

Welcome TO OUR COMMUNITY!



Jewish Federation
OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

OUR MISSION

The mission of Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York is to build and maintain a strong and united Jewish community in order to ensure the creative survival and continuity of the Jewish people. It is the community's central agency for meeting Jewish needs and articulating Jewish concerns in the Capital Region, in Israel, nationally, and around the world.

WHAT WE DO

Jewish Federation gives continuity to Jewish values:

- Mutual respect and accommodation of diversity within Jewish life (Klal Yisrael)
- The requirement of righteous giving and just behavior that ensures the basic well-being of fellow human beings (tzedakah)
- The obligation to do good works, promote peace and understanding, and help the hungry, homeless, and oppressed (tikkun olam)
- Support of Israel, the democratic homeland for the Jewish people

Jewish Federation fulfills our mission by:

- Providing financial resources to help meet community needs—locally, nationally, in Israel, and around the world.
- Supplying educational resources for children and adults, educators and families.
- Working with the media, policy-makers, and other opinion-shapers on behalf of various community constituencies.
- Keeping the community informed about relevant current issues.
- Changing lives and giving people the opportunity for new experiences through programs and services.

OUR HISTORY

For more than 50 years, our local community has been served by Federation. United Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York was established in 1986 when the Greater Albany Jewish Federation consolidated with the Schenectady Jewish Federation. The Troy, Saratoga Springs, Clifton Park, and Glens Falls Jewish communities joined thereafter to make it a truly regional service agency.

Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York is a voluntary, not-for-profit association of contributors, organizations, synagogues, and agencies. It serves the needs of the Jewish community locally, nationally, and overseas through cooperative action and coordinated fundraising. It blends varying elements in the community into a strong and cohesive Jewish entity. Part of Federation's strength derives from the differing viewpoints that are represented and expressed among the thousands of people who participate. The objective has always been unity, not uniformity.

Today, with your help, Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York will continue to ensure a viable Jewish community in the Capital Region, in Israel, and wherever Jews are in need.

Our Federation initiated a strategic-planning process with the goal of identifying the needs, capacities, and priorities of the local Jewish community. The process was designed to engage a broad range of community members with diverse interests and concerns. This unified effort to develop a single set of priorities and related action steps has helped to establish the direction of Jewish Federation of NENY and its funded in-house programs.

LUNCH & LEARN

Throughout the year, Jewish Federation offers FREE workshops presented by scholars, experts, and Jewish professionals from outside our local community. Any member of a partner congregation or agency may participate.

Federation offers opportunities for continued learning and leadership-skills building.

COACHING

Jewish Federation is thrilled to be able to offer free coaching to each of our partner congregations and agencies. If you are looking to advance a project, goal, or career, and want some coaching, feel free to reach out to us and we will set up a session!

JOB SEARCH

While we are not a vocational or job-placement service, Jewish Federation of NENY has a job board and regularly updates our weekly email with new postings. Our staff also does all we can to help local employers and potential employees make a match!

ADDITIONAL CONCIERGE SERVICES

House/rental search, social connections, and connections within the local Jewish community are all included in our Community Concierge services that are available to the local Jewish community.

PRINCIPALS COUNCIL meets monthly to plan programming for the year, set a coordinated calendar, and discuss issues common to running schools.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR'S COUNCIL meets several times a year to discuss common issues and plan professional development opportunities for its teachers, keeping them in and helping with compliance of NYS regulations, sharing resources, and offering Judaic training.

TEACHER TRAINING & STIPEND/INCENTIVE FOR TEACHER TRAINING

Teacher training and professional development are offered several times a year. Additionally, there is an educator's stipend of up to \$400 available to attend conferences with Jewish content. Schools may also apply for subsidized professional development within their own settings.

ESHKOL PARTNERSHIP

Learn more or visit our partnership region! We have several initiatives to connect locals with Israel:

- Living Bridge Initiative
- Adult & Teen Missions



INCLUSION

The Jewish community of the Capital Region's Whole Community Inclusion engages people with special needs and their families and supports their abilities to access a range of Jewish experiences and opportunities from early childhood through and into the transition to adulthood.

Whole Community Inclusion focuses on:

- Joining together to learn, discuss, and educate.
- Creating community activities that are accessible to all families.
- Empowering congregations and organizations to more effectively include and support individuals with special needs and their families through workshops, trainings, and consultation.
- Providing a forum for parents, educators, and Jewish communal leaders to share best practices and raise the level of awareness, so that all aspects of the Jewish community become inclusive for all who desire to be a part of it.

PJ LIBRARY

Our local PJ Library subscription age range is six months old through 11 years old. Our goal is to provide the gift of PJ Library and PJ Our Way to all families raising Jewish children.



A PJ program professional frequently attends pre-school or Hebrew-school open houses and/or participates in many family programs or events. This also includes local summer-camp programs, in-school programming, and synagogue-based events. These services are a gift to the community from Jewish Federation.

NEXTDOR

NextDor: The next generation of leadership is the Young Adult Division of Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York. The name, NextDor, reflects



The Next Generation of Leadership

our desire to create a lasting commitment among Jews 22-40 to ensure the future of our Jewish community. We believe that by creating a culture of engagement, we cultivate an active and vibrant Jewish community locally and allow for the empowerment of tomorrow's Jewish leaders everywhere.

NextDor events and activities include community-wide programming, social events, Israel advocacy and education, and lectures. NextDor coordinates clusters based on life stage and interest.

Clusters include:

- JSCD: Jewish Singles of the Capital District is the only exclusively Jewish singles programming for adults ages 22-40 in the Capital District. If you are looking to meet your match, why not try here!
- Network NextDor: Networking, learning, exploring Jewish identity, and socializing for adults ages 22-40; Kosher-wine tastings, brewery tours, and Torah on Tap for the adult beverage aficionados
- Philanthropy: Fundraising, leadership training, and high-end programming for emerging leaders younger than 40 who are BGS, Poms, and LOJs
- Arts and Entertainment: Theater, concerts, and gallery openings are all part of this cluster for the cultured 22-40-year-olds
- Family Cluster: Connects NextDor Jewish families with young children
- Outdoors: Combines Jewish principles and outdoor activities with environmental education
- Tikkun Olam: Works with local agencies to ensure the tenets of Tikkun Olam and G'milut Chasadim
- Shabbat Connections: Sign up to join or host a Shabbat meal with NextDor!
- LGBTQA Cluster: Fostering a welcoming Jewish community for LGBTQA Jews

CHAPLAINCY SERVICES

Jewish Federation Chaplaincy Services is the arm of Federation that reaches out to Jewish residents at nursing homes and assisted-living facilities in the greater Capital District. Rabbi Beverly W. Magidson (“Rabbi Bev”) coordinates chaplaincy staff and volunteers with activities or pastoral-care directors at the nursing homes, assisted-living and independent-living facilities covered by Chaplaincy Services.

Chaplaincy services:

- Visit long-term care facilities
- Train caring community or Reyt volunteers
- Provide materials for Shabbat table, High Holy Day abbreviated services, and Passover Seders designed with long-term-care residents in mind

LITERACY

Jewish Coalition for Literacy (JCL) has more than 200 volunteer reading coaches in Albany, Schenectady, and Troy city school districts who read each week with students in kindergarten through third grades. The program operates during the school year from September through June while school is in session. Each volunteer is paired with a teacher and works with two children for the entire school year. Once a week, the volunteer meets one-on-one with each child for 30 minutes and gives the child a book (provided by Jewish Federation) to take home and build a library of his/her own. The key to this program is the one-on-one relationship that helps to build a love of reading. A gift that lasts a lifetime.

TIKKUN OLAM VOLUNTEERS

Women from our community who are showing the true meaning of tikkun olam by repairing the world one project at a time!

TOV was created for women who are looking to become more involved in the community to actively participate in affecting change locally. TOV helps with a variety of social-action projects (both Jewish and secular) here in Northeastern New York. Many projects allow you to be a part of the great work of Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York and its partner agencies.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Community Relations department supports Jewish Federation's mission of Tikkun Olam—repairing the world—through its deep commitment to combat anti-Semitism and discrimination, clarify church/state issues, build bridges to the community, educate and advocate for Israel, heighten consciousness and remembrance of the Holocaust, maintain a harmonious Jewish community, and strengthen the Jewish community's relations with the general community.

Community & Interfaith Relations Programs & initiatives

- Annual security briefings for Jewish community agencies, synagogues, and institutions with the FBI, Albany Division, and local and state law enforcement are held.
- Teaching & Learning About Israel workshops for area public and private school teachers
- Annual Kristallnacht Interfaith Commemoration
- Promoting Inter-Religious Understanding & Combating Bigotry through Interfaith, Jewish-Catholic Dialogue, and Schenectady Interfaith Community programs
- Distributing the Jewish Holy Days and Festivals 3-Year Calendar to school districts throughout the region as a guide to scheduling with sensitivity to the needs of Jewish students and staff

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS & FRIENDS EDUCATION CENTER

For more than 30 years, the Holocaust Survivors & Friends Education Center has provided the upstate New York region with a wide variety of programs, servicing school districts in 13 counties, thousands of students, and the general public. Its mission is to focus on what led to the Holocaust, share survivor testimonies, and through education correlate, how racism, bigotry, and hatred can lead to genocide. The Center is dedicated to knowledge, remembrance, and action against prejudice today.

Center programs include:

- Presentations by survivors in schools and for organizations
- Select seminar on the Holocaust to assist teachers to develop teaching strategies
- Teaching & Learning about the Holocaust, a university-level course for teachers
- "Witness to History" video testimonies
- "Anne Frank in the World, Lessons for Today, and Lessons for Humanity Exhibitions"
- Anne Frank Children Appeal Bosnia
- Kristallnacht Interfaith Confronting Bigotry Annual Commemoration programs
- "French Children of the Holocaust Less for Humanity"
- Library and research center
- Holocaust Education publications

ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SAVINGS PROGRAM

Israel Experience Savings is a financial incentive program administered by Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York. Its purpose is to help provide Jewish youth with financial means to visit and study in Israel.

How does it Work?

A parent or other account guardian (e.g., grandparent) opens an Israel Experience Savings account by completing the registration form found at jewishfedny.org/israel-experience-savings-program and submitting an initial deposit into the account. The parent or account guardian must also be a donor of Jewish Federation of NENY (\$50 minimum annual contribution).

Each year that the family contributes to the savings account, Jewish Federation will match \$1.00 for every \$1.75 of your contributions up to \$100/year, for a \$1,000 lifetime maximum.

The savings account also earns a 5% bonus each year. The account balance is limited to \$5,000 over the life of the savings account. When a child is ready to take a trip to Israel, the account guardian provides trip information to Federation and Federation forwards the account funds directly to the trip provider. Understanding that other options might be requested, Israel Experience Savings funds may be used between the ages of 12 and 25.

JEWISH EXPERIENTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year Jewish Federation provides scholarships to enable area children (through college) who otherwise might not be able to participate in Jewish experiential programs such as sleep-away camp, summer travel, year in Israel, conventions, Kinnus, and leadership training. All decisions are based on financial need and special circumstances.

Additionally, Federation provides funding to eligible local day camps, as such, interested students should apply directly to these camps for scholarships.

Academic scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students are also available.