

June 2018 Highlights

- 1 ECC Year End Celebration – 5pm
- 3 Renewal Service – 7pm
- 4 Israeli Dancing – 7:30pm
- 5 Thank God It's Torah – 9:45am
ECC Teacher Dinner – 6pm
- 7 Sisterhood Closing event @
The Hudson River Museum – 9am
- 8 Community Shabbat Dinner – 6:30pm
Rhythm & Ruach – 7:30pm
Volunteer Recognition Program – 8:30pm
Officers and Trustees Installation
- 10 Intro to Judaism – 10am
JOY Program – 3pm
- 11 Israeli Dancing – 7:30pm
- 12 Thank God It's Torah – 9:45am
- 18 Israeli Dancing – 7:30pm
- 19 "Thank God It's Torah" – 9:45am
- 23 Simple and Soulful – 10:15am
- 25 Israeli Dancing – 7:30pm
- 26 Thank God It's Torah – 9:45am

Youth & Teens Programs

- 1 ECC Year End Celebration &
Shabbat Dinner– 5pm
- 4-8 Teen Study Space 2:30pm – 5pm (Mon-Thur)
- 4 ECC Summer Camp Orientation – 7pm
- 5 ECC Last Day and Picnic (2's)
- 6 ECC Last Day and Picnic (3's & 4's)
- 11 ECC Mini Camp (11th-15th)
- 11-15 Teen Study Space 2:30pm – 5pm (Mon- Thur)
- 18 ECC Mini Camp (18th-22nd)
- 25 ECC Camp begins

NEW ECC DIRECTOR ANN PARDES BRINGS DECADES OF EXPERIENCE AS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR TO WJC

BY JACQUES STEINBERG



Ann Pardes' experience as an early childhood educator began quite modestly: Her aunt had decided to start a childcare center in her home, in New Rochelle, and asked Ann if she would be willing to lend a hand.

Ann, who was 21 at the time and in need of a job, said sure. Especially since her aunt had managed to attract just six children from in and around the neighborhood. How hard could it be?

A year later, there were 16. Still manageable. But within a few years, the center's enrollment had surged to 200, and the center had outgrown its humble beginnings.

Ann, who graduated from Iona College with a bachelor's degree in education, was hooked.

"It was crazy," she recalled recently, speaking by phone from the Jewish Community Center of Harrison, where she has served as Director of Early Childhood Education for the last two years. "I just absolutely loved it."

During the four years she worked for her aunt, Ann also got married – to "this great Jewish guy," as she describes him, named Jeff Pardes, whom she had met when they were both employed part-time at the old New Rochelle Mall in the early 80s. He worked at Regal Shoes; she was next door at a boutique called Something Wonderful. Her boss fixed them up.

Ann, who had not been raised Jewish, agreed with Jeff that their children would be brought up Jewish. Which prompted an immediate response from Ann: "I better learn about Judaism."

After three years of Jewish Study at the JCC in Harrison – including in the subjects of culture, Torah, law, and Hebrew – Ann chose – not only to convert but decided to merge her newfound love of Judaism

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CONNECT WITH THE WJC COMMUNITY!

For updates, events, photos and more all summer long, please visit us on Facebook and Instagram at @westchesterjewishcenter



THE REVIEW *of* WESTCHESTER JEWISH CENTER

Published Monthly (except July & August)
Westchester Jewish Center
Mamaroneck, NY 10543
914-698-2960 • wjcenter.org

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Summer: A Time for Transition

RABBI ADIR YOLKUT

My what a year we've had here at WJC! We started off with another meaningful High Holiday experience with our building full of song and intentional prayer. We've had some great Rhythm and Ruach and Simple and Soulful services, trying to infuse fresh prayer perspectives while honoring our storied tradition and history.

Our young people had some rocking times at our Hanukkah and Purim festivals, while our older young people greatly enjoyed their first full year with Adam in Hebrew High. We learned in-depth with Rabbi Paley at our edifying Scholar-in-Residence weekend. There have been many full life cycle experiences where we've both celebrated new life and honored those who have passed on.

All that is to say, it has run the full gamut and now we break for what will hopefully be a quiet, smooth, and refreshing summer. So, what can our tradition tell us about this transition from the hubbub of beginning and endings to a kind of period of emptiness? As we look back on the full experience of a year at WJC, how do we proceed over these next few months?

In many ways, this transition can be informed by the shift that takes place between the books of Leviticus and Bamidbar. Bamidbar, in the desert, is a much better name than Numbers, which is how it's usually translated. As much as Leviticus was about rules, order, and creating, which parallels our year of beginnings and endings, Bamidbar, in the desert, parallels the wildness of the summer, where we don't have as much structure.

The Midrash Tanhuma asks the following question: "Why is it called Bamidbar? To tell you that one who is not willing to make herself void, like the desert, cannot acquire the Torah." The idea here is that unless you are willing to be completely empty, to let everything go, you cannot expect to be able to receive divine wisdom.

Most of the book of Bamidbar is replete with stories of people who can't let things go. Korach, the spies, even Aaron and Miriam struggle with this new found freedom. To fight against this, the Torah urges us to work on diminishing the self and making yourself wild and free.

I think the same dynamic can be at play in our community. Synagogues are complex places because we want to hold on to our successes of the year that passed. Certainly, here, where there was so much to celebrate, we should. Yet, also, we need to know that the year ahead could be wildly different: new needs, new people, new structures built.

While there is nothing wrong with taking bits and pieces of what was, it's also important to free ourselves. When we do this, we put ourselves in the position to acquire. That way, when the next set of new beginnings and endings comes with 5779, we'll be an open and willing receptacle for all the beautiful opportunities that will arise.

Have a restful summer!



JOIN US: WJC GOES TO ISRAEL

DECEMBER 2018

DATES:
December 19th to 30th, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 5 nights Leonardo Plaza Jerusalem, Jerusalem
- 1 night David Intercontinental, Tel Aviv
- 2 nights Kibbutz Nof Ginosar Hotel, Galilee
- 2 nights Leonardo Plaza Jerusalem, Jerusalem

Designed to suit both first-timers and those who've visited a few times—highlights Israel's most popular destinations. The trip is perfect for everyone, including the whole family!

Complete Trip Information & Booking: wjcenter.org/israel2018

Saturday, June 2: Beha'alotkha – In Your Raising Up

Initial focus of the parshah is on the proper procedure for the Menorah in the temple as well as the specific role of the Levites in their service. We learn about the second Passover for those who were impure as well as the various journeys that the Israelites took. Finally, we begin to see the griping of the Israelites and Miriam's slander that show some of the unrest in the camp.



Bat Mitzvah of Kira Tretiak

I am a thirteen-year-old who attends Hommocks Middle School. I am a fencer, a skier and a pianist. I love traveling and listening to music. I am an avid reader, especially when it comes to Harry Potter. I enjoy eating, and I enjoy walking my puppy, Bella. My favorite movies are *The Princess Bride*, and, more recently, *Isle of Dogs*. I am a fan of avocados. I would like to thank my family, Cantor Alcott, Rabbi Segelman and Rabbi Yolcut for helping me on my path to becoming a Bat Mitzvah. I would like to thank my parents for their love and support.

Saturday, June 9: Shelah – Send

Spies are sent to the land of Canaan but when they come back, 10 of them give a negative report while Joshua and Caleb come back being supportive of entry into the land. People complain about the road ahead and are punished with 40 more years in the desert. At the end of the portion, we learn about some aspects of the sacrificial system in addition to the laws about wearing tzitzit.



Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Rosuck

I am a student at Hommocks Middle School, where my favorite subject is science. I have been going to WJC since preschool. In the summer, I like to play softball and I attend Camp Ramah in the Berkshires where I have been a camper since I was 4 years old! My favorite activity at Camp is playing on the water toys. My favorite sports are basketball, softball, and soccer and I love playing with my friends on travel teams for each of these sports. Thank you to Aleza Kulp for helping me through religious school, Rabbi Segelman for helping me with my D'var Torah and Cantor Alcott for helping me with my Torah portion and haftarah.

Saturday, June 16: Korah

Korah leads a rebellion against the leadership of Moses and Aaron. After those two triumph in their battle of worthiness, Korah and his group are swallowed up by the ground. Various gifts to be given to the Kohanim are also outlined.

Saturday, June 23: Hukat – Statute

The portion begins with the peculiar case of the red heifer. Immediately following, we learn of Miriam's death and the people's unfortunate complaints about not having water and Moses' subsequent irrational response. Aaron also passes away and his son Eleazar takes over only to face off with attacking snakes that are warded off by a gigantic copper snake idol. And they say the Torah isn't fun!

Saturday, June 30: Balak

The King of Moab hires Balaam, a local Priest to curse the Israelites. On his way, he gets chastised by his now talking donkey. As a result, every time he tries to curse the people, the curses turn into blessings. The Israelites fall under the spell of some foreign forces until our resident zealot Pinhas takes matters into his own hands. The famed Priestly blessing is included in this portion as well.

CENTER OF PRAYER & CELEBRATION

Shabbat & Holiday Services

Check weekly emails as programs and times are subject to change

Friday, June 1st Kabbalat Shabbat Services	7:15pm
Saturday, June 2nd Torah Study Shabbat Services and Bat Mitzvah of Kira Tretiak Mincha Ma'ariv	8:45am 9:30am 8:15pm
Sunday, June 3rd Renewal Service	7:00pm
Friday, June 8th WJC Community Shabbat Dinner Rhythm & Ruach	6:30pm 7:30pm
Saturday, June 9th Torah Study Shabbat Services and Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Rosuck Mincha Ma'ariv	8:45am 9:30am 8:15pm
Friday, June 15th Kabbalat Shabbat Services	7:15pm
Saturday, June 16th Shabbat Services Mincha Ma'ariv	9:30am 8:15pm
Friday, June 22nd Kabbalat Shabbat Services	7:15pm
Saturday, June 23rd Shabbat Services Simple & Soulful Shevet Achim Gam Yachad Mincha Ma'ariv	9:30am 10:15am 11:45am 8:15pm
Friday, June 29th Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15pm
Saturday, June 30th Torah Study Shabbat Services Mincha Ma'ariv	8:45am 9:30am 8:15pm
Torah For Tots (ECC – K) and Youth Service (Grades 1 - 6) begin at 10:45am	
Daily Minyan: Allen A. Stein Memorial Chapel Monday through Thursday mornings at 7:00am & evenings at 7:30pm	
Fridays at 7:00am and Sundown	
Sundays and Legal Holidays at 8:30am & 7:30pm	

JUNE SERVICES & MORE

RENEWAL SERVICE

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Your spiritual journeys awaits

Experience the power of great music, communal singing and soulful praying. Stay afterwards for dessert and a chance to visit with friends.

Sunday, June 3 • 7:00pm



RHYTHM AND RUACH

UNDER THE STARS

Join us for an outdoor, musical Kabbalat Shabbat service and a traditional, a cappella Ma'ariv service led by Cantor Goldberg and the WJC musicians.

Friday, June 8 • 7:30pm

Also, join us for dessert at 8:30pm as we pay tribute to all volunteers and install next year's officers and trustees.

Optional dinner at 6:30pm

\$22 Adults, \$12 for children under 12

Dinner RSVP: 914-698-2960



Summer Davening

Sun... Sandals...
Shabbat services with lots of congregation participation.

This is a great time for you or your teen to learn a new skill or practice one.

Tap into your inner rabbi or cantor and read Torah, chant a Haftarah, lead Shacharit, deliver a D'var Torah, lead Adon Olam or Anim Zimrot - all in front of a generally smaller but friendly and supportive crowd. The clergy will be glad to help you prepare.

For more information or to volunteer, contact:
Cindy Heller: RJH613@aol.com, 914-833-0347
Victor Badner: vmbadner@gmail.com, 914-833-0218



Let Your Spirit Soar

Journey through a focused 90-minute Shabbat morning service.

Group prayer and singing is accompanied by instruments, silence for personal reflection and an interactive exploration and interpretation of the week's Torah portion.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23 • 10:15AM

With Grannie & Gramps at Torah for Tots

JILL & BARRY VIUKER

All week long our two-year-old grandson, who hardly speaks but understands many languages (English, Spanish and American Sign) makes the hand sign for the first song we sing in Torah for Tots called “Bim Bam.” In his mind that sign seems to mean “Let’s head over to WJC on Shabbat.” We have to let him know it’s not Shabbat yet and still have many days until the next time we can go again.

Most kids and some parents might find this hard to believe, but when we drive up to WJC on Shabbat morning and Elan sees the building, he gets so excited that he doesn’t just walk, he runs inside. As the months have turned into years – two, to be exact – we’ve developed a routine. First, we go into the main sanctuary for however long Elan can sit quietly. He now is asking to wear a kippah and points up to the ark as if he’s discovered the lost ark. The Rabbis smile and greet him by name and he smiles back or waves hi as if they are all great friends.

At 10:45am we literally run down the hall to Torah for Tots for “bim bam” and other songs and dances. Torah for Tots incorporates many incredible educational experiences. It mimics the Saturday service beginning with songs for Shabbat, then there’s the barchu in front of the tiny ark followed by a brief Torah service where parents, grandparents and kids alike parade around the room carrying stuffed Torahs, followed by a discussion with a game or book related to the weekly Torah portion. Within the songs and dances, the tots learn to say the Shema covering their eyes; their songs express appreciation for their lives and families and for what God has provided in the world for them. They set the Shabbat table each week, learning about the rituals of Shabbat. Although we used to worry that the kiddish cup they put on the shabbat table would become a missile in Elan’s hands, so far so good. The “class” meets for over 60 minutes, but it usually lasts thirty minutes for Elan, who then might go for a drink at the water fountain, a diaper change, more running through the hallways and, depending on the weather, a sneak visit to the playground. But we always make it back for the challah and juice at the end. The first few times, Elan cried that he had to wait for the bracha before drinking the juice and eating the bread but he now waits albeit somewhat impatiently for the blessing over the wine, before he partakes of the grape juice and gobbles up the challah, as if a huge sumptuous lunch isn’t coming ten minutes later.

Then, at kiddush, if we sit with one of his teachers or friends from Torah for Tots, he stares at them in awe, astounded at the miracle of seeing them again in another setting.

From our many visits to WJC together, the community has come to know Elan. They welcome him and us, regaling us with tidbits of multigenerational wisdom. It’s a ton of fun . . . and not just for our grandson.

CENTER OF PRAYER & CELEBRATION

It Takes a Village: Spiritual Life Committee Purpose and Goals

AL SASSOON & SHARON WEINSTOCK


CO-CHAIRS

*Our Purpose: Promote Greater Connections to our
Tradition and Enhance the Spirituality of the
Members of our Community*

The Spiritual Life Committee collaborates closely with our clergy to enhance opportunities for individuals and families in our WJC community to find Jewish meaning in their lives. The Committee seeks to create these opportunities through the observance of Jewish law and ritual and participation in multiple forms of prayer, personal introspection, learning, mindfulness, and musical experiences. The Committee regularly explores ways to find deeper meaning and build nurturing and accessible connections to the communal and individual experiences that help our community members live their lives according to shared Jewish values.

The Committee, together with the clergy, organizes and oversees the form and content of our weekday, Shabbat, and holiday services and other communal spiritual experiences. The Committee also leads in the selection of all of our clergy members and service leaders.

Join us on our mutual journey; we meet the first Monday of every month, 7:30 - 9:15pm.



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The JOY CLUB in Action

JUDY AND HOWARD ZWEIG

CO-CHAIRS

Mark your calendars for our upcoming compelling events. The JOY (Just Older Youth) **opening program is Sunday, June 10 at 3:00pm**. Historian and author, David Greene, tells the remarkable story of his father-in-law, a member of the "Greatest Generation." The book, *He Could Make Words Sing*, is the extraordinary personal experience of a son of immigrants, a wounded soldier at the Battle of the Bulge, a translator of captured Nazi documents and a successful advertising executive. Future events:

July 15: Rabbi William Berman addresses "Origins of Religious Attitudes toward Zionism and Israel, and Their Impact on Present Day Israel."

August 19: To be announced

September 23: Professor Joram Warmund -Subject to be announced, Evening in conjunction with the WJC Long-term Member Dinner. All JOY Club members are invited to the dinner.

October 21: To be announced

November 11: To be announced

All programs are on Sunday, 3:00pm, and include an informal supper (except for Sep. 23 event) to encourage follow-up discussion and schmoozing. Event details, guest speaker and topic will be sent before each month's activity. Please call Kim at the office to make reservations at 914-698-2960.

We joyously look forward to our second successful season. See you in June!

WJC SISTERHOOD >>>

Celebrating the Past and Passing the Torch!

CAROL FASMAN

CO-PRESIDENT

Celebrating community is something that Sisterhood did exceptionally well on Shabbat morning, April 28th. Thank you to Julie BenAvram for coordinating all of the Sisterhood members who participated. A special thank you to Caren Osten Gerszberg who shared her thoughts with us in her beautiful and heartfelt D'var Torah. We also had the treat of hearing the Sisterhood Choir and, as always, a delicious Kiddush including Sisterhood-baked Kugels and French Toast Soufflés.

We are now looking forward to our annual Closing Event June 7th. We will be travelling to the Hudson River Museum. Please see the flyer on the back page and be sure to join us!

That event will also be the last for our current Sisterhood Co-President, Ileen Greenberg. After committing years of service to Sisterhood, including three terms as President, Ileen will be passing over the mantle to Carol Fasman for one more year. They are both inviting the next generation of leadership to step up and move Sisterhood forward. Thank you Ileen, for your years of dedicated service!

Synagogue Family

Mazel Tov & Best Wishes to Carol & Steven Fasman on the engagement of their daughter Nifer to Aaron Goldman...Edeet & Dan Soroker on the birth of a grandson, Liam Benjamin to Tamar Soroker & Moish Peltz...Doris Oppenheimer & Family on the marriage of her daughter, Irene Pfeffer to Stanley Weiner...Marla & Rabbi Jeffrey Segelman on the birth of a grandson, Moshe Reuven to Elan & Elisheva Segelman and the birth of a granddaughter, Adi Nachala to Aviva and Jeremy Stern...Jama Purser on her ordination from JTS and for accepting a rabbinical position at Beth Israel in Roanoke, VA...Alan Weissman on his recent honor by UJA Federation...Martin Luskin & Family on the engagement of his daughter, Amanda to Jonathan Wasserstrum...Katie McLoughlin & Roy Katz on the marriage of their son, Ben to Emma Bradley...Wendy & Martin Tallman on the engagement of their son.

Welcome New Members

Rachel & Scott Aronow (Hannah, 6 and Michael, 2)
15 Coolidge Street
Larchmont, NY 10538

IN MEMORIAM

Our entire congregation mourns the passing of our dear friend and Office Manager, Naomi Kauffman. Naomi's keen mind and warm heart meant so much to all of us and she will be surely missed. Our condolences are extended to her family and may her memory be a blessing.

WITH APPRECIATION

Our congregation extends sincere thanks to Pat Tinto, our inaugural Communications Director and, more recently, Editorial Services Director. Pat helped us greatly in initiating a profile-raising campaign to strengthen the WJC brand through the press, email, our website, social media and her editing of *The Review*. We wish Pat and her family the best in her future adventures.

- Rabbi Segelman, Jeff Lavine, David Goldstein
and the entire WJC community

with her interest in teaching young children. She embarked on a career in early Jewish education that has lasted for three decades.

"It has really been a big part of my personal Jewish identity," she said. Along the way, she and Jeff, a mortgage banker, raised a son, Zach, who is 31 and works in marketing and public relations, and a daughter, Samantha, 30, a dancer and choreographer.

Ann's experience has included extended stints in the classroom and administration, and ranged from Congregation Kol Ami in White Plains to Temple Beth Torah in Wellington, Florida to Temple Beth El in Boca Raton, among other stops. It was in Boca Raton where Ann had what she considers to be "the highlight of my career." In her capacity as Early Childhood Director, she consulted on the design and construction of a new, multimillion-dollar preschool, as well as recruited, hired and trained the staff prior to its opening.

Asked about her philosophy of early childhood education, Ann, who holds a Master's in Teaching and Elementary Education from Manhattanville College, said: "Obviously the children are the key. I do believe children are very capable and very competent. If you really listen to kids, you learn something from them – and I learn so much from kids every day. And they make me laugh every day."

"The other piece," she continues, are the parents and families. "It's so important to develop relationships with them – authentic and real."

"And the staff," she says. "They are on the front lines. It's critically important that they receive professional development and support and mentoring. Because it's hard work."

Ann, whose official start date is Aug. 1, says that a big part of her first year will be "to observe, listen and learn," as well as to forge relationships based on "mutual respect" with the teachers and other staff.

She said she is already "blown away by the warmth and support at WJC." And she has responded, in kind, with an invitation to all of us.

"The main thing I want people to know is: My door is always open," she said. "While I have a lot of talents, I can't read minds. I need to know what people are thinking and feeling. Come in and say hi. Have some coffee with me."

"Just know," she adds, "I am very approachable and fun."

LOOKING BACK

JEFFREY LAVINE

WJC PRESIDENT

This is the last edition of *The Review* before the summer hiatus. As such, it is a time to look back on the year and reflect. I am finishing my second year as President. I continue to marvel at and appreciate the dedication of our many lay leaders, clergy and community.

I perused my columns for the year to give me ideas to share with you. As expected, family and community remain two important themes. But, I also found the idea of connectivity and reaching out to people in our community in different manners to be important. Whether it is davening on Shabbat or Israeli Dancing and movie nights, gallery openings, speakers, Torah learning, Renewal Service, basketball, speakers, Scholar-in-Residence, Project Ezra, the Purim Carnival or the Purimshpiel, to name only a few, we constantly try to create connections for our community.

Our efforts have gone beyond the walls of our sanctuary. Over the last couple of years, Rabbi Yolcut has had Pop-Up Rabbi at Stan'z. This year we started a Shabbat dinner program in people's homes. The most important consideration was offering a warm feeling of inclusion along with blessings over the wine, challah and candles. The rest was as social or religious as the group wanted. We are constantly trying to keep WJC relevant in our daily lives. It can require innovation. With that in mind, among a number of reasons, we are going to begin conducting parlor meetings and one-on-one discussions to make sure we are innovating along the right paths for the future.

We had quite a month. For starters, we had our students graduate. Mazel Tov on what you have accomplished. Let WJC be part of your future journey. To our high school students moving on to college, we wish you luck, look forward to keeping in touch and hope to see you soon. Rhythm and Ruach was very special. We had a family service, dinner, adult services outside under the stars and then an engaging speaker, Jessica Tamar Deutsch, telling us about how she came to create an illustrated Pirket Avot book as a tool for learning. Thank you, Pam Mizrahi, our clergy, and band of musical players for making the evening so wonderful. And thank you to our librarian, Arlene Ratzabi, for bringing to us such an interesting speaker.

The Spring Gala was terrific, thanks to the hard work of a dedicated committee led by our Chair, Meira Fleisch, our Journal Chair Sherry Thaler and Monica Barach working on Raffles, and Evan Schapiro on communications. Mazel Tov again to the Tolchinskys and Gerszbergs.

Lastly, we had robust learning on Shavuot for our entire community, led by Rabbi Yolcut. Thank you to Rabbi Yolcut and all of the volunteers who helped our community learn a little.

I hope you can join us on June 8 for the installation of Officers and Trustees and a well deserved thanks to all of our volunteers. It is the last Rhythm and Ruach of the year so you won't want to miss it. Optional dinner and dessert will be served. Have a great summer!



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RELIGIOUS SCHOOL >>>

Dedicated to WJC 7th Grade Religious School Students

ALEZA KULP

EDUCATION DIRECTOR AND
CONGREGATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

This year we recognized our 7th grade students at the end of April during Shabbat Services. This class, in particular, was an incredibly cohesive group that loved to learn. As a way to share with the WJC community just how dedicated these 7th graders are, I asked one student to offer his thoughts on his years at school.

One 7th Grader's Religious School Journey

BY ETHAN FELENSTEIN

I have been part of the WJC Religious School for 6 years, from 2nd grade to 7th grade. There have been many memorable moments, such as when I first began to learn and read Hebrew. Another delightful memory I have is when I got my first siddur, at my 3rd grade class Shabbat service. My most memorable teacher is Morah Julie BenAvram, as I have shared my 4th and 7th grade Hebrew School years with her and have learned so much about my religion's past and culture, especially in our Holocaust lessons this year. Being part of the WJC community is a very special part of my life. Since I moved here when I was 6, many people at WJC have guided me through my vast learning experience of my Jewish culture, including Rabbis Adir and Segelman, all of my Religious School teachers, and our Educational Director Aleza Kulp. I would like to thank all these people who have helped me through my religious journey throughout the years, and I am excited to move on to my next phase in learning.



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What's in a Name? Hebrew High Needs a New One!

ADAM BENDER

TEEN ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Wow! And just like that, we're here. Feels like yesterday we were all meeting for the first time and getting ready for a great year together. I can honestly say it's been an amazing ride. This year has been full of ups and downs while getting to know everyone in the Teen Community and throughout WJC!

To sum up some of the highlights... We started the year off right with our Annual Teen BBQ, where over 75 teens and parents came to play and learn all about our teen program for the year. We kicked off our new Hebrew High Lounge Nights with an intense evening of Chopped. We had an enlightening Hanukkah weekend where we both hosted 50+ teens from all over Westchester and hit Manhattan on our first ever Hanukkah Donut Crawl. Fourteen teens and I volunteered in Houston to give back after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. We took to Broadway and saw the new hit musical *Come From Away*. We stood side by side with over 18,000 people at the AIPAC Policy Conference in DC. And last month alone, we saw *Mean Girls*, *The Musical* on Broadway, we threw a Thank You Bash for our favorite, Florence, and we installed a new and improved Teen Executive Board. And those are just the highlights!

Thank you to everyone for helping make this year such an amazing reality, and I look forward to having an incredible year next year with the Teen Community. Please check your email for Registration for Hebrew High 2018-2019! I am also opening a contest to rename Hebrew High! Please email adam@wjcenter.org any submissions. The winner will be released on the first night in October!

Special Opportunity:

June 4-8 – WJC Teens Study Space

June 11-15 – WJC Teens Study Space

Please let Adam know if you would like to use space at WJC to study for Finals! There will be snacks available! Hope to see you here!

The deadline for content submission for September is August 6th – review@wjcenter.org

What Great Cooks and Friends!

CINDY HELLER & MINDY FELDMAN SOCIAL ACTION

A big thank you to all those who provided a meal this past year for a WJC family who was sitting shiva or who was ill or who recently had a baby, and to all those who made contact with a senior congregant to bring cheer and friendship. We are sure your cooked meal and good wishes were greatly appreciated.

Rebecca Baron
Shari Beckman
Ilene Bellovin
Marcie Berger
Judy Berkowitz
Debra Binstok
Andrea Boyar
Dahna Brecker-Freidus
Jennifer Carlson
Marc Cohen
Andrea Danziger
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Risa Seelenfreund
Sharon Silver
Bonnie Silverman
Heather Taffet Gold
Jill Viuker
Helene Weinberger
Jennifer Winters
Judy Zweig

Our apologies to anyone we might have forgotten to thank.

For anyone who would like to volunteer for this important mitzvah of Bichur Cholim, please contact Cindy Heller at 833-0347 or RJH613@aol.com or Mindy Feldman at 725-8825 or Bestmom427@aol.com. Also, if you know someone who could benefit from the delivery of a delicious meal or the visit of a congregant, please let us know directly or through the Rabbis.

Thank you.



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Looking Back, Looking Forward, Moving Ahead- The Year We Became SOJAC

SHARON SILVER

SoJAC CHAIR

"My reasoning for changing the name of the committee was that social justice describes more specifically what we endeavor toward as Jews. This includes raising the consciousness of congregants about issues in society at large, and making the link between those issues and what we are commanded to do as Jews. Jews are involved in the issues of the day even if those developments do not involve Jews at this moment, for example, prejudice, the oppression of minorities, poverty and hunger.

From visiting the sick in our own community, to hosting and helping Ethiopian Jews from Israel to collecting food for the local food pantry, the Bronx Kosher food pantry or the elders of Project Ezra, our goal has always been to inspire participants to incorporate acts of tzedakah-justice as integral to their Jewish identity."

- Ruth Obernbreit Glass

What worked? What was successful? How can we engage more congregants and work more effectively? What can we do that is new while we continue our work in support of our partners? How can we stay current? What needs to be changed or replaced?

As we plan for the 2018-2019 year at WJC, we question and reflect on SOJAC's work this year, so that we may, as Jews, and members of the WJC community, focus our work on helping to mitigate some of the needs in our community, support organizations that provide services and advocate for Jews and non-Jews, bring attention to key social justice issues and find avenues for our WJC community to discuss and address these issues.

We look forward to continuing our work with the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Hunger Taskforce, The Bronx JCC Kosher Food pantry, Caritas of Port Chester, Project Ezra, the Community Resource Center (CRC), Providence House, My Sisters' Place, Westchester Jewish Community Services, and more. We also support interfaith and interracial initiatives through the Read-Talk-Act Book Group, and with the help of Cliff Wolf from the AJC Westchester/Fairfield.

The World Jewry sub-committee, under the leadership of Holly Fink, is addressing the refugee situation in Westchester. World Jewry continues to educate WJC and involve us in the work of Neighbors for Refugees to support refugees, both individuals and families in our area, and advocate for refugee resettlement.

While we deepen our work, there are new things on the horizon. Join us for SOJAC Shabbat on November 17th. Details in the fall on this, Jewish National Refugee Awareness Day in October, and much more.

The Review in Review

In May, we got religion with yoga and celebrated our graduates, each other and special staff who made our life easy throughout Hebrew High. Sisterhood cooked up a storm in the WJC kitchen for their annual Shabbat morning; Teens acknowledged, WJC's own Florence Greto, who week in and out, served delightful dinners at Hebrew High and our gala honored two special couples who enrich the lives of so many members.



May 8th – Hebrew High Honors Florence

WJC Teens threw a party for Florence, thanking her for all her hard work in serving them dinner each week! Hebrew High participants wore aprons, decorated tzedakah boxes, and wrote letters to those in their lives who deserve a thank you!



April 29 - Jewish Yoga came to WJC at the end of April

Approximately 20 congregants joined Yoga instructor, Naomi Norman for a revitalizing session of one of the core precepts in yoga: bhakti, the practice of loving-kindness. Getting in touch with our soul (Neshamah), helps us extend true Chesed to ourselves and those around us.





May 6th – Spring Gala Evening of Delights

Over 200 congregants turned out to celebrate Spring and two extraordinary couples--Abby & Gabriel Tolchinsky and Caren and Rich Gerszberg. The evening featured dancing, dining, and drinks as well as raffles and special guests, including Congressman Eliot Engel.



Smiles were plentiful as WJC's officers and guests welcomed friends and family.



April 26th – What's Cooking at WJC?


The Sisterhood whipped up a luscious spread of Kiddush dishes to share with the Congregation after their annual Sisterhood Shabbat on April 28th. The extensive menu featured home-made goodies that went way beyond the traditional egg and tuna salads!

Caren Osten Gerszberg shared a D'var Torah with the congregation and the Sisterhood marked the end of an era of leadership as Ileen Greenberg is stepping down from the Co-Presidency. Carol Fasman will continue in the role for one more year.

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We are looking for congregants (or guests) who would like to chant Torah or Haftarah on the High Holidays. All levels welcomed for anyone who is post-Bat/Bar Mitzvah.

The Torah portions are all fairly short, and the special trope (melody) is lovely. Cantor Goldberg is available to instruct and coach. There's plenty of time to learn!

If you or someone in your family is interested, please contact:
Cantor Goldberg (Main Sanctuary):
cantorecg@wjcenter.org
Howard Mizrachi (Study Service):
hzmizrachi@gmail.com

Enjoy your Summer!

The Review will be back in
your inbox and mailbox in
September.



Joel F. Levy D.D.S.

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Ron Rosenberg:	967-4908
Jill Caslin:	698-6614
Sol Israel:	576-7670
Miles Federman:	698-0861
Walter Reichman:	834-5029
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FROM THE REVIEW OF JUNE 1993

25 years ago, Children Dreaded Hebrew High School

JILL CASLIN

ARCHIVIST

What is the most feared and dreaded thing by today's Jewish youth? What brings forth the most complaints from the mouths of young Jewish children? If you guessed Hebrew School, you guessed correctly.

With about three more sessions of Hebrew High School to go until I graduate, I have started to reflect back on my Hebrew School experience at WJC. I remember all the way back in first grade, when I would complain about having to attend Sunday School every Sunday morning. Later, the attendance requirement was increased to three days a week: Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. After Heh class, it was back down to once a week again. While I was going through Hebrew School, I - like many other children - despised it. I thought that it would never help me later in life and that all that was learned there was irrelevant to anything that ever happened. My views have now changed.

In Hebrew School, I learned how to read Hebrew. This is a very valuable commodity to have, being a Jew in today's world. Because I can read Hebrew, I can do almost any Torah portion or Haftorah (with practice, of course). I have also learned about Jewish history. Knowing the history from the times of King David and Solomon helps one better understand today's events. By learning history, we can better understand ourselves and what is likely to happen in the future.

On top of history and Hebrew, I also learned about the Bible. Without knowing at least the key elements of the Bible, one can not really understand Judaism. And the music helped me to understand more Hebrew, which helped me when I went to Israel.

So kids who are currently in Hebrew School, stick with it and don't complain. It will definitely pay off in the long run. And parents, be patient with the complaining - your kids will thank you later.

Written by Josh Reader

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In memory of...
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Henry Everett
 From David Everett

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Contact: Cheryl Natbony, 914-723-2709, cnatbony@aol.com

To All,

I acknowledge with thanks all those who donated to various synagogue funds in memory of my son, Aaron Meadow. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated by me and my family.

~ Mike Meadow

Thank You

We welcome WJC Volunteers and their Family Members to an evening of celebration and thanks.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

7:30pm

Rhythm & Ruach "Under the Stars"
Outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat Service with instruments and voices only Maariv Service

8:30pm

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Sondra Levy, sklevy8@gmail.com
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