

# Westchester and New York Leaders Visit Israel



Westchester County Executive Dean Skelos, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Assemblyman Speaker Sheldon Silver.

...ious time. Israel is the victim of anti-Semitism and a network of tunnels that is troubling and the result of the attack. It's our commitment to support Israel. As New Yorkers, we feel the pain and the fear of widespread terror. Life in

New York was forever changed by 9/11. Everyone wants the killing to stop so there is no death. But at the same time, Israel must have the right to defend itself. That is the message that we will convey."

The three day trip included meeting with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin at his official residence in Jerusalem. They also met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu...continued on page 4

## Join Solidarity Missions



UJA-Federation of New York's 2015 Campaign Chair; Westchester Campaign Chair; Media and Public Affairs at the Consulate in Jerusalem; Martine Fleishman, UJA-Federation's Campaign Chair; and Paul Warhit, Westchester Jewish

...ers went on a Solidarity Mission to Israel for three days. In all the years I have been involved with Israel, I was completely shocked to see Israel totally united. The concept about Israelis being united about anything is remarkable.

"Before traveling south from Tel Aviv we had to practice getting out of our vans onto the ground and covering our heads for 15 seconds, the time it takes to get to shelter [from Hamas rocket attacks]—we were

going to S'derot. There we visited one of the other New York...

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## Large Community Turnout for 40th Annual Westchester Jewish Music and Arts Festival

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Sunday, August 17 marked the 40th Annual Westchester Jewish Music and

having an outsized "pushke" (charity collection drum), also fielding "Engage," a volunteer placement group.

A notable booth was "Sharsheret" (Hebrew, "chains") in which five-year breast cancer survivor Helene Schonbrun explained that Sharsheret "chains" link survivors with newly-diagnosed breast cancer women for moral support. "The BRCA (breast cancer) mutation gene is present in one out of 400 women in the general population—in Ashkenazi Jews—one out of 40," Schonbrun warned.



Haina Just-Michael greets Congresswoman Nita Lowey at Westchester Jewish music festival at Kensico dam

Arts Festival at Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla, presented by Westchester Jewish Council; Westchester Klezmer Program and Kol Hazzanim in cooperation with Westchester County Parks.

Entertainment featured upbeat, jazz-rock rhythms of Westchester Klezmer Program; What's Up Band and Shlomones; Kol Hazzanim; Hasidic New Wave; Kol Rinah choir with Israeli Dancing led by Camp Zeke counselors.

More than 1200 people of all faiths from Westchester County and outlying communities enjoyed the many food, jewelry, art and toy vendors. Harrison Mayor Ron Belmont stated, "I think it is wonderful that everyone is supporting Israel. That is why the crowd is so large today."

Displays included numerous Westchester County Synagogues; Friends of Israel Defense Forces; American Friends of Magen David Adom (Jewish equivalent of Red Cross); DOROT; Hadasah Westchester; Hillels of Westchester; Jewish Student Connection; and UJA Federation of New York/Westchester

Speaking on the recent fighting in Israel, Congresswoman Nita Lowey observed, "It pains me when even one child dies in this conflict. It



Westchester Jewish Music and Arts Festival Producer/Conductor, Westchester Klezmer Program Kenny Green

is no fun to take your child to a day care center barricaded against rockets. This could all be over quickly if Hamas would accept Israel's right to exist. I am honored to serve on the Iron Dome Committee...continued on page 8

## Large Community Turnout for 40th Annual Westchester Jewish Music and Arts Festival

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and will work to improve the already strong bond between Israel and United States."

Assemblyman David Buchwald added, "With all of the strife around the world it is good that we are here celebrating our Jewish heritage."

County Executive Robert Astorino pointed out that the Westchester Jewish community is the 8th largest in the United States. "Enjoy the day, patronize our vendors, and if you are here at night, enjoy the beautiful lighting that we have put in."

White Plains Councilwoman Nadine Hunt-Robinson called attention to the strong Civil Rights Bond between Black and Jewish communities.

"This beautiful music can certainly educate, inspire and motivate," New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins remarked. "I am so proud to represent this wonderful piece of fabric of Westchester County, educating others to understand the Jewish Culture."



Westchester Jewish Council President Paul Warhit (left) and WJC Executive Director Elliot Forchheimer



Kol Rinah with Director Benjamin Gruder (third from right).



Festival goes having fun with facepaint.



Kol Hazanlim, left to right: Accompanist Connie Prener; Cantors Sarah Zemel; Hayley Kobilinsky; Tanya Greenblatt; Shira Adler; Melanie Cooperman