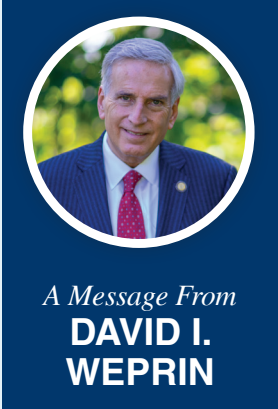




Reports to the Community

Winter 2025

Serving the partial or entire communities of:
Briarwood, Bellerose, Fresh Meadows, Hillcrest, Hollis Hills, Holliswood, Jamaica Estates, Jamaica Hills, Oakland Gardens, Queens Village, Richmond Hill, South Richmond Hill, and Utopia



MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Friends,

As we move into the colder months, I hope this message finds you warm, safe, and surrounded by good company. Winter weather can be unpredictable, so please take care of yourselves and your loved ones if we see snow in the coming weeks.

As the year comes to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to everyone celebrating during this special season. To those observing Chanukah, may your days be filled with light, joy, and moments that strengthen family and tradition. To everyone celebrating Christmas, I hope your holiday is peaceful and filled with warmth. This time of year reminds me of how much kindness exists in our community, especially through your participation in our annual Toy Drive. Because of your generosity, we were able to bring smiles to children who might otherwise have gone without a gift this holiday season. Seeing the excitement on their faces was a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we come together with compassion and care.

Next year, I will be returning to Albany for the legislative session, where I will continue working to strengthen our neighborhoods, support working families, and keep our district a place where everyone can thrive. My key priority will be advancing policies to improve affordability as we respond to funding cuts from the federal government. In my role as the Chair of the Committee on Insurance, I will push for policies to lower insurance premiums while ensuring the strongest possible coverage and a healthy market.

As we prepare to welcome the New Year, I want to thank you for your continued support, engagement, and the many ways you contribute to our shared success. New beginnings always give us an opportunity to reflect, grow, and recommit ourselves to the work ahead. I am grateful to serve such a dedicated and diverse community, and I carry that gratitude with me into every decision I make on your behalf. As always, my door remains open, and I welcome your thoughts, concerns, and ideas.

My District Offices is located at 185-06 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows and 111-12 Atlantic Avenue #5 in Richmond Hill and open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. You can reach us at 718-454-3027 or 718-805-2381, respectively, and by email at weprind@nyassembly.gov. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

Wishing you all a peaceful holiday season and a very happy New Year!

Sincerely,

David I. Weprin
Member of Assembly



Left to right Dr. Vasundhara Kalasapudi, New York State Senator Leroy Comrie, Assemblyman David Weprin, New York State Senator John Liu stand alongside the honorees.



India Home Annual Gala and
Check Presentation

I was delighted to attend the annual India Home Gala at Pearl Banquet Hall in Hicksville, where we celebrated another impactful year of addressing the needs of South Asian seniors. India Home has brought joy, dignity, and community to hundreds of seniors through culturally sensitive social, psychological, recreational, and spiritual services. As the Assemblymember representing one of the largest South Asian populations in Queens, I know how meaningful this work is. I joined Assemblymember Grace Lee and the Asian Pacific American Task Force to present India Home with a check for \$441,456 from the \$30 million in state funding secured for AAPI organizations. This support is well deserved and will strengthen an organization that has already made a profound difference in the lives of so many. It was an honor to stand with them at both the celebration and the moment of investment in their continued success.

Left to right Davinder Singh, Kavita Shah, Assemblywoman Grace Lee, Assemblyman Ed Braunstein, Dilafriz Nargis Ahmed, Dr. Vasundhara Kalasapudi, Assemblyman David Weprin, Shiang Liu

Senior Appreciation and Fraud Prevention

In recognition of Senior Appreciation Month, a Deed and Title Theft Prevention and Scam Prevention Event was held at the Hillcrest Jewish Center. The event, hosted by the Showing Hearts Foundation in partnership with my office, reflected our ongoing commitment to supporting and uplifting our senior community. Our seniors are the foundation of our families and the backbone of our neighborhoods, and ensuring their safety and well-being remains a top priority. The program featured knowledgeable speakers and representatives from trusted organizations who provided essential guidance on how to safeguard personal information, protect homes from fraud, and recognize potential scams. Representatives from Jamaica Hospital and NewYork-Presbyterian also attended the event, offering free medical screenings such as blood pressure checks and distributing pamphlets with important health information to help keep our seniors informed and supported. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions, receive resources, and learn practical steps they can take to stay secure. By offering education and support, we aim to empower our seniors to remain confident, engaged, and protected as they continue to lead and inspire our communities.



*Savannah Steinhauer,
Assemblyman David
Weprin, Ashley
Mangra*

Installation Ceremony of Nawabganj Upazila Association of USA Inc.

I attended the Nawabganj Upazila Association of USA Inc.’s installation ceremony for its newly elected executive officers. I congratulated the incoming leadership team and commended the Association for its continued dedication to strengthening community ties, preserving cultural heritage, and fostering unity among Bangladeshi-Americans across New York. The event was a festive celebration of service and leadership, bringing together community members, dignitaries, and friends to mark the beginning of a new chapter for the Association. I want to congratulate the new executive officers and look forward to their contributions in advancing the mission of the Nawabganj Upazila Association of USA Inc. The Association’s new leadership is poised to build on past successes by expanding programs, deepening civic engagement, and creating opportunities for the next generation.



*Assemblyman David Weprin
alongside Shah Nawaz*

Celebrating Diwali with BAPS



*Shyam Patel, Assemblyman David Weprin, Dr. Vipul Patel and
Dr. Hari Shukla*

I joined BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir for their annual Diwali celebrations, an event that beautifully highlighted the rich cultural and spiritual traditions of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, and Annakut, which marks the start of the Hindu New Year with a grand offering of food to the deities. I expressed my appreciation for the BAPS community’s commitment to harmony, service, and the preservation of cultural heritage. Diwali is a time of joy, reflection, and renewal. It reminds us of the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil, values that resonate across all communities. The celebration featured vibrant displays and an uplifting sense of unity. Plates of traditional sweets and savory snacks were arranged like treasures, each adding to the joy and anticipation of the holiday. I extended warm wishes to everyone observing Diwali and the Hindu New Year, reaffirming my dedication to supporting the diverse communities that enrich New York State. Each Diwali event I attended felt unique, yet all shared the same spirit of togetherness and happiness that makes this holiday so meaningful.

Commonpoint Annual Gala

I attended Commonpoint’s Third Annual Gala fundraiser at the Altman Building. This year’s theme, “Steps to Stability,” highlighted the organization’s commitment to helping vulnerable neighbors achieve lasting stability. The event celebrated the individuals and partners who have played an important role in advancing Commonpoint’s mission and emphasized the impact of their programs, which guide people from crisis to stability and ultimately to empowered living. With services that span all five boroughs, Commonpoint continues to be a vital resource for communities facing increasing challenges. It was inspiring to join so many supporters who are dedicated to building a stronger and more stable future for all New Yorkers.



*Mary Vaccaro, Assemblyman David Weprin, Richard Tanenbaum
and David Slotnick*



*Assemblyman David Weprin with host
Dmitry Sergeev*

RTVI US 25th Anniversary Celebration

I had the pleasure of joining RTVI US for their 25th Anniversary Celebration in Midtown Manhattan. The evening brought together leaders from government, business, media, and community organizations to honor a quarter century of creative excellence and service to Russian-speaking and Eastern European communities. The celebration highlighted the importance of culturally competent storytelling, and the vital role independent journalism plays in connecting people across different backgrounds. RTVI US was recognized for its dedication to honest reporting, thoughtful analysis, and programming that reflects the diverse experiences of the communities it serves. Their work continues to elevate voices that might otherwise go unheard and to foster meaningful multicultural dialogue rooted in shared heritage, language, and values. I commend RTVI US for hosting such a wonderful celebration and for their ongoing commitment to enriching New York’s vibrant media landscape.

Thanksgiving Turkey Distribution

I partnered with ICNA and Met Council to host a Turkey Giveaway once again in front of my office in Richmond Hill. The experience was incredibly meaningful and gave us an opportunity to support families who might not otherwise be able to secure a turkey for Thanksgiving. Our goal was to help ensure that everyone in our community could sit down to a warm, traditional holiday meal and feel included in the celebration despite the challenges they may be facing. Moments like these remind us that even small efforts can make a real difference, especially in the cold months, and they show how important it is to care for one another and build a community where everyone feels supported. I also had the privilege of attending the American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) Cares Annual Halal Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway. Ali Rashid and his dedicated team did an outstanding job organizing the event and ensuring that families in need had access to Halal-certified turkeys.



From left to right: Imran Rahman, Rajwinder Kaur, Community Board 9 Chairperson Sherry Algreto, Community Affairs officer Chris Dimarco, Assemblyman David Weprin and Moummar UAnwar

Pastor Appreciation with Stephen and Cindy Mootoo

I was honored to present official proclamations to Pastor Stephen Mootoo and Minister Cindy Mootoo of Kingdom Builders Ministries in recognition of their unwavering commitment to uplifting the Richmond Hill community. The proclamations were presented during their Pastor’s Appreciation Service, where both leaders were celebrated for their heartfelt dedication not only to their church family, but also to the wider community they faithfully serve. Pastor Stephen and Minister Cindy have consistently demonstrated a passion for community outreach, providing resources, encouragement, and hope to neighbors in need. Their work embodies the very best of faith-driven service, strengthening families and inspiring unity throughout Richmond Hill.



Assemblyman David Weprin with honorees Cindy and Stephen Mootoo

Community Response to Hollis Hills Shooting with Linda Lee

I joined my fellow elected officials and community members to express our deep sorrow and concern over the recent shooting of a 16-year-old student at the intersection of Union Turnpike and Springfield Boulevard. Tragic events like this remind us that we cannot wait for another loss to take action against gun violence. Prevention begins at home, and it starts with raising awareness and supporting parents. Educating families about the realities of gun violence and the importance of staying involved in their children’s online and everyday lives is essential. In today’s world, it can feel overwhelming for parents to monitor everything their children see and do online, but that is why our support and resources are so critical. By equipping families with the tools, information, and guidance they need, we can foster open communication, strengthen bonds, and help create an environment where children feel safe and supported. Together, we can work to ensure that tragedies like this become far less common. Their legacy reminds us of the resilience of our community and the strength of the human spirit.



District 26 advocate Adriana Aviles, Councilmember Linda Lee, New York State Senator John Liu and Assemblyman David Weprin



Assemblyman David Weprin and Carlina Rivera (CEO of NYSAFAH)

NYS Association for Affordable Housing Awards Reception

I joined NYSAFAH during their annual awards reception, and it was a privilege to be alongside housing advocates and community leaders working tirelessly to ensure every New Yorker has access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. Congratulations to all the outstanding honorees whose leadership and advocacy continue to shape the future of housing in our state and uplift families and neighborhoods across New York City. A special moment of pride was recognizing their unwavering commitment to expanding affordable housing opportunities and strengthening communities statewide. Events like these remind us of the power of collaboration between government, nonprofits, and the private sector to drive meaningful change. I look forward to working with NYSAFAH to help build a more equitable New York one home, one neighborhood, and one policy at a time.

Torah Dedication Ceremony

I joined Harold Biller for the Torah Dedication Ceremony at the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates. Dr. Biller generously dedicated a Torah to the congregation, a gift that reflects his deep love for a community he has helped shape since moving to the neighborhood in 1985. This dedication was made in memory of his parents and his brother who passed away. He had promised himself many years ago he would honor his family in the most lasting and sacred way he knew. The Torah was his way of keeping that promise, a way of binding their memory to a living source of holiness that will be read, cherished, and carried through the generations. It was his expression of gratitude for the values they instilled in him and for the blessings he has been able to give forward.

Dr. Harold Biller and Assemblyman David Weprin





The Morgan Groundbreaking Ceremony

I attended the groundbreaking ceremony for TSINY’s new affordable housing development, The Morgan, in Jamaica. It was an honor to witness this important step forward in our mission to provide safe, supportive, and affordable housing for more New Yorkers. The project will add 50 new units, offering individuals and families a stable foundation from which to build their futures. We also had the opportunity to tour one of the model apartments and the surrounding common areas, which showcased beautiful artwork, welcoming design elements, and thoughtful touches throughout. The event underscored TSINY’s commitment to expanding access to quality, affordable housing in our community.

Honoring Morton Povman: Street Co-Naming Ceremony

I joined New York City Council Member James Gennaro, along with my fellow elected officials, at a street co-naming ceremony in honor of the late Morton Povman at the intersection of 147th Street and 75th Avenue in Kew Gardens Hills. The street has now been renamed “Morton Povman Way,” a fitting tribute to a man who devoted so much of his life to serving our community. As the longest-serving member in the history of the New York City Council, Morton worked tirelessly to improve the lives of countless New Yorkers. Whether advocating for local schools, supporting neighborhood improvements, or simply being a presence people could rely on, his commitment was evident in everything he did. Seeing the street bear his name is a meaningful way to honor his decades of service and the positive impact he had on so many lives. I feel fortunate to have known Morton and witnessed firsthand the integrity, compassion, and dedication he brought to public service every day. His legacy will continue to inspire all of us who were lucky enough to know him.



The family of the late former Council Member Morton Povman stands alongside, from left to right: Congresswoman Grace Meng, New York City Council Member James Gennaro, Assemblyman David Weprin, Assemblyman Sam Berger, and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards.

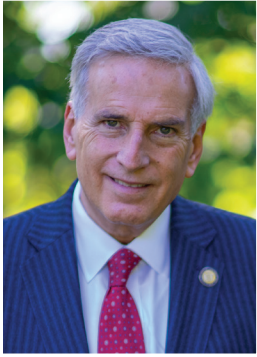
Queens Holocaust Memorial Garden



Assemblyman Ed Braunstein, Assemblyman Sam Berger, Assemblyman David Weprin and Assemblywoman Nily Rozic

I joined Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, the Assembly of the World Diasporas, and the Queens Jewish Community Council for the groundbreaking of the Holocaust Memorial Garden, slated to be built alongside Queens Borough Hall. This moment marked more than the start of a construction project. It represented a commitment to remembrance, education, and preserving history for future generations. The garden will serve as a place for reflection, honor the memory of the six million Jews lost in the Holocaust, and stand as a reminder of our shared responsibility to combat hatred and intolerance in all forms. Being present for this milestone underscored the importance of community leadership coming together to support a space dedicated to resilience, memory, and hope.

New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248



Assemblyman
DAVID I. WEPRIN

Reports to the Community



Winter 2025

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From left to right: Moishe Hellman, Ohel President Emeritus, Jay Kestenbaum, Ohel co-President, David Mandel, Ohel CEO and Assemblyman David Weprin

Ohel 56th Annual Gala

I attended Ohel’s 56th Annual Gala, an inspiring evening that celebrated courage, resilience, and the powerful impact of sharing personal stories. The event emphasized the strength it takes to speak up and how one voice can inspire change and offer hope to others. Ohel has grown from a small foster care agency for Jewish children into a global leader in social and mental health services. Today, the organization supports thousands of people through programs that improve lives and strengthen communities. Its services include housing, day programs, counseling, trauma response, and support for people with disabilities and older adults. With a presence in New York, across the United States, and internationally, Ohel continues to provide vital care and resources to those in need. The gala was a meaningful reminder of the organization’s mission and the extraordinary difference it makes in so many lives.