

# WE ARE ONE

June 2021 Sivan / Tammuz 5781



## JOIN US FOR OUR 45TH ANNUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM - SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH 10AM

Hear a presentation from our Jewish Federation Officers on the work of the Jewish Federation and how we have adapted to the changing needs of our community. All members in good standing may vote to elect our new trustees. Members of the Jewish Federation include anyone over the age of 18 who has made a \$36 or greater gift to the 2020 Annual Campaign. We need a minimum of 75 members to be present at the meeting. Your participation is encouraged and greatly appreciated.

Orange County synagogues and Jewish organizations will honor special individuals who have shown outstanding service as their Volunteers of the Year. Please join us to show your support for these amazing volunteers!

- ◆ Congregation Agudas Israel.....Frank Wolf
- ◆ Congregation Beth Hillel.....Sandy Altman, Joan Garry, Joe Herzog, Arthur Kruk, Laura Schultz, Ana Sussman, Yarden Sussman
- ◆ Congregation Eitz Chaim..... Joan Ostrer
- ◆ Congregation Eitz Chaim Sisterhood.....Louise Silver
- ◆ Jewish Federation.....Rissa Cutler
- ◆ Kol Yisrael.....Nancy Proyect, Elizabeth Solomon
- ◆ Monroe Temple.....Eben Hill
- ◆ Monroe Temple Mens Club.....TBA
- ◆ Monroe Temple Sisterhood.....TBA
- ◆ Newburgh Jewish Community Center.....Joan Gittelsohn
- ◆ Temple Beth Jacob.....TBA
- ◆ Temple Beth Jacob Sisterhood.....TBA
- ◆ Temple Beth Shalom.....Gail Conklin
- ◆ Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood.....Hailey Potter, Madelyn Potter, Emma Pollock, Olivia Pollock, Allison Teshome and Roberta Frishman, z'l
- ◆ Temple Sinai ..... Barbara Weinstein, Stacey Atlas
- ◆ Temple Sinai Sisterhood.....Janet Klein-Rahamim

**PLEASE REGISTER HERE: [jewishorangeny.org/2021Annual Meeting](http://jewishorangeny.org/2021Annual Meeting)**



### RABBIS RACHEL AND MARCUS RUBENSTEIN LEAVING ORANGE COUNTY FOR THE "FROZEN CHOSEN"

After three years as Executive Director of the Jewish Federation and six years as spiritual leader of Temple Sinai, Middletown, the Rabbis Rubenstein have accepted positions as co-rabbis at Temple of Aaron in St. Paul, Minnesota. They are incredibly excited at the opportunity to work together as partners in their new community.

Both wish to thank our Orange County community for the love and support they have received. Rachel said, "You took a chance on a brand-new rabbi and I have grown countless ways as a professional and as a community-builder in my time here." Marcus agrees, "I can't express how grateful I am to all of you for giving me the incredible blessing of serving as your Rabbi for the last six years. I will always hold Middletown in a special place in my heart. And most of all, I will hold each of you."

**MAZEL TOV TO BOTH OF YOU. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING. YOU WILL SURELY BE MISSED!**

## THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF A TORAH SCROLL BY SHARON BALL, TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

You may already know that Temple Beth El in Port Jervis has disbanded. They own a beautiful building, built in 1957, which will be sold. The proceeds will go to Temple Sinai to sustain the remaining 12 members who have all been given life memberships there. At one point Beth El had 240 members. In the meantime the building is being rented by Easter Seals' Project Discovery.



In April, I reached out to a former member of Temple Beth El wondering what they were doing with their Torah Scrolls after they sell the building. Temple Beth Shalom (TBS) has 4 scrolls, but only one of them is Kosher and a few of the others are beyond repair. It was suggested we speak with Julius Greenberg, Beth-El's President of many years. TBS Co-President Wendy Cedar started the conversation with him and after a few emails back and forth, we were invited to come to Port Jervis to check the scrolls out. At the time we were not sure exactly what that meant.

Wendy, Gail Conklin, my husband Rich and I met Julius in Port Jervis. We were immediately taken with the beauty of the building. As you can see from Gail's wonderful pictures, this was a sanctuary anyone would love to pray in with 3 stained glass windows on both sides.



We walked up to a bimah 3 feet up from the ground, reminiscent of the old TBS bimah. And there behind amazing doors were 5 KOSHER Torah scrolls, all bought new in 1957. Rich asked Julius to recommend which a Torah, he did, and we could hardly believe our eyes. It was magnificent with strong dowels and



clear writing on clean parchment. Julius then said, "I assume you'll be taking this with you today..." We were at a little loss for words, but immensely appreciative. Julius said it was their intention to try to find homes for their scrolls locally. Then Gail took more pictures and we looked around for a bit at the many, many years of mementos, pictures and Judaica throughout the lobby.

We loaded the scroll in the back of our car, covered it with a nice blue blanket and headed back to Florida to the TBS sanctuary. Rich placed the scroll on the amud where it happened to open to Rabbi Shinder's favorite parashah, Kiddoshim, the holiness code, read on Yom Kippur afternoon! We then excitedly Face Timed with Rabbi Shinder and Co-President Catherine Greenblatt. After inspecting the scroll further, we recited Shehecheyanu, thanking God for bringing us to this season.



Rabbi asked us to put the new scroll in one of our covers and put our older scroll in the white velvet cover from Port Jervis. Our resident musician, Andy Hannes appeared from another part of the building, perfect timing. As Andy played the piano and we prayed

Eitz Chaim Hi, while placing the new scroll in the ark. Our first Bar Mitzvah of the season, Mark Wishnia, read from the new scroll on April 24th.

**Temple Beth Shalom is deeply humbled by the generosity of Temple Beth El and happy to fulfill the mitzvah of keeping their scrolls housed locally.**

ORANGE COUNTY KLEI KODESH CLERGY VIRTUAL COUNTYWIDE ISRAEL SOLIDARITY PRAYER SERVICE - 5/23/21



Clockwise I-r: Rabbi Doug Kohn, Rabbi Roger Lerner, Rabbi Rachel Rubenstein, Rabbi Rebecca Shinder, Zoomers, Rabbi Marcus Rubenstein, Cantor Nava and Joe Herzog. "Pray for the well-being of Jerusalem; May those who love you be at peace. May there be well-being within your ramparts, peace in your citadels." Psalm 122:6-7



The Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER ORANGE COUNTY



Jewish Book Council

Register:

[jewishorangeny.org/JBC-2020-2021](http://jewishorangeny.org/JBC-2020-2021)

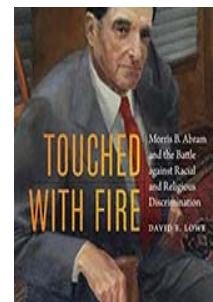
Sunday, 6/6/21 4PM  
Jennifer Cody Epstein  
"Wunderland"

Traces the lives of three women across two generations and the repercussions of choices made in the dark days of wartime Germany.

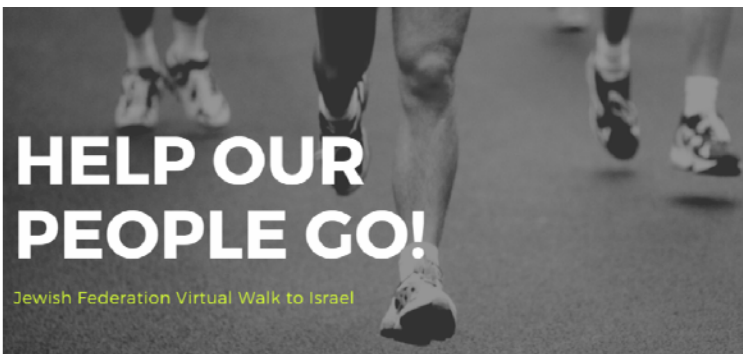


Sunday, 7/11/21 4PM  
David E. Lowe  
"Touched with Fire"

Morris B. Abram and the Battle against Racial and Religious Discrimination.



ALL PROGRAMS ARE VIA ZOOM



5,681  
MILES  
FROM  
NEWBURGH  
TO ISRAEL

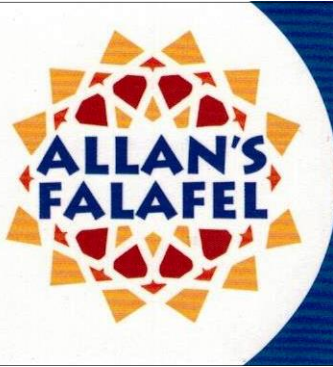


**JOIN THE JEWISH FEDERATION ON OUR FIRST VIRTUAL WALK TO ISRAEL!**

We may have been staying home this past year but that can't stop our hearts from being with our family in Israel. We need your help as our community attempts to travel a cumulative 5,681 miles to get us from Orange County, NY to Jerusalem before Rosh Hashanah! A virtual event allows you to run or walk or bike on your own time and in your own neighborhood. You choose the path, time, and pace of your run/walk/ride. You can walk, run, bike, rollerblade, skip or hop - anything except a car, train, or plane! Children and adults of all ages are encouraged to participate. Share your miles traveled as you go so we can track where we are on our journey to Jerusalem. *PLUS* send us pictures so we can post on social media and cheer our community on!

Sign up by today by visiting [jewishorangeny.org/walktoisrael](http://jewishorangeny.org/walktoisrael). Details on how to track your progress will be sent following your registration.

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