Thousands Came to Shine a Light on Antisemitism


The event was hosted by Eboni K. Williams, attorney, journalist and star of Real Housewives of New York, and featured special performances by the Maccabeats, David Broza, and the Christian group ‘Syahu, as well as synchronized displays on Times Square’s billboards to celebrate the second night of Chanukah.

“On the second night of Chanukah, how appropriate that one candle was lit by a survivor of the Holocaust, and the other candle was lit by the victim of a vicious antisemitic attack mere months ago, just a few blocks from where we are standing,” said Gideon Taylor, JCRC-NY CEO and Executive VP. “What greater reminder could there be from these individuals that we must stand up together against hate, here in this iconic location and everywhere, on this symbolic holiday and every day.”

“Chanukah is all about the miracle overcoming great odds and pointless hate,” said Cheryl Fishbein, JCRC-NY President. “Our society today is being challenged by the forces of hate, and we are so grateful that our elected officials and fellow New Yorkers are standing with us as we together shine our light against hate.”

“As the governor of the great state of New York, there is no hate in this state,” said NYS Gov. Kathy Hochul. “We will “Shine A Light” and stamp it out.”

“No more hate as long as we stand shoulder to shoulder ... as an African American woman, I stand with the Jewish community now and for ever,” said NYS Attorney General Letitia James. “Chanukah is about the triumph of light over darkness, and we all have a duty to come together and put an end to the darkness of antisemitism for good.”

Lighting one of the candles was Joseph Bor- gen, a victim of a violent antisemitic attack last May which took place only a few blocks from Times Square, who said, “The attack on me was no isolated incident. From deadly attacks in Pitts- burgh to Poway to Jersey City to Nazi symbolism and vicious anti-Israel hate on campus -- antisemi- tism is increasing to record levels. We’re here to- day — together with tens of thousands of people across the country — to shine a light on antisemi- tism — and the miracle light of Chanukah, the light that says Jews will not stand by.”

Lighting the second candle were Holocaust survivors Jehuda and Leah Evron. Jehuda Evron was born in Iasi, Romania in 1931. In 1941, Iasi’s Jewish community suffered through a terrible pogrom, where over 12,000 Jews were murdered, including Jehuda’s two uncles and a cousin. The Jews were forced to wear yellow stars and were often beaten by antisemitic boys. Lea Evron’s family is from Zy- wiec, Poland. More than 60 people in her family, including her father and her sister, were murdered during the Holocau- st. Today, the Evrons live in New York and have children and grandchildren.

“Today, Holocaust survivors and a recent victim of antisemitic violence in New York City offered searing proof of why it’s so important to speak up and unite against antisemitism and hate,” said Eric S. Goldstein, CEO, UJA-Federation of New York. “Particularly during Chanukah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, celebrating freedom over hate and oppression, we’re reminded of the power of even a small light to raise awareness and help dispel hatred in all its forms.”

The event is part of Shine A Light, a national... continued on page 4

Huge Attendance for 20th Annual Thanksgiving Diversity Breakfast

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

The 20th Annual American Jewish Committee [AJC] Westchester/Fairfield Thanksgiving Diversity Breakfast, Forging Community in a Time of Crisis, was held virtually on Thursday, November 18, 2021, featur- ing honorees Hearts and Homes for Refugees, representing the Fresh Start Program in which low-level non-violent offenders facing incarceration would instead get support, guidance and mentorship.

The event was presented by Founder and President Kathie O’Callaghan; Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA)-Asian Pacific American Advocates, Westchester and Hudson Valley Chapter, with former OCA President William Kaung and Dr. Mehnaz Afridi, Holocaust, Genocide and Interfaith Education Center, Manhattan College.

“Earlier this year we inaugurated the Westchester-Fairfield Community of Conscience, a body of individuals and organizations from every background and religion, with the ideals of justice, equality and opportunity for all, while rejecting hate, bigotry, violence and incen- diary partisanship,” AJC Board of Governors member Cheryl Sachs stated.

Samshah Abdul-Majid, Chaplain, Westchester Medical Center, Valhalla introduced the keynote speaker, Connecticut Attorney General William Tong, the first Asian-American to be elected in 2019.

Tong stressed that principal crises in this country are opioid and addiction, along with gun violence, mention- ing the Tree of Life Syna- gogue massacre on October 27, 2018, in Pittsburgh that took 11 lives. “Fast forward to Minneapolis, Minnesota in matter of George Floyd, concerning racism and Police misconduct. “This has been happening to us for a very long time. You should know about the murder of Vincent Chin (1982), Chinese Exclusion Act and a person murdered in Mesa, Arizona because people thought he was Muslim.

“And 75 years ago, 125,000 Japanese Americans were interned. All of us need to understand the legacy of hatred in this country against Jewish immigrants, Asian American Pacific Islanders, Latinos and gay Americans.”

“We created Civil Rights Enforcement in Office of Attorney General in Connecticut. Connecticut needed a law for me to enforce Civil Rights and make sure our laws protect all people.”

Finally, NYS District Attorney Mimi Rocah pointed to the Fresh Start Program in which low-level non-vio- lent offenders facing incarceration would instead get support, guidance and mentorship.

Kathie O’Callaghan

Visit www.westchesterjewishlife.com
FIDF Chairman’s Leadership Mission Engages with Israeli Government and Military Leadership

A delegation of 40 Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) supporters from across the United States took part in the FIDF Chairman’s Leadership Mission to Israel that concluded November 19. The delegation was one of the first to be granted entry to Israel post-COVID restrictions being lifted.

The week-long trip, which ran from Nov 12-19, allowed participants the exclusive opportunity to tour behind-the-scenes at Israel Defense Force (IDF) bases, share private conversations with Israeli President Isaac “Bougie” Herzog and IDF Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Aviv Kochavi, and show their solidarity and appreciation for Israel’s soldiers.

The FIDF Chairman’s Leadership Mission experience provides the only opportunity to navigate military life alongside IDF soldiers including Lone Soldiers, meet Israeli officials, and explore FIDF programs that empower and transform the lives of the young men and women currently serving.

FIDF National Chairman Rabbi Peter Weintraub of Scarsdale and FIDF CEO Steven Weil took great pride in leading this delegation of FIDF national and local lay leaders.

The delegation met Nov. 16 with IDF Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Aviv Kochavi, in Haifa and engaged in an exclusive briefing related to the geopolitical situation in the Middle East and the measures Israel must take to protect itself from numerous threats surrounding the country.

“These big words about the security of the State of Israel -- it breaks down to small actions and practical operations on the field,” explained Lieutenant General Kochavi. “This is the big notion of national security which is comprised of hundreds of operations every day. The good news is that we 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 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 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.

New Westchester Jewish Council (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, 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 Schliach, Shachar Liran Hanan, our Israeli representative, overseeing younger Israeli teens working with synagogue Sunday and Day Schools,” Schrag concluded.

WJCS offers a nationally recognized certificate course to equip adults to help youth experiencing a mental health crisis.

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Employees at Jewish nonprofits are overwhelmingly proud to work at their organizations. They know how their work contributes to their organizations’ missions, they believe their organizations provide quality services to their communities, and they feel respected by their managers. Employees also largely feel that their organizations are understaffed, that their salaries are unfair and derived from a process they don’t understand, and that they have little opportunity for advancement. These are just a few of the many insights shared in a newly released report, Are Jewish Organizations Great Places to Work? Results from the Fifth Annual Employee Experience Survey done by Leading Edge.

The pandemic picture: relative stability and even improvement. The 2021 survey was fielded in May 2021—before the delta variant cast its shadow on the pandemic recovery and before subsequent signs of “The Great Resignation” came into focus. Still, as a snapshot of how the pandemic affected Jewish nonprofit workplaces to that point, the survey reveals good news: some aspects of team culture that were most directly affected by the pandemic, such as collaboration, communication, and employee enablement, stayed the same or even improved between 2019 and 2021. This finding echoes broader trends; McKinsey reports that “during the pandemic, about 50 percent of the companies in [their] research data set increased performance, while the rest saw no meaningful change or decreases.”

For the first time, Leading Edge has data on work-relevant disabilities—and how employees who report having work-relevant disabilities experience work less favorably than other employees across many kinds of experience.

New evidence finds that employees’ feelings of belonging is key to engagement—demonstrating the mission-critical importance of effective DEI strategies.

Employees’ perceptions that their organizations prioritize employee well-being is now more strongly correlated than ever before to employees’ desires to stay at their organizations, or to leave.

The Jewish nonprofit sector as reflected in this survey is still not racially/ethnically representative of the North American Jewish community as a whole. While Jews of Color may represent as much as 12-15% of the Jewish community, only 6% of Jewish employees surveyed identified as any racial/ethnic group other than white. White employees are also over-represented relative to U.S. demographics among the non-Jewish employees at the organizations surveyed. Beyond representation, the report also includes a detailed breakdown of how employees who identify with different racial/ethnic groups report experiencing work across different factors of work experience.

For each factor of employee experience, the report provides a few concrete things organizations can do now. This survey included 221 participating organizations, some from Westchester County. 11,613 professionals took the survey.

To view the full report, visit leadingedge.org.

Maccabi USA Announces New Partnership with JNF-USA’s Boruchin Center

Maccabi USA has announced a new partnership with Jewish National Fund USA’s Boruchin Center to enhance the Israel Connect experience for the 2022 Maccabiah. Working together, Maccabi USA will bring its under-18 athletes to JNF-USA supported sites in Israel and expose them to additional opportunities to connect with the Jewish land and people.

“We are looking forward to building a stronger relationship with the JNF-USA Boruchin Center,” said Maccabi USA CEO, Marshall Einhorn. “Our missions complement each other so well and next year’s Maccabiah is the perfect opportunity to start working together to build a stronger connection between young American Jews and Israel.”

The Maccabiah, often referred to as the “Jewish Olympics,” convenes 10,000 Jewish athletes in Israel from 80 countries. Featuring four age groups with athletes from 14 to 85, it is one of the world’s largest multi-sport competitions. The event will take place from July 12-26, 2022, in the four hub cities of Haifa, Jerusalem, Netanya, and Tel Aviv.

JNF-USA’s Boruchin Center Chairman, Mike Lederman added, “Sport plays such an important role in our community. Lifelong friendships and connections are made through organizations like Maccabi USA and we are delighted to play a leading role in connecting their participants to the land and people of Israel. Now, more than ever, it’s important that we nurture the next generation of our community’s leaders, and in partnering with Maccabi, their movement will help us achieve this historic mission.”

With the new partnership, JNF-USA’s Boruchin Center has awarded a $250,000 grant to Maccabi USA’s Israel Connect (IC) program. IC is a social-educational experience consisting of one week of travel, activities, and discussions about Jews, Judaism, and Israel prior to the start of the Maccabiah. The athletes then have two weeks of self-directed exploration in between competitions with the support of Maccabi USA and JNF-USA educators.

“While sports are what get many young Jews to

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HHREC Announces Summer 2022 Community Guided Tour of Holocaust Museums

The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center (HHREC) of White Plains, has announced a guided tour of Holocaust Museums in Germany and Poland from June 18-29, 2022. The HHREC Community Guided Tour and Trip is being offered to those interested in visiting these museums and to hear from experts in the field.

“This trip was created to expand the comprehension of this monumental event in human history,” said Steven Goldberg, Co-Director of Education at HHREC in White Plains. “We are very excited to offer this guided tour, to help participants gain first-hand knowledge to help understand the meaning of the Holocaust and pass on lessons learned for the future.”

The Summer 2022 guided tour of Holocaust Museums in Germany and Poland is now open for applications, and trip highlights for 2022 HHREC Community Tour include:

- Sightseeing Coach Tour of Berlin, including the Berlin Wall Memorial, Brandenburg Gate, Belbelplatz
- Holocaust Memorials in Berlin
- Tours at the Berlin Jewish Museum, House of the Wannsee Conference, and Polin (Museum of the History of Polish Jews) in Warsaw
- Tours at Sachsenhausen and Auschwitz-Birkenau camps
- Tour of Warsaw Ghetto and other Holocaust sites
- Tour of Kazimierz (historic Jewish section of Krakow)
- Panel discussion on Jewish life and antisemitism in Germany today and visit to the Neue Synagogue in Berlin
- Interactive workshop on the effects of the Nuremberg Laws of the 1930’s

Services provided as part of this trip and tour include Intercontinental roundtrip flights from New York (Newark) to Berlin, Germany and National and Intra-European transportation by public transportation, local, coach, taxi, local and long-distance trains. Accommodations include breakfasts in 4-star hotels (10 nights) in Berlin, Warsaw, and Krakow, along with group lunches and dinners, and tickets for the Chamäleon Theater in Berlin, and lectures, discussions and local guided tours in English or with English translation.

To register or for more information, visit hhrecny.org/educators-study-tours/summer-community-tour/ or contact Stephen Goldberg sgoldberg@hhrecny.org or call 914.696.0738.

The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center is a not-for-profit organization based in White Plains that serves Westchester, Fairfield and neighboring counties. Their Mission is to enhance the teaching and learning of the lessons of the Holocaust and the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect. They encourage students to speak up and act against all forms of bigotry and prejudice. Their work with students and teachers helps schools fulfill the New York State mandate that the Holocaust and other human rights abuses be included in their curriculum. Since 1994, they have brought the lessons of the Holocaust, genocide and human rights crimes to more than 1,500 teachers, and through them to thousands of middle and high school students. Through their volunteer Educators Program Committee, the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center gives teachers the unique opportunity to develop programs for themselves and others. These programs not only enrich teachers’ knowledge about the Holocaust and related issues, but they also provide the lens through which to view all other human rights violations. For more information call 914.696.0738 email info@hhrecny.org

HIAS Welcome Circles: A Jewish Community Resettlement Initiative

BY SHARON SAMBER
REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF HIAS

There are currently approximately 45,000 Afghan men, women, and children living on U.S. military bases around the country (as of November 15). While these bases have served as safe landing spots for Afghans evacuated after the Taliban took control in August, they never were intended as a long-term solution. These families need to be resettled so they can start their new lives in their new American communities.

Resettling so many people in a short period of time is unprecedented in recent history and has strained the U.S. resettlement system, so a solution known as Sponsor Circles is being pioneered across the United States. With deep experience in refugee resettlement and honed strategies for educating, organizing, and mobilizing the Jewish community, HIAS is launching and supporting HIAS Welcome Circles, a network of Afghan sponsor circles.

The national Afghan sponsor circle model is being created by the Community Sponsorship Hub (CSH) with direct support and guidance from Canadian agencies. HIAS Welcome Circles build on this core model.

• HIAS Welcome Circles will be made up of groups of 5-8 people who will have close contact with Afghans they are sponsoring, though other members of local communities will likely contribute to the resettlement process. All participating sponsors will be vetted and approved by HIAS (including complete background checks) and must be 18 years old or older.

• HIAS Welcome Circle participants are expected to commit a minimum of six months of support (time, funds, other resources) for Afghan refugees as they begin to settle into communities.

• HIAS Welcome Circle members will meet new Afghan arrivals at the airport, help find housing and furnishings, help to find jobs, register children for schools, and sign individuals up for public benefits such as TANF and SNAP among other responsibilities.

• HIAS Welcome Circles are expected to raise a minimum of $2,275 per Afghan individual they welcome; however, based on cost of living, access to in-kind support, and other factors, we strongly recommend that circles raise more than this amount.

As an umbrella agency, HIAS will provide support to Welcome Circles, including technical and operational resources on best practices in refugee resettlement; technical expertise; peer-to-peer mentoring; and Jewish resources to ground the experience and the work.

Successful resettlement and integration are a local endeavor. HIAS is ready to meet the challenge of the current moment — providing resources, technical guidance, and support to the Jewish community so that they can welcome and assist new Afghan neighbors to begin to rebuild their lives.

For more information on HIAS Welcome Circles contact Isabel Burton, Senior Director for Community Engagement Initiatives, at isabel.burton@hias.org.

Thousands Came to Shine a Light on Antisemitism

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initiative over the Chanukah holiday which will illuminate the dangers of antisemitism through education, community partnerships, workplace engagement, and advocacy. Shine A Light is partnering with over 60 American and Canadian Jewish and non-Jewish organizations and corporations to mount a comprehensive digital, print, broadcast, and out-of-home media campaign and offering educational resources for K-12 and workplace environments. This effort to increase awareness and action against antisemitism is unmatched in recent history.

Shine A Light, lit iconic buildings nationwide yellow, the color of candlelight and a symbol of Chanukah, from November 28 to December 6. In New York, buildings will include Silverstein Properties’ 3 World Trade Center, 4 World Trade Center and 7 World Trade Center, plus the Oculus.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC-NY) serves as the primary community relations agency for the Jewish community in the metropolitan New York area. JCRC-NY builds relationships to advance the values, interests, and security of the Jewish community and to create a more interconnected New York for all.
UJA Federation of New York Delegation Meets with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett

UJA-Federation of New York Mission to Israel and United Arab Emirates met on November 29, with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in Jerusalem to discuss strengthening relations with American Jewry and Israel. Other issues discussed during the meeting included Iran’s nuclear threat, cooperation with Arab countries in the region, and the socio-economic challenges that Israel is facing.

The delegation met with President Yitzhak Herzog on November 30 and was scheduled to fly to the United Arab Emirates during the week for meetings with high-ranking leaders in the region.

The New York mission is led by UJA-Federation President Amy A.B. Bressman and Itzik Shmuli, Director-General of UJA’s Israel office.

Prime Minister Bennett praised the ongoing work of the delegation. “I congratulate you and thank you for the many years of commitment and activity of UJA-Federation for the State of Israel. We are part of the same people and the same family, and the government I continue to lead will work resolutely to strengthen ties with American Jewry.”

“We thank the Prime Minister for meeting with us today and for his frank conversation and unwavering commitment to strengthening the bonds between Israel and American Jewry,” said Bressman.

“UJA-Federation is one of the most active and leading philanthropic organizations in the country and has donated billions of dollars to Israeli society,” Shmuli said. “We are committed to continuing to do so and at the same time to work to deepen and strengthen the connection between American Jewry and the People of Israel.”

“Working with a network of hundreds of nonprofits, UJA extends its reach from New York to Israel to nearly 70 other countries around the world, touching the lives of 4.5 million people each year. To date, UJA has allocated $67 million to help respond to the devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic worldwide.”

School District Reaffirms No-Tolerance

BY JONATHAN P. RAYMOND
SUPERINTENDENT OF NEW ROCHELLE SCHOOLS

It has come to the City School District of New Rochelle’s attention that a wi-fi hotspot in the vicinity of New Rochelle High School includes an image of a swastika. Our school district’s leadership has alerted the New Rochelle Police Department, as well as members of New Rochelle’s Jewish community, about this symbol of anti-Semitism and hate.

Our school district has a zero-tolerance policy for such acts of hate and bigotry, which are in direct opposition to the inclusive values of our school district and community. We encourage dialogue, kindness, tolerance, and empathy – key steps in promoting understanding, while honoring the diverse religious, racial, and ethnic fabric that contributes so much to quality of life in our city, community, and beyond.

I want to acknowledge that we were alerted to this incident by a courageous student, reminding us that hate flourishes only when people turn a blind eye. We encourage students to report any incidents they might witness to an adult, such as a teacher or school principal. As Elie Wiesel said: “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

Taking the Lights of Hanukkah into 2022

BY MYRA CLARK-SIEGEL
AJC WESTCHESTER/FAIRFIELD REGIONAL DIRECTOR

As we look ahead to 2022, we reflect on a year of significant challenges but also highlights. While the Hanukkah decorations and menorah have been put away until next year, we use this opportunity to reflect upon potential themes for each candle and how we can carry this forward into the coming year.

Together, we can build bridges of understanding with one another and our interfaith and intergroup friends and partners. Together, we will work to ensure that there is “No Hate in Our States.”

We at AJC Westchester/Fairfield welcome your participation to advocate for the Jewish people and Israel and defend democratic values for all. Please join us at westchester@ajc.org.

Leadership. Our shamash, the lead candle, teaches us the importance of leadership. Together, we can say, “Hineni!” (I am here – count on me) and “acharai” (after me).

Light: The miracle of light is celebrated in a season of darkness. It is not only that the light lasted for eight days: but for over two thousand years.

Tolerance - On every night of Hanukkah a different number of candles is lit, but is one night better than another? Appreciating and tolerating differences is a gift.
The Big Dream Times Square

The Big Dream Times Square, in collaboration with the Israel office of Cultural Affairs, is the first physical exhibition showcasing a glimpse of some of the artworks that will be unveiled in a large global and traveling installation composed of 500 artworks in February 2022 and then traveling to the international space station.

The artworks selected for this exhibition are based on a diversity of dreams sent in from around the world and turned into art by 19 different artists. On each artwork you can see the dream that inspired the piece and the two countries of co-creation. The exhibition includes colorful wallpaper prints and a video compilation projected on the Gallery wall on a continuous loop.

Part of the exhibition features The Big Dream video series on ZAZ Corner’s In Between Programming throughout December 2021. The artwork is displayed for 15 seconds at a time on a large LED billboard in the heart of Times Square, located at 41st Street and 7th Avenue, New York City. ZAZ10TS is an ongoing cultural initiative that integrates art into the office building at 10 Times Square in New York City. Conceived by Tzili Charney, the ZAZ10TS gallery space employs the building’s façade, lobby interior and immediate environment to bring art and culture to the community.

Part of The Big Dream, which encapsulates more than 100,000 dreams, will be displayed at locations around the world and in outer space.

The Big Dream’s goal is to collect 100,000 dreams from around the world until January 1st and transform these dreams into a unique piece of art collating thousands of dreams into one mosaic and video animation, created by 50 artists from around the world. So far, 40,000 dreams have been collected and the kick-off events will unveil a few of these dreams, turned into artworks that will become a part of the larger mosaic piece.

On February 2nd, 2022, the collective artwork will be projected at locations around the world. The locations include the ZAZ Corner LED Billboard in Times Square; the Old Royal Naval College in London; Shibuya crossing in Tokyo; Fed Square in Melbourne; and many more. The final location will be the International Space Station, as part of a ‘dream’ mission with Israeli pilot Eitan Stibbe.

“In a time where so many of us are seeing boxes – on video calls, our phones, and our windows – The Big Dream invites us to think outside of our personal box and to bring the collective planet dreams to its greatest heights. ‘Join us and let's dream of a better world together,’ said Sharona Karni Cohen, the co-founder, and CEO of Dreamco and co-founder of The Big Dream.

People can share their personal dreams until December 31st and then see them projected in February. Dreams are being collected at: bigdream.me with the hashtag: #taketwoplanet

Rabbi Irving and Marly Koslowe Judaica Gallery

Westchester Jewish Center is proud to have the Rabbi Irving and Marly Koslowe Judaica Gallery in the main lobby at the synagogue, located at 271 Palmar and Rockland Avenues, Mamaroneck. This award-winning exhibition space is home to revolving exhibitions that mirror the Jewish world in microcosm. Pieces are based on a diversity of dreams sent in from around the world and turned into art by 19 different artists. On each artwork you can see the dream that inspired the piece and the two countries of co-creation. The exhibition includes colorful wallpaper prints and a video compilation projected on the Gallery wall on a continuous loop.

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Tovah Feldshuh Stars in Becoming Dr. Ruth

Six-time Tony- and Emmy-nominated actor Tovah Feldshuh has returned to the stage in New York City after eight years this month in the tour-de-force theatrical show, Becoming Dr. Ruth. The one-woman show, written by Mark St. Germain, follows a sold-out run at Bay Street Theater in Sag Harbor this summer and is presented Off-Broadway at Edmond J. Safra Hall at the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.

The limited-run show began previews on Saturday, December 4 and opens Thursday, December 16 through Sunday, January 2, 2022, at the Museum of Jewish Heritage’s newly renovated, state-of-the-art theater in Battery Park City.

Due to the popularity of two performances followed by onstage talkbacks with Dr. Ruth Westheimer and Tovah Feldshuh on December 4 and December 6, the Museum has added two more post-show talkbacks after 7:00 PM performances on December 15 and December 22.

The production—presented on the same stage as National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene’s smash hit Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish—will have a runtime of 90 minutes without intermission and be performed in compliance with current New York State health and safety requirements for indoor performances.

The event marks Tovah’s return to the stage in New York City since she starred in Pippin and comes on the heels of her acclaimed performance as noted sexologist Dr. Ruth Westheimer in Becoming Dr. Ruth, which Bay Street Theater presented in association with North Coast Repertory Theatre as one of the first professional live theatrical productions since the pandemic began.

Jack Kliger, President and CEO of the Museum, said, “We are excited to welcome audiences back for the first live theatrical production since we upgraded our theater with new lighting, sound,
Sixth Annual Pelham Chanukah on Fifth Celebrated

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

The Sixth Annual “Chanukah on Fifth” Celebration, hosted by the Chabad of Pelham, was held at the Gazebo on November 30. The festivities began with a scavenger hunt, games, gifts and souvenirs. Chabad Rabbi Levi Groner lit the second night Chanukah candle.

Town Supervisor Daniel McLaughlin and Village Mayor Chance Mullen greeted the community.

Chabad of Pelham Rabbi Levi Groner lights the second night of Chanukah.

Mullen delineated two challenges, the ability to preserve religious freedom and the COVID-19 pandemic. Also present was Pelham Manor Trustee Maurice Owen-Michaane.


Alex and Alena presented Laser Show USA, dancing in costumes covered with color-changing LED lights.

Commenting on the LED Robot Show, Groner said that their purpose was to light up the night, helping families and children celebrate Chanukah, “and light up our hearts, our minds and help light up other hearts and minds, really the message of Chanukah.”

Groner continued, “The exciting holiday of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, is a celebration of the miraculous victory of a small group of Jewish people, weak militarily but strong in their spirit over a ruthless enemy.”

“Their victory culminated with the re-dedication of the Sanctuary in Jerusalem and rekindling of the Menorah which had been desecrated by the enemy. The Menorah miraculously burned for 8 days and nights, providing the necessary time for the preparation of new oil.

“Our sages taught, ‘A little light dispels a lot of darkness.’ If we encounter darkness, let us add light by increasing acts of goodness and kindness. Let us enhance our commitment to our Jewish tradition and values, to the eternal values of the Torah and Mitzvot,” Groner concluded.

Six Days of War and Power, Faith, and Fantasy. Also present was Pelham Manor Trustee Maurice Owen-Michaane.

A Glimpse into the Life of an IDF Soldier from Scarsdale

After serving 3 years in the IDF, Corey Feldman, now a White Plains resident, has written a book called A Line in The Sand, an honest, balanced, and at times humorous glimpse into the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of an IDF combat soldier. “It is not a chronicle of war but rather a chronicle of love,” he said. “The book is the product of around 7 years of work. When I was in the IDF, I would publish blog posts to keep people informed (www.JoiningtheIDF.com). A few years into that, I met David Horovitz, who told me I should blog for The Times of Israel.

After my service, I took those blog posts and wove them together, the result of which was this book!”

Feldman’s book describes the sacrifices that must be made in the subjugation of one’s own desires in deference to something greater. It is one thing to draw a line in the sand; it is quite another to summon the commitment and willpower to stand guard over that line. Feldman grew up in Scarsdale and at twenty-two years old, he left his sheltered, idyllic Westchester life to move to Israel and voluntarily draft into the Israel Defense Forces as a lone soldier in the Israeli Special Forces, Givati Brigade.

Over the next eighteen months, he endured grueling training, shattering exhaustion, and excruciating physical and emotional pain preparing for life as a special operations combat soldier. He struggled to overcome the linguistic and cultural barriers required to integrate into the military and Israeli society, he noted. Simultaneously, he struggled to adjust to a lifestyle in which the unbridled freedom of his life as a university student was replaced by the regimented, unforgiving life of a soldier. Throughout his service in the IDF, Feldman searched for the perseverance, resilience, and selflessness to become something more.

“I served for 3 years and have flown back to Israel to do my reserve service every year since my release, which is going on 8 years now,” he proudly stated. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Feldman is now pursuing a Master’s in Healthcare Innovation from his alma mater.

An inspiring and gripping story of one young man’s determination to defend Israel and the Jewish people through service in the IDF. For anyone contemplating aliyah and service as a lone soldier, Corey Feldman’s book is a must,” wrote Michael Oren, former Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Knesset Member, author of New York Times best-sellers, Six Days of War and Power, Faith, and Fantasy.

Patrick Murphy, 32nd Under Secretary of the U.S. Army, and first veteran of the Iraq War elected to Congress (8th Congressional District, PA.) noted, “Corey tells a powerful story about his time training and serving in the IDF. He gives us a glimpse of what it is like to live in Israel and reminds us of the value of universal service. Whether in the military or our community, Corey’s example of service is something we should emulate to develop the next generation of leaders of character.”

Published this year by Astor Place Publishing, the book is available on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble.
HHREC Announces Memory Keepers Event Schedule

The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center (HHREC) of White Plains, has announced their Memory Keepers Story Hour schedule. These events will be offered on a virtual online platform, and will feature HHREC Holocaust Survivors, Liberators, and Generations Forward speakers—a second, third and fourth generation group that includes children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors.

The HHREC Memory Keepers Story Hour speaker series schedule includes: December 8th, 2021 - Mindy Nagorsky-Israel; January 12th, 2022- Naomi Koller; February 9th, 2022- Phyllis Shaw; March 9th, 2022- Maddy Israel and Esther Loewenthal; April 6th, 2022- Noa Ganz and Sam Pittman; May 11th, 2022- Monica Mandell; and June 8th, 2022- Joseph Kaidanow.

“Stories provide a unique opportunity to hear from a very special group of Survivors and next generation family members into the consequences of human hate, and help people reflect, as they realize that choices matter, that one person can make a difference” said HHREC Executive Director Millic Jasper. She added, “We are eternally grateful for the contributions from these courageous men and women who share their stories of survival and personal experiences from the Holocaust, and to their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren for their effort to help share them today, and for generations to come. Sadly, the number of our Survivors is dwindling, and we are taking great care to recognize what they mean to all of us and preserve their memories and the impact they have had— and will continue to have—for future generations.”

The HHREC launched the Memory Keepers Story Hour series in 2020 in support of their mission—to teach the lessons of the Holocaust, to promote the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect, and to encourage speaking up and acting against all forms of hate, bigotry, and prejudice. The HHREC has been inviting guests to attend these events to hear members of their Speakers Bureau share their family’s uniquely powerful Holocaust experiences and present their testimonies to their origins. The HHREC Memory Keepers Speakers Bureau includes 26 Holocaust Survivors, 3 Honorary Holocaust Liberator Speakers, and 36 Generations Forward Speakers who tell their stories from a “next generation” perspective, adding new meaning to the survivors’ powerful stories.

All virtual events begin at 7pm. To register for these events, email Millie Jasper mjasper@hhrecny.org for Zoom log-in information or call the HHREC at 914.696.0738.

The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center is a not-for-profit organization based in White Plains that serves Westchester, Fairfield and neighboring counties. Their Mission is to enhance the teaching and learning of the lessons of the Holocaust and the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect.

Since 1994, they have brought the lessons of the Holocaust, genocide and human rights crimes to more than 1,500 teachers, and through them to thousands of middle and high school students. Through their volunteer Educators Program Committee, the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center gives teachers the unique opportunity to develop programs for themselves and others. These programs not only enrich teachers’ knowledge about the Holocaust and related issues, but they also provide the lens through which to view all other human rights violations. For more information call 914.696.0738 email info@hhrecny.org

39th Annual Senior Hall of Fame

Westchester County Executive George Latimer will join in honoring the achievements of 44 senior citizens from throughout the County at the 39th Annual Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Awards on Friday, December 3rd at 11:30 a.m.

This year’s program names Judy Fink of Purchase and Lloyd Cort of Greenburgh with top honors. This will be the second year that this event will be livestreamed virtually via the Westchester Public Private Partnership for Aging Services website.

Judy Fink, LCSW of Purchase, a certified social worker, has been with Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) for 26 years, and for the past 15 years has been director of geriatric services where she provides care management to hundreds of Westchester seniors. She also served as coordinator of WJCS’ Project Time-Out, an in-home respite program to give caregivers a break from their 24/7 responsibilities. She has received the UIA Federation Communal Award, the WJCS’ Leonard Rohmer Award for high professional achievement, and the Golden Harvest Award.

Before joining WJCS, Fink worked many years in hospitals, providing services to cancer patients and their families. The ability of seniors to age safely at home is essential to their peace of mind, as well as their families and caregivers. Fink oversees WJCS’s comprehensive geriatric services, including in-home assessments, personalized care planning, on-going case management, guidance on senior living options, and information and referrals for seniors. The program enables older individuals to age safely in the homes and communities.

Latimer said, “It is my honor to commend this active group of Westchester County residents and induct them into our Senior Citizens Hall of Fame for their dedication and commitment to our communities. This longstanding tradition is a simple way for us to say thank you and recognize top honorees like Mr. Cort and Ms. Fink for their time, energy and promise to enhancing the quality of life of those around them.”

44 Westchester County residents ages 60 and older will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Friday during the virtual awards presentation. The Class of 2021 includes 18 nominees over the age of 80, and 4 over the age of 90. The oldest nominee this year is 93.

DSPS Commissioner Mae Carpenter said the achievements of the Hall of Fame honorees show the importance of people giving back to their communities and to each other. Carpenter said, “The honorees show that age is never a deterrent to being a vital member of our society. In fact, it’s an advantage because of the life experiences they bring with them. Their generous contributions have helped to make Westchester County one of the most senior-friendly places in the world.”

The Senior Hall of Fame began as part the 300th Anniversary of Westchester County’s founding. Its purpose was to showcase how seniors have contributed to building the County. Almost 1250 seniors have been inducted since.

Locally, Dr. Sushir Vaidya of Purchase and Trevor Streyer of Harrison were also named to the Westchester Senior Citizens Hall of Fame—Class of 2021.

Among this year’s award recipients, four seniors will receive Special Recognition: Dr. Sanat Dagli MD, of Irvington, Jim Dolan, of Verplanck, Ms. Joyce May Hendry, of Yonkers and William (Billy) Thomas, of Mount Vernon will be recognized.

The Senior Citizens Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS); the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation; Westchester County Livable Communities and the Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services.

Event can be viewed from the www.westchesterpartnership.org website.

To be nominated, seniors must have made significant and enduring contributions to enhance Westchester’s quality of life through their professional work, volunteer achievements or both. Nominations are made by members of the community, and the honorees are selected by a panel of judges. The names of past honorees are engraved on plaques that are permanently displayed at the DSPS office in Mount Vernon.

Ronald J. Katter to be Installed President of Jewish Lawyers Guild

Ronald J. Katter of The Katter Law Firm has announced that he will be sworn in as President of the Jewish Lawyers Guild by the Hon. Barbara Kapnick, Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department, on December 1.

The Jewish Lawyers Guild is an organization of lawyers and jurists founded upon fellowship and faith in 1962. The Guild holds a variety of activities, including lectures, programs and tours that are relevant to both the legal and Jewish communities. In addition, the Guild participates in the judicial screening panels, provides a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program for its members and funds two scholarships at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

“I am very proud to be installed President of this renowned organization,” Mr. Katter said. “The Jewish Lawyers Guild has a history of supporting the legal and Jewish communities, fighting discrimination, promoting equality under the law, and providing financial assistance to those in need. The Jewish Lawyers Guild has performed vital and important work over the years for the Jewish legal community. I plan to continue and build on that legacy during my term as President.”

Mr. Katter concentrates his practice in personal injury law. He has achieved substantial financial recoveries for clients in slip-and-fall, automobile, mass transit, environmental negligence, Legionnaires’ disease, wrongful burial, and wrongful death cases. He is committed to obtaining the largest possible compensation permitted by law for his injured clients.

In addition to his practice, Mr. Katter is a frequent lecturer on different aspects of personal injury practice and law firm management and marketing at bar associations and for other CLE providers.

Mr. Katter chaired the New York County Lawyers Association’s Tort Section and is a member of the American Association for Justice, New York State Trial Lawyers Association, New York State Bar Association, (NYSBA), Bronx Bar Association and Brooklyn Bar Association. He was Co-Chair of the New York County Lawyers Association’s Solo and Small Firm Practice Committee from 2002 to 2007 and Delegate to the NYSBA’s House of Delegates from 2004 to 2007.

He served as a Trustee and chaired the Scarsdale Synagogue and Tremont Temple’s Legal Committee. Mr. Katter served pro bono as an Arbitrator for Small Claims Court, Civil Court of the City of New York. He also served as a member of the Edgemont Union Free School District’s School Board Nominating Committee. He is a Democratic District Leader in the Town of Greenburgh.

Mr. Katter is admitted to practice in the State of New York and before the U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court.

He earned his J.D. from Boston University School of Law and his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.
The Caregiver Dilemma and Multigenerational Planning

By Bernard A. Krooks, Certified Elder Law Attorney

Over the years, we have heard clients discuss with us the many challenges they have faced when thrust, often quite unexpectedly and unprepared, into the role of caregiver for a loved one. A caregiver is someone who provides help and support to a person who is older or has disabilities or to one who is sick and who helps manage that person’s ADLs (activities of daily living such as eating, toileting, bathing and dressing).

As we get older, it is anticipated that caregiving issues will become even more important. More than 10,000 people in the United States reach age 65 each day and the older we get, the more likely it is that we will have significant health issues that require us to rely on others for help. Most of that help comes from family members who do not get paid to provide this type of support or help.

In fact, The National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP in a 2020 report estimated that family caregiving in the past five years alone has increased from 43 million to 53 million people providing unpaid care to an adult with health-related needs. It’s been estimated that family caregivers provide close to $500 billion in unpaid care services annually. That does not take into account the amount of time and money lost due to the caregiver having to take off from work or other responsibilities.

On top of the emotional strain of caregiving, one in seven caregivers provides financial support for an aging parent as well as a child. It has been estimated that nearly half of adults in their 40s and 50s already have a parent 65 or older and are raising a child or supporting a grown child. As you might surmise, caregivers are often under a lot of stress due to time constraints and financial considerations.

While most caregiving is unpaid, there may be reasons to compensate the caregiver for services provided. In doing so, it’s critical to have a written caregiver agreement between the caregiver and the person receiving care. This may help avoid family conflict or tension later on.

A properly drafted caregiver agreement should outline the scope of services to be provided and the basis for the compensation. Not only will this help alleviate family strife, but it can also be important if Medicaid is needed to help pay for some of the cost of long-term care. Medicaid is a “means-tested” government health care program that covers long-term care at home or in a nursing home, if needed. However, to qualify, an individual cannot have more than $15,900 in non-exempt assets. Moreover, any uncompensated gifts within the applicable look-back period may disqualify the person from receiving benefits. Thus, payments to caregivers need to be documented pursuant to a written agreement so as not to have the payments be construed as gifts or uncompensated transfers for Medicaid purposes.

Another consideration that needs to be taken into account in these situations is the family home. It is common for a caregiver child to move in to take care of a parent, thus possibly impacting the child’s own career and earning ability. We have seen numerous situations where the children basically gave up their lives to live with and take care of a parent for several years. In our experience, parents generally want to preserve their home for their children, especially a child who is taking care of that parent in the parent’s home.

Similar to the Medicaid exemption discussed above pertaining to written caregiver agreements, there also is an exception to the “transfer penalty” imposed on the transfer of a home to a caregiver child. If the child has lived with the parent for at least two years immediately prior to the parent entering a skilled nursing facility, and for the care provided by the child to the parent, that parent would have to be admitted to a facility, that home transfer is exempt.

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 2006. 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.elderlawnyork.com.

Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT): Evidence-Based Treatment for Depression

Many people have heard of Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) but are confused about what it is and when its use is appropriate. DBT is a research-based mental health treatment that is effective at helping individuals reduce and cope with intense, painful emotions manage difficult interpersonal relationships, and control suicidal thoughts and self-injuring behaviors. The goal of DBT is to create a life worth living.

At Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS), one of the largest human service agencies in Westchester and the largest provider of licensed, outpatient mental health services in the county, they offer comprehensive DBT treatment, including individual, family, and group therapy for adolescents and adults at mental health clinics as well as at our satellite clinics.

With the rates of mental illness skyrocketing, the promise and positive outcomes of DBT treatment are highly reassuring and rewarding. Research has shown that DBT can help people regulate hurtful, disruptive feelings, better navigate troubled relationships, and foster greater life balance. DBT helps people who are suffering emotionally by using a cognitive behavioral approach and developing skills that focus on identifying unhelpful behaviors, building more constructive behaviors, and incorporating the practice of mindfulness. WJCS provides mental health services both in-person and virtually through telehealth.

For information about DBT, contact: Christopher Libby, Ph.D., Coordinator (914) 949-7699 x2456; clibby@wjcs.com.

To schedule mental health services at WJCS, contact: Leslie Hernandez, Director of Admitting and Managed Care Administrator, 914-737-7338, ext. 319.

To learn more about WJCS, go to www.wjcs.com and follow WJCS on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

Real Estate Matters by John E. Baer, SRES, SRS, AHWD

Important Upgrades Sellers Should Consider Prior to Listing

If next year you are planning to list your home for sale, now is the time to repair, where necessary, as well as to upgrade where it makes financial sense to do so. The next 2 to 3 months is a perfect time to work on upgrades since this is when materials and labor is cheapest. Many upgrades make financial sense, while others will cost you more than you will receive from the sale of your home. To state this in other words, replacing worn out kitchen appliances with stainless steel appliances makes sense. However, installing an in-ground pool, even though buyers may be looking for homes with in-ground pools is a cost from which you will not have a return on your investment.

If you do not have these features, here are relatively low-cost upgrades buyers are looking for that will make your home more valuable.

1. Neutral Paint Throughout. Freshly painted off-white, gray or cream color walls is one of the best investments you can make. This will help buyers see your home as turnkey, move in ready and updated.

2. Shiny Hardwood Floors. Hardwood floors have long been the top choice of homebuyers. Refinishing your hardwood floors will bring a hundred percent return on investment according to the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

3. Updated Kitchens Featuring Stainless Steel. If you only have time and budget to upgrade one room, make it the kitchen. First things to replace are your old appliances (refrigerator, dishwasher, stove and range, range hood, and microwave) with sleek stainless steel. The most important appliance to replace is the refrigerator if your budget is limited. Other features buyers are looking for in the kitchen are kitchen islands and quartz countertops. If you plan to do this, do it now since delivery of some kitchen appliances are taking longer due to supply shortages.

4. Laundry Room. A separate laundry room tops of the National Association of Home Builders list of most wanted home features of buyers. Since in most cases the basement already has utility lines, adding a laundry room in the basement can cost as little as $1500.

5. The Basement. If the basement is unfinished, in addition to the laundry room, two other features buyers want are a home gym and a theater area. At a relatively low cost, you may want to stage the basement showing both features.

6. Empty Nester Smart Investment. If you are an empty Nester with two or more bedrooms not being used. You may want to stage your home to show a bedroom as a combination guest room/home office, both of which buyers are looking for.

7. The Home’s Exterior. Curb appeal is everything. If the exterior of your home is shabby and the front and back yards are overgrown and invaded with weeds, most likely buyers will not want to see the inside of your home. Therefore, before listing your home tidy up your yard. Mow the lawn, trim your trees and shrubs, pull out the weeds, install mulch, and by sprucing up your landscaping you can increase up to 10% of your home’s value. Two additional outdoor features buyers want are outdoor lighting and a back yard patio. Outdoor lighting provides increased safety after dark and it helps to thwart crime. Buyers want a paved/stone patio for both outdoor dining as well as entertaining.

8. A Downstairs Toilet. This is high on the list of buyers. The obvious place for it is under the stairs or any other location where you may have 15.8 or more.

Several final no cost must-dos, prior to listing:
De-clutter, de-clutter, de-clutter. Remove overcrowded furniture to open up the look of each room and remove unused items in your closets. Then clean the house and deodorize tough lingering odors if they exist.

John E. Baer, SRES, SRS, AHWD is a NYS licensed real estate salesperson associated with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Westchester Properties of Scarsdale and Larchmont. In the last four and a half years, he earned the monthly “Top Selling Award” nine times in the Scarsdale office. He can be reached for questions at 914-844-2005. His website is www.WestchesterHomes.info.

Maccabi USA Announces New Partnership

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Maccabi USA develops, promotes and supports international, national and regional athletic-based activities and facilities. It strives to provide Jewish athletes all over the world the opportunity to share their heritage and customs in competitive athletic settings. The organization supports programs that embody the Maccabi ideals of Jewish pride, continuity, Zionism, and excellence in sport.

Maccabi USA is a US Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) Affiliate Organization. The organization is one of only 38 Affiliates nationwide to be recognized by the USOPC for its ability to cultivate a national interest in sport and increase opportunities for participation internationally, nationally, and at the grassroots level.
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Celebrating Holocaust Survivors Around the World During Chanukah

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), held the annual International Holocaust Survivors Night (IHSN) globally and virtually on the third night of Chanukah Tuesday, November 30, featuring remarks from Holocaust survivors, entertainers, Isaac Herzog, President of Israel, and Olaf Scholz, Incoming Chancellor of Germany.

“Chanukah is the festival of light, which even in difficult times brings hope into the darkness. And therefore, anti-Semitism, the belittling of Jewish citizens, hatred towards Israel - we will not tolerate any of it in Germany,” Incoming Chancellor Olaf Scholz said during the event. “Be assured: our commitment will not waver... Today, Jewish life is once again enriching our society. Israel and Germany are close partners. We must not put these precious gifts at risk. That is why I promise you: we will continue to do everything we can to protect Jewish citizens in the future and to counter all anti-Semitism. We will fight darkness with light. I wish you a calm, peaceful and joyful Chanukah.”

This year’s event also included remarks from: Christine Lambrecht, German Federal Minister of Justice, Dr. Rolf Bösinger, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Finance in Germany, Meirav Cohen, Minister of Social Equality in Israel, Nachman Shai, Minister of Diaspora Affairs in Israel, and entertainers including Emmy-nominated actors, Jason Alexander, Tovah Feldshuh and Mayim Bialik, and musical performances by Barry Manilow, Steven Skybell and Jennifer Babiak, and the Maccabeats.

The virtual event also featured memories from Holocaust survivors, including: Ambassador Colette Avital, Charlotte Knobloch, Abe Foxman, Serge Klarsfeld, Holocaust envoys from the U.S., U.K. Canada, and Germany, leaders of Holocaust institutions including Dani Dayan, Chairman of Yad Vashem, and Sara J. Bloomfield, Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Jack Kligler, President and CEO of the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York, and many more.

“In spite of the limitations from the global pandemic, we are committed to honoring Holocaust survivors every Chanukah, the Festival of Lights,” said Gideon Taylor, President of Claims Conference. “Once again this year, we have focused on survivor voices through their testimonies, stories and memories. They are a living example of how light conquers darkness, an example we sorely need as the second year of this devastating pandemic comes to a close. This year, survivors are spreading their own messages of hope and resilience at a time when we need it most.”

IHSN started in 2017 as the only date on the calendar when those who survived the Holocaust are honored for their sacrifice and continued contributions to the world. Every year the event ends with an official menorah lighting at the Kotel in Israel.

Greg Schneider, Executive Vice President said, “What began as an official menorah lighting ceremony honoring survivors at the Western Wall, the Kotel, in Israel, has grown into a truly global event. Holocaust survivors live every day as monuments to the strength and resilience of the Jewish people. Chanukah commemorates the victory of the few over the many, the weak over the powerful, the light over darkness – therefore, Chanukah is the perfect holiday to honor survivors and find inspiration in their testimonies. We are honored to celebrate them again this year and will continue to do so every year as this event continues to grow.”

Initial ceremonies were held in Israel, the United States, and Germany. International Holocaust Survivors Night has grown each year and now includes more than 15 countries across 6 continents.

Abe Foxman, Holocaust survivor and former Director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) said, “Today, it is so important; it’s imperative for Holocaust survivors to bear witness and to tell their story. And certainly, what better time than on Chanukah when we not only remember our past history, but we celebrate rebirth and the future.”

The celebration was held virtually with performances and greetings from around the globe, including from the United States, Canada, the U.K., Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Germany, Israel, and France. Anyone in the world could participate for free.

All communities have been encouraged to honor survivors locally and around the world during this year’s IHSN by sharing pictures and videos across all social media platforms using the hashtag #IHSN2021. For more information, visit: www.claimscon.org.

Congregation Sons of Israel Launches Refugee Resettlement Committee

BY SUSAN R. EISENSTEIN

Congregation Sons of Israel (CSI) members Julie Peskoe and Abbe Marcus first heard about the plight of Afghan refugees from the news and more specifically, from their friend Mary Refling, a Chappaqua resident, who started the Westchester Refugee Task Force in 2015 and who is a leader in Westchester County refugee resettlement efforts. Peskoe and Marcus decided to draw on Jewish values and history specifically, from their friend Mary Refling, a Chap-

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Tovah Feldshuh Stars in Becoming Dr. Ruth

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and other technological improvements to provide a stellar experience. Audiences are in for a treat when Tovah returns to the stage in New York City after eight years as the inimitable Dr. Ruth Westheimer.

“Bay Street Theater was thrilled to produce a sold-out run in the Hamptons this past summer, and we can’t wait for New York City audiences to witness this tour de force performance by Tovah Feldshuh,” said Tracy Mitchell, Executive Director, Bay Street Theater & Sag Harbor Center of the Arts.

“Playwright Mark St. Germain captures Ruth’s journey magnificently,” said Tovah Feldshuh, “and I am overjoyed to be reunited once again with the gifted and remarkable Scott Schwartz who directed me in Golda’s Balcony. Becoming Dr. Ruth is our fourth collaboration, and our work together feels like coming home as we joyously bring this production to the Museum of Jewish Heritage.”

Directed by Bay Street Theater’s Artistic Director Scott Schwartz, Becoming Dr. Ruth chronicles the life of noted psychologist Dr. Ruth Westheimer, from her early years fleeing Nazi Germany, living as an orphan in Switzerland, to her service in the Israeli armed forces as a sharp-shooter, and her later life and career in New York. Becoming Dr. Ruth is a humorous and heartfelt portrait detailing Dr. Ruth’s remarkable journey against so many odds to become a pioneer in the psychology of human sexuality and the world’s most famous sex therapist.

Becoming Dr. Ruth reunites Feldshuh and Schwartz in New York for the first time since their major success with Golda’s Balcony—which became the longest running one-woman show in Broadway history.

Tovah Feldshuh is a six-time Emmy and Tony Award-nominee and has been awarded three honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters. Additionally, for her theatre work, she has won four Drama Desks, four Outer Critics Circle Awards, three Dramalogues, the Obie, the Theatre World, and the Helen Hayes and Lucille Lortel Awards for Best Actress. She just has been twice nominated as Best Actress in a Drama in Los Angeles for her work in the play Sisters-in-Law, in which she originated the role of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She recently won the prestigious Audie award for her narration of The Gift by Holocaust-survivor Dr. Edith Eger. Broadway credits include Yentl, Cyranos, Rodgers & Hart, Dreyfus in Rehearsal, Saravá (Tony nom), Lend Me a Tenor (Tony nom), Irena’s Yow, Golda’s Balco-

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