

FALL 2023/5784

VOLUME 168 ISSUE 1

# CONNECT

CONGREGATION GATES OF HEAVEN

AFFILIATED WITH THE URJ



LOOKING FORWARD TO:

**ROSH HASHANAH  
YOM KIPPUR  
SUKKOT  
SIMCHAT TORAH**

**OUR GATES ARE OPEN**

Join us in-person or virtually.

*You Belong Here*

## Ongoing Programs

**SHABBAT SERVICES:  
IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM  
EVERY FRIDAY, 7:00 PM**

**JAMMIES & JEANS:  
5:45 PM FIRST FRIDAY OF  
EACH MONTH, FOR FAMILIES  
WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**

**ZENOBICS TAI CHI  
EVERY MONDAY (NOT HOLIDAYS)  
AT 6:30 PM  
ON ZOOM AND IN PERSON**

**COMMUNITY & COFFEE  
WEDNESDAYS AT 1:00 PM**

**TALMUD STUDY  
THURSDAYS AT 12:00 PM**

**TORAH STUDY  
SATURDAYS AT 9:00 AM**

All virtual programs  
are held via Zoom

Worship services  
are livestreamed  
and in-person

Visit our website at  
[www.cgoh.org](http://www.cgoh.org)  
for access to our  
interactive and  
live-stream offerings

# What's Happening at CGOH

*The photo on the cover is from the Creation Window in our sanctuary. See our website section on Worship & Sacred Spaces to learn their history.*

## September 2023

- Friday, 9/15/23: Rosh Hashanah & Shabbat Evening Services
- Saturday, 9/16/23: Rosh Hashanah Morning Services
- Sunday, 9/17/23: 2nd Day Rosh Hashanah in Clifton Park
- Friday, 9/22/23, 7:00 PM: Memorial Plaque Dedication
- Sunday, 9/24/23: Erev Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre Services
- Monday, 9/25/23: Yom Kippur Services
- Friday, 9/29/23: Sukkot & Shabbat Services

**More High Holy Day schedule details are on page 8  
&**

**Page 9 has dates for events after the High Holy Days**

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Sisterhood Evening Book Group welcomes all members of Sisterhood and our temple to join us for discussion of the following book choices:

### ***SISTERHOOD EVENING BOOK GROUP SELECTIONS 2023-2024***

All at 7:00 PM & at Home of Discussion Leader, unless noted

***Wednesday, September 20, 2023***

***Kantika by Elizabeth Graver***

***Zoom Discussion (see Wednesday messages for link)***

***Wednesday, November 15, 2023***

***Horse by Geraldine Brooks***

***Discussion Leader: Lauren Savage***

***Sunday, January 7, 2024***

***1:00 p.m. Potluck Luncheon***

***Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus***

***Discussion Leader: Ellen Strauss***

***Wednesday, March 20, 2024***

***Born A Crime by Trevor Noah***

***Discussion Leader: Cindy Cohen***

***Wednesday, May 15, 2024***

***Signal Fires by Dani Shapiro***

***Discussion Leader: Ellen Eisenberg***



# BEING AWARE AS A PREREQUISITE FOR REPENTANCE

## FROM OUR RABBI

RABBI MATT CUTLER ~ MCUTLER@CGOH.ORG



*Yontiff* is coming. It is time to prepare the soul. But more than looking at our actions of the things we did or didn't do, the Chasidic masters remind us that this season of introspection is not reactive, but instead it can be preemptive. It is not merely a season to look back and make amends, but to do some necessary work in advance to deter that evil inclination that sparks bad behavior or apathetic response of indifference.

Reb Zusya was one of the earliest of these masters. He lived in the 1700's in Poland and Ukraine. He came from a prestigious Chasidic family; his older brother was a Chasidic icon, Rabbi Elimelech of Lizhensk. He taught that the Hebrew word for repentance, *teshuvah*, was an acronym for the five biblical verses associated with transforming repentance into a preemptive model for more righteous behavior.

ת – "You shall be earnest (תִּתְּמִים) with Adonai, your God."

ש – "I place (שִׁיתִּי) Adonai before me always."

ו – "And you shall love (וְאַהֲבָתְךָ) your fellow as yourself."

ב – "In all your ways (בְּכָל), you shall know God."

ה – "Walk humbly (הִצַּנְתָּ) with your God."

View these verses as an iceberg of sorts. Only one verse is "above the water" and thus is visible. It is the actions we take that manifest with that axiom "love your fellow as yourself." The other verses reflect a faith in God. Why? Because if one has true faith, then God is a constant Presence in life and we are not likely to transgress.

Another Chasidic sage, known as the Degel Machane Efraim, spoke of letting God into our world. He pondered the question of why injustice exists. He recalled a teaching from the Lurianic mystical tradition that Justice is in the realm of the Shechinah [a mothering all-encompassing presence of God], but when we don't acknowledge the sovereignty of The Holy One, then justice will be allusive. Faith in God, acknowledging the Presence of God, and acting accordingly are the building blocks for righteous behavior. Cognitive ability to discern right from wrong is secondary.

Wow! That is something to truly ponder. Want to be a better person? Want to act more lovingly to your family? Want to be more ethical in your day-to-day life? The secret is an introspection of the faithfulness in your soul. The Kotzker Rebbe stated: "Where does God dwell? The answer is where we let God in." And from that, true righteousness can flourish. Just like it says in Psalm 92: "The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing."

Look inward and let God in!!

*Matthew J. Cutler*



## WELCOME

We welcome our new 2023-2024 Shinshinim, Mia and Alon. Mia and Alon come to us from cities outside of Tel Aviv—Mia is from Hod HaSharon and Alon is from Kfar Saba.

Mia, a dancer, volunteer, Swiftie, and middle sister, is looking forward to spending the next year in the Capital District making memories and lifelong connections.

Alon, a dog-loving adventure-seeker, is beyond excited about his journey and experience with our Jewish community. He's especially excited about seeing snowflakes fall for the first time (fingers crossed).

ShinShinim are a select group of promising Israeli high school graduates who choose to defer enlisting in the Israel Defense Forces to spend a year in Jewish communities around the world—a year known as Shnat Sherut (Service Year) or ShinShin for short.

The Jewish Agency's ShinShinim initiative enables community organizations worldwide to host these young Israelis locally, connecting global Jewish communities to the Jewish homeland.

**FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF  
CONGREGATIONAL JEWISH LIVING**  
**Arnie Rotenberg ~ [arotenberg@cgoh.org](mailto:arotenberg@cgoh.org)**

**Let's Make Just One Change—  
Be Part of It**



We know engaging high school students in Jewish education is about providing them with the tools, knowledge, and values they need to lead meaningful, connected, and purposeful lives as Jews and as responsible global citizens. This year help us by encouraging your teen to be part of it. Here are a few choices:

Student to Student—Be the Narrative, is a new program that engages Jewish high school students who are trained to counter antisemitism and demystify Judaism by giving presentations to students in area high schools. Training begins Sunday, October 29 at 6:00 pm.

GOHTY—Our new youth director, Parker Meyer, is re-starting GOHTY (grades 9-12) and Kids GOHTY with a trip to Elms Farm on Sunday, Oct. 22. Everyone will enjoy a pizza lunch after Gates Quest and head over to Elms Farm for some fall fun. And then Parker is planning a Halloween party Saturday evening October 28. (continued on p. 5)





## Let's Make Just One Change-- Be Part of It (continued)

Confirmation with Rabbi Matt—every student who has gone through this class with the Rabbi has loved it. *Open to all our 10th grade students.*

Chai School—there will be several classes and programs that will:

- Explore our Jewish values & connect them to our daily lives
- Create a bridge between the history of our people and the world we live in today
- Use the arts, STEM & texts as a springboard to understanding our Judaism
- Partner with the community to do Tikkun Olam (repair the world)
- Foster future Jewish leaders

Madrikhim/Madrikhot/Madrikhol — it's no surprise that many of our students on Sunday mornings want to be like their Madrikh. *As mentors and leaders in our classrooms, this incredible group of teens is making a difference each week.*

This year encourage your teens to be part of it!

Arnie Rotenberg

## BROTHERHOOD UPDATE :

Please consider joining Brotherhood for our 7/1/2023-6/30/2024 year! We are currently planning fall get-togethers, Sukkah raising, a program with student cantor Margo Wagner, and eight Sunday morning breakfast programs at the Temple. Our first breakfast program will be Sunday, October 1, 10:00 am at the Temple. Bill Simons, Professor Emeritus and former Chair of History at SUNY Oneonta will speak on "Jews, the Dodgers and Brooklyn: Before the Diaspora" - examining the special relationship that existed between Brooklyn's large Jewish community and the baseball Dodgers before they departed NYC for Los Angeles.

We look forward to greeting you!

# President's Column

## *L'Shana Tova!*

The High Holidays are right around the corner. As reflecting over the past year is a core aspect of this celebration, let's take a moment to review the past year at Gates—which was a busy one!

First and foremost, we saw a return to full, in-person services, meetings, and operations. Our Friday night services, and accompanying delicious oneg are both inspiring and enjoyable. This is our weekly opportunity to connect with something bigger than ourselves and find our inspiration and a sense of community. If you haven't been to a service recently, please come down and join us. We are confident you'll find it worthwhile. A special note of thanks and appreciation for the congregants who led our worship experience over the summer, your contributions were critical to this success.

We saw a wonderfully high number of B'nei Mitzvah and we congratulate them and their families and look forward to their continued journey. We celebrated many weddings, and births of congregants' children and grandchildren, and sadly mourned the losses of many in our community including a past president and other community leaders.

We saw some truly enjoyable and interesting presentations and camaraderie with meetings sponsored by Sisterhood and Brotherhood, encouraging those not affiliated with these groups to join us. Please note gender identification is not required to join or participate in Brotherhood or Sisterhood activities.

This year, we saw the departure of a long-time staff member, Michelle Warren, and welcomed new additions, Kevin Warren and Ricky Jackson. This includes a transition in our student cantors as we welcome Student Cantor Margo Wagner and offer our fondest wishes to Cantor Ze'evi Tovlev.

We have begun the formal process of legally separating the cemetery from the synagogue into its own legal entity to ensure it receives the focus and support it deserves for generations to come.

As we look ahead to 5784, we will continue to build on these successes. To that end, for those who are not regularly involved in events and activities, please know that your voice is critical in shaping our future. Whether through attending services and events, a phone call, an email, a text message, or good old-fashioned pen and paper, please reach out to us and let us know any ways in which we can enhance your experience. I can always be reached at [jrubin@cgoh.org](mailto:jrubin@cgoh.org) if you want to send a message or arrange a call or meet for a cup of coffee.

Once again, L'Shana Tova!



Jonathan Rubin  
President of the Board of Trustees  
Congregation Gates of Heaven

## SISTERHOOD UPDATE

Sisterhood 2023-24

Welcome! We invite you to become a part of our temple community by joining Women of Reformed Judaism. Your dues and donor contributions make it possible for us to offer

programs and financial support for Religious school activities( Sisterhood and Brotherhood are sponsoring the opening day picnic for the RS families as well as the bus trip to NYC in the fall), community needs, as well as our own programs.

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in dues and we look forward to welcoming

new and returning members. See the CGOH website and click on Sisterhood for membership info.

SPEAKING OF PROGRAMMING.....!!!

Future programs include :

1. October on Zoom - we will have a program from WRJ on CLIMATE CHANGE: GENDER BLEND AND HOW IT AFFECTS WOMEN.

2. November is being set for Zentangle.

3. December will be our White Elephant regifting exchange (always a fun time).

So, C'mon and Join the Fun! Meet new people and best of all... NOSH!!

Email Erica B at [bagel8385@aol.com](mailto:bagel8385@aol.com) with any questions about WRJ or upcoming Sisterhood programs.

## Year of Firsts

Director of Administration and Operations

Josh Cooper-Ginsburg

*Shana tova u'metukah!* I'd like to wish our congregational family a happy and healthy 5784 and look forward to a year of great new things happening at Gates of Heaven. We're bringing back our successful "Senior Moments" program this fall, especially designed to stimulate and engage our valued senior members and their families. We have an active and inspiring Youth Director who recently joined our synagogue and has already started working on some excellent programs to engage our youth. Rabbi Matt and the Ritual Committee have done outstanding work to ensure our High Holy Days experience is spiritually meaningful and intrinsically relevant in our lives. We welcomed Student Cantor Margo Wagner, our new energetic and talented cantorial student, to our congregation as she progresses in the next steps of her education experience at HUC-JIR in New York. She follows in the footsteps of three amazing student cantors who came before her, who are now working for illustrious congregations throughout the country.

As always, your synagogue's staff has worked tirelessly to prepare for our busiest season of the year; the Rabbi, Arnie, Tammy, Kevin, and I are available to help you stay connected to Gates of Heaven. We're already looking ahead to Hanukkah and welcoming 2024 together, as well as Purim and Passover, and all of the great things in between that make Gates of Heaven the place where you belong. There will be lots of Shehechayanu moments along the way and we can't wait to celebrate them with you here in our beautiful synagogue. See you soon!

Josh Cooper-Ginsburg

Director of Administration and Operations

[josh@cgo.org](mailto:josh@cgo.org) | 518-374-8173



# High Holy Days 2023/5784 Service Schedule



- **Selichot:** Saturday, September 9, 6:30 PM program, 8:00 PM service
- **Erev Rosh Hashanah:** Friday, September 15 at 8:00 PM
- **Rosh Hashanah Kids Programs (K-6):** Sat., September 16 at 9:45 AM
- **Rosh Hashanah Services:** Saturday, September 16 at 10:00 AM
- **Rosh Hashanah Family Experience:** Sat., September 16 at 3:00 PM  
Followed by walk to Central Park for Tashlich
- **2nd Day of Rosh Hashanah:** Sunday, September 17 at 10:00 AM  
at Collins Park, Clifton Park
- **Memorial Plaque Dedication:** Friday, September 22 at 7:00 PM
- **Cemetery Memorial Services:** Sunday, September 24 at 1:00 PM
- **Kol Nidre Services:** Sunday, September 24 at 8:00 PM
- **Yom Kippur Kids Programs (K-6th):** Monday, September 25 at 9:45 AM
- **Yom Kippur Services:** Monday, September 25 at 10:00 AM
- **Yom Kippur Study Session:** Monday, September 25 at 1:00 PM
- **Yom Kippur Family Experience:** Monday, September 25 at 2:00 PM
- **Yom Kippur Afternoon Services:** Monday, September 25 at 3:00 PM
- **Yom Kippur Yizkor/Memorial Services:** Mon., September 25 at 4:30 PM
- **Yom Kippur Neilah/Concluding Services:** Mon., September 25 at 5:15 PM
- **Break-The-Fast:** following Yom Kippur concluding service in the Sisterhood-David Hatkoff Room

## Additional Holiday Services and Programs:

- **Family Sukkah Decorating, Sukkot Dinner & Services** - Friday, Sept. 29 -  
Decorate at 5:00 PM, Dinner at 5:30 PM & Service at 7:00 PM
- **Simchat Torah Services & Consecration:** Friday, October 6 at 7:00 PM
- **Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor Services:** Saturday, October 7 at 9:00 AM

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR for *After the High Holidays*

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mark periods of self-reflection, while the days that follow provide for everyone to gather, rejoice in shared celebrations, engage in learning, and simply enjoy each other's company. Here is what is coming up:

- **September 29: Sukkah Decorating & Dinner: \$10.00 per person, \$20.00 per family**
  - Pizza, chicken wings, Mac & Cheese—Your choice
  - Gluten Free options available
  - Decorating starts at 5:00
  - Dinner—5:30-6:30 (Come at any time that's convenient for your family)
  - Sukkot Service begins at 7:00
- **October 1:**
  - **First Day of Gates Quest**—all grades, 9:30-12:00
  - **Brotherhood Breakfast**—10:00-11:30
  - **Family picnic at River Road Park**—12:30 - ?
    - Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, chips, drinks
      - Co-sponsored by Sisterhood & Brotherhood
      - No Charge, bring the whole family
- **October 4: Drop in Hebrew begins, grades 5-7—4:30-5:45**
  - Come for the whole time or a portion—your choice
- **October 6: Simchat Torah & Consecration**
  - **Jammies & Jeans**—5:45
    - \$12.00 per family, Pizza and/or Mac & Cheese
  - **Kindergarten Consecration**: 7:00 pm
  - **Simchat Torah—Let's Dance with Torah**—7:15
- **October 8: No Gates Quest—Indigenous People's Weekend**
- **October 18: Senior Moments**—12:00-2:00
  - With Max Caplan on piano & Melanie Chirignan on flute
- **October 22: GOHTY & KidsGOHTY to Elms Farm**
  - 12:00—Lunch
  - 12:30—Go to Elm's Farm--\$18.00 per person
- **October 28—GOHTY Halloween Party at CGOH 6:30-9:00**
- **October 29**
  - **Seventh Grade Bar/Bat/Mitzvah Family Experience** 9:30-12:00
  - **Daffodil Planting**—11:30
  - **Student to Student Orientation**: 6:30-8:00 At the Federation
- **November 5—Brotherhood Breakfast** 10:00-11:30
- **November 10: Keshet Mishpacha—Grades 3-6**
  - Our newest program—a walk-through the Friday evening service 7:00 pm
- **November 11: Keshet Mishpacha—Grade 7**
  - Our newest program—a walk-through the Saturday morning service 10:30 am
- **November 12—Mitzvah Day** 12:00 pm
- **November 19—Sixth Grade Bar/Bat/Mitzvah Family Experience** 9:30-12:00
- **November 26—No Gates Quest—Thanksgiving Break**





## OUR TEMPLE FAMILY

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

- Hannah Salmon is engaged to Scott Ledwith.
- David & Andrea Golub, on the marriage of their daughter, Shayna, to Tommy McCarthy.
- Janice & Richard Palsgraf, on the marriage of their son, Joshua, to Corinne Marie.
- Ellen & Michael Auerbach on the marriage of their son, Joshua, to Danielle Berg.
- Arnie Rotenberg & Dr. Elaine Rotenberg, on the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca, to Jon Abbot.
- Mindy & Jesse Holland on receiving the Sidney Albert Community Service Award at the annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York.
- Andrea & Ed Leighton on the engagement of their son, Joshua, to Jessica Prizer.

### **Please join us to welcome these new members to our congregation:**

Lloyd & Kim Robeson-Gewuerz  
Parker Meyers

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

- Glenn Ritter, on the passing of his wife, Norma Ritter.
- Dan, Abigail & Chana Ritter, on the passing of their mother, Norma Ritter.
- Doug, Jim & Will Horwitz, on the passing of their mother, Sylvia Horwitz.
- Helen Moskowitz, Lewis Moskowitz & Susan Hale, on the passing of their mother, Audrey Moskowitz.
- Elizabeth Desbiens & David Greenberg, on the passing of their father, Roger Greenberg.
- Myra Darlow, Richard Bluestein & Eileen Bluestein, on the passing of their mother, Lois Bluestein.
- Aaron Sacks, on the passing of his father, Charles Sacks.

*Yahrzeits are published  
weekly in  
the Friday email  
announcements*



***We record with sorrow the  
passing of our members***

**Lois Bluestein  
Sylvia Horwitz  
Norma Ritter**



# DONATIONS

June 10, 2023 - August 31, 2023

## Alan Sternstein Cheder Scholarship Fund

- Shira Miller, in memory of Sandy Sternstein
- Gail Sternstein, in memory of Benjamin Sternstein
- Elaine & Harvey Cline, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Gail Sternstein, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Gail Sternstein, in memory of Bailey Bloom
- Samuel Miller, in memory of Sandy Sternstein

## Brotherhood Yom HaShoah Fund

Gerry & Bea Hahn

## Building Fund

Steven Goldberg, in honor of Rabbi Matt throwing the first pitch at the ValleyCats game

## Cantorial Fund

Lisa & Kenny Priddle, in memory of Rabbi & Bailey Bloom

## Cemetery Donation

- Paul & Karen Morse, in honor of Marvin & Doris Silverston, Anna & Marcus Meyers, Meyer & Lillian Silverston
- Lawrence Berman & Ann Freedman

## Cemetery Improvements Fund

- Harvey Randall, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Bret & Madeline Kauffman, in memory of Audrey Kibrick

## Guardians Circle

- Brian Haak
- Michelle Ostrelich & Howard Schlossberg
- Yvette & Alan Gebell

## Jo Auerbach Culinary Fund

- Alan & Yvette Gebell, in memory of Audrey Moskowitz
- Karen & Ira Meislik, in honor of Josh Auerbach's wedding

## Jewish Vibrancy Fund/General Fund

- Mindy & Jesse Holland, in memory of Bailey & Rabbi Bloom
- Gay Griffith, in memory of Chaim Szeflan, grandfather of Gay Griffith, Great grandfather of Jeremy Cohen & David Griffith
- Rosalie & Irwin Margolis, in memory of Dorothy Margolis
- Rosalie & Irwin Margolis, in memory of Edith Simon
- Shelley Gordon, in appreciation of the kindness of Josh Cooper-Ginsburg

## Jewish Vibrancy Fund/General Fund

- Elisa Meredith & Timothy Carleton, in memory of Frank Goldstein, a friend of Elisa, father of Collie Goldstein
- Jerry Rosen, in memory of Gloria Rosen
- Jane Frankel, in memory of her grandmother, Len Cohen
- Ina & Aaron Fried, in memory of Harry Goldberg
- Mindy & Jesse Holland, in memory of Jonathan Falk
- Laura Stater, in memory of Jonathan Falk
- Lauren & Patrick Friedman Sullivan, in memory of Jonathan Falk
- Margaret Loofborrow, in memory of Jonathan Falk
- Steve & Sherye Sedlak, in memory of Jonathan Falk
- Tibey Falk, in memory of Jonathan Falk
- Rosalie & Irwin Margolis, in honor of Josh Cooper-Ginsburg for assistance with the unveiling
- Ann Cramer, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Barbara & Richard Preisman, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Del B & Randie Salmon, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Lee Brice, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Michelle Ostrelich, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Robert & Donna Grossman, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Sally Waxman, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Rosalie & Irwin Margolis, in memory of Morris Margolis
- Robert & Joanne Schnee, in memory of Nathan Schnee
- Herbert Schwartz, in memory of Rabbi & Bailey Bloom
- Gay Griffith, in memory of Rabbi & Bailey Bloom
- Dave & Leah Wolff-Pellingr, in memory of Robert Scrafford
- Lynne Cowart, in memory of Roger Greenberg
- Michelle Ostrelich, in memory of Roger Greenberg
- Robert & Joanne Schnee, in memory of Sylvia Orr
- Gay Griffith, in memory of Ted Griffith, grandfather of Jeremy Cohen & David Griffith
- Marcy Brusoe, in appreciation of and thanks to Rabbi Matt & the congregation for welcoming & comforting me at Shabbat Services
- Gay Griffith, in honor of the congregation
- Lee Brice, in honor of the congregation
- Tai Chi classes, in appreciation of the use of the room, set up etc.
- Eric Aronowitz
- Gay Griffith
- Kathryn Appel

*Each donation is gratefully appreciated!*

# DONATIONS

## **Lewis Chapman Lifelong Education Fund**

Sarah Chapman, in memory of Lois Bluestein

## **Life & Legacy Fund**

Lee Brice

## **Max Feldman Music Fund**

Shirley Feldman, in memory of Max Feldman & Larry A Feldman

## **Oneg Fund**

Larry & Ellen Eisenberg

## **Rabbi Bloom Scholarship Fund**

- Ann Cramer, in memory of Rabbi & Bailey Bloom
- Al & Dr. Sherry Dickinson, in memory of Rabbi & Bailey Bloom

## **Randall Adult Library Fund**

- Harvey Randall, in memory of Audrey Moskowitz
- Gerry & Bea Hahn, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Barbara Boyajian, in memory of her son, Steven Benjamin Boyajian
- Kay Keller, in memory of her mother, Virginia Brown

## **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

- Elaine Cline, in memory of Bertram Bloch
- Elaine Cline, in memory of Rabbi & Bailey Bloom
- Margaret Levine, in memory of Bailey & Rabbi Bert bloom
- MJ Wigler, in memory of Baiely and Rabbi Bert Bloom
- Erik Palm & Lynn Tryon, in honor of Erik & Lynn's wedding
- Ellen & Larry Eisenberg, in memory of Florence Abelson Oser
- Ellen & Larry Eisenberg, in memory of Herman Abelson
- Levine Memorial Chapel, in memory of Jonathan Falk
- Mark & Jane Levine, in memory of Jonathan Falk
- Ellen & Larry Eisenberg, in honor of the marriage of our son Joshua to Danielle Berg
- Ellen & Larry Eisenberg, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- James Kaplan, in memory of Lois Bluestein

## **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund (continued)**

- Paul & Juli Boyarin, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Rosalie & Irwin Margolis, in honor of Rabbi & Bailey Bloom
- Rosalie & Irwin Margolis, in honor of Rabbi Matt
- Steven Goldberg, in honor of Rabbi Matt throwing the 1st pitch at the ValleyCats game
- Herbert Schwartz, in honor of the services by Rabbi Matt
- Ellen & Larry Eisenberg, in memory of Robert Greenberg
- Richard & Janis Palsgraf, in honor of the wedding of our daughter, Hannah, to Reid LaPlante
- Kay Keller, in memory of Thomasina Freely
- Joel Friedman, in memory of William Friedman
- Susanna & John Hurley, in memory of Yetta Hochman
- Gregory Leder

## **Religious School Fund**

- Al & Dr. Sherry Dickinson, in memory of Marc Spraragen
- Lisa & Kenny Priddle, in honor of Gay Griffith for the mensch honor

## **Sisterhood Reyut**

- Peter & Miriam Vollweiler, in memory of Audrey Moskowitz
- Peter & Miriam Vollweiler, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Kay Keller, in memory of Lois Bluestein

## **Sisterhood**

- Sara Wasserman & David Richman, in memory of Aunt Lois Bluestein
- Al & Sherry Dickinson, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Ellen Blake, in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Harvey Randall, in memory of Sheila Randall

## **Temple Community Service Corps**

- Kay Keller, in memory of Lester Keller, beloved husband
- Susan & John Hoetker





# JOIN CONGREGATION GATES OF HEAVEN ON AN AMAZING ADVENTURE TO **ISRAEL** LED BY RABBI MATT CUTLER

**FEBRUARY 14-25, 2024**

*Traveling in Israel is an opportunity to encounter the wonders of this ancient land. We'll grow through our shared experiences, from the fun and adventurous, to the historical and spiritual, as we explore Israel together!*

## ON OUR ADVENTURE WE WILL:

- Explore the bustling Mediterranean city of **Tel Aviv**, including **ANU: Museum of the Jewish People** and the **Levinsky Market**
- Travel along the Mediterranean coast for visits to **Haifa**, the Crusader city of **Akko** and the chalk cliff grottoes at **Rosh Hanikra**
- Discover the beautiful landscape of the **Golan Heights** on an adventurous **off-road jeep tour**
- Experience **Druze hospitality** at a local home and learn about the cooperation and coexistence while enjoying a traditional meal
- Wander through the cobblestone alleyways past ancient synagogues, artists' galleries and workshops in **Safed**
- Examine the rich **history of Jerusalem** on a special walking tour
- through the **Old City** and **Ir David, the City of David**
- Celebrate our **B'nai Mitzvah ceremony** atop **Masada** and float in the healing waters of the **Dead Sea**

**and so much more!!!**



**Learn more about this amazing trip at  
[secure.ayelet.com/CutlerFeb2024.aspx](https://secure.ayelet.com/CutlerFeb2024.aspx)**



PRICING CHART (based on double occupancy)	CHECK/CASH PRICE	CREDIT CARD PRICE
MAIN TOUR	\$5,299	\$5,462
Single Occupancy additional cost	\$1,999	\$2,061
Group Flights	TBD	TBD

**Triple reduction is \$1,050 per room** (save \$350 per person in a triple; one person must 12 or under).

**Ayelet** Tours, Ltd.

800.237.1517 | [www.ayelet.com](https://www.ayelet.com)





852 ASHMORE AVENUE  
SCHENECTADY, NY 12309



### Leadership

Rabbi Matthew S. Cutler

Adjunct Rabbi Emerita Eleanor B. Pearlman

Student Cantor Margo Wagner

Director of Congregational Jewish Living,  
Arnold Rotenberg

Director of Administration and Operations,  
Joshua Cooper-Ginsburg

### Executive Committee

Jonathan Rubin, President

Stacey Farber, Executive Vice President

Elizabeth Desbiens, VP Ritual

Elisa Harrington-Verb, VP Membership & Growth

Andrea Berkowitz-Cerasano, VP Living Jewish Values

Richard Dolins, Honorary Vice President

Randy Simon, Financial Secretary

Kimberley Broad, Secretary

Peter Kopcha, Treasurer

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**PAID**  
**ALBANY, NY**  
Permit No. 797

**RSVP by  
Sept. 27**

\$10.00 per person, or  
\$20.00 per family

**Family Sukkot**  
Decorating & Dinner

**Friday, September 29**  
Decorating starts at 5:00  
Dinner--5:30-6:30

**Pizza, Chicken Wings,  
Mac & Cheese**

Shabbat/Sukkot Service  
in the Sukkah at 7:00 pm

Congregation Gates of Heaven  
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Schenectady, NY 12309  
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