

WE ARE ONE

June 2022 Sivan / Tamuz 5782



46TH ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 14TH 7PM VIA ZOOM

Please join us for a presentation from our Jewish Federation Officers on the work of the Jewish Federation and how we have adapted to the changing needs of our community this past year.

We bid farewell to outgoing President, Harvey Kallus and welcome incoming President, Rissa Cutler.

Orange County synagogues and Jewish organizations will honor special individuals who have shown outstanding service as their Volunteers of the Year. Please join us to show your support for them.



This year we are proud to present speaker, Adva Vilchinski, Consul for Public Diplomacy at the Israeli Consulate in New York. Adva is responsible for engagement with civil society institutions and leaders across all five states that the Consulate covers: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Delaware.

**REGISTER AND GET THE ZOOM LINK:
jewishorangeny.org/2022AnnualMeeting**

HONORING MY PARENTS WITH ENDOWMENTS

Since I am relatively new to the Jewish Federation, many of you did not know my mother, Karen Cooper z”l, or my father, Hank Cedar z”l. While I think of both of my parents often, this season is particularly filled with memories, as April marked my father’s 2nd Yahrzeit and May, my mother’s 8th.



persistence, the power

of family and friends-who-are-like-family, and how to stand up for myself. My mother was the first woman invited onto the Board of Trustees at Temple Beth Shalom in Florida, NY, in the 1970s, as the treasurer. She held that position for many years while working as the bookkeeper for the URJ Kutz Camp in Warwick. Through her work at Kutz, she helped hundreds of teenagers’ families find ways to afford Jewish summer camp and Israel trips. She was so passionate about this aspect of her job that, when she would tell people what she did for a living, she would say “I’m saving the Jewish people.” She ended her career over 32 years later as the comptroller of, not only the Kutz Camp, but the entire URJ. She taught me



My father was president of our synagogue in the 1970s. He taught me that, although our community was small, we are all strengthened by the connection to our shared history. He also taught me persistence, optimism, and the power of a strong connection to Judaism.

We’re taught that Judaism is generational; L’dor V’dor. I have learned from, and benefited so much from my parents and others who came before me. As I look toward the next generation, I wonder: What will Jewish life look like when I’m gone? I am not a wealthy person, and while I currently work for the Jewish Federation, and try to donate my time to help my synagogue community, I am quite cognizant that, no matter how much I can do while I am able, none of us can help forever.

So, in an effort to support Jewish life for generations to come, honor my parents, and follow in their footsteps, I have set up an Endowment fund in each of their names.

The Karen Cooper Memorial Endowment’s eligible funds will be used to support youth programming in the county. That way, even if individual synagogues do not have enough resources to sustain a viable youth group (as is the case right now), my mother’s goal to “save the Jewish people” will live on!

The Hank Cedar Memorial Endowment will send its eligible funds to Temple Beth Shalom in Florida, NY – just 10 minutes from my beloved Kutz Camp z”l, and the new home of the Tree of Life that once stood in Kutz’s lobby.

Will you help me save the Jewish people by honoring the past generation and supporting the next generation, by leaving a legacy? We call this our Life and Legacy Society. You can participate by initiating an endowment today, or by committing to leaving a gift to the Federation after your passing. You can donate to one of my parents’ endowments, or to any other endowment in our portfolio. It is easy to do, and you don’t have to be wealthy to do so! More information can be found on our website: jewishorangeny.org, or you can reach out to me with any questions.

Thank you to the previous generations for building a strong community for us, to the current generation for keeping us strong, and for what you can do to ensure the Jewish legacy of Orange County for generations to come.

With gratitude, Wendy Cedar Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County

ZACHOR HAPPENINGS SPRING 2022



The Zachor Antisemitism Initiative has been very busy! I am happy to say that during the first five months of the year our programs have reached over 2200 students and faculty from nine school districts in Orange County including Florida, Highland Falls, Minisink, Monroe, Newburgh, Pine Bush, Valley Central, Warwick, and Washingtonville. Programs ranged from field trips to the Holocaust Museum and Center for Tolerance and Education (HMCTE), our annual Stop the Hate Symposium and Challenge, which featured the documentary, "Passage to Sweden" now picked up by PBS, to several antisemitism workshops including modern antisemitism and training on how to respond to antisemitism with the Anti-Defamation League. Through our initiative, Monroe Woodbury Middle School was able to create a "Resilience Week" for all students in grades 6-8. The program featured a traveling exhibit from HMCTE entitled "Resilience" to lessons on Moral Courage in all social studies classrooms, a guest speaker on the Kindertransport, and video testimony from a liberator during WWII.

Some of the educator responses to these programs include:

"Thank you for covering the cost of the Moral Courage Workshop and our speaker, Mr. Moskin. My students will never forget this transformative experience."

-Virginia McCurdy, teacher, Newburgh Free Academy

"I shared the video (Moral Courage) with my students yesterday and what an experience. You could hear a pin drop during our viewing. The students were so tuned into the experience. The visualization exercise of "The Hiding" was really something the students were able to grasp and get an empathetic connection to what people experienced during this time in our history. It was difficult for many of my immigrant students to watch/listen to and they had very emotional reactions. I remembered our experience at the symposium made this connection with what others are experiencing today as well and how the emotions are not so different. I feel that my students took away a personal perspective of historic events and that is priceless. I am so glad our paths have crossed and I look forward to working with you again."

-Kristen Carter, teacher, Monroe-Woodbury Middle School

In collaboration with our Jewish Orange Youth program (JOY), we have also provided two specific opportunities for our teens to better understand their Jewish identity and helped provide the tools necessary to respond to antisemitism and anti-Israel bias.

We look forward to continuing our work with our JOY teens, these school districts, and more for the 2022-2023 school year. **In the meantime, please remember to save the date for a special workshop for adults entitled "The Oldest Hatred: Antisemitism and the Jewish Identity" on Sunday, August 21st. We will be co-sponsoring this workshop with the Orange County Human Rights Commission. More information will be provided in July.**

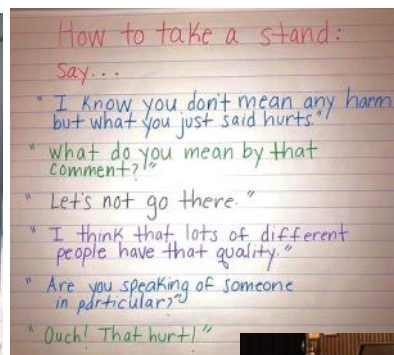
Thank you all for your continued support of this very important initiative! -Kathy



Left - MW Middle School students rotating through the HMCTE exhibit on Resilience.



Right - MW Middle School, Kelly Manno, social studies department chair, Kathy Kimball-Wurster, Zachor director, and Laura Lerner, Head Librarian, MW School District.



"Words to Action" May 22nd program at Temple Sinai run by the ADL gave teens necessary tools to address antisemitism and anti-Israeli bias.



SAVE THE DATES

SUNDAY, JULY 10TH

SUNDAY, JULY 24TH

SUNDAY, JULY 31ST

SUNDAY AUGUST 28TH

2 - 4PM

AT LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT ORANGE COUNTY



How much do you know about the Great Jewish Composers; Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, and Leonard Bernstein? How much do you know about West Side Story?



Ken Korn, local music teacher and musician, will take us through a journey of their music. We'll learn how being Jewish in America shaped these musicians and their work.



Locations and registration page are still being worked out. In the meantime, for additional information, contact: Director@JewishOrangeNY.org.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR...SUNDAY, AUGUST 21ST - TIME AND LOCATION TBA

"The Oldest Hatred: Antisemitism and the Jewish Identity".

A program by Project Shema

The debate over Israel/Palestine is growing more intense in emerging social justice movements. At the same time, rising antisemitism globally has understandably elevated fears inside the American Jewish community, making these conversations even more complicated.

Project Shema helps the Jewish community navigate these difficult conversations with an emphasis on the discourse in the American left surrounding Israel/Palestine and antisemitism.

For Jews and non-Jews alike, come learn about the history of antisemitism and how it relates to our modern times. Co-sponsored by the Zachor Antisemitism Initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County and the Orange County Human Rights Commission. For more information, contact: Zachor@JewishOrangeNY.org.



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OF GREATER ORANGE COUNTY



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HONOR A SPECIAL WOMAN TRIBUTES
Although we had to cancel our "Genius of Women" event, there was still interest in honoring some special women in many people's lives. We're pleased to present several entries honoring those women.



"Dr. Helen Taussig was the founder of the field of pediatric cardiology. She overcame opposition to become a preeminent cardiologist and physician. Despite severe dyslexia and discrimination because of her gender, Taussig obtained her medical degree from Johns Hopkins in 1927. Suffering from hearing loss due to a childhood illness, Taussig mastered non-stethoscope ways to monitor the heart. Using these innovative techniques, Taussig discovered the cause of 'blue baby syndrome' and helped design a surgery to correct it."

FROM Raena Korenman

This unbelievable woman was my cardiologist. As one of her "blue babies" she cared for me until age 8 when I had open heart surgery. She was always someone I looked up too, my heroine my model of what any woman could be no matter what the obstacles!

In honor of my mother,
Regina Goldman Grossman,
who started as a typist at age 16,
pursued her education at night,
and became editor of the
H.W. Wilson Company's Cumulative
Book Index

Betty A. Grossman

"Courage starts with showing up
and letting ourselves be seen."
-Brene Brown

In honor of our girls, **Elia and Arianna**,
whose courage keeps us humble
and reminds us to notice the small
things that make a big difference.

Rissa and Lee Cutler

The choice of a woman to honor was simple- my grandmother **Chana Rosen Horowitz**. Maybe not a genius, but certainly a hero to me. Grandma spoke 4 languages and always had a book or a newspaper in her hand, even though she had no formal education. She told me the stories of who I am and set an example I try to live up to today. "It doesn't matter what race or religion you are, as long as you are a good person"

As a young woman grandma traveled alone to New York. She worked in a sweat shop until she was married, had four sons, raising them through the depression and sending them off to fight in WWII. Not an unusual story - but she was the most courageous woman I know. She was my confidant and my mentor. I miss her every day.

Susan Notar



We are proud to honor **Lorraine Wernow**, a VERY special woman! Lorraine is an avid volunteer for Gift of Life Marrow Registry and the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County . For many years she was a volunteer for AHRC, Orange and Sullivan Hospice, Inc., and served as the treasurer for the Hearing Loss Association of America, Mid Hudson Chapter. Lorraine has unbelievable energy and a huge heart!!

**We salute her with love,
Gail and Ken Oliver**

We wish you were here
to see your legacy.

We miss you!!

Forever in our hearts,
Abbe and Joe Distelburger



I-r: Abbe's mom, Joe's mom,
Joe's grandmother



I first met my mother in law, **Minna Mukamal**, on a day off from a sleep away camp, where my beloved Caryl and I met back in the summer of '78. As the mother of five, and the caretaker for her own mother who lived in her home, she was a traditional homemaker devoted to raising and caring for her five children,

while her husband worked hard to make his family comfortable. An amazing women with incredible empathetic, nurturing, and people skills; when a business opportunity presented, she literally morphed into a high powered executive before our very own eyes, becoming the 'go to' person at her company, while still upholding to the traditions of Shabbat preparation, and always being available to her family whom she treasured. An incredible inspiration for us all, she continues to leave a legacy of love, warmth, compassion, and leadership to her ever loving family, colleagues, and friends.

Pictured - Minna, her recently departed husband Joseph, her five adult children. Not pictured are her 12 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Caryl and Michael Melasky

My mom, **Raena Korenman**, is not only my mom, but she is my hero, a woman who exemplifies the qualities of leadership, bravery, achievement, dedication and generosity. Many people define a hero as strong and famous throughout the world, but a hero can be anyone, my hero is my mom! I am who I am today because of my mother. She has been the most amazing role model for me and has always pushed me to do my very best. She has nurtured me, sacrificed for me, cried with me, and for me. She is always there to listen and has always been by my side, no matter what; gymnastics meets, trips around the world, the birth of her two granddaughters and grandson and many, many other experiences. To the world she is a woman, but she will always be a hero to me! My mother, my special friend, my heart! I love you mom, more than anything in the whole wide world!

Randi Hilfiger

With much appreciation to all the special women of our lives!
Profound appreciation to all the devoted women who help make
our Orange County Jewish Community thrive!

Dr. Susan Wertheim and Rabbi Douglas Kohn

Sarah Hartstein is a great young woman of 21 years. She is a full time Student at SUNY New Paltz, holding status on the Deans List. Sarah is vocalist in her band "Monarch," while working an intern position with a Graphic Design Company in Beacon. Sarah is an example of a great woman who is determined and strong willed to accomplish all she can. I am looking forward to seeing what she accomplishes in her future. She is an inspiration to me and all the woman her life touches.



Pamela Abramsky

In honor of my mother,
Caroline Lerner Kraft.
A truly beautiful, wonderful,
caring person, who taught me
the important things in life,
especially the importance of family.

Lynda Wasserman

Honoring

Olga Molnar

Eva Lustbader

FROM

Ilana Lustbader

Honoring

Raena Korenman

Maye Shaw

Janis Yerington

Hannah Yerington

FROM

Phyllis Loewengart

An Older Neighbor in Your Town needs help with grocery shopping or a ride to a medical appointment. Wellness calls and visits are also requested.

Training Dates

Tues. 6/7/22 5:30 PM

Thurs. 6/23/22 10:00 AM



Training is virtual
ZOOM...90-minutes



Friendly Visitor
Program

Can you help?
VOLUNTEERING
IS FLEXIBLE

To register or for more information:
call: 845-341-1173 ext. 305
email: volunteer@jfsorange.org

This program is made possible by a grant from



Office for the Aging



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