

WE ARE ONE



July 2026 tamuz/av 5786



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2026 JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT!

WITH THE HUDSON VALLEY RENEGADES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8TH @ 6:35 p.m.

Kosher Food Options Available

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The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER ORANGE COUNTY

845-562-7860 | office@jewishorangenyc.org

A Message From Our Board President, Rissa Cutler

Welcome to our Jewish Federation's 50th annual meeting. Fifty years of caring for and representing our Jewish community, 50 years of tackling acts of antisemitism and hate, 50 years of supporting our local synagogues and agencies, and 50 years of working to keep Jewish life in our county relevant, strong and vibrant. Thank you for joining us today.

The longevity and strength of our Federation is a tribute to so many people. Today we honor the planning and mission of our founders; Florence Levine, Joe Schulhoff, David Rider, and Doreen Shapiro, and early action planners; Chuck Mullin, George Handler, Andrea and Mike Dubroff, and Jerry and June Kreisberg. It all began with a meeting at the Shapiro home, and I hope we continue to honor and represent your work. This team of visionaries paved the path that led us to where we are today, and the team continued to expand.

I stand here today on the shoulders of all the past presidents, who over the decades have given their time, commitment and expertise to lead our mission. We honor the Past Presidents who are no longer with us: George Handler, Florence Levine, Chuck Mullin, Gerald Kreisberg, Norman Hecht, Harold Levine, Richard Levin, and Joseph Birnbaum. And those here today: Leslie Green, Abbe Distelburger, Jack Berkowitz, and Mona Rieger. We also acknowledge those who were unable to join us today: Harvey Kallus, Carla Wise, Gail Oliver, Steve Rubinsky, Mark Fink, Raena Korenman, William Cieplinski, Marsha Sobel, Jack Slobod, and Andrea Dubroff.

Please check out our new column "Reminiscing With Past Presidents" in our We Are One Newsletter for reflections and memories of our past presidents.

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Take a look at our Annual Meeting video and join us in celebrating 50 years and counting! Click [HERE](#) to watch.



HAPPY

Fourth of July

Thank you to everyone who joined the Jewish Federation for our 50th Annual meeting and made it such a memorable day!

Together, we celebrated an important milestone, reflected on our shared accomplishments, and honored the people who make our community so special.

A highlight of the event was recognizing the outstanding Volunteers of the Year, honored by our Federation partner synagogues and organizations. These extraordinary individuals exemplify the dedication, generosity, leadership, and commitment that strengthen our community year after year. Their countless contributions—both seen and unseen—have made a lasting impact and continue to inspire those around them. **You can read their bios below.**

The day was filled with meaningful connections, heartfelt recognition, and a shared sense of pride in all that we have achieved together. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our history, honor those who help advance our mission, and look toward the future united by our shared values and commitment to making a difference.

Thank you for being part of this special occasion and for helping us mark 50 years of community, service, and impact. As we celebrate this milestone, we look forward to continuing this journey together and building an even stronger, more vibrant community for generations to come.

B'nai Torah Shul, Greenwood Lake: Marc Appelbaum & Deniz Appelbaum

Marc and Deniz embody a lifelong dedication to service, leadership, and commitment to the Jewish community. Their contributions have never been about recognition, but rather about showing up consistently, helping others, and giving back because they truly care.

At 85 years old, Marc is still actively working and continuing to contribute, his commitment to service remains unwavering.

His mother was one of the founders of the Jewish community in Greenwood Lake. For him, it has always represented far more than a place of worship; it has been a source of family, history, responsibility, and belonging.

Deniz has devoted countless hours helping organize and strengthen the financial and operational side of community efforts, often taking on the difficult behind-the-scenes work that keeps organizations stable and moving forward.

Over the decades, Marc and Deniz have also made it a priority to bring awareness to the importance of combating antisemitism through education, advocacy, leadership, and community involvement. Their dedication reflects not only love for the Jewish community, but also a deep desire to preserve understanding, connection, and respect for future generations.



Congregation Agudas Israel, Newburgh: Betsy Solomon (not pictured)

Betsy served for several years as secretary of the Cong. Agudas Israel Board, is still an active member of the Board, and she has been head of the Ritual Committee ever since she agreed many years ago to serve in that position “temporarily”.

She is a retired elementary school teacher, who went back to playing classical music on her beloved vintage Steinway over a decade ago, and she volunteers at the piano in St. Luke's Hospital lobby most Wednesday mornings while her husband Klaus serves as page turner.

Congregation Beth Hillel/WJCC, Walden: Arthur Carroad

Arthur has been part of Congregation Beth Hillel for his entire life! He embodies the qualities we all admire and strive for: kindness, humility, dedication, loyalty, and a quiet, steadfast spirit. He is the kind of person who simply shows up, without fanfare, because he cares and is proud of his Jewish heritage and of our synagogue.

He even showed up recently on a cold, rainy day, to help clean out our musty basement. He helped plan our 100th Anniversary celebration. He is always there—to pray, to set up, to clean up, and to support whoever needs it. His presence brings comfort and continuity to our community.



Congregation Eitz Chaim, Monroe: David Fromowitz & Judy Ronay (not pictured)

Judy Ronay

After retiring from the Middletown City School District, Judy became Director of Zachor Antisemitism Initiative for our Jewish Federation!

Judy works and volunteers for Jewish Federation, the Monroe Yom Hashoah Committee, the Jerome Spector Social Action Committee, Sisterhood, Hadassah and Congregation Eitz Chaim. Her community helps in supporting new immigrants and the people and institutions of Israel.



David Fromowitz (written by his loving mother)

David has always been a very serious and focused fellow. As a child, his mother often referred to him as their “40 year old toddler”. He has always accepted opportunities to help out and took those responsibilities seriously whether they were school assignments or watching his younger brother. This trait has been a part of David's personality throughout his profession and as a member of Congregation Eitz Chaim. As a member for over 20 years, David has served on the Board of Trustees and as Treasurer. He is a regular Sabbath davener and leads the Service's opening prayers. David is a Gabbai for the Torah Service and reads Torah and Haftorah in the absence of a Rabbi. David has, and continues to support, Congregation Eitz Chaim and in turn, they honor him with this recognition.

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Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County, Past Presidents:
 Harvey Kallus 2019-2022
 Carla Wise 2017-2019
 Leslie Green 2015-2017
 Abbe Distelburger 2013-2015
 Gail Oliver 2011-2013
 Jack Berkowitz 2009-2011
 Steve Rubinsky 2007-2009
 Mark Fink 2005-2007
 Raena Korenman 2003-2005
 Dr. William Cieplinski 2001-2003
 Dr. Joseph Birnbaum z'l 1999-2001

Jewish Federation, Cont.:
 Mona Rieger 1997-99
 Marsha Sobel 1995-97
 Dr. William Cieplinski 1993-95
 Andrea Dubroff 1991-93
 Richard Levin z'l 1989-91
 Harold Levine z'l 1987-89
 Norman Hecht z'l 1985-87
 Gerald Kreisberg z'l 1983-85
 Jack Slobod 1981-83
 Chuck Mullin z'l 1979-81
 Florence Levine z'l 1977-79
 George Handler z'l 1975-77



Jewish Family Services, Orange County: Marc Spirko (not pictured)

Although Marc has been volunteering for about a year, the impact he has made in a relatively short time is truly remarkable. Since joining our volunteer team, Marc has contributed an astounding 402.5 hours of service. During that time, he has completed 222 shopping trips, transportation rides, and friendly visits for our neighbors aged 60 and older.

Even more impressive is the number of lives he has touched. Marc's service has directly benefited 27 individuals, each of whom has experienced the care, support, and companionship that he brings to every interaction.

Kol Yisrael, Newburgh: Steve Licker

Steve, along with his wife, Robin, have been active members of Congregation Agudas Israel for 46 years. Steve has been on the Board of Directors for most of that time, while holding many leadership positions, including Men's Club president, Hebrew School Board president, Chairman of the Board, and Board President. For the past 8 years, Steve has been on the Kol Yisrael Board of Directors, including a year as Kol Board President. During COVID, he spearheaded the technology infrastructure that allowed Kol Yisrael and its partner organizations to successfully continue their missions remotely and safely upon returning to in-person programming. And, he has led the Kol Yisrael Technology Committee in providing a significant Audio/Video/Remote capability for both sanctuaries in the Kol Yisrael building, which is planned to be installed in the coming months. Steve's lifelong dedication to the congregation and to Kol Yisrael is the embodiment of what we try to achieve through community-building missions.



Monroe Hadassah: Maria Rabinowitz

Maria became a Hadassah member and board member just 8 years ago. She decided to convert to Judaism in 1978 after she met and married Marty Rabinowitz. She started out as Hadassah's hospitality chair, and then took a step back for a period to take care of her ailing husband. She recently became their social secretary and Cards & Certificates chair, increasing sales exponentially. They look forward to her input at their monthly board meetings and her kosher recipes at their membership meetings. She is especially appreciative of the support of her Hadassah "sisters" since her husband's passing just over a year ago. In his memory, she often wears her Endless Beginnings necklace, which has the quote from Hadassah's founder, Henrietta Szold, "There is no ending that is not a beginning."

Maria is proud to support Eitz Chaim, Monroe Temple Beth El, Jewish Federation, as well as Chabad of Orange County.



Monroe Temple Beth-El Sisterhood: Vicki Kilanowski

Vicki believes in community service. Volunteers are the lifeblood of communities, and Vicki truly tries to be there for Monroe Temple Sisterhood whether it is as their treasurer, email sender or Facebook poster. Her and her family's service does not stop at Sisterhood, but extends to the Temple itself, and in the past, to the greater local community. The Monroe Temple Sisterhood treasures having Vicki as their treasurer, it would be impossible to fill her shoes.

Newburgh Jewish Community Center: Sam Ottenhoff (not pictured)

Sam is a recent Newburgh resident, entrepreneur, and business founder. After years as a highly active parent volunteer, Sam joined the Newburgh JCC board and has spent the past year working on policies, rules, compliance, and benefits for the organization, as well as technological and digital improvements to general operations. He is proud to support the JCC, Little Friends Learning Loft, and the families they serve.



You can read the full bios on our website at jewishorangeny.org/federation-annual-meeting.

Monroe Temple Beth-El: Paul Joseph & Nina Rubin

Paul is a longtime member of Monroe Temple who is currently working with their merger team to sort out the details related to their physical move from Monroe to Temple Beth Shalom. He is coordinating the efforts of the team, sorting out what they are bringing with them, where it is going, and how they will store any important items that don't yet fit into the new shared space. Paul also manages security for Monroe Temple year round, serving as the liaison with the security company. Paul's sense of humor and calm demeanor help them manage a time of tremendous transition for their congregation.



Nina is also a long time member of the congregation and she has provided her musical talents during services, leading regular lay-led Chavurah services, and filling in when the Rabbi was unavailable. In addition, Nina is leading the task of collaborating with her Temple Beth Shalom counterparts and Rabbi to create a High Holiday service for the blended congregations that marries the traditions of both synagogues in a way that will nourish all of our spirits. We are incredibly grateful for all of the time, effort, talent, and ruach that Nina brings to this task.

Temple Beth Jacob, Newburgh: Reverend Dr. Mary Lou Baumgartner (not pictured)

Pastor Mary Lou has been serving at King of Kings Church in Newburgh since 2009.

At King of Kings, she preaches and leads worship, oversees their educational programming, supports congregational teams in their ministries, and coaches leaders. Committed to ministry in the community as well as in her congregation, she currently serves as the Secretary of the Greater Newburgh Interfaith Council and is a good friend of the Newburgh Jewish community, and sings in the Temple Beth Jacob choir!



Temple Beth Jacob Sisterhood: Stacey Yerger

Stacey and her family have been active members of Temple Beth Jacob and the Kol Yisrael partners for a very long time!

After her children grew up and moved out, Stacey turned her volunteer energy to the TBJ sisterhood where she is an active part of this vibrant group.

She helps plan the events, always on the lookout for new fun events, is one of the first to volunteer and does a majority of the unseen background work to make the events seamless to participants.

She shops - making sure to get the right products at the right price and ensures the events have the right touch of yiddishket and elegance.

Temple Beth Shalom, Florida & Monroe Temple Beth-El: The Mitzvah Moms! Loryn Sotsky | Melissa Kleinman | Gail Hoffer-Loibl | Joanna Buckley | Elizabeth Frederick | Bethanie Quatralo Felicia Gell | Natalie Browne | Davida Kossar

This school year, the joint Religious school program known as Beit Sefer has a B'Nei Mitzvah class of 10 students. The Moms of this group of students have banded together, and formed the most wonderful support group imaginable! From planning and attending each other's B'Nei Mitzvah ceremonies, to coordinating setup, service, clean-up and breakdown of Onegs - this group of fantastic Moms have truly been there for each other and for the greater community, and we applaud your sense of Community.

To this great group of Mitzvah Mom's... we say, this 'Momosa' is for you!

Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood: Judy Potter

Judy grew up in Orange County and along with her husband John and three daughters, have been members of Temple Beth Shalom for many years. She has taken on an active role at our temple as a past temple board member, and is the Sisterhood Executive Board treasurer. Judy is always there to lend a hand at any and all temple functions, and we are truly grateful for all that she does for our community.

Temple Beth Shalom Men's Club: Jon Gottlieb

For over a decade, Jon has been Co-President of the TBS Men's Club. The 'Men of the Bagel and Schmear' have evolved over the years, ebbed and flowed, have gone Co-Ed at times - and

successfully so! Jon has been his co-chair's wing man in planning events ranging from: brewery visits, bowling nights, ice hockey games at West Point, barbeques, burritos & billiards and so much more! They honor Jon as he has shown dedication to Temple Beth Shalom as a past president, and is a really great friend.

A big toast at the fire pit to Jon!



Annual meeting photos coming soon on our website at jewishorangeny.org/federation-annual-meeting.

Continued Ncxt Page

Temple Sinai, Middletown: Lester Millman

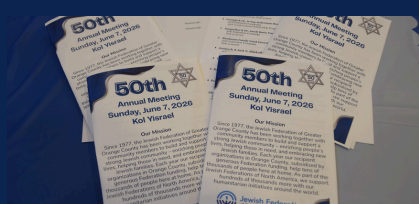
Lester is a national and international award-winning photojournalist who worked in Israel from 1973 to 1980 with assignments for many major American and European publications, and was on the staff of the Jerusalem Post. He moved to Middletown in 2016, joined Temple Sinai, and began daily attendance at the morning minyan.

Lester is also a volunteer fire fighter with the Middletown Fire Department. He was on his way out of town a few years ago when he heard the news report of the shootings at the Tree-Of-Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. He turned around and arrived back at the synagogue in time to speak with the Middletown police, in a conversation in which they promised to take care of the Jewish community. The next morning, he self-assigned to guard the Hebrew School, a role he has continued as a volunteer for the last 7 years. He has served on the Temple board for security since that time. For his guarding service he was honored by the Men's Clubs of Orange and Rockland Counties.

Lester is also an active member of Federation's Community Relations Council, and we are grateful for his ongoing support.



Mazel Tov & Thank You to all of these wonderful volunteers!



A Message From Our Board President, Rissa Cutler continued..

I stand here today on the shoulders of all the past presidents, who over the decades have given their time, commitment and expertise to lead our mission. We honor the Past Presidents who are no longer with us: George Handler, Florence Levine, Chuck Mullin, Gerald Kreisberg, Norman Hecht, Harold Levine, Richard Levin, and Joseph Birnbaum. And those here today: Leslie Green, Abbe Distelburger, Jack Berkowitz, and Mona Rieger. We also acknowledge those who were unable to join us today: Harvey Kallus, Carla Wise, Gail Oliver, Steve Rubinsky, Mark Fink, Raena Korenman, William Cieplinski, Marsha Sobel, Jack Slobod, and Andrea Dubroff.

Please check out our new column "Reminiscing With Past Presidents" in our "We Are One" Newsletter for reflections and memories of our past presidents.

I stand here on the shoulders of our donors. Without your generosity we could not exist. Your annual gifts allow us to do this important work and without you we would not succeed. Annual campaign donors, endowment holders and contributors, thank you.

And I also stand here on the shoulders of our Executive Director and our staff, who day in and day out work tirelessly and passionately to support our community. Wendy, Pam, Liz, Judy and Georgia (who is starting her 39th year with us). We could not do any of this without you.

And while we celebrate 50 years of our Federation, it must also be mentioned that throughout this year, our community, and many communities all over the world continue to endure endless struggles that we could not have imagined would be the reality of 2026. Israel continues to struggle for peace, safety and security, Ukraine and its citizen's deal with the reality of war each day, and here in the United States, we are facing too many incidents of antisemitism and hate. Now, more than ever, we must dedicate ourselves to continuing the mission of our Federation to support a strong Jewish community and open our hearts to our fellow citizens in need. May we continue to heal, educate, recover, and grow stronger together.

We are fortunate to have strong connections with many elected officials and agencies in our community. We welcome New York State Assemblyman Jonathon Jacobsen today. Orange county clergy Rabbi Doug Kohn from Temple Beth Jacob, Cantor Carl Sayers from Congregation Agudas Israel, Spiritual Leader Nava Herzog from Temple Beth Hillel, Rabbi Brenda Weinberg from B'Nai Torah Shul. We also welcome Jewish Family Service Executive Director Nickie Ronsini and Newburgh JCC Executive Director Amanda Pearl. Thank you for being here today.

In addition, I would like to thank the following Annual Meeting Sponsors: See Page 10

I would also like to thank Pam Mason and Roberta Nakagawa who spent many hours going through photos and creating the albums at our information desk (these can be viewed in the office at any time). And, thank you to Gail Conklin, who is graciously giving her time to take photos for us today. Anyone who would like to go through more photos and help put them into an album is welcome to reach out the office to coordinate that!

Over the past five decades, the important work of our Federation has continued to have a great impact on our community and the impact of this effort can be seen all over Orange County. In 2025, we sponsored 6 Jewish Book Council events, a self-defense course through the community security initiative, 4 Israeli dancing opportunities, 14 microgrants under the leadership of committee chair Steve Rubinsky, 19 scholarships for summer camp, Israel trips and other Jewish experiences, a Levine Speaker Series event thanks to the generosity of the Levine family and the leadership of Abbe Distelberger, and the list goes on. See the slide show below for details on these events, and so much more over our 50 year history.

The work of our Zachor Antisemitism Initiative lives on thanks to the early vision of the steering committee Susan Notar, Leslie Green, Sharon Goldberg, and Jack Berkowitz. Thanks to a generous donor, our Zachor Director, Judy Ronay, and the commitment of our Board, we continue to respond to antisemitism and to host our annual Stop Hate Contest in the Orange County schools. Our contest culminates with a Countywide Stop Hate Symposium. This year's panel included Julika von Stackelberg, Michael Edelstein, and daughter of a Holocaust survivor, Chana Widawski. You can find out more about the Symposium on our website.

As a retired teacher, I know firsthand the importance of educating our students and engaging these eager learners against hate in all forms. This year, we want to take a few minutes to honor and acknowledge some of the people who helped to make this year's Stop Hate Contest so successful.

Once again, Middletown High School Holocaust and Genocide Studies teacher Jennifer Younghans leaned into this work and continues to go above and beyond for her students in teaching and advocating for Holocaust studies. Jennifer was named one of 30 educators nationwide as a 2025 Echoes & Reflections Advanced Learning Seminar Fellow. She participated in intensive summer instruction in Poland to study the Holocaust with experts from Yad Vashem, the ADL, and the USC Shoah Foundation. Now, Jennifer not only shares her expertise with students, but also conducts continuing education courses and seminars for teachers, school administrators and the community at large. Jennifer, thank you for your expertise and partnership. Your work is so important, and we are honored to recognize you today.

Our essay contest continues to expand throughout the Orange County schools, and provides opportunities for students to explore hate, antisemitism and inequality in many forms. This year there were more than 100 works entered in the contest and our Honorable Mention winner Bryan Sanchez is here today. Bryan, you wrote a wonderful essay that is posted on our website so everyone can read it. Thank you for coming today so we can congratulate you.

And we also welcome 10th grader Damaria Green, our grand prize winner, who is here to perform her winning rap for us. You can watch Damaria perform her rap ([Here: will be on the website soon](#)) and read the lyrics on page 15.

In addition to working in our schools, we continue to support PJ Library, for our youngest friends. Board member Elizabeth Frederick is our PJ Library Coordinator. This year, Elizabeth has been busy executing activities and events for our youngest families all over the county as they are introduced to Jewish books and each other. She recently attended the PJ Library Coordinator's conference to network and get ideas to bring to our community.



A Message From Our Board President, Rissa Cutler continued..

The backbone of our office and partner in all we do, Wendy Cedar, our executive director, is completing her fifth year with us. Since joining our organization, Wendy has become co-chair of the Orange County Human Rights Commission and is active in the Orange County Chamber of Commerce, representing Federation around the county. She has worked to participate in the work of our committees and has been closely involved in our timely responses to antisemitism in partnership with our Community Relations Council. This important work would not happen without your dedication. Wendy, thank you. I am looking forward to our continued partnership in the coming years.

The commitment of these professionals and our Federation Board has enabled our work to touch thousands of community members, making a positive impact along the way.

Our work, especially in today's world, is vital. Of course, our challenge, as in any nonprofit organization, is raising much needed funds. We count on our donors to support us so that this important work can continue to make a difference in Orange County and abroad, supporting Israel and Jewish communities all over the world. In fact, during this year's budget process, our Board voted to increase our overseas allocation by 5%.

In addition, our endowments provide a vital foundation, and we are working to increase our total and make this base even stronger in the coming year. Under the leadership of Endowment Chair Jeffrey Harmer, our funds remain strong.

As we look ahead, plans are already underway to continue our ongoing campaign efforts. While the total of our annual campaign has decreased over time, we have been able secure campaign gifts over the past three years and continue to allocate valuable resources to our community partners thanks to the generosity of our donors, many of whom have increased their pledges. For our work to continue, we must keep an upward path going and increase our donor base. We must continue to reach out to our community and secure annual gifts that allow us to fund our important initiatives. The current economy makes this increasingly difficult, as people feel pulled in many financial directions. However, the work of the Federation cannot happen without successful fundraising. We are counting on you.

By being here today, you acknowledge your commitment and support of our Federation and I thank you for your partnership. With the goal of increasing our campaign total and continuing to build community connections, planning for our annual Major Gifts event is underway so stay tuned for this information to be shared. We hope many of you will join us for Major Gifts and consider increasing your pledge to support our campaign.

The following Trustees were nominated and voted to continue in their Board Positions which will conclude in 2029: Elizabeth Frederick, Rachelle Harmer, Joseph Herzog, Irv Kadish, Janet Kass, Gay Miller. We thank them for their ongoing commitment to serving the community.

Rissa Cutler, President

The Harold Levine Named Endowment Fund Program

The Harold Levine Endowment Program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County currently has 67 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 estate plan. Call the Federation office 845-562-7860 for more information. [Read more here: jewishorangenyc.org/donate/endowments](http://jewishorangenyc.org/donate/endowments)

The Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County Harold Levine Named Endowment Fund Program											
Leslie A. Handler Memorial 1984	Esther & Falk Levine Memorial 1984	June & Gerald Kreisberg Memorial 1986	Leona & Harold Nadle Memorial 1986	Jessica B. & Jack N. Blinkoff Memorial 1987	Edith & Eugene Mullin Memorial 1988	Rose Cohen Memorial 1995	Rabbi Dr. Kurt & Lore Metzger Memorial 1997				
Celia & Bernard Brickman Memorial 1998	Irv Kaplan Memorial 1998	Sylvia & Murray Mintz Memorial 1998	Pearl Cohn Memorial 2000	Gertrude & Dr. Reuben Mokotof Memorial 2000	Edna & Shepard Pryluck Memorial 2000	Ellis Hecht Memorial 2001	Marion Rider Levin & Lawrence Levin Memorial 2003	Harriet & Jack Levy Memorial 2003			
Alla & Boris Lipkin 2003	Rieger Family 2003	Charlotte & Joseph Schulhof Memorial 2003	Estelle & Morris Spivak Memorial 2003	Florence & Jacques Levine Memorial 2004	Marion Rider Levin Memorial 2004	Rachel & Emmanuel Reiser 2004	Libby & Mat Schleifer Memorial 2004	Evelyn & Marvin Abramowitz Memorial 2005			
Dr. Martin Altchek Memorial 2005	Florence & Leo Sussman Memorial 2005	Georgia & Dr. Irving Anderman Memorial 2006	Goldberger Family Holocaust Education 2006		Dr. Paul Lipschultz Memorial 2006	Pearl A. & Nathan S. Oliver Memorial 2006	Andrea Dubroff 2007	Gittelsohn Family 2007	The Gutterman-Goldberg 2007		
Lillian & Norman Hecht Memorial 2007	Carol & Harold Levine 2007	Suresky Family 2007	Gloria Covell Smith Memorial 2009	Paul Orenstein Memorial 2010	Patricia & David Rider 2011	Endick-Korenman 2013	Trudy & Leo Flax Memorial 2013	Jacqueline & Dr. Jacob Barie Family 2014	Heather & Elliot Friedman 2014	Stella Rubinsky Memorial 2014	
Charles Judelson Memorial 2015	Dlugatz Family 2016	Kaye Family 2016	Sobel Family 2016	Waschitz Family 2017	Cutler Family 2019	Karitis Family 2019	Dr. Leslie & Glenn Green 2019	Pomerantz Family 2019	Susan & George M. Levy 2020	Marion Rosenberg Memorial 2020	Distelburger Family 2021
Karen Lytton-Levin 2021	Beatrice & Norman Singer Memorial 2021	Birnbaum Family Memorial 2022	Roberta Frischman Memorial 2022	Harvey Kallus 2023	Ann Rubin Memorial 2023	Mandelbaum Family 2024	Ida Marshall Memorial 2025	Lynda Wasserman 2025			
										Picture Your Endowment Here!	

Rabbi's Blog

As the United States marks its 250th anniversary this month, Americans have an opportunity to reflect on the many communities whose histories are intertwined with our nation's story. Jewish Americans have been part of that story since the earliest years of the republic, participating in the American experiment while also bringing with them a distinct tradition of Jewish peoplehood rooted in shared memory, learning, covenant, and communal responsibility.

As we celebrate the autonomy that our democracy guarantees, we may also take pause to acknowledge how the Jewish community has both flourished and retreated and flourished again as we navigated our lives both as "We the People" of these United States and members of Am Yisrael - the people who for millenia held fast to our literature, our language, and our land, to our music, our mystery, and our memories, and to our history, our heart, and our hope.



A quick scan of our prayer books will reveal how Jewish liturgy has codified legends such as our Redemption at the Sea of Reeds. The resilience of our People who have survived and thrived while other civilizations came and went, is how we not only preserve our legends but reinterpret them. The retelling of Mi Chamocha from Exodus 15 through the 3rd century Jerusalem Talmud inspires us still today. "When Moses held up his staff to part the sea, nothing occurred until Nachshon ben Aminadav stepped into the waters. Whereupon, the waters began to part" (Mechilta d'Rabbi Ishmael, B'Shalach 6). This bespeaks of one of my favorite Jewish teachings - Pray as if everything depends upon God. Act as if everything depends upon you!

Another exploration into Jewish worship will reveal how rooted our prayers are to Zion and Jerusalem. When we take our Torah from our arks to our sanctuaries we chant, "Ki Mitzion teitzei Torah ... For from out of Zion will come the Torah and the word of Adonai from Jerusalem." Included in the Amidah, a collection of prayers that begins with praising the God of our ancestors, is the prayer, "Baruch Atah Adonai, hamachazeir Shechinato l'Tzion...Blessed are You, Adonai, whose Presence returns to Zion." Members of Am Yisrael from Chattanooga to China welcome Shabbat with the Hebrew acrostic poem of L'cha Dodi. This 16th century composition from the Kabbalistic center of Tzfat (or Safed) remains a part of our Sabbath choices whether your great-grandfather was a Classical Reform Jew (as was mine) or if your great-grandmother was secular (as was my children's).

As we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of what Jewish composer Irving Berlin patriotically penned as "The land that I Love," I encourage us all to not only marvel at The American Experiment, but also to acknowledge how we must also hold space for Zionism - a word that has been weaponized by those whose "teach" history via TikToks and algorithms. The best response to what scholar and award winning novelist Dara Horn calls "anti-Jewish propaganda" is education. Some of you may already be moved by the 12th century Spanish poet, Yehudah Halevi whose own love letter to the Land penned, "My heart is in the east, and I in the uttermost west." Others may remember that blue JNF box in a great-grandmother's kitchen, but can't remember the details of how Palestine emerged from the British Mandate (the original colonizers) to the Modern State of Israel. Finally many of us, our adult children, and our grandchildren may benefit from some refresher lessons beyond our Hebrew School days or long-forgotten details from an Adult Education class on Israel.

Thanks to a series of documentaries now appearing on Netflix, many Americans are rediscovering many lessons on Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln. I am watching them as though cramming for a final exam of 250 years of American history. Sadly there is not such easily consumable media for the roughly 4,000 year old history of the Jewish people or since the First World Zionist Congress in 1897 or since that fateful day of declared Israeli Independence on May 14, 1948. There are films, though certainly not as plentiful. One easily accessible resource may be found on YouTube called [Ben Gurion - Founding Father of Israel Documentary](#).

Another resource is the PBS: Firing Line with Margaret Hoover's episode with Noa Tishby. If you would like to choose one book to read this summer in order to learn or relearn more about Am Yisrael's ancestral home, I suggest you read Tishby's book *Israel: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth*.

As some of our friends, neighbors, and even children question the validity of Zionism, I encourage us all to know the facts of our indigenous, religious, and historical connections to our land. Moreover, just as "We the People" of these United States can question policies of any governing party at any given time while still being devoted patriots, so too the love of Zion does not require unconditional support of all the policies of any Israeli party in power.

May your celebrations of both our nations be meaningful, safe, and inspired by those revolutionaries who dared to dream and hope for a better tomorrow.

Rabbi Rebecca Pomerantz Shinder
Beit Kulanu, Florida, NY (Formerly Temple Beth Shalom and Monroe Temple Beth-El)

GIFT OF LIFE

GIFT OF LIFE MARROW REGISTRY TOGETHER WE ARE HELPING TO SAVE LIVES! WOO HOO!! Match #211! 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 | Gail Oliver gailao777@aol.com, You can request a swabbing kit at home, www.giftoflife.org.

Upcoming Swabbing Drives:

Wednesday, July 8 | 5pm | Renegades "We Care Wednesday" -Jewish Heritage Night, 500 NY90 Wappingers Falls



Temple Beth Jacob recently gathered to celebrate an incredible milestone: 200 donor matches and 10 stem cell transplants made possible through their dedication to helping those affected by blood cancer.

With support from the Valencia Palms Donor Circle and many of you, our TBJ and Florida teams have welcomed nearly 9,000 people to the Gift of Life Registry, expanding the search for lifesaving matches.

The evening brought together volunteers, supporters, and community members to celebrate years of commitment, compassion, and lives changed. We heard the inspiring

words of a leukemia survivor, Marilyn Shafir, who was given a second chance by Gift of Life.

And the momentum continues. Since planning the event, additional donor matches found by our amazing teams have been identified, bringing the total to 211 and counting!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this remarkable achievement. Together, you are helping create more second chances for families around the world.



YOU HAVE THE GIFT TO CURE BLOOD CANCER

WHO CAN JOIN THE REGISTRY?
Joining the registry is as easy as a simple swab of your cheek. Eligible donors must be between the ages of 18-35 and in general good health, meet the guidelines and be willing to donate to any patient, at any time, worldwide.

Scan the QR code for more information

HELP US SAVE IGNACIO'S LIFE

Ignacio, a 50-year-old husband and father of two, was recently diagnosed with myelofibrosis, a rare form of blood cancer.

His best hope of a cure is a blood stem cell or marrow transplant from a donor who shares his genetic heritage.

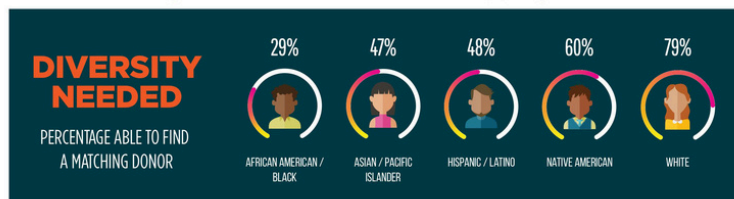
Because tissue type is inherited, Ignacio's donor is most likely to be someone of Jewish, Spanish, or Portuguese ancestry, but everyone is urged to join the registry.

You could be Ignacio's life-saving hero without even knowing it! All it takes is a swab of your cheek to find out if you are a match for him or another patient in need.

Jewish Heritage Night at the Renegades

Wednesday, July 8, 2026 at 5:00 pm

Renegades Stadium - RT. 9D - Wappingers Falls



giftoflife.org/ignacio



My Tree In Israel

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

Order: Use the QR Code

- Wine (Private Label from Jezreel Valley Winery) July 30 | Delivery Rosh Hashanah
- Wine (Avivim | Located on the northern border) July 30 | Delivery Rosh Hashanah
- Olive Oil | November 30 | Delivery December
- Whiskey | Delivery TBA

Learn More: Jewishorangenyny.org | Need Help Ordering?
Call: 845-562-7860.

Choose Your Bottles – Limited Release

- Rebirth Reserve – Red blend (Cabernet Sauvignon & Petite Syrah), aged 28 months
- Avivim Spirit – White blend, aged 6 months
- Tkumah Reserve – Red blend (Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Verdot, Syrah), aged 40 months

Kosher – Badatz Eda Haredi
Shipping & taxes included

Reserve your bottles today – limited quantities available!

Order by July 30th for Rosh Hashanah delivery

Jewish Federation
of Greater Orange County
Building Our Jewish Community Together

We Gratefully Acknowledge Gifts Made To The Jewish Federation Of Greater Orange County By The Following Donors* As Tributes for June '26:

- A gift was made in loving memory of Past President *Joseph Birnbaum* by *Gail & Ken Oliver*. May his Memory be a blessing.
- A gift was made in loving memory of Past President *Richard "Dick" Levin* by *Linda and Marty Dlugatz*. May his Memory be a blessing.
- A gift was made by *Emily Frischman Brent* in loving memory of her mother *Roberta Frischman*.
- A gift was made in honor of *Jon Gottlieb*, Volunteer of the Year for Temple Beth Shalom Men's Club by *Carol & Robert Klein*.
- A gift was made in honor of *David Fromowitz & Judy Ronay*, Volunteer of the Year for Congregation Eitz Chaim, Monroe by *Barbara & Bob Fromowitz*.
- A gift was made in honor of *Maria Rabinowitz*, Volunteer of the Year for Monroe Hadassah by *Rochelle Marshall*.
- A gift was made in honor of *Steve Licker*, Volunteer of the Year for Kol Yisrael, Newburgh by *Sheila & Mark Lakritz*
- A gift was made in honor of *Marc and Deniz Appelbaum*, Volunteer of the Year for B'nai Torah Shul, Greenwood Lake by *Rabbi Brenda Weinberg*.
- A gift was made in honor of *Stacey Yerger*, Volunteer of the Year for Temple Beth Jacob Sisterhood, Newburgh by *Lorraine Wernow*.
- A gift was made in honor of *Nina Rubin*, Volunteer of the Year for Monroe Temple Beth-El by *Victoria Kilanowski & Bill Ledwitz*.

The following gifts were made in honor of Arthur Carroad, Congregation Beth Hillel/WJCC's Volunteer of the Year:

- *Pamela Carroad*
- *The Friedland/ Johnson Family*
- *Joseph & Nava Herzog*
- *Carol & David Jalazo*

A gift was made in honor of Betsy Solomon, Volunteer of the Year for Congregation Agudas Israel, Newburgh by:

- *Sheila & Mark Lakritz*
- *Frank Wolf*

A gift was made in honor of Paul Joseph, Volunteer of the Year for Monroe Temple Beth-El by:

- *Charlene Hirschberg*
- *Victoria Kilanowski & Bill Ledwitz*.

The following sponsorship gifts were generously contributed in honor of The Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County's 50th Annual Meeting. by:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| • <i>Suzanne Brown & Jack Berkowitz</i> | • <i>Dr Irv & Liz Kadesh</i> |
| • <i>Pamela Carroad</i> | • <i>Victoria Kilanowski & Bill Ledwitz</i> |
| • <i>Abbe Distelburger</i> | • <i>Sheila & Mark Lakritz</i> |
| • <i>Barbara & Robert Fromowitz</i> | • <i>Steven & Robin Licker</i> |
| • <i>David Fromowitz</i> | • <i>Debbie Metzner</i> |
| • <i>Felicia Gell</i> | • <i>Sherrill Murray-Lazarus & Stacey Lazarus</i> |
| • <i>Leslie & Glenn Green</i> | • <i>Mona & Ian Rieger</i> |
| • <i>Rachelle & Jeff Harmer</i> | • <i>Babi Sommer-Satzman</i> |
| • <i>Nava & Joseph Herzog</i> | • <i>Rabbi Brenda Weinberg</i> |
| • <i>Charlene Hirschberg</i> | • <i>Lorraine Wernow</i> |
| • <i>Carol & David Jalazo</i> | • <i>Frank Wolf</i> |



JFS Senior Independence Program

Register for the training or for more information about services available for older neighbors throughout Orange County call | **845.341.1173** or email | volunteer@jfsorange.org

Our phones are heating up with requests for rides to essential appointments.

Can you help a neighbor with a ride?

Senior Independence Program
Our doors are open to the entire community

HELPING GIVES YOU A WARM FEELING!

Support an older neighbor in your own town by helping with ...

- ✓ Transportation to medical appointments
- ✓ Grocery shopping assistance
- ✓ Home visits for socialization
- ✓ Wellness call check-ins

Call Paula Blumenau at (845) 341-1173 x305 or email volunteer@jfsorange.org to get started!

JFS Jewish Family Service of Orange County
Our doors are open to the entire community.

Medicare GUIDE Program for Dementia Care

GUIDE aims to improve the quality of life for people living with dementia and empower caregivers with support and services. JFS offers care navigation services for people enrolled in GUIDE, including:

- Respite Care
- Care Coordination
- Medical Services Support Line
- Caregiver Education & Support
- Case Management
- Resources & Referrals

All of these services are covered by Medicare and are free of charge to you.

If you are a caregiver looking for support, please call us today.

Contact Us:
(845) 341-1173 x306

JFS Jewish Family Service of Orange County
Our doors are open to the entire community

COUNSELING SERVICES

When life feels overwhelming, our compassionate counseling team offers a safe, confidential space. Explore your thoughts, process emotions, and develop healthy coping strategies.

**Individual & Group Sessions Are Available.*

WE CAN HELP WITH:

- ✓ Stress & Anxiety
- ✓ Depression
- ✓ Life Transitions
- ✓ Personal Growth ...and more!

CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE

JFS ORANGE'S INAUGURAL 2026 GOLF OUTING SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

\$150/golfer Breakfast & Lunch included!

Deadline to register: September 7, 2026
Deadline to sign up for sponsorship: August 24, 2026

Sponsorship Opportunities

<p>Arnold Palmer Tournament Sponsor \$5,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four complimentary tickets • Logo & company name included on all promotional materials • Featured signage at registration and throughout the course 	<p>Jack Nicklaus Luncheon Sponsor \$3,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three complimentary tickets • Featured signage at lunch venue
<p>Tiger Woods Cart Sponsor \$1,500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two complimentary tickets • Featured signage on beverage cart 	<p>Lee Trevino Hole-in-One Sponsor \$1,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One complimentary ticket • Premier signage at hole-in-one hole
<p>Babe Didrikson 9th Hole Sponsor \$250</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage displayed at 9th hole 	<p>Sam Snead Hole Sponsor \$250</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company name/logo featured on tee sign

Proceeds will support JFS Orange, a local non-sectarian 501(c)3 organization that serves older adults, individuals with intellectual & developmental disabilities, caregivers, and families in need by connecting them with essential services.

JOIN US! To register or sign up for sponsorship, email sutter@jfsorange.org or call (845) 341-1173 x310

Sponsors, please email sutter@jfsorange.org with a .png or .jpg of your company logo.

Temple Sinai Men's Club invites you to our next Congregational Bar-B-Q to celebrate ...

AMERICA 250TH BIRTHDAY 1776-2026

SUNDAY, JULY 5TH, 2026

1:00PM – 5:00PM

Temple Sinai - Rear Parking Lot (Social Hall in case of rain)
75 Highland Avenue, Middletown, NY

Just \$10.00/Person or \$25.00/Immediate Family

Send Registration to:
Temple Sinai Men's Club
75 Highland Avenue
Middletown, NY 10940

Bagels & Bible

LEAD BY LENNY

About one hour of reviewing texts from the Weekly Torah reading together with Rashi's commentary in a relaxed give and take forum. It will take place every other Saturday. Led by Lenny.

In Person at 10 am
Next Date: July 11

JCC Outdoor Shabbat –Friday, August 28 | 5:30pm
in the rear of the building. Kosher Dairy Dinner, Live Music, Shabbat Service & Kids Crafts. \$18 per person/\$10 per child/\$50 for family.

Reminiscing With Our Past Presidents

Building a committed Jewish Community by *Gail Oliver*

During my tenure as Federation President, my primary focus was bringing the Jewish community together. My ultimate goal was to create meaningful opportunities for the Jewish community of Orange County to connect in many different ways — whether laughing together with celebrated comedians, learning from famous authors, enjoying beautiful cultural performances, marching proudly in the Celebration of Israel Parade, or participating in educational programs that enriched Jewish life.

One of the experiences I treasured most was organizing an Inclusion Workshop for community leaders and helping plan the Shabbat of Inclusion events throughout Orange County synagogues. These initiatives welcomed individuals with special challenges into the heart of our community and gave them the opportunity to fully participate in Jewish life. Our highly successful Mitzvah Days provided clothing, household goods, food, books, and toiletries to those in need, while also allowing us to send care packages and cards to brave soldiers serving overseas.

We also developed a weekly e-blast and the electronic We Are One newsletter, both of which continue to keep our community informed about important local and global Jewish events. We believed that by fostering a culture of engagement, we could build a vibrant and active Jewish community while empowering the next generation of Jewish leaders.

Federation contributions helped send deserving young people to Israel, Jewish camps, and day schools, while also supporting programs that enabled seniors to leave their homes, socialize, and participate in activities such as special luncheons and Yiddish classes.

Working closely with congregations across Orange County, we planned and helped fund Jewish Family Life education programs involving synagogues, temples, and nursery schools throughout the region. We proudly supported the tremendous programming of the Newburgh Jewish Community Center, as well as inspiring community events such as the Jewish Film Festival.

We partnered with synagogues and community organizations to sponsor speakers, cultural events, and educational initiatives that kept our community informed and engaged with the broader Jewish world. We also created forums where temple presidents could collaborate and brainstorm together, and where religious school teachers could exchange ideas, teaching strategies, and best practices.

We worked tirelessly to support a safe and secure Israel and to help our friends in the broader community better understand our deep and enduring commitment to the Jewish State. Together, we rallied for Israel and marched proudly in its support.

Most importantly, we worked to raise funds that brought hope and dignity to people both near and far through the vital efforts of agencies such as Jewish Family Service and the Joint Distribution Committee.

Serving as President of the Jewish Federation was deeply meaningful to me because it represented the very essence of a strong, compassionate, and committed Jewish community.



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

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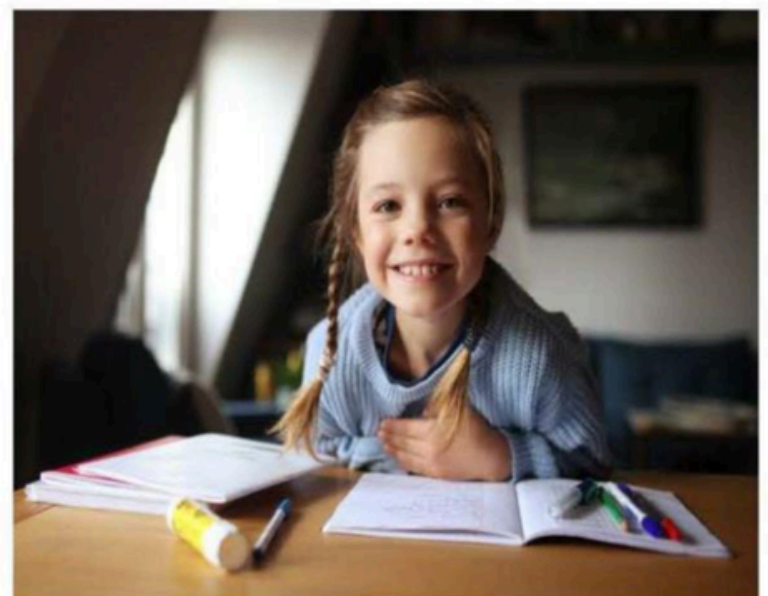
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Two Congregations Become One: Welcoming Beit Kulanu

FLORIDA, NY -- Something remarkable occurred in Orange County on Saturday, June 20, 2026.

After years of planning and coordinating, two Jewish congregations took the ritualistic and tangible steps to formalize a merge. The day had finally come for Monroe Temple Beth-El and Temple Beth Shalom of Florida to begin life together under one roof.

On Saturday evening, Monroe Temple Beth-El held a Havdalah and Deconsecration service, led by Rabbi Roger Lerner, as they sadly closed their doors for the last time. A Torah Processional then commenced to bring seven torahs from Monroe to their new home, Temple Beth Shalom in Florida, NY.

While the Torah Processional was a short 25-minute drive, the journey to this day has been years in the making. A long trail of discussions, meet and greets, and many meetings have led to a merger of two Temples – to eventually become one entity that is stronger, together. While it was an emotional and tough day for members of Monroe, congregants of Temple Beth Shalom showed up in large numbers to welcome them with open arms, and lively music! After the torahs arrived, a bittersweet service was held led by Rabbi Rebecca Shinder, which included many blessings and prayers over the torahs and all the congregants.

After the service, a celebratory dinner was held where the name of the new merged congregation was revealed for the first time. The name had been chosen and voted upon by all congregants of both temples. Robin Rosenberg, president of Monroe Temple Beth-El, and Eric Goodman, co-president of Temple Beth Shalom, revealed the new name together... 3, 2, 1 – Beit Kulanu! Which translates to “a house for all of us.”

Rabbi Shinder will administer to the new merged entity, as Rabbi Lerner moves on to a new congregation in Missouri. Both worked together toward this new joined congregation, the details of which are still in progress.

As Rabbi Shinder noted, “The Jewish people have had to adapt and adopt to new realities for millennia. The key to our survival has been our commitment to carry our stories and memories with us. We did so both literally and figuratively this past weekend. The evening provided both communities the chance to honor and remember a glorious past as well as the chance to celebrate and welcome a promising shared future.

“With shofar blast to herald this new beginning, the seven torahs were welcomed into their new home with honor and prayers led by our children, the very essence of our exciting future.”

This summer the new joined congregation is looking forward to several celebrations, including a 7 p.m. Shabbat Experience on July 31 in our Memorial Garden to Celebrate America @ 250. All are welcome to come dressed in red, white & blue for some informal blessings, an Americana Sing-a-long, and a potluck dessert reception.



The Stop Hate Challenge is a yearly competition organized by Zachor Antisemitism Initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County NY.

Zachor provides free curriculum, field trips and education in Holocaust Studies, and works to prevent antisemitism and all forms of bigotry, hatred and bias.

This year's theme was **Climate & Environmental Justice; The principle that all people are entitled to equal environmental protection regardless of race, color, national origin or income.** Director of Zachor, Judy Ronay, invited all Orange County students in grades 6-12 to participate and submit essays, songs or poems.

Teachers in Middletown created a lesson plan around the challenge, and submitted the vast majority of entries.

Several Judges analyzed hundreds of thoughtful, scholarly works.

The Jewish Federation and Zachor awarded monetary prizes to six students and their teachers at the annual Stop Hate Symposium in May.

Damaria Green's "Polluted Division" Rap is the Grand Prize Winner! She is a 10th Grader in Middletown High School with the sponsoring teacher Gabrielle Hajduk. **See Damara's Rap lyrics below.**

Bryan Sanchez's "Why Pollution Conquers?" is the High School Honorable Mention. Bryan is a 11th Grade student at Middletown High School, with the sponsoring teacher Mrs. Younghans. See Bryan's essay in next month's "We Are One".

Congratulations to all of our winners (Pictured Below).

"Polluted Division" By Damaría Green Grade: 10 | Middletown High School

stop the hate contest rap lyrics

Topic: environmental justice

0:12 -

The world is dying and "there's no Planet B."
You don't understand? Well let me help you see.
Marginalized communities, they don't have immunity,
They focus on rich people and forget about unity.

0:24 -

Everywhere's polluted, do you wanna guess who caused it?
The one who throw garbage on the ground when there's no profit.
You went to school everyday to get educated, but you don't know
why the garbage signs were created?

0:37 -

There shouldn't be disadvantage for health if paid less.
They try to make the world seem fine but know that it's a mess.
Huge landfills can kill the atmosphere,
It goes up fourteen percent to just a little year.

0:49 -

Can't everybody work together to change the Earth?
Nobody is better or has a higher worth.
(flow change) I thought we were all the same species, don't
wanna get all preachy, But not gonna lie, life ain't peachy.

1:02 – hook

Everybody's being misguided, if we're a community why are we
divided?

We're making everything seem two-sided.

Not long 'til we're collided, unprovided, undecided.

1:16 – hook (2)

Everybody's value is the same. Why are lives getting played with
like a game? They're not some animal that you can tame—or can
claim. And the fact we can't fix it is a shame.

1:27 -

But just 'cause we can't fix it doesn't mean that we can't change it.
Did you know this is going on in many different places?
You could donate, advocate, share a plate, stop the hate.
You could go do something great. You could help lower the rate.

1:39 -

You could stop the death of animals who are eating plastic. If you
pick up garbage off the floor that's even more fantastic.
Put glass bottles in a different trash from metals. Sorting compost
can help little flowers grow petals.

1:51 -

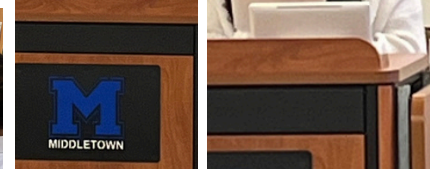
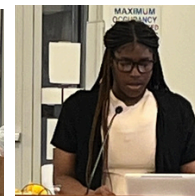
Cars and factories, all is what they make. It goes up in the air and
then it rains into a lake. Now the lake's ruined and the higher-ups
don't care. Talk about equality but this whole thing's unfair.

2:03 -

They focus on rich people and forget about unity. Marginalized
communities, they don't have immunity.
You don't understand? Well let me help you see. The world is
dying and "there's no Planet B."



"Why Pollution Conquers"
By Bryan Sanchez
Grade: 11
Middletown High School
Essay will be featured in
the August
"We Are One."



Make an Impact



Support Our Community

Together, we can build something that matters!

- *Contribute your skills in strategy, finance, marketing, community engagement, passion for community
- *Collaborate with a dedicated team committed to real impact
- *Expand your experience while giving back

Now, more than ever, the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County needs your help.

We're looking for passionate, thoughtful leaders to join our Board of Directors.

If you care about strengthening our Jewish community, this is your opportunity to step up and make a difference!

Interested, or know someone who would be a great fit? Applications are open, so reach out to us today!

Director@JewishOrangeNY.org | www.JewishOrangeNY.org

TEMPLE BETH JACOB NEWBURGH
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

TBJ SUMMER SCHMOOZE

5 Fridays in July!

Fun • Friends • Community • All Summer Long!

WEEK 1 FRIDAY JULY 3		RED, WHITE & BLUE SHABBAT Celebrate our nation in red, white and blue! Activities, trivia, and conversation about our nation's past, present and future.	SERVICES AT 7:00 PM Community led by TBJ members
WEEK 2 FRIDAY JULY 10		ICE CREAM SOCIAL SHABBAT! <i>Sweet Connections. Strong Community.</i> Join us for a delicious ice cream social as we reconnect and celebrate our wonderful TBJ family!	SERVICES AT 7:00 PM Community led by TBJ members NO COST FOR ALL EVENTS
WEEK 3 FRIDAY JULY 17		FEEDING THE HUNGRY SHABBAT Let's make a difference—together. 6:00 PM - Help us pack meals for local families in need.	SERVICES AT 7:00 PM Community led by TBJ members NO COST FOR ALL EVENTS
WEEK 4 FRIDAY JULY 24		CAMPFIRE SHABBAT BBQ Great food, good company, and classic summer vibes! BBQ AT 5:30 PM	SERVICES AT 7:00 PM Community led by TBJ members NO COST FOR ALL EVENTS
WEEK 5 FRIDAY JULY 31		SUMMER CAMP SHABBAT Featuring the music of <i>Debbie Freedman!</i> Sing, move, and enjoy all your favorite camp songs! CAMP PROGRAM AT 6:00 PM	SERVICES AT 7:00 PM Community led by TBJ members NO COST FOR ALL EVENTS

NO COST FOR ALL EVENTS!

ALL EVENTS SPONSORED BY GENEROUS DONATIONS. Together, we build community. Everyone is welcome!

SERVICES EVERY FRIDAY 7:00 PM
 Community led by TBJ members

ALL ARE WELCOME!
 Open to Adults of All Ages

Come for one Friday or come to them all!

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ALL ARE WELCOME

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WEDNESDAY JULY 15
5PM-7:30PM

FIRST HAPPY HOUR BEER, WINE, OR COCKTAIL FREE

26 FRONT STREET, NEWBURGH, NY 12550

WALDEN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER INVITES YOU

SHABBAT UNDER THE STARS

SUMMER BACKYARD SHABBAT DINNERS

24	July 6:30 pm	Potluck Shabbat at Joanie's Pot luck Shabbat dinner in Joan Garry's back yard.
11	October 11 am	Rosh Hodesh at Lauren's LPot luck lunch and discussion at Lauren Mandel's home.

CONGREGATION BETH HILLEL
WALDEN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

RSVP Required for home addresses & pot luck sign up

mchasek@gmail.com

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

Facilitated by Rabbi Steven Altarescu,
Board Certified Chaplain and Counselor

Upcoming Dates:
10:30am-12pm | July 12 | August 9 Meeting in the Children's Library

For more information:
AlexSolomonGriefGroup@CongregationAgudasIsrael.org

Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh

6:00pm - Thursday, July 16
At the home of Babi Satzman

Sisterhood Book Club

Thursday, July 23 | 1pm
Location to be determined.

Discussion of the book **"Two Jews - Three Shuls"** by Sandra Tankoos.

Celebrating 50 Years of Strengthening Jewish Life in Orange County!

For five decades, we've strengthened Jewish life and built a vibrant community. With your support, we'll continue making a difference for generations to come.

MAKE YOUR 2026 GIFT TODAY

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TEMPLE SINAI

תשעה באב

Tishah B'av

Tishah B'av is the solemn day on which we commemorate the destruction of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, as well as many other calamities which have befallen our People. Join us on the evening of Wednesday, July 22 at 7:30 pm for this meaningful and moving service which includes the reading of the Book of Eicha, Lamentations, as well as appropriate hymns, readings and memorials.

Services are conducted in a darkened room, so bring a flashlight to help you read.

TEMPLE SINAI
75 HIGHLAND AVENUE
MIDDLETOWN, NY 10940

EITZ CHAIM

GARDEN TOUR

A JEROME SPECTOR SOCIAL ACTION FUNDRAISER

VISIT 6 PRIVATE GARDENS:

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- TOBY & MICHAEL SCHACK
- LOUISE SILVER
- PAULA SPECTOR
- JOAN OSTRER

Self-guided tour

Light refreshments will be served

SUNDAY, JULY 5
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
RAINDATE: Sunday, July 12

DONATION: \$25 PER PERSON
RSVP by 6/30 to: office@eitzchaim-monroe.org
Questions call 845-783-7424
Addresses will be emailed upon RSVP
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Jerome Spector Social Action Fund

Tish'a B' Av

A day set aside to remember
The numerous tragedies that
Have befallen the Jewish people
Throughout history and even today.

Class: When the World Breaks:
Structure, Grief, and Hope in Eicha
Tuesday, July 14th, 7:30pm

Service: Erev Tish'a B'av
Wednesday, July 22nd
8 - 9 pm
- Maariv
- Eicha
- Kinnot

CONGREGATION
AGUDAS ISRAEL

July Candle Lighting Schedule

July 3:	8:16PM
July 10:	8:13PM
July 17:	8:09PM
July 24:	8:04PM
July 31:	7:57PM

Supporting Jews today, tomorrow, and always.

As Pesach approaches, Israelis face ongoing missile attacks and displacement. Through Jewish Federations and trusted partners, critical aid and trauma support are reaching those in need.

Every dollar counts—please give



Your support makes a difference.



Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County

Your Gift. Our Community. Our Future.



Make your 2026 Annual Campaign gift today.
Together, we keep Jewish life in Orange County strong and thriving.



THE ANNUAL NEWBURGH JCC GOLF OUTING

JULY
13TH
2026
11:00am

OSIRIS COUNTRY CLUB
WALDEN, NY

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES NOW AVAILABLE

TO REGISTER, VISIT:
NEWBURGHJCC.ORG



11AM LUNCH & REGISTRATION
12:30PM SHOTGUN SCRAMBLE FORMAT

SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES: EMAIL VISITNEWBURGHJCC@GMAIL.COM

HAVE AN IDEA?

Jewish In Orange County Micro-Grants

Turn your idea into impact!

Micro-grants fund creative programs that bring our Orange County Jewish community together — building connection, learning, and growth.



APPLY TODAY!
Scan QR or visit:
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Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County
Building Our Jewish Community Together