

# WE ARE ONE

A publication of



The Jewish Federation®  
OF GREATER ORANGE COUNTY

*Building Our Jewish Community Together*

292 North St. 2nd Floor, Newburgh, NY 12550

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WINTER 2015 | KISLEV-ADAR II 5776

## WHEN FREE SPEECH “CROSSES THE LINE”

SPECIAL FEATURE



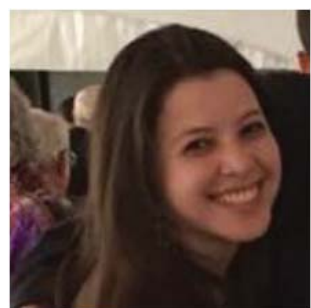
A new documentary that reveals the rise of anti-Israel activity and anti-Semitic rhetoric on campus and demonstrates when reasonable criticism of Israel “crosses the line” into anti-Semitism. Screening will be followed by a Panel Discussion. Admission is free, advanced registration is required. Please call 845-562-7860 or email [joyce@jewishorangenyny.org](mailto:joyce@jewishorangenyny.org).



Moderator Dr. Lisa Korenman is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the United States Military Academy at West Point.



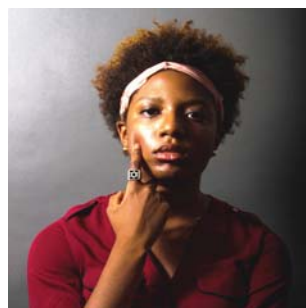
Sarah Green, an Art Director at Young and Rubicam, was President of Emory Students for Israel, a Grinspoon Hillel Israel Advocacy Intern and a graduate of the Write On For Israel Program. She was the recipient of an award from The Jewish Week for her advocacy on the Emory campus.



Daniella Greenbaum, a member of Barnard College class of 2017, is President of Aryeh, Columbia University’s pro-Israel public affairs committee. A 2015 recipient of the Bartley Fellowship from the Wall Street Journal, she was also an AIPAC Diamond Intern, a Fellow at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs and a graduate of the Write On For Israel Program.



Dr. Andrew Pessin, a Professor of Philosophy at Connecticut College, has published many academic articles, several philosophy books and most recently a novel. He is most popular for his appearances as “The Genius” on the David Letterman show. As the most vocal pro-Israel Jewish Professor on campus, Dr. Pessin was the subject of a recent deliberate campaign to misrepresent his views and silence his advocacy. His books will be available for purchase and signing.



Chloé Valdary is a Tikvah Fellow at the Wall Street Journal working under the auspices of Deputy Editor Bret Stephens. In 2013, she was named as one of the top 100 people positively affecting Jewish life in the Algemeiner. Her work as a Zionist thinker and human rights activist has been featured on Huffington Post Live, Israel Hayom, Jerusalem Post, and the Daily Beast to name a few. A 2015 graduate of the University of New Orleans, Ms. Valdary was the founder of Allies for Israel on her campus.

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**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 20th  
7PM  
Monroe Theater  
34 Mill Pond Parkway  
Monroe**



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WINTER 2015  
KISLEV-ADAR II 5776  
Jewish Federation of  
Greater Orange County  
292 North St. 2nd Floor  
Newburgh, N.Y. 12550  
845-562-7860  
[www.JewishOrangeNY.org](http://www.JewishOrangeNY.org)

PRESIDENT: Leslie Green  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:  
Joyce Waschitz  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR:  
Sharon Ball  
OFFICE MANAGER: Georgia Mason  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Sharon Ball

**WE ARE ONE**, the newspaper of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County, is published three times a year and is available at temples, libraries, YMCAs, doctors’ offices, and other locations throughout Orange County. It can also be viewed on our website, **JewishOrangeNY.org**

**WE ARE ONE** does not accept ads or copy that we perceive to be anti-Semitic, anti-Israel, Holocaust-denying or in any way defamatory to the Jewish people. We reserve the right to reject an advertisement that is detrimental to any organization, institution, individual, or contrary to the interest of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County.

For more information regarding advertising opportunities, or to contribute a story, letter or photo, please follow our submission guidelines in the news section of our website, **JewishOrangeNY.org**

Since 1977, the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County has been working together with community members to build and support a strong Jewish community - enriching people’s lives, helping those in need, and embracing new Jewish families. Each year, our recipient organizations in Orange County, subsidized by generous Federation funding, help tens of thousands of people here at home. As part of the Jewish Federations of North America, we support hundreds of thousands more with our humanitarian initiatives around the world. For additional information, visit **JewishOrangeNY.org**

If you are not receiving **WE ARE ONE** please contact our office.

Donations to support the Jewish Federation mission are appreciated.



Families who are expecting or have recently celebrated the arrival of a baby can receive a Complimentary Gift Basket, which includes special baby items from the Jewish Federation and our Jewish community partners. Thanks to Roberta Nakagawa who lovingly puts the baskets together for us.



REGISTER YOURSELF

REGISTER A FRIEND

Call 845-562-7860  
Email [joyce@jewishorangenyny.org](mailto:joyce@jewishorangenyny.org)



A recent recipient of a Shalom Baby basket.

Stay in the loop with our weekly **WE ARE ONE** eNews Edition email blasts. We feature news and upcoming events for the entire Orange County Jewish community. Send your email address to [sharon@jewishorangenyny.org](mailto:sharon@jewishorangenyny.org).  
*We never share your email address with anyone!*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS VISIT [www.jewishorangenyny.org](http://www.jewishorangenyny.org)

### DECEMBER 2015

Dec. 20: Sisterhood Meeting, 9:45AM at Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Dec. 20: Screening “Crossing the Line 2” 2PM  
Dec. 22: Women with Wool, 4PM at Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Dec. 25: Brunch, 11AM at the home of Judi & Marty Berman  
Dec. 25: Volunteer at Our Father’s Kitchen, time TBA  
Dec. 27: Free Movie, “The Lion King” 7PM, at Cong. B’nai Torah  
Dec. 28: Winter Break Art Camp-ages 7 to 14, 1PM at the NJCC  
Dec. 28-31: Youth Basketball Camp, 9AM at the NJCC  
Dec. 29: Women with Wool, 4PM at Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Dec. 30: Winter Break Art Camp-ages 7 to 14, 9AM at the NJCC

### JANUARY 2016

Jan. 1: Film Club, 10:30AM at the NJCC  
Jan. 1: Celebrate January Birthdays, 7PM at Cong. B’nai Torah  
Jan. 5: Women with Wool, 10AM Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Jan. 6: JFS Friendly Visitor Program Volunteer Training, 10AM in Middletown  
Jan. 7: Mourning Rituals, 7PM at Temple Beth Jacob  
Jan. 8: JFS Friendly Visitor Program Volunteer Training, 10AM in Blooming Grove  
Jan. 10: Jewish Federation Challah Baking, 2PM at 290 North St.  
Jan. 12: Women with Wool, 10AM Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Jan. 13: JFS Friendly Visitor Program Volunteer Training, 10AM in Montgomery  
Jan. 14: Mourning Rituals, 7PM at Temple Beth Jacob  
Jan. 8: Film Club, 10:30AM at the NJCC  
Jan. 15: Film Club, 10:30AM at the NJCC  
Jan. 16: Temple Sinai Family Movie Night, 7PM at Middletown Cinemas  
Jan. 19: Women with Wool, 10AM Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Jan 21: Book Club, 11AM at the NJCC  
Jan. 21: Mourning Rituals, 7PM at Temple Beth Jacob  
Jan. 22: Film Club, 10:30AM at the NJCC  
Jan. 22: Tu B’Shevat Seder, 7PM at Cong. B’nai Torah  
Jan 23: Shabbat Shirah, 6PM at Temple Beth Shalom  
Jan. 24: Tu B’Shevat Family Program, 10AM at Temple Beth Shalom  
Jan. 24: Tu B’Shvat Celebration, 11AM at Cong. Beth Hillel  
Jan. 24: Federation Jewish Book Council, Rebecca Alexander 2PM at 290 North St.  
Jan. 24: Free Movie, (TBA) 7PM at Cong. B’nai Torah  
Jan. 26: Women with Wool, 10AM Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Jan. 28: Mourning Rituals, 7PM at Temple Beth Jacob  
Jan. 29: Film Club, 10:30AM at the NJCC  
Jan. 31: Blood Drive, 9AM at Monroe Temple

### FEBRUARY 2016

Feb. 4: JFS Friendly Visitor Program Volunteer Training, 10AM in Newburgh  
Feb. 5: Celebrate January Birthdays, 7PM at Cong. B’nai Torah

Feb. 2: Women with Wool, 10AM Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Feb 7: Souper Bowl Lunch, 12PM at Temple Beth Shalom  
Feb. 7: 16th Annual World Wide Tefillin Wrap, 10AM at Temple Sinai  
Feb. 9: Women with Wool, 10AM Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Feb. 12: JFS Friendly Visitor Program Volunteer Training, 10AM in Chester  
Feb.16: Women with Wool, 10AM Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Feb. 19: Community Dinner/Book Swap, 7PM at Cong. B’nai Torah  
Feb. 21: Current Events w/Rabbis Freedman and Weintraub, 9:30AM at 290 North St.  
Feb. 21: Sisterhood Meeting, 9:45AM at Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Feb. 21: Temple Sinai Family Fun Day Roller Skating, 1PM at the Castle Fun Center  
Feb. 23: Women with Wool, 10AM Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Feb. 28: Federation Jewish Book Council Elissa Altman, 2PM at Temple Sinai  
Feb. 28: Free Movie, (TBA) 7PM at Cong. B’nai Torah

### MARCH 2016

Mar. 4: Shabbat Across America, 6PM at Temple Sinai  
Mar. 4: Shabbat Across America, 7PM at Cong. B’nai Torah  
Mar. 4: Shabbat Across America service/dinner, 6PM at Cong. Beth Hillel  
Mar. 4: Shabbat Across America Community Dinner, 6PM at Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Mar. 8: Women with Wool, 10AM Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Mar. 9: JFS Friendly Visitor Program Volunteer Training, 10AM in Montgomery  
Mar. 11: JFS Friendly Visitor Program Volunteer Training, 10AM in Blooming Grove  
Mar. 12: Adult Purim Party, 7PM at Temple Beth Shalom  
Mar. 13: Youth Group Purim Carnival, 10AM at Temple Beth Shalom  
Mar. 15: Women with Wool, 10AM Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Mar. 20: Sisterhood Meeting, 9:45AM at Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Mar. 22: Women with Wool, 10AM Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Mar. 24: Purim Party, 5:30PM at Cong. Beth Hillel  
Mar. 25: Purim Celebration, 7PM at Cong. B’nai Torah  
Mar. 27: Free Movie, (TBA) 7PM at Cong. B’nai Torah  
Mar. 29: Women with Wool, 10AM Cong. Eitz Chaim  
Mar. 30: JFS Jewish Roots Program, 6:30PM at Temple Sinai

### ONGOING:

- Crash Course in Hebrew, Tuesdays 10AM at Cong. Agudas Israel
- Scrabble, Tuesdays 11AM at Cong. Agudas Israel
- Learning Liturgy, Thursdays 10AM at Cong. Agudas Israel
- Adult Ed/B’nai Mitvah Class, Sundays 10:45 at Temple Beth Shalom

# KLAL YISRAEL, THE POWER OF PEOPLEHOOD

BY LESLIE GREEN  
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As a child, growing up in Brooklyn, I walked with my father every Shabbat morning to pray at the East Midwood Jewish Center. I loved sitting in the magnificent Renaissance Revival building, and listening to the same melodies every Shabbat. But what I loved most of all was the thought that all across the world, Jews were doing the exact same thing that I was doing. There I was, a little Jewish girl sitting in shul with my father and brother at my side, as the Torah was removed from the ark and the congregation sang “Eitz Chaim He Lamachzikim Ba” (my favorite part of the service) while in Jerusalem, Paris, London, Buenos Aires, they were all saying the exact same words. It’s a powerful concept – I am communing not only with God, but also with Jews all over the world.

The twentieth century Jewish thinker Mordecai Kaplan provided it with a name, “Peoplehood.” I’m sure you’ve had the same experience. You see news about Google purchasing Waze, that fabulous navigation app developed in Israel, the latest Jewish Noble Prize winners, or the way in which Israel set up the largest field hospital in Katmandu to treat survivors of the earthquake and your heart swells with pride. You hear news about the attack at the Hyper Cacher in Paris, or of 18 year-old Ezra Schwartz from Sharon, Massachusetts, who was gunned down by a terrorist while performing an act of chesed, and you are consumed with worry about individuals and families you have never met before.

Whether you call it Klal Yisrael, the power of peoplehood, this connection is a central element of Jewish life today. As a nation, Jews all share common spiritual beliefs, history, language, values and destiny. It’s all the more potent with the onset of the Internet and social media. The Babylonian Talmud, in Baghdad-area yeshivot about 1500 years ago recognized the concept Klal Yisrael when it said (Shevuot 39a), “Kol Yisrael areivim zeh bazeh”– All of Israel is responsible for one another.

Of course it’s important to repair the world, tikkun olam, but if Jews don’t look out for each other – tikkun ha’am, who will? If you don’t give a donation to UNICEF, Doctors Without Borders or the United Way, someone else will step into the vacuum. But if we don’t support Jewish causes, and teach our children to do the same, who will?

So consider setting up a Tzedukah box in a prominent spot in your kitchen where your children and grandchildren will notice it, and every Friday, before your family meal, fill it with the stray coins you and your children have in your pockets. Teach your children and grandchildren about local and global Jewish needs, causes and organizations. Tell them about the work of Jewish Federation, how our network can feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, train the unemployed. We respond quickly to crisis around the globe and direct those hard earned coins that you place in the pushka where it will do the most good – efficiently, effectively and compassionately, to ensure a strong, vital Jewish nation for generations to come. And on January 31st, when a Federation volunteer calls to ask for your donation for our yearly campaign, greet them warmly and be grateful for their call. They are offering you an opportunity to make an impact that none of us can make alone. It’s the power of collective action, the power of Peoplehood. And that’s what Jewish Federation is all about.

ABOUT LESLE GREEN



Leslie Jakoby Green grew up in Brooklyn, the daughter of Holocaust survivors. She moved to Orange County when she married Glenn, who was born and raised in Newburgh and whose family was among the founding members of Congregation Agudas Israel. Leslie graduated from Boston University School of Medicine and practices ophthalmology in Warwick, Goshen, Monroe and Port Jervis. She lives in Chester and is the proud mother of 3 children; Sarah, an art director who lives and works in New York City, Michael who will begin Medical School this fall and Beth who is a junior at Barnard.

## WHAT’S “JEWISH” ABOUT THIS WORK?

BY JOYCE WASCHITZ  
DIRECTOR’S CORNER

Every Jew, wherever he or she may find themselves, even a solitary Jew in the most remote corner of the earth, must remember that they are part of the whole Jewish people and representatives of the entire Jewish people, the one people ever since the Torah was given at Mt. Sinai until the end of time.

*-Rabbi Menachem Schneerson*

Every volunteer, Jewish or not Jewish, joining a Jewish organization has a reason why he or she chose to support that cause instead of others. That reason is unique and important to each of you. When a volunteer assignment starts to feel a bit complicated, or tedious, or taxing, it can be helpful to remember the meaning behind it, how to “do it Jewishly” and “keep the Jewish” at the forefront of your mind to keep you going when you start to feel a little more “oy” than joy.

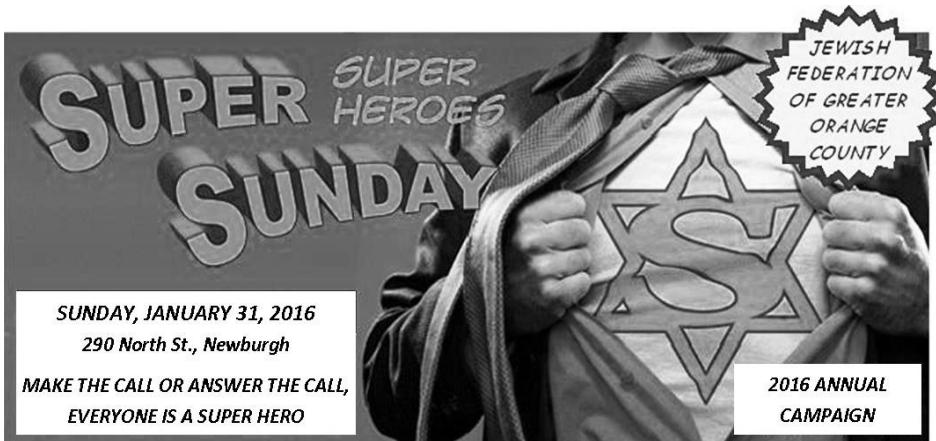
- Take pride in your choice.** Whether you did it out of a sense of community, loyalty, spirituality, a learning opportunity, family or something else, your choice meant and means something to you that can help keep you focused and inspire you to stay motivated.
- Honor your communal responsibility.** Don’t wait for a crisis to activate your sense of connection to others and to the community, look for opportunities every single day to be of service and to support others.
- Watch your behavior, because others are watching.** You can choose to behave in ways that inspire, engage, and help others grow.
- Keep the “Jewish” in your Jewish organization, even if you are not Jewish.** Jewish values are human values, and they set high standards for communicating, behaving, learning, living and more.
- Consider the source.** Judaism provides countless sources of wisdom and values that guide how we live, work and communicate. Continuous learning is a core Jewish value.
- Live your values.** Acts of loving kindness, repairing the world, respect, welcoming the strangers, acting with respect and consideration.
- “Doing Jewish” doesn’t mean bringing bagels and babka.** “Doing Jewish” can be taking care of our families, our Jewish brothers and sisters in Israel and around the world, and the community at large.
- Share your journeys, Jewish and more.** Sharing our stories about where we’ve come from and what brought us here fosters connection and respect.

9. **Sanctify your work.** We do that by performing and delivering mitzvot, good deeds, and facilitating tzedakah and chesed, acts of justice and civic virtue. The Jewish obligations to support social welfare, care for the sick, and welcome the stranger all stem from these values.

10. **Seek opportunities everywhere.** Our conversations, our values, our shared history, our vision for Jewish continuity, our culture, our common issues, our traditions, our mission, our programs and services, should reflect Israel in one way or another, no matter who they reach.



Joyce Waschitz is the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation and past president of Monroe Temple Beth El. Joyce and her husband Gary have lived in Orange County for over 30 years and have two children.





# CONNECTING LIVES, STRENGTHENING TIES: HOW OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BY ELISE GOLD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SPECIAL FEATURE

What would you do if you were in your sixties; your spouse has Parkinson’s disease, is showing signs of dementia and has incontinence? You suffer from anxiety and though your family offers minimal financial support, they don’t provide any other support. You are the sole caregiver, with no one to lean on, you barely make ends meet financially and you lead a pretty isolated life. Yes, you would indeed need many supports including respite. Fortunately, Nadine called us. She knew that she needed support. She wanted her husband, Richard, to have some socialization and activity and she needed a break. A Friendly Visitor volunteer became involved and takes Richard out grocery shopping weekly. This has been a gift as it gives Richard the opportunity to get out and be engaged in the community. At the same time, it offers Nadine a bit of a break. But this is just once weekly; Nadine is exhausted, having trouble focusing and asked for more volunteer hours. Regrettably, we cannot provide that.

At JFS Orange, we considered other ways to help Richard and Nadine. We are in the process of helping them apply for Medicaid. If approved, Richard could go to an adult day program. As you can imagine, this doesn’t happen overnight. In the short term, we found a way to tap into the Financial Empowerment Program at Jewish Family Service. Considering Richard’s diagnosis, he qualifies for funds from our “Premier

Cares Foundation” grant. The mission of Premier Cares Foundation is “to provide support, education, awareness and treatment to those individuals in the community lacking sufficient funds to address significant urologic and digestive issues including but not limited to prostate and colon cancers.”

JFS Orange has partnered with Premier Cares Foundation. With funding from Premier Cares, we are able to give funds to hire an aide to spend time with Richard on a weekly basis. This gives Nadine a bit more respite; she can do whatever she chooses, even if it means closing her eyes for a nap.

We would not be able to do what we do in the community without our community partners. The Premier Cares Foundation is a partnership that we value. Naturally, our partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County is one that we cherish. To find out more about other community partnerships and services that we offer, please visit us at [www.jfsorange.org](http://www.jfsorange.org) and like us on our Facebook page at JFS Orange. Stay in touch, we’d love to partner with you, too!

*Elise Gold, Executive Director of Jewish Family Service of Orange County, lives in New Paltz with her family.*



**Premier Cares Review Committee:**  
Marjorie Faber, Director of Medicaid Service Coordination  
Doris Rubinsky, Safety Net and Friendly Visitor Program Director  
Stacy Ocko-Lulkin, Safety Net Case Manager

## KID FRIENDLY FOOD IDEAS

BY YASMINE KALKSTEIN  
COOK’S CORNER

My son, Matan who is 4 years old, recently invented his own recipe. He loves to cook and mix things. As a fancy pre-dinner drink, he requested I throw the following in the blender.

- Frozen blueberries
- Pineapple juice

We poured it into fancy glasses and put whipped cream on top.

A yummy pre-dinner drink or fancy dessert and relatively healthy too.



**BROCCOLI AND RAMEN NOODLE SALAD**  
From [allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com)  
Prep 15 minutes Ready in 45 minutes

- 1 (16 ounce) package broccoli coleslaw mix
- 2 (3 ounce) packages chicken flavored ramen noodles
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 1 cup unsalted peanuts
- 1 cup sunflower seeds
- ½ cup white sugar
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- ⅓ cup cider vinegar

Directions:  
In a large salad bowl, combine the slaw, broken noodles and green onions. Whisk together the sugar, oil, vinegar and ramen seasoning packets. Pour over salad and toss to evenly coat. Refrigerate until chilled; top with peanuts and sunflower seeds before serving.



## TOFU LETTUCE WRAPS

Have ready big plate of big lettuce leaves, iceberg or romaine.  
Have the following items for people to put in their leaf.

- tofu (stir fried with sesame oil and teriyaki sauce).
- sesame, honey noodles; heat a pint-sized measuring cup with ⅓ soy, ⅓ honey and ⅓ sesame oil in microwave. Once heated, mix and pour on top of spaghetti, top with sesame seeds).
- rice
- mandarin oranges
- crunchy asian noodles
- cucumber
- cilantro
- mint
- sweet chile sauce
- any other sauces



This is a good family meal, because kids love choosing what to put in their leaf!



Yasmine Kalkstein is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Mt. St. Mary College. When she’s not working, she leads a girl scout troop and likes to enjoy the outdoors with her husband, two kids and their Bernese mountain dog. Yasmine and her family live in Monroe and are members of Congregation Eitz Chaim.



# MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME

BY MICHAEL LEVINSTEIN  
JUMPING INTO LIFE

We were walking in Jerusalem and our counselor told us to watch our step because the stones were slippery. He said that they were slippery due to thousands of years of footsteps wearing at their surface. And that’s when it hit me. I was in the Holy Land. The land my people have had a connection with for countless generations. The history of this ancient city overwhelmed me, and in that moment, I understood where I was. Israel.

I developed a connection with every place that we went in Israel. Our guide during our three day hike in the Negev had us sit for ten minutes or so and just take in the beauty of the landscape around us. On our own, we realized the majesty of God’s handiwork, even in a place like the desert that isn’t generally associated with elegance.

The Western Wall was one of my favorite parts of the trip. The spiritual and emotional meaning behind that lone wall was enlightening. Everyone there had a common purpose, to find themselves and to find God. The whole experience was stunning. The sound of hundreds of Jews praying at once. The woman giving out red Kabbalah bracelets if you donated to tzedakah. The man who yelled to our group on the way to the wall that if we weren’t having fun then we weren’t really being Jewish.

Not only will the memories of the places I visited last a lifetime, but the friendships I made will as well. Exploring Israel is amazing enough, but to do it with some of your closest friends makes it even better. I went on this trip knowing three others, and came back knowing thirty, and that’s just from my group. Within just a few days, I’ve grown closer with my group than some people that I’ve known for years. A summer of new experiences would cause any group to become more closely knit. We hiked Masada and Shlomo together, swam in the Dead Sea together, and entered Auschwitz together. This summer would have not have been the same without everyone. Going through the good and bad times alongside your best friends made it that much better and easier.

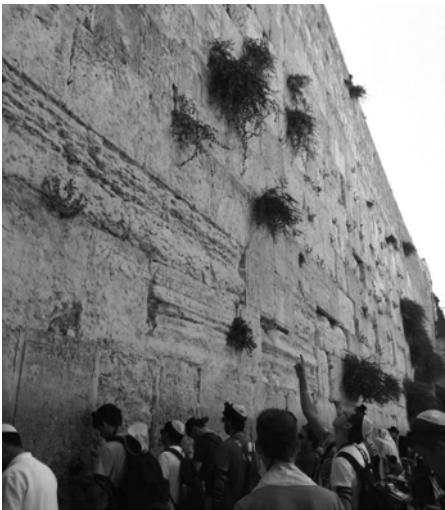
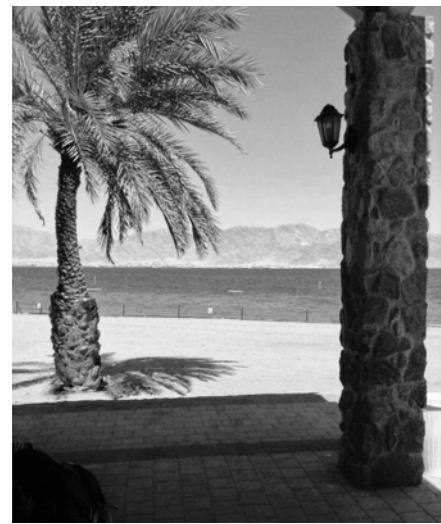
This trip was a trip of extremes. The elation of running up Masada to get to the peak in time for sunrise. The devastation of walking along the same path some of our grandparents walked in the concentration camps. The hilarity of playing a made up card game on a ten hour bus ride. The attention given to the British woman who converted to Islam and gave us the Arab side of the conflict. Nothing was average this summer, everything was extraordinary.

Israel is a beautiful country. The vast desert, the Red Sea, and the magnificent cities are ancient testaments to the splendor and history of the state. I encourage anyone interested in history to visit Israel. Walking through the City of David and the age-old tunnels that run underneath was truly unforgettable. Through my NFTY in Israel L’dor V’dor trip, I was able to experience the country, and I highly recommend that all teenagers travel there as well.

Without receiving the Blinkoff Scholarship from the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County, I would not have been able to go on this amazing trip, and explore myself and my Judaism. I want to thank the Blinkoff family especially for giving me this wonderful opportunity. This experience has changed my life.



Michael Levinstein and his family are active members of Temple Beth Jacob in Newburgh. Michael received the Jack & Jessica Blinkoff Youth to Israel Scholarship which covers the entire cost of his trip, not including spending money.



The Kotel above and the Red Sea at left.

*A trip your child will remember forever.*



## ISRAEL

...where they'll reinforce their Jewish identity, appreciate their homeland and its culture, and strengthen a connection with Israel that will last a lifetime.

Learn more about the Youth 2 Israel scholarships available for high school students through The Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County. The deadline to apply is January 31st.



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845-562-7860  [www.JewishOrangeNY.org](http://www.JewishOrangeNY.org)

**YOUTH TO ISRAEL  
SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE  
JANUARY 31ST**

**SUMMER CAMP  
SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE  
MARCH 31ST**

**DONT MISS OUT.  
APPLY NOW ONLINE  
[JEWISHORANGENY.ORG](http://JEWISHORANGENY.ORG)**

*Where in a summer can you build relationships that last a lifetime?*



## SUMMER CAMP!

We want your child to be one happy camper this summer!

Finances shouldn't keep your child from spending a summer at a Jewish camp - laughing, splashing, and being a part of a young thriving Jewish community of their contemporaries.

Go to [www.JewishOrangeNY.org](http://www.JewishOrangeNY.org) to get more information about camp scholarships available through Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County. The deadline to apply is March 31st.




The Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER ORANGE COUNTY

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845-562-7860  [www.JewishOrangeNY.org](http://www.JewishOrangeNY.org)




Where Jewish values and community meet exploration and educational excellence




## HEBREW DAY SCHOOL

Let your child experience an education like no other. At a Hebrew day school, they'll cultivate a love for learning, exploration and discovery in a community of caring, spirituality and tradition.

Visit [www.JewishOrangeNY.org](http://www.JewishOrangeNY.org) to learn more about the Hebrew day school scholarships available. The deadline to apply is April 1st.




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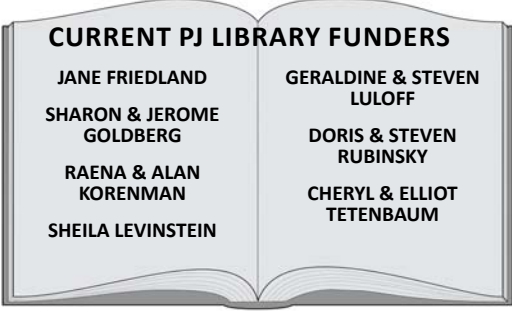
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- 89% of PJ Library community partners report they are more focused on outreach to families raising Jewish children since launching PJ Library.
- 80% of PJ Library families say they are now attending local Jewish community events, an increase from 21% three years ago.

**To date, nearly 225,000 families across North America have participated in PJ Library, representing an extraordinary level of Jewish engagement.**


*Thank you, PJ Library Families and community partners, for letting us know how PJ Library makes a difference in your lives.*



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**VISIT [www.jewishorangenyny.org](http://www.jewishorangenyny.org) or call 845-562-7860 for more information.**

Nearly **2/3** OF PJ LIBRARY FAMILIES ADDED OR ENHANCED JEWISH TRADITIONS AT HOME



**IF you have a child, 6 months to 8 years of age, and you live in Orange County, please go online to [www.jewishorangenyny.org](http://www.jewishorangenyny.org) and sign up for the PJ Library program. There is no cost or obligation to you.**


### HERE'S WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

**PJ Library transforms families raising Jewish children**

- 85% report that they discuss Jewish concepts or values from PJ Library books as a family.
- 73% say PJ Library creates opportunities for their children to ask questions about being Jewish.
- 58% say that PJ Library influenced their decision to build upon or add a Jewish tradition to their home life.
- 62% report that PJ Library has increased their family's positive feelings about being Jewish.

**PJ Library sparks connections between families and the Jewish community.**

- 67% of families cite PJ Library as helping them feel more connected to their local Jewish communities.



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OF GREATER ORANGE COUNTY  
*Building Our Jewish Community Together*

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ABOUT ENDOWMENTS

The Harold Levine Endowment Program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County currently has more than forty endowments and continues to grow, ensuring our beneficiary agencies the ability to continue to enrich our community's future and to be there to help Jews facing hardships here and abroad.

A legacy gift to the Harold Levine Endowment Program is your way to leave financial resources to Jewish institutions, enabling them to provide rescue, relief, support and educational services here and in 60 countries worldwide.

A philanthropic advisor from the Jewish Federation can be your partner in planning a legacy gift that is consistent with your other estate plans; or, you can contact a tax advisor or estate-planning attorney for information specific to your situation. To arrange for a confidential meeting, please contact Mark Fink at 845 782-7651.



# JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

## SPECIAL FEATURE



On Sunday, November 15th, a group of women who had committed to a gift of at least \$365 to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign ("A Dollar a Day"), were treated to a luncheon with Chef Rossi, author of *The Raging Skillet*. Recalling events in her life that took her from a youth of rebellious independence to life in the Lubavitch Hassidic community in Brooklyn and back to rebellious independence in the form of a chef, Rossi kept us laughing! With recipes like "Snickers and Potato Chip Casserole" and "White Trash but Keepin' it Kosher Tuna and Macaroni Salad" her book gives one a real peek into the warm, crazy, hilarious and talented human being who entertained us.



Running into the kitchen as soon as she arrived at my house...about half an hour before guests were to arrive...Chef (the name she prefers) immediately rolled up her sleeves and began to help Joyce Waschitz and Abbe Distelburger put the final touches on a delicious luncheon which had been prepared by Susan Notar using recipes from Chef Rossi's book. Every woman in attendance had a chance to speak with Chef personally during our family-style luncheon and we all received

autographed copies of her book. All in all it was a wonderful day for our generous donors and for our Federation.

*Mona Rieger, past president of the Jewish Federation, is a member of Temple Beth Jacob in Newburgh.*



**ARLENE ALDA - "Just Kids From the Bronx" at the Monroe Temple on September 20th.**



**DAN EPHRON - "Killing A King" at Kol Yisrael on October 10th.**



**MORDECHAI DZIANSKY - "Terrorist Cop" at Monroe Temple on November 1st.**



**Rebecca Ann Alexander - "Not Fade Away" Sunday, January 24th, 2PM at Kol Yisrael**

Born with a rare genetic mutation called Usher Syndrome type III, Rebecca Alexander has been simultaneously losing both her sight and hearing since she was a child, and was told that she would likely be completely blind and deaf by age 30. Then, at 18, a fall from a window left her athletic body completely shattered. Her book is both a memoir of the senses and a unique look at the obstacles we all face; physical, psychological, and philosophical, exploring the extraordinary powers of memory, love, and perseverance. It is a gripping story, an offering of hope and motivation, and an exquisite reminder to live each day to its fullest. Suggested donation \$10.



**Elissa Altman Sunday, February 28th 2PM at Temple Sinai**

Writer of *PoorMansFeast.com*, Elissa Altman is the winner of the 2012 James Beard Award for Individual Food Blog. A food and cookbook editor and writer, her work has appeared in *Saveur* and *The New York Times*, on *Gilt Taste* and *The Huffington Post*, and has twice been selected for inclusion in *Best Food Writing*. She lives in Connecticut with Susan Turner and a small herd of animals. Her book is *Poor Man's Feast: A Love Story of Comfort, Desire, and the Art of Simple Cooking*. Suggested donation \$10.

# JEWISH FOOD EXPERIENCE OFF TO A GREAT START

## SPECIAL FEATURE

On November 5th I had the pleasure of attending the "Sprouting for Life" workshop, sponsored by the Jewish Federation and presented by Harley and Alyse Matsil. The Matsils are the owners of Perfect Foods Inc., America's Premier Wheatgrass Growers. The workshop was well attended by sprout enthusiasts who were eager to soak up all the interesting facts about how to germinate and sprout right at home.

What seemed like a somewhat daunting project was made clear and simple under the expert tutelage of the Matsils. We discovered which sprouts could be germinated in water and which ones needed earth. Aaron Matsil showed us how to germinate and grow wheat grass, a "super food," and they had an assortment of already grown and delicious sprouts for all of us to taste such as alfalfa, lentil, mung bean, sunflower and chickpea. A great time was had by all, and I'm happy to say that the wheat berries we planted that night grew beautifully right on my window sill. Mmmm I feel healthier already!

*Karen Celidonio and her family live in Highland Mills and are members of Congregation Eitz Chaim in Monroe.*



Harley and Alyse Matsil with Jerome Spector.



On Monday evening, November 16th, 40 lucky Jewish community members were treated to a special Jewish Food Experience at Allan's Falafel in Chester, sponsored by the Jewish Federation. With the expectation that we were going to make falafel and other Israeli dishes, we all were pleasantly surprised when Alan and Tatyana presented the group with an amazing buffet of delicious delicacies from his menu. We got to taste hummus and pita, falafel (of course!), grape leaves, two different Israeli salads, among many other items. The dining room was filled with people from all over Orange County who enjoyed the food, the ambience and the company. Alan's Falafel is located on Main Street in Chester, offering authentic Israeli food.

*Marsha Sobel is a past president of the Jewish Federation. She and her family live in Newburgh and are members of Temple Beth Jacob.*



LOCAL  
SYNAGOGUES

These are the synagogues that serve greater Orange County’s thriving Jewish community. To help you find the congregation that best suits your lifestyle, we have provided a brief overview. For more detailed information, we invite you to contact each synagogue directly.

Ahavas Torah Congregation

Location: Monroe  
Phone: 845-783-7565  
Affiliation: Orthodox

Congregation Agudas Israel

Location: Newburgh  
Phone: 845-562-5604  
Affiliation: Conservative  
congregationagudaisrael.org

Congregation Beth Hillel

Location: Walden  
Phone: 845-778-7374  
Affiliation: Conservative  
congregationbethhillel.org

Congregation B’nai Torah

Location: Greenwood Lake  
Phone: 845-477-3716  
Affiliation: Conservative  
bnaitorahgw.org

Congregation Eitz Chaim

Location: Monroe  
Phone: 845-783-7424  
Affiliation: Conservative  
eitzchaim-monroe.org

Monroe Temple of  
Liberal Judaism

Location: Monroe  
Phone: 845-783-2626  
Affiliation: Reform  
monroetemple.org

Temple Beth El

Location: Port Jervis  
Phone: 845-856-1722  
Affiliation: Conservative  
templebethelpjny.org

Temple Beth Jacob

Location: Newburgh  
Phone: 845-562-5516  
Affiliation: Reform  
tbjnewburgh.org

Temple Beth Shalom

Location: Florida, NY  
Phone: 845-651-7817  
Affiliation: Reform  
tbsny.org

Temple Sinai

Location: Middletown  
Phone: 845-343-1861  
Affiliation: Conservative  
templesinaimiddletown.com

THIS YEAR, A DEEPER CHANUKAH

BY RABBI GARRY LOEB  
PRACTICAL RABBI

8 Ideas for the 8 Nights

Is it “early” or “late” this year? We’ll be lighting the 1st candle on Sunday night, December 6th! But Chanukah isn’t about “early or late.” It’s about religious freedom. It’s about light in the darkness. It’s about traditions – ancient and newish. It’s about family and community and individuals. It’s latkes, sufganiyot (jelly donuts), dreidels, candles. It’s about love and pride. It’s about the joy of sharing.

Here are eight things to do this year to add to your celebration.

1st Night – (or before!) We Jews understand that we are part of a larger community. Wrap up a Christmas gift for a needy child and drop it off at a collection site. (Note whether for male or female and age-level).

2nd Night – Stage a major-league dreidel tournament. Buy new dreidels! Use fun stuff to bet with (chocolate gelt! Jelly beans!...) Official Rules included here!

3rd Night – Call the oldest member of your family to wish them a happy Chanukah. Ask that person about Chanukah memories from years ago.

4th Night – On Chanukah we recall the legend of the oil and we kindle lights. Let’s translate that into thoughts about energy use in our own time, especially as concerns about climate change rise! Replace those wasteful light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Go from room to room and while you’re at it, think about other ways to be conservation-conscious this winter.

5th Night – Chanukah is partly about the reestablishment of Jewish independence in our ancient homeland. What connections do you have to that homeland today, the modern state of Israel? Skype with family or friends there and compare celebrations. Open a bottle of Israeli wine (to go with your latkes!)

6th (or other) Night – Come to your annual synagogue Chanukah celebration! Bring your menorah and candles. Sing and celebrate with your Jewish community and experience that “oooooooooooo” moment!

7th Night – Invite friends/family to dinner. Have each bring their own latkes and have a latke-tasting! Debate the best topping: sour cream! applesauce! Nutella! jalapenos! Everyone’s a winner!

8th Night – Count up your tzedakah money and send a multiple of “chai – life” (\$18) to a worthy cause. This year especially, think of those around the world whose lives have been disrupted by war. You can help!

(Semi-) Official Dreidel Rules...SAVE FOR NEXT YEAR

The dreidel’s letters, nun, gimmel, hay & shin make an acronym for “Nes gadol haya sham – a great miracle happened there.”

1. Start with everyone putting in one piece of chocolate gelt, Jelly beans, pennies, etc.
2. Spin the dreidel! When the dreidel stops, the letter facing up tells you what to do: (from the Yiddish)  
Nun (Nisht) – do nothing                      Gimmel (Ganz) – take all!  
Hay (Helb) – take half                      Shin (Shtel) – put one in
3. Enjoy and good luck!

From our home to yours, best wishes for a Chanukah of light!



Garry Loeb, pictured with his wife, Sorrel, is a rabbi, teacher, storyteller and puppeteer at Temple Beth-El, The Monroe Temple of Liberal Judaism.

Sadly, Rabbi Loeb will be retiring in June 2016. He will be missed throughout the community!



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