

Holocaust Survivors Retreat To Catskills For First Vacation Since Covid Shutdown



The Hudson Valley Resort and Spa lobby

From July 10 to 15, a group of Holocaust survivors – most of whom live under the poverty line in Brooklyn – traveled up north to the Catskills for their first vacation in years.

The Blue Card provided 40 Holocaust survivors and their spouses with the opportunity to get away from the trials and tribulations of their daily lives to experience the open air. Each day, participants interacted with one another, baked challah bread, went swimming, exercised, performed aerobics, participated in arts and crafts projects and more.

The Hudson Valley Resort and Spa hosted the Holocaust survivors who are mutual beneficiaries of The Blue Card and Nachas Health Net in Brooklyn, catering to all of their needs throughout the week.

"There is nothing more beautiful than seeing the smiles on the faces of so many survivors who have been through so much in life," Milana Hazan, associate executive director of The Blue Card, said. "The Adolph and Lotte Rosenberg Summer Retreat Program is a unique experience that our beneficiaries look forward to all year long. It's an honor to organize this retreat for individuals who truly benefit from it."

There are thousands of Holocaust survivors in New York City who are struggling to meet their basic human needs. The Blue Card provides direct financial assistance to people who have already survived the unthinkable, with the utmost respect and ever mindful of their dignity.

The youngest survivor at the retreat was 77 years old, with multiple survivors well into their 90's and thriving.

"While visiting the survivors, we celebrated the 96th birthday of a spry and witty Holocaust survivor named David, who mentioned he hasn't had a birthday party in decades," Hazan said.

Charlotte Bickley, a fashion influencer who is editor-at-large of The Daily Front Row, visited the survivors at the retreat on Wednesday. Rami Even-Esh, known as "Kosha Dillz," also paid a visit to the Catskills, meeting with survivors and performing several songs with them. Or Mashiah, who appears on season 18 of "Nick Cannon Presents: Wild 'N Out," joined her game show counterpart Kosha Dillz for the experience.

"Thank you to The Blue Card for bringing me to the annual summer retreat for our Holocaust survivors," Bickley, who will run the New York City Marathon with Team Blue Card, said.

"It was the best day making challah with the survivors and being able to hear their stories. I met the most resilient survivors who have such a positive outlook on life and just want to be heard. A day I will truly never forget."

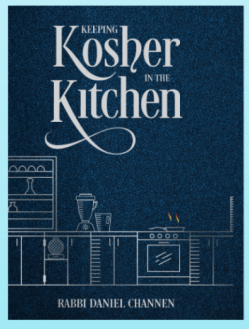
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