

# CONNECT

CONGREGATION GATES OF HEAVEN AFFILIATED WITH THE URJ



## PASSOVER

Updates coming soon

## OUR GATES ARE OPEN

We're Back!  
Services and programs  
in-person and virtual.

## MEMORIES

Across generations  
Stories of our past

FROM OUR RABBI

### Making Sense of Matzah

*Ha Lachma Anya...*

**This is the bread of affliction.**

RABBI MATT CUTLER ~ MCUTLER@CGOH.ORG



These words are taken from the *Hagadah* [the book we use to tell the story] and are used as part of our *Seder* experience. Early on in the *Seder*, the ritual of “*Yachatz*” [literally from the root to divide in half] is performed. It is a ritual done without words; there is no *bracha* recited. The middle of three pieces of *matzah* is taken and broken in half. Part of it is taken, wrapped in a napkin, and hidden as the *afikomen*. There is a child in each of us who—along with the real kids at the *Seder* table—yearn to find that missing piece of *matzah*. Like the ritual of *Yachatz*, the *afikomen* has no ritual that causes us to recite a blessing. The reward is inherent in finding the missing piece as a completion of the *Yachatz* ritual—to restore what was once whole.

Be mindful of *matzah* and the rituals surrounding it. Look, *matzah* is a simple food—just flour and water; simple. In the *Hagadah*, it is called *lechem oni*—bread of affliction and elsewhere in the *Seder*, it is referred to as the bread of freedom. Which one is it? One of my teachers shared the perspective that when the *matzah* is split in two during *Yachatz*, one is for affliction and one is for freedom. Anyone who has tried to divide *matzah* in half knows that it can be a messy job—crumbs everywhere, hard to get exactly two even parts. The rabbis teach us that is ok because it is a reminder that when God split the Red Sea, it was not done evenly or equally because the Israelites did not stand exactly in the middle of the shoreline. Thus, our unequal parts to our *matzah* remind us of that.

With that teaching understood, the next question is which piece do you hide for the *afikomen*? There is a teaching that the larger piece is a symbol of the majority of the years that the Israelites were enslaved, and the smaller piece is placed back on the plate as a symbol of Israel’s freedom. When the *matzah* is found, it is eaten to make our affliction dissipate. This hidden piece is the bread of affliction!

The rabbis also teach that this missing piece, which is hidden, reminds us of the seriousness of failing to observe Passover. Back in Temple times, there was an obligation to bring a sacrifice to the Temple. If one did not do this, that person was subject to “extirpation,” being cut off from the community. That person, like the *afikomen*, is missing from the rituals, but he is not forgotten---he should await some sort of redemption just like the *afikomen* is found and brought back to the table. God seeks wholeness of heart, not retribution.

Here are various symbolisms of the *matzah*, *afikomen* and *yachatz*—

- a. Splitting the *matzah* in half is symbolic of the splitting of the sea—the terrain at the bottom is jagged; under water hills and valleys make up the landscape. It is not a simple walk across as Charlton Heston may make us believe. Plus even God may not have made it a clean straight break!

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## THE RABBI'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

b. Hiding the *matzah* as the *afikomen* reminds us that some of us are hidden from our tradition. We choose not to observe the holiday, but there is still potential to bring others to the table to share in the richness of Judaism. And that can be done on our own terms!

c. There is a teaching that says that in the time of trouble, the most sacred parts of our lives should be hidden away and redeemed once it is safe. The hidden *afikomen* symbolizes that as we hide it at the start of the *seder* when our story is still in Egypt and it is found after the meal which reminds us of the richness of the Temple era and power of our pride as we remember the independence that came with the Jewish commonwealth centuries ago.

Keep all this in mind as you hold the *matzah* in your hands. Remember these teachings as you find a personal connection to the *seder* experience. Seek a mindful understanding of the rituals. Be cognitive to intrinsic meaning of each task performed during the *Seder*. Find relevance within those tasks... and then remember the sacred journey God has mapped out for us through the journey that began years ago when our ancestors left Sinai.



## REMEMBERING THE BORSCHT BELT

Josh Cooper-Ginsburg

Director of Administration and Operations



I am so excited to be here at Congregation Gates of Heaven as Director of Administration and Operations and I look forward to getting to know all of our wonderful members! For those who don't know me yet, here's a special memory that will tell you a bit about me. I was raised in a Conservative Jewish family in Oceanside, NY (on Long Island). Every year, we would celebrate Simchat Torah together with our friends at Temple Avodah, the Reform Temple down the street, dancing with our Sifrei Torah in their parking lot, after proudly parading down Oceanside Road. After graduating from the University at Albany, I was living in Albany when I met my husband, Eric. We were married in 2015 at the synagogue where Eric grew up, with close friends and family in attendance.

When I think of my childhood, some of my fondest memories are of time spent with my family and our friends in the beautiful old Catskill Mountains Borscht Belt resorts.

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**Our Gates Are Open  
In-Person & Virtual  
Connected & Safe**

**SHABBAT SERVICES  
IN-PERSON & LIVE-  
STREAM EVERY FRIDAY  
AT 7:00 P.M.**

**JAMMIES & JEANS  
6:00 P.M. FIRST FRIDAY OF  
THE MONTH FOR FAMILIES  
WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**

**TAI CHI  
VIRTUAL TAI CHI  
EVERY MONDAY  
AT 6:30 P.M.**

**WEEKLY EVENTS with  
RABBI MATT:**

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- **COFFEE & CONVERSATION EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 1:00 P.M.**
- **LUNCH & LEARN TALMUD STUDY EVERY THURSDAY AT NOON**

**ALL VIRTUAL PROGRAMS  
ARE BY ZOOM. WORSHIP  
SERVICES ARE LIVE-  
STREAMED AND IN-  
PERSON.**

## REMEMBERING THE BORSCHT BELT

Continued from page 3

Granted, it was a very different experience for me to be there than it was for my parents in the '60s and '70s, the heyday of Borscht Belt fame and glory, but we loved it all the same. We would drive past the abandoned properties of hotels that had already closed, the Nevele, the Concord, and Grossinger's. New resorts have since replaced them for the growing Hasidic communities of Sullivan and Rockland Counties. It's nice to see Jews still there and growing, but it's very different from the clientele of old

I was in 4th grade when my parents first brought my brother and myself to the Raleigh Hotel in South Fallsburgh, my first Borscht Belt experience. My mom and dad were the co-chairs of our synagogue's "Couples Club," which planned these annual weekend retreats for young families. Our friends from Long Island would meet us there and we would spend the weekend being entertained by the flamboyant social director Chuck James, famous dance instructor Jackie Horner (inspiration for the film *Dirty Dancing*), and of course, Jackie's husband Lou Goldstein and his famous Simon Says family games. Morris Katz speed-painting in the lobby always meant a new piece for our home collection (of which I now have four in my home in Schenectady). Later, meeting Helen Kutsher and learning about her family's work in building the unique Kutsher's resort and making all of their guests feel at home-away-from-home, was a particularly meaningful experience for me.

My friends and I would explore every hallway and open space where we could sit and talk, not long before cell phones would have otherwise kept us busy in a comfy chair in the lobby. Disposable cameras and VHS camcorders were our only tech at that time, but real memories are so much stronger. The carpets and the walls were still the same as they were in the '60s, aging, but classic. The hairdresser and gift shop were open and busy, the indoor mini-golf near the toboggan rental office kept us entertained during the days, and fresh sour cream served in the dining room three times a day, with as many blintzes and/or latkes as we wanted.

Evenings at the Raleigh consisted of dinner (order everything you want and then some, just for good measure), drinks in the Swizzlestick Lounge (real drinks for the adults and Shirley Temples all around for the kids) and a comedy or music show in the main theater, then it was off to bed for the kids and a night of dancing for the parents (we assumed). Just being in that theater, knowing it's seen the likes of Mel Brooks, Buddy Hackett, Alan King (whose daughter, as I understand it, went to Prom with Rabbi Matt), Allan Sherman, Henny Youngman, and so many more of the greatest generation in comedy, every laugh echoed those heard in that space from six decades before.

I cherish these memories as they connect me to the history of our extended mishpocha, all those who enjoyed the grandeur and excitement of a Catskills resort getaway. I can only imagine what it must have been like at its peak, a growing Jewish community enveloping itself in the majestic beauty of the Catskill Mountains, even for just a weekend. Even now, some 20 years since my last Catskills visit, I get flashback images in my mind, reminding me of a simpler time in my life, with good friends, loving family, and abundant, abundant food. *See my picture below.*

Stop by the office, or call or email me to continue this conversation and talk some Jewish geography. Can't wait to chat with you!

- Joshua Cooper-Ginsburg

*Josh*



FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL JEWISH LIVING

## **Our pandemic gift to our children**

by Arnold Rotenberg



One of the most radical and satisfying post pandemic changes we have made is our approach to Hebrew education. In past years we found after four years of Hebrew prayer classes, many of our children were struggling with Hebrew decoding accuracy. More so, they spent years practicing prayers and learning about prayers, not learning to pray.

We have hit the reset button—we have begun giving our learners a compelling connection to Judaism and Jewish life and the opportunity to develop spiritually. Our students deserve a strong age-appropriate connection to Hebrew as a language, not disparate letters and vowel-signs threaded together with no sense of meaning. We have been giving an opportunity to give our children some very special gifts:

- The gift of connecting to our prayers and blessings, using Tefillah time on Sunday mornings creating a community of learners to pray and sing together learning the prayers we recite Friday evenings and Shabbat morning. By the time they begin decoding students recognize the prayers.
- The gift of more compelling Jewish learning. Decoding practice no longer takes hours of time between 4th and 7th grade. Our students have been granted time to explore age appropriate, interesting, and relevant big ideas of Jewish life.
- The gift of introducing our children to the richness of Hebrew. Our #OnwardHebrew initiative, coupled with Hebrew Through Movement and Jewish Life Vocabulary and spirited Tefillah builds confidence and competence with Hebrew.
- The gift of offering our children years of hearing, speaking, and singing the sounds of Hebrew (prayers, songs, vocabulary), before asking them to work with print. English speaking six-year-olds have multiple verbal exposures to the word “dinosaur” before they see it in print—something many sixth graders have not had before learning prayer words like Yotzer Ohr.
- The gift of one-on-one Hebrew learning. Using our Hebrew@Home program as a precursor to B’nai Mitzvah tutoring, students work one-on-one with a dedicated teacher specifically looking out for everyone’s learning needs. No groups, one-on-one.

The pandemic has turned the world of Jewish education upside down and has given us the opportunity to challenge assumptions of Hebrew learning that have been part of us for decades. The change is not easy, but the way we have been teaching Hebrew has taken time and energy away from synagogue education for decades. We are coming out from this pandemic with a gift to our children of engaging, compelling Jewish learning.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Rotenberg".



## **Special Memories**

by Elisa Harrington -Verb

Sometimes when you are in the middle of an experience you know that you will want to remember and memorialize every detail and share the story with everyone you know. On Mitzvah Day 2019, I took the 14 children in my Gates of Heaven kindergarten class to meet congregant Ted Vinick at his home. The visit was so meaningful we decided to write and illustrate a book about it.

Sadly, a few weeks into writing the text, Ted passed away. Our class learned about kaddish and Jewish mourning through experience. Shortly after we began illustrating our text, the world shut down due COVID-19. It was several months before I could visit each child safely at their homes so we could complete the book. I hope that process taught them to follow through on a project even amidst extreme adversity and that their teacher really loved and valued them.

I was so proud of the project I had the book professionally printed. Each author received their own copy of Tullia and the Mixed Up Day and I sent one to Ted's son. It was a delightful and profound activity that I hope cemented Jewish values these children will carry for a lifetime.

Now you can have your own copy of this very special book! For the low, low cost of an \$18 donation to the Jewish Vibrancy Fund, I have your personal copy in hand! Plus, if you live locally I will personally deliver your book! Hugs optional. Contact elisa@cgoh.org.

## **Creating Memories for your Grandchildren**

by Lauren Savage

How do we make lasting memories? We combine experiences with the emotions and our five senses.

Some of my best memories of my grandmother center around family gatherings at her Brooklyn apartment. I easily conjure up the smells of cooking, the sounds of laughter and even raised voices, and the feeling of safety.

I am lucky to have been living with my grandchildren (boy/girl twins) since they were four years old, so we have many shared experiences. When I asked them what their favorite memories of me were, I was surprised by their answers: having breakfast on the deck on a summer morning, watching and helping me braid challah on Fridays, going for walks with our dog, reading together on my big bed, and going to Starbucks for a special drink! These aren't the big things, not the expensive things (except for that Starbucks drink!) we do for children, but the rituals, the smells, the sounds, the feeling of loved being.

I hope this encourages you to feel that the time spent with your grandchildren, whether often or infrequent, will make memories that are special and lasting.

# Learning from the Past

The **B'nai B'rith Capital Area Holocaust Essay Contest** promotes awareness and education about the Holocaust of WW-II among young people, parents, and school teachers. Contest goals also include educating students about the importance of preventing holocausts from occurring in the future. With support from the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York, the Sternlicht Holocaust Memorial Fund, the Albany and Schenectady B'nai B'rith, the Brotherhood of Congregation Gates of Heaven, and numerous individual donors, we have succeeded in these goals. Our Contest is free, entirely non-commercial, and open to Middle School and High School students in the 12-county area around Schenectady and Albany Counties.

The 2021 essay topic was: The Holocaust of WW-II began before it happened, by people having a misplaced loyalty to 'The Enemy Within'. We now have seen something like this in our own country. How does one fight 'The Enemy Within' to prevent another holocaust? I am including the Middle School and High School First Prize essays of the 2021 Holocaust Essay Contest as examples of our outcomes. Contest results also are routinely publicized more broadly, such as in The Jewish World News each year, and in my own appearances on Public TV programs including Schenectady Today (now called Capital Region Today) in recent years. We also have an informative web site:

<https://www.bbhec.org>

We have run the Contest each year for several decades. Our impact therefore is cumulative as awareness increases among students, teachers, and school administrators from year to year, decade to decade, and generation to generation. Students graduate and become our future voters, parents, teachers, and community leaders. Each year we reach a new population, thereby increasing our cumulative positive impact on former students who have moved beyond their pre-college school days. We reach numerous students, not just the small number of winning essayists, because all students of participating teachers receive benefit from increased and improved teaching about the Holocaust and associated contemporary issues. By now, we have reached many thousands of students, who are now many thousands of adults. Our success is a matter of record.

Bob Michaels  
BB HEC Chairperson

## **B'nai B'rith 2021 Capital Area Holocaust Essay Contest**

2021 Essay Topic: The Holocaust of WW-II began before it happened, by people having a misplaced loyalty to 'The Enemy Within'. We now have seen something like this in our own country. How does one fight The Enemy Within to prevent another holocaust?



## **2021Contest Winners: Read their essays on the next pages**

Middle School - Jakob Lamb (Left)  
High School - Pallavi Datta (Right)



## **2021 B'nai B'rith Middle School and High School First Prize Essays**

### **Middle School First Prize: Jakob Lamb Loudonville Christian School Sponsoring Teacher: Michelle Kaufman**

It is around us all. It can take the most perfect people and bend them until they break. It can create wondrous things, yet it can inspire horrors that can wipe out generations. You can't hide from it. You can control it though. It can come in many shapes. It takes serious awareness and deep self-analyzation to see it coming. Most importantly, the enemy within can create chaos.

The holocaust is one of the most infamous and largest genocides in world history. As the Nazis began to spread through nearby European countries, they originally promised that Jews and other countrymen alike would be allowed to live their normal lives. Many people began to get comfortable with the idea of peace between the groups. For a while, the Nazis followed through on their promises and many began to see them as their neighbors. It would not last long. It showed misplaced trust from within. In the book The Last Jew of Rotterdam by Ernest Cassutto, the main character says "we thought Holland's borders would be respected," and "they (the Germans) said that we would be able to continue our normal lives" (15). On the same page, he says "we began to feel less and less secure as the shadow of the swastika grew larger. Our illusions of peace were shattered like cheap china." The Nazis weren't there to make friends.

As the Nazis became more hostile, many citizens folded under pressure. Nazis would threaten many to find Jewish people. Some people stood firm, others let their enemy within take over. They began to give up their neighbors' positions. One of the most famous Jews killed, Anne Frank, was believed to be betrayed by Wilhem Van Marten, a worker at the factory where the Frank's were hiding, according to Evan Andrews of history.com's in-depth review of the FBI's case 72 years after the incident(Andrews). Because of the dramatic situations, fear and selfishness took over. Selfishness fueled by the enemy within created problems larger than life. People were so desperate, greedy, and heartless that they would sell out their neighbors in hiding for extra money, or protection from the Nazis. Tragic.

The Holocaust is one of the most easily recognizable acts of racism in the history of our imperfect world. Now, we are seeing a resurgence of racism almost everywhere. Americans have watched numerous people die through horrific racist acts. Mass shootings and race riots are common examples that have almost become a norm in our culture. The enemy within you can be working in your blind spots and it takes a lot of self-consciousness to stop it. Gautama Buddha once said, "It is a man's own mind, not his enemies or foes, that lures him to evil ways." While reading an article by Norbert Juma of Everyday Power, I found that the simplest and first step we can all take to fight the enemy within ourselves is to know ourselves (Juma). You need to be able to defend your morals and what you believe in. Also, be alert. Don't be someone who lets their neighbors die and does nothing in protest. The enemy is in us and around us, but don't fear, confront it, calling and taking action for change is the only way change will ever come. Make a change and help keep the Holocaust behind us and the future in front of us bright for everyone.

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- Juma, Norbert. "How To Fight The Enemy Within You." Everyday Power, [EverydayPower.com](http://EverydayPower.com), 30 Jan. 2021, [everydaypower.com/fight-enemy-within](http://everydaypower.com/fight-enemy-within), Accessed on 7 March 2021.

**High School First Prize: Pallavi Datta**  
**Niskayuna High School**  
**Sponsoring Teacher: Kathryn McCarty**

In the wake of the deaths of African-Americans due to police brutality, weaponization of anti-Asian rhetoric and AAPI-hate, and the rise of white supremacist groups into the mainstream culminating in the Capitol riot, the pandemic has magnified our socioeconomic divisions and racial prejudices. Though many have condemned these acts, one of the most unsettling feelings is the apparent lack of action or retribution. It is important not to forget the underlying larger-scale systems that stem social reforms and ultimately influence who gets to be in the rooms making—or not making—decisions, writing legislation, and impacting our nation's future. Today, misinformation and the rise of nationalism are currents that can be traced back in history to WWI.

The start of WWII can be connected to the punitive and humiliating Treaty of Versailles, forcing Germany to disarm and pay reparations to the Allies. This artificial “peace” ending WWI can be paralleled with the end of the Civil War and the failure of Reconstruction in America--those unsolved problems and systemic issues still plague us today. It is easier to blame groups for failures than it is to effect meaningful policy changes. The scapegoating of Jews after WWI bears similarity to the flaming of anti-immigrant sentiment in the US today. Media perception is critical to shaping our political views in the digital era today, but when government controls the media, like the spreading of propaganda in Nazi Germany, it poses a greater danger. The Stab-in-the-Back myth proliferated by the Nazis that the loss of WWI was not a result of the army's failure but rather caused by the betrayal of Jews, communists and other groups, sowed anti-Semitism and other sentiments that would escalate to the Holocaust. During the process of Nazification, the removing of anyone who questioned Nazi beliefs opened the gates for the horrific policies that enabled the Holocaust to be pushed through in a legal process.

Both then and today, politics centers around fighting what we are against, instead of standing up for our beliefs and visions. At its root, the Nazis asserted that Jews were inferior to the Aryan race, starting from exclusionary policies and eliminating opportunities to direct persecution with the Nuremberg laws and Kristallnacht to ultimately genocide. As we watch the growth of the Black Lives Matter movement in response to systemic racism against African-Americans in our nation today, one cannot help but observe the clear parallel--denying the inherent humanity and equality of all as a human race. When these dangerous ideologies are yielded by one strong and influential leader, willing to exploit socioeconomic divisions for political gain, it is like playing with fire. During times of economic and political fluctuation, as we are now, these vulnerabilities are further exposed. While dictatorship in Nazi Germany silenced voices and resulted in a deference of authority, our precious democratic rights and free speech allow us to protest and challenge the establishment when it does not support our beliefs or causes, for better or for worse.

The summer of 2020 revealed the power of our collective voices when unified in peaceful protest. Though it may not translate into legislative change immediately, at some level politicians must care about public opinion. But the same strains of Nazism that were responsible for the Holocaust are visible today in white-supremacist groups and Holocaust-deniers, many of whom were unabashed to express their racist and anti-semitic views openly while storming the US Capitol.

The “enemy within” and domestic terrorism groups are a symptom of a larger problem of the media weaponizing our differences. Though we have access to more political information than ever before, choice of media, shifts in cable news and social media biases have increased political polarization. By focusing on topics known to spark outrage and distract from actual policy we have become resistant to opposing views. Political elites, who are themselves influenced by the politicized media shape the political system that we perceive and believe in. This also has the ability to skew our perceptions of the “other” and distance ourselves from the victims, who then seem to exist in the abstract. The merging of political identities with social, economic, cultural, racial, ethnic and religious identities have changed the way we see each other. It is harder to change identities than opinions.

(continued on the next page)

## PALLAVI DATTA ESSAY CONTINUED

This erosion of trust in our government dates back to the Vietnam War and a sense of anti- elitism that continues today. Our inherent humanity has been undercut by a willingness to employ lies in the pursuit of partisan politics. The apparent dysfunctionality of our government has cloaked many in cynicism and belief in its inability to respond to a modern America's problems. Masked by nationalism, grouping of people into racial and ethnic monoliths, and crippling racial and income inequality, we are seemingly losing common ground. As we lose sight of a collective story, a "them" versus "us" narrative comes into play. With our divisions widening, the fear of losing one's place and status becomes coupled with the notion that for one to succeed it must be at the expense of someone else. To dismantle and reform these systems, we must first acknowledge the racism and prejudices that taint our policies and mold our institutions. When we don't act on the intentions of our populace, social and economic disparity grows and the decisions being made about the future of our nation are not in our mutual best interest.

Education and engaging in critical discussions about our world history is necessary to shape informed and engaged populace. It requires honest conversations about our many imperfections such as racial discrimination, ignorance, economic inequality and lacking social programs. If racism and xenophobia are manifestations of fearing what we don't see in ourselves, then that begins with meaningful representation in school curriculums and the media. In the simplest terms—representation matters. As long as free speech, the free media and corporations are willing to speak up, we can preserve our democracy and restore faith in our government. But "swimming against the tide" takes strength of conviction and moral courage. When we can recover the common assumptions and values that have been buried deep beneath the intense arguments and divisions between ourselves, we can build and shape a revitalized America--an America that embraces its strengths of multiculturalism and can renew the American dream, proving that this experiment of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness can be a reality for all.

**CGOH**

## Upcoming Events

3/6/22 A Brotherhood Zoom event. "A Family Story of the Holocaust" recollections by Ernie Wein, 10:00 a.m.

3/14/22 A Sisterhood Zoom event. The Maestro, the Music, & the SSO. Maestro Glen Cortese, 7:30 p.m.

3/23/22 Sisterhood Book discussion on Zoom, American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins, 7:30 p.m.

4/7/22 On the Chocolate Trail by Rabbi Deborah Prinz, discussion of Jewish history through chocolate! contact: Arnold Rotenberg

More information is available on our website [www.cgoh.org](http://www.cgoh.org) or the weekly "What's Happening at Gates" newsletter.

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for welcoming our daughter

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Nancy and Bob Relyea in memory of Max Tiller  
Maria Santini for the nutrition staff at RI, Hasbro, & Bradley Hospitals,  
in memory of Max Tiller  
Susan Curtin in memory of Max Tiller  
Art and Nancy Smith in memory of Max Tiller  
Arnold Rotenberg in memory of Samuel Aaron Rotenberg  
Jeffrey Kimmer in memory of Shirley Kimmer  
Antoinette Larrabee in memory of Max Tiller  
Shirley Levey in memory of Max Tiller  
Rosalie and Irwin Margolis in memory of Max Tiller  
Barbara Kramer in memory of her late husband, Sheldon Kramer  
Gloria Herkowitz in memory of Max Tiller  
D. Graham Holmes and Karen Cohen Holmes in memory of Max Tiller  
Mina Poe & Lori Mahmud in honor of Max and Sally Tiller  
Linda Guziak in memory of Max Tiller  
Linda Guziak in memory of Sally Tiller  
Anonymous in honor of Thanksgiving  
Charles and Johanna Horowitz in memory of Walter Horowitz  
Charles and Johanna Horowitz in memory of Edmund Weiant  
Steven Feirberg in memory of Nathan Aron Feirberg  
Gail Sternstein in memory of Adele Wolman Derby, mother of Gail  
Gail Sternstein in memory of Nora Golden, step mother of Gail  
Gail Sternstein in memory of Pauline Jacob, Aunt of Gail  
Sanford Fialkoff in memory of Della Gilman  
Erica, Len, Victoria, & Zach Berger in memory of Sydna Schwartz  
Erica, Len, Victoria, & Zach Berger in memory of Mark Wishnick, brother of Barbara Kramer  
Jeffrey Kosterich in memory of Sydna Schwartz  
Sally and Matthew Greenblatt in memory of Sydna Schwartz  
Walter and Roberta Greenberg in memory of Sydna Schwartz  
Gay Griffith

**JOSEPHINE AUERBACH CULINARY FUND**

Karl Auerbach

**CHAPMAN LIFELONG LEARNING FUND**

Janet and Michael Goldman

**LULU FIELD FUND**

Albert & Elsbeth Field Memorial Fund

**MITZVAH DAY**

Lisa Newmark in memory of her father Joe Newmark

**PASSPORT TO ISRAEL**

C. Sandra Smith in memory of Jack T. Verdrager

**RABBI SZENES FUND**

Janet and Lawrence Kaufmann in memory of Mark Naigles

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Barbara Kramer/Beth Reed  
Cecile Kowalski  
Linda and Joseph Weiss in memory of Norman Francis  
Marc Rosenbloom in memory of Marian Rosenbloom  
Barbara Kramer/Beth Reed in memory of Ely Wishnick, father of Barbara  
Dr. Lawrence and Ellen Eisenberg in memory of Mark Wishnick  
Dr. Lawrence and Ellen Eisenberg in memory of Sydna Schwartz  
Marc Rosenbloom in memory of Jeffrey Ethan Rosenbloom  
Steve and Mindy Lam in honor of 2021 Bar Mitzvah class  
Mary Kim Mousaw in memory of Alton Mousaw  
Elaine Manberg in memory of Nathan Silverberg  
Paul Boyarin in memory of Brian Boyarin  
Dad & Michele in honor of Jason Moskowitz being elected Niskayuna Town Council  
Brian Cuttler in appreciation of the Rabbi

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

Sherry and Al Dickinson in honor of Kathy Laws for her many years of service to CGOH  
Sherry and Al Dickinson in memory of Sydna Schwartz

**SINGER MUSIC FUND**

Katherine Owens in memory of Sean Dickie

**SISTERHOOD SOUP KITCHEN**

Karen Cohen Holmes in memory of her aunt, Ruth Kramer Weiss

**TCSC ENDOWMENT FUND**

Stuart & Charlotte Cohen

**TEMPLE COMMUNITY SERVICE CORPS FUND**

D. Graham Holmes and Karen Cohen Holmes in memory of Lucy Kramer Cohen, mother of Karen  
D. Graham Holmes and Karen Cohen Holmes in memory of Felix S. Cohen  
Marc Rosenbloom in memory of Ginny Rosenbloom

**WACHENHEIM MITZVAH DAY FUND**

C. Sandra Smith in memory of Harry Friedman

**GIVING TUESDAY**

Glenn Coffman  
Arnold Rotenberg  
Christine Levy  
Mitchell and Kathleen Mendelson  
Leah and Leah Wolff-Pellingra  
Rabbi Matt Cutler  
Gay Griffith  
Barbara and Jeff Walton  
Kay Keller  
Kimberly Broad  
Elizabeth Desbiens  
Stacey Farber  
Mary Matthews  
Amy Maklos  
Susan Hoetker  
Lisa Norelli  
Jackie Berlant



# OUR TEMPLE FAMILY

**We share in their joy and extend warm congratulations to:**

- Hannah Palsgraf (Janis and Richard's daughter) got engaged to Reid LePlante

## Mazel Tov to our B'Mitzvah students and families



3/19/22: Nicholas Rosenberg,  
son of Meisha Rosenberg &  
Roddy Collins.

4/30/22 Claire Zonderman, daughter of  
Dr. Jeffrey & Kyra Zonderman and sister of Bella.

## WE RECORD WITH SORROW THE PASSING OF OUR MEMBERS



Marvin Silverston  
Sheila Randall  
Stanley Cohen  
Della Gilman  
Sydna Schwartz  
Beverly Francis

## We grieve with those who have lost loved ones and extend our condolences to:

- Terri Oliver & Karen Morse on the passing of their father and temple member, Marvin Silverston.
- Harvey Randall on the passing of his wife and temple member, Sheila Randall.
- Margo Bittner & Eric Randall on the passing of their mother, Sheila Randall.
- Dr. Lawrence & Ellen Eisenberg on the passing of their cousin, Wendy Aaron.
- The family of Steven Tierstein.
- Jonathan Falk on the passing of his mother, Judith Falk.
- Laurie Myers, Jill Cohen/Baum, and Steven Cohen on the passing of their father and temple member, Stanley Cohen.
- Karimeh Shamieh on the passing of her father, Kalil Shamieh.
- Richard Olander on the passing of his mother, Thelma (Toby) Olander.
- Johanna Horowitz on the passing of her mother, Barbara Weiant.
- Jodi Hebert on the passing of her mother and temple member, Della Gilman.
- Dr. Herbert Schwartz on the passing of his wife and temple member, Sydna Schwartz.
- Ross Schwartz & Marna Rachel Schwartz on the passing of their mother, Sydna Schwartz.
- Josh & Eric Cooper-Ginsburg on the passing of Eric's grandmother, Peppy Sanders.
- Karen Maher, Cynthia Gensheimer, and Martha Fischer on the passing of their mother and temple member, Beverly Francis.
- Barbara Kramer on the passing of her brother, Mark Wishnick.
- Amanda Salmon on the passing of her father, Paul Springs.
- Janet Zuckerman-Bora on the passing of her aunt, Rosalyn Berlin.
- Davida Chuckrow on the passing of her mother, Susan Domanico.
- Alyssa Fecura on the passing of her uncle, David Cohen.
- Sanford Fialkoff on the passing of his brother-in-law, David Cohen.

**We welcome the following new members to Congregation Gates of Heaven:**

- Alisha Cerel & Zach Landau
- Jessica & Scott Finkelstein
- Mel & Steven Jacobson
- Neev & Wendy Crane
- Lynn Tryon & Erik Palm

**Yahrzeit listings are in the Friday temple e-newsletter.**



852 ASHMORE AVENUE  
SCHENECTADY, NY 12309



#### **Leadership**

Rabbi Matthew S. Cutler  
Adjunct Rabbi Emeritus Eleanor B. Pearlman  
Rabbi Emeritus Dr. Bernard Bloom  
Director of Congregational Jewish Living,  
Arnold Rotenberg  
Director of Administration and Operations,  
Joshua Cooper-Ginsburg

#### **Executive Committee**

Peter Kopcha, President  
Jonathan Rubin, Executive Vice President  
Elizabeth Desbiens, VP  
Andrea Berkowitz-Cerasano, VP  
Stacey Farber, VP  
Richard Dolins, Honorary Vice President  
Randy Simon, Financial Secretary  
Stacie Waters, Treasurer  
Mary Matthews, Secretary

#### **Board of Trustees**

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Peter Kopcha, Gerry Magnes,  
Mary Matthews, Jonathan Rubin,  
Randy Simon, Shawn Tabankin,  
Melinda Teter, Aaron Treiber,  
Stacie Waters, Debbie Wein

#### **Board of Advisors**

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Ann Cramer, Jonathan Falk,  
Gerald Hahn, Eileen Michaels,  
Stan Strauss, Gordon Zuckerman

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#### In Uncertain Times

We are developing Passover plans.  
Given the changing nature of health  
concerns, we are open to the possibility of  
last minute changes and updates.  
Stay tuned to our weekly newsletter for  
specifics.

#### NEW MAILING ADDRESS

We are working with Kesef Accounting Service  
for our bookkeeping needs.  
You can mail checks for membership  
commitment to our secure lockbox:

Gates of Heaven  
P.O. Box 418  
Montvale, NJ 07645

You can also set up payments by check or  
credit card by logging into your online  
account.