

ROCKLAND COUNTY, NEW YORK

# Synagogues

2017-2018



Jewish Federation  
& Foundation  
OF ROCKLAND COUNTY



In conjunction with the  
ROCKLAND COUNTY BOARD OF RABBIS

# Beth Am Temple

[www.bethamtemple.org](http://www.bethamtemple.org)

*Rabbi: Daniel Pernick*

*Cantor: Marcy Kadin*

*President: Stephen Cohn*

*Educator: Rachel Markowitz*

*Cantor Emerita: Geri Zeller*



Our Reform temple, which warmly embraces Jewish tradition, has been serving the Jewish communities of Rockland and Bergen counties since 1963. Our name, which means “House of the People,” reflects the value we place on every temple member.

Led by Rockland’s longest-serving, non-Orthodox rabbi, Rabbi Daniel Pernick, as well as Cantor Marcy Kadin and Cantor Emerita Geri Zeller, we strive to keep our Jewish traditions fresh and meaningful. Our fully-transliterated prayer book makes worship accessible to all.

Our goal is to provide a spiritual and supportive home for congregants of varying lifestyles and backgrounds. Our sanctuary bimah features a wall of Jerusalem stone, reflecting the Jewish tradition of praying while facing Jerusalem. Our warm and *heimish* congregation offers spirituality, creativity and many opportunities for adult learning.

Our commitment to community means that we treat all members equally; we have no reserved seating for any service. While our Religious School students lead the entire service on their Bar/Bat Mitzvah day, the focus of our K-12 school is providing a well-rounded Jewish education for one’s entire life, not just for one day.

Most of our b’nai mitzvah continue their Jewish education in our Hebrew High School. We are also proud to offer “Keshet,” our special-needs Religious School program. We are very focused on Social Action, Youth Programming and Adult Education. We love to travel and just completed a congregational trip to Cuba and are taking our ninth trip to Israel in the summer of 2018.

Beth Am Temple is committed to transmitting the Jewish values of God, Torah and Israel. We are a warm and welcoming community for Jewish and interfaith families, couples and singles. People constantly tell us that we are a wonderfully-unique congregation. We invite you to get to know us.



**Beth Am Temple**

P.O. Box 1200

60 East Madison Avenue

Pearl River, NY 10965

Phone: (845) 735-5858

Email: [info@bethamtemple.org](mailto:info@bethamtemple.org)

# Congregation Shaarey Israel

[www.congshaareyisrael.org](http://www.congshaareyisrael.org)

*Rabbi: Elchanan Weinbach*

*Cantor: Menachem Bazian*

*President: Jonathan Meister*

*Education Director: Yocheved Weinbach*



Congregation Shaarey Israel – “Where Tradition Meets Innovation” – is dedicated to enhancing your family’s Jewish religious experience. We are a warm, welcoming Traditional congregation where lifelong friendships are made and cherished, and where you will find support and participation in all your lifecycle events.

We love children! Our religious school for children 5 to 13 is led by Yocheved Weinbach, recognized throughout Rockland County as an outstanding educator. Our custom-designed immersive curriculum of Torah, Hebrew language and Jewish culture connects children to their heritage and excites them to come every week. Rabbi Weinbach personally trains every bat/bar mitzvah and guides their chosen mitzvah project.

We have morning and evening minyan every day. Our “user-friendly” Shabbat

and holiday services begin at 8:45 a.m., with Torah reading at 9:45, and Cantor Bazian leads our inspirational singing. Services are followed by a sumptuous Kiddush luncheon.

Programming is our middle name! We offer an active Sisterhood, Men’s Club and a large variety of educational, social and cultural programs for adults and children. We participate in AIPAC conventions and proudly march in the annual Celebrate Israel Parade.

Our beautiful building is conveniently located off exit 14B on the Thruway and is adorned with authentic Jerusalem stone and exquisite art.

Come join us for Shabbat or any of our activities. Call Rabbi Weinbach to learn more about how your family can be nurtured by our synagogue. Let us show you how we can enhance your Jewish present and your family’s Jewish future.



## Congregation Shaarey Israel

18 Montebello Road

Suffern, NY 10901

Phone: (845) 770-4191

Email: [rabiweinbachcsi@gmail.com](mailto:rabiweinbachcsi@gmail.com)

# Congregation Sons of Israel

[www.csinyack.org](http://www.csinyack.org)

*Rabbi: Ariel L. Russo*

*Cantor: Michael Kasper*

*Hebrew School Director: Suzanne Strichartz*

*Office Manager: Helaine Ripps*

*President: Isabel Hershkowitz*



**C**ongregation Sons of Israel is all about **Community**. In Nyack for over 125 years, we encourage and nurture a culture of acceptance, individuality, and inclusiveness. We are small, united, strong and we have ownership of our fully egalitarian, Conservative congregation. We embrace the meaning of big tent being truly comfortable with the diversity of American Jewry.

We are traditional, intermarried, ethnically diverse, LGBTQ, and families with special needs. If you are looking for a fully accepting, warm, and wholesome house of worship, CSI Nyack is it!

We invite you to learn about our innovative student-centered Hebrew school. We are the only synagogue in Rockland offering Saturday morning as our core day of Hebrew school.

We are proud of our Hebrew school's inclusion practice which honors the child according to individual needs. Our family programs are geared to different ages from Friday night Musical Family services, to Tot Shabbat and holiday programming.

Our award-winning adult education programs includes visiting scholars and on-going classes. Our 20s/30s/40s group, "Jews on the Hudson," combines socializing with social action. Our Habonim group caters to congregants in their 50s and older who continually seek out cultural and social opportunities. Our Sisterhood and Men's Club are vibrant, multigenerational, very active, and engaged. We are enormously proud

of "Our Men Who Cook" and our weekly Kiddush is the envy of the town! Visit us. We have something for everyone.

To learn more, reach out to Rabbi Ariel Russo: [csirabbi@optonline.net](mailto:csirabbi@optonline.net) or 845-358- 3767.

1891 **126** 2017

**CONGREGATION  
SONS of ISRAEL**

Celebrating Community in the Nyacks

**Congregation Sons of Israel**  
300 North Broadway  
Upper Nyack, NY 10960  
Phone: (845) 358-3767  
Email: [csioffice@optonline.net](mailto:csioffice@optonline.net)

# Montebello Jewish Center

[www.montebellojc.org](http://www.montebellojc.org)

*Rabbi: Joshua S. Finkelstein*

*Cantor/Educational Director:  
Michelle Rubin*

*President: Dr. Alan Plumer*



**M**ontebello Jewish Center, an egalitarian synagogue, affiliated with the Conservative movement, prides itself on its warm multi-generational community of individuals and families from all over the Rockland, Bergen, and Orange County area.

We provide a vibrant, participatory, inspiring setting in which our congregants create a home for learning, camaraderie and growth. We offer innovative educational opportunities for our youngest members through our outstanding Religious School, led by Cantor Michelle Rubin. Our B'nai Mitzvah students are full participants in services. Post B'nai Mitzvah students are kept interested, socially and educationally, with our outstanding Youth Groups. Our young families are engaged in social and community development through our Young Couples Club; other arms of the synagogue provide opportunities for further engagement and growth.



We are a congregation that is always there for each other. We are proud to see ourselves as a congregational family, constantly searching and learning together to improve our lives and the world beyond the walls of our sanctuary.

Our community is welcoming to everyone. It is a place for people of all sexual orientations, backgrounds and knowledge. We welcome interfaith families and those searching for their place in the Jewish community. We are a congregation who loves to sing, laugh, and learn with people we have known for years and those whom we have just met.

We are excited to welcome Rabbi Joshua S. Finkelstein as our new rabbi, and look forward to a rewarding partnership for many years to come.

We look forward to meeting you!



## **Montebello Jewish Center**

34 Montebello Road  
Montebello, NY 10901  
Phone: (845) 357-2430  
Email: [office@montebellojc.org](mailto:office@montebellojc.org)

# Nanuet Hebrew Center

[www.nanuethc.org](http://www.nanuethc.org)

Rabbi: Paul Kurland

Cantor: Barry Kanarek

Educational Director: Tamar Luscher



Nanuet Hebrew Center is recognized as one of the first synagogues in the NY metro area to change its traditional membership dues to a self-directed (voluntary commitment) pledge structure. After several years in place, we couldn't be more pleased. The new pledge structure has enabled our synagogue to be more open, inclusive and welcoming to all, regardless of financial or personal situation.

Nanuet Hebrew Center, centrally located in Rockland County just off exit 10 of the Palisades Parkway, has a rich history of serving the greater Rockland community. What sets us apart is that *we are large enough to serve you, while still being small enough to know you.*

We are a multi-generational, egalitarian Conservative Jewish center, affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Jewish Federation of Rockland and Big Tent Judaism / Jewish Outreach Institute. We are actively



welcoming to families and individuals of all backgrounds. This includes the unaffiliated, intermarried families and LGBTQ community. Regardless of your background, our doors are open and we encourage you to join us.

Nanuet Hebrew Center's religious school offers an innovative curriculum from our free kindergarten program up through Bar/Bat Mitzvah age. We also offer USY and Kadima Youth Groups, ATID Hebrew High program (for 8th – 12th graders), adult education, weeknight and Sunday morning minyan, Sunday evening minyan, and Shabbat and holiday services.

We invite you to join us for our services and programs; and, if you are

not familiar with our beautiful Shul, we encourage you to visit us for a tour. We also welcome you to join us for a Shabbat meal.

Visit us at [facebook.com/nanuethc](https://facebook.com/nanuethc), and become a part of our extended family. You are always welcome at Nanuet Hebrew Center. *Your Synagogue Home.*



**Nanuet Hebrew Center**

411 South Little Tor Road

New City, NY 10956

Phone: (845) 708-9181

Email: [office@nanuethc.org](mailto:office@nanuethc.org)

# New City Jewish Center

[www.newcityjc.org](http://www.newcityjc.org)

*Rabbi: David Berkman*

*Rabbi: Jeremy Ruberg*

*Cantor: Hal Rifkin*

*Educational Director: Lynne Diwinsky*

*Jackie Binstock, Early Childhood Center Dir.*

*Lori Rutcofsky, Director of Family & Youth Programming*



**N**ew City Jewish Center is a traditional, egalitarian Conservative synagogue located near Main Street in the heart of New City. Over the past fifty years, NCJC has grown into a large community, providing a variety of programs, services and activities for children and adults of all ages.

We are proud of our beautiful Early Childhood Center facility, which is a fully licensed, full day preschool program with before and after care. The NCJC ECC strives to incorporate the best practices in early childhood education, integrated with our Jewish values, practices, ritual and Hebrew language. Additionally, we offer a full array of family experiences including our monthly “M&M Shabbat” which attracts families from across the area.

NCJC is also proud of our strong Hebrew School program which provides our children with a solid foundation of Jewish knowledge while instilling a love of being Jewish. Our diverse faculty conveys a deep love of Judaism while giving students the tools necessary to become knowledgeable participants in the Jewish community. Moreover, our Youth Community programming makes the synagogue not just a place to pray, but also to play! Kids enjoy hanging out in our spacious Youth Lounge or playing on our fun playground.

As a spiritual home NCJC is proud to offer daily services both morning and evening throughout the year and is open to all from the community.

We hope you will consider making New City Jewish Center your home too. Call the office for more information, check us out online at [Facebook.com/NewCityJewishCenter](https://www.facebook.com/NewCityJewishCenter) or just come by!



**New City Jewish Center**  
 47 Old Schoolhouse Road  
 New City, NY 10956  
 Phone: (845) 638-9600  
 Email: [ncjc@newcityjc.org](mailto:ncjc@newcityjc.org)

# Orangetown Jewish Center

[www.theojc.org](http://www.theojc.org)

Rabbi: Craig Scheff

Rabbi: Paula Mack Drill

Rabbi: Ami Hersh

Educational Director: Sandra Borowsky

Youth Director: Sharon Rappaport



Orangetown Jewish Center spreads the warmth and spirit of Judaism throughout Rockland and Bergen Counties. We are an egalitarian, inclusive, accessible, interfaith- and LGBTQ-welcoming community of 500+ households. Whatever your interests and needs, our hearts and doors are open wide. We offer meaningful opportunities and experiences to connect with our traditions, with Israel, with God and with each other. Keenly aware of our mission as Jews, we also proactively serve our larger communities and the world around us.

The OJC is also home to a robust intergenerational community. Unique social and educational programs abound. Youth learn and are motivated through our vibrant religious school (Pre-K – 8th) where skills are communicated with joy. Teens are involved in religious and social activities through Kadimah

and Na'aseh (our Hebrew High/USY program, recent International Chapter of the Year). Sisterhood and Men's Club are invaluable arms of the community. Our over-55 "Hazak" group is always on the move. Our engaging and embracing rabbis, assisted by talented educators and fellow congregants, offer educational opportunities for all ages at times that fit every schedule. Our participative worship services educate, enlighten and inspire.

OJC is always filled with a youthful energy – monthly Friday night and Saturday morning family services, Shabbata Shabbat for Tots, monthly Early Kabbalat Shabbat (EKS), or singing on the bimah in the arms of

our rabbis. That energy transcends the generations as together we continue to grow, learn, reach, challenge and serve to bring the light of Judaism into the world. People who spend time with us share that the energy and the love are palpable. *Come, feel the love with us!*



**Orangetown Jewish Center**

8 Independence Avenue

Orangeburg, NY 10962

Phone: (845) 359-5920

Email: [office@theojc.org](mailto:office@theojc.org)

# The Reform Temple of Rockland

[www.RTRny.org](http://www.RTRny.org)

Rabbi: Benjamin A. Sharff

Cantor: Sally L. Neff

Director of Congregational Learning:  
Brad Zicholtz

Co-Presidents: Allen Fetterman, Barry Weiss



**W**e shine brighter together at RTR!

*Coming Together* – at The Reform Temple of Rockland (RTR), everyone comes together – interfaith couples, LGBT families, the young and the young at heart – to create our warm Jewish community.

*Celebrating Together* – Our Worship is enriched with a love of music, filled with our gifted Cantor’s voice, adult and youth choirs, and our Ruach Shabbat band. Toe tapping and hand clapping are encouraged! See for yourself why so many find our family-friendly, Friday night services or special Tot Shabbat program so inspiring, or why those who become a Bar or Bat Mitzvahs are just beginning their journeys, not ending them.

*Learning Together* – Our religious school starts our students on a journey of Jewish education that

continues through 12th grade and into adulthood. We believe in a lifetime of Jewish learning, seeking spiritual fulfillment and understanding through Torah study and engaging Adult Education programming.

*Getting Involved Together* – Just be social or get involved in social action. There are so many ways to get connected at RTR. With three incredible youth groups, a very active WRJ (Sisterhood) and Men’s Club, and too many committees and activities to mention, there is truly something for everyone.

*Brighter Together* – Each of us is a Jewish light but together we all shine

brighter. Don’t wait for a holiday to drop by. Our caring clergy and congregation look forward to meeting you!



**THE REFORM TEMPLE OF ROCKLAND**  
*Brighter Together*

**The Reform Temple of Rockland**  
330 North Highland Ave. (Rte 9W)  
Upper Nyack, NY 10960  
Phone: 845.358.2248  
Email: [info@RTRny.org](mailto:info@RTRny.org)

# Temple Beth Sholom

[www.tbsrockland.org](http://www.tbsrockland.org)

Rabbi: Brian Leiken

Cantor: Anna Zhar

Educational Director: Marilyn Fellows

Nursery School Director: Lori Scott



Temple Beth Sholom is a vibrant and relational Jewish community in New City, NY. With over 240 children enrolled in our nursery and religious schools, an inclusive and active Young Members Club, an involved and supportive brotherhood and sisterhood and immersive social action opportunities, Temple Beth Sholom continues to move forward as an innovative and visionary Reform synagogue.

Our clergy, Rabbi Brian Leiken and Cantor Anna Zhar, recognize that Judaism is not a museum of artifacts, but a living tradition that is meant to transform us. Instead of merely transmitting information about the past, both clergy seek to build a sense of relevancy about Judaism in the lives of all congregants. We also focus on nurturing relationships *b'nei adam l chaveiro* (between a person and his/her other) as relationships are the core of the synagogue community. Most congregants have met their life-long friends through the synagogue.

We offer Shabbat services for young children, young families and older adults. We open our space to the community for various purposes and remain vigilant in creating a sense that Temple Beth Sholom is another home to congregants. A synagogue is more than a building and a name. It is a home for people.

Temple Beth Sholom welcomes everyone who identifies themselves and/or their families as Jewish. We welcome interfaith families, the LGBT community, families with disabilities and others who may have felt uneasy in other Jewish settings. Every human being was made *b'tzelem elohim* or in the image of God and deserves to be treated with the same dignity.

We encourage prospective members and guests to join us and meet with our clergy and congregants. A synagogue membership is an extension of one's connection to a sacred home filled with family and we hope Temple Beth Sholom will be a fit for you.

**TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM**  
*Where Relationships Matter*

**Temple Beth Sholom**  
 228 New Hempstead Road  
 New City, NY 10956  
 Phone: (845) 638-0770  
 Nursery School: (845) 638-0830  
 tbsreligiousschool@gmail.com  
 nurseryschooltbs@gmail.com

# West Clarkstown Jewish Center

[www.westclarkstownjc.org](http://www.westclarkstownjc.org)

Rabbi: Dr. Jill Hackell

Holiday Cantor: Jacob Goodwin



West Clarkstown Jewish Center is a small Conservative synagogue that cares about each and every person. We are an egalitarian community where women and men, and Jews of all orientation are welcomed as full participants.

We are a community that practices *gemilut hasadim*, acts of love and kindness, including visiting the sick, comforting mourners, coming to the aid of those in need, and participating in the community kosher food pantry. We have a deep commitment to the State of Israel.

Our weekly Shabbat services include a Kabbalat Shabbat each Friday at 6 PM with a special musical service once a month. We also offer weekly Shabbat morning services beginning at 9:30 AM. Torah reading includes a d'var torah by our rabbi and an open discussion of the parasha. The service is followed by a light Kiddush lunch and informal talk around the Shabbat tables.

Our user-friendly prayer book contains a modern new translation, transliteration of all prayers, notes and meditations.

We learn and grow Jewishly through a lunch-and-learn series led by Rabbi Hackell, and we celebrate the holidays together: lunch in the Sukkah, family Hanukkah celebration, Purim mishloach manot, Purim-shpiel and Shavuot luncheon. Our active Sisterhood and Men's Club offers members an opportunity to serve the congregation through social and social action programs.

If you are looking for a place where you can be yourself, with a community

of people who celebrate life's joys and sorrows together, who learn together, and make a joyful noise together, we may be the place for you. Please visit our newly-rebuilt sanctuary and join us for prayer and study on any Shabbat or holiday.



**West Clarkstown Jewish Center**  
 195 West Clarkstown Road  
 New City, NY 10956  
 Phone: (845) 352-0017  
 Email: [wjcoffice@verizon.net](mailto:wjcoffice@verizon.net)

# Make a Connection

Our synagogues play an important role in Rockland's vibrant Jewish community. In addition to offering Jewish education, opportunities for personal growth and venues for lifecycle events, they are part of our extended Jewish family. As such, not only do we endorse and support Rockland's congregations, the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Rockland County is thrilled to partner with them on this brochure.

If you are Jewish or connected to someone Jewish, you are part of this family. We want to help you find your spiritual home and community. The pages in this brochure are a starting point — use them to shop for a community where you feel at home, one that will help you on your Jewish journey.

And we want to help you on that journey. Check our community Facebook page **Rockland & Jewish** ([www.facebook.com/RCjewish](http://www.facebook.com/RCjewish)) to see and hear Rockland Jewish stories. And share your own story.

Lshalom,



*Cantor Barry Kanarek*

Director, Rockland Jewish Initiative

A program of the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Rockland County

E-mail: [bkanarek@jewishrockland.org](mailto:bkanarek@jewishrockland.org) | Phone: 845-362-4200

## ABOUT US

Through the generosity of donors like you, the **Jewish Federation & Foundation of Rockland County** strengthens Jewish life and meets the critical needs of our local and global Jewish community. We do this by:

- Helping Jews in need in Rockland, Israel and 60+ countries worldwide
- Advocating and educating on behalf of Israel, including fighting anti-Semitism and BDS
- Convening the local Jewish community to take collective action whenever necessary

Locally, Rockland Federation's efforts include PJ Library, which mails free Jewish books to young families in Rockland, Adult Jewish Education classes, and the Rockland Jewish Initiative, aimed at reenergizing synagogue life in the county. We also support and partner with local agencies including JCC Rockland, Rockland Jewish Family Service, Hillel of Rockland and the Holocaust Museum & Center for Tolerance and Education.

Working with our overseas partners, Federation provides services in Israel and worldwide, wherever there are Jews in need. And in times of crisis, Rockland Federation is uniquely positioned to serve as a central point of assistance to coordinate funds, volunteers and donations and to work with our agencies to get help where it's most needed, at home or abroad.

Through our Foundation program, donors like you assure our Jewish future forever through estate plans and other legacy gifts. Learn more about our organization at [jewishrockland.org](http://jewishrockland.org).



**Jewish Federation  
& Foundation**  
OF ROCKLAND COUNTY

[jewishrockland.org](http://jewishrockland.org) 845.362.4200

450 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, NY 10994

JewishFederationRC

jewishrockland