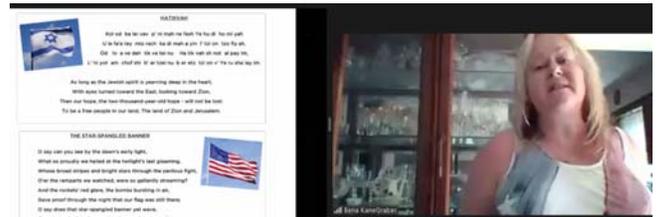




Jewish Federation Holds Virtual Annual Meeting and Honors Volunteers of the Year

Over 100 participants logged into the 44th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 14th, the first in the organization's history held on a virtual platform. Community members enjoyed looking back at a slideshow of past events that were held before social distancing requirements halted in-person programming Jewish Film Festival series chaired by Leslie Green, an increased presence of the Zachor Anti-Semitism initiative in Orange County public schools and an expanded Jewish early childhood program, "PJ Play," that reached a record number of new families. Treasurer Jeffrey Harmer shared a positive financial report that indicated a healthy financial state for the organization, and reminded the community that with their support, the organization could expand its reach and achieve even more.

New Trustees were installed, while we thanked Sharon Goldberg and Lisa Korenman for their years of service as they stepped down off the Board. Past President Carla Wise became an Honorary Trustee.



Clockwise from top left: Executive Director Rabbi Rachel Rubenstein welcomes everyone, Rabbi Roger Lerner of Monroe Temple Beth-El delivers a D'var Torah, Student Rabbi Bena Kane-Graber leads us in Hatikvah and the National Anthem, President Harvey Kallus introduces a video of "Heal Us Now" a song of prayer for health and stability by Leon Sher, performed by HaZamir HaSharon, Doris and Steve Rubinsky reporting on the Nominating Committee and Treasurer Jeffrey Harmer presents a financial report.



The following exceptional community volunteers, selected by Orange County synagogues and Jewish organizations, were recognized for their efforts

Congregation Agudas Israel - Newburgh

Mimica Hyman joined the Board of Trustees in 2018. She has an amazing talent to think outside the box, and endless energy to work on projects that she proposes. Mimica is the brains and engine behind CAI's annual Bark Mitzvah, which was a stunning success at its premiere last fall and she has been responsible for bringing speakers to campus to share their heirloom Megillahs and Brit certificates, as well as actors and congregants in costume to share the film "Mikado" in Yiddish. Most recently, Mimica proposed and organized a monthly Walking Club and a monthly Movie Club meeting via Zoom. Mimica is working on a community Jewish Museum Day to be held on the Kol Campus. She is the epitome of the kind of volunteer every organization dreams of.

Congregation Beth Hillel - Walden Jewish Community Center

Carol and David Jalazo, daughter, Lisa, and granddaughter, Lianna, and be seen singing, praying and enjoying each other's company at Kabbalat Shabbat services after a long week of work and school. Smiling, adoring grandparents surrounded Lianna as she learned the prayers and melodies. Carol and David became fixtures at our shul, always showing up, sharing a friendly smile and a helping hand to those around them. They exude a warmth and gentleness of spirit that puts others at ease. Over time our shul has grown to depend on the Jalazos for their dependability and kindness. As members of the Board of Trustees, Kiddush Coordinators and shul pianist, they maintain our building and volunteer for just about any task, large or small.

Congregation Eitz Chaim – Monroe

Jerome Spector z'l passed away from Covid 19 on April 25th. He was the beloved husband to Paula, father to Sacha (Daphne) and Jennie, grandfather to Talia and Gabriel, brother-in-law to Louise Silver and hundreds of cherished friends.

Jerome was a gentle, talented, learned, creative, fun-loving, selfless, appreciative soul who brought more than his share of beauty into this world. For thirty-eight years, he owned and operated Big Dipper Candles from his home in Chester, NY, making handmade candles selling his wares by making the rounds of craft shows up and down the east coast, and he supplied Jewish community centers, museum gift shops, and synagogues around the world with his distinctive, elegant Chanukah candles, which became an indispensable element of the holiday in countless households. His artist's eye for color and composition showed not just in his candles, but in the many gardens he maintained at home as well as in those he created and maintained for Congregation Eitz Chaim, The Seligmann Center at the Citizens Foundation in Sugar Loaf, NY, the Village of Warwick, NY, and other nearby communities. Plants from his gardens are growing today in dozens of gardens tended by friends and family. He created and built and nourished constantly, whether it was a sculpture out of found objects, a whimsical menorah out of a gourd, a cradle for his children and grandchildren, or the Big Dipper mechanical arm itself.

Jerome grew not just flora, but family and community as well. He was the nucleus of the "Hugs Family", a group of friends who lived communally on an old farmstead outside Bennington, Vermont in the late 1960s. Later, he was part of a weekly card game that met for over forty years, as well as a member of other groups that met for decades. He was an active member of Congregation Eitz Chaim for over forty years. He had a free-wheeling spirit that inspired a life of traveling and spiritual seeking, including hitchhiking trips across the country and to Mexico, freighter passages to Europe and countless trips with his family.

Jerome lived his life without need or desire for recognition. He always acted out of his own quiet but unwavering commitment to Tikkun Olam – that Jewish principle of healing the world. He initiated the Eitz Chaim Snack Program, which ensured that food reached needy children and families regardless of weather or other impediments. For the past eleven years, he volunteered at My Father's Soup Kitchen in Monroe as part of the Eitz Chaim team and represented Congregation Eitz Chaim in the Interfaith Alliance in Southern Orange County. He was dedicated to a range of environmental efforts as well, in particular the work of the Orange Environment and the Orange County Land Trust. He helped friends and neighbors before they knew they needed help.

His slight frame belied his strength and stamina – for hiking, making music, consuming literature and art, and caring for his grandchildren every week. All this he did most often at the side of his beloved wife, Paula. Jerome was goodness, light, and love incarnate. He left us too soon and is deeply missed.

Congregation Eitz Chaim Sisterhood

Rochelle Marshall, Rita Wincott, Fran Gordon, Bonnie Brunner, Ellen McNally, Gail Sullivan, Paula Spector, Vicky Morales, Sheila Ornstein, Alyse Matsil, Linda Siegel, Barbara Fromowitz and Samira Galler comprise the entire Sisterhood Board. They've been on the board for many years and do whatever job needs doing. They consider themselves well-oiled machine with high regard and respect for each other.

Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County

Sharon Goldberg is retiring from the Jewish Federation board this year after years of dedicated service. She was an active member of our Community Relations Council and continues to be an important presence on our Zachor Anti-Semitism Initiative. Sharon's passion for honoring the memory of the Holocaust drives her work, from her commitment to our Zachor Committee, to the Monroe Temple Yom Hashoah commemoration, to her service at the Holocaust Museum and Center for Tolerance and Education where she is in training to become a docent. Sharon and her husband, Jerry, are committed supporters to the work of the Jewish Federation both to the annual campaign, as well as to their family endowment.

Kol Yisrael

Marsha Sobel brings her vast talents to the table and never misses an opportunity to ask how she can help. Her deep drive to serve has led her to many local organizations including Past President at the Jewish Federation, Past President at Temple Beth Jacob, many board and officer positions held at the Newburgh Jewish Community Center, Congregation Agudas Israel, Hadassah, Habitat for Humanity, Newburgh Armory Unity Center, Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry. Marsha's career in education starting as a teacher then becoming a principal and retiring as an Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction allowed her to not only lead in her roles but to teach others the way forward.

Mazel Tov!

Monroe Temple Beth-El

Stephen Block and his wife Shelly and their family have been active members of Monroe Temple for many years. Stephen has been instrumental in leading or supporting the Temple in many ways including Chairing the Special Arrangements Committee, as well as being a vital and active member of the Long Term Planning Committee and the Budget Committee. His commitment and passion for the continued strength and longevity of Monroe Temple has been vital and very helpful.

Monroe Temple Beth-El Sisterhood

Vicki Kilanowski has served as Sisterhood treasurer for a number of years and works in the Judaica Shop. She is cheerful, kind and a wonderful team player. We love Vicki and we are delighted to name her as our Volunteer of the Year.

Newburgh Jewish Community Center

Paul Hoffner is a man whose triumphs are eclipsed only by his capacity to aid and assist those in need at any time in any way he can. His commitments include: Newburgh Jewish Community Center - Board Member, President (3 terms), Kol Yisrael - Board Member, Treasurer, Hospice - Board Member, Buildings & Grounds Chairperson, Golf Committee, Powelton Club - Board Member, Bar & Restaurant Chairperson, Salisbury Bank - Advisory Board Member, Habitat for Humanity - Golf Committee, Newburgh Unity Center - Golf Committee, Military Appreciation Day Committee Volunteer

Temple Beth Shalom - Florida

Shannon Pollock is always full of energy and ideas, Shannon never fails to lend a hand, take on a project or come up with new ideas. As one of the leads of TBS' Security Team, she has been instrumental on updating TBS' security policies, ensuring that we take every possible step in securing our community. Following in the footsteps of her mother, TBS board member and Federation volunteer, Gail Conklin, Shannon is a member of the Board of Trustees and does not shy away from additional responsibilities. She has joined the newly created "Operation Open Shul" team. Her consideration for others is always evident. As a mother of 2 children in Hebrew School, Shannon is always assisting other moms with projects and is the go-to for B'nai Mitzvah parents when they have those "what to do?" questions.

Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood

Janne Sommer is very supportive and is always ready to lend a hand. She's a wonderful asset to Temple Beth Shalom and Temple Beth Shalom sisterhood. Janne is on the TBS board of directors, having been a TBS member for many years. Janne is always willing to volunteer her time to make any event successful.

Temple Beth Jacob - Newburgh

Ilana Lustbader is a past Board member and now leads our supermarket certificate program. She is a longtime member of Temple Beth Jacob who never shies away from stressful, and sometimes tedious, work. Her quiet strength and unwavering support have been a vital part of our fundraising efforts over the years. Ilana is a positive, warm, and steadfast supporter of TBJ and we feel honored to have her as part of our community.

Temple Beth Jacob Sisterhood

Lynne Arnold and her husband, Bill, moved to the Town of Newburgh in 2009. They joined TBJ where Lynne started selling script at Sunday School. She became active in the community becoming Hadassah president, president of the local Garden Club, and member of the steering committee for Newburgh Illuminated. Lynne is a member of the TBJ choir and is choir librarian. She is a board member and chair of the Ritual Committee. She is presently first vice president of the Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc.

Temple Sinai - Middletown

Geoff Chanin is married to Carla Wise, Federation Past President. Geoff has been a practicing attorney for 40 years. His volunteer work includes twenty-five plus years on Surrogate Decision-Making Committees for NYS Justice Center; twenty-five plus years as counsel to Goshen Humane Society and other animal shelters; volunteer work for Ecclesia Ministries in Newburgh, Temple Sinai and Jewish Federation, among others; pro bono counsel to veterans needing legal assistance; volunteer for Orange County Dispute Resolution Center; many others. Over the past two years Geoff has been indispensable to many Temple Sinai committees, the Board of Trustees and our Temple Sinai staff, with his professional knowledge. These are just a few of his accomplishments: revised by-laws, revised "Constitution" and handbooks for Chevra Kadisha, the Cemetery Committee including revised cemetery rules and regulations; draft contracts with Orange County for chaplain services; management of the cemetery investments. He is still working on camera installation at the cemetery. He has also represented Temple Sinai in various litigation. He has also continues to provide valuable legal research for the future of Temple Sinai. Geoff said, "I am gratified by your kindness and I will always be willing to help however I can, as long as I can. In EVERY case I have ONLY been assisting others who have taken the lead on these several important matters. These people are much more deserving than am I, and I accept this recognition ONLY on their behalf. My philosophy has always been that if I might do some good, the opportunity to do so is a real gift TO ME, not to others. Again, thank you very, very much."

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.

If you attended our event on June 28th, we hope you enjoyed our presentation of the Women of Valor and the virtual interview with our special guest, former Governor Madeleine Kunin of Vermont, the first female Jewish Governor.



**We have uploaded the entire event to our website:
www.jewishorangeny.org/WomenOfValor**

In addition to watching the video, you can browse through our commemorative Journal and/or purchase Ms. Kunin's book, "Coming of Age: My Journey to the Eighties."

We wish to thank every one who purchased a Journal Ad. Our Sponsors are listed first and everyone else is listed in alphabetical order:

SPONSORS: David & Sherrie Levine, Eric & Samantha Levine, Rachel Levine Steinberg, Levine Family, Connie & David Littman

Genie Abrams & Tim Riss
 Eric & Liz Alderman & Family
 Atlas Footcare Group
 Joan Augello
 Jack & Suzanne Berkowitz
 Marty & Judi Berman
 Joe & Joan Birnbaum
 Edward & Josephine Bloomfield
 Eric Blumenau & Family
 Lyra Blumenthal
 Joseph Cavaliere
 Congregation Eitz Chaim
 Cornell Hillel
 Lee & Rissa Cutler
 Arlene Diesenhouse
 Joseph & Abbe Distelburger
 Marty & Linda Dlugatz
 Carol Furchak Kersten
 Sean Gerow & JFS
 Michael & Joan Gittelsohn
 Jerome & Sharon Goldberg
 Tamara Goldis & Family
 Marga Gordon
 Glenn & Leslie Green
 Betty Grossman
 Jeff & Rachelle Harmer
 Eric & Deb Heffler

Hillel International
 Sharon Broder & Joan Piskin
 Lillian Judelson
 Irv & Liz Kadash
 Adele Kibrick
 Carol Klein
 Gary & Judy Knee
 Doug Kohn & Susan Wertheim
 Raena Korenman & Family
 Larry & Ava Kravitz
 William Ledwitz & Vicki Kilanowski
 Richard & Gwen Lerman
 Ellen Levine
 George & Susan Levy
 Stephen & Gerri Luloff
 Hal Marcus
 Rochelle Marshall
 Risa Neustadt
 Leon & Susan Notar
 Ken & Gail Oliver
 Ken Oliver & Family
 Sheila Ornstein
 Barry & Deb Pariser
 Ian & Mona Rieger
 Howard & Susan Rosen & Family
 Arlene Ross
 Marcus Rubenstein

Rubin Psychological Services, PC
 Steve & Doris Rubinsky
 Joel & Aviva Schwab
 Al & Jennifer Shamah
 Rebecca Shinder
 Noa Snyder
 Morris & Marsha Sobel
 Janne Sommer
 Stephe Sturman & Rob Abramsom
 Len & Ingrid Taub
 Temple Beth Shalom
 Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood
 Temple Sinai
 Temple Sinai Board of Trustees
 Temple Sinai Mens Club
 Rochelle Timperio
 Edith Tolchin
 Carla Wise & Geoff Chanin
 Joel & Cynthia Weintraub
 Shirley Zodikoff
 David & Barbara Zucker
 Jeremy Zweig, Boulder Strategic Communications

Here are a few screen-shots from the event. Lorraine Wenow has shared a picture of the lovely gifts each Woman was given. Thank you to Rabbi Rachel Rubenstein for traveling all over Orange County and beyond to deliver these ifts in person!



Gallery views, Rabbi Rachel Rubenstein welcomes us, Susan Notar interviews Madeleine Kunin, Campaign Chair Rissa Cutler reminds us of the importance of supporting Federation, gifts to our Women of Valor.

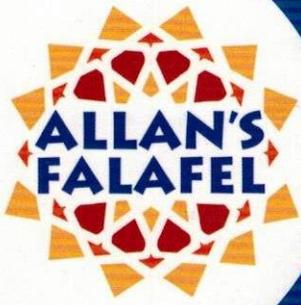
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

JEROME B. GOLDBERG, D.M.D.

52 MAPLE AVENUE
MONROE, NY 10950

(845) 783-7444
JGOLDBERGORTHODONTICS.COM

PRACTICE LIMITED
TO ORTHODONTICS

115 Main Street
Chester, New York 10918
845.469.1714
eat@AllansFalafel.net
www.AllansFalafel.net

Authentic Israeli Cuisine
Homemade Fresh Daily
Lunch, Dinner
Catering & Food Truck
Enjoy Here Or Order To Go



Sci Ed Consulting
Tutoring: Biology, Earth Sci, Gen Sci
Sheila L Ornstein
Science Educator

19 Scaglione Court
Highland Mills, NY 10930

845.781.0603
rocklady81@hotmail.com



KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

69 Brookside Ave, Suite 225
Chester, NY 10918

Abbe Distelburger
NYS Lic. RE Assoc. Broker

Cell: 845.341.6572
Bus: 845.928.8000 

E-mail: abbedistelburger@gmail.com
www.realestatebyabbe.com

Each Keller Williams Realty Office is Independently Owned and Operated

Dr. Jerome Wittner

CHIROPRACTOR

5 Catalpa Rd. 845-561-1311
Newburgh, NY



Ameriprise 
Financial

The Flat Iron Building
25 Main Street, Suite 3-2
Goshen, NY 10924
845.291.7000
mark.d.kalish@ampf.com
flatironfinancialgroup.com

Flat Iron Financial Group
A private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA AND SIPC.
©2019 Ameriprise Financial Inc. All rights reserved.



ADAMS
FAIRACRE FARMS
1240 Rt. 300 • Newburgh, NY 12550

www.AdamsFarms.com

Tel (845) 569-0303
Fax (845) 569-0264

Advertise your business here.

Business card ads: \$10/month or \$100/year.

¼ page(4.5x3.5"): \$15/month or \$150/year.

2 free months for whichever size ad placed.

Call 845-562-7860 or email
sharon@jewishorangeny.org



A Publication of the Jewish Federation
of Greater Orange County
292 North St., Newburgh, NY 12550
845-562-7860
www.jewishorangeny.org
info@jewishorangeny.org