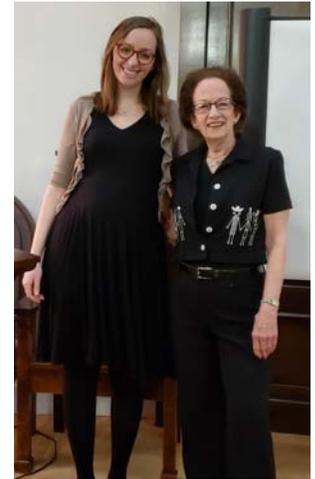


## COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH PROGRAMS INSPIRE REMEMBRANCE



Rabbi Rachel Rubenstein, pictured right with Temple Sinai Yom HaShoah committee chair, Roberta Baum, spoke lovingly of her paternal grandmother's ordeal in the camps and subsequent survival.



At Temple Sinai, candles were lit in remembrance of children and many others lost in the Holocaust. Pictured above are relatives of survivors and Rita Schwartz, who is a survivor herself.



Far left: Pastor Peter Rustico spoke beautifully on behalf of the Christian community.

Left: Rabbi Marcus Rubenstein and Cantor Ted Prosnitz led the assembly in Hatikvah and the Star Spangled Banner.

The Justice Brandeis Law Society, the Holocaust Museum and Center for Tolerance and Education and the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County sponsored a Yom HaShoah program at the Orange County Courthouse. Key note speaker was Holocaust survivor, Dr. Alexander Levy. Rabbi Rachel Rubenstein, pictured with Judge Elaine Slobod, also spoke.



## JEWISH FEDERATION 43RD ANNUAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION

Over 100 community members gathered at our 43rd Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 19th at Temple Sinai in Middletown, celebrating a year of accomplishments.

We wish to thank outgoing President, Carla Wise for her leadership these past two years. We welcome incoming President, Harvey Kallus, and 1st Vice President, Rissa Cutler. We look forward to working with them.

We also thank trustees Beth Pechman and Risa Neustadt as they leave the Board. We welcome new Board members Leah Hartigan, Davida Kossar and Konstantin Zalizynak. Congratulations to Constance Littman and Jonah Mandelbaum who have become Honorary Board members.

Please see below and the following pages for pictures and bios of our wonderful community Volunteers of the Year.

### THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President - Harvey Kallus, Goshen  
Secretary - Susan Notar, Newburgh

1st Vice President - Rissa Cutler, Newburgh  
Treasurer - Jeffrey Harmer, Cornwall

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\*Abbe Distelburger, Goshen  
Sharon Goldberg, Monroe  
\*Dr. Leslie Green, Chester  
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Betty Grossman, Port Jervis  
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\*Carla Wise, Goshen  
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Constance Littman  
Jonah Mandelbaum  
\*Gail Oliver  
\*Mona Rieger  
\*Marsha Sobel

\*indicates Past President



Pictured l-r top row on previous page: Rabbi Marcus Rubenstein, Leslie Green speaking about outgoing President Carla Wise, Rabbi Rachel Rubenstein giving a tzedukah box to Carla.

Pictured l-r bottom row on previous page: incoming President Harvey Kallus, Rabbi Rachel and Sharon Ball celebrating Sharon's 18th or *Chai* year with Federation, Steve Rubinsky giving Nominating Committee report.

Below l-r: assortment of Federation material on each table, Carla Wise, Rabbi Rachel Rubenstein and Harvey Kallus, PJ Library information

Many thanks to Gail Conklin for these fine photos.



### 2018-2019 Community Volunteers of the Year



### OUR SYNAGOGUES

**CONGREGATION AGUDAS ISRAEL**  
 Newburgh / Conservative  
 Phone: 845-562-5604  
 Rabbi Jacob Rosner  
[congregationagudasisrael.org](http://congregationagudasisrael.org)

**CONGREGATION BETH HILLEL**  
 Walden / Conservative  
 Phone: 845-778-7374  
 Cantor Nava Herzog  
[congregationbethhillel.org](http://congregationbethhillel.org)

**CONGREGATION B'NAI TORAH**  
 Greenwood Lake / Conservative  
 Phone: 845-477-3716  
 Rabbi David Korngold  
[bnaitorahgwl.org](http://bnaitorahgwl.org)

**CONGREGATION EITZ CHAIM**  
 Monroe / Conservative  
 Phone: 845-783-7424  
 Rabbi Ariana Capptauber  
[eitzchaim-monroe.org](http://eitzchaim-monroe.org)

**MONROE TEMPLE OF LIBERAL JUDAISM**  
 Monroe / Reform  
 Phone: 845-783-2626  
 Rabbi Roger Lerner  
[monroetemple.org](http://monroetemple.org)

**TEMPLE BETH EL**  
 Port Jervis / Conservative  
 Phone: 845-856-1722  
[templebethelpjny.org](http://templebethelpjny.org)

**TEMPLE BETH JACOB**  
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 Rabbi Doug Kohn  
[tbjnewburgh.org](http://tbjnewburgh.org)

**TEMPLE BETH SHALOM**  
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 Phone: 845-651-7817  
 Rabbi Rebecca Shinder  
[tbsny.org](http://tbsny.org)

**TEMPLE SINAI**  
 Middletown / Conservative  
 Phone: 845-343-1861  
 Rabbi Marcus Rubenstein  
[templesinaimiddletown.com](http://templesinaimiddletown.com)

## 2018-2019 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

### Congregation Agudas Israel – Newburgh

**Roz Portnoy** is one of the shining stars of Congregation Agudas Israel. She is described as selfless and a high energy beam of light. Her family describes her as the glue that holds them together. Roz is always compassionate, and a pleasure to be with. Roz and Irwin Portnoy, who have been married for 60 years, moved to Newburgh in 1998. They have been active members of Congregation Agudas Israel for nearly 20 years. Rosalyn has been a member of the sisterhood, Daughters of Agudas Israel, and the Board of Trustees. She is currently in charge of organizing the monthly Simcha Shabbat Kiddushes as she contacts congregants to sponsor the Kiddush Luncheons. Rosalyn does the shopping for the Kiddushes, as well as, the monthly Shabbat dinners. She was the Assistant Teacher of the Chai Nursery School at Agudas from 1999-2005.

### Congregation Beth Hillel – Walden

**Harry Sweet's** new father-in-law made a toast on his wedding day almost 30 years ago to welcome his new son-in-law to the family, referring to him as a renaissance man, an intelligent man of wide ranging interests and talents: tinkerer, teacher, musician, technology geek, carpenter, problem solver. He appreciated Harry's ability to find simple, elegant solutions to both simple and complicated problems. Fast forward a few decades and Congregation Beth Hillel has reaped the benefits of having "Harry-of-all-trades Sweet" onboard as handyman extraordinaire and Chairman of the House Committee. This past year, with the help of an eager band of volunteers, Harry has spearheaded the installation of a new camera security system, will install new, more secure doors, and is on hand to solve a multitude of problems plaguing the aging infrastructure of our humble shul. And he does it all with his inimitable wry, dry sense of humor. In addition, Harry brings the joy of his klezmer fiddle to our congregation. He's our musician and fixer-in-chief; our very own, in-house fiddler on the roof...or roofer on the fiddle when he's fixing a leaky roof, depending on the day.

### Congregation Eitz Chaim – Monroe

**Steven Kushner's** wife's family and his family moved to Orange County some time ago. In his past lives he worked as a cook/dishwasher in a new store in Monroe, WT Grants, a house framer, plumber, structural renovations, warehouse supervisor, programmer consultant, project leader for an international stock lending consulting group, IT Management for a brokerage firm, and now to cap it all off a Licensed Home Inspector. Simultaneously he has a wonderful family with two children and the smartest grandchildren in the world, and the best partner and friend a person can have, Donna. One last event which has brought them here today is their long-time membership or rather relationship with Eitz Chaim. Like all the congregations in Orange County Eitz Chaim has seen dramatic changes in membership and the makeup of their congregation. These changes have forced them to see that to continue they must adapt. To that end, Steven has had the privilege of working with a group of dedicated folks from our congregation and from other congregations in our greater community. Together they have found their next home and their first steps to a new incarnation of Eitz Chaim. Today is about all of these folks too.

### Congregation Eitz Chaim Sisterhood

**All the Women of Sisterhood** who continue to volunteer their time and energy to our temple and surrounding communities. Programs, holiday celebrations, family support in time of need, Saturday morning kiddish, monthly Friday night dinners with our Rabbi, are made possible because of these special women. They are among the first to participate in Monroe's annual Crop Walk and Monroe Woodbury School District's Snack Program. Our congregation is small, yet our accomplishments are great because of the extraordinary efforts of our Sisterhood volunteers.

### Jewish Family Service

**Arlene Strong** moved to the Hudson Valley in the early 1980s and worked as a legal assistant in Goshen until she retired four years ago. After a short time, Arlene chose to volunteer at United Way of the Dutchess Orange Region in Montgomery. When they moved to Dutchess County, about two years ago, Arlene found her new volunteer home at JFS Orange. Arlene is a member of the Mulberry House Senior Center. There, she enjoys exercise and Zumba Classes. The Jewish Family Service of Orange County's offices are running more efficiently since Arlene Strong shares her skills and talents. Arlene does data entry, answers the phones and sends out over a thousand of birthday cards on behalf of JFS Orange to its neighbors and volunteers. We thank Arlene as whatever is asked of her is done with flexibility and a smile on her face.

### Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County

**Leslie Jakoby Green** has chaired the wildly successful Film Festival for over 10 years. It has grown into a much anticipated series and Leslie has done this almost entirely on her own, choosing the films, arranging to get them, securing the venue and advertising the Festival. She also planned, negotiated and brought to fruition our anti-hate billboards. Leslie is always available to serve on a committee or help with a function. In addition, about 5 years ago, Leslie agreed to step into the chain of succession for the presidency, because she was needed. Surely it was not on her to do list, but she stepped up and was an amazing president. Leslie grew up in Brooklyn, the daughter of Holocaust survivors. She moved to Orange County when she married Glenn, who was born and raised in Newburgh and whose family was among the founding members of Congregation Agudas Israel. Leslie graduated from Boston University School of Medicine and practices ophthalmology in Warwick, Goshen, Monroe and Port Jervis. She lives in Chester and is the proud mother of Sarah, Michael and Beth.

### Kol Yisrael

**Robert Lustbader** has been serving his Kol community by attending the front door on Sunday mornings during school and other programming. While the building has been secured by tech obtained through the 2018 Federation grant, having a smiling friendly face at the entrance is a wonderful way to maintain safety in any circumstance. Robert recently retired as a dentist. He and his wife, Ilana, have 3 children: Jessica, Rachel and Matthew who attended Newburgh Schools and went to Religious School at TBJ. Rachel is married and Jessica is married with a daughter, age 1. Robert helps Ilana with the gift TBJ Card Fundraiser.

### **Monroe Hadassah**

**Daryl Bailin** is currently Monroe Chapter Co-President. She is also editor of the Kol Hadassah of Monroe and the new editor of Kol Hadassah Lower New York State. With her graphic design skills, she has put together a brochure for enticing new members and detailing Hadassah's many attributes. Most recently, she coordinated the Shabbat Zachor Hadassah and Hav'dalah Regional Installation and Dinner on March 16th at Monroe Temple Beth El. On the side, Daryl is a Tai Chi instructor, teaches music and is much adored by husband, George. The USA is very fortunate to call this Canadian-born lady one of its own. And, by the way, so is Monroe Hadassah!

### **Monroe Temple Beth-El**

**Lois Klipper**, a longtime member of Monroe Temple has been an integral part of our temple family. For many years she ran the Torah School office on Sunday mornings. She has been a d'var torah mentor to our b'nai mitzvah students, she has taken care of the snacks and babysitting for the High Holidays and picked up food for so many functions. Lois is always there when we call on her. We are honored to have her as a member and friend.

### **Monroe Temple Beth-El Mens Action Club**

**Eben Hill** resides in Orange County with his wife and two young daughters. As a practicing attorney, Eben advocates for the rights of those with mental illness and developmental disabilities. He also serves as the Board President of the Mental Health Association in Orange County Inc. When he is not in the courtroom or boardroom, he can usually be found in the halls of Monroe Temple. Eben's involvement with Beth El started several years ago, when his wife told him to spend a Sunday helping the Men's Club with the Sukkah deconstruction. From that point on, Eben's involvement and enthusiasm quickly grew. He joined the Men's Club, served and continues to serve on countless committees, he became the Men's Club Vice President, and is about to complete his term as Men's Club President. Not afraid to get his hands dirty, Eben leads by example, willing to mow the Temple lawn or vacuum the sanctuary carpets at a moment's notice. This July, Eben will begin his term as Second Vice President of the Temple and is showing no signs of slowing down anytime in the future.

### **Monroe Temple Beth-El Sisterhood**

**Elyse Goldberg** is a recent transplant to the Hudson Valley and has been a member of Monroe Temple for seven years, serving on the Sisterhood Board for the past six years. She is currently completing her second year as Sisterhood President. She enjoys being part of her Temple community, and is a participant in a variety of aspects of Temple life including volunteering for ad-hoc committees and attending educational and ritual programs. Professionally, Elyse is in Museum Administration, and is currently the Site Manager of Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site in Newburgh.

### **Newburgh Jewish Community Center**

**Jan Sosnick** has been chair of the NJCC annual golf outing (the biggest fundraiser of the year) for over 25 years. He is a past president of the NJCC board, Kol Yisrael and a champion supporter of Jewish life in the Hudson Valley. He got his start as a NJCC camp counselor back in the Powell Avenue days.

### **Noar Hadassah of Newburgh**

**Cheryl Lachant** is a lifelong Hudson Valley resident, born and raised in Wappingers Falls. She has spent her career working with Special Needs Pre-K students, and has taught for the last 20 years at ARC of Orange and Sullivan Counties where she serves on several committees and works on the Evaluation Team. Cheryl has always been involved in Jewish activities. With the Noar of Newburgh Chapter of Hadassah, she has chaired four successful Shop 'til You Drop Vendor Events to raise funds for Breast Cancer Research for Hadassah Hospital. Perhaps most importantly, Cheryl is a courageous fighter. She is a three-time cancer survivor, including breast cancer in June of 2015. Her devotion, compassion, quickness to help anyone in need (especially animals), humor and fighting spirit enriches everyone lucky enough to know and love her, especially her loving husband Michael.

### **Temple Beth Jacob – Newburgh**

**Sherrill Murray Lazarus** has been a long-standing member of Temple Beth Jacob and served as our Hebrew School principal for many years. In 2018, she joined the Board of Directors. Within a few months, we learned that Rabbi Freedman would be leaving us this July. Sherrill stepped up to serve as Search Committee Chair. She brought the same professionalism to her new role as she brings to everything she does. Sherrill made the process painless and even helped our congregation form bonds with newer partners who many of us did not know. Sherrill is also serving on our Rabbinical Transition Committee, lending her knowledge, warmth, and experience to this very important committee.

### **Temple Beth Jacob Sisterhood**

**Susan Notar** has lead TBJ sisterhood for the last 3 years. As a dedicated leader she is involved in planning and participating in the many activities the sisterhood organizes from book discussions, women's Shabbat and our annual women's Seder. Since retiring from teaching at Newburgh Free Academy Susan has volunteered at Temple Beth Jacob and taught several adult ed classes. When some members requested that TBJ reinstate its Sisterhood they approached the board and began programming activities for the women of TBJ. Over the past three years they have tried to meet the social, educational and spiritual needs of their members with book discussions, theater trips, a women's Shabbat and an annual women's Seder. In addition to chairing the Temple Beth Jacob Sisterhood, Susan serves as secretary of the Jewish Federation.

### **Temple Beth Shalom – Florida**

**Loretta Trinco** is dedicated to Temple Beth Shalom. Since being called to Torah as a Bat Mitzvah, she has been an example and mentor to the next generation of youth leadership, serving as Youth Group President. In addition she is a Hebrew School assistant. Loretta exemplifies L'Dor V'Dor. Loretta is a senior at Minisink Valley High School. She'll be attending Fairleigh Dickinson University in the fall, where she'll study Criminology and Psychology. She has studied dance since she was 3 years old, and in her spare time she holds a part time job at Glen Arden in Goshen.

### Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood

**Holli Teshome** has been a member of Temple Beth Shalom for over 10 years. She grew up in Orange County and now lives in Chester with her husband Sidney and two children, Jacob and Allison. Holli is a speech therapist and owns Communication Station located in Goshen. Holli has taken an active role at Temple Beth Shalom along with her family. She is a dedicated volunteer to both Temple Beth Shalom and TBS Sisterhood. She is currently the co-advisor to FLOTY KATAN and serves on the Sisterhood Executive Board. Holli is always there to help out when needed and is truly an asset to the Temple Beth Shalom family. She is well deserving of this year's Sisterhood Volunteer Award.

### Temple Sinai – Middletown

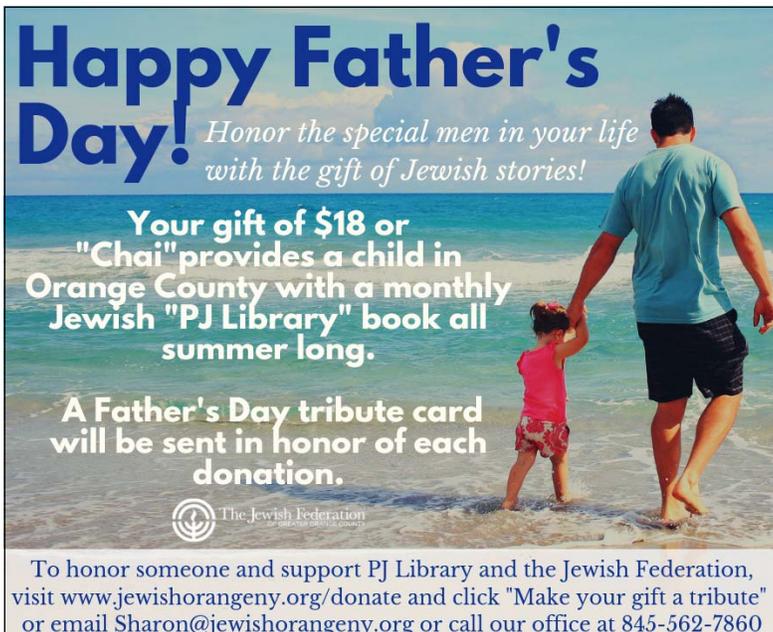
**Roberta Baum** and her husband have been members of Temple Sinai for approximately 41 years. Roberta has held many positions at Temple Sinai: teacher, Hebrew School Co-Educational Director, member of the Board of Trustees, Chairperson of the Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance Program, creator of the yearlong holiday recipe program entitled E-Recipe Corner and a Chair of the Shavuot program. Roberta is also an accomplished Behrman House author and co-author of textbooks, teacher guides and workbooks for Jewish education. Roberta was born in the Bronx, married Ernest Baum in 1967 and moved to Middletown shortly thereafter. They have a son Richard, daughter-in-law Terri and are very proud of their two grandsons Eli & Jonah. Roberta continues her dedication to Temple Sinai through her involvement in various committees. Her extensive experience and service in the Jewish community is invaluable to Temple Sinai.

### Temple Sinai Men's Club

**Lester Millman** has been a very active participant in morning minyan, services and programs since joining Temple Sinai. In addition, and equally as important, he gives selflessly of his time to perform an important security role in our synagogue, safeguarding all who are there. Lester is a national and international award-winning photojournalist. From 1973 to 1980 and to the present, he has covered 3 wars, 8 US presidents and countless public figures and events. He spent 10 years as photographer to the Governor of NY and was at Ground Zero the first night and almost daily for the first few weeks. He has a photograph in the permanent exhibit at the World Trade Center Museum. Lester is a member of the Ontario Hose Company of Middletown, a past captain in the Rye Fire Department and is a Fire-Police officer. Lester has 3 wonderful children, Micha (a Sabra), Raheli (and Jim) and Sarah (and Jon) with 3 terrific grandchildren Able, Eli and Charlotte.

### Temple Sinai Sisterhood

**Beverly Goetschius** has lived in Middletown for 45 years and has been a Temple Sinai member for that many years. As a member of Sisterhood she has held many positions within the organization; organizing a Sisterhood Calendar, canvassing merchants soliciting for ads, assisting in the kitchen and then becoming Kitchen Supervisor, editing the Sisterhood Monthly Newsletter, collating members' recipes for the Cook's Book and running the gift shop. Beverly served as President of Sisterhood and earned the Woman of the Year Award in 1986. In addition, she was part of the Temple Choir for fifteen years and taught Hebrew School. Beverly is the proud mother of two adult sons, Matthew who lives locally and has three of his own sons, along with Brett who resides in the state of Florida. She taught in the Middletown School District for 20+ years. Recently, she began volunteering her time assisting Lucy Fox as they introduced the Family Shabbat dinners several years ago. In her free time she enjoys reading, gardening during the spring/summer season, and being creative with crafts, making jewelry and painting on wood and glass objects.



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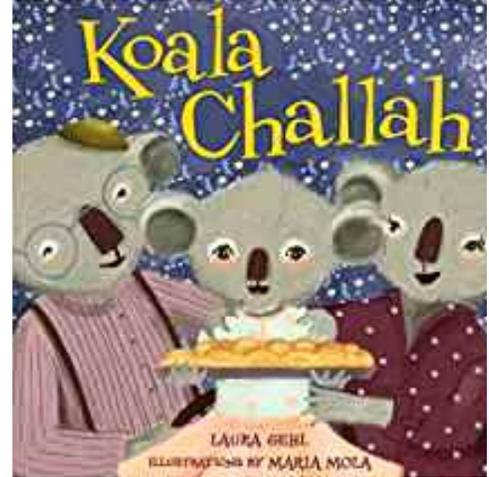


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At the final PJ Play of this season, the children made Kiddush cups for Shabbat and enjoyed the book, “Koala Challah”, about a Koala who wants to help prepare for Shabbat. Many thanks to Elisa Rosenblum for these photos and for facilitating the program at the Monroe Temple.



**STAY TUNED...**  
PJ Play future dates will be announced as soon as they are put into place.



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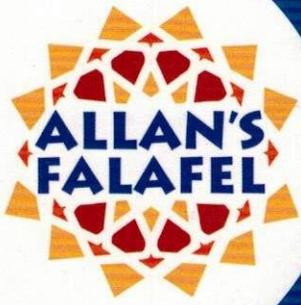
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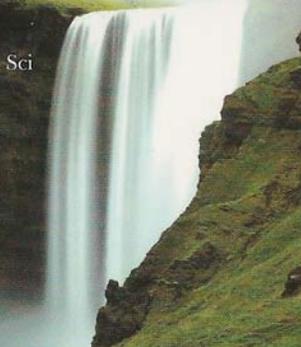
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