UJA-Federation cares for people in need, inspires a passion for Jewish life and learning, and strengthens Jewish communities in New York, in Israel, and around the world.
Assemble the people — men, women, and little ones, and your stranger who is within your gates — that they may hear and learn and fear Adonai, your God, and keep all the words of this instruction; and that their children who have not known may hear and learn …

— Deuteronomy 31: 12–13
These words, first spoken in the wilderness in the formative days of the Jewish people, speak to us with equal urgency in this time. Today, UJA-Federation of New York is the place where Jews come together — across organizational and denominational lines — to actualize their commitment to collective Jewish responsibility. We also recognize and honor synagogues as the primary places where Jews and Jewish families come together to learn about Judaism and forge local Jewish communities of meaning, mutual responsibility, and care.

The shared commitment of UJA-Federation and New York–area synagogues to strengthen Jewish life today and for the future is reflected in the array of programs and resources described in this resource guide. Some are widely available to all, while others are more local. Some are in development on a pilot basis; others are available by application as resources allow. Please refer to this guide for ongoing updates, and call the staff person indicated to find out more about programs of particular interest to you.

Community is dynamic and needs evolve, even as fundamental values endure. We are proud and grateful for the dynamic partnership with the clergy, professional, and volunteer leaders of New York, Westchester, and Long Island congregations, which has enabled UJA-Federation’s Connect to Care to successfully connect Jews newly affected by the economy with employment, financial, legal, and counseling services through our network of agencies. Thank you for making that possible.

Finally, if anything you read here prompts questions or comments, we invite your ideas and your thinking. Moreover, if you have thoughts about how to strengthen our work together, please don’t hesitate to be in touch. It is our hope that in increasing our interaction, we will learn from one another and, in the process, strengthen the very fabric of our community.

John S. Ruskay
Executive Vice President & CEO
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## SYNERGY: UJA-Federation of New York and Synagogues Together
The vital and multifaceted partnership between UJA-Federation and area synagogues finds rich expression at many points throughout UJA-Federation’s network, in multiple departments, regional offices, and commissions working with hundreds of synagogues. SYNERGY is the banner that encompasses all these activities in fulfillment of UJA Federation’s commitment to promote the growth and development of Jewish life in the context of inspired, caring, and connected congregations, and to work alongside synagogues to strengthen the New York Jewish community as a whole. To this end, the SYNERGY Coordinating Council brings together representative leaders from UJA-Federation and synagogues to:

- Identify emerging trends and issues affecting New York synagogues
- Consult, collaborate, and align efforts throughout UJA-Federation to maximize the impact of program initiatives on behalf of synagogues
- Guide the work of intensive SYNERGY programs in Westchester County and on Long Island
- Plan, facilitate, catalyze, publicize, and recommend policy for synagogue-related grants

Contact Dru Greenwood at 1.212.836.1832 or greenwoodd@ujafedny.org.
Super Sunday Hands-On Project
Each year during UJA-Federation’s Super Sunday phone-a-thon, a tzedakah project for Westchester synagogue families is designed to bring alive community needs and the impact of helping on the local level.

Contact Donna Divon at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 130 or divond@ujafedny.org.

Special-Needs Roundtable
UJA-Federation in Westchester convenes a special-needs roundtable for the Westchester Jewish community. Clergy, parents, and educators are invited to help identify the needs of affiliated and unaffiliated Westchester Jewish children with special needs and their families, share the scope of programs available, and help identify challenges in the area of special needs in the Jewish community.

Contact Diane Scherer at 1.212.836.1604 or schererd@ujafedny.org.

Synagogues in Sync: Westchester Synagogue Collaborations

Synagogue Collaboration Consultancy
The Synagogue Collaboration Consultancy is for synagogues that are interested in exploring a future collaboration or strengthening an existing collaboration. Collaborating teams will be eligible for 40 hours of pro bono consultation, the equivalent of $10,000 to $15,000 in consulting services, from trained expert synagogue consultants. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Contact Adina Frydman at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 136 or frydmana@ujafedny.org.

Synagogue Collaboration Community of Practice
The community of practice comprises individuals involved in synagogue collaborations in Westchester for the purpose of sharing best practices and creating a reflective space for those involved in synagogue collaborations. It will meet in Westchester in January, March, and May and will be facilitated by a collaboration consultant.

Contact Adina Frydman at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 136 or frydmana@ujafedny.org.

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Building Inclusive, Caring Congregations

Connect to Care
In this economic downturn, many find themselves in need of support — even those who never expected to need assistance. UJA-Federation’s Connect to Care capitalizes on our unique capacity to respond to a community-wide crisis and use our agency network to leverage the services and strengths of 10 of the New York area’s most prestigious human-service agencies and Jewish community centers. The result is a broad array of services coordinated among agencies and area synagogues to provide Jewish individuals and families with help when and where it’s needed. UJA-Federation’s Connect to Care provides access to:

- Employment and career-transition services, including networking opportunities and career seminars.
- Financial consultation, debt counseling, and budget assistance.
- Legal services.
- Supportive counseling and Jewish spiritual care.
- Access to interest-free loans for qualifying candidates.

For more information or to find a local Connect to Care center, contact connect-to-care@ujafedny.org or call UJA-Federation’s J-1-1 information and referral center at 1.877.852.6951.

Partners in Caring
Partners in Caring is an initiative funded by UJA-Federation that co-locates health and human-service professionals from UJA Federation’s network in synagogues. Partners in Caring professionals provide a range of services that include counseling, psychoeducational groups, crisis intervention, information and referral, and consultation for rabbis and other synagogue professionals. Working closely with rabbis and lay leaders to identify needs and tailor services, social workers from Partners in Caring have been woven into the fabric of life in close to 150 synagogues on Long Island, in Westchester, and in New York City.

Contact Diane Scherer at 1.212.836.1604 or schererd@ujafedny.org.

Family Caregiver Network (FCN)
The issue of caregiving for older family members is one that families often face alone or with peers who are in a similar life stage. FCN, run by Westchester Jewish Community Services and funded by UJA-Federation’s Caring Commission, provides a free network of support for family caregivers of older adults ages 60 and older, as well as custom-created programs for synagogues to meet the needs of this critical population. Through FCN, families can turn to the synagogue for a community that provides critical support, a Jewish perspective on caring for one’s parents, and help navigating the myriad resources for caring for an aging parent. Currently, this program is located in the River Towns and northern Westchester County.

Contact Adina Frydman at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 136 or frydmana@ujafedny.org.

Westchester Program Services Cabinet (WPSC)
WPSC provides funding to programs that further the Westchester Jewish community’s efforts to address emergent and ongoing needs by promoting collaboration, encouraging innovative and inspiring connections among Jewish institutions, and supporting new approaches to successful models. For 2010–2011, WPSC is accepting proposals that address economic stability, collaborative efforts for baby boomers, programs for teens, initiatives to assist those with special needs, and “good to great” initiatives for the expansion or replication of successful existing programs in all areas (three or more organizations should collaborate and apply together). Grants are available for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in amounts ranging from $1,500 to $25,000. While these are one-year grants, current grant holders may reapply for funding for up to two additional years.

Contact Ellen Thurm at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 113 or holmone@ujafedny.org.

Community Mitzvah Opportunities
We offer the opportunity for synagogue communities to learn about local needs and enact a Jewish response by volunteering at UJA-Federation beneficiary agencies through such programs as Gift of Chanukah and Families Feeding Families.

Contact Donna Divon at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 130 or divond@ujafedny.org.
Shabbat of Wholeness, Holiness, and Wellness
In October 2010, nearly 50 New York City, Long Island, and Westchester congregations joined a communitywide effort to offer understanding, inspiration, and resources in support of individuals and families suffering from mental health–related issues. Spearheaded by UJA-Federation in collaboration with the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, the Orthodox Union, the Union for Reform Judaism, and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, this initial Shabbat focused the attention on an area of need that will demand sustained attention in order to ease stigma and enable help for those who too often feel invisible and isolated. An essential goal of this initiative is to arm synagogues with resources and ideas readily adaptable to their particular community. Access these resources any time to begin or continue your congregation’s helping efforts.

Contact Diane Scherer at 1.212.836.1604 or schererd@ujafedny.org.

Synagogue Inclusion Initiative
In 2008–2009, the Caring Commission piloted a two-module training program in Westchester for synagogue lay leadership and professionals with the goal of helping participating synagogues re-vision their educational, spiritual, and recreational programming through the lens of special-needs inclusion. Training was facilitated by Shelley Christensen, program manager for the Jewish Community Inclusion Program in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Ramapo for Children, which provided ongoing synagogue consultation for the course of a year. Coordination for the initiative was provided by the Jewish Education Project. As a result of this process, multiple Westchester synagogues have launched inclusion committees responsible for restructuring and strengthening their special-needs programming. In 2009–2010, this same training series was offered to interested Long Island synagogues, with some 20 synagogues represented at the trainings. Participating synagogues were provided with resources, strategies, and a road map for establishing committees on inclusion and organizing a strategic-planning process to promote the objectives.

Contact Diane Scherer at 1.212.836.1604 or schererd@ujafedny.org.

Westchester Congregation-Based Community Organizing (CBCO)
Jewish Funds for Justice, Metro Industrial Areas Foundation, and Just Congregations, with seed funding from UJA-Federation of New York, are working in Westchester to support the Westchester County Sponsoring Committee, a growing group of synagogues and other religious institutions in the county seeking to stimulate the creation of a new, effective, congregation-based citizens organization. CBCO will offer intensive leadership development opportunities for synagogue leaders, build relationships within and across Westchester synagogue congregations, engage participants in learning and reflection about Jewish values, and activate Jewish engagement in public life that exhibits Jewish values and leadership.

Contact Adina Frydman at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 136 or frydmana@ujafedny.org.

Give a Mitzvah—Do a Mitzvah
Put the mitzvah back in bar and bat mitzvah! Give a Mitzvah—Do a Mitzvah offers the opportunity to tailor a project to a child’s unique interests by allowing him or her to make a contribution to a community in need, both financially and through volunteer work. From donating a library for children with special needs in Hawthorne to supporting a girls soccer league in Israel, Give a Mitzvah—Do a Mitzvah participants have affected the lives of the needy through human-service agencies in New York, in Israel, and around the world. Children can learn how to raise funds, put others first, and spread the word — and how much power they truly have as adult members of the Jewish community.

Contact Donna Divon at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 130 or divond@ujafedny.org.

Project SEED
Synagogue-based nursery school teachers support young children’s early emotional development with help from this Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) program, made possible by funding from UJA-Federation. A WJCS mental-health consultant is paired with an early-childhood education specialist to address challenging behaviors and support the school and the family. Seminars are also provided for nursery school directors, teachers, mental-health consultants, and parents on topics of mutual interest.

Contact Sherry Birnbaum, LCSW, director of Jewish programs, at 1.914.761.0600 ext.140 or sbirnbaum@wjcs.com.
Outreach

A Taste of Judaism
Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Reform congregations throughout Manhattan offer A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?, a three-session introductory class for unaffiliated Jews, interfaith couples, and other religious seekers who want to learn about Judaism. Participating congregations receive training and consultation on integrating newcomers from the Union for Reform Judaism, which designed and coordinates the program in collaboration with the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, Union for Reform Judaism, and United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism.

Contact Hana Gruenberg at 1.212.836.1507 or gruenbergh@ujafedny.org.

Social Action, Social Justice

Volunteer Services Synagogue Tool Kit
UJA-Federation's Volunteer Services offers the Mitzvah Day Manual, a resource guide to assist synagogues in planning a day of community service. The manual encourages acts of tikkun olam, repairing the world, throughout the New York Jewish community.

Contact Volunteer Services at 1.212.836.1883.

Give a Mitzvah–Do a Mitzvah
Give a Mitzvah–Do a Mitzvah is UJA-Federation's special philanthropic mitzvah program that enables bar and bat mitzvah students to create their own unique mitzvah projects that connect their interests to UJA-Federation's work around the world. The Give A Mitzvah–Do a Mitzvah program helps match bar and bat mitzvah students with those needing a helping hand. Participants contribute their time, energy, and a portion of their gifts to their very own tzedakah project.

Contact Brittany Wayne at 1.212.836.1460 or wayneb@ujafedny.org.

Long Island

Contact Adina Frydman, SYNERGY director of regions, at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 136 or frydmana@ujafedny.org, or visit www.ujafedny.org/long-island.

Long Island Program Services Grants (LIPSG)
Synagogues interested in initiating new community-building projects that support LIPSG's priorities are encouraged to apply for one- to three-year seed grants of up to $25,000 and eligible for renewal.

Contact Nancy Leipzig Powers at 1.516.677.1870 or powersn@ujafedny.org.

Connections
Connections provides young Jewish families on Long Island with resources and opportunities to strengthen Jewish identity and the identity of their children. Working closely with synagogue rabbis and educators, Connections offers Torah study groups, hands-on mitzvah projects, and innovative programs in private homes, including:
• Project Mitzvah, offering synagogue families hands-on chesed projects to enrich the bar or bat mitzvah experience, including donating and delivering food, beautifying residential group homes, and visiting seniors at beneficiary agencies.
• Supplies for Success, an annual drive that involves synagogues in a major effort to provide new school supplies for needy youngsters on Long Island.
• Monthly Back to Basics classes and Torah study groups for adults both affiliated and nonaffiliated, led by synagogue rabbis and educators in communities throughout Long Island.

Contact Orna Sheena at 1.516.677.1832 or sheenao@ujafedny.org.

Westchester

Contact Adina Frydman, SYNERGY director of regions, at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 136 or frydmana@ujafedny.org, or visit www.ujafedny.org/westchester.
Pack It Up for Purim

In keeping with the Purim tradition of sending food packages to neighbors, mishloach manot, UJA-Federation and AmeriCorps are teaming up to help alleviate hunger in our community. This communitywide volunteer effort to create 1,000 food packages for the most vulnerable New Yorkers invites local synagogues, Jewish day schools, and communal agencies to encourage members of their community to volunteer and create mishloach manot packages that will be distributed through the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty and local food pantries. Check out our how-to video to learn more about Pack It Up for Purim.

Contact Janeen Ettienne at 1.212.836.1339 or ettiennej@ujafedny.org, or Mark Rosenthal at 1.212.836.1214 or rosentalm@ujafedny.org.

Manhattan Initiative for Synagogue Organizing

Many Jews, particularly young adults, are committed to activism on behalf of social justice without linking their activity to its deep roots in tikkun olam, repairing the world. Many synagogue members hunger to bring their Jewish values to bear in the larger world. Congregation-based community organizing can be a powerful tool in building meaningful relationships within synagogues, linking Jewish values and practice with leadership for realizing Jewish values, and joining with other faith organizations to effect social justice in the community. The Manhattan Initiative for Synagogue Organizing capitalizes on the expertise of Jewish Funds for Justice, the Union for Reform Judaism’s Just Congregations, and the interfaith Manhattan Together to develop strong and effective social-justice networks in eight Manhattan synagogues.

Contact Hana Gruenberg at 1.212.836.1507 or gruenbergh@ujafedny.org.

Regional Offices

UJA-Federation directors and professionals in our regional offices are key links in the partnership between synagogues and UJA-Federation. Through their knowledge of UJA-Federation and their communities, and their relationships with synagogue leaders, they contribute to the successful shaping and implementation of UJA-Federation synagogue programs, as well as initiate region-specific synagogue projects. Each regional office also awards annual grants that are open to local synagogues.

Contact Sarah Ecton at 1.212.836.1710 or synergy@ujafedny.org.
Congregational Education

LOMED (Learner Outcomes and Measurement for Effective Educational Design)

LOMED is ongoing professional learning and innovation for congregations’ educational leadership and professional learning teams. Congregations receive organizational and educational consulting, cohort gatherings and learning, webinars, and the support of an educational resource provider like Teva Learning Center, Storahtelling, Hazon, Explora-Torah, Facing History and Ourselves, Avodah Arts, and Moving Traditions.

Working with the Jewish Education Project, participating congregations:
• Clearly identify learner outcomes and measure growth.
• Fill new models with vibrant learning aligned to outcomes.
• Continue innovation in the service of achieving an educational vision.
• Check results and refine designs and innovations, leading the way in new models of congregational education.

Contact Rebecca Spilke at 1.212.836.1483 or spilker@ujafedny.org.

BONIM

Through one-on-one meetings known as mifgashim, the Jewish Education Project helps congregations identify the most effective path for creating a congregational learning experience that matters for today’s Jewish families. The Jewish Education Project then supports congregations with networks of leaders with similar needs, professional learning, team building, lay leadership development, and goal setting. BONIM supports congregations as they build the capacity to reach their goals for learners.

Contact Rebecca Spilke at 1.212.836.1483 or spilker@ujafedny.org.

Leadership Development Grant for Russian-Speaking Synagogues

UJA-Federation’s work with the sizeable Russian-speaking community in New York has led to targeted funding of leadership-development programs at various agencies and synagogues. This initiative seeks to increase the involvement of Russian-speaking Jews in the broader organized New York Jewish community.

Contact David Mallach at 1.212.836.1552 or mallachd@ujafedny.org.

UJA-Federation Services

UJA-Federation’s J-1-1 Information and Referral Center

J-1-1, UJA-Federation’s information and referral center, provides access to a wealth of resources in the New York metropolitan area within UJA-Federation’s network and beyond:
• Information and referral for seniors, financial and employment issues, mental-health services, children with special needs, and general and Jewish information.
• Access to UJA-Federation’s Connect to Care, Mental Health GPS for children and adolescents, and Senior Aid.
• Communal Passover seders and synagogues open to nonmembers for the High Holidays.

J-1-1 resource specialists and volunteers are available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with 24-hour backup voice mail, at 1.877.852.6951 or J11@ujafedny.org.

Jewish Community Study

The Jewish Community Study of New York is a decennial study that enables Jewish leaders and planners to better understand and respond to needs of the changing demographics and multiple constituencies that make up the vibrant and diverse New York Jewish community. The current study is in progress.
Leadership Development

Professional Development
UJA-Federation’s Wiener Educational Center provides a full range of educational and professional development activities for network agency staff and other professionals in the field of Jewish communal service and education. Professionals or volunteers working in synagogues are welcome to attend these high-quality, low-cost training programs that build skills and knowledge in areas of management development, communications, marketing, public speaking, fundraising, and other areas that enhance effectiveness. Professionals are available to discuss staff-training needs and offer guidance for those wishing to work in Jewish communal service. Learn more about current workshops.

Contact June Fortess at 1.212.836.1629 or fortessj@ujafedny.org.

Synagogue Leadership Development Project
A rich series of leadership-development workshops and webinars are offered throughout the year for lay and professional leaders of New York-area congregations. Workshops focus on such areas as volunteer engagement, membership, governance, and assessment, as well as advanced topics in leadership development. Participating synagogues are eligible to apply for customized consultation on board development, mergers, strategic planning, and more, as well as short-term pro bono consultation in marketing, fund development, or volunteer engagement. Learn more.

Contact Gayle Bloom at 1.212.584.3346 or bloomg@ujafedny.org.

Leadership Institute for Congregational School Educators
The Leadership Institute for Congregational School Educators is an intensive two-and-a-half-year interdenominational study and mentor program that begins its third cohort in January 2011. It is guided by the vision and funding of UJA-Federation and jointly designed and implemented by the schools of education at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and the Jewish Theological Seminary. The program provides educators with critical competencies in the core areas of Judaism, leadership, and pedagogy.

Contact Rebecca Spilke at 1.212.836.1483 or spilker@ujafedny.org.

Israel Study Scholarships
Synagogues are eligible to nominate up to two high school students for a Robert A. Belfer Family Fellowship or Chaverim Award for a summer program in Israel.

Contact the Israel Experience Center at 1.800.64.ISRAEL or israelctr@ujafedny.org.

Synagogue Missions
UJA-Federation works in partnership with synagogues to plan memorable missions to Israel, the former Soviet Union, and other destinations of Jewish interest. Experienced staff tailor trips to meet synagogue priorities and draw on UJA-Federation resources to arrange briefings with country leaders, visit neighborhoods and sites tourists rarely see, secure the best rates on hotels and airfare, and provide the highest level of security throughout.

Contact Susan Flanders at 1.212.836.1813 or flanderss@ujafedny.org.

Special Synagogue Grants

Jewish Social Action Month
Each year, Jews around the world come together to volunteer during Jewish Social Action Month (JSAM). Founded in 2005 by KolDor and Knesset member Rabbi Michael Melchior, JSAM takes place during Cheshvan, a month in the Jewish calendar without holidays. Hands-on volunteer projects range from participants stocking a local food bank to exploring and volunteering in the Brooklyn Jewish community. Volunteer opportunities for these programs and others are available, and synagogues can apply for JSAM grants that enable them to collaborate with other organizations on special volunteer projects. The application process begins in May. Learn more.

Contact Uri Leventer-Roberts at 1.212.836.1694 or leventeru@ujafedny.org.

Beginning Jewish Families
The Beginning Jewish Families Task Force supports new and prospective parents in all kinds of families to make choices that will assure a long-term commitment to Judaism through engagement in Jewish life from the first moments of their journey as a Jewish family until the time when their...
Synagogue Capacity Building

Sustainable Synagogue Business Models
In this economic climate, many synagogue leaders have expressed concern about the financial sustainability of their current dues-based business models, and wonder whether there’s a better way to align their vision of community with the means of funding it. Sustainable Synagogue Business Models is a pilot project funded by UJA-Federation and led by Measuring Success, a company that specializes in helping Jewish nonprofits use data to enhance their ability to move strategically toward their vision. Synagogue leaders in the pilot work together to articulate goals and assumptions, learn from a congregationwide survey and other tools designed by Measuring Success, and explore the merits and sustainability of their business model and strategies for taking action toward their goals.

Contact Dru Greenwood at 1.212.836.1832 or greenwoodd@ujafedny.org.

Social Media Boot Camp
The digital age has arrived, and New York synagogues can get on board! Starting with 18 synagogues on Long Island in 2009, the Social Media Boot Camp has expanded to provide New York City, Westchester, and Long Island synagogues access to a yearlong series of webinars, sharefests, and network coaching. Through a grant to Darim Online — a nonprofit dedicated to helping Jewish organizations, particularly synagogues, creatively make use of social media to build their communities — synagogue teams can learn to use such venues as Facebook, Twitter, blogs, YouTube videos, and online fundraising tools to reach both congregants and the broader community. Three advanced Long Island synagogues are also working intensively with Darim Online.

Contact Michelle Stack at 1.516.677.1896 or stackm@ujafedny.org.

Jewish Greening Fellowship
The Jewish Greening Fellowship aims to reduce the environmental footprints of Jewish institutions and places caring for the environment high on the agenda of every participating organization. The goal is to generate a meaningful response to global climate change by upgrading the sustainable practices of our institutions while strengthening Jewish life. This innovative program provides training, grants totaling $15,000 to $20,000, and organizational support to 20 Jewish institutions, including synagogues, with the goal of making their facilities more efficient and sustainable, while raising awareness of environmental issues and engaging members and constituents.

Learn more or apply.

Contact Hana Gruenberg at 1.212.836.1507 or gruenbergh@ujafedny.org.

Beyond New York

Israel Engagement Initiative
The Israel Engagement Initiative is a new effort to provide congregations with high-quality Israel engagement resources, network participating congregation, provide consultative support, and encourage participation in the Celebrate Israel Parade. Ways in which selected congregations will be invited to participate include access to free, tailored Israel engagement content created by Makom; guidance from I-Connect on how to advance Israel engagement by using social media; or an educational seminar to day school principals. Launched by UJA-Federation, the initiative is carried out by a trilateral partnership between the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, the Jewish Education Project, and Makom.

Contact Michael Mittelman at mittelmanm@jcrcny.org.

Partnership Connections Between New York, Israel, and Europe
UJA-Federation and the Jewish Agency for Israel together currently give a number of grants to synagogues in New York, Jerusalem, and Europe targeted at raising awareness of Jewish peoplehood. Programs funded by these grants focus on fostering direct people-to-people relationships among American, Israeli, and European Jews. Participating programs include a youth leadership program between synagogues in New York and Jerusalem and a youth group in Germany, and a social activism partnership between a New York synagogue and a Jerusalem community house. Your synagogue can get involved by starting its own synagogue partnership.

Contact Anat Barber at 1.212.836.1838 or barbera@ujafedny.org.
Synagogue Capacity Building

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Contact Dru Greenwood at 1.212.836.1832 or greenwoodd@ujafedny.org.

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Contact Michelle Stack at 1.516.677.1896 or stackm@ujafedny.org.

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The Jewish Greening Fellowship aims to reduce the environmental footprints of Jewish institutions and places caring for the environment high on the agenda of every participating organization. The goal is to generate a meaningful response to global climate change by upgrading the sustainable practices of our institutions while strengthening Jewish life. This innovative program provides training, grants totaling $15,000 to $20,000, and organizational support to 20 Jewish institutions, including synagogues, with the goal of making their facilities more efficient and sustainable, while raising awareness of environmental issues and engaging members and constituents.

Learn more or apply.

Contact Hana Gruenberg at 1.212.836.1507 or gruenbergh@ujafedny.org.

Beyond New York

Israel Engagement Initiative
The Israel Engagement Initiative is a new effort to provide congregations with high-quality Israel engagement resources, network participating congregation, provide consultative support, and encourage participation in the Celebrate Israel Parade. Ways in which selected congregations will be invited to participate include access to free, tailored Israel engagement content created by Makom; guidance from I-Connect on how to advance Israel engagement by using social media; or an educational seminar to day school principals. Launched by UJA-Federation, the initiative is carried out by a trilateral partnership between the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, the Jewish Education Project, and Makom.

Contact Michael Mittelman at mittelmanm@jcrcny.org.

Partnership Connections Between New York, Israel, and Europe
UJA-Federation and the Jewish Agency for Israel together currently give a number of grants to synagogues in New York, Jerusalem, and Europe targeted at raising awareness of Jewish peoplehood. Programs funded by these grants focus on fostering direct people-to-people relationships among American, Israeli, and European Jews. Participating programs include a youth leadership program between synagogues in New York and Jerusalem and a youth group in Germany, and a social activism partnership between a New York synagogue and a Jerusalem community house. Your synagogue can get involved by starting its own synagogue partnership.

Contact Anat Barber at 1.212.836.1838 or barbera@ujafedny.org.
Leadership Development

Professional Development
UJA-Federation’s Wiener Educational Center provides a full range of educational and professional development activities for network agency staff and other professionals in the field of Jewish communal service and education. Professionals or volunteers working in synagogues are welcome to attend these high-quality, low-cost training programs that build skills and knowledge in areas of management development, communications, marketing, public speaking, fundraising, and other areas that enhance effectiveness. Professionals are available to discuss staff-training needs and offer guidance for those wishing to work in Jewish communal service. Learn more about current workshops.

Contact June Fortess at 1.212.836.1629 or fortessj@ujafedny.org.

Synagogue Leadership Development Project
A rich series of leadership-development workshops and webinars are offered throughout the year for lay and professional leaders of New York–area congregations. Workshops focus on such areas as volunteer engagement, membership, governance, and assessment, as well as advanced topics in leadership development. Participating synagogues are eligible to apply for customized consultation on board development, mergers, strategic planning, and more, as well as short-term pro bono consultation in marketing, fund development, or volunteer engagement. Learn more.

Contact Gayle Bloom at 1.212.584.3346 or bloomg@ujafedny.org.

Leadership Institute for Congregational School Educators
The Leadership Institute for Congregational School Educators is an intensive two-and-a-half-year interdenominational study and mentor program that begins its third cohort in January 2011. It is guided by the vision and funding of UJA-Federation and jointly designed and implemented by the schools of education at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and the Jewish Theological Seminary. The program provides educators with critical competencies in the core areas of Judaism, leadership, and pedagogy.

Contact Rebecca Spilke at 1.212.836.1483 or spilker@ujafedny.org.
Congregational Education

LOMED (Learner Outcomes and Measurement for Effective Educational Design)

LOMED is ongoing professional learning and innovation for congregations’ educational leadership and professional learning teams. Congregations receive organizational and educational consulting, cohort gatherings and learning, webinars, and the support of an educational resource provider like Teva Learning Center, Storahtelling, Hazon, Explora-­Torah, Facing History and Ourselves, Avodah Arts, and Moving Traditions.

Working with the Jewish Education Project, participating congregations:

• Clearly identify learner outcomes and measure growth.
• Fill new models with vibrant learning aligned to outcomes.
• Continue innovation in the service of achieving an educational vision.
• Check results and refine designs and innovations, leading the way in new models of congregational education.

Contact Rebecca Spilke at 1.212.836.1483 or spilker@ujafedny.org.

BONIM

Through one-on-one meetings known as mifgashim, the Jewish Education Project helps congregations identify the most effective path for creating a congregational learning experience that matters for today’s Jewish families. The Jewish Education Project then supports congregations with networks of leaders with similar needs, professional learning, team building, lay leadership development, and goal setting. BONIM supports congregations as they build the capacity to reach their goals for learners.

Contact Rebecca Spilke at 1.212.836.1483 or spilker@ujafedny.org.

Leadership Development Grant for Russian-Speaking Synagogues

UJA-Federation’s work with the sizeable Russian-speaking community in New York has led to targeted funding of leadership-development programs at various agencies and synagogues. This initiative seeks to increase the involvement of Russian-speaking Jews in the broader organized New York Jewish community.

Contact David Mallach at 1.212.836.1552 or mallachd@ujafedny.org.

UJA-Federation Services

UJA-Federation’s J-1-1 Information and Referral Center

J-1-1, UJA-Federation’s information and referral center, provides access to a wealth of resources in the New York metropolitan area within UJA-Federation’s network and beyond:

• Information and referral for seniors, financial and employment issues, mental-health services, children with special needs, and general and Jewish information.
• Access to UJA-Federation’s Connect to Care, Mental Health GPS for children and adolescents, and Senior Aid.
• Communal Passover seders and synagogues open to nonmembers for the High Holidays.

J-1-1 resource specialists and volunteers are available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with 24-hour backup voice mail, at 1.877.852.6951 or J11@ujafedny.org.

Jewish Community Study

The Jewish Community Study of New York is a decennial study that enables Jewish leaders and planners to better understand and respond to needs of the changing demographics and multiple constituencies that make up the vibrant and diverse New York Jewish community. The current study is in progress,
with fielding happening in 2011 and publications expected by 2012. A
summary report of the study conducted in 2002 provides data on population
estimates, demography, vulnerable Jewish populations, Jewish connections,
intermarriage, and philanthropy for the Jewish community living in the eight-
county New York area. Additional publications include Geographic Profile,
providing basic neighborhood-level information on 26 principle areas of
Jewish residence in the eight-county region; Report on Jewish Poverty; and
Special Report on Nazi Victims in the New York Area. There are also profiles
and presentations on various geographic areas, population groups, and issues
of interest. View reports from the 2002 Jewish Community Study or learn
more about the 2011 Jewish Community Study.

Contact Jennifer Rosenberg at 1.212.836.1298
or rosenbergj@ujafedny.org.

SYNERGY Newsletter and E-mail List for Synagogue Leaders
A SYNERGY e-mail list for synagogue presidents, rabbis, and executive
directors serves as an important resource to learn about relevant programs
for synagogue leaders, including information about commission requests
for proposals and other grant information. Twice a year, SYNERGY:
UJA-Federation and Synagogues Together produces print and e-newsletters
that are designed to enhance the possibilities for fruitful interaction between
UJA-Federation and synagogue leaders throughout the New York area.
UJA-Federation’s website is a rich community resource that provides an
array of synagogue-related materials.

Contact Sarah Ecton at 1.212.836.1710 or synergy@ujafedny.org.

Regional Offices
UJA-Federation directors and professionals in our regional offices are key
links in the partnership between synagogues and UJA-Federation. Through
their knowledge of UJA-Federation and their communities, and their
relationships with synagogue leaders, they contribute to the successful shaping
and implementation of UJA-Federation synagogue programs, as well as
initiate region-specific synagogue projects. Each regional office also awards
annual grants that are open to local synagogues.

Pack It Up for Purim
In keeping with the Purim tradition of sending food packages to neighbors,
mishloach manot, UJA-Federation and AmeriCorps are teaming up to help
alleviate hunger in our community. This communitywide volunteer effort
to create 1,000 food packages for the most vulnerable New Yorkers invites
local synagogues, Jewish day schools, and communal agencies to encourage
members of their community to volunteer and create mishloach manot
packages that will be distributed through the Metropolitan Council on Jewish
Poverty and local food pantries. Check out our how-to video to learn more
about Pack It Up for Purim.

Contact Janeen Ettienne at 1.212.836.1339 or ettiennej@ujafedny.org,
or Mark Rosenthal at 1.212.836.1214 or rosenthalm@ujafedny.org.

Manhattan Initiative for Synagogue Organizing
Many Jews, particularly young adults, are committed to activism on behalf
of social justice without linking their activity to its deep roots in tikkun
olam, repairing the world. Many synagogue members hunger to bring their
Jewish values to bear in the larger world. Congregation-based community
organizing can be a powerful tool in building meaningful relationships
within synagogues, linking Jewish values and practice with leadership for
realizing Jewish values, and joining with other faith organizations to effect
social justice in the community. The Manhattan Initiative for Synagogue
Organizing capitalizes on the expertise of Jewish Funds for Justice, the Union
for Reform Judaism’s Just Congregations, and the interfaith Manhattan
Together to develop strong and effective social-justice networks in eight
Manhattan synagogues.

Contact Hana Gruenberg at 1.212.836.1507
or gruenbergh@ujafedny.org.
Outreach

A Taste of Judaism

Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Reform congregations throughout Manhattan offer A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?, a three-session introductory class for unaffiliated Jews, interfaith couples, and other religious seekers who want to learn about Judaism. Participating congregations receive training and consultation on integrating newcomers from the Union for Reform Judaism, which designed and coordinates the program in collaboration with the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, Union for Reform Judaism, and United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism.

Contact Hana Gruenberg at 1.212.836.1507 or gruenbergh@ujafedny.org.

Social Action, Social Justice

Volunteer Services Synagogue Tool Kit

UJA-Federation’s Volunteer Services offers the Mitzvah Day Manual, a resource guide to assist synagogues in planning a day of community service. The manual encourages acts of tikkan olam, repairing the world, throughout the New York Jewish community.

Contact Volunteer Services at 1.212.836.1883.

Give a Mitzvah—Do a Mitzvah

Give a Mitzvah—Do a Mitzvah is UJA-Federation’s special philanthropic mitzvah program that enables bar and bat mitzvah students to create their own unique mitzvah projects that connect their interests to UJA-Federation’s work around the world. The Give A Mitzvah—Do a Mitzvah program helps match bar and bat mitzvah students with those needing a helping hand. Participants contribute their time, energy, and a portion of their gifts to their very own tzedakah project.

Contact Brittany Wayne at 1.212.836.1460 or wayneb@ujafedny.org.

Long Island

Contact Adina Frydman, SYNERGY director of regions, at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 136 or frydmana@ujafedny.org, or visit www.ujafedny.org/long-island.

Long Island Program Services Grants (LIPSG)

Synagogues interested in initiating new community-building projects that support LIPSG’s priorities are encouraged to apply for one- to three-year seed grants of up to $25,000 and eligible for renewal.

Contact Nancy Leipzig Powers at 1.516.677.1870 or powersn@ujafedny.org.

Connections

Connections provides young Jewish families on Long Island with resources and opportunities to strengthen Jewish identity and the identity of their children. Working closely with synagogue rabbis and educators, Connections offers Torah study groups, hands-on mitzvah projects, and innovative programs in private homes, including:

• Project Mitzvah, offering synagogue families hands-on chesed projects to enrich the bar or bat mitzvah experience, including donating and delivering food, beautifying residential group homes, and visiting seniors at beneficiary agencies.

• Supplies for Success, an annual drive that involves synagogues in a major effort to provide new school supplies for needy youngsters on Long Island.

• Monthly Back to Basics classes and Torah study groups for adults both affiliated and nonaffiliated, led by synagogue rabbis and educators in communities throughout Long Island.

Contact Orna Sheena at 1.516.677.1832 or sheenao@ujafedny.org.

Westchester

Contact Adina Frydman, SYNERGY director of regions, at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 136 or frydmana@ujafedny.org, or visit www.ujafedny.org/westchester.
Westchester Congregation-Based Community Organizing (CBCO)
Jewish Funds for Justice, Metro Industrial Areas Foundation, and Just Congregations, with seed funding from UJA-Federation of New York, are working in Westchester to support the Westchester County Sponsoring Committee, a growing group of synagogues and other religious institutions in the county seeking to stimulate the creation of a new, effective, congregation-based citizens organization. CBCO will offer intensive leadership development opportunities for synagogue leaders, build relationships within and across Westchester synagogue congregations, engage participants in learning and reflection about Jewish values, and activate Jewish engagement in public life that exhibits Jewish values and leadership.

Contact Adina Frydman at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 136 or frydmana@ujafedny.org.

Shabbat of Wholeness, Holiness, and Wellness
In October 2010, nearly 50 New York City, Long Island, and Westchester congregations joined a communitywide effort to offer understanding, inspiration, and resources in support of individuals and families suffering from mental health–related issues. Spearheaded by UJA-Federation in collaboration with the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, the Orthodox Union, the Union for Reform Judaism, and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, this initial Shabbat focused the attention on an area of need that will demand sustained attention in order to ease stigma and enable help for those who too often feel invisible and isolated. An essential goal of this initiative is to arm synagogues with resources and ideas readily adaptable to their particular community. Access these resources any time to begin or continue your congregation’s helping efforts.

Contact Diane Scherer at 1.212.836.1604 or schererd@ujafedny.org.

Synagogue Inclusion Initiative
In 2008–2009, the Caring Commission piloted a two-module training program in Westchester for synagogue lay leadership and professionals with the goal of helping participating synagogues re-vision their educational, spiritual, and recreational programming through the lens of special-needs inclusion. Training was facilitated by Shelley Christensen, program manager for the Jewish Community Inclusion Program in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Ramapo for Children, which provided ongoing synagogue consultation for the course of a year. Coordination for the initiative was provided by the Jewish Education Project. As a result of this process, multiple Westchester synagogues have launched inclusion committees responsible for restructuring and strengthening their special-needs programming. In 2009–2010, this same training series was offered to interested Long Island synagogues, with some 20 synagogues represented at the trainings. Participating synagogues were provided with resources, strategies, and a road map for establishing committees on inclusion and organizing a strategic-planning process to promote the objectives.

Contact Diane Scherer at 1.212.836.1604 or schererd@ujafedny.org.

Give a Mitzvah–Do a Mitzvah
Put the mitzvah back in bar and bat mitzvah! Give a Mitzvah–Do a Mitzvah offers the opportunity to tailor a project to a child’s unique interests by allowing him or her to make a contribution to a community in need, both financially and through volunteer work. From donating a library for children with special needs in Hawthorne to supporting a girls soccer league in Israel, Give a Mitzvah–Do a Mitzvah participants have affected the lives of the needy through human-service agencies in New York, in Israel, and around the world. Children can learn how to raise funds, put others first, and spread the word — and how much power they truly have as adult members of the Jewish community.

Contact Donna Divon at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 130 or divond@ujafedny.org.

Project SEED
Synagogue-based nursery school teachers support young children’s early emotional development with help from this Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) program, made possible by funding from UJA-Federation. A WJCS mental-health consultant is paired with an early-childhood education specialist to address challenging behaviors and support the school and the family. Seminars are also provided for nursery school directors, teachers, mental-health consultants, and parents on topics of mutual interest.

Contact Sherry Birnbaum, LCSW, director of Jewish programs, at 1.914.761.0600 ext.140 or sbirnbaum@wjcs.com.

Synagogue Inclusion Initiative
In 2008–2009, the Caring Commission piloted a two-module training program in Westchester for synagogue lay leadership and professionals with the goal of helping participating synagogues re-vision their educational, spiritual, and recreational programming through the lens of special-needs inclusion. Training was facilitated by Shelley Christensen, program manager for the Jewish Community Inclusion Program in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Ramapo for Children, which provided ongoing synagogue consultation for the course of a year. Coordination for the initiative was provided by the Jewish Education Project. As a result of this process, multiple Westchester synagogues have launched inclusion committees responsible for restructuring and strengthening their special-needs programming. In 2009–2010, this same training series was offered to interested Long Island synagogues, with some 20 synagogues represented at the trainings. Participating synagogues were provided with resources, strategies, and a road map for establishing committees on inclusion and organizing a strategic-planning process to promote the objectives.

Contact Diane Scherer at 1.212.836.1604 or schererd@ujafedny.org.
Building Inclusive, Caring Congregations

Connect to Care

In this economic downturn, many find themselves in need of support — even those who never expected to need assistance. UJA-Federation’s Connect to Care capitalizes on our unique capacity to respond to a communitywide crisis and use our agency network to leverage the services and strengths of 10 of the New York area’s most prestigious human-service agencies and Jewish community centers. The result is a broad array of services coordinated among agencies and area synagogues to provide Jewish individuals and families with help when and where it’s needed. UJA-Federation’s Connect to Care provides access to:

• Employment and career-transition services, including networking opportunities and career seminars.
• Financial consultation, debt counseling, and budget assistance.
• Legal services.
• Supportive counseling and Jewish spiritual care.
• Access to interest-free loans for qualifying candidates.

For more information or to find a local Connect to Care center, contact connect-to-care@ujafedny.org or call UJA-Federation’s J-1-1 information and referral center at 1.877.852.6951.

Partners in Caring

Partners in Caring is an initiative funded by UJA-Federation that co-locates health and human-service professionals from UJA Federation’s network in synagogues. Partners in Caring professionals provide a range of services that include counseling, psychoeducational groups, crisis intervention, information and referral, and consultation for rabbis and other synagogue professionals. Working closely with rabbis and lay leaders to identify needs and tailor services, social workers from Partners in Caring have been woven into the fabric of life in close to 150 synagogues on Long Island, in Westchester, and in New York City.

Contact Diane Scherer at 1.212.836.1604 or schererd@ujafedny.org.

Family Caregiver Network (FCN)

The issue of caregiving for older family members is one that families often face alone or with peers who are in a similar life stage. FCN, run by Westchester Jewish Community Services and funded by UJA-Federation’s Caring Commission, provides a free network of support for family caregivers of older adults ages 60 and older, as well as custom-created programs for synagogues to meet the needs of this critical population. Through FCN, families can turn to the synagogue for a community that provides critical support, a Jewish perspective on caring for one’s parents, and help navigating the myriad resources for caring for an aging parent. Currently, this program is located in the River Towns and northern Westchester County.

Contact Adina Frydman at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 136 or frydmana@ujafedny.org.

Westchester Program Services Cabinet (WPSC)

WPSC provides funding to programs that further the Westchester Jewish community’s efforts to address emergent and ongoing needs by promoting collaboration, encouraging innovative and inspiring connections among Jewish institutions, and supporting new approaches to successful models. For 2010–2011, WPSC is accepting proposals that address economic stability, collaborative efforts for baby boomers, programs for teens, initiatives to assist those with special needs, and “good to great” initiatives for the expansion or replication of successful existing programs in all areas (three or more organizations should collaborate and apply together). Grants are available for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in amounts ranging from $1,500 to $25,000. While these are one-year grants, current grant holders may reapply for funding for up to two additional years.

Contact Ellen Thurm at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 113 or holmone@ujafedny.org.

Community Mitzvah Opportunities

We offer the opportunity for synagogue communities to learn about local needs and enact a Jewish response by volunteering at UJA-Federation beneficiary agencies through such programs as Gift of Chanukah and Families Feeding Families.

Contact Donna Divon at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 130 or divond@ujafedny.org.
Super Sunday Hands-On Project
Each year during UJA-Federation’s Super Sunday phone-a-thon, a tzedakah project for Westchester synagogue families is designed to bring alive community needs and the impact of helping on the local level.

Contact Donna Divon at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 130 or divond@ujafedny.org.

Special-Needs Roundtable
UJA-Federation in Westchester convenes a special-needs roundtable for the Westchester Jewish community. Clergy, parents, and educators are invited to help identify the needs of affiliated and unaffiliated Westchester Jewish children with special needs and their families, share the scope of programs available, and help identify challenges in the area of special needs in the Jewish community.

Contact Diane Scherer at 1.212.836.1604 or schererd@ujafedny.org.

Synagogues in Sync: Westchester Synagogue Collaborations

Synagogue Collaboration Consultancy
The Synagogue Collaboration Consultancy is for synagogues that are interested in exploring a future collaboration or strengthening an existing collaboration. Collaborating teams will be eligible for 40 hours of pro bono consultation, the equivalent of $10,000 to $15,000 in consulting services, from trained expert synagogue consultants. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Contact Adina Frydman at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 136 or frydmana@ujafedny.org.

Synagogue Collaboration Community of Practice
The community of practice comprises individuals involved in synagogue collaborations in Westchester for the purpose of sharing best practices and creating a reflective space for those involved in synagogue collaborations. It will meet in Westchester in January, March, and May and will be facilitated by a collaboration consultant.

Contact Adina Frydman at 1.914.761.5100 ext. 136 or frydmana@ujafedny.org.

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SYNERGY

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SYNERGY: UJA-Federation of New York and Synagogues Together
The vital and multifaceted partnership between UJA-Federation and area synagogues finds rich expression at many points throughout UJA-Federation’s network, in multiple departments, regional offices, and commissions working with hundreds of synagogues. SYNERGY is the banner that encompasses all these activities in fulfillment of UJA Federation’s commitment to promote the growth and development of Jewish life in the context of inspired, caring, and connected congregations, and to work alongside synagogues to strengthen the New York Jewish community as a whole. To this end, the SYNERGY Coordinating Council brings together representative leaders from UJA-Federation and synagogues to:

- Identify emerging trends and issues affecting New York synagogues
- Consult, collaborate, and align efforts throughout UJA-Federation to maximize the impact of program initiatives on behalf of synagogues
- Guide the work of intensive SYNERGY programs in Westchester County and on Long Island
- Plan, facilitate, catalyze, publicize, and recommend policy for synagogue-related grants

Contact Dru Greenwood at 1.212.836.1832 or greenwoodd@ujafedny.org.
These words, first spoken in the wilderness in the formative days of the Jewish people, speak to us with equal urgency in this time. Today, UJA-Federation of New York is the place where Jews come together — across organizational and denominational lines — to actualize their commitment to collective Jewish responsibility. We also recognize and honor synagogues as the primary places where Jews and Jewish families come together to learn about Judaism and forge local Jewish communities of meaning, mutual responsibility, and care.

The shared commitment of UJA-Federation and New York–area synagogues to strengthen Jewish life today and for the future is reflected in the array of programs and resources described in this resource guide. Some are widely available to all, while others are more local. Some are in development on a pilot basis; others are available by application as resources allow. Please refer to this guide for ongoing updates, and call the staff person indicated to find out more about programs of particular interest to you.

Community is dynamic and needs evolve, even as fundamental values endure. We are proud and grateful for the dynamic partnership with the clergy, professional, and volunteer leaders of New York, Westchester, and Long Island congregations, which has enabled UJA-Federation’s Connect to Care to successfully connect Jews newly affected by the economy with employment, financial, legal, and counseling services through our network of agencies. Thank you for making that possible.

Finally, if anything you read here prompts questions or comments, we invite your ideas and your thinking. Moreover, if you have thoughts about how to strengthen our work together, please don’t hesitate to be in touch. It is our hope that in increasing our interaction, we will learn from one another and, in the process, strengthen the very fabric of our community.

John S. Ruskay
Executive Vice President & CEO