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## Religions and Spirituality

# East Brunswick: Panel Discusses the Rise of Antisemitism and the Need for Awareness

A opportunity to understand the historic and contemporary roles of

EBHRC "Coffee & Conversations" Antisemitism



The East Brunswick Human Relations Committee offers "Coffee and Conversations" with local Jewish spokespeople about the current rise of antisemitism in America.

EBTV

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EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ - As part of their ongoing "Coffee and Conversations" programming, the East Brunswick Human Relations Council (EBHRC) has presented a panel discussion focusing on the rise of antisemitism in New Jersey and nationwide.

Rabbi Joshua Hess of Young Israel of East Brunswick; Rabbi Ester Reed of the Rutgers University Hillel; and Dan Rozett, Manager of Community Relations and Israel Engagement at Jewish

Federation in the Heart of New Jersey join members of the EBHRC in a discussion of contemporary concerns in the Jewish community.

The video, produced in conjunction with the East Brunswick Interfaith Clergy Council and Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey and the Daniel Pearl Education Center, is available here on *TAPinto East Brunswick* and is also widely accessible elsewhere online.

Last week, police investigated an [attempted firebombing](#) at Temple Ner Tamid in Bloomfield, NJ.

In September, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman joined Mayor Brad Cohen and representatives from the Jewish Federation to discuss [Congressional funding for increased security at houses of worship](#) nationwide.

Amy Keller of The Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey came to East Brunswick's Temple B'Nai Shalom to explain the process of layering defenses "from the outside in." She works with many houses of worship through the Non-Profit Security Grant Program as part of her position on the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Interfaith Advisory Council and the Faith-Based Information Sharing & Analysis Organization. The goal of these organizations is to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to terrorist attacks. The Non-Profit Security Grant Law was passed by Governor Phil Murphy in 2019 in response to incidents of hate, bigotry and faith-based violence against nonprofit groups in New Jersey. The state law was co-sponsored by District 18 Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak who represents East Brunswick.

Says the New York/New Jersey Anti-Defamation League, "Reported antisemitic incidents in 2021 rose by 25% in New Jersey, reaching 370 total incidents – the highest number ever recorded by ADL in the state and the second-highest number recorded in any state across the country. These 370 incidents in New Jersey constitute 14% of the total number of antisemitic incidents recorded across the United States last year." 31 acts of antisemitism were recorded in Middlesex County in 2021, the fourth-highest of the 21 counties in New Jersey to report incidents."

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For providing essential reporting during the pandemic, Editor Maureen Berzok was named the 2021 Citizen of the Year for East Brunswick. A member of the New Jersey Society of Professional Journalists, she received the Awbrey Award for "Community-Oriented Journalism" in 2020.