



Cary Lakenbach
Chair of the Board

Carolyn Gitlin
First Vice Chair

Dana Keller
Laurie Mandell
David Rosenthal
Gary Starr
Vice Chairs

Anne Martha Pitegoff
Treasurer

Daniel Kaufman
Assistant Treasurer

Ted Zablotsky
Secretary

Cyral Sheldon
Assistant Secretary

Eric M. Zachs
Chair Emeritus

Benjamin Adler
Todd Berman
David Brandwein
Shari Cantor
Jessica Fish
Kathy Fishman
David Gelles
Rona Gollob
Jonathan Hoffman
Alan Parker
Greg Patchen
Stephen Rabb
Richard Rubenstein
Lois Siegal
Tracy Taback
Robert K. Yass
Board Members

Leigh Newman
Ex-officio

Howard Sovronsky
President and CEO

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford is to enhance, build and perpetuate Jewish life in Greater Hartford, in Israel and around the world through the values of Tzedakah (righteous giving), Tikken Olam (improving the world), and Klal Israel (unity of the Jewish people).

TESTIMONY: EDUCATION COMMITTEE
IN SUPPORT OF HR 7082-AAC The Inclusion of
African-American Studies in the Public School
Curriculum
March 6, 2019

My name is Howard Sovronsky and I am the President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. I am here today to strongly urge your support of HB 7082 that would mandate African American History be incorporated into the curriculum in all schools in Ct.

African American history is America's history that must never be minimized. The very fabric of our country has been formed by the outstanding contributions African Americans have made in the areas of science, technology, music, theater, education, social work, business and politics to name just a few.

Such accomplishments came with a price that we must never forget. Slavery, Jim Crow, the Hartford riots on 67' are stains on that fabric that must be told.

Jews around the world will soon be preparing for Passover, a time when we remember our history and the lessons we can apply to our lives today. We are required to re-tell those stories to ensure that all generations will learn our history which serves as an anchor by helping our children understand their place in the world and the values that have guided us throughout our journey.

Every Generation  Shapes Federation

Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, Zachs Campus, 333 Bloomfield Ave, Ste C, West Hartford, CT 06117 . (860) 232.4483 . jewishhartford.org

Cary Lakenbach
Chair of the Board

Carolyn Gitlin
First Vice Chair

Dana Keller
Laurie Mandell
David Rosenthal
Gary Starr
Vice Chairs

Anne Martha Pitegoff
Treasurer

Daniel Kaufman
Assistant Treasurer

Ted Zablotsky
Secretary

Cyral Sheldon
Assistant Secretary

Eric M. Zachs
Chair Emeritus

Benjamin Adler
Todd Berman
David Brandwein
Shari Cantor
Jessica Fish
Kathy Fishman
David Gelles
Rona Gollob
Jonathan Hoffman
Alan Parker
Greg Patchen
Stephen Rabb
Richard Rubenstein
Lois Siegal
Tracy Taback
Robert K. Yass
Board Members

Leigh Newman
Ex-officio

Howard Sovronsky
President and CEO

*The mission of the Jewish Federation
of Greater Hartford is to enhance,
build and perpetuate Jewish life in
Greater Hartford, in Israel and
around the world through the values of
Tzedakah (righteous giving), Tikkekun
Olam (improving the world), and Klal
Israel (unity of the Jewish people).*

TESTIMONY

(2)

We have a similar obligation to all of our children by teaching them about the African American experience; we are creating new opportunities to build bridges of understanding, tolerance and acceptance at a time when such values are so very critical.

Last session, I had the privilege of witnessing the Governor sign into law a bill mandating Holocaust and Genocide education. The bill before you today is just as important. It is our joint responsibility to do what is necessary to insure that our children are given the tools they need to become engaged, productive and successful adults. Studying our shared history, learning about each other's accomplishments and pains, only strengthens the bonds that connect us on this amazing journey we call America.

Thank you.

Howard Sovronsky