



For Immediate Release

Hundreds Stood Together at Sid Jacobson JCC Community Gathering to Combat Anti-Semitism

Rep. Thomas Suozzi, County Executive Laura Curran and more came out to speak against recent acts of hate

East Hills, NY, January 7, 2020 – On Friday, January 3, close to 300 people came together to combat anti-Semitism at [Sid Jacobson JCC](#)'s Community Gathering. Local rabbis, community leaders, and elected officials spoke to attendees about the recent rise in anti-Semitic incidents, the importance of standing together in unity and hope, and a resounding message that hate has no home here.

"Anti-Semitism is real and growing. It must be addressed and called out. While there are several known contributing factors in the rise of anti-Semitism throughout America such as divisive rhetoric at the national level, the rise of social media and ignorance, we must also be on high alert for nefarious use of social media and corruption by our foreign adversaries who wish to foment civil unrest. I will continue to work with local officials and with my colleagues in Washington to try and prevent these attacks from occurring," says Rep. Thomas Suozzi, D-Long Island, Queens.

The gathering quickly became standing room only as attendees young and old listened to powerful speeches, joined hands together as they were led in songs by Sid Jacobson JCC Theatre Arts Director Susan Kalman and Rabbi Uri Allen of Temple Beth Shalom along with SJJCC's [Randie Waldbaum Malinsky Center for Israel](#) Shinshinim, signed petitions, and made signs for UJA-Federation of New York's Solidarity March.

The list of influential speakers at the gathering included Rabbi Jodie Siff of the Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore, Robert Zimmerman the Partner and Co-President of ZE Creative Communications, Rep. Thomas Suozzi, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, civil rights leader Fred Brewington, Pastor Juanita Lopez and Brenda Lopez of Ciudad de Refugio, Scott Jaffee the UJA Long Island Chair, Arnie Herz

the President of AJC Long Island, Senator Anna Kaplan, Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Judi Bosworth, Rev. Roger Williams of the Firth Baptist Church, and Assemblyman Charles Lavine.

"I was astonished at the attendance as well as the diversity of the crowd and the speakers who gave us their time and attention," recounts Gili Dvash, Director, Randie Waldbaum Malinsky Center for Israel. "We must stand against these acts of hatred. They are the last straw and we cannot wait for the situation to get worse before it gets better. We cannot wait to just react as a community and as a society."

This Sunday, January 12, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran will lead a Long Island march against anti-Semitism. The march will begin at 3pm at the intersection of County Seat Drive and 11th Street in Mineola and will end at 3:40pm at the Theodore Roosevelt Executive & Legislative Building with remarks from religious, community and government leaders from Nassau County.

To learn more about Sid Jacobson JCC's Randie Waldbaum Malinsky Center for Israel, contact Gili Dvash, Director of Randie Waldbaum Malinsky Center for Israel at gdvash@sjcc.org or 516.484.1545 ext. 115. To learn more about ways to engage and take action on issues facing the local community and the world at large, contact Susan Berman, Director of the Center for Community Engagement at sberman@sjcc.org or 516.484.1545 ext. 202.

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About Sid Jacobson JCC

Sid Jacobson JCC (sjcc.org) in East Hills provides a full range of cutting-edge recreational, health, fitness, educational, cultural arts and social service programs. SJJCC promotes Jewish identity and provides a comprehensive program based on Jewish values, traditions, heritage, and culture, and is committed to enriching the lives of all individuals and families in its community. SJJCC embraces all individuals and families, and values diversity. See community differently, "Like" the JCC on Facebook (facebook.com/sidjacobsonjcc).

Sid Jacobson JCC is a beneficiary agency of the UJA Federation of New York.

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