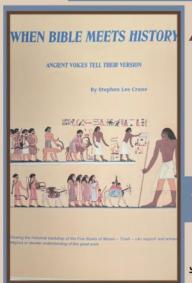






STEPHEN CRANE HAS ALWAYS BEEN DRAWN TO NONFICTION SUBJECTS FOR THEIR UNDENIABLE REALITY. HIS INTEREST IN THINGS JEWISH DOMINATED HIS NEXT OFFERINGS ON JUDAISM IN THE MIDDLE AGES AND THEN TORAH HISTORICITY.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 | 2PM



IEMPLE

"When Bible Meets History: Ancient Voices Tell Their Story" presents a well-researched, absorbing, and open-minded case addressing the issue unresolved by either academia or aficionados, namely, what is the confluence, if any, of Torah and historicity?

ZOOM LINK WILL BE PROVIDED UPON REGISTRATION

REGISTER AT: JEWISHORANGENY.REGFOX .COM/STEPHEN-LEE-CRANE







GIWINGTUESDAY

is DECEMBER 2nd! Will you heed the call to help us:

Provide scholarships for kids to attend Jewish summer camp or other lewish experiences

Give microgrants to community members who want to bring unique programs to the community

Empower students and adults to stand up to hate

And so much more!

You can help us finish our 2025 Annual Campaign from a place of STRENGTH

THANK YOU

for helping us keep the Orange County, NY Jewish community strong!



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From The Desk of Wendy Cedar, Executive Director

The end of the secular year, much like Rosh Hashanah, gives us the opportunity to look back and reflect on our year, and consider how our lives may be different moving forward. This year, many of us will be facing even more financial challenges than we have in the past. For some of us, that can mean a steep change to our financial (and hence physical and emotional) wellbeing. If this is you, I encourage you to engage with your Jewish community, rather than pulling away.



Here are some ways we can help:

- 1. Our recipient organization, Jewish Family Service, can provide financial, transportation, and emotional support to anyone in Orange County, regardless of their background or affiliation, often for free. You can reach them at: info@JFSOrange.org or 845.341.1173, or learn more on their website: JFSOrange.org
- 2. Want to send your children to summer camp, Religious School, a trip to Israel, or other Jewish program, but don't think you can afford it? Our scholarship funding is available for these programs, for any resident of Orange County, NY. You can find the application and details on our website: JewishOrangeNY.org/scholarships. Applications for summer programs are due by March 31, which includes one full scholarship for a teen summer trip to Israel! There is additional scholarship funding available on a rolling basis throughout the year for other programs.
- 3. Most of our synagogue partners, the Newburgh JCC, and the Jewish Federation provide community programs for free or low cost. You don't always need to be a "member" of these communities in order to participate. Take the opportunity to engage with one of these communities and introduce yourself to someone there. Getting connected starts with taking the first step of showing up! I can almost guarantee that you'll be welcomed into any of these communities. Find information on upcoming opportunities in this newsletter, in our weekly email, or on our website: JewishOrangeNY.org. You can also find a "synagogue directory" of our partner synagogues under "community resources" on our website, in case you're not sure which would be the closest, or most appropriate for your preferences.
- 4. Do you have kids or grandkids who you would like to stay connected to Jewish values, but they're not currently connected to a Jewish community anywhere? Connect them with PJLibrary.org where they will be eligible to receive a free book on a Jewish theme, or by a Jewish author, each month through their 13th birthday! You can also watch our communications for opportunities to get together with other PJ Library families to help you & your kids make new Jewish connections.

As always, if you have other needs or have ideas that may benefit others in the community, feel free to reach out at any time. If we can't help directly, we may be able to connect you with someone who can.

Have a happy, healthy, warm and bright Hanukkah! Warmly, Wendy Cedar, Executive Director

<u>Director@JewishOrangeNY.org</u> | 845.562.7860

Meet our newest Endowment holder, inspired by Rochelle Marshall's Mother, The Ida Marshall Endowment Fund

Rochelle Marshall was one of our honorees at the Major Gifts Celebration "Quiet Giants" in October; She shared this story, that her mother had written, many years ago when she was honored for Israel Bonds.

I am an honoree tonight, I am told because of my devotion to Israel. This honor is awesome. My devotion has its roots.

On that day in 1948, when at the UN, the nations were deciding if

Israel can be born, I was listening to the radio as the votes were counted- one at a time, the yeahs and the nays. My heart pounds now as I remember, Will there be an Israel?

And we have an Israel, where every Jew can come to the Promise Land, healthy or sick, old, young, the blind, the halt (anyone having a physical disability)- no quotas- unlike the rest of the world.



Can there be a Jew anywhere, who is not stronger and more secure as a Jew because there is an Israel.

And through the 42 years, the many wars that Israel fought and won against the overwhelming odds of its enemies. We cheered, but our hearts cried for each soldier killed or wounded. These are our children.

And there was Entebbe and the strike against the Iraqi nuclear plant, and the rescue of the half-starved Ethiopian Jews, and the continuing absorption if the 100,000's of Russian Jews. Has there ever in all of history been a country like Israel. We can stand taller because of its wonders.

We like to feel that we are doing something to help this amazing country. I know some of us have had the opportunity to do some hands on volunteer work in Israel.

What a privilege it was for me to work in a huge warehouse, non-army base, mostly filled with Diesel fumes and cleaning a rusty part of a tank with a filthy, oily shmatte. This was during the Lebonese war. The housing was the pits- forget it- but I was ecstatic, I swear, me, I was helping the soldiers' and maybe because of what I was doing, Avi, Moishe or David will be able to go home for Shabbat.

Again, last January and February, I was on a volunteer program. This time I lived in luxury, my job was to tutor high school students in English. But when Iraq sent the Scud missiles, schools were closed for two weeks. During those weeks I picked cherry tomatoes, Carmel label. I trimmed carnations for shipment to Holland and I packed medical kits for the soldiers. Can you imagine my gratification – I was helping in a time of need. The payoff was when the Israelis thanked us they – who lay their lives on the line every day. They thanked us.

And there is Israel if Universities museums, symphony orchestras Dance theaters, gardens, parks- everything for a good life. All this in the middle of terrorists attacks-What a county! Why wouldn't I be devoted?

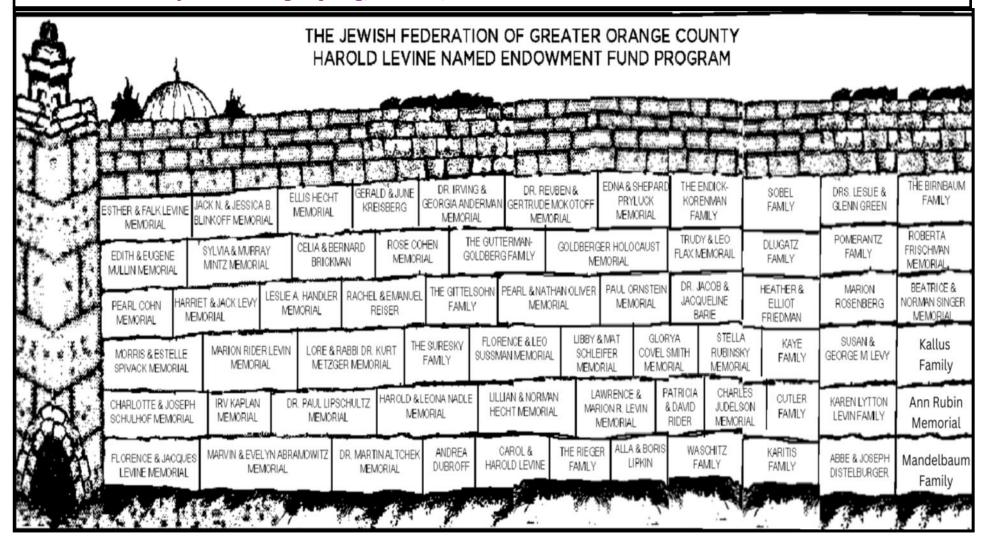
But in order for Israel to survive (let's not fool ourselves, nothing is certain in the hostile world that surrounds us) we must help, and there are many different ways to help.

The Harold Levine Named Endowment Fund Program

The Harold Levine Endowment Program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County currently has 65 Endowments with a principle of over \$5,000,000. These funds can be established with any amount of money. The interest is reinvested in the funds until they reach a corpus of \$5,000, at which time distributions can be made to named charities.

All endowment funds must designate a minimum of 30% of the interest earned to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign. Arrange a confidential meeting to make a charitable gift as part of your estate plan. Call the Federation office 845-562-7860 for more information.

Read more here: jewishorangeny.org/donate/endowments



We Gratefully Acknowledge Gifts Made To The Jewish Federation Of Greater Orange County By The Following Donors As Tributes for October '25:

The following gift has been given on behalf of the Major Gifts Honoree, Genie Abrams:

Valerie and William Sideman

The following gifts have been given on behalf of the Major Gifts Honoree, Rochelle Marshall:

Jane Friedland

Rita Wincott

The following gift has been given on behalf of the Major Gifts Honoree, Michael Melasky:

Pamela and Joseph Conjura



Jewish Changemakers Fellowship | Applications for Winter & Spring 2026 are open!

The Jewish Changemakers Fellowship is now accepting applications for its Winter and Spring sessions! This **six-week virtual program** for Jewish young adults **(ages 21–27)** fosters personal and professional growth through a Jewish lens. Fellows explore leadership, build community, and join a North American network of emerging Jewish leaders. **The Winter Fellowship runs January 13**–

February 17 (apply by December 28), and the Spring Fellowship runs March 3-April 7 (apply by February 1).

Apply Now!



Make your 2025 Annual Campaign gift today to the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County! Help us keep Jewish Life in Orange County alive. To do so Click the "Donate Now"

Did you know, you can set up a monthly reoccurring donation? Contact us if you would like to do so today! 845-562-7860



Jewish in **Orange County** Micro-Grants

A Micro-Grant can foster new ideas in the Orange County Jewish community bringing us together, connecting us with a positive impact and helping the community learn and grow together.



www.jewishorangeny.org/jewish-life/microgrants or Use the QR Code





Here for you at every stage of your Jewish journey:



PJ OUR WAY.

Children from birth through their 13th birthday Can receive a FREE monthly book with a Jewish





School-aged children and their families can receive scholarships to attend Jewish Experiences

Newburgh JCC

High school & middle school students throughout the county receive quality education on fighting antisemitism and other forms of hate



Microgrants

for programs that:

NEWBURGH



Adults & children alike can meet Jewish authors and other speakers as they share their work and ideas with us

Levine Speaker Series

for a Microgrant to fund a Jewish-themed community program

Any community member is eligible to apply

Any resident of Orange County can receive emergency or ongoing, social or financial support from Jewish Family Service







My Tree In Israel

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

- Wine (Private Label) | Feb 13, 2026 | Delivery Passover 2026
- Wine (Avivim) Feb 13, 2026 | Delivery Passover 2026
- Israeli whisky, for you, your family, and special * Whiskey & Olive Oil TBA

Use The QR Code To Order or visit our Website **Jewishorangeny.org** To Learn More! Need Help Ordering? Call The Federation Office 845-562-



gatherings!

for a loved one

NEW!

Also makes an incredible CHANUKAH gift Promote Israel while Supporting Our Community

7860.

Rabbi's Blog

Finding Light in Today's World: A Hanukkah Reflection

As we gather to celebrate Hanukkah, we return to a familiar story—one of courage, conviction, and the unwavering belief that even the smallest light can transform darkness. The Maccabees lived in a time of upheaval, pressure, and uncertainty, yet they held fast to their identity and values. Against overwhelming odds, they reclaimed a sense of dignity, restored sacred space, and rekindled a flame that should never have lasted—but did.



This year, that message feels especially relevant.

We live in a world filled with noise, division, and rapid change. Many in our community feel the weight of rising tension, increasing polarization, and global instability. In such moments, it becomes easy to feel small, isolated, or unsure of our ability to make a difference.

But Hanukkah reminds us that resilience often begins with a single act of light.

Whether it is standing up for one another, supporting Israel and Jewish communities worldwide, teaching our children to take pride in who they are, or performing quiet acts

of kindness—each gesture is a modern-day flame. Each one pushes back against darkness. Each one strengthens the collective light we share.

As we kindle the menorah this year, we invite you to pause and reflect on how your own

light contributes to the warmth and strength of our community. And just as importantly,

we encourage you to reach out, connect, and uplift those around you. The miracle of Hanukkah was not only that the oil lasted eight days—it was that the Jewish people refused to give up hope even when the vessel seemed nearly empty.

May this season inspire us to bring more light into the world: through compassion, courage, Jewish pride, and unwavering unity.

Wishing you and your family a meaningful, joyful, and hope-filled Hanukkah.

Rabbi Brenda Weinberg Congregation B'nai Torah, Greenwood Lake

Hanukkah Happenings!



Ladies Night Out...Sisterhood Hanukkah Dinner

Wednesday, December 10th, 2025 6:15PM Copper Bottom, 162 N. Main Street, Florida Cost \$40.00

RSVP by December 7th to Robin Bordman text or call 845-699-6460 OR email thebordmans@aol.com

Monday, Dec 15, 5:30pm - honoring **Teens** - **CHESS** Gadol Hayah Sham night!

Tuesday, Dec 16, 5:30pm
- honoring First Responders

- honoring First Responders
Wednesday Dec 17, 5:30pm
- honoring Interfaith Clergy
Thursday Dec 18, 5:30pm
- honoring Elected Officials
Friday, Dec 19, 3:30pm
- honoring Kol Staff
Saturday Dec 20, 5:30pm
- honoring Young Families
Sunday, Dec 21, 5:30pm
- honoring Seniors





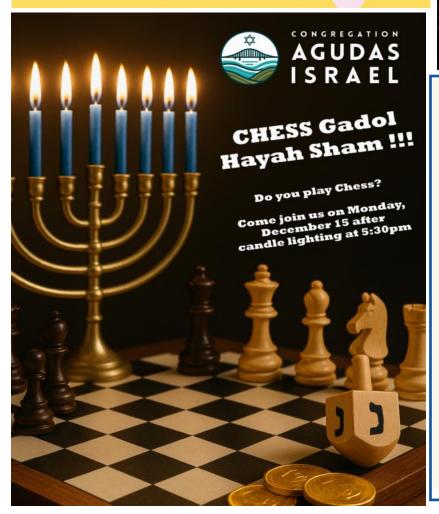
RSVP TO SUZANNE ALLZGREAT4@GMAIL.COM

Just because you didn't love it, doesn't mean someone else

won't want it!

Refreshments will be served

BY MONDAY 11/8







DECEMBER 14TH 2025

Hanukkah Happenings continued!



TBJ SISTERHOOD HANUKKAH PRONEG

DATE: FRIDAY DECEMBER 19, 2025
TIME: DINNER STARTING @ 6 PM

TBJ SHABBAT SERVICES STARTING 7 PM

COST: \$25 / per person (Children - \$5)

MENU

SALAD & LATKES

HOMEMADE APRICOT CHICKEN

FRESH ORANGE CRANBERRY SAUCE & SPECIAL COLESLAW

AMAZING CHANUKAH ONEG AFTER SERVICES



BRING YOUR MENORAH - LETS LIGHT OUR CHANUKIAHS TOGETHER

PLEASE RSVP BY DECEMBER 15th SO WE KNOW HOW MUCH FOOD TO PREPARE!



GIFT OF LIFE

GIFT OF LIFE MARROW REGISTRY | TOGETHER WE ARE HELPING TO SAVE LIVES!

WOO HOO!! Match #163! It's time for another happy dance!!

Gift of Life Marrow Registry believes every person battling blood cancers, and a hundred other diseases, deserves a second chance at life — and we are determined to help make it happen. Many of our donors have been found as a result of the swabbing drives we have held on local college campuses, in fitness centers, and at festivals and events. Visitors to our swabbing tables are able

to join the registry on the spot with a quick swipe inside their own cheeks with a cotton swab. Every donor who joins the registry has the potential to save someone's life

If you are available to help out at a donor recruitment drive, even for a couple of hours, please contact Sherrill Lazarus smlazarus@yahoo.com | Gail Oliver gailao777@aol.com, You can request a swabbing kit at home, www.giftolife.org.

Upcoming Swabbing Drives:

Sunday, February 15, 2026 | 9am-1pm -Vassar College | EWFC Invite

Gift of Life is searching for a miracle match for Nava, an 8 year old Jewish girl suffering from leukemia.

What can you do? ·

- Recruit: Encourage the next generation to join by inviting your children, grandchildren, or friends aged 18–35 to swab and save a life. If they come visit you over their winter breaks, please talk it up. OR they can go to www.giftoflife.org and request a swabbing kit.
- Advocate: Share our story, speak to your friends in your community and elsewhere, or write about why you believe in our mission and inspire others to get involved.
- ★ Volunteer: Help at donor drives, community events, Your passion makes every effort count.





JFS Senior Independence Program

register for the training or for more information about services available for older neighbors throughout Orange County call or email | 845-341-



SENIOR INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM Our Doors Are Open To The Entire Community

VOLUNTEER IN YOUR TOWN

Sign up today and be part of a program that promotes dignity, connection, and independence for seniors in our community.

Opportunities include Transportation, Visits, Wellness Calls, Grocery Shopping Assistance, and more.

JOIN OUR VIRTUAL TRAINING

*Pre-approval is required to attend training. Please contact us for an application.

December 4th

5:00 pm

W

Jewish Family Service-Support for Holocaust Survivors is collecting the following items (below).

These household items can be dropped off at JFS: 720 Route 17M Middletown, NY 10940 or pick-up can be arranged by calling 845-341-1173 ext. 306 If you would like to make a monetary donation, please go ifsorange.org/donate/donate-online

Household Items:

- Toilet Paper

- Storage bags/new containers of all sizes
- Paper goods; plates, napkins, cups
- Cleaning supplies

Contact Us!

⇒ Laundry detergent/softener

(5:00 pm

(845) 341-1173 x305

volunteer@jfsorange.org

🗭 Volunteer

- Bleach
- ⇒ Sponges

Personal Care Items:

- ⇒ Bar/Liquid Soap
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Tooth Brushes
- Store Gift Cards Åre Accepted



(845) 341-1173 x306 📢 Lizzy Care



Select "Classic Volunteer"

(opportunities for those 50+ anticipated in April '26!)

Do you know a
Jewish
21-27 year old
who is interested
in shaping the
Jewish future?

Nominate them today! >



Jewish Changemakers hone their leadership skills, expand their networks, and empower themselves to make a real difference in the world!

Jeremy Shinder, the son of Rabbi Rebecca Shinder from Temple Beth Shalom in Florida, NY, participated in the Changemakers program this year and came away with a deeper understanding of life as a Jewish adult in the U.S. The Changemakers were given an opportunity to participate in the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America last month, and Jeremy was on a panel to represent the program. We're proud to call him one of our own!

Do you know a young adult interested in honing their leadership skills, expanding their network, and receiving a stipend to do so? Then nominate them for this terrific opportunity today! https://ow.ly/YM9630sR8PZ









The General Assembly

Getting Grounded in Israel and Zionism

Getting Grounded in Israel & Zionism

Jewish Federations' self-paced course, *Getting Grounded in Israel & Zionism*, offers a thoughtful foundation for anyone looking to better understand Israel today. Led by Rabbi Mike Uram, the course explores key historical events, essential concepts, and the complex issues at the heart of Zionism—equipping you to engage in more informed and meaningful conversations.

More info here: www.jewishfederations.org/getting-grounded



Through Federation, You Can Do Good That Goes Everywhere DONATE NOW

While you're reading this, your gift is impacting Jewish lives around the world. From North America to Ukraine to Israel and across 70 other countries - your gift impacts lives around the world.

A Publication of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County | 292 North St., Newburgh, NY 12550—www.jewishorangeny.org

If you would like a copy of the We Are One mailed to you monthly, for a donation of \$36 for the year, please email Pam: office@jewishorangeny.org or Call 845-562-7860

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS



Try it Before You Buy It!

Call Me First!

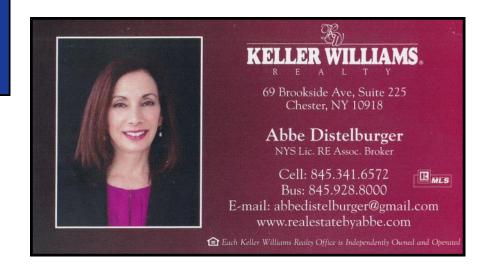
Martin Hochhauser

914.456.4050

MHochhauser@yahoo.com



Advertise your business here.
Business card ads: \$10/month or \$100/year.
¼ page(4.5x3.5"): \$15/month or \$150/year.
Purchase for the year, and you will receive 2 free months for whichever size ad placed.
Call 845-562-7860 or email
office@jewishorangeny.org



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www.adamsfarms.com



ADAMS FAIRACRE FARMS

Parent Sense: Surviving Parenting And

Helping You And Your Child Throughout Life



Dr. Stanley Goldstein's New Book www.drstanleygoldstein.com

Alex Solomon Parents/Grandparents Bereavement Support Group



If you have lost a child or grandchild no matter what age or when, come to find and share support.

A safe space - no politics, opinions, or controversy. Nondenominational- Open to the entire community.

> Sponsored by Congregation Agudas Israel Meeting at the Kol Yisrael Campus 290 North Street, Newburgh, NY 12550

Upcoming Dates: December 7 | January 4 | February 8

10:30AM – 12:00PM Generally second Sunday of the month.

For more information: AlexSolomonGriefGroup@CongregationAgudasIsrael.org



BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW A YEAR OF CHARITABLE GIVING



JOINING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE NEEDED ITEMS FOR OUR SHARED COMMUNITY

MONTH(S)

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

ITEMS COLLECTED

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED

LOCAL FOODBANKS



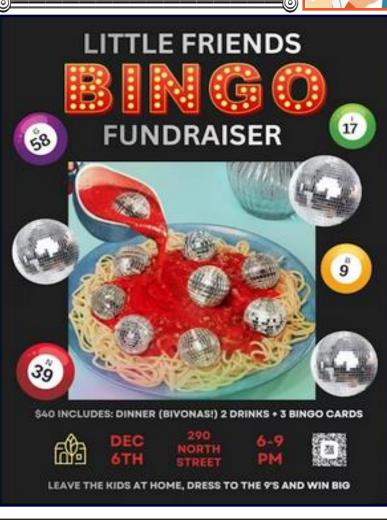


Applesauce, Canned Beans, Canned Chicken & Fish, Canned Vegetables, Cooking Oils, Crackers, Dried Herbs and Spices, Fruit (Canned or Dried), Granola Bars, Treats, Etc.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

King of Kings Lutheran Church 543 Union Ave, New Windsor 845-565-7645

Kol Yisrael 290 North Street, Newburgh 845-562-5516





Mitzvah Project

Saturday, December 6 9:30 -11:30am

Setup for the Florida Food Pantry's Annual Holiday Gift Giveaway

Bottom floor of The Florida Presbyterian Church 1N Main St., Florida, NY

-If possible, please donate per Beit Sefer Family-

*10 rolls of tape (we brought enough wrapping paper last year!)

*Any unopened toys or gift items suitable for kids-adults (that you already have at home)

*Hygiene products (soaps, toothpaste, period products, etc.)



Our event will include: organizing gifts, learning about Food Insecurity, & singing



Hurricane Melissa Relief Fund

Jewish Federations of North America have established a Hurricane Melissa Relief Fund for Jamaica and other Caribbean islands after Hurricane Melissa-the most powerful hurricane ever recorded—tore through the Atlantic earlier this week, leaving behind a

trail of destruction and despair.

Federations are coordinating closely with our core partners on the ground such as the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) to bring immediate relief

focused on medical assistance, water and sanitation support, and shelter for displaced residents.

To Donate click here

Stay connected with us through our monthly We Are One and our Weekly We Are One Newsletter E-Blast (sign up by emailing

office@jewishorangeny.org or Call 845.562.7860

-provide your email address), or online at <u>Jewishorangeny.org</u>,

Follow us on Instagram at JFedOC_NY or Facebook at Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County, NY

Study Bible with:

REVERAND VICTOR SARRAZIN RABBI DAVID SISLEN



This unique opportunity will allow students from different faiths to join together as we explore scripture as one!

FOR ITS INAUGURAL YEAR, REVERAND SARRAZIN AND RAV SISLEN WILL TEACH AND MODERATE A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF AMOS. CLASSES WILL BE HELD ONLINE, AND THERE IS NO COST TO PARTICIPATE. TEXT WILL BE SHARED, BUT FEEL FREE TO USE YOUR OWN IF YOU DESIRE. CLASS DATES FOR '25-'26 ARE: OCTOBER 30, DECEMBER 18, FEBRUARY 26, APRIL 23, AND JUNE 18 AT 7PM.

TO REGISTER AND RECEIVE THE LINK, PLEASE CONTACT: RABBI SISLEN

RABBI@TEMPLESINAIMIDDLETOWN.COM

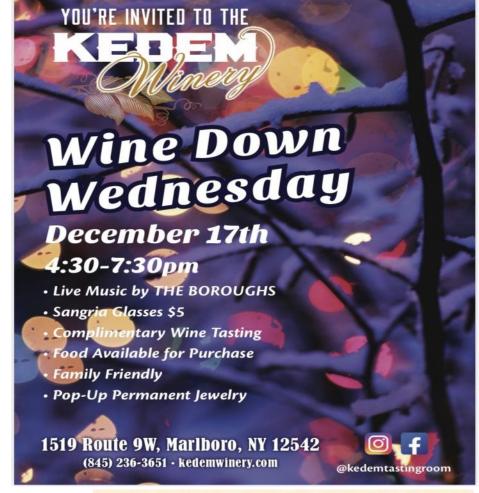
FATHER SARRAZIN:

SECRETARY, GRACE.EPISCOPAL@GMAIL.COM









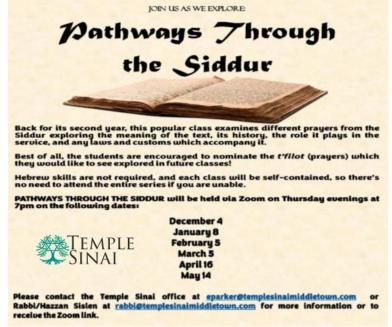


Hebrew Reading classes

Mondays taught by Cantor Carl Sayres in the conference room. If you need to join virtually, you may click on this Zoom link: **Hebrew Reading Class**

You might need to enter a password to join virtually. The password is CAI1

- 10am Level 1 We'll teach everything starting with the Aleph Bet. No experience reading Hebrew is assumed. And we'll tie everything we're learning in with the siddur. Our goal is to make reading and singing the siddur comfortable and friendly.
- 11am Level 2 So you learned to read Hebrew once upon time, and you need a refresher. We'll review everything, and work on reading and singing from the
- 1pm Level 3 You're comfortable reading Hebrew, but there's always more to learn! Let's practice what you know, and build your skills.













THURSDAYS AT 7:30PM VIA ZOOM

A weekly deep dive into scriptures and wisdoms from our sages. Led by our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi David Korngold

bnaitorahgwl.org



Retired Chaplain, United States Army Cornwall-on-Hudson reedom is Our Highest Religious Value

sters of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary, New Windsor

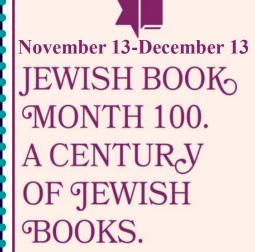
Read Full Details on our 2025/26 JBC Authors on our Calendar at jewishorangeny.org/calendar, and look for event info in our upcoming weekly We Are One E-Blast.

Sponsorship Opportunities Available to Help Support The JBC: Author Series at:

> jewishorangeny.org/donate/donate-now Make a note: Jewish Book Council sponsor!

Sunday, March 1, 2026 | 2pm Molly Jong-Fast In-Person, Newburgh Location "How to Lose Your Mother: A Daughter's Memoir"

Sunday, April 12, 2026 | 2pm Elizabeth Hyman In-Person, Newburgh Location "The Girl Bandits of The Warsaw Ghetto: The True-Story if Five Courageous Young Women Who Sparked an Uprising"



#JewishBookMonth #JewishBookMonth100

What are you reading?