



22nd Annual Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, March 15, 2017
17 Adar 5777

Hosted by
Temple Israel Center of White Plains





Julian Y. Bernstein

Julian Y. Bernstein, z”l, was a well-known and admired leader in the Westchester Jewish community. Some of the organizations that benefited from his leadership were UJA Federation of New York/Westchester and the Jewish Community Center of Harrison. Julian was also a long-serving Executive Committee member and board member of the Westchester Jewish Council.

Julian believed that doing tzedakah was just as important as giving tzedakah. The Westchester Jewish Council Distinguished Service Awards, named in memory of Julian, is our recognition and appreciation of his visionary leadership, guidance, and friendship. It is the highest honor we can bestow on those with whom we celebrate this evening.



This year's Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Award recipients will each receive an original Magen David sculpture from the artist Gary Rosenthal. Gary Rosenthal has been sculpting in welded metals since the early 1970s. Together with a team of talented craftspeople, he creates one of the most popular and unique lines of Judaic art in the country. Combining copper, brass, and steel with brilliant fused glass, the Gary Rosenthal Collection has a contemporary style rooted in tradition. His inspiration comes from the rich history of the Jewish people that tells us it's a blessing – a mitzvah – to make beautiful, functional art. Works from the collection have been presented to Presidents and celebrities, and have been seen worldwide in the finest galleries. We believe this sculpture is a perfect fit with our award winners and hope they will treasure adding it to their own collection of memories from the important moments in their lives.

Westchester Jewish Council

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Westchester, est. 1975

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Program

Welcome

Paul B. Warhit
President, Westchester Jewish Council

Moment of Jewish Thought

Rabbi Gordan Tucker
Temple Israel of White Plains

Special Recognition of UJA-Federation of New York on its Centennial Anniversary

Presented to Eric Goldstein, Chief Executive Officer

Introduction to the Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Awards

David Bernstein

Presentation of the Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Awards

Ron Arsham, Susan Taxin Baer, Peter Baum, Betsy Berstein,
Karen Firestone, Keith Reich, Carolyn Schrier,
Sheila Spicehandler

Closing

Elliot Forchheimer, Executive Director
Westchester Jewish Council



The Jewish Community Relations Council of Westchester

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Samuel Stein
Samuel Stein (2nd)
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Rabbi Andrew Warhit

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Elliot Forman
Assistant Executive Director
Pam Goldstein

March 15, 2017

Dear Friends,

The Distinguished Service Awards ceremony honors those who make their communities stronger through the work they do. Tonight's program is an opportunity for the Westchester Jewish Council to recognize a fabulous group of individuals who make our world a better place in a variety of ways.

Named in memory of Julian Y. Bernstein, a selfless community leader who embodied what it means to give back to one's community, this ceremony highlights the selfless efforts by volunteers in some of the 160+ Westchester Jewish Council member organizations.

As the program unfolds, we hope you will be impressed by the breadth and depth of our honorees and the wonderful work each of them does. We are truly a sacred community, and the more people doing good work for others, the more sacred our community will become. Kol HaKavod to all of tonight's honorees. May their efforts serve as a legacy to the man who lends his name to tonight's ceremony and inspire others to do the same.

Shalom,

Paul B. Warhit

Paul B. Warhit

President

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UJA Federation of New York

Westchester Jewish Council

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Pam Wexler
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Nancy Zaro
Harriett Zeller
Jack Zitomer



ROUNDTABLES

Connect • Convene
Collaborate • Communicate

Westchester is a unique and united Jewish community. Through our **ROUNDTABLES** the Westchester Jewish Council brings professional and lay leaders together to share information, form friendships and strengthen communications and connection. Bonds are formed and best practices are shared on a variety of relevant topics and issues.

Rountables include:
Synagogue Executive Directors
Synagogue Presidents
Organization Presidents
Marketing Professionals & Volunteers
Government Relations
Israel Professionals & Volunteers
Interfaith/Intergroup Volunteers
Security Coordinators
Youth Professionals & Volunteers
Lone Soldier Families
plus many more on the way...



SAVE THE DATE!

**Please join the Westchester Jewish community at these
Westchester Jewish Council events!**

Monday, April 24, 2017 – 12:00pm

Annual Westchester-wide Holocaust Commemoration

Westchester County's Garden of Remembrance in White Plains on Martine Avenue produced in partnership with the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center.

Monday, May 1, 2017

Yom HaZikaron Ceremony and Yom HaAtzmaut Celebration-Israel @ 69 held at the Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester

Join us for an authentic Israeli experience including a solemn memorial ceremony followed by a festive independence celebration.

Sunday, June, 4, 2017

Join us at the Celebrate Israel Parade

The Westchester Jewish Council is once again coordinating the Westchester-wide marching delegation. All synagogues and organizations joining us will be able to march with their delegations and banners.

Sunday August 20, 2017

Annual Westchester Jewish Music and Arts Festival

Held at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla. Presented by The Westchester Jewish Council, The Westchester Klezmer Program, and Kol Hazzanim (The Cantors of Westchester) in cooperation with Westchester County Parks. The festival is part of the annual summer ethnic heritage festivals series.

For more information go to www.wjcouncil.org or call us at 914-328-7001

**Do you want to know what is
happening in our community?
wjcouncil.org/calendar**

Julian Y. Bernstein

Distinguished Service Awards 2017 Honorees

AIPAC.....	Robin Samot
American Friends of Soroka	Judy Grant
BBYO Westchester Region	Emma Abramson
Bet Torah	Joanna Segal
Congregation B'nai Yisrael	Charles Shapiro
Hebrew Institute of White Plains	Deborah Weinberger
Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center.....	Betty Knoop
JCCA.....	Alexandra Rosenberg
JCY-Westchester Community Partners	Chuck Lesnick
Jewish Community Center of Harrison	Carla Ifrah
Metropolitan Jewish Health System (MJHS).....	Ruth Loebmann
The New Jewish Home - Sarah Neuman	Carla Fiorentino
Sinai Free Synagogue.....	Tania Weiss
Temple Beth Abraham	Gayle Aaron
Temple Israel Center of White Plains	Sandra Costin
Temple Israel of New Rochelle	Sari Bedevian
Westchester Jewish Community Services	Shirley Shwiel
Westchester Jewish Council	Mona Abramson
Westchester Klezmer Program	Jerald Seti

Robin Samot

American Israel Public Affairs Committee

In 2005 Robin attended her first AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, DC and she was hooked. The experience of being surrounded by Jews and non-Jews, religious and secular, Republicans and Democrats, young and old, members of Congress and professionals of every kind, all united by their dedication to maintaining the safety and security of Israel and strengthening the U.S.-Israel alliance was beyond inspirational. She and her husband David immediately became AIPAC club members and since then Robin has devoted her time to furthering AIPAC's mission.

Over the past 10 years Robin has served on AIPAC's Westchester Council. She has been instrumental in growing countywide participation in AIPAC and, in particular, that of Young Israel of Scarsdale. She coordinates the YIS AIPAC Shabbaton which urges members to join the YIS delegation to Policy Conference. Because of her leadership Robin was asked to join AIPAC's National Council. She travels to Washington several times each year to lobby members of Congress to support legislation that is critical to Israel's survival. During the summer of 2015 she participated in two "fly-ins" to lobby against the flawed nuclear agreement with Iran. Engaging one-on-one with Senators and Representatives is tremendously rewarding and gives Robin an outlet for her passion for Israel and need to be proactive.

Robin chairs the Westchester Political Network, a group of pro-Israel advocates who host events for members of Congress and congressional candidates from across the aisle, thereby forming relationships which allow them to engage in effective conversations about the importance of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. Robin often visits and lobbies those she has hosted on her trips to Washington.

Robin and David have been active members of the Young Israel of Scarsdale for more than thirty years. Robin has served as an executive officer, a trustee, and Sisterhood president. They are supporters of UJA-Federation, where Robin chaired the New Rochelle Women's Campaign, and Westchester Day School, where she was a trustee. They are very proud parents of Josh and Lauren, Ari and Stacy, and Jordana who, much to Robin's great joy, works for AIPAC!

Dubbed “the most important organization affecting America’s relationship with Israel” by the New York Times, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is the lobbying arm of the Jewish Community, and the only organization whose sole mission is to lobby the U.S. government on Israel’s behalf.

Judith Grant

American Friends of Soroka

Judith Grant has been an activist for most of her life beginning with her involvement in the Soviet Jewry movement helping refuseniks emigrate to Israel and the United States. Judy attended the two world conferences on Soviet Jewry in Brussels, Belgium in the 1970s and subsequently traveled to Latvia, Lithuania and St. Petersburg to assist refuseniks.

Judy is fiercely passionate about her Jewish heritage and Israel. She currently serves as a board member for the Westchester/Fairfield chapter of the American Jewish Committee. Judy has worked very closely with Magen David Adom and has spent considerable time at Israeli hospitals and rehabilitation centers, always including visits to the pediatric oncology wards.

In 2014 Judy visited Israel during the Gaza War to meet with wounded soldiers and their families at Soroka Medical Center. It was at Soroka where Judy was introduced to a nineteen year old soldier from the Golani Brigade who was severely injured in combat. He was evacuated to Soroka and underwent extensive facial reconstruction surgery by a multidisciplinary team lasting many hours. They remain friends to this day. Thus began Judy's love for and connection with Soroka, a true miracle in the Negev with the most advanced medical technology and truly extraordinary medical staff.

Judy has been instrumental in fundraising for Soroka Medical Center, especially for urgently needed trauma bay rooms. Her most recent project has been to raise funds for a trauma room to honor the memory of Dafna Meir, a surgical nurse at Soroka who was murdered in January 2016 by a terrorist in her home.

Judy was very proud to have participated in Soroka Day at the Knesset in 2016 where she represented the American Friends of Soroka Medical Center. She attended meetings between hospital staff and Knesset members regarding the critical need for continued funding and heard Israeli soldiers speak to a packed room about the excellent medical care they had received at Soroka. Judy looks forward to involvement with Soroka Medical Center for many years to come.

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Soroka Medical Center is one of the largest, busiest and most important and innovative hospitals in Israel, and the sole major medical center for all of the burgeoning southern region of Israel. Soroka is the sole major medical center for the southern front in Israel, serving the IDF medical needs. It offers internationally recognized excellence across the entire spectrum of medical care and across the entire lifecycle: prevention, detection, research, education, advanced treatment, trauma care, cancer care and genetics.

Emma Abramson

BBYO Westchester Region

Emma Abramson has served the Jewish community throughout her high school years as a leader in BBYO. BBYO is the leading pluralistic Jewish youth group aspiring to provide more Jewish teens with more meaningful Jewish experiences.

On the local level Emma has served as president of her chapter in the past and currently serves as the regional vice president of membership for the Westchester region.

As chapter president last year, Emma and her chapter volunteered at the JCCA Edenwald Center, working and playing with at-risk children and teens. This year Emma founded a BBYO chapter in her own town, Harrison, at the JCCH to help give more teens the incredible Jewish experiences that she has had. The JCCH is thrilled for this new partnership and is benefitting greatly from the increase in youth involvement in the Jewish community as a result.

Emma has also represented Westchester on the international level of the Jewish world. Last March Emma was a delegate of BBYO at the AIPAC Policy Conference, as the only teen from her town. After her trip to AIPAC she was awarded a Certificate of Recognition from the town board of Harrison for her commitment to the relationship between Israel and the United States.

Internationally Emma founded and served as the editor in chief of the BBYO newsletter, where she worked with 20 other teens from across the world to publish. The newsletter they created talked about globalization in the Jewish world, how Judaism is practiced differently within different communities in the world, and included interviews with teens from countries such as Turkey and Hungary, who are unable to practice Judaism as freely and publicly as we are. Emma is the recipient of several international BBYO awards as well.

Emma's leadership has allowed her to inspire other members of the youth group to step out of their comfort zone and act as leaders and advocates within the Jewish world.

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BBYO Westchester Region is the fastest growing teen program offering fun, meaningful and affordable opportunities for our Jewish teens. As the entire Jewish community seeks to address the challenge of "drop out" among post bar/bat mitzvah teens, BBYO's pluralistic movement has emerged as the leader in reaching that audience with compelling programs, created by the teens themselves, together with BBYO's engaging staff. For over 90 years, BBYO has provided exceptional identity enrichment and leadership development experiences for hundreds of thousands of Jewish teens.

Joanna Segal Bet Torah

Sixteen years ago, while pregnant with their first of three daughters, Joanna and her husband Rich were shul-shopping near their new home in Chappaqua for a Conservative shul like the warm, hamische congregation Joanna grew up in on Long Island - Congregation Beth Sholom in Babylon.

Located in Mount Kisco, Bet Torah was a perfect fit and continues to be the Segal family's spiritual home. Joanna began volunteering in Bet Torah's nursery school as its budget chair. This was not surprising given her background. After graduating from the University of Michigan's School of Business, Joanna earned the Chartered Financial Analyst designation as she worked in Seattle at Laird, Norton Trust Company as a Research Analyst. Moving back to New York, Joanna was an Investment Portfolio Manager in the Trust Department of the Israeli financial-services firm, Bank Hapoalim.

As Joanna's daughters grew, so did her volunteer efforts, including PTA, Girl Scouts and the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival. Joanna took on increasing responsibilities at Bet Torah, too. She joined the Board of Directors nine years ago. At first, Joanna was part of the Rabbi search committee, followed by three years as Bet Torah's budget chair. Currently serving in her fifth year as treasurer, Joanna chairs Bet Torah's dozen-person finance committee.

Past volunteer efforts at Bet Torah for Joanna include being a nursery school reading buddy, serving on the Sisterhood board and the Youth Commission Board as well as being a member of the religious school's Director of Education search committee.

Just as Joanna learned from her parents, Anabel and Willy Labendz, the importance of giving of one's time to one's synagogue, it gives Joanna and Rich great nachas as their daughters Leora, Annie, and Dahlia volunteer at Bet Torah and in the community.

Joanna enjoys skiing, playing tennis, long-distance bicycle riding, photography, and researching her family's genealogy.

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Bet Torah is an egalitarian Conservative synagogue serving Northern Westchester's growing Jewish community. An award-winning religious school serves over 500 students in nursery through high school. Adult study opportunities are abundant. With an active Sisterhood, Men's Club and Youth Group, Bet Torah offers many ways to grow as a Jew.

Charles Shapiro

Congregation B'Nai Yisrael

During his life, Charles has experienced Judaism in many forms. He was raised in an interfaith family, attended an Orthodox Hebrew school and became a Bar Mitzvah on a Thursday in a Conservative Synagogue. To raise his own multi-cultural family he chose Reform Judaism.

Charles and his wife Marya joined Congregation B'nai Yisrael in Armonk after meeting educator Cookie Markhoff and Rabbi Douglas Krantz in 1983. Charles was soon serving as treasurer and, in 1990, became president of the congregation. During his tenure, CBY began studying alternative plans for its future, a process that culminated in 1998 with the building of its new modern temple.

After brief periods living in Detroit, Boston and Cincinnati Charles retired from a consulting career in planning and real estate and returned to Armonk in 2013. In 2015 he was inspired to re-join CBY's Board of Trustees when they chose Joshua Strom as their Rabbi. Charles' work in the past 2 years has exemplified a new spirit of growth and deep involvement at CBY.

During this time Charles has conceived and shepherded CBY's strategic planning process. He chairs the steering committee and created task forces on membership, programs & services, fiscal condition, dues structure and fundraising. Charles also created a complex planning model to test numerous programs and strategies. Over 65 CBY members participated in task forces and focus groups and the resulting strategic plan for CBY was adopted in 2016. Current efforts concentrate on membership and engagement strategies and a study of fundraising feasibility.

While working on the strategic plan, Charles prepared for his "Bar Mitzvah 2.0," a Shabbat service that fulfilled his lifelong desire to improve upon his shortened Thursday experience in 1962. In his spare time he has also applied his musical skills to compose new settings of prayers, including a "Shema Koleinu" performed by Cantor Hayley Kobilinsky at this year's Kol Nidrei services. He looks forward to years of involvement during CBY's latest chapter.

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Founded in 1970 Congregation B'nai Yisrael is a Reform congregation with over 370 family members. Congregation B'nai Yisrael is a spiritual center where families celebrate, commemorate, worship, learn, nurture, give and grow. Members come together to celebrate the rich and beautiful heritage of Judaism, striving to feel the beauty and fulfillment that comes from seeing the world through Jewish eyes.

Deborah Weinberger

Hebrew Institute of White Plains

Deborah Epworth Weinberger doesn't feel she has done anything "so distinguished."

A resident of White Plains since marrying Jay Weinberger in 2000 she quickly got involved at her new synagogue, The Hebrew Institute of White Plains. Deborah was a member of the HIWP board of directors for several years before becoming one of the first female co-presidents in the synagogue's history, with Beth Hurvitz.

When she learned of the shul's volunteer-run thrift shop Deborah knew there was great opportunity to be had. Awed by Fay Kaplan and Pearl Greenfield, the two seniors who ran the shop on their own, Deborah tried to help them in any way she could. From moving furniture, schlepping donations and advocating for them at management meetings, Deborah was determined to help grow the tiny shop.

When Fay decided to retire Deborah began recruiting HIWP members she thought would enjoy working at the shop. Today there are over 15 amazing women who help keep the shop running the 12 hours a week it is open. Little did they realize the friendships they would forge and the value they would bring to the shop, the customers and the shul.

"The chance to help volunteers and customers alike feel important and appreciated is a privilege. Our customers are always greeted warmly, often by first name, and enjoy buying quality merchandise at prices they can afford." Open three days a week, 10am-2pm, the little shop yields well-needed revenue for the Hebrew Institute of White Plains. For Weinberger it's much more than exceeding their budget each year.

The Back Door Thrift Shop has become a community of loyal volunteers who value one another and the work they do. Each brings something different to the shop. "I am just the facilitator, spreading the word, keeping quality donations coming in, making sure nothing goes to waste and that all childrens' items we receive go to Kids' Closet."

Deborah is honored to work with the remarkable volunteers and grateful to HIWP for allowing her to service the community, empower the volunteers and help generate revenue for the synagogue.

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With its heterogeneous population Hebrew Institute is a modern Orthodox congregation that encourages spiritual seeking and growth for its members and helps foster a sense of togetherness as it provides a Jewish vision for the future. The congregational family reaches out to benefit the local community and world Jewry through social action projects.

Betty Knoop

Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center

Betty is a founding member of the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center and has been an active member of the Holocaust Speakers Bureau for over 25 years.

April marks 72 years since Betty, her parents and brother were liberated from Bergen-Belsen. Ms. Knoop was 14 years-old, 5' 7" tall and weighed only 54 pounds. She has since grown into a strong, cheerful lovely woman who drives herself all over the region to share her story and a message of hope with her audience.

She first spoke in public about her experiences 25 years after her liberation. Having asked her Rabbi at the Rye Community Synagogue to say Kaddish for her family, he asked that she speak to his confirmation class that night in return.

“How do you want me to do this?” she asked.

“Go back to your very first memories,” he told her.

Betty always remembers this conversation and that's the way she talks to the students. She tells them that when she was nine, Jews were forbidden to attend school. Betty remembers that classes got smaller daily because children had gone into hiding, left the country or been picked up. Teachers disappeared too.

In 1943 Betty's family was taken to Westerbork then sent to Bergen-Belsen in February 1944. Scarce food became nearly non-existent. The crematorium there was small, so the bodies of those who starved to death were left for long periods. Prisoners went for days without food. When the British arrived to free them Betty remembers she was all arms and legs. Her mother, age 36, died just three days after they were freed.

Betty is participating in the Witness Theatre production at the Mid Westchester ICC.

Betty raised her three children in Rye, but has lived in Armonk for eight years. Her son Gregg and his family also live in Armonk. Her son Henri lives in White Plains and her daughter Clara, named for her grandmother, lives in Florida.

When asked to sum up her message in a few sentences, she said, "That racism is evil. It's always evil and it debases men."

The mission of the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center 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. The Center offers sensitively developed workshops, seminars and special presentations for educators, students and the community. The Center helps schools fulfill the New York State mandate that the Holocaust and other human rights abuses be included in their curriculum.

Alexandra Rosenberg

JCCA Pleasantville Cottage Campus

JCCA's Pleasantville Cottage Campus has become an important part of Alexandra (Ali) Rosenberg's life during the past four years. Ali's initial involvement began as a parent driving her teenage son to his weekly Mitzvah project as a junior tutor for a youth (*M*) who resided at the Edenwald Center, one of four residential programs on campus. During this time the Rosenberg family's relationship with *M* grew through family dinners, outings to movies and special events such as a trip to Madison Square Garden for a New York Knicks game. When Ali's son's project ended in May 2015, it became clear to Ali that her involvement with this youth had just begun.

Ali joined the ranks of numerous volunteers on the campus and became *M*'s mentor. As his mentor, Ali provides a stable and supportive one-on-one relationship. For *M* there is safety in knowing that he has Ali's unconditional love and support. As a mother, Ali's hope is to teach her children how to step away from their own needs and desires and think of others. Through her actions, Ali demonstrates how to always make the extra time and effort for someone else. From the oldest Rosenberg to the youngest, *M* has become a special part of each of their lives.

In addition to her role as a mentor, Ali organizes two monthly teen volunteer weekend programs. Each group consists of 6-8 teenagers who have adopted a cottage and come once a month to socialize with the young residents. Ali has seen the benefits of this program for both the residents and volunteers. Although the lives of the volunteers and the residents differ, during their monthly time together they are simply able to come together as kids.

Ali grew up in Tenafly, NJ and earned her BA in Economics at Barnard College of Columbia University. Ali and her husband Scott moved to Chappaqua in 2001 just before the birth of their son Brett, followed by Sam and then Jack. With the birth of their daughter Phoebe in 2011, Ali became a full-time mother of four. The Rosenbergs are active members of Temple Shaaray Tefila in Bedford Corners, NY.

JCCA provides comprehensive care to thousands of children, young people and families who come from New York's diverse communities. Since 1822, JCCA has supported abused, neglected and traumatized young people who are struggling with poverty, developmental disabilities and complex mental illness. Programs include foster and residential care, educational assistance and remediation, case management for young people with mental health challenges and services to families to prevent child abuse and maltreatment. JCCA offers safety, stability and lifesaving support to help our clients transform their lives. JCCA programs help more than 16,000 children and families annually.

Chuck Lesnick

JCY-Westchester Community Partners

Chuck Lesnick's support of JCY-Westchester Community Partners began thirty years ago when it was still the Jewish Council of Yonkers. He was instrumental in drafting its expanded mission statement: "To enhance the educational experience of children in Westchester County through effective learning initiatives and the engagement of volunteer mentors." He was a calm, respected and respectful voice during some very emotionally charged discussions as the Board created a strategic plan and changed from a local council that exchanged ideas and information to a partnership that runs programs.

In addition Chuck, along with his wife, have for over twenty years sponsored the annual Dr. Beth & Chuck Schorr Lesnick Junior Leadership Award for Jewish students in the Yonkers Public Schools. They have been active members of Congregation Shaarei Tikvah Scarsdale, a Conservative Congregation, and its predecessor shul, Genesis Agudas-Achim.

Chuck is the former Yonkers City Council President where he was best known for green policy initiatives; adaptive reuse of historic buildings; support of public schools for improved academics, arts, music & sports; and inclusive, thorough yet timely environmental reviews of economic development projects that grew the tax base and enhanced the built environment. He has served as a Westchester-Rockland Regional Representative for both Governor Cuomos and has worked for each on the state and federal levels in economic development and housing. He is a graduate of Yale College and the NYU School of Law and also has a Masters in Policy Analysis and Urban & Regional Planning from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs.

Chuck is active with the Yonkers Rowing & Paddling Club, Yonkers Bike Club, the Park Hill Racquet Club, the Federated Conservationists of Westchester, the Historic Sing Sing Prison Museum, the Westchester Municipal Officials Association (past president) and the National Democratic Municipal Officials where he was DMO of the year in 2013. He is an Eagle Scout and has the largest rolodex in Westchester County.

Established in 1919, JCY-Westchester Community Partners is a not-for-profit organization committed to enhancing the educational experience of children in Westchester County through effective learning initiatives and the engagement of volunteer mentors. Focusing on the literacy needs of community's youth, JCY-Westchester Community Partners develops intergenerational programs that improve the reading and writing abilities of the students in K-12 and provide opportunities for student community service.

Carla Ifrah Jewish Community Center of Harrison

Carla and her family have been members of the Jewish Community Center of Harrison (JCH) for over twenty years. Her work as a volunteer for JCH began when she became co-president of the Sisterhood, a trustee of the Board and then a member of the Executive Committee.

Along with her co-presidents Carla revived Sisterhood, making it relevant for a younger group of women who had never before participated. She instituted programs that were enjoyable, educational and community-building, bringing women together and encouraging them to get involved with not only Sisterhood, but the synagogue's other committees as well. When her co-presidents could no longer continue Carla chose to remain president alone, ensuring that the programs and community that had been built remained.

Carla has also been involved with many other committees at the JCCH, such as the Membership Committee, JCCH Mitzvah Day and the B'nai Mitzvah Institute. Her biggest accomplishment, however, was the creation of the JCCH Holocaust Exhibit.

Endowed entirely by the Ifrah family, the JCCH's Holocaust Exhibit was created by Carla in remembrance of the Shoah. This exhibit aims to educate everyone who attends by using visuals, props and stories from the past to recreate a little part of the history from that time, thus ensuring that the Shoah will never be forgotten. The exhibit not only touches the entire JCCH congregation, but the Westchester community at large. Hundreds of children, pre-school through high school, from various communities and schools have walked the exhibit with their teachers, learning about the Holocaust in an accessible, appropriate manner. The Ifrah Family Holocaust Exhibit is open to the public for three weeks every other year.

Outside of the JCCH, Carla is involved in the Scarsdale schools and is a dedicated volunteer to The Children's Hope Chest. Carla Ifrah is a native Brazilian, current resident of Scarsdale, former resident of Harrison, Jew by choice, devoted wife to Philippe, and mother to Veronica (24), Olivier (22), Jack (18) and Marc (14).

The JCCH is a vital, energetic, traditional egalitarian Conservative congregation. The JCCH was designed to be a center not only for worship and education, but also to fulfill social and recreational requirements of children, youth and adults. Today the JCCH remains true to that mission, with an inclusive religious community, a highly respected Early Childhood and Religious School, engaging Men's Club, Sisterhood and Youth programming, a progressive Keruv - Interfaith Program: a diverse offering of learning opportunities for all ages and stages; and continued active involvement among both founding and new members.

Ruth Loebmann Metropolitan Jewish Health System (MJHS)

Since immigrating to the United States in the 1940s, Ruth Loebmann has committed herself to serving others in any way possible. Born in Germany in 1928, Ruth and her brother left the country during the height of Nazism, bound for Palestine where she attended an agricultural high school for girls. Though separated by war for a number of years, Ruth considers her family one of few fortunate enough to be reunited following the end of WWII. Arriving in New York at just 17 years old Ruth and her family settled in Manhattan with support from a paternal cousin.

While residing in Upper Manhattan, Ruth was involved with the Jewish Education Committee, a group organized to coordinate a wide array of services to the various Jewish school systems in New York. In addition to this important community development work Ruth spent over four decades at the Zim-American Shipping Company (currently known as Zim Integrated Shipping Services Ltd.). During her years as secretary, Ruth was able to utilize her knowledge of the Hebrew language in assisting upper management.

Ruth has been deeply ingrained in the Riverdale community since moving to the neighborhood with her late husband in the 1970s. She began volunteering at the Mollie & Jack Zicklin Hospice Residence in 2007 and has remained steadfast in her commitment in the decade since. Prior to this work Ruth volunteered at Jewish Home Lifecare, a Bronx nursing and assisted living facility offering companionship services. Ruth enjoys providing compassionate care to the hospice's end-of-life patients. She takes deep pride in this sacred work and has learned a great deal through conversations with the remarkable people with whom she visits.

Outside of her time at the Zicklin Residence, Ruth is a member of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale which has been of great benefit to her. She also enjoys visiting museums, reading and listening to classical music.

MJHS is an integrated not for profit health system that provides exceptional care to the Greater New York Area. Our spectrum of health care services includes rehabilitation, home care, palliative and hospice care, long term care as well as various health plans for Medicare and Medicaid eligible individuals. We also have The Institute for Innovation in Palliative Care, focusing on education and research. Our premier rehab centers and inpatient residences include Menorah Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing Care, The MJHS Hospice, Mollie and Jack Zicklin Residence, Muriel and Harold Block Residence and the Inpatient Residence at Menorah — which is the first to care for children as well as adults.

Carla Fiorentino
The New Jewish Home – Sarah Neuman

Carla Fiorentino moved from the Bronx to Mamaroneck in 2006 with her husband Ray and her daughter Talia. In 1995, Carla and Ray adopted Talia from Lebanon, then traveled to Cyprus, where they lived for several months awaiting the arrival of their new, beautiful baby.

Carla attended William Cullen Bryant High School in Queens, NY, where she grew up with both of her parents. After graduating she worked in the fashion industry in the Garment District in Manhattan, NY. Over the course of her life she experienced several career changes from managing real estate properties to assistant teaching and Girl Scout leading at her daughter's elementary school. Carla took on her proudest and most admired role as a volunteer at Sarah Neuman, where she developed deep bonds and friendships with the residents there, including those with special needs due to memory impairment. She patiently guides them through arts and crafts projects that she has designed on her own. She began volunteering in 2009 and has since been the welcoming ambassador for new residents, bringing them gifts as they move into their new, unfamiliar home.

Carla is well-known for her unconditional love for people, hard work ethic and uncanny ability to lift the spirits of those around her. A long-time resident recently described her as a giving and kind person with a "tremendous knowledge of how to do creative projects." When not volunteering Carla spends and enjoys her time watching her daughter grow and finish college. She feels grateful to be such an operative and contributing part of the community in which she lives.

The New Jewish Home—Sarah Neuman provides care for the evolving needs of New Yorkers as they age, from the very frailest to those who just need a little extra help in managing chronic conditions at home. Renowned for its excellence in rehabilitation and nursing care and its warmth of environment, Sarah Neuman is a 300-bed, not-for-profit geriatric residential healthcare facility providing short-stay rehabilitation, skilled nursing and long-term care, including three Small Houses, adult day health care, respite care and dementia care.

Tania Weiss

Sinai Free Synagogue

If you had told Tania when she joined Sinai Free Synagogue 20 years ago that someday she'd be temple president, she wouldn't have believed you. Moving from Manhattan in the mid-90s she and husband Alan decided to join a congregation - their first - because their children had no Jewish friends in Bronxville.

Soon Tania was a school board member and volunteer coordinator of the Thanksgiving soup kitchen event. She then joined the nominating, membership, programming and fund-raising committees, eventually becoming a board trustee. By 2013, she was first vice president.

Five months into that term, tragedy struck the synagogue family. President Susan Kahn was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Tania not only stepped in to shoulder more and more of Susan's presidential duties, she helped organize food deliveries, home visits and drivers to ferry Susan to medical appointments. The experience taught Tania the true meaning of community, a lesson that would serve her well in the years that followed.

During her presidency Tania helped balance the budget, handle infrastructure renewal and focus on community-building. She advocated for regular early services followed by intergenerational dinners. Strongly dedicated to social action the congregation continues to do food drives during the year and still serves Thanksgiving dinner at the soup kitchen. With an eye toward fostering future volunteers Tania is leading Sinai Free's participation in the URJ pilot program "Emerging Leaders."

"Making a difference in the lives of others makes a difference in my life." Last spring Tania was instrumental in enabling 15 Holocaust survivors to participate in Mt. Vernon's annual Yom Hashoah observance.

With skills gained from her volunteer experience at the synagogue Tania recently made a career change and now works full-time in the non-profit world.

Tania and Alan just celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. They have two daughters, Lauren who lives and works in international relations in Paris, and Nicole who is a 2nd year biochemistry Ph.D. candidate at Weill-Cornell Sloan-Kettering.

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Sinai Free Synagogue is a progressive Reform Jewish community serving Southern Westchester and the Northern Bronx. It provides an open and welcoming Jewish center of active inspirational living, learning, spirituality and culture for individuals and families of diverse backgrounds, traditions and values. The congregation is comprised of members living in over three dozen localities in the tri-state area alone, serving the surrounding communities of Pelham, Scarsdale, Bronxville, Tuckahoe, Eastchester, Yonkers, and the Northern Bronx. Sinai Free is multigenerational, interfaith and interracial, and we are welcoming to all lifestyle choices. Sinai Free Synagogue the small community with a big heart.

Gayle Aaron

Temple Beth Abraham

When Gayle Aaron and her husband Neil looked into joining a temple in the Rivertowns they didn't have to look far. In addition to being where Gayle's brother's family belonged, Temple Beth Abraham offered Gayle and Neil something no other temple could. Neil grew up Conservative and Gayle Reform. By joining TBA they would be able to worship in both styles.

Growing up, Gayle saw that it was important to be involved in the Jewish community. She and her family were involved in many different capacities at the JCC Synagogue in White Plains (now Kol Ami). Gayle wanted her kids to have the same opportunities that she had, which is why she got involved at TBA. Gayle has served on the temple board for 6 years and has held many positions, including fundraising chair and synagogue vice-president. Most recently Gayle has focused her efforts at TBA on building a better community for the temple.

As chair of the fundraising committee, she revamped the fundraising efforts and brought the TBA community together to celebrate one of its own at the Annual Gala, now a much anticipated yearly event. Gayle played a large role in designing and then rebuilding the main sanctuary, a renewed environment that the TBA family and community can join together in worship and celebration. Gayle's sense of design played a large part in the final result. The warmth, light, accessibility and welcoming feeling of the room were strongly influenced by her eye. The sanctuary is part of her legacy at TBA.

Gayle currently serves as chair of the capital and endowment campaign called *“Bridges, Connecting Our Rich Tradition to a Vibrant Future.”* The monies raised in this campaign will go towards making TBA more accessible, both physically and emotionally, as well as grow the temple’s endowment. Gayle feels strongly that as the generations before us did all they could to ensure that there would be a strong Jewish community for us -- she wants to encourage all of us to do our part for current and future generations.

Although affiliated with the Reform movement, Temple Beth Abraham holds Shabbat and Holiday services in both Reform and Conservative modes in two sanctuaries. The congregation is fully egalitarian and functions under the philosophy that Jews have too much in common to allow a desire to pray in a certain way to prevent the creation of one synagogue community. The energy that results permeates all activities, from an innovative religious school to a communal commitment to social justice. Families of every configuration and singles are welcome.

Sandra Costin Temple Israel Center of White Plains

On any given Shabbat, if you walk through the doors of Temple Israel Center or attend one of its many events centered at members' homes you will encounter the work of Sandra Costin, whose name is synonymous with the vibrant and creative Shabbat spirit that TIC members of all ages share and enjoy together. For Sandra building community at Temple Israel Center is central to all of her volunteer activities. Whether she is organizing a speaker series, wine tasting or working with her crew to cook Shabbat dinner for her ever growing chevre, Sandra's focus is always on inclusion and bringing people together. Dedicated to all aspects of synagogue life she has also served on the board of trustees, TIConnect, the budget committee and the nominating committee. Sandra brings her positive attitude and can do spirit to all her activities at Temple Israel Center.

In addition to Sandra's volunteer work at Temple Israel Center she is also active in the JCC MidWestchester Arts and Talks committee and recently served as editor of "Kehila Kitchen What's Cooking at Schechter Westchester," the Schechter Westchester 50th Anniversary community cookbook.

Sandra and her husband Dan moved to White Plains from Manhattan twenty years ago. They have two children, Diana and Jeremy, whose synagogue involvement both extended from TIC nursery school, to each serving as president for the TIC USY chapter. Diana is a sophomore at Colgate University and Jeremy is completing his senior year at Schechter Westchester and heading for Johns Hopkins in the fall.

Sandra grew up in Westchester and attended the Solomon Schechter School, graduating in its second graduating class. She holds a BA in European history from the University of Pennsylvania and a JD from George Washington University.

Temple Israel Center is a welcoming, traditional, egalitarian Conservative synagogue community. Participation at Shabbat morning services is a highlight of synagogue life. The entire Torah portion is read each week and our learning, singing congregation participates joyfully and actively. A vital and broad adult education program encourages learning at all levels and complements our programming in our Nursery School, Shorashim Religious School, Havurat Torah (Middle and High Schools), as well as our Youth Groups and Family Education programs. Our Bikkur Holim and Social Action groups are involved in community outreach and support, and our beautiful Mikveh is available by appointment.

Sari Bedevian Temple Israel of New Rochelle

Sari and her husband Kirk along with their two sons, Brett and Brandon have been active members of Temple Israel of New Rochelle since 1996.

Upon joining the temple Sari became active on the religious school committee and suggested (which was later implemented) singing Hatikvah in religious school. She also helped to run the annual Chanukah party which drew not only the youngest members, but the oldest as well! Additionally she volunteered with the packing and delivery of the Mishloach Manot Purim gift bags for college students as well as the community.

Sari taught in the religious school, first on Sunday mornings in the kindergarten. Seeing a need for a fun and interesting class for her son to take in the Hebrew high school, she developed and taught traditional Jewish cooking, which the students loved as well as their parents who got to eat the delicious treats that came home.

Sari and Kirk co-chaired the ushering committee for over five years, filling both Friday night and Saturday morning ushering positions, as well as for the High Holidays. Sari started a new tradition called DOCS which put doctors on call in a key location in the sanctuary to assist in possible medical emergencies during all of the High Holiday services.

Currently Sari organizes the monthly community Shabbat dinners which follow services and draw crowds of over 100 congregants of all ages. Seeing a need for the senior congregants to enjoy worshiping and sharing a Shabbat meal together Sari initiated the Silver Shabbat Dinner program. Hugely successful, these special congregants enjoy a monthly meal followed by a Torah service.

Most recently Sari took on the position of co-chair for Temple Israel Cares, a group of members who acknowledge life cycle events of congregants: delivering soft baby blankets to "Temple Israel's Newest Member" or bringing Shiva Bags to the families sitting Shiva. She is looking to expand the reach of TIC in the coming year.

Sari's latest volunteer activity has been with the UJA-Federation's Engage Jewish Service Corps. She looks forward to doing more mitzvot now that she has retired for the second time!

Temple Israel of New Rochelle is a warm and inclusive community that provides a spiritual home for families and individuals who are committed to Reform Judaism. Through our varied and inspirational worship services, innovative religious school and early childhood program, inter-faith and interracial community outreach, adult education offerings, active youth groups, brotherhood and sisterhood, support for Israel, catering options, keynote brunches and well-attended Shabbat dinners, Temple Israel makes a difference in the many lives it touches. From the teaching of children as young as 6 weeks of age in our full-time Kehillah School to Torah study with our dedicated clergy, Temple Israel provides a welcoming path for each of its members' spiritual journeys.

Shirley Shwiel

Shirley Shwiel has been a board member of Westchester Jewish Community Services since 2009. She currently serves as secretary on the executive committee, co-chair of the volunteer committee, and a member of the children youth and family committee. She first learned of the work of WJCS through the UJA-Federation's Women's Campaign soon after arriving in Westchester in 1978 from Cape Town, South Africa, with her husband Hymie and their two young daughters.

Her leadership roles in the Women's Campaign, such as area chair for Edgemont-Hartsdale-Rivertowns and Westchester cabinet positions were highlighted by meeting and introducing Abba Eban at a Westchester-wide event. Shirley volunteered for WJCS in various capacities: administrative computer work, home visits to isolated elderly, hosting a "connections group" conference call linking homebound adults with the opportunity to interact socially.

Shirley has made it a priority to visit many of the 80 WJCS agencies, with particular focus on those helping children and young adults: group homes for the intellectually disabled, afterschool programs to provide academic support and keep children off the streets, violence prevention programs, safe spaces for LGBTQ youth, programs to help pregnant and parenting teens stay in school and graduate, programs teaching young mothers bonding skills through play and reading with their young children. She has a firm belief that raising strong women can lead to a stronger society. Helping at WJCS Kids' Closet in White Plains is a favorite volunteer activity.

Shirley, together with Hymie, raised their girls in Edgemont then moved with two teenagers to Sydney, Australia, before returning to live in Scarsdale. They have been members of Temple Israel Center of White Plains since 1978 where Shirley has also volunteered her time in many ways including as a board member. They are fortunate to have their daughters, Jo-Anne and Lindsay and sons-in-law, Steven and Scott, and four wonderful grandchildren, Jack, Brady, Alexandra and Tess all living nearby, in New York City and Connecticut.

WJCS is one of the largest non-sectarian, non-for-profit human services agencies in Westchester County. Services include mental health treatment, a network of literacy, learning and youth development initiatives, residential and non-residential programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism, homecare, geriatric care management and programs and services for older adults. The agency offers trainings, workshops, seminars and conferences to human-services professionals. The Center for Jewish Programs provides programs and services at more than 40 synagogues and Jewish institutions to help meet the particular needs of Westchester's dynamic Jewish community.

Mona Abramson Westchester Jewish Council

Mona, daughter of Holocaust survivors, was born in a DP Camp in Germany and grew up in Israel. She is a graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem with a B.A. in Political Science and English Literature. She served as an officer in the IDF Intelligence Corps.

Mona has dedicated both her professional career and volunteer leadership work to the welfare of the Jewish people and the people of Israel. She served as the founding Executive Director of the Overseas Affairs Division of the NY UJA-Federation and as Executive Director of the Greenwich Jewish Federation. She was also Executive Director of American Friends of Soroka Medical Center and Executive Director of American Physicians for Israel (APF).

For the past decade *Mona* has been serving as a volunteer/lay leader in the Jewish community. She is a proud member of the WJC Board, where she has co-chaired the Israel Round-Table.

Mona is the founding chair of WJC's Interfaith and Inter-Group. As such, she has engaged diverse religious and civic leaders in discussions with the IIRT and the WJC Board, including the Westchester County Executive's Interfaith liaison Carrie Mobley-Johnson, Imam Adam Adamu and Bishop Martin Nelson, as well as Cliff Wolf and Robert Arnow. Mona is a member of the steering committee of the Coalition for Mutual Respect, an interfaith organization. She has also co-led two Israel missions of the JNF Caravan for Democracy for Christian and Muslim college leaders.

Mona is a member of the AJC Westchester/Fairfield executive committee and the board of directors. She chairs the AJC Connecticut committee, the AJC diplomatic outreach teams which help develop relationships with the UN Ambassadors and Consuls General of Canada, Cyprus and Hungary, as well as co-chairing the Czech Republic diplomatic outreach team and serves as a member of the Italy team. She is a member of the AJC... Israel New Perspectives and the Project Interchange committees.

Mona is married to David Abramson and they have two wonderful married children and four adorable grandchildren.

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

Jerald Seti Westchester Klezmer Program

Jerald Seti has been a director and board member of the Westchester Klezmer Program since 2004 when it expanded its scope to include southern Westchester. The program's mission is to give a musical gift back to the community through performances and programs at nursing homes, libraries and community events including the Celebrate Israel parade and the annual Jewish Music and Arts Festival at the Kensico Dam. Over the past 20 years hundreds of musicians of all ages, from pre-bar mitzvah through retirement, have rehearsed and performed under the musical direction of Kenny Green.

Jerald has been playing clarinet in community bands for over 30 years. When he was approached for this project by Temple Beth Abraham's Cantor Margot Goldberg, it struck a trifecta of sorts. The role combined his love of music with the opportunity to breathe new life into a fading Jewish legacy, and the mitzvah of ongoing community service. In addition to attending rehearsals and participating in performances, Jerald oversees the daily operation of the program by maintaining the group's website, booking performances and coordinating member services. One of the unintended benefits of the program has been to make community service a family activity. Countless siblings have performed together and many parents have created lasting memories with their children.

Jerald lives in Dobbs Ferry with his wife Gayle. They have been members of Temple Beth Abraham for 47 years where Jerald was active on its board over the span of 20 years. They are proud parents of two adult sons, Eric and Evan.

Jerald has a BA from Binghamton University and an MBA from NYU Stern School of Business. He is employed as VP of Financial Services Product Management at OpenLink Financial, LLC., where, for the past 12 years he has managed the design of global software business solutions for tier 1 banks and asset managers.

Jerald is grateful for the dedication of the program's members and lay leaders who volunteer their time and talent to ensure its success.

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The Westchester Klezmer Program is a not-for-profit corporation that promotes intergenerational community and community service through klezmer music performances. Youth, teen and adult members participate in public performances of klezmer music at nursing homes, programs for children with special needs, programs for developmentally disabled adults, synagogues, and other community-based Jewish cultural events. The Westchester Klezmer Program has been approved by area synagogues as a community service project for musicians who are preparing for their bar/bat mitzvahs. Bands rehearse every other week in Bedford and in Tarrytown.

WE ARE PLEASED TO ACKNOWLEDGE PAST DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
RECIPIENTS AND THEIR NOMINATING ORGANIZATIONS

2016

Special Recognition to Robert A. Cohen outgoing AIPAC President

Joan Muss.....	The Alexander Muss High School in Israel
Joan Rosen.....	Bet Am Shalom Synagogue
Donna Bartell.....	Beth El Synagogue Center
Gary Katz.....	The Community Alliance for Jewish Affiliated Cemeteries
Daniela Rosen.....	First Hebrew Congregation
Sherry Padva.....	Greenburgh Hebrew Center
Deborah Wiskind	Hadassah Westchester
Amy Post.....	Hebrew Congregation of Somers
Stephanie Kirwan.....	JCC of Mid-Westchester
Ed Jacobson	Larchmont Temple
Sol Gibbons	Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation
Eugene Konigsbach	Northeast Jewish Center
Vivian Chang-Freihheit.....	Pleasantville Community Synagogue
Elizabeth Spiro.....	Rabbi Max Maccoby Foundation
Karen Chapro.....	Scarsdale Synagogue - Temples Tremont and Emanu-El
Ross Zelman	Solomon Schechter School of Westchester
Andrew Kligerman	StandWithUs
Hana Epstein	United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism/USY
Arnold Linhardt	Westchester Jewish Council
Jerry Adler	Young Israel of White Plains

2015

Elliot Rose.....	AJC Westchester/Fairfield
Gregg Mashberg	Anti-Defamation League
David Simhon.....	Congregation Anshe Sholom
Susan Hope Davis.....	Congregation Kol Ami
Richard Koh	Hillels of Westchester
Lisa Rosenshein Todes	Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center
Michael Maron	JCC on the Hudson
Robert Miller.....	Jewish Community Center of Harrison
Sarene Shanus	Jewish Education Project
Michael Salpeter	Jewish Family Congregation
Peggy Garfunkel	Jewish Women's Foundation
Jessica Morgenthal.....	Rosenthal JCC
David Rolle	Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester
Ruth Greenfield.....	Temple Beth Elohim
Richard Alter.....	Temple Israel of New Rochelle
Vivian Steinberg Cohen.....	Temple Shaaray Tefila
Trudy Catherine Cummings	The Mollie and Jack Zicklin Jewish Hospice Residence of MJHS
Susan Miller.....	Westchester Jewish Center
Bob Mensch	Westchester Jewish Community Services

2014

Melissa and Herb Baer	Temple Beth Abraham
Robin Blum	Bronx Jewish Community Council
Judy Boehr.....	Congregation Sons of Israel - Briarcliff
Arlene Cole	Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester
Alyssa Erber.....	Beth El Synagogue Center
Larry Genser	Sinai Free Synagogue
Pam Goldstein	Solomon Schechter School of Westchester
Wendy Hollander.....	JCY - Westchester Community Partners
Haina Just-Michael	American Friends of Magen David Adom
Michal Kellner.....	United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism/ METNY- United Synagogue Youth
Vicki Prusnofsky	Hebrew Congregation of Somers
Susan Rozin	UJA - Federation of NY in Westchester
Alan Schulman.....	Hebrew Institute of White Plains
Mindy Steinholz.....	First Hebrew Congregation

Joel Taman	Dorot
Andrew Weissman	Bet Torah
Paula Markowitz Wittlin	Bet Am Shalom Synagogue

2013

David A. Alpert	Jewish War Veterans of the USA/Westchester County
Linda Barat	Temple Israel of New Rochelle
Karen Blumenthal	Westchester Jewish Community Services
Grace Fass.....	Rabbi Max Maccoby Foundation
Josh Goldstein.....	J-Teen Leadership
Candy Gould.....	AJC Westchester
Eugene Grant.....	Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center
John Harris.....	Anti-Defamation League (ADL)
Phyllis Hartstein	Hadassah - Westchester Region
Alexis Kashar	Jewish Deaf (and Hard-of-Hearing) Resource Center
Rabbi Peg Kershenbaum	Academy for Jewish Religion
Shari Kibel	Congregation Kneses Tifereth Israel
Harriet Leibowitz	Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation
Leah Leonard	Pelham Jewish Center
Clifton Rothman	Temple Israel Center of White Plains
Joel Rotner.....	Jewish Community Center of Harrison
Judy Sarch	Congregation Kol Ami
Jay Irving Selinger	Jewish Home Lifecare/Sarah Neuman Center

2012

Andrew Benerofe	JCC of Mid-Westchester
Cheryl Vigder Brause.....	Westchester Jewish Center
Brian S. Cohen	Temple Sholom
Barry J. Effron	Westchester Jewish Council
Michael Gold	Pleasantville Community Synagogue
Lesli Klein.....	Temple Beth Elohim
Samuel Landau	Schnurmacher Center for Rehabilitation/Nursing
Arlene Lowenstein.....	Fleetwood Synagogue
Mitchell Maller.....	State of Israel Bonds
Cookie Markhoff	The Jewish Education Project
Isabel Merrin.....	MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care
Susan Pecker.....	Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester
Masoud Radparvar.....	First Hebrew Congregation
Evin Rubin	Congregation M'vakshe Derekh
Neil Siegel	Greenburgh Hebrew Center
Ilissa Warhit	Jewish Student Union
Susan Katz Truwit.....	Tzahal Shalom of Northern Westchester
Heidi and Lloyd Widom.....	UJA-Federation of NY-Westchester

2011

Ellen Brown	UJA-Federation of NY-Westchester
David Fine	Bet Am Shalom Synagogue
Jill Goldenberg	Pelham Jewish Center
Richard Grayson.....	Temple Israel of New Rochelle
Wendy Greenberg	Congregation Kol Ami
Larry Heligman	Congregation Anshe Sholom
Liz Landau.....	Solomon Schechter School of Westchester
Betsy Landis	Jewish Women's Foundation of New York
Lynn Michaels	Temple Beth Shalom - Mahopac
Meryl Moser	Shaarei Tikvah
Larry Prospect.....	Sinai Free Synagogue
Lew Reznik	Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation
Susan Rudolph	Community Synagogue of Rye
Anne Schaeffer	JCY/Westchester Community Partners
Naomi Snider	United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism/METNY
Sandy Waters.....	DOROT
Herbert Weiner	Westchester Jewish Community Services
Harriett Zeller	Temple Shaaray Tefila of Westchester

2010

Hon. Samuel G. Friedman	Lifetime Achievement Award
Jane Agdern	Temple Beth Abraham, Tarrytown
Ronit Ben-Tov	Tel Aviv Foundation
Emily Cohen	Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester
Susan Darrow & Marty Tanenbaum	Congregation Sulam Yaakov
Karen Hertz Everett	Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services
Barbara Fix	StandWithUs
Barry Gold	Rosh Pinah Chavurah of the Rivertowns
Malcolm H. Lazarus	United Hebrew of New Rochelle
Estelle Linz	Temple Israel of Northern Westchester
Russell Mannis	Westchester Day School
Edwin A. Margolius	Jewish Community Council of Mt. Vernon
Barbara & Martin Marks	Hebrew Institute of White Plains
Leslie Brandeis Novack	Congregation Kneses Tifereth Israel (KTI)
Geralynn C. Reifer	Beth El Synagogue Center
Elizabeth & Alison Schnitzer	UJA-Federation of NY-Westchester
Jennifer Shepard	Hillels of Westchester
Barbara & John Ster	Jewish Family Congregation
Bernhard Storch	Jewish War Veterans

2009

Mona Abramson	David Project
Minna & Ken Brown	JCC Harrison
Naomi Brunnlehrman	Jewish Deaf Resource Center, Inc.
Fred Claar	Board of Jewish Education, Westchester
Gerald Cohen & Joel Kudlowitz	Scarsdale Synagogue-Temples Tremont and Emanu-El
Cantor Eriti Contzius	Kol Hazzanim: Westchester Community of Cantors
Corey Friedlander	Woodlands Community Temple
Albert Krull	United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism/METNY
Larry Levy	Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation
Ira Mines	Rabbi Max Maccoby Foundation
Robert Mitgang	Yorktown Jewish Center
Ella Newman	Hadassah-Westchester Region
Harriet Schleifer	American Jewish Committee
Mark Shainker	Temple Israel of New Rochelle
Fran & Saul Singer	UJA-Federation of NY-Westchester
Melody Weisman	Temple Beth Shalom, Mahopac
Rosel Wolf	Larchmont Temple
Rabbi Neil Zuckerman	Westchester Board of Rabbis

2008

Special Community Trail Blazer Award

Robert Friedland, Eugene Lubin, Roy Stillman, Alan Weissman

Cantor Susan Alcott	Academy for Jewish Religion
Joseph Askinasi	Congregation Kneses Tifereth Israel
Ron Axelrad	Berkshire Hills Emanuel Camps
AnnBeth Cohen	Congregation Anshe Sholom
Fredda Cohen	Beth Am Shalom Synagogue
Dr. Gary Cohn	Temple Shaaray Tefila, Bedford Corners
Drs. Bonnie & Eric Eilen	Congregation Kol Ami
Carol Fasman	Westchester Jewish Center
Karen Spar Kasner	UJA-Federation of NY- Westchester
Barbara Korner	Sinai Free Synagogue, Mt. Vernon
Mel & Marion Lipetz	Temple Israel Center
Nancy Lonky	JCC on the Hudson
Alan Markowitz	Westchester Reform Temple
Hildy Martin	Pelham Jewish Center
Shelley Rasekh	Magen David Sephardic Congregation
Phil Sassoon	Greenburgh Hebrew Center
Stanton Selbst	Jewish Council of Yonkers
Karen Cherney Zaltz	Community Synagogue of Rye

2007

Harold B. Aspis	Young Israel of Scarsdale
Marilyn Berkowitz	Hebrew Institute of White Plains
Amanda Bilski	UJA-Federation of NY-Westchester
Tova Effron	Westchester Jewish Community Services
Terrance A. Elkes	Jewish Outreach Institute
Stephanie Garry	Union for Reform Judaism-Greater NY Council
Esther Goldman	New Rochelle Jewish Coalition
Morris Hartman	Beth Emeth Synagogue
Ruth Hendel	Jewish Theological Seminary
Randee Horowitz	Scarsdale Synagogue-Tremont Temple
Amy B. Iles	Jewish National Fund
Dr. Mitchell L. Kaphan	Beth El Synagogue Center
Frank Linde	American Jewish Committee
Aaron Marcus	UJA-Federation of NY-Westchester
Olga Prince	Temple Beth Abraham
Spencer Rosman	Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center
Debbie Schiff	Jewish Community Center of Harrison
Sylvia Stein	Northeast Jewish Center
Marjorie Sunshine	Dorot, Inc

2006

George Mandel	Distinguished Lifetime Service Award
Linda Altabef	Mount Kisco Hebrew Congregation
Ella Badin	Temple Israel Center
Annleah Berger	Congregation Sons of Israel, Briarcliff Manor
Rabbi Lester Bronstein	Westchester Board of Rabbis
Ted Brown	Beth Emeth Synagogue
Richard Cohen	Jewish Reconstructionist Federation of Metropolitan NY
Laura Copel	Temple Israel of Northern Westchester
Alan Ganapol	Hazon
Joseph Gottlieb	Richard G. Rosenthal JCC of Northern Westchester
Stuart Kolbert	Hillels of Westchester
Ellen Lewis	Shaarei Tikvah, Scarsdale
Deanne Miller	United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, METNY
Georgene Perlman	Temple Beth Shalom, Mahopac
Isaac Piha	Magen David Sephardic Congregation
Adrienne Price	Florence Melton Adult Mini-School of Westchester
Bertram S. Schwarz	Board of Jewish Education, Westchester
Hon. Adam Seiden	Jewish Community Council of Mt. Vernon
Marlene Subit	Sinai Free Synagogue, Mt. Vernon

2005

Lorraine Benowich	Congregation Kneses Tifereth Israel(KTI)
Louise Cohen	Westchester Jewish Center
Linda Dishner	Bet Torah Synagogue
Harriet & Joseph Fibel	Congregation M'vakshe Derekh
Dr. Norman Gordon	Beth El Synagogue Center
Wendy Greenberg	Temple Beth Shalom
Herbert Horn	The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Lynn Kotzen	Beth Emeth Synagogue
Andrew Lewin	Youth Centers of Israel, Inc.
Civia Mclean	Westchester Fairfield Hebrew Academy
William Poltark	Temple Israel Center
David Rosen	Hebrew Institute of White Plains
Robin Rosenberg	Greenburgh Hebrew Center
Helen Schwartz	Lincoln Park Jewish Center
Jane Silverman	Temple Beth Abraham
Janet & Gary Waller	Congregation Anshe Sholom
Annabelle Wolfzahn	Zionist Organization of America
Trudy & Jack Goldberg	Jewish Family Congregation

2004

Arlette Baker	Temple Shaaray Tefila
Alexandra Berdebes	The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale
Dr. Roger Challop	Jewish Community Council of Mt. Vernon
Daniel Fass	Shaarei Tikvah
Meg Fienberg	Larchmont Temple
Barbara Horowitz	Bikur Cholim of Westchester
Harriet Kaplow	Sinai Free Synagogue
Laura Leach	Community Synagogue of Rye
Dr. Alan Legatt	Zahal Shalom
Eric Nodiff	Temple Israel of New Rochelle
Frances D. Pugatch	Workmen's Circle
Tobi Rogowsky	JCC Harrison
Roberta Roos	Woodlands Community Temple
Ellen Plum Rosenberg	Scarsdale Synagogue-Tremont Temple
Dr. Samuel & Myra Ross	Temple Beth Elohim
Lee Schwartz	Congregation Kol Ami
Raymond Topkis	Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester
Franne Manne Weinberg	Westchester Jewish Community Services

2003

Anita Better	Beth El Synagogue Center
Arthur Citrin	Jewish Community Council of Mt. Vernon
Leonard Fischman	Congregation Kol Ami
Bruce Freyer	Westchester Jewish Community Services
Jonathan Goodblatt	Hebrew Institute of White Plains
Marilyn & Robert Harris	Temple Beth Abraham
Joni Jablansky	Solomon Schechter School of Westchester
Richard Jacobs	Sarah Neuman Center for Healthcare & Rehabilitation
Nancy Klein	Jewish Council of Yonkers
Gertrude Landau	Zionist Organization of America
Nancy & Bruce Lumish	Congregation Kneses Tifereth Israel
Sue Merims	Congregation Anshe Sholom
Bruce Rapkin	Bet Am Shalom Synagogue
Doris Reich	Fleetwood Synagogue
Andrew Rothlein	Jewish Childcare Association/Edenwald
Adrienne Silver	Hadassah-Westchester Region
Sari Singer	Temple Shaaray Tefila
Robert Stone	Congregation M'vakshe Derekh
Harriet Kaplan Suwall	American Jewish Committee

2002

Dianna Andrus	Bikur Cholim of Westchester
Monica & Alan Blum	Fleetwood Synagogue
Ruth & LeRoy Grayson	Congregation Anshe Sholom
Hal B. Greenwald	Jewish Council of Yonkers
Bob Gross	Larchmont Temple
Larry Hepner	Temple Beth Elohim
Michael Karnes	Temple Beth Abraham
Howard Lampert	Beth El Synagogue Center
Patricia Lampl	Temple Israel of New Rochelle
Arlene Leiter	Community Synagogue of Rye
John Lightstone	Hebrew Institute of White Plains
Helga Luden	Zionist Organization of America
Sylvia Nissen	The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale
Judd Stern Rosenblatt	Zahal Shalom
Geralyn Rubenstein	JCC Harrison
Michael Turek	Young Israel of New Rochelle
Judith Uhry	Community Synagogue of Rye
Arlyn Vogel	Hadassah-Westchester Region
Sherry Wolf	Temple Shaaray Tefila

2001

M. Mac Schwebel	Lifetime Achievement Award
Belle Fabel	National Council of Jewish Women
Iris & Isadore Farber	Congregation M'vakshe Derekh
William Gips	Zahal Shalom
Barbara Gordon	Beth El Synagogue Center
Joseph Greenfield	Temple Beth Elohim
Helene Handelman	Temple Israel of New Rochelle
Diana Kern	Workmen's Circle
Jeffrey Kleinberg	Young Israel of Scarsdale
Janet & Stephen Meyers	Community Synagogue of Rye
Barbara Morris	Bikur Cholim of Westchester
Manfred Moses	Westchester Jewish Conference
Herbert Ratet	Hebrew Institute of White Plains
Neil Rimsky	Westchester Jewish Community Services
Carol Scharff	Larchmont Temple
David Tantleff	Congregation Anshe Sholom
Judy & Stephen Underberg	JCC on the Hudson
Barbara Weiss	Jewish Council of Yonkers
Susan Weiss	Westchester Jewish Conference

2000

Rabbi Amiel Wohl	Lifetime Achievement Award
Froma Benerofe	UJA-Federation of NY-Westchester
William Blumstein	Westchester Reform Temple
Ferne Cogan	American Jewish Congress
Jane Dubin	Congregation M'vakshe Derekh
Thelma Fixler	Temple Israel of New Rochelle
Glen Hockley	B'nai B'rith, United Mid-Westchester
Laure Kaminsky	Zahal Shalom
Zina Klang	Temple Shaaray Tefila
Evelyth Lewis	Greenburgh Hebrew Center
Janet Mauro	Temple Beth Elohim
Kenneth May	Beth El Synagogue Center
Jay Miller	Zionist Organization of America
Gustave Nathan	Jewish Council of Yonkers
Honey Neier	Congregation Anshe Sholom
Roy Raizen	JCC of Mid Westchester
Marc Schulman	Westchester Fairfield Hebrew Academy
Michael Stolzar	Community Synagogue of Rye
Alice Weiss	Westchester Jewish Center
James Woolner	Sarah Neuman Center for Healthcare & Rehabilitation
Sue Zeidman	JCC Harrison

1999

Bernice & Julie Chaiken	Congregation M'vakshe Derekh
Carol Corbin	Westchester Jewish Community Services
Lawrence Ecker	Greenburgh Hebrew Center
Linda Essner	Bikur Cholim of Westchester
Florette Ganis	Temple Israel of New Rochelle
Stuart Gordon	JCC Harrison
Rita Grunbaum	Larchmont Temple
Rindi Klarberg	Congregation B'nai Yisrael
Stuart Kolbert	UJA-Federation of NY-Westchester
David Morris	Fleetwood Synagogue
Rose Shuffman	Zionist Organization of America
Carol Slotkin	Congregation B'nai Elohim
Gloria & Gene Sosin	Community Synagogue of Rye
Terri Trieger	Westchester Jewish Center
Richard Woodrow	Bet Am Shalom Synagogue

1998

Allan Abrahams	Bet Am Shalom Synagogue
David Arnow	New Israel Fund
Sue & John Baer.....	American Jewish Congress
Nir Barzilai	Westchester Jewish Conference
Esther Goldman	AMIT
Philip Halper	Westchester Jewish Community Services
Ernest Hammer.....	Congregation M'vakshe Derekh
Norma Hurwitz.....	Westchester Jewish Conference
Robert Immerman.....	Larchmont Temple
Barbara Kessler	Temple Israel Center
Betty & Henry Krakeur.....	Congregation Kol Ami
Miriam Maderer.....	Women's American ORT
Abigail Mandel	Workmen's Circle
Bree Robin	Bikur Cholim of Westchester
Beth Rosen	Westchester Jewish Conference
Jeffrey Simon	Temple Shaaray Tefila
Rose Simon.....	National Council of Jewish Women
Sara Trauner	Westchester Jewish Conference

1997

Froma Benerofe	Westchester Jewish Community Services
Julian Bernstein.....	JCC Harrison
Laureen Lefkowitz Curry	Jewish Family Congregation
Yvette & Larry Gralla	Woodlands Community Temple
Carol Grossman	Women's American ORT
Marilyn Heimerdinger.....	Congregation B'nai Yisrael
Mala Hermon	Bikur Cholim of Westchester
Elliot Kracko.....	Congregation Anshe Sholom
Ellen Lazarus.....	YW&YMHA of Mid-Westchester
Michael Liechting	Friends of Israeli Disabled War Veterans
Harley & Richard Lewis.....	Congregation Kol Ami
Rose Lott	Workmen's Circle
Paula Peck	National Council of Jewish Women
Shirley Queen.....	State of Israel Bonds
Ann Schaffer.....	Bet Am Shalom Synagogue
Rabbi Norton Shargel	JCC Harrison
Robert Schepp	Beth El Synagogue Center
Allida Stauber	Temple Shaaray Tefila
Roy Stillman.....	Jewish Council of Yonkers

1996

Arnold Bernstein	B'nai B'rith of White Plains
Helen Brauner.....	Women's American ORT
Judith Cohen.....	Westchester Jewish Conference/Singles Network
Bobbie Cohan	Jewish Family Congregation
Mina Crasson	National Council of Jewish Women
Donald Fleishaker.....	UJA-Federation of NY-Westchester
Arlene Freudenberger	Jewish Community Council of Mt.Vernon
Aileen Gluck	American Jewish Congress
Norman Goodfarb	JCC on the Hudson
Stanley Goodman	Congregation Kol Ami
Reta Koch	Temple Israel of Northern Westchester
Barry Konner	Congregation Kneses Tifereth Israel
George Mandel.....	Workmen's Circle
Janet Meyers.....	Community Synagogue of Rye
Rita Rosen.....	Temple Israel of New Rochelle
Dr. Richard Rosen	Linens for Olim
Sherry Salzman	Jewish Women International
Philip Schussel	Westchester Jewish Community Services
Frances Shahar	Beth El Synagogue Center
Marilyn Shebshaievitz	Temple Emanu-El
Claire Simpkins	Jewish Council of Yonkers
Sanford Stogel	Jewish War Veterans of White Plains
Susan Tolchin	JCC on the Hudson
Aba Ward	Zionist Organization of America

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Who We Are

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

Westchester Jewish Council

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Assistant Executive Director

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Administrator





Member Organizations and Synagogues

(as of March 2017)

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