

Shalom Westchester Community,

In the past two weeks I celebrated my first Purim in the States and it was an absolutely awesome experience. I celebrated at two Purim Carnivals, heard two different styles of reading 'Megilat Ester' and even participated at a phenomenal Bar Mitzvah. It was so much fun!

Over the past two weeks, we have had a number of wonderful Israel programs take place in our community:

The JCC of Mid-Westchester in Scarsdale screened the movie "The Prime Ministers- Soldiers and Peacemakers". The movie that tells the stories of four of Israel's Prime Ministers: Levy Eshkol, Golda Meir, Menachem Begin and Yitzchak Rabin, in the context of the history of the State of Israel. I had the privilege of introducing the film and leading a Q & A session following the screening.

Later in the week Congregation Kol Ami hosted a concert and program by FIDF – a concert by the IDF band. I also spent time at JCC on the Hudson and at Community Synagogue of Rye, speaking with their Engage and SAJE groups about Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, we were delighted to run the first program in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem which will culminate with Yom Yerushalayim on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Temple Beth Abraham for hosting and co-sponsors UJA-Federation of NY, Westchester Jewish Council, Temple Beth Abraham, Greenburgh Hebrew Center, and Shames JCC on the Hudson.

### Upcoming Israel Events

"Westchester remembers and celebrates together"- **Yom Ha'azikaron ceremony and Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration** on May 1<sup>st</sup> at JCC of Mid-Westchester.

**Yom Yerushalayim wide-community event** – a collaboration of the New Rochelle synagogues and Pelham Jewish center on May 24<sup>th</sup> at Temple Israel of New Rochelle. More details to come...



Warmly,

Oshra