

Scarsdale Sentinel



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Passing of Marian Green and Linda Blair Noted at Scarsdale Board Meeting

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Scarsdale Mayor Justin K. Arest welcomed the public to the July Village Board of Trustees meeting, requesting a Moment of Silence regarding the recent passing of Marian Green, 71, who was found bludgeoned and stabbed to death sometime between July 5 and 7 in her Butler Road residence. Her son Chester, 26, was charged with her murder.

Arest said that Green was “a passionate and unwavering advocate for residents with different disabilities. She devoted well over a decade to the Village’s Council on People With Disabilities, including many years as its Chair and supported students with learning dif-

ferences.

“Marian spoke up for accessible sidewalks, reminding us that safer walkways are not only for residents with disabilities but commuters, school children, parents, joggers, walk to worshippers, dog walkers and anyone else who enjoys the simple pleasure of walking. She advocated for sufficient handicap parking and learned about accessibility challenges of the Library Building, leading to its eventual renovation.

“We also learned of the passing of longtime volunteer Linda Blair, 87, a Fox Meadow Road resident of our Village for four decades. She passed away on July 3 and chaired



Mayor Justin K. Arest

the Architectural Review Board. Our thoughts are with her husband Bill, her children and grandchildren,” Arest stated.

“Many of you may have noticed when you walked into Village Hall that there are two Multi-Space Parking Pay Stations on display in the lobby,” Village Manager Alexandra H. Marshall remarked. “These Pay Stations are being considered as part of the Village’s parking meter replacement program which will modernize parking infrastructure in our downtown.

“Please note that this is to evaluate the stations only with no charge incurred. We appreciate receiving your feedback

and email to parking@scarsdale.gov or manager@scarsdale.gov.”

A Public Hearing was opened by Deputy Mayor Dara B. Gruenberg for application for one of the retail spaces available in the Christie Place Development Project by Michael Ford-Deegan, one of the Caffè Nero owners and Caffè Nero Finance Director Timothy Sheehan.

Village Attorney Nicholas Ward-Willis requested square footage, store operation hours, parking and traffic. “Caffè Nero, including the one in Scarsdale, typically are 2,000 to 3,000 square feet. Projected hours are 6 AM to 7 PM, Monday through Sunday. We like to think of it as a neighborhood gathering point and defer the patio permit to the next season,” Ford-Deegan replied.

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JCCMW Appoints Four New Members to its Board of Directors

The JCC Mid-Westchester (JCCMW) has announced that local community leaders Laura Malick, Deborah Lichtenstein, Nancy Street, and Scott Zemachson have joined its Board of Directors, strengthening the organization's leadership as it continues to expand its impact across the community and inspire joyous lives.

"As board president, I am thrilled to welcome Laura Malick, Deborah Lichtenstein, Nancy Street, and Scott Zemachson to the JCCMW Board of Directors. Their diverse expertise and deep commitment to community service will undoubtedly enhance our mission and help shape our future. We look forward to their contributions in fostering a vibrant and inclusive community," said Rachel Moseley, Board President. "I am also grateful that Kate Eichel has agreed to serve as Board Vice President and that Deborah Yankwitt will serve as President of the JCC Nursery School Board. With the tremendous growth JCCMW is experiencing and our board continuing to expand, their leadership and support will be invaluable in navigating this exciting period of development."



Laura Malick



Deborah Lichtenstein



Nancy Street



Scott Zemachson

Kate Eichel is a lifelong volunteer. She joined the JCCMW Board in 2024 and has served on the Audit and Development Committees. She is currently a member of the UJA-Federation of NY Board of Directors and has been on the UJA Scarsdale women's board for many years, including three years as board chair. Eichel was a founding member of UJA's Bonim Atid venture philanthropy fund and is a proud alumna of JFNA's National Young Leadership

cabinet. She served as PTA president at Heathcote Elementary School. Eichel received her bachelor's degree in Economics from The Wharton School and is a co-chair of the Westchester County Penn Alumni Interview Program. She lives in Scarsdale with her family.

Deborah Yankwitt earned her bachelor's degree from Brandeis and her medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-School of Osteopathic Medicine. She worked for almost 20 years as a pediatrician, has served on the Temple Israel Center Board for many years and is currently a consultant at Yankwitt LLP. Prior to medical school, she was an assistant teacher at the League School for special needs children in Walpole, Massachusetts. Dr. Yankwitt and her family have been involved in various programs at the JCCMW since 2007 and have lived in White Plains for more than 20 years.

"We are honored to welcome these highly respected and accomplished leaders to our Board of Directors who are generously dedicating their time and energy to JCCMW's community-building mission," shared Elise Dowell, CEO of the JCCMW. "With shared values and a passion for the work we champion daily, they are poised to help make our flourishing organization even stronger."

JCCMW extends its sincere gratitude to Alison Singer for her meaningful service on the Board of Directors and Executive Board, as well as for her leadership as President of the JCC Nursery School Board. Her commitment to JCCMW's mission have made a lasting impact, and she will be greatly missed in her board role.

The JCCMW is a nonprofit organization that supports the community by offering outstanding cultural, educational, and human services programming to all people regardless of age, background, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Programs are grounded in Jewish values and are open to all! The JCCMW enriches families, connects friends, strengthens community, and helps people lead joyful lives. To learn more about the JCCMW, visit jccmw.org.

Scarsdale native Laura Malick returned to Westchester in 2015 after living in New York City's West Village and now lives in New Rochelle with her family. A residential real estate agent at Compass with The Zach + Heather Harrison Team, Malick previously worked in public relations for the performing arts, representing renowned classical musicians and Broadway talent. A JCCMW nursery school alumna, she is thrilled to return to the place where she grew up, now serving as a member of the Board of Directors and looks forward to strengthening connections throughout Westchester's Jewish community and beyond.

Deborah Lichtenstein began her career in network news at ABC, where

she worked on 20/20, covered the 2004 presidential campaign, and produced for Nightline. Since moving to Westchester, she has been an active community volunteer, serving in leadership roles with the Heathcote Elementary and Scarsdale Middle School PTAs, supporting the Scarsdale Library Capital Campaign, and co-founding New York's first chapter of Young Men's Service League. Lichtenstein also volunteers with her therapy dog at White Plains Hospital. She currently lives in Scarsdale with her family. A member of the JCCMW Programming Advisory Committee, Lichtenstein is excited to join the JCCMW Board of Directors.

Nancy D. Street has decades of experience managing and consulting for organizations ranging from start-ups (including her own) to Fortune 100 divisions and political campaigns. She is founder and CEO of Loloivi, a mission-based fine jewelry company, and also works with the Westchester County Board of Legislators while consulting on several political campaigns. Her career includes roles at American Express, Shearson Smith Barney, Merrill Lynch, and ALLearn, and earlier work in advertising at BBDO and J. Walter Thompson. A cum laude graduate of Brown University, Street completed the Merrill Lynch/Wharton Executive Education Program and is certified as a spin and yoga instructor as well as a natural foods chef. Street lives in New Rochelle with her husband and enjoys time with her grown children and their families.

Scott Zemachson has more than 25 years of experience in wealth management and is a Managing Director at Morgan Stanley and a member of The Kline Zemachson Richman Group, recognized by Forbes as a Best-In-State Wealth Management Team in 2025 and 2026. He was also named a Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisor in 2024 and 2026. A Penn State University graduate, Zemachson lives in Scarsdale with his family. He is active in the community through leadership roles with UJA-Federation of Westchester, the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation, and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

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Edgemont Gardening Volunteers Needed

Eight community volunteers came together in June to help launch the Edgemont Community Council (ECC) Environmental Committee's Longview Pollinator Garden Project by planting bee balm, black-eyed susan, foxglove beardtongue, and golden groundsel on the Longview Drive island at Fort Hill Road.

The installation of the plants, generously provided by Greenburgh Parks and Recreation, marks the first phase of a three-phase effort to revitalize all three Longview endcap gardens with native plantings that support butterflies, bees, birds, and other pollinators while enhancing the beauty and sustainability of our community.



But the work is just beginning.

While native plants are generally low-maintenance once established, they require regular watering during their first growing season. The ECC Environmental Committee is currently seeking volunteers to help monitor the garden and assist with watering and occasional weeding once or twice a week through October.

This is a great opportunity to support a community-led beautification project while helping create valuable habitat for local wildlife. Volunteers can indicate specific dates they are available, as well as dates they are unavailable, to help coordinate coverage throughout the summer and early fall.

To volunteer, complete the sign-up form: <https://forms.gle/6daMBkiBo2BFQeqP9>.

Looking ahead, the Environmental Committee also plans to explore additional native planting and beautification opportunities throughout Edgemont, including at the Old Edgemont neighborhood welcome sign near Crane's Pond and the Greenridge neighborhood welcome sign on Old Colony Road.

Hartsdale Teacher Receives Milken Educator Award

Celebrate! Elevate! Activate! The 2025 class of Milken Educator Award recipients traveled from every corner of the country to attend the Milken Educator Awards Forum, "Milken Educators Leading the Way," held in Washington, D.C. in June. The event provided a powerful opportunity for honorees to network, learn to take their impact to the next level, and be celebrated at the Spotlight of Excellence Gala in deserved celebrity fashion.



Photo courtesy of the Milken Family Foundation

Milken Educator Awards Founder Lowell Milken hosted the 2025 Awardees, officially recognizing New York Milken Educator Award recipient Harry Shontz with his unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize. Shontz is a social studies teacher at The Leffell School in Hartsdale.

"Each 2025 Milken Educator embodies the steadfast leader, mentor and guide every student deserves," said Lowell Milken. "From the inaugural class of twelve outstanding California educators, the Milken Educator Network is now more than 3,000-strong, representing diverse communities across the country. We celebrate the induction of 27 professionals who are building a brighter future for thousands of young Americans and our nation itself."



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Westchester County Bans Sale of Deceptive Vaping Products

The Westchester County Board of Legislators unanimously voted in July to pass a bill banning the sale of e-cigarettes and vaping products made to resemble everyday items such as school supplies, smartphone cases, toys, and drink containers. Introduced by County Executive Ken Jenkins, the measure targets deceptive products intended to attract young people while concealing nicotine use from parents and teachers.

Some vaping products mimic highlighters, USB drives, and other familiar objects, making them easier to hide in schools and harder for parents and school staff to recognize.

Once enacted, the Westchester County Board of Health will enforce the County law. Civil penalties will range from \$300 to \$1,500 for a first violation and up to \$2,500 for repeat offenses.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi said, “Parents shouldn’t have to wonder whether the highlighter in a child’s backpack is actually a vaping device. This law shuts down one more tactic used to put nicotine products within easy reach of young people. I’m proud the Board acted unanimously to help protect our children and support families.”

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson, Chair of the Board’s Health Committee, said, “Every parent understands the instinct to protect our children from dangers they may not yet recognize for themselves. Camouflaged vaping products are especially troubling because they are designed to look harmless, familiar, and easy to conceal—making nicotine addiction more accessible and more appealing to young people. The Board’s unanimous passage sends a clear message: Products created to evade adult attention and endanger our children have no place in Westchester County. I thank the County Executive for proposing this important measure and my colleagues on the Board for standing together in support of it. I am proud to see this measure move forward, and I remain equally committed to advancing additional vape-related measures I have proposed to protect our children from deceptive products and the dangers of nicotine addiction. We are actively working to move those proposals forward, and I look forward to seeing them pass as we continue building a safer, healthier Westchester for every child and every family.”



BOARD BANS
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Scarsdale Police Blotter

Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 11:17 AM: A Chateaux Circle resident told police that a neighbor recorded a private conversation he had with his wife.

Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 11:39 AM: A driver on Tisdale Road told police that another driver spit on his car and he followed the driver to confront him. The two began arguing, and when police arrived, the other driver told them he had a medical condition that caused him to spit and it accidentally hit the other car.

Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 1:55 PM: The Scarsdale Village Accountant reported that two checks mailed in a public mailbox were stolen and altered. The original recipients did not receive the funds.

Friday, June 19, 2026, 12:23 PM: A Lorraine Place resident reported that he was the victim of a scam. He received an email from a contractor who billed him more than \$50,000. He wired the payment to the bank account number in the email, but received another email from the contractor requesting payment a few days later. He then realized the first email address was wrong by one letter, and he had paid a scammer.

Sunday, June 21, 3:15 PM: A Murray Hill Road homeowner reported that a woman

in a black SUV entered her driveway and asked if the party she saw posted online was being held at her home.

Sunday, June 21, 2026, 6:43 PM: A Bronx woman was ticketed for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration and no insurance after a traffic stop on Lorraine Place.

Monday, June 22, 2026, 8:17 AM: Drills, saws, a screw gun, batteries, a generator and other tools were reported stolen from a construction site on Cushman Road.

Monday, June 22, 2026, 3:48 PM: Police were summoned to a physician’s office on Overhill Road when a verbal dispute escalated between a patient and staff over an appointment time. The staff told the patient to leave, but she refused. She told police she wanted her medical records. Police and staff told her the medical records would be emailed and she is no longer permitted to visit the office.

Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 7:52 PM: A woman told police a man was in the bathroom of her Taunton Road home. She confronted the man and he left the house. Nothing was taken or damaged.

Friday, June 26, 9:04 AM: A Rock Creek

continued on page 9

Scarsdale Man Charged with Killing Mother at Fox Meadow Home

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that a Scarsdale man was charged with Murder in the Second Degree, a class A felony, in connection with the killing of his mother at their Fox Meadow home in July.

Chester Green, 26, was arraigned virtually Wednesday afternoon by Judge Erin McGoey. He is due back in court on August 5. Green is remanded until his next court appearance.

DA Cacace said: “Like everyone in this county, I am shocked at the horrifying death of Marian Green and the manner in which she was killed. This tragedy is only further compounded by the familial relation between the victim and suspect in this case. My office has charged Ms. Green’s son in connection with her murder, and we will seek to ensure that justice is achieved for her through this prosecution. May she rest in peace.

“I would also like to recognize the dedicated work of all the detectives and investigators who have pored over this case non-stop since the discovery of Ms. Green’s body. Their steadfast work is what enabled us to bring today’s charges.”

Scarsdale Police Chief Steven DelBene said: “I would like to commend the work of my detectives, the Westchester County Police and the District Attorney’s Office for their careful investigation of this case.”

As alleged in a felony complaint filed with the court, between July 5 and July 7, the defendant caused the death of his mother, 71-year-old Marian Green, at their Fox Meadow home by stabbing and beating her multiple times about her body with a sharp object and with a blunt instrument.

The case was investigated by the Scarsdale Police Department, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety and the Criminal Investigators Squad within the DA’s Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Brianna Ciuffi and Caroline Zicca and Bureau Chief Jonathan Strongin.

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Westchester Soccer Club Recognizes Westchester County Youth Bureau Youth Service Award Recipients

Last month, at a special halftime ceremony during the match between the Westchester Soccer Club and the New York Cosmos, the Westchester Soccer Club recognized nine youth leaders who had previously received the Westchester County Youth Bureau (WCYB) and Youth Board Annual Youth Service Award. The students gathered on Mount Vernon’s Memorial Field, along with Westchester Deputy County Executive Joan McDonald, representatives from the soccer club and the new team mascot, Hutch, for their moment in the spotlight.

The Youth Service Award recognizes 11th and 12th grade students living in Westchester County who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to others through volunteerism and leadership, and is given by the WCYB and Youth Board to outstanding students each year.

Westchester Deputy County Executive Joan McDonald said: “Westchester County, through funding administered



by the WCYB, is deeply invested in youth sports. We support programs to the tune of \$1.17 million that provide a variety of sports/physical fitness opportunities for a broad range of youth up to 18 years of age, in under-resourced communities. We have 49 programs in communities like Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Peekskill,

White Plains, Port Chester and others. We thank the Westchester Soccer Club for being a terrific community partner and bringing it all together –the excitement generated by the World Cup, the chance to recognize exemplary youth leaders and the opportunity to cheer on Westchester’s home soccer team to victory.”

Westchester County Youth Bureau Executive Director Ernest McFadden said: “The Westchester Soccer Club exemplifies the power of sports to unite communities, inspire young people and

build character, which was on full display during the recent 2026 FIFA tournament. We are deeply grateful to the Club for recognizing the Westchester County Youth Bureau and Youth Board class of 2024 and 2025 Youth Service honorees, who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to others through volunteerism and leadership. Today, we celebrate not only their remarkable achievements, but also our shared commitment to creating opportunities that empower every young person to thrive—both on and off the field.”

Westchester Soccer Club Senior Account Executive Bill Levy said: “The Westchester Soccer Club is a proud member of the USL Championship League 1 Division. In only its second year, the team had already proved to be a winner both on the field, and in the community. With local ownership, the team values the importance of being a great community partner.”

Youth Service Award recipient Aidan Mendez said: “Recognizing everyday students for extending a helping hand to their community is always great! Reminding youth of where they come from is always the most important part of development.”

The Declaration Distributed Tells the Story of the American Revolution in New York

The Declaration Distributed: Westchester County’s Holt Broadside of 1776 is on display at The Neuberger Museum of Art, SUNY Purchase through Sunday, December 20.

The story told in The Declaration Distributed: Westchester County’s Holt Broadside of 1776 is more than the story of the Broadside. It is the story of a revolution in progress, a revolution unfinished. It is the story of the ways in which those revolutionary ideas spread through New York State by way of the Holt Broadside.

According to Tracy Fitzpatrick, director of the Neuberger Museum of Art, SUNY Purchase, “The exhibition will offer visitors a rare opportunity to view this historic document. It focuses on the document, its printer, the role of printing during the Revolution, the first reader of the document in New York State who lived on the land where SUNY Purchase now stands, its whereabouts over the last 250 years, and current preservation efforts.”

The document will be displayed in a special case designed and manufactured by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), similar to cases that NIST has constructed over the years for the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, which are housed in the National Archives in Washington D.C. In celebration of the extraordinary effort Westchester County has made to preserve this document, the case itself will be visible to the visiting public, a first for a NIST case.

About the Holt Broadside: The Declaration of Independence set forth in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, at the Second Continental Congress is sometimes misunderstood. Often thought of as a declaration of individual rights — one’s pursuit of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”— it is actually a list of grievances against the British Crown in the pursuit of separation.

In the United States we have come to celebrate July 4 as our nation’s Independence



John Holt. Broadside of the Declaration of Independence, July 9, 1776. Printed sheet; 20 x 12 in. Collection of the Westchester County Archives.



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As a volunteer, you'll play an important role in creating a welcoming experience for patrons by assisting with greeting, ushering, and directing attendees throughout the building during special events and performances.

Whether you're passionate about the performing arts, looking to give back to the community, or simply enjoy meeting new people, this is a great opportunity.

Contact Debra Cohen at cohend@jccmw.org for additional information.

Westchester Parks Foundation Welcomes Three New Trustees



Pamela Tillinghast Dubitsky



Jacqueline Langsam



Zubeen Shroff

Westchester Parks Foundation (WPF), the philanthropic partner of the Westchester County Parks system, appointed three accomplished leaders to its Board of Trustees: Jacqueline Langsam, Pamela Dubitsky and Zubeen Shroff.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jacqueline, Pamela and Zubeen to the WPF Board of Trustees," said Seth Mandelbaum, Chair of the WPF Board of Trustees. "Each brings exceptional experience, leadership, and a deep commitment to public service. Their expertise spans parks management, environmental stewardship, healthcare, philanthropy, and community engagement, providing valuable perspectives that will help advance our mission to invest in, advocate for, and enhance Westchester County's parks, trails, and open spaces. We look forward to their contributions as we continue working to ensure our parks remain vibrant, accessible, and enjoyed by all for generations to come."

Pamela Tillinghast Dubitsky is a civic leader, philanthropist, and former environmental and corporate attorney with a longstanding commitment to conservation, education, and public health. She currently serves as Chair of the Westchester County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Board and as a Commissioner on the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commission, Taconic Region. Earlier in her career, she advised governments and multinational agencies in Central Asia and Central Europe on environmental policy and privatization following the collapse of the Soviet Union. She holds a J.D. from Boston University School of Law and a bachelor's degree from Bryn Mawr College and has been a Larchmont resident for more than 20 years.

Jacqueline Langsam has devoted more than four decades to public parks and recreation. As Queens Borough Commissioner for the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, she oversees

a system of more than 7,000 acres of parkland, 476 parks, more than 2,000 acres of natural areas and 7.5 miles of beach. Since joining NYC Parks as a seasonal employee in 1982, Langsam has held numerous leadership positions with responsibilities spanning operations, maintenance, budgeting, fundraising, public programming, and community and government relations. A graduate of Syracuse University and the Bronx High School of Science, she has been a White Plains resident for nearly 15 years.

Zubeen Shroff is a healthcare entrepreneur, investor, and advisor from Tarrytown, with more than 40 years of leadership experience across the healthcare industry. His career included executive leadership in medical products, management consulting, healthcare private equity, and advising emerging healthcare companies. A Westchester resident for more than 50 years, Shroff is passionate about preserving the county's renowned parks and trailways, which have played an important role in his family's life. He believes that investing in parks is an investment in the health, well-being, and quality of life of every Westchester resident.

Westchester Parks Foundation a/k/a Friends of Westchester County Parks is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit that supports the Westchester County Parks system, working to preserve, protect and enhance the county's parks, trails and open spaces through advocacy, fundraising, environmental stewardship, and community engagement. Since 1977, the Foundation has invested in initiatives that expand public access to nature, improve park infrastructure, support environmental education, and create inclusive recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities.

For more information about Westchester Parks Foundation, visit www.thewpf.org.

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Scarsdale Calendar



Mark Morganelli Quartet

Tuesdays, August 4, 11, 18, 25

6:30 PM to 8 PM

Horan's Landing, 57 River Street, Sleepy Hollow

Flugelhornist Mark Morganelli, midi-accordionist and vocalist Eddie Monteiro, drummer and vocalist Nanny Assis, and guitarist Roni Ben-Hur plus special guests evoke the Brazilian spirit along the Hudson Riverfront. Free admission. For more information, email info@jazzforumarts.org.



Sundaes in the Park

Wednesday, August 12, 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla

Enjoy magician Amore and face painting from Making Faces, along with \$5 cones, shakes and sundaes (toppings extra). Admission and parking are free. Learn more at <https://parks.westchestercountyny.gov/sundaes-in-the-park>.



Tomato Tastings

Saturday, August 15, 11 AM to Noon

Hilltop Hanover Farm, 1271 Hanover Street, Yorktown Heights

Explore the tomato growing process and sample from a selection of the finest tomatoes in this tasting tour! Participants will take note of the different flavor profiles of each cultivar and learn what makes each one taste so unique! For more information, call (914) 862-5050.



Weir Tour

Saturday, August 22, 10 AM to Noon

Joseph Caputo Center, 95 Broadway, Ossining

After a brief walk, descend into the Weir in Ossining and explore the original 1842 brick water tunnel and learn its history. This free tour is designed to be an engaging, story-driven experience and is not suitable for children under 10. To register, go to <https://aqueduct.org/civicrm/event/register/?reset=1&id=459>

Summer Kumzitz: Songs of Israel

Wednesday, August 12, 7 PM to 8:30 PM

Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester, 999 Wilmot Road, Scarsdale

Bring your singing voice and meet under the tent at the JCCMW! Beth Styles, award-winning composer, producer, and artist, will lead the annual Summer Kumzitz, an unforgettable evening of Israeli music and community. Drinks and desserts will be served. For more information, email jewishengagement@jccmw.org.

Patrick Perone & Blue Suede Rockers

Thursday, August 13, 7 PM

West Harrison Village Green, 73 Lake Street

This Elvis Presley tribute band performs classic rock from the King of Rock & Roll. Free admission. For more information, call (914) 670-3000.

Summer Sing

Thursday, August 13, 7 PM to 9 PM

First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, 2880 Crompond Road

Join the Taghkanic Chorale to sing through Mozart's Requiem. Scores will be available. All singers regardless of experience level are welcome for an opportunity to sing together for the pure joy of it, without regard for performance quality. Admission is \$10. Learn more at <https://www.taghkanicchorale.org/>.

Pyrography: Beginner Techniques

Thursday, August 20, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester, 999 Wilmot Road, Scarsdale

Turn everyday wooden items into one-of-a-kind works of art! Instructor Julia Swyers will demonstrate the fundamentals of wood burning—including tools, techniques, design transfer, and lettering—and guide you in using your own designs to transform a natural wood cutting board and wooden cooking utensil! No experience is required, and all materials will be provided. Cost is \$62. Learn more at <https://jccmw.org/event/pyrography/>.

Floral Design Workshop

Wednesday, August 25, 7 PM to 8:30 PM

Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester, 999 Wilmot Road, Scarsdale

Discover the beauty and mindfulness of ikebana, the traditional Japanese art of flower arranging! This art form offers a unique exploration of harmony, balance, and symbolism deeply rooted in Japanese aesthetics and cultural heritage. With the guidance of instructor Zahra Jlayer, you will create your own elegant floral arrangement to take home. All materials are included, and beginners are welcome! Refreshments will be served. Cost is \$72. For more information, call (914) 725-7300.

HOW "In Celebration" Gala

Thursday, September 17, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Westchester Country Club, 99 Biltmore Avenue, Rye

Hospice of Westchester (HOW) will host its annual "In Celebration" Gala Cocktail Reception, which will support The Anna & Louis H. Shereff Caregiver, Complementary Care and Bereavement Programs. This year's event will honor Susan Fox, President & CEO, White Plains Hospital and feature a Celebration of Life for James P. O'Toole, former Board Chair. A special recognition will be given to Grand Sponsor of the event, Rochelle E. Shereff. For more information, contact Holly Benedict at hbenedict@hospiceofwestchester.com or 914-682-1484, ext. 122.

Sips & Serenades

Thursday, August 6, 4 PM to 5 PM

Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, Connecticut

Unwind at the Museum with Sips & Serenades, a new series pairing live music with handcrafted cocktails on the Bill and Fran Deutsch Family Patio. The inaugural program features a classical violin performance by Kristen Young, offering the perfect way to spend a summer afternoon surrounded by art, architecture, and great company. For more information, call 203-869-0376.

Party in the Park

Friday, August 14, 6 PM to 8 PM

Hyatt Park, 143-167 Grand Boulevard, Scarsdale

Bring a picnic dinner, blanket and lawn chair and enjoy an evening of summer fun with live music, children's entertainment and outdoor activities. Free admission. For more information, call 914-722-1160.

Upcoming Events at the Scarsdale Public Library

Pregnancy & Postpartum Support Group
Thursdays, August 6, 13, 20 and 27, 10 AM
Join this ongoing, face-to-face support group whose members understand what you are going through! bit.ly/3R2eHWY

Trivia Night

Thursday, August 6, 7 PM
Show off your knowledge in the Scott Room with a rousing game of trivia, complete with sandwiches, snacks, adult beverages, and other drinks! bit.ly/4vTJFQ4

Art Workshop - Zentangle

Monday, August 10, 2 PM
Enjoy a serene, mindful, and creative afternoon of Zentangle art with local artist Toby Ulman. bit.ly/4ePo9WO

Virtual: Women and Money Roundtable - How to Make Sense of Today's Financial Markets

Wednesday, August 12, 1 PM
The topics will vary every month to stay as current as possible. This is open to women of all levels of financial knowledge. bit.ly/44iGyoQ

Virtual: Lise Meitner - A Life in Science

Wednesday, August 12, 6 PM
Join educator and engineer Edward Sierra for an engaging and informative presentation about a brilliant, pioneering woman of physics who never let the misogyny and the antisemitism of the era dim her passion for science. bit.ly/3SG1LqI

Manga Book Club

Thursday, August 13, 2 PM
Fans of all manga and anime are welcome. Enjoy manga-themed crafts and talk about your favorite series. bit.ly/4f6A55c

Movie Screening & Discussion - Female on the Beach (1955)

Friday, August 14, 2 PM
Join Marcus Renna for a screening and discussion of the twisty, suspenseful, and endlessly fascinating crime drama. The film is adapted from the play The Besieged Heart, also written by Robert Hill, following a wealthy widow and her beach bum lover. bit.ly/44faNwX

Chinese Movie Matinee - Black Tea (2024)

Saturday, August 15, 10 AM
Join us for a family friendly Chinese language film. This monthly event is com-

pletely free, and refreshments will be provided! August's film is the romantic drama Black Tea. bit.ly/4goORNb

The Secrets Behind The Wizard of Oz

Tuesday, August 18, 1 PM
This behind-the-scenes talk uncovers the untold stories of the making of the 1939 film The Wizard of Oz — on-set mishaps, cast changes, surprising secrets, and the real-life drama behind the magic. bit.ly/4vP42hl

Nancy's Book Group: Firestorm by Jacob Soboroff

Wednesday, August 19, 2 PM
“A near-real-time overview of a catastrophic blaze, among the worst in California history” - Kirkus. bit.ly/4b2s5kP

Author Talk: The Einstein Conspiracy with Steve Israel

Wednesday, August 19, 6:30 PM
Join former congressman, author, and bookseller Steve Israel as he discusses his thriller and his experiences as an independent bookseller. bit.ly/4foRSfD

Art Workshop - Styles From Around the World

Thursday, August 20, 10:30 AM
In honor of the Independence Day of Indonesia, Kören Beck will discuss several of the most important modern Indonesian artists. Afterward participants can draw based on a simple still life arrangement, take inspiration from some of the discussed works, or freely create. bit.ly/4veS4wF

Scarsdale Middle School 101

Mon. or Wed., August 24 or 26, 7 PM
Students new to Scarsdale Middle School this fall and their caregivers are invited to learn about Scarsdale Middle School from current middle school and high school students! bit.ly/4aI4u8M

Drop-in Junk Journaling (ages 13 and up)

Thursday, August 27, 3 PM
Decorate and adorn your own junk journal using collage materials, stationery, and the library makerspace's Cricut machines. For ages 13 and up. A drop in program, no registration required. bit.ly/3T8IcH8

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Tasty Summer Drives

Hit the road this summer with a good food destination in mind...



Alex's Bar & Grille: I have been enjoying Alex's Bar and Grille, 577 North Broadway, White Plains, for more than a decade. Proprietor Alex Ahmetaj has matured this restaurant beautifully. You can sit in the warm dining room with its cozy nooks and crannies or take a seat in the bustling bar/lounge. The classic Italian American fare coming out of this strong kitchen are hearty and pleasing. Check out the Oysters Rockefeller, delicious fresh Halibut with seafood, an awesome **Osso Bucco** the size of Mt. Vesuvius. Steaks and chops here rival the very best. There is a big juicy burger on the menu, too. The smooth house made cheesecake is a must for dessert. www.alex577.com

Mumbai Katta: Anita Gawde is a dynamo! The owner of Mumbai Katta Indian Restaurant, 227 Westchester Avenue, Port Chester, is always on the move. At one moment, she greets guests at the door, the next she disappears into her kitchen, the next she is on the dining room floor touting her dishes. It is her heartfelt tribute to the tasty street foods of regional India. Anita and her husband Jayant have been marking a second anniversary with a newly expanded menu that now includes Tandoori and regional Kebabs. The dishes are loaded with flavor. Reserve ahead for a traditional Thali banquet. www.mumbaikatta.com

Tesoro D'Italia: I first met Peter Lucaj when he was managing Ciao in Eastchester. Just over a dozen years ago, he and his brothers Mark and Don took over Tesoro d'Italia, 160 Marble Avenue, Pleasantville. I have enjoyed watching them evolve this expansive multi-faceted restaurant into a destination for fine regional Italian cuisine and full service catering. You can sit along the handsome wine wall. Lovely private rooms are available for groups. Dive into such specialties as Chicken Payard, Black Linguine Pescatore, Chicken Scarpariello, Broiled Veal Chop, or Grilled Pork Chops with the works. Happy hours in the bar/lounge are most inviting starting at 3 PM weekdays. There is a weekday luncheon special: \$24.95, noon to 3 PM. www.tesoroditaliany.com

Squire's: Squire's, 94 North State Road, is approaching a milestone 60 years in Briarcliff Manor. Kudos to owner Kurt Knox and his team. You may have heard about their classic Burgers and massive Prime Rib (served on weekends). They offer a big menu filled with delightful tavern specialties. There is literally something for everyone in your group from tasty finger foods and sandwiches to a giant portion of Fish & Chips. All reasonably priced. www.squiresofbriarcliff.com

Las Mananitas: This Mexican restaurant on top of Route 684 in Brewster offers dramatic views of the East Branch Reservoir and a multi-tiered outdoor patio for relaxing and picture taking. There are plenty of window seats and a fireplace room for comfort, too. They often host Mariachis, DJ and drink specials at their big bar. Look for such kitchen specialties as: El Aquacate, avocado stuffed with crabmeat and shrimp; Carnitas, three soft pork tacos; Sizzling Fajitas; and Sinaloa, jumbo shrimp wrapped in bacon stuffed with Manchego cheese. Ample free parking. www.lasmanitasrestaurant.com

Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at 914-235-6591. E-mail gutreactions@optonline.net.

Do You Need to File a New York Estate Tax Return? Understanding the 2026 Rules, the Tax Cliff, and Common Filing Confusion

BY BERNARD A. KROOKS,
CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY
SPECIAL GUEST CONTRIBUTOR:
JOEL KROOKS, ESQ.

Does an Estate Need to File a New York Estate Tax Return?

When a person dies, one of the first tax questions an Executor or Administrator must consider is whether the estate must file an estate tax return. In New York, the answer depends on the size of the estate, the decedent's residency, certain lifetime gifts, and whether the estate owns New York property.

Importantly, the requirement to file a New York estate tax return is separate from whether estate tax is actually owed.

The 2026 New York Estate Tax Exclusion – For individuals dying in 2026, New York's basic estate tax exclusion amount is \$7,350,000. Generally, a New York resident's estate must file a New York State estate tax return if the decedent's federal gross estate, plus certain includible taxable gifts, exceeds that amount. The exclusion is adjusted over time based on the decedent's date of death. For comparison, the exclusion was \$7,160,000 for deaths in 2025.

The federal gross estate generally includes all property in which the decedent had an interest at death, including real estate, bank and brokerage accounts, retirement accounts, business interests, tangible personal property, certain trust interests, and life insurance owned by the decedent or payable to the estate.

This is a gross value test. The estate must first consider the total value of assets before deductions are applied to determine whether tax is ultimately owed.

Lifetime Gifts and the Filing Threshold – New York also requires estates to consider certain taxable gifts made during the decedent's lifetime. These gifts may need to be added back when determining whether the estate exceeds the New York filing threshold.

As a result, making large gifts shortly before death does not necessarily eliminate a New York estate tax filing requirement or potential estate tax liability.

Nonresidents Who Own New York Property – A nonresident's estate may also be required to file a New York estate tax return if the decedent owned real property or tangible personal property located in New York and the federal gross estate, together with certain includible gifts, exceeds the New York basic exclusion amount.

For example, if a Florida resident dies

owning a New York cooperative apartment, house, or other New York real property, the estate may have a New York filing obligation even though the decedent was not domiciled in New York.

What Form Is Filed and When Is It Due?

When a New York estate tax return is required, the estate files Form ET-706, New York State Estate Tax Return. The return is generally due nine months after the decedent's date of death, and any tax due is generally payable within that same period.

An estate may request an extension of time to file and/or pay when additional time is needed. However, interest may apply if tax is paid late.

When Is New York Estate Tax Actually Owed?

Whether estate tax is actually owed depends on the taxable estate after allowable deductions and credits are applied. Common deductions may include funeral and administration expenses, debts, mortgages, certain charitable transfers, and the marital deduction for qualifying transfers to a surviving spouse.

Therefore, an estate may be large enough to require a New York estate tax filing but still owe no New York estate tax after deductions are applied.

The New York Estate Tax "Cliff" – One of the most important features of New York's estate tax is the so-called "cliff." If the taxable estate is at or below the basic exclusion amount, no New York estate tax is owed. If the taxable estate is slightly above the exclusion amount, some tax may be owed. However, once the taxable estate exceeds 105 percent of the basic exclusion amount, the estate loses the benefit of the New York exclusion entirely.

For 2026, 105 percent of the \$7,350,000 exclusion is \$7,717,500. Once the taxable estate exceeds that amount, the estate may be taxed from the first dollar rather than only on the amount above the exclusion.

This rule can produce a significant tax liability from a relatively modest increase in the taxable estate. Careful planning is particularly important for New York residents whose estates are near or above the exclusion amount.

Estate Tax Rates and Portability – New York's graduated estate tax rates can reach 16 percent. New York also does not provide portability between spouses. This means that if the first spouse to die does not use his or her New York estate tax exclusion through proper planning, the unused exclusion is not automatically transferred to the surviving

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Scarsdale Police Blotter

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Lane woman notified police that a large dumpster was left in her driveway. The dumpster was delivered to the wrong address and was taken away later.

Friday, June 26, 2026, 10 AM: A 44-year-old New Jersey woman was charged with third-degree criminal mischief after she drove onto private property, damaging the lawn, bluestone and irrigation system.

Sunday, June 28, 2026, 6:18 AM: Five plastic poles worth \$250 used to build a temporary home run fence on the village softball field on Heathcote Road were stolen sometime overnight, destroying the fence.

Sunday, June 28, 2026, 9:46 AM: The owner of a Scarsdale Avenue restaurant told police that an individual was seen on surveillance cameras using an umbrella to damage flowers in patio planters and a light fixture near the front steps.

Sunday, June 28, 2026, 11:04 AM: A man reported that his child's stroller was stolen when they were at Fox Meadow Park.

Monday, June 29, 2026, 5:25 PM: A Scarsdale woman told police that while she was carrying a sign during a demonstration, a man riding a bicycle on East Parkway struck the sign and knocked it out of her hand as she crossed the street and made rude comments.

Thursday, July 2, 2026, 10:52 AM: A Ridgecrest East resident told police that the rear passenger side window of her vehicle was smashed sometime during the night. Nothing was reported missing.

Sunday, July 5, 2026, 8:43 AM: A resident of Montrose Road reported that her GrubHub doughnut delivery may have been drugged, even though the container was sealed. Shortly after eating a blueberry glazed doughnut, she felt fatigued and her eye began to twitch. The woman went to Quest Diagnostics for a drug test and gave herself an at-home test, and both test results were negative.

Monday, July 6, 2026, 12:37 PM: More than \$1,000 worth of tools, including drills, batteries and a sander, were reported stolen from a construction site on Elm Road. The theft happened sometime over the weekend.

Monday, July 6, 2026, 5:18 PM: A 53-year-old California woman was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspend-

ed registration, no insurance and improper license plates after police stopped her car on Post Road.

Friday, July 10, 2026, 12:28 PM: A 71-year-old Mount Vernon man was ticketed for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration and no insurance after a traffic stop on Post Road.

Friday, July 10, 2026, 4:18 PM: A New Rochelle man reported that while he was working on Brittany Close, he paid \$250 for an iPhone that turned out to be fake.

Saturday, July 11, 2026, 11:31 PM: A Willow Lane resident told police her car was missing from her driveway, but later remembered she left the car at the Fenway Golf Club earlier that day and got a ride home.

Sunday, July 12, 2026, 2:18 PM: A caller reported kids on electric bikes were riding on Greendale and Oxford Roads. Police responded to the scene and found the youths were not disturbing anyone or damaging anything.

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 8:56 AM: After a traffic stop on Popham Road, a 37-year-old resident of Esperance, New York, was charged with third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, operating a vehicle with a suspended registration and no insurance.

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 4:32 PM: A Colonial Road resident told police that his wife's American Express card was fraudulently used to purchase \$752 worth of shoes.

Thursday, July 16, 2026, 7:43 AM: When police contacted the owner of a gray sedan that was parked on a Boulevard sidewalk, he said was unaware that parking on the sidewalk was not allowed. The car was moved.

Thursday, July 16, 2026, 4:44 PM: A 19-year-old White Plains man was charged with third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, speeding and driving to the left of pavement markings after police stopped his car on Post Road.

Sunday, July 19, 2026, 11:41 AM: A 19-year-old Scarsdale woman told police that a man exposed his genitals to her while she was jogging on Fox Meadow Road.

Do You Need to File a New York Estate Tax Return?
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spouse.
This is an important consideration for married couples whose combined estates may exceed the New York exemption amount.

Form 706 vs. Form 1041 -- Executors and beneficiaries often confuse Form 706 and Form 1041, but they address different taxes.

Form 706 is an estate tax return. It reports the value of the decedent's assets at death, applies allowable deductions, and determines whether estate tax is owed. For New York estate tax purposes, Form ET-706 serves a similar function.

Form 1041, by contrast, is an income tax return for an estate or trust. It reports income earned after death during the administration of the estate, such as interest, dividends, capital gains, rental income, or other taxable income.

For example, a brokerage account may be reported on Form 706 at its date-of-death value, while dividends or capital gains earned by that account after death may later be reported on Form 1041.

An estate may need one form but not the other. A smaller estate may have no estate tax filing obligation but may still need to file Form 1041 if it earns sufficient income during administration. Conversely, a larger estate may need to file Form 706 or New York Form ET-706 even if it earns little or no post-death income.

Conclusion -- Determining whether a New York estate tax return is required can be complex. Each estate must be reviewed based on its assets, debts, deductions, residency, New York property, lifetime gifts, and post-death income.

Proper estate planning may help individuals and married couples reduce or avoid unnecessary estate tax, preserve available exemptions, and simplify administration. Executors and Administrators should work with an experienced estate attorney and coordinate with the estate's accountant to determine which filings are required, identify available deductions, meet deadlines, and address probate, creditor claims, taxes, and distributions.

Because relying on general assumptions can lead to costly mistakes, professional guidance can help ensure that the proper filings are made and the estate is administered as efficiently and properly as possible.

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. He was named the 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers in America® for excellence in Elder Law and has been honored as one of the "Best Lawyers" in America since 2008. He was elected to the Estate Planning Hall of Fame by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (NAEPC) and is past Chair of the Elder Law Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Krooks may be reached at 914-684-2100 or through the firm's website at www.littmankrooks.com.

The Declaration Distributed Tells the Story of the American Revolution in New York

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Day, but only 12 of the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration on that day. New York adopted the Declaration on July 9, 1776, and immediately engaged printer and publisher John Holt (1721-1784) to typeset and print its adoption in order the spread the word.

The Holt Broadside in the collection of the Westchester County Archives is extremely rare, one of only a handful of sheets left from Holt's print run. Today, the Holt

Broadside stands as one of Westchester County's most significant Revolutionary-era artifacts.

The Neuberger Museum of Art at SUNY Purchase is located at 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase. Museum hours through August 17 are Thursday through Sunday from noon to 5 PM. Fall hours are Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 PM. Free admission. Purchase.edu/neuberger.

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www.westchester-women.com

Westchester County Kicks Off Affordability and Economic Development Task Force



The Westchester County Board of Legislators' new Affordability and Economic Development Task Force held its first meeting in June, bringing together leaders from a broad range of sectors to tackle financial pressures straining Westchester residents and businesses.

The Board created the task force in April to develop concrete, actionable policy recommendations that will make Westchester more affordable, support local businesses, and improve County residents' quality of life.

The inaugural meeting, led by Task Force Chair Legislator Colin D. Smith, focused on setting priorities for the group's work, including housing, child-care, workforce development, transportation, tourism, education, sustainability, and support for small businesses.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, "Families and businesses across Westchester are facing significant financial pressures. This task force reflects our commitment to finding real-world solutions that can make a difference. There's a lot to be done, and our first meeting represents a strong start. We look forward to the work ahead."

Legislator Colin D. Smith (D-Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown) said, "Today's meeting was an important step in moving from planning into action. The discussion reinforced that affordability affects workers, businesses, nonprofits, municipalities, and the long-term strength of Westchester County. Our goal is to listen and identify the real cost drivers. We will develop practical recommendations for what the County can do directly, what we can coordinate with partners, and what we should advocate for at other levels of government. Thanks to Chairman Gashi for creating the task force and to all who are bringing their experience, urgency, and insights to this work. This is the start of a serious process, and I look forward to building on it."

The task force includes inaugural organizational members representing Westchester's business and nonprofit communities, including the Business Council of Westchester, the Westchester County Association, Nonprofit Westchester, and the New York Apartment Association. Their participation will help ensure recommendations reflect a broad range of economic perspectives.

Today's meeting drew representatives from the above organizations, plus Westchester County Tourism & Film, Child Care Council of Westchester, Westchester Women's Agenda, Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors, SUNY Westchester Community College, and BRI (The Building & Realty Institute).

In the coming months, the task force will hold a countywide listening tour—a series of public meetings, each focused on a different topic. The sessions will give residents, employers, service providers, advocates, and subject matter experts an opportunity to share their experiences and ideas. Input gathered through the public sessions will shape a findings report and policy recommendations for the Board to consider next year.

HaZamir International Jewish Teen Choir Recruiting Westchester Singers



HaZamir: The International Jewish Teen Choir offers teens a rewarding experience that combines music, community building, leadership and friendship. Rehearsals for the

2026-2027 season begin this fall in locations across the United States and Israel, culminating in a gala performance at the David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City in April featuring hundreds of HaZamir singers. Teens entering grades 8-12 are encouraged to join the local HaZamir Westchester County chapter. For more information, email HaZaWestchester@gmail.com.

"It's really gratifying to see the young singers creating such strong bonds with one another as they discover the music and texts of the Jewish people and perform them at the highest level," says Dr. Marsha Bryan Edelman, conductor of HaZamir Westchester. "There is no better place for a musical Jewish teen than HaZamir."

HaZamir was created by Maestro Matthew Lazar, Founder and Director of the Zamir Choral Foundation, to provide an opportunity for accomplished young singers to perform great Jewish music at a high standard of excellence and sing on the world's biggest stages.

"This is a transformative opportunity for these teens as they express their Jewish identities through their love of music as they work towards a common goal. HaZamir provides a safe space to build leadership skills and strong connections to peers from a range of backgrounds," says Vivian Lazar, Director of HaZamir. "The camaraderie and healing power of choral singing also boosts mood and self-confidence, which fosters success in all areas of their lives."

The teen singers meet weekly in their local chapters with expert conductors, as well as at regional, national and international gatherings throughout the year. A

three-day Festival leading up to the annual gala performance brings Israeli and American teens together to rehearse, socialize and participate in facilitated encounter groups that allow for cultural exchange and understanding. HaZamir singers in 11th and 12th grade also have the chance to apply for the selective HaZamir Teen Leadership Program and serve as role models.

HaZamir is comprised of teens in 26 American chapter locations including Baltimore, MD; Bergen County, NJ; Boca Raton, FL; Boston, MA; Brooklyn, NY; Central New Jersey; Chicago, IL; Cleveland, OH; Detroit, MI; Houston, TX; L.A. Valley, CA; Long Island, NY; Los Angeles, CA; Manhattan, NY; MetroWest, NJ; Miami, FL; Minneapolis, MN; New Haven, CT; Orlando, FL; Philadelphia, PA; Phoenix, AZ; Pittsburgh, PA; Providence, RI; Silicon Valley, CA; Washington, DC; and Westchester County, NY; and in seven cities in Israel: Ashkelon, Beit She'an, Dimona, Hod HaSharon, Jerusalem, Ofakim-Merchavim and Yerucham.

HaZamir teen singer Jaynie R. shares the joy of joining her peers from across the U.S. and Israel. "It's an amazing experience. We have a lot in common: we're Jewish, we love to sing, and we're all committed to music. When we perform, it's so special because we've worked on this all year, and then we come together and get to know each other. At the same time, the songs have such great meaning, and it becomes very emotional."

"HaZamir gives young people an outlet to celebrate their Jewish heritage, connect with one another and feel a sense of belonging and pride through the creative outlet of music," adds Matthew Lazar. "Now, more than ever, this supportive community is crucial to teens."

For additional information about HaZamir, email hazamir@zamirchoral-foundation.org or visit www.hazamir.org.

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