

ADL Regional Director Leads Discussion on Confronting Antisemitism

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Scarsdale Synagogue Temples Tremont and Emanu-El (SSTTE), in Scarsdale, hosted an In Person/Zoom Discussion with Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Regional Director Scott Richman, "Antisemitism Now: How Can We Confront It and What Can We Do About It?" on Sunday, March 19, 2023.

An estimated 45 people attended in person, with approximately 10 on line. SSTTE Rabbi Jeffrey Brown thanked the Belkin family for funding the program and introduced Richman, interviewed by ADL Westchester Interest Group member Susan Douglass.

"ADL was founded in 1913 in the wake of the Leo Frank case, which has gotten a lot of attention the past few weeks with the musical 'Parade,'" Richman began. "There were protests against ADL and the musical when it opened in previews recently by White Supremacists. With the rise of Ku Klux Klan in the 1950's and Civil Rights Movement, ADL became a force fighting against all forms of hate, including racism against Black and LGBTQ communities.

"We are an extremely innovative organization that created Center for Technological Society to fight hate in digital spaces with Twitter and Social Media companies, encouraging them to take action. We are a data-driven company, believing that data drives policy and intelligence part of the Jewish community, providing intelligence to law enforcement.

"Last year we provided over 2,000 tips to law enforcement, including Community Security Services (CSS) and Community Security Initiative (CSI) that deals in synagogue/cyber security. Last

year we offered 20,000 law enforcement professionals training in antisemitism and hate crimes.

"We bring law enforcement groups to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., work with universities and Social Media. Last year we dealt with more antisemitic incidents in the history of our organization; 2200 incidents were reported to my office."

Richman pointed to seven Tropes or Con-



ADL Regional Director Scott Richman; Susan Douglass, Member, ADL Westchester Interest Group; Scarsdale Synagogue Temples Tremont and Emanu-el Rabbi Jeff Brown.

spiracy Theories: 1) Jews are accused of controlling government and media; 2) Jews are greedy; 3) Loyal only to Israel; 4) Blood Libel, using blood of non-Jews for their rituals, specifically baking Matzos; 5) Deicide, Jews collectively responsible for killing Jesus, which was debunked by Second Vatican Council; 6) Holocaust Denial; 7) Anti-Israelism.

He also mentioned antisemitic radio broadcasts of Father Charles Coughlin in the 30's, diatribes of Henry Ford and Charles Lindbergh as well as discrimination joining country clubs and corporate suites.

Prominent Area Rabbis Return from UJA Mission to Israel



BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

A diverse group of 24 prominent Rabbis, Orthodox, Conservative and Reform, returned from a March 13-20 special UJA mission to Israel, meeting with politicians, journalists, and thought leaders across the political spectrum on key issues including judicial reform and rise of social divisiveness.

The group from Westchester County encompassed Rabbis Jeffrey Arnowitz, Westchester Jewish Center, Mamaroneck; Sasha Baken, Assistant Rabbi, Westchester Reform Temple, Scarsdale; Aaron Brusso, Bet Torah, Mount Kisco; Chaim Marder, Hebrew Institute of White Plains and David Schuck, Beth El Synagogue Center, New Rochelle.

As Rabbi Schuck embarked on the trip, he wrote, "I am grateful to UJA Federation New York for having the wisdom, foresight and commitment to strengthen the relationship between the Jewish communities of the Diaspora and Israel. As ever, they continue to model the critical importance of investing in Jewish peoplehood, which we must never take for granted."

An exclusive virtual conversation on the Rabbinic reflections from the Westchester Rabbis was moderated by Hana Gruenberg, Managing Director, UJA Federation, and took place March 27.

"We recognize that there is so much in flux, things getting more tense in Israel," Gruenberg noted. "We met with politicians from the Coalition and opposition. The most moving thing for me was meeting Israeli Rabbis 'on the ground.'"

Rabbi Arnowitz said that he found the mission to the Rabbis on the ground "incredibly humbling. One takeaway that I want to share was that I went to Israel thinking that it had a governmental problem and left Israel thinking that it had a societal problem."

"I went into this trip thinking that I had a voice and needed to shout loudly and bring the opinions of America to Israel to those on the ground," Rabbi Baken said. "I found that I really had to listen more rather than having something to preach..."

Brusso averred that societal differences required weaving and bridging to be brought together, comparing it to Parsha Nitzavim when the next generation that wasn't slaves had to commit to the original vision that the Israelites had at the beginning.

Marder pointed to James Madison and the Federalist papers, representing checks and balances, with fear of democracy challenged at its very core, stressing legislation cannot solve this problem but rather a higher, deeper form of dialogue. "We are seeing the unfinished business of the birth of a nation," Marder concluded.

#StandUpToJewishHate Partners

Alpha Epsilon Pi International (AEPi), the world's leading, Jewish college fraternity, has joined the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism as an official partner of #StandUpToJewishHate, its new national campaign to mobilize all Americans, and especially non-Jews, to combat antisemitism by using the blue square emoji - ■ - as a unifying symbol of support. Jews only make up 2.4% of the American population yet are the victims of 55% of religious-based hate crimes. That startling discrepancy is the cornerstone of this new campaign, created through a \$25 million investment by Robert K. Kraft and his family. AEPi joins the Foundation, alongside a broad coalition of partnered organizations, including the League of Women Voters, Urban League, National Governors Association, the Anti-Defamation League and Hillel

International to encourage its supporters to stand up to Jewish hate.

Through the #StandUpToJewishHate campaign, the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism is establishing ■, the Blue Square emoji already on all smartphones, as a simple, but powerful symbol of solidarity and support for the Jewish community. The ■ will make its debut by taking up 2.4% of TV and digital screens, billboards and social feeds, including an integrated roll-out across NBC in which hosts and talent from some of the network's most popular shows introduce the ■ and discuss the rising threat of antisemitism, including on The Voice, Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen, The Kelly Clarkson Show and TODAY.

"The #StandUpToJewishHate campaign is designed to raise awareness for the fight against

antisemitism, specifically among non-Jewish audiences and to help all Americans understand that there is a role for each of us to play in combating a problem that is unfortunately all too prevalent in communities across the country today," said Robert K. Kraft, Founder of the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism. "We must stand up and take action against the rise of all hate and I hope everyone will post and share the Blue Square to show their support in this fight."

A recent study conducted by the Louis D. Brandies Center of members of AEPi and the leading Jewish sorority, Alpha Epsilon Phi, found that nearly 70% of the students surveyed personally experienced or were familiar with an antisemitic attack in the past 120 days. More than 65% of these students have felt unsafe on campus due to physical or verbal attacks, with one in 10 reporting they



Robert K. Kraft

have feared they themselves would be physically attacked. And roughly 50% of students have felt the need to hide their Jewish identity.

Robert K. Kraft founded the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism in 2019 to help address the rising hate against Jews in the United States and the existential threat it poses to Jewish people. The Foundation is focused on winning the hearts and minds of non-Jews through powerful, positive messaging and partnerships, motivating and equipping them to

be defenders and upstanders for Jews as they continue to face antisemitism. FCAS' work includes understanding and responding to antisemitic messages and hate speech posted online and sharing the story of the Jewish people and the threats they face today to drive awareness and solidarity amongst all audiences, especially non-Jews.

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Latimer Signs Legislation to Require Truthful Disclosure by Candidates for Elective Office

Following the discovery of an ongoing high-profile case of an elected official lying about their resume, County Executive George Latimer and Board of Legislators Chairwoman Catherine Borgia are taking steps to help ensure that never happens here in Westchester County by enacting legislation requiring a public record of candidates' resumes. At a ceremony held at the high school listed on Latimer's resume, the County Executive signed this unanimously passed, tri-partisan new measure into law.

Latimer said, "Honesty is the number one trait all who hold elected office must possess - and what has happened with a particular elected official in the news recently has only further reinforced the negative stereotype that all 'politicians are liars.' This legislation will help ensure we never see a case like that here in Westchester County Government and I look forward to working with the Board on its implementation."

Board of Legislators Chairwoman Catherine Borgia said, "Transparency is the cornerstone of good governance, and the Truthful Disclosure Law is a vital step towards ensuring



that our elected officials are held accountable to the people they serve. This law promotes integrity and trust in our political system and helps to safeguard the public interest. It is a good example of responsible, ethical leadership, and a model for other communities to follow."

The new law will require candidates for County Legislator and County Executive to complete a Candidate Disclosure Form that provides biographical information, including the candidate's educational, military, and employment histories. The Candidate Disclosure Form will also require the candidate to certify that the information contained in the form is true and correct. This form shall be open for public inspection.

Birthright Israel Excel Fellows

Over 300 Birthright Israel Excel Fellows from North America and around the world gathered in New York City March 24-26, for the Excelerate23 Summit.

Birthright Israel Excel is a prestigious business fellowship that offers highly accomplished college students a summer internship in Israel, followed by membership in an exclusive community of peers focused on professional development, personal growth, Israel engagement, and philanthropy. After their internships, Excel Fellows have maximized their experiences by taking on positions at top-tier companies such as J.P. Morgan Chase, Bain & Company, and Google, developing strategic partnerships with Israeli companies, and starting their own companies, often hiring other Fellows.

The Birthright Israel Excel program has grown tremendously, with the number of applications for its 2023 summer program rising 80 percent from last year. This year also has brought a record number of U.S. applicants since Birthright Israel Excel started in 2011.

According to Birthright Israel Excel's Executive Director Idit Rubin, some 30 Fellows from Israel and several others from Brazil, UK, South Africa, France, Argentina and Mexico joined their North American peers for Excelerate23, cementing those bonds.

Skylar Losepovici from Hastings-on-Hudson



Skylar Losepovici

said, "The essence of Excel truly is the community, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as one of over a thousand diverse, driven fellows who share my passion for positive impact, both in Israel and across the globe."

Throughout the weekend, participants attended plentiful networking opportunities, industry-specific panels and discussions about topics such as business development, Jewish identity and Israel engagement.

Sunday featured presentations by two recognized leaders in the world of business and entrepreneurship. Marc Rowan, CEO, Apollo Global Management Inc, and Enes Kanter

Freedom, Activist and Former NBA player.

Sunday also included a talk by Representative Ritchie Torres, New York's 15th Congressional District. Referring to the anti-Semitic pandemic across the US, Torres said that he supports Israel, not despite his progressiveness, but because of it. "BDS activists reject the two-state solution and thus the very existence of Israel and that's a double standard. It is imperative that we all stand up and speak out against antisemitism," he added.

"In these challenging times in Israel, it was heartwarming to see this amazing group of young leaders showing their love and support for the country," said Rubin. "The Global Summit is literally the climax of the year for the Excel Fellowship when we gather as a global community to connect, share ideas, and ad-



Left to right Jimmy Heffer, Ben Landau, Jacob Richman and Dan Gelfard, all from Westchester, photo credit-Luis Ruiz

vance partnerships with Israel. Especially this year, it's important to address issues beyond our business and tech focus that affect the Jewish people around the world. We know that our community cares deeply about the horrific rise in anti-Semitism and we are eager to discuss approaches to effectively combat," she added.

The summit also held workshops to empower participants to combat anti-Semitism. David Bernstein, CAM senior advisor and founder of the Jewish Institute for Liberal Values, lead a session titled, "Countering Political Extremism and Anti-Semitism Today." Greg Thomas, co-executive director of the Omni-American Future Project – an initiative committed to fighting racism and anti-Semitism and strengthen-

ing unity between the Black American and Jewish communities through exposure to each group's music and culture - lead a session titled, "Black-Jewish Relations: The Omni-American Vision." And Anila Ali, a Muslim civil-rights advocate, lead a session titled, "Fighting Anti-Semitism in the Muslim World."

Since 2011, Birthright Israel Excel has been engaged in developing the next generation of Jewish business leaders. The Excel Fellowship selects extraordinary college students around the world for a summer business or tech internship in Tel Aviv at leading companies. After their return, Excel Fellows become part of a global community that provides resources for professional and personal development and Israel engagement, while also being dedicated to philanthropy.

"The Birthright Israel Excel program is considered to be the most prestigious program in the Jewish world today, with only a few dozen young people being accepted from thousands of applicants. This year we received applications from 26 countries," said Gidi Mark, CEO of Birthright Israel. "Birthright Excel Fellows are active every day as recognized leaders in their professional arenas and within the broad Jewish community and it's our goal to continue guiding and supporting them in their efforts to build a thriving and better Jewish future for all."

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55TH Annual Salute to Seniors

In celebration of Older Americans Month, the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services will hold its 55th Annual Salute to Seniors events at various Westchester County Parks on the second, third and fourth Wednesday in May.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "I am excited for the return of our annual Salute to Seniors events in May as we celebrate Older Americans Month. Our Westchester County seniors are an important part of our communities. These events create an opportunity to bring people together, while providing our seniors access to the programs and services needed to help them feel healthy and safe."

Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services' Commissioner Mae Carpenter said, "One of our greatest assets are the many seniors residing in our communities. It is a privilege and honor to offer programs like Salute to Senior events to them for their enjoyment and education. This year's theme, Aging Unbound, says to us all, that there are no limits to aging successfully. We look forward to three days of fun-filled activities that bring communities together and enhance livability."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said, "Every year we are proud and excited to continue the tradition of presenting our Salute to Seniors events during Older Americans Month. Keeping in step with our previous successes, we host these events in three of our beautiful, scenic parks. Attendees get the chance to enjoy the splendor of Mother Nature and socialize with each other. We also provide our elder residents with easy access to senior services and programs that will assist them in remaining healthy, vigorous and self-sufficient."

Westchester County Department of Public Works and Transportation Commissioner Hugh J. Greechan Jr., P.E. said, "Our department always



County Executive George Latimer

looks forward to participating in the annual Salute to Seniors events. We are thrilled to offer free rides to seniors on the Bee-Line fixed-route bus system every Wednesday in May. We have made several recent improvements to our fleet including the addition of 106 new 40-foot hybrid-electric buses. This is the perfect opportunity for seniors to try out the system and enjoy a free ride on one of our fully accessible state-of-the-art buses."

This year's Salute to Seniors events will run from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at three different parks on the following Wednesdays: Central Westchester on May 10; Ridge

Road Park, 287 Ridge Road, Hartsdale; Northern Westchester on May 17; Croton Point Park, 1 Croton Point Avenue, Croton-on-Hudson; Southern Westchester on May 24; Glen Island Park, Weyman Avenue, New Rochelle.

Attendees will enjoy three outdoor events featuring a complimentary boxed lunch, music and information on programs, services and products targeted to the senior community. Parking and admission are free. Reservations are required, as space will be limited. Call (914) 218-3968 to make reservations.

In celebration of Older Americans Month, Westchester County Department of Public Works and Transportation will provide seniors free rides on the fixed-route Bee-Line bus system every Wednesday in May, which includes all three event dates.

Salute to Seniors will operate safely under applicable New York State guidelines in place at the time the events are in session.

This year's Salute to Seniors events are sponsored by the Westchester County Senior Programs and Services (DSPS) and The Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services; and co-sponsored by Westchester County Parks, Recreation and Conservation, and Public Works and Transportation.

Jewish Security Alliance of NY/NJ will Share Intelligence, Resources and Training



Jewish community leaders from New York and New Jersey gather in ADL's Investigative Research Lab to announce the formation of the Jewish Security Alliance.

In the aftermath of a series of violent antisemitic plots threatening synagogues in New York and New Jersey, eight leading organizations serving the Jewish community in New York and New Jersey have joined forces to create a clearinghouse for information sharing, training, and resources – the Jewish Security Alliance of NY/NJ.

The new alliance formalizes existing relationships, establishes a streamlined process for information sharing on credible threats, and establishes mechanisms that will help bolster the safety of the entire community. This partnership comes at an important moment for the Jewish community in these two states, with antisemitic incidents in the U.S. again reaching historic levels in 2022, and with New York and New Jersey coming in first and third, respectively, among states having the highest number of reported antisemitic incidents.

The newly formed alliance consists of five Jewish Federations, ADL (the Anti-Defamation League), the Community Security Initiative (CSI) of New York, a joint program of UJA-Federation of New York and JCRC-NY, and the Community Security Service's Northeastern Division (CSS). The five Federations are the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, Jewish Federation in the Heart of NJ, Jewish Federation of Northern NJ, Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties, the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Rockland County, and the Jewish Federation of Southern NJ. The Jewish Security Alliance of NY/NJ has four key objectives:

- Serve as a central point of contact for federal and local agencies on issues and incidents affecting the safety and security of the Jewish community in greater New York City and New Jersey;
- Serve as a reliable and inclusive source of information on threats or other security issues affecting the Jewish community in New York and New Jersey;
- Receive incident reports from Jewish institutions and community members and share these reports among the members of the alliance and with relevant law enforcement authorities;
- Provide security recommendations and training for Jewish institutions and its members to better safeguard the community in this region.

"Over the course of the last year and the relentless tempo of antisemitic threats that see no border between New York and New Jersey, our eight organizations have forged a strong operational alliance against hate which has become an integral part of the solution to protect our communities," said Mitch Silber, the Executive Director of the Community Security Initiative, a joint

program of UJA-Federation of New York and JCRC-NY. "This alliance enables seamless regional coordination yet allows all the organizations to continue to work with other national Jewish security partner organizations, including the Secure Community Network (SCN), to safeguard the New York – New Jersey Jewish population of approximately two million people, or 1/3 of American Jewry."

"With the rise of antisemitism, it is incumbent upon us an organization that equips and empowers the Jewish community across the country to protect itself, to closely partner with local and national organizations, as no one entity can tackle hate alone," said Evan R. Bernstein, National Director and CEO of CSS. "In the current security environment of heightened awareness, it is critical to forge new local partnerships, and further our existing national accords with ADL's Center on Extremism and the Secure Community Network (SCN). Our Northeastern Division leadership and network of trained security volunteers stand ready to work within this new alliance to ensure better communication and coordination with the ultimate goal of improving our safety outcomes."

"The past year has seen multiple, serious threats against Jewish communal institutions in New York and New Jersey, some of which could have proven far more lethal had it not been for the diligent joint work of our community partners and law enforcement," said Jonathan Greenblatt, ADL CEO. "These threats serve as a reminder that we must remain vigilant against future attacks, which is why it is so important for our communal organizations to be working as closely together as possible on issues of security."

"This announcement formalizes the strong, existing partnerships between our organizations and will enable us to serve our communities more effectively," said Scott Richman, Director of ADL's New York/New Jersey Region. "By joining forces, our organizations will be able to improve our communal security and respond more efficiently to potential threats."

"Enhancing security coordination across our contiguous state borders will benefit both our communities and coordination with law enforcement," said Hindy Poupko, Deputy Chief Planning Officer, UJA-Federation of New York.

"As CEO of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC-NY)," noted Gideon Taylor, "I am very pleased to see this collaborative partnership involving CSI working with Jewish federations across the region to better secure our communities."

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At HHREC High School Institute, Students Learn Lessons on Voting Rights History

Over 350 students and teachers from 31 area schools attended the 21st Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center {HHREC} High School Institute on March 15th at Iona University in New Rochelle.

This program was developed to further the mission of the HHREC by laying the foundation to encourage students to become upstanders, rather than bystanders. This year, the program featured a stirring keynote presentation on the struggle to achieve voting rights by Sheila Arnold, CEO and Lead Performer of History's Alive! The students and teachers also participated in a Q&A with Sheila in character.

Following this moving performance, students attended workshops led by experienced facilitators to encourage open discussions, as teachers inspired their students to engage as activists or "Upstanders" in response to human rights violations. Deputy Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins also



appeared to issue a proclamation on "Westchester County Upstander Week", a call to action designed to encourage student activism on human rights issues.

The event culminated with a talk and Q&A with HHREC Board Chairperson and GenerationsForward Speakers Bureau member Michael Gyory, who shared the story of his father's cousin Agi Keleti, a 102-year-old Holocaust Survivor who went on to win 10 Olympic medals as a gymnast.

Ten Chabad Centers Present Jewish Family Festival

Chabad Synagogues and Centers of Westchester County, came together to welcome over 400 people of all backgrounds and faiths to the Jewish Family Festival, an event celebrating Jewish life in the leadup to Passover. The event was held on Sunday, April 2 at Ridge Hill on the South Lawn in Yonkers.

The project, dubbed "Jewish Family Festival," is a joint project of the combined Chabad Centers of Westchester and the Bronx, a group of organizations that empower Jews of all walks of life to come together to celebrate their heritage. The event's focus was on the Year of Hakhel or "Gathering," marked with Jewish gatherings focused on unity, Torah learning and practice.

Prior to the event, Rabbi Levi Groner said, "As the Jewish community prepares to mark the Festival of our Freedom, we're looking forward to welcoming the community to join us in celebration." Rabbi Groner is the co-director of Chabad of Pelham, one of the Chabad centers collaborating on the event. "Our goal is to lower the barriers to Jewish engagement and ensure everyone feels welcome and included and has the opportunities and resources they need to celebrate the holiday."

The Jewish Family Festival draws inspiration from the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, who as part of a global Passover campaign that began in 1954, launched the Shmurah Matzah initiative to create awareness and promote observance of the holiday.

Participants enjoyed family fun for all ages in the form of carnival games and interactive activities, Passover themed arts and crafts and an elec-



Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz receives proclamation from Adam Levine representing Yonkers Mayor Andy Spano, proclaiming the Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson's dedication to and promoting education. Photo credit: Robert Kalfus

tric concert from popular Jewish band "Pumpidisa" was a perfect start to getting into the Passover spirit in a way of inclusion and awareness.

Chabad of Westchester County is made up of 12 Centers across Westchester. They are dedicated to building on the philosophy and mission of Chabad-Lubavitch by providing Jewish communities the education and resources they need to celebrate their culture and engage in Jewish practice in an easy and accessible way. Chabad of Westchester County engages Chabad's network of human and educational resources to create a culture of inclusion so that all Jews feel welcomed, supported and valued throughout their entire lifecycle.



During this new Jewish year, celebrate the 75th anniversary of the modern State of Israel. In the United States a National Coordinating Council for Israel at 75 has been convened by the Conference of Presidents and the American Zionist Movement. There has been great interest so far in working together to mark this momentous diamond anniversary with special celebratory events and educational materials that will attract broad participation across diverse sectors of American society.

Go to www.ISRAEL75USA.org and register to receive updates or submit your ideas or questions.

AJC Leaders for Tomorrow Advocacy Day in Washington



First row – Madeline Brown, Tenafly, NJ; Ellie Minkove, New Rochelle; Yaffa Pressner, White Plains; Meira Pressner, White Plains; AJC Westchester/Fairfield Associate Director Jill Friedman; AJC CEO Ted Deutch. Second row – Yaelli Hoffman, Tenafly, NJ; Eliana Fromer, New Rochelle; Rana Hammerman, White Plains; Mitchell Breakstone, Scarsdale; Lucas Saland, Chappaqua; William Hirsch, Scarsdale; Matthew Hirsch, Scarsdale; Harry Bernstein, Scarsdale. Third row – Ben Siegel, Scarsdale; Gavin Korpi, Rye Brook; Ben Messafi, Rye Brook; Kevin Khitrov, Ardsley; Spencer Sarachek, Scarsdale.

High school students from Westchester and New Jersey were among those who traveled to Washington from March 12-14 to be part of American Jewish Committee's Leaders for Tomorrow Advocacy Day.

The program brought together Jewish high school students from across the country to meet with Congressional staffers, diplomats from Israel, Bahrain and Morocco—all parties to the Abraham Accords—as well as top AJC leaders, including CEO Ted Deutch.

Deutch served more than 12 years in Congress before resigning to join AJC last October.

More than 120 students also heard from

Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, the U.S. Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism and Shelley Greenpsan, President Biden's liaison to the Jewish community.

"Today's students are tomorrow's leaders," said AJC High School Affairs Director Aaron Bregman. "This is the next generation of advocates who will stand up for American Jews and Israel and lead the fight against antisemitism. This program provides the tools to help them meet those challenges when they head to college."

To date, the Leaders for Tomorrow program has reached more than 1,900 students.

After “The Wild”: Contemporary Art from The Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation Collection

The Jewish Museum presents After “The Wild”: Contemporary Art from The Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation Collection, an exhibition highlighting contemporary artworks by 47 intergenerational and internationally-based artists made between 1963 and 2023. These works are part of a larger gift to the Museum in 2018 comprising artworks made by the recipients of the Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation Award. After “The Wild”: Contemporary Art from The Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation Collection is on view at the Jewish Museum through October 1, 2023.

Barnett Newman (1905-1970) is among the most influential artists associated with Abstract Expressionism. Largely overlooked by critics, cu-

rators, and collectors until his later years, he was nonetheless a stalwart and generous supporter of his colleagues, befriending and mentoring countless younger artists. To them, Newman appeared not as an old master but as a true peer—curious, engaged, and as eager to delve into the nuances of technique as to art’s philosophical underpinnings. After his death, Annalee Newman, his widow, created The Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation to help further the spirit of great art that Barnett Newman so clearly exhibited, by giving grants to artists from 2004 to 2020. Diverse in style, training, background, and age, the Foundation’s grantees—whose works comprise this exhibition—share Newman’s seriousness of purpose, as well as his unflagging drive to explore the outer

limits of his own ideas.

The exhibition title is inspired by Barnett Newman’s 1950 painting The Wild. Standing at 8 feet tall and a mere 1 ½ inches wide, the work consists of a dark orange “Zip” set against razor thin bands of black. It contrasts sharply with the heroically scaled paintings for which Newman is well known. In Newman’s own account, The Wild was meant to test whether something modest could hold its own against something grand: in its first presentation,

it was shown opposite the painting Vir Heroicus Sublimis (1950-51), a room-filling magnum opus. Both works will be invoked within an introductory space that conjures Newman’s second solo exhibition at Betty Parsons Gallery in 1951, a consequential moment in both the artist’s trajectory and the emergence of what is now called contemporary art.

After “The Wild”: Contemporary Art from The Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation Collection is organized by guest curator Kelly Tatter, with Shira Backer, Leon Levy Associate Curator, The Jewish Museum. Exhibition design is by Ivi Diamantopoulou and Jaffer Kolb, with Nashwah Ahmed, New Affiliates.

The exhibition is accompanied by an audio



tour available within the Jewish Museum’s digital guide on Bloomberg Connects, the free arts and culture app. Hear interviews with 11 artists including Lynda Benglis, Peter Halley, Judy Pfaff, Serge Alain Nitegeka, Sarah Sze, and Fred Tomaselli, as well as Verbal Description audio tours, designed for individuals who are blind or have low vision. Bloomberg Connects is accessible for either onsite or offsite visits and can be downloaded to any mobile device.

The Jewish Museum is an art museum committed to illuminating the complexity and vibrancy of Jewish culture for a global audience. Located on New York City’s Museum Mile. The public may call 212.423.3200 or visit TheJewishMuseum.org for more information.

Governor Announces New Portrait of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Official Unveiling Spring 2023

Governor Kathy Hochul has announced plans to honor Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and Brooklyn native Ruth Bader Ginsburg this spring with the unveiling of a permanent portrait carving of the justice’s likeness in the New York State Capitol.

“When Ruth Bader Ginsburg was asked when there would be enough women on the U.S. Supreme Court, she famously replied, ‘When there are nine,’” Governor Hochul said. “By carving her portrait into the Capitol, we are both honoring Justice Ginsburg’s legacy as a trailblazer for justice and gender equality, and also celebrating New York’s history as the birthplace of the women’s rights movement.”

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy said, “Justice Ginsburg was an inspiring, remarkable jurist whose tireless fight for gender equity proved that ‘women belong in all places where decisions are being made’ and who followed her own philosophy to ‘leave tracks’ and make the world a better place for others. It is an honor for all of us at OGS to have a role in adding Justice Ginsburg’s likeness to the Great Western Staircase and become a part of the New York State Capitol’s storied history.”

Jane Ginsburg and Jim Ginsburg said, “My brother and I, and the entire Ginsburg family, are deeply moved that our mother’s home state of New York has honored her by placing her image in the magnificent Western Staircase. It is particularly fitting that she will appear close to John Jay, her great predecessor on the US Supreme Court, whom she admired.”

Justice Ginsburg’s portrait will be the first new carving added to the Great Western Staircase since the completion of the staircase in 1898 and only the seventh woman depicted in the staircase gallery. The second-floor location chosen



Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

for the carving will place Justice Ginsburg at a level of the building where only men have been depicted to date. The location selected for Justice Ginsburg’s portrait is a blank expanse directly above John Jay, the U.S. Supreme Court’s first chief justice and the only Supreme Court justice whose portrait is carved on the Great Western Staircase. Justice Ginsburg’s likeness will be carved in the same style as the existing 19th-century portraits carved in the staircase’s Corsehill sandstone.

In November 2022, the Ginsburg family approved figu-

rative sculptor Meredith Bergmann’s model of the proposed portrait carving. Bergmann is the female figurative artist who sculpted the Women’s Rights Pioneers Monument in New York City’s Central Park, which features suffragists Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

The Great Western Staircase at the New York State Capitol is a monumental interior stair constructed of elaborately carved Corsehill sandstone. The stair was carved between 1884 and 1898. The only modern carving that has occurred at the stair was to correct the misspelling in Frederick Douglass’ name in 2019. The staircase includes intricate carvings of flora, fauna, symbols, and the faces of named great Americans, including the first 30 governors of New York State, United States presidents, explorers, politicians, inventors, scientists, authors, soldiers, poets, activists, and abolitionists.

There are currently six portraits of women carved on the Great Western Staircase, all below the second floor: Molly Pitcher, Revolutionary War soldier; Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom’s Cabin; Susan B. Anthony, suffragist leader; Clara Barton, Civil War nurse; Elmina P. Spencer, Civil War nurse; and Frances E. Willard, temperance crusader.



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Mazel Tov

JTS Appoints Rabbi Joel Seltzer New Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), one of the world's pre-eminent centers of Jewish higher education, has announced that it has appointed Rabbi Joel Seltzer, a JTS alum, to serve as its Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement. In this role, Rabbi Seltzer will lead the institution's development and communications efforts. As a seasoned pulpit rabbi, educator, not-for-profit executive, and fundraiser, Rabbi Seltzer brings years of experience and a unique perspective to this newly created role.

Rabbi Seltzer has assumed his new position.

"I could not be prouder to join an institution for which I have had a deep affinity since I was a student. I've had the great privilege to both learn from JTS's renowned faculty and later on work closely with JTS's senior leadership. I am looking forward to deepening those relationships



Rabbi Joel Seltzer

and engaging with JTS's wide network of supporters, many of whom I already know. Together we will further strengthen this vital Jewish institution and lead it toward a robust future," said Rabbi Joel Seltzer, the newly appointed Vice Chancellor.

"I've known Rabbi Seltzer for many years and have always been impressed by his consummate professionalism, his invigorating spirit, and his creative vision. Under his leadership, Camp Ramah in the Poconos experienced significant growth in enrollment and philanthropic support during a very challenging time. Rabbi

Seltzer will bring a fresh perspective to the institution's fundraising and communications efforts. We are excited to see how he will help JTS achieve its goals, both on campus and throughout the larger Jewish world," said JTS Chancellor Shuly Rubin Schwartz.

For over 10 years, Rabbi Seltzer led Camp Ra-

mah in the Poconos, one of the many camps that comprise the Ramah camping movement. As Executive Director, he managed the day-to-day and long-term strategy of this seven-million-dollar not-for-profit organization, which includes an overnight camp, day camp, and Tikvah programs (programs for campers with various disabilities.) Previously, he served as a congregational rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in Providence, Rhode Island.

Rabbi Seltzer earned his rabbinical ordination at JTS and his BA, Magna Cum Laude, from Florida State University. He is an author of the articles "The Things We Will Lose" and "A Strange, Familiar City." He serves on the board of the Perelman Jewish Day School in Wynnewood, PA, is a member of the Rab-

binical Assembly's Siddur Lev Shalem for Weekdays Editorial Committee, and is an avid musician.

JTS is a preeminent institution of Jewish higher education, training thoughtful, innovative leaders—rabbis, cantors, educators, lay leaders, and scholars—who strengthen communities with a vision of Judaism that is deeply grounded in the Jewish past and thoroughly engaged with contemporary society. JTS also provides high-caliber, lifelong learning and professional development to alumni, adult learners, and Jewish communities throughout North America. Through its Library, JTS preserves and makes accessible to students and scholars throughout the world the greatest collection of Judaica in the Western Hemisphere.

WJCS 80th Anniversary Gala is A Huge Success!



WJCS Gala honorees Michele Brettschneider and William Shirley (right) with CEO Seth Diamond

Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) welcomed 250+ guests to their 80th Anniversary Gala on March 28th. WJCS Board members Michele Brettschneider, a Scarsdale resident, and William Shirley, a longtime Larchmont resident, were honored at the Brae Burn Country Club event. The evening was especially celebratory as WJCS, now one of the largest human services organizations in Westchester, is commemorating its 80th anniversary.

"We were founded in 1943 as a small organization that served a few families who were struggling in Westchester. WJCS now has over 80 programs and serves 20,000 individuals of all ages and backgrounds," said WJCS CEO Seth Diamond.

The theme of the evening was on the long-term positive impact of WJCS services. Four videos emphasized this theme:

- Judith Watson, CEO of Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, shared how psychotherapy at WJCS when she was a teen helped her overcome the challenges of a tumultuous childhood and started her on the path to academic and career success.

- WJCS Board member Julian Gomez, general counsel at a large firm, told about being born into a non-English speaking home and attributed his participation in the WJCS ParentChild+ program

as the turning point in his becoming literate and later enrolling in an Ivy League college and law school.

- Lois Steinberg, shared how living in a WJCS group home has given her adult disabled daughter "a full life" where she feels "everyone loves me."

- Teddy Cooper, a high school student in Rye, explained how the WJCS Share Shabbat program, which paired him with Dora, an aging Holocaust survivor, whom he visits and brings a Shabbat meal monthly, has changed his life forever. The connection he has made with Dora ensures that her story and those of other Holocaust survivors will be passed on to the next generation.

WJCS-Westchester Jewish Community Services has been serving those most vulnerable in Westchester county since its founding in 1943. It is a non-sectarian, not-for-profit, trauma-informed human service agency and its mission is to help people of all ages and backgrounds cope with emotional, cognitive, environmental, physical, interpersonal, social, and educational challenges. Agency experts, using evidence-based practices, provide youth, mental health, trauma, disabilities, and senior services to approximately 20,000 people each year. It also offers privately-funded educational and spiritual programs for the Jewish community.

Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester is Champion of First Annual KugelFest!

The JCC of Mid-Westchester (JCC-MW) awarded Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester the honor of KugelFest! champion at the organization's 'Day at the J' on Sunday, March 26th. The winning kugel – cooked and presented by Debra Cohen and Hayden Cohen on the synagogue's behalf – earned the most digital votes in a real-time taste test among Day at the J attendees.

Tasters expressed their appreciation for Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester's sweet lockshen kugel, awarding it high scores for flavor, texture and aroma. The recipe was an authentic representation of a traditional Jewish kugel, a baked casserole usually made from potatoes or egg noodles.

According to Elise Dowell, CEO of JCCMW, the organization is instituting KugelFest! as an annual tradition: "Celebrating Jewish cooking in the form of light-hearted competition provides us with another meaningful opportunity to bring together members of our community, which is central to the mission of the JCCMW. We are dedicated to enriching the lives of our friends and neighbors here in Westchester by offering outstanding human services, and educational, cultural and recreational programs grounded in our Jewish values."

JCCMW's Day at the J invited local residents to explore its facilities, try their hand at Passover-themed activities and crafts, and enjoy special performances and programming. The event, attended by more than a thousand community members, also collected shelf-stable food items for donation to a local food pantry.

JCC Mid-Westchester is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the community by



left to right- Rabbi Dahlia Bernstein from JCCMW, Debra Cohen and Hayden Cohen from Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester

providing cultural, social, educational, and recreational/fitness programs, human services, and Jewish identity-building opportunities to all people regardless of age, background, religion, or sexual orientation. They support the community by offering outstanding human services, and educational, cultural, and recreational programs within and beyond their walls. Programs are grounded in Jewish values, and they welcome all!

The JCCMW enriches families, connects friends, strengthens the community, and helps people lead joyful lives. Using Jewish values, the JCCMW offers participants educational, social, cultural, and recreational activities to inspire joyous lives and strengthen community. Visit at <https://jccmw.org>.

Missing Generations: Photographs by Jill Freedman

Derfner Judaica Museum + The Art Collection at Hebrew Home at Riverdale has announced its spring exhibition, *Missing Generations: Photographs by Jill Freedman* which will be on view through July 16, 2023. A reception and curator's talk will take place on Sunday, March 19 from 1:30–3 p.m. in the Museum, located at 5901 Palisade Avenue in the Riverdale section of The Bronx.

The exhibition marks the eightieth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. It has been thirty years since Jill Freedman traveled to Poland on the fiftieth anniversary to document sites of destruction and the resurgence of Jewish life after the Holocaust in Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia. Not previously exhibited, the thirty-six black and white images in *Missing Generations: Photographs by Jill Freedman* capture the milestone events that took place beginning with commemorations of the Uprising in 1993, including the return of many survivors for observances in Warsaw and at Auschwitz.

When Freedman went to Poland in April 1993, she wrote that she made the journey as a pilgrim “to mourn the dead, to honor them,” along with the “survivors, their children, old soldiers and witnesses.” She returned to many of these sites the next year after receiving a fellowship from the Alicia Patterson Foundation (APF). Founded in 1965, the APF supports the work of journalists. In her application for the fellowship, Freedman wrote that she wanted to expand her project. She sought to meet survivors and document their “gatherings, their faces, their stories, their interactions.” Freedman noted the urgency of this endeavor at a time when, once again, “ethnic cleansing” was being perpetrated in Europe



and “historical revisionists” were denying the Holocaust had ever happened.

On her trips, Freedman also visited and photographed residents of a Jewish nursing home in Szeged, Hungary; the former Terezín (Theresienstadt) camp in Czechoslovakia; the sites of Majdanek and Treblinka; the Jewish quarters in Kraków and Prague where the oldest synagogue in Europe is located; and a summer camp in Szarvas, Hungary, where Jewish children from Eastern Europe learned about traditions that had been nearly annihilated. She also made portraits of survivors in Florida, in the United States.

Freedman titled her project *50 Years Later* when she proposed it to APF. She also planned a book using many of the same photographs that were published in a series of four photo essays she contributed in 1996 to the Foundation's journal, *The APF Reporter*. She modified the original project title for her book, calling it *Missing Generations: 50 Years Later*.

Freedman wrote the text for the planned publication and included poetry and quotations from Holocaust historians. She also designed it with images ordered and juxtaposed to convey her point of view. For example, she highlighted

her concern for the way in which many formerly Jewish areas, as well as the camps themselves, had become tourist destinations.

The images include poignant portraits of survivors returning to the places they had been imprisoned, like Roman Ferber, one of the youngest Jews on Schindler's list, photographed at Birkenau. Other images focus on the remnants of Jewish communities trying to rebuild, including the opening of a Jewish kindergarten in Prague.

The photographs in this exhibition have

been chosen from the more than eighty images that Freedman had included in *Missing Generations*, which was left unpublished at the time of her death. They have been generously lent by the Jill Freedman Family Estate.

Museum hours: Sunday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended but not required. Call 718.581.1596 or email art@river-spring.org to schedule a visit, in-person or virtual group tours or for holiday hours. For further information, visit the website at DerfnerOnline.org.

No Hate in Our States Means Celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month



BY MYRA CLARK-SIEGEL, AJC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Recently, I passed a church with a large sign outside that read, “We’re open! Come in!” Ironically, in 2023, that same signage could be posted outside any house of worship except a synagogue. Given the rise of violence towards Jews across the United States, synagogues now must have security procedures rivaling that of any airport.

For too many American Jews, being Jewish no longer feels as safe as it once did.

The recently released, ground-breaking AJC State of Antisemitism in America Report highlights the lived experiences of American Jews today. Based on one of the largest-ever combined national surveys of American Jews and the U.S. general public, the report demonstrates the disturbing impact that rising hatred of Jews has on America's Jewish community.

Indeed, one of the most significant findings is that over four in ten American Jews feel less secure than last year. That concern increased by 10 percentage points from 2021, in large part to the rise in antisemitic attacks, crimes, and violence; and how acceptable and normalized antisemitism and racism have become.

Moreover, nearly four in 10 American Jews have changed their behavior out of fear of antisemitism: avoiding publicly wearing, carrying, or displaying things that might identify them as Jewish.

And while these findings and the lived Jewish experience is concerning, there are also bright spots, particularly with respect to high school and college students, who often are on the front lines

when it comes to dealing with antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiments and hatred.

And while we must call out hatred against the Jewish community as we do any hatred or racism, there is good news as well.

The good news: our friends and colleagues want to be upstanders and allies with the Jewish community. AJC's Call to Action provides these tools and resources for our elected officials, school administrators, interfaith/intergroup partners, corporate leaders, and others to be partners and upstanders. We know that the hatred that begins with the Jewish community does not end there, and our partners know that we stand strong with them through our AJC Community of Conscience.

More good news: AJC's Leaders for Tomorrow or LFT high-school advocacy program is now open for applications for our 2023-24 cohort. This year, 30 high school 10th, 11th, and 12th graders are part of our LFT program from across Westchester and CT: Reform, Orthodox, Conservative, private, and public high schools, they represent our broad and diverse community and they are strong, proud, Jewish, and pro-Israel leaders. Our applications are now open for our Fall cohort.

Even more good news: May is Jewish American Heritage Month, which celebrates Jewish Americans and encourages all Americans to learn more about the Jewish community and its contributions to society. At a time when American Jews are feeling vulnerable amidst a rise in antisemitism, we at AJC cannot think of a more important time to celebrate the contributions of Jews to our society.

There are so many ways to celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month together in May and we hope you will join us!

The best news: AJC will celebrate Israel's miraculous 75th anniversary at our Global Forum IN Israel June 11-14. If you want to learn more about Israel's diversity, democracy, and complexity, please join us at AJC Global Forum. Special rates for college students, young professionals, and rabbis are available.

Myra Clark-Siegel is regional director of AJC (American Jewish Committee). To join any of the efforts above, please contact us at: westchester@ajc.org.



Medicare. Medicaid. What's in a Name?



BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, ESQ. CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

Clients regularly ask us a multitude of questions regarding Medicare and Medicaid. While the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), issues rules and regulations for both, there are major differences between the two programs.

Medicare and Medicaid both provide health-care coverage via government programs, however, Medicaid is run at the state level (even though

CMS oversees it) and Medicare is run at the federal level. What that means is that the Medicaid rules vary state by state while the Medicare rules are the same no matter which state you live in. Medicare is for people who are at least age 65 or have a qualifying disability, while Medicaid is for people with minimal assets. Some people are eligible for both.

Medicare is divided into four parts: Part A, B, C, and D. Part A covers inpatient hospital and skilled nursing care, or rehabilitation provided by licensed health professionals such as nurses or physical therapists and pursuant to a doctor's order. Medicare does not pay for custodial care, which is non-medical care generally provided by nurse's aides that help individuals with their activities of daily living such as eating, bathing, and dressing. Part B covers doctors' visits and outpatient care. Part C, sometimes referred to as Medicare Advantage, is an optional alternative to regular Medicare and combines parts A and B. Often, Medicare Advantage plans include certain benefits you do not get with regular Medicare and may also have differences in doctor networks. Part D covers prescription drugs.

In addition to monthly premium charges for certain parts of Medicare, there are significant deductibles, copays and coinsurance. Substantially

all Medicare beneficiaries do not pay a premium for Part A since they (or a spouse) have at least 10 years of Medicare-covered employment. If you haven't paid sufficient Medicare payroll taxes, you will have to pay as much as \$506 a month for Part A. For most people, Medicare Part B premiums are \$164.90 a month in 2023. However, you will be required to pay higher premiums for Medicare Part B and Part D if your income is more than \$97,000 per year for a single person, or \$194,000 per year for a married couple. These amounts are adjusted annually based on inflation. Many Medicare beneficiaries also add Medigap coverage, which covers some of the gaps (co-pays and deductibles) in Medicare coverage. These policies must follow federal and state laws and are standardized to simplify comparing one plan to another. It is important to review these policies carefully to ensure that you are getting the benefits you need and not paying for benefits you don't need or will not use.

Unlike Medicare, which is available to you no matter how wealthy you are, Medicaid is a means-tested program and is available only to people who meet the program's strict income and asset requirements.

Unlike Medicare, Medicaid does pay for custodial care received either at home or in a nursing home. In fact, the majority of nursing home residents in the U.S. are enrolled in Medicaid. This is no surprise since the average cost of long-term care in our area can exceed \$200,000 a year. Medicaid benefits vary from state to state, but each state's Medicaid program must provide certain

minimum benefits. There are also different rules for single individuals and folks who married. In addition, there are rules restricting your right to make gifts to family members and others during the look-back period prior to filing a Medicaid application. Of course, as with any rule, there are numerous exceptions that may or may not be applicable to you. Thus, it is very important for you to consult with a Certified Elder Law Attorney in the state where you or your loved one is seeking to qualify for Medicaid.

Medicare and Medicaid both provide crucial health coverage to millions of Americans. Medicaid becomes increasingly important for older people who end up needing long-term care, as Medicare does not provide that coverage. Nearly all Americans will eventually rely on Medicare as their health insurance as they get older, and millions of others may also access the Medicaid program at some point in their lives. Fortunately, these two programs provide a good safety net for those who know how to navigate the system.

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.

MET Council Distributes \$10 Million in Food Before Passover

In the weeks leading up to Passover, Met Council, America's largest Jewish charity dedicated to combatting poverty, distributed nearly \$10 million in kosher for Passover provisions to more than 321,000 people suffering from food insecurity.

This year's Passover food distribution, America's largest, was made possible by the generous supporters of Met Council, its partnership with the UJA Federation of New York, and millions of eggs that were donated by Deb El Food Products. The free Kosher for Passover food packages, distributed at more than 207 locations throughout the five boroughs, Long Island, Westchester, Connecticut, the Capital Region (Albany) and Northern New Jersey, included matzah, kosher for Passover chicken, gefilte fish, eggs, tuna, grape juice, apple juice, tomato sauce, apple sauce, jam, oil, pickles, lemon juice, macaroons, imitation vinegar, sugar, potato starch and a wide variety of produce.

"Food has literally never been more expensive in our lifetimes. We literally work for six months in order to achieve America's largest free kosher for Passover distribution. I am so grateful to our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors and board members for their incredible support of our unprecedented Kosher for Passover food distribution program" said Met Council CEO David G. Greenfield. "We're extremely thankful to all those who've partnered with us to help support our community's most vulnerable this holiday season."

More than 1,237 volunteers, and many of New York's political and communal leaders, participated in the efforts to help distribute the Passover food packages.

US Senator Charles Schumer, Mayor Eric Adams, NYS Attorney General Letitia James, NYS joined Met Council leaders and volunteers at various distribution in all five boroughs throughout the last



couple of weeks.

Due to inflation, this year's Passover distribution cost Met Council 18-percent more than the year before.

"Without each and every one of our partners in this tremendous effort we wouldn't have been able to serve as many of those suffering from food insecurity this Passover," said Jessica Chait, the managing director of Met Council's food programs and policy. "From Staten Island to Westchester, from Queens to Albany, it's tremendously humbling to see how many people came out to help their neighbors with their time and with their donations."

"While continuing to contend with limited supplies of fresh protein, ongoing shortages and delays in supply chains, and the end of many emergency funding programs, we are seeing an increased need for our food pantry services — even when compared to recent years," she added.

Founded in 1972, the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty (Met Council) has been fighting poverty and promoting the social welfare of New York's struggling populations including the impoverished, immigrants and the elderly.



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Edward Shapiro, President and Publisher
es@shorelinepub.com

Helene Pollack, Publisher, Editor-in-Chief
hp@shorelinepub.com

Cynthia Pena, Art Director
shorelineproduction@gmail.com

Lauren Levine, Advertising Account Executive
levinelaur@gmail.com

Lynne Glaser, Advertising Account Executive
Lynnesglaser@gmail.com

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Westchester's Community Newspapers

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Calendar



“THE GRATITUDE PROJECT, “a Painting and Poetry Exhibit will be on view until May 26, 2023, at The White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Avenue. Paintings are inspired by responses of 36 United States Poets Laureate to The New York Times inquiry, “What people in their State would be thankful for” during Covid. For more information call 914 422-1400.

On April 23, The Jewish Community Center of Mid Westchester {JCCMW}, Scarsdale, will host a Virtual Family Cooking Class from 4:30-6pm. Join Ashley Covelli of Big Flavors from a Tiny Kitchen to make a delicious Israeli inspired Family Dinner from your home. Learn more and register at jccmw.org/virtual-family-cooking or call Caity Weida for questions at 914-725-7300.

On April 23, join Dayenu and Friends for the New York Jewish Climate Action Summit at Temple Shaaray Tefila, 250 East 79th Street, NYC from 1-4:30pm. Covid vaccination required. Contact jean-nyc.org to learn more.

On April 24 at 7:15, The Jewish Community Center of Mid Westchester will hold a Yom Hazikaron Ceremony. Call 914-725-7300 for details.

On April 25 at 7:30pm, Iona University will host its annual Holocaust Commemoration in the Ryan Library, Romita Auditorium, 715 North Avenue, New Rochelle, as internationally acclaimed historian Deborah Dwork, Founding Director, Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, will guide in an exploration of the challenges of the postwar lives of survivors. Free and open to the public. For information call 800-231-IONA

On April 29, at 8pm, Comedians Shaun Eli, a native of Scarsdale, Dan Naturman and Joe Larson, will perform at The Emelin Theatre, 153 Library Lane, Mamaroneck. For tickets call 914-698-0098.

On April 30, The Jewish Community Center of Mid Westchester {JCCMW}, 999 Wilmet Road, Scarsdale, will hold a Kids Cooking class from 11am-noon for children 3-7 and caregivers with Jodi Greebel, MS, RDN. For more information call 914-725-7300 or write info@jccmw.org

On April 30, Chabad of the Rivertowns, 303 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, will celebrate Chabad's 20th Anniversary and will complete and dedicate a new Torah scroll from 9:30am -12:30pm. To at-

tend call 914-693-6100.

On May 2 at 6pm, join June Hersh of Bedford and author of Iconic New York Jewish Food, along with Niki Russ Federman, co-owner of Russ & Daughters and Rozanne Gold, four time James Beard award winning chef and author, as they share their personal New York food stories in the main Sanctuary of Eldridge Street Synagogue, 12 Eldridge Street, NYC. Free. Contact eldridgestreet.org or call 212-219-0302 for details.

On May 7, in honor of Israel@75, The Shalom Hartman Institute of North America will present Donniel Hartman speaking on Israel Today: What is the Path Forward for Liberal Judaism? At Beth El Synagogue Center, 1324 North Avenue, New Rochelle at 7pm. For more information 94-235-2700.

On May 7, Northern Westchester Celebrates Israel at 75 in the Village Hall Lot, 104 Main Street, Mt. Kisco from 2-5 pm.

On May 7, Temple Israel of New Rochelle, 1000 Pinebrook Boulevard, will conduct a Blood Drive from 10:30am-3 pm. To sign up call 914-235-1800.

On May 9, Westchester Jewish Council will host the Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Awards at Temple Israel of White Plains, 280 Old Mamaroneck Road. To attend, register at wjccouncil.org

On May 10, UJA Federation of New York in Westchester will host a Celebration at Old Oaks Country Club, Purchase, honoring Wendy and Neil Sandler and Michelle Dinenberg and Randi Rosenblatt. For questions call 914-385-2108.

On May 21, Southern Westchester Celebrates Israel at 75 at Temple Israel of New Rochelle, 1000 Pinebrook Boulevard.

The 25th New York Sephardic Jewish Film Festival will be held May 7-11 at ASF, The Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, NYC and online from May 14-18. Get tickets at nysjff.eventive.org/passes/buy

On May 14, Westchester Torah Academy will celebrate the 10th Annual Shomrei Torah Event starting at 7pm at 150 Stratton Road, New Rochelle. For information write office@westchesterta.org

On May 17, from 11am-1pm, the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center will host Board Chairman Michael Gyory as featured speaker at a luncheon held at Bet Am Shalom Synagogue, 295 Soundview Avenue, White Plains. To RSVP write mjasper@hhrecny.org

On May 21, the 8th annual Greek Jewish Festival will be held from 12pm-6pm at The Museum at Eldridge Street, 12 Eldridge Street, NYC. To learn more, go to GreekJewishFestival.com or write contact@eldridgestreet.org or call 212-219-0302.

#EndJewHatred Announces Day of Empowerment

The international grassroots civil rights movement #EndJewHatred will lead a day of empowerment on April 29 with the intention of calling on people to answer the question – what are you doing to #EndJewHatred. April 29th has been recognized as “#EndJewHatred Day” by elected representatives from both parties across the United States.

This year, people who support the fight against antisemitism—including celebrities, influencers, organizations, and private citizens—are joining in unity with the Jewish Community by sharing messages of support and empowerment online in a viral campaign using the hashtag #EndJewHatred. People are pledging to stand up against Jew-hatred and sharing what they are doing in the fight against bigotry and racism.

Across the country, people will be commemorating the day in unique and personal ways. For example, the Babylonian Jewish Center's Helping Hands Youth Partnership program will be taking 60 teens to the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County for a private, guided tour to understand the connection between the Holocaust and modern antisemitism. Members of the Holocaust Museum & Center for Tolerance and Education in Rockland County will be marking the day with a minute of silence in memory of all the Jews who have lost their lives in violent attacks since the last #EndJewHatred Day. Some rabbis and Christian ministers will speak about the movement and the need to unite against anti-

semitism at their Sabbath services that weekend.

“The #EndJewHatred movement empowers and mobilizes communities across the country to push back against rising Jew-hatred,” said Brooke Goldstein, Co-Founder of End Jew Hatred. “As we come together on April 29th to celebrate #EndJewHatred Day, we set aside political differences and unite with singular purpose and knowledge that,

just as we came together to fight racism and bigotry targeting other minority communities, we need to stand in solidarity with the Jewish community to

end Jew-hatred in our lifetime.”

In the past year, the End Jew Hatred movement has been successful in galvanizing communities and their elected representatives from across the country in the fight against antisemitism. At the end of March, they worked with Rep. Esther Panitch of Georgia to bring a resolution to the House floor recognizing April 29th as #EndJewHatred Day, adding to the legislative districts that are increasingly recognizing the significance of this day for the Jewish Community.

#EndJewHatred is an international grassroots civil rights movement that unites ordinary people, activists, and organizations from around the world who support the cause that defines the movement: to end Jew-hatred in our lifetime. It does so by altering public discourse to make Jew-hatred unacceptable in society, while empowering Jews with positivity and strength to discover and enjoy their heritage in whichever manner they choose, without fear of attack or persecution



Westchester's Community News

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