

# HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER

## NEWS COMMUNITY CONNECTION

INNOVATE & INTEGRATE - CREATING COMMUNITY & CONNECTION



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### Editor's note:

*During Rabbi Kurshan's sabbatical, we are reprinting previous Bulletin columns of the rabbi. The 6th grade students from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church continue to visit HJC each fall.*

Each year for the past ten years, our sanctuary has been filled on a Monday afternoon in the fall with more than 100 Catholic students. They are sixth graders from the religious studies program of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Centerport. As part of their studies, they learn about other religious traditions and other Christian denominations, and spend several days visiting local churches and a synagogue. Each year I show them the sanctuary, and we spend an hour together discussing a wide range of topics about Jewish tradition. I take our Sefer Torah out of the ark so they can see the scroll, and I put on tallit and tefillin so that they see how a Jew dresses in prayer.

I enjoy these sessions not only because they deepen the understanding of non-Jews about our faith, but also because the students ask fascinating questions ranging from the mundane to the profound. Certain questions recur each year. After I describe the Ner Tamid as a symbol of God's presence and a light that is never extinguished, there is always a student who asks, "But what happens to the light if there is a power failure or the bulb burns out?" Because they come from a Catholic Church, they always ask me if I am allowed to marry, and are surprised when I tell them that not only am I married, but I am also the father of four children. Usually they want to know if a woman can become a rabbi. They seem most fascinated by the dietary laws and Shabbat. They are intrigued that the everyday eating pattern of a Jew is defined by such a discipline. It is hard for them to believe that I would voluntarily relinquish a day of television on Shabbat each week. Some years they ask me about the Jewish relationship with Israel, and when they are especially comfortable, they will ask about the Jewish view of Jesus. It is hard for some of them to grasp the idea of a religious faith to which Jesus is not central. I also ask them as they leave the sanctuary to stop to look at

## And the show goes on... Guys and Dolls



Cast members perform in HJC's Guys and Dolls.



by Rabbi Kurshan

Rabbi Kurshan will be on sabbatical from January 14, 2013-April 21, 2013. During this time please contact Debbie in the Main Office(427-1089 Ext. 10) about life cycle events, hospital visits, or any other matters that require the attention of clergy. This will enable the appropriate person from the synagogue to be in touch with you. In the event of anything urgent when the office is closed, please contact the synagogue president, Joel Wirchin, at [jwirchin@gibsondunn.com](mailto:jwirchin@gibsondunn.com) or on his cell 646-541-0017. Your cooperation will ensure that we are able to be of support to you during Rabbi Kurshan's absence.

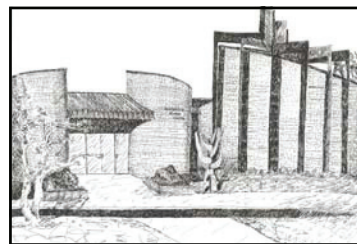
# SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 5 2013



## Rededication of the Ben Tasman Library

More information to follow in the weeks ahead.  
If you would like to help in any way, please contact  
**Syd Schlesinger at [syd519@gmail.com](mailto:syd519@gmail.com) or 631-261-2330**



**Neil Kurshan, Rabbi**  
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**Maxine Fisher**  
Religious School Director  
427-1157

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Administrator  
427-1089 ext. 23

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### HJC Committee Chairpersons

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Dues/Fees/Collections.....Mitch Pashkin & Arthur Perler  
Family Life.....Judy Biener and Jessica Frischman  
Fundraising.....  
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Israel/Ramah Scholarships.....Judy Fox  
Israel Committee.....Scott Ingber  
Jewish Theological Seminary.....Mitch Pashkin  
Kol Nidre Appeal.....Randi and Alan Schuller  
Membership.....Tracy Kaplowitz and Elaine Kleinmann  
Men's Club.....Eric Gemunder  
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Religious School Board.....Sheri Bram  
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Selichot Lecture.....Jennifer Ingber  
Sisterhood.....Sue Lefkowitz  
Social Action.....Janet Kushnick & Marilyn Klein  
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Sunshine.....Kim Willen  
Theater Development.....Arthur Perler  
Technology.....Jeff Stark  
Tree of Life.....Tom Rosen  
UJA.....Scott Ingber  
Youth.....Shari Klaire  
Youth Advisor.....Julie Perloff

## Hamantashen Thank You

No fundraiser would be a success without the help of many volunteers. I would like to thank all the children and adults who made the Hamantashen sale possible:

Sylvia Brass  
Lauren Chait  
Barry Feigenbaum  
Donna Fleiss  
Wendy Glassman  
Abby Gordan  
Noa Gordan  
Hannah Kampel  
Janet Kushnick  
Josh Lefkowitz

Phyllis Levy  
Noah Morris  
Rachel Mos  
Alexa Rind  
Ofer Rind  
Tom Rosen  
Vicki Rosen  
Sarah Saunders  
Vicki Schwartz  
Michelle Stack

Ilyssa Stein  
Ella Rose Trager  
Bob Weiser  
Rachel Weiser  
Jason Wirchin

A special thank you to Kevin of **Maureen's Kitchen** in Smithtown for donating 15 dozen eggs for the last few years.

David, I really couldn't have done this wonderful project for the last 25 years without your love and support. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Sue L.



# April 2013

## Nisan/Iyar 5773

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> No ECC Main Office closed  <b>PASSOVER</b>	<b>2</b> No ECC No RS Main Office closed <b>YIZKOR PASSOVER</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Minyan Breakfast  Shabbat Services 6pm	<b>6</b> Shabbat Morning Family Service 10:30am  <b>She mini</b>
<b>7</b> JNN Assembly Yom Hashoah 9:30am  Kad/USY <b>Yom Hashoah</b>	<b>8</b> YOGA Sisterhood Board 8pm	<b>9</b> Blood Drive 3-9pm  Chavanim	<b>10</b> Social Action 2pm  <b>Rosh Chodesh</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>Rosh Chodesh</b>	<b>12</b>  Shabbat Services 6pm	<b>13</b> Mitzvah Team Haydallah 8:15pm  <b>Tazria/Metzora</b>
<b>14</b> JNN Hey Workshop BINGO -12pm Ridotto - 4pm	<b>15</b> YOGA Parent Assoc. 9:45am  Yom Hazikaron	<b>16</b>  Yom Ha'atzma'ut	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	 <b>Friday Night Live-6pm</b>  Shabbat Services 6pm	<b>20</b> Hey Shabbaton 10am  <b>Archarei</b>
<b>21</b> Men's Club 9:30am <b>Klezmar Concert 4pm</b> Yom Ha'atzma'ut Celebration -9:30 JNN Kad/USY	<b>22</b> YOGA Jewish Public Affairs with Ken Bob-8pm  	<b>23</b>  Chavanim	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  <div>Rummage Drop Off</div>	<b>26</b> Daddy & Donuts -8:30am  Shabbat Services 8pm	<b>27</b> <b>BAT MITZVAH RACHEL MOSS</b> Lag Ba'omer Bonfire  <b>Emor</b>
<b>28</b> JNN RS Board 9:30am  Chai Club Meeting 1:30pm <b>Lag Ba'omer</b>	<b>29</b> YOGA <div>Rummage Sale</div> 	<b>30</b>				



# Sisterhood Spring Rummage Sale

Time to make  
room in your  
closets!

Please bring us  
your clean, gently used,  
summer weight clothes  
and small house wares.



Drop Off:	Thursday	April 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am to 6:00 pm
	Friday	April 26 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Sale Days:	Sunday	April 29 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am to 3:00 pm
	Monday	April 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am to 3:00 pm
	(Bag Day)		

the Holocaust Torah. As sixth graders, they do not yet have a command of history, but when they see the damaged Torah, they are able to understand that something terrible befell the Jewish people.

Sometimes, there are humorous moments in these encounters. This year, another church group visited us a few days before the Catholic group. They were students from United Methodist Church in Centerport and came to us through a contact arranged by one of our congregants, Jack Cole. They attended Friday night services and then stayed for a discussion in our main sanctuary. They were, on average, a year younger than the students in the Catholic group, and one of the students asked me about the twelve stained glass windows at the front of the sanctuary. I thought I would test their knowledge of the Bible, and asked them if they could think of anything with religious significance associated with the number twelve. I had forgotten that there are twelve apostles so they gave me that answer instead of the twelve tribes. Then, the hand of a student who had not yet spoken went up. He told me the window represented the twelve commandments. All of us were silent for a moment, and then I told the young man that I would like to speak to him after our session to find out about the two commandments I did not know.

Many of the parents of these students also stay to attend these sessions. I think they are as fascinated as their children to learn about Jewish tradition. This year, we invited our own members to stay with their families after Friday night services for the discussion with the Methodist group. A number of those who stayed told me how much they learned about Judaism through the discussion. I was reminded of a course on Judaism and Christianity that

I used to teach many years ago in the synagogue – not because I wanted my students to become experts in Christianity, but because looking through the prism of another religious tradition gives us a better understanding of our own – of the points on which we agree and the places where we have taken divergent paths.

The opportunity to participate in these sessions reminds me each year of the richness of America. Part of the beauty of our culture is that we are a mosaic of many religious traditions, and we are all enriched when we can learn about one another's religious heritage. In an open society, many of these students will soon be attending the Bar and Bat Mitzvahs of their friends, and I am convinced that their visit here will make them more comfortable and knowledgeable when they attend a service in synagogue.

About ten years ago, the first-year seminarians studying for the priesthood at the Catholic seminary on West Neck Road came to visit us for several consecutive years for a discussion in our sanctuary about the Jewish religion. One year, they asked if they could attend a Shabbat morning service the week after their sanctuary visit. I told them that we would welcome them, and I gave them the starting time of services. I forgot to tell them that they did not have to be here precisely at 9:30 am when services began. That Shabbat morning, we had twenty people in synagogue as we began services – four of us who were always in shul at 9:30 am and the sixteen Catholic seminarians. It looked like a minyan but, of course, it wasn't. At first, I felt a little awkward, but then I said to myself, "Just six more Jews and what a wonderful minyan and experience all of us will have this Shabbat morning."



## Bar/Bat Mitzvahs

### Rachel Ilana Moss

Daughter of Stacey and Jeff Moss



Rachel is a 7th grade High Honors student at J. Taylor Finley Middle School. She is the starting soccer goalie for both Finley and her travel team in Elwood, as well as a "setter" for Finley MS girls volleyball. Rachel also is an accomplished flutist, loves to draw and enjoys cooking, baking and spending time with her family.

As we watch you become a Bat Mitzvah, we are filled with pride watching you grow into an intelligent, strong, compassionate and funny young woman.

Mazel Tov and we love you. Mom, Dad & Pepper.

### Lindsey Rothberg

Daughter of Margie and Stu Rothenberg



Lindsey Gursky Rothenberg attends Cold Spring Harbor Junior High School. She loves archery, writing poetry, and playing the flute. This year she was able to join the High School Varsity Gymnastics team. Lindsey has attended HJC since Mommy and Me classes and says, "I love HJC. It is my second home."



# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

## Darkness to Light

by Joel Wirchin



It dawned on me one evening last week as I neared the end of my work day. I was daydreaming for a moment in my office in Manhattan contemplating my forthcoming commute home. As I peered out the window at the late afternoon sky, 37 stories up, I realized it. It was after 5:30 PM, and it was light outside. Not too many weeks before, there was total darkness by 4:30. Now, approaching 6PM, there was still a glow over the skyline, the sun still trying to be higher in the sky.

That simple reality of seasonal change, this one time, struck me as a metaphor for a broader set of life occurrences - fortunes get reversed, darkness

turns to light . . . and the sun comes out again.

I have seen these metaphors imitate life a few times over this past year, in randomly different yet meaningful ways—enough to convince me of their truth. I think of last October and Hurricane Sandy. I think of the devastation the storm wrought: homes lost, businesses washed away, cherished possessions now but a memory, the safety and security of “home” cruelly challenged in ways that no family should ever confront it. This was the darkness. Then came the light. UJA Federation would spring into action to create Connect to Recovery, a multifaceted initiative designed to address urgent needs. \$10 million were released from UJA's endowment to make this happen. This was the light. \$6 million more in contributions from individuals, foundations and other federations - more light. During the first month after the storm, Federation beneficiary agencies provided: more than 281,000 meals, 270,000 bottles of water, cash assistance for more than 2,000 people, non-medical supplies for some 25,000 others and medical support for 4,000 more. Waves and waves of light somehow managed to erase the darkness, paving the way towards tomorrow. We can and should be thankful to UJA for these and so many other examples of humanitarian aid and support throughout the metropolitan area and beyond. Light that follows the darkness.

I have seen these metaphors imitate life in my own family this year. Last June 18, as so many of you know, my mom suddenly passed away. Incredible darkness befell our family affecting us all, leaving us stunned, sad and empty. My dad, now age 84, no doubt felt this more severely than anyone else --his spouse and best friend of nearly 61 years suddenly gone. Even though, in recent years, dementia had begun to take her away somewhat as a presence in his life, until that day last June she was still “here,” and he was faithfully by her side, through it all, until the end. He gradually made his way through the coldest and darkest winter of his life, and is now beginning to emerge with a brightening outlook, as mom would have wanted him to do. As an elder and a senior, with our family's encouragement, he has found his way back to his local synagogue where he has begun to attend Sunday morning minyan and discussion groups over, what else, but bagels!? And, the ladies in the synagogue's main office now “have his number” and call upon him for assistance with mailings and other such clerical tasks. My dad is returning to his happier place as a “schmoozer” (no comments about the apple not falling far from the tree, please . . .) . . . And lo and behold, with the emergence of spring and increasing daylight, there is dad finding his way to a new horizon, with a vision for his future and the realization that tomorrow is today.

I have seen these metaphors imitate life here at HJC. Not too many weeks before the opening of Guys and Dolls, many of us (perhaps all of us) in the cast wondered if there really would be a show! For whatever reason, the earlier and middle days of preparing this show were not always seamless and easy – certainly not as much as they seemed to have been with some of our past productions. This was nobody's fault. It simply “was.” The darker days of January and February rehearsals were often, well, dark. It was sometimes



## Sisterhood News

by Sue Lefkowitz

**A Taste of Passover** was quite an event. Great turn out, great food – hope you were there for the tasting and the recipes. Kudos to the preparers.

\* \* \* \* \*

Don't forget the Klezmer event on Sunday April 25 at 4 P.M. at the Huntington Jewish Center.

\* \* \* \* \*

Plan on attending the rededication of the **Ben Tasman Library** on Sunday May 5.

\* \* \* \* \*

We look forward to seeing you on **Monday May 6** at 11 A.M. when we have a book discussion of the “**Midwife of Venice**” led by Maxine Liebowitz and share a lite lunch. Please call Syd Schlesinger at 261-2330 or Michele Behr at 623-6145 for further information and to confirm.

\* \* \* \* \*

### BQLI Regional Conference

Thursday April 18 from 5 P.M – 9 P.M. will be at the Midway Jewish Center in Plainview for an evening of information and to meet Women's League Consultant Corrine Hammerschlag. The registration deadline is April 8. Questions can be answered by Karen Seltzer at 516-626-7724 or Karens30@aol.com relative to this exciting evening.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Woman of Achievement

On May 29 our own **Amy Sobin** will be honored as our Woman of Achievement 2013. The dinner and Installation will take place at the **Shelter Rock Jewish Center** in Roslyn at 5:45 P.M. Do plan to attend this inspiring occasion.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Rummage collection

April 25 and 26 followed by rummage sale on April 28 and 29th. Check your closets and make room for new items – part with the old and begin with the new.



USY kids celebrate Purim.



## Guys and Dolls

### by Cantor Israel Gordan

Preseident's Perspective con't from page 6



Even though I have been here for over one and a half years, I just completed my first musical production with HJC, *Guys and Dolls*, and what a production it was! In case you missed it, it was on March 2nd and 3rd & 9th and 10th, and a good time was had by all. Musical theater is quite an undertaking and we have a production every other year at the synagogue. In addition to being the major fund-raiser for the year, it is also a great community

builder with people spending hours of time in the synagogue creating something together. I had no idea how many people it involved!

I remember on one Sunday afternoon during rehearsal in the social hall, there were people on the stage practicing a scene, while there were other people on the ground going over a dance routine, people in the Kiddush Lounge practicing a song, a group of people building sets, some folks looking at costumes, someone else gathering props, and others involved with ticket and ad sales. This doesn't include the people who took care of the lighting and sound, those who were in charge of concession sales, the orchestra, and other people I'm sure I am forgetting. It's easy to see the people on the stage, but there are many more folks behind the scenes without whom, the show couldn't happen.

I have some history on the stage, including being in *City of Angels* in college. I was also involved with Community Theater at my local JCC in sixth grade through high school. I was in productions of *L'il Abner*, *Annie*, *Music Man*, *Oliver*, *Mame*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, some of which were kids only, and others that involved whole families, but nothing was the size and scope of our production. As the cantor of the synagogue, it was great to see new members as well as old timers, young folks and old, and people who come to shul on a regular basis and those who don't, join forces for a common cause. But it wasn't just mounting the show, it was also the entire community that came out to support it and see the show. My wife and parents got the chance to see it and they were all impressed. It really seemed like a great time for the whole community to shine and bask in the glory of our various talents.

As a synagogue, it's important that we provide religious services on a daily basis, Shabbatot, festivals, and the High Holidays. We have an Early Childhood Center as well as a Religious School to educate our children. We have several B'nai Mitzvah a year and opportunities for adult education. But it's also important to provide other outlets and opportunities for people to be involved. Many people volunteer with the JNN and HIHI, we have a great Hanukkah Happening and Purim Carnival, an active Sisterhood and Men's Club, and other events and activities that I am sure I'm forgetting. I hope that everyone can find his/her place at the synagogue and people are comfortable and excited about the various opportunities at the HJC. I encourage everyone to get involved!

challenging to gain cohesion, shared focus and ideal attendance. But then, as if as a metaphor for life, the waning weeks of rehearsals saw the final product come together. Dance scenes that had been awkward gained charisma and style. Actors and actresses who couldn't perfect steps, entrances and lines, suddenly did. Artful scenery rose from planks of wood; harmony rose from singing voices; orchestral excellence filled the air; costumes found their way from thrift shops, attics and closets to the dressing room .... And the magic found its way to the HJC social hall. On four breathtaking occasions, the HJC Park Avenue Players "reached for the stars" and struck gold – culminating with the closing Sunday's performance, just hours before which we sprung the clocks ahead one hour, meaning that the show closed during -- you guessed it -- daylight. The sun indeed came out. Our fundraiser, which at an earlier time seemed mired in darkness, found the spotlight, the bright lights of optimism. And the crowning moment was the cast party, a celebration of accomplishment and pride where an unmistakable sense of communal love found its way to every corner of the Kiddush lounge. Members who had done this many times before, sharing warm moments with new member friends – some "first-timers" to HJC theatre. Veterans and rookies, cast, crew, pit – even our new non-member friends who enhanced the experience were huddled together in the glow of shared success. I have been blessed to live some epic moments in our synagogue, but very few as moving as when our new friend, Cathy Collins – an outsider who graciously came in to do costumes – sang a touching musical tribute to all of us celebrating how blessed she felt that we had all entered her life. Her words were enhanced by the sentimentality of Ken Gold's gifted piano playing. So many of us welled up at that moment, not only over our successful show that had just closed, but over something much more spine tingling ... the realization, all over again, that we in this HJC community of ours understand life. Darkness from light.

As the seasons continue to change, and as we celebrate an "early" Passover, I wish you and yours a bountiful holiday surrounded by those you love in this dawning springtime. May this new season bring the greening of our lives and may you all continue to know the turnarounds that life is famous for --- darkness turning to light, renewal .... tomorrow, again.

## USY News

### by Sarah Sachs



Hello all!

This last month has been chock full of excitement for USY including the extreme success from the Purim Carnival! The Purim Carnival is our biggest fundraiser and would not have been so successful without the help of so many people.

So shout-out to: Sarah Germunder, Yair Koas, Rachel Moss, Jordan Biener, Jessica Berman, Matthew Weirtheim, Ben Messing, Lindsey Rothenberg, Spencer Pashkin, Shayna Greene, Zach Himmel, Casey Gross, Adina Kirkland, Cristina Cambria, Marisa Singer, Lily Morris, Justin Fliess, Josh Prisamt, Logan Klaire, Larry Wagner, Marisa Pashkin, Eric Germunder, Ofer Rind, and Don Himmel.

And a special thanks to our youth advisor Julie Perloff and director Shari Klaire for making the whole event run so smoothly. I hope all who attended enjoyed the festivities. A portion of the funds we received will be donated to our Construction project, our Mitzvah Project to build a replica of the Huntington Jewish Center out of cans that we donate to INN, Interfaith Nutrition Network in May. We have signs with what is needed and collection bins dispersed around the synagogue. All contributions are greatly appreciated. I am personally looking forward to next month for all of the activities we have planned. Thanks again to all those who helped!

# Early Childhood News

by Susie Meisler



Over the February vacation I had a chance to spend time with my granddaughter Sadie. She is 8 years old and presently in the 3rd grade. In the course of our many conversations, Sadie asked me if I read the book **Wonder** by R.J. Palacio. I said I hadn't heard about the book, but she told me that her whole family was reading it separate from one another and each night they got together for a book chat. Of course, that got my juices flowing to get the book that obviously appealed to both young children and adults. I asked her to give me a brief synopsis of the book to which she was more than happy to do.

The book, as she described, is about a young 10 year-old boy named August (Auggie) Pullman, who, like all children his age, loves playing on Xbox and enjoys watching Star Wars. Although Auggie appears to sound like any other kid, he unfortunately is not. August was born with jarring facial anomalies. All his life, he was homeschooled. When Auggie turned 11, he was ready to take the chance to enter the 5th grade in a public school. The book is written from many viewpoints, such as the perspectives of Auggie, two of his friends from school, his sister, her boyfriend, and her sister's ex-best friend. Kindness is a prevailing theme throughout the book which Sadie described by detailing who was helpful and caring to Auggie and who was not.

Of course I ran to my own Kindle, and downloaded the book so I could continue the private book club with my granddaughter. I was moved to tears many times while I read about Auggie's difficult journey in life from each person's perspective and relationship to him. His quest to persevere at school despite his facial abnormality was incredibly moving and life altering for me personally. I realized how critical it is for all parents and educators to instill in our children what kindness and compassion looks like.

In the month of December, our Parent Association got together and started a family kindness wall that highlighted each family's acts of kindness throughout the year. Our main goal was to teach children that acts of kindness to others is a universal goal, which if embraced, will bring comfort and healing to those in need.

In order to jumpstart this idea, which was originally inspired by Ann Curry after the shootings at the Sandy Hook School, the Parents Association asked families to bring in clothing for women who wanted to get back into the work force but could not afford clothing appropriate to wear. We had a full trunk load of clothing donated by so many families at school, which was delivered to the woman the same week.

The second project was for the Lexiebean Foundation which is an organization to help ease the financial and emotional burdens that childhood cancer places upon a family while providing comfort to children as they cope with extended hospital stays. Families and children were asked to bring in a new toy so that other children who are less fortunate could benefit.

Having children see their parents as role models in behaving kindly is perhaps the most important way we can teach children to have an empathic response to other people that may look or act different than themselves. How can we expect our children to speak kindly to their friends if we are cursing out the car driver in front of us for going too slow, or yelling at the check out clerk in the supermarket for ringing up someone else's food items on your list?

Teaching our children the art and skills of peacemaking and forgiveness is one way to help children be kind to others even if they don't like the person. Tell children to look beyond the way someone looks or acts and find out what goodness lies within that person as my mother often told me. Everyone on earth has a story. I always felt

# HJC Community News



## MAZAL TOV

Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan announce the birth of their twin granddaughters, Liav & Tagel

## CONDOLENCES

Peter Cohn on the death of his father, Harry Cohn  
Micki Sokol on the death of her husband, Marvin Sokol

## NEW MEMBERS

Reuben & Barbara Starishevsky of Huntington

Michael & Meredith Mendelsohn of Lloyd Harbor and their children: Leah, age 3 & Jack, age, 1 ½

Kelvin Dickenson & Jennifer Monahan of Huntington and their children: Luke Dickenson, age 14 ½; Daniel Monahan, age 13 ½; Sam Dickenson, age 12 ½; and Jack Monahan, age 11

Early Childhood News (con't)

that she silently required me to find out what a person's personal story was if that person acted in a mean and unkind way to me or anyone else. In doing so, I would have more heart, forgiveness and compassion for someone who most probably is hurting inside—a lesson I still take seriously to this day.

I have never been more touched by a book than **Wonder**. R.J. Palacio reminds all of us, children and adults alike, that gestures in love are more attractive, effective and valuable than words. Teaching children to believe that good things can happen to everyone, even someone such as Auggie, allows children to believe that there is more kindness than evil in people in this world even though the daily news reports tells us differently! "Ultimately, we have just one moral duty: to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves, more and more peace, and to reflect it toward others. And the more peace there is in us, the more peace there will be in our troubled world." (Etty Hillesum, *An Interrupted Life: The Diaries of Etty Hillesum 1941-1983*)



# Religious School Update

by Maxine Fisher

Religious School Administrator

It is so hard to believe it is already April! By the time you receive this Bulletin, Passover 5773 will be a distant memory.

As I walk through the hallway and sit in on classes, I am amazed at how much our children have learned so far this year. Ask your children what they learned today in Religious School; if they say "nothing" you need to ask them again.

Here is what 's happening in April :

The very last Family Shabbat service for the year is on Saturday, April 6. If you have not already joined us for this popular service for children in Nursery School through age 8, now is the time! Cantor Gordan leads a fun service and that is followed by a Kiddush. Todah Rabah to Judy, Eric, and Jordan Biener for sponsoring our Kiddush! Please note that there is no Nitzanim that Shabbat.

The first day back after Passover break is Sunday, April 7. That morning the Bet, Gimel, and Daled classes have a field trip to The Jewish Discovery Museum at the Commack JCC to learn about the founding of the modern state of Israel. The rest of the school will have an assembly for Yom Hashoah.

On Saturday, April 13 the Mitzvah Team will end Shabbat together with a Havdallah ceremony at 8:15 p.m. The next day (Sunday, April 14) is the Hey Founders Day workshop. Each family will present the biography of a person involved in establishing the state of Israel. After Religious School at noon is a Bingo fundraiser – be sure to let your children stay for fun and prizes!

The Hey Shabbaton is on Saturday, April 20. In the past this has always been held on a Friday night, but we are very excited to have our Hey class participate in Shabbat morning services! The class has been hard at work learning how to chant Haftorah trope with Cantor Gordan and each child will read a few verses beside leading services.

We have a very special event on Sunday, April 21 to celebrate Israel's 65th birthday. Three soldiers from the Israel Defense Force will speak to our school. The children will also put on a program and we will celebrate with a Kosher Café. Be sure to also join us for a klezmer performance sponsored by Sisterhood (see ad on other page).

I am very proud to report that six students from our Vav class will represent HJC at the Hidon HaTorah Bible contest at JTS on Sunday, April 21.

That brings the very busy month of April to a close.

## MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Each year at Selichot, we dedicate plaques in memory of our departed loved ones. This year, Selichot falls on Saturday evening, August 31st. If you are interested in purchasing a plaque, orders are now being taken in the synagogue office.

The plaques are **\$450** and the deadline to order is June 2.



HJC congregants and religious school celebrate Purim with a carnival.

# Donations

צדקה

## GENERAL FUND

Arthur Perler in memory of Shirley Perler at yahrzeit.  
Robert Bookbinder in memory of Pearl Bookbinder at yahrzeit.  
Gwen Goldstein in memory of Sadie Patenostro at yahrzeit.  
Yolanda Barfus in memory of Harriet Seidman at yahrzeit.  
Yolanda Barfus in memory of Marie Palumbo at yahrzeit.  
Arlene & Ed Alcosser in memory of Benjamin Black at yahrzeit.  
June Reiner in memory of Florence Reiner at yahrzeit.  
Marvin Marsh in memory of Herbert Marsh at yahrzeit.  
Judith Goldstein in memory of Pearl Epstein at yahrzeit.  
Judith Goldstein in memory of Mort Kramer, husband of Joyce Kramer & father of Jeff Kramer.

Andrea Dubow in memory of Rose Goldstein at yahrzeit.  
Anita Gelberg in memory of Ray Stecker at yahrzeit.  
Ken Rosenblatt in memory of Babette Rosenblatt at yahrzeit.  
Elizabeth & Stephen Holbreich in memory of Mortimer Holbreich at yahrzeit.  
Vered & Jack Cole in memory of Meir Levanon at yahrzeit.  
Diane & Steven Block in memory of Myron Schwartz at yahrzeit.  
Amy Marcus in memory of Norma Gordon at yahrzeit.  
Mitchell Reiver in memory of Paula Reiver at yahrzeit.  
Alvin Wichard in memory of Gary Wichard at yahrzeit.  
Alvin Wichard in memory of Sonia Wichard at yahrzeit.  
Adrienne & Bernie Rosof in memory of William Baron at yahrzeit.  
Meyer Rosen in memory of Pearl Rosen at yahrzeit.  
Marjorie Maltin in memory of Sylvia Solomon at yahrzeit.  
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the birth of Liav & Tagel, twin granddaughters of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Harry Cohn, father of Peter Cohn.  
Ruth Wies in memory of Stanley Cohen at yahrzeit.  
Frank Wolff in memory of Henry Wolff at yahrzeit.  
The Wax family in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ben, son of Felicia & Keith Messing.  
Marvin Marsh in memory of Burt Marsh at yahrzeit.  
Elaine Marsh in memory of Burt Marsh at yahrzeit.  
Ethel Bock in memory of Blanche Schwartz at yahrzeit.  
Dafna Soltes Stein & Daniel Stein in memory of Martin Stein at yahrzeit.  
Joan & Paul Cohen in honor of the birth of Liav & Tagel, twin granddaughters of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan.  
Roberta Marsh in memory of Daniel Marsh at yahrzeit.  
Sydel Barfus in memory of Harriet Seidman at yahrzeit.

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Joyce Kramer - with many, many thanks for your support.  
Renda & Ken Rosenblatt in honor of the birth of Liav & Tagel, twin granddaughters of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan.  
Janet & Mark Zimmerman in honor of the birth of Liav & Tagel, twin granddaughters of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan.  
Charlotte Rosen in honor of the birth of Liav & Tagel, twin granddaughters of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan.  
Eileen & Harvey Berger in memory of Irving Rothenberg at yahrzeit.  
Eileen & Harvey Berger in memory of Dolores Berger at yahrzeit.  
Eileen & Harvey Berger in memory of Irving Berger at yahrzeit.  
Rosalyn Haber in memory of Mort Kramer, husband of Joyce Kramer & father of Jeff Kramer.  
Renee & William Saperstein in honor of the birth of Liav & Tagel, twin granddaughters of

Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan.

## CENTENNIAL GARDEN FUND

Pam, Bruce & Justin Fleiss in honor of the birth of Liav & Tagel, twin granddaughters of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan.

## DAILY MINYAN FUND

Barbara & Joel KupperSmith in memory of Seymour KupperSmith at yahrzeit.  
Barbara & Joel KupperSmith in memory of Rosalyn KupperSmith at yahrzeit.  
Selma Greenstein in memory of Herman Greenstein at yahrzeit.  
Bea Pedowicz in memory of Martin Rencoff at yahrzeit.  
Selma Greenstein in memory of Max Bass at yahrzeit.

## DAVID S. ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Eric Sherman, grandson of Debbie Grossman.  
Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Eric Sherman, grandson of Dottie & Shely Sherman.  
Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the birth of Liav & Tagel, twin granddaughters of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan.  
Paula & Gary Schoer in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Grossman, grandson of Judith & Lester Fox.  
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in honor of the engagement of Jason, son of Miriam & Joel Wirchin, to Ellen Klein.  
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Rosalie Silberman, aunt of Lee Silberman.  
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Mort Kramer, husband of Joyce Kramer & father of Jeff Kramer.  
Madeline Sinowitz in memory of Leon Levy at yahrzeit.  
Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Arnie Becker.  
Judith & Lester Fox wishing a speedy recovery to Shirley Vilinsky.

## HUMASH FUND

Mort Kissen in memory of Jennifer D. Kissen.  
Yolanda Barfus in memory of Jerome Barfus at yahrzeit.

## LEAH GREENE GARDEN FUND

Judy Orloff in honor of Alan Orloff & his contribution to the 2.8 million music students of New York as NYSSMA Government Relations Coordinator.  
Judy Orloff in memory of Yetta Teich at yahrzeit.  
Judy Orloff wishing a speedy recovery to Sylvia Brass.

## LIBRARY FUND

Syd & Mike Schlesinger in memory of Hyman Sudran at yahrzeit.  
Betty & Bob Mesard in honor of Tom Rosen being named the HJC Men's Club Man of the Year.  
Betty & Bob Mesard in honor of the birth of Liav & Tagel, twin granddaughters of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan.  
Betty & Bob Mesard in memory of Anita Carter, wife of Norman Carter.

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Renee & Bill Saperstein in memory of Herbert Haber, husband of Rosalyn Haber.  
Barbara & Joel KupperSmith in memory of Lawrence Meshover at yahrzeit.  
Ellen Kahn in memory of Richard Kahn at yahrzeit.  
Ellen Kahn in memory of Abraham Levy at yahrzeit.



# Donations

צדקה

Hannah Kampel in honor of the birth of Liav & Tagel, twin granddaughters of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan.

Hannah Kampel wishing a speedy recovery to Sylvia Brass.

Janet & Martin Kushnick in memory of Marion Brunswick.

Janet & Richard Ganes in memory of Jack Lust at yahrzeit.

Susan & David Lefkowitz in memory of Milfred Goldstein at yahrzeit.

Susan & David Lefkowitz in memory of Harry Cohn, father of Peter Cohn.

Liz & Steve Holbreich with thanks to the HJC Sisterhood for providing Purim gift bags to all members.

Hannah Kampel wishing a speedy recovery to Shirley Vilinsky.

Hannah Kampel wishing a speedy recovery to Ruth Wies.

## GUYS AND DOLLS

### *Guys and Dolls*

We would like to thank everyone who had any involvement in Guys and Dolls. Whether you were cast or crew, orchestra or play book, or came to enjoy our production.

We did it for HJC!

Maxine, Andrea and Miriam





# **HJC Blood Drive**

**In Memory of Ethel Tasman Fleiss**



**Tuesday, April 9, 2013**  
**3:00 pm – 9:00 pm**  
**HJC Kiddush Lounge**

**Your donation can save 3 lives!**

- \*Anyone who donated prior to January 28  
will be eligible to donate on April 9**
- \*Must have valid I.D. (picture or signature)**
- \*Minimum weight 110 lbs.**
- \*Must be between 16-76 years of age  
(16 with parental consent, 76 with doctor's note)**

**Please contact Jennifer Ingber at [jen81rn@aol.com](mailto:jen81rn@aol.com)  
for an appointment but walk-ins are also welcome!**

**Please eat a good meal and drink plenty  
of water before donating**

**For medical questions concerning blood donations call 1-800-688-0900**

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## David Glukh Klezmer Ensemble



**Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 pm**  
**All are invited!**

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**General Admission: \$10/adult, \$5/children 12 and under, \$20/family**

**Please RSVP no later than April 17th**  
**Syd Schlesinger: [syd519@gmail.com](mailto:syd519@gmail.com) or 631-261-2330**  
**Marsha Buchholtz: [marsha1941@gmail.com](mailto:marsha1941@gmail.com) or 631-421-1559**

**Tickets can be picked up prior to the event in the HJC synagogue office or at the door on the day of the performance**



## This Month in American Jewish History

### Lewis Cass, *Senator from Michigan* *To President Franklin Pierce, April 19, 1854*

MR. PRESIDENT: It affords me much pleasure to present a petition from a number of American Citizens of the Hebrew faith who desire to unite with their Christian fellow-citizens in asking the interposition of the Government to secure to all our countrymen abroad the right of religious worship. This union in order to promote the accomplishment of this great object, is an apt illustration of the spirit of equality and toleration which marks our institutions. Persecuted for centuries with bitter hostility, subjected to a tyranny, civil and religious, more oppressive than that endured by any other people, driven from the promised land granted to their forefathers, the separate existence to this date of the Children of Israel is a perpetual miracle establishing the truth of their history, as well as of their religion, foretold as it was in the earliest period and seen as it still is in the latest. In their migrations they have at length reached a continent unknown to their patriarchs by whose rivers they may sit down without weeping in the language of their psalmist, even when remembering Zion, and where the law secures equal rights to all, be they Jew or Gentile. Exposed as the members of this persuasion are in portions of Europe and America, both Protestant and Catholic, to the most illiberal prejudices and to religious disabilities, the position of our citizens abroad who belong to it has peculiar claims to the consideration and interposition of the Government. Beside their legal right to equal protection there is no portion of our population whose peaceable law-abiding conduct better proves than theirs does, that they are well entitled to all the privileges secured to every American by our system of government. I repeat, Sir, that I am gratified that they are taking part in this great movement and I trust that ere long they, as well as all our citizens sent by the accidents of life to foreign countries, may receive the benefits of it. I present this petition and another of similar import, and I move that they may be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Note: They were so moved.

LEWIS CASS

*Editor's note: With this cover letter, Senator Cass conveyed a petition, signed by many prominent American Jews, to President Franklin Pierce. At issue, for the first time, was the principle of freedom from religious persecution for U.S. citizens overseas. In the early years of our country, severe and murderous persecution of Jews was common in the Middle East and in parts of Europe. Though the US stood against it in principle, American citizens were generally not involved. But in the early 1850s, Jewish Americans in Switzerland appealed to the US State Department to protect them from violent persecution, property seizure, forced relocation, and banishment from some Swiss cantons. In 1851, a commercial treaty negotiated between the US and the Swiss Confederation, largely to secure the right of American Protestants in the Catholic countries of Europe, contained a provision that limited its benefits only to American citizens who were Christian. President Millard Fillmore objected to that offensive language, as did Secretary of State Daniel Webster and Senators Henry Clay and Lewis Cass. Cass's petition railed against the discriminatory wording, and the treaty was amended before ratification by the Senate. However, the amended treaty still technically allowed for discrimination against Jews. In the end, by the late 1850s, President Pierce, and the growing movement behind the original petition, kept up pressure on the Swiss, particularly when Jewish Americans in Switzerland publically protested their treatment. Under the threat of worsened commercial relations with the US, the Swiss cantons adopted more tolerant laws. This incident established the right of all Americans to be free from religious or other discriminatory persecution everywhere in the world, and defined the US government's authority to protect Americans overseas from persecution.*





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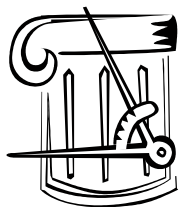
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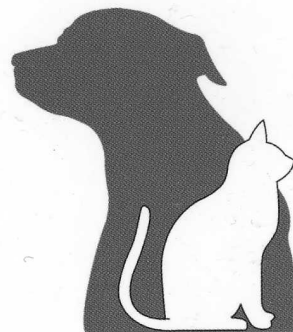
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## HJC Bulletin April 2013

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The Huntington Jewish Center is a member of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Established in 1907, the HJC provides a wide range of programs, reaching out to all of our members and the community. Our Daily Minyan, Sisterhood, Chai Club, Family Life, Men's Club and the award winning Religious School and Nursery School Programs are a few of our outstanding activities.

**We welcome your participation.**



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