Spring forward to May 6th and WJC’s Annual Gala Honoring Two Stellar Couples:
Abby & Gabriel Tolchinsky and Caren & Rich Gerszberg

It’s the middle of winter, but mark your calendars for May 6th—the night of this year’s WJC Spring Gala. We are busy planning and will be paying tribute to Abby and Gabriel Tolchinsky and Caren and Rich Gerszberg. Not only is the Gala a huge fun party, but also, an important fundraiser for so many of the temple’s fantastic programs.

In this issue, we present a bit of background on Abby and Gaby. In April, we will present Caren & Rich to you.

The Tolchinskys joined WJC when they moved to Larchmont, over twenty years ago. Since then it has served as their spiritual home—a home in their family life. Abby jumped in immediately. After dropping their young daughters at pre-school, she spent her free time attending Rabbi Segelman’s weekly Torah classes. She took great joy on Shabbat mornings bringing the children to participate in Tot Shabbat. Abby became involved in the Sisterhood, delivering a Sisterhood Shabbat torah, chairing Sisterhood Shabbat and volunteering with many other efforts, eventually serving as Co-President of the Sisterhood along with Caren Gerszberg. Additionally, as annual participants in the High Holiday Study Service, Abby served on the planning committee.

While raised in Argentina and Israel in a secular Jewish home, Gaby’s deep knowledge and love of Torah, developed and flourished at WJC. He’s a constant presence at morning minyan, often leading the service. Over the years, he has delivered many moving and thought-provoking talks at the High Holiday Study Service. Along with Robin Nichinsky, Gaby spearheaded the Strategic Planning Committee, a major undertaking from 2012-2013. Together, the twosome created a model for steering the synagogue forward in these challenging times. Gaby served as an Officer from 2010 to 2015, and as the Treasurer from 2013 to 2015.

Abby is a founding partner of Family Mediation LLP providing legal and mediation services. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School teaching Mediation Theory and Skills and a mediation columnist for the New York Law Journal. She graduated from Barnard College and NYU School of Law.
Memory and Meaning

RAVI JEFFREY SEGELMAN

We take our memory for granted. Despite all we hear about Alzheimer’s and the loss of memory associated with aging, we still always assume that when we wake up in the morning, we will remember who we are, where we came from, and what it is that we are supposed to do on the new day.

Interestingly, Judaism takes a different view. The underlying assumption of Judaism is that we will forget. At first glance, that may seem unusual, and even a bit depressing. And yet, when we stop to think about it, Judaism is right. It is not so much a statement about the weakness of people as it is about the process of life.

Consider this (and this has certainly happened to me): When one of my children did something that was just wonderful (and they were always doing wonderful things), I would say: “I’ll never forget this.” But today, when they ask me about moments from their childhood, truthfully, I do not remember as much as I thought I would. Surely it is not because I do not love them, and neither is it because the event or the experience was not important. It is just that as life unfolds, memory fades. The really dangerous thing is that there is no warning sign: we do not realize that the memory is gone until we are asked to recall it and we cannot – and then it is too late.

This may be why the word “zachor” – remember – is always a call to action in Jewish tradition. To remember the Sabbath is not simply a matter of mental recall. It is a mitzvah to take a cup of wine and, through Kiddush, announce that it is Shabbos. On a deeper level, the mitzvah of remembering that we were slaves in Egypt calls upon us to “remember” what we ourselves never actually experienced. Surely that cannot be an act of mental recall. Rather, it is a call to sit down at a seder and not only tell the story, but to tell it as if we were actually there. And only then, once we “remember” that we were slaves, can we follow the Torah’s command to treat the most vulnerable in society with kindness and compassion because we “remember” what it was like to be oppressed.

At the end of this month, we will remember our experience in Egypt: A few days later, we will observe Yom HaShoah – the call to remember the events of the Holocaust. Some of us are old enough to remember. Most, however, like me, are not. It is therefore, a call to action. We have no choice but to do something – see something, say something – and read and discuss something. Only then do we “remember” and only then does that memory play a role in our identity. It is important for us to heed the challenge of our own Holocaust Learning Center to read ONE book about the Holocaust each year, and then to participate in the “remembrance” which takes place at the shul. (See page 12 for the Holocaust Reading Challenge.)

One last thought – and perhaps it is a thought that I am having now because I lost my own parents recently. Just as I know that I have forgotten moments of my children’s lives – moments that I thought at the time that I would never forget – I am sure this will happen to memories of my parents. It is not about my love and respect for them. It is just about how life unfolds.

Judaism presents us with a beautiful gift called “yahrzeit.” On the anniversary of the death, we are called upon to interrupt our regular routine and “remember” our loved one – not in thought, but in action. Of course, this means different things to different people, but the most traditional of these actions is to come to the shul to say Kaddish. The Kaddish allows us to remember them on a spiritual level – a soul level – as they are now soul-beings. Many people have told me that while they are saying Kaddish, memories of their parents flow through their minds – some which they may not have thought of in decades. It is as if the words of Kaddish unlocked storerooms of memories.

Yes, Judaism does presume that we will forget. But perhaps it is better to presume forgetfulness and call ourselves to active remembrance rather than assume we will remember, only to find ourselves in the darkness of lost memory.

Rabbis, teachers, scholars, and community leaders are invited to submit essays to Memory and Meaning, which will be featured in future issues of the WJC Review.

Rabbis can submit essays to theeditor@wjcenter.org

www.wjcenter.org
Saturday, March 3: **Ki Tissa – When you Take**
The Israelites are required to take a census through the donation of a half-shekel to be given for the upkeep of the Tabernacle. Architects are delegated and the task of building the Tabernacle begins. Moses ascends to the top of the mountain to receive the Torah, but unfortunately, the golden calf is constructed resulting in the shattering of the first set. Thankfully, Moses convinces God to forgive the people and we receive a second set of tablets.

Saturday, March 10: **Vayakhel – Pekudei/Parshat Parah – Moses Communed/The Records**
A double portion covering more ground related to the Tabernacle construction with all its trimmings. For the first time in Jewish history, the people give in abundance for a capital campaign so Moses has to tell them to stop giving. The construction is finished in the second portion and God’s cloud immediately rests in the Tabernacle. The special shabbat reading is on the red heifer and its role in purifying the people in anticipation of Passover.

**Bat Mitzvah of Naomi Azuolay**
I am 12 years old and I am in 7th Grade at Hommocks Middle School. I’m looking forward to celebrating my Bat Mitzvah on March 10, 2018. I just returned from Israel, where I celebrated with my Safta and many cousins, aunts, and uncles. I am studying Hebrew as well as French in school.

Saturday, March 17: **Vayikra/Rosh Chodesh Nissan/ Ha’Chodesh – And He Called/1st of Nissan/The Month**
The book of Leviticus begins with a detailed accounting of all the various sacrifices that take place in the sanctuary. The rules, regulations, and implementation are all listed accordingly. The special readings mark the beginning of the calendar for the Jewish people and in case we forgot, remind us that Passover is right around the corner!

Sunday, March 24: **Tzav/Shabbat Hagadol – Command-The Great Shabbat**
God instructs, in detail, Aaron and his sons regarding their service as the Priests. We learn about the eternal fire that is to constantly be tended as well as the inauguration service of the Priests. We mark the special sabbath that precedes Passover with a beautiful haftarah and in-depth sermon that gets people in the Passover spirit. We’re also traditionally supposed to read through part of the Maggid section of the seder during Shabbat.

Saturday, March 31: **Passover**
Going back a few weeks in our cycle, we read again through the story of the Exodus as the Jews depart from Egypt following the last of the plagues, along with their early entry into the desert.

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**AN EVENING OF RENEWAL**

*Experience the power of great music, communal singing and soulful praying.*

Stay afterwards for dessert and a chance to visit with friends.

**Sunday, March 25 • 7:00pm**

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**Shabbat & Holiday Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 1st</td>
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<td>Shacharit</td>
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<td>Megillah Reading</td>
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<td>Torah Class</td>
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<td>Shabbat Services</td>
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<td>Mincha Ma’ariv</td>
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<td>Saturday, March 10th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torah Class</td>
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<td>Shabbat Services</td>
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<td>Mincha Bat Mitzvah of Naomi Azuolay</td>
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<td>Saturday, March 17th</td>
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<td>Torah Class</td>
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<td>Shabbat Services</td>
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<td>Simple &amp; Soulful</td>
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<td>Pastries &amp; Parsha</td>
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<td>Shevet Achim Gam Yachad</td>
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<td>4th Grade Shabbat Service &amp; Dinner</td>
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<td>Rhythm &amp; Ruach</td>
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<td>Saturday, March 24th</td>
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<td>Shabbat Services</td>
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<td>Mincha Ma’ariv</td>
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<td>Sunday, March 25th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renewal Service</td>
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<td>Friday, March 30th - Erev Pesach</td>
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<td>Siyyum Bechorim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat/Ma’ariv</td>
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<td>Sunday, April 1st - Second Day of Pesach</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10:45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mincha Ma’ariv</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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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*
Condolences
Our deepest sympathy is extended to Robert Reader & family on the loss of his mother, Mildred Reader…Diane Holsten & family on the loss of her mother, Miriam Ginsburg…Wendy Tallman & Family on the loss of her mother, Donna Sherman…Lillian & Burton Lazarus on the loss of their son, Bruce Lowell Lazarus.

WJC SISTERHOOD
ILEEN GREENBERG & CAROL FASMAN
CO-PRESIDENTS

WJC Sisterhood News

We are very excited that this year’s Spring Gala honorees are our members and past Sisterhood Presidents: Abby Tolchinsky and Caren Gerszberg. We hope to see many sisterhood members at the event on May 6th.

Our Sisterhood strives to build a warm spirit here at WJC with programs that bring us together to celebrate and to learn. From Bowling to Mah Jongg to Book Club, art tours and more, Sisterhood is for all of us…women of any age, working and non-working. We are building friendships and having fun while helping our Synagogue. We encourage you with your friends to join us in any or all of our activities. One of our very special programs every year is Sisterhood Shabbat. We come together for a celebration of spirit, prayer and friendship. We invite Sisterhood members and non-members to join us in leading the Shabbat services on Saturday morning, April 28th. If you would like to participate please contact Julie BenAvram at juliebenavram@gmail.com

If you have not taken a look at our beautiful Tree of Life in the lobby we hope you will next time you are in the building. It is a beautiful way to commemorate/honor any celebration: Births, bar/bat mitzvahs, weddings, and anniversaries, etc. You can purchase a leaf for $118. Contact Susan Levy for more information: sl6@aol.com.

Mah Jongg & Canasta Evening - March 13 - 7:00–9:30pm.
Wine and Snacks will be served. There will be no charge but donations at the door are appreciated. Advanced RSVP required to Sisterhood10543@gmail.com. Please tell us which game you would prefer to play.

It’s Not Your Father’s Purimshpiel
BY RANDY HELLER

Five Tell-Tale Signs:
1. We use wireless microphones (although we don’t always turn them on).
2. We get to say words like “shmendrick” and “cojones.”
3. We give prominent roles to women (whether they have talent or not).
4. Admit it: your father wouldn’t know a Purimshpiel from an Oldsmobile.
5. We can hold it on Sunday evening, March 11, 2018 at 7-9pm. (even though that’s not Purim)

All the Hamentashen you can eat. And it’s all free ($0.00 adjusted for inflation).

For Sisterhood information, contact:
Carol Fasman cgfasman@gmail.com or
Ileen Greenberg ileen@optonline.net
In Women’s History Month, we reflect on the achievements of women. I am proud of the leadership roles women have taken at WJC. Three of the last four presidents preceding me were women. As a community, we owe a great deal to Rhona Wexler, the first woman President and to the other woman Presidents who have served – Sarene Shanus, Marilyn Reader and Gail Marcus. I have a tremendous amount of respect for them as Presidents of this synagogue and as individuals. I considered them mentors as I became more involved at WJC and I still turn to them today for advice.

You may find it interesting to know that our Trustee’s composition is 53% women, 47% men. We have had two Rabbinic interns who are women, one of whom became our Assistant Rabbi. In the Teen Engagement Programming for our high schoolers, we participate in a program called Rosh Chodesh where our teen girls learn with each other and discuss issues unique to them. We try to create the right framework and culture so that our words and dialogue ensure that we speak and act with respect, not because it is a rule of law, but because we know it is right thing to do. Also, in honor of Women’s History Month, Holly Rosen Fink shared with us on page 10 her recent trip to Israel as part of the Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project.

Now, some updates. I wrote about Scholar-in-Residence last month as we were going to print. The weekend was special and spectacular. Rabbi Paley was engaging and had some interesting thoughts on the Bible. Thank you again to Myra Glajchen, Karen Everett and the Committee that made it possible. The weekend ended with a rescheduled Renewal Service – which was a beautiful way to cap off a wonderful experience. And back by popular demand, thanks to David Miller and Robin Nichinsky . . . Game Night. What a great way to bring members from all walks of life in our synagogue family together simply to have a good time and get to know one another better. We had Rhythm and Ruach with a service before Shabbat dinner geared to our children. And thank you to Sondra Levy and SoJAC for running a wonderful and meaningful Community Day.

Sisterhood remains active with great events such as Ladies Bowling Night and Brotherhood participated in the World Wide Wrap. The Wrap was followed by an interesting talk by Robert Herbst about his Olympic experience and involvement with supervising drug testing of athletes at the Brazil Olympics. As this edition goes to print, we are celebrating Purim. Thank you to Aleza and the Parents Association Chairs, Mia Mandel and Laura Grill, who make the Purim Carnival so much fun for our children. Don’t forget Purimshpiel on March 11. Randy Heller and company are sure to offer us a hilariously great time. Our World Jewry Committee is offering a series looking at Jewish characters in TV and film. The first installment is March 7th. Stop by.

Gaby is CEO of Bladex, a multi-national Latin American trade finance bank. He attended college at Tel Aviv University then went on to Columbia University where he earned Masters’ Degrees in Applied Mathematics and Statistics.

Today, their three grown children are active in their own Jewish communities. Daniela, a graduate of the University of Chicago, is Director of J Street U and lives in Tel Aviv. Sara, a senior at NYU, studies theater and often sings at various services and programs at WJC. Jonathan, a high school senior at Solomon Schechter, will attend Washington University in St. Louis in the fall and plans to study engineering and design.

Abby and Gaby are delighted to share this honor with the Gerszbergs, the first friends they made when joining WJC. Their combined six children have grown up here together, the boys enjoying play dates since they could crawl. Their bar and bat mitzvahs were celebrated on the WJC bimah and in Jerusalem. Abby and Gaby hope the community, friends and family will all come together to celebrate our remarkable synagogue. Special thanks to Meira Fleisch for Chairing, for all the hard work and many hours; and to Sherry Thaler for a beautiful Journal. And to a stellar committee, ready and willing to pull together all the details. It’s both humbling and thrilling.
The Review in Review

It might have been cold outside, but WJC was filled with warmth and bustled with activity in January and February. We captured some of the highlights to share with you below.

**JANUARY 27-29 - WJC’s Scholar-in-Residence Weekend**
Jayne Kligman, SIR Co-chairs Karen Everett and Myra Glajchen, and WJC Trustee Jacques Steinberg welcome Rabbi Michael Paley (center) for a weekend of spirited learning.

**January 28 - Facing Racism Conclave**
Rabbi Adir Yolkut and Reverend Dr. James E. Taylor of Mamaroneck’s First Baptist Church read Psalm 118 together at the Facing Racism Conclave.

**January 20 - Sleep Under!**
WJC kids “sleeping under” watched a movie in their jammies, played games and lived it up in the activity center overnight.

**February 4 - Religious School World Wide Wrap**
Gan children learned about talit, toured the sanctuary, and opened the ark with Rabbi Adir and their teacher, Morah Darcy.

**February 3 - WJC Game Night**
WJC adults were kids again at the second annual game night.

**February 6 - Dental Health Awareness Month**
The ECC welcomed Dr. Jess from NY Pediatric Dentistry in Rye. Dr. Jess taught the kids a song and gave each child a chance to brush the teeth of a dog puppet or a life size wisdom tooth.
SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION

March 2018 - The WJC Review

Kol dichfin yeitei v’yeichul
Let all who are hungry come and eat...

We read these words at the start of our Seders to remind us that we were once slaves and now we are free, able to retell the story and abide by the mitzvot of Passover. The words connect us to our past, to each other, and to action.

By helping to provide needed Passover foods for about 400 Project Ezra recipients, we—you and I—are helping elders on New York’s Lower East Side and the Bronx celebrate and observe Passover as Jews everywhere do.

Read Talk Act!
Zami: A New Spelling of My Name,
by Audre Lorde

SHARON SILVER
SoJAC & RTA BOOK GROUP

Come together on Monday, March 12th, from 7-9pm in the Youth Lounge for what promises to be a fascinating discussion of the autobiographical ZAMI: A New Spelling of My Name, by Audre Lorde, sponsored by SOJAC and the Read-Talk-Act Book Group.

Ms. Lorde (1934-1992), was an African-American writer, poet, essayist, lesbian, feminist, civil rights and social justice activist who grew up in and was educated in New York. Her book will no doubt spark a vibrant conversation. Join us!

Questions? More information needed? Contact: Sharon Silver at sraplata@msn.com

PROJECT EZRA FOOD DRIVE
FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 18

Help our elders on the Lower East Side celebrate the holiday with dignity and joy.

The whole family can help fulfill the mitzvah this Passover by bringing current, certified OU/Kosher for Passover food

MOST NEEDED FOODS:
- 2 cans of tuna, salmon or sardines
- 2 cans of fruit
- 2 cans of vegetables
- small bottle of vegetable oil
- small bottle of grape juice
- dried fruits or nuts
- jar of jam or jelly
- small jar of honey
- box of tea bags/jars of instant coffee
- matzo farfel

Drop your items in the marked bins by the main office and gift shop. Contact Sharon Silver at sraplata@msn.com or 914-698-9662.

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP: GIVE TZEDAKAH
Write a check payable to “Project Ezra” and drop it off at WJC’s main office. All checks will be delivered to Project Ezra in time for Passover.

VOLUNTEER TO PACK AND DELIVER FOOD ON MARCH 18

HOPE
PASSOVER PACKAGE DELIVERY PROJECT
SUNDAY, MARCH 18 • 9:00-11:30AM

WE NEED YOU

Share the joy of the holidays by bringing along friends and family to deliver Passover packages to lonely, home-bound or needy Jewish elderly

B’nai B’rith Building (CO-OP City)
2050 Bartow Ave, Bronx, NY 10475

To get there from the Hutchinson River Parkway South: Proceed to Bartow Ave., exit 4N, and stay on the exit road until Bartow Avenue. Make a right turn at Bartow Ave., and go to the six-story red brick building with a blue awning (approximately 1/8 of a mile).

Want to go with a group? Meet at the WJC parking lot at 8:45am.
Want to go on your own? Feel free; just let them know you are from WJC.

Questions? Contact Ruth Ombrebreit Glass at ruthie6851@gmail.com

www.wjcenter.org
Live, Love and Laugh Jewish Style

HOLLY ROSEN FINK  WORLD JEWRY SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

Pop Culture Series
Our first ever Jewish Pop Culture Series: “Exploring Judaism Through TV & Film” kicks off this month! On March 7th, from 7:45-9:15pm, we will hear from Seinfeldia author Jennifer Armstrong on Seinfeld and that show’s significant impact on Jewish (and non-Jewish) culture. Then on March 18th from 1-2:30pm, we will welcome Erin Carlson, author of I’ll Have What She’s Having, on how Nora Ephron re-invented the rom-com.

The Top Five Reasons To Try Israeli Dancing at WJC

MARC KARELL

“Dance is the hidden language of the soul of the body.”
- Martha Graham

Learn the language of the soul and body with Israeli dancing at WJC on Mondays. Reap the health and spiritual benefits as you:

1. Raise Your Jewish Spirituality. Israeli dance is unique, featuring prayers and words from the Torah, set to music and interpreted through choreography. The movement that accompanies the music brings an extra level of spirituality. Just as music has raised our spirituality at WJC, movement does the same.

2. Yes, You Can Do It. While the word “dance” may evoke images of ballet, modern, etc., and the complex steps involved, with Israeli dance, there are no plies, no bachata. Israeli dance steps are variations of walking. If you can walk, you can Israeli dance; no doubt about it! You can do it!

3. Israeli Dance Will Improve Your Health. Studies have shown that Israeli dancing improves one’s physical and mental health. It’s aerobic, offering two hours of movement and cardio, with much less stress on the joints. In addition, medical studies show that this type of dance exercise delays the onset of dementia. Dance L’Chaim - to life!

4. Israeli Dance At WJC Will Make You Learned. Shmulik Gov-Ari, our Israeli instructor, is the son of a rabbi. As he teaches new dances, he often goes over the origin of the song, and what the choreographer was trying to convey. Besides the spirituality and health benefits, each evening you walk away a little smarter about our prayers, the Torah and Israeli history. Like a d’var Torah with fun!

5. Meet A Great Group of People. People who get off the couch to attend Israeli dance are friendly. Come as you are, casual and comfortable. Don’t be concerned with how you will “look” as you learn the dance steps. We are not judgmental (we’ve all been there).
Facing Racism Together, Bearing Witness, and Building Hope, WJC Asks: Now What Do We Do?

RUTH OBERNBREIT GLASS & SHARON SILVER  SoJAC

On a Sunday afternoon at the end of January, Rabbi Yolkut and WJC member Cliff Wolf (representing the American Jewish Committee of Westchester/Fairfield) spoke in front of nearly 400 people at The Mount Hope A.M.E. Zion Church in White Plains. Along with Muslims, Mormons, Methodists, Catholics, clergy, and local leaders, they were a part of an outpouring of hundreds, all dedicated to facing racism together, bearing witness, and building hope.

Moving, spirited and inspiring, the afternoon’s program was as diverse as its participants. Rabbi Yolkut and Reverend Dr. James E. Taylor of the First Baptist Church in Mamaroneck read Psalm 118 together, “Out of my dreams, I cried unto the Lord.”

Are we, as a Jewish community truly aware of the everyday racism in our midst and its costs? And if so, what is our responsibility in addressing racism and intolerance?

Rabbi Jefferey Sirkman from Larchmont Temple, quoted from Martin Luther King Jr: “Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. The narrow-mindedness of the hate-filled is unfortunate, but all-too-expected. The inability of a white, moderate majority to perceive the privilege of a whiteness engrained, and the pain of a societal prejudice that persists, is unacceptable…” Rabbi Sirkman concluded in his own words “Our world today at best seems like a dream deferred; when one of us is in those chains of bondage, all of us are enslaved.”

In addition to the sermons, prayers and rousing choral music, a call was issued for unity and continued involvement. After the program, participants shared a delicious potluck dinner (including kosher food) and were encouraged to meet new people. stop by social action tables and discuss ways in which the program affected them personally.

“Tonight we are here to be heard as a community of communities,” said Cliff Wolf, in referring to AJC’s history rooted in civil rights activism. “It is in our DNA,” he said. “We will never be silent.”

So, we ask, what’s next? For us as Jews? As neighbors to other houses of worship? If you are interested in exploring the answers with us, do contact Sharon Silver at sraplata@msn.com.

Get on Board! Join the WJC Teen Community!

ADAM BENDER  TEEN ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR

I want to use March to thank the WJC Community for making my first six months so memorable and exciting. In just a short time we’ve reinvigorated Hebrew High, we’ve hosted a Westchester-wide Hanukkah party, we’ve gone to Houston to help with relief from Hurricane Harvey, and just last week we hit Broadway for the award winning show, Come From Away! It has been a pleasure thus far seeing all that our teens are passionate about, and I look forward to helping them bring that passion to the next level.

Look out for our 2018-19 WJC Teen Board application. We’re looking for passionate and motivated teens who want to help make an impact on our own WJC Teen Community. Positions available with focuses on leadership, programming, communications, Judaism, Israel, etc. Information/Questions, adam@wjcenter.org.
The Power of Traveling to Israel in a Sisterhood

HOLLY ROSEN FINK

In December I was chosen as a part of a 30-women group of media professionals to explore Israel with JWRP (Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project). I travelled alongside writers/bloggers, authors, podcasters, media entrepreneurs, journalists, an actress from the TV show Casual, a social activist, a gynecologist/author, a doctor who is also a parenting expert, two Latina lifestyle personalities, a Kosher chef who is making it big on Instagram, a cookbook writer from Toronto, and a production executive from Jim Henson Productions.

Putting the trip into words is challenging, but to do so during International Women’s History Month is particularly fitting. The trip was co-hosted by Israel’s Ministry of Tourism, who really stepped in to show us a more intimate side of Israel, far removed from what Americans generally see on TV. We visited the Kotel, Masada, the city of Tzfat, and other popular tourist sites, but we also had classes woven throughout the week on subjects like gossip, marriage, the body vs. the soul, an analysis of personality types through a Jewish lens, and more.

We Tweeted, Facebook’ed, Instagram’d and shot videos along the way, but the trip was about so much more than just sharing the moment. We were thirty women thrown together at pivotal points in our lives. Many of us are middle-aged – some with children, some without. The most “soulful” opportunities, however, happened casually as we talked to each other on the bus. Whether we shared our struggles with each other or not during the course of the trip, there was a bond created that will most likely take us to another time and place where we will learn more about each other.

JWRP has taken 13,000 women on this eight day experience since 2009. Anyone can apply to attend. Visit: www.jwrp.org.
Rabbi Michael Paley Draws Record Crowds at Scholar-In-Residence

MYRA GLAJCHEN & KAREN EVERETT  ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

What a wonderful weekend! Our WJC community was treated to three days of inspirational teaching by Rabbi Michael Paley, well-known after two decades as Scholar-In-Residence for UJA-Federation of New York. We are grateful to Rabbi Paley, who is en route to Hungary to help strengthen the Jewish community of Eastern Europe, for agreeing to spend one of his last Shabbat weekends in the United States with us. The warmth of community was palpable and attendance was at an all-time high. Everyone could relate to Rabbi Paley’s weekend theme: “Enduring Jewish Values and Their Applicability to Everyday Life.”

We began with a lovely Friday evening service and community dinner followed by an engaging conversation about “Jews as Wanderers and Ambassadors: From Biblical Times to Today’s Revival in Eastern Europe.” The following Shabbat morning we were challenged with a sermon on “Jews as Nonbelievers: One God or Less,” an exploration of the Exodus story as a metaphor for Jews accepting responsibility for repairing the world as God’s chosen people. Following a delicious Kiddish Lunch, we joined in the lively discussion about “Jews as Intellectuals and Lifelong Learners: Commitment to the Life of the Mind.” Our Ambassadors dined with Rabbi Paley at the home of Tara Slone-Goldstein and Wayne Goldstein, then joined the rest of the community for dessert and discussion on “Jews as Leaders: Past, Present and Future.” Sunday brunch topped off the weekend with our own Jacques Steinberg interviewing Rabbi Paley about his thoughts on “Jews as Donors: Material Wealth, Anti-Semitism and Tzedakah.”

To those who attended, we hope you enjoyed the weekend as much as we did. And to those who did not, we look forward to seeing you at next year’s Scholar-In-Residence weekend. Stay tuned for a program survey in the coming weeks.

SAVE THE DATE: Monday evening, May 14th, with author and scholar Richard L. Rubin in conversation about his latest book Jews In America: Living George Washington’s Promise. We hope to see you then!

We offer special thanks to Tara Slone-Goldstein and Wayne Goldstein for hosting the Ambassador’s Circle dinner; to Sisterhood for co-sponsoring Saturday Kiddush lunch; to Brotherhood for co-sponsoring Sunday brunch; to our wonderful dream team, the Adult Ed Committee – Carol Fasman, Jayne Kligman, Jacques Steinberg, Jeff Taffet and Arlene Wexler – for excellent teamwork; to David Goldstein, Rosie Aronin and Evan Schapiro for sustained administrative support, and to Jose Luis Fonseca and his staff, for their hard work and support.

An event of this magnitude takes careful planning and a great deal of congregational support. We are indebted to the following people for their pivotal contributions, which helped to make this program possible:

**Ambassador’s Circle**
- Shari & Joel Beckman • Myra Glajchen & David Cohen • Louise & Bobby Cohen
- Karen & David Everett • Meira & Tom Fleisch • Janie & Adam Frieman
- Laurie & Stephen Girskey • Tara Slone-Goldstein and Wayne Goldstein
- Cindy & Ben Golub • Jayne & Isaac Kligman • Jennifer & Jeffrey Lavine
- Marla & Rabbi Jeffrey Segelman • Sharon Weinstock & Jacques Steinberg
- Sherry & Larry Thaler • Sarene Shanus & Harold Treiber

**Benefactors**
- Ellen & Stanley Adler • Carol & Steven Fasman • Katie McLoughlin & Roy Katz
- Tracey & Evan Levy • Suzi & Martin Oppenheimer • Shira & David Weinstein
- Jennifer & Ian Winters • Wendy & Yale Zoland

**Patrons**
- Beverly Cannold • Myra Levine-Harris • Cindy & Randy Heller
- Adam Herz & Danielle Zalaznick Herz • Cara & Larry lason • Jackie & Sol Israel
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- Heather Taffet Gold & Jeffrey Taffet • Nancy & Larry Thaul
- Jo Ann & Swain Weiner • Arlene & Neil Wexler

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**Donors**
- Ilene & Marshall Bellovin • Joe Griminger & Amy Doberman
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- Robin Nichinsky and Seth Schafier • Iris & Lee Scopp
- Sharon & Jeffrey Silver • Rhona & Arthur Wexler

**Friends**
- Fran & Jay Fischer • Batya Gorin & Howard Feldman
- Andrea & Howard Leaf • Susan & Barry Lewen
Why “Never Again” is a Pledge We Should Never Forget

DAN BERKOWITZ  CHAIR, HOLOCAUST LEARNING CENTER

Sunday, April 8, 2018
10:30 am Prayer Service with Rabbi Segelman
Followed by Special Program with Dr. Mark Russ
and Guest Speaker Noah Lederman, author:
A World Erased: A Grandson’s Search
for his Family’s Holocaust Secrets

Many of us have read recently that Poland’s Parliament is considering laws that would criminalize any attribution of Holocaust events to Poland. According to an article in the Israel Times, a key paragraph of the bill states:

“Whoever accuses, publicly and against the facts, the Polish nation, or the Polish state, of being responsible or complicit in the Nazi crimes committed by the Third German Reich... or other crimes against peace and humanity, or war crimes, or otherwise grossly diminishes the actual perpetrators thereof, shall be subject to a fine or a penalty of imprisonment of up to three years.”

To reinforce the importance of how we must learn from the past in spite of attempts like those in the Polish Parliament, who would rather obliterate the country’s history, the HLC is commemorating Shoa with a special guest speaker who has written about the atrocities his Polish grandparents experienced during World War II.

Award-winning writer, Noah Lederman will talk about his memoir: A World Erased. A Grandson’s Search for his Family’s Holocaust Secrets.

A World Erased transports readers from Noah’s grandparents’ kitchen table in Brooklyn to World War II Poland. In the 1950s, Noah’s grandparents raised their children on Holocaust stories. Because tales of rebellion and death-camps gave his father and aunt constant nightmares, Grandma would only recount the PG-version during Noah’s adolescence. When Poppy died, it seemed the Holocaust stories died with him. Grandma could do little more than mourn in the years that followed.

In the meantime, if you need help selecting a book for the challenge or need any other material, feel free to email librarian@wjcenter.org for help.
The regular basketball season has come to an end. All our teams excelled on the court, showing good sportsmanship and fine team spirit. The Grade 5-6 team finished their season with an 11-3 record. Many thanks to the coaches, Dr. David Shafritz and David Katz, for leading the team to victory.

The Grade 7-8 team fought hard, ending their season with more spirit than points. Special thanks to Mr. Harvey Zeltzer for coaching. The Grade 9-10 team ended their season with a 7-1 record. These stars of the court wish to thank their coach, Mr. Norman Rosenblum, but all teams and the Center owe a special thank you to Mr. Bill Caslin who attended every game, keeping score, driving, subbing on many occasions for our coaches. It is Bill’s overall concern for the kids and the Center which we all so sincerely appreciate.

We wish all our teams that are entering the playoffs the best of luck for the games ahead.

Understanding My Tears

SUSAN LEWEN

People who know me well or casually or even not well at all know one of my strongest personality quirks...I’m a crier. Big fat tears, red nose crier. I come by it honestly. I grew up in rural Pennsylvania. The only relatives in town were my mom’s parents. Of the 14 grandchildren, all would agree that I was most attached to my grandfather...and he to me. And my grandfather was a crier. And a laughler. And a positive, grateful person. I strive to mimic many of his traits. I’m definitely a crier like grandpa was.

In all my years coming to the Renewal service, I always find myself crying at some point. I think many of you do too.

This is the 10th year of Renewal and also my 10th year as a cancer survivor. I was diagnosed around the time of the creation of this service. Debbie Ron...of blessed memory...who helped create this service...was a casual acquaintance. When Deb heard I’d been diagnosed with breast cancer, as she had been years before, she reached out to me. As it became clear that I was headed for a tough chemo treatment, Debbie was supportive. At the same time, Debbie’s cancer had returned. As I eventually got better, Debbie got sicker.

So, for a long time, I couldn’t come to the Renewal Service at all. When I finally started coming, I wept. I wept for what my family had been through, I wept with gratitude as I began to recover, I wept with sadness and guilt as Debbie did not. I understood those tears.

But years have passed, and blessings of good health accrue...and I do cry less. But why, after 10 years, do I still cry? Why do so many of us cry?

One obvious answer is the overwhelming beauty of the talent we witness with Randy, Ellen, Seth, Nadav and Cantor every month. But I think it’s more. And I think I’ve finally figured out my grandfather’s tears. And my tears. The tears are droplets of my soul and a language of prayer.

Rabbi Elazar said after the destruction of the Temple that the gates of prayer were locked. But he also went on to say that the gates of tears were not. “Anyone who cries before G-d may rest assured that his prayers will be answered.”

And so, my tears...our tears...reach God as prayers reach God. So...I’m grateful. I’m grateful for my health...for my family, my friends, this community, this service. And I’m grateful for my tears.
**Kiddush Fund**
In memory of...
Pearl Mizrachi
From Pam & Howard Mizrachi
Miriam Ginsburg
From Janie & Adam Frieman

**Library Fund**
In honor of...
Ellen & Stanley Adler’s 60th
Wedding Anniversary
From Shirley Bender
the birth of Maya Noa Barbash
From Betty Weissman

**Memorial Fund**
In memory of...
Luiz Sa
From Ruth & Stephen Hendel
Beverly Krasner
From Ruth & Stephen Hendel
Aaron Meadow
From Ruth & Stephen Hendel
Ruth Golub
From Ruth & Stephen Hendel
Irene Rubin Levy
From Ruth & Stephen Hendel
Dorothy Mallett
From Ruth & Stephen Hendel
Elise Luskin
From Ruth & Stephen Hendel
Lester Rosenbaum
From Judy & Howard Zweig
Milton Zweig
From Howard Zweig
Rose Zweig
From Howard Zweig

**Adult Education Fund**
In memory of...
Mildred Reader
From Gail & Marty Marcus

**Prayer book Donations**
Please make your check out to WJC Sisterhood in the amount of $36.
Contact: Cheryl Natbony, 914-723-2709, cnatbony@aol.com

**Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund**
In honor of...
the birth of Miryam Tzipora Segelman
From Betty Weissman
Shari & Arnie Baum

With heartfelt appreciation,
in memory of Manny Sher
From Trudy Sher. Lisa Krieger & Linda Schwartzreich & Family

In memory of...
Joan Levin
From Amy Kriss
Elise Luskin
From Arnie & Shari Baum

**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: 689-0861
Walter Reichman: 834-5029
Debbie Zelenetz: 837-3989
The Review of
The Westchester Jewish Center
Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543

BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV
A SPECIAL GUEST LECTURE BY
MARC SCHULMAN
Author, Historian, Developer, Educator and noted Israeli Columnist and Commentator

Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 7:45 pm

A look at the tension in modern Israel between Tel Aviv (the city of the 21st Century that worries about the future), and Jerusalem (the city of history that worries about the past)

Free to All – Invite Your Friends!
We will serve light refreshments

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

SAVE THE DATE
Please join us as Sisterhood members come together to lead this spiritual morning
Saturday Morning, April 28
All WJC members invited to participate

If interested, please contact:
Carol Fasman cgfasman@gmail.com
Ileen Greenberg ileen@optonline.net

PLAY BALL
WJC’S BROTHERHOOD SOFTBALL TEAM NEEDS YOU!

Help bring the Westchester Hebrew Softball League Crown back to Rockland Avenue!

Now scouting competitive players, (16+) available on Sunday mornings, from April to October. HS Varsity and College experience a plus!

The Team will hold practices on March 25 and April 1 at 9:30am at Gillie Field #2 in White Plains–weather permitting. Interested players should attend at least one of these practices.

For more information, contact:
Art Kaplan, 914-948-1178; akaplan@kaplanmrd.com
Dan Kaplan, 914-522-7870; dkaplan22@gmail.com

Season opener, April 8