January 2016 Highlights

1  New Year’s Day  
   Schools & Office Close  

3  No Religious School  

4  Israeli Dancing – 7:30pm  
   Adult B’nei Mitzvah Class – 7:30pm  

8  Rhythm & Ruach – 8pm  

9  Sisterhood Shabbat – 9:30am  
   ECC Hav-Dairy – 6pm  

10  PJ Library Story Time – 11 am  
    Renewal Service – 7 pm  

11  ECC No Extended Day  

12  Israeli Dancing – 7:30pm  

13  Israeli Movie Night:  
    “Zaytoun” – 7:30pm  

17  No Religious School  

18  Martin Luther King Day  
   Schools & Office Closed  

21  Adult B’Nei Mitzvah Class – 7:30pm  

22 & 23  Scholar-in-Residence Weekend  

24  No RS (3rd-6th Grade)  

25  Israeli Dancing – 7:30pm  

27  Contemporary Service – 10:15am  

31  Woman’s Minyan (at the Harbor) – 10am  

Youth Programs  

23  Chaverim Movie Night – 7pm  

24  Rosh Hodesh Group – 4pm  

31  2nd Grade Family Program – 10am  
   Zayin Mitzvah Project – 11am  

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend: January 22-23, 2016  

American Jews in Modern America with Deborah Dash Moore, PhD  
By Myra Glajchen and Heather Taffet Gold  

By Myra Glajchen and Heather Taffet Gold  

All across the country, Scholar-in-Residence (SIR) programs serve as an important intellectual enhancement to synagogue life. They provide Jewish congregations with the opportunity to explore less traditional subjects from prominent experts with important knowledge in their respective fields. At WJC, the SIR program provides us with an opportunity to strengthen our sense of community, come together for a series of events, and learn together in a meaningful way.

This month, we will welcome Deborah Dash Moore, PhD, as our Scholar-in-Residence at WJC. Dr. Moore is a Professor of History at the University of Michigan and former Director of the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. A graduate of Brandeis and Columbia Universities, she is the recipient of 16 awards, and the author of 13 books and 47 articles and essays. Dr. Moore has devoted her career to exploring the social history of American Jews in the twentieth century, through urbanization, migration, and acculturation. As such, she has been a central voice in the field of American Jewish history.

Our weekend begins with a Friday night service and community dinner, after which Dr. Moore will explore the pleasures and tribulations of Jews who relocate from the city to the suburbs. During services on Saturday morning, she will highlight the power of American urban family stories through a personal account of her own childhood in New York City. After a congregational Kiddush lunch, Dr. Moore will share relevant texts and lead an interactive discussion about the development of the “Judeo-Christian tradition” in the United States. The weekend will end Saturday evening with an illustrated lecture designed to show how American Jewish photographers have shaped our vision of the modern world.

We hope you will join us for the SIR weekend, which is designed to capture our imagination and engage our senses intellectually, spiritually and personally. Under the able direction of Dr. Deborah Dash Moore, we hope you will come along as we look back at the previous century and try to make sense of our historical narrative and transformation from an immigrant community to fully integral members of American society today.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event. If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact Heather Taffet Gold (heathergold@hotmail.com) or Myra Glajchen (mglajchen@gmail.com) for specific information. Also, please see www.wjcenter.org for additional program information and registration.
From the Clergy
Rabbi Jeffrey Segelman

I am writing this article just days after the terror attack in California. This horrific tragedy has intensified so many debates that will shape the future of our country - immigration, refugees, discrimination, gun control, homeland security measures and the expanded role of our military in the world - just to name some. When we look beyond our borders, we see fear of terror in Europe and chaos in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. Israel continues to struggle in its search for both security with its neighbors and in its search for spiritual and moral direction. In short, it is becoming increasingly difficult to look out and not be sad and scared.

I am looking at what is happening here at WJC in January. The experience of prayer this month will be intense. In addition to our regular daily and Shabbat services, there will be a Rhythm and Rauch, a Contemporary Service, Sisterhood Shabbat, a Renewal Service and a most beautiful Shabbat Shira service. In addition to our regularly scheduled class and learning shiurim, we will host our Scholar-in-Residence Weekend. Dr. Deborah Dash Moore will be speaking and teaching about the American Jewish Experience. Also in January, we will remember Dr. Martin Luther King and we will celebrate the amazing experience of Tu B'Shevat - the holidays of the Tree. And then, in the waning hours of the month, we will read and chant the story of Mt. Sinai and the Ten Commandments.

There are some who look at synagogues (and religion/spirituality in general) as a respite from the harsh realities of life. To a certain extent, this is appropriate. However, I believe that at this moment, we need to recognize the work of our synagogue not as an escape from the world, but as an invaluable source of what we need to confront the challenges that stand before us. Judaism, and particularly the Judaism that we create at WJC, can make us stronger, wiser and more courageous. The bonds of community and spirituality nourish the spirits of adults and lay the foundation for our children’s future.

Though Rosh Hashanah was some months ago, it is once again, a new year. Come and spend January with us and take advantage of all that is happening. Begin the New Year with a stronger mind and soul.

And may 2016 be a year in which we find new roads to peace.
Dear Congregants,

This month’s column is excerpts from the first annual State of the Shul report which I delivered to the WJC Trustees at their November 2015 meeting. These are the parts about how we’ve implemented the 2013 Strategic Plan, and what we’re still hoping to change.

None of what I’m about to describe could have happened without the effort and inspiration of everyone involved in the functioning of WJC-lay leaders, staff, clergy congregants, and of course the Strategic Planning Committee.

It’s been a real team effort. Special thanks to, Rabbi Segelman, who always keeps us moving forward.

The Strategic Plan said that we needed to make major institutional changes to become more communicative to our members, more welcoming, more engaged in relational Judaism, more musical, less separated into different “areas” and more supportive of and collaborative with lay volunteers. To these ends we’ve made many structural changes:

We have been building our data bases and our now “annual phonathon check-in” has allowed us to get a handle on congregants’ concerns;

We have a volunteer recognition program each June;

To ensure continuity, the current and upcoming presidents now have regular Executive Committee meetings with Rabbi Segelman. Rabbi and I also instituted regular parlor meetings- informal summer meetings with congregants to discuss issues with them;

We are using the Trustees meetings as a way to get regular feedback from leaders of the congregation;

We have successfully “de-siloed” our programs by creating councils or umbrella committees which allow committee chairs and staff to plan together. One is the Programming Committee, chaired by Executive Director Susan Lurie, which has already created great synergies between programs, involving our students, for example, in Koslove Gallery programs, or creating regular community-wide events, such as our Hanukkah Bash or Purimpalooza. Another is the creation of task forces overseeing Youth, Contemporary and Family services under the umbrella of the renamed Spiritual Life Committee. The third is the Family, Youth and Education Coordinating Council, chaired by Executive Vice-President Jeff Lavine, which is allowing us to coordinate and analyze all programs which touch on our families and children comprehensively;

As part of the same initiative, we’ve created a new role for Aleza Kulp, our K through grade 6 educational director, who now oversees all the educational, social and religious aspects of programming for kids in her age group. We’ve hired a Teen Engagement Director, who has similar investment in the lives of our students in Grades 7 through High school. Adding Shoshi Rosenbaum has been particularly gratifying, since congregants have long been asking for more for our teens;

We’ve improved communications within the congregation by hiring Pat Tinto as our Communications Director. She’s created WJC’s social media presence (so has Shoshi for the teens), on Facebook and Twitter, she’s placing news about our programs in area publications, and she’s maintaining our website and editing The Review. We’ve increased ads in the WJC monthly Review so it is almost paying for itself. We published a WJC Directory, and our first ever Annual Program Guide;

The Executive Director now has direct supervisory authority over our non-clergy professionals with a regular evaluation process in place. Most importantly, we’ve all been working on moving to a culture of “Yes:”

We’re prioritizing helping people to implement their ideas, leading to well-attended new programs, including Kegs and Kabobs, a Karaoke night, and a jazz concert;

We’ve increased the musicality of our programs by engaging a dynamic and versatile new cantor. Cantor Ethan Goldberg is involved in developing a new music program throughout the shul, from schools to

continued on page 5

Shabbat and Holiday Services
(Please check weekly emails as programs and times are subject to change)

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Jan 1</td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat</td>
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<td>Saturday, Jan 2</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
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<td>Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>Mincha Ma’ariv</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Jan 8</td>
<td>Traditional Kabbalat Shabbat</td>
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<td>Rhythm and Ruach</td>
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<td>Saturday, Jan 9</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
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<td>Sisterhood Shabbat</td>
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<td>Mincha B’not Mitzvah of Sophie &amp; Emma Thorpe</td>
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<td>Friday, Jan 15</td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat</td>
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<td>Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>Mincha Bat Mitzvah of Katie Solomon</td>
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<td>Friday, Jan 22</td>
<td>Scholar-in-Residence Weekend &amp; Shabbat Shira</td>
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<td>Kabbalat Shabbat</td>
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<td>Saturday, Jan 23</td>
<td>Pesukei D’Zimra</td>
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<td>Contemporary Service</td>
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<td>Mincha Ma’ariv</td>
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Torah For Tots (ECC – K) * Jr. Congregation (Grade K -2) * Youth Service (Grade 3 -6) begin at 10:45am

Daily Minyan in the 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
Emma Thorpe
Bat Mitzvah
January 9, 2016

My name is Emma Thorpe and I am in 7th grade at Hommocks Middle School. I have a twin sister, Sophie, who is 19 minutes younger than me and an older brother, Simon, who is 14. I like cross country running, skateboarding, ecology and cats. I just perfected an Ollie and can now jump over various obstacles at the skate park. After sleepaway camp, I go to an ecology camp where we learn about the environment and the organisms living there. I have a black cat named Luigi and I enjoy taking care of him. Thanks to Cantor Alcott and Rabbi Monosov for helping me with all my B’not Mitzvah preparations. Thanks to my parents for everything!

Sophie Thorpe
Bat Mitzvah
January 9, 2016

My name is Sophie Thorpe and I am in 7th grade at Hommocks Middle School. I like watching and playing sports and hanging out with my friends. I’m looking forward to skiing and ice skating with my friends this winter. I enjoy reading books and recently participated in a County wide book competition. I have a twin sister, Emma, with whom I am having a B’not Mitzvah. I also have a brother, Simon and a cat named Luigi. My family and I travel a lot and I look forward to exploring more of the world. Thanks to Cantor Goldberg and Rabbi Monosov for assisting me in my preparations for my B’not Mitzvah.

Katie Solomon
Bat Mitzvah
January 16, 2016

Hi! My name is Katie Solomon and I am a 7th grader at Hommocks Middle School. My favorite school subjects are math and social studies. My favorite hobbies are dance, tennis and soccer, where I play goalie for a premiere team. I also enjoy hanging out with my friends and playing with my adorable dog, Grover.

Every summer I go to Emma Kaufmann Camp. It is a Jewish sleep away camp in West Virginia. My whole entire family goes there; my brothers, cousins and even my parents went there! I love going to camp because I get to experience my Jewish heritage by celebrating Shabbat and singing the prayers at mealtime with the amazing friends that I have met there.

I am also a die hard Pittsburgh Steeler, Pirate, and Penguin fan. My family and I watch the Steelers play every Sunday, which has created so many family memories.

Since the age of two I have been coming to the WJC. I have learned so much about Judaism over those ten years, all leading up to my Bat Mitzvah. I would like to thank all of my Hebrew School teachers, Aleza Kulp, and Rabbi Monosov for teaching me about what it means to be Jewish. I would also like to thank Rabbi Segelman and Cantor Goldberg for teaching me my Torah portion and for guiding me through my Bat Mitzvah preparations. Most importantly, I’d like to thank my family for helping me prepare for my Bat Mitzvah and for always being there for me.
services, as well as developing concerts, creating a musical Shabbat Shira, and working as the staff member assigned to the B’nei Mitzvah committee;

The Governance Task force will be presenting updated by-laws to the Trustees and Congregation this winter and for a vote in the spring;

In response to congregant requests, we added now-popular family services for the High Holidays, thanks to the leadership of Rabbi Monosov. Thanks to Larry Thaler, we’ve been able to create new High Holiday and seating policies for 2016 which eliminate “pay to pray,” will increase ruach in services, and, we hope, keep our budget in the black;

We have formed a WJC Space Committee. Thanks to the talented Randi Klaber and her team who are working to make the building more inviting and user-friendly;

Also in the works, are a new Welcoming Committee, a new life-cycle event as a way to reach out to empty nesters, and a plan to honor our longest-standing members. We also have a wonderful Spring Gala coming up, honoring Wendy and Yale Zoland, and Rabbi Monosov, on April 3. If you’re interested in working with others on any of these programs, or want to develop something new, please let me know at president@wjcenter.org

The result of all these initiatives? More people are in the synagogue and we’re seeing more community spirit, too. The WJC Softball Team just won its Third Championship (for which coach Art Kaplan and team deserve all the credit but I wanted to get it in here somehow). We are getting hundreds of people here for Renewal services, dozens of young families for Family Shabbat dinners and Rhythm and Ruach on Friday nights, our school enrollments are gradually increasing, and our membership, which had been decreasing, is now holding steady at 510 families.

And we haven’t run a budget deficit, thanks to the generosity of our congregants. I’ve long been an optimist about the strengths and virtues of the WJC Community, and my years as President have more than met my expectations. I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished and will continue to build together in the years to come. I echo Rabbi Segelman in saying that it is an honor and a privilege to be part of this congregation.

Thanks to everyone behind the initiatives I’ve mentioned in this column: I couldn’t name you all, but I hope you know that your role is and remains essential to our success.

Wishing you a revitalizing winter.

Best, Gail
Hanukkah in the ECC  
SABRINA LANDAU, EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER DIRECTOR

Holidays are a time to celebrate with friends and family. In our ECC, we view Hanukkah in this way and introduce the children to the customs, ritual objects, and traditional foods served on this holiday and then get together to share our treats with friends. Our 2’s classes joined on Monday, December 7th to share the latkes and Hanukkah cookies they made. Bobby DooWah sang songs with them and everyone had a great time. On Thursday, December 10th, our 3s, 4s, and Pre-K classes celebrated Hanukkah in a similar manner. Family and friends were invited to participate in this special party and everyone enjoyed the latkes, sufganiyot (jelly donuts), and chocolate gelt.

While Hanukkah is thought of as a time to receive gifts, we believe that it can be an opportunity to share gifts with those less fortunate. On Tuesday, December 8th, a representative from Chai Lifeline came to ECC to collect the toys donated to our annual toy drive. Our 4s and Pre-K classes helped pack these gifts and load them onto the truck.

Thanks to everyone who came to our Hanukkah party, which was a huge success! Here’s what’s coming up in January. Please note WJC’s **first ever teen trip!** I will be traveling to Memphis with a group of sixteen teens over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend to learn about the connection between Judaism and civil rights. We are looking forward to sharing our experiences with you upon our return!!

**January 2016**

1/5: Hebrew High—6PM-8PM  
8th Grade: Jewish Values Debate, Current Events with Rabbi Segelman  
9th Grade: Current Events with Rabbi Segelman, Jewish Values Debate  
10th Grade: Rosh Hodesh  
1/7: Pre-Trip Meeting for Memphis, 7:00-8:30PM  
1/12: Hebrew High—6PM-8PM  
8th and 9th Grade Boys: Shevet Achim with Cantor Goldberg  
8th and 9th Grade Girls: Rosh Hodesh with Rabbi Monosov  
10th-12th Grade: Service Learning  
*There will also be a class with Rabbi Segelman for 11th and 12th graders after minyan that will run until 8:30PM*  
1/14-1/18: MLK Jr. Day: 8th and 9th Grade Trip to Memphis  
1/19: Hebrew High—6PM-8PM  
8th Grade: Service Learning, Elective  
9th Grade: Elective, Service Learning  
10th Grade: Current Events with Rabbi Segelman  
11th grade: Rosh Hodesh with Rabbi Monosov  
11/24: Rosh Hodesh for 7th Grade Girls—4:00-6:00PM  
1/24: Post-Trip Meeting for Memphis, 6:00-7:30PM  
1/26: Hebrew High—6PM-8PM—Details TBD!
Religious School
ALEZA KULP, EDUCATION DIRECTOR & CONGREGATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

There are many amazing things that the children in our Religious School are learning this year during their electives. Various grade levels meet on Sunday mornings with our Assistant Principal, Ziva Wagner, for an elective called, “Boker Tov Brachot.” Students learn blessings including the Havdalah service, various foods and what we recite when seeing a rainbow.

Passover Kosher Cooking Group is another recently added elective. This class combines 7th graders with the younger children in 2nd-grade, allowing our 7th graders to become role models for our younger children and learn to work together. Students in our Hannukah Fun elective created their own Hanukkiyah to use at home over the holiday.

A special Mitzvah Club elective with Gail Koller was a highlight during the month of November. The 4th and 5th-grade students in the Mitzvah Club elective visited elders at Sarah Neuman Center four times in October and November. For an icebreaker, the students interviewed their new elder friends and drew and wrote about their memories.

At their next meetings, they enjoyed playing table bowling and group Pictionary. At the last meeting, the elders and students celebrated their new friendships by making and eating Very Berry Yogurt Parfaits and Strawberry Shortcake together. Many of the children wanted to keep visiting their new friends. As one student, Zachary Stock, said, “What I like about coming is I like helping people cheer up. They have more company, they don’t feel as down, and they get better.”

Shabbat Shira
CANTOR ETHAN GOEBL

The Shabbat in which we read Parashat B’shalach (this year on January 23rd) is known as “Shabbat Shira” “The Shabbat of song.” Central to the parsha is the “Song of the sea” that Moses and the Children of Israel sang as they crossed the Red Sea.

Because this is the “Shabbat of Song” after all, it has become the custom in many synagogues and Jewish communities to feature special musical programming, and here at WJC we plan to do exactly that.

We have decided to engage a professional quartet to accompany me for the Torah service and musaf on January 23rd.

Participating in a service of elegant music involves active listening, by understanding the connection between the text of the prayer book and the music you are hearing. While your voice might be inactive, the spirit and the intellect should be stimulated to create a meaningfully spiritual experience.

Those who attended Shabbat Shira last year were impressed by the beauty and depth of the music and its accessibility. We are particularly happy to collaborate with the Scholar-in-Residence program to celebrate what promises to be an exciting and stimulating morning at WJC.
Hendel Library News

The Library was delighted to co-host a book discussion on “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” by law professor, Michelle Alexander. After the hate driven murders of nine African Americans in Charleston, SC, a rally was held and a dialogue started with the Port Chester NAACP about race across religious and racial lines. The Social Action Committee of WJC felt it should be involved in this interfaith dialogue. The head of the Port Chester NAACP suggested those interested should read the book mentioned above and come together for a frank discussion of hate driven acts, in this case as it impacts our prison system.

A fascinating article entitled “Our (Bare) Shelves, Our Selves” by Teddy Wayne, appeared in The New York Times on December 5, 2015. It was another exploration of the print vs. digital media conversation as Mr. Wayne noted, “Aside from the disappearance of record crates and CD towers, the loss of print books and periodicals can have significant repercussions on children’s intellectual development….Perhaps the strongest case for a household full of print books came from a 2014 study published in the sociology journal Social Forces. Researchers measured the impact of the size of home libraries on the reading level of 15-year-old students across 42 nations, controlling for wealth, parents’ education and occupations, gender and the country’s gross national product…After G.N.P., the quantity of books in one’s home was the most important predictor of reading performance…Owning books in the home is one of the best things you can do for your children academically. It helps, of course, if parents are reading to their children and reading themselves, not simply buying books by the yard as décor.”

So if you are inclined to check out our wonderful WJC Hendel Family Library, here are some new acquisitions:

Kanon, Joseph. Leaving Berlin, a Novel.
Hayes, Peter. How Was it Possible? (Holocaust Collection)
Tsabari, Ayelet. The Best Place on Earth: Stories.
Brooks, Geraldine. The Secret Chord. (WJC Sisterhood Reading Group Selection)
Ragen, Naomi. The Devil in Jerusalem.
Ross, Dennis. Doomed to Succeed.
Keret, Etgar. The Seven Good Years.

Library hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 2pm - 6 pm but if you need something you can always email us at librarian@wjcenter.org and we will make every effort to assist you.

Gracias, Todah Rabah, Thank You, WJC Members

By the time WJC Review readers come across this article, new wrapped winter clothes will have been received by the client families of the CRC (formerly HRC) in Mamaroneck!

The call for clothing this year, rather than for toys, was made by the agency to make certain that their clients had sufficient winter wear. Last winter was unusually harsh and many families were unprepared.

CVS cards were brought in as well, to be given out to parents to use for their families’ needs.

Thank you, Todah Rabah, Gracias, to everyone in our congregation who so generously bought CVS cards, and shopped on behalf of neighboring families.

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- Master Guest List: names and responses, food requests, party favors, gift lists & thank yous
- Invitations & Inserts: produce a digital list for a calligrapher, RSVP lists
- Hotel & Bus Arrangements: and don’t forget welcome gifts

- Temple Honors
- Party Favors: enter sizes, selections and options:
- Party Details: seating arrangements, place cards, song list, candle lighting
- Vendors: compare vendor proposals, then build a master budget to track your spending

www.wjcenter.org

Mitzvah Organizer.com created by Mitzvah Market
Growing up, my family belonged to what was then called JCC of White Plains, and is now known as Kol Ami, a large reform congregation in White Plains. I attended Sunday school, but never learned Hebrew. We attended services probably twice a year, and for a long time, as a child, I differentiated Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur by learning that after only one of those evening services did we stop on our way home for ice cream sundaes at the local ice cream parlour, Daddy Michael’s. Those High Holiday services were held in the Westchester County Center. We sat in the balcony, and the entire downstairs was filled with congregants. The clergy were on the stage, and there was an organ and choir. Yet, in spite of the size of the congregation and the distance from the “bimah,” I have strong and wonderful memories of listening to the Kol Nitro Chant, with lights dimmed. I remember vividly being struck by the fact that all these people in this huge space were all praying at the same time, and in my child’s mind, I thought that all over the world at that exact moment, Jews were all hearing the same beautiful chant. Those feelings made me feel connected to Judaism.

My take-away lesson as I reflect back on those experiences is that I learned at an early age how music can be a transformative experience and that a sense of community is a key component to my religious experience. These two factors, music and community, are two very strong reasons I keep attending services at WJC, and in particular, the Renewal Service.

As I said, I did not learn Hebrew growing up. When our children were studying for their bar and bat mitzvahs here, I did take a Hebrew class with Saralee, and our graduation was leading the Kiddush at a Friday night service. But, like with any language, if you don’t use it, you lose it, and as the years passed, my Hebrew skills diminished.

So, for me, just listening to the prayers, and singing the melodies, has been my own way of participating in services. The musical notes have become my Hebrew letters, and I follow along in the prayer book by using those musical notes as my connection to the prayers. For the most part, I know enough of the tunes and words to join in communal prayer. While I do spend time reading the translations of the prayers, when I am in the moment of singing, the literal translation doesn’t really matter to me. I can often sense from the pace of the tune if it is prayer of joy or a prayer of reflection. Musical prayer is my form of communicating with God.

When I come to Renewal, I am transported by the music. I feel sorry for those sitting around me because I sing loudly, usually off key. My mood soars with the rousing introductory songs and intensifies by the time Ellen leads us in Sim Shalom to a point that I totally lose track of time and place. This is my connection to Judaism and this is my connection to WJC. I leave feeling spiritually whole.

The other component that I referred to earlier is a sense of community. We joined WJC because on a Sunday morning when our eldest son Andrew was in kindergarten, our doorbell rang unexpectedly and there before us was our friend and WJC member, Stuart Shapiro, in his tennis whites, with Rabbi Klossowke, also in his tennis whites. They urged us to join WJC, and because they reached out to invite us to join their community, we did! It is that sense of community that has continued to enhance my relationship with WJC and prayer.

When I come to Renewal services, I often feel like I did as a child at the County Center. I look around the room at all of you singing and praying together, and I am blown away at the sense of community. I usually stop singing at some point every time, so I can just listen and marvel at the strength of your combined voices. When the Torah is passed from individual to individual, I see on your faces how much that experience means to you, and I have learned from you to appreciate my own time with the Torah.

Having to do this Kavanna helped me to focus on why Renewal is so important to me. I hope my perspective might help you take time to reflect on your own relationship with all the services at WJC and particularly Renewal. I know for me, it is the overall total experience and impact of our combined voices lifted in musical prayer that brings me back time after time.

I want to thank Randy, Seth, Ellen and Arlene for working so hard to create and maintain this Renewal service— it is a wonderful addition to the total experience of WJC.

It has been a great honor to speak before all of you, my community. Thank you for listening.
Sisterhood News

We are hoping that at least one of your New Year’s resolutions for 2016 will be to expand your friendship circle with Sisterhood!

Please mark your calendars and join us…..

Saturday, January 9th  Sisterhood Shabbat  Join us for this special Shabbat service planned and run by the members of the WJC Sisterhood with a special performance by the choir. Show your support for the women of our shul and spend the morning in sisterhood.” For more information or to participate, please contact Emily Hoffman (esaltzman@hotmail.com) or Randi Klaber (randiklaber@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you then.

Monday, January 11th  (Please note day correction) WJC/Larchmont Temple Book Club

Please read The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks and join us for a lively discussion, 8pm at the home of Ileen Greenberg. Please email Ileen Greenberg at ileen@opthonline.net if you are planning to attend.

Tuesday, March 8th  Jewish Museum Tour of “Unorthodox” exhibit. Meet at the museum at 11:15am. For more info contact Susan Levy at sl16@aol.com

Thursday, April 14th  Joint Larchmont Temple/WJC Sisterhood event at the MAG (Mamaroneck Artists Guild) in Larchmont. Gallery viewing with wine and desserts. Small entrance fee at the door.

and remember…..Tuesday, April 19th  Mah Jongg

Please RSVP to Debbie Katz dkatz1000@aol.com, and advise if you are beginner or experienced player. We need to plan on tables and see if we need an instructor for new players. (BTW-thanks to Debbie for organizing a very successful Mah Jongg night in November with over 25 players!)

Tuesday, May 3rd  (tentative evening date)  Sisterhood is working with Larchmont Temple and UJA to mark the anniversary of our joint event from last year. Be on the look out for updated info.

Closing event to be planned. Please contact Martine Wax at martinewax@waxonline.net if you can help.

Thanks to all of our members who responded so quickly to our OOPS letter, and sent in their membership dues. It’s wonderful to see the growth of our membership.

Want to honor someone?  Sisterhood Tree of Life is a wonderful way to do so. Please check it out on the wall by the Sisterhood Gift Shop. We now have plenty of leaves waiting for commemorations. Please contact Susan Levy if you would like more information at: sl16@aol.com or pick up an information card by the tree.

Koslowe Gallery Winter Exhibition:
“Diaspora and Identity”
Works of World-Renowned French Photographer Frederic Brenner.

By Amy Levine-Kennedy, Curator

The Koslowe Gallery is thrilled to announce the winter exhibition “Diaspora and Identity” by world-renowned French photographer Frederic Brenner. On generous loan from the Howard Greenberg Gallery in New York, the soaring and stunning photographs are a collective portrait of Jewish life, woven over 25 years and more than 40 countries. These works, comprised of merchants in India, Tunisian brides and grooms, Portuguese marranos secretly observing Passover, Chinese Jews, a tobacco worker in Azerbaijan, reveal a people alternately transformed by and transforming the societies where they live.

What his photographic exploration reveals is that there is not one Jew, but a myriad people of varying faces, influences and cultural assumptions with a common heritage. With the help of local guides and informants Brenner sought out Jews who defied any stereotype of Judaism, and observed and drew out all manners of assimilation and cultural embrace. For example, he saw the black strip on men’s trousers in Tunisia for what it was—a memorial of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem or the gathering of pigs by Jewish farmers in Miami for its means to a livelihood.

Educated at the Sorbonne, where he studied Social Anthropology, Brenner, who has Algerian and European roots, has spent a large part of his career documenting Jewish communities around the world, exploring what it means to live with portable identity, adopting the manners of one’s home country and remaining part of the Jewish people.

From Rome to Yemen, Morocco to Brazil, he has chronicled Jewish life. His work has shown at the Jewish Museum, the Brooklyn Museum and countless other museums and galleries around the world. His opus, Diaspora: Homelands in Exile was published by Harper Collins in 2003 and won a National Jewish Book Award for Visual Arts in 2004. Reviewed in The New Yorker, this exhibition was described as follows: “Elegiac, Irreverent…transcends portraiture, represented a prolonged, open-ended inquiry into the nature of identity and heritage.”

This is an exhibition not to miss! Opening Reception: February 11, 2016. 7:45 pm.
Project Ezra Luncheon
By Janice Malett

On Sunday, Nov. 22nd, WJC sponsored our Project Ezra event. We provided a delicious lunch, wonderful music and socializing for 50 clients of Project Ezra, an organization that meets the needs of the Jewish elderly on the lower east side. This type of event is known as a “Peoplehood” event whereby suburban communities have the opportunity to spend quality time with the Project Ezra community. The elders enjoy a bus ride from the Lower East Side to the “country” (and it was a beautiful day), an opportunity to share in the beauty of our shul and visit, most importantly, with members of our community. The peoplehood event reminds us we are one Jewish world.

WJC has been hosting a peoplehood event for about 15 years. This year proved to be truly a community wide effort: the elders were greeted by Rabbi Segelman who then made a motzei; the tables were graced with vases and flowers made by the Hebrew school children who also donated their tzedakah money to help offset the cost of the luncheon; the servers included two young girls from the WJC youth group; and the music was joyously played and sung by WJC’s own Cantor Goldberg, Shoshi Rosenbaum, our Teen Engagement director, our congregants David Krenkel and Linda Alpert.

This year the peoplehood seemed symbolic of something far greater than the temporary blending of our two communities. Since the dreadful attacks in Paris, there has been much talk among certain politicians, the media, the public, of restricting refugees - a sensitive topic for any Jewish audience. As I looked out at the assembled crowd, I couldn’t help but think that almost all were refugees at one time or another; that each and every one of them had a story of fear, of discrimination, of deprivation, of loss. From concentration camp to soviet gulag they struggled and succeeded in coming to America and making a life here. And each and every one brought their skills, talents and work ethic that enriched the fabric of all our lives.

During the musical portion of the afternoon, one of the women from Project Ezra took the microphone and began to sing with the musicians. She sang a few Yiddish songs and ended with “G-d Bless America.” All our guests rose from their seats, put their hands over their hearts and joined her in song. It was a spontaneous and beautiful moment reminding us all of what America means especially to those who were not free at some point in their lives.

Appreciation to the following for their financial support – SA committee, the Hebrew school, the Women’s Softball Team.

The peoplehood event was a few days before Thanksgiving. And so I offer my thanks for being part of the WJC community, a community willing to open its doors, its pocketbook and its heart to share with Project Ezra. I extend my deepest, deepest thanks to all the greeters, the kitchen help, the servers, the musicians, the schmoozers…to the many who made this wonderful day possible. They are the following: in no particular order:

My co-chair Sharon Silver
Rabbi Segelman
Jeff Silver
Mindel Klein, John Lepore, Sophia & Alexandra
David Krenkel
Linda Alpert
Shoshi Rosenbaum
Cantor Ethan Goldberg
Aleza Kulp
My grandson, Noah Morris Cleary
Chana Silberstein and Natti Viera Noy
Cheryl Nathony
Debbie Jacoby
Lenny and Shirley Queen
Camie Thaler
Isabella Higdon
Holly Rosen and Max
Day after day,
season after season, year after year,
people come to us
because they know we will
be there for them.

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Social Action Fund
In honor of...
the marriage of Melissa Sideroff &
Oren Nhaissi
From Bonnie Silverman & David Nanus
the engagement of Sophie Glass to
Jonah Fruchter
From Bonnie Silverman & David Nanus

In memory of...
Irwin Goldstein
From Jill Miller
Zoila Luskin
From Martin Luskin

Library Fund
In honor of...
Elissa Berger’s Bat Mitzvah
From Shirley & Lenny Queen

In memory of...
Shepherd Woll
From Bernice Rosen
Rose Shulman
From Bernice Rosen

Memorial Fund
In memory of...
Herman Bloom
From Muriel & Robert Bruskin
Nellie K. Bloom
From Muriel & Robert Bruskin
Sylvia Bruskin
From Muriel & Robert Bruskin
Morton Tannenbaum
From Bonnie Silverman & David Nanus
Geraldine Zelson
From Bonnie Silverman & David Nanus
Morris Baum
From Shari & Arnie Baum
Harold Birnbaum
From Shari & Arnie Baum
Fanea Seibald
From Bernhard & Marcia Seibald
Seymour Weissman
From Beatrice Betty Weissman
Abba Bornstein
From Sarah Aron
Rosalind Aron
From Alan Aron
Charles Lehrer
From Peter Lehrer
Arnold Borstein
From Eileen Lehrer
Sylvia Wiesel
From Andrea Leaf
Judith Nash
From Andrea Leaf
Libbijane Goldman
From Barbara Novick
Rose Babette Waldstreicher
From Judith Bergner
Glen Eagelfeld
From Max Eagelfeld
Rouhlah Elghanian
From Iren Helperin
Mary Herman
From Benjamin Herman
Godfrey Herman
From Laraine Fischer
Morton Goldner
From Carol Goldner Fasman &
Steven Fasman

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
In honor of...
Rabbi Segelman, for teaching the
Adult B’nei Mitzvah Class
From Iren Halperin
Andrea Lightman teaching
Adult Hebrew
From Iren Halperin
Ethan Zoland’s Bar Mitzvah
From Tara Slone-Goldstein &
Wayne Goldstein
Nathaniel’s Bar Mitzvah,
with appreciation
From Glen Applebaum & Cynthia Cohen
Lillian Applebaum’s Bar Mitzvah
From Bonnie Tarkenton
Elese & Jeff Silverman’s 30th Wedding Anniversary
From Joy & Steve Zelin
Rabbi Segelman, on the occasion of
Ben Shokrian’s Bar Mitzvah
From Melissa & Dan Shokrian
Rabbi Segelman’s inspiration in
helping me to pass the
N.Y. & N.J. Bar
From Allyson Stavis
Arlene Wexler, with thanks
From Jonathan Stern
the engagement of Mariel Kriss to
Jamie Sholem
from Sue Ann & Mitch Blas
With much appreciation to
Rabbi Segelman for his love
and guidance in preparing Ethan for
his Bar Mitzvah
From Wendy & Yale Zoland
With appreciation for Rabbi
Segelman for his support during a
difficult time
From The Zelson Family
In memory of...
Saul Gerszberg
From Richard Gerszberg
Marvin Kohn
From Paula Kohn
Simon L. Silver
From Jeffrey & Sharon Silver
Joan Levin
From Amy Kriss
Donations from
Shari & Joel Beckman
Swain Weiner
### Yahrzeits

**According to our Memorial Tablets, the following Yahrzeits will be observed these months**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECEASED</th>
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<td>Boris Yavitz</td>
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<td>Helen Jurish</td>
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May their memory be a blessing.

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**Rhythm and Ruach**

We welcome everyone to celebrate a Mosaic (LGBTQ) Shabbat with revitalizing music & song. Join Cantor Goldberg & the WJC musicians for a moving Kabbalat Shabbat!

**Friday, January 8th at 7:30pm**
Dessert Reception at 8:30pm

Please join us for dessert as WJC members Bina Raskin, Director at Mosaic of Westchester & Dr. Jama Purser, JTS rabbinical student, talk about their personal journeys.

Westchester Jewish Center...The musical center of our lives!

Contact the office with any questions at 914-698-2960.
From The Review of January 1960
JILL CASLIN, ARCHIVIST

With the end of a wonderful winter vacation which included a fabulous trip to the Concord Hotel, College Candlelight Ball at Beth El, Alumni-Varsity basketball game, and a senior dance at the Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, we are once again ready to resume our regular activities.

Four clubs have already been formed for the Senior Division (Grades 9-12). They include the 10th and 11th grade boys club, under the leadership of Sam Tolkoiff; the 12th grade boys led by Michael Schmelkes, the 9th grade girls led by Rita Schmelkes, and the 12th grade girls led by Ida Arbib. These senior division clubs meet on alternate Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. The girls club program includes Israeli dancing, social service projects, arts and crafts, discussions and trips.

The highlights of this month’s senior lounge nights will include a Beatnik “scene” (party) on Sunday, Jan 10. The Rye Community Synagogue senior group will “make” the scene with us. This affair will feature Beat poetry readings by a real live beatnik, and espresso and other goodies will be served. At a followup to the Beatnik party, we will have a seminar on the “Beat Generation” on January 24th.

The month of January will witness the opening of the basketball season which we hope will culminate in WJC’s winning the Invitational Tournament in March. We will play Emanu El, Mt Vernon, Genesis Hebrew Center in Tuckahoe and Hebrew Institute. On January 30th we will have a dance with Temple Israel Center of White Plains in our lounge. This type of small two-Center lounge program proved very successful in November when Port Chester joined us for a Saturday evening.

The Junior Division (Grades 6-8) holds regular meetings every Thursday night at 7:15 pm. On January 14th, there will be a bowling trip at the Mamaroneck Bowlerama; we will meet at the bowling alley. We have arranged a special rate; the cost will be 45 cents per game with no charge for shoes.

The Frosh (Grades 1-2) and Soph (3-5) Divisions, which hold their regular club meetings every Sunday, will have a skating party at Playland on Sunday, January 31st. We will meet at the Center at 2pm and return by 5pm. The cost for this trip is 65 cents for admission and 75 cents for skate rental if necessary.
The Review of
The Westchester Jewish Center
Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543

Synagogue Family
Mazel Tov & Best Wishes to Rosie & Simon Aronin, on the birth of a grand-daughter, Shira Elaine to Miriam & David Schwartz...Amy & David Kriss on the engagement of their daughter, Mariel to Jamie Sholem...Cantor Ethan Goldberg & Shoshi Rosenbaum on their engagement...Sharon & Dan Neeman on the birth of a son, Jack...to Maia Sirk, daughter of Meri and Mark Sirk, who recently had her blog published in the *Times of Israel* detailing her experience representing Chabad in Jerusalem at the wedding of a young woman who lost her father and brother in a terrorist attack.

Condolences
Our deepest sympathy is extended to Marilyn Gordon & Family on the loss of her husband and our longtime member, Mitchell Gordon.

Remember:
Commemorate your joyous occasions by inscribing a leaf on the WJC Sisterhood Tree of Life. Call Susan Levy at 834-2456

ISRAELI DANCE CLASSES AT WJC
GREAT FOR BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT!
Led By World-Famous Teacher and Choreographer Shmulik Gov-Ari

<table>
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<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
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<td>April</td>
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<td>4, 11, 18, 25</td>
<td>2, 9, 16, 23</td>
<td>2, 6, 16, 20, 27</td>
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*Meets Mondays except Thursday January 21, June 2 & 16

Beginners: 7:30pm - 8:45pm
Intermediate/Advanced: 8:45pm -10pm in the Activity Center or Gym

$10 WJC members / $13 non-members / TEENS 13-18 are FREE!

For more information, please contact: Linda Alpert Karell, Chair of Israel Committee
linda@alpertmediation.com or (914) 584-6738
Sponsored by the WJC Israel Committee

WELCOME TO WJC’S ISRAELI MOVIE NIGHT
“Zaytoun”

Directed by Eran Riklis, this 2012 adventure thriller is about the friendship that arises between an Israeli pilot/POW in Lebanon and 12-year old Fahed, who travel through dangerous territory in order to replant an olive tree on Fahed’s ancestor’s land in Israel.

(110 min. long, in English, Hebrew & Arabic with English subtitles, unrated)

**Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 7:45pm**
In the Activity Center
Free to All – Invite Your Friends!
We will be serving coffee, tea, refreshments and popcorn! ($5 donation to cover cost of refreshments is welcome and appreciated)

Please RSVP to Linda Alpert Karell
at: LINDA@ALPERTMEDIATION.COM
Sponsored by the WJC Israel Committee