

Annual Jewish Heritage Celebration on Capitol Hill To Honor Diverse Contributions of American Jews



Mr. Abe Eisner, Tribute co-chair.



Mr. Stanley Treitel, Tribute co-chair.



Mr. Joseph B. Stamm, Tribute co-chair.



Mr. Greg Rosenbaum, Tribute co-chair.

JULIE AHN

The Annual Congressional Tribute event marking Jewish American Heritage Month will take place on Tuesday, May 23, in the Kennedy Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building, featuring leading members of the United States House of Representatives and Senate.

Among the members of Congress scheduled to attend are Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD); Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH); Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.); Sen. Tim Kaine, (D-VA); Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.); Sen. Gary Peters (D-Mich.); Rep. John Faso (R-NY); Rep. Joseph Kennedy (D-Mass.); Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.); Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL); Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and the driving force behind Jewish American Heritage Month, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.).

The Jewish American Heritage Month celebration, sponsored by Project Legacy and coordinated by The Friedlander Group, honors prominent Jews whose contributions to American society are deserving of recognition.

According to the Tribute's co-chairs, Mr. Greg Rosenbaum, Mr. Joseph B. Stamm, Mr. Abe Eisner and Mr. Stanley Treitel, this



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year's honorees are a microcosm of American Jewish achievement with an array of charitable and humanitarian contributions benefiting millions of people across the United States and the world.

They include: Sparks, an organization that helps women battle post-partum depression. Its founder, Mrs. Esther Kenigsberg, along with Mr. and Mrs. Aaron and Felicia Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. Moshe and



Mr. Ezra Friedlander, CEO, Friedlander Group, Tribute coordinator.

Shaindy Lax, and Mr. and Mrs. Menachem and Breinde Kiwak, will be highlighted for their outstanding leadership.

Dr. Shani Verschleiser, of Magenu, will be recognized for her trailblazing efforts in the creation of educational programs that teach personal safety for schoolchildren.

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, founder and president of the International Fellowship

of Christians and Jews, will be highlighted for his accomplishments.

President Donald Trump last week declared May as Jewish American Heritage Month, following the practice of several recent administrations. The month-long series of events has been held annually since 2006, with exhibits and talks at museums and other cultural institutions highlighting the contributions of Jews to American culture, including the arts, science, medicine, sports, business, government, and military service.

The annual celebration first began in 1980 as a week in April dedicated to American Jewry, and in 2006 President Bush, on the request of Congress, dedicated the month of May to American Jewry.

"Jewish Heritage Month affords us an opportunity to pause and to reflect on the important contributions to our great nation by prominent Jews, and simultaneously it beckons us to acknowledge the gratitude that our governmental leaders have dedicated an entire month to celebrate our accomplishments" said Ezra Friedlander, CEO of The Friedlander Group, whose firm is coordinating the Tribute.

Oorah's Rebbetzins' Retreat Unique Opportunity for Singles

TAMAR FARAJIAN

This past Shabbos was Oorah's Rebbetzins' annual singles retreat, the most anticipated event of the year for the singles and *shadchanim* in the Rebbetzins' network.

What makes the Rebbetzins different than other singles' networks is its sole focus on the unique needs of *baalei teshuvah* who are dating, while offering counsel, encouragement, and much-needed support. Held at TheZone, each moment of the retreat, from Friday through Sunday, was packed with the ideal programming geared toward easing the stress and frustration common to those in *shidduchim*.

"The network that the Rebbetzins offers to its members dispels the confusion and complexities that are commonly associated with *shidduchim*. The mentors are there to provide a level of comfort and security, helping guide the singles while offering a listening ear," said Mrs. Raizelle Serebrowski, director of the Rebbetzins.

With few resources available to *baalei teshuvah* who are dating, the Rebbetzins understood the importance and potential impact of having an entire network of resources available to the singles.

The annual retreat offers the once-a-year opportunity to connect with the *shadchanim* and mentors who dedicate themselves to each single's cause

throughout the year.

While it may seem a daunting task to give one-on-one attention to all the singles during the retreat, the dozens of *shadchanim* know its importance, and focused on building personal and sincere relationships with the attendees.

Through the engaging speeches, interactive workshops, Ask the Rabbi session with Harav Chaim Mintz, and other activities, the singles were certainly offered the best opportunity to not only meet a number of *shadchanim*, but to share their concerns and questions about the dating process.

"I definitely feel more comfortable with the entire dating process now, since this event gave me a whole new

perspective to dating," said one of the singles.

"I learned what is important to focus on while dating, along with understanding more about *shadchanim*, after spending so much time with them."

Helping the singles feel at ease at a potentially stressful and overwhelming event was one of the Rebbetzins' top priorities, and thanks to all those involved, the singles were able to refocus their energy on what is important while dating, all the while receiving renewed hope in the entire process.

The beautiful setting of TheZone's campus, homey and delicious meals, and inspirational Shabbos *davening* all lent a hand in making the weekend a success.