



Sophia Maier, Highland Mills
Sarah Shamah, Rock Hill
Kiowa Pratt-Gordon, Warwick
Aviva Snyder, Highland Mills
Paula Blumenau, Middletown
Gail Oliver, Newburgh
Carol Levine, Goshen
Lorraine Wernow, Marlboro

ORANGE COUNTY WOMEN OF VALOR

Honoring women from every decade who are making a difference in the Jewish community and beyond.

Our major community event planned for 2020 was a celebration to honor eight special women in our county on June 28th with a journal brunch.

Now that we face the reality of social distancing, we are not certain that our planned event can take place, but we do know that now more than ever is the time to highlight the amazing contributions that individuals are making to their communities. In every generation there are Women of Valor. These amazing women from around our county, in every stage of life from teens to 80's, inspire us with their passion and their drive to make their communities better. From Peace Corps to School Boards, from grassroots organizing to incredible philanthropy, each of these women demonstrate what one individual can do to make the world a better place. We are proud to share with our community these amazing honorees.

Please—help us honor these Women of Valor in this time when the world needs a little bit more light to help illuminate the darkness. Our goal is to hold a virtual event if we are not able to meet in person.

Please save the date of June 28th as we celebrate our Orange County Women of Valor.

Read all about our honorees and place your Journal Ad or Sponsorship online here: jewishorangeny.org/womenofvalor



Stop Hate Competition: "Acts of Moral Courage" Deadline Extended to May 31st

In the midst of this global pandemic, we have seen how one individual can affect entire communities. But if you look closely, you can find incredible acts of moral courage. One example is Dr. Li Wenliang, the Chinese doctor who raised the alarm about Coronavirus in the early days of the outbreak. Acts of Moral Courage are everywhere, we just have to look.

To give students at home more time to complete their entries, we have extended the deadline on our Stop Hate Multimedia Competition. This contest is open to all Middle School and High School student in Orange County (public, private, or homeschooled).

If students have questions or need assistance with research for their projects, please email Rabbi Rachel Rubenstein, rachel@jewishorangeny.org.

Stop Hate Competition details can be found on our website: jewishorangeny.org/jewish-life/2020-stop-hate-teacher-student-challenge

Jewish Family Service of Orange County's mission is to empower all people facing challenging times to live with dignity, hope and strength. Now more than ever JFS is living its mission as we are all facing challenging times. As an immediate response, JFS started an emergency food pantry to assist our neighbors in need. Dedicated staff and volunteers have worked non-stop to provide this much needed service to our community, and I thank you. This service is not possible without help from our community partners, The Jewish Federation of Orange County, Community Foundation, Dyson Foundation, Office for the Aging of Orange County, the Hudson Valley Food Bank, Pets Alive and so many who have made individual donations, to everyone who has assisted us, I say thank you.



Finally, to our Municipal partners who we have worked with so closely to meet all of our neighbors needs, I say thank you to all of you. This is truly a response where everyone has come together to support each other. To date we have provided over 600 (non-perishable) meals to our Orange County neighbors and we are not stopping anytime soon. Pictured is Scott Hamel, volunteer with the Wallkill Rotary. Wishing all of you good health, peace and hope as we continue through these uncharted times.

Sean Gerow, JFS Executive Director



VIRTUAL PARADE SUNDAY, JUNE 7TH

After weeks of dialogue between NYC officials and Celebrate Israel Parade organizers, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that the Celebrate Israel Parade and all other parades scheduled for June will not go on as planned.

We support the Mayor's decision. First and foremost, we want to ensure the safety of our marchers, spectators, staff, NYPD, and all others on Parade day who would be on the streets. There is a desire for people to connect in these challenging times. Providing healthcare, food, supplies and security are top priorities for the Jewish and general world. But safely connecting people and combating isolation are also an imperative.

With that in mind, we decided to move the Celebrate Israel Parade on Sunday, June 7th from Fifth Avenue to your home! The virtual event will have a theme of *Todah* (thank you in Hebrew). We want to utilize this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to all the healthcare, first responder and other frontline workers in New York, across the United States, in Israel, and around the world. In addition, as we celebrate the Parade's 56th anniversary we also want to show our appreciation to our sponsors and participants who, over the decades, have truly made the Parades on Fifth Avenue great.



**CELEBRATE
ISRAEL
PARADE**



**On May 5th, we will come together as a global community...
To give. To help. To thank. To heal.**

#GivingTuesdayNow is a new global day of giving and unity that will take place on May 5, 2020 - in addition to the regularly scheduled day in December - as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19. Just like regular Giving Tuesday, #GivingTuesdayNow is not exclusively a fundraising day. It's an opportunity for people around the world to stand together in unity - to use their individual power of generosity to remain connected and to heal. Watch for emails, check our Facebook page, facebook.com/jewishorange and go to givingtuesday.org for more information.

Donate now: [jewishorangeny.org/donate](https://www.jewishorangeny.org/donate)

Heroes in Our Midst, continued on next page

Chaplain Melissa Hayes, Jewish Chaplain and Art & Music Chaplain at Rockland Psychiatric Center in Orangeburg, NY, which has been hit very bad by the virus. Nominated by Joseph Kolakowski

David Johnson, Correctional Officer, Otisville, NY. Nominated by Nicole Johnson

Chaplain Barry E. Pitegoff, BBA, MBA, M.Div., BCC, Staff Chaplain at Bon Secours Community Hospital, Port Jervis, one of only two staff chaplains there, the other is a priest-chaplain. Barry is a Board Certified Chaplain, credentialed by Neshama:

Association of Jewish Chaplains, on whose Board he is honored to sit. Barry could be considered a first-responder and essential health care worker, with three different hospital masks on his desk.



We asked our community what they've been up to since we've been quarantined.



Left: Zoom Shiva for Ian Rieger's Mom, where we got to see every member of the family "face to face" and everyone got to speak and share memories. Mona Rieger calls it a "turning lemons into lemonade" moment.

Top left: Dr. Paul Pomerantz and Ian Rieger enjoying a beautiful day outside with proper distancing...and cocktails!

Left: Maddie Karitis made homemade matzo balls.

Heroes in Our Midst

Marissa Goldberg of Monroe, the practice manager of a large veterinary hospital in Nanuet. In this pandemic crisis many of us are comforted by our pets whose loyalty and devotion fuel our emotional needs. But our pets get ill and people forget those in the veterinary fields who work long and hard hours to heal these animals. The pets are separated from their owners at drop off causing them and the treating staff much stress. It has been proven that pet fur may carry the germs of the COVID-19 virus, so the practitioners are placed at a high risk. As practice manager, Marissa oversees the entire operations of the Banfield Veterinary Hospital. She works tirelessly and continues to work from home on her days off. Most recently she was cited by the Banfield Corporation as Best Practice Manager of the entire Northeast United States. As we caress our pets and seek comfort in their presence, let us not forget those who put their lives at risk to keep our fur babies healthy. Nominated by Roberta Monkash

Dr. James Rodrigues, has been working tirelessly as an ER Doctor at Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he is also an assistant professor of emergency medicine. The hospital received hundreds of Covid patients, many in critical condition, many with great fear for their lives, alone without their families. Dr. Rodrigues gave their families his personal cell phone numbers, something he had not done before. Dr. Rodrigues has been working many night shifts with compassion, is also a father of three beautiful children, and my daughter's husband - a true hero, together with all the other dedicated health workers. Nominated by Nava Herzog.

Robert (Bobby) Szeli, a paramedic with Mobile Life Support Services, in Orange County. In his position in the Quality Improvement department he is able to make sure that the people who need help are getting the best possible care. He is responsible for helping other paramedics improve their skills and are informed of best practice. Bobby's focus has always been about patient care. Bobby is a dedicated family man, a father to one daughter, and the husband of my daughter. Nominated by Nava Herzog.

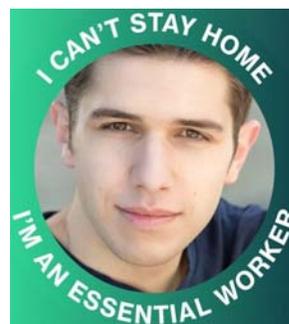
MaryJean Dominick, Kol Yisrael Office Manager and cashier at ShopRite

Dawn Woody, Technician, ORMC

Dr. Edwin Cowen, Hospitalist, Albany

Rabbi Larry Freedman, Air Force National Guard, deployed in NYC

Above four nominated by Susan Notar



Joseph Fox works overnight at Fed Ex so we can get our packages on time, putting himself in harms way delivering us many essential items.

Nominated by proud Grandmother, Lucy Fox

If you or someone you know is essential, please send his/her/your name and place of employment to sharon@jewishorangeny.org. Pictures optional.

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