

WE ARE ONE

December 2024 Cheshvan/kislev 5785



BOOK CLUB VIEWING PARTY

Friday, December 6th, 4 pm

Virtual Reading of:
"A Dragon for Hanukkah"
by Sarah Mlynowski

Location:

Newburgh JCC
290 North Street
Newburgh NY

Registration is required.
Books will be available for
\$18.99 at the event.



Just in time for the holiday season, New York Times bestselling author Sarah Mlynowski makes her dazzling picture-book debut with this warm-hearted, magical, funny, and inventive story that celebrates Hanukkah and the power of a child's imagination, with rich, vivid art by Ariel Landy.

Come celebrate the Festival of Lights with Hannah as she receives eight magical presents—one for each night. There's a playful dragon, a gleaming treasure chest, some rowdy unicorns...and more. But are the gifts what they seem to be? When Hannah gathers with family and friends to light the menorah, she'll discover the true magic of Hanukkah.



PJ Library



Jewish Federation
of Orange & Dutchess Counties

Bring the Littles for a Book Club Viewing Party
Join us on Friday, December 6 | 4pm at
Newburgh JCC

For a Virtual Viewing Party and Reading with
Author Sarah Mlynowski of
"A Dragon for Hanukkah"

Registration Required,
use the QR code to your left or

Here: jewishorangenyny.org/pj-librarypjow-events

Books will be available for \$18.99 at the event.
Sponsorship Opportunities Available, to help
support this program.

Thank you to:

golden hour books
NEWBURGH, NY

For assisting with ordering the books!



Jewish Federation
of Orange & Dutchess Counties



UNVEILING KLARA'S TRUTH

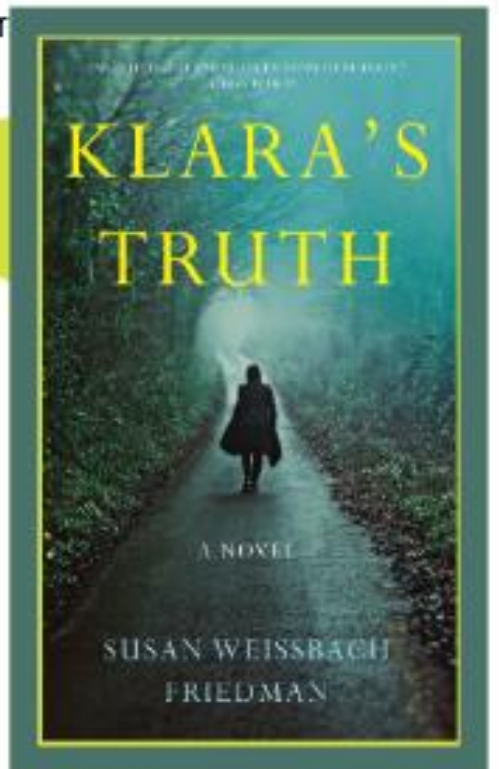
An afternoon with Debut Author
Susan Weissbach Friedman

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 8TH
2:00 PM

AT KOL YISRAEL
IN NEWBURGH



Susan Weissbach Friedman,
LCSW, is a psychotherapist with
a specialty in women's issues,
family therapy, & trauma-
focused therapy.



"Klara's Truth is an ambitious and heartfelt novel about the ways in which our adult lives are shaped by the secrets of our past. From Maine to New York to modern-day Warsaw, Susan Weissbach brings readers on a journey of self-discovery, newfound family, and acceptance."

REGISTER AT: WWW.JEWISHORANGENY.ORG/2024-2025-JBC
CALL 845-562-7860 OR OFFICE@JEWISHORANGENY.ORG
ZOOM OPTION ALSO AVAILABLE | BOOKS FOR PURCHASE AT THE JFED OFFICES

JBC Author Series: Soup, Salad & Stories with Author Susan Weissbach Friedman

Join us on Sunday, December 8 | 2pm at Kol
Yisrael, Newburgh

For an afternoon with debut author Susan
Weissbach Friedman to Unveil "*Klara's Truth*"
followed by a meet & greet and book
signing.

Registration Required, Use the QR
Code to the Left or

Here: jewishorangenyny.org/2024-2025-jbc



Sponsorship Opportunities Available, to help
support this program,
and the rest of the Jewish Book Council Events
scheduled through the 2024-2025 season.

See Back Page For More Upcoming JBC: Author Series Events



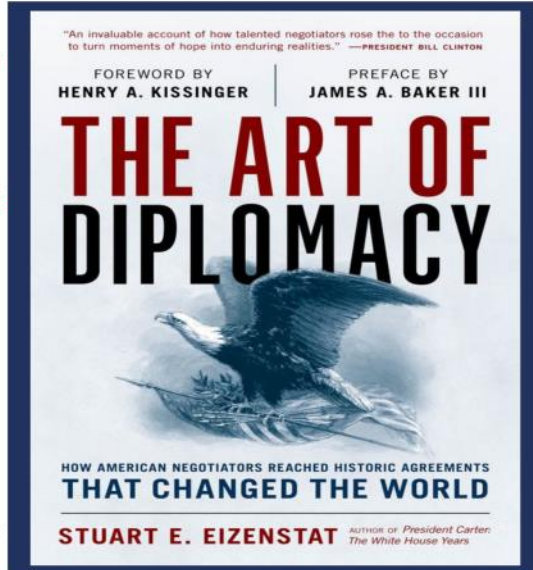
An evening with U.S. Diplomat & Negotiator

JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL DISCUSSION AND LIVE VIEWING PARTY

**TUESDAY
DECEMBER 17TH
6:00PM**
AT RHINEBECK REFORMED CHURCH
6368 MILL STREET



Stuart E. Eizenstat
Stuart has served as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union and Deputy Secretary of both Treasury and State.



In *The Art of Diplomacy*, Stuart covers every major contemporary international agreement, including the Iranian Nuclear Accord, written from the perspective that only a participant in top-level negotiations can bring.

REGISTER AT: WWW.JEWISHORANGENY.ORG/2024-2025-JBC
CALL 845-562-7860 OR OFFICE@JEWISHORANGENY.ORG
ZOOM OPTION ALSO AVAILABLE | BOOKS FOR PURCHASE AT THE JFED OFFICES

JBC Author Series: An Evening With U.S. Diplomat, Negotiator & Author Stuart E. Eizenstat

Join us on Tuesday, December 17 | 6pm at Rhinebeck Reformed Church for Dinner & Discussion of *"The Art of Diplomacy: How American Negotiators Reached Historic Agreements That Changed The World"*

A Virtual meet & greet with Ambassador Stuart E. Eizenstat
If you can not attend the Virtual Viewing Party in Person, join us via Zoom.

Registration Required jewishorangenyny.org/2024-2025-jbc

Zoom Link will be sent prior to the event.

Sponsorship Opportunities Available, to help support this program,

On behalf of the Jewish Federation Staff and Board of Directors, We Wish you a Happy Chanukah



The Harold Levine Named Endowment Fund Program

The Harold Levine Endowment Program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County currently has 65 Endowments with a principle of over \$5,000,000. These funds can be established with any amount of money. The interest is reinvested in the funds until they reach a corpus of \$5,000, at which time distributions can be made to named charities.

All endowment funds must designate a minimum of 30% of the interest earned to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign. Arrange a confidential meeting to make a charitable gift as part of your

THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER ORANGE COUNTY HAROLD LEVINE NAMED ENDOWMENT FUND PROGRAM

ESTHER & FALK LEVINE MEMORIAL	JACK N. & JESSICA B. BLINKOFF MEMORIAL	ELLIS HECHT MEMORIAL	GERALD & JUNE KREISBERG	DR. IRVING & GEORGIA ANDERMAN MEMORIAL	DR. REUBEN & GERTRUDE MOKOTOFF MEMORIAL	EDNA & SHEPARD PRYLUCK MEMORIAL	THE ENDICK-KORENMAN FAMILY	SOBEL FAMILY	DRS. LESLIE & GLENN GREEN	THE BIRNBAUM FAMILY
EDITH & EUGENE MULLIN MEMORIAL	SYLVIA & MURRAY MINTZ MEMORIAL	CELIA & BERNARD BRICKMAN	ROSE COHEN MEMORIAL	THE GUTTERMAN-GOLDBERG FAMILY	GOLDBERGER HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL	TRUDY & LEO FLAX MEMORIAL	DLUGATZ FAMILY	POMERANTZ FAMILY	ROBERTA FRISCHMAN MEMORIAL	
PEARL COHN MEMORIAL	HARRIET & JACK LEVY MEMORIAL	LESLIE A. HANDLER MEMORIAL	RACHEL & EMANUEL REISER	THE GITTELSOHN FAMILY	PEARL & NATHAN OLIVER MEMORIAL	PAUL ORNSTEIN MEMORIAL	DR. JACOB & JACQUELINE BARIE	HEATHER & ELLIOT FRIEDMAN	MARION ROSENBERG	BEATRICE & NORMAN SINGER MEMORIAL
MORRIS & ESTELLE SPIVACK MEMORIAL	MARION RIDER LEVIN MEMORIAL	LORE & RABBI DR. KURT METZGER MEMORIAL	THE SURESKY FAMILY	FLORENCE & LEO SUSSMAN MEMORIAL	LIBBY & MAT SCHLEIFER MEMORIAL	GLORYA COVEL SMITH MEMORIAL	STELLA RUBINSKY MEMORIAL	KAYE FAMILY	SUSAN & GEORGE M. LEVY	Kallus Family
CHARLOTTE & JOSEPH SCHULHOF MEMORIAL	IRV KAPLAN MEMORIAL	DR. PAUL LIPSCHULTZ MEMORIAL	HAROLD & LEONA NADLE MEMORIAL	LILLIAN & NORMAN HECHT MEMORIAL	LAWRENCE & MARION R. LEVIN MEMORIAL	PATRICIA & DAVID RIDER	CHARLES JUDELSON MEMORIAL	CUTLER FAMILY	KAREN LYTTON LEVIN FAMILY	Ann Rubin Memorial
FLORENCE & JACQUES LEVINE MEMORIAL	MARVIN & EVELYN ABRAMOWITZ MEMORIAL	DR. MARTIN ALTCHEK MEMORIAL	ANDREA DUBROFF	CAROL & HAROLD LEVINE	THE RIEGER FAMILY	ALLA & BORIS LIPKIN	WASCHITZ FAMILY	KARITIS FAMILY	ABBE & JOSEPH DISTELBURGER	Mandelbaum Family

My Tree In Israel

Support an Israeli Farmer and Receive From Their Bounty, Your Own Private-Label:
Olive Oil, Kosher Wine or Whisky!



Start your orders for 2025 now!

Use The QR Code To Order or visit The Website To Learn More!

Need Help Ordering? Call The Federation Office **845-562-7860**.

Once again, we thank community members from Middletown and Monroe who were able to attend the Middletown City Council meeting last month to stand up against a renewed push for a resolution that would condemn Israel. And, to the City Council for continuing to quash the false accusations against Israel. Jewish community members were able to speak and the council members scolded anti-Israel speakers who had rude outbursts.

We remain grateful to our neighbors who understand that a city council has no jurisdiction over foreign affairs.



Thank you to everyone that was able to attend Coffee & Conversations with author **Margalit Fox**. Margalit shared her journey on writing *"The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum"*. Mrs. Mandelbaum was a Jewish mother of four, a gracious society hostess, a beloved member of her community—and the first widely renowned crime boss in America.

Books are still available at the Federation office. Contact Pam at office@jewishorangenyny.org or **845-562-7860**

From the Desk of Wendy Cedar, Executive Director

Last month, I had the opportunity to participate in the General Assembly (GA) of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) in Washington DC. The event started with a Stand Together with Israel unity event at National's stadium with speakers, musicians, and families of hostages. Tiffany Haddish, who recently discovered her Jewish heritage, was the MC, and spoke of how she never really felt connected to any community until she engaged with the Jewish community. There were moving presentations and nothing but support for Israel and the hostages and their families.



The rest of the GA was filled with plenary speakers like Israel's President Herzog, who after leaving us, went to the White House to meet with President Biden. He spoke about his gratitude for the ongoing support from former and President Elect Trump, as well as the Biden/Harris administration. He, and speakers from the IDF and hostage families, also thanked us - the American Jewish community, for our immediate and ongoing financial and moral support for Israel and her people. There were several moving presentations from hostage families and a former hostage, again, thanking us for being there for them. So, while most of us don't give in order to be recognized, I thought it was important for you to know that your financial and social media support of our Israeli brethren is not only appreciated, but has been acknowledged over and over again.

The "house band" for the event, Shufuni, was comprised of 4 young Israelis from the Gaza Envelope. Each had stories of how they were affected by the terror attack on October 7th, and by the ongoing war, and how they use music to cope and move forward with their lives. They sang in English and Hebrew, and shared songs they wrote about loved ones they lost and how they are coping since the terror attack. It was moving and beautiful.



There were also presentations by; NY Senator Kirsten Gillibrand; Scholar in Residence and co-host of the podcast Wondering Jews, Dr. Mijal Bitton; Mark Wilf, Board Chair of The Jewish Agency for Israel; Rabbi David Wolpe; JFNA CEO Eric Fingerhut; JFNA Board Chair, Julie Platt; Winnie Sandler, President of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation; Bari Weiss, founder and editor of The Free Press and host of the podcast, Honestly; and a moving interview with Sheryl Sandberg, founder of Lean In, who spoke passionately about believing Israeli women who were sexually brutalized on October 7th.

From the Desk of Wendy Cedar, Executive Director Continued

I attended workshops on Building a Culture of Philanthropy, Engaging Mid-Life Adults, and Jewish Economic Vulnerability. I also had the opportunity to connect with my colleagues from other Jewish Federations around the country to share ideas, and to support and learn from each other. I came home refreshed, rejuvenated, and with new ideas to continue to help support Jewish life in Orange County, and I look forward to sharing them with you. I also reconnected with my local colleagues from Dutchess & Rockland Counties, Karen Hochhauser and Ari Rosenblum, respectively. Most of the selfies you'll see were taken by Karen, our unofficial Orange/Dutchess selfie-maven!

Enjoy some photos from my adventure and I look forward to utilizing some of the new ideas I gained to support you and your Jewish journey.

Always here to connect with you,

Wendy Cedar, Executive Director

Director@JewishOrangeNY.org

845-562-7860



Donations for Israel or your local Federation

If you would like to help, please donate to the Swords of Iron Israel Relief Fund here jfeds.org/israelfund2023



(or scan the QR code, on the left).
Or your local Jewish Federation at jewishorangeny.org/donate (or scan the QR code, on the right).

Swords of Iron QR code



JFed QR code

Federation Fall Mixer

On November 14th, Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County hosted a social event at Tapped Craft Beer and Restaurant in Middletown, NY. The Federation Fall Mixer was a great hit on a Thursday night drawing in a crowd of 30 people from around the county. Both new faces and longtime members came out to socialize. Everyone enjoyed a night out with live entertainment and a complimentary round of drinks. Special thanks to Don Green, for introducing us to Tapped and the 6-member live band, Nina and the Blender Brothers. They and Don, provided fabulous entertainment performing a range of Country, Rock, and Classic favorites from past to present. If you did not make it this time, keep a lookout for the next Federation Mixer coming soon this winter. It's our way of saying; "Thanks, and let's have some fun!"



Dr. Ronit Mayerson
1st Vice President; Campaign Chair
Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County



Many thanks, as always, to Gail Conklin for her fabulous photos!



Jewish Family Service-Support for Holocaust Survivors is collecting the following items (to the right). These household items can be dropped off at JFS: 720 Route 17M Middletown, NY 10940 or pick-up can be arranged by calling 845-341-1173 ext. 306. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please go jfsorange.org/donate/donate-online

- ♦ Toilet Paper
- ♦ Paper Towel
- ♦ Garbage Bags
- ♦ Storage bags/new containers of all sizes
- ♦ Paper goods; plates, napkins, cups
- ♦ Cleaning supplies
- ♦ Laundry detergent/softener
- ♦ Bleach
- ♦ Sponges



Contact The JFS Friendly Visitor Program at 845-341-1173 or email volunteer@jfsorange.org to register for the training or for more information about services available for older neighbors throughout Orange County.

Our training prepares volunteers to provide specific support to older adults, including local transportation for essential appointments, grocery shopping, friendly visits, and phone check-in calls. Volunteering is rewarding and flexible. Pre-registration is required. Background checks and Insurance while volunteering is provided. Jewish Family Service partners with the Office for the Aging to support older neighbors throughout Orange County. JFS is a recipient agency of Jewish Federation of Orange County and a member of National Volunteer Caregiving Network.

To Register Call 845-314-1173 ext. 305 or Email: volunteer@jfsorange.org



♪ OH WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE! ♪
DECEMBER VOLUNTEER TRAINING
 Virtual training session
 12/12/24 at 10am

Interested?

Contact Paula at
 (845) 341-1173 x305
 or by email at
volunteer@jfsorange.org
[JFSORANGE.ORG](https://jfsorange.org)

Join our Senior Independence Program team to provide our senior neighbors with Local Transportation, Wellness Calls, Grocery Shopping, Friendly Visits, and more.

*Pre-approval is required to attend training. Please contact us for an application.

Alternate dates and times can be made available upon request.



GIFT OF LIFE MARROW REGISTRY - TOGETHER WE ARE HELPING TO SAVE LIVES...

WOO HOO!! Match #111!! It's time for another happy dance!!

Gift of Life Marrow Registry believes every person battling blood cancers, and a hundred other diseases, deserves a second chance at life — and we are determined to help make it happen. Many of our donors have been found as a result of the swabbing drives we have held on local college campuses, in fitness centers, and at festivals and events. Visitors to our swabbing tables are able to join the registry on the spot with a quick swipe inside their own cheeks with a cotton swab. Every donor who joins the registry has the potential to save someone's life

If you are available to help out at a donor recruitment drive, even for a couple of hours, please contact Sherrill Lazarus smlazarus@yahoo.com or Gail Oliver gailao777@aol.com. You can request a swabbing kit at home, www.giftolife.org.

Stay Tuned For Upcoming Swabbing Drives in 2025



Have an idea?

Jewish
in OC
Micro
Grant

Applications Open Today!

JEWISHORANGENY.ORG/MICROGRANT



A Micro-Grant can foster new ideas in the Orange County Jewish community bringing us together, connecting us with a positive impact and helping the community learn and grow together.

Apply at:

jewishorangeney.org/microgrant

Hanukkah Happenings and More....



TWO great events
coming up in
December.

Men's Club Night Out
Special Co-Ed Event
Saturday, December 7th
5PM



Join us at Aspire Brewery, 600 N. Galleria Dr., Middletown. This Co-Ed event is open to all TBS and Monroie Temple members. Partake of Aspire's variety of beer from their "Self Pour Wall." Numerous food options, all around good conversation and lots of fun. aspirebrewing.com
The first pour is on the Men's Club! Additional pours and food is pay-as-you-go.

No charge for admission.
RSVP to Richard Schwartz,
Men's Club Social Chair,
rmschwartz@me.com
or text 845-987-4638.

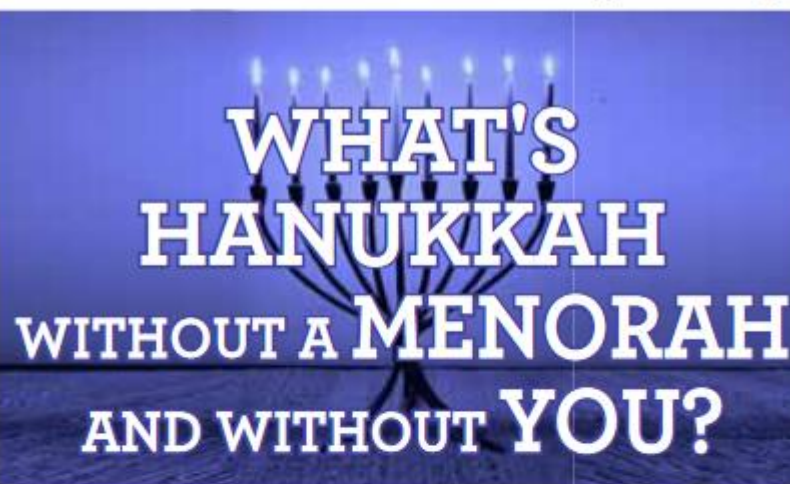
Sisterhood Holiday Dinner
Ladies Night Out!
Sunday, December 8th
5PM



Join us at Copper Bottom, 162 N. Main Street, Florida for dinner, basket raffles and lots of laughs. We are collecting personal hygiene products, toiletries and apartment cleaning products for Roots & Wings, an organization changing the lives of aged-out foster youth. rootsandwingsnj.com

Cost \$40 - RSVP via text or call by December 5th to Robin Bordman, 845-699-6460

Monroe Hadassah Membership Meeting



JOIN US FOR LOTS OF LATKES
AND LIGHTING OUR MENORAHS!

Thursday, December 19 • 12 noon
Monroe Temple, 314 N. Main St., Monroe

We will light our Hanukkah menorahs, then feast on a potluck lunch with latkes, watch a short video about Hanukkah, and read sections of a pamphlet about the new Gandel Rehabilitation Center, our ongoing Chapter Project.

Bring a menorah & potluck contribution!

Registration Fee: Potluck Item

RSVP ASAP by December 17!

Pay at the door or send \$10 check, payable to 'Hadassah' with memo 'ID#30-475-000,' to Monroe Hadassah, P.O. Box 298, Harriman NY 10926.

Sandy Mardale, Program Coordinator
MonroeHadassahNY@gmail.com

Stay connected with us through our weekly **We Are One Newsletter E-Blast** (sign up by emailing office@jewishorangeney.org or Call 845.562.7860 & provide your email address), online at Jewishorangeney.org, Follow us on Instagram at **JFedOC_NY** or Facebook at **Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County, NY**



HANUKKAH SALE AT MONROE TEMPLE!
 Sunday, December 15th from 9am to 11am

50% off all items!!



Lighting CAI's Giant Hanukkah Menorah!!



Come join in this annual
COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
 at 290 North Street
 Newburgh, NY 12550
 (845) 562-5604



DUNKIN' DONUTS and **HOT CHOCOLATE**
 every night !!



Plus **LATKES** on the fifth night!!



Help recognize our **HONOREES**
 who will light the *Giant Menorah* each night!!

- Wednesday, December 25 - 6pm - Munchkin' Lovers!
- Thursday, December 26 - 6pm - Elected Officials
- Friday, December 27 - **3:30pm** - Kol Staff
- Saturday, December 28 - 6pm - Volunteers
- Sunday, December 29 - **4pm** - Under 50's & Latke Party!
- Monday, December 30 - 6pm - Interfaith Clergy
- Tuesday, December 31 - 6pm - First Responders
- Wednesday, January 1 - 6pm - Over 50's

RSVP's Appreciated for Latke Party!

ALL TOGETHER, LET'S CELEBRATE...

Hanukkah!!



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27
MONROE TEMPLE
 WELCOME TO ALL IN OUR
 COMMUNITY

6 PM SERVICE WITH LOTS OF SINGING, and THE
 LIGHTING OF ALL OF OUR HANUKKIOT (PLEASE BRING YOURS,
 WITH CANDLES!)

7 PM ONEG WITH LATKES AND SUFGANIYOT (JELLY
 DONUTS)

Blind, Hanukkah Gift exchange:

Please bring a \$10 or under, **fun gift** to put
 into our Chanukkah gift pot! We'll open at the
Oneg!



CONGREGATION
BETH HILLEL
 WALDEN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Join Us for a
Chanukah Celebration



Sunday, December 29

5:00PM to 8:00PM

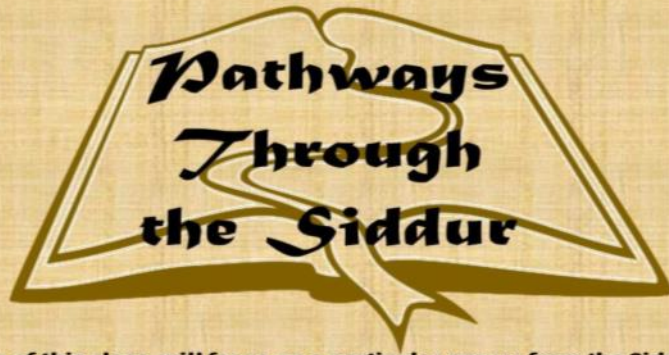


Call **845-778-7374** for
 Questions!





JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE:



Each session of this class will focus on a particular prayer from the Siddur exploring the meaning of the text, its history, the role it plays in the service, and any laws and customs which accompany it. Best of all, the students are encouraged to nominate the t'filot (prayers) which they would like to see explored in future classes!

Hebrew skills are not required, and each class will be self-contained, so there's no need to attend the entire series if you are unable.

PATHWAYS THROUGH THE SIDDUR will be held via Zoom on Thursday evenings at 7pm on the following dates:

- December 5
- January 2
- February 6
- March 6
- April 3
- May 1
- June 5

Please contact the TS office at eparker@templesinainiddletown.com or Rabbi/Hazzan Sislen at rabbi@templesinainiddletown.com for more information or to receive the Zoom link.

Alex Solomon Parents/Grandparents Bereavement Support Group



If you have lost a child or grandchild, no matter what age or when, come to find and share support.

A safe space - no politics, opinions, or controversy
Nondenominational
Open to the entire community

Sponsored by Congregation Agudas Israel
Meeting at the Kol Yisrael Campus
290 North Street, Newburgh, NY 12550

12:00Noon – 1:30PM
Generally second Sunday of the month
Starting November 10, 2024

For more information:
AlexSolomonGriefGroup@CongregationAgudasIsrael.org

Do you want to speak with other Hebrew speakers to practice or not get rusty?

Then let's get together!

Contact Wendy:

Director@JewishOrangeNY.org

[845.562.7860](tel:845.562.7860)

האם את/ה מדבר/ת עברית ורוצה לדבר עם דוברי עברית נוספים? או, את/ה רוצה לעזור לאלה שלומדים לדבר עברית? אז בואו נפגש! כתבו או התקשרו לוונדי:



Dance With Shmulik
WWW.SHMULIKGOVARI.COM

ISRAELI FOLK DANCING

COMING TO ORANGE COUNTY IN 2025

Registration details coming soon!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SUNDAYS:

February 16 at Newburgh JCC

May 4 at Temple Beth Shalom, Florida, NY

August 24 at Federation Funday!

November 2 location TBA

Made possible by funding from:



Make Your Donation Today!

Will you heed the call to help us:

Provide scholarships for kids to attend Jewish summer camp or other Jewish experiences

Give microgrants to community members who want to bring unique programs to the community

Empower students and adults to stand up to hate

Help us finish our 2024 Campaign



from a place of STRENGTH

Don't want to wait? Give now:



Through Federation, You Can Do Good That Goes Everywhere
[DONATE NOW](#)

While you're reading this, your gift is impacting Jewish lives around the world. From North America to Ukraine to Israel and across 70 other countries - your gift impacts lives around the world.

When our rabbis created the rules that Jews were to live by, they realized quickly that the broad rules of how to live a good, Jewish life needed to be broken down into its smallest components. In this way, all aspects of life were framed by specific rules from the smallest details, like which threads can be combined together, to which blessing one should say over a banana. Do you know what it is? I promise, this article will share that with you. Also, this is meant to be an interactive article, where the blue underlined words or phrases are meant to be clicked on. Be forewarned, what follows is both straightforward and random, funny (at least to me) and serious. Why, you might ask? Well, the topic is the banana. The banana isn't Jewish, but we are connected to it in different ways.) שְׁמַע (ta shma), Come and listen.



Here are some random Jewish banana facts that you never knew you needed. Banana “trees” are not really trees and bananas are not fruit the way fruit are typically fruit. In fact, bananas are classified as an herb(!) because the trunk of a banana tree never forms a woody stem. “Botanists refer to bananas as herbs because the banana tree has a soft trunk. The fleshy tree stem, known as a pseudostem, grows from an underground rhizome. The rhizome, referred to as a corm, is what grows up from the ground, covered by large leaves. The large leaves wrap around the stalk and extend out to form banana tree leaves.” After the bananas are harvested the “tree” is cut down almost to the root. Banana “trees” typically last twenty years or so. This affects which blessing of the fruit we might say. For instance, fruit that comes from a tree we say בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ *borei p'ri ha'eitz*, (who creates the fruit of the tree) but for bananas, herbs or other products from the ground we say instead, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָאֲדָמָה *borei p'ri ha'adamah* (who creates the fruit of the ground). United Fruit, which would become Chiquita, was founded by Samuel Zmuri. He was “a Jewish teenager from Kishinev in Russia... who bought a steerage ticket to New York City. Arriving in the US, he stowed away on a freight train to Selma, Alabama” where he eventually became known as “Sam the Banana Man” where he would find the overly ripe bananas that would ordinarily be thrown away and selling them to grocers.” He would eventually establish United Fruit and bring bananas to the world. Odd fact, in the US, each person eats, on average, 13.4 lbs. of bananas a year.

Today, Israel is the world's top market of fresh bananas per capita, eating a whopping 30 kilos (66lbs!) each year per person. “Bananas have been commercially cultivated in Israel since the 1930s. There are three banana producing areas, including the Carmel coast south of Haifa, the Western Galilee between the Lebanon border and Acre, and the Jordan Valley, near the Sea of Gaililee.” It's interesting that locally grown organic bananas are sold at double the cost of imported ones. For more information about the banana harvest in Israel click [here](#). It's fascinating.

Did your Hanukkah celebration need a little weirdness to it, you can now get a [banorah](#), and no, that's not a misspelling; think, banana shaped hanukkiah. (Though the T-Rex menorah is awfully cute!) Or you can make [banana menorah snacks](#) as a fun activity with the kids. And though I have not tried this one, it's definitely on my let's make list, [Hanukkah Chunky Monkey Donuts](#). Or maybe these donuts, [Vietnamese Banana Beignets – Fried Dessert](#), they sound simply divine. Or for those that want to add a bit of flair and banana peel, there's the [banana boat](#). They say to make it look more a-peel-ing, you can scoop out the insides and discard the peel.

Remember the banana in the old, black and white comedies; think the Three Stooges. In some way, shape or form, the bananas would be followed by some physical hilarity bit. Or the cartoons, where a banana peel was sure to be followed by some physically acrobatic slippage ending in a laugh track, that might prompt a good guffaw. Bananas, the food group, can be funny. You already know that if you were to fall in front of any child, anywhere, laughing fits were sure to follow. Bananas are still making people laugh, from the boy and girl scout “[Banana Song](#),” to Despicable Me's minions banana or “[Banana Song](#).” And who could ever forget Woody Allen's “Bananas!”

Most everyone has a certain way in which they like their bananas; from green to overripe. The rabbis who instituted which blessing we say over what, understood that one had to look beyond the surface of things in order to understand it's true nature and the mischievous banana could easily have fooled even the most learned, because all we see is the result; the fruit of its labor. So must we, always look deeper.

- ✧ [I'm confused...Is a Banana a herb or fruit? - Gardenia Organic](#)
- ✧ [Bananas: 5 Surprising Jewish Facts | Aish](#)
- ✧ [Bananas: Facts, benefits and nutrition | Live Science](#)
- ✧ [Banana Cultivation in Israel | Haifa Group](#)
- ✧ [“Israel's locally grown organic bananas are selling for double the price of regular ones”](#)

Rabbi Roger Lerner
Monroe Temple of Liberal Judaism
Monroe Temple Beth-El



Learn למדו
To Read לקראת
Hebrew! עברית!

Have you always wanted to learn to read Hebrew but never had the opportunity? Could you read years ago but got a bit rusty along the way? Are you new to the language and want to learn how to read our timeless texts in the original? Now is your chance! Temple Sinai will be offering a **free**, online course which combines basic Hebrew reading for adults with a little bit of vocabulary and grammar on the side. The class will be held on **Tuesdays at 6pm, starting on December 3.**

To sign up or for more information, please email Rabbi/Hazzan Sislen at rabbi@templesinainmiddletown.com.

75 Highland Avenue, Middletown, NY 10940
845-343-1861 www.templesinainmiddletown.com

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS


Martin Hochhauser



Call Me First!

914.456.4050

*Try it Before
You Buy It!*



KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

69 Brookside Ave, Suite 225
Chester, NY 10918

Abbe Distelburger
NYS Lic. RE Assoc. Broker

Cell: 845.341.6572
Bus: 845.928.8000

E-mail: abbedistelburger@gmail.com
www.realestatebyabbe.com

Each Keller Williams Realty Office is Independently Owned and Operated


NEWBURGH

1240 Route 300, Newburgh, NY 12550
tel 845.569.0303
fax 845.569.0264

www.adamsfarms.com

 ADAMS FAIRACRE FARMS

**Parent Sense: Surviving Parenting And
Helping You And Your Child Throughout Life**



Dr. Stanley Goldstein's New Book

www.drstanleygoldstein.com

LYRA BLUMENTHAL
LIC. R.E. ASSOCIATE BROKER



RE/MAX
Benchmark
Realty Group

DIRECT: 845.728.9940
OFFICE: 845.565.0004

367 TEMPLE HILL RD.
NEW WINDSOR, NY 12553

LYRAB@REMAX.NET
WWW.LYRASHOUSES.COM

 Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Advertise your business here.
Business card ads: \$10/month or \$100/year.
¼ page(4.5x3.5"): \$15/month or \$150/year.
Purchase for the year, and you will receive 2 free months for whichever size ad placed.
Call 845-562-7860 or email office@jewishorangenyny.org

JEWISH PERSPECTIVES ON CIVIL DISCOURSE

by Rabbi Eitan Bloostein
ADULT EDUCATION CLASS ON ZOOM

- October 31 - Date change due to Sukkot
- November 21
- December 19
- January 16
- February 20
- March 20
- April 17
- May 15



**THIRD
THURSDAY
OF THE
MONTH
@ 7:00 PM**

Stay Tuned For More Details on the upcoming JBC Author Series Lineup!

Check out our Calendar to read about our authors at:
jewishorangenyny.org/calendar

Sponsorship Opportunities Available to Help Support

The Jewish Book Council at:
jewishorangenyny.org/donate/donate-now
Make a note: Jewish Book Council sponsor!

Save The Date For These Upcoming Events!



Let's meet in support of Israel & to bring our hostages home in good health!
Sundays 12-2PM. Corner of Lakes St & 17th Monroe
Please call Rochelle 845-783-2495 for more info & to confirm dates



*When Women Ran
FIFTH AVENUE*
GLAMOUR AND POWER
of the
DAWN OF AMERICAN FASHION
Julie Satow
AUTHOR OF THE PLAZA

Sunday,
January
26, 2025
2pm
Via Zoom



MAHJONG
AT MARA'S

Thursday,
January 16,
2025 7pm
Poughkeepsie
Public Library
& Via Zoom



DEBRA GREEN

HAGIGAH

Dec
6-8



SAVE THE DATE!
JEWISH 8-12TH GRADERS



Songleading
Training



Creative
Arts



Social
Justice

Hosted in Greater Philadelphia

Register Now: <https://cvent.me/7ZO0dr>

Buses provided from NJ, PA, and the DMV area



**Scholarships available for Orange
County residents :**

www.jewishorangenyny.org/scholarships



Calling all Spock fans!

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL DISCUSSION
FOLLOWED BY A BOOK SIGNING

SATURDAY
JANUARY 11TH
6:00PM

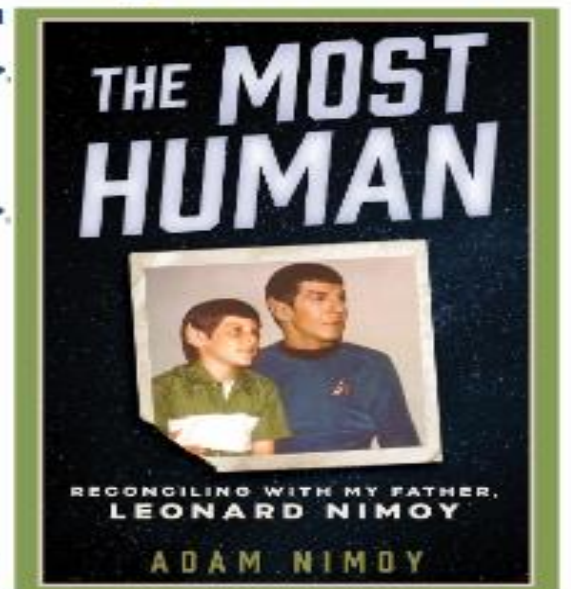
AT BERCON HEBREW ALLIANCE
331 VERPLACK AVENUE



with **ADAM NIMOY**
Adam left practicing law to pursue a directing career. He directed the critically acclaimed film about his father *For the Love of Spock*.

"WHETHER YOU'RE A LEONARD NIMOY FAN, A TREKKIE, OR FROM ANOTHER PLANET, YOU ARE SURE TO FIND THIS VULNERABLE, BRAVE, HUMOROUS, AND INTIMATE STORY ABOUT SPOCK, THE OUTER LIMITS, A FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP, AND TESHUVAH [RECOVERY AND REPAIR] DEEPLY MOVING."

REGISTER AT: WWW.JEWISHORANGENY.ORG/2024-2025-JBC
CALL 845-562-7860 OR OFFICE@JEWISHORANGENY.ORG
ZOOM OPTION ALSO AVAILABLE | BOOKS FOR PURCHASE AT THE JFED OFFICES



A Publication of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County : 292 North St., Newburgh, NY 12550—

www.jewishorangenyny.org

If you would like a copy of the *We Are One* mailed to you monthly, for a donation of \$36 for the year, please email Pam: office@jewishorangenyny.org or Call 845-562-7860