

EREVIEW

WESTCHESTER JEWISH CENTER

FEBRUARY 2018 - VOLUME 77 NUMBER 6 - SH'VAT/ADAR 5778

February 2018 Highlights

- Community Shabbat Dinner 6:30pm
 Rhythm & Ruach 7:30pm
- 3 Game Night 7pm
- 4 Brotherhood World Wide Wrap

Minyan - 8:30am

Speaker - 9:15am

WJC Community Day - 10am

- 5 Israeli Dancing 7:30pm
- 6 "Thank God It's Torah" 9:45am JOY Java Club – 1pm
- 10 Simple and Soulful 10:15am
- 11 Brotherhood Blood Drive 8am Tax Law Panel – 9:am
- 12 Israeli Dancing 7:30pm
- 13 Thank God It's Torah 9:45amJOY Java Club 1pm
- 15 Israeli Movie 7:30pm
- 18 No RS
- 19 Presidents' Day Schools & Office closed
- 20-23 RS & ECC Closed
- 20 JOY Java Club 1pm Men's Basketball – 8pm
- 22 Israeli Dancing 7:30pm
- 25 No RS
- 26 Israeli Dancing 7:30pm
- 27 Thank God It's Torah 9:45amJOY Java Club 1pmMen's Basketball 8pm
- 28 Congregation Megillah Reading 7:30pm Erev Purim – No RS

Youth & Teens Programs

- 4 PJ Library Story Time 11:00am
- 6 Hebrew High-Aleph 6pm
- 10 Pastries & Parsha 10:30am
- 11 4th Grade Family Program 10am
- 13 Hebrew High-Bet 6pm
- 18 No RS
- 19 Presidents' Day Schools & Office closed
- 20-23 RS & ECC Closed
- 20 No Hebrew High
- 25 No RS
- 27 Hebrew High Broadway Trip 4:30pm
- 28 Erev Purim No RS
 ECC Family Purim Celebration TBD
 Congregation Megillah Reading 7:30pm

Teens Find Community and New Meaning During Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend Service Trip

BY JENNA FERRARO, 9TH GRADE

This Martin Luther King weekend I went on WJC Teens' yearly service learning trip to Houston, Texas, which is still recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. It was an amazing experience. We helped at the Houston Food Bank, a local Conservative synagogue, and an organization called "Undies for Everyone" where we packed over 2,500 pairs of new underwear for kids in need.

From Sheryl Eskowitz at Congregation Beth Yeshurun, we heard how their entire synagogue, including the main sanctuary, had been damaged. The extensive loss from the flood was unbelievably upsetting and an eye-opening experience. We helped unpack books in their library that had been emptied and taken apart after the flood. Although it was very hard work, it was worth it because we were helping bring the synagogue one step closer to recovery after the storm.

At the Houston Food Bank, I was astonished to learn that children comprise a large number of the 800,000 people fed annually. This made me feel grateful for what I have. At the food bank, we packed boxes upon boxes of rice, which at the end of the day amounted to over 1,500 bags! I was so tired when our volunteering came to an end, but I couldn't help but smile knowing that I helped all those people feel a little less hungry.

We also went to a Temple in a poorer neighborhood to make mezuzahs for people whose houses were damaged or destroyed in the flood. Destruction from the flood was immediately evident when we arrived at the Temple, including leaking bathroom pipes and drains gushing water. It was sad to see, because I knew in other more affluent neighborhoods, this would have been an easy fix.



continued on page 5



THE REVIEW of **WESTCHESTER JEWISH CENTER**

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The True Benchmark of Leaders

RABBI ADIR YOLKUT

From a very young age, whether explicitly or implicitly, I believe I was taught that to be a leader means to be brash and bombastic. Unafraid to take charge in a situation, the leader in various youth to young adult settings was the person who often had the loudest voice. In this month though, where we honor the leaders who have dignified one of the greatest offices in our land, let us look to our tradition to frame a different way to look at leadership, that of presence and empathy.

In the vast swaths of the Mishnah that detail the minutiae of the Temple service, there is a profound teaching (2:2) in the tractate of Middot that illustrates how the worship took place:

"All who would enter the temple mount entered toward the right, and would encircle it and exit through the left, aside for one to which something unfavorable has occurred, that he would encircle it towards the left [even when he entered]. [If he was asked] 'Why are you encircling towards the left?' [If he answered] 'Because I am a mourner,' [they would respond] 'He who rests in this house should comfort you.' [If he answered] 'Because I am excommunicated,' [they would respond] 'He who dwells in this house should put into their [the judges'] hearts and they will draw you near."

Not only is this teaching transformative for what it illustrates about being welcoming for communities, but it also elucidates an important but elusive leadership concept. So often, when we are put in leadership positions, we are incredibly worried about our own ambition and drive. How do I look? How is my vision being implemented? Although this serves an important purpose, it also blocks our ability to look outward and think about the people we are serving.

In the Temple, everyone walked in the same direction except those people to whom misfortune had occurred. Instead of their flow in the room just being observed, we are told that those who were there asked them what amounts to "what is going on in your life right now?" In response to whatever their challenge was, some sort of empathy and concern was voiced. God should provide you comfort for whatever your situation is.

When we are leaders, this is how we should operate. Look around the room and see whose eyes are looking sorrowful. When you are at Kiddush the next time, find someone sitting alone at a table with their head down, and ask them how they are doing. The willingness to place others' needs before our own is a true benchmark of leaders. It's a simple step. All it takes is learning how to ask the right questions and listen.



Cindy Heller

Saturday, February 3: Yitro - Jethro

Moses' father in law, Yitro, advises Moses to create a body of leaders to help share his load of leadership. The people are selected to be a Kingdom of Priests and encamp on Mt. Sinai where God comes down in a dramatic scene of thunder and lightning to give them the 10 commandments through Moses.

Saturday, February 10: Mishpatim/Shabbat Shekalim – Laws

Lawyers' favorite portion as a multitude of laws are given in the aftermath of the revelation at Sinai, Laws of damages, loans, how courts should operate, how to treat foreigners, and holiday observance are just some examples. The famous expression "we will do and we will listen" is the response of the Jewish people to God.

Saturday, February 17: Trumah - Donation

The Israelites are called upon to donate a myriad of items to help with the construction of the tabernacle. Moses receives very detailed instructions from God on how exactly this tabernacle should be constructed.

Saturday, February 24: Tetzaveh/Shabbat Zakhor – You Shall

Moses commands the Israelites to gather oil for the purposes of the everlasting flame in the tabernacle. We also learn of the intricacies of the garb of the high priests as well as the pomp and circumstance of their ordination ceremony where Aaron and his sons are prepared for the Priesthood.



Rhythm & Ruach

Led by our talented musical ensemble that encourages participation, Rhythm & Ruach is a soulful space and the perfect way to enter into Shabbat.

Friday, February 2 • 7:30pm: Instrumental Service



Simple & Soulful

Let your spirit soar as we journey through a focused 90-minute Shabbat morning service, featuring personal reflection, group prayer and singing accompanied by instruments.

Saturday, February 10 • 10:15-11:45am

CENTER OF PRAYER & CELEBRATION

Shabbat & Holiday Services

Check weekly emails as programs and times are subject to change

Friday, February 2	
Kabbalat Shabbat	5:00pm
Family Shabbat Service	6:00pm
Community Shabbat Dinner	6:30pm
Rhythm & Ruach	7:30pm

Saturday, February 3

Torah Class	8:45am
Shabbat Services	9:30am
Mincha Ma'ariv	5:00pm

Friday February 9

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Kabbalat Shabbat	5:00pm

Saturday, February 10

Torah Class	8:45am
Shabbat Services	9:30am
Simple & Soulful	10:15am
Pastries & Parsha	10:30am
Shevet Achim Gam Yachad	11:45am
Mincha Ma'ariv	5:00pm

Friday, February 16

Kabbalat Shabbat	5:15pm

Saturday, February 17

Torah Study	8:45am
Shabbat Services	9:30am
Mincha Ma'ariv	5:15pm

Friday, February 23

Kabbalat Shabbat	5:15pm

Saturday, February 24

Shabbat Services	9:30am
Mincha Ma'ariv	5:15pm

Wednesday, February 28

Congregation Megillah Reading	7:30pm
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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

CENTER OF COMMUNITY

WJC BROTHERHOOD >>>

STU SELTZER & CRAIG RUBIN

CO-PRESIDENTS

World Wide Wrap XVII & "Olympic Performance" talk by Robert Herbst on Super Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 4 • Minyan: 8:30am; Talk: 9:15am

Wear your favorite football jersey to Sunday morning minyan. Breakfast with WJC member and 19-time World Champion powerlifter and Hall of Famer, Robert Herbst who will talk at 9:15am about lessons from life in the Olympic Village that may help your own Olympian performance.

Blood and Taxes

Sunday, February 11

Blood Drive 9am-1:30pm

Your donation can save up to three lives. New donors needed and walk-ins welcomed. Schedule to donate at: www.redcrossblood.org • keyword: WJC

New Tax Law and You 10-11:30am

Breakfast with expert panel of WJC members, Cindy Golub, Cindy Goldstein, & Alan Dlugash, on how the new tax law affects you and learn new tax strategies.

WJC SISTERHOOD



ILEEN GREENBERG & CAROL FASMAN

CO-PRESIDENTS

Ladies' Night Out: Bowling

Tuesday, February 13 • 7:30-9:30pm

Two hours of bowling, pizza, beverages and dessert in New Roc City. Try winning the now famous Trophies of Honor! Cost is \$36 and payable that evening by cash or check. RSVP by 2/5 to Cathy Dobkins at 914-714-3322 or cathydobkins@gmail.com.

Mah Jongg & Canasta Evening

March 13 • 7:30-10:00pm

All welcome: \$20 for members; \$25 others. Wine & snacks will be served. Mah Jongg instruction for beginner tables of 4 or more. RSVP: Sisterhood10543@gmail.com





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Mazel Tov & Best Wishes to Rabbi Jef & Marla Segelman on the birth of a granddaughter Miryam Tziporah, to Yael Cohen & Uri Segelman...Adam Herz on his marriage to Danielle Zalaznick...Laura Chess & Family on the wedding of her daughter, Lila to Aron Kandel.

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Andrew Bauman & Family on the loss of his mother, Lillian Bauman... Marcie Berger & Family on the loss of her father, Martin Fields...Linda Schwartzreich & Family on the loss of her father, Manny Sher...Jay Fischer & Family on the loss of his brother, Marc Fischer...Dan Rosenbaum & Family on the loss of his father. Lester Rosenbaum...Bill Caslin & Family on the loss of his sister, Monica Montanaro.

In Memoriam

The Westchester Jewish Center mourns the passing of our friend and longtime member Alan Aron.

Our condolences are extended to his wife Sarah and to the entire family. May his memory be a blessing.





LEADERSHIP

JEFFREY LAVINE

WJC PRESIDENT

From a bus tour around the West Side of Houston, we could see and really understand how much damage was done. We saw a lot of forsale signs, houses being put on stilts, and even houses being completely abandoned and ripped away from the original property. While these sights

There we met with a nice woman, named Chava, who recently started a nonprofit where she makes and gathers donated mezuzahs and menorahs and Judaica items for people whose houses were destroyed. We made

clay mezuzzahs for people to hang on their doors. It was rewarding to know that our handiwork was also restoring faith in people's homes.

were disturbing, we were glad to be there to help these families in need and give them food and clean underwear. The group we traveled with is what also helped to make this such a meaningful experience. There were only 14 of us, but we had the chance

to get to know each other and bond in a way we usually do not get to on your average Tuesday night. I can speak for everyone in saying we feel much closer as a community after spending time together in Houston. The experience was unforgettable and I can't wait to help another community in need next year.



WORLD JEWRY COMMITTEE >>>

Fighting for Refugees Admission to the US in 2018

HOLLY ROSEN FINK

In 2017, the current Presidential Administration did everything it could to radically decrease the number of refugees admitted to the United States. The new year does not promise to be any easier. With the historically low 'Presidential Determination' of 45,000 for fiscal year 2018, Neighbors for Refugees (NFR), our partnership organization, will continue to fight to ensure that the U.S. actually meets its refugee admissions goal and that the U.S. refugee resettlement program is supported at the national, state and local levels. NFR looks forward to joining forces with their partners, HIAS and Catholic Charities, again this year as we collectively stand up and speak out in support of refugees and this country's proud history by welcoming more refugees to Westchester. To find out more about their efforts and to donate, head to www.neighborsforrefugees.com.

This month, The Review focuses on the theme of leadership. In the secular world in which we live, we celebrate the birth of some of our country's historical leaders and reflect on what it takes to be a great leader. But leadership doesn't just take place on the grand national stage. Leadership at the local level is very important as well. It helps to create, foster, grow and sustain communities such as ours at WJC. Our leaders do not just run the synagogue, they act as role models (to our community and their own individual families) and help to shape our future.

I am often asked how one becomes a leader at WJC. There is no one roadmap, but let me offer a few suggestions. The first piece of advice is to get involved in any way you can. Many leaders began their involvement by attending events that interested them. From there, they were either asked to join a committee to plan an event or asked by me or some other leader to get involved. Sometimes I have been asked to keep someone in mind to help in the future - which I frequently do. One of my first forays into leadership involved co-chairing the Brotherhood Blood Drive, after having attended some events and serving on a committee for a Brotherhood educational event. As leadership looks to expand committees and bring in new faces, it won't be long until you are asked to join a committee, if you are interested.

We have some successful programs to help our new leaders. We have the very innovative Sulam for Emerging Leaders, led by Larry Thaler. This program gives our young prospective leaders a chance to learn a bit of Torah and some leadership skills with peers and one of our rabbis. It helps prepare future Jewish leaders with the tools they need to be successful. A number of Trustees and Officers are Sulam graduates. We don't stop the education and nurturing of our leaders there. We now have mentor and orientation programs for new Trustees and Officers. The goal is to make our new Officers and Trustees more comfortable, effective advocates in their roles and better synagogue ambassadors as they take on additional leadership responsibilities. The expression about getting back more than you give when you immerse yourself in this type of leadership is very true. We just try to help you find a way to start. I encourage anyone who wants to become more involved in WJC to reach out to me through the office or by email at president@wjcenter.org.

Let me mention a few programs and happenings of note. As you already read, our young leaders travelled to Houston this month. Yasher koach to our teens for the great service work they did and thank you to Adam Bender and all those involved in making this happen. Thank you to Myra Glajchen and Karen Everett for a special Scholar-in-Residence with Rabbi Michael Paley. If you haven't had the opportunity to study and learn with Rabbi Paley, you've missed a rare opportunity to feel uplifted and think on a higher plane. And if Game Night hasn't already occurred by the time you read this, please join us for a fun filled evening of some games you may remember and some new ones! Special thanks to David Miller, Robin Nichinsky and the committee who created such a fun-filled event for all.

5th Grade and Slices from the Pie of Life

ALEZA KULP

EDUCATION DIRECTOR AND CONGREGATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Recently I had the opportunity to be part of a conversation our Kitah Hey (5th grade) students were having about the *middah* (value) *Sameach B'Chelkoh*, that one should be happy with one's portion in life. Each student created a list of what they need in life versus what they want. Common items in the "need column" were water, shelter, food, family, friends and clothing. One student listed medicine as a need which led to a discussion about why people might need medicine to live.

What I found very interesting was the debate for the need for community amongst members of the class. Do we need community to help us be happy in life? I wanted the students to think of a pizza pie and each slice was a part of our lives. Does community fit into that pizza? Yes! For example, being counted in a minyan when a person is reciting Kaddish is community. In addition, helping to make sandwiches for members of those in need is community. And hearing the Megillah being read on Purim is community. Celebrating with friends and family at their Bar or Bat Mitzvah is definitely community for each of these students.

As the students in Kitah Hey begin to think about becoming a B'nei Mitzvah in the coming years, I hope each of them will value the portion given in their life and how community is an essential part of their individual pie.











Loose Parts in a Reggio-Inspired Curriculum

SABRINA LANDAU EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER DIRECTOR

On Tuesday, January 9th, our ECC had a wonderful program with play curator, Linda White. Each class visited her "imagination studio" and engaged with the materials she brought. Using loose parts, the children played, explored and began using terms for creation that are seldom heard in other classroom experiences. After school ended, our ECC teachers began to play and explore as well. In our continuing professional development, Linda facilitated a workshop where we all learned new ways to engage children in conversation (questions we can ask, comments we can use during moments of play) to help deepen the learning already going on in our classrooms.

"Loose parts" are just that – a collection of various materials ranging from plastic pieces to recycled items, things found in nature to materials generally used for art activities. There is no set way to play with these items and using them fosters creativity and imagination.

In 1972, an architect named Simon Nicholoson developed "The Theory of Loose Parts." He said: "In any environment, both the degree of inventiveness and creativity, and the possibility of discovery, are directly proportional to the number and kind of variables in it."

Creating environments in which children can explore open ended materials allows for deep meaningful learning opportunities. It allows children to engage and construct their own knowledge, a principle of our Reggio- inspired curriculum.

Our classrooms reflect the fundamental beliefs of the Reggio Emilia preschools founded by Loris Malaguzzi where the child is viewed as "competent and capable" with inner creativity. Using loose parts helps foster these important skills.





The deadline for content submission for March is February 6th - review@wjcenter.org

PURIMSHPIEL 2018 12 Great Years! (16 In All)

Sunday, March 11 • 7:00-9:00pm • Free

RANDY HELLER

We're not always great, but we're cute. And we are also the most fun you can have with your kippah on. It's the largest laugh-fest at WJC outside of Yom Kippur.

This year our band of merry men (and lawyer-certified, never-harassed) women will present as our featured production *Little Shop of Challahs*, in which Mordecai and Esther yet again sing and dance their way to victory over Haman in 3-part harmony (well, assisted by others) and wearing whatever authentic period costumes they can dig up from the Salvation Army. Think of it as SNL, live from Shushan, distilled through Alan Menken's amazing score, on a budget of zero. But our hearts are in the right place.

But wait, there's more! (no, we're not throwing in your leaders and gutters). Clergy will be skewered. Highbrows will be lowered. And your Executive Director will rue the day he agreed to come to WJC.

See you on Sunday evening, March 11, 2018, 7-9pm. Free. (Oh, so



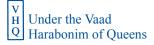


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HOLLY ROSEN FINK

George Gershwin. Louis B. Mayer. Woody Allen. Bob Dylan. George Burns. Barbara Streisand. What do these entertainers have in common? Jewishness! For years they have been honing their skills in front of microphones and behind the camera. About 50 years ago, Jewish entertainers suddenly became encouraged to tell everyone what they really thought, as well as who they really were. Jewish stories became an important part of mainstream culture with all their intelligence, outrage, self-deprecation, and incredible sense of humor.

The World Jewry Committee has teamed up with three authors who have written extensively about Jewish characters or shows/films largely centered around Jewish characters. Jennifer Armstrong, the author of Seinfeldia, will talk about the history and legendary status a TV show has had on mainstream culture. Erin Carlson, the author of I'll Have What She's Having, takes readers behind the scenes of the late writer/director's big three: When Harry Met Sally, Sleepless in Seattle and You've Got Mail. Lastly, Isaac Butler, co-author of The World Only Spins Forward: The Ascent of Angels in America, will discuss one of the most Jewish shows ever made: Transparent on Amazon Prime.

Here are the dates:

Seinfeld Wednesday, March 7th, 2018, 7:45-9:15pm Nora Ephron Sunday, March 18th, 2018, 1 - 2:30pm Transparent Wednesday, April 11th, 2018, 7:45 - 9:15pm

All events will take place in the Activity Room and food and beverages will be served. There will also be book signings and books will be sold.

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CENTER OF CARING FOR THE WORLD

A Welcoming Journey Makes the Day for Project Ezra Senior

In December, SoJAC organized a Peoplehood intergenerational luncheon for senior members of the Lower East Side's Project Ezra. The welcoming gestures of one of our younger members made a lasting impression and elicited the following handwritten thank you note.

December 14, 2017

Ms. Janice Malett Westchester Jewish Center

Dear Ms. Malett,

On Dec. 10 I rode on a van from the lower east side of Manhattan to your Jewish Center as a guest from Project Ezra. The ride was long and I needed a rest room. You asked a young lady to help me and she took me to a rest room, holding my coat, waited for me, and then helped me and my walker to the beautiful dining hall. I knew this was going to be a lovely day.

The food was delicious, plentiful and served by the young folks. The whole attitude was being in a dining room with family and friends. You and the members of the Center did a really great job of making everyone feel welcome.

I personally thank you for inviting Project Ezra for a lovely afternoon to welcome Chanukah.

Sincerely, Fleanor Rosenthal

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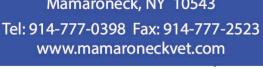
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From The Review of February 2001

JILL CASLIN ARCHIVIST

Sherry and Larry Thaler have sponsored an Ethiopian student. That makes seventy WJC Scholars! Most people have gotten information about and pictures of their students by now. If you haven't, please call Ruth Obernbreit. Sondra and Irving Zapson have contributed to stave off famine in Ethiopia. Thank you all for your generosity.

Cindy Heller is chairing the new *Bikkur Cholim* meal program. Please call Cindy if you know anyone who needs a meal delivered because of illness, bereavement, or a new baby. Glatt kosher food is available; otherwise, home cooking will be provided.

Thank you, Cindy, for providing this service to our community.

ISRAELI DANCE FOR TEENS AND FAMILIES

with master teacher and choreographer Shmulik Gov-Ari

MONDAYS

Family & Beginners: 7-7:45pm Intermediate & Advanced: 7:45-10pm

\$10 WJC Members • \$13 Non-members Free for Kids & Teens

Contact: Linda Alpert Karell, lalpertesq@gmail.com or 914-584-6738

ON PLANNING AHEAD

Make a sad event a bit easier to bear...
Consider making arrangements now,
before there is an urgent need. The WJC
Cemetery Association oversees our
beautiful and convenient cemetery. 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

Sisterhood Tree of Life

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

Cotact Susan Levy, 914-834-2456



Project Ezra Food Drive February 25 - March 18

Help Lower East Side elders and Bronx families, the sick and the seniors prepare for Passover.

All ages can fulfill the mitzvah by dropping off certified OU/Kosher for Passover foods to WJC.

Watch your inboxes for details and list of requested foods.

Contact SoJAC's Sharon Silver, sraplata@msn.com for more info.

Adult Education Fund

In memory of...

Lester Rosenbaum

From Joe Griminger & Amy Doberman

Assistant Rabbi's Fund

In honor of...

Alexander Musicus' Bar Mitzvah From Andrew & Julie Musicus & Family

> With thanks & appreciation From Ellen Marcus

In memory of...
Fred H. Marcus
From Sharon & Jacques Steinberg
Clara Feinberg
From Sharon & Jacques Steinberg
Ruth Golub
From Sharon & Jacques Steinberg

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Ellen & Don Walker
From Wendi & Ed Schechter

With thanks & appreciation From Ellen Marcus

In appreciation... From Andrea & Edward Rosenbaum

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From Sarene Shanus & Harold Treiber

In memory of... Lester Rosenbaum

From Sarene Shanus & Harold Treiber

Manny Sher

From Sarene Shanus & Harold Treiber

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From Sarene Shanus & Harold Treiber

General Fund

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From Andrea & Edward Rosenbaum

In memory of...
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From Phil & Roz Silverstein

Donation from... Mike Meadow Andrea & Howard Leaf

Holocaust Learning Center

In memory of...

Harry Ault

From Susan Goldberger & Stewart Ault

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From Sarah Becker & Robert Zimmerman

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In memory of... Ben Applebaum From Glen Applebaum Murray Ginsberg From Marilyn Weisbrot Lester Rosenbaum From Ellen & Don Walker

Library Fund

In honor of... Ellen & Stanley Adler's 60th Wedding Anniversary From Shirley & Lenny Queen

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Lester Millman

From Bonnie Silverman & David Nanus the WJC Renewal Service

From Sarah Becker & Robert Zimmerman

In appreciation

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Bill Caslin's sister Monica Montanaro

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