BY RABBI JEFFREY SEGELMAN

May 14th marks the 70th anniversary of the birth of the modern State of Israel. We are blessed to be able to celebrate this awesome day. Any student of Jewish history understands that for 2000 years, our ancestors could only dream of this. For us it is a reality. Our hearts are filled with joy and pride at the amazing contributions that Israel has given humanity in its short life. So many advances in agriculture, energy, security, technology, medicine, literature and the arts have been discovered and advanced in the State of Israel.

And all this has come about from a country that has not known one day of peace in its life. From a few hours after its birth, Israel has had to defend itself militarily against most of its neighbors. In the absence of war - in its formal sense - Israel has had to endure thousands of deaths at the hands of terrorists. And today, even as Israel remains safe and strong it must defend itself, to maintain its very right to exist at all.

In this special anniversary year, all of us are beckoned to renew our awareness of our spiritual homeland and deepen our knowledge and dedication to its people. I invite you to join us on WJC's pilgrimage to Israel in December. Our trip will not only bring you (or bring you back) to the places and moments that define our history, but we will also visit the people and discuss the ideas that will map out our destiny. We will gain the knowledge that will put the news in perspective, and we will encounter the sources of tradition that will expand our Jewish souls. Please check our website for more information and registration.

I would also like to make you aware of a very special program that will begin at WJC as part of Israel’s 70th. Through the efforts of the Westchester Jewish Council, we will participate in the Shinshinim Program. Israeli High School graduates will spend their “gap year” in our community working with all aspects of the synagogue, building new bridges between Israel and us and particularly focusing on the youth of the Center. Our Teen Engagement Director, Adam Bender, will coordinate Shinshinim for us, and we are very excited about all the possibilities that lie ahead.

Once again, we are very blessed to be able to celebrate Israel’s 70th. We know that blessings bring responsibilities as well. Even as Israel continues to rise to its challenges, may we accept our responsibility to stand by her side with pride and love.

JOIN US...
WJC GOES TO ISRAEL
DECEMBER 2018
BY RABBI JEFFREY SEGELMAN

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SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING

Pull an All Nighter with your Rabbi
Shavout 2018 • May 19-20 • 10:30pm-12:30am

Torah Hayyim: Living Torah
Exploring real-world issues such as gun control, mass incarceration, policing, anti-semitism, and more through the lens of the Jewish tradition. How can our thousand-year-old sources speak to the hard-hitting issues of 2018? Come learn with the Rabbis and your fellow community members into the midnight hour! Dinner, snacks, and drinks provided to keep you fueled!

Rhythm & Ruach Welcomes Author & Artist Jessica Tamar Deutsch
Friday, May 4 • 7:30am

It's an instrumental Kabbal Shabbat under the stars followed by a brief talk by author Jessica Tamar Deutsch, a New York-based artist. Her work explores the intersection of ancient tradition and contemporary culture. She earned a BFA in illustration from Parsons School of Design. The Illustrated Pirkei Avot is her first published book.

Help Define Our Spiritual Life
The Spiritual Life Committee seeks new members to lend their ideas and energy and connect to our community.

#Join Now • #Make a Difference
Help us support the services, programs, and activities that make WJC “The Center of our Jewish Lives”

Contact:
Sharon Weinstock,
sharonweinstock97@gmail.com
Albert Sassoon,
sassoon12@optonline.net

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

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

If you or someone in your family is interested, please contact: Cantor Goldberg (Main Sanctuary): cantorecg@wjcenter.org
Howard Mizrahi (Study Service): hhmizrachi@gmail.com
**Saturday, May 5: Emor – Speak**
We learn the various machinations and prohibitions related to the priest, high priest, and the priestly service. We then read an in-depth explanation of all the various holidays that take place over the year. Finally, it concludes with a look at the lighting of the menorah in the temple as well as the showbreads that were offered.

**Saturday, May 12: Behar/Behukotai – On the Mountain/In My Laws**
A double portion that starts off with all the various laws of the sabbatical and jubilee years. Other laws included deal with the land, usury, and fraud. The second half of the portion is a lengthy detailing of what blessings happen when we are obedient to God and what curses will befall us if we fail.

**Saturday, May 19: Bamidbar – In the Desert**
The 1st portion of the book talks about the important census that took stock of the nation in this next transition. The sanctuary was disassembled and then put back together by the Levite tribe. We also learn the makeup, leaders, and symbols of all the other tribes.

**Saturday, May 26: Nasso – Take a Census**
A bit of a recap of how the census took place, we see the final count of the Israelites. We delve into the ritual of the Sotah, how to become a nazirite, and laws regarding contact with impurity and death. The famed Priestly blessing is included in this portion as well.

---

**Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Brause**
I am a 7th grade student at the Hommocks Middle School where my favorite subject is Chinese. Every summer I go to Camp Walt Whitman in New Hampshire. I love to play soccer which I have been doing since I was 5 and I love to row. I really enjoyed spending time with my family in Israel this past December where I celebrated my bat mitzvah at the Western Wall. I am super exited to celebrate this special day with my family and friends at WJC in May. Thank you so much to Cantor Alcott and Rabbi Yolkut for helping me prepare for my bat mitzvah. I would also like to thank my parents and siblings for being very kind and supporting me throughout this process.
Synagogue Family

Mazel Tov & Best Wishes to Marc Karell, Neil Schwartzreich and Larry Thaul for being honored by the Bronx Jewish Community Council for their many years of service delivering holiday packages to Jewish poor in the Bronx... Ellen Dunkin & Joseph Michaeli on the marriage of their son Ari to Allison Rosenfeld... Deborah & Craig Rubin on the birth of their son, Jacob.

Condolesences

Our deepest sympathy is extended to David Hoffner & Family on the loss of his father, Burton Hoffner... Howard Leaf & Family on the loss of his father, Seymour Leaf... Ellen Marcus & Family on the loss of her mother, Nancy Marcus.

SISTERHOOD ANNUAL CLOSING EVENT:
Tour a Local Jewel on the Hudson
June 7, 2018

The Sisterhood will travel to the Hudson River Museum, Westchester’s largest cultural institution. Located on the scenic banks of the Hudson, in Trevor Park, the Museum is home to the 19th century Glenview House, The Andrus Planetarium and an extensive collection of art from the Hudson River School of Painting.

In a docent-led tour, we will view the Manor, a Planetarium show and exhibits from three abstract artists. Meet at WJC at 9:15 to caravan to the Museum. Cost: $15 and a local ala carte lunch

Stay tuned for our invitation. Contact Ileen Greenberg, ileen@optonline.net, for information.

DATELINE: JERUSALEM
Ultiferet Medinat Yisrael!

CANTOR ETHAN GOLDBERG

Shoshi and I arrived back in Israel just in time for Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day. One highlight was watching the national ceremony broadcast live from Har Herzl. Each year, about 12 extraordinary Israelis light a torch each, representing both themselves and some aspect of a group within Israeli society, all under the theme “Heritage of Innovation.” In the highly stylized ceremony, the torch lighters introduce themselves, mention what their participation honors in Israeli society, and end with the exuberant declaration—’ultiferet medinat Yisrael - and to the glory of the State of Israel’—before lighting their torch.

Many of the stories and backgrounds of the torch lighters are inspiring and brought us to tears. Here, I’ll share just a few that stood out to me.

• Shlomo Artzi, one of the most successful Israeli singers of all time, representing the children of Holocaust survivors who prospered in Israel.

• Racheli Ganot, an ultra-Orthodox woman who works to integrate other ultra-Orthodox women into Israel’s hi-tech industry.

• Noam Gershoni, a fighter pilot gravely injured in the Second Lebanon War who rehabilitated himself and won a gold medal in tennis at the 2012 London Paralympics.

• Sheikh Mawafak Tarif is the spiritual leader of the Druze community in Israel. In his moving presentation, he spoke of the shared destiny of the Druze and Jewish peoples, their covenant of mutual respect and understanding, his prayer for protection of the Druze community suffering in Syria and for coexistence and peace among all the nations of the Middle East.

• Aviezri Fraenkel, a pioneering Israeli computer engineer and one of the first to digitize classical Jewish texts. He is also the grandfather of Naftali Fraenkel, one of three Israeli teens who were kidnapped and killed by Hamas in 2014.

• Avshalom Kor, a linguist and radio personality who promotes the proper use of Hebrew in the public, represented the revival of Hebrew and the dedication of its many proponents. In one of the few off-script moments of the ceremony, Kor planted a kiss on the cheek of the young soldier who accompanied him, after mentioning his satisfaction at seeing young people enjoy speaking Hebrew.

These extraordinary individuals represent some of the best of Israel’s spirit, and give hope for an even brighter future.

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The JOY CLUB is Back

Lecture: David Greene author of He Could Make Words Sing: An Ordinary Man During Extraordinary Times.
Sunday, June 10 • 3:00pm

JUDY AND HOWARD ZWEIG

Returning from our winter respite, the JOY Club is in action once again.

Our first event will be on Sunday, June 10 at 3:00pm. We are pleased to have as our guest lecturer, David Greene author of He Could Make Words Sing: An Ordinary Man During Extraordinary Times. David tells the story of his father-in-law, Harry Greissman. Harry was a son of immigrants growing up in Brooklyn and going to college in Depression Era NYC. He was a keen observer of Germany in the 1930’s and a Jewish soldier breaking down Southern and anti-Semitic barriers. He was a wounded veteran of the Battle of the Bulge who translated anti-Semitic documents.

It became David’s goal to tell Harry’s story and by doing so, show how to prepare today’s children to deal with the challenges of their time. He feels that Harry’s “Greatest Generation” lived through an extraordinary century that has valuable lessons for today.

In the book, David prompts us to remember some of the events in our parents’ lives and our own, and how they have been influenced by international events, domestic social movements and economic factors.

But, that is just the beginning!

On Sunday, July 15 we will have Rabbi William Berman present “Origins of Religious Attitudes Toward Zionism and Israel and their Impact on Present day Israel.” More details shortly. We are currently working on exciting programs for August, October, and November, excluding September because of the Yom Tovim.

All programs will be followed by a buffet dinner. Please make your reservations through Kim in the WJC office.

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President's Corner

ISRAEL AT 70

JEFFREY LAVINE
WJC PRESIDENT

As the State of Israel celebrates 70, I think about how the existence of the modern State of Israel becomes part of what we embrace at synagogue and how we think. WJC brings Israel into our synagogue in many ways. In the classrooms, our children learn about Israel. We also have experiential learning. This year, Adam Bender inaugurated an AIPAC Annual Policy Conference trip for our Hebrew High students.

Our Religious School students celebrated Israel’s 70th with games, music and art, learned about Israel’s geography and created their own flags. Our ECC has their own simulated “Trip To Israel” on Thursday, May 19th. They visit many cities and participate in activities including an archaeological dig, fishing and relaxing on the beach, squeezing oranges & stomping on grapes to make juice at the winery, saying a prayer at the Kotel and enjoying an animal safari.

We experience Israeli culture through our Israel movie night and Israeli dancing, with many loyal followers. Each Shabbat, we pray for the well being of Israel. And then there are the WJC synagogue trips to Israel led by our clergy.

My family has participated in one and it has been a highlight of our family memories. And Jennifer and I went on an adult trip to Israel, which was also very meaningful. Later this year there will be another trip led by Rabbi Segelman. Please see the cover story for more details. I highly recommend it. There is something special about taking a trip with your synagogue friends and clergy.

To be sure, a strong Israel is important to our community. We are reminded of the need for a secure Israel through much of the programming presented by the Holocaust Learning Center. Thank you to Dan Berkowitz for your leadership and to the committee, who makes sure the Holocaust and its important lessons remain relevant to our children and us today. And thank you to Dan and Mark Russ for such a moving service on Sunday, April 8, in commemoration of Yom HaShoah. The service was followed by a fascinating lecture by Noah Lederman, author of A World Erased: A Grandson’s Search for His Family’s Holocaust Secrets.

Our Westchester Jewish community came together to celebrate Israel’s 70th birthday at the Westchester countywide celebration held at Solomon Schechter on April 15. Thank you to the Westchester Jewish Council under our own Elliot Forchheimer’s leadership, for spearheading such an important event bringing the larger community together to celebrate Israel’s independence.

There was a lot going on last month and much to look forward to this month including a beautiful new Koslowe Art Gallery Exhibit, thanks to Amy Levine-Kennedy and her committee. The exhibit explores the “Jewish Presence in Eastern Europe.” The opening show was terrific and I am happy to say packed. The World Jewry Committee continued the program “Exploring Judaism Through TV & Film.” A personal highlight was the discussion of how Seinfeld influenced society. There are a few things in May to note. We have a Community Shabbat Dinner with Rhythm & Ruach “Under the Stars” on May 4th followed by an author and book discussion. Thank you Pam Mizrachi for making these dinners so much fun and the food so good!

I look forward to our upcoming Spring Gala honoring the Tolchinksy and Gerszbergs on Sunday, May 6. Mazel Tov to the honorees. This is an important fundraiser for WJC and a wonderful way to celebrate our community. I hope to see you there.

May 2018 - The WJC Review

www.wjcenter.org
Onwards Go our 7th Graders to Hebrew High!

ALEZA KULP  
EDUCATION DIRECTOR AND CONGREGATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

On Shabbat, April 28th our community honored our 7th grade students and thanked their parents for their dedication to their child’s Jewish Education. Mazel Tov to our graduates! We look forward to seeing our teenagers continue their Jewish Education next year in Hebrew High.

We wish a mazel tov to our Kitah Zayin graduates:

Naomi Azuolay  Ethan Felenstein  Alex Musicus
Sophie Brause  Max Fink  Samantha Rosuck
David Colin  Adam Kern  Mitchell Winters

Graduates Pictured Right to Left: Max Fink, David Colin, Mitchell Winters, Ethan Felenstein and Naomi Azuolay (Not pictured Adam Kern, Sophie Brause, Samantha Rosuck, and Alexander Musicus)

WJC’s Early Childhood Center celebrated Passover with its own Model Seder. Rabbi Adir gave advice to parents on conducting family seders followed by dancing, singing and of course, feasting with family and friends.

The deadline for content submission for June is May 6th – review@wjcenter.org
WJC Teens Send Delegation to AIPAC in DC for the First Time

ADAM BENDER

Last month we celebrated Israel’s 70th anniversary of its becoming a nation. All of Westchester came together at Solomon Schechter to celebrate, remember and rejoice all that Israel has accomplished over those 70 years. Just a month before however, I had the pleasure of attending the AIPAC Policy Conference (PC) in Washington, D.C. with Abigail (Abba) Winters, a junior at Mamaroneck High School.

For the first time, WJC sent a teen delegation to PC, and Abba, having just returned from a semester in Israel, jumped at the opportunity. As she explained, “AIPAC was such an amazing experience and I was so lucky that I was able to go. Hearing what the guest speakers had to say about Israel and the innovations that have sprouted because of Israel was so interesting.”

I believe AIPAC is one of the more powerful experiences any young Pro-Israel student can attend, besides visiting Israel itself. Over the three days in DC, we, alongside 18,000 delegates, heard from elected officials, foreign leaders, Israeli delegates, and more about why the United States relationship with Israel is of the utmost importance. “The conference really opened my eyes to the information that you have to dig down deep to figure out. I was so fortunate enough to spend three great and eventful days with other teens from Temple Beth El and Adam Bender. I look forward to going again next year with hopefully some teens from WJC,” concluded Abba.
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www.wjcenter.org                 May 2018 - The WJC Review
Welcoming Refugees:  Learning from the Past, Rising to the Moment

Thursday, May 10 • 7:45-9pm • Activity Center

HOLLY ROSEN FINK  WORLD JEWRY SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

Over the past year, the number of refugees and displaced people across the world has grown to more than 65 million – more than any time in history. Because of our history and our values, the Jewish people have a unique connection to these most vulnerable people. This is made all the more critical by the recent Executive Orders barring refugees from the United States and the Administration’s reduction of the number of refugees admitted to the United States in 2018 to an unconscionably low number.

Please join Isabel Burton, Director of Community Engagement Programs at HIAS, the global Jewish non-profit that protects refugees whose lives are in danger for being who they are, to learn more about the current global refugee crisis and explore how the Jewish community is taking a stand. We will also hear from members of the local organization, Neighbors for Refugees, about what they are doing to help refugees and find out concrete ways we can all help now.

Questions: Holly Rosen Fink at holly_rosen@yahoo.com.

Jews in America:  Has George Washington’s Promise Been Kept?

Monday, May 14 • 7:45pm

KAREN EVERETT & MYRA GLAJCHEN  ADULT ED CO-CHAIRS

Join us for a lively conversation and book signing when Author and Professor Richard L. Rubin will discuss his latest book Jews In America: Living George Washington’s Promise.

Jews have flourished in America as nowhere else in the modern world. They have become “Americanized” but not at the expense of their Jewish distinctiveness. The fusion of American values with Jewish ones has created a unique “hybrid” Jewish identity that affects everything from our social attitudes to our child rearing methods to our voting patterns. Rubin suggests that this uniqueness offers hope for Jewish continuity and a bright Jewish future. Learn more at www.jewishinamericabook.com

Delicious desserts will be served. Books will be available for purchase.

It Takes a Village:  WJC Community Ensures Our Needy Neighbors Enjoy a Sweet Passover!

SHARON SILVER & SONDRA LEVY  SoJAC

After so many congregants donated Passover foods, we needed many, many volunteers to sort and pack the food for Project Ezra and the Bronx JCC Kosher Food Pantry.

Our ECC four-year olds, and our Religious School K-2 graders, sorted food and some of the older students created wonderful drawings that brought smiles to the faces of Project Ezra recipients as they received their boxes of food. 7th graders packed the food for final delivery and our adult volunteers organized and drove all those boxes of food to their destinations.

The generosity of our congregation was exemplified by our Religious School which donated $200 in Passover foods. Others donated their time and efforts as they delivered food packages in the Bronx and on the Lower East Side before Passover.

It took our whole community to make the 2018 Passover Food Drive the wonderful success it was.

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Shavuos is the season of the year when, according to Jewish tradition, the Torah was given to the Jews. It has been called the birthday of Judaism - and rightfully so.

If a statistical survey were to be undertaken to estimate the exact number of homes in which a Bible is missing from the library bookshelves - (all three sections of the Bible - the Five Books of Moses, the Prophets, and the Chronicles), the results would be more than depressing. It seems that we are shamefully neglecting and not even “shelving away” our priceless treasure, and our most precious gift to humanity - our age-old and timeless Bible.

If there is no copy of the Bible in your house, your intellectual standing as a Jew and as a human being demands that this situation be corrected without delay.

The standard edition of the Holy Scriptures - published by the Jewish Publication Society - is a “must” for your home and for your library.

The majestic epic of the Bible speaks for itself, but if you would like to avail yourself of a modern key to the Bible, your attention is directed to three guideposts to a most illuminating appreciation of the Bible in our days: the “Book of Books, by Solomon Goldman, published by Harper; “Pathways Through the Bible” by Mortimer J. Cohn, published by the Jewish Publication Society; and “The Holy Bible” published by the Soncino Press, edited by Rev. A. Cohen.
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Goldie Greenberg  
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Chava Gelb  
From Morton Gelb  
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From Patricia & Sherman Berger  
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Muriel Wald  
From Peter Lehrer  
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Jerry Rosenthal  
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From Andre Kaplan  
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From Raelin & Jeff Kantor  
Wally Greenberg  
From Raelin & Jeff Kantor  
Vera Benezra  
From Violet Sassoon  
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Beatrice B. Fox  
From Jackie & Sol Israel  
Shirley Lichten  
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