

Afya Foundation on Front Line of Turkey-Syria Earthquake Response

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Danielle Butin, Afya Foundation Founder and CEO held a press conference at their headquarters at 140 Saw Mill River Road, Yonkers, on Thursday, March 2nd to inform the public of their efforts to send shipments of much needed medical equipment as a response to the Turkey-Syria earthquake.

Speakers included Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano; NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins; NYS Senator Shelley Mayer and Yonkers City Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz.

Introducing the speakers, Butin noted that over 40,000 people have been killed in Turkey and 100,000-plus were injured

with millions homeless in the dead of winter. "Last week NYU Langone donated 51 pallets of rehab supplies and durable medical equipment to us,

working closely with the Turkish Federation of American Associations and Turkish General Consulate."

"Today is a very important day," Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano remarked. "Our friends in Afya, Danielle Butin and her entire team, have amassed an enormous amount of [medical] supplies that can actually be used in Turkey to deal with the rescue recovery efforts."

"We are so happy that she is here, and she makes these items available for every natural disaster,

domestic and foreign... We are here to support her and say thank you..."

It was noted that Mayer contributed walkers, canes and crutches from her family members.

Afya stands for Health and Peace in the Swahili language, according to Butin. "I was on a vacation in Tanzania in the Serengeti

Plains and a physician was sitting alone in a tent 'crying her eyes out.' When I approached and asked, 'Are you all right, what's happening,' she replied, 'I'm not all right. I came here to do medical mission work and take a month off from my practice in London. There are no medical supplies anywhere."

"I am watching people die who I know how to save if I only had supplies.' Her heartache was my call to action. I came home determined to fig-



Yonkers City Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz; NYS Senator Shelley Mayer; Afya Founder and CEO Danielle Butin; Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano



Afya Employee Huy Bach



NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (left) and Afya Founder and CEO Danielle Butin.

ure out what I could do about what I experienced in that tent," Butin stressed.

Afya continues to increase relief efforts by bringing together volunteers, donors, medical suppliers and on the ground partners like UJA Federation of New York, NYU Langone Health and the Greater NY Hospital Association.

To learn more visit afyafoundation.org

New Commissioned Passover Song Performed in Concert at Beth El Synagogue's Shores Haleb Center

In New Rochelle on March 26, 2023, at 7:00pm, Beth El Synagogue Center's Shores Haleb Center for Jewish Music will present guest artist, Galeet Dardashti and her band, Divahn. Galeet will present a Passover concert including a selection of Sephardi and Mizrahi Pesach songs.

The Shores Haleb Center for Jewish Music at Beth El fulfills a central mission of the synagogue to use music as a foundation for ritual and secular communal life. The goal of the Center is to infuse music into every aspect of synagogue life, including all demographics such as nursery and school age students, young families, empty-nesters and elderly. The Shores Haleb Center for Jewish Music at Beth El also i) supports emerging Jewish artists; ii) provides opportunities for established artists and composers of new Jewish music to serve as scholars and artists in residence; iii) serves as a venue for concerts, symposia, work-

shops and conferences; and iv) fosters inter-faith dialogue and events with other religious communities in the region.

This evening is part of Shores Haleb's Shirei Neshama project, Songs of Sacred Time, presenting world premiere performances of new music around Jewish holidays. As part of her residency, Galeet will premiere a new song she has composed, inspired by Passover, which will be filmed and recorded and shared widely throughout the community on social media and other video platforms.

Iranian-descended vocalist, Galeet Dardashti, is the first woman in a long family tradition of distinguished Persian and Jewish musicians. Galeet's father, Fareed Dardashti, is the first Iranian born international concert artist and Chazan and is Chazan Emeritus at Beth El Synagogue Center.

Galeet has earned a reputation as one of the



Galeet Dardashti (center) and Divahn

most innovative performers of Middle Eastern and Jewish music today. As one of the very few groups performing Mizrahi and Judeo-Arab music in the US today, Divahn has been internationally recognized for its mission to highlight the com-

mon ground between diverse Middle Eastern cultures and religions through music. The group includes Eleanor Norton, Elizabeth Pupo Walker, Sejal Kukadia and Megan Gould.

For Galeet, leading the all-women ensemble, Divahn is an opportunity not only to feature the nexus between Arab and Persian and Jewish culture, but also to celebrate the strength of women. Galeet and Divahn perform religious songs not traditionally sung by women in the Jewish Middle Eastern world.

For more information about the concert, and for tickets, go to bethelnr.org/galeet. For more information about Shores Haleb Center for Jewish Music at Beth El Synagogue Center, New Rochelle, contact Jack Klebanow, Music Director, jklebanow@bethelnr.org.

Governor Hochul Expresses Support for the Community

On February 25, Governor Kathy Hochul delivered remarks at the Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, in support of a Shabbat of peace, not hate, to negate the Day of Hate that was planned by white supremacist group.

The Governor remarked, "When there are people out there who think that by their words alone, by declaring a day of hate that the rest of us, particularly those in the Jewish community would cower and say, 'Well, we're afraid of them. We're going to stay home.' They certainly misjudged the situation because now you have allies from other faiths who greeted us as we walked in the door to show the strength, the power of people coming together.

"And I want you to feel that as you continue

with your prayers and to think about, this is the rest of the week and we approach the week and the feast of Purim, we think about the faith of Esther and her courage and what she did to stand up against hatred and how she persevered and prevailed. And her story continues through the generations and truly has passed on through our children here today who will pass it on to their children and grandchildren. So, that is what we're here to do, be together in solidarity. I called upon our resource at the State level, our homeland security, our state police to be prepared. There are no known threats here in the State of New York, but I'm always conscious of the fact that this is the home of the largest gathering of Jews outside of Israel, right here in New York, and I'm so proud of



Governor Kathy Hochul

that. I am so proud of that.

"I will stand up against hate and stand with the people of this state. And so, you are not alone. This is not a small community. There are 20 million New Yorkers who are with you today and every day as we stand up and call out antisemitism and

racism and homophobia and all the other isms, because there's still far more of us than there are of them, and I want them to know that.

"There is strength in numbers, but there's also strength and a legacy of courage of standing up to evil. In the last century, what we saw, the lessons, what happened with the Holocaust. My husband, Bill Hochul has joined me here, been with me to many of the camps, we both visited them with our family. We wanted them to see what hatred could look like even in our lifetime, in our parents' lifetime, our grandparents' lifetime and to let people know that in our time, we stand up people of courage to make sure that the words 'never again' truly mean something. So, thank you for allowing me to share with you this morning. We have you. We're all together as one family and we are together, we are New York Strong."

Congregation Beit Simchat Torah {CBST}, NYC, is a vibrant spiritual community and a progressive voice within Judaism. Founded in 1973, CBST champions a Judaism that rejoices in diversity, denounces social injustice wherever it exists and strives for human rights for all people.

Bedford Author Describes Iconic New York Jewish Food



June Hersh

Bedford author June Hersh presents recipes of timeless Jewish culinary classics and reveals the foods, restaurants and businesses that honor the Jewish immigrant experience in New York City in her new book, *Iconic New York Jewish Food: A History and Guide With Recipes*, published by Arcadia Publishing, Inc.

A portion of proceeds from book sales benefit the Met Council, a New York City based organization that seeks a dignified solution to hunger.

Cuisine brought to New York by Jewish immigrants more than a century ago has become some of the most iconic foods associated with the Big Apple. No trip to the five boroughs is complete without a hand-sliced pastrami sandwich at a classic delicatessen or a bagel and lox with a schmear of cream cheese from an artisanal bagel maker.

Hersh tells untold stories such as why Eleanor Roosevelt was intrigued by the knish and how Jewish mobsters plotted in the back rooms

of some of Gotham's most famous restaurants. She explains the intrigue behind the frothy egg cream and creamy cheesecake or how Nathan Handwerker's hot dog became top dog on Coney Island.

As a former teacher and businesswoman, she began her food writing career after retiring in 2004. She is the author of *Recipes Remembered: A Celebration of Survival* (Ruder Finn Press, May 2011), written in association with the Museum of Jewish Heritage; *The Kosher Carnivore* (St. Martin's Press, September 2011), a primer on how to cook kosher meat and poultry; and *Yoghurt: A Global History* (Reaktion Books, March 2021). Hersh served as editor and interviewer for *Still Here: Inspiration from Survivors and Liberators of the Holocaust* (www.stillherebook.com). June is a contributing writer for *Westchester Magazine* and various food blogs with a focus on Jewish cooking. Her books are available on her website (www.juneherh.com) and other online booksellers.

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For more information: westchester@ajc.org**

AJC's State of Antisemitism in America Report 2022

For too many American Jews, being Jewish no longer feels as safe as it once did. And the younger those American Jews are, the more they experience that threat firsthand.

An American Jewish Committee (AJC) study released in February sheds light on that heart-breaking reality and more. How affected are American Jews by rising antisemitism?

Based on parallel surveys of American Jews and the U.S. general public on their perceptions and experiences of antisemitism in the U.S., AJC's State of Antisemitism in America Report 2022 is the most comprehensive of its kind.

More Jews feel less secure in America.

Over four in ten (41%) of American Jews feel their status is less secure than it was a year ago. That's up 10 percentage points from 31% who reported feeling less secure in 2021. That sense of security has eroded, they say, primarily due in large part to the rise in antisemitic attacks, crimes, and violence; and how acceptable antisemitism and racism have become.

To prevent antisemitism from becoming normalized, Americans must speak out against antisemitic tropes and conspiracy theories, which affect all of us.

"One best practice in fighting antisemitism is when leaders of other communities do the speaking. People are more likely to listen to those they know, those they trust, and those who are like them," said Holly Huffnagle, AJC's U.S. Director of Combating Antisemitism. "This is why we need white evangelical leaders to disavow white



supremacy and antisemitic conspiracy theories like QAnon. We need Black leaders to condemn Louis Farrakhan's antisemitism. We need Muslim leaders to condemn antisemitism or antisemitic tropes when they appear in their own communities and Latino leaders to speak out against antisemitism in their communities."

Nine in 10 American Jews (89%) think antisemitism is a problem in the U.S., and eight in 10 (82%) say it has increased in the past five years.

One in five American Jewish respondents (19%) said, because of antisemitism, they feel unsafe (somewhat or very) when attending synagogues, Jewish day schools, community centers, or any of the Jewish institutions with which they are affiliated. Meanwhile, confidence in law enforcement also seems to be on a downward trend. 63% of American Jewish respondents say law en-

forcement is effective in responding to the security needs of Jews. Among Orthodox Jews surveyed, 65% say law enforcement is effective in addressing their needs, a sharp decrease from 81% in 2021.

American Jews are proud but altering behavior out of fear.

The lingering presence of antisemitism has altered how some American Jews conduct their day-to-day lives and even whether they publicly identify as Jewish this past year. This includes the 23% of Jewish adults who said they have avoided publicly wearing, carrying, or displaying things that might help people identify them as Jewish; and the 16% who said they have avoided certain places, events, or situations because they are Jewish, out of concerns for their safety or comfort.

Likewise, one in five American Jewish respondents (19%) said, because of antisemitism, they feel unsafe (somewhat or very) when attending synagogues, Jewish day schools, community centers, or any of the Jewish institutions with which they are affiliated.

One in four (26%) American Jews reported being personally targeted by antisemitism in 2022 – a number that hasn't declined since the survey question was first asked in 2019. While the number has not climbed, the fact that the threat has not waned is still troubling.

Overall, four in ten (38%) American Jews reported changing their behavior at least once out of fear of antisemitism.

Meanwhile, half of American Jewish institutions have boosted security measures in the last

two years. But it is equally important to note the majority of Jews have not changed their behavior and still publicly identify as Jewish.

Understanding the Origins of Antisemitism

Antisemitism online and on social media is a continuing threat. But young American Jews experience it differently.

While one in eight American Jews (13%) were personally targeted by an antisemitic remark or post online or through social media in the past 12 months, among young American Jews between the ages of 18 and 29, roughly one in five (19%) say they were. (Antisemitism "experienced online" includes Jewish adults who were personally targeted and/or those who had seen it.)

In addition, almost two-thirds of American Jews (67%) have seen antisemitism online or on social media in the past year.

And 84% of Jewish adults under age 30 say they have seen this hateful content in the past year. Taken together with those who were personally targeted, fully 85% of young American Jews – those ages 18 to 29 – were the target of antisemitism online or have seen it online at least once in the past 12 months (compared with 64% of Jews age 30 or older).

For one in four of these young American Jews (26%), the antisemitism experienced online made them feel physically threatened, compared to 14% of their older counterparts.

Almost 3 in 10 (27%) of all American Jewish

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Peter and Mary Kalikow Genealogy Research Center

Plans are moving ahead to create the Peter and Mary Kalikow Genealogy Research Center at Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York, following a visit by Peter Kalikow and his daughter, Kathryn Kalikow, with Museum President and CEO Jack Kliger. The three reviewed plans for the Center, a new facility that will allow Museum visitors to access Jewish genealogy resources and discover their own unique Jewish history.

Kathryn Kalikow, a Principal at the real estate firm HJ Kalikow & Company, stated, “When you look out from Museum and see Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, you think about the generations of people and families who came before, looking for freedom and opportunity. My family is creating this Center to connect Jews with their own heritage, helping them gain a better appreciation of the hardship and challenges past Jewish generations overcame to allow them to create a better life for their descendants.”

The new facility will use the Museum’s respective collections and JewishGen, the Museum’s wholly owned affiliate and the world’s largest and most significant resource for Jewish genealogy, to give visitors the opportunity to preserve their Jewish family history and heritage for future generations.

Peter Kalikow observed, “My family believes that knowing and embracing one’s family history is one of the most powerful connections we have to our heritage. By utilizing the latest technology, coupled with the enormous data resources of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, this

new research center will have the means of connecting Jews with their own personal history that would have otherwise been lost to time or the infamy of the Holocaust.”

The space will contain hundreds of Yizkor (Memorial) Books and print materials, multiple computer stations where people can access JewishGen’s genealogy resources and the Museum’s vast collection of records and data, along with printers for individuals to bring their research home. There also will be on-site volunteers and content experts to assist inquiring visitors.

JewishGen was founded in 1987 and serves as the global home for Jewish genealogy. Featuring unparalleled access to more than 30 million records, it offers unique search tools, along with opportunities for researchers to connect with others who share similar interests. There is no charge to access JewishGen’s resources. JewishGen is an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. For more information, visit www.jewishgen.org.

The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust is New York’s contribution to the global responsibility to Never Forget. The Museum is committed to the crucial mission of educating diverse visitors about Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust. The third-largest Holocaust museum in the world, the Museum of Jewish Heritage anchors the southernmost tip of Manhattan, completing the cultural and educational landscape it shares with the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

For more information, visit: <https://mjh-nyc.org>

HHREC Promotes Education Program to Combat Rising Hate Crimes in Schools

Incidents of hate crimes continue to cause concern in cities and towns across the country, and a rising number of these have been occurring in the greater Westchester County area. As schools continue to grapple with ways to confront this growing wave, an increasing number of administrators are turning to new methods that attack the root cause of these incidents– ignorance and a lack of education on the topic.

In their ongoing effort to promote education as a means to stem this growing tide of bias-related incidents and hate crimes, The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center (HHREC) of White Plains, a nonsectarian not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting tolerance and respect for diversity, offers a program designed to educate and sensitize juveniles involved in these crimes. The HHREC Juvenile Offender program was developed to react to these offenses as they are referred by the Westchester County DA’s office, the Legal Aid Society, the Judicial System, local public and private schools, local municipalities, and the Westchester County Human Rights Commission.

“We are very troubled at the evidence we are seeing and the spike in incidences of hate crimes including antisemitism over the past few years, particularly in our schools” said Millie Jasper, HHREC Executive Director. “These crimes based on religion, race, ethnic background or sexual orientation have increased dramatically, and they are often committed by youthful offenders. The goal of our Juvenile Offender program is to work

with our education partners to educate and sensitize these offenders – changing and rechanneling their bigoted and prejudicial attitudes that often result in hostile and offensive acts – by fostering tolerance for others, understanding and respect for diversity.”

The HHREC Juvenile Offender Program offers area schools the opportunity to:

- Educate juvenile offenders about the dangers of hatred and bigotry;
- Provide role models for positive behavior, helping juvenile offenders change from perpetrators to activists in the prevention of bias-related incidents and hate crimes;
- Help young offenders channel the hostility and anger that frequently lead to destructive behavior into more constructive directions;
- Nurture pride in the juvenile’s own ethnic, racial and religious background and the ability to relate to the pride of other ethnic, racial and religious groups; and
- Encourage juvenile offenders to gain an understanding of and appreciation for the diversity of our community and our nation by learning about the historical roots and current concerns of various groups.

The topics for the program vary depending on the needs of the participants, but include the study of African American, Latino, Jewish and Asian histories and cultures, studies in homophobia and LGBTQ+ issues, diversity training, conflict reso-

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WISHING ALL OUR FRIENDS AT WESTCHESTER JEWISH LIFE

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New Exhibition at The Jewish Museum Presents The Sassoons

The Jewish Museum presents *The Sassoons*, an exhibition that reveals the fascinating story of a remarkable Jewish family, highlighting their pioneering role in trade, art collecting, architectural patronage, and civic engagement from the early 19th century through World War II. On view from March 3 through August 13, 2023, the exhibition follows four generations from Iraq to India, China, and England, featuring a rich selection of works collected by family members over time.

Over 120 works—paintings, Chinese art, illuminated manuscripts, and Judaica—amassed by Sassoon family members and borrowed from numerous private and public collections are on view. Highlights include Hebrew manuscripts from as early as the 12th century, many lavishly decorated; Chinese art and ivory carvings; rare Jewish ceremonial art; and Western masterpieces including paintings by Thomas Gainsborough and Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, and magnificent portraits by John Singer Sargent of various Sassoon family members. The Sassoons explore themes such as discrimination, diaspora, colonialism, global trade, and war that not only shaped the history of the family but continue to define our world today.

The exhibition narrative begins in the early 1830s when David Sassoon, the patriarch of the family, was forced to leave his native Baghdad



due to the increasing persecution of the city's Jewish population. Establishing himself in Mumbai (then Bombay) and initially involved in the cotton trade, his vision led the family from Iraq to India, China, and finally England where his descendants gradually settled over the decades. His activities soon grew to include the opium trade, which had escalated after the collapse of the East India Company in mid-19th century, ending its monopoly and allowing private companies to engage in this profitable enterprise. He aligned with and benefitted from British colonial interests soon extending his business to China and England by deploying his eight sons to oversee new branches in Shanghai,

Hong Kong, and London.

Although less known, the Sassoon women were discerning collectors. The exhibition pays special attention to these unsung patrons of art. Rachel Sassoon Beer became the first woman in Britain to edit two newspapers, *The Sunday Times* and *The Observer*, and played a crucial role reporting on the Dreyfus affair in Britain. Her painting collection, sold at auction in 1927, listed, among other great works, one drawing and 15 paintings by Corot, a Constable, and a Peter Paul Rubens. Of a younger generation, Hannah Gubbay, a Sassoon on both her father's and her mother's side, was a major collector of 18th century art, furniture, and porcelain, as was her cousin, Mozelle Sassoon.

The exhibition also highlights the distinguished properties of the Sassoons in the United Kingdom. A Member of Parliament for the Conservative Party, Sir Philip Sassoon made active use of his three great residences, Park Lane (now destroyed) and Trent Park in London, and Port Lympne in Kent. Surrounded by landscaped gardens (in the case of Trent Park and Port Lympne) and filled with priceless works of art, all three were used by the government for

high-profile cabinet meetings and receptions of foreign dignitaries and celebrities. Paintings of Port Lympne by Sir Winston Churchill, a frequent visitor, are featured.

Programs in conjunction with *The Sassoons* include a series of lectures, conversation, performances, and virtual courses inspired by the exhibition. Among the highlights are a 92nd Street Y Virtual Curator Talk with Claudia Nahson titled "The Sassoons: Art Collectors, Patrons, and Civic Leaders" (Tuesday, March 28 at 10:30am ET); Joseph Sassoon and Atina Grossman in Conversation (In Person, Thursday, April 27 at 6:30pm ET); a virtual lecture by Professor Shalva Weil (Thursday, May 4 at 6:30pm ET); a performance featuring Sara Serpa, Erik Friedlander, and Ingrid Laubrock co-presented with Bang on a Can (In Person, Thursday, May 18 at 7:30pm ET); a lecture by exhibition co-curator Esther da Costa Meyer (In Person, Thursday, June 1 at 6:30pm ET); and a book talk with Jonathan Kaufman, author of *The Last Kings of Shanghai* (In Person, Thursday, June 8 at 6:30pm ET).

The public may call 212.423.3200 or visit TheJewishMuseum.org for more information.

AJC's State of Antisemitism in America Report 2022

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respondents avoided posting content online that would identify you as a Jew or reveal your views on Jewish issues. This number jumps to 37% for young American Jews, ages 18-29, compared to 24% of U.S. adults 30 and older.

American Jews pursuing higher education are experiencing some lows.

As part of the report, AJC surveyed American Jews who now attend or recently attended college or had children attending college. Those questions revealed that roughly one in ten American Jews with recent or current college experience have felt or been excluded from a group or an event on cam-

pus because they are Jewish. Slightly more (14%) have felt or been excluded from a campus group or event because of their assumed or actual connection to Israel. Just over a quarter (26%) say they have had trouble taking time off from class or have been told they could not miss class for the Jewish holidays.

One in five American Jewish respondents (19%) feel unsafe attending Jewish institutions with which they are affiliated because of antisemitism. One in five (21%) say they have avoided wearing or carrying things that identify them as Jewish; and 18% say they have ever felt uncomfortable or unsafe at a campus event because they are Jewish.

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From the Holy Land of Israel to Your Passover Seder Table

Israel's largest and leading winery, Carmel Winery, is expanding its premium wine brand - Carmel Signature with two new red varietals just in time for Passover.

The Carmel Signature fine wines were launched two years ago with great success as the luxury wine brand of Carmel Winery, and includes four series: Vats, Single Vineyards, and two iconic wines, Carmel Mediterranean and Limited Edition.

As part of their ongoing innovation, Carmel is expanding the Single Vineyard series with the introduction of two new wines produced from vineyards grown in volcanic soil. These two wines join the other exceptional wines offered in the Carmel Single Vineyard series.

The new Volcano series is comprised of fine wines from the best vineyards of the winery's unique and rich terroir.

According to Etti Edri, Export Manager at Carmel Winery, "The Carmel brand introduces new selections of wines to its Signature series, along with a prestigious and up-to-date new look. These two new wines, a



Cabernet Sauvignon and a Merlot, are both grown in an Upper Galilee vineyard rich in volcanic soil, hence the name Volcano. These are the wines worth waiting for, to celebrate memorable occasions and milestones. And, both are a perfect complement to the upcoming Passover holiday."

CABERNET SAUVIGNON 2019 MACHPEA HILL -- Vintage 2019, Dry red wine, 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. After gentle pressing and fermentation in stainless steel vats, the wine is aged in French oak barrels for 18 months and continued to mature in its bottle for another year. The wine's subtle aromas include black and red fruit, cinnamon, vanilla, fresh red strawberry fruit flavors, tobacco, and mint. This premier wine is rich and full bodied, with soft and powerful tannins and a long and elegant finish. This wine will continue to mature over the coming years, and pairs well with dishes such as roasted lamb chops, roast beef, or smoked cheddar cheese. This vineyard is located in the northern Galilee, at an altitude of 915 meters (3,000ft) above sea level. This

is a vineyard with an area of 30 dunams (7.4 acres), which was planted in 2014. (MSRP: \$60)

MERLOT 2019 EVYATAR CREEK -- Vintage 2019, Dry red wine, 100% Merlot. This wine was aged in French oak barrels for 18 months and continued to mature in its bottle for another year. The wine's complex and powerful aroma combines red and black fruits, black pepper, mint, and licorice, with a fresh and ripe taste. Characterized by a full to medium body, it presents balanced tannins on the palette, and has a long, slightly bitter and refreshing finish. This wine pairs well with dishes such as roasted lamb chops, roast beef or smoked cheddar cheese. The vineyard is located in the Upper Galilee. (MSRP: \$60)

Yiftah Perets, Head Winemaker, Carmel Winery, says, "Carmel Signature draws on the long-standing traditions of Carmel Winery, a mix of old and new, including respect for the past while incorporating innovation and technology to produce the best possible wines from the best vineyards. The entire wine making



process is overseen with preciseness from start to finish, from the selection of the vineyards, fermentation, and dedicated families of growers, to the wine's bottling and aging.

The wines are produced in unique growing areas, reflecting the regional differentiation, and illustrate how growing regions perform in harmony with specific varieties adaptation, to produce some of the finest wines from the flagship Carmel Winery collection."

Carmel's new Signature wines, Merlot Evyatar Creek, and Cabernet Machphea Hill, were recently launched at the Kosher Food & Wine Experience in NYC, hosted by Royal Wine Corp.

Carmel Signature's rich portfolio includes four series that differ in both terroir and price level, including the iconic wines: Carmel Limited Edition, Carmel Mediterranean and Carmel Single Vineyard.

For additional information visit the CARMEL WINERY website and Royal Wine Corp., the largest producer, importer and exporter of kosher wines.



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HHREC to Combat Rising Hate Crimes in Schools

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lution to combat racism, and others. The course sessions include exercises and discussions as well as speakers, and participants will be expected to complete reading and writing assignments.

The program does not include juveniles convicted of violent crimes, or those with identified violent tendencies. Outcomes are measured by the program administrator, facilitators, school

and justice system personnel, as well as by the self-assessment of the participants themselves. According to the HHREC, wherever they have been able to offer this program, there has been "0% recidivism" involving those students.

There is no cost for schools to participate in this program. For more information, contact Millie Jasper mjasper@hhrecny.org Tel: 914.696.0738.

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For details, go to www.WJCS.com. Questions? Please contact Robyn Schlesinger at 914-848-8156; rschlesinger@WJCS.com.

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WJCS Community Trainings and Workshops

As one of the largest human service organizations in Westchester County, Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) provides 20,000 of county residents each year with programs and services to help them with mental health, trauma, senior, disability, and other children, youth, and family challenges. They also provide a variety of community trainings to educate school staff, parents, first responders, parents, youth organizations, and other public interest groups

about mental health, trauma, LGBTQ+ issues, domestic violence, crisis counseling, and mindfulness.

Below is a sample list of WJCS trainings with contact information.

SUPPORTING ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH is a workshop that: educates participants about Adolescent Development and the warning signs and symptoms of mental disorders; helps participants differentiate between 'typical' adolescent development

and emerging or existing mental illness; provides tools/strategies to enable individuals to support these youth and refer to appropriate professional help. Contact: Caitlin Leon--cleon@wjcs.com

TRAUMA 101 introduces participants to the impact of trauma on individuals and how trauma may manifest in various settings. It helps individuals be sensitive to behaviors that may be caused by trauma and for organizations to become trauma-Informed. For school and parent trainings contact Caitlin Leon—cleon@wjcs.com. For trauma trainings for essential workers, public interest groups, community partners, and legal experts contact Liane Nelson, Ph.D.—lnelson@wjcs.com

MINDFULNESS AND SELF-CARE demonstrates the benefits of mindfulness and demystifies it. Participants learn and explore mindfulness exercises that will enable them to self-regulate and balance their lives and work. Contact Caitlin Leon—cleon@wjcs.com

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID® is an evidence-based course designed for adults who regularly interact with adolescents (including teachers, school staff, coaches, youth group leaders, and parents). It educates them about the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents and teaches individuals how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Contact Caitlin Leon—cleon@wjcs.com

on@wjcs.com

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID training aims at identifying and supporting adults who are experiencing mental health challenges or crises and helping them get appropriate help. Contact Caitlin Leon—cleon@wjcs.com

TEEN MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID is a peer-to-peer training program specifically designed for teens in grades 10-12. It teaches young people how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders among their friends. It also gives them the skills to have supportive conversations with their friends and get a responsible and trusted adult to take over as necessary. Contact Caitlin Leon—cleon@wjcs.com

WJCS Center Lane LGBTQ+ Community Education for Youth and Adults teaches students, parents, teachers, school administrators, psychotherapists—anyone who knows and works with teens—how to create a safe, welcoming and affirming community for LGBTQ+ youth. Leaders facilitate interactive workshops in which participants can ask tough questions, learn without judgement, and enhance their skills to treat LGBTQ+ youth with respect and dignity. Contact centerlane@wjcs.com

To learn more about WJCS community trainings and workshops, go to wjcs.com.

What to Do When Your Child Turns Eighteen



BY: BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW

You could write an entire book (many already have) on what you should do when your child turns eighteen. Your child has now reached the age of majority and along with that comes all the privileges and responsibilities appurtenant thereto. In fact, the law presumes that when you achieve your eighteenth birthday that you are capable of making your own financial and health care decisions. This means parents no longer have authority to make those decisions on behalf of their child or even be involved in the decisions without the child's (now adult) consent. What happens, though, if your child who is about to turn eighteen has disabilities and may not be able to make their own decisions?

First and foremost, just because an individual has a disability does not mean that they are not capable of making their own decisions. In fact, there is a strong preference in the law to allow individuals with disabilities to make their own decisions with the least amount of court intervention. If the individual has sufficient capacity to execute a durable power of attorney and a health care proxy, that usually is the recommended course of action. Moreover, a recently enacted Supported Decision-Making law in New York promotes self-determination and inclusion for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and allows them to make their own decisions with the support of trusted persons in their lives. Supported decision making is widely recognized as an alternative to guardianship. In order to obtain guardianship, a court proceeding must be instituted. This can be time consuming and expensive, depending on the family circumstances. If the court determines that a guardian is necessary, then the guardian will have the power to make certain decisions on behalf of the individual, instead of the individual making those decisions themselves. Guardianship is a last resort.

Turning age 18 means that your child may now be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI is a means-tested federal benefit program that provides a monthly income amount to individuals who qualify. To qualify, the individual must be disabled and have less than \$2,000 in resources. Prior to turning age 18, the parents' assets are deemed to be available to the child for purposes of the \$2,000 resource test. Thus, it is extremely difficult for most children under age 18 to qualify for SSI since their parents' resources are attributable to them. However, once the child turns eighteen, the parents' assets are no longer deemed available to the child and SSI benefits can be obtained.

Providing long-term financial security for your child with disabilities can be a daunting task. What if something were to happen to you tomorrow, who would care for your child and how would you pay? Many clients address this concern by purchasing life insurance. If the parents are young, this can be an affordable option. The older you get, the more expensive it is to buy life insurance. You also need to think about who the beneficiary of your life insurance and other assets should be. If your child with disabilities is not able to manage their own financial affairs or is on a government benefit program like SSI that is means-tested, then leaving money to them outright can be a big mistake. The money left to them will disqualify them from SSI if it is more than \$2,000. Best to create a supplemental needs trust for their benefit. This way, the money will not count as a resource for SSI and the trustee of the trust can hold and invest the money for your child's benefit. Another option for individuals who have a disability but are able to manage their own money is an ABLE account. These accounts offer tax-free growth and the amounts in ABLE accounts do not count as resources for SSI and other means-tested government benefit programs.

You can find an attorney who can assist you in this process by going to www.specialneedsalliance.org.

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. He was named 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers in America® for excellence in Elder Law and has been honored as one of the "Best Lawyers" in America since 2008. He was elected to the Estate Planning Hall of Fame by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (NAEPC). Krooks is past Chair of the Elder Law Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Mr. Krooks may be reached at (914-684-2100) or by visiting the firm's website at www.littmankrooks.com.



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AJC Antisemitism Presentation at Iona University



AJC Regional Director Myra Clark-Siegel presents AJC's groundbreaking State of Antisemitism in America 2022 Report to faculty, staff, and students at Iona University on February 28, 2023. The report, conducted in September-November 2022, showed that more Jews feel less secure in America, among other important findings. The full report is available at <https://www.ajc.org/AntisemitismReport2022>.

Hadassah Celebrates

Hadassah Westchester has announced its upcoming celebration called Bundles of Joy, Assuring Good Health for Moms and Babies on Tuesday, April 25 at Mamaroneck Beach & Yacht Club, 555 South Barry Avenue, Mamaroneck, at 6:30 pm.

The honorees include: Erica Epstein of New Rochelle and her Mother Laura Penn; Myra Glajchen of New Rochelle and Susannah Cohen; Barbara, Andy Panken and Family of White Plains.

To attend write WestchesterRegion@hadassah.org or call (973) 241-1500.



Laura Penn and Erica Epstein

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Michelle Kolodny Named First Female Youth Baseball of New Rochelle President

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

For the first time in its 43-year history, Youth Baseball of New Rochelle (YBNR) has elected its first female President, Michelle Kolodny. An active Beth El Synagogue Center member, Kolodny has been involved in the league for many years, volunteering her time for a few seasons before becoming the Commissioner of the Rookies Recreational Division and subsequently being nominated to the Board last year.

YBNY is a league offering recreational baseball and softball divisions for children from Pre-Kindergarten through High School. They also have a more competitive Travel Division for baseball and softball. The Baseball Travel Division, the Huguenots, consists of 6 teams ranging from 8U through 12U, while the Softball Travel Division, the Diamonds has teams ranging from 8U through 14U. YBNR plays at Pinbrook Park, Isaac Young, Flowers Park, Lincoln Park and New Rochelle High School.

Kolodny was a varsity softball pitcher for the Scarsdale Raiders for three seasons until she graduated from Scarsdale High School in 1996. She

has lived in New Rochelle for the past 9 years with her husband, Noah Kolodny and sons Spencer, 14 Levi, 10 and Micah, 9.

Ms. Kolodny first became involved with YBNR when she did not believe that Spencer's coaches were helping him to develop a love of the



game as he was not given the same opportunities to play a variety of positions that other children were given.

She is excited to bring about various changes within the league to grow YBNR so that it will be a recreational league for all children in New Rochelle while also strengthening the league's Travel Program.



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