

December 1, 2008

Re: Chanukah and end of 2008

Dear Member:

I wish you and your family a Happy Chanukah as well as a healthy and prosperous 2009. These have been difficult times for all of us, but this last year has been one of growth and productivity at the Justice Brandeis Westchester Law Society. Looking back a year ago we were a new organization with less than 40 members. Today, the Justice Brandeis Westchester Law Society boasts a paid membership of over 170. We remain in the early stage of development, and I promise that with the continued support of our membership we will continue to rapidly grow and have a profound impact on the Westchester community.

It was a year ago at our first Chanukah get together at the home of Judge Lefkowitz that the Officers of our Executive Committee first took our oath officiated by retired Appellate Division Justices George Marlow and Sondra Miller. Since then, our devoted Executive Committee has held monthly meetings where in addition to administrative tasks we successfully planned events throughout the year.

One of the first actions taken by the Justice Brandeis Westchester Law Society was to forward a letter to every Federal, State and local judge in the Ninth Judicial District containing the dates of 2008 and 2009 Jewish Holidays an observant Jew is not permitted to work so that courts may take those dates in consideration with respect to appearances by litigants, attorneys and the scheduling of trials.

Major events hosted by the Justice Brandeis Westchester Law Society this year included cocktails with former Court of Appeals Judge Albert M. Rosenblatt at the Hampshire Country Club; a Shavuoth discussion on "Jewish issues and the Law" presented by Barry Slotnick, Esq. and Rabbi Velvel Buttman at the law offices of DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP; we hosted a Lawyers Shabbat at Temple Israel in New Rochelle; and on November 5, 2008, we screened, in the Westchester County Courthouse, a documentary film "Hitler's Courts" with dinner and discussion led by Dean Lawrence Raful of Touro Law School. Every event was well attended. As an organization in existence for one year, we have truly exceeded our own expectations.

For next year we have set ambitious goals which include significantly expanding our membership; planning for our first gala event tentatively scheduled for the Fall of 2009 at which time we shall award the first Justice Brandeis Westchester Achievement Award; redesigning a new interactive website for our membership with message and discussion boards, contact information and referral capabilities; co-sponsorship of events with similar organizations in New York City, Philadelphia and the Hudson Valley; creation and funding of our first law student scholarships and hopefully arranging our first trip to Israel where we shall be hosted by our partner organization there - the Haifa Bar Association.

Of course, we will continue to schedule insightful discussions on important social topics and with your continued interest, participation and continued membership we shall continue to evolve into the Jewish voice of the Westchester legal community and the vibrant independent Jewish organization so many of us are proud to be a part of.

Happy Chanukah. Remember to tell your friends and colleagues about us and when surfing the web click on to our website.

Sincerely,

Hon. Jeffrey A. Cohen  
President