



Sen. Sherrod Brown, right, presents a painting to honoree Daniel Kestenbaum and his wife, Hadassah Kestenbaum.

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## Event at Capitol marks Jewish American heritage

In 2006, Congress designated Jewish Heritage Month to celebrate the talents and contributions of the American Jewish community to American society. Last month, Friedlander Group of New York hosted a congressional tribute to distinguished Jewish Americans and a celebration of Jewish American heritage, at a kosher luncheon in the U.S. Capitol.

The celebration began with honoree Allen Rothenberg singing the national anthem. Rothenberg, an attorney, founded a firm that has branches in Hackensack and other New Jersey towns and offices across the nation. He has been the national president of COLPA, the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs. In his speech, his senator, Bob Casey (D-Pa.), highlighted Rothenberg's dedication to the fight for religious freedom.

Greg Rosenbaum, co-chair of the Jewish American Heritage Month Foundation, introduced Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), who quoted Rabbi

Abraham Joshua Heschel: "What begins as inequality of some inevitably ends as inequality of all," and highlighted his quest for economic justice based on Jewish teachings.

Senator Brown introduced another honoree, Daniel E. Kestenbaum of Bergenfield, the founding director of Kestenbaum & Company, a New York City-based boutique auction house that sells Judaic historical artifacts.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-Fla.) presented an award to Ohel supporters Harvey and Gloria Kaylie. Since 1969, Ohel has been helping people of all ages surmount everyday challenges, heal from trauma, and manage with strength and dignity during times of crises. It provides foster care, housing, outpatient counseling and day programs. Driven by a shared vision to break down stigma in the community, the Kaylies provided the seed capital for Ohel to open the ground-breaking Camp Kaylie at Ohel – the first-of-its-kind integrated summer camp for kids of all abilities.

## Reception for women's JNF Israel mission

Jewish National Fund will hold a reception for its Queen of Sheba: Women for Israel Mission in Englewood Cliffs on July 9 at 7:30 p.m. Gisele Ben-Dor and Anne Bendell are the event hosts.

Tali Tzour, mission chair emeritus, world chair and special liaison to JNF, is the guest speaker.

The mission to Israel is set for October 12-21.

Women who are interested in the trip can call Jocelyn Inglis at (973) 593-0095, ext. 823, or email [rsvpnj@jnf.org](mailto:rsvpnj@jnf.org) or [jinglis@jnf.org](mailto:jinglis@jnf.org).



Tali Tzour

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## Ma'ayanot teacher cited for excellence

Sarah Gordon, a Talmud and Jewish philosophy teacher and the director of student activities at Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls in Teaneck, was this year's Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award-winner for excellence in Jewish education. The Jewish Educational Services of the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey, in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the Steinhardt Foundation for Jewish Life, and JESNA, selected Gordon from among Jewish educators nominated by Jewish schools throughout the northern New Jersey region.

Gordon has been at Ma'ayanot since



Sarah Gordon  
COURTESY MA'AYANOT

2007. She is the fourth teacher at the school to earn the prestigious award since it was first presented in 2000; earlier Ma'ayanot awardees are Elana Flaumenhaft, Sally Mayer, and Dena Knoll.

Ma'ayanot has had more Grinspoon-Steinhardt winners than any other Jewish school in northern New Jersey.

As a Grinspoon-Steinhardt awardee, Gordon receives national attention for her role as an outstanding Jewish educator and a \$2,000 professional development stipend. Half of it comes from the Grinspoon-Steinhardt award, the other half from the JFNNJ.

## Drive will collect children's clothing

For the second year in a row, the Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey, 666 Kinderkamack Road in River Edge, will host the Greater Teaneck Children's Clothing Drive. The drive collects new and gently used children's clothing. This year, it is dedicated in memory of Esther Semmelman on her first *yahrzeit*. She was known for her love of children and sensitivity to their needs.

Last year's drive benefited more than 100 community families; the remaining clothing is sent to Israel through Yad Leah.

Volunteers are sought to help with the drive. Clothing can be dropped off on Sunday, June 23, from 9 a.m. to noon and on Monday, June 24, from noon to 4 p.m.

Shoes, boots, coats, and snow pants will also be collected, to fit infants through 14-year-olds. Donated items should not have rips, stains, or holes. Also, no personal logo, bat/bar mitzvah, camp/school T-shirts or sweatshirts, or accessories like hats, tzitzit, gloves, socks, tights, headbands, or bathing suits will be accepted. Baby blankets and buntings are welcome.

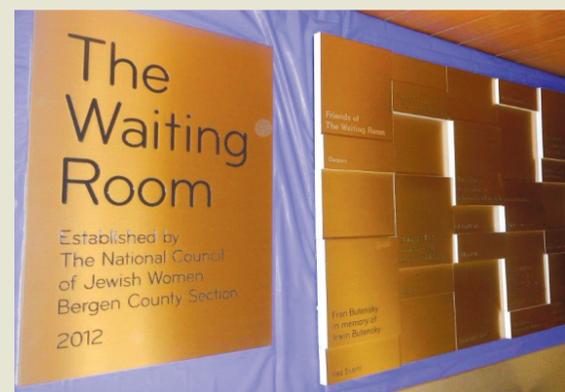
Donors are asked to sort and label all bags by size and gender. Folding and sorting can also be done on designated tables.

For information, email Dalia Stelzer and Chana Shields at [ChildrensClothingDrive@gmail.com](mailto:ChildrensClothingDrive@gmail.com).

## NCJW BCS opens safe space for domestic violence victims

The National Council of Jewish Women, Bergen County Section, opened the Waiting Room at the Bergen County Courthouse on May 29. This dedicated space, separate from the rest of the courthouse, offers a safe haven for victims of domestic violence while they wait for their court appearances. Court, county, and state officials joined NCJW BCS representatives for the opening.

In consultation with the Bergen Family Court and Judge Bonnie Mizdol as well as Bergen County domestic violence service providers, the need and a New Jersey state mandate for a separate waiting area was determined. NCJW BCS prepared the painting, flooring, and furnishing of the room and is providing volunteers to serve as a comforting and protective presence. Information about county social services is readily available on a television loop and in brochures provided in the room.



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