

Jewish Life

WESTCHESTER COUNTY'S ONLY MONTHLY JEWISH NEWSPAPER

Lincoln Park Jewish Center Deeply Mourns Torah Theft

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Lincoln Park Jewish Center, Yonkers (LPJC) suffered the loss of a precious Torah prior to the Yom Kippur Holiday, according to LPJC President Jack Schweizer.

"The incident happened on Friday afternoon, September 25th, about 4:50 p.m.," Schweizer noted. "The perpetrator took the Torah and a Tallit in addition to a laptop computer, guitar, and articles of clothing belonging to a LPJC member.

"The alleged thief changed into the clothing, dumped his initial outfit into a trash bin and left approximately an hour later in which we have video surveillance, at 5:50 p.m., shortly before the Shabbat Service. Our caretaker called the Police who came



during the Shabbat Services. They received a Flash Drive from LPJC's video

surveillance and investigated around the building. On the day of the theft,

the robber was wearing a Harvard University tee shirt, had a beard and appeared to be Caucasian.

"On the day of the theft, he first came in at 12:50 p.m. then left the building. The surveillance shows that he went around to the door to the left of the property and walked around. He probably scoped out the building for a means of access into the synagogue and found a weak point. We are not sure how he got in

of the building.

"The Torah had a white cover, commemorating Board Member Sidney Goldman's 90th birthday," Schweizer continued. "The scroll's fading lettering was recently repaired. Our Torah is approximately 100 years old. The Universal Torah Registry was queried and the missing Torah was not recorded.

"It is an ongoing investigation. The Yonkers Police are looking into the case aggressively and the LPJC community is hopeful that the Torah will be recovered and the perpetrator apprehended. Of course, the Congregation was very upset, especially since it was just before Yom Kippur and we had to use another Torah from the Small Chapel," Schweizer concluded.

Lowey and Fortenberry Discuss Middle East Partnership for Peace Act

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

On Monday, September 21st, Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) discussed their virtual bipartisan conversation on the Middle East Partnership for Peace Act, an initiative aimed at building new partnerships between Israeli and Palestinian business leaders and civil society organizations in a Zoom meeting, sponsored in part by AJC Advocacy Anywhere and Jewish Insider.

The Program was moderated by Julie Rayman, AJC Deputy Director of Policy and Diplomatic Affairs. "This legislation is extremely important to AJC..." Rayman began. "Throughout our history AJC has worked to build bridges between Israelis and Palestinian groups, believing that cooperation is essential to regional security and a two-state solution."

"We have established several

business and economic development Task Forces to improve the West Bank economy and to improve Israeli-Palestinian business cooperation."

Rayman asked Appropriations Committee member Fortenberry, "What was the genesis for the Middle East Partners in Peace Act?" Fortenberry replied, "[Regarding] a road map to peace, before there is a road there has to be a foundation to the road, pre-conditions that have to be laid down which create the means for trust, interactivity, interdependence, dialogue..." Fortenberry replied, pointing to new tools, particularly Development Finance to sustain health and well-being for all people. He recommended changing Development Finance to Development Diplomacy to sustain human relationships rather than merely business transactions.

"I have often said that I could not leave Congress until peace was achieved between Israel and the



Congresswoman Nita Lowey

Palestinians," Appropriations Chair Lowey stressed. "It really breaks my heart to be leaving at a time when we are nowhere close to that reality. That is why it is so important for me to include the Middle East Partnership for Peace Act of 2020 in the FY 2021 State and Foreign Appropriations Bill which passed the House this summer.

"The legislation will authorize \$50 million dollars for each of the five Fiscal Years to be divided between US Agency for International Development (USAID) and DF Corporation with a 13-member advisory board appointed by Congress to make recommendations to USAID."

Fortenberry concluded that rather than funding huge infrastructure projects, DFC will advocate partnerships between agriculture and small business, engaging people beyond transaction levels to promote goodwill and harmony.

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