

The
WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

observes

Jewish-American Heritage Month

Monday, May 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Live streamed from the Board Chamber
westchestercountyny.legistar.com

PROGRAM

Welcoming Remarks & Acknowledgements
Chairman Vedat Gashi

Invocation
Rabbi Sruli Deitsch, Chabad Jewish Center of Eastchester

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS

Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center (HHREC)

Presented by Legislator Judah Holstein & Marc Klee,
Vice President, Westchester Jewish Council (WJC)

Accepted by Mitchell Ostrove, HHREC Board Member

Jill Ratner, M.D.

Presented by Legislator Erika Pierce

[see back for more]

Vedat Gashi
Board Chair
Legislator, 4th District

Colin D. Smith
Legislator, 1st District

Erika L. Pierce
Legislator, 2nd District

Margaret A. Cunzio
Minority Leader
Legislator, 3rd District

Benjamin Boykin II
Legislator, 5th District

Nancy E. Barr
Legislator, 6th District

Catherine F. Parker
Legislator, 7th District

Jewel Williams Johnson
Legislator, 8th District

Emiljana Ulaj
Legislator, 9th District

Judah Holstein
Legislator, 10th District

Terry Clements
Majority Whip
Legislator, 11th District

David Imamura
Legislator, 12th District

Tyrae Woodson-Samuels
Majority Leader
Legislator, 13th District

David J. Tubiolo
Legislator, 14th District

James Nolan
Minority Whip
Legislator, 15th District

Shanae V. Williams
Legislator, 16th District

José I. Alvarado
Vice Chair
Legislator, 17th District





HOLOCAUST & HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION CENTER (HHREC) has been steadfastly dedicated to enhancing the teaching and learning of the lessons of the Holocaust and promoting the right of all people to be treated with dignity and respect. Since its inception in 1994, it has diligently worked with area schools, synagogues, colleges, churches, and civic centers throughout Westchester and the greater Hudson Valley area to fulfill the New York State mandate that the Holocaust and other human rights abuses be included in school curriculums. HHREC has successfully brought the vital lessons of the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights crimes to over 3,000 teachers, and through these educators, has reached and impacted hundreds of thousands of middle and high school students, instilling in them the importance of standing up against bigotry and prejudice in all its forms.

Through its volunteer Educators' Program Committee, HHREC offers invaluable opportunities for teachers to engage in professional development and to design and implement effective curriculum plans that enrich their knowledge of the Holocaust and other related human rights issues. This works to provide a critical perspective for understanding and addressing all forms of human rights violations. Its mission is to encourage students to speak up and act against all forms of bigotry and prejudice, in alignment with the core values of human dignity and respect that are essential to a just and humane society.



JILL RATNER, M.D. is a former pediatrician, and a current health care advocate and humanitarian. As an undergraduate at Wellesley College, she majored in Psychology and studied a pre-med curriculum. She volunteered in East Boston tutoring children with poor access to resources and worked at a pre-school for children with emotional dysregulation in Belmont. After medical school, she completed a Pediatric Residency at Columbia University, New York at Babies Hospital, now known as the Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of New York City.

Since finishing her training in 1984, she worked continuously as a pediatrician in Mount Kisco, supplementing her love for primary care pediatrics with leadership and teaching roles over her thirty-four-year career. She served on the board of the Mount Kisco Day Care Center, on the board of Katonah PlayCare, and on the Katonah/Lewisboro committee that revised health care teaching in the schools. She served both as Chair of Pediatrics at Northern Westchester Hospital, and initiated the Pediatric Hospitalist program. She served as Chair of Pediatrics for CareMount Health as well, supervising and leading a department of over fifty pediatricians.

Since 2009, she has shifted her focus to pursue global health work initially in the Dominican Republic, and currently in Haiti, following the devastating earthquake. She co-founded *Hands Up for Haiti*, a medical nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health care in northern Haiti while leading trips of volunteers on medical missions, and helping to establish Haitian-run clinics on the ground.

Since her professional retirement, she has become more involved in helping others in her local community. She has volunteered at *Neighbors Link* in their *Adelante Juntos* pre-school program and facilitated educational programs for parents to address health care literacy and navigation of services. She also chairs Social Action for her synagogue, Bet Torah, and is active with *ReSeT Westchester*, an organization that brings together various faith-based organizations and secular organizations in northern Westchester to help refugees re-settle. Her role has focused on coordinating health care delivery to the families. She now serves as Executive Vice President of Bet Torah and enjoys being able to interact with multigenerational members of the northern Westchester community, to do meaningful work within her faith as well as in the larger community.