

## Westchester Jewish Council to Honor Stu Seltzer and Pam Goldstein

This year marks a truly special milestone for the Westchester Jewish Council (WJC). For half a century, the organization has been driven by its mission, people, and the incredible community that continues to support and inspire it. WJC will celebrate this milestone at a 50th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, February 7, 2026 — an evening dedicated to honoring the organization's shared achievements and the people who made them possible.

To get the celebration underway, WJC is excited to unveil two of its phenomenal honorees, people whose dedication to the organization and to the community at large exemplifies the spirit of joyful Judaism and leadership.

Stu Seltzer serves on the Board and Executive Committee of the WJC. He lives in Mamaroneck and is a proud member of Westchester Jewish Center (the other WJC!). At WJC he's best known as the Ba'al Tekiah, sounding the shofar everywhere from assisted living facilities and nursery schools to public schools and even on the Long Island Sound at sunrise during an annual Rosh Hashanah kayak gathering with 30-plus paddlers. Seltzer has held numerous leadership roles at UJA, including a three-year term as chair of the Westchester Campaign. A Wexner Heritage graduate, he loves to blend activity with philanthropy: five completions of the five-day, 250-mile ALYN Wheels of Love ride in Israel, and the Ride For The Living in Poland, the one-day ride from Auschwitz to Jewish Community Center of Krakow.

Professionally, Seltzer is the president of Seltzer Licensing Group, a 26-year-old global licensing agency with offices in New York City and Los Angeles. A specialist in brand licensing, partnership marketing, and strategic alliances, he has helped analyze, craft, and secure partnerships for clients including Unilever, NBC's The Office, and Scotts Miracle-Gro. He's also an award-winning adjunct professor at New York University, where he's been teaching for more than 20 years, and co-author of Brand Licensing For Dummies, released this past summer. A frequent speaker on the global conference



Stu Seltzer

circuit, Seltzer is known for engaging, practical seminars that demystify licensing. He was also inducted into the International Licensing Hall of Fame.

Seltzer is a graduate of Lehigh University and holds an MBA from Columbia Business School. He and his wife, Danielle, have been married since 1992 and have three children: Jacob (and daughter-in-law Mary), Noah, and Sabrina.

Pam Goldstein's life has been shaped by the values passed down from her great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents — a deep sense of family, pride in her Jewish heritage, love for Israel, and a strong desire to give back to her community. Born and raised in Westchester, Pam met Eric at Tulane University, and together they chose to return to Westchester to raise their family. For more than 25 years, they have been active members of Temple Israel Center, where Pam has served on the Board and volunteered with various committees. Her passion for community service extended to Schechter Westchester (now Leffell School), where she has been involved in multiple roles including serving as PTO Co-President and where all three of their children, as well as their son-in-law, graduated. Pam has also contributed her time and energy to



Pam Goldstein

organizations like the Pediatric Cancer Foundation, and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF).

Pam currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer of the Westchester Jewish Council. Over the past 12 years, Pam has helped to develop strong relationships with our county's elected leaders and interfaith clergy. Pam is especially proud of the work she's done that has strengthened the wider Westchester Jewish community.

Pam and Eric are incredibly proud of their children, Melissa and Benji, Becca and Jordan, and Julia, and of course, their grandsons, Rafi and Roey. They are filled with joy watching their children carry on the values of those who came before them, continuing the cycle of commitment to family, heritage, and community.

**Happy Chanukah! Visit [www.westchesterjewishlife.com](http://www.westchesterjewishlife.com)**

# Westchester County Human Rights Commission Receives Prestigious National Human Rights Award

At the recent Conference of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA), the Westchester County Human Rights Commission (HRC) Executive Director Tejash Sanchala was recognized for outstanding leadership with IAOHRA's prestigious Bill Hale Award. The award recognized Sanchala's dedication and commitment to safeguarding human and civil rights by enforcing Westchester County's Human Rights and Fair Housing Laws, and educating and empowering the Westchester County

community. Each year, IAOHRA recognizes individuals and organizations whose leadership, dedication, and impact have advanced the cause of civil and human rights. Now in its 76th year, the IAOHRA Annual Training Conference brings together human and civil rights leaders and advocates from across the country. The theme of this year's conference was "Strength in Unity: Human Rights in the Present." The location of Anchorage, Alaska provided an inspiring setting for meaningful dialogue, collaboration and



the HRC achieved a settlement resolving a years-long complaint by multiple residents with disabilities by requiring the condominium to make their pool and other recreational facilities accessible, change policies and practices and pay the County \$50,000.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Discrimination has no place in our County. I applaud Executive Director Tejash Sanchala for his well-deserved recognition and the HRC for its recent successes, and long-term commitment of upholding the robust protections in the County's Human Rights Laws. The HRC's work is essential to ensuring equal treatment under the law and dignity for our community members."

Sanchala said: "I am honored to accept this award from IAOHRA, an organization of human rights organizations nationwide. As the HRC celebrates its 25th anniversary, our message is clearer and stronger than ever – discrimination is unlawful and unacceptable and has no place in Westchester County. The County's Human Rights Laws are more than words on a page. No one should face discrimination in any form, whether it is in their home, their place of work or when accessing publicly available services and goods. We will continue to exemplify Westchester County's commitment and unwavering dedication to protecting communities from discrimination, dismantling discriminatory practices, obtaining meaningful relief and ensuring that Westchester County is a welcoming haven for our diverse community and visitors."

learning. Under Sanchala's leadership, the HRC achieved several landmark settlements that highlight the success and commitment of the Commission in achieving substantial and life-changing relief for the Westchester County community:

- In a landmark settlement for victims of sexual harassment, the Commission resolved a matter involving an alleged seven-year pattern of sexual harassment in a building of low-income tenants, mandating the owners and managers to implement policy changes and pay over \$100,000 to the County and a fair housing community partner. Separately, individual victims of the community reportedly reached private settlements totaling \$12.5 million dollars.
- In a win for residents with disabilities in a condominium community,

## Hadassah's Gandel Rehabilitation Center Inaugurated in Jerusalem

Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu helped inaugurate Israel's most advanced rehabilitation center, the Hadassah Medical Organization's Gandel Rehabilitation Center, in Jerusalem on October 27. The leaders joined Carol Ann Schwartz, National President, and Ellen Finkelstein, CEO, respectively, of Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, which owns the medical center and whose members contributed significantly to the new rehabilitation center's funding; Yoram Weiss, MD, the medical center's director general; and Dalia Itzik, its board chair. Also on hand

were government ministers, Knesset members, donors, staff members, and, critically, many recovering soldiers. More than 2,000 soldiers and civilians have already regained their physical and emotional health because of the center's sophisticated facilities, cutting-edge therapies and compassionate and highly trained staff. Many of the center's patients came to the center after receiving life-saving care at one of Hadassah's two hospitals, Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus, on whose campus the Gandel Center is located, and Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, both in Jerusalem.

*continued on page 4*



**AJC** Westchester/Fairfield

# HAPPY HANUKKAH

### From our Board of Directors and Professional Team

**WESTCHESTER/FAIRFIELD OFFICERS 2025-26**  
**Marc Berman**  
PRESIDENT  
**Susan Stern**  
1ST VICE PRESIDENT  
**Wendy Lubkin**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
Monica Aboodi  
Bobi Baruch  
Judie Lifton-Bobman  
Harvey Doppelt  
Sue Frieden  
Peter Furth  
Ken Gerstein  
Adena Goldberg  
Tom Gottlieb  
Diane Hirschberg  
Ellen Jancko-Baken  
Evelyne Klein  
Barry Lovell  
Richard Lubkin  
Judy Rieger  
Lisa Roberts  
Audrey Samers  
Susan Schwartz  
Jerry Silber  
Ira Starr

**HONORARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
Stephne Behrend  
George Bruckman  
Marvin Israelow  
Elliott Rose  
Beverly Rosenbaum  
Sheryl Sachs  
Harriet P. Schleifer  
Jane Wolansky  
  
**PROFESSIONAL TEAM**  
**Myra Clark-Siegel**  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
**Jill Friedman**  
ASSOCIATE REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
**Beth Mehlman**  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
**Derek Grossman**  
ASSISTANT DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
**Lauren Hollander**  
OFFICE COORDINATOR

To support our work advocating for the Jewish people and Israel and defending democratic values for all, and to register for AJC's Global Forum in Washington, DC May 31-June 2, please contact us at AJC, [westchester@ajc.org](mailto:westchester@ajc.org) or 914-948-5585.



# Have a Heart for the Holidays Gift Drive

Help make the holidays brighter for 700 children and youth from under-resourced communities in Westchester! The Annual Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) Have A Heart for the Holidays Gift Drive collects and distributes gifts to children ages 0-18 who are enrolled in our programs and services.

You can bring joy to a child and ease the stress of the holidays for families by making a donation to the gift drive or organizing a pop-up collection with your friends, family, or co-workers.

What is needed most:

- Gifts for teenagers – ages 12-18. Ideas include \$25 gift cards to Target, Dunkin', Sephora, Ulta, Five Below, Barnes & Noble, or art supplies, crochet or craft kits, teen room décor, trendy accessories, speakers, headphones, phone accessories, jewelry, cologne, makeup, self-care products, hoodies, stuffies, blankets, Legos, sports equipment.
- Gifts for preschoolers – ages 3-5. Ideas include pretend-play toys, trucks, play food and kitchen sets, animal toys, toddler puzzles, toddler bilingual books, playdoh sets, Magna-tiles, Duplo Legos, blocks. Gender neutral toys and activities that children can play with on their own are most useful for busy parents.

All gifts must be new, in the original boxes, and unwrapped.

The deadline for receiving donations is December 1-4. Schedule a drop off for donations during this time at WJCS Headquarters, 845 North Broadway, White Plains, NY 10603. Contact Michelle Siegel at [msiegel@wjcs.com](mailto:msiegel@wjcs.com); 914-761-0600 x2209.

How you can help:

- Purchase new unwrapped gifts to donate or choose items from our Have a Heart Amazon Wishlist to be delivered to WJCS. [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1UROH6K2G2WVV/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1UROH6K2G2WVV/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)
- Organize a drive with friends or coworkers.
- Make a monetary donation online at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/havea-heart2025/>
- Mail a check to WJCS, Attn: Development, 845 N. Broadway, White Plains, NY 10603.

# AJC Strengthens Catholic-Jewish Alliance



Sixty years ago, Catholic-Jewish relations were transformed for the better through Nostra Aetate—the Roman Catholic Church's revolutionary declaration stating that Jews bear no collective responsibility for Jesus' death, affirming the Jewish roots of Christianity, and calling for genuine dialogue between the two communities.

American Jewish Committee (AJC) was there from the beginning, as a key partner in shaping this historic document.

Today, that work remains essential to Jewish safety and security around the world, and it's why AJC is leading the Jewish community's global commemoration of this milestone anniversary.

The Importance of Continued Dialogue - Continuing the legacy of Nostra Aetate, AJC has remained at the forefront of Catholic-Jewish dialogue. We've built enduring relationships with successive popes, cardinals, and other Church leaders, working to translate Nostra Aetate's groundbreaking vision into concrete action.

This year, on the day of his election, Pope Leo XIV invited Rabbi Noam Marans, AJC Director of Interreligious Affairs, to his Inauguration Mass and pledged to strengthen the Church's dialogue with the Jewish people in the spirit of Nostra Aetate. The day after his inauguration, Rabbi Marans had the honor to meet Pope Leo and present to him AJC's Translate Hate: The Catholic Edition—an initiative developed in partnership with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to equip Catholic leaders with necessary tools to combat antisemitism in all its modern forms.



LITTMAN KROOKS  
LLP

[www.littmankrooks.com](http://www.littmankrooks.com)

800 Westchester Avenue, • Rye Brook, NY 10573 • 914.684.2100  
1325 Avenue of the Americas • New York, NY 10019 • 212.490.2020

Attorney Advertising

## Helping Families Plan for the Future

Estate Planning & Administration  
Medicaid Planning  
Elder Law  
Guardianship  
Special Needs Planning  
Special Education Advocacy



Recognizing Israel's acute shortage of rehabilitation beds, the Hadassah Medical Organization began construction of the Gandel Center several years ago, accelerating the opening after October 7, 2023. The first wing opened just three months after the terrorist attack, offering wounded soldiers access to the most comprehensive and advanced treatments available.

The center's principal donor is Australia's Gandel Foundation, whose deputy chairman, Graham Goldsmith, attended the opening. To support this project, the

Foundation, which is headed by John and Pauline Gandel, made its largest gift ever, that generosity supplemented by millions of dollars in donations made by members of Hadassah. The Women's Zionist Organization of America, and Hadassah International, its global fundraising arm.

The Gandel Center's many state-of-the-art facilities include therapeutic swimming pools, each with a modular floor that can be adapted to a patient's needs; advanced lifts for moving patients not yet able to get around on their own; computerized systems that track range of

## Outstanding Jewish College Students Selected to Join a Dynamic Community of Bridge-Builders

The Bronfman Fellowship has selected its second cohort of outstanding Jewish college students for Campus Commons: Building Bridges with Jewish Wisdom, which empowers students to use Jewish wisdom to cut through polarization on their campuses and beyond. This cohort of 35 college students with diverse Jewish backgrounds come from 30 campuses across 14 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. Among them are a participant in three humanitarian aid trips to wartime Ukraine, the leader of five film festivals, the co-founder of their university's Interfaith Initiative, and the creator of a podcast that aims to foster thoughtful conversations around complex topics.

Designed by leading Jewish educators at The Bronfman Fellowship, Campus Commons is a powerful response to the rise in polarization, social instability, and isolation on college campuses, particularly for Jewish students. According to a 2022 study by Heterodox Academy, over 63 percent of college students report that the climate on their campus prevents people from saying things they believe because others might find them offensive. At the same time, 88 percent believe that colleges should encourage students to be open to learning from people whose beliefs differ from their own. Campus Commons helps participants cultivate their own agency and gain real-world, actionable skills to foster environments where people can build relationships across differences. Participants explore core Jewish ideas and texts related to pluralism, as well as the latest research in social psychology, communication, and conflict management.

"I am thrilled to welcome the second cohort of inspiring students to Campus Commons," said Becky Voorwinde, CEO of The Bronfman Fellowship. "These moti-

vated young people give me much optimism for the future. In their applications to the program, many of the participants expressed a special passion for cultivating pluralistic spaces, and for having productive conversations around heated topics regarding Israel and antisemitism within the Jewish community."

The pilot program of Campus Commons, launched earlier this year, has been remarkably successful. According to a survey of participants, 96 percent said they gained greater insight into their own strengths or motivations as a bridge-builder, and encountered at least one new perspective that they found meaningful and thought-provoking. 93 percent learned at least one new skill for communicating across differences, and experienced at least one new or enriching aspect of Judaism through the program.

Campus Commons draws from The Bronfman Fellowship's 39 years of experience in fostering pluralistic Jewish community and leadership through its flagship year-long Fellowship program for Jewish teenagers in North America and Israel, and through programming for its vibrant alumni community. At the core of the Fellowship's approach is a passionate belief that building trust and mutual understanding works best when Jews can learn and engage together and with other communities, drawing on Jewish texts and tradition as tools for finding a common language. Campus Commons is made possible through grants from UJA-Federation of New York, The Jeffrey H. and Shari L. Aronson Family Foundation, and Combined Jewish Philanthropies.

During their in-person seminar, participants in Campus Commons will delve deeply into Jewish texts, learn how to

*continued on page 8*

motion; and a sophisticated gait laboratory.

The large and compassionate staff of doctors; nurses; occupational, physical and speech therapists; psychologists; social workers; and nutritionists uses traditional and futuristic-looking equipment, like anti-gravity machines and robotic technologies, to bring patients back to health.

Unveiled at the launch was the Boulevard of Revival, located in the Gandel Center's lobby. The "boulevard" features imprints of the footprints of IDF officers and soldiers, amplifying the idea central to the center's ethos that no one walks alone and that progress is made step by step.

In his remarks at the opening event, President Herzog described the Gandel Rehabilitation Center as "granting an essential gift to every human being it helps: hope – hope for the healing of the soul and the strengthening of the body, hope for independence, hope to dream again."

Acknowledging the significant financial contributions of Hadassah members all over the United States, Prime Minister Netanyahu quoted his father, the late historian Benzion Netanyahu, who once told him that "women can be a pivotal force.

## WJCS NAMED A TOP PLACE TO WORK BY CITY AND STATE NY MAGAZINE

Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS), one of the largest human services agencies in Westchester County, has been selected as a Top Place to Work in New York by City and State NY Magazine. It was one of only 51 organizations to earn this accolade.

"We are honored to be recognized by City and State NY," said WJCS Chief Executive Officer Seth Diamond. "At WJCS, we strive to create a culture that promotes employee satisfaction, generous staff benefits, wellness programs, and growth opportunities. We are dedicated to developing a trauma-informed culture where all staff feel they belong."

WJCS is a nonsectarian, not-for-profit agency, founded in 1943, that offers programs and services for nearly 20,000 people of all ages and backgrounds each year. The agency provides evidence-based treatment and compassionate care for individuals facing obstacles related to mental health, trauma, substance use, disabilities, parenting, aging, literacy and social isolation. With a staff of more than 500 employees and 20 locations, WJCS helps people who are struggling in Westchester find the tools, strength and resilience to overcome significant challenges so they can lead their best lives.

"At WJCS, we know that caring for our clients begins with caring for our staff," said Stephan Spilkowitz, Director of Engagement and Culture at WJCS. "Our people are the core of our work and we endeavor to support their wellness, growth, resilience, and potential through creating the culture and employee experience they deserve."

Recognizing the risks of secondary trauma and burnout, WJCS integrates trauma-informed principles to ensure a psychologically safe workplace. Restorative conversations offer an open space for staff to engage with executive leadership, complemented by a growing wellness program and staff social activities. WJCS also provides generous benefits, including flexible schedules, a health care reimbursement program, tuition and child care reimbursement and a pension.

Learn more about WJCS at <https://www.wjcs.com/>.

Just look at the women of Hadassah!"

Hadassah National President Carol Ann Schwartz told the guests that Hadassah's members had "eagerly joined Israel's national mission, determined to raise the funds needed to open the Gandel Rehabilitation Center ahead of time out of a sense of duty to care for the wounded."

"The investment in infrastructure and equipment, made possible only by the extraordinary generosity of many in Israel and worldwide, enabled us to build the most advanced rehabilitation system in the Middle East," said Dalia Itzik, Chair, Board of Directors, Hadassah Medical Organization.

"For more than a year and a half, the team at the Hadassah Medical Organization's Gandel Rehabilitation Center has been proving its true strength — in healing, in emotional and psychological support, in uncompromising professionalism and in compassion," said Yoram Weiss, MD, Director General, Hadassah Medical Organization, adding that it is due to the staff's dedication and relentless commitment that the Gandel Center's patients have been able to "begin their new lives strengthened, prepared for the challenges ahead and in a spirit of victory and determination."





# FIDF

## THANK YOU

Thank YOU for being Friends of the IDF!

As we reflect on the challenges and triumphs of 2025, we are filled with deep gratitude for your unwavering support of the brave men and women of the IDF.

Your commitment, generosity, and encouragement have made a lasting impact on the lives of those who protect and defend.

Together, we have stood strong, and together, we will continue to stand for peace, security, and a brighter future.

**AM YISRAEL CHAI FOREVER!**

**Iris Bartov**  
Associate Director  
Connecticut

**Anat Chavkin**  
Executive Director

**Lisa Zach**  
Associate Director  
Westchester

**Rebecca Grossman**  
Development Operations Manager

**Tomer Hoory**  
Senior Development Associate

FIDF Westchester & Connecticut Chapter





# Israeli-American Filmmaker Chen Drachman Screens Star-Studded Short At Yonkers Yofi Fest

Award-winning Israeli-American filmmaker and actress Chen Drachman screened her latest short film, *But I'm a Shoe*, at Yofi Fest—the Yonkers Film Festival—as part of Comedy Block 2 at the Riverfront Atrium Theater. This screening highlights Drachman's growing presence as a Jewish filmmaker in the industry.

*But I'm a Shoe* stars Janet Varney (*You're the Worst*, *The Legend of Korra*, *Platonic*), Housso Semon (*Suffs*), and Alexander Ferguson (*Hamilton*). Drachman met Semon and Ferguson while studying at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA), marking the start of their artistic collaboration. Their paths have flourished professionally in New York, leading to this inventive project combining animation and live action.

Ferguson shared, "I've always been a fan of animation, so getting to be part of a project like this was a no-brainer, and it's always a blast working with friends from school on their crazy, creative ideas." Semon added, "From the moment we met in school, I was struck by Chen's unique sense of humor. She has always been incredibly talented and creative, but the blend of animation and live action in this film makes it a truly special project that I was eager to be a part of."

Drachman commented, "I've been hearing about how amazing YoFi is for a while, and it was very evident from the get go, when they worked hard to get filmmakers to meet each other even before the festival. What a wonderful community. I can't wait to share our weird little tale in Yonkers! I also appreciate the very easy commute!"

About Chen Drachman: - Chen Drachman is an Israeli-American filmmaker and actress based in New York. Her debut short, *The Book of Ruth* (starring Tovah Feldshuh), screened at over 40 festivals and earned more than 155,000 views online. Her latest script, *Blood and Sex Over Ambition*, won the Inwood Art Works Production Grant and will shoot in winter 2025. Learn more at [www.chendrachman.com](http://www.chendrachman.com).



ChenDrachman Photo Credit: Jonathan Florez

## Highlights of AJC's Diplomatic Marathon

As we do every year, American Jewish Committee (AJC) engaged with dozens of world leaders and diplomats on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly. Over the course of

three days during 60 high-level meetings and three exclusive programs, AJC strongly advocated for Israel and the release of the hostages from Hamas captivity, gave recommendations for how governments can counter surging antisemitism, and discussed the importance of continuing to stand with Ukraine. From CEO Ted Deutch receiving the prestigious Order for Merits to Lithuania to AJC's Global Jewish Diplomacy Reception, AJC's Diplomatic Marathon was another example of AJC's unparalleled global reach.



AJC members meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

# The WJCS ParentChild Center Celebrates 25 Years in New Rochelle



Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) hosted a joyful celebration of the 25th Anniversary of its ParentChild Center in New Rochelle on October 21. Music, toys, games, block building, and other fun activities were all part of the festivities. Dozens of children, WJCS staff, and Assemblyman Steven Otis were on hand to take part in the quarter-century milestone occasion.

The WJCS ParentChild Center is a free drop-in play group for young children, from birth to four years old, and their parents or caregivers. "It is a thrill to see children develop verbally, emotionally, socially, and cognitively over the course of months of parents and children participating, said Rivka Gorin, Assistant Director of Early Childhood Centers at WJCS. "Children gain skills and friendships, and their parents do as well."

"All the social, emotional, and language skills that children develop in their early years are vital to their success when they enter school and advance in life," said WJCS Chief Executive Officer Seth Diamond. "We are proud to have reached the 25-year mark. Hundreds of children and their families have benefitted from the play, social engagement, and enrichment offered at WJCS ParentChild Center."

Assemblyman Steve Otis, who has helped secure state funding to support the program, said "Congratulations on the 25th Anniversary of the WJCS ParentChild Center. I have followed this exceptional program for many years and am always wowed by how fully engaged every parent and every child is with the activity of the day. The value of this program will follow these young children throughout their school careers and provide them with the foundation for a bright future. Tremendous credit goes to WJCS, their staff, and the teachers that have worked on the program over the years."

Located at the Boys and Girls Club at 79 7th street in New Rochelle, the WJCS ParentChild Center is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 AM to Noon, October through May.





# More Than \$1 Billion Secured by the Claims Conference for Holocaust Survivors

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) recently announced the outcomes of its latest negotiations with the German Federal Ministry of Finance on behalf of Holocaust survivors living around the world. The results include an increase in home care funding for Holocaust survivors, bringing the amount for 2026 to €923.9 million (\$1.08 billion USD), the largest budget for survivor home care in the organization's history.

Gideon Taylor, President of the Claims Conference, said, "This historic increase to home care funding reflects the complex and growing needs of Holocaust survivors worldwide. While we are losing survivors at a rapid pace each year, those who remain are older, frailer and in greater need than ever before. This budget is crit-

ical in providing each of them the opportunity to age in place, a dignity that was stolen from them in their youth."

The average age of survivors receiving home care through Claims Conference funding has increased from 86 in 2018 to 88.5 in 2024. The data clearly indicates that those survivors still with us are not only aging, but are also experiencing more complicated health needs and increased disability. The number of clients who qualify for full-time assistance due to extreme disability — such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and dementia — has nearly doubled.

Home care assistance allows survivors to live safely and comfortably in their own homes as they age, which is particularly important for individuals who were torn

*continued on page 8*

# 20th Annual WJCS Have a Heart for the Holidays Gift Drive Luncheon

Scarsdale resident and Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) Board member Linda Plattus hosted her 20th annual luncheon, along with WJCS Board Members Sarah Kayle and Nina Ross; NextGen Council Members Yael Friedland and Samantha Stavis; and Host Committee Michelle Dinenberg, Poornima Eber, Allison Friedland, Fara Friedman, Jennifer Galeon, Jessica Levinson, Jessica Eckhaus Modell, and Robin Silk on November 19.

The luncheon raised over \$10,000 and more than 250 toys have been collected so far. Local community groups are expected to collect close to 1,000 more toys in the next few weeks. Gifts will be distributed to WJCS clients who live in under-resourced communities.

Guests heard from WJCS Board President William Shirley, Chief Executive Officer Seth Diamond, Assistant Executive Director of Children, Youth, and Families Katrina Schermerhorn, and Director of Family Matters Carolyn Murphy about the breadth and depth of WJCS's programs and services that improve the lives of thousands of Westchester residents each year.

The floral centerpiece was donated by House of Flowers in Mamaroneck, and cookies and cakes were donated by Martine's Fine Bake Shop in Scarsdale. Donations to the WJCS Have a Heart for the Holidays Gift Drive can be made at: <https://www.wjcs.com/get-involved/have-a-heart>.



## WJL Calendar



**Celebrating Hanukkah: Jewish Independence, Resilience and Hope**  
Saturday, December 13, 8 PM

Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center, 129 W. 67th St., New York City

The Zamir Chorale and Zamir Noded, under the direction of Matthew Lazar, present a concert to celebrate Hanukkah, Jewish independence, resilience and hope. The two ensembles will sing separately and together, performing traditional and contemporary repertoire by Israeli and American composers that uplifts, consoles and inspires. For tickets, go to [www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org/mch/buy-tickets/](http://www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org/mch/buy-tickets/)

**Artisans' Holiday Gift Fair**

Sunday, December 7, 11 AM to 4 PM

Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, 31 Glengary Road, Croton-on-Hudson

Get ready to do your Hanukkah gift shopping and support Temple Israel at the same time! Enjoy an array of one-of-a-kind gifts from painters, photographers, jewelry makers, potters, textile artists, woodworkers, and more. Vendors have graciously agreed to donate 20 percent of their sales back to the Temple. Learn more at <https://www.tinw.org/event/artisan-holiday-fair.html>

**Community Hanukkah Celebration**

Monday, December 15, 4 PM to 6 PM

Westchester Jewish Center, Palmer and Rockland Avenues, Mamaroneck

Celebrate the second night of Hanukkah with family and friends at Westchester Jewish Center (WJC)! A game show for adults and children elementary through high school begins at 4 PM. Younger children along with grownups are invited to jump around and sing at a Hanukkah concert with Matty Roxx. Bring your own Hanukkiyah so everyone can light candles together. Candles will also be provided by WJC. Following the afternoon program and candle lighting, everyone will enjoy a festive Hanukkah dairy dinner with homemade latkes. Cost is \$5 per person, \$25 maximum for families. To register, go to <https://wjcenter.shulcloud.com/form/2025-wjc-community-wide-hanukkah-celebration>

**JBN Honorary Awards Breakfast**

Tuesday, December 16, 8 AM

Tarrytown House Estate, 49 East Sunnyside Lane

The Jewish Business Network (JBN) celebrates the growth and impact of the JBN community and honors select leaders who have made a lasting, positive impact on JBN and the broader Jewish business community in the region.

Honorary Guest: Mario J. Gabelli, Chairman & CEO, GAMCO Investors, Inc.

Master of Ceremonies: Tara Rosenblum, Anchor/Reporter, News Channel 12

Honorees—Gabelli Leadership Awards: Paul Adler, Chief Strategy Officer, Rand Commercial; Adam Hammerman, VP & CFO, NYMC; Brad Schwartz, Partner, Zarin & Steinmetz. Honorees—Friedland Young Leadership Awards: Samuel Adler, Real Estate Broker, Rand Commercial; Lee Lefkowitz, Partner, Zarin & Steinmetz. To RSVP, go to [www.jbnetwork.org/awards](http://www.jbnetwork.org/awards).

**Community Menorah Lighting**

Thursday, December 18, 5:30 PM

Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester, 999 Wilmot Road, Scarsdale

Get ready to flip the holiday spirit upside down! A Community Candle Lighting on the fifth night will feature Hanukkah Handstands, where an incredible team of gymnasts will light up the season—literally! Watch as they form a real-life menorah using strength, balance, and breathtaking handstands for each of the five nights (plus the shamash, of course!). It's a celebration of light, dedication, and dazzling athleticism. Sufganiyot (jelly donuts) and hot cocoa will be served! For more information, email [info@jccmw.org](mailto:info@jccmw.org)

**Hanukkah Laser Light Show**

Saturday, December 20, 4:30 PM

Shames Jewish Community Center on the Hudson, 371 South Broadway, Tarrytown

With fog, the Hanukkah story becomes a duel of light beams with incredible laser lighting effects. The show culminates with a giant menorah lighting. This show is performed by Wondergy, never scripted, audience-driven science entertainment. Wondergy began in 2002 in Philadelphia and has grown into a science-tainment industry titan, creating educational experiences that are engaging, inspiring, and unforgettable. Tickets are \$10 for members, \$16 for non-members. Learn more at <https://www.shamesjcc.org/event/hanukkah-laser-light-show/>

## Outstanding Jewish College Students Selected to Join a Dynamic Community of Bridge-Builders

continued from page 4

have challenging conversations, engage in small-group discussions, and build relationships with other college students who are interested in bridge-building. The program also includes monthly Zoom sessions for learning and reflection on experiences on campus, and mentorship to assist participants in the design of their own on-campus initiatives. Upon completion of the program, participants will receive a Certificate in Relationship Building Across Difference.

The Campus Commons cohort will learn with an esteemed faculty, including Rabba Yaffa Epstein, Senior Scholar and Educator-in-Residence at The Jewish Education Project; Dan Libenson, President of Lippman Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah; Dr. Evan Parks, Director of Education for The Bronfman Fellowship; Rabbi Yehuda Sarna, Executive Director of the Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life at NYU; and Ruben Shimonov, visual artist and National Director of Sephardi House and Education at the American Sephardi Federation. They will also interact with a wide range of Bronfman staff members, alumni mentors, and guest speakers.

Students interested in participating in upcoming national cohorts of Campus Commons can contact Sophia Adler Varon at [campuscommons@bronfman.org](mailto:campuscommons@bronfman.org). This all-expenses-paid program is open to full-time college students who identify as Jewish and who have completed at least one year of college. Cohorts will be comprised of a diverse mix of student leaders, some of whom are formally involved in Jewish life on campus and some of whom are not. Preference will be given to students who are from New York and/or who attend a New York college. Students can learn more about the program at [campuscommons.bronfman.org](http://campuscommons.bronfman.org).

Following is a list of the New York participants.

### Lia Abuhsira

**Fordham University (New York City)**  
**Hometown: New York City**

Lia Abuhsira was born in Jerusalem and raised back and forth between Israel and Washington, DC before moving to New York to pursue architecture and visual arts at Fordham. Lia is currently an Emerson fellow, CLIP graphic design intern, and Hillel President on her campus. In her free time, she is passionate about using art as a form of religious expression, advocating for her Moroccan roots and Dati-Leumi (Zionist Orthodox) community. You can also find Lia trying matcha spots across the city, doing pilates, trying to recreate her grandma's recipes, or listening to a mix of Afrohouse and Mizrahi music.

### Samuel Drescher

**Williams College (Williamstown, MA)**  
**Hometown: Scarsdale**

Samuel is a senior at Williams College studying chemistry and public health, and originally from Westchester. He grew up going to Camp Ramah in the Berkshires. On campus, he is the president of the outing club, where he leads a lot of outdoor trips. He works as a tour guide, and is in an improv comedy group called Combo Za. He is also on the board of the Williams College Jewish Association and is very involved with Jewish life on campus.

### Maya Garren Tam

**Columbia University (New York City)**  
**Hometown: New York City**

Maya attended Hasmonean High School for Girls in London and is currently pursuing undergraduate studies at Columbia University in New York. She participated in three humanitarian aid trips to wartime Ukraine. Since 2022, she supervised the Parysow Project, overseeing the translation of Yizkor books from Yiddish into English and Hebrew.

### Ben Hymowitz

**Hofstra University (Hempstead)**  
**Hometown: White Plains**

Ben is a junior Music Business major with a minor in Jewish Studies at Hofstra University. He was raised in and continues to practice Reform Judaism, which has deeply shaped his perspective and values. His studies allow him to explore the intersection of music, culture, and identity, which is something he is passionate about. On campus, he's actively involved in Hillel and serves as the Vice President of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He's excited to continue building community, learning from different perspectives, and connecting through this program.

### Hailey Tokayer

**Hunter College (New York City)**  
**Hometown: New York City**

Hailey is a proud Upper West Sider. She went to SAR High School, Midreshet Harova, and is a rising Junior in Macaulay Honors College at Hunter where she majors in English Literature and minors in Jewish studies. This summer she worked at Camp Moshava IO, where she was a Rosh Eidah (division head) for campers going into high school. At Hunter, she spearheads the Interfaith Initiative, facilitating conversation and activities between members of different religious groups.

# The Miracle of Hanukkah

BY MYRA CLARK-SIEGEL, AJC WESTCHESTER/FAIRFIELD REGIONAL DIRECTOR

As we gather to celebrate Hanukkah this year, the lights we place in our windows feel more essential than ever. They are small flames, fragile at first glance, yet powerful enough to cut through darkness—not only the darkness of winter, but the darker forces of hatred, isolation, and fear that too often try to take hold in our world.

In my work with American Jewish Committee (AJC) Westchester/Fairfield, I am privileged to witness how our community responds when that darkness presses close. Over the past two years, we have stood shoulder-to-shoulder through heartbreak, challenge, and uncertainty. We have raised our voices together, determined to defend the dignity and security of the Jewish people and Israel to strengthen the bonds with our allies. And through it all, we have discovered once again the truth at the heart of the Hanukkah story: resilience is a sacred inheritance.

Hanukkah teaches us that miracles arise when ordinary people refuse to give up. A single day's worth of oil becomes eight days of endurance. A small group of defenders becomes a nation restored. That same spirit fuels our work today. Every conversation we lead, every partnership we nurture, every effort to push back against antisemitism is a modern act of rededication—our own chanukat bayit, renewing and strengthening the communal home we share.

And the most powerful part is this: Each of us has a voice that matters. AJC is where that voice is amplified, where conviction becomes action, and where personal strength becomes collective impact. Your courage, your presence, your willingness to stand up—they are the light that keeps our community burning bright.

As we kindle the menorah this year, may its glow remind us that even after tragedy, we rise. We rebuild. We choose life. And we bring light.

Wishing you and your families a Hanukkah filled with hope, resilience, and enduring joy.

AJC (American Jewish Committee) is the global advocacy organization of the Jewish people. To learn more or learn how to be a strong Jewish advocate, email [westchester@ajc.org](mailto:westchester@ajc.org) or go to [ajc.org](http://ajc.org).



## More Than \$1 Billion Secured by the Claims Conference for Holocaust Survivors

continued from page 7

from their families and homes and faced unthinkable atrocities in their youth.

Additionally, the German government has extended its support for Shoah education through 2029, for a total commitment of €175 million (\$205 million USD) over the next four years. This investment comes at a critical time, as recent global Holocaust Knowledge and Awareness Surveys clearly indicate a troubling decline in public understanding of key Holocaust facts.

Ambassador Colette Avital, Holocaust survivor and Claims Conference Negotiation Delegation Member, said, “It is deeply meaningful that, 80 years after liberation, the German government maintains its responsibility to those who suffered and survived. Every survivor — and every rescuer — deserves to live with dignity and to be seen, heard and cared for.”

Detailed outcomes from negotiations include:

- Home care for Holocaust survivors globally will receive an additional €30 million (\$35 million USD) in funding, bringing the overall total to €923.9 million

(\$1.08 billion USD) for 2026.

- Holocaust education funding was extended another year with an additional €3 million (\$3.5 million USD) for a total funding of €48 million (\$56 million USD) in 2029. In total the program will receive €175 million (\$205 million USD) over the next four years, resulting in an overall program allocation since its inception of €276 million (\$320 million USD).

- The Hardship Fund Supplemental Payments, which were previously guaranteed to be paid annually to eligible Holocaust survivors through until 2027, have been extended through 2028 at an amount of €1,450 (\$1,681 USD). This will impact more than 127,000 survivors worldwide.

- Righteous Rescuers – non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust – currently receiving a monthly pension from the Claims Conference, will be eligible to receive home care similar to that provided to Jewish survivors, allowing them to live their final years with dignity in their own homes.



# Estate Planning for Tangible Property



BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY  
SPECIAL GUEST CONTRIBUTOR: JOEL KROOKS, ESQ.

When people think about estate planning, they often focus on major assets like real estate, investment accounts, and life insurance policies. However, tangible personal property—items such as jewelry, artwork, collectibles, furniture, vehicles, and family heirlooms—can carry both emotional and financial value. Planning for how these possessions will be distributed after death is an important yet often overlooked part of a comprehensive estate plan.

These items may or may not have high monetary value, but they frequently hold deep sentimental significance. Disputes over tangible items are common among heirs because personal meaning can outweigh market worth. A grandmother's wedding ring, for instance, might cause more tension than a bank account because of its emotional connection.

One way to handle tangible assets is through a personal property memorandum. This document, referenced in your will or trust, allows you to list specific items and designate who should receive them. Unlike a will, which typically requires formal execution to make changes, a memorandum can usually be updated more easily without legal formalities. This flexibility makes it ideal for items that may change hands, be sold, or be newly acquired over time. However, it is important to note that in New York a personal property memorandum is not legally binding, and it simply shows the Decedent's wishes regarding their tangible personal property.

Another option is to distribute tangible personal property through specific bequests in a will or trust. A specific bequest names a particular item and the individual who should receive it. For example:

"I give my diamond engagement ring to my daughter, Jane Doe."

"I give my antique piano to my nephew, John Doe."

By including language like this, you remove ambiguity and give your executor clear legal instructions. These specific bequests are binding and enforceable under your will or trust, ensuring that your wishes are carried out as you intend.

It's important to describe each item clearly to prevent confusion or disputes. Include identifying details—such as brand names, serial numbers, or distinguishing features—especially for valuable or similar-looking property. If you later sell or give away an item that you've listed in your will, your estate plan should be updated to reflect that change. Photographs are another excellent way to clearly illustrate which tangible personal property you are describing.

Tangible personal property should be coordinated with the rest of your estate plan. For example, if valuable items are part of a trust, ownership may need to be formally transferred to the trust to avoid probate. Additionally, specific items left in a will should align with the terms of any trust or beneficiary designations to prevent contradictions. Items with significant value—such as rare collectibles—should be documented carefully for estate valuation purposes.

Tangible personal property estate planning is more than just deciding who gets what—it's about preserving family relationships and honoring sentimental ties. By creating a detailed memorandum, communicating clearly with loved ones, and integrating personal property decisions into your estate plan, you can reduce the risk of disputes and ensure your possessions end up exactly where you intend.

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. He was named 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers in America® for excellence in Elder Law and has been honored as one of the "Best Lawyers" in America since 2008. He was elected to the Estate Planning Hall of Fame by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (NAEPC). Krooks is past Chair of the Elder Law Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Mr. Krooks may be reached at (914-684-2100) or by visiting the firm's website at [www.littmankrooks.com](http://www.littmankrooks.com).

## AJC and USC Shoah Foundation Seek Testimonies on Contemporary Antisemitism

As part of an effort to give voice to, document and map modern-day antisemitism around the world, the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and the USC Shoah Foundation are collecting testimonies from individuals who have experienced contemporary antisemitism.

The Contemporary Antisemitism Collection focuses on five categories, including:

1. Sephardic, Mizrahi, and Yemenite Jewish communities, many of which were displaced or left the Mediterranean basin, North Africa, and the Middle East in the 1940s and 1950s;
2. Ethiopian Jewish communities, including those which made Aliyah and those that entered the diaspora in Europe and North America;
3. North American Jewish experiences since 1945;
4. The experiences of Jewish communities under communist rule, including Jewish life in the Soviet Union, in Warsaw Pact states, and in the former Yugoslavia;
5. Victims of antisemitic terror attacks, beginning with the 1994 bombing of the AMIA (Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina), which killed 85 people and injured 300, the worst antisemitic attack since the Holocaust until October 7, 2023.

Once completed, this collection will be the largest archive ever assembled of testimonies on contemporary antisemitism.

To submit your story, go to [https://www.ajc.org/share-your-story-ajc-usc-shoah-foundation-partnership?utm\\_campaign=Israel-Hamas%20War&utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-\\_hqeLknXr5CitYqqKesVvmaIfT4MzVUtS3nrxtlt-4WaNeDCJBc3Tm4\\_B8WRfq9VCyByZArd6eSkxPder6M5aVwtH5wcxmSPIU3tmmX-1UO6ffz1Xc&\\_hsmi=388214598&utm\\_content=388214598&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.ajc.org/share-your-story-ajc-usc-shoah-foundation-partnership?utm_campaign=Israel-Hamas%20War&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_hqeLknXr5CitYqqKesVvmaIfT4MzVUtS3nrxtlt-4WaNeDCJBc3Tm4_B8WRfq9VCyByZArd6eSkxPder6M5aVwtH5wcxmSPIU3tmmX-1UO6ffz1Xc&_hsmi=388214598&utm_content=388214598&utm_source=hs_email)

AJC, the global advocacy organization for the Jewish people, has long utilized research, policy, and advocacy to address this hatred. The USC Shoah Foundation, the Institute for Visual History and Education, is home to more than 61,000 testimonies of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust, contemporary antisemitism, the Armenian Genocide, and other mass atrocities and genocidal crimes of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It is the largest such collection in the world.

Dedicated to the Jewish Faith, Mt. Eden Cemetery has served the Tri-State area for over 90 years. Its peaceful hillside setting is one of the most beautiful in Westchester.



For more information please call  
our sales counselors at:

**(914) 769-0603**

**[www.mtedencemetery.org](http://www.mtedencemetery.org)**



**Mt. Eden Cemetery**

**20 Commerce Street, Hawthorne, New York**

**BUSINESS CARDS** \$108. per issue. Prepaid only. Just mail us your Business Card and Full Payment and we'll take care of the rest. Mail to: Shoreline Publishing, 629 Fifth Ave., Suite 213, Pelham, NY 10803

### Scarsdale Pastry Center

Wishing everyone a Happy Chanukah!



Find us on Facebook

We have Specialty Cookies & Cakes for the Holidays!

Tel. (914) 723-6722

1487 Weaver Street  
Colonial Village Shopping Center  
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583

Open  
Tuesday to Saturday 8am to 5pm  
Sunday 8am to 1pm  
Closed Mondays

www.scarsdalepastrycenter.com

# Westchester Jewish Life

**Edward Shapiro, President and Publisher**  
es@shorelinepub.com

**Nancy Coveney, Editor**  
nancy.coveney@shorelinepub.com

**Cynthia Pena, Art Director**  
shorelineproduction@gmail.com

**Mary DeYoung, Advertising Account Executive**  
mdeyoung.61@gmail.com

**Lauren Levine, Advertising Account Executive**  
levinelaur@gmail.com

www.westchesterjewishlife.com

**New Rochelle Review**  
www.newrochellereview.com

**The Pelham Post**  
www.thepelhampost.com

**The Bronxville Bulletin**  
www.thebronxvillebulletin.com

**Larchmont Ledger**  
www.larchmontledger.com

**Harrison Herald**  
www.harrisonherald.com

Westchester Jewish Life is published monthly by Shoreline Publishing, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 213, Pelham, NY 10803. 914-738-7869. The entire contents of Westchester Jewish Life is copyrighted. No portion may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. The views, opinions and content of this publication does not necessarily reflect that of the staff of Shoreline Publishing.



Shoreline Publishing accepts the submission of articles, events and items of interest no more than 500 words with .jpg photos for inclusion in Shoreline newspapers and websites. Email to: shorelineproduction@gmail.com or Shoreline Publishing, 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 213, Pelham, NY 10803. Shoreline Publishing reserves the right to edit or omit any submissions.

# CLASSIFIEDS

**ANTIQUES • ART • COLLECTIBLES**  
Most cash paid for paintings, antiques, furniture, silver, sculpture, jewelry, books, cameras, records, instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports cards, etc. Call Aaron at 914-235-0302.

**VINTAGE MILITARY ITEMS WANTED**  
Antique, unique military items want by long-time collector. Items such as helmets, medals, uniforms, swords, and any items especially up to World War II and earlier. High cash payment offered. Appraisals also done. Please call 914-980-8678.

**EXPERIENCED MANDARIN TUTOR**  
Top 3 NYC high school teacher w/16 years teaching Level 1 to AP. Expert in preparing students at any level including AP Chinese. Personalized approach, proven results. In-person or online. Text 917-915-2115.

**WESTCHESTER REALTOR – LOW COMMISSION!**  
Bilingual (EN/CH) realtor serving New Rochelle, White Plains, Eastchester, Mamaroneck, Larchmont, Harrison, Yonkers, Pelham, Hartsdale. Full service at a below-average commission rate. Sell smoothly and save money. Text 914-712-8811 for free consultation!

**JUNK REMOVAL AND CLEAN OUTS**  
‘Dump N Chase’ junk removal is a group of college hockey players who will remove your junk, transport large household items, and clean out garages, attics, and sheds. Call or text 914-860-5177.

**CHILDCARE, ELDER CARE, CLEANING EXPERTISE**  
Warm, caring, reliable, trustworthy, and personable individual with 25 years of experience in Scarsdale area with NY State driver’s license and U.S citizen. Whether you need childcare, elder care, household cleaning or household management, I can provide these services part-time: M-F 1PM – 7PM. Please contact Sheila, Email: ladymac01@yahoo.com / Mobile: 914-924-0294. References furnished upon request.

**CAREGIVER AVAILABLE**  
Certified HHA, mature, reliable, compassionate & hardworking lady w/10+ yrs exp. with Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, diabetes, poststroke care etc., Seeks FT job as Caregiver. Excellent References. Call 914-602-7318.

**PURCHASING MIDCENTURY MODERN, ART, ESTATES**  
Established NYC collector & dealer paying highest prices possible for 20th C. Modern Furniture & Art. Single items and estate contents. Please contact me directly at 917-566-9451.

**PROFESSIONAL JEWELRY APPRAISALS**  
Professional Jewelry Appraisals for Insurance, Estate, Legal and Selling Purposes. Located in Harrison and New York City, or we can come to you. Call 212-489-6553 and visit www.NYCjewelryAppraisers.com

**PROFESSIONAL PAINTER**  
20 plus years of experience. I also provide handyman services. Excellent references available. For free estimate please call Eddie at 845-653-2188.

**HOUSECLEANING AND AIRBNB SERVICES**  
Hosting can be easy -- Let me Handle the Clean! Meticulous turnover cleaning for Airbnbs and Vacation Rentals.

- Sparkling kitchens & bathrooms
- Beds made hotel-dtyle
- Trash removal & supply restocking
- Before/after photos included
- On-call concierge

While You Relax-Receive Trustworthy Service. Call G. Cross at 347-547-8454 or email at ginamarielcross@gmail.com

# Classified Ad Form

6 newspapers over 100,000 readers -- **1 PRICE, PREPAID \$131.00 FOR 5 LINES.**  
Ad runs in 6 papers for 1 month. Make check payable to: Shoreline Publishing, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 213, Pelham, NY 10803

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



# Temple Shaaray Tefila Celebrates 50 Years of Community, Faith and Leadership

Temple Shaaray Tefila (TST), the premier Reform congregation located in Bedford Corners, is proud to celebrate its 50th anniversary, marking five decades of spiritual leadership, community engagement, and Jewish life in Northern Westchester.

## The Beginning

In 1975, a group of friends from Bedford Corners met for a dinner that would turn out to be life changing for the TST community. It led to the creation of a beautiful Jewish community of more than 500 member families. Looking back, it seems as if it were bashert, Yiddish for “meant to be.” Several of the couples had children reaching religious-school age and couldn’t decide which synagogue to join as there wasn’t one in Bedford Corners. At some point, someone said the magic words, “Why don’t we see if there is interest in starting a synagogue here?”

On January 1, 1976, they placed an ad in the Pennysaver announcing a meeting to discuss starting a new synagogue. About 25 families decided to join and The Unitarian Fellowship in Bedford offered its facility for Friday nights. Through the URJ, they learned of a student Rabbi from California interested in coming to New York. Rabbi David Greenberg was hired and began holding services every other Friday night.

## A Beautiful Setting

Several years later, an acquaintance of Rabbi Greenberg told him about an outstanding property—a former estate on nine acres that would later become the campus of Temple Shaaray Tefila of Westchester. Temple members held the Consecration service for their new synagogue on May 7, 1982 and with their new home in place, membership continued to grow.

Originally called Shallow Brook Farm, the campus was the estate of J.C. Baldwin, Jr., Esq. It was designed by architect Benjamin Wistar Morris, who won the Gold Medal at the 1918 exhibition of the Architectural League. The original house is now the main building and the home’s Music Room serves as the sanctuary. Combined with a 2000-era Education Building, a state-of-the-art playground, and a community garden, TST offers a stunning historic setting ideally suited to modern lives.

Since its founding in 1975, Temple Shaaray Tefila has grown into a cornerstone of the Bedford and Northern Westchester communities — a place of worship, learning, inclusion, and action. The Temple will commemorate this milestone with a series of celebratory events, including a “Proclamation Day” with speeches from local politicians, followed by a dinner and 50th Anniversary Shabbat, honoring Founding Rabbi/Rabbi Emeritus David Greenberg, who has led the congregation for nearly its entire history.

“Fifty years is more than a measure of time — it’s a testament to the enduring values, meaningful relationships, and vibrant spirit that have shaped our community,” said Rabbi Emeritus Greenberg. “It has been a profound honor to be part of this remarkable journey. I look forward to seeing Temple Shaaray Tefila continue to grow and thrive for the next fifty years and beyond.”

## A Legacy of Service and Spirituality

Temple Shaaray Tefila’s impact extends far beyond its sanctuary walls. Over the past 50 years, the Temple has:

- Supported local and global social justice initiatives
- Fostered deep interfaith relationships
- Built robust education programs for all ages
- Built a top, on-site Early Childhood Center for children ages two through four
- Celebrated countless lifecycle events—B’Nai Mitzvah, weddings, baby naming
- Created an inclusive and welcoming spiritual home for hundreds of families

“This milestone is a celebration of our past and a commitment to our future,” said Temple President Bill Glenn. “As we look ahead to the next 50 years, we remain devoted to our mission of enriching lives through Jewish

tradition, community, “Tikkun Olam” (repairing the world) and building our Kehila Kedosa.”

## Committed to Giving

From its beginning, Temple Shaaray Tefilia has supported a wide range of organizations and people in need, both near and far. Among its many efforts:

### *Community involvement:*

- During the High Holidays, the congregation launches its Annual Food Drive, gathering critical supplies for the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry and the Community Center of Northern Westchester (CCNW).
- The giving spirit continues with the Christmas Dinner Program. Congregants deliver full meals, groceries, and gift cards to families in need in Westchester.
- Through a key annual event—Thanksgiving’s Cooking for a Cause—our congregants prepare and distribute holiday dinners for more than 4,000 people in Westchester, the Bronx, and Connecticut.
- Throughout the year, congregants continue to combat food insecurity by distributing kosher meals to Westchester seniors and providing food aid to Feeding Westchester, Neighbors Link, and St. Bartholomew’s Soup Kitchen in White Plains. And the giving also starts right on Temple Shaaray Tefila grounds: The Community Garden donates fresh vegetables to local food pantries.
- Every year, the Annual Blood Drive is held. Last year, TST donated 72 pints of blood, helping 200 potential recipients.
- Our youth organize the Teens Midnight Run, personally delivering food, clothing, and toiletries to New York City’s homeless.
- Local families are supported through Erase the Need and A Home school supplies drives.
- In addition, Temple Shaaray Tefila provides financial support to vital organizations like My Sister’s Place, Hope’s Door, and Friends of Karen, and works with 914Cares/CCNW to distribute essential items like diapers and “Bags of Love.”
- Our reach extends globally. In partnership with Bedford Presbyterian Church, we participate in Bridges to Community, offering cross-cultural humanitarian experience in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua.

### *Supporting Israel:*

- Through our Yellow Ribbons Fundraiser, each ribbon tied in Temple Shaaray Tefilia’s ceramic Kalayniot memorial garden—created by temple members of all ages—helps raise funds for those displaced by war in Israel.
- Through our Israel Emergency Action Fund, congregants donate to support Israeli individuals and families facing immense hardship and loss due to October 7th and ongoing attacks on Israel.

To learn more about the work of Temple Shaaray Tefilia’s Social Action team, visit <https://www.shaaraytefila.org/social-action/>.

## Join the Celebration

Community members, alumni, family and friends are invited to share in this meaningful milestone. Some marquee events around the 50th include: the dinner and shabbat honoring Rabbi Emeritus David Greenberg, a kick-off party with “The Day Trippers,” a Beatles cover band, a Shabbat honoring past Presidents, a retrospective exhibit during the “Night of Light” Chanukah celebration, and a culmination Jew-Bilee fundraiser in June.

The TST journey to becoming one of the largest Reform congregations in Northern Westchester is one of connection, resilience, and shared values. With a truly inclusive community, dynamic programming for all ages, and inspiring leadership, TST is committed to expanding their impact for the next 50 years and beyond.

# *The Ambassador of Scarsdale* *Luxury Assisted Living – Superior Service*



*Senior living  
as you've never imagined.  
Come see for yourself.*



*The Ambassador*  
SCARSDALE

*Unparalleled Luxury. Superior Service.*

9 Saxon Wood Road, White Plains, NY 10605-5204

[www.theambassadorscarsdale.com](http://www.theambassadorscarsdale.com)



## *The Ambassador of Scarsdale*

A luxurious assisted living and memory care option on the forefront of exceptional senior living - combining world-class hospitality with individually tailored services.

## *Our Memory Care Program*

A truly beautiful setting specifically designed to enhance the lives of people with Alzheimer's and related disorders features a private landscaped garden and certified Music and Memory program

For information on our community  
please call Jean Dunphy, President  
at 914-428-3782 ext# 104 or email  
[jdunphy@theambassadorscarsdale.com](mailto:jdunphy@theambassadorscarsdale.com)

