

'The DJA-Federation Young Leadership Group on Long Island is the strongest it's been in decades. It's a good thing.'

# Fighting on Many Fronts

*Arthur Katz's concerns range from local pests to Israel's security*

By PETER L. ROTHOLZ

For many years Arthur M. Katz has been a leader in the fight for many Jewish causes through organizations as varied as UJA-Federation of New York, the Jewish Academy of Suffolk County (JA), Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), Hillel and Temple Or-Elohim, his synagogue in Jericho, Long Island. And, as president of Knockout Pest Control, he now finds himself on the front lines of an issue making daily headlines: the fight against bedbugs.

According to Katz, the spread of bedbugs, principally throughout the New York metropolitan area, has been caused by two factors: First, they can be imported by the large number of visitors to New York, many from countries with poorer standards of living than our own; and, second, the fact that the environmental movement has discouraged the use of pesticides.



*Arthur M. Katz provides strong leadership that benefits the Jewish as well as greater communities on Long Island and Israel.*

There are effective means to fight the bedbug infestation, however, and Katz cites Cryonite as the newest and safest technology available. This 100 percent "green" technology, using European equipment, freezes bedbugs and other insects with carbon dioxide snow ("dry ice") that penetrates deep into cracks and crevices. It is not poisonous, leaves no residues and poses no risk of contamination. In his role as a Jewish community leader, Katz notes that while the older generation continues to show signs of alienation from their religion, "young people are coming

to Judaism." For example, he says that "the UJA-Federation Young Leadership Group on Long Island is the strongest it's been in decades. I don't know why," he adds, "but it's a good thing." Katz also serves on

principal Jewish student organization at Hofstra University, and characterizes it as "critically important and our first line of defense against anti-Semitism."

As the newly elected chairman of the board of the JA of Suffolk County in East Northport, Katz is proud of the school's reputation for excellence. Its curriculum focuses on what it describes as a "STEM" program concentrating on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The JA, whose enrollment increased 25 percent this year, currently offers classes from preschool through fourth grade. Under the guidance of Rabbi Michael Druin, its new head of school, the JA plans to add one grade per year, thereby doubling its enrollment in the next three to five years. Even though the school is religiously Orthodox, most of its students come from secular families. This poses no problem, says Katz, since "most parents readily embrace the religious education their children receive."

The security of Israel is also of great concern to Katz. He serves on the National Board of JINSA, an organization whose main mission is to convey to non-serving military personnel the importance of Israel to the national security of the U.S. To accomplish this mission, JINSA brings retired American officers to Israel to meet with their counterparts as well as senior government officials. JINSA also hosts Israeli security experts who help to educate American first-responders here at home. Finally, JINSA arranges for experts to lecture at the U.S. military academies.

Katz is also active in many other organizations, including the Nassau Conservancy, the National Pest Management Association, the Long Island Real Estate Group and the Tam O'Shanter Golf Club. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Jericho. They have two adult daughters, Stephanie and Sarah, who is married to Bradley.