orientation. Programs are grounded in Jewish values and are open to all! The JCCMW enriches families, connects friends, strengthens community, and helps people lead joyful lives.

Westchester County Board of Legislators Observes Jewish-American Heritage Month

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work is a crucial beacon against darkness, impacting not just Jews but all of humanity."

Accepting the honor on behalf of HHREC was Board member, Mitchell Ostrove. He said, "We feel truly blessed to know that our work is seen and appreciated. For almost 30 years, the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center has been steadfast in our mission to impart the crucial lessons of the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights violations to educators and students. Now, more than ever, this work is necessary. We are called upon almost daily for help. We hold a High School Institute at Iona University, with over 400 students and teachers from 34 area schools. We host an Annual Human Rights Institute for Middle School student leaders. We have a speaker's bureau with survivors of the Holocaust as well as second and third-generation speakers. These second and third-generation speakers will keep the tragic stories alive when there are no more survivors to tell what happened."

The Board declared May 28, 2024 "Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center Day" in Westchester County.

Legislator Erika L. Pierce (D – Bedford, Lewisboro, Mt. Kisco, North Salem, Pound Ridge, Somers) presented the second proclamation saying, presented the second proclamation saying, "Tonight, I have the extreme pleasure of recognizing Dr. Jill Ratner. Jill was a prominent and longtime pediatrician in our community. She is a global healthcare advocate and the non-profit founder of 'Hands Up for Haiti.' Jill is also involved in many of our community's non-profits and

helped found Re-Set Westchester, a local organization that helps settle refugees. Jill is a true Jewish leader, serving as the President, Executive Vice President, and Social Action Chair of Bet Torah, in addition to all of her other work. She truly walks a path so many of us aspire to, in dedicating her life to 'tikkun olum' – or repairing and improving our world."

Dr. Ratner warmly thanked the Legislator for the award and delivered an inspiring message saying, "For me, community service and helping others reflects my Jewish values. As Jews, we are taught to love thy neighbor as thyself. The world is imperfect, broken, and it is the Jewish imperative to devote our energy and lives to repairing it ... I have been fortunate to have a professional career of 34 years in Westchester that allowed me to fulfill this mission. Healing, of course, has been integral to my occupation as a physician, and to my efforts regarding global health care inequity."

"As a member of the northern Westchester community, I come alive when I can contribute to the important social causes, and work that enhance all our lives. This by no means is a phenomenon limited to me alone - studies have shown that being in relationships with others, with community, having meaningful work, and helping others are paramount in creating a sense of well-being, of happiness. So, in the truest sense, much of what I do truly fulfills my own needs."

The Board declared June 1, 2024 "Dr. Jill Ratner Day" in Westchester County.

Visit www.westchesterlegislators.com to learn more.

The next ad/material deadline for WJL is on June 17 for the July issue.

Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust ...

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US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer

smile, and a story. Each one had dreams, and each one had hope forever destroyed by the Germans. The Holocaust was not a sudden event that happened overnight. It was carefully planned and organized by the Third Reich to destroy the Jewish people step by step."

"With the scourge of antisemitism and prejudice once again on the rise, it is critical that we never forget their memory so history can never repeat itself," said Congressman Nadler. "Nearly 80 years later, we are confronting another stark reminder that Jews still face threats to our existence... together we are strong; we will not be broken."

Senator Schumer said, "We have a moral responsibility to make sure the Holocaust's terrible stain on humanity never fades from memory. We must constantly reckon with what happened because a genocide that's not properly told can lead to another. And we owe it to the survivors, to the families, and indeed to the whole world to continue bearing witness to the tragic legacy of the Holocaust and repeating our convictions and prayer, never again."

"We assemble this afternoon against the backdrop of a painful year for the Jewish people," Rabbi Davidson said. "On this day of days, we condemn the rampant Holocaust inversion and abuse of the Shoah itself as a rhetorical weapon against Jews and the Jewish state. We know what genocide is. We survived one. And so, we also know we will emerge from this year of horror even firmer in our commitment to our people and to fighting all the religious and ethnic hatreds that still stain our world."

Survivor Martin Bloch, "Let us remember that we need to do everything we can to prevent evil from really gaining and repeating the same thing that happened to me and my family."

Musical guests included Zalmen Mlotek, Joyce Rosenzweig, Valeriya Sholokhova, HaZamir: the International Jewish Teen Choir, and more. Production and Production Management was provided by Bruce & Babette Roberts, Back Of House Productions.

The event was co-chaired by Museum Board members Rita Lerner and Ann Oster. Said Rita Lerner, who has been part of this annual ceremony for 35 years, "Together we honor the memory of all survivors who have passed away leaving us to carry on their great legacy... we are here for the memory of the six million murdered during the Holocaust."

A number of organizations partnered with the Museum: 3GNY; American Jewish Committee (AJC); Center for Jewish History; Generations of the Shoah International; Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center; Jewish Book Council; Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC); Museum of Southern Jewish Experience; National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene; The New York Board of Rabbis; We Are Here Foundation and Zamir Choral Foundation.

About The Museum Of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust is New York's contribution to the global responsibility to Never Forget. Opened in 1997, the Museum is committed to the crucial mission of educating diverse visitors about Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust.

The Museum's current offerings include *Courage to Act: Rescue in Denmark*, a new exhibition about the extraordinary rescue of Denmark's Jewish population in 1943, a story of mutual aid and communal upstanding in difficult times for visitors aged 9 and up; *The Holocaust: What Hate Can Do*, a major exhibition offering a timely and expansive presentation of Holocaust history, on view in the main galleries; and, *Survivors: Faces of Life After the Holocaust*, featuring photographer Martin Schoeller's portraits of 75 Holocaust survivors in his signature style.

The Museum of Jewish Heritage maintains the Peter & Mary Kalikow Jewish Genealogy Resource Center, a collection of almost 40,000 artifacts, photographs, documentary films, and survivor testimonies, and contains classrooms, a 375-seat theater (Edmond J. Safra Hall), special exhibition galleries, and a memorial art installation, *Garden of Stones*, designed by internationally acclaimed sculptor Andy Goldsworthy. The Museum also hosts the National Yiddish Theater Folksbiene, the Producers of the acclaimed *Fiddler on the Roof* in Yiddish, and LOX at Café Bergson an OU-certified café serving eastern European specialties.

Each year, the Museum presents over 100 public programs, connecting our community in person and virtually through lectures, book talks, concerts, and more. For more info visit: <http://mjhnyc.org/events>. The Museum receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Visit mjhnyc.org for more information.

Yom HaShoa: Holocaust Remembrance Day

BY SETH DIAMOND, WJCS CEO

Each year, Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, is a solemn observance to honor the memory of the six million Jews killed during the Holocaust. This day holds particular significance this year, coming seven months after the devastating attack on October 7th, the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust itself. As Elie Wiesel stated, "For the dead and the living, we must bear witness."

We remember the six million to honor their memory and to acknowledge the unfathomable loss suffered by countless families who were torn apart by the brutality of the Nazis. Those memories remain etched in our hearts, a reminder of the importance of preserving their stories and ensuring history never repeats itself. Yom HaShoah is a solemn reminder of the human capacity for both evil and resilience, urging us to stand up against hatred and intolerance wherever it may arise, reaffirming our commitment to building a world where such atrocities are never allowed to happen again.

WJCS is at the forefront of work to support survivors of the Holocaust. Every day our Jewish programs staff brings joy, support, and comfort to Holocaust survivors, connecting them to Home Care, serving as a crucial resource for families, creating social events, and making sure survivors have the services they need to move forward. In the past seven months, that work has been even more urgent and needed as they console and reassure survivors desperately worried by the news of the Hamas attacks.

A few weeks ago, you may have seen the obituary of Martin Greenfield, a concentration camp survivor, who grew up to be a tailor to President

Obama, Frank Sinatra, Michael Bloomberg, and LeBron James, among others. When Martin was separated from his father on his first day at Auschwitz, his father, who he would never see again, told him, "If you survive, you live for us." Our Jewish programs staff makes sure the survivors



live for those who did not. We continue to draw strength from the resilience of the survivors and are proud of the wonderful work of our WJCS staff in fostering that resilience.

Rabbi Sharon Brous writes that "the Holocaust teaches us that silence is not an option and indifference is not a choice." Hate and indifference are complicit. The Holocaust shows us clearly the horrors of unchecked hate and the dangers of indifference. Never again will not become a reality on its own.

We must work together against hate in all its forms and ensure hate will have no victims amongst us. Together let us stand united in solidarity, rejecting hate and intolerance wherever they may arise, and foster a world built on empathy, compassion, belonging, and respect for all.



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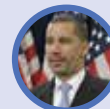
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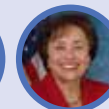
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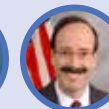
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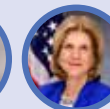
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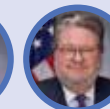
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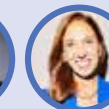
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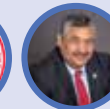
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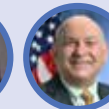
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Hadassah Honors Three Young Women with Its 2024 Leaders of Tomorrow Award



Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, announced that Shira Babajanov, 17, of Greater Houston; Nomi Gedzelman, 17, of New York City; and Talia Pierson, 15, of Westchester County, have won the organization's 2024 Leaders of Tomorrow Award. The award, a merit-based scholarship, is given annually to three young women entering 11th or 12th Grade who are passionate about Israel and the Jewish people and whose accomplishments in high school show their potential to become community leaders as adults.

Each winner will receive \$1,000 towards the tuition for Geshet Israel, a summer leadership program offered by Young Judaea, the oldest Zionist youth movement in America and a longtime partner of Hadassah. Participants in Geshet Israel (geshet is Hebrew for bridge) spend three-and-a-half weeks in Israel honing their leadership skills, learning about the country's culture and history and forging lifelong friendships.

"We congratulate these exceptional young women," said Carol Ann Schwartz, Hadassah National President. "They have shown the skill and vision needed to inspire others and they are using their voices to support Zionism at a time when many are afraid to show their love for Israel."

"I look forward to watching these young women grow into adults who will take their place as community leaders," said Greta Rothschild, chair of Hadassah National Young Judaea. Added vice chair Elaine Silver, "Shira, Talia and Nomi exemplify a key part of Hadassah's mission – to empower and inspire women of all ages to achieve their potential."

Local recipient includes Talia Pierson, 15 – Rising junior at Yorktown High School in York-

town Heights, New York, in Westchester County:

- **Passion for Israel:** To honor the victims of October 7, Talia has led fundraising efforts for displaced Israeli families and arranged moments of silence at her high school.

- **Talent for Leadership:** Talia founded and heads the Justice Brandeis Law Society Junior Board, whose mission is to combat antisemitism and support Israel and the Jewish community. As a member of Northern Westchester Hospital's President's Junior Leadership Council, she and other Westchester-based high school students discuss their communities' health care challenges and work on ways to address them. Talia, a former competitive gymnast herself, now makes time to coach younger gymnasts.

- **Making a Difference:** Talia is active in Better Together, a local program that teaches students about the danger of hate and the importance of developing relationships across communities and worked to bring it to her school.

Created in 2014, Hadassah's Leaders of Tomorrow Award grew out of a decades-long partnership between Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, which has been a powerful advocate for Israel and Zionism since 1912, and Young Judaea, the oldest Zionist youth movement in the United States. By providing scholarships that make it possible for American children and young adults to participate in Young Judaea's summer camps, Israel programs, year-round activities and volunteer experiences, Hadassah is strengthening future generations' connection to Israel and Zionism and shaping tomorrow's Jewish leaders.

Visit www.hadassah.org or follow Hadassah on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Jewish Community Relations Council of New York 2024 Gala Welcomed More Than 400 Guests to Honor Four Exceptional New York Leaders



JCRC-NY CEO Mark Treyger, Morton Sloan, Karen Spar Kasner, Anna Propp Riesenber, Avi Kaner, and JCRC-NY President Bennett W. Golub. Photo credit: Michael Priest Photography

The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC-NY) hosted more than 400 guests at its 2024 Gala, honoring four exceptional New York leaders at The Plaza in Manhattan on May 20th.

The memorable and meaningful event paid special tribute to Karen Spar Kasner, recipient of the inaugural Communal Leader Award; Morton Sloan, President, and Avi Kaner, Vice President, who received the Corporate Leader Award on behalf of Morton Williams Supermarkets; and Anna Propp Riesenber, recipient of the Blumberg Family Young Leadership Award.

Karen Spar Kasner, Board Member, JCRC-NY, and Co-Chair, Center for Shared Society, JCRC-NY, accepted the inaugural Communal Leader Award from Rabbi Menachem Creditor, UJA-Federation of New York's Pearl and Ira Meyer Scholar in Residence.

Ms. Spar Kasner said: "JCRC plays a key role at a pivotal time in the history of New York. Tonight and now tomorrow each of us has a special role and responsibility both individually and collectively to find or provide the resources to educate, to have tough conversations, to connect and make those deeper connections and understandings with those we agree with and those we do not agree with. We must take action in order to preserve the safety and security of the Jewish people here in New York and in Israel."

Morton Sloan, President, and Avi Kaner, Vice President, received the Corporate Leader Award on behalf of Morton Williams Supermarkets from Elizabeth Kaner, Mr. Sloan's daughter and Mr. Kaner's wife, and Julia Kaner Meisel, Mr. Kaner's daughter.

Mr. Sloan said: "The Jewish Community Relations Council is a lot more than a set of initials right now given the challenges that confront Israel and the stain of antisemitism facing Jews both here and abroad. Its work is more important than ever."

Mr. Kaner said: "You could be secular. You could be religious, but at the end of the day, we all watch out for each other regardless of our beliefs and this is exactly what the JCRC does. It's the umbrella that unites us all together, puts us in a room and is there for us to communicate with the people of New York and the institutions of New York."

Anna Propp Riesenber received the Blumberg Family Young Leadership Award from its founders, JCRC-NY Board Member Tom Blumberg and his son Ben Blumberg.

Ms. Propp Riesenber said: "I'm deeply grateful to the board members and staff of the JCRC for your partnership. Your creativity and dedication make events like this possible and more importantly bring the JCRC's mission to life... This award is more than just an honor, it's a call to action. I'm excited to continue working with all of you to strengthen our community."

In his welcome remarks, JCRC-NY President Bennett W. Golub said: "Tonight we gather to honor four exceptional individuals, JCRC Board Members Karen Kasner and Anna Propp Riesenber; and Morton Sloan and Avi Kaner on behalf of Morton Williams Supermarkets. Through their actions and advocacy, each honoree has demonstrated a deep commitment to building a better, safer, vibrant New York for our Jewish community and all our neighbors. More importantly, each of them continues to help us secure a bright future for the New York Jewish community, the State of Israel, and the preservation and strengthening of the bond between them."

The audience was greeted with a performance of the Israeli and American national anthems by Cantor Chaim Dovid Berson of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun and video remarks from Ambassador Ofir Akunis, the new Consul General of Israel in New York; Hon. Charles E. Schumer, United States Senate Majority Leader; Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senator; Hon. Kathy Hochul, New York State Governor; Hon. Hakeem Jeffries, United States House of Representatives Democratic Leader; and Linda Mirels, UJA-Federation of New York President.

Special guests included Ambassador Ofir Akunis; Hon. Mike Lawler and Hon. Jerrold Nadler, United States Representatives; Hon. Letitia James, New York State Attorney General; Hon. Thomas DiNapoli, New York State Comptroller; Hon. Brad Lander, New York City Comptroller; Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President; Hon. Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President; and Hon. Farah Louis, Hon. Julie Menin, and Hon. Mercedes Narcisse, New York City Council Members.

Ambassador Akunis said: "I am proud to join you in recognizing tonight's remarkable honorees... You have all made profound contributions to Jewish communities here and in Israel and in so doing you have strengthened the US-Israel relationship at the time of

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www.westchesterjewishlife.com

3,000 Nahal Soldiers in Gaza Enjoy BBQ Dinner Provided by FIDF

An enormous gathering of IDF forces, fresh from their operations in the Gaza Strip, convened on April 25 for a barbecue dinner, hosted by Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) in collaboration with the Association for the Welfare of Israeli Soldiers (AWIS).

The special dinner for 3,000 soldiers from the Nahal Brigade and other combat units took place at a designated area



in southern Israel. The event featured a ceremony honoring the soldiers for their achievements in their missions, extending well wishes to those injured in battle, and commemorating the fallen soldiers who did not return.

Nahal had been active in the Netzarim corridor, a strategic route linking southern Israel to Gaza's coast, including conducting raids and bringing humanitarian aid to Gazans. The Nahal soldiers had just withdrawn from Gaza to join the 162nd Division in preparation for the IDF's expected offensive in the Gaza city of Rafah. The event

1.37 Million Jewish Adults And Children Live in Eight-County New York Area

The eight-county New York area continues to be home to the greatest concentration of Jewish people of any metropolitan area in the United States, according to UJA-Federation of New York's Jewish Community Study of New York 2023. Released today, the study is based on nearly 6,000 questionnaires that were completed during the spring of 2023. The study examines and reports on community size, demographics, poverty, mental health, Jewish ritual observance, and participation in Jewish programs.

"The 2023 Jewish Community Study of New York offers a comprehensive snapshot of our community. Particularly in this challenging moment, these insights will help guide funding decisions so we can reach people where they are and ensure the strength of our Jewish community and the institutions serving them," said Eric S. Goldstein, CEO, UJA-Federation of New York.

In the report, UJA does not make direct comparisons about the change in Jewish population from 2011 — the year of the last New York Jewish population study — to 2023 because of methodological differences between the two studies, including mode differences in how the two surveys were conducted (telephone interviews compared to web-based surveys), survey identification processes, and weighting procedures. As a result, when considering the change in the population over time, the 2023 study presents a historical view (looking back to studies in both 1991 and 2002) to provide long-term population trends. Over the past three decades, the New York area has experienced broad stability in the total number of Jewish adults and children in the eight-county area, with the Jewish population hovering around 1.4 mil-

lion people.

lion people. occurred during the soldiers' brief respite from the war. The brigade's commander, Colonel Yair Tzukerman, said at the dinner, "I am proud of you, fighters and commanders, for your spirit, professionalism, and dedication. Your bravery will be recorded in the pages of history. I am proud to see the brigade, with all its operational capabilities, standing at the forefront of the fighting in the Gaza Strip and leading to achievements."

Following Nahal's redeployment, the 679th Yiftah Armored Brigade and the 2nd Carmeli In-



Eric S. Goldstein

lion people.

Poverty

- Nearly 1 in 5 Jewish households (20%) is poor or near-poor, with incomes under 250% of the federal poverty guideline.
- In the eight-county area, 147,000 Jewish households are poor or near-poor, representing about 428,000 people.
- More than a third of children in Jewish households (36%) live in or near poverty.
- Jewish poverty is concentrated in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Staten Island.

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fantry Brigade will take over operations in central Gaza. The Nahal Brigade will begin training for the attack on Rafah -- where Hamas's remaining battalions are presumed to be -- or for other operations.

"The welfare of soldiers and their value beyond combat requires receiving the best support possible. Soldiers must be strong, healthy, and get the support they need. FIDF provides this support to soldiers on the front lines," said Lieutenant Colonel Oz, Commander of Battalion 931. "As a battalion commander, I lead the fight, and with your support, we can become better soldiers. Everyone has an important mission to win the war, and we know that only unity will lead us to victory. Our strength lies in our unity."

FIDF is the single organization in the United States, designated by the IDF, that is authorized to raise funds for its soldiers, and FIDF acts according to the requirements of the IDF's Manpower Directorate to respond to the most urgent requests. Funds raised at the event will go towards lifesaving medical supplies such as ambulances, plasma, medical devices, and field hospitals, as well as hygiene kits and aid for the thousands of bereaved families who are suffering the loss of a loved one. As the IDF's official partner, FIDF is the fastest and most direct way to support IDF soldiers. So far, more than \$73 million has been transferred to the IDF to meet their most urgent requests for its soldiers.

Photo credit: Ori Shemesh, courtesy of FIDF.

AJC Applauds President Biden's Remarks Condemning Antisemitism at Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony

American Jewish Committee (AJC) thanks President Biden for his resolute commitment to combating antisemitism and protecting Jewish communities, highlighted in remarks delivered today at a Holocaust Remembrance Event at the U.S. Capitol seven months after Hamas carried out the deadliest attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust and in the wake of yesterday's remembrance of Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day).

"Every protester on college campuses perpetuating false narratives about Israel and threatening Jewish students should watch President Biden's speech," said AJC CEO Ted Deutch. "The President put into words what so many Jews are experiencing around the world, especially Jewish college students. I commend President Biden for not only standing up against rising antisemitism in word but for reminding the world of the realities of the Holocaust and October 7."

During his remarks, President Biden called attention to the disturbing parallels between October 7 denial and Holocaust denial and the impact this has on Jews here in the United States and around the world. The October 7 terrorist attack against Israel by Hamas, in which more than 1,200 Israelis were killed and hundreds more taken hostage in Gaza, was the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. Yet, as President Biden said, "[t]oo many people [are] denying, downplaying, rationalizing, ignoring the horrors of the Holocaust and October 7 -- including Hamas' appalling use of sexual violence to torture and terrorize Jews. It's absolutely despicable, and it must stop."

"To deny atrocities against Jews is to relieve the perpetrators of responsibility; it is rhetoric like this that fuels the rising antisemitism here at home and around the world," said Deutch. "This surge of antisemitism in the U.S. is an urgent threat to Jews and all Americans."



Ted Deutch

AJC also welcomes the Biden Administration's announcement today of additional actions building on The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, including new Department of Education guidance for all school districts and colleges on antisemitic discrimination, the creation of an online campus safety resources guide from the Department of Homeland Security, and State Department outreach to technology companies to discuss best practices to combat antisemitism on their platforms.

AJC will continue to support and advocate for students at all levels of education and engage with school and university administrators as this urgent fight against antisemitism on campus requires deep and ongoing collaboration between the Jewish community, the White House, the Department of Education, and educational institutions.

"AJC's State of Antisemitism in America 2023 Report found that more than 1 in 5 American Jews who experienced antisemitism online (22%) reported that the online incident(s) made them feel physically threatened and that 62% of American Jews reported seeing or hearing antisemitism online or on social media in the past 12 months. We have been working with technology companies to help identify and reduce antisemitism on their platforms and welcome the Special Envoy's expertise and guidance as we work to make these online public squares free from harassment," said Deutch.

AJC is the global advocacy organization for the Jewish people. With headquarters in New York, 25 regional offices across the United States, 15 overseas posts, as well as partnerships with 38 Jewish community organizations worldwide, AJC's mission is to enhance the well-being of the Jewish people and Israel and to advance human rights and democratic values in the United States and around the world. Visit www.ajc.org for more information.

“Top Chef” Celeb Gail Simmons Headlines Westchester Event Supporting Israel



JNF-USA Westchester & Southern CT Board Chairs Brenda & Michael Benn; Gail Simmons (Photo Credit: Perry Bindelglass)

Celebrity chef, culinary expert, cookbook author, and TV personality Gail Simmons, perhaps best known for her role as a judge on Bravo’s Emmy-winning series *Top Chef*, was the keynote speaker at Jewish National Fund-USA’s 11th annual Water & Wine Reception in Westchester on April 9, honoring local philanthropists Bonnie & Dr. Norman Weiss.

For over 15 years, the Weiss family has contributed significantly to Jewish National Fund-USA’s Central Negev Task Force and the organization’s Westchester Board of Directors. The couple’s charitable giving, vision, and motivation played an integral role in the realization of Jewish National Fund-USA’s Skate Park & Water Park in Mitzpe Ramon, Israel, located deep in the heart of Israel’s Negev Desert.

The event, held at Westchester Reform Temple and co-chaired by Caren & Hillel Hammerman and Becky & Aaron Kuperman, also offered more than 200 philanthropists the opportunity to unite

in solidarity with the people of Israel and learn how they can make a difference in the lives of Israelis impacted by the October 7 atrocities.

Attendees observed a moment of silence for the victims of the massacre and said prayers for the immediate return of the hostages. Ada Pasternak, an award-winning musician whose music has been featured on Netflix and has been streamed by millions on YouTube and Spotify, also performed her original ballad, “100 Days,” a song about bringing home beloved Israelis who are being held captive by Hamas.

“On October 7, we witnessed barbarity and evil unleashed on our People, but we’ve never been prouder to be Jews and to belong to this community,” said Co-presidents of Jewish National Fund-USA’s Westchester and Southern CT Board of Directors, Brenda & Mike Benn. “Jewish National Fund-USA was with the people of the Israel Envelope communities before that infamous day. We have stood with them shoulder to shoulder since



Honorees Dr. Norman and Bonnie Weiss (Photo Credit: Perry Bindelglass)

then, and we are determined to build a brighter future for tomorrow. Our promise remains unbroken; we will do all we can to pave the way for their care today and return home in the days ahead. We will walk with them every step of the way.”

Local ambassadors (lay leaders) highlighted how Jewish National Fund-USA has raised over \$60 million in emergency aid since the “Black Shabbat” and has supported the evacuation and relocation of tens of thousands of residents in Israel’s South while providing thousands more with housing, food, clothing, and other supplies.

Attendees also learned about Jewish National Fund-USA’s Livnot B’Yachad – Build Together plan, a comprehensive strategic initiative to rebuild Israeli communities on the border with Gaza and provide the infrastructure and quality of life needed to allow residents to feel safe coming home.

“In the face of this adversity, something extraordinary has happened: The Jewish People

have become more united than ever,” said Jewish National Fund-USA Director, Westchester & Southern CT, Samara Rader. “We have rallied together and are standing shoulder to shoulder; supporting each other and our family in the Jewish Homeland. We will rebuild, repaint, replant, and restore these communities to a new level of glory.”

In her keynote address, Simmons spoke about her personal journey to becoming a famous chef and TV judge on the #1 rated food show on cable television while highlighting her connection to Israel and commitment to Zionism. She also autographed cookbooks and participated in a “meet and greet” with Jewish National Fund-USA Donor Society members at the event’s exclusive VIP reception while guests sampled Simmons’ appetizer and cocktail recipes from her new cookbook, *Bringing It Home*.

For more information or to learn about future events, email Samara Rader, Director, Westchester & Southern CT at rsader@jnf.org or call her at 212-879-9300, ext.510.

Jewish National Fund-USA builds a strong, vibrant future for the land and people of Israel through bold initiatives and Zionist education. As a leading philanthropic movement, the organization supports critical environmental and nation-building activities in Israel’s north and south as it develops new communities in the Negev and Galilee, connects the next generation to Israel, and creates infrastructure and programs that support ecology, people with disabilities, and heritage site preservation, all while running a fully accredited study abroad experience through its Alexander Muss High School in Israel. Visit jnf.org to learn more.

Jewish Community Relations Council of New York 2024 Gala Welcomed More Than 400 Guests to Honor Four Exceptional New York Leaders

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great need. Indeed this has always been the JCRC way - progress through dialogue, intercommunity work, and the building of bridges.”

Majority Leader Schumer said: “I’ve always been an immense supporter of JCRC. You’ve been an invaluable resource not just for me but for the entire New York delegation for so many years. You’re at the front of grassroots coalition building to protect New York’s Jewish community and guard against the terrible scourge of antisemitism...Few organizations have so much reach and do as much good as you do and now more than ever your mission is critical. Our entire city will continue to look to JCRC to continue building bridges of peace and understanding right here at home. I’ll stand by your side where I’ve always been because I believe in your mission because I know your impact and because without you our city can never hope to be the model of tolerance and prosperity that we strive for.”

Senator Gillibrand said: “JCRC-NY is an incredible resource for the Jewish community in New York especially in these challenging times. We’re so grateful for your leadership and advocacy as we work together to support Israel and the Jewish community and to combat antisemitism in all its forms.”

Governor Hochul said: “JCRC has been at the forefront, and tonight we’re here to celebrate that...I’ll continue using the full force of our state government to

combat antisemitism, and I promise that as long as I’m Governor...I’ll stand to protect the Jewish community. So thank you again for your tireless work, your selfless generosity, and congratulations on another incredible year of service.”

Democratic Leader Jeffries said: “It’s an honor and a privilege to once again have an opportunity to address the JCRC of New York, an incredibly important organization that does meaningful work...My commitment to you as a member of Congress is that I will continue to do everything that I can with the position that I have in the times when it matters the most to ensure that never again unequivocally means never again. The effort to combat antisemitism - it’s not a Democratic issue or Republican issue; it is an American issue and we must all commit to crushing antisemitism and all forms of hatred...We will also continue to stand behind Israel’s unequivocal right to defend itself and lift up the special relationship between the United States and the State of Israel.”

Ms. Mirels said: “I am so glad to join you in celebrating tonight’s honorees and recognizing the vital work of JCRC. We find ourselves in complex times with increased antisemitism and anti-Israel rhetoric. We are grateful to have JCRC as our partner as we tackle these issues strategically and effectively. JCRC is a bridge builder across all segments of our diverse, dynamic city. By leveraging relationships with elected

officials and community leaders as well as by working with other faith and ethnic groups, JCRC weaves the tapestry of a more interconnected New York that ensures the Jewish community has the relationships it needs in this moment.”

Camille Joseph Varlack, New York City Mayor Eric Adams’ Chief of Staff, and Eric Goldstein, UJA-Federation of New York CEO, provided in-person greetings.

Ms. Varlack said: “I would like to congratulate and thank the JCRC for all you do for the Jewish community and for New Yorkers. Your support cannot be overstated... Protecting our Jewish community is a sacred responsibility and one that we discuss and think about every single day. Everyone who wears a yarmulke or hijab or any other sign of their faith should feel safe and welcome in our city.”

Mr. Goldstein said: “There has never ever been a more important time in our lives to support the work of the JCRC. We are proud to be JCRC’s principal funder because the work they do has always been and particularly now is vital to the well-being of the Jewish community.”

The program also featured remarks from Mark Treyger, JCRC-NY CEO, and a LChaim, or Toast, for Hope from Marc E. Wolf, JCRC-NY Chief Development Officer, in tribute to Israeli hostages in Gaza and in memory of all innocent lives lost in the war against

Hamas.

Mr. Treyger said: “We, JCRC- New York, make sure that we are in the room with leaders when decisions are made that concern the safety, the security, and the well-being of the Jewish people, here in our great City, New York. And it is also about making sure that we are front and center in grassroots coalitions building multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-racial coalitions to promote a more fair and just society while promoting Jewish identity...Our history and story is more than October 7th. Our history and story are more than the Holocaust. Jewish Americans help build New York and help build the United States of America...That is the work of JCRC-New York, and we are committed with every fiber in our being to strengthening that work for generations to come.”

Mr. Wolf said: “To our fallen heroes, we vow to honor your sacrifices by living life to the fullest and with integrity, to uphold the principles that make the State of Israel and our country here at home the best on Earth...To all innocent civilians caught in the line of fire and their surviving families, our hearts go out to you. Finally, to the hostages and their families, we know you are paying the price daily. We will never forget, and we will never give up hope, we will not stop fighting for you, because until all Jews are free, no Jew is free.”

Connect with JCRC-NY on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram

Empowering Seniors at Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS)

WJCS is dedicated to helping seniors age in place safely and with dignity. Seniors generally prefer living in their own homes, in their familiar surroundings. But as they age, seniors often experience health challenges that make shopping, driving to medical and dental appointments, and socializing difficult. Being involved in the community all becomes a struggle. The stresses of aging are exacerbated by feelings of loneliness. The death of a spouse or friends, the demands of being a caregiver, and the difficulty traveling to see friends can all create a sense of social isolation.

“My husband and I are in our 80s and have lived in Yonkers for over 60 years. Our plan has always been to ‘age in place.’ This past year, I found myself living alone after my husband sustained an injury which has resulted in a long stay in a rehabilitation center. I have not felt safe driving for a number of years, and I found myself in need of transportation to be able to visit my husband. My daughter helped me connect with the WJCS Yonkers NNORC. Alexis and Mary of Yonkers NNORC were lovely, and ably assisted me in applying for Westchester Paratransit Services, so that I could access low-cost door-to-door transportation. Their help proved invaluable in securing the transportation services which enable me to maintain my independence and regularly visit with my husband. We’ve been married for 69 years.

Spending as much time as we can together is so very important to us both.” ~ Member of our WJCS Yonkers NNORC Program

Twenty percent of the population in Westchester is over age 60. Of those age 65 and older, 39% live alone. Growing older is not just physically challenging; it’s also emotionally challenging. Many seniors face health and mobility limitations. Those who enjoyed and are no longer working often lack a sense of purpose and vitality. Innovative program, services, and fitness, recreational, and educational activities help seniors maintain a sense of identity, self-esteem, and self-worth.

Emotional and practical support, both individual and in groups, helps caregivers who are often overwhelmed with stress and added responsibilities, navigate their challenges and feel less isolated and alone, emotional support, care management guidance, and resources play an important role in helping caregivers deliver the best care for their loved ones and themselves.

Your compassion makes sure seniors and their caregivers in Westchester can age in place for as long as possible safely and as part of the community.

WJCS provides a variety of programs & services for seniors as well as support for their caregivers. Learn more at www.wjcs.com.

Calendar of Events

JCCMW

999 Wilmot Road, Scarsdale, NY

Tuesday, June 4, 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch & Learn: Foods That Boost Your Mood

Admission: \$10; Free for Members

Join JCCMW to learn more about foods that will boost your mood and lift your spirits.

A delicious vegetarian lunch will be served.

Visit www.jccmw.org/event/boost-your-mood/ to learn more and to register.

JCCMW

999 Wilmot Road, Scarsdale, NY

American Red Cross: Lifeguard Certification Classes

June 1, 2, and 9: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

June 21, 22, and 23: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

July 22, 23, 24, and 25: 3:30 PM–9:00 PM

Cost: \$436.50 for Aquatics Members; \$485 for non-members

Three-day Red Cross courses provide entry-level participants the knowledge and skills to prevent, recognize, and respond to aquatic emergencies and to provide care for breathing and cardiac emergencies injuries and sudden illnesses until EMS personnel take over.

Participants who successfully complete the lifeguarding course receive an American Red Cross certificate for Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED valid for two years.

Prerequisites:

• Age 15+

- Swim 300 yards continuously.
- Tread water for 2 minutes using only the legs.
- Complete a timed event within 1 minute 40 seconds by starting in the water, swimming 20 yards, surface dive to a depth of 7 to 10 feet to retrieve a 10-pound object, return to the surface, and swim 20 yards on the back to return to the starting point exit the water without using steps or a ladder.

Bring \$65 cash to first class for certification fee and pocket mask.

Visit www.jccmw.org/lifeguard-certification-classes/ to register.

Hospice of Westchester Hosts 22nd Annual Golf Invitational

Westchester Hills Golf Club - 401 Ridgeway, White Plains, NY 10605

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

10:00 a.m.: Registration and brunch/lunch

12:30 p.m.: Shotgun start with scramble format

4:30 p.m.: Cocktail reception, dinner, and awards

Individual and foursome registrations, journal ads and sponsorships are now available. For more information, please contact Holly Benedict, 914-682-1484, ext. 122 or hbenedict@hospiceofwestchester.com.

No Hate In Our States



BY MYRA CLARK-SIEGEL

The Moment The Music Stood Still: October 7, 6:29 a.m.

Recently, AJC’s (American Jewish Committee) three NY-based regional offices convened leaders across our regions to bear witness at the Nova Music Festival exhibit in New York City. The Nova Exhibit marks the moment the “Music Stood Still” as Hamas terrorists attacked the Nova Music Festival in Israel on October 7.

Go see it: Novaexhibition.com

This heart-wrenching exhibit recreates the atmosphere, the scenes, the sounds, the moment our world and our lives were shattered on October 7. As difficult as it is, is how important the need to go – to bear witness, to say, “We will dance again”.

This exhibit draws us in, forces us to lean in. Small screens and cell phones force us to draw in close to the scenes lovingly recreated to honor the memories of Israelis of all ages who were simply celebrating life and music.

Teenagers. Mothers. Teachers. Musicians. Friends.

We feel, we see, we hear, we smell the music festival in the moments before and after the Hamas attacks. Incense perfumes the air, draws us in to the sheer joy festival attendees had created to celebrate music and to celebrate life itself.

And then, as we know, in gut-wrenching detail because of the very recordings the Hamas terrorists made themselves, our world STOPPED. But don’t stay away out of fear.

GO.

Put yourself in this space – listen to the music that was playing at the festival, see the tents, the teddy bears, the Siddurim (yes, siddurim) that some participants had

1.37 Million Jewish Adults And Children Live in Eight-County New York Area

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- 33% of Jewish households received government benefits.

Denomination

- 20% of Jewish households identify as Reform.
- 19% of Jewish households identify as Orthodox.
- 15% of Jewish households identify as Conservative.
- 47% of Jewish households report no or some other denominational identification.
- There are approximately 430,000 Jews who live in Orthodox households, comprising 249,000 adults and 181,000 children.

Demographics

- In 2023, there were an estimated 13,000 Holocaust survivors living in Jewish households in the eight-county area, 92% of whom lived in New York City. The largest number of these individuals live in Brooklyn, accounting for 65% of the total number of survivors in the eight-county area.
- 14% of Jewish households include a person who identifies as LGBTQ+.
- The overall percentage of married couples who are

with them.

Understand the diversity of Israel and the Jewish community in that space. Israelis united in their joy of CELEBRATING LIFE.

That is Israel. That is the Jewish community. We celebrate life.

We dance. We create.

Take friends. Take non-Jewish friends and colleagues. Go together. Experience it. Talk about it.

Use your voice.

But go.

Bear witness.

We must never lose sight of what happened that day.

We must never lose sight of the most important issue of all - for the hostages to be released safely and immediately from Gaza.

As the sense of right and wrong seems turned upside down these days, this exhibit is a powerful imperative to know what happened on October 7. Not through social media. Not through news articles, but through experience. We say “Hineni”. “Count on me.”

Standing Proud: Jewish American Heritage Month

And through it all, we just commemorated Jewish American Heritage Month during the month of May. This year especially, it is important to note that the Jewish community is not alone. We have many friends and allies who stand strong with the Jewish community.

Indeed, a few days ago, we at AJC were honored to celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month with Westchester County Executive George Latimer, Deputy Executive Ken Jenkins, and the Westchester County Board of Legislators. We stand strong based on shared values and dignity for all. Together.

As we celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of the American Jewish community across every aspect of society – the arts, medicine, law, education, research, business, and the very fabric of America, we stand resolute.

We Will Dance Again.

Myra Clark-Siegel is AJC Westchester/Fairfield regional director. To get involved or request an AJC speaker: AJC@westchester.org.

intermarried is 37%.

- In the eight-county area, 28% of Jewish adults are above the age of 65.
- One in eight Jewish adults (12%) identifies as non-white (Black, Asian, multiracial, or other) and/or Hispanic. This includes the 7% of Jews who did not identify as white in our study, plus an additional 5% who identified as white and Hispanic.

The U.S. Census is prohibited from asking questions about religion, so the 2023 Jewish Community Study of New York is the prime source of information about the Jewish community at the current moment. The survey collected data from a cross-sectional, representative sample of New York-area adults who live in a Jewish household. The geographic scope is the New York eight-county area — the five New York City boroughs, Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester counties.

A complete methodological report can be found online at: <https://communitystudy.ujafedny.org/methodology>. UJA-Federation contracted with the research firm SSRS to design this study and collect the data. The margin of error for the entire sample of adults in Jewish households is ± 1.5 percentage points.

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Edward Shapiro, President and Publisher

es@shorelinepub.com

www.westchesterjewishlife.com

Helene Pollack, Emeritus Publisher

New Rochelle Review

www.newrochellereview.com

Joyce Farrell, Editor

joyce.farrell@shorelinepub.com

The Pelham Post

www.thepelhampost.com

Cynthia Pena, Art Director

shorelineproduction@gmail.com

The Bronxville Bulletin

www.thebronxvillebulletin.com

Mary DeYoung, Advertising Account Executive

mdeyoung.61@gmail.com

Larchmont Ledger

www.larchmontledger.com

Lauren Levine, Advertising Account Executive

levinelaur@gmail.com

Harrison Herald

www.harrisonherald.com

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