

## SEA VIEW

# A celebration of Holocaust survivors at 9th annual Cafe Europa



Wagner Holocaust Center Director Lori Weintrob and Holocaust survivor Shirley Gottesman at Café Europa.



Scenes from Café Europa, a celebration of life for the Holocaust survivors on Staten Island at the Jewish Community Center on Manor Road. This year's theme was also in celebration of Israel's 70th birthday. Photos by Shira Stoll, for Staten Island Advance



Holocaust survivor George Gelb looks out the window before the showing of the short film, "Where Life leads You: Stories of Staten Island's Holocaust Survivors."



Rachel Borenstein hugs Sara Cohen at the end of Café Europa.



Holocaust survivor Hannah Steiner with her daughter.

**Shira Stoll** [stoll@siadvance.com](mailto:stoll@siadvance.com)

Members of the Jewish community gathered this past Sunday for the ninth annual Cafe Europa, a celebration of the borough's Holocaust survivors.

This year, 22 survivors and their families participated in the event, which took place at the Jewish Community Center on Manor Road.

The Tsu Fil Duvids Klezmer Ensemble played traditional Hebrew and Yiddish music as the survivors sang and danced to the familiar tunes.

Artwork about Israel by the Jewish Foundation School of Staten Island was displayed on the wall.

## EMOTIONAL STORIES

The theme of this year's Cafe Europa was Israel's 70th birthday, and emotional stories were shared.

"My dream when I survived the war was to go to Israel. Unfortunately, I was in a Displaced Persons camp, not able to go anywhere. We were stateless," Holocaust survivor Arthur Spielman said.

Now Spielman's son is living his dream. He lives in Israel with six children and one grandchild — and another grandchild on the way.

"When the Hungarian Nazis were marching us in Budapest in the street, I was a Jewish without a country. But thank God now I have a country," Holocaust survivor George Gelb said.

Holocaust survivor Hannah Steiner said that Israel is the backbone of the Jewish people.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A chocolate cake decorated with a giant "70" was served, and participants sang "Happy Birthday" to Israel in both English and Hebrew.

Holocaust survivor Goldie Schwartz cut the cake because it was also her 88th birthday.

The celebration closed with the singing of "Hatikvah," Israel's national anthem.

Following Cafe Europa was a showing of the film "Where Life Leads You: Stories of Staten Island's Holocaust Survivors."



Holocaust survivors and their families dance at Café Europa at the Jewish Community Center on Manor Road.