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Building Our Jewish Community Together

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



# מצווה גוררת מצווה...ONE GOOD DEED WILL LEAD TO ANOTHER

SPECIAL FEATURE

# Mitzvah Day is Sunday, May 4th, with a project for everyone!

This community-wide day of service offers volunteers of all ages, with loving hands and willing hearts, an opportunity to go out and make a difference. Listed below are the projects we have lined up. Simply choose one, go online to www.jewishorangeny.org, and complete the registration form. No registration is necessary for drop-off projects. If you wish, you may call the Federation office, 845-562-7860, to let us know what you can do. We also need Project Captains to help coordinate at each location.

# KICK OFF YOUR DAY WITH BRUNCH: 9:30AM AT TEMPLE SINAI, MIDDLETOWN

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE -** 10AM to 3PM at Temple Sinai, 75 Highland Ave., Middletown. You must either register online at www.redcrossblood.org or call Debbie Sanford at 845-561-6602 for an appointment.

**"BE THE MATCH" BONE MARROW DRIVE** - 10AM to 3PM at Temple Sinai. If you are between 18 and 60 and in general good health, you are eligible to be screened and join the nationwide registry for patients in need of stem cells or bone marrow. The test is a simple cheeck swab. More information can be found at www.giftoflife.org.



| AGENCY / TYPE                      | DESCRIPTION  | TIME  | AGES   | LOCATION   |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| PEOPLE TO PEOPLE                   |  |   |  |  |
| ELANT                              | making corsages for<br>Mother's Day                          | 2:30PM-4PM  | children must be accompanied by an adult       | 46 Harriman Dr., Goshen                          |
| ANIMAL PROJECTS                    |  |   |  |  |
| PETS ALIVE                         | cat/dog food, toys, treats, towels, blankets & clean up      | 10AM-4PM come when-<br>ever, stay as long as you like | children must be accompanied by an adult       | 363 Derby Rd., Middletown                        |
| WALDEN HUMANE<br>SOCIETY           | cat/dog food, blankets,<br>towels, cat litter & clean up     | 11AM-2PM come when-<br>ever, stay as long as you like | children must be accompanied by an adult       | 2489 Albany Post Rd.,<br>Walden                  |
| DROP OFF<br>COLLECTIONS            |  |   |  |  |
| 1st PRESBYTERIAN<br>CHURCH         | paper goods, deoderant,<br>powdered milk, detergent          | 10AM-2PM  | drop off only                                  | 142 Stage Rd., Monroe                            |
| HEAD START                         | school supplies, juice boxes, snacks (crackers, raisins etc) | 10AM-2PM  | drop off only                                  | Temple Beth El, 88 E. Main St., Port Jervis      |
| ST. MARY'S PARISH                  | household & clothing items                                   | 1PM-5PM   | drop off only                                  | 180 South St., Newburgh                          |
| NEWBURGH JCC                       | supermarket gift cards                                       | 10AM-12PM   | drop off only                                  | 290 North St., Newburgh                          |
| TOWN/MONTGOMERY<br>FOOD PANTRY     | non-perishables, paper goods, etc.                           | 9AM-12PM  | drop off only                                  | Congregation Beth Hillel,<br>20 Pine St., Walden |
| OUTSIDE                            |  |   |  |  |
| JEWISH FAMILY<br>SERVICE CAR WASH  | proceeds benefit camp for children with special needs        | 11AM-2PM  | have your car washed OR volunteer to wash cars | location to be announced                         |
| WINSLOW THERUPTIC<br>RIDING CENTER | clerical, planting & raking trails                           | 1PM-3PM   | children must be accompanied by an adult       | 1433 Rt. 17A, Warwick                            |
| GOMEZ MILL HOUSE                   | cleanup w/free lunch   | 10AM-1:30PM   | children must be accompanied by an adult       | 11 Mill House Rd.,<br>Marlboro                   |
| 1st PRESBYTERIAN<br>CHURCH         | bring rakes for yard work, report to Pastor Alex Weaver      | 12PM-2PM  | children must be accompanied by an adult       | 142 Stage Rd., Monroe                            |





Vol. 16 No. 1 • Spring-Summer 2014 NISAN-AV 5774 Jewish Federation of **Greater Orange County** 292 North St. 2nd Floor Newburgh, N.Y. 12550 845-562-7860

### www.JewishOrangeNY.org

PRESIDENT: Abbe Distelburger 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 Web site, JewishOrangeNY.org

WE ARE ONE does not accept ads or copy that we perceive to be anti-Semitic, anti-Israel, Holocaustdenying 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 Web site, 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.



# **CONFRONTING ANTI-SEMITISM**

BY ABBE DISTELBURGER

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

s We Are One is only printed three times a year, it is quite easy to overlook things or not be as current and timely as we should be. Having said that, I realized just a couple of weeks ago, we had not had the appropriate follow up to the recent Anti Defamation League event. This event, originally scheduled for mid December in response to the anti-Semitism incidences in the Pine Bush Schools, had to be rescheduled for early January due to an all too frequent occurrence this winter—SNOW. I was concerned that the rescheduled date in January would not have a great turnout, thinking that the sense of urgency to react to all the publicity had diminished over time. Fortunately, the opposite occurred, and we were overwhelmed with participation. All told, over 350 Middle and High School students along with their parents attended the workshops held at Temple Sinai, The Monroe Temple of Liberal Judaism, and Kol Yisrael in Newburgh.

While some adults were critical of the program, Confronting Anti–Semitism, stating it was just too rudimentary, I think that we had to view this program through the lenses of our children. There is an obvious disparity in the maturity level of a 6th grader and a 12th grader, and my recommendation would have been to separate the Middle School and High School students into distinct groups, but the ADL could not provide that many facilitators. While the older students were much more vocal and participatory in the discussions, I still feel that there was a real value for everyone that attended. The facilitators reviewed terminology to include anti-Semitism, bigotry, bullying, defamation, and whether a comment was a joke or not. Students were given a guide for Taking a Stand against name calling and bullying which included suggestions for interrupting the name calling or bullying. Students were told that they should find allies in their schools, i.e. a teacher, nurse, guidance counselor, administrator, parents, etc. Students were also given suggestions on how to speak up if they feel that they are being stereotyped, such as asking a question as simple as "What do you mean?"

Families were also provided with some guidelines, starting with being proactive and letting your child know that you are approachable. I think how important this is as many children might be too embarrassed to discuss any incidences of bullying with their parents. Families were told to respond first to their child, and then develop a plan of action, with documentation, contacting witnesses, and talking to their Rabbi and the ADL. If parents were going to talk to a school administrator, suggested goals for that meeting were also outlined. One of the main points was that no family should feel that they are alone, as the ADL is there to assist.

One of our roles at Federation is to be the eyes and ears for our local Jewish community, responding to situations that impact our community. We are all acutely aware that the negative press about Kiryas Joel attempting to annex lands in the Town of Monroe as well as Shalom Lamm buying up properties and developing in Bloomingburg might continue to adversely affect us secular Jews. Federation, though, through our Community Relations Council and through the Civil Rights Commission, is remaining quite vigilant and proactive, as we want our Jewish Community to feel safe. We want our donors to know that we take pride in ourselves as an invaluable resource, and we are always just a phone call away in any situation.

### ABOUT ABBE DISTELBURGER



Abbe Distelburger grew up in Baltimore and moved to Orange County in 1985 when she married Joe, whose family were long time, active members of Temple Sinai. While Abbe has a B.A. in Biology from SUNY Albany, and a B.S. in Medical Technology from the University of Maryland, she has been a licensed Real Estate Broker since 1996 and currently works for Real Estate Solutions. She and Joe live in Goshen, belong to Temple Sinai, and are the proud parents of two grown children, Eric and Betsy, both currently residing in NYC.

ast summer, Marsha Sobel, Risa Neustadt and Joyce Waschitz traveled to Hebrew Union College in NYC, to attend JFOGOC's first Jewish Book Council meeting. Our representatives were able to attend this conference and bring authors to our community due the generosity of the Novig/ Neustadt families.



Our final event will feature author Gregory J. Wallance, who will discuss his book, "America's Soul in

Balance": The Holocaust FDR's State Department, and the moral disgrace of an American aristocracy. This program, funded by the Jewish Federation will be presented in conjunction with the Newburgh Jewish Community Center at Mt. St. Mary's College, 330 Powell Ave., Newburgh on April 27th at 2PM in memory of Yom Hashoah.

# SOLICITATION WITH A SMILE



SUPER SUNDAY was a huge success this year thanks to our wonderful family of volunteers. Pictures at left is Eric Blumenau of Temple Sinai.

Pictured on the right is Steve Rubunsky of Congregation Eitz Chaim.

A HUGE THANKS to them and all the others who come out each year to make calls!



# EXIT LAUGHING...OUR SEARCH FOR THE FUNNIEST **JEW IN ORANGE COUNTY**

ancy Levine was thrilled to participate in the Jewish Federation's contest, even though her children begged her not to. "That's just the kind of mother she is," stated one child.

Nancy is a graduate of the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University where she majored in theater. She spent many years doing off and off-off Broadway and toured throughout the country. Nancy also performed stand-up for several years in the metropolitan area, but stopped on April Fool's Day, 1995 when she was six-months pregnant with her first child, Joan.

Nancy is the owner of Laugh Out Loud Productions, where she brings

luncheon theater shows to the senior market in NJ and NY. She also uses the shows as fundraisers for synagogues and non - profits. Nancy lives in Highland Mills with Carlton, her wonderful and very patient husband of twenty years and her three children. Visit www.LaughOutLoudNY.com or call (845) 827-5574 to find out about upcoming shows. Nancy is pictured here flanked by the hilarious comedians Scott Baker and Al Isaacs who hosted and performed at the show.



# DIRECTOR'S CORNER: THIS WEEK WE GO WITHOUT BREAD... **EVERY DAY MANY GO HUNGRY**

BY JOYCE WASCHITZ

t the seder table we recline. But many have no bed. We taste bitter herbs. Others face grim

Every year at Passover we retell our history. Today, we ask you to help us mold our future. Become a part of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County.

When you make a gift to the Federation, you're fostering Jewish education, developing Jewish culture, inspiring young Jewish adults and forging personal ties with Israel. You're also helping the most needy men, women and children amongst us.

Did you know that there are thousands of Jewish households in America living below or near the poverty line? We're not used to thinking of Jews in this context, but it's true. Some of them are living right in our community.

And here's something else you might not have realized. The Jewish Federation touches more Jewish lives on the planet than through any other organization in existence. We impact them in countless ways. And by giving to the Federation — so do you.

Together, we impact the lives of thousands of other Jews living in poverty in Israel and in more than 70 countries around the world. We are a vital part of their safety net. In some parts of the world we're the only safety net. We have to ensure it's there for them. Your gift is an essential piece of that fabric.

Right now, your gift will also be helping the many families from Orange County to Ukraine who won't have enough food to eat during Passover or in the weeks and months ahead. Not without our aid. Not without you. There are Jewish families in our own community who have lost much during these harsh economic years. Your generous support and the support of other caring donors will enable many to celebrate and enjoy Passover.

And that's not all. By donating, you're supporting our collective future. You're helping to build a vibrant Jewish community at a very crucial time in our growth.

So before you open the Haggadah – please open your heart and your wallet and give to the Jewish Federation today. Call us at 845-562-7850 or go to www.JewishOrangeNY.org and donate now. Best wishes for a strong Jewish community and a sweet Passover.

PS: Your tax-deductible gift to the Jewish Federation will help build our Jewish future.

### **ABOUT JOYCE WASCHITZ**



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 33 years and have two children.

Stay in the loop with our weekly WE ARE ONE eNews Edition email blasts. We feature interesting news and upcoming events for the entire Orange County Jewish community.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

# FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS VISIT www.jewishorangeny.org

April 3: Sukkah City Adult Learning, 7:30PM at Temple Beth Jacob April 4: Tot Shabbat, 6PM at Temple Beth Shalom

April 4: Model Seder and Dinner, 6PM at Congregation Eitz Chaim

April 4: First Friday/Shabbat Hallelu, 7:30PM at Monroe Temple

April 4: Family Shabbat, 7:30PM at Temple Beth Jacob April 5: Comedy Night, 8:45PM at Temple Sinai

April 6: Youth Group Elections/Jr. Youth Group meeting, 10AM at

Temple Beth Shalom

April 6: Model Seder, 10:15AM at Congregation Beth Hillel April 6: Passover Wine Tasting, 12:30PM at Congregation Eitz Chaim

April 7: Sisterhood/WRJ Passover Program, at Monroe Temple Beth-El

April 8: Why Passover?, 10AM at Congregation Agudas Israel

April 8: How To Clean For Passover, 7PM, location TBA April 9: Lunch & Learn, 12:30PM at Bonura's Little Sicily

April 10: Book Discussion, 7PM at Congregation Agudas Israel

April 12: Comedy Night, 8:45PM at Temple Sinai April 12: Kadima Talent Show, time TBA at Congregation Eitz Chaim

April 15: Pesach Services, 9:30AM at Congregation Agudas Israel

April 15: Second-Night Seder, 5PM at Congregation B'nai Torah April 15: Sisterhood 2nd night, 5:30 at Seder Temple Beth Shalom

April 15: TBJ Second Night Seder, 5PM at the River Grill

April 16: Pesach Services, 9:30AM at Congregation Agudas Israel

April 20: Pesach Yizkor Service, 7:30PM at Temple Beth Jacob

April 21: Pesach Services, 9:30AM at Congregation Agudas Israel

April 22: Pesach Services, 9:30AM at Congregation Agudas Israel

April 24: Sisterhood/WRJ Movie Night, 6:30PM at Monroe Temple

April 26: Tot Shabbat, 9AM at Congregation Agudas Israel

April 26: Tot Shabbat 9AM at Temple Beth Jacob

April 26: Movie Night, 7:30PM at Congregation B'nai Torah April 27: Yom HaShoah service 10:15AM at Congregation Beth Hillel

April 27: Yom HasShoah Program, 7PM at Temple Sinai

April 27: Congregational Meeting, 1PM at Congregation Agudas Israel April 27: Yom Hashoah Program, 4PM at Congregation Eitz Chaim

April 30: Book Discussion, 7PM at Congregation Agudas Israel April 27: Siddur Program, 9:15Am at Congregation Eitz Chaim

April 27: Holocaust Remembrance Program, 1PM at the Florida Public Library

April 27: NJCC/Federation Holocaust Remembrance Program, 2PM at MSMC - Aquinas Hall

Send your email address to sharon@jewishorangeny.org. We never share your email address with anyone!

> April 30: Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh, 7PM location TBA April 30: Men's Club Wine Tasting, time TBA at Monroe Temple

**MAY 2014** 

May 1: NJCC Trip to Westchester Broadway Theater, "Ragtime"

May 2: Tot Shabbat, 6PM at Temple Beth Shalom May 2: NJCC Family Shabbat Dinner, 6PM at 290 North Street

May 2: Kosher Empty Nester Dinner, 7PM location TBA

May 2: Teacher/Staff Appreciation Shabbat 7:30PM at Monroe Temple

May 3: Tot Shabbat, 9AM at Temple Beth Jacob

May 3: Tot Shabbat, 9AM at Congregation Agudas Israel May 3/4: NFTY-GER Shul-in, 7PM at Temple Beth Shalom

May 4: Plant Sale, 9AM at Congrgation Eitz Chaim

May 4: Community-Wide Mitzvah Day, 9am-4pm

May 4: Mitzvah Day Breakfast, 9:30AM at Temple Sinai

May 4: Mentsch Makers Funday, 10AM at Monroe Temple Beth-El May 4: Health Fair, 2PM at Congregation B'nai Torah

May 4: Kadima Castle trip, time TBA at Castle Fun Center May 8: Book Discussion, 7PM at Congregation Agudas Israel

May 9: Teacher Appreciation, 7PM at Congrgation Eitz Chaim

May 9: Mother's Day Shabbat, 7PM at Congregation B'nai Torah

May 9: Testimonial to Jerry Goldberg, 6PM at Monroe Temple Beth-El

May 10: Sisterhood Shabbat, 9:15AM at Temple Sinai

May 11: Youth Group Blood Drive, 10AM at Temple Beth Shalom

May 13: NJCC Senior Lunch, 12PM at 290 North Street

May 18: Blood Drive, 8AM at Monroe Temple Beth-El

May 18: Annual Meeting/Breakfast, 9AM at Congregation Beth Hillel

May 18: Countywide Lag Ba'Omer Program, 9:30AM at Rosmarins Day Camp

May 20: Meet Miss Israel with the Federation, 7PM at The Rockleigh

May 24: Movie Night, 7:30PM at Congregation B'nai Torah May 26: Veterans' Memorial Day service, 8AM at Congregation Beth

Hillel cemetery May 28: Lunch & Learn, 12:30PM at Bonura's Little Sicily

May 28: Book Discussion, 7PM at Congregation Agudas Israel

# **JUNE 2014**

June 1: Celebrate Israel Parade, time TBA in NYC

June 1: Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh, 7PM location TBA June 3: Erev Shavuot Svc./Confirmation, 7:30PM at Monroe Temple

June 3: Shavuot Yizkor Service, 7:30PM at Temple Beth Jacob

June 4: Shavuot Services, 9:30AM at Congregation Agudas Israel

June 4: Shavuot Service/Yizkor, 10AM at Monroe Temple Beth-El

June 5: Shavuot Services, 9:30AM at Congregation Agudas Israel June 6: Tot Shabbat, 6PM at Temple Beth Shalom

June 6: Kosher Empty Nester Dinner, 7PM location TBA

June 6: First Friday/Shabbat Hallelu, 7:30PM at Monroe Temple

June 7: Tot Shabbat, 9AM at Congregation Agudas Israel

June 7: Tot Shabbat, 9AM at Temple Beth Jacob June 8: Sisterhood Annual Flea Market, 9AM at Congregation B'nai

Torah

June 8: Federation Annual Meeting, 10AM at Temple Sinai

June 8: Sisterhood Victorian Tea, 2PM at Sheila Ornstein's home

June 10: Jewish Family Service Annual Meeting, Temple Sinai June 12: Book Discussion, 7PM at Congregation Agudas Israel

June 14: SH/WRJ Vacation Bonanza, 8:30PM at Monroe Temple

June 25: Book Discussion, 7PM at Congregation Agudas Israel June 28: Movie Night, 7:30PM at Congregation B'nai Torah

June 29: Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh, 7PM location TBA

# **ONGOING:**

Torah Study - Saturdays, except April 19th, 9:30AM at Temple Beth Jacob

# **MAGICAL MASADA**

BY DARA BORDMAN

# JUMPING INTO LIFE

he trip to Israel that I took last summer was so amazing. Alexander Muss High School in Israel is a program that anybody would enjoy. The scholarship that I received from the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County made the experience possible, and for that I am extremely grateful.

Waking up at 3:00 in the morning to climb Masada was so cool. We ate a bagged breakfast while my friends and I talked about the meditation activity from the night before. When we finished eating we grabbed our belongings and headed for the mountain. We climbed up the snake path which was hard to do when you are tired at 4:00 in the morning.

We got to the top of the mountain and were given about 15 minutes to find a perfect spot to watch the sunrise. When the sun rose we all stood in awe and took pictures, vines, and other videos. I thought it was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen. The view of everything below us was so amazing, but at the same time it was really scary because I could see how high up we actually

After about 20 minutes of staring at the magnificent views, we went to an old enclosure without a roof and our teacher, Aubrey, explained that we would be spending 6 hours at the top of Masada and were going to be learning about King Herod and the Zealots. We studied the different areas of Masada that were used under Herod's rule. In the food storage areas, we received bags of nuts and dried fruit to represent the types of things that were stored there. We discussed the zealots on Masada and what they did when the Romans were close by. We found out that the Zealots were teaching their children about Judaism even while they were being threatened by the Romans. We traveled the Roman path built in order to reach the top of Masada. We discovered that unlike Herod, the Zealots rejected Hellenism and that their buildings were constructed to be useful, not just to look good. Finally, we learned that the Zealots chose to kill themselves rather than become slaves to the Romans.

We ended the day by going to the observation point on one side of the mountain top and yelled the phrases, "Masada will not fall again" and "I am Israel." As we listened to the words echo all atound us, we thought it amazing just how clear the sounds were.

I want to urge any High School teen to explore the possibilities of taking a trip to Israel next summer. The Jewish Federation has Scholarship opportunities for you, all you have to do is ask.



**DARA BORDMAN** attends Warwick High School. The Bordmans are active members of Temple Beth Shalom in Florida, where mom, Robin, is Sisterhood President and dad, Scott, is temple President. Younger brother, Max, is studying to be a Bar Mitzvah. Pictured above, I-r: Dara, friends, Rachel, Daniel and Jenna in an Israeli cave.



The 2013 PJ Library impact study "The People of the Book: An Evaluation of the PJ Library Program" is the largest known study of North American families raising Jewish children. The study surveyed more than 20,000 families.

While concern has risen that American Jews are losing interest in Jewish religion and culture, the PJ Library study shows a different story.

Through the simple gift of children's books and music delivered at no cost to hundreds of thousands of families every month, PJ Library has identified a new pathway to enhance Jewish identity, increase engagement in Jewish life, and contribute to a more vibrant North American Jewish community.

# 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.
- 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.

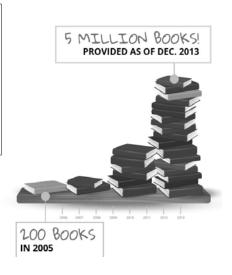
To date, nearly 225,000 families across North America have participated in PJ Library, representing an extraordinary level of Jewish engagement.

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

# CURRENT PJ LIBRARY FUNDERS JANE FRIEDLAND SHARON & JEROME GOLDBERG RAENA & ALAN KORENMAN SHEILA LEVINSTEIN GERALDINE & STEVEN LULOFF DORIS & STEVEN RUBINSKY CHERYL & ELLIOT TETENBAUM



IF you have a child,
6 months to 7 years of age,
and you live in Orange
County, please go online to
www.jewishorangeny.org
to sign up for the PJ Library
program. There is no cost or
obligation to you.



# SPOTLIGHT: JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF ORANGE COUNTY

BY STACY OCKO-LULKIN SPECIAL FEATURE

long with JFS Rockland and JFS Ulster, JFS
Orange is a proud recipient of a grant through the
Claims Conference (The Conference on Jewish
Material Claims against Germany). This program delivers
case management services, in home aide services and
occasionally, funds for special circumstances. We recently
had the opportunity to work with a couple, Gina and Sid.
Here is their story.

Sid, a veteran and Holocaust survivor, was having difficulties managing the stairs in his home. The couple was faced with the need to leave their home. Our case manager, Stacy Ocko-Lulkin was able to put many pieces together through the home assessment that she conducted. Stacy found a grant to help them install a stair lift and make bathroom modifications at no charge to the couple. She provided connections to help the couple with affordable, creative options to preserve their savings. Stacy also started Sid on the path to receiving Veterans Benefits. When assisting the couple to apply for applications for the Claims Conference, they discovered that proof of being a Holocaust victim was needed. All of Sid's

documentation was written in Hungarian. Sid could not offer support here as he is blind and Gina does not read Hungarian. Stacy found a translator to volunteer her services. Through this process, doors were opened for Sid to receive a pension from the German government with the possibility of additional services.

A note from the couple reads, "We would like to thank Jewish Family Service again for all your help assisting us. Without the wonderful help of your staff member, Stacy, we could not have remained in our home of more than forty years."

It's been such a gift to help Sid and Gina. If you know of someone who is a Holocaust survivor and could benefit from our support, please contact us at 845-341-1173 or slulkin@jfsorange.org.

### **ABOUT STACY OCKO-LULKIN**

Stacy Ocko-Lulkin is a case manager for Jewish Family Service of Orange County. She is part of the Safety Net Program, serving people with many different needs. She's worked for JFS for eight years and lives with her family in Florida, NY. Here, she is pictured with her dad, Sheldon.



# TOGETHER: JFS AND THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER ORANGE COUNTY MAKE A STRONG TEAM

SPECIAL FEATURE

would not exist today if not for the funding and support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County. JFOGOC founded JFS in 1977. JFS began as a committee of the Federation. Since then, JFS and the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County have been collaborating to serve those in need within our community.

Because of the incredible growth of JFS and the need to expand into the community at large in Orange County, JFS became its own entity but continues to work closely together with Federation. Each year the Federation provides significant targeted funding to JFS, enabling it to offer the community an array of Jewish and non-Jewish programs.

Programs of JFS, supported by Federation dollars include:

- Friendly Visitor Program volunteers provide services that include home visits, reassuring phone calls, transportation and grocery shopping
- Financial assistance for families in crisis
- Holocaust Survivor Services
- Support Groups, currently, for single parents
- Supermarket gift cards
- Case Management
- Yeladeinu a program serving Jewish children with special needs
- Kids Connect Day Camp a two week day camp for children with special needs, including Jewish and non-Jewish children

- Family Life Education Programs Roots and Lunch with Friends serving Jewish adults with developmental disabilities
- Affordable counseling for individuals, families and children

The services within these programs give people who are isolated a respite from loneliness, seniors access to a Shabbat service, Jewish families in need the necessary funds to get back on their feet, and so much more.

And, thanks to the ongoing funding and support by the Jewish Federation, JFS is able to assist and provide to more of the Jewish community and the community at large. Together, we promote a positive Jewish identity and empower those facing challenging times to live with dignity, hope and strength.

# **YOUTH TO ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS - 2014**

In 1987, Mrs. Jessica Blinkoff established The Jack N. Blinkoff Endowment Fund, in memory of her husband and in recognition of his lifetime commitment to Israel. Mrs. Blinkoff knew that a meaningful way to perpetuate this commitment was to create a permanent endowment that would provide scholarship money for young people needing financial assistance to participate in travel programs to Israel.

Mrs. Blinkoff believed that an Israel experience is an important part of a young person's overall Jewish education, one that will help them build a strong and meaningful Jewish life. In 1998, Mrs. Blinkoff decided to recognize one special teen by awarding one full scholarship for a summer program in Israel on the basis of financial need and merit. The scholarship covers 100% of the cost of the Israel trip, not including spending money. Mrs. Jessica Blinkoff passed away in August 2011.



We proudly announce this year's Jack N. and Jessica Blinkoff Scholarship winner is **Samantha Gottlieb**. Samantha will be going on a five-week educational and comprehensive tour of Israel focusing on building relationships and a deep appreciation of Israel. Samantha and her family live

in Chester, where Samantha is a 10th grade student at Chester Academy. The Gottliebs are active members of Temple Beth Shalom in Florida. Samantha's communuty service will be with the JFS Roots program, mentioned in the above article.

Other Youth to Israel scholarships were awarded to David Siorta and Darcie Sirota of Cornwall, Tyler Glick of Washingtinville, Benjamin Nakagawa of Walden, Chanel Shirazi of Monroe, Heidi Cowen of Newburgh and Rebecca Kelson of Newburgh. All of the recipients are required to complete fifteen hours of Jewish community service. They will all write articles like Dara's for upcoming issues of WE ARE ONE. We wish them all a safe and wonderful journey.



We Are One | Spring-Summer 2014 NISAN-AV 5774

# AN HONORABLE MENSCH

FROM AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY NORMAN HECHT CREATING A LIVING LEGACY

In September of 1938 Norman Hecht entered the Aguiltcural School at Cornell University, intending to major in Poultry Science. He soon met Lillian Strickman, from Liberty, NY, who was 1 year ahead of him at the Home Economics School. Lillian graduated in June of 1941, with a B.S. in Nutrition. Even though Norman had only completed three years, he decided to take some time off from college.

Norman's sister Helen was a plant Physiologist, who was working at the Pineapple Institute in the (then) Territory of Hawaii. Norman quizzed her about the condition of the poultry industry in Hawaii, and decided that he would go to Hawaii and set up a poultry farm there. He left Lillian and the United States in June 1941, and started setting up the farm. Six months later along came December 7, 1941. Bombs fell all around the farm, and plastered the Naval Air Station, 2 miles across Kaneohe Bay from the farm.

After the Japanese attack, all able bodied men in anticipation of the invasion that never materialized, were expected to serve in a sort of National Guard, and Norman served in the Oahu Volunteer Infantry, while continuing to run the farm.

Lillian and Norman stayed in touch, and in December 1943, she boarded a cement freighter in San Francisco, and sailed via convoy, to Hawaii. Lillian taught school at the Kaneohe Elementary School. On January 31, 1944 Lillian and Norman were married in Honolulu.

After the war Lillian was anxious to rejoin her family in New York. Norman decided he should return to Cornell, and complete his degree. In September 1946 they were living in Ithaca. Norman finished his BS in September of 1947, and they set up Hecht's Hatchery, at Scott Corners, in an old automobile showroom, and they lived in an apartment over the hatchery. Their son Stanley was born on December 7, 1947. He remained an only child, and noted his displeasure with that status when he married Marie (Miryam) in Los Angeles, and proceeded to have six children.

By 1952 the Hatchery had grown too big for the old premises, and the Hechts moved to Walden where they built a new Hatchery and home. That hatchery specialized in egg production stock, and soon was turning out about two million chicks a year, with sales from Virginia to Ouebec.

In Walden, Norman joined Meyer Jacobowitz in the Walden Jewish Charities, raising money for the UJA, United Jewish Appeal. After a few years Walden Jewish Charities came into the Federation system. Norman was elected to the Federation Board. He served as President of Federation from 1985-1987, and remained on the Board until his death in January of 2014.

Norman and Lillian stayed deeply committed to the aims and objectives of Federation, and a few years ago, named Federation as the beneficiary of an IRA, anticipating that after their deaths, the funds would pass on to the Federation. When the law was changed permitting the giving of IRAs to charities during the lifetime of the IRA owner, they decided to give the IRA to Federation then. In that way, they figured, Federation would have the use of the money then, to fund the programs that assist needy Jews and others, locally, nationally, and around the world. The Hechts had every confidence this was a good move, and recommended many others in similar circumstances follow suit.

Equally important to Norman was his active involvement in many charitable organizations, naming just a few:

- Member of the Board of Directors of Newburgh YMCA
- President of Congregation Beth Hillel, Walden
- President of the Wallkill Valley Lodge of Bnai Brith and the Hudson Valley Council of Bnai Brith
- Walden Jewish Charities
- United Jewish Appeal (which became the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County)
- Chairman of the Newburgh area Israel Bond Campaign

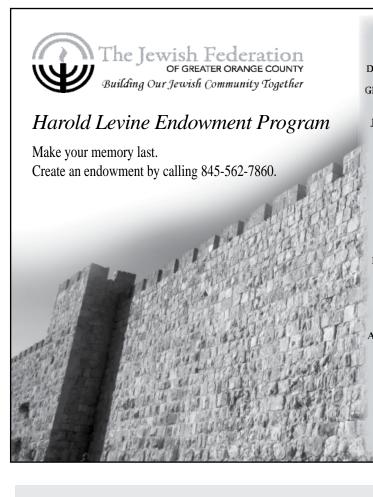
Lillian Hecht passed away on July 1, 2013. Norman Hecht passed away on January 10, 2014. They both will be sorely missed by their family, friends and all who were blessed to have known them.



### IN NORMAN'S OWN WORDS

The gift of an IRA has allowed us to set up an endowment fund to perpecuate our family name, and to support, in the future, the many fine services and programs of the Jewish Federation after we are no longer alive. In that way, we can support the aid that Federation furnishes to Jews and others in need-locally, nationally and worldwide. Current tax laws have permitted us to gift the IRA directly to Federation without incurring the tax liability of a distribution.





| EVELYN & MARVIN<br>ABRAMOWITZ     | LILLIAN & NORMAN<br>HECHT               | EDITH & EUGENE<br>MULLIN       |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
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| ORGIA & DR. IRVING<br>ANDERMAN    | JUNE & GERALD<br>KREISBERG              | PEARL & NATHAN<br>OLIVER       |
| ESSICA B. & JACK N.<br>BLINKOFF   | MARION R. &<br>LAWRENCE LEVIN           | PAUL ORNSTEIN                  |
| CELIA & BERNARD<br>BRICKMAN       | MARION RIDER LEVIN                      | EDNA & SHEPARD<br>PRYLUCK      |
| PEARL COHN                        | ESTHER & FALK<br>LEVINE                 | RACHEL & EMANUEL<br>REISER     |
| ROSE COHEN ANDREA DUBROFF         | FLORENCE & JACQUES<br>LEVINE            | PATRICIA & DAVID               |
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| CORENMAN FAMILY FRUDY & LEO FLAX  | HARRIET & JACK LEVY                     | LIBBY & MAT<br>SCHLEIFER       |
| THE GITTELSOHN FAMILY             | ALLA & BORIS LIPKIN DR. PAUL LIPSCHULTZ | CHARLOTTE & JOSEPH<br>SCHULHOF |
| LFRED GOLDBERGER                  | LORE & RABBI DR.<br>KURT METZGER        | GLORYA COVEL SMITH             |
| THE GUTTERMAN-<br>GOLDBERG FAMILY | SYLVIA & MURRAY MINTZ                   | ESTELLE & MORRIS<br>SPIVACK    |
| LESLIE A. HANDLER                 | GERTRUDE & DR.                          | HELEN & HAROLD<br>SURESKY      |
| ELLIS HECHT                       | REUBEN MOKOTOFF                         | FLORENCE & LEO<br>SUSSMAN      |

# **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.

# PREPPING FOR PASSOVER

BY DR. LESLIE GREEN, SUZY MERIN & DR. ELLEN SOLOMON COOK'S CORNER

Middletown, Dr. Leslie Green of Chester at Congregation Eitz Chaim in Monroe. But every four to six weeks, the three women and families come together to share Sabbath meals.

They rotate homes, along with a couple of other families, and the hostess is responsible for preparing the main course, assigning the appetizers, side dishes and desserts to others. "It's a special time to welcome the Sabbath with family and friends in the traditional way" says Merin. The dinners usually fall around a Jewish holiday and the table settings can range from casual to formal, but the Passover Seder is always a time of respectful celebration.

The Torah prohibits consumption of leavened food (in Hebrew, "Hametz") during the entirity of the Passove holiday, according to Rabbi Joel Schwab of Temple Sinai.

Jews do not eat bread, cake, cookies or any processed foods that might contain "Hametz," says Schwab. To fill in the gap, specially prepared "Kosher for Passover" foods become available in the month before the holoday; nowadays even cake and cookies that fulfill the Passover dietary requirements can be found. Matzo replaces the usual leavened bread and ground matzo, called matzo meal, substitutes for flour, he says.

Given the requirements, cooks are always looking for new, unusual and tasty additions to their holiday menu, especially with regard to desserts and side dishes. Merin enjoys preparing her mother's Chicken Soup and Matzo Balls in addition to an easy orange chicken or brisket. Solomon's Mandelbrot rounds out the menu along with Green's Vegetable Croquettes. All recipes presented here fulfill Passover requirements and can be prepared in advance.

### **HOLIDAY CHICKEN SOUP**

- 1 chicken, 3-4 pounds, cut up
- 4 carrots, cubed
- 2 parsnips, sliced
- 1 tomato, quartered
- 1 onion, whole
- 1 bunch parsley
- 2 teaspoons salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon sugar

Place chicken parts in a large pot; add water to cover plus 3 cups. Add vegetables and other ingredients. Simmer covered on low heat 2 to 3 hours, until chicken is tender. Leave carrots, parsnips and tomato as they are or remove, put through a strainer and add back. Serve with noodles, rice or kreplach. Best the next day or after freezing.

### **MATZO BALLS**

7 large eggs (may use half eggs and half beaten whites or egg substitute)

½ cup chicken fat (or vegetable oil)

½ cup club soda (or water)

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon minced onion
- 1 teaspoon parsley flakes

Dash white pepper

Dash ginger, nutmeg or cinnamon

½ to 1 cups matzo meal

Beat eggs; add the rest of ingredients, except the meal, and mix. Fold in meal. Refrigerate several hours. With wet hands, roll into balls. Drop in boiling water; cover immediately. Do not peek. Boil 1 hour on medium to medium-high heat. Make ahead of time and freeze on cookie sheet. When frozen, put in airtight container and return to freezer.



### **VEGETABLE CROQUETTES**

3 potatoes (peeled, boiled and mashed)

vegetable oil or olive oil (for pan)

2 small onions, finely chopped

1 cup thinly sliced mushrooms

 $\frac{1}{2}$  cups red peppers, finely chopped

4 carrots, grated

2 cups cleaned raw spinach, chopped

3 large eggs

1 cup matzo meal

Salt and pepper to taste

Saute the onions and mushrooms in oil for 3 minutes. Set aside. Saute peppers for 15 minutes. Set aside. In a large bowl, beat eggs. Add all of the ingredients at once, including onions, mushrooms and peppers. Mix well, and refrigerate overnight. Form individual patties. Fry croquettes in oil, about 4-6 minutes on each side. Or bake on greased baking sheet in a preheated 350F oven 10 minutes on one side; turn over and bake 8-10 minutes on the other side.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Leslie Green, Dr. Ellen Solomon, Suzy Merin



### **MANDELBROT**

2 cups sugar

½ pound margarine

6 large eggs

34 cup potato starch

2 3/4 cup matzo cake meal

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Variations: 6 oz. chocolate chips; 1 cup chopped nuts; jelly

Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray cookie sheets with Pam, Mix potato starch, matzo cake meal and salt together. Set aside.

In a large bowl, cream the sugar and margarine. Mix in eggs one at a time. Gradually add potato starch mixture. Blend well. Stir in chocolate chips or nuts, if using.

On cookie sheets, form into long flat loaves 3 to 5 inches wide and  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch high ( $\frac{1}{4}$  inch high if you will be filling them). If filling, spread jelly between two  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch high loaves. Top loaves with sugared cinnamon, if desired.

Bake 40-45 minutes or until lightly browned.

Remove from oven and slice loaves into  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick slices while still very warm. Place slices on their side on a cookie sheet; brown lightly on one side and then the other. Freezes well.



**Dr. Ellen Solomon** lives in Goshen with her husband Stephen and her children, Melissa, who is away at college and Daniel. Ellen is a dentist who has been practicing with her father, Dr. Gunther Goldsmith, in Middletown for the past 20 years. Ellen loves to cook and enjoys sharing meals with family and friends.

**Dr. Leslie Green** practices ophthalmology with Eye Physicians of Orange County. Leslie is married to Dr. Glenn Green, a retina specialist. They are the proud parents of Sarah, Michael and Beth.

**Suzy Merin** lives in Goshen with her husband, Lon. She's the proud mother of two daughters and is currently adjusting to "empty nesting." Suzy is a sales executive with Newton Mfg. and has been in the promotional products business for more than 10 years.

# 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: 783-7565 Affiliation: Orthodox

### **Congregation Agudas Israel**

Location: Newburgh Phone: 845-562-5604 Affiliation: Conservative congregationagudasisrael.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 bnaitorahgwl.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 tbinewburgh.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

# THE FAMILY GATHERS

BY RABBI JOEL SCHWAB PRACTICAL RABBI

number of years ago, I attended a retreat for the Board members of a Jewish organization, called to give us all a chance to know each other better. One of the icebreaker activities at this retreat involved each Board member declaring his/her favorite Jewish holiday, and in the subsequent discussion period that followed, each person was asked to explain why that holiday was preferred. Interestingly, almost every person there listed Passover as the favorite festival, and to a person they gave the same reason: because Passover is a time when the family gets together. The seder is a magnet that draws disparate relatives, from far and wide, to appear at the same table at the same time. But, I asked, doesn't all that prep time, the weeks of work getting ready, fill you with dread? The response? The effort to prepare for the seder, even the prodigious work involved in kashering one's house according to the traditional methods, not only does not detract from the anticipated joy of the holiday, it might even enhance that joy, for there is a pay off in family connectedness that results from focusing on the seder, and that seems to make Passover the most beloved of all Jewish holidays.

But then the seder is completed, Pesah ends and the family disperses back to their scattered locales. A mild depression could set in easily; the favorite day of the Jewish year has now passed. How can one cope with the aftermath of bidding farewell to the beloved Passover and the family that comes with the holiday?

May I suggest that the Jewish calendar immediately following Passover holds the antidote to that let-down. The period of time between Passover and Shavu'ot - the period known as s'firat ha-omer that connects the freedom we celebrate at Pesah with the receiving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai – is chock full of commemorations that connect us with our extended family, the Jewish people, while enhancing our Jewish souls.

Five days after the close of Pesah we mark Yom ha-Sho'ah, Holocaust Memorial Day. Established by the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, in honor of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, Yom ha-Sho'ah has become a day for us to gather our extended family, the Jewish people, for prayer, reflection and remembrance. While the Passover seder seeks to remind us of events that occurred a good 3,300 years ago and more, Yom ha-Sho'ah commemorations bring us together to recall the immediate past, one that changed the lives of many still living among us and continues to affect the lives of all of us who consider ourselves part of the Jewish family. Check with your local synagogue for the time and place of your community's Yom ha-Sho'ah commemoration.

A week after Yom ha-Sho'ah comes Yom ha-Atzma'ut, Israel Independence Day. Without doubt the most radical change in Jewish history since the destruction of the 2nd Temple almost 2,000 year ago, the re-emergence on the stage of history of an independent Jewish State has given our family, the Jewish people, an anchor in the world following the massacre of one-third of the world's Jewish population. Our rejoicing in the creation and continued existence of the State of Israel should bring us together with our extended family, our fellow Jews, with no less dedication than the rejoicing in the gathering of our immediate family does on Pesah. Anyone who has spent a glorious Sunday at the Celebrate Israel Parade knows the excitement and connectedness that one feels as one marches with groups from all over the American continent while being cheered by tens of thousands of one's fellow New Yorkers. Don't forget to sign up with Jewish Federation to march on June 1st up Fifth Avenue for the Israel Day Parade. The feeling of family in the air on that day rivals the emotions that one receives when sitting around the

Yom ha-Sho'ah and Yom ha-Atz-ma'ut are, of course, new additions to the Jewish calendar. There

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is one more ancient commemorative day during the 50 day s'firat ha-omer period, known as Lag B'Omer, the 33rd day of the omer period. A day of pure joy and outdoor fun, traditionally Lag B'Omer is celebrated with bonfires and shooting bows and arrows. For our Jewish family in Orange County, we will seize on Lag B'Omer as an opportunity for Jewish learning and outdoor activities for the entire community. On Sunday, May 18th, the Hebrew Schools of Orange County's synagogues will gather at Rosmarins Day Camp in Monroe for joint games and individual school closing ceremonies. At the same time, parents and other adults are invited to come to Rosmarins to study with the rabbis of our community, as each rabbi goes "Texting" by exploring a favorite text from our tradition. And then we will all get the chance to enjoy a community barbecue, put together by Jewish Federation. Put it on your calendars: Community Lag B'Omer gathering on Sunday, May 18th, 9:30AM to 12:30PM, at Rosmarins Day Camp, featuring school activities, adult learning and a delicious barbecue.

Pesah may be our favorite Jewish holiday because of the tradition of getting together with our family, but the opportunity to be with family – our extended Jewish family - to remember our past continues in the immediate aftermath of our Pesah celebrations. Yom ha-Sho'ah commemorations. the Israel Day Parade, and the county-wide Lag B'Omer gathering can fill our calendar with activities almost the equal of the seder. I look forward to seeing you often in the weeks ahead.

### **ABOUT RABBI SCHWAB**



Rabbi Joel Schwab has been the Rabbi at Temple Sinai in Middletown for over 30 years. He is on the Boards of Federation. Jewish Family Service and several others. He and his wife, Aviva, have two sons and five grandsons.

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