

WE ARE ONE

May 2023 Iyar / Sivan 5783



We celebrated Israel's impending 75th Anniversary with community and a comedic view of a serious topic on Saturday, April 15th and a teen program on Sunday, April 16th at Temple Sinai.

Our speakers, brought to us by the Levine Speaker Series; Joel Chasnoff and Benji Lovitt, are American-born Israeli comedians who have recently written a book about Israel: Israel 201: Your next-level guide to the magic, mystery, and chaos of life in the Holy Land, in which they pull back the curtain to unveil a comprehensive portrait of the country that extends beyond the typical Israel narrative.

Their presentation was enjoyable, informational, and showed so many of the complexities of life in Israel today. Their ability and willingness to give us their insight during a Q&A, also helped the audience get a better feel for what life is like in this complex place. The teens who met with the authors on Sunday were treated to a great conversation about the realities of life in a democratic, Jewish state. They were also treated to a free, signed book through a sponsor of the authors! If you missed the event and would like to learn more about their book, you can find it on Amazon.

This event could not have occurred without tremendous community support. We are so grateful to:

- ◆ The Levine Family for ongoing support of interesting and exciting Jewish speakers in our community
- ◆ The planning committee of: Abbe Distelburger, Rissa Cutler, Steve Rubinsky, Wendy Cedar, Sharon Ball and Pam Mason
- ◆ Temple Sinai for hosting us
- ◆ Everyone who came out to support Israel and the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County
- ◆ All those who pledged to our annual campaign during the event.

We wish to thank these generous sponsors who made this event possible:

Adams Fairacre Farms	Alexis Diner	Paula & Eric Blumenau	Wendy Cedar
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Photos taken by Gail Conklin



Register: jewishorangeny.org/2022-2023JewishBookCouncil

FREE and open to the entire community.



Meet Author Kitty Zeldis
Sunday, May 7th 4PM via Zoom

The Dressmakers of Prospect Heights

A haunting meditation on the bonds between mothers and daughters. Zeldis offers a fascinating look into historic New York City and New Orleans, and her skill as a storyteller is matched by her compassion for her characters.

We thank our generous sponsors:

Linda Dubin, Cami Gordon, Barbara Glustoff,
Rita Laskin, Risa Neustadt, Mona Rieger,
Helene Shafran, Susan Wertheim



Congratulations to the Winners of Our 2023 Stop Hate Challenge!



The Stop the Hate Symposium, sponsored by our Zachor Antisemitism Initiative, was held at Monroe-Woodbury Middle School on April 20th. Nearly 40 high school and middle school students from around the county attended to learn about U.S. Immigration policies over the course of the past several decades. They learned, from Joe Nappi, an

award-winning educator who wrote curriculum around the recent Ken Burns documentary "The U.S. and the Holocaust", how these policies affected people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, including Jews during the Holocaust.

Many of these students had submitted entries to our Stop Hate Contest. The winners were on hand to receive their cash prizes and to read their entries to the group.

Your ongoing support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County helps programs like these to occur. Thank you for your continued support! If you have not yet made your pledge or gift to our 2023 Annual Campaign, you may do so here: jewishorangeny.org/donate.



Clockwise from top left: Joe Nappi, Pippa Cary with teacher Kate Riehle, S.S. Seward Institute, Ava Gell with teacher Marilyn Brozycki, Warwick Valley Central High School, Ayomide Odumuyiwa with Principal Russell Burns, Valley Central High School

FROM THE DESK OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WENDY CEDAR

After hearing a certain parasha (a few times) about God's directives to Moses about building a place (the "mishkan"), where God can hang out with the Israelites as they journeyed through the desert, I wanted to learn more. So, I found some commentary at: MyJewishLearning.com/article/parashat-terumah-hidden-gifts. Thank you, internet, and thank you Rabbi Shinder, whose live commentary over the past few years is what stimulated me to want to learn more!



As co-president of my synagogue, Temple Beth Shalom, and Executive Director of our Federation, of course, this parasha speaks to me because it talks about building a space where Jews can dwell together and be in God's presence. An easy analogy to a synagogue.

Yet, in the 21st century, we're finding that people are less likely to feel compelled to dwell together in a synagogue. Perhaps they'll want to dwell together with other Jews, but not necessarily in a synagogue. That's where some more interpretation of this parasha has opened my eyes. God says to Moses "Tell the Israelite people to bring me gifts; you shall accept gifts for me from every person whose heart so moves" them. Traditionally, we have interpreted this as "everyone should give as much money as they feel is appropriate". Of course, to maintain the physical space of a "mishkan", there is value to that! However, Rabbi Nicole Auerbach, the author of the aforementioned commentary also suggests this:

A few verses after identifying the acceptable material for the construction of the mishkan, God says that the ark that will hold the stone tablets containing God's covenant with the people should be topped by two gold-winged figures, the cherubim. The cherubim are to "confront one another" — *ish el achiv*, God says, literally like a man to his brother. And it is between these two faces that God promises to make God's presence known. How fitting that at the heart of this communal building project, which will take the gifts of everyone's hearts, God will appear between two precious faces placed across from one another as though in conversation.

To identify our most precious, hidden gifts we need to spend some time face to face with our fellow community builders, to listen deeply and with curiosity, open to the possibility we will find a unicorn hiding in the pocket of the person across from us. And when we find one, to reflect back what we see. Because nothing feels better than someone else pointing out a gift that you didn't know you had.

This, ultimately, is the recipe for building a community — to see one another and allow ourselves to be seen. In this way we can help one another find the hidden gifts we each hold, and then share them with open and generous hearts, allowing God's presence to shine through and fill the space between us.

In a world in which people spend less time face-to-face, especially "post" COVID, and so many of us have less desire to dwell together in a synagogue, this interpretation really speaks to me. Perhaps, if we remember that community is, by this definition, people coming together with "two precious faces placed across from one another... in conversation", listening "deeply and with curiosity" with the goal of identifying each other's hidden gifts, then the Jewish community will continue to grow and stay strong here in Orange County. I look forward to having your precious face across from mine in conversation in the near future.

B'shalom, Wendy Cedar



The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER ORANGE COUNTY

SAVE THE DATE 47th Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 11th at 10AM In-person
Kol Yisrael - 290 North St., Newburgh

Orange County synagogues and organizations will honor special individuals who have shown outstanding service as their Volunteers of the Year.

Election of Trustees will be held, only members in good standing may vote.
(Membership requires a minimum gift of \$36 to the 2021 Campaign.)

Brunch will be served, dietary laws observed. No solicitation.



CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE

celebrateisraelny.org

Sunday June 4th - 11AM - 4PM
5th Avenue from 57th St. 73rd St. NYC

Even though we cannot march in the parade as a community this year, you can still watch it. The JCRC-NY Celebrate Israel Parade is unquestionably the world's largest expression of solidarity with the Jewish state, and this year, it will mark Israel's 75th birthday. No other event in the world brings as many people together to celebrate Israel.

**B'NAI TORAH SHUL
AND EITZ CHAIM**
14 LAKES RD
GREENWOOD LAKE

**MAY 9
5:30PM**

**LAG B'OMER
BON FIRE
HOOTENANNY**

bnaitorahgw1.org/lag23

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**ARCHERY
BARBEQUE
MUSIC
FAMILY FUN**



**BRING AN INSTRUMENT
TO PLAY AROUND
THE FIRE!**

FREE ADMISSION

**BQ DINNER FOR PURCHASE:
\$15 MEMBERS
\$20 NON-MEMBERS**

THIS PROGRAM WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM:



**The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER ORANGE COUNTY**
Building Our Jewish Community Together

PJ Play

For children 18 months to 5 years & their grown-ups!

Join us for story time!
 May ~ Shavout
 Make a fun craft activity.
 This event is free, bring a friend.
 Hope to see you there.



<i>Temple Beth Shalom</i> 13 Roosevelt Ave FLORIDA 10:30AM-11:30AM May 7	<i>Kol Yisrael</i> 290 North St NEWBURGH 10:00 AM 11:00 AM May 21	<i>Monroe Temple</i> 314 N. Main St MONROE 11:00 AM - 12:00PM May 7
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The Harold Levine Named Endowment Fund Program

The Harold Levine Endowment Program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County currently has 61 Endowments with a principle of over \$4,500,000. 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: jewishorangency.org/donate/endowments

**THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER ORANGE COUNTY
HAROLD LEVINE NAMED ENDOWMENT FUND PROGRAM**

ESTHER & FALK LEVINE MEMORIAL	JACK N. & JESSICA B. BLINKOFF MEMORIAL	ELLIS HECHT MEMORIAL	GERALD & JUNE KREISBERG	DR. IRVING & GEORGIA ANDERMAN MEMORIAL	DR. REUBEN & GERTRUDE MOKOTOFF MEMORIAL	EDNA & SHEPARD PRYLUCK MEMORIAL	THE ENDICK-KORENMAN FAMILY	SOBEL FAMILY	DRS. LESLIE & GLENN GREEN	THE BIRNBAUM FAMILY
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PEARL COHN MEMORIAL	HARRIET & JACK LEVY MEMORIAL	LESLIE A. HANDLER MEMORIAL	RACHEL & EMANUEL REISER	THE GITTELSOHN FAMILY	PEARL & NATHAN OLIVER MEMORIAL	PAUL ORNSTEIN MEMORIAL	DR. JACOB & JACQUELINE BARIE	HEATHER & ELLIOT FRIEDMAN	MARION ROSENBERG	BEATRICE & NORMAN SINGER MEMORIAL
MORRIS & ESTELLE SPIVACK MEMORIAL	MARION RIDER LEVIN MEMORIAL	LORE & RABBI DR. KURT METZGER MEMORIAL	THE SURESKY FAMILY	FLORENCE & LEO SUSSMAN MEMORIAL	LIBBY & MAT SCHLEIFER MEMORIAL	GLORYA COVEL SMITH MEMORIAL	STELLA RUBINSKY MEMORIAL	KAYE FAMILY	SUSAN & GEORGE M. LEVY	
CHARLOTTE & JOSEPH SCHULHOF MEMORIAL	IRVING KAPLAN MEMORIAL	DR. PAUL LIPSCHULTZ MEMORIAL	HAROLD & LEONA NADLE MEMORIAL	LILLIAN & NORMAN HECHT MEMORIAL	LAWRENCE & MARION R. LEVIN MEMORIAL	PATRICIA & DAVID RIDER	CHARLES JUDELSON	CUTLER FAMILY	KAREN LYTTON LEVIN FAMILY	
FLORENCE & JACQUES LEVINE MEMORIAL	MARVIN & EVELYN ABRAMOWITZ MEMORIAL	DR. MARTIN ALTCHER MEMORIAL	ANDREA DUBROFF	CAROL & HAROLD LEVINE	THE RIEGER FAMILY	ALLA & BORIS LIPKIN	WASCHITZ FAMILY	KARITIS FAMILY	ABBE & JOSEPH DISTELBURGER	

GIFT OF LIFE MARROW REGISTRY - We continue to look for miracle matches for Murray, Maxine, and 4 year old Erin. Please suggest to your children or grandchildren (ages 18-35) that they join the registry. They just have to go to www.giftoflife.org to request a swabbing kit be sent to them.

SUNY Orange Newburgh: Wednesday, May 3rd,
10AM- 3PM, Kaplan Hall: Main Lobby

Sportsplex: Wednesday, July 12
4-8PM 2902 Rte 9W, New Windsor

If you can help out, even for just a couple of hours, at any of these events, please contact Sherrill Lazarus, smlazarus@yahoo.com. Our amazing volunteers have now found our 42nd match!! There is no greater feeling than knowing that YOU may have helped save a life!!



Spring Into Action! Volunteer with The Friendly Visitor Program

- Grocery Shopping Assistance
- Rides to Essential Appointments
- Visits and Minor Chores
- Wellness Calls and more

SUPPORTING
OLDER NEIGHBORS
IN OUR
COMMUNITY



Do you know an older neighbor in need of help?

Call: 845-341-1173 x300

To volunteer or register for the training:

email: volunteer@jfsorange.org

or call: 845-341-1173 x305

www.jfsorange.org

SCAN ME



This program is made possible by grants from:

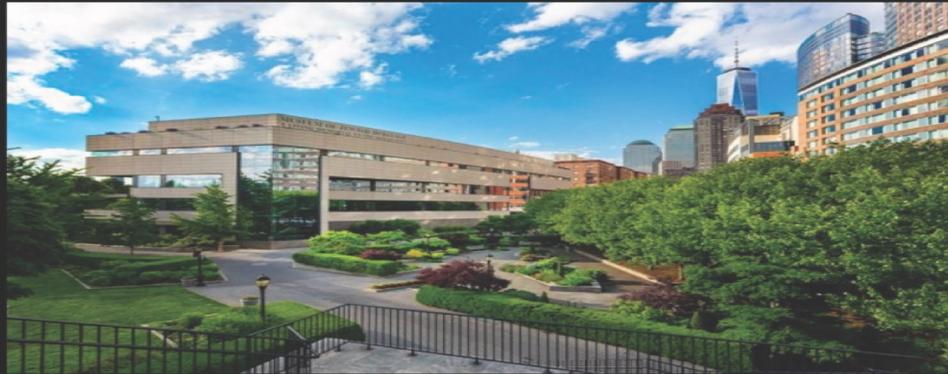


OUR DOORS ARE OPEN TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY



Temple Sinai Men's Club

Presents...



**Sunday
June
4th
8:30am
-
5:00pm**



**MUSEUM OF
JEWISH HERITAGE
A LIVING MEMORIAL
TO THE HOLOCAUST**

**36 Battery Place
New York, NY**

RSVP by May 25th to David Neves
845-858-1715 or Divadseven50@gmail.com
Send \$65 fee to Temple Sinai

**Registration is
limited to the
first 55 people!**

\$65 includes:

Breakfast at Temple Sinai - Bus - Refreshments
Ticket to the Museum with Guided Tour of
"The Holocaust: What Hate Can Do."

Leave NYC
3:15pm
Arrive at temple
5pm

For schedule & more info visit: www.templeseinainiddletown.com

(845) 343-1861

info@templeseinainiddletown.com

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