

## Women from page 4

women the opportunity to hear engaging speakers with inspirational messages.

Taryn Glassman shared a memorial tribute to her mother, Maxine Fischer, who served as president of Women's Philanthropy. In an effort to share examples of "women doing extraordinary things with and for each other," current president Anna Fisch introduced Ann Leeb, who talked about her developmentally disabled daughter and the important support she has received from the Friendship Circle of MetroWest, which connects caring teen volunteers with special-needs families.

Following Leeb's presentation, Fisch said, "We link arms with each other in a unique way at Women's Philanthropy and aim to build, sustain, and speak for our community with an emphasis on the most needy among us."

After Hidary's act, Maplewood resident Sheryl Parker, 44, said, "Vanessa was a really fresh perspective. This was the first Women's Awareness Day event that I'd ever attended and I thought the organizers did a great job in putting together a really excellent and inspiring program."

"It makes a strong case for why

it's so important to support women's initiatives."

For 76-year-old Cynthia Plishtin of East Hanover, who has attended Women's Philanthropy events for over 40 years, the presence of so many young, new faces in this crowd was encouraging. "I'm so enthused," she said, "because the fewer people I recognize at these gatherings, the healthier I think it is for our community."

Wizen agreed, saying, "It's always energizing to see a turnout of this magnitude and a gathering of multi-generational women from the community who enjoy being together and benefitting from their own wonderful work."

In an effort to extend the broader theme of the event to "what's hot and happening at MetroWest," this year's Women's Awareness Day also featured exhibits by many of UJC's agencies and initiatives, including the WAE Center for the developmentally disabled; the Community Relations Committee, the UJC's public policy and advocacy arm; the PJ Library and Jewish Camp for kids; and the Legov Family Israel Program Center.

The event was followed by a Lion of Judah luncheon for major donors. ■

## State &amp; Local

## Local teenagers inspire Assembly move on Iran

DEBRA RUBIN

NJN Bureau Chief/Middlesex

Inspired by a group of teens determined to keep Iran from becoming a nuclear power, the New Jersey Assembly passed a bill urging the federal government to strengthen sanctions against those doing business with Iran's petroleum sector.

The legislation, passed unanimously May 9, was sponsored by Assembly members John McKeon (D-Dist. 27), Mila Jasey (D-Dist. 27), Linda Stender (D-Dist. 22), and Gary Schaer (D-Dist. 36).

A similar resolution is expected to be introduced by Senate President Stephen Sweeney on May 12.

"It's a good day," said Jasey as the vote total was announced by Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver (D-Dist. 34).

The resolution urges the federal government to increase sanctions, carry out financial divestment, and bring additional economic pressure to stop Iran from going nuclear.

"The threat that Iran's enrichment program poses to the prospect of long-term stability in the Middle East cannot be overstated," said McKeon at a press conference in the Statehouse in Trenton immediately after the vote. "Iran has been identified by the United States as a sponsor of terrorism, and its accelerated long-range missile testing and nuclear activities, with no civilian purpose, lead to the conclusion that the country is attempting to develop nuclear weapons."

McKeon was inspired to sponsor the legislation after meeting Danielle Flaum of Millburn, founder and president of the No Nukes for Iran teen advocacy group, at last year's Super Sunday fundraising event of United Jewish Communities of MetroWest NJ in Whippany.

Danielle was invited to attend the Assembly session along with fellow teen advocate Benjamin Lankin of Highland Park. Both spoke at the May 9 press conference and were invited by Jasey and McKeon to sit in their Assembly chairs to cast symbolic electronic "votes" on consent items.

## 'Advocate for peace'

"I believe Iran should not be allowed to become a nuclear threat to the U.S. and the world community," Danielle, a senior at Millburn High School, told NJN as she and Benjamin worked the Assembly chamber before the start of the session. They handed out "No Nukes for Iran" buttons, which many of the legislators then sported on their lapels.

"I want to advocate for peace,"



Jewish leaders gathered May 9 with legislators after the NJ State Assembly passed a resolution urging stiffer sanctions against companies doing business with Iran. At the Statehouse in Trenton are, from left, Nancy Kislin Flaum, No Nukes for Iran; Beth Haiet Meyer, MetroWest Community Relations Committee member; Ferne Hassan, associate director, Metro NJ American Jewish Committee; Assembly members Gary Shaer, Linda Stender, John McKeon, and Nila Jasey; Danielle Flaum, No Nukes for Iran; Melanie Roth Gorelick, associate director, MetroWest CRC; Benjamin Lankin, No Nukes for Iran; and Jim Daniels, chair, NJ Stop Iran Now Task Force.

Photo courtesy MetroWest CRC

she said, "and this is the biggest issue of our time."

Benjamin, a freshman at Torah Academy of Bergen County in Teaneck, said he took on the cause because "I'm an American citizen, and a nuclear Iran is a danger not only to us but to our greatest ally, Israel."

The teens were accompanied by members of the Stop Iran Now task force of UJC MetroWest's Community Relations Committee, who had invited members of other organizations to join them at the press conference. Among them were Jacob Toporek, executive director of the NJ State Association of Jewish Federations; Ferne Hassan, associate director of the Metro New Jersey region of the American Jewish Committee; and Melanie Roth Gorelick, CRC associate director.

NJ Stop Iran Now chair Jim Daniels, an Iranian native who came to the United States at age 15, said now is "a critical time in our fight against a nuclear Iran."

"State and local government have a role to play to place economic pressure on Iran and to deliver the message that Americans stand united in recognition of the dangers inherent in a nuclear Iran," said Daniels at the press conference. "We hope New Jersey will be a model to all states around the nation."

New Jersey became one of the first states to pass Iranian sanctions legislation three years ago, divesting itself of 14.5 million stock shares worth more than \$489 million. Last year, President Barack Obama signed the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions and Divestment Act into law, penalizing companies that support Iran's petroleum sector.

However, Daniels said, to date only one company has been sanctioned while other companies continue Iranian operations through loopholes and as the result of a lack

of diligent enforcement measures. In February, U.S. Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) introduced a bipartisan bill to close those loopholes.

In their remarks, both Danielle and Benjamin delivered scathing condemnations of Morristown-based Honeywell International, where the No Nukes for Iran campaign has organized demonstrations and letter-writing campaigns for the last year.

"I am here today to remind you, our elected officials and New Jersey citizens, that the youth of New Jersey will not be silent as businesses in our backyard continue to do business with Iran," said Benjamin.

Danielle urged all elected officials to put pressure on Honeywell, which she said was not "morally in compliance" with the sanctions act. She added that the company has claimed to be winding down business but has yet to give a timeframe. ■

drubin@njewishnews.com



Member Mila Jasey explains the proceedings in the NJ State Assembly chambers to Benjamin Lankin as Danielle Flaum and Assemblyman John McKeon look on.

Photo by Debra Rubin



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

In accordance with the By-Laws of the Jewish Family Service of MetroWest, the following individuals have been nominated to assume leadership as Trustees on the Board. These individuals will be installed at the Annual Meeting of Jewish Family Service of MetroWest which will be held on Monday, June 20, 2011 at 7:30 pm at the Aidekman Family Jewish Community Campus, 901 Route 10, Whippany, NJ 07981.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Nancy Eskow, has submitted the following slate for election to the Board of Trustees:

## NOMINATED AS OFFICERS OF THE BOARD FOR 2011-2012:

President..... Ellen B. Kulka	Treasurer..... Mitchell Lieberman
Vice Presidents..... Michael Elchonesh	Secretary..... Marion Medow
..... Nancy Eskow	Immediate
..... Ellen Legow	Past President..... Marian Z. Stern
..... Gina Mandelbaum	
..... Ron Rickles	

## NOMINATED FOR AN INITIAL TWO YEAR TERM ENDING JUNE, 2013:

Steven Kany • Stephen Lampf • Jed Marcus • Carrie Nussbaum

## NOMINATED FOR A SECOND TWO YEAR TERM, ENDING JUNE, 2013:

Renee Litinger • Gina Mandelbaum • Marion Medow  
Jonathan M. Metsch • Sandra Rosenbaum

## NOMINATED FOR A THIRD TWO YEAR TERM, ENDING JUNE, 2013:

Nancy Eskow • Ellen B. Kulka

## WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE THE SERVICES OF THE FOLLOWING WHO ARE RETIRING FROM THE BOARD:

Sheila Appel • Rachel Braun Scherl • Arthur Brody • Ellen Goldner • Shoshana Newman  
Marcia Ripps • Alan Rubin • Evan Wasserman • Gary Wingens • Sheri Wolfson

All other Board members not listed are continuing in their terms of office.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Nancy Eskow, Chair;

Michael Elchonesh, Ellen B. Kulka, Ellen Legow, Gina Mandelbaum, Marion Medow,  
Linda Sotnick, Marian Z. Stern

Reuben D. Rotman, Executive Director