



HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER

NEWS COMMUNITY CONNECTION



by Rabbi Kurshan

Do Not Despair

I am writing this column shortly after returning from a visit to my oldest daughter and her family who live in Abu Tor, a mixed Jewish and Arab neighborhood in Jerusalem. I was in Israel for only four days very shortly after the wave of knife attacks which put the city on edge. When I returned, I was often asked how it felt to be in Jerusalem. Other than some extra soldiers on the streets and some people openly carrying revolvers in their waistbands in shul on Shabbat (We discussed at our most recent minyan breakfast the view of Jewish tradition about carrying guns in shul.) Jerusalem had calmed down and its citizens were carrying on with life as normal.

The larger story in Israel is not the immediate aftermath of the latest wave of terrorism, but rather the growing disillusionment about the possibility of ever finding a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While I was in Israel, I attended the 20th Yahrzeit rally in Tel Aviv in memory of Yitzchak Rabin.

The police estimated that 100,000 people were at the rally. When the rally was over, I had dinner with two people who have occupied major leadership positions in the Jewish community, one in Israel and the other in this country. We could not resist asking each other if Rabin had lived, where would Israel be today? There was no unanimity. Speculation ranged from two states now living side by side in peace to ISIS now sitting on the Golan Heights menacing Israel. Most of our discussion, however, was about Israel's current reality, and I heard something I had never heard before as we all spoke. I heard deep pessimism as to whether there could ever be a true peace between Israelis and Palestinians in our lifetimes. I heard this time and time again while I was in Israel. When I spoke to those who had once believed that a two state solution was possible, there was a feeling that the moment had passed and was out of reach--that the conflict between Israelis and the Palestinians might become a never ending conflict.

In all honesty I returned from Israel a little depressed, but it was the Torah reading the week that I returned that reminded me how we have responded as a Jewish people each time there has been a challenge that seemed insurmountable, or at least very difficult to resolve. When I returned, we were in the midst of reading the stories about the adult, Isaac. We know that the most traumatic event of Isaac's childhood was the Akedah. Isaac watched as his father, Abraham, lifted a knife over him at the command of God ready to plunge it into his chest. Only at the last moment does an angel stay Abraham's hand substituting a sacrificial ram for Isaac.

There are two versions in the Midrash of how this trauma of Isaac's youth colored

the rest of his life. One version speaks of a resilient Isaac—an Isaac who is able to pray to God even after twenty years of his wife's barrenness, and who returns to the place of his deepest pain, to Har Moriyah, where his father almost sacrificed him so that his prayer for a child will be answered. The other portrait of Isaac in the Midrash is one of a constricted Isaac. We learn of an Isaac who went blind because as he looked up at his father's knife raised over him, the tears of the angels dripped into his eyes blinding him in his later years. This is the Isaac who can be deceived into giving the favored blessing to Jacob, and who no longer has the strength and creativity to find a blessing for his other son, Esau.

It occurred to me that throughout our history as a Jewish people we have always striven to be the first Isaac and not the second. We have been the resilient Isaac who never gives up and who seeks a solution even when none seems obvious. We have suffered many

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Attention!!

*to anyone submitting content to
the bulletin*

***Note that the next edition
of the bulletin is a combined
January/February issue!***

*Submit all of your content by
December 10 to kwillen@mac.com*

Sabbatical for Rabbi Neil Kurshan

Please note that Rabbi Kurshan will be on Sabbatical during February, March, and April of 2016. He will be returning to the congregation at the beginning of May to conclude his tenure at HJC.

If you need to reach Rabbi Kurshan while he is away, please contact Debbie Rosenkrantz in the Main Office at 631-427-1089 Ext. 10.

Mazal tov to Lea Winkler,

daughter of Ian and Sheryl Winkler, on receiving the 2015 Pomegranate Award from the Covenant Foundation. The Pomegranate Prize recognizes five emerging leaders in Jewish education, who have been in the field for 10 years or less



Adult Education presents ~

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES: ROMANCE IN JEWISH FILMS



Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Social Hall
Discussion Leader: Rabbi Neil Kurshan

In this final film series with Rabbi Kurshan, we will watch three beautiful and critically acclaimed successful films that focus on the theme of romance as it intersects with Jewish values and traditions.

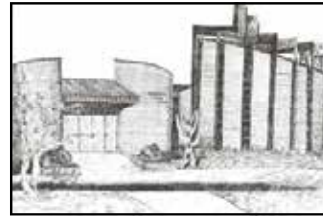
DECEMBER 5 ~ "The Apartment", starring Jack Lemmon, tells the story of a go-getting office worker who lends his apartment to his philandering superiors, but who then has second thoughts about his actions.

JANUARY 9 ~ "Casablanca", (Rabbi Kurshan's favorite movie) starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman is one of the most beloved American films and is a top notch thriller and wartime romance about a world-weary freedom fighter in love with a woman married to another man.

Refreshments will be served

BYOKB (Bring Your Own Kosher Bottle)

Each movie will be followed by a discussion with Rabbi Kurshan



Neil Kurshan, Rabbi
423-5355

Allison Reiver
President
427-1089

Israel Gordan, Hazzan,
Director, Synagogue Programming and Religious School Innovation
427-1089, ext. 22

Maxine Fisher
Religious School Director
427-1157 ext. 14

Ilene Brown
Director, Early Childhood Center
425-1089, ext 15

Barbara Axmacher
Executive Director
427-1089, ext 23

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Jewish Theological Seminary.....	Mitch Pashkin
Kol Nidre Appeal.....	Amal & Alon Kapen
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Men's Club.....	Ofer Rind
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Social Action.....	Janet Kushnick & Marilyn Klein
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Youth.....	Shari Klaire
Youth Advisor.....	Rebecca Buzen

5776
2015

December

kislev
tevet

KAR-BEN
PUBLISHING

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 19 kislev <i>RS / Chaverim</i> <i>Jewish Public Affairs Forum 8pm</i>	2 20 kislev <i>HiHi 6pm</i>	3 21 kislev	4 22 kislev <i>Minyan Breakfast 8am</i> <i>Daddy's & Doughnuts</i>	5 23 kislev <i>Zoe Krief Bat Mitzvah</i> <i>Jr Congregation 10:30am</i> <i>Rabbi Movie Night 7:30pm</i> <i>Vayeshev</i>
6 24 kislev <i>JNN</i> <i>EC Meeting / RS</i> <i>Camp Fair</i> <i>Hanukkah Happening 9:30</i>  EREV HANUKKAH	7 25 kislev <i>Wise Aging 8pm</i>  HANUKKAH	8 26 kislev <i>RS Candle Lighting</i>  HANUKKAH	9 27 kislev  HANUKKAH	10 28 kislev <i>Professional Staff Meeting 12:45pm</i> <i>SH Craft Night 8pm</i>  HANUKKAH	11 29 kislev  HANUKKAH	12 30 kislev <i>Faith Zimmerman Bat Mitzvah</i> <i>ECC Havdalah/Hanukkah</i> <i>Miketz</i> ROSH CHODESH HANUKKAH
13 1 tevet <i>RS / USY / Kadima</i> <i>Vav Workshop #2</i> <i>JNN</i>  ROSH CHODESH HANUKKAH	14 2 tevet <i>Wise Aging 8pm</i> <i>SH Board Meeting 8pm</i>  HANUKKAH	15 3 tevet <i>RS / Chaverim</i>  HANUKKAH	16 4 tevet <i>HiHi 6pm</i>  HANUKKAH	17 5 tevet <i>Board Meeting 8pm</i>  HANUKKAH	18 6 tevet  HANUKKAH	19 7 tevet <i>Jr Congregation 10:30am</i> <i>Progressive Dinner</i> <i>Vayigash</i>
20 8 tevet <i>RS Board Meeting 9:15am</i> <i>Mens Club Mtng 9:30am</i> <i>RS / USY / Kadima</i> <i>Ridotto 4pm</i> <i>JNN</i>	21 9 tevet <i>Wise Aging 8pm</i>	22 10 tevet <i>RS</i> FAST DAY WINTER BEGINS	23 11 tevet	24 12 tevet <i>School Vacation (Thru January 4 2016)</i> <i>HiHi 6pm</i>	25 13 tevet  CHRISTMAS DAY	26 14 tevet  <i>Veyechi</i>
27 15 tevet <i>RS Closed</i> <i>JNN</i>	28 16 tevet	29 17 tevet <i>RS Closed</i>	30 18 tevet	31 19 tevet		



Save the Date: The Rabbi Neil Kurshan Legacy Celebration

5746-5776

1985-2016

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE VERY SPECIAL EVENTS
AS WE PREPARE TO BID FAREWELL TO RABBI KURSHAN

THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 19: PANEL DISCUSSION - 8:00 PM
The American Synagogue: Past, Present, and Future

SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 11: SHAVUOT TIKKUN - 9:30 PM
Rabbi Kurshan will teach his favorite Jewish texts.

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 18: SHABBAT SERVICES & CELEBRATORY
KIDDUSH LUNCHEON - 9:30 AM

SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 19: FAREWELL DESSERT RECEPTION - 7:00 PM

*God has told you what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do justice
and to love goodness; And to walk modestly with your God. ~ Micah 6:8*



ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT
THE HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER

510 PARK AVENUE HUNTINGTON NEW YORK 11743
631-427-1089 / WWW.HJCN.Y.O.R.G

View from the Director's Chair

by Barbara Axmacher

Rabbi: con't from page 1



It Always Seems to be Friday

It always seems to be Friday. As the last day of my work week, I look forward to Friday; the beginning of that little 48 hour indulgence called the weekend! It feels great. But, when I think about how quickly the week went, it also signifies the accelerated passage of time.

I have always been amazed at time; the measure of an hour, a minute or even a second is forever constant, so how does time decide whether it waits for no man or stands still? Or does time not decide at all – but rather we do. Depending on what you are doing, the perception of time can be as slow as molasses or at warp speed. Spending an hour in the Dr.'s office waiting room, sitting in traffic – agony; the weekends, a long awaited vacation - blink and it's gone! Don't even get me started on how fast my babies grew into adults and are now making their way in the world. That was a millisecond.

I think we would all agree, when doing something you enjoy time moves faster; it glides along without a care, not in a race or even with a place to go, it just does what it is supposed to do – it moves on. Contented, we don't pay much attention to it and then all of sudden it's gone! Time levels the playing field for all of us. We all get it; some get more, others get less. Some use it wisely, some simply squander it.

I've been nine months in my position as Executive Director at HJC – long enough to miraculously gestate a human being, but how has time at HJC been to me? Has it been kind or have I been ravished? We seem to be working in tandem together; the day to day work flow is becoming more familiar, goals are being set and objectives are being met. There have been so many days, after being in my office at the computer for a while, I emerge and say out loud "It's 12:30 already, I can't believe it!" So many things that were mentions on a calendar months in advance have now already come and gone: Passover, The Summer, The High Holidays, Bar Mitzvahs, Daylight Savings Time, Thanksgiving, Hanukah. Even writing my monthly bulletin article- it seems I no sooner submit it, then it's time to write the next one!

I am certainly not advocating for a longer work week but if every time I turn around, it's Friday again, where does the time go? I'm not sure, but I must conclude I am enjoying how I am spending it!

dark periods of our history—far worse than anything we experience today—and even at the worst of times we have always reconstituted and revitalized ourselves as a flourishing Jewish people.

As I thought about my most recent trip in Israel, I was reminded of the theologian Emil Fackenheim's 614th mitzvah that we must never despair and hand Hitler posthumous victories. We must continue to be engaged with Israel and supportive of her efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict with her neighbors. None of us can ever become indifferent to Israel or despairing of a solution to the challenges she faces.

While I felt a deeper pessimism in Israel during this visit, I also felt what I feel each time I am there—a remarkable energy and love of life in this young country and a trust among its citizens in its future. As I walked around my daughter's Jerusalem neighborhood, I noticed an unusually large number of pregnant women. Despite all the pessimism in Israel about the overarching issues of politics and national policy, young couples are choosing to bring another generation of Jews into the world--my daughter among them who is expecting her fourth child.

The day I returned home to the States, Ilana called Alisa and me to tell us that she had gone for her ultrasound. We asked what the medical technician said. "Oh", my daughter replied, "She told us that everything looked fine and perhaps our baby would prove to be the 'mashiach'--the messiah."

As Jews we have always believed that every new Jewish child born into the world has the possibility of becoming the Messiah and redeeming the world. Surely in a world in which each new child may bring redemption, we can hope that Israel will someday find a way to dwell in peace with her neighbors.



Adult Education Presents ~

JEWISH PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM WITH KEN BOB

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY AFTER THE IRAN AGREEMENT

Tuesday, December 1 at 8:00 pm

The conventional wisdom in Washington and the American Jewish community has always been that Israel is a bipartisan issue. However, the debate over the Iran Nuclear Agreement found the American Jewish community and the US political world deeply divided. In this session, we will discuss what was said, why this happened, how it has impacted the community going forward and what can be done to rebuild unity.

Ken Bob is a member of HJC who serves in a variety of Jewish organizational capacities. He is the current president of Ameinu, the national Zionist organization, and serves as a member of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

RSVP to Debbie at Debbier@hjcny.org or 427-1089 Ext 10
Or Ken Bob at kennethbob@gmail.com.

All are welcome!

HJC Community News



MAZAL TOV

Michael & Michelle Behr announce the birth of their son, Asher Dylan Behr.

Amy Kulchinsky announces the marriage of her daughter, Dana, to Robert Schurz.

Adam & Lauren Kupersmith announce the birth of their daughter, Naomi Leah Kupersmith.

Lea Winkler, daughter of Ian and Sheryl Winkler, on receiving the 2015 Pomegranate Award from the Covenant Foundation. The Pomegranate Prize recognizes five emerging leaders in Jewish education who have been in the field for 10 years or less.

Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer announce the birth of their daughter, Nina Aliya.

CONDOLENCES

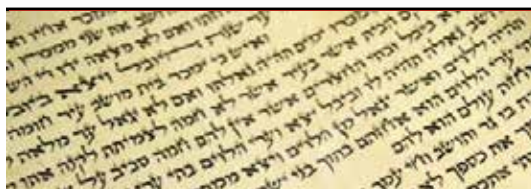
To the family of our member, Shirley Vilinsky

Matt Raskin on the death of his mother, Irma Raskin

NEW MEMBERS

Shmulik & Robyn Shahar of Huntington and their children: Eden, age 10; Noam, age 6; Dolev, age 4.

Seth & Jaime Wiener of Lloyd Harbor and their children: Jacob, age 11; Joshua, age 6, Abigail, age 4.



Bat Mitzvah December



Faith Zimmerman

Daughter of Donna and Jeffrey Zimmerman

Faith is an 8th grade student at East Northport Middle School where she is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and has earned the rank of Principals Honor Roll each quarter of attendance. Competitive in nature, Faith is on the Mathlete Team, earned a bronze medal at the Al Kalfus Math Fair for her paper on Topology, numerous awards in chess tournament play, and joined the school tennis team this past fall. Her love of music has lead her to sing at Carnegie Hall, professional sporting events, as well as theatrical performances at school, camp, and here at HJC. In addition, she has studied piano, violin, ukulele and is a member of her school orchestra. Faith enjoys volunteering at the Northport Library to assist in children's programming and aspires to possibly becoming a Pediatrician someday.

Faith's favorite times are her summers with friends at USDAN Camp for the Performing Arts and her week long Encampment with USY at Rahmah in the Berkshires. Faith's gentle compassion, dedicated perseverance, sense of fairness, warm sense of humor and embracing ways will serve her well no matter what path she aspires. Faith is looking forward to becoming a Bat Mitzvah and extends great thanks to Cantor Gordon, Rabbi Kurshan, and her teachers at HJC for their guidance, support and efforts through the years. Her Mom, Dad, Uncle Steven and entire family are so very honored by all of her accomplishments and of the young lady she is becoming.

President's Perspective

by Allison Reiver



Choosing a New Leader

With now under one year left until we choose a new President of the United States, the carnival-like atmosphere of the election process is still front-page news. Hopefully things will stabilize a bit and we can really get down to the issues and assess the candidates' strengths and weaknesses. While we at HJC also are now involved in finding our next leader, a new rabbi who will take over where

Rabbi Kurshan is leaving off and continue our tradition of great rabbinic leadership, I can promise you that our process is much more sane and civilized!

The Rabbi Search Committee has been hard at work these last few months in preparation for interviewing potential rabbinical candidates. They have been meeting since the summer to ensure that all bases are covered before we start the interview process. Early on, the Committee felt it was important to involve all of our congregants and to hear what we feel HJC's strengths are and where we see ourselves in the future. It has been the Committee's priority to find out what we all think are the most important qualities of, and roles to be filled by, our next rabbi. Numerous parlor meetings were held at HJC and in congregants' homes for congregants, our Board of Trustees, and our staff, to discuss the rabbi search process and to hear from you what matters most. Over 125 congregants attended these important meetings. The Committee followed up with an online questionnaire that was completed by almost 100 congregants.

All of this information is being used by the Committee to complete an extensive questionnaire that is required of HJC by the Rabbinical Assembly, the membership organization for Conservative rabbis and through whom we are conducting our search. The RA will post our questionnaire and potential candidates will have the opportunity to review it and decide if HJC is a congregation that they would like to pursue. The RA will then forward the resumes of those interested rabbis to the Search Committee, who will then have the opportunity to review the resumes and meet with potential candidates. It is the Committee's goal to have the final candidates spend some time at HJC to see what makes our congregation so special, and we in turn can meet these candidates.

As you can see, this is an involved process and one that is being taken very seriously by those who have made the important commitment to be part of the Search Committee. Kol Hakavod to the Chairs, Joel Kuppersmith, Shelley Weinberg, and Billy Wertheim, and to the Committee members: Ken Bob, Nancy Cooper, Scott Ingber, Lauren Kupersmith, Ayelet Levy, Ellen Meiselman, Keith Messing, Ari Perler, Ofer Rind, Tom Rosen, Debbie Sakellarios, Sarah Saunders, Dan Schoeffler, Andrea Smoller, Jay Steinberg,

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Sisterhood News

by Donna Fleiss & Miriam Wirchin

Sisterhood News by Donna Fleiss & Miriam Wirchin

MEMBERSHIP

If you were not able to join us at the Annual Paid Up Membership Dinner, it is not too late to send in your Sisterhood membership dues!
\$45 for regular membership/\$30 for senior membership
New members to HJC receive a complimentary Sisterhood membership for their first year.
Contact Vicki Rosen, V.P. Membership
vrosen815@gmail.com/(631) 271-7732

GET INVOLVED!

Sisterhood has many programs throughout the year.
Attend an event or join a committee!
We always need volunteers to staff events, fundraisers, assist in the kitchen for Shabbat Kiddushes, Religious School festivals, bake hamantashen or fill Purim baskets.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE AND TORAH FUND

This year's theme for Women's League is *nat'ah karem* ("she plants a vineyard"), and the Torah Fund pin features grapes and a grape leaf surrounded by the words *nat'ah karem* in Hebrew. All contributions to Torah Fund are used to fund specific projects or towards scholarships at the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York), Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles) and the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem).
Contact Evelyn Abraham or Ethel Sachs to make a donation.

HAPPY HANUKKAH! SUPPORT the HJC SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP WITH YOUR PURCHASE OF GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 6th - Hanukkah Happening 11:00am-1:00pm
December 8th - Hanukkah Candle Lighting @6pm
December 10th - Craft Night: Polymer Clay Mezuzah with Lesley DeLia Stark @8pm
December 14th - Sisterhood Board Meeting @8pm
January 7th - Coloring Night 7:30pm - 9:00pm
January 11th - Sisterhood Board Meeting @8pm

Sisterhood Contacts:

Donna Fleiss - donna.fleiss@gmail.com
Miriam Wirchin - mirm1225@aol.com





President's Perspective con't from pg. 6

Ben Tasman Library Update

...with winter approaching, come in out of the cold to a warm and wonderful place and catch up on your reading! The Ben Tasman Library has books for all ages!

We are continuously adding to our various categories of Art, Biography, Cookbooks, Fiction, History, Holidays, Holocaust, Humor, Immigration, Israel, Judaism, Life Cycle, Philosophy, Poetry, Philosophy, Theology and more! Check out our reference section as well. Read a magazine, check out The Forward and our wonderful selections from A-Z!

Please contact us – you may want to donate a book you choose. Hope you enjoy reading, browsing or just taking some quiet time in our wonderful library.

LIBRARY HOURS

Sunday: 8:30am-1:00pm

Monday -Thursday: 8:30am-5:30pm

Friday: 8:30am-3:00pm

Happy Hanukkah and Happy Reading!

Please contact Syd Schlesinger for further info: syd519@gmail.com / (631) 261-2330

Sisterhood Winter and Spring Book Discussions

The Winter Sisterhood Book Discussion will be on Thursday, February 4th at 1 PM in the HJC Library. The selection is *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman. Please join us for light refreshments and a lively discussion of this book. Telling the fictionalized life of Rachel Pissarro, the mother of the famous Impressionist Camille Pissarro, growing up in a strict Jewish community on the island of St. Thomas in the early 1800s.

The Spring Sisterhood Book Discussion will be on Thursday, May 12th at 1 PM in the HJC Library and the selection is *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks. The ALA Booklist - "In her gorgeously written novel of ambition, courage, retribution, and triumph, Brooks imagines the life and character of King David in all his complexity. The language, clear and precise throughout, turns poetic when describing music or the glory of David's city. Taken as a whole, the novel feels simultaneously ancient, accessible, and timeless."

Both books are available in the HJC Library, local libraries, Barnes and Noble and Amazon.

Please contact Evelyn Abraham for more information.

and Mark Zimmerman. While they have the unenviable task of finding a successor to Rabbi Kurshan, their dedication to find someone who reflects the values of our HJC community is evident and greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to a member of the Committee or to me, and rest assured that we will continue to keep you apprised of the process.

Women's League Torah Fund

The mission of Torah Fund is to provide support and funding for our future Conservative Rabbis, Cantors, Educators and Administrators for Day and Synagogue Schools, Social Workers, Scholars, Professional and Lay Leaders and Researchers. Our donations make it possible for students to study at the Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Schechter Institutes of Judaic Studies and Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano.

Your Torah Fund Contribution strengthens and perpetuates Conservative/Masorti Judaism throughout the world. Please be a sponsor and no need to fulfill your obligations at once.

Donations start at \$18. If you donate \$180 you will receive the Torah Fund Pin for 5776 in recognition of your generous support.

This year's pin is designed by Eytan Brandes and features grapes and a grape leaf surrounded by the words Nat'ah Karem (She plants a vineyard) in Hebrew.

Please contact Evelyn Abraham or Ethel Sachs for more information and to make your donation.

Thank You

The family of **Shirley Vilinsky** would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who took the time to convey their sympathy and offer support during this very difficult time. Each visit and remembrance was much appreciated.

We loved hearing all the stories of moments you shared with her--the special and the ordinary and know she would have loved them as well. It is gratifying to know that Shirley was a part of a community that embraced her as fiercely and lovingly as she did them. She will be deeply missed.

May she rest in peace.



A Time to Talk About Prayer

by Hazzan Israel Gordan



On Wednesday, November 4th I participated in a small conference entitled: "Hallelujah! A Time to Talk Prayer Education" at the Jewish Theological Seminary. The conference was co-sponsored by The Ramah Camping Movement, Schechter Day School Network, United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism, and the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education at JTS. For about five hours, I was engaged in dialogue, discussion, and workshops with over 50 other people involved with prayer and prayer

education in various settings. It was an impressive array of co-sponsors and I can proudly say that I have been a long time participant in Ramah camps, went to a Schechter Day school for several years, work at a USCJ affiliated synagogue now, and have a degree from the Davidson School at JTS, and therefore am directly connected with all of the organizations represented.

One of the main takeaways from the day was not only the importance of prayer, but how different it can be from other subject matter in terms of effective modes of education. While a good teacher will always be connected with the subject matter that s/he is teaching, prayer is different than algebra or history. Not only must the educator be knowledgeable and passionate, but s/he must also have the room and space to explore his/her relationship with the divine and how that can constantly change. This conference provided ample opportunities for us to explore our own practice and how our own beliefs can help or hinder our efforts in teaching others.

Many people in prayer education are concerned with learning the words and/or the tune to specific prayers. We have to make sure that the kids can get up and lead us in Yigdal, Ashrei, or some other part of the service. Some people take the time to learn the meaning of the words, or might even go into history or structure of the piece and the role of one particular piece of text within the framework of the larger liturgy. But what about the educator him/herself? Does that person have the opportunity to experience prayer in a meaningful way with the learners, or can s/he only do that outside of the educational setting? This connects directly to my work as a cantor.

If I have to lead services on Shabbat and holidays, am I having an experience with the divine? What is the difference between leading prayer and participating in prayer? How can my being moved by a piece of liturgy help to convey the meaning to others? Do the feelings of the other people in the room affect me and my experience? Should they?

These are all important questions to consider and I do not believe there is an easy answer, or even an "answer" in the classical definition of the word. It is the experience, or journey, that makes this educational process worthwhile. Rather than studying words or memorizing dates for a test, we are constantly putting our prayer practice to an authentic "test" or assessment. And we can constantly be rethinking about where we want to go.

May we all be privileged to take the time to ponder these thoughts and questions in the weeks and months ahead.

Religious School Update

by Maxine Fisher

Religious School Administrator

Yesterday the entire Religious School went on a trip to the Alan and Helene Rosenberg Jewish Discovery Museum at the Suffolk y JCC in Commack.

Every Year the museum's director, Bat-Sheva Slavin puts together a new exhibit with a new theme. This year's theme is Celebrating Jewish Life on Long Island, saluting the Jewish pioneers of Long Island.

The kids were able to visit Avram Wolf's tailor shop in Great Neck, Lindenhurst Hebrew Congregation where two of our children performed a wedding, Goldstein's and Son's Department Store in Eastport, Levi's Kosher Butcher right here in Huntington. In the back of the butcher shop was the Cheder. It was a very good hands on learning experience for not only the children but also their parents.

Talk to your kids about where their grandparents came from and what kind of work they did.

I want to remind everyone that our **Chanukah Happening** is on Sunday, December 6th from 11:00 - 1:00. School will end at 11:00 for everyone so that you can take your kids to the Happening. There will be lot's of crafts, a gift fair, raffles, and food. Please join us. The Happening is sponsored by Religious School, Sisterhood, Early Childhood Center, Social Action, and Men's Club.

Also, the same week Tuesday, December 8th we are having our Congregation's Chanukah Candlelighting outside in the front of HJC. We will sing Chanukah songs led by Rabbi Kurshan and Cantor Gordan.

This year we will start at 5:45 and then join together for hot cocoa and donuts in the Kiddush lounge.

I also want to mention that on Sunday, October 18th, we had our Yad Workshop with Mr. Avi Zukerman. Every child (3-7 grade) made the most amazing Yads (pointers). Each one personalized with the child's Hebrew name. I want to thank Sisterhood, Religious School and a generous congregant for subsidizing this project.

Dates to remember:

Tuesday, December 1st: Chaverim

Saturday, December 5th: Junior Congregation

Sunday, December 6th: Chanukah Happening

Tuesday, December 8th: Candle lighting

Sunday, December 13th: Vav Workshop #2

Tuesday, December 15th: Chaverim

Saturday, December 19th: Junior Congregation

Sunday, December 20th: RS board meeting

Tuesday, December 22nd: Hebrew Chug

No school until Tuesday, January 5th

Have a Very Happy Chanukah



Religious school students participate in Yad workshop.



On 11/12, Sisterhood presented *Growing Up Jewish in Foreign Lands* with congregants, (from left to right) Jina Eckstein, Ellen Kahn, Amira Garbus, Silvina Kramer, Vered Cole and Ella Rosenbloom. Their poignant, fascinating, spoken from the heart presentations were enjoyed by all who attended. Todah Rabah to these women for sharing their stories...a truly wonderful evening!



SAVE THE DATE!

The Huntington Jewish Center invites you to our
**Second Annual Progressive
Dinner***



**SATURDAY EVENING,
DECEMBER 19 AT 7:00 PM**

Do you remember the lovely evening last year with friends – old and new? Oh, you missed it – well don't miss it again – great food, wonderful company, entertainment, raffles and more....

Cost: \$36 per person

Deadline for reservations is December 10th

We hope you will participate in this excellent & fun-filled fundraiser.
You won't be sorry!

RSVP:

Susi Susskind - 424-5360 or hssusski@optonline.net or
Debbie in the Main Office - 427-1089 ext. 10 or Debbier@hjcny.org

*A PROGRESSIVE DINNER is an occasion where you have cocktails & dinner

at your host's home. Please note: You do not have to be invited by a host - Just sign up and you will be placed.

HJC Babysitters:

Grace Willen	home: 631-754-5865
	cell: 631-871-1477
Rachel Moss	cell: 631-944-1420
Noah Morris	cell: 631-427-4798.

Babysitters - email your current information to put here!
Please send your updated information to
kwillen@mac.com
include your current home and cell numbers

Early Childhood News

by Ilene Brown



Bringing Community into the Early Childhood Center

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'

Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year we have added curriculum, educating the children about our community and those who help our community every day. We have enhanced this curriculum by bringing community helpers into our school. In early November, we kicked off our program by inviting Councilwoman Susan Berland to visit our school. Ms. Berland talked to the children about how she helps the community. She then read two very funny and interactive stories to the children. On November 16, we will host fire fighters from the local fire station. They will talk to the children about how they help our community and of course, fire safety. Other upcoming visits will include an author, police officer, arborist, and many more.

We also had the opportunity to enhance the beauty of our HJC community. Parents, grandparents, children and teachers met on our playground on Election Day to plant dozens of crocuses that will hopefully bloom in the spring. It was wonderful having many generations as well all parts of the ECC come together to make our community even more lovely. We are also trying to extend our little helping hands outside our community to help others. We have been collecting non-perishable food for Northport Veterans' Food Pantry and will soon be working with a local preschool that is in need of many supplies. Stay tuned for continued updates!



Spotlight on...

*For more information about the Storytelling Project or to get involved, please contact:
Nancy Cooper: 516-356-7109 or email: nancyberlow@gmail.com*



Rene Levy

It is Friday,
November 6, 2015
and I approach
a house with
a magnificent
iridescent golden
and orange maple

tree and an equally brilliant red Japanese maple tree. Rene Levy greets me with that broad, inviting smile at the door of the house she has lived in and watched those trees grow for 59 years. It is there where she and her husband moved after they married. It is a warm home that she proudly announces has kept most of its original design. It has artwork, Jewish and secular, carved wooden shutters from India that adorn her dining room windows and a large bay window that lets light into her cozy kitchen.

She offers tea and biscotti and begins to talk about her roots, her early years. She was born in Tarnopol, Galicia, Poland and, after her father died in 1937, her mother was determined to take Rene and her brother to America. Given the history that unfolded over the next several years she believes that "if my father lived, I would have died." In 1938 they left Gdynia, Poland with her mother's brother on the M.S. Batory to Hoboken, NJ. (Her son found a baggage tag on Ebay from that very sail that she has hanging on her wall.) They moved from there to Irvington, then Newark and finally East Orange, NJ. After graduating from high school, Rene attended NYU where she earned her Bachelors degree in accounting, putting her on the path to becoming the first female CPA in New York State. However, because no one would hire a woman for that position, she never completed

the full requirements. She met Bob Levy through mutual friends and once they decided to marry and Bob got a job as an aeronautics engineer at Republic Airport, Rene decided to give up her full-time accounting position in NJ and they moved to Huntington. Knowing some people in the area made her transition relatively easy. It was here that they began a family and raised their two children. She did return to work part-time but family, she declares, is most important and she devoted herself to making a good life for hers.

She also felt that community was important and Huntington offered the kind of community in which she felt comfortable. She made friends with her neighbors. As it happened, several of them were members of Huntington Hebrew Congregation and when her children were of Hebrew school age, the Levy family made membership in HJC formal. She found a friendly, inviting and convenient community at HHC, which later became HJC. Holidays were usually spent with her and Bob's mothers, both widowed, and even now on the holidays she is more likely to be found in MA, where both her children and five grandchildren live. They remain a very close family.

Although you may not find Rene in shul every Shabbat, you will certainly see her at morning minyan many Fridays, or at a lecture series, or contributing in some other way, as was the case from 1993-2010, when she kept account of the Chai Club's finances. This was no small task as there were speaker, comedy and other entertainment programs to keep track of. Renee might even show you her original ledger book with names of the members, the dues paid and other tidbits of information.

In addition to her gentle presence at HJC for more than half a century, when her children were grown, Rene became an

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Calling all Teens!

The HJC storytelling project has been a tremendous success as stories about our congregants are being shared in the HJC Bulletin.

We are beginning a new chapter in this project called, Telling Our Stories: One Generation Shares with Another and are looking for high school students to bring this to life.

We are asking our teens to add to the stories by interviewing, providing written narratives and sharing the stories about HJC congregants.

Interview - On Sunday, March 13th, teens will participate in an interview training session and then interview one of HJC's elder congregants.

Written Narrative - Teens will prepare a narrative which would be shared in the HJC Bulletin; and

Story Sharing - Teens will share a small part of the congregant's story at an Oneg Shabbat on Friday, May 13th.

Please join this great project!!

If you are interested, please contact:

**Cheryl Silberman, clk1623@gmail.com, 516-359-5941 or
Nancy Cooper, nancyberlow@gmail.com, 516-356-7109.**

Donations

צדקה

GENERAL FUND

Arline Zuckerman
Bonnie Pedowicz in memory of Jerry Yarmark at yahrzeit.
Leslie & Jed Hantverk in memory of Mark Carter, father of Rosalind Wertheim.
Susi Susskind in memory of Mark Carter, father of Rosalind Wertheim.
David Schoenfarber in memory of Gertrude Schoenfarber at yahrzeit.
Tyna Strenger in memory of S. Gordon Strenger at yahrzeit.
Ethel Schwartz Bock in memory of Nathan Hellerbach at yahrzeit.
Florence Mane in memory of Robert Mane at yahrzeit.
Gerald Levy in memory of Audrey Levy at yahrzeit.
Nancy Bob in memory of June Philips at yahrzeit.
Loron Simon in memory of Dorothy Simon at yahrzeit.
Philip Glaser in memory of Bella Cohen at yahrzeit.
Marc Hazan in memory of Sonia Hazan at yahrzeit.
Renda Rosenblatt in memory of Henry Lederman at yahrzeit.
Bonnie Pedowicz in memory of Rosalind Yarmark at yahrzeit.
Morris Lagnado in memory of Albert Lagnado at yahrzeit.
Philip Glaser in memory of Herman Glaser at yahrzeit.
Selma Greenstein in memory of Hilda Bomser at yahrzeit.
Alon Kapen in memory of Sheldon Kapen at yahrzeit.
Sheryl Winkler in memory of Eleanor Teitel at yahrzeit.
Vered & Jack Cole in memory of Etti Levanon at yahrzeit.
Vered & Jack Cole in memory of Rose Cole at yahrzeit.
Dina Agin in honor of Vered Cole being named a Simchat Torah honoree.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of the birth of Asher Dylan, son of Michael & Michelle Behr.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of the engagement of Rachel, daughter of Gwen & Ron Goldstein, to Jonathan Hirschberger.
Nathan Weiss in memory of Jo Ann Weiss at yahrzeit.
Yolanda Barfus in memory of Benedetto Palumbo at yahrzeit.
Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Ruth Cohen at yahrzeit.
Richard Wertheim in memory of Joel Wertheim at yahrzeit.
Janet Cohn in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Evelyn Abraham & Roger Silverberg in memory of Mark Carter, father of Rosalind Wertheim.
Evelyn Abraham & Roger Silverberg in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.
Janet & Mark Zimmerman in memory of Irma Raskin, mother of Matt Raskin.

BEN TASMAN LIBRARY FUND

Phyllis Simon & Meyer Steinberg in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.
Pam & Bruce Fleiss in honor of Vered Cole & Cheryl Berman being named Simchat Torah honorees.
Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN FUND

Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer wishing a speedy recovery to Lee Reiver.
Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer wishing a speedy recovery to Tom Rosen.
Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer in honor of the 75th birthday of Lester Fox.
Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer in honor of Vered Cole being named a Simchat Torah honoree.
Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer in honor of Cheryl Berman being named a Simchat Torah honoree.
Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Spencer, son of Alan & Ora Kriegstein.
Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.
Barbara & Joel Kuppersmith in memory of Mark Carter, father of Rosalind Wertheim.
Barbara & Joel Kuppersmith in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.
Gwen & Ron Goldstein in memory of Kenneth Rosenblatt, husband of Renda Rosenblatt.
Michelle & Michael Behr in honor of the bris of their son, Asher Dylan Behr.

DAILY MINYAN FUND

Vicki & Tom Rosen in memory of Samuel Rosen at yahrzeit.
Vicki & Tom Rosen in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.
Susi Susskind in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.
Vicki & Tom Rosen in memory of Irma Raskin, mother of Matt Raskin.
Vicki & Tom Rosen in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Spencer, son of Alan & Ora Kriegstein.
Marsha Perlmutter Kalina in memory of Dora Perlmutter at yahrzeit.
Marsha Perlmutter Kalina in memory of Martin Perlmutter at yahrzeit.
Andrea Smoller & family with gratitude to Rabbi Kurshan for all his kindness.
Andrea Smoller with gratitude to the morning minyan.
Andrea Smoller in memory of Harvey Marcus at yahrzeit.
Andrea Smoller in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ilan, son of Keith & Felicia Messing.
Bea Pedowicz in memory of Mollie Pedowitz at yahrzeit.
Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Irma Raskin, mother of Matt Raskin.

DAVID S. ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Judy & Lester Fox wishing a speedy recovery to Tom Rosen.
Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the engagement of Rachel, daughter of Gwen & Ron Goldstein, to Jonathan Hirschberger.
Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the aufruf of Rachel, daughter of Dorothy & Larry Tydings, and Dan Zar.
Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the wedding of Dana, daughter of Amy Kulchinsky, to Robert Schurz.

Donations צדקה

Judy & Lester Fox in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.
 Gwen & Ron Goldstein in honor of the 75th birthday of Lester Fox.
 Judy & Lester Fox in memory of Irma Raskin, mother of Matt Raskin.
 Judy & Lester Fox in memory of George Kaddin.
 Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the birth of Asher Dylan, son of Michael & Michelle Behr.
 Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Mark Carter, father of Rosalind Wertheim.

DONALD L. GORDON ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Miriam & Joel Wirchin in honor of Vered Cole being named a Simchat Torah honoree.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND

Miriam & Joel Wirchin in honor of Kim & Joe Willen for receiving the 2016 UJA Community Leadership Award.

NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

Janet & Mark Zimmerman in honor of the birth of Naomi Leah, daughter of Adam & Lauren Kupersmith.

SOCIAL ACTION FUND/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Ethan Auslander
 Risa Gold
 Maurice Dickstein

JNN News

JNN BREAKING NEWS!!

ANONYMOUS DONORS WILL TRIPLE MATCH ALL DONATIONS

Two anonymous donors from our HJC community have generously agreed to TRIPLE match all donations to the Jewish Nutritional Network that are made between now and December 31, 2015.

The JNN is very proud to announce an amazing milestone of providing approximately our 270,00th meal over a 20 year period to families in need. Please consider making a donation to the JNN by contacting the HJC office.

Rob Fisher
JNN coordinator
rfish51@aol.com

Pamela Geller in memory of Gertrud Hofbauer at yahrzeit.
 Harriet & Bernie Harris in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Matthew, grandson of Marilyn & David Klein.
 Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Mark Carter, father of Rosalind Wertheim.
 Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.
 Charlotte Rosen in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.
 Rene Levy in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.
 Joan Blank in memory of Mark Carter, father of Rosalind Wertheim.
 Joan Blank in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.
 Rosalyn Haber in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.
 Arlene Steinberg in memory of Polly Kurzer at yahrzeit.
 Miriam & Joel Wirchin in honor of the birth of Rayna Julia Pollack, granddaughter of Maxine & Rob Fisher.
 Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Irvin Epstein at yahrzeit.

YOUTH FUND

Miriam Eckstein-Koas in memory of Mark Carter, father of Rosalind Wertheim.



The Huntington Jewish Center
 invites you to a

SUMMER CAMP FAIR

featuring Jewish day and overnight camps from the Northeast

HJC SUMMER ADVENTURE

CAMP NAH-JEE-WAH



Date: Sunday, December 6th

Time: 11am-1pm

Location: Huntington Jewish Center

510 Park Ave, Huntington, NY 11743

Give your child the gift of camp this summer. Everything you need to know about Jewish summer experiences. Meet camp directors, learn about scholarships and speak with parents.

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

HJC Lone Soldier Packages!



The HJC Mitzvah Team class is making packages for the Lone Soldiers in Israel and we need your help.

We are collecting the following to include in the packages.

Please help us as we would like to make 50 packages.

All aerosol/liquid items can be travel size:

- ♦ Shaving razors and cream (men and women)
- ♦ After-shave lotion/moisturizer
- ♦ Sun screen
- ♦ Lip balm
- ♦ Deodorant
- ♦ Athletic cotton socks (black or white)
- ♦ Kosher candy
- ♦ Toothbrushes and tooth paste
- ♦ iTunes gift cards
- ♦ Pre-paid international calling cards so they can call their parents overseas

**There is a donation box outside the Religious School office.
We will be collecting items through November 22, 2015.**



Religious school students visit the Commack Y.



Kindling the Chanukah Lights: Beginning Sunday, December 6



This year (2015), we begin lighting candles on **Sunday night, December 6** and we light the last candle on the **night of December 13**.

Remember to put the first candle on the rightmost holder of your Chanukiyah and add candles from right to left each night. Then light the Shamash and begin lighting the newest candle first (the one on the left) while saying or singing the blessings below. On the Shabbat night of Chanukah, light the Chanukah candles first and then the Shabbat candles.

First Blessing

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם
אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק
נר של חנוכה.

Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu
l'hadlik ner shel chanukah.

Blessed our God, ruler of the universe, by whose mitzvot we are sanctified and who commands us to kindle the lights of Chanukah

Second Blessing

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם
שעשה נסים לאבותינו
בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, sheh-asa nissim la-vo-tei-nu bayamim ha-haim
bazman hazeh.

Blessed our God, ruler of the universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old, at this season.

Third Blessing (only on the first night)

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם
שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה

Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, she-he-che-yanu v'ki-ye-manu v'he-gi-yanu
la'zman ha-zeh.

Blessed our God, ruler of the universe, for giving us life, sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

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active member of the ADL, particularly in the Jewish Calendar Distribution program, which was the seed for making schools and other institutions aware of the Jewish Holidays. Now, we take for granted, with so many Jewish teachers, that schools are closed on the High Holidays.

Rene has traveled to many interesting places, including visiting family in Israel. It has been very important for her to remain in contact with her extended family and she continues to do so to this day.

Rene says it is because of HJC and the friendships she has made here that she has stayed on Long Island rather than move to

Massachusetts where her children live. Dear friends with whom she has traveled, whose children sometimes feel like her own, whose passing have left deep holes, with whom she socializes and whom she knows will be here for her if she needs them, have been the riches of her membership at HJC. She continues to feel comfortable here. She sees HJC as a progressive place that is growing and vital, where the school rating is high and generations intermingle. She feels this is important because this is where our future lies and "that's where it's at." To her, HJC is "on the right track" of being an evolving, liberal, inclusive and accepting community.

Interview compiled by Marsha Kalina and Rene Levy



CELEBRATE

with your **FAMILY** at the

HJC CHANUKAH HAPPENING



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Singalong with Cantor Gordan

11:00 am in the Family Life Room



Children's Crafts

Hot dogs, Latkes, Donuts, Drinks for purchase

Gift Fair and Raffle Baskets from 9:00 am

RSVP: rnoah@hjcny.org

Sponsored by Sisterhood, Religious School, Nursery School,
Men's Club, Social Action, Youth Group and special thanks to
ALL of our HJC Volunteers

HJC Bulletin December 2015

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HJC SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

...for all your gift and holiday needs

The HJC Sisterhood Gift Shop is ready to assist you with all your Judaica needs for all occasions! Gifts for Bar/Bat Mitzvah, graduation, birthday, holidays, engagement, wedding, baby, and many other occasions! Our items are sold at below market cost, no tax, and all profits go right back to supporting the Sisterhood of HJC!

For more info or to make an appointment, please contact:

Eileen Berger: berger4u@optonline.net/261-2164

Maxine Fisher: mirifish@aol.com/757-7455

Pam Fleiss: threebearsf@verizon.net/549-9629

Leslie Hantverk: handl24@aol.com/367-1439

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