

2018 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW



The Jewish Community Relations Council of Westchester since 1975



The Westchester Jewish Council connects, convenes and helps to safeguard Westchester's Jewish communities. We strengthen relationships among Jewish organizations and other ethnic and faith based groups, Israel, elected officials, and the community at large.



www.wjcouncil.org

CONNECTING, CONVENING

The Westchester Jewish Council is a dynamic organization that serves the community by providing security resources, learning sessions, opportunities to connect and honor local lay leaders and volunteers, connections with local government and more. Here are some of the highlights:

Roundtables

Roundtables, where lay and professional leaders gather to build bonds and share best practices on a variety of topics and issues, remain the signature Council initiative. As a community connector, the Council facilitates these ongoing sessions with the goal of having these leaders gather to make connections and share their best practices and principles on a variety of current topics and issues. This year, the Council organized over 30 Roundtables including security, synagogue lay and professional leadership, clergy, marketing professionals and volunteers, Israel activists, interfaith/intergroup volunteers, Mosaic of Westchester (a group which enriches our Jewish community through LGBTQ inclusion), youth professionals and volunteers and more.



Security

The Council, as the Westchester Jewish community's first responder, facilitates communications and the sharing of best practices of security among member organizations and government offices such as the Westchester Intelligence Center and the Department of Homeland Security. Responding to some of the tragic events in the past year, we successfully activated our "Emergency Communication System" which allows us to instantly notify hundreds of trained Westchester Jewish professionals and volunteer leaders from our member organizations.

& HELPING TO SAFEGUARD

Community Connection, Connect-ory & Digital Media

Our biweekly e-newsletter, *Community Connection*, is distributed to over 8,000 households across greater Westchester and beyond. Each issue focuses on community events, relevant news stories and links to various resources in the community. The *Connect-ory*, the Westchester Jewish Council Membership Directory, is a comprehensive source of contact information for all synagogues and Council member organizations, business supporters and elected officials. The latest edition was published in 2019. This information is also updated on the Council website, www.wjcouncil.org. The Council website provides a constant source of community news and resources and houses the Jewish community calendar which lists multiple events hosted by our member organizations. In addition, the Council Facebook page, Council Instagram and Council Twitter reach over a thousand members.

Government

With decades of experience, the Council is a trusted liaison to Westchester's elected officials resulting in the county government utilizing the Council's resources to communicate with the Jewish community of Westchester. In the Fall of 2018, we held a briefing with Benjamin Boykin, Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Each May, the Westchester County Board of Legislators and the Council sponsor Westchester's Jewish History and Heritage Month celebration. In 2019, the ADL and J-Teen Leadership were special award recipients at the ceremony. This year's annual Westchester Legislative Breakfast (presented with UJA-Federation) was held in May 2019 and featured newly elected New York State Attorney General Letitia James as the keynote speaker and inspiring remarks by County Executive George Latimer.



Interfaith and Intergroup Relations

This initiative creates and strengthens understanding, respect and unity among different faith and ethnic communities. To foster this, the Council is involved in various programs including serving as a key partner with AJC Westchester/Fairfield and others for the annual Westchester Thanksgiving Diversity Breakfast; facilitating the Interfaith/Intergroup Roundtable; and continuing to be a supportive resource for our interfaith friends and leaders in the community.

CULTIVATING AND HONORING LEADERS

Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Awards Ceremony (JYBDSA)

This year's ceremony was held on March 19, 2019 at Temple Israel Center of White Plains. Twenty one volunteers from various Council member organizations were honored. Family, friends and colleagues of the honorees filled the room to listen to the inspiring presentations about each individual. The evening concluded with the Council's signature dessert reception featuring the Noah Rockowitz Memorial Ben & Jerry's ice cream cart.



The Hon. Samuel G. Fredman Leadership Development Institute (LDI)

This biennial program brings together emerging volunteer leaders from various member synagogues and organizations with a goal of developing future leaders. It provides access to established leaders who present on a range of topics and it creates a network of peers who can exchange ideas about common issues. The next cohort will include 20 participants and they will begin their training in October 2019. These emerging volunteer leaders will meet monthly to learn about a variety of leadership topics including: "Who are today's Jews in Westchester," "Care and nurturing of volunteers," "Leadership resources you didn't know you had" and more. The Institute was recently named in memory of the 3rd president of the Westchester Jewish Council, the Hon. Samuel G. Fredman.

CONNECTING TO ISRAEL

Supporting and deepening ties to Israel remains core to the mission of the Council. Whether via workshops, community lectures or roundtables for the sharing of ideas, the Council reminds the community that "Wherever we stand, we stand with our brothers and sisters in Israel."

"Not Alone" Support Group/Roundtable

Our community *Shaliach*, Nadav Shachmon, led our ongoing support group for Westchester families and friends of IDF Lone Soldiers (service men and women in the IDF who do not have immediate family living in Israel). The Council also hosts Israel Roundtables several times a year to bring together community members who are Israel activists and those who are interested in building relationships, discussing programming and any other matters related to Israel.

OFFICERS 2019-2020



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Karnes
Vice President



Jeff
Kohn
Vice President



Nancy
Zaro
Vice President



Marc
Klee
Treasurer



Betsy
Bernstein
Associate Treasurer



Jessica
Morgenthal
Secretary



Steven L.
Young
Associate Secretary

CONNECTING TO ISRAEL (continued)

Shlichut Initiative

The Westchester *shlichut* (Israel emissary) program was an integral part of the Council this past year. Led by our *Shaliach*, Nadav Shachmon and four *shinshinim* (young Israel emissaries), Lior, Carmel, Adi, and Yuval, relationships were strengthened with lay leaders and professionals from around the county and beyond. Teaching about Israel through dynamic programming initiatives occurred throughout the year with events such as an Israeli Election presentation, Yom Hazikaron (Israel Memorial Day), Resetting the Table Israel Discussion Group for clergy, and Honor Day for Israel's soldiers. Funding for the *Shlichut* initiative came from a generous grant from UJA-Federation of NY and from partner organizations.



Westchester Celebrates Israel Independence Day



This celebration, hosted by the JCC of Mid-Westchester, provided attendees with a feeling of being in Israel for a day through the different stations including Ben Yehuda Street, a Mahane Yehuda Market and our very own Kotel. Greetings were provided by local VIP's, elected officials and Ambassador Noa Furman, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN. Throughout the day, there was singing, dancing, arts and crafts, face painting and a cooking class which taught guests how to make hummus. Musical performances included the Westchester *Shinshinim*,

The Kol Ami Band, The Leffell School (formerly known as Schechter Westchester) and the headliner concert – A Tribute to Eurovision – by MusicTalks. Sixteen of our member organizations provided Israel-related content and fun, as well as the opportunity to send notes of support to the citizens of Sderot.

Celebrate Israel Parade

Each year the Westchester Jewish Council coordinates with our Westchester schools, synagogues, organizations and the Celebrate Israel Day Parade planners to organize the Westchester cluster to march in the parade. The parade was held on Sunday, June 2, 2019 and we were proud to have over 170 people from many of our member organizations walk together to celebrate Israel.

AT LARGE EXEC. COMM. MEMBERS STAFF



Ronald E.
Burton



William H.
Schrag



Arnold
Linhardt



Elliot
Forchheimer



Pam
Goldstein



Donna
Bartell



Lori
Kurlander



Helene
Schonbrun



Margo
Lampert

BUILDING COMMUNITY



Annual Westchester Jewish Music & Arts Festival

The Council has been honored to be the lead organizer for this countywide summer festival which is held every August at Kensico Dam Plaza. This event, one of the largest Jewish events of the year, features musical performances, children's entertainment, Israeli dancing, vendors of Jewish art, jewelry, Judaica, kosher food and more.

The 2019 festival included musical performances by the Jewish afrobeat band Zion80, Westchester Klezmer Program and Cantor Randy Herman. In addition, WonderSpark Puppets and juggler Ned Gelfars provided more entertainment throughout the day to the over 1,200 attendees of all ages.

Biennial Night of Jewish Learning & Celebration

The 4th biennial Night of Jewish Music & Joy took place on Saturday, November 17, 2018, presented in partnership with *Kol Hazzanim: Westchester Community of Cantors*. The evening featured the talents of 14 cantors singing music pertaining to the evening's theme, "A Celebration of the Season of Thanksgiving and Dedication," with songs ranging from contemporary to traditional, Jewish to secular, and rap to rock. The evening concluded with an enjoyable dessert reception.



Yom Hashoah/Holocaust Remembrance



This countywide remembrance program, presented in partnership with the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center, was held on May 2, 2019 at the Garden of Remembrance in White Plains. Holocaust survivor Helga Luden, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, clergy, lay leaders and community members came together for this touching ceremony which included a solemn procession of 32 rescued Torahs from Europe which are housed in Westchester synagogues.

Our Founders and Presidents

We mourned the loss this year of one of the Council co-founders (and past presidents), Rabbi Amiel Wohl z"l. Rabbi Wohl's impact on the Council was far reaching.

Funding – Funding for the Westchester Jewish Council comes from a variety of sources. Sixty percent of our revenue comes from donations from individuals and local foundations. Most of these donations are made in support of our sole fundraising event – our Gala held each winter. Twenty percent comes from a generous grant from UJA-Federation. Fifteen percent comes from membership dues from our 140 member/partner organizations. Five percent comes from programming. We thank you for your financial support which is so important to our mission. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

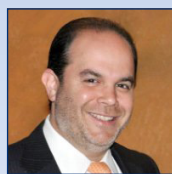
Our History – The Westchester Jewish Council, founded in 1975, has prospered under the visionary leadership of our past Presidents (in order of service): Rabbi Amiel Wohl (z"l), Clarice Pressner (z"l), Hon. Samuel G. Fredman (z"l), Hon. Sam Eisenberg (z"l), Samuel Stein (z"l), Saul Singer, Donald Landis (z"l), Lester J. Millman, Irwin S. Davison, Debra Abrahams Weiner, Ronald E. Burton, Paul Warhit and currently Lisa Roberts.

WESTCHESTER JEWISH COUNCIL MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Academy for Jewish Religion	Hazon	Rosh Pinah Chavurah of the Rivertowns
ACHI - American Communities Helping Israel	Hebrew Congregation of Somers	Scarsdale Synagogue - Temples - Tremont and Emanu-El
AIPAC - American Israel Public Affairs Committee	Hebrew Free Burial Association	Shaarei Tikvah
AJC Westchester/Fairfield	Hebrew Free Loan Society	Shalom Hartman Institute of North America
Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI)	Hebrew Institute of White Plains	Shames JCC on the Hudson
Ameinu, Project Rozana	HIAS	Sinai Free Synagogue
American Friends of Jordan River Village	Hillels of Westchester	Sprout Westchester
American Friends of Leket Israel	Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center	StandWithUs
American Friends of Magen David Adom	Israel Bonds (Development Corporation for Israel)	Stein Yeshiva of Lincoln Park
American Friends of Soroka Medical Center	Israel Policy Forum	Tel Aviv-Yafo Foundation
American Friends of The Hebrew University	J Street	Temple Beth Abraham
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)	JCCA	Temple Beth Am
American Jewish World Service	JCY - Westchester Community Partners	Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester
Anti-Defamation League (ADL)	Jewish Board	Temple Beth Elohim
Areyvut	Jewish Broadcasting Services (JBS)	Temple Beth Shalom - Hastings
Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA)	Jewish Community Center of Harrison	Temple Beth Shalom - Mahopac
BBYO Westchester Region	Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester	Temple Israel Center of White Plains
Bet Am Shalom Synagogue	Jewish Community Council of Mt. Vernon	Temple Israel of New Rochelle
Bet Torah	Jewish Deaf (and Hard-of-Hearing) Resource Center	Temple Israel of Northern Westchester
Beth El Synagogue Center	Jewish Education Project	Temple Shaaray Tefila of Westchester
Birthright Israel	Jewish National Fund of Westchester & Southern CT	Temple Sholom
Blue Card	Jewish Theological Seminary	Tzahal Shalom of Northern Westchester
Bronx Jewish Community Council, Inc	Jewish War Veterans of the USA/Westchester	UJA-Federation of NY/Westchester
Camp Zeke	Justice Brandeis Westchester Law Society	Union for Reform Judaism
Carmel Academy	Kol Hazzanim: Westchester Community of Cantors	United Hebrew of New Rochelle
Chabad Center for Jewish Life of the Rivertowns	Kol Rinah, The Jewish Chorale of Westchester	United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism - METNY
Chabad of Bedford	Larchmont Temple	Westchester Board of Rabbis
Chavurat Tikvah	The Leffell School	Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism
Children's Jewish Education Group	(formerly Solomon Schechter School of Westchester)	Westchester Day School
Community Alliance for Jewish-Affiliated Cemeteries (CAJAC)	Lincoln Park Jewish Center	Westchester Hebrew High School
Community Synagogue of Rye	Magen David Sephardic Synagogue	Westchester Jewish Center
Congregation Anshe Sholom	Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel	Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS)
Congregation B'nai Yisrael	Mishkan Ha'am	Westchester Klezmer Program
Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester	Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation	Westchester Reform Temple
Congregation Kneses Tifereth Israel (KTI)	Moving Traditions	Westchester Torah Academy
Congregation Kol Ami	NCSY	Westchester/Fairfield Association of Temple Educators (WATE)
Congregation Shir Shalom of Westchester and Fairfield Counties	New Israel Fund	Westchester Workmen's Circle School
Congregation Sons of Israel - Briarcliff	New Jewish Home - Sarah Neuman	Woodlands Community Temple
Congregation Sons of Israel - Yonkers	New Rochelle Jewish Coalition	Yorktown Jewish Center
Congregation Sulam Yaakov	New York Medical College	Young Israel of Harrison
DOROT	Northeast Jewish Center	Young Israel of New Rochelle
First Hebrew Congregation	Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies	Young Israel of Scarsdale
Fleetwood Synagogue	Pelham Jewish Center	Young Israel of White Plains
Friends of Israel Scouts - Tzofim	PJ Library	Young Judaea
Friends of the Israel Defense Forces	Plaza Jewish Community Chapel	Zicklin Jewish Hospice Residence of MJHS
Greenburgh Hebrew Center	Pleasantville Community Synagogue	
Hadar	Rabbi Max Maccoby Foundation	
Hadassah - Westchester Region	Reconstructing Judaism	
	RiverSpring Health Featuring the Hebrew Home at Riverdale	

(as of September 2019)

2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



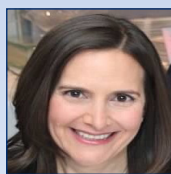
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Mona Abramson



David A. Alpert



Liat Altman



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Harold Aspis



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Betty Berenson



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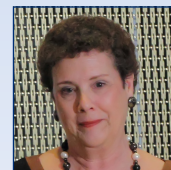
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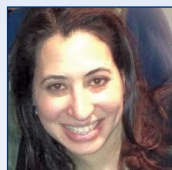
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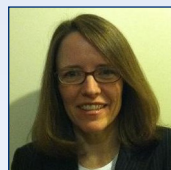
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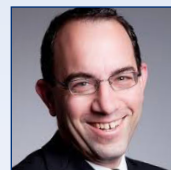
Sharon Gorman



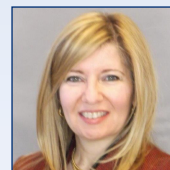
Anita Greenwald



Michele Gregson



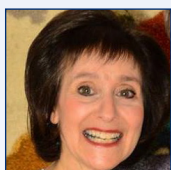
Rabbi Daniel Gropper



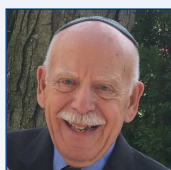
Bonnie Hagen



Gennifer Kelly



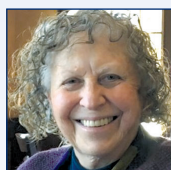
Arlene Kleinberg



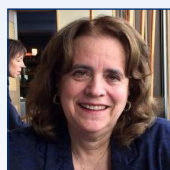
Stuart Kolbert



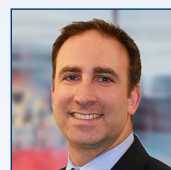
Elizabeth Lampert



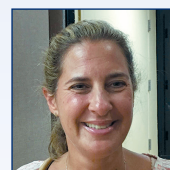
Betsy Landis



Marti Michael



Michael Mittelman



Sue Pearson



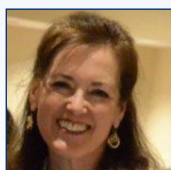
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Keith Reich



Dan Reingold



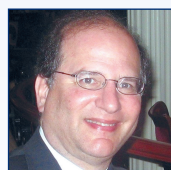
Marilyn Kneller-Rimsky



Julie Rockowitz



Hon. Martin Rogowsky



Michael Rosenbaum



Michael Rosenblut



Steve Rubinstein



Ellen Salant



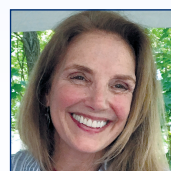
Yael Schulman



Danny Schultz



Roman Shuf



Jane Silverman



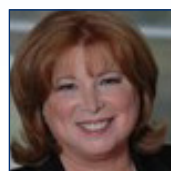
Steve Silverman



Lori Sloane



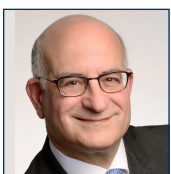
Jen Sokol



Sheila Spicehandler



Richard Spitz



Gary Trachten



Harriett Zeller



Jack Zitomer

Westchester Jewish Council

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