



ROCKLAND COUNTY, NEW YORK

Synagogues

2015-2016



Jewish Federation[®]
OF ROCKLAND COUNTY



ROCKLAND
JEWISH
INITIATIVE

Emerging Synagogue Life

In conjunction with the Rockland County Board of Rabbis

Beth Am Temple

www.bethamtemple.org

Rabbi: Daniel Pernick
Cantor: Marcy Kadin
Principal: Barry Shanker



We are not the only Reform temple in Rockland County, but Beth Am Temple has been serving the Jewish communities of Rockland and Bergen counties since 1963. Our name, which means “House of the People,” reflects the value we place on every temple member.

Led by Rockland’s longest-serving, non-Orthodox rabbi, Rabbi Daniel Pernick, as well as Cantor Marcy Kadin and Cantor Emerita Geri Zeller, we strive to keep our Jewish traditions fresh and meaningful. Our fully-transliterated prayer book makes worship accessible to all.

Our goal is to provide a spiritual and supportive home for congregants of varying lifestyles and backgrounds. Our sanctuary bimah features a wall of Jerusalem stone, reflecting the Jewish tradition of praying while facing Jerusalem. Our warm and *heimish* congregation offers spirituality, creativity and many opportunities for adult learning.

Our commitment to community means that we treat all members equally; we have no reserved seating for any service. While our Religious School students lead the entire service on their Bar/Bat Mitzvah day, the focus of our K-12 school is providing a well-rounded Jewish education for one’s entire life, not just for one day.

Most of our b’nai mitzvah continue their Jewish education in our Hebrew High School. We are also proud to offer “Keshet,” our special-needs Religious School program. We are also very focused on social action, youth programming and adult education and have just completed our sixth congregational trip to Israel.

Beth Am Temple is committed to transmitting the Jewish values of God, Torah and Israel. We are a warm and welcoming community for Jewish and interfaith families, couples and singles. People tell us that we are a wonderfully unique congregation. We invite you to get to know us.



Beth Am Temple

P.O. Box 1200
60 East Madison Avenue
Pearl River, NY 10965
Phone: (845) 735-5858
Email: membership@bethamtemple.org

Congregation Shaarey Israel

www.congshaareyisrael.org

Rabbi: Reuven Stengel

Cantor: Menachem Bazian

President: Bill Bradin



Congregation Shaarey Israel is a spiritually uplifting, pro-Israel, Traditional Synagogue, dedicated to enhancing your Jewish religious experience. CSI is a warm, welcoming family where lifelong friendships are made and cherished. CSI is a place where you will find support and participation in all your lifecycle events.

Our beautiful building is conveniently located off Exit 14B on the NYS Thruway and is adorned with authentic Jerusalem stone and exquisite art.

At CSI, we love children. Our religious school, for children 5-13, has a custom-designed curriculum of Torah, Hebrew Language, and Jewish History that connects our children to their heritage. Children also participate in our Friday night services and are taught Jewish Cooking. Rabbi Stengel person-



ally trains every Bar/Bat Mitzvah student. Cantor Bazian teaches traditional melodies and leads the Hebrew School in special services.

We have daily morning and evening minyanim. Shabbat and Holiday Services begin at 8:45AM and are followed by a sumptuous Kiddush luncheon.

Programming is our middle name. We offer an active Sisterhood, Men's Club and a large variety of educational, social, and innovative programs for adults and children. The shul participates in AIPAC conventions and marches in the Celebrate Israel Parade.

Come join us for a Shabbat or any of our activities. We would love to meet you and have you "Experience the Difference!" Let us show you how we can enhance your life in ways you never dreamed of.



Congregation Shaarey Israel

18 Montebello Road

Suffern, NY 10901

Phone: (845) 369-0300

Email: rabbistengel@optimum.net

Congregation Sons of Israel

www.csinyack.org

Rabbi: Ariel Russo

Cantor: Michael Kasper

Director, Family Learning: Suzanne Strichartz

Office Manager: Helaine Ripps

President: Jacob Wasserman



Congregation Sons of Israel (CSI) is about community. We're a diverse egalitarian Conservative congregation located in the heart of Nyack. As a "Big Tent" community we embrace the diversity of American Jewry including households that are LGBTQ, intermarried, and ethnically diverse. If you are looking for community, we will lovingly welcome you into our congregational family. To learn more, reach out to our rabbi, Ariel Russo at csirabbi@optonline.net or 845-358-3767.

We invite families to learn about our innovative student-centered Hebrew school. We are the only synagogue in Rockland County offering Hebrew school on Saturday morning as our core school day. Our preschool,

Jewish Preschool of the Nyacks, welcomes affiliated and non-affiliated families. We offer diverse programming for tots with classes such as yoga, Hebrew immersion, gym time, and music. We hold family-friendly Friday night services, Tot Shabbat each Saturday morning, and Kulanu Saturday School Program for special needs students ages 8 through B'nai Mitzvah. Also we have free weekly story times during the summer. Our Camp Fun and Sun (ages 2-5) takes the values from our preschool and brings them outside during the summer with water activities, art, sports, and more.

We offer award-winning adult education programs including visiting scholars and on-going classes. From beginning Hebrew to

advanced Kabbalah, we welcome all learners and all background levels.

Our 20s/30s/40s group "Jews on the Hudson" combines socializing and social action in downtown Nyack and beyond.

We hope you will visit and become part of our synagogue family.


**CONGREGATION
SONS of ISRAEL**
Celebrating Community in the Nyacks, NY

Congregation Sons of Israel
 300 North Broadway
 Upper Nyack, NY 10960
 Phone: (845) 358-3767
 Email: csioffice@optonline.net

Montebello Jewish Center

www.montebellojc.org

Rabbi: Adam Baldachin

Cantor: Michelle Rubin

Educational Director: Michelle Rubin



Montebello Jewish Center, an egalitarian synagogue affiliated with the Conservative movement, strives to bring the beauty and depth of the Jewish tradition to the residents of Western Rockland and Bergen Counties. We are proud to see ourselves as a congregational family, invested in living a life of commitment to our values and aspirations. We are constantly searching and learning together to improve our lives and the world beyond the walls of our sanctuary. Our community is a place for people of all backgrounds and knowledge, who celebrate Judaism in a warm and energetic environment. We are a congregation who loves to sing, laugh, learn, question, and practice our creativity in the presence of people we have known for years

and those whom we have just met.

Through our passion and dedication to Jewish living, personal connections and a love of the land and people of Israel, the MJC congregational family prides itself on its warm community of multi-generational individuals and families. We strive to create a home for vibrant, participatory, and musically inspiring prayer, engaging educational classes for all ages and interests, as well as innovative social programming. We are committed to cultivating a love of Judaism for our youngest members, inspired through our

youth groups, nursery and religious schools as well as our continuing learners who enjoy a myriad of programs and classes.

We look forward to meeting you at our next event!



Montebello Jewish Center

34 Montebello Road

Montebello, NY 10901

Phone: (845) 357-2430

Email: office@montebellojc.org

Nanuet Hebrew Center

www.nanuethc.org

Rabbi: Paul Kurland

Cantor: Barry Kanarek

Educational Director: Tamar Luscher



Nanuet Hebrew Center, centrally located in Rockland County just off exit 10 of the Palisades Parkway, is recognized as one of the first synagogues in the NY metro area to change its traditional membership dues to a self-directed (voluntary commitment) pledge structure.

After its first year in place, we couldn't be more pleased. The new pledge structure has enabled our synagogue to be more open, inclusive and welcoming to all, regardless of financial or personal situation.

Nanuet Hebrew Center has a rich, 75-year history of serving the greater Rockland community. We are a multi-generational, egalitarian Conservative Jewish center, affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Jewish Federation of Rockland and Big Tent Judaism /



Jewish Outreach Institute. We are actively welcoming to families and individuals of all backgrounds. This includes the unaffiliated, intermarried families and LGBTQ community. Regardless of your background, our doors are open and we encourage you to join us.

NHC is a valuable resource for the entire community. This includes our religious services along with a wide range of educational, social, and social action programs for all generations. Starting with our free K-2 program (for 2015-2016), NHC's religious school offers a quality and innovative curriculum up through Bar/Bat Mitzvah age, along with award winning USY

and Kadima youth groups, adult education, weeknight and Sunday morning minyans and Shabbat and holiday services.

We invite you to contact us for more information or visit us at facebook.com/nanuethc

You are always welcome at NHC!



Nanuet Hebrew Center

411 South Little Tor Road

New City, NY 10956

Phone: (845) 708-9181

Email: office@nanuethc.org

New City Jewish Center

www.newcityjc.org

Rabbi: David Berkman

Asst. Rabbi: Jeremy Ruberg

Cantor: Hal Rifkin

Educational Director: Lynne Diwinsky

Jackie Binstock, Early Childhood Center Dir.

Gabe Pachter, Director of Family & Youth Programming

Sharon Pollack, Executive Director



New City Jewish Center is a traditional, egalitarian Conservative synagogue located near Main Street in the heart of New City. Over the past fifty years, NCJC has grown into a large community, providing a variety of programs, services and activities for children and adults of all ages.

We are proud of our beautiful Early Childhood Center facility, which is a fully licensed, full day preschool program with before and after care. The NCJC ECC strives to incorporate the best practices in early childhood education, integrated with our Jewish values, practices, ritual and Hebrew language. Additionally, we offer a full array of family experiences including our monthly “M&M

Shabbat” which attracts families from across the area.

NCJC is also proud of our strong Hebrew School program which provides our children with a solid foundation of Jewish knowledge while instilling a love of being Jewish. Our diverse faculty conveys a deep love of Judaism while giving students the tools necessary to become knowledgeable participants in the Jewish community. Moreover, our Youth Community programming makes the synagogue not just a place to pray, but also to play! Kids enjoy hanging out in our spacious Youth Lounge or playing on our fun playground.

As a spiritual home NCJC is proud to offer daily services both morning

and evening throughout the year and is open to all from the community.

We hope you will consider making NCJC your home too. Call the office for more information, check us out online at [Facebook.com/NewCityJewishCenter](https://www.facebook.com/NewCityJewishCenter) or just come by!



New City Jewish Center

47 Old Schoolhouse Road

New City, NY 10956

Phone: (845) 638-9600

Email: sharon@newcityjc.org

Orangetown Jewish Center

www.theojc.org

Rabbi: Craig Scheff

Rabbi: Paula Mack Drill

Rabbi: Ami Hersh

Educational Director: Sandra Borowsky



For over 50 years, Orangetown Jewish Center has shared the warmth and spirit of Conservative Judaism with Jews throughout Rockland County, NY and Bergen County, NJ. We are a welcoming, inclusive egalitarian synagogue that offers something for every interest and need.

Our vibrant religious school starts in kindergarten and continues into an award-winning youth program, Na'aseh, Hebrew High and USY wrapped up into one learning experience, chosen recently as USY's International Chapter of the Year. Sisterhood and Men's Club provide a broad and stimulating spectrum of adult education and social programs. And our worship services? They are nothing short of enlightening and soul-stirring.

OJC is always filled with youth – at family services, Shabbata Shabbat and Early Kabbalat Shabbat – singing on the bima and attending our family education programs.



During the years that children spend as a part of our religious school community, we provide the education and skills they need to live a Jewish life, as well as the motivation and commitment to do so. We offer a wide variety of topics and formats of ongoing education, so there is truly something for everyone to begin or continue a lifetime of learning. There are membership plans to suit every need and budget, and High Holiday tickets are included at no additional charge for members in good standing.

Whether it's religious school, Sisterhood, Men's Club or Hazak for older adults, OJC offers

the perfect climate to build friendships through meaningful experiences. Won't you join us in prayer, study, social action – and interaction? We look forward to welcoming you as part of our committed, vibrant community.



Orangetown Jewish Center

8 Independence Avenue

Orangeburg, NY 10962

Phone: (845) 359-5920

Email: office@theojc.org

Reform Temple of Rockland

www.thereformtempleofrockland.org

Rabbi: Michael S. Churgel, RJE

Rabbi: Douglas Kohn

Cantor: Sally L. Neff

Cantor: Arlene Frank

Educational Director: Mara M. Lewin



We shine brighter together at RTR!

Coming Together – Temple Beth El (Spring Valley) and Temple Beth Torah (Nyack) recently merged to create an even brighter entity, The Reform Temple of Rockland (RTR). Everyone comes together here – interfaith couples, LGBT families, the young and the not-so-young – to create our warm Jewish community.

Celebrating Together – Our Worship is enriched with a love of music, filled with our Cantors' gifted voices, adult and youth choirs, and our Ruach Shabbat band. Toe tapping and hand clapping are encouraged! See for yourself why so many find our family-friendly, Friday night services or special Tot Shabbat program so inspiring, or why our Bar and Bat Mitzvahs are just beginning their journeys, not ending them.



Learning Together – Our NYS-licensed universal pre-kindergarten and nursery programs start our students on a journey of Jewish education that continues through 12th grade and into adulthood. We believe in a lifetime of Jewish learning, seeking spiritual fulfillment and understanding through Torah study and engaging Adult Ed programming.

Getting Involved Together – Just be social or get involved in social action. There are so many ways to get connected at RTR. With three incredible youth groups, a very active WRJ (Sisterhood) and Men's Club, and too many committees and activities to mention, there is truly something for everyone.

Brighter Together – Each of us is a Jewish light but together, we all shine brighter. Don't wait for a holiday to drop by. Our caring clergy and congregation look forward to meeting you!



**THE REFORM TEMPLE
OF ROCKLAND**

The Reform Temple of Rockland

Nyack Campus:
330 North Highland Avenue (Rte. 9W),
Upper Nyack, NY 10960
Tel: 845.358.2248

Spring Valley Campus:
415 Viola Road, Spring Valley, NY 10977
Tel: 845.356.2000

Temple Beth Sholom

www.tbsrockland.org

Rabbi: Brian Leiken

Cantor: Anna Zhar

Educational Director: Marilyn Fellows



Temple Beth Sholom is a vibrant and relational Jewish community in New City, NY. With over 240 children enrolled in our nursery and religious schools, an inclusive and active Young Members Club, an involved and supportive brotherhood and sisterhood and immersive social action opportunities, Temple Beth Sholom continues to move forward as the youngest and most active Reform synagogue in the County.

Our clergy, Rabbi Brian Leiken and Cantor Anna Zhar, recognize that Judaism is not a museum of artifacts, but a living tradition that is meant to transform us. Instead of merely transmitting information about the past, both clergy seek to build a sense of relevancy about Judaism in the lives of all congregants. We also focus on nurturing relationships *b'nei adam l chaveiro* (between a person and his/her other) as relationships are the core of the synagogue community. Most congregants



have met their life-long friends through the synagogue.

We offer Shabbat services for young children, young families and older adults. We open our space to the community for various purposes and remain vigilant in creating a sense that Temple Beth Sholom is another home to congregants. A synagogue is more than a building and a name. It is a home for people.

Temple Beth Sholom welcomes everyone who identifies themselves and/or their families as Jewish. We welcome interfaith families, the LGBT community, families with disabilities and others who may have felt uneasy in other Jewish settings. Every human being was made *b'tzelem elohim* or in the

image of God and deserves to be treated with the same dignity.

We encourage prospective members and guests to join us and meet with our clergy and congregants. A synagogue membership is an extension of ones' connection to a sacred home filled with family and we hope Temple Beth Sholom will be a fit for you.



Temple Beth Sholom

228 New Hempstead Road
New City, NY 10956
Phone: (845) 638-0770

West Clarkstown Jewish Center

www.westclarkstownjc.org

Rabbi: Dr. Jill Hackell

Holiday Cantor: Phil Billet



West Clarkstown Jewish Center is a small Conservative synagogue that cares about each and every person. We are an egalitarian community where women and men, and Jews of all orientation are welcomed as full participants.

We are a community that practices *gemilut hasadim*, acts of love and kindness, including visiting the sick, comforting mourners, coming to the aid of those in need, and participating in the community kosher food pantry. We have a deep commitment to the State of Israel.

Our weekly Shabbat services include a Kabbalat Shabbat each Friday at 6 PM, with a special musical service once a month. We also offer weekly Shabbat morning services beginning at 9:30 a.m.; Torah reading includes a d'var torah by our rabbi and an open discussion of the parasha. The service is followed by a light Kiddush lunch and informal talk around the Shabbat tables.

Our user-friendly prayer book contains a modern new translation, transliteration of all prayers, notes and meditations.

We learn and grow Jewishly through a lunch-and-learn series led by Rabbi Hackell, and we celebrate the holidays together: lunch in the Sukkah, family Hanukkah celebration, Purim mishloach manot, Purim-shpiel and Shavuot luncheon. Our active Sisterhood and Men's Club offers members an opportunity to serve the congregation through social and social action programs.

If you are looking for a place where you can be yourself, with

a community of people who celebrate life's joys and sorrows together, who learn together, and make a joyful noise together, we may be the place for you. Please visit our newly-rebuilt sanctuary and join us for prayer and study on any Shabbat or holiday.



West Clarkstown Jewish Center

195 West Clarkstown Road

New City, NY 10956

Phone: (845) 352-0017

Email: wjcoffice@verizon.net

2015-2016 GUIDE TO ROCKLAND COUNTY SYNAGOGUES

Your Synagogue Family Finder

We all know that synagogues offer Jewish education, opportunities for personal growth and a venue for life-cycle events. But just as important, synagogues are communities. Members support each other in both good times and bad and create a sense of extended family. And in an age of increased social isolation and secularism, that sense of belonging to something Jewish is critical.

We published this guide to help you find your extended family. The synagogues in it are all members of the Rockland County Board of Rabbis. They are communities ranging from Reform to traditional in their practice and they would love the opportunity to welcome you.

To help you feel welcome, The Rockland Jewish Initiative (RJI) offers a New Member Grant towards membership in these synagogues for those who have not been part of a Rockland synagogue in the past three years. You can get more information on our website at www.jewishrockland.org/rji, or call us at (845) 362-4200 extension 170.

On behalf of the Jewish Federation of Rockland County's Rockland Jewish Initiative, I wish you the best of luck in finding your synagogue family. May you go "from strength to strength" in your search.

Lshalom,

Cantor Barry Kanarek

Director, Rockland Jewish Initiative



The Rockland Jewish Initiative (RJI) was created in July 2012 by Rockland resident Lisa Green, in conjunction with the Jewish Federation of Rockland County. Its mission is to energize synagogue life in Rockland through partnerships in synagogue transformation. The Rockland Jewish Initiative works with synagogues through grants to engage members and new leadership, through showcasing models, projects and ideas for synagogue renewal, and by bringing speakers and workshops on synagogue transformation to Rockland. Learn more at www.jewishrockland.org/rji

The Jewish Federation of Rockland County

is the heart and soul of the Jewish community, raising money to support local and international programs, services and organizations. Our mission is *Tikkum Olam* – repairing the world.

Locally, Rockland Federation's efforts include PJ Library, which mails free Jewish books to young families in Rockland, Adult Jewish Education, Leadership Development Institute (training future Jewish communal leaders) and the Rockland Jewish Initiative, aimed at reenergizing synagogue life in the county.

Through our overseas partners Federation provides services in Israel and worldwide, wherever there are Jews in need. And in times of crisis, Rockland Federation is uniquely positioned to serve as a central point of assistance to coordinate funds, volunteers and donations and to work with our agencies to get help where it's most needed, at home or abroad.

In Rockland and worldwide, Federation ensures a bright future for all. **Learn more at jewishrockland.org**

About Us



Jewish Federation[®]
OF ROCKLAND COUNTY

450 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, NY 10994

THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

jewishrockland.org

845.362.4200

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