



From the Director:

Greetings – my name is Jeremy Kasman. It is hard to believe that it has been 16 years since I

last served as Director of Meals on Wheels of White Plains (MOWWP). When I look in the mirror my hair is gray. The children out of the house. Some volunteers may remember my future stepson Adam Kroetsch telling me, as he loaded meals into their cars, “your son looks like you.” Later I joked back I proposed to his mother to make their observations accurate.

In 2006, when I left, I was younger and restless, looking to take on new horizons and the world. I found my niche for over a decade as Operations and Development Director of the Federations of Jewish Men’s Clubs, (FJMC) a global religious organization.

But I never left White Plains, where I still live or MOWWP, and my family and I continued as donors. In November 2021 the FJMC closed its office, I “retired.”

A few months later Board Member Sara Basson asked if I was available to fill in for the Executive Director, Susanna Sussman, so that she would be able to take a long overdue and well-deserved vacation in August. I said yes. However, instead of taking a vacation, Susanna decided it was time to leave, So I returned to a job I love.

White Plains is my home, a community that is important to me. The people that we deliver to are my neighbors. Helping each other is what this community is all about. I am pleased to be able to make a difference again.



Paul Schwarz Retires as President

LEFT: Paul Schwarz was an active “hands on” President. Here he loads meals into a volunteer’s car about to depart for a delivery route. Abe Deutsch, a board member and volunteer is reflected in the car window.

Paul Schwarz retired this summer as Board President of Meals on Wheels of White Plains. He had been our President since 1997, with a tenure that spanned the work of five of our Executive Directors.

Over the years, Paul’s name became synonymous with Meals on Wheels. He has been an active, “hands-on” leader, always present to greet volunteers and thank them as they went off on their meal deliveries. He took great care in seeking out new Board members to help support and guide staff. He has enthusiastically explained our work and sought backing from donors and others. And he is always quick to praise those who join in our efforts, whether volunteers or staff.

Emblematic of the care Paul has devoted to Meals on Wheels is the way he handled his own departure. Having learned last year that he was facing a serious health problem, he called on the Board to form a search committee to identify new members and transition to a new Board leadership. Without disclosing at first the personal challenge he was facing, he made it clear that this was a critical task. And he carried it out successfully.

The extent and success of Paul’s hard work on our behalf are even more remarkable when we note the broad range of his community interests. Over the years he has dedicated his efforts to Aging in Place in White Plains, the Public Library, the League of Women Voters, the Mayor’s Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, and many other worthy organizations. The scope of Paul’s activities embodies the adage, “If you’re looking for someone who can give his time to an important project, find someone who’s already very busy.”

We look back on Paul’s many years of service to Meals on Wheels of White Plains with gratitude for the energy, enthusiasm and thoughtfulness he brought to the task.





Steve Hochman with volunteer Beulah Brown, at a recognition event honoring Meals on Wheels volunteers.

New Roles, New Board Members

Meals on Wheels of White Plains is governed by a Board of Directors comprising local citizens who donate time and energy to advise, oversee and participate in the organization's work. This year in June, two board members were assigned new roles as officers, and three new board members named.

Steve Hochman, a White Plains resident since 1974, was named President after having served as Treasurer for nearly twenty years. He started as a meal delivery volunteer on weekends, partnering initially with Paul Schwarz and later with his wife, Jane, and an occasional grandchild.

Much of Steve's career has involved reporting on government finance as a municipal bond analyst for Moody's Investors Service, from which he is now retired. His community activities have also included serving on the White Plains Budget and Management Advisory Committee and working as a constituent services volunteer in the White Plains office of Congresswoman Nita Lowey.

David Klein was named Treasurer in June, after delivering meals as a volunteer since 2015. He became a board member in 2018. David and his wife Evelyn have lived in White Plains since 1977.

He retired in 2015 as Controller for Sarah Lawrence College. His community activities include tutoring math at Westchester Community College, serving as a Garden Guide at Wave Hill and in the Old Guard of Westchester, a group of retired professionals. Earlier, he was a Peace Corp Volunteer in Ethiopia, teaching accounting at university.

John Kirkpatrick, one of three board members appointed in June, has been a White Plains resident since 1974. He is an attorney and city planner; he practices land use and environmental law at offices in downtown White Plains.

John and his wife Susan have three children who are proud graduates of White Plains public schools. Community service is a family affair: Susan is a former member of the School Board, and John is a former member of the Common Council as well as having served with the White Plains Beautification Foundation, Rotary, the Friendly Gathering and neighborhood associations in each area where he has lived in White Plains.

Sue Lobel, appointed to the board in June, has been a Geriatric Care Manager at Westchester Elder Care Consultants LLC in White Plains since 2009; she also volunteers for geriatric work at Westchester Jewish Community Services. She has lived in White Plains for years.

Sue is now studying Spanish at Purchase College, and she ushers at the Performing Arts Center. Earlier, she was on the Board of the Public Private Partnership of Westchester County's Department of Senior Programs and Services.

Tyrone Robinson has been Pastor of the First Community Baptist Church in White Plains since 2012. He and his wife Nadine Hunt-Robinson live in the Fisher Hill neighborhood with their son, Mali.

Tyrone grew up in White Plains and is a proud graduate of our public schools. In addition to his pastoral activities at the First Community Baptist Church, he devotes much of his time to working with young people in athletics programs, with the White Plains Youth Bureau, and through mentorship programs. His wife Nadine, an attorney, is also dedicated to community service and is currently a member of the White Plains Common Council.

Board of Directors & Staff

President
Steven Hochman
Treasurer
David Klein
Recording Secretary
Sara Basson
Corresponding Secretary
Mary Helen Jordan
Board Members
Simon Aronin
Dr. Karen Dolins
Peter Jaskow
John Kirkpatrick
Sue Lobel
Pastor Tyrone Robinson
Peter Wolfson
President Emeritus
Paul Schwarz
Executive Director
Jeremy Kasman
Volunteer Coordinator
Stephanie Baird
sbaird@mowwp.org
Loader & Logistics Coordinator
Peter Tancredi
Address:
311 North Street, Suite G5
White Plains, NY 10605
914-946-6878
info@mowwp.org
mowwp.org



Meals on Wheels of White Plains is funded in part by:

- Brightwater Fund
- City of White Plains Community Development Agency
- Individual Contributions



Meals on Wheels of
White Plains
is a member program of
Meals on Wheels of America.



Susanna Sussman

Susanna Sussman Departs as Executive Director *16 Successful & Eventful Years*

Susanna Sussman resigned this summer after sixteen years overseeing the operations of Meals on Wheels of White Plains as Executive Director. She will be sorely missed.

Susanna handled every aspect of our organization, including fundraising, budget management, coordinating with our caterer to provide nutritious meals, managing the activities of staff, professional contractors and volunteers, and doing everything else needed to assure our clients' wellbeing

One example of Susanna's ability to make a difference: ten years ago, Susanna recognized that our operating needs were outgrowing the ability of our then-office to meet them, in terms of space requirements and convenience of location. So she scouted out a new site in an office building not far from White Plains High School, where our volunteers regularly pick up meals for delivery. And she persuaded the building's owner to make the space available to us at no charge, as a donation! We've been there ever since.

COVID-19 presented new challenges. As the pandemic progressed, adding to the number of clients needing our help and reducing the number of available volunteers, Susanna adapted our meal delivery arrangement and developed new guidelines to protect volunteers and clients. She found personal protective equipment that helped our volunteers safely deliver meals and partnered with the White Plains Planning Department to distribute donated household supplies to clients who could not leave their homes. As a result of Susanna's efforts, we did not miss even one day of food deliveries.

Susanna's efforts embody the highest ideals we can expect of the person leading a service organization like ours. We thank her for her service and wish her great success as she pursues new challenges.



Susanna loading meals into a volunteer's car at White Plains High School.

Yes, I can help Meals on Wheels of White Plains!

I am enclosing the following tax-deductible contribution to Meals on Wheels of White Plains:

- \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$30 _____ (Other)

Your Name(s): _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

E-mail: _____ **Telephone:** _____

This gift is (check one) in honor of or in memory of the following (please print below):

Name(s) of the person(s): _____

Please acknowledge my gift to the following:

Name of Addressee (if same as honoree above, enter same.): _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

E-mail: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Please mail this form with your check to

Meals on Wheels of White Plains
311 North Street, Suite G-5
White Plains, NY 10605

**or donate on-line
at mowwp.org**

Dear White Plains Neighbor:

Meals on Wheels of White Plains has been bringing wholesome, freshly prepared meals to homebound residents of White Plains for some 43 years. Tailored to dietary needs. Delivered to the door.

Every year brings its challenges, and every year we meet them. The COVID-19 pandemic has been unique in several respects. Hunger in Westchester County grew markedly; food distribution sites were swamped. And Meals on Wheels of White Plains helped those unable to leave their homes, mainly seniors with serious health conditions. We did not miss a beat.

During the pandemic the number of clients we serve grew by nearly one-third. At the same time, because many of our volunteers are seniors, particularly vulnerable to the risks of COVID-19 before vaccines became widely available, we faced the challenge of delivering meals with fewer volunteers. We met the challenge by adapting our delivery pattern: instead of delivering a single day's meals along an assigned route, our volunteers pivoted to deliver two or three daily meal sets per client, two days a week. And the meals kept going out.

There is always room for more volunteers. At the same time, we have room for more clients too! So, whether you'd like to be a volunteer or need help (or know someone who needs help) with meals, please email our Volunteer Coordinator Stephanie Baird at sbaird@mowwp.org or give us a call at 914-946-6878.

How are we able to bring meals to so many? Some of the neighbors to whom we deliver meals pay a modest fee of \$9 per day. We scale down this fee for most clients, and even run a deficit on those who cannot pay the fee. We make up the difference through fundraising. Most of our income is in the form of individual contributions from people like you. Many generous citizens of White Plains support us and keep our deliveries going.

Please give us your support and know that you are sustaining the dignity of your neighbors here in White Plains. You may fill in the donation form on page 3 (*Yes, I Can Help Meals on Wheels of White Plains!*) or you may also donate online at mowwp.org. Please give as generously as you can.

Thank you!

Steve Hochman

Meals on Wheels of White Plains, Inc.

311 North Street, Suite G5

White Plains, NY 10605

mowwp.org

(914) 946-6878

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

White Plains, NY

Permit No. 630

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Meals on Wheels News Inside:

- Paul Schwarz Retires as President
- Susanna Sussman Departs
- Greetings from New Director
- New Board Members



**Meals on Wheels of White Plains:
We are here when you need us!**