

WINTER 2023/5784

VOLUME 168 ISSUE 2

CONNECT

CONGREGATION GATES OF HEAVEN
AFFILIATED WITH THE URJ



LOOKING FORWARD TO:

- HANUKKAH DINNER
- CHINESE DINNER & A MOVIE
- SOUP SHABBAT & SPEAKER WEEKEND
- TU B'SHEVAT

OUR GATES ARE OPEN!

Join us in-person
or virtually.

You Belong Here

What's Happening at Congregation Gates of Heaven

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**

**ZENOBIKS TAI CHI:
EVERY MONDAY
(EXCLUDING 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 to sign up for
events and for access to our
interactive and
live-stream offerings**

December 2023

- Friday, 12/1, 5:45 PM: Jammies & Jeans
- Sunday, 12/3, 10:00 AM: Brotherhood Breakfast/Speaker
- Monday, 12/4, 7:00 PM: Sisterhood White Elephant Event
- Thursday, 12/7, 10 AM-2:30 PM: Red Cross Blood Drive
- Friday, 12/8, 5:30 PM: Congregation Hanukkah Dinner
- Sunday, 12/10, 2:30 PM: Chanukah on Jay
- Wednesday, 12/13, 5:00 PM: Life & Legacy Society Hanukkah Dinner (Sisterhood-David Hatkoff Room)
- Wednesday, 12/13, 6:30 PM: *GOHTY* Interfaith Hanukkah Party with Messiah Lutheran Church (Schaffer Auditorium)
- **Monday, 12/25: Office Closed**
- Monday, 12/25, 5:00 PM: Brotherhood Chinese Dinner and a Movie - Grown-ups movie in the Hatkoff Room & kids movie in Room 13!

January 2024

- **Monday, 1/1: Office Closed**
- Friday, 1/5, 5:45: Jammies & Jeans
- Sunday, 1/7, 1:00 PM: Pot Luck Luncheon, Sisterhood Book Group, home of Mindy Holland, led by Ellen Strauss
- **Monday, 1/15: Office Closed MLK Day**
- Friday, 1/19, 5:00 PM: Shabbat Services, 6:00 Soup Sabbath followed by 7:00 PM community conversation with Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy
- Sunday, 1/21, 7:00 PM: Rabbi Matt hosts Schenectady JCC Film Fest discussion
- Wednesday, 1/24, 12:00 PM: Senior Moments with Richard Feldman

February 2024

- Friday, 2/2, 5:45: Jammies & Jeans
- Wednesday, 2/14 - Sun 2/25: Amazing Adventure to Israel led by Rabbi Matt

March 2024

- Friday, 3/1: 5:45 PM: Jammies & Jeans
- Saturday 3/23, 5:30 PM: Purim Dinner & Service

BEING A GOOD FRIEND FROM OUR RABBI

RABBI MATT CUTLER ~ MCUTLER@CGOH.ORG



Centuries ago, Rabbi Moses Ben Maimon [known as Maimonides or the RaMBaM] penned a concept that friendships have four different levels. The first is one of mutual beneficiaries – business partners or transactional. The second one of mutual shared interest. The third level is one of intimacy where one feels comfortable opening up with vulnerability to one another. The fourth is the deepest, where there is a sense of mutual accountability; with such a deep connection that they can call out another for inappropriateness – lovingly, not just with judgement.

This is important to remember now more than ever. This is obvious in a political realm that polarizes us, defining that we cannot be “friends” unless we share an agenda. We define whether we are blue or red, Democrat or Republican, Liberal or Conservative. In this arena, we have a schadenfreude approach – finding a malicious joy when someone on the other side stumbles. It is playing out in the religious realm as we enter a season where the dominant culture demands “Merry Christmas” over a seasonal greeting of joy. Are those words of “Merry Christmas” designed to hurt us or they seen as a way of sharing a perspective of joy, devoid of any hostility? We see this in the spiritual realm where the Israeli-Hamas war causes one to choose a side and feel compelled to justify actions which, in another realm, cannot be seen as justified. It makes us challenge one another – “do you stand with us or against us?”

If we adapt the RaMBaM’s approach, we understand how conversations and expectations are defined on each level. We know what to expect from another because we have placed that relationship on a specific level through clear altruism and definitive choice. We know the strengths of a relationship and their boundaries.

But remember – there is fluidity with a friendship! It can shift and change over time, moving to another level – our job is approach that with curiosity and NOT judgement, accepting people for who they are, rather judging them for what they are not.

That leads to the fourth level – accountability. All too often, I hear a spouse speak of their partner as being too critical or judgmental. Perhaps the best way to understand it is that one sees the relationship on a level that the other is not prepared to be dealt on. Comfortable with the intimacy of vulnerability, they quiver at the sense of judgment that comes with accountability. With such nuance, the challenge is not on the other but the one who struggles to understand. Building an inner confidence is a tool essential to be better accepted and to hear such criticism. Hanukkah is right around the corner. It means dedication. And I encourage us all to dedicate ourselves to preservation of friendships and relationships—even when we disagree, even when we judge the other as wrong, and especially when we want to throw our hands up and sever the relationship that once was.

Do not forget the importance of relationships in our faith. Recall the words found in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.”

Dedicate to set realistic expectations of your friends. Resolve to be a better friend on so many different levels.





Blood Drive
Congregation Gates of Heaven
 852 Ashmore Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12309
 Auditorium

Thursday, December 7, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

To schedule an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or go to
www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: GatesOfHeaven

Our gift to you: Come give Dec. 1 to 17 for a \$10
 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. rcblood.org/Amazon

Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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LET'S LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

Hanukkah Dinner
 \$10.00 per person--\$25 per
 family



OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Contact the office today if you are interested in
 participating in Shabbat services, holiday events,
 or special programs behind the scenes.

Be an usher! Help us welcome our fellow
 congregants and work to ensure our safety while
 we're together in the synagogue. Training will be
 provided and volunteerism is an important part of
 being an active member of our community. Meet
 your fellow congregants and build friendships,
 while performing an important duty that helps
 everyone enjoy being part of our congregation.

JOSH COOPER-GINSBURG,
JOSH@CGOH.ORG



The **TZEDEK BOX** is a new ritual supporting us as
 we pursue justice work as a consistent practice.
 Like the act of putting coins in a tzedakah box, you
 add in a slip of paper with a short diary entry every
 time you make an effort to build a more just world.
 Once a year on Yom HaTzedek, **May 5, 2024**, open
 your Tzedek Box to review what you've done as a
 form of sacred accountability. Engaging in regular
 cycles of action and reflection is a beautiful way to
 pause, take stock of how our actions align with our
 beliefs, and rededicate ourselves to Tikkun Olam.



Call or email Arnie for more information

**FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF
CONGREGATIONAL JEWISH LIVING**
Arnie Rotenberg ~
arotenberg@cgoh.org



**Celebrating Hanukkah with Pride:
Uniting Against Antisemitism**

As we gather to celebrate the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, I am reminded of the resilience and strength that have defined the Jewish people throughout history. Hanukkah serves as a powerful reminder of the triumph of light over darkness, freedom over oppression, and the unwavering spirit that unites us as a community.

This year, let us not only kindle the menorah but also ignite the flames of pride within our hearts. Hanukkah is a time to reflect on our heritage, culture, and the countless contributions of the Jewish people to the world. It is an opportunity to take pride in our identity and the values that have sustained us through generations.

However, as we celebrate, we cannot ignore the reality of antisemitism that persists in our world. It is disheartening to witness acts of discrimination and hatred targeting the Jewish community. In the face of such challenges, our pride becomes a powerful weapon against ignorance and prejudice.

Let this Hanukkah be a call to action, a time to stand together against antisemitism. By embracing our heritage with pride, we send a powerful message that we will not be defined by hatred. We must educate, advocate, and foster understanding to build bridges of tolerance that can withstand the forces of intolerance.

As we light each candle on the menorah, let it symbolize not only the miracle of the oil but also the strength of our collective resolve. Together, we can illuminate the world with the light of knowledge, empathy, and acceptance. May this Hanukkah inspire us to be proud of who we are, and may our collective pride become a beacon that dispels the shadows of antisemitism.

Wishing you a joyous and meaningful Hanukkah,
Arnie Rotenberg

BROTHERHOOD UPDATE:

Please consider joining Brotherhood for our 2023-2024 year!

On December 3, Paul Wein will be our breakfast speaker on St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and on January 7, our breakfast speaker will be Philip Morris, CEO of Proctors Theatre. On May 5, SUNY SCCC President Dr. Steady Moono will be our feature speaker.

Brotherhood also plans to restart our December 25 Chinese Dinner and a Movie program at the Temple. More information will be forthcoming. We hope all congregants will join us often - either as a member or guest! Be sure to check the CGOH website page & weekly emails for updates.

President's Column

Chaverim,

My last column along with my High Holiday address, focused on the recent work done by the Board in planning our future along with a call for suggestions from the congregation for finding new pathways of engagement. Roughly one week after my address, our focus shifted in ways we never considered possible.

President Roosevelt, in speaking of the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor declared December 7, 1941, “a day which will live in infamy.” For Jews around the world, October 7, 2023, is a day where we were reminded what another timeless phrases, “never forget,” truly means.

The pogrom by Hamas, blindly cheered on by so many reminds us that for all of the work we have done as a people, so much more remains. We have seen places that we considered political homes make us feel unwelcome, forcing us to recognize that neither political party is without antisemitism. To be sure, both parties have provided support and leadership for the State of Israel, and the Jewish community. However, whether it be the pro-Palestinian left of the Democratic party or the isolationist wing of the Republican party pushing the respective leadership to lessen—if not end—support for Israel, Jewish Americans are feeling a sense of political homelessness.

As a result, many of us are feeling a combination of anger, fear, frustration, sadness, and resentment. We feel these emotions around how things came to be and what opportunities were missed along the way, both domestically and in Israel.

We feel this way over what is occurring on the ground both in Gaza and on our college campuses. We feel this way over what the future holds in both Israel and in the United States. It is “okay” to feel any and all of these feelings.

However, we must hold a piece of our heart open for hope and optimism. We must remember that with a challenge of this magnitude lies opportunity. Whether that opportunity lies in a political realignment, both in Israel and in the US, a re-engaging for teaching of history, civics and thoughtfulness, opportunity to connect with each other and provide mutual support and assurance, that hope is there. That hope was seen at the State Capitol building Monday, November 13th and was seen in Washington D.C. on Tuesday the 14th. That hope is seen when a college President or school Superintendent intervenes to support the dignity of all students. That hope is seen every time a neighbor simply asks, “how are you doing?”

In closing, we need to pay attention to the challenges facing us, but we can’t let them consume us. As we get ready for our Hanukkah festival, please be mindful of what this festival represents—facing overwhelming odds and finding victory on a battlefield as well as in the spiritual journey. I hope we all find a special connection between that ancient story and our world today as we light our candles.



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

Legacy of Engagement

Director of Administration and Operations
Josh Cooper-Ginsburg

The founders of Congregation Gates of Heaven first met in a house in the Stockade District in 1854, almost 170 years ago, to worship and be together. Two years later, a board of trustees was formed and officially incorporated *Congregation Sharei Shomajin* on October 20, 1856. Our original articles of incorporation from that date show the election of Abraham Seelig, Jacob Henry, Harris Davis, and Alexander Susholz, as trustees, assigned by their fellow congregants with the responsibility of formalizing on record the congregation we know and love today as Gates of Heaven.

From humble beginnings, we now have a rich and beautiful history that has brought us to where we are today and the future is bright for us. However, there is a perception in modern congregations that opportunities for involvement have diminished, resulting in an average of fewer congregants being involved in their synagogue. Let me be the first, after Rabbi Matt and Arnie, to dispel this perception and remind you how valued you truly are in our congregation and our community.

Everyone has a place in our synagogue and an opportunity to continue building the legacy created almost 170 years ago by our founders. To the right, you'll find a list of current committees of the board you may be interested in joining or participating in.

Budget Advisory Committee

Endowment Committee

Life & Legacy Committee

Lifelong Learning Committee

Membership Engagement Committee

Ritual Committee

Safety & Security Committee

Social Action Committee

Temple Community Service Corps (TCSC)

Ways & Means Committee

Through these committees and the Board of Trustees, you have the opportunity to be a part of our history and add your personal contribution to our sacred community.

Contact me for information on each committee and to connect with the chair of the committee(s) you would like to join.

Josh Cooper-Ginsburg
Director of Administration and Operations
josh@cgoth.org | 518-374-8173

**WHAT IS GOHTY?
GATES OF HEAVEN
TEMPLE YOUTH**

**PLEASE CONTACT OUR
YOUTH DIRECTOR,
PARKER MEYERS, AT
PARKER@CGOH.ORG
WITH QUESTIONS OR
SUGGESTIONS.**

SISTERHOOD UPDATE & NEWS

Welcome! We invite you to become a part of our temple community by joining Women of Reform Judaism. Your Sisterhood dues and donor contributions make it possible for us to offer programs and financial support for religious school activities

Email Erica Berger at bagel8385@aol.com with any questions about WRJ or upcoming Sisterhood programs.

SISTERHOOD EVENING BOOK GROUP SELECTIONS 2024

All at 7:00 PM at the home of the discussion leader, unless noted. Sisterhood Evening Book Group welcomes all members of Sisterhood and our temple to join us for discussion of the following book choices:

Sunday, January 7, 2024

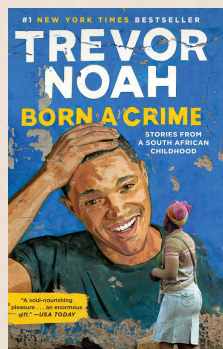
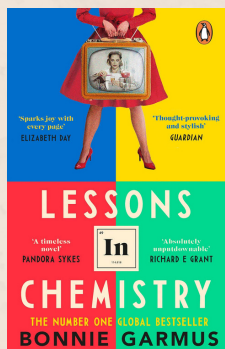
1:00 p.m. Potluck Luncheon at the Holland home. Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. Discussion Leader: Ellen Strauss

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Born A Crime by Trevor Noah
Discussion Leader & home of : Cindy Cohen

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Signal Fires by Dani Shapiro
Discussion Leader & home of : Ellen Eisenberg



WHAT AN AUTUMN! As the leaves are turning all colors, Sisterhood has planned a variety of programs for us to enjoy:

In September, we held a Paint-by-Numbers program.

In October, Judge Brian Haak presented "Guided Discussion of Hypothetical Court Cases and How We Would Resolve Them."



On November 2, Holly Loth delighted us with "Zentangle" works of art we created together.



On November 9, WRJ's Andrea Stillman spoke on "CLIMATE CHANGE THRU A GENDERED LENS"



On November 18, Student Cantor Margo Wagner shared her story with us and our Brotherhood as we ended Shabbat together with Havdalah and music.

COMING UP

December 4, 7:00 PM: The INFAMOUS White Elephant Regifting! Register online by Dec 2 and let Erica know if you'd like to bring hors d'oeuvres or dessert.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 7: Joint SH-BH Breakfast with Speaker Philip Morris, CEO of Proctors Theater

February: Zentangle returns Fridays 10- 11:30 am with Holly Loth. \$40/per person for 4 classes.

April- May: Learn to Play Mahjong over 6 weeks

May or June: TBA Palette Painting

June: Finale for the fiscal year. So please join us for socializing, munching and just to have a grand ole time!

OUR TEMPLE FAMILY

We share in their joy and extend warm congratulations to:

- David & Heather Goetz, parents of Jonah, in honor of his becoming bar mitzvah.
- Harrison & Samantha Goetz, siblings of Jonah, in honor of his becoming bar mitzvah.
- Karen & Graham Holmes, on the birth of their granddaughter Wendy Alona Holmes on November 8th to parents Lizzie Buchen and Raphael Holmes.
- Lisa & Kenny Priddle, on the marriage of their son, Taylor Glindmyer to Jenna Ciota.
- Shari Rosenthal-Mayo & Richard Mayo, on the marriage of their daughter, Ally Mayo to Greg Cimerman.
- Mindy & Jesse Holland, on the birth of their grandson, Samuel Holland-Wilson.
- David Holland & Kirstie Wilson, on the birth of their son, Samuel Holland-Wilson.
- Tim & Alyssa Fecura, on the engagement of their daughter, Jessica Fecura, to Zachary Falls. Sanford Fialkoff is the grandfather of Jessica Fecura.
- Gordon Zuckerman received an Interfaith Human Rights Award from the Interfaith Alliance on October 26th at Albany Country Club.
- Sanford Fialkoff on celebrating his birthday (see photo) →
- Barbara & Jeff Walton received the Community Service Award at the 12th Annual Robert J. Ludwig Gala, hosted by the Schenectady JCC



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

Marna Schwartz
Ken & Ellen Carpenter
Chuck & Sarah Hunt
Howard & Lisa Carr

Please welcome back Rachel & Jay Rourke

OUR TEMPLE FAMILY

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

- Hillary Price Lubin & Nadine Price DePierre, on the passing of their mother, Pearl Zvirman
- David Lubin, Dr. Stacey Wallach, James DePierre, Brian DePierre & Brendan DePierre on the passing of their grandmother, Pearl Zvirman
- Isaac Lubin, Olivia Lubin, Gabriel Wallach, Vivian Wallach, Benjamin Wallach, Lola DePierre & Barron DePierre, on the passing of their great grandmother, Pearl Zvirman
- Heather & Jason Lefton, on the passing of Heather's father, Mark Zimmerman
- Mack & Seth Lefton, on the passing of their grandfather, Mark Zimmerman
- Ross & Debra Goodman, on the passing of Ross' father, Joel Goodman
- Lily & Sasha Goodman, on the passing of their grandfather, Joel Goodman
- Joe & Eilene Tewksbury, on the passing of Joe's mother, Marie McHugh
- Taylor Tewksbury, on the passing of her grandmother, Marie McHugh
- Brian Cuttler, on the passing of his mother, Libby Cuttler
- Evan Cuttler, on the passing of his grandmother, Libby Cuttler
- Elaine Cline, on the passing of her husband, Harvey Cline
- Jerrold Cline, on the passing of his father, Harvey Cline
- Sarah & Jamie Cline, on the passing of their grandfather, Harvey Cline

*Yahrzeits are published
weekly in the Friday email
announcements*

*We record with sorrow the
passing of our members*



Harvey Cline

Pearl Zvirman

DONATIONS

September 1, 2023 - November 10, 2023

Adult Education

- Brian Cuttler in memory of Sheila Randall

Alan Sternstein Cheder Scholarship Fund

- Gail Sternstein in memory of Adele Derby, Harvey Cline, Nola Golden & Pauline Jacob

Brotherhood Yom HaShoah Fund

- Brian Cuttler

Cemetery Fund

- Cheri Rubin

David Hatkoff Campership Fund

- Brian & Cheryl Hatkoff in honor of the wedding of Esther & Aaron Reichman

General Fund/Jewish Vibrancy Fund

- Anonymous in memory of Libby Cuttler, Joel Goodman & Mark Zimmerman
- Lee Brice in honor of the congregation
- Tai Chi Class
- Ann Cramer for the speedy recovery of Jesse Holland
- Neev & Wendy Crane in memory of Daniel Starker
- Craig Cushing
- Brian Cuttler in memory of Sheila Randall
- Marion DeSantis
- Daniel Dowd
- Jane Frankel in memory of her mother, Mildred Cohen
- Alan & Yvette Gebell in memory of Harvey Cline
- Bill & Rhoda Gilbert
- Jerel & Kathleen Golub
- Stuart Gould
- Gay Griffith in memory of her grandmother Miriam Pascal, great-grandmother of Jeremy Cohen & David Griffith
- Gay Griffith in memory of Larry Stock, a dear friend
- Brian Haak in honor of Gordon Zuckerman for receiving the Interfaith Human Rights Award from the Interfaith Alliance
- Joan Heffler
- Kay Keller

General Fund/Jewish Vibrancy Fund (continued)

- Josephine Kivort in memory of Harvey Cline
- Edith Kliman in memory of Harvey Cline
- Jared Kopman in memory of Barbara Wood
- Sherry Liebman in honor of the birth of Jesse & Mindy Holland's grandson
- Irwin & Rosalie Margolis in memory of Harvey Cline
- Irwin & Rosalie Margolis in memory of Pearl Zvirman
- Irwin & Rosalie Margolis in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Jonathan Margolis in memory of Natalie & Gerald Margolis
- Paula Metzner & Ed Bein
- Parker Meyers
- Jennifer Molloy-Martinez & Carmen (Alex) Martinez
- Gloria Pitler
- Lucian Rizzo in honor of the people of Israel
- Rogerson Family in honor of Hayden Kudel's bar mitzvah
- Arnie & Veronica Rotenberg in memory of Norma Ritter
- Susan & Ed Savage in memory of Harvey Cline
- Howard Schlossberg & Michelle Ostrellich in memory of Joel Goodman
- Eric, Rachael, Morris, & Marilyn Siegelman
- Joel & Sarah Steinhaus
- Tai Chi Class
- Barbara & Jeff Walton in honor of the engagement of Jessica Fecura & Zachary Falls
- Barbara & Jeff Walton in memory of Joel Goodman
- Paul & Ronnie Zuckerberg

Guardians Circle

- Elizabeth & Rob Desbiens
- Karen Gerhardt
- Jesse & Mindy Holland
- Paula Metzner & Ed Bein
- Bill & Stacie Waters
- Ernie & Deb Wein

Hahn Teen Initiative

- Bea & Gerry Hahn in appreciation of Sue & Peter Kopcha
- Leah Spraragen Scott in memory of Marc Spraragen

Each donation is gratefully appreciated!

DONATIONS

High Holy Days Appeal

- John Berhaupt & Suzanne Gold
- Ellen Blake
- Gary & Amanda Bloom
- Cynthia Cohen
- Brian Cuttler in honor of ushering for the High Holy Days
- Elizabeth & Rob Desbiens
- Richard Dolins
- Neil Golub
- Donna Gordon
- Gay Griffith
- Robert & Donna Grossman
- Brian Haak
- Seth Hanft & Marjorie Rosenthal
- Jesse & Mindy Holland
- Alicia Jacobs
- Kay Keller
- Jeffrey Kimmer in memory of Shirley Kimmer
- Peter & Susan Kopcha
- Daisy & Alan Kosack in honor of the Congregation
- Ian Kudel & Stacey Farber in honor of Rabbi Matt, Margo, Max & the CGOH staff for a beautiful bar mitzvah ceremony!
- Ian Kudel & Stacey Farber in honor of the congregation
- Gary & Zina Lam
- Sherry Liebman
- Mary Matthews
- Trudi Melamed in memory of Gary Melamed
- Elisa Meredith in appreciation of Adjunct Rabbi Emerita Eleanor Pearlman
- Dr. William & Rabbi Eleanor Pearlman
- Steven & Wendi Philbrick
- Richard & Joan Platt
- Ezra Posner
- Harvey Randall
- Rosalyn Rufer
- Harriet Sandler
- Howard Schlossberg & Michelle Ostrelich
- Gloria Schneider
- Herbert Schwartz
- Eric & Rachael Siegelman
- Randy Simon & Rachel Cohon
- Wayne & Helaine St. Clair
- Rhonda Stein
- Gail Sternstein in honor of Ellen Eisenberg's 2023 Volunteer Service Award
- Michelle & Michael Stolfi

High Holy Days Appeal (continued)

- Brian & Denise Tepper in memory of Corrine Tepper, mother and former congregant
- Peter & Miriam Vollweiler
- Barbara & Jeff Walton
- Danny Warren
- William & Stacie Waters

Jo Auerbach Culinary Fund

- Karl Auerbach in memory of Josephine Auerbach

Lewis Chapman Lifelong Education Fund

- Sarah Chapman in memory of Benjamin Gewirtzman, Samuel Gewirtzman, Lewis H Chapman, Anne Leventhal
- Barbara Dworkin in memory of Lois Bluestein

Life & Legacy Fund

- Al & Sherry Dickinson
- Herb Schwartz

Max Feldman Music Fund

- Debbie & Charles Wilkinson in memory of Larry Feldman

Mitzvah Day

- Ina & Aaron Fried in memory of Esther Davidow

Norman & Beverly Francis Education Enrichment Fund

- Cynthia & Joseph Gensheimer

Rabbi Bloom Scholarship Fund

- Graham & Karen Holmes in memory of Felix S. Cohen

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Paul & Juli Boyarin in memory of Brian Boyarin
- Paul & Juli Boyarin in memory of David Boyarin
- Brian Cuttler in honor of Rabbi Matt Cutler's wise counsel & support
- Myra Darlow in memory of Lois Bluestein
- Hillary Davis & Ted Strauss in memory of Arline Davis
- Bernard & Karen DeChalus in memory of Irwin Scheer
- Lawrence & Ellen Eisenberg in memory of Nathan Oser
- Mark Gibbons & Paula Yablonsky
- Bill & Rhoda Gilbert in memory of Lois Bluestein
- The David & Andrea Golub Foundation
- Brian & Debra Gordon in honor of Rabbi Matthew Cutler's kindness

DONATIONS

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund (continued)

- Susanna & John Hurley in memory of Bernard Stein
- Charles & Johanna Horowitz in appreciation of Rabbi Matt's spiritual leadership
- James Kaplan in honor of Rabbi Matthew Cutler
- James Kaplan in memory of Audrey Kaplan Moskowitz
- James Kaplan in memory of Audrey Moskowitz
- Greg Leder
- Elisa Meredith in memory of Sonia Rubenstein
- Harvey Randall memory of Harvey Cline, Louis Terkel, & Florence Randall
- Joanne & Bob Schnee
- Leah Scott in honor of Nancy Spraragen's birthday
- Eric Tepper in memory of Dr. Clifford M Tepper
- Paul & Ronnie Zuckerberg

Randall Adult Library Fund

- Barbara Boyajian in memory of Steven Benjamin Boyajian
- Brian Cuttler in memory of Sheila Randall
- Aaron & Ina Fried
- Jeff Handelman
- Elisa Meredith in memory of Sheila Randall

Religious School Fund

- Peter & Susan Kopcha
- Ernie & Deborah Wein

Security Services

- Anonymous
- Mary Matthews
- Jodi & Marc Pearlman
- Kyra & Dr Jeffrey Zonderman

Sisterhood Reyut

- Bea & Gerry Hahn
- Sonya Stall
- Jeffrey & Barbara Walton in memory of Audrey Moskowitz & Lois Bluestein
- Myra Darlow in memory of Lois Bluestein

Sisterhood

- Erica & Len Berger in honor of Ellen Eisenberg receiving the Volunteer Service Award

TCSC Fund

- Bernard & Karen DeChalus in honor of Jonathan Dechalus

Unrestricted Endowment

- Gary & Janet Linsey in memory of Harvey Cline

Corrections from the last quarterly Connect:

Our sincere apologies.

Recently passed member: Audrey Moskowitz

James Kaplan made a donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in memory of Audrey Kaplan Moskowitz

Stan & Ellen Strauss made a donation to the Randall Adult Library Fund in memory of Lois Bluestein

Ellen & Larry Eisenberg made a donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the engagement of Rebecca Rotenberg, daughter of Arnie & Elaine Rotenberg, to Jon Abbot.

Life & Legacy News

Drum roll, people...

We are thrilled to announce that Herb Schwartz has made a Life & Legacy gift to our congregation. Herb is the 65th person to join our Life & Legacy society! Please thank Herb and all previous society members for helping to secure a sustainable future for Congregation Gates of Heaven. A list of donors is on the blue board in the lobby.

Jonathan Falk's legacy lives on

Jonathan had been president of the congregation just two years before his sudden death. He had taken over the leadership of the Life & Legacy Committee only a week before that unexpected day.

Gates of Heaven mattered in Jonathan's life, so he found a way to support Gates after life. His gift of stock to our endowment fund means that Jonathan's gift will eternally support the community he loved. Each year his name will appear in our Book of Memory along with Sonia Rubenstein, Virginia Dolins, Linda Zuckerman, and others who have left a bequest, life insurance policy, stock, or other asset in the name of Gates of Heaven.

Like Jonathan, make your plans now to ensure your legacy reflects your values. Please contact Mindy Holland or Josh Cooper-Ginsburg about how you can give a legacy gift.

Each donation is gratefully appreciated!



852 ASHMORE AVENUE
SCHENECTADY, NY 12309



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Leadership

Rabbi Matthew S. Cutler, DD
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 Worship & 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
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