NEWBURGH JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Experience. Enrichment. Cultural. Social. Educational.

***Something for everyone at Newburgh JCC***

The last 15 months have been the hardest, most drastically different times anyone has seen since the Spanish Flu of 1918. Whenever we brush up with history this powerfully, I am called to my Jewish understanding of the world to relate it back to 6,000 years of staying power. Our longevity is our strength as it reminds us that our Jewish communities will be here for us when we move forward. And we have.

Having friends, funds and leadership to turn to at the Federation has strengthened the work of Newburgh JCC across the county. I cannot say enough about my admiration for Rabbi Rachel Rubenstein and the committed volunteers and staff members at Federation who pour their hearts, time and expertise into the work of the agency. In addition to forming what can only be described as the beginning of a lifelong friendship, I have learned so much working together with Rachel and I promise to sustain the momentum that came from our ideation meetings and collaborations as we move forward with new leadership.

A standout moment of the past year was the Yom Hashoah commemoration. The committee behind that program was a group of talented and committed volunteers in our Orange County who have a passion for Holocaust Remembrance and many years of experience conducting their own commemorations. Dr. Ron Israelski delivered a powerful story of disruption, destruction and rebuilding for his Father, Sam, and many family members. As a team working to provide this program we cried, we deliberated and brought in many friends and community members to share their talents to honor the memory of lives lost then and since. Over 150 devices logged in that night. It was so powerful to see such a robust turnout. I truly enjoyed being part of it and I'm proud to say we are already planning our 2022 commemoration.

In the months ahead, we hope to return to our fundamental programming roots to bring Mah Jongg Mondays back and reconvene our trips to Jewish destinations, including the National Museum of Jewish History which was on hold from fall 2020.

We are also very excited to share the news that Newburgh JCC's Judaism-meets-Montessori preschool is well on its way to opening for fall 2021. Thanks to Jewish Federation, Jewish families have access to need-based scholarship dollars to help offset costs to attend.

Thank you to our friends at the Jewish Federation for helping to guide Jewish life forward in Orange County and working diligently with us and so many others to build a strong Jewish community.

Yours in Partnership,

Stefanie Kostenblatt



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