

# Inside Out

## JCC hosts Cafe Europa to honor Holocaust survivors

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In what translated into a celebration of survival, hope and courage for

Holocaust survivors and their guests, the Joan and Alan Bernikow Jewish Community Center of Staten Island played host to the sixth annual Cafe Europa, Sunday, June 5.

The day's event, themed Jerusalem Day, included 15 Holocaust survivors and 35 family members who represented second-, third- and fourth-generations of those who survived the horrors of the Holocaust.

The purpose of the event in Cafe Europa — funded by the UJA-Federation of New York and the Claims Conference — is to create a forum for Holocaust survivors and generations of families, in order that they join together to share and further their legacy.

Cafe Europa chairperson, **Rachel Borenstein**, a second-generation Holocaust survivor herself and Cafe Europa chairperson for the past six years, is the daughter of the late **Emil Jacoby**



**Holocaust survivors, front row, from left, are Greda Schindler, Chaim Ben-Aron, Margot Capell, Hannah Steiner, Miriam Jacobs-Schwarzc, Amalie Kleinman and Clara Chodeles. Second row, from left, Brenda Perelman, Arnold Aronowitz, Renee Katz, Ernie Buehler, David Srulovich, Gabi Held and George Gelb. Photos courtesy of Sara Signorelli**

(1923-1998) an artist, and Holocaust victim who survived a Nazi concentration camp and lived in Grasmere from 1985 until his death in 1998.

Rachel reminded the audience: "Seven decades are not long enough for us to forget the 6 million Jews that perished in the Holocaust. We celebrated together our humanity because 'even in darkness it

is possible to create light," quoting **Eli Wiesel**. The program included tunes sung in honor of Yom Yerushalayim, an Israeli national holiday, that commemorated the re-unification of Jerusalem in 1967, as well as entertainment by the Tsu Fils Klezmer Band. Artwork by **Betty Roth**, a former Staten Island resident, was exhibited, with many of her landscapes and still life utiliz-

ing reflection in glass. Roth was born in a Displaced Persons camp in Austria. Her parents, **Sheindel** and **Mordechai**, survived labor and concentration camps, including Buchenwald, Bergen-Belsen and Theresienstadt, where they married after their liberation. Survivors were photographed by **Sara Signorelli** and a slideshow of her photos from last year was on display. The

event is organized in collaboration with Wagner College. "It was inspiring to see Holocaust survivors, whose tragic histories we know, join with their families in singing and dancing as a community," said Professor **Lori R. Weintrob**, director of Holocaust Education at Wagner College.

Cafe Europa committee members include: **Rachel Borenstein**, a second generation of a Holocaust survivor and chairperson, **Noga Kugel**, the liaison for Staten Island Holocaust survivors, **Neshama Marcus**, social worker and director of Social Services and Disaster Relief Department at the JCC, and Professor **Weintrob**.

Survivors in attendance included: **Greda Schindler, Chaim Ben-Aron, Margot Capell, Hannah Steiner, Miriam Jacobs-Schwarzc, Amalie Kleinman, Clara Chodeles, Brenda and Moritz Perelman, Arnold Aronowitz, Renee Katz, Ernie Buehler, David Srulovich, Gabi Held and George Gelb**.

For further information about future Cafe Europa events, kindly contact **Sara Cohen**, JCC Jewish Program Coordinator, 718-475-5242 or *sacohen@sjcc.com*

### CELEBRATIONS:

**JUNE 17-18**

Birthday greetings are in order Friday for **Anna Day, Joe Piazza, Karen Miraglia, Marianna Giardiello, Diane Diefenthaler, Christopher Arm-**

**strong, Chris LaCata and Michael Angelo Petrucci and Anthony Kraker** who turns 12.



**Larry Arann**



**Dana Leclaire**

Saturday is birthday time for community leader, **Larry Arann**, a Westerleigh psychologist, and

**Laura Mazza, Alan Hassell, Mike Polsney, Beth Reilly, Joseph John Ribertelli, Anthony DiCossanzo, Erin Parker** and twins **Lisa and Michael Pellee**.

Happy 25th birthday Saturday to **Dana Leclaire**, who appeared in the movie "Bad Hurt" with actor **Theo Rossi** as an extra with her friends from A Very Special Place.