

Guiding Principles

1. On our own and in partnership with other organizations, create classes, events and programs of excellence that educate, inform, challenge and engage people of all ages – from newborns to seniors - including programs that:

- Value the role of arts and culture in enriching our lives
- Appreciate the importance of strengthening and caring for our bodies, nourishing our souls and challenging our minds
- Support the State of Israel and educate the community about Israel's land, government and people.
- Work to end hate, including antisemitism and racism.
- Respect the environment and acknowledge that natural resources can be rare and valuable.

2. We serve and welcome a diverse group of families and individuals –including those with special needs and wide ranging identities, talents and abilities.

3. We approach our work and programs through a Jewish lens that cherishes our values and traditions and convenes the diverse opinions and beliefs of the community in a respectful and welcoming environment.

- Model and teach these values especially to future generations.
- Prioritize the values of Charity (Tzedukah), human dignity and equality (B'tzelem Elohim) and Repairing the World (Tikuun Olam) in all our programming.
- Value the peace of the Sabbath and the beauty of the Jewish holidays that can be expressed by people in different ways.

4. Recognize the diverse nature of Jewish lives in Westchester. Acknowledge Jews who are choosing affiliation with synagogues and those who don't, and those in interfaith families who are searching for a Jewish communal home other than through religious affiliation.

- Recognize the essential role that Westchester synagogues play in the community and work in collaboration with them for the betterment of the community.
- Help to convene Jewish community agencies to offer a full range of experiences for our community.

5. We are aware that fiscal responsibility is key to maintaining the level of excellence that we expect of ourselves. We strive to make our programs available to everyone through financial support where needed.

6. We strive to create the comfort and belonging of home, a place where our patrons and staff would like to return. We offer a safe, respectful and secure environment for our families and employees.