

2017 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW



The Jewish Community Relations Council of Westchester Since 1975



The Westchester Jewish Council connects greater Westchester's Jewish communities and strengthens relationships among Jewish organizations and other ethnic and faith-based groups, elected officials and the community at large.



CONVENING, COLLABORATI

Planning and executing, with our partners, "Westchester Celebrates Israel@70" - the most significant and largest convening of the Westchester Jewish community - was a major focus of the Council's work. The event, held on April 15, 2018 at Schechter Westchester, was the largest gathering of Westchester Jewry in recent history, attracting over 3,200 people.

Roundtables

Roundtables remain a signature Council initiative that unites Westchester Jewish leadership and facilitates the sharing of information while strengthening communication and connection among a cross-section



of our community. This year, the Council convened a record 52 Roundtables, including a new cohort of agency presidents. As the **community connector**, the Council (at times in partnership with our member organizations) facilitates ongoing forums (bringing together synagogue Executive Directors, synagogue presidents, marketing professionals and volunteers, Israel chairs, interfaith/intergroup chairs, security coordinators, youth professionals and volunteers, etc.) where lay and professional leaders gather to build bonds and share best practices and principles on a variety of topics and issues.

In September, the Council hosted its first Westchester Jewish Leadership reception for local clergy, Westchester Jewish Council member organizations' leadership, and elected officials. Amb. Dani Dayan, Consul General of Israel in New York, and former County Executive Hon. Rob Astorino were guest speakers. The event served as a wonderful gathering as we embarked on a new program and Jewish year.

Security

The Council, as the Jewish community's first responder, facilitates communications and best practices of security among member organizations and government offices such as the Department of Homeland Security. In September 2017, the third annual High Holiday Security Briefing was hosted by the Council's Security Committee and featured remarks by the Hon. Rob Astorino, the former County Executive, and William Hayes of the Westchester Intelligence Center. An additional Security Roundtable focusing on physical and cyber security was held in March 2017. Professionals from PFK O'Connor Davies, Gleis Security Consulting and the Westchester Intelligence Center



presented on cybersecurity, security personnel, and open air event security, respectively.

NG AND COMMUNICATING

Community Connection, Connect-ory & Digital Media

Our bimonthly e-newsletter, *Community Connection*, is distributed to over 7,000 households across greater Westchester. Each issue highlights community news and events and includes links to a wide variety of resources across our community. Every two years, the Westchester Jewish Council Membership Directory, aka "The Connect-ory" is published as a single source of contact information for all synagogues and Council member organizations, business supporters, and elected officials. The next biennial directory will be published in January 2019. This information is also kept current 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 myriad events hosted by our member organizations. In addition, the Council Facebook page and group reach thousands.

Government

The Council is the Jewish community's link to Westchester's elected officials, and the county government in turn uses Council resources to communicate with the Jews of Westchester. Each May, the Westchester County Board of Legislators sponsors the celebration of Westchester's Jewish History and Heritage Month which, in 2018, celebrated Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) with tributes to three outstanding individuals - Alan Trager, outgoing Chief Executive Officer; Bernard Kimberg, Chief Operating Officer; and Jan Fisher, outgoing Director of Government, Foundation and Agency Relations. This year's



annual Westchester Legislative Breakfast (presented with UJA-Federation of NY) in March 2018 featured newly-elected Westchester County Executive Hon. George Latimer as the guest speaker.

Interfaith and Intergroup Relations

This initiative fosters understanding, respect and unity among different faith and ethnic communities throughout the year via a variety of initiatives 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 building relationships with interfaith friends and leaders from other organizations. This year, a number of Roundtable members and others participated in local gatherings in support of immigrants and immigration.

CULTIVATING AND RECOGNIZING LEADERS

Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Awards Ceremony (JYBDSA)

This year's event was held on March 8, 2018 at the Jewish Community Center of Harrison (JCCH). Twenty volunteers from Council member organizations across the county were honored. Despite inclement weather, a standing room only crowd joined in the celebration honoring colleagues, friends and family. Special recognition was given to JYBDSA co-chair Carolyn Schrier, (who relocated to Memphis, TN with her family), for her dedicated service to the DSA committee. The evening concluded with our signature dessert reception featuring the Noah Rockowitz memorial Ben & Jerry's ice cream cart.



Leadership Development Institute (LDI)

This biennial program brings together emerging volunteer leaders from a mix of member synagogues and organizations, representing various sectors of the Jewish community. The 2017-2018 cohort included 20 participants active in their respective synagogues/organizations. These emerging volunteer leaders met monthly to learn about a variety of leadership topics including engagement, leadership styles, communication, and allocations. The program also serves as an opportunity for participants to network and get to know one another. The next cohort will convene in the fall of 2019.



CONNECTING TO ISRAEL

"Not Alone" Support Group/Roundtable

This year our *shlich*a continued to lead a support group for Westchester families and friends of IDF Lone Soldiers (service men and women serving in the IDF who do not have immediate family living in Israel). The well-received Roundtable fills a need in the community and will continue to meet on an ongoing basis.

OFFICERS 2018-2019



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Vice President



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Irwin S. Davison
AT LARGE EXECUTIVE

CONNECTING TO ISRAEL (continued)

Shlichut Initiative

Now in its fifth year, the Westchester *shlichut* (Israel emissary) program continued to be an integral part of the Council. Led by our *shlicha*, Oshra Rosenberg, new and deepened relationships with lay leaders and professionals from around the county were forged. Israel was introduced in a variety of ways to hundreds of new people through programs in synagogues as well as community-wide events, including "Honor Week" which involved 9 partnering synagogues and day schools, "The History of Israeli Fashion", a *Yom Hazikaron* commemoration and *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* song celebration, *Tu B'Shevat Seder* and so much more.



One of the major goals for this past year was to expand the delegation in Westchester in order to deepen Israel engagement. This past year two amazing *shinshinim* (young emissaries), Ofek and Amit, worked with 9 partner organizations to further infuse Israel into day and Hebrew school programs. We are very excited that we will have four *shinshinim* in Westchester in the coming year partnering with 16 day schools and synagogues in the community. Funding for the *Shlichut* initiative comes from a generous grant from UJA-Federation of NY and from partner organizations.

Westchester Celebrates Israel @ 70



Highlights of the celebration, which attracted 3,200 attendees, included the "Machane Yehuda" shuk, a grand opening ceremony with elected officials and VIP's, singing by the FIDF Ensemble, Miss Israel 2015, presented by JNF and Consul General of Israel in NY, Amb. Dani Dayan. Attendees enjoyed the expo hall featuring 51 tables showcasing member organizations and vendors. Throughout the afternoon, there were singing and musical performances, dancing, arts and crafts, face painting, and snacking on Israeli cuisine.

Special workshops included humus making by Israeli celebrity chef Gil Hovav, "Shvil Yisrael", the Israel National hiking trail, presentations by AJC Westchester/Fairfield, StandWithUs, and Innovation: Africa, presented by Israel Bonds, a UJA and JDC sponsored photo exhibit, and a mini film festival from the Maaleh Film School.

Generous financial support for this celebration came from 14 organizational sponsors including lead grantor UJA-Federation of NY, as well as over 100 families and synagogues. Schechter Westchester graciously served as the host location.

Celebrate Israel Parade

Each year the Westchester Jewish Council works 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 June 3, 2018 and the Westchester cluster was joined by the music and spirit of the Westchester Klezmer program.

EXEC. COMM. MEMBERS



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Nadav
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BUILDING COMMUNITY

43rd Annual Westchester Jewish Music & Arts Festival

For the past 6 years, the Council has been the lead organizer for this countywide summer festival featuring musical performances, children's entertainment, Israeli dancing, vendors of Jewish art, jewelry and Judaica, kosher food and more. The 2017 festival included musical performances by Klezmer rock band Golem, a leading re-interpreter and innovator of Yiddish and Eastern European music, Rockmitzvah, Israeli singer, composer and children's entertainer, Sandy Shmuely and the Westchester Klezmer Program Band. In addition, Israeli dancing for all ages took place throughout the day while juggler Ned Gelfars and face painter Maria were on hand to provide additional family activities and fun for the nearly 1,800 attendees.



Biennial Night of Jewish Learning & Celebration

On Saturday, November 18, 2017, over 400 people participated in the biennial Night of Learning & Celebration, presented in partnership with the Westchester Board of Rabbis. A diverse selection of thought provoking, educational sessions were offered by 31 rabbis from Westchester, representing various Jewish denominations. The evening concluded with a musical performance by Kaskeset (Binghamton University's A Capella group) and a delicious dessert reception.

Yom Ha'Shoah/Holocaust Remembrance



This countywide remembrance program, presented in partnership with the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center, was held at noon on Yom Ha'Shoah April 12, 2018. Holocaust survivor Agnes Vertes, County Executive George Latimer, students, clergy, lay leaders and community members came together at the Westchester Garden of Remembrance in White Plains for this moving program, which for the past four years has included a solemn procession of Westchester's rescued Holocaust Torahs (28 this year) now housed across the county.

Our Founders and Presidents

We mourn the loss this year of one of the Council co-founders (and past presidents), Hon. Samuel G. Fredman z"l. Sam had a daily positive influence on the Council for each year of our history.

The Westchester Jewish Council, founded in 1975, has prospered under the visionary leadership of our Presidents (in order of service): Rabbi Amiel Wohl, Clarice Pressner, 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 Lisa Roberts.

WESTCHESTER JEWISH COUNCIL MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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

(as of August 2018)

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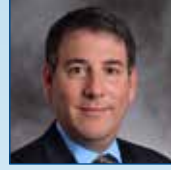
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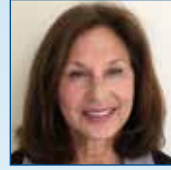
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