

קולנו

Jewish Federation of Ulster County

390 Aaron Court, Kingston, NY 12401

www.ucjf.org • (845) 338-8131

בס"ד



# KOLENU

## OUR VOICE

December 2025

CHANUKAH

KISLEV / TEVETH 5786



*Each candle we light this Chanukah reminds us that our community shines brightest when we come together—As One.*

This year, as antisemitic violence threatens Jewish life, Israel rebuilds, and uncertainty weighs heavily on Jewish communities worldwide, our unity becomes more vital than ever.

Every flame we kindle reflects our collective strength, proving that when Jewish communities stand together, we have the power to shine extraordinary light.

This Chanukah, we must be the guiding light our community needs—As One.

Donate now at  
[www.ucjf.org](http://www.ucjf.org)



The Jewish Federation  
OF ULSTER COUNTY

The strength of a people  
The power of community

**MISSION STATEMENT**

We are a community-building organization that enriches Jewish life locally, nationally, in Israel, and around the world by helping those in need and fostering Jewish values for the greater good.

**KOLENU OUR VOICE  
CELEBRATING 47!**

**Kolenu is filled with facts and information about Israel, the community, and world Jewry.**

**President**

Mark Grunblatt  
grunblattesq@aol.com

**Office Manager**

Brian Silver  
ucjewishfederation@gmail.com  
845-338-8131 x2

**Bookkeeper**

Grace Sheaffer  
bookkeeper@ucjf.org  
845-338-8131 x1

**Kolenu Editors**

Amy Barash, Barbara Cohen, Janice Kaplan

**Reminder:** The deadline for submitting information to the Passover Newsletter is Friday, March 6.

**info@ucjf.org**  
**www.ucjf.org**

*Like us on facebook! Jewish Federation of Ulster County*  
*Follow on Instagram Jewishfederationofulstercounty*



*This Chanukah light up each night with happiness, hope and gratitude.*

*Amy, Barbara, Janice*



**Serving our community  
and sustaining the environment**

Would you prefer to receive future issues of the Kolenu newsletter online instead of receiving your hard copy in the mail? If yes, please send an email to us at ucjewishfederation@gmail.com. Please include your full name, and note your preferred email address. You'll help us save a stamp and a tree, but you'll still receive our publications right in your email inbox.



## UCJF Executive Board

President, Mark Grunblatt  
Vice President, Rivka Tadjer  
Treasurer, Michele Lerner  
Recording Secretary, Jeffrey Farber

## UCJF Board Members

Nathan Borsky  
Lukas Brenowitz  
Jenny Leifer Bryant  
Barbara Cohen  
Joseph Cohen  
Robert Friedman  
Rondavid Gold  
Harv Hilowitz  
Laura Miller  
Skit Rabbino  
Rebecca Rose  
Maryalice Schleuderer



# **Ulster County Spiritual Leaders**

---

**Chabad of New Paltz**

Rabbi Moshe Plotkin

**Chabad of Woodstock**

Rabbi Mendy Karczag

**Congregation Agudas Achim**

**Chabad of Ulster County**

Rabbi Yitzhak Hecht & Rabbi AB Itkin

**Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley**

Rabbi Jack Sherratt

**Ezrath Israel Chabad of Ellenville**

Rabbi Yakov Raskin

**Jewish Congregation of New Paltz**

**Kehillat Ahavath Achim**

Rabbi Adam Cerino-Jones

**Kerhonkson Synagogue**

**Congregation Tiferet Yehuda V' Yisrael**

Rabbi Sally Shore Wittenberg

**Woodstock Jewish Congregation**

**Kehillat Lev Shalem**

Rabbi Karen Levine

Student Hazzan Alexandra Schleuderer

Rabbi Yael Romer Rabbi Emerita

**Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley**

Rabbi Ellen K. Triebwasser, Member

Cantor Raechel Rosen

**Woodstock Jewish Congregation**

**Kehillat Lev Shalem**

# Message from Mark Grunblatt, President

*Jewish Federation of Ulster County*

*grunblattesq@aol.com*

Shalom chaverim,

This season of falling leaves and flurries heralds the arrival of Thanksgiving and Hannukah for all. Gatherings over traditional foods with friends and family give us a chance to reconnect and reflect. As I write, our annual Fall for Art event has just ended. Thank you to our committee for their hard work, to the artists for sharing their talents with us and to all who found joy in the beautiful items your federation made available to the public. Thanks for spreading the word.



Some of our members are heading south for the season. Others of us are preparing for skiing, skating or snowshoeing. Whether your future is more tropical or arctic, federation celebrates with you. Thanks to you, we are able to spread tzedakah and promote *tikkun olam* to our neighbors and support Jewish life in our region. While federal funding uncertainty may alter needs in Ulster County, your federation is able to respond to changing situations and target aid to local charitable groups who may suddenly be caught short.

If anyone wants the latke recipe that let my 7th grade class at Zimet Religious School win the Congregation Emanuel fry-off, please email the Ulster County Jewish Federation office 845-338-8132 [ucjfederation@gmail.com](mailto:ucjfederation@gmail.com). Any of my students already know our secret ingredient. It's especially good with wasabi sour cream. Enjoy your time together.

B'tayavon, Mark Grunblatt President, Ulster County Jewish Federation



## Positive ROI...Guaranteed

All investors seek to maximize their ROI (Return On Investment).

The Talmud and I know a way to ensure that result.

*It's this: You receive far more when you give to others than the value of what you give.*

Giving time and/or money to a cause that makes lives better and brings light to darkness returns you a rich treasure of joy and satisfaction.

*The Jewish Federation of Ulster County is such a cause.*

### **We help provide:**

- Food, solace, information and aid to those in need through Jewish Family Services
- Books and reading education to the young through PJ Library
- A powerful voice against antisemitism and hateful slander of Israel
- Security preparedness training,
- Major community events like Fallforart and piano concerts
- Israeli/Palestinian cooperative initiatives such as S.T.E.P. and the Navone Center ... and so much more.

***Don't pass up this sure-fire investment opportunity.***

***Support the Jewish Federation of Ulster County. It will enrich you beyond measure. Guaranteed.***

### **Please choose a suggested Level of Giving**

- \$18,000 + Lion / Lioness of Judah
- \$10,000 - \$17,999 Diamond
- \$5,000 - \$9,999 Platinum
- \$1800 - \$4,999 Gold
- \$750 - \$1799 Silver
- \$250 - \$749 Bronze
- \$36 - \$249 Member



**Go to [www.ucjf.org](http://www.ucjf.org) for details or call 845-338-8131**

Campaign Committee,  
Barbara Cohen, Jeff Farber, Carol Super Gold, Rondavid Gold,  
Lew Kirschner, Michele Lerner

## Lola Rewitz Mozes, a remarkable Holocaust survivor,

born in Poland passed on November 11 at the age of ninety-six. Her daughter Lally Mozes-Steckman and her husband Michael reside in our community. Lola dedicated her life to sharing her harrowing experiences and ensuring that the lessons of the past would never be forgotten. Born into a world of promise, her childhood was upended by the horrors of the Holocaust, yet she emerged with a profound strength and an unwavering commitment to educate others. Throughout her life, Lola spoke to schools, community groups, and friends, passionately recounting her story in the hope of fostering understanding and compassion among future generations. She spoke at the Federation Yom Hashoah remembrance.

Together with her husband Max, they played an instrumental role in sharing their story of being passengers on the Exodus in 1947 to ensure the accuracy of the *Reenactment of the Exodus* sponsored by the federation; a testament to their own journey of survival and resilience.

Through these events, Lola helped to bring history to life, allowing others to grasp the significance of the struggles faced by those who endured the Holocaust. Her legacy is not only one of survival but also one of empowerment, reminding us all of the importance of remembrance, empathy, and the duty to stand against injustice. As we mourn her passing, we celebrate her life and the indelible mark she left on our hearts and minds.

Our condolences to the Mozes, Steckman and Fried families. Thank you for sharing Lola with our community.

### **Lola's son Sandy Mozes shared this letter:**

A letter my mother wrote to me and my siblings in 1981. Describing her listening to my grandfather and others recite the Shemah as they were murdered and our legacy and obligation to their memory...

Lola Mozes, A-1489 Survivor of Bochnia Ghetto, Plaszów, Pionki, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Ravensbrück, Malhof Camps.

“Here is the essence of my story. To help my children grow, flourish and multiply without guilt or remorse, without a feeling that they are descended of people who went to slaughter like sheep. No song like Eli Eli or Ave Maria will surpass the chant of my father, my brother, my cousins and hundreds of others as they were led to be shot. It was the most powerful, courageous and victorious hymn. Their voices did not bleat like sheep. Their voices told of victory overcoming evil by dying like men without somebody's blood on their hands. Their voices sang in unison a praise to the Lord. There was a might in them as if they were already one with their master. And it said Shema Yisreal, Hear Oh Israel, I will take you from your suffering and you will flourish. This was the message I received. That song was sung for me by my father. I flourished as I wish and hope my children will. My children, my dear sweet children. Your daily problems, which you try to solve with so much determination, are insignificant in the view of the awesome past of your ancestors. So you are told, but this is not true. Life is made out of difficulties and joys, of sorrows and utter happiness, but as long as your souls are not soiled with meanness which hurts others, be proud of your life. Your life is the extension of the ones which are gone. And now they are immortal. Don't pity them. They went peacefully because they had hope for the future, your present. My father's mighty chant was meant as well for you and yours.

With all my love, your Mom.”



**Lola & Max Mozes, Paris in the 1950's**

# Chanukah Recipes

Submitted by Amy Barash

## Beignets

### Ingredients:

4-6 cups vegetable oil  
1 cup milk  
1 cup water  
1 large egg  
3 cups all purpose flour  
2 tbl. baking powder  
1 tsp. salt  
4 tsp. sugar  
1-2 firm bananas, sliced  
confectioner's sugar

### Directions:

Pour oil into deep pot a depth of 3-4 inches. Heat oil to 370 degrees.

In a large bowl with mixer at medium-high speed, combine milk, water, and eggs.

Add flour, baking powder, salt, and sugar.

Drop 1/8 cup batter into the hot oil and fry about 3-4 minutes.

Beignets will float to the surface.

Turn them a few times until they are golden on both sides.

Drain on paper towels and sprinkle on confectioners sugar.

Serve hot!

## Cajun Sweet Potato Latkes

### Ingredients:

2 pounds sweet potatoes (about 3 large), peeled  
3 large eggs  
2 tbl. plus 1 tsp. Cajun spice blend  
1/3 cup chopped cilantro  
peanut oil  
sour cream

### Directions:

Using the coarse grating disc of a food processor, grate the sweet potatoes.

Transfer to a large bowl.

In a small bowl, whisk the eggs, then the spices.

Mix in the cilantro.

Add egg mixture to the sweet potatoes.

In a large skillet, heat the oil until very hot, but not smoking.

Add mixture 1/4 cup at a time & fry until golden.

Flip & fry other side.

Drain on paper towels.

Serve with a dollop of sour cream.



# Israel Advocacy Committee

by *Harv Hilowitz*  
*ucjfsafe@gmail.com*

As we approach the Chanukah-Holiday Season, we can all agree that this past year has been a challenging one, filled with dramatic highs and lows regarding the Jewish People and Israel. Despite all attempts by overt and covert antisemites, terror entities and malignant “state actors” such as Iran and Yemen, the Jewish Kehilla (community) and Israel continue to stand up and thrive in the face of adversaries.

Recently, political victories by “Democratic –Socialists” in NYC and Seattle present a new set of challenges to Jews, but the sky is not falling. Mayors have influence, but no role whatsoever in foreign policy, and these newly elected politicians will quickly move to the center on most issues in order to actually govern. Regarding a Palestinian state, it has long been the policy of the US (until now) and the Jewish Federation of North America to support a “two-state solution” to the intractable situation in the Middle East , despite fanatics on both fringes.

The recent US-brokered Gaza ceasefire, acknowledged by all Western Allies and the Arab League, still holds as of this writing, and almost all the Hostages taken and murdered by the Hamas terror entity on October 7 have been returned to their families. Because of the ceasefire, it is hoped that much of the steam will be taken out of the anti-Israel movement here and abroad. Nevertheless, random acts of violence against Jews, Shuls and Jewish businesses continue to be reported, the anti-Israel crowd holds limp demonstrations every weekend in New Paltz and Woodstock, and the BDS crowd recently held a gathering in Saugerties.

The Israel Advocacy Committee’s take on all this is - Despite our pain watching the Haters parading around - that except for actively fighting (and defeating) local government “ceasefire” resolutions, our take is to ignore them. The ONLY things that matter is that:

- Israel controls the situation, not local demonstrators
- Hamas is largely defeated
- Gaza lies in ruins because of their Oct 7 miscalculation
- Hezbollah’s leadership in Lebanon has been largely destroyed
- Syria is making peace overtures to US and Israel
- The Houthis in Yemen have been silenced and are not attacking Israel
- Egypt and Jordan continue to cooperate with Israel
- Gazans are doing everything they can to flee their destroyed area
- Israel maintains a sharp military and diplomatic upper hand now.



But we urge you to stay alert and report any and all threats, incidents or new demonstrations against us to Local Law Enforcement, fill out a Police report, and contact 845-590-0925 so that we can inform others.

AM YISROEL CHAI,

-Harv Hilowitz, Chair, Israel Advocacy & Ulster County Jewish Federation Security Group

# Jewish Family Services

Sharon Murray-Cohen, Executive Director

[jfs.ulster@gmail.com](mailto:jfs.ulster@gmail.com)

Dear Community Friends,

## For 25 years JFS has provided essential programs and services to seniors, of all faiths, in our area.

As we celebrate 25 years of helping seniors throughout the Ulster County region, we acknowledge that your generous donations throughout the years have been a crucial part in our providing essential services. **Now, due to cuts in State funding, County funding and limited funding through The Claims Conference, we are in need of your support and generous giving more than ever.** Your generosity enables us to continue providing programs and services to seniors and their families – **of all faiths** – throughout the mid-Hudson Valley.

### Our Mission is non-denominational:

*We provide quality and compassionate social services and educational programs to senior citizens in Ulster County and the entire region.*

Jewish Family Services of Ulster County provides essential and often life- saving services.

- **Counseling by licensed Social Workers**
- **Family-centered mental health services**
- **Bereavement Support Groups**
- **Care Giver Support Groups**

- **Alzheimer and Dementia Support.**

This population is increasing rapidly. A recent study showed that 15.6 percent of seniors in Ulster County, not in nursing homes, have Alzheimer's or dementia. The impact on them and their families can be devastating. We are helping them.

- **How to protect seniors from Financial , Emotional and Physical Exploitation.** We guide victims as to where to turn for help if they become victims.
- **Holocaust Survivors:** In addition to our many other activities, we offer comprehensive assistance to Holocaust survivors, some of whom are still living here full-time, and some of whom are still coming up during the summer months. As this population ages, the help they need increases exponentially. We provide arrangements for home care, case management and care plans, home visits and psychological services, in addition to things like emergency moving expenses, eyeglass and emergency dental expenses.

But funding for these services have become greatly compromised in the current environment . Without your support these programs could be gone. We need your support now.

### Here are two ways to offer your tax-deductable donation:

Checks to: Jewish Family Services of Ulster, 280 Wall Street, 2nd Floor, Kingston, NY 12401

Or online: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/jfsouc>



Thank you for helping us fund our important community works.

Sincerely, Dena Crane President, JFS Ulster Board of Directors

# Message from Reb Leah Hecht

*Chabad of Ulster County*

*myrebbezin@yahoo.com*

Dear Friend,

Rabbi Yehoshua Ben Levi said; Women are obligated in the kindling of the Chanukah light, for they, too, were involved in that miracle.

Women thus have a stronger connection to Chanukah than the men since a) women were singled out in the Greek prosecution and b) since miracles happened through them.

The Greeks made many decrees against all the Jews such as No Kosher, No Shabbos, No Circumcision etc..but even more so specifically on Jewish women. The Greeks decreed that every Jewish bride would be violated on her wedding night by first submitting to the local Greek commander. When the salvation and the miracles of Chanukah finally came about, it was a salvation for all Jews, but the women in particular experienced a very personal freedom from being assaulted by the Greeks.

I would also like to share the story of Yehudis. Yehudis was the daughter of Yochanan the *Kohain Gadol* – High priest. She went to General Holofernes under the guise of wishing to join his camp, and help him defeat the city of Jerusalem. She fed him salty cheese and undiluted wine in order to cause him to fall into a deep slumber. She then used his own sword to behead him, and snuck his head back with her to the city of Jerusalem. When the enemy camp found their headless general, they fled in terror.

This special connection that the Jews have with the story of Chanukah is the reason that the Jewish women have taken upon themselves to avoid work while the Chanukah candles are burning. Jewish women everywhere sit and enjoy the special lights the Chanukah candles bring into our homes, community and the world at large!

May the lights of Chanukah shine brightly for you and your loved ones!

Reb. Leah Hecht



Hudson Valley  
Hospice  
*Hope*  
comes in many forms



For some, it means experiencing the magic of the holiday season through their eyes, one last time.

Contact Us: [hvospice.org](http://hvospice.org) • (845) 240-7555

# Message from Rabbi Y. Yitzhak Hecht

Chabad of Ulster County  
office@chabadulstercounty.org

Dear Friend,

The Holiday of Chanukah is around the corner. The main mitzvah of Chanukah is to light the menorah. We can light the menorah with candles or with oil, as long as the flame burns bright and clear. Oil is preferable since the miracle of the Holiday happened with oil. During the times of the Holy Temple, when the *Chashmonoim* (the Jewish people) reclaimed the Holy Temple, they only found enough oil to last for 1 day. Hashem performed a miracle that the oil lasted for 8 days, the exact amount of time it took to obtain new pure olive oil.

*The unique quality of oil is its ability to permeate all substances. (Shulchan Aruch, Yoreh De'ah 105:5)*

Oil, say the Chassidic masters, represents the paradox of spirituality. The nature of oil is that when it comes in contact with something it saturates it entirely, seeping in and pervading its every part. Oil also has an opposite nature: when mixed with another liquid it remains aloof, refusing to blend. Such is the nature of the spiritual: sublime, transcendent and pure, it nevertheless pervades everything, transforming it from within.

Like oil, we Jews will often find ourselves mixing in a wide variety of circles; social, business, civic, communal or political. And there's nothing necessarily wrong with that. At the very same time, though, we need to remember never to lose our own identity. We should never mix to the point of allowing our own Jewish persona to be swallowed or diluted. Just learn from the oil. By all means, spread around and interact with the rest of the world. But remember your uniqueness. Be distinctive and proud of your Jewish identity.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and joyous Chanukah!

Rabbi Y. Yitzhak Hecht



**The Copy Hut**  
& Printing

**THINK. SHOP. BUY.  
PRINT LOCAL.**

**MAIN OFFICE KINGSTON:**  
Orders@thecopyhut.com • 845.339.2336  
508 Albany Avenue, Kingston, NY • Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm

**CATSKILL OFFICE:**  
CatskillOrders@thecopyhut.com • 518.943.0671  
138 Grandview Ave, Catskill, NY • Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am-3:00pm  
We will be checking and responding to emails Monday-Friday from our Kingston location.

## Message from Rabbi AB Itkin

Chabad of Ulster County  
abitkin@gmail.com



There is a well known Jewish saying - **“Mishenichnas Adar Marbim B’simcha”**

“When we enter the Hebrew month of Adar, we increase in Joy”

What does it mean to increase in joy? Every single day in Adar we need to add in joy from the day before! Day 1, we have the first level of joy and day 2, the second level of joy, and so on.

When Adar comes we increase in joy, because it’s days of miracles for the Jewish people, Purim & Pesach. In the month of Adar, our leader, *Moshe* - Moses was born. Therefore the entire month is a month of joy, and that’s why we were victorious in the times of Purim & redeemed in the times of Pesach. *Haman* chose the month of Adar to destroy the Jewish people, since he knew *Moshe* died in this month. *Haman* didn’t realize *Moshe* was also born in this month!

Being *besimcha*, or happy, means choosing to cultivate joy and positivity from within, regardless of external circumstances. It’s about recognizing that our mindset has the power to shape our reality. As the saying goes, “In the place that a person’s mind is, there he is found” Our thoughts and attitudes can either uplift or bring us down.

May we all experience only happiness and joy in our lives!

Happy Chanukah, Rabbi AB Itkin

## Message from Reb. Binie Itkin

Chabad of Ulster County

[binieitkin@gmail.com](mailto:binieitkin@gmail.com)

Dear Friend,

During Chanukah it is customary to give *gelt* (money) to children, so that we can teach them to give some of it to charity. The Hebrew word Chanukah shares the same root as *chinuch*, education. The occupying Greek forces were determined to force Hellenism upon the Jewish population, at the expense of the ideals and commandments of the holy Torah.

Unfortunately, they were quite successful in their endeavor. After the Greeks were defeated it was necessary to re-educate the Jews, to reintroduce a large part of the population to Torah values. Thus the strong link between Chanukah and education.

Appropriately, during Chanukah it is customary to give *gelt* (money) to children, to teach them to increase in charity and good deeds, and to add to the festive holiday spirit. This subtle form of “bribery” is an essential component in the educational process. Maimonides discusses the importance of using incentives and prizes until a child is old enough to independently understand the importance and beauty of the Torah and Mitzvot.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and joyous Chanukah!

Reb. Binie Itkin

 unlock  
upstate  
team



# COMPASS

---

**Harris Safier**

**Associate Real Estate Broker**

**m: 914.388.3351**

**[Harris.Safier@compass.com](mailto:Harris.Safier@compass.com)**

# Message from Rabbi Adam Cerino-Jones

*Jewish Congregation of New Paltz*  
*Congregation Ahavat Achim*  
*adamcerinojones@gmail.com*

Dear friends,

I hope you and yours have had a pleasant autumn. I'm writing to you from the tail-end of paternity leave for my first child, and will keep things on the briefer side here so that I can get back to burping and diaper changes. Becoming a parent has fundamentally shifted the orientation with which I operate in the world, and I continue to be surprised at the ways it has altered my perspectives as a Jew and as a Rabbi.

As we move towards the end of the secular year and approach my son's first Khanukkah, I've been thinking a lot about how best to present the holiday to him as he grows up. Amidst the fun of candles and gifts and latkes, what is the essential torah I want him to learn? Pride in being a Jew? Certainly. Belief in the possibility of the extraordinary or miraculous? Perhaps. Love of family and time spent together? Definitely.

The most essential torah I want to present to him, though, comes from the famous debate between Beit Hillel and Beit Shammai over the proper way to light a Khanukkiyah -- starting with eight lights and decreasing each night (Shammai) or starting with one and adding on (Hillel). The tradition obviously goes according to Hillel, and our Sages offer the explanation that, in matters of holiness, one should elevate and not downgrade.

At this time of year, as the days get darker and darker, the reason seems even simpler than that. Each additional candle illuminates the darkness a little bit more. And perhaps that is the torah I most hope to teach my son: that when the world feels heavy or uncertain, we have the capacity to bring more light into it -- through kindness, through courage, through community. That even small acts, added night after night, can transform the atmosphere around us.

My hope is that as he grows, he will learn not only to enjoy the beauty of the flames, but to see himself as someone who can help brighten the lives of others. May we all move into this season with that same sense of possibility, adding light wherever we can.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Khanukkah filled with warmth, joy, and increasing brightness.

L'shalom, Rabbi Adam



**Think Taylored Real Estate  
for Your Catskill Properties**

**Looking to sell or to buy  
Call Freddie Today**

**Inventory is low it is true**

**I will get the job done to  
sell your property or  
find one for you**

**Taylored Real Estate  
914-388-3088**

**realtorfreddie@gmail.com  
FOR YOUR CATSKILL PROPERTIES**

# *Fantastic, Awesome, Amazing!!!*

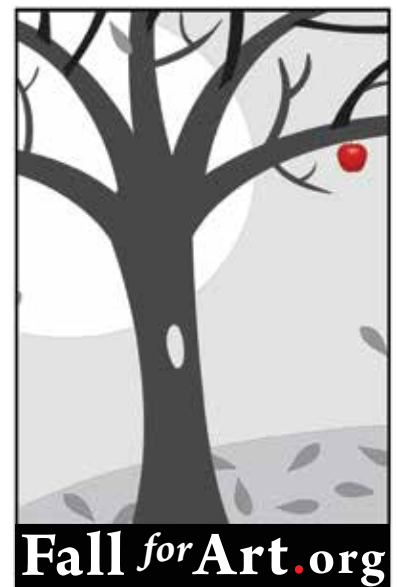
There are simply not enough superlatives to express how grateful the Fallforart.org Committee - Sara Beames, Barbara Cohen, Sloane Grubard, Darlene Levit, and Sue Worthman—are for the overwhelming support you have shown to Fallforart.org.

*We are thrilled to announce that this year,  
we achieved almost \$30,000!*

Having an online show enables a reach to a broader audience,  
enables Fallforart to reach a broader audience.

## *A heartfelt thank you to:*

- *Our magnificent 31 Hudson Valley artists for sharing their incredible work with us.*
- *Our sponsors and art patrons—this event would not have been possible without your generosity.*
- *Everyone who supported Fallforart.org through your purchases and donations*



# *Thank YOU, Thank YOU, Thank YOU!*

---

Fallfor.org is proud to practice Tikkun Olam—a Jewish concept that means “repairing the world” through acts of kindness. The proceeds from Fallforart.org support a variety of Federation causes, participating artists, and health and human service organizations, including:

- Angel Food East
- Circle of Friends for the Dying
- Hudson Valley LGBTQ+ Community Center
- Jewish Family Services
- MyKingstonKids
- Oncology Support Program
- People’s Place
- R.Y.A.N. House

### *Special thanks to:*

- Jeff Severson, J.T.S. Design, Inc. for creating the Fallforart.org website
- Graphic Artist Supattra Samanyaphon, for creating our virtual platform
- Bookkeeper Grace Schaeffer
- Office Manager Brian Silver
- Treasurer Michele Lerner
- Designer Sara Beames, for the Fallforart.org invitation
- James Post of Color Page, for designing the program

We lovingly remember Judy Polinsky, of blessed memory, whose vision brought the first Fall for Art Show & Sale to life in 1996 and Susan Basch, of blessed memory—a dedicated committee member, generous supporter, and cherished artist.

We also celebrate Katharine L. McKenna, who encouraged her artist friends to join that first show, Louise Lefkovits was a gifted artist and a beloved participant of Fall for Art for 27 years, where she also served on the events committee. In loving memory of her mum, artist Julia Fry honored Louise’s legacy with a special collection of greeting cards showcasing her artwork in this year’s show.

Visit **[fallforart.org](https://fallforart.org)** to explore the images from the 31 talented Hudson Valley artists, and click to read the 2025 program, featuring sponsor ads, a "Welcome to Fall for Art" message, the "Art of Giving" page, Federation accomplishments, tribute to Judy Polinsky, the inventor and co-founder of Fall for Art, and Susan Basch, committee member and artist extraordinaire.

*Once again, thank you all for your support and generosity!*

# Message from Rabbi Karen Levine

*Kehllat Lev Shalem | The Woodstock Jewish Congregation*

*rabbi.karen@wjcshul.org*

## And That is Why We Eat Cheese On Hanukkah!

While most of us with Eastern European Ashkanazi heritage associate all things dairy with the spring festival of Shavuot, there is a Hanukkah observance that was prominent in Medieval European Jewish communities, and more recently preserved by Jews of Northern African origin, that is experiencing a renaissance throughout the Jewish world, and it includes special foods made with cheese. *Chag HaBanot* (*Eid Al B'nat* in Judeo-Arabic) — which translates as “Festival of the Daughters” — is celebrated on the seventh night of Hanukkah, which is Rosh Chodesh Tevet. Rosh Chodesh, the new moon, is a traditional time for women-centered ritual, and Rosh Chodesh Tevet, the longest and most powerful new moon night of the year, invites us to special observance centering around girls and women.

Like the hero Yehudah/Judah in the non-canonical books of the Macabbees, which has become a textual source for modern Hanukkah celebration, Yehudit/Judith, in the book that bears her name, emerges as a strong, brave individual who also stands up for the survival of the Jewish people.

As the story is told, Yehudit stages a daring attack by sneaking into the tent of the enemy general, Holofernes, with a female accomplice. Holofernes is smitten with her beauty and he invites her to a private banquet — think Queen Esther of the Purim story. In a 1402 version of the Judith story written in Provence by an unknown writer, “Megillat Yehudit” (The Scroll of Judith), Yehudit brings with her a supply of salty cheese — or “salty cheese pancakes/fritters — to encourage his drinking a lot of wine, “so much [wine] as he had never had in his life” (Judith 12:20). Eventually, Holofernes passes out, at which point Judith takes his sword and cuts off his head, sneaking it back to her people. The next morning, the Jewish leaders present the head to Holofernes’ men who, having lost their leader in such a grisly manner, quickly disperse.

As we bring light into the darkness with the Hanukkah candles we can also celebrate the spiritual and physical strength of Jewish women with the emergence of the first sliver of new moon in the evening sky.

And that is why an image of Judith is found on many medieval Hanukkah menorahs! And why we eat cheese on Hanukkah!



# Message from Rabbi Jack Sherratt

Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley

RabbiJack@cehv.org

## All Latkes All The Time: A Modest Proposal

To Whom It May Concern—rabbis, ritualists, culinary traditionalists, anyone who has ever popped a blistering hot latke into their mouth straight from the pan without blowing on it first and *hasafashafsas*-ed in the name of Jewish continuity until it was cool enough to eat—please accept this petition, humbly submitted, that latkes be recognized, affirmed, and legislated as the official food—not just of *Chanukah*—but of *every* Jewish holiday.

Imagine—latkes celebrated, sanctified, and served hot on *Rosh Hashanah*. Dip them in applesauce and, *Shana Tovah*, a blessing for the coming year! Imagine—beet latkes, earthy and sweet (a caramelized, crimson canape!) garnished with goat cheese on *Shavuot*. Truly a revelation! Imagine—the miracle of fried potatoes made with matzah meal and seasoned with a dash of redemption on *Pesach*. What better use of one’s freedom could there possibly be? I’ll wait.

You see, the latke is more than a New Year’s nosh, a savory sampling of spiritual sustenance *m’Sinai* or a deep-fried freedom fritter. The latke is a deliciously crispy embodiment of the Jewish story—a story of resilience, adaptation, improvisation, heat, humor—a story that began with slavery, wandering, exile and that has endured, in part, because Jews are a people whose survival has been forged in the fire (and who are stronger for it); a people who know how to turn meager rations into moments of joy through blessing; a people who know from oil and potatoes. Never mind the mess. Grated v. shredded? Thick v. thin? Applesauce v. sour cream? Never mind our differences. Jews are a people who hold multiplicity without apology and who stand united on the simple truth that we are stronger for it. Like latkes, we are bound together by something invisible but essential—love. *Ahavat Yisrael*.

*For the love of Israel* (and the good of the Jewish people) ...make latkes!

Make latkes and invite friends. No one should eat latkes alone. Better yet, invite friends to make latkes. No one should *make* latkes alone! The shopping, the schlepping, the peeling, the straining, the grating... the frying?! It’s too much. Transform the humble *Chanukah* hash into greater happiness (and more hands-on community) by liberating latkes from the Festival of Lights and emancipating them—indeed elevating them—to the everyday festival of life.

*Chag Urim Sameach. Let there be latkes!*

R’ Jack

Hudson Valley  
Medical Health **Choices**

**Life challenges?  
We can help!**



Our office is accepting new patients!

1 Webster Avenue, Suite 402B in Poughkeepsie.

To schedule an appointment or to learn more, visit

[hvpalliativecare.org](http://hvpalliativecare.org) or call 845.240.7557.

## PJ Library

By Maya Unger, PJ Library Ulster County Coordinator

[pjlibrary@ucjf.org](mailto:pjlibrary@ucjf.org)

Hoping everyone is staying cozy during this beautiful and crisp changing of the seasons.

We had a couple of great Sukkot gatherings - One in the courtyard of Elting Library in New Paltz, and the other at Temple Emanuel in Kingston. A big thanks to both for hosting PJ, and being so accommodating. Families enjoyed a special Sukkot storytime, fall crafts and building their own edible Sukkahs. Please stay tuned for more upcoming programs. Our next will be a Chanukah program on the afternoon of December 11th at the Town of Ulster Library.

Wishing everyone a happy Chanukah and holiday season!

Warmly, Maya



SUKKOT ACTIVITY

The poster is set against a light yellow background. At the top, a string of seven colorful dreidels (blue, green, orange, pink, blue, green, orange) hangs from a brown string. To the right is the PJ Library logo. Below the dreidels is a large, stylized orange menorah with seven lit candles. To the right of the menorah is the text "HURRAY FOR HANUKKAH!". Below the menorah is a small orange vase and a plate of three orange donuts. At the bottom, the text reads "FOOD FUN FESTIVITIES All are welcome!". Below that is the date and time: "THURSDAY | DECEMBER 11 | 4-5:30 PM". At the bottom center is the address: "Town of Ulster Library 860 Ulster Ave, Kingston NY". At the bottom left is the Town of Ulster Public Library logo, which features a stylized tree. At the bottom right is the phone number: "845-3387881".



## Chabad of Ulster County / Congregation Agudas Achim

254 Lucas Avenue, Kingston, New York 12401  
(845) 331-1176

[Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org](mailto:Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org)

[Facebook.com/ChabadUlsterCounty](https://www.facebook.com/ChabadUlsterCounty)

[Twitter.com/Chabad\\_UC](https://twitter.com/Chabad_UC)

[Instagram.com/Chabad\\_UC](https://www.instagram.com/Chabad_UC)

**Rabbi Y. Yitzhak & Rebbetzin Leah Hecht**  
**Rabbi AB & Rebbetzin Binie Itkin**

Morning daily services are at 8:00 am.

**CKids** Join CKids Club each month for the freshest and most exciting events, empowering kids to tap into their talents and interests, while connecting to their own Jewish identity. Children will have a positive Jewish experience learning while enjoying hands-on activities. They will leave each program feeling happy and excited about their Judaism

**Miracle Makers of Olive Press Sunday,**  
**December 14th 10:00 am**

FRESH. JOYFUL. ENGAGING.

Calling all children to Get ready for a miraculous, hands-on Chanukah experience! Start your adventure at the Olive Harvest, where you'll race to gather the most olives to produce pure oil. Then, move through the Oil Pipeline to crush, press, and purify your olives, getting them ready to light the menorah. Here, you'll take on The Great Squeeze, learning that just like the olive gives its best oil when it's pressed, we

can bring out our best when things feel tough!

Next, join the Maccabee Investigation, a high-profile mission to uncover the lost treasures of the Beit Hamikdash. Spin the dreidel to reveal clues, recover the sacred items, and discover the one sealed jug of pure olive oil. Finally, bring the miracle home by crafting your own Miracle Jug Menorah to light up your world! And of course, wrap up the celebration with a Community Menorah Lighting - because together, we're the miracle makers!

Sign up now!

For more information or to

RSVP @ [Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org](mailto:Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org)

### Community Chanukah Events

**Pre-Chanukah Jewish Women's Circle Event**  
**Make Your Own Chanukah Porch Sign**

**Ladies Create & Connect**

**Wednesday, December 10th 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

254 Lucas Avenue, Suggested Donation \$12 per person.

Design a gorgeous porch sign to deck your home for Chanukah or all year round.

RSVP: [DenaTova@gmail.com](mailto:DenaTova@gmail.com)

**1st Day of Chanukah**

**Monday, December 15th - Kislev 25**

Golden Hill Nursing & Rehab. Center - **10:30 am**

Mountain Valley Manor Adult Home - **1:00 pm**

TenBroeck Center for Rehab. & Nursing - **3:30 pm**

Join us as we bring the joy of Chanukah to the residents at

**Golden Hill, Mountain Balkey Manor, Ten Broeck.**

We will sing some Chanukah songs, tell the Chanukah story, enjoy Chanukah treats, give out Chanukah gifts and bring some Holiday cheer.

Volunteers are always welcome!

RSVP: [Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org](mailto:Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org)

**4th Night of Chanukah @6pm**

**All Abroad The Chanukah Express**

**Wednesday, December 17th**

6:00 pm meeting at Chabad of Ulster County,  
254 Lucas Avenue, Kingston

Hop on board & join Rabbi AB aboard the Chabad Mitzvah Trolley Express! Let's celebrate the Festival of Lights with friends, family, and community. We will be stopping at many of the public menorahs around town to light them and spread the Chanukah cheer! Enjoy traditional food, games, and festivities at each stop, as we come together to spread joy and light. All are welcome to join in the fun! RSVP a seat on the trolley by December 11 by emailing Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org.

If you feel more comfortable, you can follow along in your own vehicle.

**5th Day of Chanukah Friday, December 19th**

**Outdoor Public Menorah Lighting**

**@ 1:30 pm in Uptown Kingston**

On the corner of Wall St & N. Front St. Join us for the lighting of the Menorah, singing Chanukah songs, apple cider, latkes, & music.

**If you are in need or know anyone who needs a Chanukah menorah, candles, or dreidels, please contact Rabbi AB at Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org or call 845-331-1176**

**Movie Night & Chinese**

**Wednesday, December 24th, @ 5:30 pm**

\$25 per person with RSVP by December 18th (\$36 after). Please RSVP on time so we can have enough delicious food for everyone!



**Tu Bishvat Family Shabbos**

**Friday, January 30th - Shevat 12**

This Tu B'shvat, get ready to explore your roots with a fun-filled family, Shabbos celebration! Packed with songs, delicious food, and Hands-On crafts. It'll be a joyful experience the whole family will love!

**Tu B'Shvat Seder Sunday, February 1 - 14 Shvat @5:00 pm**

Join us for a meaningful B'shvat seder, a celebration of the New Year for Trees. Let's come together to connect with nature, reflect on our place in the world, and appreciate the beauty of the earth. All are welcome to share in this special evening of food, song, and community. \$18 per person - Sponsor \$360 / Co-Sponsor \$180

**Cteen International Shabbaton**

**February 20th - 22nd - 3 - 5 Adar 5786**

Teens will have the opportunity to meet Jewish teens from all around the globe!

Teens will experience a deep love and pride for being a Jew! This intention packed weekend is GUARANTEED to be a life changing experience for Teens!

For more info. Email: office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org

**Purim Patisserie Sunday, February 22nd - Adar 5**

Step into the patisserie, where kids become pastry chefs and create hamantaschen like you've never seen before! Get ready for wild fillings, crazy shapes, and a sweet Purim adventure for the whole family!

**beames designs!**  
www.beames.com  
info@beames.com  
845-514-2284  
Handmade Fused Glass  
Judaica - Menorahs,  
Mezuzot, Wedding Gifts  
and more

**Purim**

**Monday, March 2nd and**

**Tuesday, March 3rd - 13 & 14 Adar**

**Tanis Esther - Monday, March 2nd – 13 Adar**

Fast Begins 5:02 am; 6:16 pm Fast Ends

**5:45 pm Mincha Services**

**6:20 pm - Megilla reading and Refreshments**

Come to Shul and hear the Megillah. Hamantaschen and refreshments are served after Megillah reading to break the fast.

**Tuesday, March 3rd - 14 Adar**

**8:00 am - Morning Services & Megillah Reading**

**4:15 pm - Purim Party - Purim in Greece**

**\$18 Suggested Donation | \$180 Sponsor | \$360 Partner**

**Purim In Greece**

Come join the most epic Purim party in Greece! Don your best costume, grab a grogger, and come celebrate with us! We'll have music, dancing, and plenty of delicious food to go around. Plenty of hamantaschen for all! Let's party!

**The Seder Spell Book Sunday, March 22nd - Nisan 4**

Discover the 15 steps of the theater through a magical Pesach adventure! From dazzling tricks to spell binding surprises, each challenge draws you deeper into a wondrous Pesach world full of mystery and excitement!

**Game Social**

Join us **Wednesdays from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM** for a delightful morning of fun and connection! Sip on a warm drink, indulge in tasty refreshments, and immerse yourself in your favorite pastime—all in a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere.

Whether you're here to socialize, unwind, or simply enjoy good company, we can't wait to see you there!

January 7, 14, 31, 28; February 11, 18, 25; March 11, 18

**Tea N' Torah** Engaging, Enlightening Study & Conversation as you delight in the company of friends & gain an appreciation for the insight and wisdom of the Torah, facilitated by Rebbetzin's Leah Hecht & Binie Itkin. Tea 'n' Torah is held on

**Thursday's from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

January 8, 15, 22, 29; February 12, 19, 26; March 12, 19 @ Chabad of Ulster County, 254 Lucas Ave.

Confirm that classes are on schedule.

**Jewish Women's Circle**

Jewish women have always played a pivotal role in Jewish life. On a personal, familial and community level it has always been the Jewish woman who has created and developed an aura of pride in being a Jew. While bringing inspiration to our daily lives, gaining deeper insight into our own innate spiritual qualities, we can contribute and transform our own lives and our communities in a most profound way.

We invite you to join this unique circle of Jewish women. Ladies of all ages and backgrounds will gather to learn, to laugh, to experience and to rejuvenate our minds, body and soul. Each meeting features a lively meaningful discussion, a great activity, delicious foods, and a chance to meet new friends, relax and schmooze.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Please email for more info & upcoming events:

Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org 845-331-1176

**Young & Jewish** A place to connect with other Jewish young adults in a welcoming and relaxed setting through social and educational activities! Geared for young adults in their 20's, 30's and 40's.

Upcoming events to be announced. Past events have been; Game night, Challah Bake, Shabbos Dinner, Paint N Sip and Music & Schmoozing.

For more information or to be added to our mailing list please call 845-331-1176 or Email @ Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org

**KINGSTON**  
  
 Fine Jewelry

**Exceptional Quality at Affordable Prices**

*Family-Owned & Operated Since 1985*

207 Boices Lane ~ Kingston, NY 12401  
 845.336.5455 ~ KingstonFineJewelry.com

**Prayer  
Shabbos Evening**

Join us Friday evenings Services. 10 Minutes after candle lighting followed by melodies and inspirational Jewish stories every week.

**Shabbos day**

Join us Saturday for a friendly and fulfilling weekly Shabbat services at 10:00 AM.

Whether you are a minyan pro or new to the Synagogue experience, you are welcome at Agudas Achim.

A delicious kiddush luncheon with a vegetarian cholent follow services.

To sponsor a kiddush luncheon, please email: [Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org](mailto:Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org)

**Be A Minyan-Aire**

The way to start your day!!  
Morning prayer FOLLOWED BY GREAT COFFEE AND KOSHER NOSH!

@ Agudas Achim: **Sundays - Fridays @ 8AM.**

**The Dr. Cy Gruberg Hebrew School** Chabad Hebrew School's overarching goal is to give your child a strong sense of Jewish identity and a feeling of connection to the Jewish people and the land of Israel. Your child will develop Hebrew reading skills. They will have a sense of Jewish history and personalities, an appreciation for the Jewish holidays and a strong resonance with Jewish values both interpersonal and environmental.

Exciting, educational, hands-on learning!

A must for every child!!

Bringing Judaism to life!

For more info contact:

Binie Itkin 845-331-1176

Or email: [Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org](mailto:Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org)



**Keyser Carr Simpson Hammerl**  
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICE

326 ALBANY AVE, KINGSTON, NY 12401 | 216 BROADWAY, PORT EWEN, NY 12466  
845. 331. 1473 | [www.KeyserFuneralService.com](http://www.KeyserFuneralService.com)

### **Katz Family Hospitality Suites**

Our shul has rooms available for members and guests to stay in, providing a comfortable and convenient option for those attending services, events or would like to spend Shabbos or holidays with us. If you're looking for a place to stay, please reach out to us to check availability and reserve a room.

- 7 bedrooms
- Spacious common area
- Playroom
- Beautiful large backyard
- On site Minyanim
- Men & womens Mikvah
- Close to Park and Petting Zoo

For more information call 845-331-1176

### **Need A New Mezuzah or Tefillin or to Kosher Your Home?**

Do you have a Mezuzah adorning your Home or Apartment?  
We would love to help you participate in this wonderful Mitzvah!

Ancient tradition teaches that this small mitzvah brings blessing and serenity to your home. A person introduces holiness and harmony into the world by placing a Mezuzah on his or her door.

Contact Rabbi AB at (845) 331-1176 or [Office@ChbadUlsterCounty.org](mailto:Office@ChbadUlsterCounty.org)

### **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Lessons**

Bar and Bat Mitzvah's are an opportunity for a child to explore and discover what being Jewish really means. A Bar/Bat Mitzvah is an experience that can mold a child, leaving an everlasting imprint on his/her life forever. For personal Bar or Bat mitzvah lessons contact Rabbi AB or Reb. Leah at (845) 331-1176 or [Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org](mailto:Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org)

No membership or prior Jewish knowledge needed!

## **Sisterhood of Congregation Agudas Achim Sisterhood Judaica Gift Shop**

by Shirley Crystal

This year the first Chanukah candle is lit on the evening of Sunday, December 14. Plan early for the best selection of Chanukah items. We have in stock Chanukah menorahs, bulbs for electric menorahs, draydels, gift wrapping paper, Chanukah decorations and books for children. For further information, contact Shirley Crystal 845-331-4646.

### **Mah Jongg**

The 2026 Mah Jongg cards may be ordered by contacting Rosemary Lewis at 845-331-0766. The cost of the regular card is \$14. The large print card is \$15. Orders must be received by January 20, 2026.



## **TUTORING**

**Jerry Lerner**

845-679-9049 H

845-443-0525 C

**Chemistry and Physical Science**

[JerryLerner4@gmail.com](mailto:JerryLerner4@gmail.com)

## Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley

243 Albany Avenue, Kingston, N.Y. 12401

Main office: 845-338-4271, ext. 101

info@cehv.org

www.CEHV.org

RabbiJack@cehv.org

**Rabbi Jack Sherratt (he/him)**

**Student Hazzan Alexandra Schleuderer (she/her)**

**Zimet Jewish Learning Adventure (JLA)**

**Director Briggin Scharf (they/she)**

**President Jeffrey Greenberg (he/him)**

For updates on events, to learn more about Meditation, Parashat Shuvah, Kabbalah, Private Conversion Tutorials or Adult B'nai Mitzvah by arrangement, please contact us.

For a detailed listing of all Services/Events visit:  
<https://www.cehv.org/news-events/events-calendar/>

### Kabbalat Shabbat Services:

- **Kabbalat Shabbat service begins at 6pm every Friday**
- **Morning Minyan:** held weekly on Saturday mornings, service begins at 10 am, with communal prayer, meditation and Torah study.
- **Tot Shabbat** is our 30-minute program for newborn through early elementary-aged children together with their parents. Led by Rabbi Jack and Student Hazzan Alexandra, this monthly program features music and singing, storytelling and signing, while introducing the basic elements of Jewish joy, traditions, and practices, and becoming comfortable in our synagogue. Tot Shabbat also explores holiday themes, Jewish values, as well as Hebrew letters and beginning vocabulary. Upcoming dates: **12/19/25, 1/16/26, 2/13/26, 3/13/26, 4/17/26**



### Learning at CEHV

- **Innovative Religious School aka Zimet Jewish Learning Adventure (ZJLA).** Welcoming new and returning students to our dynamic, affirming and Jewish values-centered program for ages pre-K through 8th Grade. To register or find out more, email our new JLA Director, Briggin Scharf (they/she) [RSD@cehv.org](mailto:RSD@cehv.org). Held most **Sundays during the secular school year, from 10am to 12pm.**

- **Ongoing Adult Education with our Clergy team** – private tutoring and adult b'nai mitzvahs also available.

- **Meditation & Torah Study:** (via Zoom) Meets **8:45 a.m. on most Tuesdays**, followed at 9:15 a.m. by Torah study. Led by Rabbi Jack, join your fellow seekers to receive the day's blessings and explore Jewish traditions with a progressive, egalitarian approach.

- **Hebrew Trope** (via Zoom) - **Wednesdays at NOON** with Student Hazzan Alexandra. Newcomers welcome, learn or improve Torah chanting skills!

- **Hebrew, Shebrew!... Wednesdays at 4 p.m.** on Zoom. This group of dedicated students is committed to advancing their knowledge of Hebrew. Meeting virtually weekly to study Hebrew through 'Black Beauty' reading and translation.

### Special Programs and Holidays

- **Mah Jongg** at CEHV! Our Mah Jongg regulars meet each **Monday morning at 10am** in the social hall. Players of all levels are welcome to join. Play and learn with this fun group. For more information contact the main office.

- **Chanukah Outdoor Candlelighting Sunday, December 14th 4pm**

- **Chanukah Community Menorah Lighting Friday, December 19th 6pm**

- **"The Quiet Strength of Resilience"**  
Author Ron Schwarz  
**Tuesday, January 27th 6pm**

- **Tu B' Shevat Sunday, February 1st 11am**

- **Zimet JLA Community Purim Sunday, March 1st 12pm**

- **Purim Megillah Reading & Shpiel Tuesday, March 3rd 6pm**

- **Yom HaShoah Remembrance Tuesday, April 14, 7pm**

## **The Jewish Congregation of New Paltz Congregation Ahavat Achim**

Synagogue / Sanctuary  
8 Church Street New Paltz, NY 12561  
Community Center 30 North Chestnut Street,  
New Paltz, NY  
**845-255-9817**  
**www.thejcnp.org**  
**Rabbi@thejcnp.org**  
JCNP PO Box 577 New Paltz, New York 12561  
office@thejcnp.org  
**Rabbi Adam Cerino-Jones**  
**President Scott Minkoff**  
sminkoff@gmail.com  
“Seek peace and pursue it.”

The **Annual Chanukah Party** will be held **Sunday, December 14 from 4-6pm** at the Community Center. Don't forget to bring your menorahs and candles so that we can all light them together! There will be lots of games, latkes, and fun!

**Judaica Sale** Come visit the Judaica Shop for all your gift-giving needs!

We will be open **Tuesday, December 2 4-6pm;**

**Wednesday, December 3 4-6pm & 7-9pm;**

**Thursday, December 4 4-6pm;**

**Tuesday, December 9 5-7pm;**

**Wednesday, December 10 4-6pm;**

**Thursday, December 11 4-6pm & 7-9pm;**

**Sunday, December 14 4-6pm** (Chanukah Party)

### **Thursday Night Live Adult Programming**

We are using Eventbrite to register in advance. While not required, it is helpful for security purposes and for anticipating refreshment needs.

Non-members are welcome, but must be accompanied by a member or register in advance.

### **Wednesday January 15 @ 7pm, Community Center**

Local author, historian, & preservationist Alex Prizgintas presents “The Borscht Belt” a look at the growth of comedy, music, and relics of the Catskill resort age.

### **Tikkun Olam Committee**

#### **Immigrants: Essential to Life in Ulster County December 10 @6:30 pm, Community Center**

Jen Metzger, Ulster County Executive will join our panel along with a speaker from Rural Migrant Ministries as well as other guest panelists.

Immigrants play a major role in our economy. Hear about their contribution, the threats to the immigrant work force, and the role we can play to make sure we maintain this important population for our economy and in our lives.

All congregants are welcome and if you would like to bring a guest, please submit their names and your RSVP to [jsbrownstein@gmail.com](mailto:jsbrownstein@gmail.com). An array of delicious desserts, fruits, and cheeses will be served.

#### **Other Tikkun Olam activities:**

Our members have been actively supporting efforts to get Ali Faqirzada released from detention. Ali is the Afghan young man from New Paltz who was detained by ICE at a hearing for his legal path towards asylum. Members have been writing letters asking for his release and requested that the JCNP Board of Trustees do the same. The Board sent the letter Sunday, October 18. We have also been joining with local Afghan Refugee support groups and the legal organizations who have been working to get him released.

Tikkun Olam volunteers with the Ulster Rapid Response team and the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network in their support of immigrants.

## **Kerhonkson Synagogue Congregation Tiferet Yehuda V'Yisrael**

26 Minnewaska Trail Kerhonkson, New York 12466

845-626-7260

**kerhonksonsynagogue.org**

**shorewit@verizon.net**

**Rabbi Sally Shore Wittenberg**

**President Laura Goldstein**

**lgoldsteinnyc@gmail.com**

## Kehllat Lev Shalem The Woodstock Jewish Congregation

1682 Glasco Turnpike, Woodstock, New York 12498

845-679-2218

[www.wjcshul.org](http://www.wjcshul.org)

[office@wjcshul.org](mailto:office@wjcshul.org)

**Rabbi Karen Levine**

[rabbi.karen@wjcshul.org](mailto:rabbi.karen@wjcshul.org)

**Cantor Raechel Rosen**

[raechel@wjcshul.org](mailto:raechel@wjcshul.org)

**Ellie Kramer, President**

[president@wjcshul.org](mailto:president@wjcshul.org)

**Tara Nicholson, Senior Administrator**

[admin@wjcshul.org](mailto:admin@wjcshul.org)

**Thursday, December 11, 6pm** Join us for a peaceful evening of candlelight yoga incorporating breath work and mindful movement. This class is designed to let you connect with the stillness within and melt into your heart. Unwind, de-stress, and explore the magic that unfolds when you allow yourself to slow down. Come as you are. All necessary props and hot tea are waiting for you. Let's unwind and melt into the heart together. No previous experience needed. Please visit the website for more information and to RSVP ([www.wjcshul.org](http://www.wjcshul.org)).

Kabbalat Shabbat with Lala Tamar and Friends Featuring Yacouba Sissoko, and Rabbi Zachy Asher Friday, **December 12, 6pm** The group will weave us in and out of songs to welcome Shabbat, with stories from each of their traditions; some songs they'll sing for us, and some we'll chant together. It will be an evening of togetherness and transportive sounds of healing and beauty to move our souls and make prayers for the great heart of the world. Please visit the website for more information and to RSVP ([www.wjcshul.org](http://www.wjcshul.org)).

### Hanukkabalat Shabbat Service and Hanukkah Party Friday, December 19, 6pm service; 7:30pm party

Please join us for our third annual Hanukkabalat Shabbat as we bring in Shabbat with special Hanukkah melodies and a band of guest musicians. Services will lead into our long-standing and beloved Hanukkah party with traditional games, latkes, and more. All are welcome! Bring your menorahs for a festive evening full of light and song!

**Gallery Lev Shalem** enriches the experience of all members and visitors by presenting a series of juried exhibitions that celebrate the artistic efforts of our community and the region, expressing both secular and Judaic themes. Gallery Lev Shalem's RENEWAL Viewing through **January 14, 2026** Monday - Thursday 9am - 3pm, Fri. 10am - 4pm.

**MAGIC Opening Reception Sunday, January 18, 1pm-3pm** Please join the Arts Committee for the opening reception of MAGIC. Meet the exhibiting artists and enjoy some light refreshments! Snow date: January 25

**Taste of Jewish Writers' Circle Sunday, January 18, 3pm** The WJC is excited to announce it will be the new home to the Hudson Valley chapter of the Jewish Writers' Circles. Jewish Writers' Circles (JWC) are grassroots peer-led communities of writers who meet monthly for in-person gatherings to explore Jewish wisdom texts, deepen relationships and grow in their writing practice. Please join us for the first introductory gathering. Snow date: January 25.

	<p><b>Alex Stier</b> Real Estate Associate Broker (518) 281-8700 (Cell) <a href="mailto:Astier@kw.com">Astier@kw.com</a> <a href="https://alexnyproperties.kw.com">https://alexnyproperties.kw.com</a></p> <p><i>"Residential, Commercial, &amp; Business sales, handled locally with expert care."</i></p> <p>15 Taylor Street, Kingston, NY 12401</p>
	





**“Your roof replacement experts since 1938”**  
**[www.JARoofing.com](http://www.JARoofing.com)**

**KINGSTON (845) 339-2020**

**POUGHKEEPSIE (845) 452-4444**

Chabad Hebrew School of Ulster County

**FOR THE CREATIVE FUTURE**  
**Best Friends**  
**PROUD JEWS!**

**ChabadUlsterCounty.org/HebrewSchool**  
For more info: Contact Binie @  
**845-331-1176 / Office@ChabadUlsterCounty.org**

Dr. Cy Gruberg Hebrew School

KIDS



## Making a better world takes the right ingredients.

This Chanukah, while you're frying up the latkes, serve something that will make it an even happier holiday for the whole family — especially your global family. Everything you need is within reach. And the recipe is simple.

Pour in a heaping mixture of nurturing and strengthening Jewish life. Add helping the vulnerable. Inspiring the young. And safeguarding our people. All these ingredients are automatically folded in together through your gift to Jewish Federation of Anytown. So, please measure generously. Make it a truly happier Chanukah for your *entire* family. **Give today.**

[www.ucjf.org](http://www.ucjf.org)



**Building  
Community  
for over  
40 years**



**Elizabeth Shapiro Carlotti**

**“Protecting what matters most-  
Faith, Family and Future”**



**Fully Licensed and Insured Agent  
Serving NY, NJ, PA, CT**

**Offering Coverage for:**

- Home Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Short-Term Disability
- Supplemental Health Insurance
- Business Insurance

**Call or Text and ask for Elizabeth!**

**(845) 943-2039**

**Jewish Federation of Ulster County, Inc.**

390 Aaron Court • Kingston, New York 12401

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CRST.NET  
12550



As we gather around the menorah this Chanukah, we celebrate the bonds that unite us, the traditions that inspire us, and the collective power we hold to shape a brighter future.

Just as the shamash lights each of the menorah's candles, your support illuminates the path forward for our community.

***Each night of Chanukah, we will shine a light  
on the incredible impact we've made in our community.***