

Leadership Mission Engages Government and Military Leadership



eter Weintraub, President Herzog and Steven Weil

have great ties with Egypt and Jordan, especially at the military level. Thanks to the Abraham Accords we also have good ties with the Gulf states - with some of them it's still behind the scenes. We also have great ties with Cyprus and Greece. This is a good advantage," he continued.

Lieutenant General Kochavi reinforced to the delegation that Israel relies on continued worldwide support from the Jewish community in order to thrive: "The IDF needs the support of the public in Israel but also from Jews from all over the world. It's strengthening our ability and our spirit, this not a cliché, I mean it. We need your support."

FIDF CEO Steven Weil reflected on the importance of the meetings with IDF leadership. "We had the opportunity to discuss with Lieutenant General Kochavi some of the critical strategic challenges that the IDF is facing, as well as to speak about the education and transformative opportunities for soldiers that ultimately will shape the future of the Israel and the IDF," he said.

On November 18, the delegation visited the official residence of the president, where they met

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WJC President Schrag Outlines Plans for Coming Year

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

New Westchester Jewish Council (WJC) President William Schrag outlined their plans for the coming year.

"When I assumed office last May the Jewish World was very different," Schrag observed. "We were not contending with issues about anti-Semitism which we have seen since last summer and during the course of the Gaza War.

"We conferred with our member organizations, partners and government elected officials.

Over the summer we organized a large rally at the Mid-Westchester Jewish Community Center that was attended by nearly 1,000 people of all Jewish denominations in early June. WJC was a key proponent and supporter of the new Anti-Hate Legislation that the County Board of Legislators was proposing...We took a leading role regarding the new Law, attending hearings and appeared at the Signing Ceremony with County Executive George Latimer in October.

"We continue to be active against anti-Semitism in the year ahead. Last year we created a new Anti-Racism Committee. This year we found the need to create a new committee against anti-Semitism. The committees are separate but collaborate with each other in tandem, making recommendations during the course of the year ahead.

"Round Tables promote unity among the Westchester Jewish Community, and we promote literacy with a newly-formed Jewish Literacy Committee.

"Our Annual Gala will take place on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at 7:15 p.m., Kol Ami, White Plains, an in-person event with Zoom option, depending upon what happens healthwise, discussing Council activities, plus Honorees Marc Klee,



William Schrag

a Council Officer for many years; Jennifer Sokol, a Board member for approximately 50 years and Corporate Nominee, RPW Grouping, financial supporters of various Jewish Community organizations and programs.

"The Israel Advocacy Series is a monthly program, touching on the Israeli elections and Schlichtot, Shachar Liran Hanan, our Israeli representative, overseeing younger Israeli teens working with synagogue Sunday and Day Schools," Schrag concluded.

New CEO for JCC of Mid Westchester

The JCC of Mid Westchester {JCCMW} Board of Directors has announced their next CEO, Elise Dowell, will join in early January.

A seasoned executive with decades of experience across a number of key public-facing roles in Jewish philanthropy and educational organizations, Elise comes from The Jewish Theological Seminary where she presently serves as Vice Chancellor for Communications and External Affairs. In her role at JTS, she guides strategic communications, oversees public affairs and enrollment management while advising the chancellor and board of trustees on all public affairs matters and institutional strategy.

Elise lives in Larchmont with her husband and three children. She and her family have personally enjoyed the benefits of the JCCMW



Elise Dowell

offerings, and she is deeply impressed by their role and reputation in Westchester. Most importantly, she is a passionate believer in the positive impact JCCs have on the community having been raised in a JCC during her youth in Connecticut, even working there in various jobs growing up.

After an extensive, five-month search where dozens of candidates both internal and external were carefully considered, the Board fervently believes that Elise is a passionate and driven leader with the right experience at the right time to become their next CEO.

Elise possesses considerable skillsets including donor development, membership cultivation, digital strategies and external relations that are necessary to support the vision of growth at the JCC through an increasing diversity of offerings rooted in Jewish values.

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