A Personal Reflection on Michael Paley, WJC’s 2018 Scholar-in-Residence

BY JACQUES STEINBERG

With a lump in my throat caused by the homesickness I was feeling in my first full week of college, I trudged across a campus ablaze with the reds and oranges of the fall foliage, bound for my first Rosh Hashanah service away from my parents and my brother.

This was at Dartmouth College in September 1984, and my destination was a century-old stone chapel with partially concealed stained glass windows depicting Christian iconography. But if those unfamiliar images gave me pause, the Hillel rabbi leading this improbable High Holiday service immediately put me at ease. His tone was welcoming, his laugh easy and his mischievous smile broad behind a wispy brown beard. He didn’t look much older than me (as it turned out, he was 32). His name, I soon learned, was Michael Paley.

I couldn’t have known it at the time, but I had just met a teacher and mentor who would guide me through the next three decades of my life. The Friday night services Rabbi Paley would lead at Dartmouth, followed by hearty dinners that students would take turns preparing, were the equivalent of a roaring fire to ward off the biting cold of the New Hampshire fall and winter.

Rabbi Paley would go on to preside over my wedding (to Sharon, of course), as well as our son Jordan’s bris. Along the way, he would serve as a living example for me of how engaging, vibrant, comforting and intellectually challenging Judaism could be.

But don’t take my word for it. Come see for yourself. Rabbi Paley, who most recently served as Scholar-in-Residence and Director of the Jewish Resource Center of the UJA Federation of New York, will spend January 26-28 at WJC as our Scholar-in-Residence – a blockbuster weekend led by the Adult Education Committee, which is chaired by Karen Everett and Myra Glajchen.

The weekend begins on Friday with a community dinner followed by a lecture and discussion; continues throughout Saturday morning, afternoon and evening, and concludes with a Sunday brunch. (A complete schedule, along with instructions for registration can be found at www.wjcenter.org/scholar. For further information call the office or email adminasst@wjcenter.org.)

Among the topics Rabbi Paley will explore are these:

• “Jews as Wanderers and Ambassadors, from Biblical Times to the Revival of Jewish Life in Eastern Europe” (Opening Lecture, 8pm Friday): In a phone interview, Rabbi Paley said he was struck that...
Maybe Leaves are Overrated

RABBI JEFFREY SEGELMAN

I am very grateful for the beautiful home that our congregation provides for me and my family. It has a wonderful view of Long Island Sound. From my window, I can see the most magnificent sunrises, and I can look out over the water for what may be miles of beauty.

But only in the winter.

In the spring and summer, the leaves on the trees block my view. While the leaves have their own beauty for sure, they do limit my view of the world to the end of my back yard. It is only when the leaves fall and the trees are completely bare that my horizon expands, my sunrise overwhelms me, and the expanse of the water becomes real.

When the leaves fall, I can see the forest through the trees.

It is true that when we look at a tree and remark on its beauty, we are usually referring to its leaves or blossoms. Rarely do we comment on the strength of the trunk; and even more rarely about the depth of the roots. Yet the thing that we find the most beautiful is the same thing that limits our vision. It is also the thing that eventually disappears. It is the trunk and the roots - not so attractive - that endure and invite us to see beyond themselves.

Please don’t get me wrong - I love leaves.

Yet when they fall, it forces me to realize that sometimes in life, the thing that strikes us as the most beautiful is the thing that will fall away in time. And when it does fall away - rather than mourn its loss - we can look out and realize that something even more beautiful was hiding behind it. When the leaves fall away - and they are always the most beautiful just before they fall - we realize that when the cold winds of life blow, it is not the leaves that give us comfort, but the trunks and the roots that remain tall and firm. And when I see the true greatness of a tree, my vision is no longer blocked, and my world gets bigger.

Maybe the blessing of January is the blessing of seeing the world without the leaves. Seeing the forest through the trees. Realizing that true beauty is not what immediately appears attractive, but rather, what is hidden just behind that immediate attraction.

And on the last day of this month of January, Jews throughout the world will celebrate Tu B’Shevat - the festival of trees.

Let it be a reminder - before the spring is upon us and the leaves return - to appreciate the bigger picture of life that we see when the sturdy trunks and the deep roots take center stage and invite us to see a larger, more beautiful world.
**Shabbat & Holiday Services**

Check weekly emails as programs and times are subject to change

- **Friday, January 5**
  - Family Shabbat Service 6:00pm

- **Saturday, January 6**
  - Torah Study 8:45am
  - Shabbat Services 9:30am
  - Simple & Soulful 10:15am
  - Mincha Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Marsh 4:30pm

- **Friday, January 12**
  - Kabbalat Shabbat 4:30pm

- **Saturday, January 13**
  - Torah Study 8:45am
  - Shabbat Services 9:30am
  - Mincha Ma’ariv 4:15pm

- **Friday, January 19**
  - Kabbalat Shabbat 4:45pm

- **Saturday, January 20**
  - Torah Study 8:45am
  - Shabbat Services 9:30am
  - Mincha Ma’ariv 4:15pm

- **Sunday, January 21**
  - Renewal Service 7:00pm

- **Friday, January 26**
  - Scholar-in-Residence Weekend (1/26-1/28)
    - Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00pm

- **Saturday, January 27**
  - Shabbat Services 9:30am
  - Mincha Ma’ariv 4:45pm

  **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

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**Saturday, January 6: Shemot - Exodus**

Children of Israel grow immensely in Egypt to the point where they are made slaves. Moses, our hero, is born and brought into the Egyptian ruling class. Later in his life, he finds his roots, fights for his people, exiles himself to the wilderness, finds a wife, talks to God in a bush, and begins the process of freeing the Israelites...all in a day’s work!

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**Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Marsh**

I am an 8th grader at Hommocks Middle School. My favorite subject is Social Studies and I play clarinet in the school band. Every summer I go to Eisner Camp in Massachusetts. My favorite sports are soccer and basketball and I play on WJC’s basketball team. I also like to read, play football and go on trips. I am very excited to celebrate my Bar Mitzvah with my family and friends. I want to thank Cantor Goldberg and Rabbi Yolkut for their help preparing me for my Bar Mitzvah. Finally, thank you to my parents, sister Sara and brother Jonah for always being there and for their love and support.

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**Saturday, January 13: Va’era - I Appeared**

God appears to Moses with the four promises of redemption. Moses and Aaron begin their show of power to the Pharoah with the first set of plagues all the way through hail. Each time Pharoah appears to be moved to let them go, only to harden his heart and keep them enslaved.

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**Saturday, January 20: Bo - Come**

The last of the 10 plagues are brought down upon Egypt. The Israelites are given their first communal commandment to keep a calendar and also told to slaughter a lamb in their homes and to use its blood to protect them from the plague of the death of the firstborn. In their haste to depart Egypt, they don’t have time to let their dough rise and we get Matzah for the 1st time. Finally, they depart with the command to constantly retell the story of the Exodus for all generations.

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**Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Felenstein**

I am a 7th grader at Rye Neck Middle School where my favorite subjects are ELA and Italian. I love hockey and have been skating since I was 4 years old. I also love playing and watching a variety of sports. My favorite teams are the Rangers, Yankees, Knicks, Giants and UNC basketball. I am also passionate about rapping and play the saxophone in our school band. I am very excited to celebrate my Bar Mitzvah with all my friends and family from near and far. I’d like to thank Cantor Alcott for helping me learn my Torah and Haftarah and Rabbi Adir for helping me write my D’var Torah. I’d also like to thank Rabbi Segelman, Aleza Kulp and all of my Hebrew school instructors over the past six years for teaching me how to read Hebrew and educating me about my religion and Jewish culture. Lastly, I would like to thank my sister Ayla and my parents for being so supportive and guiding me through the events leading up to my Bar Mitzvah.

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**Saturday, January 27: Beshalach - In Sending**

Immediately after letting them go, Pharoah chases after the Israelites, setting up the great battle at the Sea, where it splits and the Israelites miraculously pass through. The people begin struggling in the desert without food and water, so they begin their complaining and whining. Aaron and Moses miraculously get them water and mannah, including a double portion for Shabbat! We also meet in battle with our ever-present enemy, Amalek.
WJC Sisterhood News

ILEEN GREENBERG & CAROL FASM AN
CO-PRESIDENTS

Happy New Year. We had a busy Fall and we would like to thank all who participated, as well as those who organized.

Jo Ann Weiner, thank you for organizing the Modigliani Tour. What a perfect day. A round of applause for Cindy and Randy Heller for organizing our fabulous Progressive Dinner. It could not have been done without the help of their volunteers as well as the very generous hosts, who opened their homes to the 120 participants. Due to the first snowfall of the season, we had to move cocktails to WJC. A special thank you to Janie & Adam for generously volunteering to open their new home for hors d’oeuvres although the snowy weather changed our plans.

Our Opening Event held in late November was worth the wait. Thank you to Randi Klaber, Raelin Kantor and Jessica Jacobson and the amazing WJC cooks and custodians. Our speaker was Lesley Jane Seymour, former editor-in-chief of More Magazine, Marie Claire and Redbook and currently the founder of a new digital media platform, Coveyclub.com. Please look for her online.

Lesley led us in an interesting discussion on how to stay relevant in this ever-changing world we live in. We discussed job opportunity, gender issues and aging. One recurring theme was staying active and connecting as individuals within our community as demographics have changed and often our immediate families are spread out and located elsewhere. As a Sisterhood, our goal is to practice the meaning of community by offering outlets for developing meaningful friendships and learning together with old and new friends. Comradery is a stabilizing factor in life and by embracing others it helps us remain calm, connected and positive as we move forward. Friendships are a key to happiness, as well, and the elements needed to embrace a fulfilling and healthy lifestyle.

If you are an active member of Sisterhood, great; if not, please join us. Our door is open.

Mah Jongg and Canasta Evening Returns- January 23 and March 13, 2018 at 7:45pm (location WJC). Snacks included. For information, please contact: Carol Fasman, cgfasman@gmail.com

Save the Date: Winter Bowling on Tuesday, February 13, 7:30pm (location TBD). Contact: Cathy Dobkins, 914-714-3322 or cathydobbins@gmail.com.

Sisterhood Shabbat on Saturday, April 28. Stay tuned for details.

Synagogue Family

Mazel Tov & Best Wishes to Lester Millman for being inducted to the Westchester Seniors’ Hall of Fame...
Patricia & Sherman Berger on the engagement of their son, Sam to Liza Cohen...
Shirley & Lenny Queen on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Maya Noa to Dr. Scott & Tamar Barbash...
Hanne Holsten & Diane Holsten & Family on the engagement of their grandson and son Josh to Ashley Gregory...
Paula and David Krenkel on the birth of a granddaughter Aubrey, to Kelly and Hal Krenkel.

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bennett Golub & Family on the loss of his mother, Ruth Golub...
Ellen Marcus & Family on the loss of her father, Fred H. Marcus...
Evan Levy & Family on the loss of his father, Joel Levy...
Merrill Sugarman & Family on the loss of her mother, Clara Feinberg

ISRAELI DANCE CLASSES
JANUARY 4 THRU JUNE 25
WJC Activity Center or Gym
Beginners: 7:30pm - 8:45pm
Intermediate/Advanced: 8:45pm -10pm
*Meets Mondays except when holidays fall on Mondays; then on Thursday
$10 WJC members • $13 non-members
TEENS (13-18) are FREE!
For more info. and to confirm sessions, contact: Linda Alpert Karell, lalpertesq@gmail.com

Sisterhood Gift Shop
Beautiful items are available as gifts or to enhance your table.

For Sisterhood information, contact: Carol Fasman cgfasman@gmail.com or Ileen Greenberg. ileen@optonline.net

For Sisterhood information, contact: Carol Fasman cgfasman@gmail.com or Ileen Greenberg. ileen@optonline.net

For all of your shopping needs or to volunteer, contact: Carol Fasman at cgfasman@gmail.com, 914-450-6661.
“for the first time in more than a millennia,” 92 percent of the world’s Jews live in just two places: Israel and America, with “precious few” elsewhere. Among the questions he said he intends to explore is: “When the Temple was destroyed, how come we didn’t just disappear?”

• “Jews as Nonbelievers: One God or Less” (Shabbat Morning Sermon): Rabbi Paley said that unlike virtually any other major religion, a Jew who does not believe in God is still considered Jewish. Using parsha Beschalach as a starting point, Rabbi Paley said he plans to explore the concept of ‘Jewish agency,’ and the idea that a belief in God “may not be a defining factor of one’s Jewish life.”

• “Jews as Donors: Material Well-Being, Anti-Semitic Stereotyping & Tzedakah” (Sunday brunch discussion): Also in contrast to other religions, Judaism does not encourage the demonstration of one’s faith through a vow of “radical poverty.” Instead, he said, Judaism provides “a framework for the world” in which it is OK to pursue and even pray for prosperity (including, in the Bible, for the rains that might lead to a bumper crop) provided those who accumulate wealth seek a balance through tzedakah.

A number of WJC congregants have already studied with Rabbi Paley in his role at UJA. For them, the Scholar-in-Residence weekend may be bittersweet. As he turns 65, he is retiring from UJA and planning to move in the Spring to Budapest, where he will create a leadership program for the benefit of the city’s 100,000 Jews. Indeed, his presentations at WJC will likely be his last in the United States for some time.

“I am retiring from UJA,” he says, before adding, with reassurance: “I am not retiring from life.”

New JOY Java Club Debuts

JUDY AND HOWARD ZWEIG  JOY CO-CHAIRS

While it’s been a fantastic beginning for our new JOY group (Just Older Youth - 70+), formal events have been temporarily suspended for the winter months since many of our members leave town for the winter. Also the vagaries of winter weather make it difficult to schedule programming.

To help perpetuate the momentum of JOY group, during the winter months we are setting up a coffee and cookies social one weekday from 1-3 pm at WJC. This can be an informal opportunity for getting together over Mah Jongg, cards, Scrabble, etc. or just schmoozing for a couple of hours with JOY friends. We will begin on a trial basis with Tuesday, January 9th as the first meeting of the “JOY Java Club” in the Youth Lounge. Please bring your own gear.

Please contact Marion Reichman (marionr77@hotmail.com) with comments and questions.

Come join us!
December was certainly a month to remember at WJC! Simchas and mitzvahs filled the halls as young and old found a myriad of reasons to celebrate and rededicate themselves to the synagogue and our greater community.

DECEMBER 2 - WJC Prom
Parents, friends and their dates got to play dress up and have a festive evening without the kids at WJC’s Prom.

The after party featured the annual ECC Silent Auction with a dazzling array of unique items to bid on and take home to treasure and enjoy.

NOVEMBER 12 - JOY Club Welcomes Professor Alfred Hunt as he speaks about “American Politics – The Times They Are A-Changin”

December 10 & 17 - Winter Coat Drive
Just in time for the first snow of the season, SoJAC spearheaded a very successful drive to collect new warm coats for needy neighbors and young kids. As always, WJC members responded generously and compassionately.

December 10 - Community Wide Hanukkah Celebration
Young and old alike flocked to WJC for a fun-filled afternoon of entertainment, crafts, games and delicious homemade latkes. Kids made their own candles, edible dreidels, danced, sang and delighted in the Hanukkah revelry. Families teamed up to compete in fast action trivia games, replete with buzzers.
DECEMBER 10 - WJC PJ Library Sing-Along
Children and grownups joined in for music and movement with WJC’s own Eileen Fortuna, ECC Camp Director and Carla Friend from Tkiya: the Jewish Community Music School.

DECEMBER 10 - Project Ezra Luncheon Helpers
WJC sponsored the annual luncheon for the elders of Project Ezra on the Lower East Side. Almost every arm of the synagogue, officers, clergy, youth, nursery, Religious School, musicians, and congregants gathered to meet, greet and eat with our guests. Teens who helped served also got to hear firsthand of the harrowing stories of Holocaust survivors.

DECEMBER 10 - Holiday Gift Drive
SoJAC members wrapped up the day by collecting gift cards and requested items for the Community Resource Center’s holiday party.

DECEMBER 10 - Hanukkah Boutique
Alice Weiss and Carol Fasman staffed the Sisterhood Gift Shop to help members select Hanukkah presents and other special items on sale.

DECEMBER 16 - Teen Hanukkah Ball
It was a Teen Take Over as 8-12th graders from Larchmont Temple and WJC danced, ate, celebrated, sang Karaoke, and lit the candles together. Shout out to Adam and the crew for showing latke love.
Day after day, season after season, year after year, people come to us because they know we will be there for them.

ON PLANNING AHEAD

Would you like to make a sad event a bit easier to bear? One of the immediate decisions families confront when someone dies is the choice of a burial site. Why not consider making arrangements now, before there is an urgent need. The WJC Cemetery Association oversees our beautiful and convenient cemetery, providing excellent perpetual care. For information, please contact one of us:

Ron Rosenberg: 967-4908
Jill Caslin: 698-6614
Sol Israel: 576-7670
Miles Federman: 698-0861
Walter Reichman: 834-5029
Debbie Zelenetz: 837-3989

The Parents’ Auxiliary of the Early Childhood Center extends its gratitude to the following donors for their generous support of the ECC’s Silent Auction fundraiser. Thank you for your participation!

Adrian Lewis • Alamo Drafthouse Cinema • Anderson’s Book Shop
Arrow Lighting • Back Benz Chiropractic • Body Glove
Bonnie Briar Country Club • Kim & William Boxer
Bullseye Glass Resource Center • The Capitol Theater • Chakarr Clutch Palmer • Purchase • The Cosmetic Concierge • The Cut Above
Doc James Cigar Lounge • Dogtopia • Ellen Marie Day Spa
Embassy Cleaners • Emelin Theater • Equinox • Everything’s Hair
The Flower Bar • Foley Hardware • Freeze Cryotherapy • Froddo Shoes
Gjoko Hair Salon and Day Spa • Glow • Groove • Half Time
Hampshire Country Club • Hiawatha’s Martial Arts & Fitness
Paula Holland • J. McLaughlin • Shanna Joseph • Kar-ben Publishing
Karen Weintraub - Simply Gather • Kids U • Heather Klein
Larchmont Nails • Larchmont Nurseries • Philip & Jennifer Lindenbaum
Miller’s • Mt. Tom Day Camp • My Gym • Natural Care of Westchester
NHL • NYSC Larchmont • Palmer Jewelers • The Picture House
The Pilates Workshop • Pink on Palmer • Plaster Palace
Post Wine and Spirits • The Rock Club • Rock Sports and Entertainment
Rockin’ Jump • Meredith Safer • Salon Elle • Seasons Too • Sharon Lewis
SoulCycle • Sound Shore Landscaping • Sporttime Harbor Island
Spotlight Gymnastics • Sugar • Salt Studio • Tony’s Nursery • Toy Box
Trader Joe’s • UFCGym • Village Mercantile • Village Paint
The Voracious Reader • Westchester Children’s Museum
Westchester Summer Day • Winetasters • WJC ECC
WJC Sisterhood Gift Shop • WJC Summer Camp • Yoga Spark
Cantor Goldberg Travels to Israel

Student Cantor Gil Ezring to Fill In

As some of you are aware, Cantor Goldberg will take a leave of absence this spring to accompany his wife, Cantor Shoshi Rosenbaum, as she studies in Israel as part of her rabbinical education at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Cantor Goldberg’s leave begins on January 15th. From March 15th-April 15th, he will be back at WJC and, after spending an additional month in Israel from April 15th to May 15th, will return to us full time. We are delighted to provide Cantor Goldberg with this unique opportunity to be in Israel and look forward to hearing of his experiences upon his return. Cantor Goldberg will be accessible via email during his leave at cantorecg@wjcenter.org.

We are happy to announce that Student Cantor Gil Ezring will help lead our traditional and contemporary Shabbat services during Cantor Goldberg’s absence. Gil is a senior in the H.L. Miller Cantorial School (where Cantor Goldberg and Cantor Rosenbaum also attended). Gil grew up in Charlotte, NC, the son of a Conservative rabbi. He has served student pulpits in Connecticut, Maryland and upstate New York. A songwriter of his own rock-influenced Jewish music, Gil is an experienced song leader and multi-instrumentalist. Gil graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in music education from Appalachian State University in North Carolina where he student-taught high school chorus and appeared in several opera roles.

Cantor Goldberg and Gil have already met and will be working together to ensure a smooth transition. We hope the entire WJC community will join us in giving Gil a warm welcome!

Teens Journey into 2018

Welcome to 2018, my name is Adam and I will be your WJC Teen Tour guide for this new year of adventure. Our journey began back in August when I arrived. Now we can all start anew in this adventure we call 2018.

In case you missed it, 2017 brought us a wondrous year of experiences and programs. In just the short time that I’ve been your guide, we’ve done everything from explore Israeli cuisine to create our own social action think tank at Hebrew High, kicked off a new season of Jewball, and threw the wildest Hanukkah party Westchester has seen in years.

As we continue our journey into 2018, we look forward to: The Teen Trip to Houston where we will deliver relief items to victims of Hurricane Harvey; attend the hit Broadway musical Come From Away, and support Israel at this year’s AIPAC Policy Conference in March. There will be numerous opportunities to still get involved in WJC Teens. We are launching a new initiative SA/TO (Social Action/Tikkun Olam) Sundays, where teens will organize social action projects that THEY feel passionately about. Please let Adam Bender know if you are interested.

In addition, it is never too late to come try out a week of Hebrew High. Weeks Aleph, Bet and Gimel all offer different programs and experiences for all.

See you there!

CHECK DATES FOR JANUARY TEEN PROGRAMS ON COVER PAGE

December 10 - WJC Teens with Adam Bender, Director of Teen Engagement spent a Sunday afternoon greeting and serving members of Project Ezra. In return for their service, they came away with a history lesson and appreciating everyday freedoms.
LGBTQ and Jewish: Continuing the Conversation

BY BINA RASKIN AND JAMA PURSER

As the outgoing Executive Director of Mosaic of Westchester, a non-profit initiative working for the full inclusion of LGBTQ Jews in Westchester Jewish life, I want to commend WJC on steps it has taken toward LGBTQ inclusion. My wife Jama and I are members of WJC and we are grateful to call WJC our spiritual home. We have felt embraced and a true part of the WJC family. The clergy, staff and congregation have always been open, warm and welcoming to us. We are especially proud that Jama was selected to be the first openly-gay intern to serve WJC. Together, we have been able to provide pastoral counseling, programming and community referrals to teens and families who are dealing with issues of sexuality and gender identity for the first time.

Over the past few years WJC has hosted the following programs and services:

1. Community briefings;
2. Pride Shabbat service;
3. Book signings and discussions;
4. LGBTQ themed trainings led by LGBTQ teen leaders to Hebrew High school teens; and
5. Koslowe Art Gallery open house featuring a gay artist.

WJC also displays Mosaic materials on information tables and safe space postcards on bulletin boards. The synagogue membership form was changed to utilize gender neutral language, and clergy have spoken about LGBTQ inclusion from the pulpit.

While these are significant steps, there is still more work to be done. Can we do more to help the transgender community feel safe and welcome in our shul? (Some local synagogues designate a unisex or all gender bathroom.) Can we shift our culture, policy and programming in our religious school to be more LGBTQ inclusive? Can we implement an annual Pride Shabbat to celebrate LGBTQ individuals, families, and allies?

As part of the Westchester Jewish Council Mosaic LGBTQ Roundtable, we are committed to continuing the conversation with WJC about these issues. We welcome your input. Email Bina Raskin at binah922@gmail.com.
“Handmade Observance”
New Exhibit Opening at WJC’s Own Koslowe Gallery

Gallery Opening: Thursday, January 18 • 7:45pm

AMY LEVINE-KENNEDY
KOSLOWE CURATOR

The Koslowe Gallery welcomes 2018 with a newly curated show, “Handmade Observance.” Through their finely crafted quilts and sculpture, fiber artists Rachel Kanter, Heather Stoltz and Tamar Drucker, share their explorations of Judaism, social justice issues, gender binaries and domesticity and offer their perspectives on contemporary U.S. society and Israel.

Rachel Kanter, who began in ceramics, is known for her tallitot, inspired by historical prayer shawls and vintage patterns from the 20th century. Rachel’s fiber-sculpted ritual objects, “Spiritual Mikvaot,” suggest healing, aging, family, relationships and reproduction. Raised in Syracuse, Rachel has shown her work widely, including the Jewish Museum in NYC, the Contemporary Jewish Museum in SF, Hebrew Union College and Temple Emanuel, NY. She lectures and has been featured in 500 Judaica, Lilith, Hadassah and Zeek magazines. Rachel is on the executive committee of the Jewish Art Salon in NYC.

Heather Stoltz was named to the The Jewish Week’s “36 under 36” list in 2012, after showing her Manhattan Community Arts Fund installation “Temporary Shelter,” about homeless New Yorkers. Heather, who formerly coached Special Olympics gymnasts, shares stories about social justice, the intersection of Judaism and life and parenthood. Heather offers workshops and custom Judaica, has attended various art residency programs and is featured in exhibitions nationwide. Her publications include “Quilts and Human Rights” and “Jewish Threads.”

Tamar Drucker was raised in Israel and lives in NY. Formerly a physical therapist, she teaches Hebrew at Solomon Schechter, Westchester, and offers fiber art workshops independently. Focusing on landscapes and portraits, Tamar has been quilling since 1978. She belongs to Northern Star Quilt Guild in Somers, the Israel Quilters Association and Studio Art Quilt Association (SAQA), and exhibits internationally. Her work appears in 500 Art Quilts and SAQA publications.

Please join us at a gallery opening on Thursday evening, January 18th, 2018, at 7:45pm, featuring talks by the artists. The exhibition will be on view through March 2018.
Reflection and Action in 2018: SOJAC Interfaith Initiatives

Micha 6:1: Listen to what HaShem says: “Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say.”

A New Day for African-American and Jewish Communities’ Relationships

CLIFF WOLF

Rabbi Yolkut, together with WJC’s SoJAC/Interfaith Committee, is taking a lead role in organizing a regional Multi-faith Service and Beloved Community Dinner on “Facing Racism: Bearing Witness and Bringing Hope” to be held in Westchester on Sunday afternoon, January 28 starting at 3:30pm. (Location TBA). The event is a continuation of, and will include, many of the same participants as the service WJC hosted for “Victims of Violent Extremism” two years ago in February 2016. This will be part of the face we present to the neighborhood at large. Members of WJC and all other congregations are invited to submit a brief written testimony of their personal experiences of racism (defined as micro-aggressions against people of color), and how white people came to realize the unique hardships people of color face, to be distributed at the event. The service will be followed by a dinner, giving us the opportunity to share a meal with people from other communities. There may be an opportunity for WJC to develop joint programming with a local black church, as synagogues in some other communities have. This is a work in progress, so stay tuned.

For further information contact Sharon Silver at Sraplata@msn.com.

Day of Action with Neighbors for Refugees

HOLLY ROSEN FINK

Following a successful WJC day of education and action for refugees at WJC last June, Neighbors for Refugees (co-founded by WJC and other local houses of worship) and Larchmont Avenue Church are co-hosting a Day of Action on January 21st from 2:30-4:30 pm. The day will provide opportunities for all members of our community to advocate for refugees through education, action and involvement.

Attendees will:
• Advocate by writing post cards and signing petitions;
• Donate to support refugees in our community; and
• Learn from a Syrian refugee, a former US Marine Corps officer and field historian, representatives of settlement agencies and student refugee activists.

Look for details in the weeks to come. For further information, contact Holly Rosen Fink at holly_Rosen@yahoo.com, or 917-774-4076

Kehillah: WJC and Project Ezra come together to celebrate Hanukkah

JANICE MALETT

The first snowfall of the year was Sat., Dec. 9. It snowed, and snowed and……we were a little worried about the fate of the Project Ezra “Peoplehood” event scheduled for the next day, Sunday, Dec. 10. I’m happy to say the elders made it to the bus on the Lower East Side and arrived at WJC a little before noon. No surprise really. What’s a little snow to a population of elderly Jews, many of whom spent their youth in the forests of Poland and for sure never checked the weather report when fleeing east or west, whatever direction took them away from Nazis, Soviets and whoever else was in pursuit?

Once the elders arrived, we celebrated Hanukkah with songs accompanied by Cantor Goldberg. We ate latkas and sufgoniyot. The first candle was lit by Jack from Project Ezra who sang the bracha in a strong voice and who, incidentally, is 103. But most of all, we celebrated freedom, the freedom won by the victory of the Jews over the Syrians, and especially the freedom in America.

Four Project Ezra men and women shared their stories of life under tyranny and subsequent liberation from Russia, Belarus and Prague. Each and every one spoke with devotion and appreciation to America for the freedoms they found, particularly religious freedom, to openly celebrate Hanukkah and for the opportunity to reach their full potential in a free land. Each in turn also expressed their appreciation to WJC for the continuing connection between our two communities and for helping them feel very much a part of the greater kehillah. And that, after all is the point.

My utmost appreciation for all the volunteers who made this event happen. Thank you Adria and Harvey Pass, Jerry Malett, Viera Noy and her friend Sophia, Cheryl Natbony, Monica Freidman, John and Alex Lepore, Holly Fink, Jama Purser, Bina Raskin, Dahna Freidus, Lisa and Ritchie Zeitoun. Special thanks to Rabbi Segelman, Cantor Ethan Goldberg. Jose Luis and his crew, Adam Bender for organizing the youth and the youth themselves who greeted, plated and served and hopefully went away with a piece of history and an appreciation for the freedoms they have.

Teens
Peter Jacob Ferraro
Jessica Kaplan
Sydney Weisstuch
Maddie Konvisser
Bradley Magram
Alex Lepore w/dad
Remi Cohen

Jenna Ferraro
Charolette Goldstein
Sirsha O’Day w/mom
Margot Zeitoun w/parents
Alexandra Magram
Olivia Fink w/mom
Benji Shokrian

www.wjcenter.org
January 2018 - The WJC Review
Sisterhood Tree of Life

Commemorate your joyous occasions by inscribing a leaf on the WJC Sisterhood Tree of Life.

Contact Susan Levy, 914-834-2456
Involvement! We saw it at work at the Big Bazaar. An endless number of members spent precious and tiring hours of their time in a totally unselfish devotion to our Center, making this the biggest Bazaar in recent history.

The list of people giving of themselves in so many ways is overwhelming. To thank everyone who donated merchandise, sold or bought raffles, manned booths, helped in setting up, donated food, devoted their efforts to our “Café” and handled publicity, we can only offer our love and humble thanks for a job well done. A great success deserves another great success - Let’s make it bigger next year!

Dear friends, our hearts are full. We love and thank you all.

Joy and Saby Castro

ARCHIVE

From The Review of January 1979

JILL CASLIN

AN EVENING OF RENEWAL
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

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

Sunday, January 21 • 7:00pm

Assistant Rabbi’s Fund
In honor of...
Bradley Frank’s Auf Ruf
From Jeffrey & Rhonda Frank
Max Fink’s Bar Mitzvah
From The Fink Family
Rabbi Adir & Lauren Bender’s engagement
From Arnold & Shari Baum

In appreciation
From Naphtali & Shanna Joseph

In memory of...
Zoila Luskin
From Martin Luskin
Lillian Marcus
From Gail & Marty Marcus

Cantor’s Fund
In honor of...
Max Fink’s Bar Mitzvah
From The Fink Family

In memory of...
Zoila Luskin
From Martin Luskin

Comfy Spaces Fund
In honor of...
Andrew Glener’s Bar Mitzvah
From Nancy & Steven Glener

In memory of...
Elise Luskin
From Sarene Shanus & Harold Treiber
Fred H. Marcus
From Sarene Shanus & Harold Treiber
Stanley George Sussman
From Gail Marcus

General Fund
In honor of...
Edward & Arlyn Gardner’s dedication to WJC
From Paul & Linda Lee

Donation from...
the Estate of Judith Gabor

Holocaust Learning Center
In memory of...
Irving Badner
From Victor Badner

Ilonne Arouh Teen Scholarship Memorial Fund
In memory of...
Ilonne Arouh
From Karen, Jeffrey & Russell Arouh
Fred H. Marcus
From Lisa, Ritchie & Margot Zeitoun

From www.wjcenter.org
**Landscape Fund**
*In memory of...*
- Ruth Golub
  - From Joan & Stuart Schapiro
- Robert Bergner
  - From Joan & Stuart Schapiro

**Kiddish Fund**
*In honor of...*
- Harvey Herman
  - From Pamela Mizrahi
- Anna Rosenberg
  - From Pamela Mizrahi
- the auf ruf of Ari Michaeli & Allison Rosenfeld
  - From Ellen Dunkin & Joseph Michaeli

- In memory of... 
  - Fred H. Marcus
  - From Susan Goldberger & Stewart Ault

**Library Fund**
*In memory of...*
- Elise Luskin
  - From Judy & Howard Zweig
- Cindy, Randy & Marissa Heller
- George Woll
  - From Bernice Rosen
- Samuel Rosen
  - From Bernice Rosen
- Abe Rosen
  - From Bernice Rosen

- In memory of... 
  - Gregory Shafritz
  - From Marion & Walter Reichman

**Judaica Gallery Fund**
*In honor of...*
- Leslie Millman
  - From Yvonne Tropp & Alan Epstein

**Memorial Fund**
*In memory of...*
- Elise Luskin
  - From Alan J. Hoffman
- Lawrence Beaser
- Amy Tenney Levere
- Nathaniel Jones
- Tom & Robin Westle
- John & Joan Spierger
- Albert & Julie Ann Krachman
- Jerry Bernstein & Ann Berlstein
- Mary Fish & Mark Dembert
- Ruth Golub
  - From Cindy & Randy Heller
- Melissa Gitelman & Steven Silverman
- Jane & Rich Bernstein
- Gail & Marty Marcus
- Fred H. Marcus
  - From Gail & Marty Marcus

**Musical Enrichment Fund**
*In memory of...*
- Beverly Bielsky
  - From Marilyn & Robert Reader
- Joel & Sondra Levy
- Seymour Weissman
  - From Jennifer & Jeffrey Lavine
- Albertine Sassoon
  - From Albert Sassoon
- Harold Diamond
  - From David Diamond
- George Abrams
  - From Marilyn Weisbrot & Ira Abrams
- Dorothy Malett
  - From Arnold & Shari Baum
- Morris Baum
  - From Arnold & Shari Baum
- Harold Birnbaum
  - From Arnold & Shari Baum
- Jack Gitelman
  - From Melissa Gitelman
- Rosalind Aron
  - From Sarah & Alan Aron
- Abba Bornstein
  - From Sarah & Alan Aron
- Sylvia Wiesel
  - From Andrea Leaf
- Judith Nash
  - From Andrea Leaf
- Arnold Bortman
  - From Eileen Lehrer
- Godfrey Herman
  - From Laraine Fischer
- Fred H. Marcus
  - From Dina Brot
- Dorothy Malett
  - From Joel & Barbara Schloss Weinberg

**Nursery School Fund**
*In memory of...*
- Aaron Meadow
  - From Amy & Craig Rosuck

**Sisterhood Prayerbook Fund**
*In honor of...*
- the birth of Henry Greenberg
  - From Joel & Barbara Schloss Weinberg

**Social Justice Action Fund**
*In appreciation*
- From Sheldon Linden
- Bob Marion & Beth Schoenbrun
- Larry Neuman
- Florence & Barry Sideroff
- Gail & Martin Marcus
- Rivka Michaeli

- In memory of... 
  - Edith Nissenblatt
  - From Amy Doberman & Joe Griminger
- Elise Luskin
  - From Martin Luskin
- Brad Scheler & Amy Frolick
- Roy Katz, Katie and Benjamin McLoughlin
- The Kriss Family
- Aaron Meadow
  - From Peter & Eileen Lehrer
- Adelyn & Myron Segelman
  - From Peter & Eileen Lehrer
- Steven Carol
  - From Jim & Leslie Weightman
- Ruth Golub
  - From Jackie & Sol Israel
- Estelle Shack
  - From Gail & Marty Marcus
- Barbara Barish
  - From Stuart Barish

- In appreciation of 
  - Rabbi Segelman for Ninna’s meaningful unveiling
  - From Katie McLoughlin
- Maria Edelson
- Ruth Glass
- Randi Klaber
- Jill Caslin

**Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund**
*In honor of...*
- Eve Atterman & Rich Shanfeld’s wedding
  - From Neal & Dora Atterman
- the engagement of Sam Berger & Liza Cohen
  - from Sherman & Patricia Berger
- Max Fink’s Bar Mitzvah
  - From The Fink Family
- Stanley & Ellen Adler’s Wedding Anniversary
  - From Marla & Robert Sassoon
- Rachel Frank’s wedding
  - From Arnold & Shari Baum

**Religious School Enhancement Fund**
*In honor of...*
- Andrew Glener’s Bar Mitzvah
  - From Nancy & Steven Glener
ISRAELI MOVIE NIGHT

To Take A Wife
This 2004 drama written and directed by Ronit Alkabetz stars Alkabetz in this semi-autobiographical work about her parents’ rocky relationship.

The film is 99 minutes long, is in French, Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles, and is unrated.

Wednesday, January 17, 7:45pm
In the Activity Center

Free to All – Invite Your Friends!

$5 donation to cover cost of refreshments is welcome and appreciated

Please RSVP to Linda Alpert Karell at: lalpertesq@gmail.com

SPONSORED BY THE WJC ISRAEL COMMITTEE

SECOND ANNUAL
FUN & Game Night

Saturday • February 3rd • 8:00pm

Join friends, make friends and have fun!
Enjoy a winter night playing games, socializing and of course, noshing. Activities for everyone!

Be a kid again! Lots of laughs guaranteed!

$18 per person.
Contact Rosie at adminasst@wjcenter.org to sign-up!

For more information contact: Robin Nichinsky rnichinsky@gmail.com
David Miller dlmiller418@gmail.com