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Willow Towers Assisted Living and Pelham Jewish Center Create an Intergenerational Jewish Study Partnership

New Rochelle, New York – (November 21, 2011) - [Willow Towers Assisted Living](#), a leading Westchester County provider of [senior housing](#) in New Rochelle, New York, has formed an innovative Intergenerational learning program with The Pelham Jewish Center. Willow Towers is part of the United Hebrew of New Rochelle continuum of care campus of services. The program brings seniors and students together as Jewish study partners called “Hevruta”. The students, post Bar and Bat Mitzvah, meet with Willow Towers residents once a month to study Jewish topics of interest predetermined by the students and their teacher, Ethan Witkovsky. Mr. Witkovsky, a rabbinical student, guides the intergenerational group to interact, voice opinions and learn together.

In one of the initial meetings the seniors and students were asked to play a game of Personal Bingo. Mr. Witkovsky asked, “How many of you speak another language?” “Who is an only child? Who can play a musical instrument?” These were just a few questions asked as a means of furthering the new “Hevruta” partnership session sparking lively conversation. As the bingo squares got filled, the participants from different generations came together and new friendships were ignited. The room was filled with excitement, joy and enthusiasm.

After these new bonds were formed, the round table topic of discussion began and was of a more serious nature. That evening the conversation was centered on the release of the Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit. At a prior session, the conversation was based on the Jewish New Year as they answered questions and shared experiences and memories of past holidays.

“The commencement of our new year-long partnership with the Pelham Jewish Center has only reinforced our commitment to engaging our residents in thought-provoking and mind expanding activities.” said Jean Dunphy, Willow Towers Executive Director. “Our philosophy of care is to assist our Willow Towers residents in continuing a connection with their community and religious beliefs.”

Willow Towers Assisted Living was the first residence in Westchester County to receive the new New York State Department of Health assisted living license with dual certifications. The not-for-profit community offers a wide array of amenities, including activity rooms, exercise room, transportation, a library with internet computers, and an art studio. The Pelham Jewish Center project is just one of the many recreational activities created to keep the older adult residents mentally and spiritually active.

Rabbi David Schuck of the Pelham Jewish Center and many congregants were involved in planning the partnership with Willow Towers. The leadership of Pelham Jewish Center are committed to giving their teens an experience that will teach them the mitzvah of honoring their elders.

"The Jewish tradition suggests that cultivating a deep respect for our elders and shaping our lives around them, with their needs at the center, is of utmost importance. We are trying to live up to this expectation indeed, not just in the abstract. The partnership between our school and Willow Towers offers us the opportunity to do this, to better fulfill our Jewish mandate." said Rabbi Schuck, "The time that our kids spend with the residents at Willow Towers is not out of pity; our students are deeply enriched by the encounters and relationships as much as anyone else."

As the sages say, “Take yourself a friend, go and study”, a message Willow Towers understands, as spiritual roots continue through the generations.



Willow Towers Assisted Living residents in New Rochelle, New York join in a lively discussion with Pelham Jewish Center students lead by teacher, Ethan Witkovsky, in an innovative Intergenerational Jewish Learning Partnership. The residents of Willow towers and the Pelham Jewish Center students meet to discuss topics of interest related to torah, holidays, spiritual matters and news.



Willow Towers Assisted Living residents and Pelham Jewish Center students study together in an intergenerational Jewish Study Partnership at Willow Towers Assisted Living in New Rochelle, New York. The residents and students share learning by discussing topics of interest related to torah, holidays, spiritual matters and news.

About Willow Towers Assisted Living

Willow Towers Assisted Living, was the first in Westchester County to receive the New York State Department of Health assisted Living license with dual. It is an eight story state-of-the-art residence with a wide array of amenities, including activity rooms, exercise room, putting green, recreation and cultural activities, transportation, a library with internet computers, and an art studio. Willow Towers offers three restaurant-style meals daily, prepared by an experienced chef, daily housekeeping, personal laundry, scheduled transportation to medical appointments, and other services. In addition, residents have access to a beauty salon, barbershop, 24-hour cafe, and a multimedia room. Willow Towers features a two-story glass atrium and dazzling views of the Long Island Sound. Opened in 2003, the not-for-profit community located in New Rochelle offers 126 apartments, from studios to 2 bedroom suites – 20 of which are in Willow Towers' Phoenix Memory Support Neighborhood. www.willowtowers.com

About United Hebrew of New Rochelle *The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus*

United Hebrew is a vibrant not-for-profit, non-sectarian, multi-service senior living campus serving the Westchester metropolitan area since 1919. United Hebrew offers a rich array of skilled and community-based programs and services that encourages and supports a life of dignity and spirituality and promotes the highest possible quality of life. United Hebrew serves over 600 clients daily in its Harry and Jeanette Weinberg campus facilities -- Willow Towers, *The Beverly and Alfred J. Green Pavilion*, a 126-unit licensed assisted living residence which

has the SNALR Phoenix unit as one of the first in the county to receive the certification from New York State Dept of Health to cater to residents with Alzheimer's & related disorders in a special needs assisted living residence; a 296-bed [nursing home](#) and rehabilitation center staffed with Burke Rehabilitation professionals; the 135-unit Soundview Apartments for seniors; a Long Term Home Health Care Program; and the AZOR Home Health Agency. United Hebrew recently opened its new home, which combines world class care with state-of-the-art features. www.uhgc.org