2019-2020 TEEN BOARD

NORTHERN CIRCLE

LOCAL PROJECTS
Chairs: Lily Deitelzweig and Leah Sokol
Vice Chairs: Matthew Cohen and Rachel Keiles

ADVOCACY
Chair: Zoe Brusso
Vice Chair: Yahli Felixbrodt

MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH
Chairs: Justin Gordon and Molly Nick
Vice Chairs: Sam Aries and Zach Weinberg

PHILANTHROPY
Chair: Elan Roth
Vice Chairs: Zach Fine and Alyssa Harris

SOUTHERN CIRCLE

LOCAL PROJECTS
Chair: Jessica Baden
Vice Chairs: Maya Goodman, Amanda Kornblum, Caroline Mayer, Lucy Rosenblut, Lindsey Sternthal

ADVOCACY
Chairs: Abe Baker-Butler and Talia Krausz
Vice Chairs: Lauren Afran, Ariel Weinsaft, Lily Zuckerman

MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH
Chairs: Rachel Amar and Morgan Ptaszek
Vice Chairs: Ethan Hersch, Sam Lazar, Emma Margolis, Ashley Mufson

PHILANTHROPY
Chair: Sydney Panzier
Vice Chairs: Hayley Bretschneider, Lilly Kleinhandler, Miriam Nefesh, Alex Zelman

J-TEEN LEADERSHIP, a program of UJA-Federation of NY, is dedicated to empowering and inspiring Jewish teens from all backgrounds with leadership training, core Jewish values and community service, so they can start contributing to the Jewish community and the world today!

J-TEEN LEADERSHIP provides a platform for teens to develop a collective voice, address issues confronting society, connect to one another and be change agents in repairing the world.
2019-2020 TOTAL SERVICE HOURS
1,839 hours completed by 98 Leadership Circle Members
(over multiple events)

418 hours completed by 196 Non-Leadership Circle Members
(over multiple events)

FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF 2,257 HOURS OF SERVICE ENGAGING 858 VOLUNTEERS!

THROUGH ITS LOCAL PROGRAM AND SERVICE TRIPS J-TEEN LEADERSHIP IMPACTED APPROXIMATELY 6,130 PEOPLE THIS YEAR.

J-TEEN LEADERSHIP RELOCATES!

J-Teen Leadership, as part of UJA-Federation, along with the Westchester Jewish Council, Dorot, The Jewish Education Project and Hillels of Westchester, moved together to a brand new suite of offices, just in time for the new J-Teen Leadership year.

J-TEEN LEADERSHIP WELCOMES TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

KATIE LIPSON
LEADERSHIP COACH

Katie grew up as an active member in several Jewish youth groups and summer camps. Prior to J-Teen Leadership, Katie had been involved in Jewish Education, from teaching in a bilingual preschool in Jerusalem, to recruiting high school and college students to study abroad at the Hebrew University. Katie also worked closely with high school seniors while running the CIT leadership program at Camp Hadaya.

With 98 Leadership Circle members strong, J-Teen Leadership gave Katie the opportunity to jump right in to her role as Leadership Coach. Through Katie’s guidance she connected the teens to Judaism in an active way while empowering them to develop their voices, identify projects and causes they found meaningful, and work together to change the world.

KADIJAH SPENCE
SOCIAL ACTION COACH 2019-2020 INTERN

Kadijah came to J-Teen Leadership from Bard College as a graduate student studying Environmental Education. Her thesis focused on creating environmental education curriculums that incorporate Jewish values. Her professional experience includes teaching Jewish values, social justice, and environmental education through her identity as a female Jew of color.

As the Social Justice Coach Intern, Kadijah worked with teen leaders to plan meetings, and develop actions to take. Her role also included reaching out to partnering youth and environmental organizations, local government agencies and other Jewish organizations to further promote interfaith work. Before her role as the Social Action Coach, Kadijah helped to staff a 2017 J-Teen Leadership service trip to Houston, Texas to help communities affected by Hurricane Harvey.
Excited for the year ahead, the Leadership Circle teens began to build community as early as on the bus ride up to the camp! Once they arrived, a campfire and ice breakers added to the enthusiasm. In the morning, the year’s theme of “We will do and we will listen”, was introduced, and the teens met in their LAMP (Local Projects, Advocacy, Membership & Outreach, and Philanthropy) teams and committees to start planning the year’s programs and events. In the afternoon the teens engaged in a beautifying project where they cleaned and painted an art center, and they also cleared a vegetable garden. The retreat set the ground work for the year to come, as the teens got to know each other better while having fun!
LOCAL PROJECTS

PROJECT HOPE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019
21 Teen Participants
Chairs: Bianca Benedek and Ariel Weinsaft

TZAHAL SHALOM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019
32 Teen Participants
Chairs: Lily Deitelzweig and Alex Marvin

FULLER CENTER FOR HOUSING
(HABITAT FOR HUMANITY)
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019
9 Teen Participants
Chairs: Rachel Keiles and Molly Nick

MANN CENTER AND EDENWALD CENTER
HOLIDAY PARTIES
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019
25 Teen Participants
Edenwald Chairs: Eli Makaron, Tyler Plank and Elle Schanzer
Mann Chairs: Maya Goodman and Jordan Rosen

MLK DAY OF SERVICE
MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020
204 Teen Participants
Chairs: Rachel Keiles and Lucy Rosenblut

MIDNIGHT RUN
SATURDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 8, 2020
16 Teen Participants
Chairs: Emma and Olivia Moschetti

BLYTHEDALE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL
SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2020
8 Teen Participants
Chairs: Aidan Berkman and Jake Goldman

MID WESTCHESTER JCC SUNDAY/FUNDAY
SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2020
7 Teen Participants
Chairs: Sam Lazar and Emma Margolis

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“One aspect of the MLK day event that made it a success was that there were so many donations and volunteers willing to help out.”
SERVICE TRIPS

PITTSBURGH: Tree of Life Synagogue Commemoration
SATURDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 26 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019
6 Teen Participants
Chair: Alyssa Harris

J-Teen Leadership & Center for Youth Philanthropy and Leadership represented UJA Federation of NY as a teen delegation to Pittsburgh on Sunday, October 27, 2019 on the one year anniversary of the Tree of Life synagogue tragedy. The 6 teens and 2 staff experienced interfaith learning at a mosque and a church, volunteered with a local Jewish organization, visited the Tree of Life site, and attended the community memorial.

ST. LOUIS
FRIDAY JANUARY 17-MONDAY JANUARY 20, 2020
26 Teen Participants
Chairs: Eden Amona, Abe Baker-Butler, Lilly Kleinhandler
Over MLK weekend, 26 teens traveled to St. Louis where they volunteered at STL JFCS, a senior home, a soup kitchen and a church. They also visited the Jewish community and Federation, WashU and its Hillel and had some fun touring the Arch and a local museum.

CUBA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17-THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
31 Teen and Parent Participants
Chairs: Nathaniel Levin and Zach Malter
J-Teen Leadership traveled to Cuba, during Presidents’ week, and brought over 1,800 pounds of donations and supplies to the impoverished Jewish community of Havana. The group visited Adath Israel (Orthodox synagogue in Havana), the Sephardic Center where they toured the facility and had lunch with elderly members of the community, the Patronato, where they met and danced with the local youth, and spent time at both the Ashkenazi and Sephardic cemeteries learning about its similarities and differences.
OCTOBER
Hillels of Westchester Executive Director, Rachel Klein presented about public speaking.

NOVEMBER
Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect Speaker presented about Anne Frank and the history of propaganda, as well as how to use visual tools to create positive messages.

DECEMBER
IsraAID Presenter led an activity about the distribution of resources after natural disasters.

JANUARY
Marti Michael presented her experiences volunteering at the U.S. southern border with refugees and asylum-seekers from Central America.

FEBRUARY
Kadijah Spence, J-Teen Leadership Social Justice Intern, led a presentation about the power of nature to positively affect physical and mental health.

MARCH
The Westchester Shinshinim from Israel joined the Northern Circle, engaging the teens in a discussion about varying aspects of Israeli culture.

MAY
S.A.H.I. J-Teen Leadership Circle teens met virtually with S.A.H.I. teens in Israel to learn about their leadership program and discuss potential collaborations and future joint opportunities.
J-TEEN LEADERSHIP RESPONDS TO COVID-19!

J-TEEN LEADERSHIP AT HOME BUT NOT AT REST!
When COVID-19 invaded the NY Metropolitan area forcing Westchester and other communities into lockdown, J-Teen Leadership responded quickly to fulfill community needs.

J-SERVE 2020
The lockdown occurred only a few weeks before J-SERVE, “Fighting Food Insecurity”, ultimately cancelling the event. The program was to be held at Westchester Community College, where teens were planning to come together and assemble breakfast, lunch and dinner packages for the many students and staff that frequent its food pantry. Even though the teens were unable to hold the event, they were still able to serve the larger Westchester community by donating all of the packaged food items collected for J-SERVE, to Feeding Westchester.

ON-LINE TUTORING PROGRAM
Over 20 families were matched with teens in the J-Teen Leadership on-line tutoring program, with 146 teens from Westchester and beyond registering to become tutors. While students would normally receive academic support in school, their closures along with courses now being taught on-line left many students struggling with new concepts and keeping up with the curriculums. Our teens found a way to help bridge that learning gap for many students from grades K - 12 by providing them with the additional academic help.

OUTREACH TO THE ELDERLY
Through synagogues and other organizations, teens virtually connected with the elderly, many of whom were in isolation during the pandemic.

CHALK YOUR WALK
What better way to reduce the Corona doldrums than by getting out in the fresh air! J-Teen Leadership teens did just that, (while maintaining social distance!) and beautified their neighborhoods along the way! Through the “Chalk Your Walk” initiative, teens literally hit the streets, where they wrote and drew colorful positive messages that were then posted to J-Teen Leadership’s social media.

SHARING TALENTS
Through on-line videos J-Teen Leadership teens shared their passions and time! From a yoga session, to cooking classes and painting demos, there was plenty to do when the on-line school day ended. Teens learned some new skills and had fun in the process!

J-TEEN-A-THON 5K
On Sunday, May 17, 12 dedicated teens participated in a 5k walk and run on the J-Teen Leadership instagram page. Through generous supporters, the teens raised over $3,200 to be distributed to the AFYA Foundation and local organizations helping to fight hunger for those affected by Covid-19.

"I'm not a doctor or a first responder and have limited ability to help someone, but I can help a younger student cope, so I wanted to do this."
"The seniors are always super touched and appreciate when anyone makes the effort to check in with them."
52 Teens Represent 15 Southern Westchester Communities

46 Teens Represent 12 Northern Westchester Communities
Southern Leadership Circle Gender Breakdown

- MALE: 10 (19%)
- FEMALE: 42 (81%)

Northern Leadership Circle Gender Breakdown

- MALE: 28 (61%)
- FEMALE: 18 (39%)
SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

Southern Westchester Leadership Circle Represents
11 High Schools

- White Plains: 2
- Soundview Prep: 1
- SAR: 1
- Holy Child: 1
- Rye: 2
- Irvington: 5
- Harrison: 2
- Eastchester: 4
- Blind Brook: 12
- Scarsdale: 7
- Leffell: 15

Southern Westchester Leadership Circle Grades Represented

- 20 Juniors (33%)
- 17 Sophomores (38%)
- 11 Seniors (21%)
- 4 Freshman (8%)

NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

Northern Westchester Leadership Circle Represents
11 High Schools

- Pleasantville: 1
- North Salem: 1
- Leffell: 2
- King School: 1
- Holy Child: 1
- Rye: 2
- Eastchester: 4
- Scarsdale: 7
- Irvington: 5
- Blind Brook: 12
- Leffell: 15

Northern Westchester Leadership Circle Grades Represented

- 21 Juniors (35%)
- 16 Sophomores (35%)
- 10 Freshman (22%)
- 4 Seniors (9%)

Northern Westchester Leadership Circle
20 21
94% of the 52 teens in the Southern Circle represent 22 synagogues and Jewish organizations. 3 teens are unaffiliated and 1 teen attends 2 different synagogues.

91% of the 46 teens in the Northern Circle represent 11 synagogues and Jewish organizations. 4 teens are unaffiliated and 1 teen attends 3 different synagogues.
"We made a beautiful circle that will soon have a garden and people to sit on the benches we painted."

"The most meaningful aspect for me was volunteering at the Royal Oak nursing home. There was such a difference in atmosphere from the time we walked in to the time we left. I wasn't looking forward to it going in but it was one of the highlights of the trip. It meant a lot to be able to speak with people who sometimes fade to the background in society."

"The most meaningful aspect of the work I did was organizing and packing items because I know that they will go to someone who needs it. Yes, I did feel connected to the Jewish Theme "Kavod (Respect)" because I was helping someone in need in a respectful way."

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LOCAL PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Afya Foundation
Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect
Bet Torah
Blythedale Children’s Hospital
Bronx Jewish Community Council
Feeding Westchester
Fuller Center for Housing of Greater New York (Habitat for Humanity)
IsraAid
JAFI (Jewish Agency for Israel)
JCC of Mid-Westchester
JCCA Edenwald Center
Hillels of Westchester
Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center
Leffell School
Marine Education Center
Midnight Run
Surprise Lake Camp
Temple Beth El- Northern Westchester
Temple Shaaray Tefila
The Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services
The Sally and Anthony Mann and Goldsmith Centers
The Jewish Education Project
Tzahal Shalom of Northern Westchester
Westchester Community College
Westchester County Youth Council
Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS)
Westchester Jewish Council
Westchester Reform Temple
Westmoreland Sanctuary

“I am interested in rejoining the Leadership Circle because I find the work that we do among the most meaningful work I have done in high school. The Leadership Circle meetings were a great way for teens to come together and strategically think through the most effective ways to raise money and help the community out as well as gain leadership skills. As a result, I look forward to attending these meetings more in the future and be a part of the Leadership Circle for another year!”
**2019-2020 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE**

**SOUTH**

**Seniors:** Rachel Amar, Jessica Baden, Abe Baker-Butler, Bianca Benedek, Cole Kerner, Talia Kraus, Hannah Loebner, Ashley Mufson, Sydney Panzler, Morgan Ptaszek, Nicole Weissman

**Juniors:** Lauren Atran, Eden Amona, Hannah Becker, Maya Goodman, Rachel Griff, Chloe Haimes, Jack Kerner, Amanda Komblim, Sam Lazar, Alily Leighton, Nathaniel Levin, Emma Margolis, Emma Moschetti, Olivia Moschetti, Miriam Nefesh, Abby Savner, Lindsay Sternthal, Ariel Weiss, Alexandra Zelman, Lily Zucker

**Sophomores:** Sadie Bernstein, Haley Bretschneider, Tess Davidowitz, Sam Drescher, Amanda Gilbert, Ethan Hersch, Lily Kleinhandler, Caroline Mayer, Tamara Mikhailov, Maxine Moses, Rachel Nefesh, Yadid Orlow, Lucy Rosenblut, Elle Schanzler, Danielle Slassa, Sari Warkol, Maya Zilberstein

**Freshmen:** Anna Baker-Butler, Ben Mayer, Charlie Milberg, Alyssa Trokie

**NORTH**

**Seniors:** Zoe Brusso, Chloe Greenstein, Zach Malter, Elan Roth

**Juniors:** Sam Aries, Matthew Cohen, Lily Deitelzweig, Zachary Fine, Justin Gordon, Alyssa Harris, Rachel Keiles, Eli Makaron, Molly Nick, Tyler Plank, Maya Rose, Leah Sokol, Brooke Solomon, Jake Teitelbaum, Zachary Weinberg, Andrew Zimmerman

**Sophomores:** Aidan Berkman, Alex Berkman, Ryan Bernstein, Jacqueline Cohen, Yahi Felixbrot, Jake Goldman, Noah Lefkowitz, Jake Levy, Jordan Rosen, Chris Suscal, Evan Weiss, Ellie Winter, Ethan Wolland, Abby Yallof, Alex Yallof, Bobby Ziff

**Freshmen:** Corey Aries, Olivia Bennis, Benjamin Cohen, Ben Dreilinger, Ethan Golub, Chloe Gordon, Zoe Herman, Alyx Marvin, Drew Schlesinger, Jenna Singer

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**ADULT LEADERSHIP**

**J-TEEN LEADERSHIP ADVISORY BOARD**
Co-Chairs: Ronny Hersch and Laura Kleinhandler
Bonnie Baker, Michele Bretschneider, Hedy Cardozo, Dan Singer, Jen Sokol, Gigi Weissman

**J-TEEN LEADERSHIP CIRCLE OF SUPPORTERS (in formation)**
Tracey Bilski, Ellen Brown, Rosele Frishwasser, Laurie Ginsky, Tammy Levine, Heidi Rieger, Tara Stone-Goldstein, Pam Wexler

**J-TEEN LEADERSHIP STAFF**

**Director**
Guy Felixbrot

**Operations Executive**
Ronnie Siegel

**Leadership Coach**
Katie Lipson

**2019-2020 LEADERSHIP CIRCLE**

**WESTCHESTER REGIONAL OFFICE**

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| Major Gifts Officers | Penny Goldsmith
Carol Lehner |
| Community and Volunteer Services Manager | Donna Divon |
| Community Development | Amanda Garofinko
Suey Staab
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