WESTCHESTER
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WESTCHESTER COUNTY'S ONLY MONTHLY JEWISH NEWSPAPER

NYS Senator Shelley Mayer Hosts "Combating Antisemitism"

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

NYS Senator Shelley Mayer hosted a Zoom/Facebook Program, "Combating Antisemitism, Addressing and Preventing the Rise in Antisemitism" on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 with panelists Mimi Rocah, Westchester County District Attorney; Scott Richman, Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League (ADL), New York/New Jersey and Tejash V. Sanchala, Executive Director, Westchester County Human Rights Commission.


NYS Senator Shelley Mayer

"Let me say that as a Jewish elected official, I believe that this is an American problem," Senator Mayer began. "It is not a problem that only Jews are targeted, it is a problem when hate is so prevalent in our communities, exhibited though acts of violence, intimidation or anything that really gets at the fabric of our diverse communities."

Mentioning that she is Chair of the Senate Education Committee, Mayer said that it is a challenge to educate young people about antisemitism and all forms of hate. "The NYS Education Law specifically says that students must be taught about our shared history of diversity, the role of religious tolerance, particularly to inhumanity of genocide, slavery including the Freedom Trail of the Underground Railroad and Holocaust...

"Before the Holocaust generation dies out, we must make sure that their stories are told to the next generation."


Scott Richman

"Since 1979 ADL has provided an audit of antisemitic incidents," Richman stated. "Part of the work of my staff is to reach out to victims and work with law enforcement. In 2013 we reported 1,000 antisemitic incidents across the country; in 2020 that was over 2,000...

"Antisemitism morphs and has found a way, even during the lockdown, through Social Media.

Attacks were up in 2020 because of Zoom Bomb. ADL has been tracking White Supremacist propaganda, which has hit Westchester multiple times..."

Richman mentioned that "No Place for Hate" program "has galvanized the community to fight hate, through schools, parents, administrators and teachers."

Sanchala gave specific instructions concerning reporting Hate Incidents: Report a crime to the police. Report incidents to the Westchester County Human Rights Commission and DA's office, anonymously, on Commissioner's online tool.

Do not remove or alter the offensive materials, risking destruction of evidence.


County DA Mimi Rocah

Rocah pointed to her Hate Bias Coordinator, Catalina Blanco Buitrago, and special reporting number, 914-995-TIPS. If something is offensive online, do not forward it. Call law enforcement and let them retrieve it.

WJCI and County Organizations Helping Afghan Refugees

Responding to a call for immediate humanitarian aid for new Afghan arrivals who have left everything behind, Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration (WJCI) has leveraged partnerships with UJA, JCC of Mid-Westchester, Harold and Elaine Shames JCC on the Hudson, Afya, and Bloomberg, to get supplies to thousands of Afghans currently housed at Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst in New Jersey.

In a parallel effort, WJCI, a Jewish advocacy group, is advocating for the rights of Afghan refugees arriving in America to receive full refugee resettlement benefits and supplemental funding. They are also advocating for a new refugee admissions goal of 200,000 for FY2022, along with the commensurate funding that would increase the capacity needed to welcome refugees from all over the world, including Afghans.

Nearly thirty synagogues have stepped up to support this effort. This massive community effort is bringing all the synagogues in the community together, to work on this global crisis. Needed items requested were new or gently used. In addition, an Amazon wish list was created so people could easily click and buy things that were delivered directly to the JCC of Mid- Westchester. This generated a tremendous response.

In October, over fifty volunteers will work during the final day of the drive, which will involve sorting and packing up the items at the two local JCCs before the items are taken to the camps by truck. Volunteers will include teenagers from UJA's JTeen, bringing this effort into the hearts of all ages to ensure that incoming Afghan refugees will be safe and warm while they wait to be taken to their new homes.

Scott Fisher, a volunteer who has coordinated very detailed logistics with Fort Dix and Fort McGuire, will deliver everything by truck shortly after the collection ends. Scott noted, "We have received a wonderful donation from David Schwartz of Joseph Schwartz Shoes Inc. JSSI has donated



823 pairs of shoes for Afghan refugees at Fort Dix. We are currently finalizing the shipping arrangements. I cannot thank all Westchester folks enough for making this happen, and I am deeply touched and humbled by the generosity and kindness of David and his company."

Co-Founder and President of Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration (WJCI) Holly Rosen Fink remarked, "This has been an excellent and fast collaboration. WJCI has been advocating for a full evacuation of SIVs and at risk Afghans since April. Even though our wish didn't come true, and thousands were left behind, it is our greatest hope to make sure that Afghan evacuees feel welcome and more comfortable by providing supplies such as strollers, warm coats and shoes before winter weather strikes. We are also proud of our collaboration with partners who care as deeply about humanity as we do."

To learn more about Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration visit wjci.org

County Executive Latimer Announces Project Alliance

In response to the Westchester County Police Reform & Reimagining Task Force report to the Governor, the County is announcing Project Alliance. Project Alliance represents a five-prong approach developed by Westchester County Executive George Latimer with the Department of Community Mental Health, Department of Public Safety, Department of Emergency Services and Department of Social Services to address the needs of Westchester County residents with behavioral health challenges.

The five prongs:

- 911 Dispatch Diversion Training
- Enhanced Training for EMT responding to Behavioral Health Issues
- Enhancement of Countywide Behavioral Health Crisis Response Line
- Crisis Intervention Team Trainings
- Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRT)



Latimer said, "I applaud the Westchester County Police Reform & Reimagining Task Force, the Department of Community Mental Health, the Department Public Safety, the Department of Emergency Services and the Department of Social Services for recognizing that changes in how we approach mental health, in all facets of our community, need to happen and need to happen quickly. This is a bold step, and an innovative approach, to better address behavioral health emergencies when they develop. Project Alliance will make this County safer by better addressing the root issue."

"While all of the Task Force recommendations are important, addressing police interaction with people who suffer from mental illness is invaluable. I am encouraged by the commitment to have a comprehensive response to mental illness by coordinating multiple disciplines. In my estimation, it will focus on treatment, and will reduce the number of incidents that lead to unnecessary law enforcement interaction with people who may need assistance due to a mental health crisis," Westchester County Police Reform & Reimagining Task Force Co-Chair Mayo Bartlett said. "The initiative will also increase the training that members of law enforcement will receive with respect to how to respond to people who are experiencing a mental health crisis, as well as how 911 calls are screened by dispatchers, helping to ensure that appropriate services are requested. The effort will ultimately lead to the County-wide availability of trained mobile mental health units comprised of mental health professionals and members of law enforcement to address a potential mental health crisis."

Department of Community Mental Health Commissioner Michael Orth commented, "For nearly 20 years, the Department of Community Mental Health has partnered with law enforcement around Westchester to help address behavioral health emergencies when they arise. Through the foresight of County Executive Latimer, and the collaboration of our department and colleague departments, as well as our various partners in the community, Project Alliance will create a first-of-its-kind seamless system of crisis response. Through Project Alliance, our community members, law enforcement personnel and service providers will become safer and better connected."

911 Dispatch Diversion Training: Westchester County will provide training to all law enforcement agencies on 911 Diversion. This training is based on a model developed in Broome County/Binghamton and creates a fourth option for emergency response, adding Behavioral Health to the existing police, fire and medical responses. This on-going training is offered in two phases: (1) Offered to County dispatchers and (2) available to all law enforcement agencies in the County. There is no charge for the training.

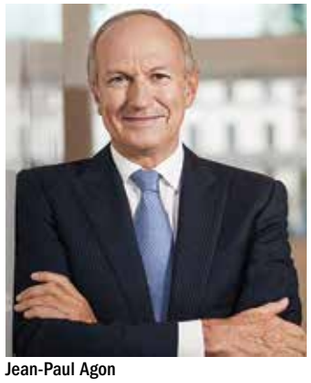
Enhanced Training for EMT on Responding to Behavioral Health Issues: To enhance and expand training for EMTs and paramedics in responding to a mental health crisis, Richard Wishnie and Michael Orth developed a specialized crisis training to members of the EMS community. This training module will be ready for implementation late fall.

Enhancement of Countywide Behavioral Health Crisis Response Line: The County has collaborated with St. Vincent's Hospital to expand the existing Crisis Prevention and Response services to include support for 911-Diversion Behavioral Health Crisis phone

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New Educational Initiative to be announced at ADL Summit

The Anti-Defamation League {ADL} presents its Courage Against Hate Award to Jean-Paul Agon, Chairman of the L'Oréal Group at the Never Is Now Summit on Antisemitism and Hate on Sunday, November 7, which starts at 7:30 PM ET / 4:30 PM PT. A true leader who not only fights against hate but inspires others to do the same, Agon will receive the award at Never Is Now's Opening Session.



Jean-Paul Agon

"Receiving the Courage Against Hate Award is one of the greatest honors of my life," Agon said. Under his leadership, L'Oréal has shown a deep commitment to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion within the company and to respecting human rights and combating hatred in society, particularly to combating antisemitism.

He is accepting this award on behalf of the company's 88,000 employees worldwide, who continue to set high standards for corporate responsibility. The company has long been a proud supporter of ADL's work and mission, and a new Holocaust-education partnership is just the latest way that ADL and L'Oréal have shown a joint commitment to fighting antisemitism and other forms of hate.

ADL will recognize Agon at Never Is Now, following previous Courage Against Hate honorees including Apple CEO Tim Cook (2018), Chobani CEO and Founder Hamdi Ulukaya (2019) and Merck Executive Chairman of the Board Kenneth C. Frazier (2020). The award honors visionary leaders who promote understanding and unity in a complex world and exemplify ADL's core values, including courage, collaboration, inclusion and integrity.

L'Oréal USA, the largest subsidiary in the L'Oréal Group, will be partnering with ADL on a new initiative reaching more than 100,000 middle and high school students at approximately 1,750 schools across the country with a new educational curriculum designed to raise awareness and promote understanding about the Holocaust.

As Stéphane Rinderknech, President & CEO of L'Oréal USA, says about the initiative, "The rising tide of antisemitism is alarming, and we hope to be able to help turn back the tide by promoting understanding and empathy among a new generation of students."

This new initiative will share testimonials, personal narratives, and primary sources with students, focusing on the humanity of Holocaust survivors through self-paced independent learning opportunities and digital interactions.

At this Summit, participants will be inspired, empowered and challenged by an unmatched lineup of speakers and sessions to combat the ever-present challenges of antisemitism, bigotry and hate.

Register at neverisnow.org and join online from Nov. 7-9.

Smart Women. Smart Conversations.

On October 20, 2021, from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, UJA-Federation of New York, will host 3 superstar women at the top of their professions and will connect with like-minded peers at UJA Professional Women's kickoff event, Smart Women. Smart Conversations. Innovations & Innovators.

Grab a front-row seat at a thought-provoking panel discussion. Then break into one of the interactive sessions led by these dynamic women. Plus, you will learn about UJA's life-changing work.

The Speakers include:



Meredith Gertler

Meredith Gertler, Executive Vice President, Content Strategy and Planning, HBO/HBO Max. Gertler shapes the HBO Max portfolio and develops overall content and programming strategies for HBO Max and all HBO and Cinemax streaming and on-demand platforms and linear networks. She has been with HBO for nearly 20 years, first as a member of HBO Home Entertainment's Marketing team. Meredith serves on Jewish Foundation for Education of Women's board and on UJA's Content Council.

Abby Miller Levy is Managing Partner, Primetime Partners. Levy has spent her career helping businesses grow as an operator, entrepreneur, and advisor, most notably in the wellness sector. Prior to Primetime Partners, she was an executive at SoulCycle Inc., overseeing business development and revenue growth outside the consumer studio business. She had also teamed with Arianna Huffington to launch Thrive Global, an emerging leader in employer well-being solutions.



Abby Miller Levy



Caryn Seidman-Becker

Caryn Seidman-Becker is Co-Founder, Chairman and CEO, CLEAR. Seidman-Becker cofounded CLEAR, a secure identity platform, with Ken Cornick in 2010, bringing her vision to build a safer, more secure world to live, work, and play come to life. Today, CLEAR has five million members, and is available at 60+ U.S. airports, stadiums, and other locations nationwide. Prior to CLEAR, Caryn and Ken started Arience Capital, a +$1 billion value-oriented asset management firm.

Marisa Polin and Geula Solomon are the Event Chairs for this program. The Event Committee includes Dani Amirian, Erica Berman, Stephanie Epstein, Dana Leshem, Debbie Lusman, Shira Nadel, Lauren Wagner, Stefanie Wisotsky, Samantha Yablon, and Dana Zeller.

Professional Women Chair is Cynthia Wolff; Vice Chairs, Marnie Black, Marge Magner, Jayme Meisel, Jaime Stern.

UJA Women Chair is Laurie Girsky; Vice Chairs, Staci Barber, Ellen Grossman and Joy Zelin.

For questions or to reserve space at 130 East 59th Street, New York, contact Laurel Ettinger at ettingerl@ujafedny.org. If you can't join in person, one may join the program virtually with a reservation. At this event, masks are strongly encouraged in addition to following standard UJA policy, which requires that all event attendees be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Bring proof of your Covid-19 vaccination to the event. This event will be held in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, including local, state, and CDC guidelines, to protect the health and welfare of staff and guests.

Jewish College Students Feel Unsafe on Campus, Survey Shows

The first poll to specifically examine rates of anti-Semitism among college students who claim a strong sense of Jewish identity and connection to Israel finds that, among this group, students are feeling unsafe and, as a result, are learning that to avoid anti-Semitism they must view their religion as something to hide, not celebrate. In fact, the survey indicates that the longer students stay on campus, the less safe they feel and the more they feel the need to hide their identity.

Nearly 70% of the students surveyed personally experienced or were familiar with an anti-Semitic attack in the past 120 days. More than 65% of these students have felt unsafe on campus due to physical or verbal attacks, with one in 10 reporting they have feared they themselves would be physically attacked. And roughly 50% of students have felt the need to hide their Jewish identity.

The poll is based on online surveys with 1,027 members of the leading predominantly Jewish fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi), and the leading Jewish sorority, Alpha Epsilon Phi (AEPhi). While previous studies have polled all Jewish students, this is the first survey to examine rates of anti-Semitism among students who tend to openly identify as Jewish on campus. More than 60% of the students surveyed belong to Hillel and nearly half to Chabad, more than 80% are supportive of Israel, and nearly 60% have visited Israel. The survey was conducted between April 14-20, 2021 by Cohen Research Group in conjunction with The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law.

"These findings ring some pretty consequential alarms, more closely resembling previous dark periods in our history, not the 21st century in the U.S.," stated Kenneth L. Marcus, former Assistant U.S. Secretary of Education for Civil Rights and Brandeis Center founder and chair. "They reveal that students for whom being Jewish is a central or important aspect of their identity are feeling increasingly unsafe visibly expressing their Judaism for fear of harassment, social bullying and other anti-Semitic attacks. And they expose that increased anti-Semitic acts, which attempt to hold Jews responsible as a collective, for the actions of the Israeli government, are driving more and more students to hide their support for Israel."



Kenneth L. Marcus

"The results of this survey are staggering and alarming. We need to do everything we can to not only push back against the rise of anti-Semitism on campuses but also to make sure that every Jewish student who wants to express their pride in their heritage or religion can do so without fear of violence or harassment," said Jim Fleischer, CEO of Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity, Inc. "Now, more than ever, our mission to develop student leaders for the Jewish community is critical."

The findings show that two-thirds of students experienced or were familiar with anti-Semitic incidents over the past 120 days on campus or in virtual campus settings, despite increased isolation and remote classes during COVID.

Fifty percent of AEPi members and 69% AEPhi members personally experienced an anti-Semitic verbal attack.

As many as 10% were aware of physical attacks against Jewish students, and an alarming number have personally experienced a physical attack for being Jewish during the previous 120 days. Sixteen students (2%) were spit on; Fourteen students (2%) were attacked with a weapon; Seven students (1%) were physically attacked; Seven students (1%) were threatened with a weapon.

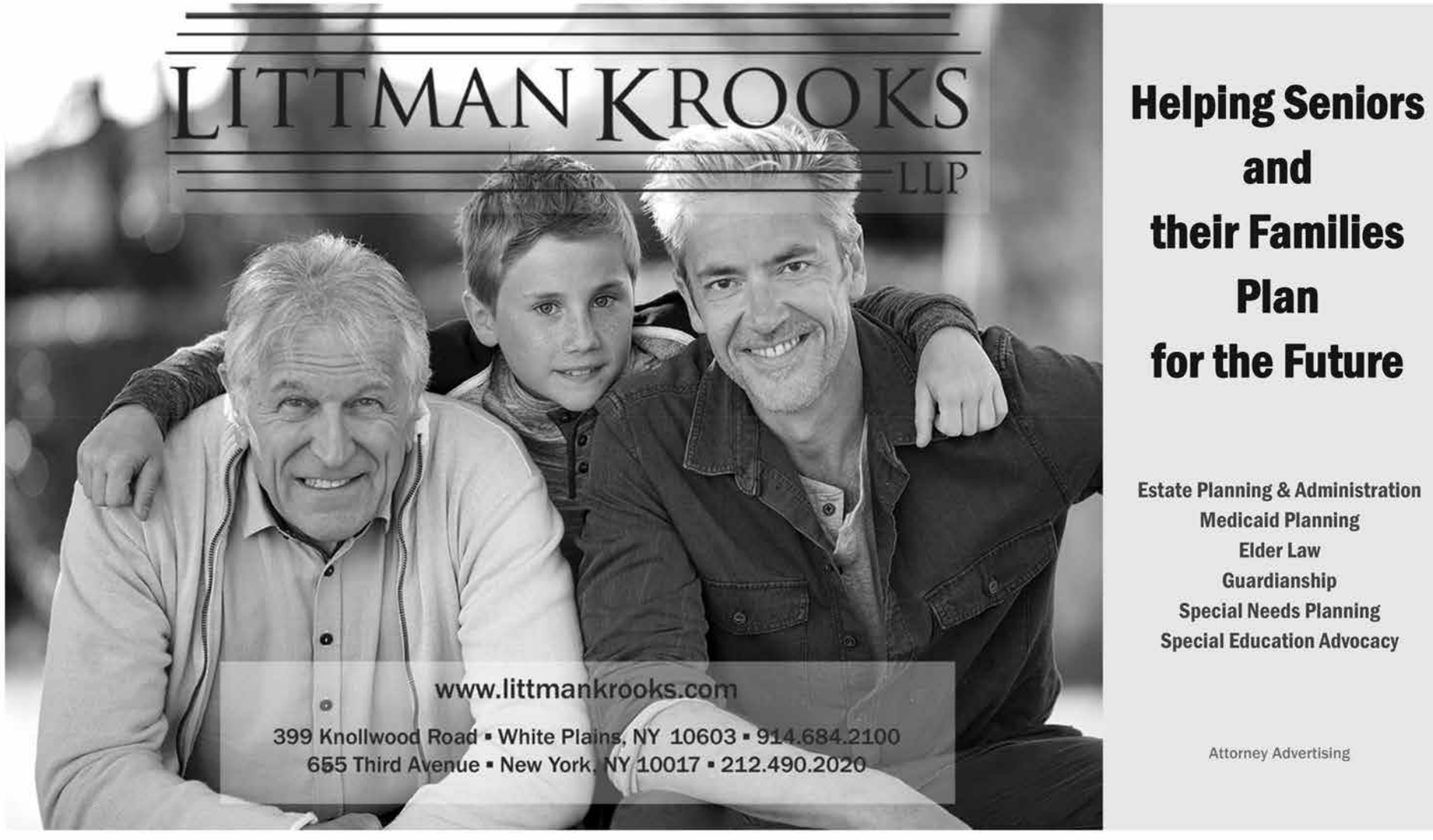
Students surveyed are actively hiding their Jewish identity. Fifty percent of students stated they have hidden their Jewish identity, and more than half avoid expressing their views on Israel; The percentage of students who hid their Jewish identity also increased with each college year. The longer the students are enrolled, the more they felt the need to hide their identity. Among students who felt they needed to hide their Jewish identity, three in 10 were concerned about being marginalized or penalized by their professors.

The study also broke down results by preferred Jewish denomination – Just Jewish, Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist – and geographic location of school – Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Midwest, and West.

"There is no question that this upwards trajectory will continue until university administrators stop turning a blind eye to anti-Semitic harassment and abuse and excusing it as political disagreements," said Marcus. "As students embark on a new school year it is imperative university leaders step up to the plate and take meaningful action or the situation will continue to escalate."

The Brandeis Center recommends universities take the following immediate steps to address rising anti-Semitism: Issue a statement condemning anti-Semitism in all its forms, including anti-Zionism; Incorporate the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of anti-Semitism into their discrimination and harassment policies; and provide appropriate training on anti-Semitism to university administrators, faculty, staff and students.

The Louis D. Brandeis Center, Inc., or LDB, is an independent, nonprofit organization established to advance the civil and human rights of the Jewish people and promote justice for all. The Brandeis Center conducts research, education, and advocacy to combat the resurgence of anti-Semitism on college and university campuses.



Activating Archives, Libraries, Museums, and Cultural Institutions in the Fight Against Antisemitism

Antisemitic violence is sharply rising and becoming more prevalent, indicating that existing programs and traditional solutions are not enough. As trusted public institutions with diverse audiences, how can archives, libraries, museums, and cultural institutions use their unique strengths to combat antisemitism and create lasting change? This critical question is at the core of Confronting Antisemitism: Activating Archives, Libraries, Museums, and Cultural Institutions in the Fight Against Antisemitism, a symposium made possible with support from the David Berg Foundation and the Leon Levy Foundation, and presented virtually to an international audience by the Center for Jewish History and jMUSE on Sunday, October 17, 2021.

Among the 20 prominent panelists who will take part in the live-streamed initiative are Carla Hayden (Librarian of Congress), David Ferriero (Archivist of the United States), Oren Weinberg (Chief Executive Officer, National Library of Israel), Lawrence Bacow (President, Harvard University), Christopher Eisgruber (President, Princeton University), and Simon Schama (Historian and Author). Symposium topics will range from museum perspectives on modern-day antisemitism to Holocaust denial and revisionism in public institutions, to documenting antisemitism and examining the sources of why it continues to persist, and the dangers it poses to a free society.

"The Confronting Antisemitism symposium will galvanize the community by presenting cutting-edge analysis, offering strategies to resolve barriers to action, and identifying a landscape of possible initiatives," said Bernard J. Michael, President and CEO, Center for Jewish History. "We hope that the distinguished speakers' insights and experiences will catalyze cultural institutions to take a new, crucial role in empowering members of the public to confront antisemitism and, ultimately, to achieve new understanding."


Lawrence Bacow

The symposium, to be complemented by a digital publication in early 2022, will share information, encourage collaborative projects, and suggest specific steps for cultural institutions to take to ensure that antisemitism matters to not only Jewish people, but also to non-Jews. The program also will include a pre-symposium workshop for practitioners, scholars, and students that will focus on collections and research housed at the Center for Jewish History.

"Cultural institutions are well positioned to reach and impact individuals and help groups of people recognize and understand antisemitism as a problem for everyone," said Michael S Glickman, founder of jMUSE. "This symposium will activate cultural institutions in the struggle to stem the tide of antisemitism, to marry thought with action and deploy every tool that they have to effectively confront and combat it."

The Confronting Antisemitism symposium will take place virtually on Sunday, October 17, 2021 from 1:00 PM to 6:30 PM ET, with seven online sessions of talks and panel discussions. Free public registration, for any single session or the entire day, is available on its webpage at www.cjh.org/antisemitism.

Confronting Antisemitism Symposium Event Schedule

Session One – Reflections on the History and Persistence of Antisemitism
Sir Simon Schama, University Professor of History and Art History, Columbia University

Session Two – Advancing Awareness and Sparking Change: Museums and Libraries in the Fight Against Antisemitism
Ronald Leopold, Executive Director, Anne Frank House, Amsterdam; Dr. Louise Mirrer, President & CEO, New-York Historical Society; Dr. Danielle Spera, Director, Jewish Museum of Vienna; Dr. Dariusz Stola, Professor of History, Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences; Former Director, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw; and Oren Weinberg, Chief Executive Officer, National Library of Israel, Jerusalem

Session Three – Preserving History, Providing Information, Supporting Democracy: Exploring the Unique Roles of American Institutions
Hon. Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress; and Hon. David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States

Session Four – Holocaust Remembrance and the Study of Antisemitism: The Power and Potential of Public Dialogue
Susan Abrams, CEO, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center; Mary Pat Higgins, President & CEO, Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum; Tali Nates, Founder and Director, Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre; Dr. Toby Simpson, Director, The Wiener Holocaust Library, London; and Moderated by Dr. Stephen D. Smith, Viterbi Endowed Executive Director, USC Shoah Foundation

Session Five – Antisemitism is Everyone's Problem: Considering the Dangers Antisemitism Poses to Free Societies
Dr. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, University Professor Emerita, NYU; Ronald S. Lauder Chief Curator, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw; and Dr. Timothy Snyder, Richard C. Levin Professor of History and Fortunoff Archive Faculty Advisor, Yale University

Session Six – Strategies for Confronting Antisemitism: Informing and Empowering Students, Teachers, and Members of the Public
Dr. Kirsten Fermaglich, Professor of History and Jewish Studies, Michigan State University; Dr. David Frey, Professor of History & Director, Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, United States Military Academy at West Point; Dr. Tony Michels, George L. Mosse Professor of American Jewish History, University of Wisconsin-Madison; and Dr. Magda Teter, Professor of History and Shvidler Chair in Judaic Studies, Fordham University

Session Seven – The Evolution of Understanding: Universities and the Fight Against Antisemitism
Dr. Lawrence S. Bacow, President, Harvard University; and Christopher L. Eisgruber, President, Princeton University

For more information about the Center for Jewish History, visit cjh.org. For more information about jMUSE, visit jmuse.org.



County Executive Latimer Announces Project Alliance

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services and to support the newly created National 988 Suicide Prevention Line. Service would be 24/7 for residents experiencing behavioral health crisis, concerned family members, other providers and law enforcement / 911 dispatchers. Full implementation of the response line will occur by early 2022. It is believed that many of the crisis calls diverted to the crisis line will be successfully resolved without having to mobilize any resources to the scene.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Trainings: Westchester County has provided CIT training to law enforcement agencies in Westchester and neighboring departments for many years. Under Project Alliance, this Police-based crisis intervention training will prepare more officers and other first responders to manage crises involving people with mental illness effectively. The training also improves their understanding and accessibility of the public mental health system, while promoting officer safety and the safety of the individual in crisis. Training is available to recruits and seasoned officers with a more in-depth in-service training, as well as being expanded to EMS and 911 dispatchers.

Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRT): An innovative partnership between the mental health system and law enforcement in responding to the needs of residents experiencing mental health crisis. MCRTs consists of staff who have substantial training and experience in addressing mental health and substance use systems. Their primary role of MCRTs is to support law enforcement in addressing mental health crisis by rapid engagement, assessment of needs, and providing short-term support and linkage to necessary services.

The goal is to establish eight teams throughout Westchester County. There will be three teams established in 2021 and five teams in 2022. Each team will serve a defined catchment area, providing 24/7 crisis response, ultimately providing this service across all of Westchester.

Three teams in 2021: Mt Kisco, Port Chester and New Rochelle. Five teams in 2022: Ossining, Peekskill, White Plains/Greenburgh, Mt Vernon, Yonkers.

Most U.S. Teens Experience Harassment When Gaming Online


Jonathan A. Greenblatt

Sixty percent of children ages 13-17 have experienced harassment while playing games online, according to a first-of-its-kind survey of online gaming experiences released in September by the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) Center for Technology and Society.

Despite the significant percentage of young adults who reported experiencing harassment while gaming online within the six months prior to the June 7-25 survey period, less than 40 percent of parents or guardians of young people surveyed reported implementing safety controls in online multiplayer games. Additionally, less than half of teenage gamers say that they talk to the adults in their lives about their experiences in online multiplayer games.

"This new research examining the experiences of young online gamers sheds important light on their specific experiences, and unfortunately reveals a deeply disturbing trend: teenage gamers are harassed almost as often as adult gamers," said Jonathan A. Greenblatt, ADL CEO. "By allowing this harassment of young people to continue, we risk children feeling that they should be ashamed of who they are. That message is completely unacceptable, and online gaming platforms have a responsibility to do better."

Additionally, the survey found that 71 percent of adults ages 18-45 said they experienced severe abuse, including physical threats, stalking and sustained harassment within the first six months of 2021.

For the third year in a row, gender was the most frequently cited reason for abuse experienced by adults. The largest increases in identity-based harassment occurred among adult respondents who identified as women (49 percent in 2021, compared to 41 percent in 2020), followed by those who identified as Black or African American (42 percent in 2021, compared to 31 percent in 2020), and Asian American (38 percent in 2021, compared to 26 percent in 2020). It was also common for adult respondents to report identity-based harassment because of their religion, including among Muslims (26 percent in 2021) and Jews (22 percent in 2021), though there was no significant change from the year prior. It is worth noting that although there was no significant change in identity-based harassment of adult LGBTQ+ players (38 percent in 2021 versus 37 percent in 2020), the number is still significant.

The survey also revealed that extremist messages continue to be a concern in online games: One in 10 young gamers and 8 percent of adult gamers were exposed to white supremacist ideologies in the context of online multiplayer games within the prior six-month period.

"Time and again, we've seen that white supremacists and other extremists use online gaming platforms not only to harass their targets, but they also use online gaming platforms as a forum for recruitment," Greenblatt continued. "Online gaming companies must do a better job of moderating the content on their platforms, otherwise they are complicit in the spread of hate and harassment, as well as extremism."

ADL's report includes detailed recommendations for actions the games industry, civil society and the government should take to reduce hateful content and harassing behavior in online games. These include asking gaming platforms to implement product safety controls as the default, civil rights and education groups, among others, broadening their work to address the impact of online multiplayer games, and government legislators strengthening and enforcing laws that protect targets of online hate and harassment. These recommendations align with ADL's REPAIR Plan to fight online hate and extremism.

ADL collected nationally representative survey results in collaboration with Newzoo, a data analytics firm that focuses on gaming and esports. There were 2,206 responses, including 542 children, ages 13-17, and 1,664 adults, ages 18-45, who play games across PC, console and mobile

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Special Program on Synagogues of New York City



On Tuesday, October 20, a special free program on the Synagogues of New York City: Manhattan and The Bronx, will be available on zoom at 7 pm.

Lecturer Oscar Israelowitz will explore the Jewish histories of two great NYC boroughs and show the early settlements of New Amsterdam and the oldest congregation in North America, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue.

Then the program will continue with some of the oldest congregations in Manhattan including, Temple Emanu-El, the Central Synagogue and Rodeph Sholom and discussions about two sister Jewish communities of the Lower East Side and Jewish Harlem. Participants will see the Eldridge Street Synagogue, which is now a museum and National Historic Landmark and the Bialystoker Synagogue, with its connection to the Underground Railroad, as well as Temple Israel of Harlem and the First Hungarian Congregation Ohab Zedek with its world-renowned cantor, Yossele Rosenblatt.

The virtual tour continues to the Bronx where one will view the Grand Concourse, once called the Champs-Elysées of the Bronx, where the well-heeled folks lived. Also, viewers will see the former Adath Israel, Montefiore Congregation, and the Tremont Temple. Beautiful Art Deco apartment buildings designed by Jewish architects, include the Fish Building and the Park Plaza Apartments.

This is a one-hour PowerPoint presentation, followed by a question- and -answer period, brought to you by the Harrison Public Library, Mamaroneck Public Library and Larchmont Public Library.

To attend, register with the Mamaroneck Public Library at https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZoldemurj4iEtUTHJxfEBga7t3ax-A3yq8iq

AJC WESTCHESTER/FAIRFIELD JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



AJC Westchester/Fairfield is proud to sponsor
the 20th annual Jewish Film Festival with the Jacob Burns Film Center
SEPT. 30—OCT. 14

American Jewish Committee (AJC) will feature 3
thought-provoking films and discussions:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 11:00 AM: "GOLDA"
A powerful documentary featuring the dramatic story of Golda Meir, Israel's former prime minister.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 7:00 PM: "ROSENWALD"
The true story of Julius Rosenwald who, based on Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), founded 5,400 schools in African American communities in the segregated South.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 7:00 PM: "SYNDROME K"
The true story of three doctors who saved Italian Jews by convincing the Nazis that Jewish patients were infected with a highly contagious disease called Syndrome K.

For more information: **westchester@ajc.org**

Tickets are available via the Jacob Burns Film Center website or box office.
Proof of COVID-19 vaccination and masks are required.

AJC.org Westchester@ajc.org /AJCWestchester @AJCGlobal

AJC Westchester/Fairfield

HHREC Announces 2022 Summer Educators Tour Plans

The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center (HHREC) has announced their 2022 Study Tour of Germany and Poland. This HHREC educational mission offers teachers a unique opportunity to visit the sites of the Holocaust in Germany and Poland and speak with experts in the field. The guided tour and trip will run from July 2nd to 17th and will be offered to educators from the Lower Hudson Valley of New York and from other parts of the U.S.


Educators' Trip 2018

" We are very excited to resume offering our Educators Study Tour in 2022" said Steven Goldberg, Co-Director of Education at HHREC. "And while we have enjoyed offering this unique biennial program to teachers here in Lower Hudson since 2012, is it gratifying to hear from many others around the country who are planning to join us. The is designed to expand teacher comprehension of this monumental event in human history and inspire and motivate them as they prepare to teach the lessons of the Holocaust and promote protection of Human Rights to their students. He added "It is very important to us and our mission to pass on the lessons we have learned for the future."

Trip highlights for the 2022 HHREC Summer Tour include:

- Sightseeing Coach Tour of Berlin, including Berlin Wall Memorial, Brandenburg Gate, Bebelplatz
- Holocaust Memorials in Berlin (Murdered Jews of Europe, Memorial in the Bavarian Quarter, Memorial Track 17 – Berlin Grunewald, Homosexuals, Sinti and Roma, "T4" Memorial, Stolpersteine)
- Educational programs at the House of the Wannsee Conference, Murdered Jews of Europe Memorial Museum, Jewish Museum (Berlin), Stasi Museum Marienfelder Refugee Center, Documentation Center Nazi Party Parade Grounds in Nürnberg, Nürnberg Courthouse, Polin (Museum of the History of Polish Jews)
- Tour and educational program at Sachsenhausen and Auschwitz-Birkenau
- Tour of Kasimierz historic Jewish section of Krakow
- Panel discussion on Jewish life and antisemitism in Germany today and visit to a synagogue in Berlin
- Panel discussion on Migrant Settlement in Germany: Education, Housing, Employment, Legal Issues
- Program on tolerance education and civil society in Germany: 7xjung – training ground for solidarity and respect

The Summer Tour Trip cost includes intercontinental roundtrip flights New York (JFK) – Berlin (BER), public transportation including local coach or taxi, local and long-distance trains, Intra-European trains and flights, and accommodations include breakfast in 3- and 4-star hotels (14 nights) in Berlin, Nürnberg, Warsaw, Krakow, lunches and dinners, an English- speaking guide, lectures, discussions, and local guided tours in English or with English translation, and museum entrance fees. Lower Hudson Valley New York educators will receive a $2100 honorarium, and all participants will receive 90 CTLE hours at the conclusion of the program.

For more information, and to register, visit hhrecny.org/educators-study-tours or contact Steven Goldberg at sgoldberg@hhrecny.org

The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center is a not-for-profit organization based in White Plains that serves Westchester, Fairfield and neighboring counties. Their Mission is to enhance the teaching and learning of the lessons of the Holocaust and the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect. They encourage students to speak up and act against all forms of bigotry and prejudice. Their work with students and teachers helps schools fulfill the New York State mandate that the Holocaust and other human rights abuses be included in their curriculum.

Since 1994, they have brought the lessons of the Holocaust, genocide and human rights crimes to more than 1500 teachers, and through them to thousands of middle and high school students. Through their volunteer Educators Program Committee, the Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center gives teachers the unique opportunity to develop programs for themselves and others. These programs not only enrich teachers' knowledge about the Holocaust and related issues, but they also provide the lens through which to view all other human rights violations. For more information call 914.696.0738 email info@hhrecny.org

Conversations Evolving the Jewish Experience and Transforming Society



Daniel Sokatch (left) and Juliette Kayyem

The stillness of the last 18 months has forced us to confront who we are and where we sit within our society, as Jews, as citizens, as inhabitants of the planet. We are reckoning with the identities and ties we have inherited: family, land, rituals, social systems. Reboot Ideas Fall 2021 offers a series of conversations between artists, writers, musicians, psychoanalysts, journalists and strategists that boldly examine the hot button issues and use the power of uncensored dialogue to propel us forward.

In his highly anticipated book, *Can We Talk About Israel?* Daniel Sokatch breaks down the issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that are tearing up dinner tables, political parties and college campuses. Sokatch sits down October 19 with homeland security expert and Harvard Kennedy School professor, Juliette Kayyem for a frank discussion about the conflict and how we might move forward with the humanity and imagination this moment requires. While social media continues to flatten the complexities, Sokatch, CEO of New Israel Fund and a Reboot board member, provides an in-depth analysis, praised by *Publishers Weekly* as a "fair-minded primer on one of the world's most fiercely debated issues."

Award-winning photographer and filmmaker Gillian Laub has spent decades using her camera to explore and investigate regions of political, social and psychological conflict, inviting both her subjects and viewers into the complicated conversations of repair and reconciliation. In 2016, in the midst of the most divisive election in US history, with her family on two sides of the gaping divide, Laub discovered that the discord that historically captivated her was inextricably linked to the complex and loving relationships she had been chronicling in her own family for more than two decades.

Join online on October 27, 2021, as Reboot and the International Center of Photography partner to host renown psychoanalyst Dr. Orna Guralnik, therapist of the Showtime critically acclaimed series Couples Therapy, with Laub to examine the vulnerability, vitriol, pain, humor and love Laub explores and shares in her deeply personal monograph Family Matters (Aperture, October 2021.) Set at the ICP's new integrated center on the Lower East Side against the backdrop of Laub's Family Matters photography installation, they will explore the edges of love and tolerance, family, privilege, wealth and mortality.

Grammy-nominated producer and writer, Nathan Salsburg, has dedicated his life to using music to tell the stories of our lives. As both the curator of the renown Alan Lomax Archive now housed at the Library of Congress, and a musician whose own works build on American traditions, Salsburg is constantly innovating, inspired by the voices that came before.

In 2021, Salsburg dove into his Jewish inherited sounds, releasing a record of psalms and Jewish poetry that he studied, recontextualized and produced with fellow folk musicians for the album, Psalms. Join Reboot for a conversation with Salsburg and Reboot CEO David Katznelson, a Grammy-nominated producer in his own right, and also no stranger to the power of the tincture of history and sound to propel us forward. The two will dig into Salsburg's Psalms, the process, his impetus and the impact on him personally of deeply investigating his Judaism now. You will be treated to a musical and thoughtful conversation about the value of listening to the sounds of our past to imagine our future.

To RSVP for these programs write info@rebooting.com.

Most U.S. Teens Experience Harassment When Gaming Online

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platforms, including 1,827 responses from people who play online multiplayer games. This included oversampling individuals who identify as LGBTQ+, Jewish, Muslim, Black or African American and Hispanic/Latinx. Surveys were conducted from June 7 to June 25, 2021, and the margin of error based on the sample size is generally two to three percentage points, though this may be slightly higher when looking at smaller sample sizes.

The survey sheds light on the growing impact of online harassment on targets. For instance, out of the 81 million American adults who experience harassment in online multiplayer games, only 18 percent stated it had no impact on how they play—meaning harassment shapes the gameplay of over 66 million American adults.

Although negative experiences with online gaming are rampant, survey respondents did report positive aspects of digital social spaces that exist inside online games including opportunities to connect, build friendships and communities, and learn. Eighty-seven percent of online multiplayer gamers have experienced some form of positive social interaction while playing online multiplayer games, including Madden NFL with 96 percent of players reporting positive social experiences and DOTA 2, PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG: Battlegrounds), Call of Duty and Roblox with 94 percent reporting positive social experiences.

Building on ADL's century of experience building a world without hate, the Center for Technology and Society (CTS) serves as a resource to tech platforms and develops proactive solutions to fight hate both online and offline. CTS works at the intersection of technology and civil rights through education, research and advocacy.

American Cancer Society Announces "In-Person" Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk this October



Westchester residents will again unite in the fight against breast cancer at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk on Sunday, October 17, 2021 at Manhattanville College in Purchase. Visit makingstrideswalk.org/Westchester for more information. Photo credit: American Cancer Society

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Westchester, presented by Houlihan Lawrence, will return as an in-person walk on Sunday, October 17, 2021 at Manhattanville College, providing reimagined and new ways to support and fund the future of breast cancer research and programs. This walk will be held in accordance with CDC and NY State guidelines to ensure the safety of all attendees and masks are required. Last year's event was a drive-thru, with additional virtual options due to the pandemic. In 2019, an estimated 20,000 participants joined the effort raising more than $1 million.

Advance registration is free and open to individuals, teams, families, and groups at www.makingstrideswalk.org/westchester. The Society is requiring that all individuals sign up in advance to be kept abreast of important details, which will be updated regularly.

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the traditional walk might look different but our passion and commitment to fight breast cancer is unchanged," says Sheila Bogan, development manager at the American Cancer Society. "The health and safety of all our guests and participants is our number one priority. As the fall draws closer, event-based decisions may be made to best meet the health and safety needs of our supporters, staff, and volunteers, including options that

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The Blue Card Team Gears Up to Run NYC Marathon



For the 50th anniversary of the running of the NYC Marathon on November 7, The Blue Card, a national non-profit organization dedicated to aiding over 3,000 needy Holocaust survivors households, is partnering with the race for the eleventh consecutive year. The TCS New York City Marathon is one of the largest marathons in the world, 26.2 miles, running through the five boroughs of NYC, and hosting runners from more than 100 countries.

"The New York City Marathon showcases the resilience and the fortitude of this great city," states The Blue Card's Executive Director, Masha Pearl. "We're thrilled to have Team Blue Card running among athletes from around the world once again, and the ability to use this great gathering to raise much needed awareness and funds for holocaust survivors."

The Blue Card has partnered with the NYC Marathon for this initiative since 2009 as 'Team Blue Card.' These 50 runners use their training, platform, and the event to raise funds and awareness for The Blue Card, aiding the organization's mission of helping holocaust survivors in need. Historically, 'Team Blue Card' has raised a grand total of $2 Million through their combined efforts over the last 11 years, fundraising through social media, crowdfunding, employer gift matching, sponsorships, as well as through family and friends.

Team Blue Card's efforts extend beyond the NYC Marathon. The Blue Card has been an Official Charity Partner of the Miami Half/Full Marathon since 2011, the TD 5 Borough Bike Tour in New York City since 2011, and team members have also participated in the NYC Panasonic Lifetime Triathlon as well as numerous other national and international events including Germany, Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem, Israel, and Italy. The endurance team participants come from around the world, including Argentina, Austria, France, Israel, Italy, Mexico, and South Africa.

There is still opportunity to run with Team Blue Card—or to support from the sidelines. More

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SAVE ENERGY
FOR WHAT
REALLY MATTERS

Comfort levels are heating up across Westchester County this winter because residents can take advantage of increased incentives, including the opportunity to get 100% off their upfront costs covered or low-interest rates on heat pumps and weatherproofing packages. Now you can save money and create a more comfortable place to spend your energy.

Claim your incentives at SaveEnergy.ny.gov.

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New Art Exhibition, *Boris Lurie: Nothing To Do But To Try*



The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust announces Boris Lurie: Nothing To Do But To Try, a first-of-its-kind exhibition on the 20th century artist and Holocaust survivor and the Museum's first contemporary art show, opening to the public on October 22, 2021.

The exhibition is centered around Lurie's earliest body of work (the paintings and drawings in his so-called "War Series"), as well as never-before-exhibited objects and ephemera from his personal archive, presenting a portrait of the artist reckoning with devastating trauma, haunting memories, and an elusive, lifelong quest for freedom. In drawing together artistic practice and historical chronicle, Boris Lurie: Nothing To Do But To Try is fertile new territory for the Museum of Jewish Heritage, offering a survivor's searing visual testimony within a significant art historical context.

The exhibition opens to the public on October 22 and will run through April 29, 2022 at the Museum, located in lower Manhattan's Battery Park City.

Boris Lurie (1924– 2008) grew up in cosmopolitan Riga, Latvia in the 1930s. He was just 16 years old when Latvia was occupied by the Nazis in 1941, and he and his family were forcibly evacuated to a ghetto. Later that year, his mother, grandmother, sister, and girlfriend were murdered, alongside approximately 25,000 other Jews, in what would come to be known as the massacre at Rumbula. In the years that followed, Lurie and his father together survived several labor and concentration camps throughout Latvia, Poland, and Germany, until liberation from Buchenwald-Magdeburg.

Lurie created his "War Series" in the immediate aftermath of the war, following his service with the United States Counterintelligence Corps and subsequent immigration to New York.

In nearly 100 paintings and drawings made, with few exceptions, in 1946, the "War Series" ostensibly contains Lurie's experiences of the war in a highly graphic, expressionist style: nightmarish camp scenes in riotous colors, laborers at work in striped uniforms, stark landscapes cut through with barbed wire, amorphous dream-like visions, and searing portraits. As suggested by their somewhat unfinished, chaotic style, as pages ripped from a notebook, Lurie considered these pictures a private catharsis, and never exhibited them in his lifetime.

Included in the exhibition is Lurie's only known self-portrait as a young man, in which he

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YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAININGS

Are you a teacher, parent, first-responder, counselor, or case worker?

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



For details, please contact Paula Santa Donato:
psantadonato@wjcs.com

www.wjcs.com

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Westchester Jewish Community Services

Strengthening Lives. Shaping Futures.

Antisemitism Symposium for Teens

High school students in grades 9-12 are invited to participate in the Antisemitism Symposium for Teens, sponsored by Lappin Foundation's Teen Antisemitism Task Force and the Jewish Teen Initiative. The interactive sessions are designed to: deepen teens' knowledge of Antisemitism; develop skills and build confidence to respond to Antisemitism; and identify resources to support students if they experience Antisemitism. The symposium will be facilitated by Dr. Noam Weissman and will be held on Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. ET on October 12, 19 and 26 on Zoom. The symposium is free and all high school students are welcome to attend. Register at LappinFoundation.org. For more information contact Sharon Wyner at (978) 565-4450 or email swyner@lappinfoundation.org.

The Alzheimer's Foundation Hosts Educating America Tour

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) will host a free virtual Alzheimer's educational conference for New York and New Jersey residents on Tuesday, October 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EST as part of its 2021 national Educating America Tour. The conference, which is free and open to everyone, will allow participants to learn from, and ask questions of, health, caregiving and long-term care experts. To register, go to www.alzfdn.org/tour.

"Knowledge is a useful and powerful tool that can help make any situation easier to navigate, especially something as challenging as caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease," said Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA's President & CEO. "Connecting families with useful, practical information and support that can help them now and be better prepared for the future is what this conference is all about. Whether Alzheimer's is affecting your family, you are a caregiver or just want to learn more, you can participate in this free virtual conference from the comfort of your home or office."

Dr. Mehmet Oz, host of The Dr. Oz Show, will be a guest speaker and share his family's personal Alzheimer's story regarding the diagnosis of his mother, Suna Oz. Dr. Oz will describe how the diagnosis impacted his family, as well as share tips to promote good brain health and healthy aging.

Sessions during the AFA virtual conference will include: Living Well with Alzheimer's Disease: What we can do now and a look at a promising future. When Alzheimer's enters your life, there are adaptations that caregivers need to make to help their loved ones live a high quality of life and maintain optimal health while living with Alzheimer's disease. This includes certain lifestyle changes, such as continuing to be socially and physically active. Dr. Allison Reiss, an internal medicine physician, educator, and a molecular biologist, who is the Head of The Inflammation Laboratory at NYU Langone Hospital – Long Island, and Associate Professor of Medicine at NYU Long Island School of Medicine, will provide tips for maintaining optimal health and quality-of-life while living with Alzheimer's disease. She will talk about lifestyle factors, current treatments, and future developments. She will discuss some of the newest, cutting-edge approaches that have promise for a real breakthrough in Alzheimer's research.

Another session will cover Putting Your Care Team Together – Having a strong network is essential for caregivers to reduce stress, prevent burnout, and ultimately provide the best care possible. Peter Ross, the CEO and Co-Founder of Senior Helpers, and Member of the Board of Directors of the Home Care Association of America (HCAOA) and Melissa Sheehan, Director of Business Development for 305 West End Assisted Living and The Bristal Assisted Living at York Avenue, will offer important tips on how to build that support structure to aid in caregiving. They will also provide tips for long term care planning, discuss different long term care options and their benefits, and details that everyone should know when planning their long term care strategies.



Dr. Oz

For more information or to register, go to www.alzfdn.org/tour. Those who cannot participate in the virtual conference or have immediate questions about Alzheimer's disease can connect with licensed social workers seven days a week through AFA's National Toll-Free Helpline by calling 866-232-8484 or web chatting at www.alzfdn.org by clicking the blue and white chat icon in the right-hand corner of the page. The web chat feature is available in more than 90 languages.

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support, services and education to individuals, families and caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias nationwide and to fund research for better treatment and a cure. Its services include a National Toll-Free Helpline (866-232-8484) staffed by licensed social workers, the National Memory Screening Program, educational conferences and materials, and "AFA Partners in Care" dementia care training for healthcare professionals. For more information about AFA, call 866-232-8484 or visit www.alzfdn.org,



As we confront the next stage of this historic pandemic, UJA is committed to being there for New Yorkers every step of the way.

We remain laser-focused on the path forward for all those still struggling with Covid's financial and emotional toll.

We're feeding families. Helping people find jobs. And bringing the vaccine to Holocaust survivors and other vulnerable New Yorkers.

We're helping our treasured Jewish institutions — camps, day schools, JCCs, and synagogues — come back stronger and more resilient than ever.

And across the community, we're providing the ongoing mental health support that our long-term recovery demands.

As our city comes back, we're making sure no one is left behind.
Together, we're getting New Yorkers back on their feet.

Join us — we can't do it without you.

Donate: ujafedny.org

UJA Federation NEW YORK

Mazel Tov

Ellen Germain Appointed Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues


Ellen Germain

The World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) welcomes the appointment of Ellen Germain by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to the position of Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues. Founded in 1999, the Office of the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues develops and implements US policy to return Holocaust era assets to their rightful owners, secure compensation for Nazi-era wrongs, and ensure that the Holocaust is remembered and commemorated appropriately.

"We look forward to working closely with Special Envoy Germain in seeking justice for Holocaust victims and their families whose property was wrongfully taken from them," said Gideon Taylor, Chair of Operations, World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO). "Her appointment reflects the US State Department's continuing commitment to prioritizing the resolution of remaining Holocaust era property restitution issues and support for Holocaust survivors and Jewish communities devasted by the Holocaust. WJRO values our longstanding relationships that we have developed over the years with the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, working together to ensure that the histories of the survivors not be distorted so that justice may be served."

Last year, on July 29, the US State Department released the groundbreaking Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today (JUST) Act Report, the US government's first-ever comprehensive review of the state of restitution of Holocaust era assets. The report underlines that much work remains to be done to provide a measure of justice to Holocaust survivors and their heirs for property wrongfully confiscated by the Nazis and their collaborators or nationalized by the Communists in the period after World War II.

US officials at the highest levels have expressed continuing support for restitution. Presi-

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League of Conservation Voters Rates Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins 97% For Environmental Conservation


Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

The New York League of Conservation Voters released their 2021 Environmental Scorecard for the New York State Legislature, giving Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins a 97% for her commitment to environmental legislation. The New York League of Conservation Voters releases this scorecard as a way to hold elected officials accountable for climate policy, and highlight the important work being done at the state level to improve New York's environmental legacy.

"As the Leader of the State Senate, I have taken action to pass the strongest environmental legislation in the nation," Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said. "This session I led our conference to advance numerous environmental bills, including provisions that reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, eliminate lead from our school water supply, and conserve our vulnerable wetlands. This legislation not only protects our environment, but prioritizes the health, finances and wellbeing of the people in Westchester County. I thank the New York League of Conservation Voters for their meaningful advocacy on this issue and will continue to fight for our district's environmental protection in Albany."

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins represents a significant portion of Yonkers, all of the Town of Greenburgh and Scarsdale, and parts of White Plains and New Rochelle in the 35th NYS Senate District.

New Community Based Diversion Program on Rehabilitation



Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced the launch of Fresh Start, an innovative program that gives second chances to certain first-time, low-level offenders arrested in Westchester County. This initiative takes a constructive, "Community First" approach to criminal justice reform focused on community-based social services instead of incarceration.

Launching as a pilot program in collaboration with Westchester County Executive George Latimer, the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH), the Greenburgh Police Department, the White Plains Police Department, and the Legal Aid Society of Westchester, Fresh Start offers a positive response to low-level offenses that enables the participant to be held accountable while avoiding prosecution, conviction, or confinement. With Fresh Start, a person arrested with an eligible charge will have the option of completing a community-based program instead of appearing in court and receiving a criminal record.

Fresh Start will commence as a pilot program for cases originating from the Greenburgh and White Plains Police Departments this fall, with the goal of expanding the program countywide in the future.

"For Westchester County, Fresh Start is an important first-step toward reducing recidivism, racial disparities and inequalities in the criminal justice system by reinventing, reforming and strengthening the traditional response to crime and conviction. By diverting cases outside the justice system, the District Attorney's Office can increase public safety by reducing repeat offenders, while reducing its reliance on the traditional retributive responses like confinement, conviction, fines and fees, and warrants," DA Rocah said. "Fresh Start offers eligible low-level offenders the chance to avoid the courtroom, criminal conviction, and the negative impacts that the system can have on their future and civic engagement."

Eligible people who are arrested in Westchester County and charged with low-level offenses, such as Disorderly Conduct, Petit Larceny, Theft of Services, Trespassing, Unlawful Possession of Cannabis and more, can avoid appearing in court and a criminal conviction by completing a one-time social services counseling program led by the Westchester Department of Community Mental Health. Upon completion, the Westchester County District Attorney's Office will decline prosecution of the offense. If the offender does not participate, fails to complete the program, or gets arrested again, they must appear in court as originally scheduled.

An evaluation of a similar program in New York City found a 75 percent reduction in future conviction, and improvements in 16 of 17 other measures of public safety. Participants were also found to be less likely to have a new violent felony re-arrest and had fewer new arrests than those in the comparison group. Further, the evaluation also found overwhelmingly positive perceptions of the program by participants, which may be connected to the program's 98 percent successful completion rate.

"The biggest battle is the first battle, and that is believing in yourself. These offenders have committed minor crimes and we believe that with early intervention, we can get them on the right path, so they never have to enter a courtroom," said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. "The Fresh Start Program allows offenders to take part in a community-based program and avoid a criminal conviction. It also aligns with our mission to make sure we are doing our part to ensure that young women and young men take personal responsibility for their actions and learn how their behaviors impact others so they are better prepared to become a productive member of society. I want to thank District Attorney Mimi Rocah and the Department of Community Mental Health for spearheading this important initiative."

"The program, developed by the District Attorney's Office and DCMH, is intended to help individuals avoid future involvement in the criminal justice system by focusing on the personal impact of criminal justice involvement," said DCMH Commissioner Michael Orth. "Eligible people are identified at the earliest point of contact with law enforcement, and provided an opportunity to avoid further involvement in the criminal justice system. By completing the three-hour program, offered as an extension of DCMH's 'Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities' program, they will not be prosecuted, and the case will be closed."

"We are excited to participate in this innovative initiative," Greenburg Police Chief Christopher McNerney said. "We believe that early intervention, such as the Fresh START program, can keep individuals out of the criminal justice system while offering meaningful resources. We look forward to collaborating with our District Attorney's Office to bring this program to the Town of Greenburgh."

"The White Plains Police Department is honored to partner with the Westchester County District Attorney's Office and the Greenburgh Police Department on a promising program to give first time offenders a second chance," White Plains Police Chief Joseph Castelli said.

"The Legal Aid Society of Westchester County enthusiastically supports Fresh Start," Executive Directory Clare Degnan said. "LASW thanks District Attorney Roach for championing this pilot, Community Mental Health for their expertise, and the White Plains and Greenburgh Police Departments for their assistance. This program will allow participants to avoid the stigma of a criminal record. We look forward to working with all the stakeholders to provide the people of Westchester innovative and restorative justice alternatives."

The Blue Card Team Gears Up to Run NYC Marathon

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details can be found here: https://bluecardfund.org/become-involved/team-blue-card/.

Funds raised go toward providing Holocaust survivors with the following services daily:

Education & Outreach Programs; Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed (PCTI) training for dental and medical professionals working with Holocaust survivors;

The Blue Card-Lissner Hospital Visitation Program – Volunteer visits to hospitalized Holocaust survivors; Nutrition guidance; Jewish Holidays – Provides financial support for the High Holidays, Hannukah, and for Passover, giving survivors the financial means for a better holiday season; Mazel Tov Birthday – Provides survivors with a card and a check on their birthday. This is particularly meaningful for Holocaust survivors who lost their entire family during the war; FreeStyle Libre Glucose Monitoring: The Freestyle Libre 2 system continuously measures glucose data with customizable, optional real time alarms The unit gives people with diabetes excellent accuracy and actionable information to better manage their condition; Grant assistance for emergency needs, including: Housing and related costs to prevent eviction, homelessness, or utility shut-off; Emergency relocation; Food purchase; Medical and dental care, including medical equipment not covered by insurance; Emergency relocation; Essential clothing and footwear; Purchase and repair or essential major and minor appliance; Aid to survivors battling cancer through the Siggi B. Wilzig Fighting Cancer Together program; Emergency Prevention Programs, including Monthly stipend for poverty-stricken survivors and Telephone emergency response system.

The Blue Card, established in 1934 in Germany and organized in the U.S. in 1939, is the only organization whose sole mission is to provide critical financial aid for emergency medical, dental, housing and food needs to survivors of Nazi persecution. While the Holocaust seems like a long-ago nightmare, for survivors it is a continuing one. Of the 75,000 Holocaust survivors in the U.S., one-third live at or below the federal poverty level. For many, the losses they experienced decades ago are compounded by their current struggles to subsist on meager incomes and threadbare or nonexistent support systems. Studies show that Holocaust survivors have higher incidences of mental illness, cancer, and other debilitating diseases.

The Blue Card has distributed over $46 million to date, with 100 percent of individual donations going directly to survivors. For more information on The Blue Card visit www.bluecardfund.org or call The Blue Card at (212) 239-2251.

New Art Exhibition, Boris Lurie: Nothing To Do But To Try

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appears disembodied with a plaintive expression. There is also the exhibition's largest masterpiece—a ghostly concentration camp scene, 50 by 50 inches in scale, painted in 1971 after the original "War Series" was made.

Nothing To Do But To Try is the first Boris Lurie exhibition exclusively to consider the entire "War Series," alongside Lurie's original family photographs, correspondence, diary entries, and assorted ephemera, as an essential origin story for Lurie's life and work.

"The basis of my art education I obtained in a camp like Buchenwald," Lurie once wrote, alluding both to his lack of professional training and to how his traumatic experience became rich, if fraught, artistic terrain—his survival itself the ultimate creative act.

"Our institution is committed to centering the Holocaust's victims and survivors in our every act of remembrance and education," says Museum President & CEO Jack Kliger. "We are very honored to present this deeply moving exhibition and to have this opportunity to examine Holocaust history through the artistic brilliance of Mr. Lurie."

The exhibition will be complemented by additional programs exploring Lurie's life and legacy, including:

- an exclusive lecture for Museum members with curator Sara Softness (Thursday, October 21);
- "Boris Lurie and the Legacy of the Rumbula Massacre, 80 Years Later" (Tuesday, December 7); and
- "Boris Lurie: Searching for Truth in Holocaust Images" (Tuesday, February 1, 2022).

The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust is located at 36 Battery Place, New York City. For details on these and other events, call 646.437.4202 or visit: https://mjhnyc.org/current-events/

Adelphi Breast Cancer Program October Awareness Campaign

"New beginnings" is the October Breast Cancer Awareness Month slogan of the Adelphi NY Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline and Support Program. The campaign is urging women to call to find out how to get a free or low-cost mammogram and attend upcoming programs. "And, as always," says program director Reyna Machado, "talk to one of our trained hotline volunteers or licensed social workers."

For 40 years, the program, a project of the Adelphi University School of Social Work, has provided New Yorkers with information and emotional support as they battle breast cancer. The hotline, which operates every day of the year at 800-877-8077, is staffed by breast cancer survivors—women and men who have gone through a diagnosis of breast cancer and emerged to help others on their journey.

"We want to let New Yorkers know that we are here and always ready to help", says Machado. The program can be reached by phone at 800-877-8077 or online at breast-cancer.adelphi.edu.

You are not alone.

Yiddish Book Center Announces Free Virtual Public Programs



The Yiddish Book Center has announced its Fall 2021 calendar of virtual public programs. The Center has been presenting having virtual public programs since April 2020.

The upcoming schedule includes programs on a range of topics:

- Secular Yidishkayt and Social Justice in the US South, with Josh Parshall/Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life
- The story behind the discovery of a treasure trove of thousands of glass plates that offer a glimpse into the everyday lives of Jews and Poles before 1939, with Piotr Nazaruk, curator at Poland's Grodzka Gate–NN Theatre.
- Scholar and author Jeffrey Veidlinger will talk about his newly released book, *In the Midst of Civilized Europe*
- Amy Shreeve's multimedia presentation, "This Used to Be a Synagogue," will compare the locations of Manhattan's old synagogues with pictures of the churches, luxury apartments, and salons that occupy their spaces today.
- And two programs will touch on popular topics: Mah-jongg in American Jewish Life and From Smoked Salmon to Pickles—Getting Jewish Food Delivered to Your Door.

The full calendar of events can be found at yiddishbookcenter.org/events.

According to Lisa Newman, the Yiddish Book Center's Director of Public Programs, "We're continuing to expand our public program offerings. We started presenting our free virtual programs in April 2020 when we had to close the building due to the pandemic. Response to these programs has exceeded our wildest expectations. We're drawing an audience from around the globe; some watch in real time, while others access them on our website, where we post all of the recorded public programs."

The Center reopened to visitors in late June. "We're now beginning to plan hybrid public programs, which we will announce later this fall," says Lisa Newman. "The Center's Museum and museum store are open every Sunday, Monday, Thursday, and Friday—except for legal and Jewish holidays—from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors can take a self-guided audio tour of the Center's permanent and visiting exhibits and stroll our Yiddish Writers Garden."

The Yiddish Book Center is located at 1021 West Street, Amherst, Massachusetts.

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Demystifying MEDICARE and Healthcare Coverage for Seniors

People on Medicare can make changes to their health insurance during Open Enrollment, which begins October 15th and runs through December 7th. The Westchester Library System wants to help, with its free live workshops and online version for anyone who needs to understand how Medicare works. It's not only for people who are considering changes to their current coverage, but for those who are soon to be Medicare-eligible, approaching retirement, or helping relatives or friends with their medical decisions and paperwork. All the currently scheduled in-person events are listed at the bottom of the library's webpage https://wikis.westchesterlibraries.org/sbic/demystifying-medicare/

Topics include: Original Medicare; Medicare Advantage Plans; Prescription drug plans (Part D); Medigaps (supplemental plans); Various cost-saving programs (MSPs, Extra Help, EPIC, etc.).

For individual help, you can call the SBIC helpline at (914) 231-3260 or email them at SBIC@wlsmail.org. Like the workshops, the counseling is also free.

To sign up for live workshops, leave your name and number at (914) 231-3236 or email SBICmedia@gmail.com. Call the venue before attending to make sure COVID restrictions have not again caused cancellation this season. To explore the library's full range of informational services for seniors, visit https://seniors.westchesterlibraries.org/senior-benefits/

Locations:

BRONXVILLE Sat., 10/16, 10am-1pm
Bronxville Public Library, 201 Pondfield Rd

IRVINGTON Tues., 10/19, 5:45-8:45pm
Irvington Public Library, 12 Astor Pl.

DOBBS FERRY Sat., 10/23, 10:15am-1:15pm
Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St.

SOUTH SALEM Sat., 10/30, 10:15am-1:15pm
Lewisboro Library, 15 Main St.

SHRUB OAK Sun., 10/31, 12:30-3:30pm
John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 Main St.

SCARSDALE Wed., 11/3, 6:15-9:15pm
Scarsdale Public Library, 54 Olmsted Rd

ARMONK Sat., 11/6, 12 noon-3pm
North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd

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An Elder Care Attorney Can Protect Your Assets



BY: BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

Many of us spend our final years needing long-term care at home, in an assisted living facility or in a nursing home. Long-term is expensive; sometimes costing upwards of $200,000 a year in the New York metropolitan area. To make matters worse, the cost of long-term care is not covered by Medicare except for short-term rehabilitation for certain kinds of care. Thus, if you don't have long-term care insurance you must pay privately out of your own pocket, unless you qualify for Medicaid.

For many middle-class families, the cost of long-term care can be catastrophic, especially considering that someone with dementia or Alzheimer's Disease can spend several years in a nursing home. Medicaid has strict income and asset requirements, and you have to be destitute in order to qualify. In fact, in New York an individual is allowed no more than $15,900 in non-exempt assets in their name. Once the financial requirements are met, a detailed and comprehensive Medicaid application must be submitted to the local county Department of Social Services (in NYC, it is called the Human Resources Administration). Many long-term care facilities have a Medicaid coordinator who can assist in this process. The question for today is, should you work with the Medicaid coordinator or should you hire a lawyer to represent you in this process?

Let me tell you about legislation being proposed by the New York chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) regarding the unlicensed practice of law regarding Medicaid applications submitted by non-attorneys. While federal regulations allow non-attorneys to prepare and submit routine Medicaid applications on behalf of an applicant, often submitting Medicaid applications requires more than simply filling out a form.

One area where we see a lot of mistakes when Medicaid applications are submitted by non-attorneys is estate recovery. Many folks don't realize that once a Medicaid application is approved, Medicaid still has the right to place a lien on your property or to recover the cost of care out of your estate when you pass away. With proper planning, this can be avoided in most cases. Perhaps one of the reasons we see a lot of errors in this particular area is that the nursing home Medicaid coordinator is focused primarily on making sure that the nursing home gets paid and not on protecting your assets.

The impetus behind the NY NAELA proposed legislation is to protect consumers. People have the right to know that there may be complex issues involved in their situation and that they may benefit from proper legal advice. The bill, if enacted, would require nursing homes to provide written notice as part of the admission process and posting in the facility, that the consumer has the right to hire an attorney to assist with the Medicaid application, as well as advise of the potential pitfalls of relying on non-attorney entities for the Medicaid application process. Non-attorney entities are not allowed to provide legal advice, implement legal strategies, or even advise the consumer of their rights. Moreover, many of the non-attorney entities have conflicts of interest that they are not required to advise the consumer about.

Bottom line: The decision to hire an experienced elder law attorney and learn about options to protect your assets as you navigate the Medicaid maze is yours to make; however, you should at least know that you have the right to do so. For more information about this important topic, see the excellent blog written by Brian L. Miller, Esq., an attorney at Littman Krooks LLP, at https://www.littmankrooks.com/2021/08/new-york-medicaid-applications-and-the-unlicensed-practice-of-law/.

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 immediate 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.elderlawnewyork.com.

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

The Delta Variant has Not Put a Halt to the Hot Westchester Housing Market

Sales of homes in Westchester County, despite the Delta Variant, continued booming in 2021.

According to Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (HGAR), Q2 2021 continued the trends seen in the first quarter – strong buyer demand and low inventory in most market segments, coupled with low interest rates, drove multiple offers for above asking price on many properties.

- Single-Family Median Sales Price increased 17.7 percent to $835,500.
  - Compared to $710,000 in second-quarter 2020 and $702,500 in the same period of 2019
  - In May, the National Association of REALTORS® reported that the median sales price of existing homes rose by 24% over the previous year – the highest increase since 1999.
- Single-Family Closed Sales were up 54.4 percent.
- Condos Closed Sales were up 95.6 percent.
- Co-ops Closed Sales were up 47.1 percent.
- Condos Median Sales Price increased 3.8 percent to $405,000.
- Co-ops Median Sales Price held steady at $190,000.

The CEO of HGAR said: "Residential home sales in Westchester County for the second quarter of 2021 continued a remarkable recovery from the depths of the Covid-19 crisis a year ago, with strong gains both in the number of sales as well as increased median sales prices, (confirming the statistics above) and at this juncture these trends show no signs of abating."

When Covid-19 initially struck the United States, it resulted in frightened home sellers who promptly pulled their properties off the market. Housing experts predicted the real estate market would cool off in the face of all this uncertainty. Instead, the exact opposite happened. Prices reached unthinkable heights in Westchester as buyers battled it out over an extremely limited supply of homes for sale. With the introduction of the Delta variant there does not seem to be any change on the part of buyers who are still anxious to purchase or rent in Westchester.

Simultaneously, mortgage interest rates are falling again because of the uncertainty caused by the variant. The lower rates plus of the fears of renewed lockdowns and closures could spur more buyers into the market. While at the same time, the renewed health crisis could scare some sellers into holding onto their homes. This could push prices even higher and lead to another surge in the bidding wars and offers over asking.

The consequences of the reduced number of homes on the market have resulted in two additional results.

1) The pandemic has caused buyers in Westchester to look for larger homes with more amenities.

2) Buyers are increasingly purchasing homes beyond Westchester, specifically in Rockland, Orange, Putnam and Dutchess counties, each of which have had significantly larger numbers of sales in the last year over previous years.

The real estate market in the first half of 2021 was hot because of millennials, in large part, moving from the city to Westchester. Millions of older millennials with growing families were planning to buy a home in 2022 to 2025. However, a lot of them decided to make the move earlier, instead of following their original home buying timeline.

So, will the Delta variant affect the housing market moving forward to?

"It's hard to say how it's going to affect the housing market," says realtor.com Chief Economist Danielle Hale. However, She does not expect Delta to result in an even greater numbers of buyers, nor does she expect it will scare too many of them off. "The next couple of months are going to be pretty key to see which year of the housing market [shifts] into."



John E. Baer, SRES, SRS, AHWD is a NYS licensed real estate salesperson associated with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Westchester Properties of Scarsdale and Larchmont. He has specialized working with seniors for more than 40 years. In the last four years, he earned the month's "Top Selling Award" nine times in the Scarsdale office. He can be reached for questions at 914/844-2059. His website is www.WestchesterHomes.info.

Mental Health First Aid: Preserving Life, Promoting Recovery

October 3rd through 9th is Mental Illness Awareness Week. We need, however, to pay attention to the importance of mental health every day. With the skyrocketing statistics about mental health problems in the United States, we all need to recognize that it is incumbent upon us to increase our knowledge and awareness of the signs and symptoms of mental health problems. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there were 47,511 deaths by suicide in 2019. One in five American children ages three through 17 have a diagnosable mental, emotional, or behavioral disorder in any given year. Eighty percent of these children—about 12 million—do not receive treatment. In 2019, over 6,000 youth aged 10-24 have died by suicide, making it the second leading cause of death for the age group.

Mental Health First Aid is a nationally recognized, evidence-based training geared to educate attendees about how to recognize mental illness and get the appropriate help. There are three versions of the training, all of which Westchester Jewish Community Services offers:

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID is for adults who work with and are connected to youth, including teachers, school staff, coaches, youth group leaders, parents, and first responders. It enables participants to know and recognize the warning signs of mental health problems and substance use disorders in adolescents. It does not teach adults to diagnose or to provide treatment to adolescents but instead arms them with the skills they need to reach out and give initial support to those who are developing a mental health or substance use problem and help them connect to the appropriate care.

TEEN MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID is a peer-to-peer training program specifically designed for teens in grades 10-12. This program was developed in response to critical mental health needs of young people and research indicating that young people have a preference for sharing problems with peers, but that their friends do not always have the knowledge or skills to help. It teaches young people how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders among their friends. It also gives them the skills to have supportive conversations with their friends and get a responsible and trusted adult to take over as necessary. This course is designed to be delivered in schools or community sites by a trained instructor in three interactive classroom sessions of 90 minutes each or six sessions of 45 minutes each.

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID is targeted to supporting adults who are experiencing mental health challenges or crises. The supportive first aid is given until appropriate help is received or until the crisis resolves.

Since 2013, WJCS has been a driving force in the Mental Health First Aid initiative. Our expert trainers have trained more than 2,000 participants.

To learn more about this invaluable opportunity and arrange a WJCS Youth Mental Health First Aid Training, contact: Paula Santa-Donato, LCSW, Director of Youth Services, at (914) 761-0600, ext. 2322; psantadonato@wjcs.com.

American Cancer Society Announces "In-Person" Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk this October

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help mitigate individual and community health risks," she added.

In its 28th year in Westchester County, the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer movement embraces a bittersweet mix of purpose – celebrating survivorship and paying meaningful tributes to loved ones lost, while raising awareness and funds for a world without breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed among women in the U.S. In New York, the American Cancer Society estimates 17,540 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year and 2,510 will succumb to the disease. Nationwide, 2,650 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2021.

The American Cancer Society is the nation's nonprofit leader in the breast cancer fight, putting 100+ years of cancer-fighting experience to work through investments in breast cancer research, ensuring greater access to quality care, influencing public policy, and providing patient support.

For more information contact the American Cancer Society via email at WestchesterNYStrides@cancer.org or call 1-800-227-2345. Visit online at makingstrideswalk.org/Westchester.

The American Cancer Society is a global grassroots force of 1.5 million volunteers dedicated to saving lives, celebrating lives, and leading the fight for a world without cancer. From breakthrough research to free lodging near treatment, a 24/7/365 live helpline, free rides to treatment, and convening powerful activists to create awareness and impact, the Society is the only organization attacking cancer from every angle. For more information go to www.cancer.org.

Demystifying MEDICARE and Healthcare Coverage for Seniors

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PELHAM Mon., 11/8, 5:45-8:45pm
Town of Pelham Public Library, 530 Colonial Ave.

CORTLANDT Tues., 11/9, 6:30-9:30pm
Cortlandt Town Hall, 1 Heady St., Conference Rm

SOMERS (tentative) Sat., 11/13, 1:45-4:45pm
Somers Libry, 82 Primrose St., Katonah

CROTON Sun., 11/14, 1-4pm
Municipal Building, Community Room, 1 Van Wyck St.

ELMSFORD Tues., 11/16, 1-4pm
Westchester Library System, 570 Taxter Rd, 4th fl.

Ellen Germain Appointed Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues

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dent Biden pledged that "the United States will continue to champion justice for Holocaust survivors and their heirs." In March 2021, Secretary of State Blinken emphasized: "We and our dedicated chiefs of mission abroad will continue to work with countries to help them meet their commitments under the 2009 Terezin Declaration [in which 47 countries committed to make evert effort to rectify the consequences of wrongful property seizures .]"

Ms. Germain's appointment was announced on September 10 by the State Department spokesperson.

"Established in 1999, the special envoy for Holocaust issues, part of the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, works to provide a measure for justice for Holocaust victims and their families by developing and implementing U.S. policy to return Holocaust-era assets to their rightful owners, ensure that the Holocaust is remembered and commemorated in a historical – a historically accurate manner, and promote Holocaust education and research. As special envoy, Ellen will contribute to the department's mission of promoting the rule of law and combating anti-Semitism, working closely with the special envoy to monitor and combat anti-Semitism. Ellen's assignment underscores the Secretary's commitment to the importance of resolving historical injustices and remembering the lessons learned from the Holocaust."

WJRO represents world Jewry in pursuing claims for the recovery of Jewish properties in Europe (outside of Germany and Austria). WJRO was established by leading world Jewish organizations to address the restitution of Jewish property and to remind the world that the time has come to redress the enormous material wrongs caused to European Jewry during the Holocaust.

Reimagine What's Possible: No Hate in Our States



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

AJC Westchester/Fairfield's "Reimagine What's Possible: No Hate in Our States" initiative is aimed at combating hatred, antisemitism, and extremism with government officials. This month, we are honored to feature Ossining Mayor Rika Levin.

Q: As a Jewish community and government official, how has your background influenced your work? I have been influenced by my lifelong experience as a child of Holocaust survivors and immigrant to this country. It taught me that local government is essential in ensuring that institutions support their residents--new and more established--in their everyday lives through engagement and legislation.

Q: How does your office communicate zero tolerance for race- and religious-based hatred? My office is very involved in addressing any signs of racism and antisemitism immediately and in coordination with community leaders.

Q: What steps need to be taken against antisemitism and other hate affecting our communities? I believe that more civil discourse and civics in general need to be addressed by elected officials and in the school system with students and families. This needs to be a bigger part of the educational system. It is at schools that children come in contact with people outside their own family structure.

Q: Ossining is a proudly diverse town. How do you bring your experience as Jewish professional to successfully build bridges with diverse communities to combat hate? Ossining has had a significant, active Jewish community for over 135 years. It is actually a success story in why diversity is important to the health of our society. It has always been a welcoming community. This might explain why we have so many people who define themselves as having diverse backgrounds and why multicultural families of all economic strata choose this village to raise their families.



Q: Thank you for joining 750+ mayors throughout Westchester and across the U.S. who signed the AJC-US Conference of Mayors "Mayors United Against Antisemitism" Initiative. AJC also has a powerful interfaith/intergroup Community of Conscience. How can AJC help further efforts towards tolerance and inclusion? I was happy to join my fellow mayors in taking a stand against antisemitism. I am excited by the progress and inroads AJC has made with the interfaith/intergroup initiative. I hope that you include some of the 20 houses of worship that call Ossining their home.

Q: If you had five minutes with the President, what would you say? Wow...that's a good one. I would say, Mr. President, I encourage you to meet with people and encourage them to more fully participate in local government and run for office. This is where civil discourse begins and where civics is at its best. Any way in which you, Mr. President, can get every resident to be engaged in local politics in every municipality across this nation will serve us all well.

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New Exhibitions on View at The Neuberger Museum of Art

Impressions: The Inventions of Printmaking, featuring works from the permanent collection of The Neuberger Museum of Art is now on view until February 27, 2022.



Anne Ryan, Puerto, 1947. Woodcut, 15 from an edition of 20, 21 ¼ x 12 ½ inches, Collection Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York, Gift of Roy R. Neuberger. Courtesy Washburn Gallery, NY.

Neuberger Museum of Art Director Tracy Fitzpatrick has curated an exhibition that navigates the rich and varied history and traditions of printmaking—from relief to intaglio to planographic processes now on view at the Museum. The techniques of printmaking are correspondent to the technological developments of our time, but the creativity of the artist is the wonderful wildcard. The mixing and matching of old and new practices. The mixing and matching of pigments and glues. The inventiveness that comes from looking at the blank sheet of paper and wondering, what will I do with this. That creativity is what makes printmaking endlessly inventive and endlessly interesting to experience.

Generous support for this exhibition is provided by the Roy R. Neuberger Legacy Program Endowment and City National Bank.

The Rise of a Social Consciousness in the Arts of Mexico since the Revolution is now on view at The Neuberger Museum of Art until December 24, 2021.

Curated by Patrice Giasson, the Alex Gordon Curator for the Art of Americas, this exhibition demonstrates the ways in which the awakening of a social consciousness, possibly the most important legacy left by the Mexican Revolution, is still visible in the work of contemporary artists today.

Generous support for this exhibition is provided by the Alex Gordon Foundation, with the support of the Alex Gordon Estate, the Friends of the Neuberger Museum of Art, and the Purchase College Foundation.



Dulce Pinzón, Superman. Noé Reyes from the State of Puebla, Mexico works as a delivery boy in Brooklyn, New York. He sends 500 dollars a week, from the series The True Story of Superheroes, 2005–2010, Digital color print on paper, 30 x 36 inches (image and sheet), From an edition of 7 and 2 artists' proofs, 2nd of 2, Collection Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York. Gift of the artist, 2017.01.01.

The Neuberger Museum of Art at Purchase College, SUNY, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase. The museum is open Wednesday – Sunday from noon to 5:00pm.

Admission is FREE. Masks are required of all visitors. Off Campus visitors 12+ must show proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test within the past 72 hours.

Visitors under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Visit www.neuberger.org to learn more.



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