



Voices for Truth and Humanity 3rd Annual Remembrance Awards

Woodbury, NY - An evening which included music, singing, and a host of awards, was creatively set within a framework defined by the immortal words, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” The phrase was repeated often this past Tuesday at the 3rd Annual Remembrance Awards Dinner held by Voices for Truth and Humanity at the Crest Hollow Country Club.

The organization, whose mission is to fight hate and intolerance by promoting a curriculum on the Holocaust and all genocides in public schools, hosted numerous dignitaries, elected officials, and prominent guests among the over 200 in attendance. Those included New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, New York State Assemblyman Steve Stern, New York State Regent Roger Tilles, New York Board of Rabbis Executive Vice President Rabbi Joe Potasnik, Jewish



Statement by Tom DiNapoli, NYS Comptroller

We have to acknowledge there is a terrible increase in hate crimes much of that directed to the Jewish community even in our own state, even in our great city of New York. I have to believe that part of the problem is some of the folks just don't understand history and that's why this organization is so key. There are other issues we need to focus on too that are not in the context of Holocaust education. I'm very concerned about the corrosive impact of the BDS movement with its sanctions in regard to Israel. We have a very specific policy on pension funds that I manage that any company that engages in BDS activity we will divest our pension funds from them. We did that with Unilever and the Ben & Jerry issues that are out there. I want to commend my colleagues Senator Anna Kaplan and Assembly Member Nily Rozic, two individuals who have been making an incredible difference. In civilized Western societies civil government had a military and judiciary that were completely subverted and turned against the Jewish community. It happened not that long ago and we want to make sure it doesn't happen again.

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Statement by NYS Senator Anna Kaplan

As a political Jewish refugee (from Tabriz, Iran) I am truly blessed. To say I came to this country as a refugee and I'm elected to one of the highest offices in the state of New York. Public service is really an amazing thing for those of us who came here as beneficiaries of so many opportunities and for us to be able to give back in a way. As a Jewish refugee I couldn't be more proud than to stand here having sponsored a bill with my colleague Nily Rozic in the Assembly (for Holocaust education). There was a big part of our history that was not a pleasant history but the truth of the matter is we need to teach history to our children for generations to come. I'm a big believer that people who do not learn from history are damned to repeat it again. To find out that this state that has been home to so many Holocaust survivors is not doing a good job teaching the Holocaust in our schools, and not in a meaningful way, is just something that bothers me a great deal. I just would not take no for an answer and I am just so proud to be standing there once we had the bill signed. I thank our leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Governor Hochul who saw the importance of this bill and got it signed right away.

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Statement by NYS Assembly Member Nily Rozic

Thanks to Voices for Truth & Humanity + Board Members for being an organization that teaches all New Yorkers what happens when antisemitism, racism, hate and xenophobia go unchecked.

We are here today to give this effort new life. The law that I sponsored with Senator Kaplan that was signed last month by Governor Hochul will audit schools to ensure that they are in compliance with that curriculum requirement. It will provide schools a pathway to remedy shortcomings together with the State Education Department and will provide members of the Legislature with a report on the findings so we can continue to improve the education New York students receive.

This seemingly simple and straightforward bill - had a long road. I first authored and introduced this bill in 2017 after a Pew Research study found glaring Holocaust ignorance among my generation of millennials that was then corroborated in a 2020 Claims Conference study. These studies show what we already knew: Antisemitism still exists today and is actively on the rise. We saw it in Colleyville, Texas and in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. We saw it in Jersey City and right here in New York.

And then there are the other forms of antisemitism - like harassment, threats, and Holocaust distortion and denial that don't make the headlines but constitute the day to day experiences of many Jewish New Yorkers. We can't expect this to stop if we aren't properly teaching the lessons of the largest instance of state-sanctioned antisemitism to our students. We cannot let the normalization of antisemitism happen.

I'm grateful to all the advocates and organizations like this one who spent time and energy to get this bill done. And to colleagues and partners in government who stood by us and did the right thing.

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Statement by Rabbi Mark S. Golub, Founder & CEO, JBS

When one attends many organizational dinners, there is always the chance they will lack the spark of creativity. However, that was hardly the case with the Third Annual Remembrance Awards Dinner for a most worthwhile organization called “Voices For Truth and Humanity,” which was kind enough to bestow upon me their Media Award to JBS (Jewish Broadcasting Service) for the programming we do to combat antisemitism, the BDS Movement, Holocaust Denial, and “Hate” in general. I was humbled to receive the award from the leading institutional rabbi in America today, Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, Executive Vice-President of the New York Board of Rabbis.

But as wonderful as it was to receive the award with my staff and my family in attendance, it was the overall program – and a series of outstanding guest speakers – which made the evening a real “wow” for all those in attendance at the dinner.

Specifically, two members of the New York State Legislature spoke powerfully of their combined work in passing a bill addressing the importance of teaching the Holocaust in New York Schools and in combating antisemitism and hate. One was New York State Senator Anna M. Kaplan, an Iranian Jew, a former political refugee and the first Iranian-American to be elected to either of New York state's legislative chambers.

And the second New York Legislator to address the Gala was NY State Assemblywoman, Nily Rozic. Nily was born in Jerusalem and was educated in the United States, attending New York University.

A third governmental voice was New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, a Catholic who spoke passionately about his connection to the Jewish people and his total opposition to antisemitism and Holocaust denial.

A fourth most impressive speaker was Salih Hudaya, the Prime Minister of East Turkistan's Government-In-Exile, who movingly described the way his people are persecuted today and how their history is reminiscent of the history of the Jewish People. His hope is that one day his people will have their own land as the Jewish People created the State of Israel.

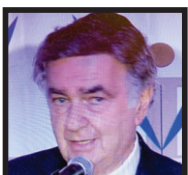
Another most moving honoree of the evening was Holocaust Survivor, Martin Bloch – who was the youngest member of the Bielski Brothers partisan organization in the woods of Belarus (Poland), which fought the Nazis and saved Jewish lives over a five year period.

And were all of these spell-binding speakers not enough, the evening was graced by Israel's Ambassador of Song, Ron Eliran, who performed a number of Israeli classic songs - including ones he has written over the years. In his 80's, Ron thrilled those in attendance with a voice that sounded decades younger.

Finally, many of the Board of Directors spoke beautifully about the goals of Voices For Truth and Humanity which reflect the best of the Jewish Tradition.

Kol Hakvod to Founding President Jack Britvan for a truly outstanding evening

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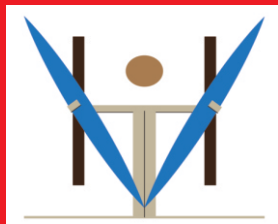
Statement by Rabbi Joe Potasnik, Executive Vice President New York Board of Rabbis

The Hebrew word for community kehila has the word Kol meaning voice in it. Mark Golub has truly been an important voice in our community confronting the challenges we face as well as celebrating our heralded achievements.

He demonstrates that one can be both great professionally and good personally He is a proud Jew who inspires us with his public voice and personal values. He seeks no honor but honor sought him at a special evening with the Voices of Truth and Humanity.

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Voices for Truth and Humanity 3rd Annual Remembrance Awards



Left photo: (left) *Stuart B. Almer*, Remembrance Award Honoree, President & CEO, Gurwin Healthcare System with hands on *Herman Gantz*, Holocaust survivor and Fay J. Lindner resident. (center) *Gantz's* son-in-law and daughter *Howard & Irene Weitz*. (right) *Dennine Cook*, Gurwin's Chief Corporate Communications Officer. (below right) *Maureen Fagan*, Gurwin's Assistant Director, Corporate Communications. Right photo: (top) *Stuart B. Almer*, *Tim Matejka*, Chief Development Officer, Gurwin Jewish Healthcare Foundation. (center) *Harriet Borenstein*, Daughter of *Celia Borenstein*, *Patience Currie*, RN, Administrator, Gurwin Jewish - Fay J. Lindner Residences, Rabbi *Uri Lesser*, Chaplain, Gurwin. (seated) *Celia Borenstein*, Auschwitz survivor and Celia's aide *Kristel*.



From left: *Ron Eliran*, Israel's Ambassador of Song, performing at the Gala. Mr. & Mrs. *Rick Lewis*, CEO Mid Island YJCC and Suffolk YJCC. *Harris Rouso*, *Christina Goerler*, *Noel Rabb*, Board Member V4TH. *Alan Rosenfield*, *Taylor Britvan*, social worker at Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services, *Abbie Rosenfield*.



From left: *Scott Sanders*, CPA *Getty Marcus*, *Jennifer Sanders*, *Toby & Gerald Wolf*, Wolf Law Group. Mr. & Mrs. *Churgin* with their daughter *Dr. Samara Churgin*, MD, FACS. *Stephen & Patricia Hammel*, *Elizabeth Katz*, *Martin Garber*, *Marlene & Angel Cepeda*.



From left: *Angel Cepeda*, Assemblyman *Steve Stern*, Public Service Award Honorees State Senator *Anna Kaplan* and Assembly Member *Nily Rozic* with *Glen Landow*, Vice President, V4TH. *Jack Britvan*, President, V4TH, *Angel Cepeda*, Treasurer and Rabbi *Joe Potasnik*, Executive Vice President New York Board of Rabbis congratulating Rabbi *Mark S. Golub*, Founder & CEO, JBS and recipient of the Media Award.

All Photos on this page: Alex M. Wolff of HeadShotRescue.

To get involved with Voices for Truth and Humanity visit their website: www.v4th.org

Upstanders for Holocaust Education



who are being cared for in Gurwin’s Fay J. Lindner Residences, some of whom were also in attendance and received an ovation from the audience.

The evening’s speakers acknowledged the organization’s vital work, and sounded a common theme that the rising atmosphere of hate, intolerance, and antisemitism is a warning to not allow today’s children to become the next generation of victims and bystanders due to their ignorance of history. Voices for Truth and Humanity’s Treasurer, Angel Cepeda, began his remarks by stating, “We had a great year!”

He talked about the organization’s successes this past year in partnering with other not-for-profits in New York Goes Yellow, where prominent New York State landmarks, including Madison Square Garden, Niagara Falls, the state capital

Statement by Stuart B. Almer, President & CEO, Gurwin Healthcare System

I am president and CEO of the Gurwin Healthcare System.

I am especially pleased to represent our assisted living facility, Gurwin Jewish–Fay J. Lindner Residences tonight, and am proud to be here not only with some of our special staff members, but also two of our residents and their family members. These residents – Herman Gancz and Cilia Borenstein – are both Holocaust Survivors, and I am so glad they could be with us tonight.

At Gurwin’s Assisted Living Community, we have been privileged to care for many Holocaust survivors over the past two decades. One of the original mandates from our board was to ensure that Holocaust survivors in particular were cared for with the respect and dignity they deserve, and a subsidy fund was created to ensure we can do that regardless of their financial situation.

Our residents are living history, and we are committed to telling their stories. With so few survivors left, it is even more important to share these stories so we can be sure to honor them, and fulfill our promise to ensure that the world will never forget.

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Salih Hidayar, Prime Minister, East Turkistan Government-in-Exile

East Turkistan, our beloved, beautiful, and resourceful homeland lies between Kazakhstan in the West, China in the East, India in the South and Russia in the North. Since the 1949 takeover by the Communist China, the people of East Turkistan, in particular the Uyghurs, have been effectively rendered stateless.

Today, nearly seventy-three years after the Chinese invasion of East Turkistan, the brutal atrocities of the Chinese communist regime against the Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples have officially been recognized as genocide and crimes against humanity by several Western nations, including the United States Government.

Like the Jewish people, the Uyghurs have always resisted Chinese occupation and striven to restore their independence. China’s ongoing genocide aims to eradicate the Uyghur and other Turkic peoples and ensure that East Turkistan becomes a so-called “inseparable part of China.”

Our culture, our history, our religious freedom, and our very existence is being eroded by the Chinese Communist government.

The plight of the Uyghur people of East Turkistan, in many ways, resembles the Jewish struggle to restore their rightful liberty.

Today, we ask for your help. The Jewish nation has achieved the freedom that we are only dreaming of. They have overcome the Pharaoh of the past. They have managed to rescue their imprisoned and persecuted from the Former Soviet Union. They have rebuilt their land and shown the world that justice can take place.

We ask each and everyone of you to help us in any way you can, whether it's through raising awareness, volunteering, organizing events like today’s or even donating to help the people of East Turkistan.

Uyghurs need the modern-day Raoul Wallenbergs. I believe there is plenty more that Jewish and Israeli organizations can do to help the East Turkistani victims of Chinese communist brutality.

Who knows, maybe one day, East Turkistan will be part of the Abraham Accords and enjoy warm relations with other friendly nations in the Middle East.

May the upcoming Rosh HaShana be a sweet new year for the Jewish nation and the people of Israel. Please, pray for our people to see some happiness, too.

Shana Tova oo-metukah!

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Statement by Martin Bloch, member of the Bielski Partisans

I was the youngest Bielski Partisan, hiding in the woods during the Holocaust. The movie Defiance is based on the story of our struggle as we fought for our survival against the Nazis. I now lecture a great deal on two subjects.

One is space timing navigation, which is my professional specialty. The second is an obligation I promised my brother Sam Bloch, to follow in his footsteps and keep everybody aware of what happened during the Holocaust and the Second World War. When I speak with high school students and ask what they have learned about the Holocaust, I see that they do not know simple facts such as how many people were killed by the Nazis.

I will continue to be a witness, and work with organizations such as Voices for Truth and Humanity who are fighting to make sure the lessons of the Holocaust and the Second World War are never forgotten.

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Ron Eliran, Israeli most acclaimed singer & musician

Ron Eliran song list and their significance to him.

“Am Yisrael Chai” The people of Israel will live forever. (Direct reference to the Holocaust.)

“Lach Yerushalayim” To you Jerusalem we sing. One of Ron’s early recorded hit songs.

“Dona Dona” in Yiddish. A calf is loaded on the wagon to be slaughtered, as were the 6 million Jews. And How The wind is laughing, saying “Who told you to be a calf, You could have been a bird flying free in the sky”.

“Come with me and walk the country” (Israel) a special favorite of Rabbi Mark Golub dedicated to him by Ron who also sang his own English translation of the Hebrew lyrics.

The biggest hit that Ron Eliran recorded was during the Six Day war (1967) when the Israeli army broke the Egyptian blockade on the Straights of the red sea at “Sharm El Sheikh”.

Other requests that Ron sang were the favorite almost an anthem: “Jerusalem of Gold”, and “Hallelujah” which won Israel first prize in the European Eurovision song festival.

Ron Also added the favorite American folk song “Michael Row the boat ashore” ending with the words: “Jordan river is chilly and cold, it chills the body but not the soul, Hallelujah”.

Ran Eliran (Menachem Leizerovich) was born in Haifa, British Mandate of Palestine. He was the middle child among three siblings. His Polish-Jewish parents ran a bakery. In the late 1950s, he formed one of the first Israeli folk-style duos, Ron and Nama with Nechama Hendel.

In 1958, Ed Sullivan visited Israel looking for young performers to appear on a special show celebrating Israel's tenth anniversary. Eliran and Hendel were the finalists. While the name Ran was not a problem for English speakers, they could not pronounce Nechama so the duo became known as "Ran and Nama." After their television appearance, the duo toured the United States for a year and a half. Eliran was the first Israeli singer to perform in Las Vegas.

In 1962, Eliran became an entertainer for the Israel Defense Forces. One of his greatest hits was the Sharm el-Sheikh song, composed after the Six-Day War. In the mid-1970s he appeared in a Broadway musical, "Don't Step on My Olive Branch" with Israeli performers Rivka Raz, Ruti Navon, Riki Gal and Hanan Goldblatt.

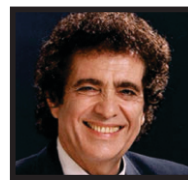
With Nama and solo, Eliran has an extensive discography behind him, as well as a distinguished history of performances, playing with Woody Allen, Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger, and Elvis Presley. He was recently given the Israeli Lifetime Achievement Award.

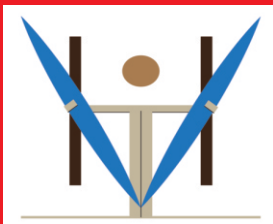
Eliran studied film and photography at NYU and continues to live in New York.

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building, and others were bathed in yellow light on Holocaust Remembrance Day. He went on to describe the instrumental support Voices for Truth and Humanity provided to the effort to get the Holocaust Education Bill through the State Legislature and to the Governor for signature.

Glen Landow, the organization’s Vice President, followed by declaring, “But we’re not finished yet.” He announced a new Holocaust Education Scholarship Awards Program open to high school students designed to build on the momentum of the Bill’s signing by asking, “How are the lessons of the Holocaust still applicable in today’s society?” He explained that three winners will be chosen from Nassau County and three from Suffolk County, each of whom will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.





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From left: Good Guy Award recipient *Jeff Weiner*. *Peter Manzi* accepting the Corporate Honoree Award for *Davi Tserpelis*, City National Bank's Senior VP, Business Banking Manager. *Tatiana Bloch*, Board Member V4TH and *Martin Bloch*, member of the Bielski Partisans, Mr. & Mrs. *Pressman*.
Photos: Alex M. Wolff of HeadShotRescue.



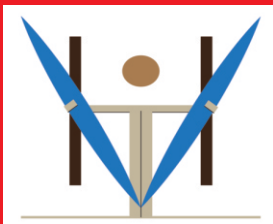
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Left: Jewish War Veterans (from left) *Murray Steinberg* (100 years old on 5/20), *Eric Spinner*, *Jeffrey Newman*, *Steven Ratnoff*, *Melvin Cohen* and *Avidor Herezc*. (Top) *Angel Cepeda*, *Noel Rabb* and *Gary Glick*, JWV Commander, Post 652. Right: *Martin Bloch*, *Jake Blumenkrantz*, *Salih Hudayar*, PM of East Turkistan Government-in-Exile, Rabbi *Jay Rosenbaum*, President, North American Board of Rabbis, Dr. *Asaf Jan*, Secretary, East Turkistan Nat'l Awakening Movement.
Photos: Alex M. Wolff of



A Night at the Garden, February 20, 1939. 20,000 Americans at Madison Square Garden in New York supporting the Nazis seven months before the Nazis invaded Poland.
Photos: Internet generated.



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