

HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER

NEWS COMMUNITY CONNECTION

INNOVATE & INTEGRATE - CREATING COMMUNITY & CONNECTION



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The Sabbatical

In the Book of Vayikra we read: "When you enter the land that I assign you, the land shall observe a sabbath of the Lord. Six years you may sow your field and six years you may prune your vineyard and gather in the yield. But in the seventh year the land shall have a sabbath of complete rest, a sabbath of the Lord; you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard." (Leviticus 25:2-4)

The concept of a Sabbatical is very ancient in Judaism. The Tanach describes a pattern in which every seven years the land lay fallow and all debts were forgiven. At the end of fifty years, i. e. seven cycles of seven years, a Jubilee year was declared. In the Jubilee year all land was returned to its original owner and all Jewish slaves were set free.

At the heart of the Biblical sabbatical is the idea that the earth and its inhabitants belong to God. Human beings cannot possess the land or other human beings in perpetuity. For many years the sabbatical year remained a theoretical problem within Judaism, but with the return of the Jews to the land of Israel during the past 100 years there has been much discussion of how to observe the provisions of the sabbatical year in the modern state of Israel

The next sabbatical year in Israel will not be until 5775 (2014/5) but as you probably know, I will begin a three month sabbatical on January 14. It has been seven years since I last took a sabbatical. The purpose of a modern day sabbatical is not altogether different than that of the Biblical sabbatical. While I do not think of my service to the shul as servitude, and while my sabbatical has nothing to do with forgiveness of back dues, the sabbatical does grow out of a sense that there should be a time in our lives when we can pursue our own ends. Much in our lives is determined by the worthy needs of those for whom we work or the needs of our family. A sabbatical is a time for us to reflect on our own needs. The hope behind a Sabbatical is that just as the land was rejuvenated by letting it lie fallow for a year, that time freed from the externally defined constraints of life will provide some new perspectives on life and work. I am looking forward to

Hannukah Happening at HJC



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 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.



SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES-- January 5, 2013 at 7:30 pm

This year we are watching three films about the spiritual journeys of individuals. Our final movie is "My Father, My Lord", directed by an individual who grew up in the Hasidic community and depicting a sensitive boy trying to come to terms with the fundamentalism of his ultra-Orthodox family, as well as a family trying to come to terms with a tragedy their faith cannot explain. Discussion with Rabbi Kurshan after the film. Refreshments will be served and there will be a parallel children's movie. BYOKB (Adults, bring your own kosher bottle, and children, bring your own "kozy" blanket.) Please also note the new venue. The movie will be shown on our new full-sized screen in the Social Hall.

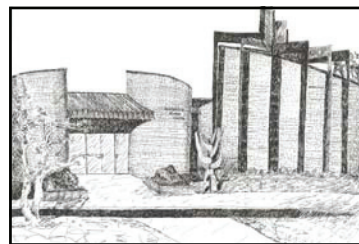
Rabbi's column - con't from page 1

spending some of my sabbatical in Israel where my oldest daughter, Ilana, is expecting twins. I know that the months of my sabbatical both in Israel and here will replenish my soul.

The Sabbatical Committee under the leadership of Arthur Perler has tried to anticipate as many details of the sabbatical as possible. While there are myriad details to address, this sabbatical is not as complicated as my last sabbatical both because it is shorter--volunteer leadership and I mutually agreed to defer part of this sabbatical to a later date--and because we were able to schedule it at a time that was clear of Bar/Bat Mitzvahs except for one for which I will be able to return. During my absence from the synagogue and from Huntington, Rabbi Mark Elber, a congregant, will be handling any life cycle responsibilities such as funerals. (If, God forbid, there should be the death of anyone in the congregation, I will be available to officiate except when I will be in Israel.) Cantor Gordan will be coordinating services, and will be assisted by volunteers who will participate in services and give Divrei Torah. The coming months will be an opportunity on Shabbat morning to hear many different voices and perspectives. What is most important is that you stay in touch with the Main Office about any illness or life cycle event so that the appropriate person can reach out to you. Arthur Perler is also available to address any questions that might arise and will bring to Joel Wirchin's attention anything requiring the attention of the synagogue president. Joel was also president of the synagogue during my last sabbatical, so that I know the synagogue will be in good hands during my absence.

As many of you have said to me, it would be nice if the tradition of a Sabbatical was part of all or our respective professions. I thank you for all the good wishes that I am taking with me on this sabbatical. I am grateful for the opportunity afforded by this Sabbatical. I look forward to my return in April and to sharing the experiences of my Sabbatical with you.

Neil Kurshan, Rabbi



Neil Kurshan, Rabbi
423-5355

Israel Gordan, Cantor
427-1089, ext. 22

Sue Meisler
Nursery School Director
425-0525

Joel Wirchin
President
427-1089

Maxine Fisher
Religious School Director
427-1157

Jane Hallberg
Administrator
427-1089 ext. 23

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HJC Committee Chairpersons

Bulletin.....Kim Willen
Calendar.....Gwen Goldstein
Cemetery.....Louis Walsdorf
Chai Club.....Sy Schpoont
Congregational Dinners.....Michelle Stack & Joanne Cohen
Dues/Fees/Collections.....Mitch Pashkin & Arthur Perler
Family Life.....Judy Biener and Jessica Frischman
Fundraising.....
Greeters.....Maxine Fisher
High Holiday Honors.....Bruce Fleiss
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
Nursery School Board.....Sara Balabar, Michelle Behr, Jessica Frischmann
Religious School Board.....Sheri Bram
Ritual.....Andrea Smoller
Selichot Lecture.....Jennifer Ingber
Sisterhood.....Sue Lefkowitz
Social Action.....Janet Kushnick & Marilyn Klein
Special Arrangements.....Vered Cole & David Walsdorf
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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE: _____ Row: _____ SEAT(S): _____

**THE HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER
&
THE HJC PARK AVENUE PLAYERS
PRESENT:**



510 PARK AVENUE,
HUNTINGTON, NY 11743
TELEPHONE: 631-427-1089
WWW.HJCN.Y.ORG

Performance Dates:

Saturday, March 2nd, 2013 @ 8:00 PM
Sunday, March 3rd, 2013 @ 3:00 PM
&
Saturday, March 9th, 2013 @ 8:00 PM
Sunday, March 10th, 2013 @ 3:00 PM

TICKET PRICES:

PATRON SEATS: \$50*

PREMIUM SEATS: \$25

GENERAL SEATING: \$18/ \$10 (CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER)

**Patron seating includes an invitation to the cast party following the final performance and name listed in Playbill (for tickets ordered by Feb. 10, 2013). Below, please PRINT name how it is to appear in the Playbill.*

YES! I WOULD LIKE TICKETS TO "GUYS & DOLLS" (USE SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH PERFORMANCE.)

INDICATE DATE:

() SAT., MARCH 2ND
() SUN., MARCH 3RD
() SAT., MARCH 9TH
() SUN., MARCH 10TH

INDICATE TICKET CATEGORY:

PATRON: \$50 X _____ = _____ *
PREMIUM: \$25 X _____ = _____
GENERAL: \$18 X _____ = _____
CHILDREN: \$10 X _____ = _____

TOTAL COST=_____

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT (CIRCLE ONE): CHECK OR CREDIT CARD

Please make checks payable to: Huntington Jewish Center.

Credit Card: () Visa () Mastercard

Name as it appears on card: _____

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Billing ZIP code: _____ Signature: _____

Tickets are Not refundable. All forms must be accompanied by payment.

To receive tickets by mail, please submit order (BEFORE Feb. 18th) include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

All other tickets will be held for PICK UP at HJC Main Office.

Thank you for your support!



January 2013

5773 Tevet/Shevat



For more calendar information visit our web site at hjcny.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 No ECC No Religious School Office Closed NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 HIHI	3 Ritual Comm. 8pm	4 Minyan Breakfast <i>Services 6pm</i>	5 Shabbat Morning Family Service 10:30am Saturday Night at the Movies 7:30pm <i>Shemot</i>
6 Wimple Workshop 9am Mitzvah Team Workshop 9am Ridotto 2-6pm Kad/USY JNN	7 YOGA Sisterhood Board - 8pm	8 Chaverim 6:15	9 HIHI	10 Board of Trustees-8pm	11 <i>Services 6pm</i>	12 <i>Services 9:30am</i> <i>Va'era</i> ROSH CHODESH
13 Men's Club 9:30 Gan/Aleph Parent/Teacher Conf. - 9am RS Board 11am JNN	14 YOGA	15	16 ECC IN SESSION	17	18 <i>Services 6pm</i>	19 <i>Services 9:30am</i> <i>Bo</i>
20 No Religious School JNN	21 No YOGA No ECC No Religious School Office closed Martin Luther King Day	22 Religious School Parent Teacher Conferences 5:45pm	23	24	25 <i>Services 6pm</i>	26 TGIS-9:30am <i>Services 9:30am</i> Tu B'Shevat <i>Beshallah</i>
27 Religious School Tu B'Shevat Seders Kad/USY JNN	28 No YOGA	29 Chaverim 6:15	30	31		



February 2013

5773 Shevat/Adar



For more calendar information visit our web site at hjcny.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Mingyan Breakfast <i>Services 6pm</i>	2 Shabbat Morning Family Service - 10:30am <i>Services 9:30am</i> <i>Yitro</i>
3 World Wide Wrap 8:30am Vav Workshop Super Bowl Party  Kad/USY JNN	4 Sisterhood Board 8pm	5 Chaverim 6:15	6	7 Sisterhood Israeli Dance Program 8pm 	8 <i>Services 6pm</i>	9 <i>Services 9:30am</i> Mitzvah Team Shabbaton 6pm <i>Mishpatim</i>
10 Vav Workshop #6- 9am RS Board 11am Bowling -2pm Kad/USY JNN ROSH CHODESH	11 No YOGA ROSH CHODESH	12 Board of Trustees 8pm	13	14	15 <i>Services 6pm</i>	16 <i>Services 9:30am</i> <i>Terumah</i>
17 NO Religious School JNN	18 No YOGA <div>EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER CLOSED ~ WINTER BREAK</div> Main Office closed	19 Religious School IN Session	20	21 Fast of Esther	22 <i>Services 6pm</i>	23 <i>Services 9:30am</i> <i>Services 6:30pm</i> Megillah Reading  <i>Tetzaveh</i>
24 RS IN Session PURIM CARNIVAL 11-1  PURIM	25 No YOGA Shushan Purim	26	27	28		

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Perspective

by Joel Wirchin



This first bulletin article of secular year 2013 is being written six months into my second go-around as HJC President. So, as I write, allow me to offer some perspectives as we turn the secular calendar page towards a new annual beginning.

Perspective: The more things change, the more they stay the same. There will always be issues in synagogue life that bring about differences among people. Officers, trustees and, yes, presidents will sometimes be imperfect. You won't catch me denying that fact. Each of us are volunteers, most of us with "day jobs" striving to do our best for a place we love in whatever extra time we can carve out for

doing so. Synagogues are places of spirituality. Spirituality brings about passion. Passion brings about opinions. And, opinions vary. So, while we may get caught up in the issues of the day, about who said what to whom, and when, where or why and with what intent, my hope is that we never get so carried away by those viewpoints that we forget the name on the sign in front of the building, and why we opt to be here in the first place. While all arms of our synagogue, including our schools, may at times be the object of difference, perspective comes from thinking about some of those concerns, pausing for a moment – and then thinking about places like Israel when missiles daily fly over school buildings; or, Aurora, Colorado when innocent moviegoers meet up with life-changing tragedy. Or, yes, Newtown, Connecticut where parents kiss their children goodbye before sending them off to school for a day of learning, only to have them return home emotionally scarred at best, or not having returned home at all, at worst. **Perspective.**

Perspective: It could always be worse. We get upset when our homes are cluttered, need a cleaning or when a nuisance repair is warranted. We get upset when a renovation project is delayed, when the new countertop comes in the wrong color, when the new refrigerator is scratched, when the photo album from a milestone event is assembled with pages out of order. Then there are those, such as some co-workers of mine, who no longer have homes at all. Whose only kitchen is the one they borrow at a temporary shelter. Whose home rebuilding threatens their financial solvency. Whose family photos are now worse than out of order – they are forever adrift in Jamaica Bay – all because an uninvited stranger named Sandy came to town. **Perspective.**

Perspective: If you have your health, you have everything. By comparative standards, it is easy to get up out of bed each morning, jumping into today with renewed energy and vigor. True, we do not relish the sound of the alarm clock at 5am. I know I don't. Still, for so many, the mere chance to experience that "joy" would truly be a joy. For some it is just a dream. For some it is impossibility. For some, it is a dream delayed while healing takes place. Regardless, we should begin this new year with those thoughts in mind each day we sit in rush hour traffic, or stand in the subway, or sit on a crowded commuter train next to someone who thinks the entire world cares about their cell phone conversation. These annoying realities seem trivial when we reflect on those we know with disabilities or diagnoses that bring about a sobering new reality. **Perspective.**

Perspective: I'm so busy, I don't have time for me. How many of us say this? How many hobbies, goals or objectives go unmet because we think we don't have the time? Truth is, if we allow ourselves to think this way, it can become a self-fulfilling prophecy that pulls us down. So, in 2013 resolve to improve your lot just a bit and do for you: take a guitar lesson, start a new exercise regime, or (here's a thought): sign up for a background role in Guys & Dolls. Call one of our producers and they'll help you. There's a song in the show called Take Back Your Mink. I'm not suggesting you do that! I'm merely suggesting you "take back your life." If you don't do it, nobody will, and it won't get done. **Perspective.**

Perspective: Be thankful for what you have. Every once in a while, I used to argue with



Sisterhood News

by Sue Lefkowitz



It's That Time Again!

Purim will be here early this year February 23. Please place your Hamantaschen orders as soon as possible. If you wish to participate with the baking, please call Sue Lefkowitz at 366-6222 or email leftymomma@aol.com.

This can be a most rewarding experience.



Israeli Dancing

Mark your calendars for Thursday February 7th at 8 P.M. for fun and comradarie. We are fortunate to have Mary Hall to teach us Israeli Dancing. She is a great teacher with much experience in her background. Bring a friend – all are welcome.

Membership

The Sisterhood goal is to have every congregant of the HJC as a paid up Sisterhood member. In order to serve our synagogue and community, we need your dues at this time - \$40.00 - or seniors (62 and over) \$25.00.

Scrip

Gift certificates are available for Waldbaum's and Pathmark – only \$25.00 each and very handy to have in your wallet or to give as a gift.

HJC Community News

MAZAL TOV

Renda and Ken Rosenblatt announce the birth of their granddaughter,
Avery Elise Lachs

CONDOLENCES

Jed Hantverk on the death of his mother, Phoebe Hantverk
Alon Kapen on the death of his father, Sheldon Kapen

HIHI SUPPLY DRIVE

This December, Huntington Jewish Center will be joining with other local houses of worship to provide food, shelter and basic clothing to approximately 20-30 homeless men in our community through the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative, organized through the Family Service League. We will be hosting these guests for six nights this winter. Many supplies and volunteers are needed to ensure the success of this program. Please bring in any of the items below to assist those in need. Look for the HIHI bins.

CLOTHING NEEDS

- Knit hats
- New Warm Socks
- New Underwear M/L
- Winter Gloves

SPECIAL REQUEST

We need a new clothes dryer. Anyone interested in donating money towards this purchase, please contact Ellen Steinberg.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Spanish DVDs
- Monetary donations welcome
- CD player

KITCHEN SUPPLIES

All food must be marked Kosher, Dairy

- Individual hot chocolate packets
- Lemonade/Fruit punch drink mixes (Jumbo)
- Pretzels (large jar)
- Hot sauce
- Large bags of Tortilla chips
- Salsa
- Pancake Syrup
- Pancake mix
- Jumbo Paper lunch bags
- Juice boxes
- Granola Bars
- Small bottled waters
- Snack size bags of chips
- Styrofoam soup bowls
- Large bags of rice
- Paper towels

We still need volunteers for the following dates:

*December 25/26

*January 2/3

*January 9/10

For more information, please contact

Ellen Steinberg at ellen.steinberg728@gmail.com

Karen Flanzenbaum at kflanzenbaumlaw@gmail.com



Purim is Coming!!

It's almost that time of year to send Purim treats to family and friends. Purim is February 23-24 this year, so Sisterhood is busy getting ready to help you celebrate this happy festival. Again this year we will prepare beautiful bags filled with delicacies of Mishlo'ach Manot for your loved ones. Be on the lookout for emails about how to order online through happypurim.com.

Any questions call

Allison Reiver (631-673-0927) or **Karann Pashkin** (631-423-6472).



"Going to Shul" by Cantor Israel Gordan



As a child growing up, I attended services regularly with my family. Not every week, but more often than not we would go to shul, and we always went on holidays. There weren't any other kids my age, and few young people at all at the synagogue that I attended, but I liked going to services. It's a good thing because now that I am the Cantor, I have to go to services, and it's almost funny when people ask if I have any special plans for Passover or the High Holidays (you know where I'll be!).

But I was recently speaking with a friend of mine who is neither a clergy-person, nor the daughter of a clergy-person, who attended services regularly as a child. She doesn't go to shul very often at this point in her life, but she told me that she absolutely wants to attend regularly with her own family when she has one. I was surprised by this statement and when I asked her why, her response was immediate:

"You can't turn out bad if you regularly go to services. If you think about it, kids who go to shul every week with their families are almost always great kids." I don't know if her diagnosis of shul and its effect is entirely correct, but it isn't too far off either. And we have some great folks in our congregation who are proof.

You've heard all the sayings: "the family that prays together stays together," or "the family that eats together stays together," or "it takes a village to raise a child," and many others. All of these ideas come together with regular synagogue attendance. Families who attend synagogue are making a statement about being together as a family, about the centrality of faith, and about the importance of community. And it also highlights Shabbat as a separate day of the week; a date with its own place in space and time. Instead of going to school or work, or to the mall or to the movies, on Shabbat we go to services at shul.

I happen to enjoy services at the HJC, and it's not just because of the Cantor. I like that our services aren't too long. I like the engaging Torah discussion led by the Rabbi. I like that different members of our congregation read from the Torah. I like when special occasions are marked by an aliyah and a mishebayrach. I like that there is free babysitting. And I like seeing and talking with people at Kiddush, getting updates on members' lives and milestones.

There's an old joke about a boy asking his father why he and his father's friend go to shul. The father says that his friend goes to shul to talk to God, but that he goes to shul to talk to his friend. All the time, but especially these cold winter months, come to shul! Bring your kids or parents, spouses or friends. Come talk to God. And come, talk to each other. Who knows where our conversations may lead us?



Preseident's Perspective con't from page 6

my mom. I'm guessing that makes me pretty normal. It was never over anything major. Mostly, it was over such eventualities as: "How come you haven't called since Tuesday?" (a call she'd place on a Wednesday!). Or, "You mean, we're not going to celebrate my birthday ON my birthday this year?" Or, "Alright, so I won't see my grandchildren grow up (this comment typically made 3 days after she'd seen them last!). These exchanges sometimes made me bristle. They do not any more. December marked the first Hanukkah when she was gone. December marked the first secular New Year's Eve without her patented phone call when she'd ask, "Are you staying up to see the ball drop?" December marked what would have been her and my dad's 61st wedding anniversary. December made me long for what I no longer have. Perspective.

As we enter a new secular calendar year, I suggest we do a freeze-frame and take a second to consider our respective slices of life's pie. Yes, we may find reasons to become upset, let down, turned off, done in or just plain disenchanted. It may seem easier to run away than work towards solutions. We may feel post-holiday blues, winter chills or maybe the lingering after-effects of some of what the world has brought our way. If you do, try reaching for some perspective; try remembering what's really important bigger picture and longer term. Try to remember what it means to volunteer. Consider that it is easy to say no. It is harder to say yes. Remember what matters in your life, and whom. Look around, and then try to remember to count your blessings.

Through it all, 510 Park Avenue is one of them.

Children of HJC participate in PJ Library Event



Early Childhood News

by Susie Meisler



*"We're all good at something
You'll have your chance to shine
Everybody's a star, a brilliant creation
The trouble is finding the right constellation."*

Katie Couric

I recently sat in the Book Revue store reading the children's book by Katie Couric, the former NBC anchor woman. The book is entitled *The Blue Ribbon Day* and I loved the message her book shared with children and parents. I couldn't wait to write some of my feelings in regard to what Katie

Couric shares with her readers.

The book is about two girl friends who try out for the soccer team. One girl makes the team because she is very coordinated and the other girl does not. The girl who doesn't make the team is devastated and goes to her mother who consoles her. The mom states, "Don't worry, I know you are sad, but you couldn't feel good if you never feel bad." Those words touched a nerve for me as I have often heard from psychologists and my very own parents that if you do not experience pain in your life, you cannot grow as a person, often stated as this expression, "no pain, no gain."

The other message so wonderfully stated in the book is that each child has strengths that define who that child is. It is up to the child to discover those strengths in all of his/her life's experiences and it is for parents to encourage children to pick themselves up from adversity and try something else so they can explore their own uniqueness.

Many, many years ago when I was in high school, I ran for the president's position in the sorority of which I was a member. At the very last minute my best friend decided to run for the same position. I was devastated when she won the election since I had never lost anything I had tried out for. This made it very difficult for me to forgive my friend for her decision to oppose me in the election. My wise parents told me that there will be many opportunities for me to shine and that I should be happy for my friend who was elected. I still hold that time in my life dear to my heart because it encouraged me to figure out other avenues in high school I could excel in and so I did. It also showed me that in life, things don't always go your way, and it is those bumps in life that give you empathy and compassion for others in similar situations. Many years later, we are still best friends.

When my older daughter was in high school, she came home one afternoon to tell me that every one of her friends made cheerleading except her. I related my own high school story to her with great understanding of the depth of disappointment she was experiencing. I told her to remember that many years after I experienced the disappointment of losing an election, I tried out for the position of President of the P.T.A. in my children's elementary school and was appointed to the office.

It is a natural reaction for parents to want their children to have everything go their way. Why wouldn't we want to see our children happy all the time? We must remember the three simple rules of life:

1. Life is not going to go your way all the time.
2. Get over it.
3. Learn to handle life's disappointments with some grace.

You may see some adults who didn't learn these lessons in their early years when they should have. These adults hang out in airports and yell at the airline agents to stop the lightning and thunder that is holding up their plane from taking off. You may see them in restaurants when they are told that their table will be ready in five

minutes and walk out because this is too long a time for them to wait. And you most certainly have seen the adults who drive on the road and forget that the red light is for them, too!

I once heard an early childhood lecturer ask her audience if we, as parents, want our children to feel they are special. Almost the entire audience of early childhood educators raised their hands. It is much better, she stated, to have your children feel unique. "Special" connotes something above, something better. Herein lies the problem. Your child is special to you, but this is different from being special to everyone. All children are unique and incredibly valuable. They are priceless, just like the commercial says about some moments in life. I always tell parents in my parenting support groups to honor the soul of your child so that one day they can honor the souls of others.

Each of us has strengths and qualities that set us apart from others. Wouldn't it be a wonderful world if all of us knew that we are all worthy of being treated with dignity, respect and kindness then none of us can be more special than another.

Humility is definitely a virtue in these times and Katie Couric was brilliant in writing a book that addresses the issue of life's bumps and finding your own constellation so that hopefully children can learn these lessons early in life.



Jewish Nutritional Network

The Jewish Nutritional network continues to provide a nutritious meal which consists of a tuna sandwich or hot meal of rice and beans or both plus fruit and dessert.

Our dedicated JNN volunteers meet every Sunday in the Huntington Jewish center dairy kitchen. We are preparing meals for approximately 50 families, (approximately 200 people mostly children) who are housed in local motels. We are also preparing 40 meals for an after school program for children in need.

The JNN is totally dependent upon donations.

Any questions? Contact

Rob Fisher rfish51@aol.com

Hannah Kampel hanabil844@optonline.net

Come down to see what an amazing group of people can accomplish



HJC Members Mobilize to Assist FECS with Hurricane Sandy Relief Efforts



In the wake of Hurricane Sandy and the devastating snow storm a week later, members of HJC rallied to support the efforts of FECS - an outreach and support organization of the Jewish community. FECS has a major center in Copiague on the South Shore, and they are doing everything they can to help the victims of the flood. Ellen Steinberg worked with FECS hastily to organize our community to help. For a week, our religious and nursery schools collected cleaning supply donations, such as bleach, mops, trash bags, sponges, rubber gloves and paper towels. Ellen sent messages asking for volunteers to work with FECS to distribute the supplies and help our neighbors on the South Shore. On Sunday, morning, November 18th, a few dozen members and friends showed up in the HJC parking lot, eager to help, and with even more donated supplies. We set up car pools, packed the SUVs, vans and trunks with the supplies, and headed to the FECS Health and Human Services Center in Copiague.

The staff at FECS was well-organized, and they had the support of local politicians and community groups. They briefed us on what we needed to do and how to stay safe. They organized us into teams of about 6 people and attached a knowledgeable staffer, local fireman or other experienced community leader to each team. The teams broke into pairs or buddies. Our mission was two-fold. First and foremost, we were to try to do "intake assessments" on each home we visited so that FECS could figure out who needed more help, what they needed, and who may be at risk. They gave us a comprehensive one-page questionnaire for each home. We also were instructed to offer the free cleaning supplies - as much as people needed.

Each team drove to a pre-assigned street in Copiague, Lindenhurst or Amityville, near the bay. As we drove south from Merrick Rd., almost immediately we noticed that more and more homes had construction debris and personal belongings piled in their yards. As we reached our destination near the bay, in a neighborhood with alternating streets and canals, every home had a huge mess out front, and the streets were a disaster. Overflowing dumpsters were everywhere. The entire area smelled strongly of fuel oil and wet cardboard. There was no apparent damage to the outside of these homes, nor was there sand or ocean debris anywhere. We found out from the residents that there were no devastating waves or surf. The tide simply rose up so high that all the homes were inundated. When the tide went back out, everything still looked normal, but the homes were ruined.

Each pair of buddies chose a street and went door-to-door attempting to make contact with the residents. The two of us methodically covered most of a single street that ended at the bay, knocking on every door in order to assess the needs of the residents. In every home that we were able to enter, the high water line was 4 to 5 feet up the wall. All appliances, furniture, rugs, personal items, clothes - everything - were ruined. Some residents had already discarded everything they owned and gutted the walls. Others were living in their soaking wet homes, paralyzed by the disaster and unable to help themselves. No one had heat, and only a few had power. Most homes had an overpowering smell of oil and mold inside.

Some people were incredibly gracious, as if welcoming guests into their ruined homes. Others were cautious and afraid, perhaps thinking we were intruders, looters or tourists. Even when we offered assistance and connections to FEMA, FECS and other sources of help, a few simply closed their doors and would not talk with us. Sadly, many of those

homes had no debris outside, which meant that the elderly or ill person inside had not even begun to clean up. They were barricaded inside, cold, wet and hungry, and too scared to let us help. Perhaps the hardest house to visit was that of a woman in her late 60's. Her home had not yet received appropriate "post flood demolition" and had a strong stench of mold and oil. The woman told us how she was struggling to make ends meet while also caring for a disabled middle aged man. She had no heat, little food, and her whole house was ruined. She was not yet able to find a contractor to help her gut and dry the house. She had lost everything. When we returned to FECS for debriefing, we attempted to see that this woman's needs, in particular might be better addressed, as she seemed to be unable to help herself.

As the day wore on, the realization of the enormity of the disaster grew clearer. This damage was ubiquitous in every South Shore community facing the bay. We merely worked on part of one street in one village. The suffering seemed so great that we were embarrassed even to mention that we were without power for a couple of weeks. That small inconvenience paled in comparison to what we witnessed. For the same reason, we took no pictures - it felt somehow disrespectful of people's suffering. Yet, by the end of the day, we felt that we were able to help out, at least in a small way. FECS was elated to collect hundreds of intakes. We let people know that the outside world cared about them and wanted to be supportive. Although none of us expected anything in return for our efforts, we were richly rewarded with smiles, handshakes and expressions of gratitude. The people of the South Shore continue to need our help, and we urge everyone in our HJC community to find ways to support the relief effort.

Dawn Behr-Ventura & Arthur Perler



More from the PJ Library Event.



Ben Tasman Library



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Religious School Update

by Maxine Fisher - Religious School Administrator

We start off the new secular year with a program for the Vav class and Mitzvah Team lead by Rabbi Kurshan on January 6th. The program is about the Lone Soldiers; soldiers who come to Israel from other countries to serve in the IDF who do not have family in Israel. We are collecting items to send these soldiers – look for details in the bi-weekly flyer.

Sunday, January 13th is the fourth in the series of Vav Family workshops with Dr. Cindy Dolgin, as well as the Gan and Alef parent teacher conferences. Conferences for the older grades will take place on Tuesday, January 22nd. Mitzvah Team conferences will start at 4:30. Dismissal for Bet - Vav will be at 5:45 and conferences will start at 6:15. You will receive your time slot shortly.

On Sunday, January 27th all classes will join in a Tu B'Shevat Seder where the children will get to sample many different species of fruits. This will be a nut-free event.

February also brings us many interesting programs.

On Sunday, February 3rd the Vav class will start school at 8:30 a.m. for "World Wide Wrap." Men's Club and seasoned minyan goers will teach the children how to lay tiffilin during morning minyan and breakfast. The Vav students and their families will then join Lester Fox for their fifth Vav Family workshop. That same morning The Daled class will be make wimples in their family program.

February 10th is the sixth and last Vav workshop.

Save the date for February 10th when the Religious School has their annual afternoon at Larkfield Lanes! Bowling will starting at 2:00, and more information will follow.

We will have school on February 19th and the 24th as make up days due to Hurricane Sandy. We have moved the Purim Carnival to the 24th, since school will take place that day. Religious School will be from 9:00 - 11:00 and the carnival will be from 11:00 – 1:00. Parents should meet their children after school to take them around to play all of the fun games youth group has provided at the carnival.

With December coming to an end, I want to mention the Chanukah Happening. It was such a pleasure to work with a committed group who really wanted the Happening to be a success. Our committee from Sisterhood, The Early Childhood Center, Men's Club, Social Action, Membership and the PJ Library helped create a wonderful day of music, crafts, food, shopping, and schmoozing. Special thanks to Cantor Gordan and Morah Ellen for leading the Zimriyah that began our fun day!

Have a wonderful beginning to a new year.



USY News by Sarah Sachs



Hey Everyone,

I hope everyone had a very happy Hanukah and enjoyed the winter break! At the Hanukah Happening in December, our USY members were happy to help out and had a fun time running the "make your own dreidel" booth. For the month of January we have new and exciting programs planned. January 6th we are having a contest similar to the game show, "Minute to Win it" where we will split into two teams and compete to finish seemingly simple task. Then, January 20th we have Trashy Fashion where we will design runway worthy masterpieces made out of garbage bags. Anyone who wants to come see what we are all about is still welcome to stop by from 7:30-9:00pm. We also are still collecting cans for our Social Action/Tikun Olam project. We are going to construct a replica of HJC out of cans and then donate them to the local food pantry. Signs and information can be found posted around the synagogue and for more information you can always contact me.



Donations צדקה

GENERAL FUND

Barry Chase
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of Steve Prisamt, husband of Carol Prisamt.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of Sonia Hazan, mother of Marc Hazan.
Ruth Wies in memory of Albert Cohen at yahrzeit.
Gloria Safran in memory of Louis Stecker at yahrzeit.
Myrna Breger in memory of Benett Breger at yahrzeit.
Richard Klein in memory of Samuel Klein at yahrzeit.
Ceceil Klein in memory of Herbert Sausmer at yahrzeit.
Sheryl & Ian Winkler with thanks & appreciation to the Messing family.
Sheryl & Ian Winkler with thanks & appreciation to Dan, Patricia & Hannah Schoeffler.
Mitzi & Paul Popkin with gratitude to Miriam & Joel Wirchin for their concern during the recent storm.
Andrea, David, Rachel & Sophie Sacknoff in memory of Sonia Hazan, mother of Marc Hazan.
Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Ruth Cohen at yahrzeit.
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Steve Prisamt, husband of Carol Prisamt.
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Irving Tanenberg, father of Marsha Karant.
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Sheila Behr, mother of Michael Behr.
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Irvin Epstein at yahrzeit.
Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Ethel Wyatt at yahrzeit.
Sheila Ewall in memory of Merton Ewall at yahrzeit.
Janet Zimmerman in memory of Lee Cole at yahrzeit.
Micki & Marvin Sokol in memory of Bella Sokol at yahrzeit.
Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in memory of June Klein.
Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in memory of Arthur Goldstein, husband of Judith Goldstein and father of Ron Goldstein.
Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in memory of Bill Kampel, husband of Hannah Kampel.
Yolanda Barfus in memory of Benedetto Palumbo at yahrzeit.
Yolanda Barfus in memory of Bill Kampel, husband of Hannah Kampel.
Patricia Schoeffler in memory of Alexander Cochrane at yahrzeit.
Leonard Kramer in memory of Charles Kramer at yahrzeit.
Shelley & Marc Weinberg in memory of Jack Freilich at yahrzeit.
Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in memory of Sonia Hazan, mother of Marc Hazan.
Richard Klee in memory of Murray Klee at yahrzeit.
Maxine Liebowitz in memory of Abraham Edelstein at yahrzeit.
Lee Pedowicz in memory of Jack Pedowicz at yahrzeit.
Howard Dubow in memory of Blanche Dubowsky at yahrzeit.
Marvin Lipkind in memory of Esther Lipkind at yahrzeit.
Rosalind & Billy Wertheim in memory of Phoebe Hantverk, mother of Jed Hantverk.
Rosalind & Billy Wertheim in memory of Sheldon Kapen, father of Alon Kapen.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of the birth of Rena Lev Schwartz, granddaughter of Nili Gitig.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of the marriage of Renatt, daughter of Mira & Paul Brodsky, to Jeffrey Margolies.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Cory, son of Robin Laban.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ben, son of Felicia & Keith Messing.
Andrea Feltham & Matthew Shafit in memory of Arthur & Gertrude Shafit at yahrzeit.
Mark Zimmerman in memory of Irvin Zimmerman at yahrzeit.
Diana Messing in memory of Lillian Reitman at yahrzeit.
Shimmy Kornblatt in memory of Max Black at yahrzeit.
Esther Vickers in memory of Dora Molinoff at yahrzeit.
Carol & Marshall Adelstein in memory of Herman Adelstein at yahrzeit.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Janet & Mark Zimmerman in memory of Steve Prisamt, husband of Carol Prisamt.
Betty & Bob Mesard with thanks to Rabbi Kurshan for his leadership in helping the HJC community cope with Hurricane Sandy.
Saul Behr in memory of his wife, Sheila, & mother of Michael Behr.
Liz & Steve Holbreich in honor of Barbara & Lew Meltzer.
Renda & Ken Rosenblatt in memory of Henry Lederman at yahrzeit.
Renda & Ken Rosenblatt in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Avery Elise Lachs.
Rosalind & William Wertheim in memory of Irving Tanenberg, father of Marsha Karant.
Myrna Tils in memory of Jonas Telmer at yahrzeit.
Linda & Howard Novick in memory of Rose Novick at yahrzeit.
Linda & Howard Novick in memory of David Novick at yahrzeit.
Jennifer & Robert Gordon in memory of Harvey H. Gordon at yahrzeit.

CANTOR'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The HJC Chai Club in honor of the growing family of Cantor Gordan & Abby Uhrman.
Rosalind & William Wertheim in memory of Max Wertheim at yahrzeit.
Miriam & Joel Wirchin in honor of the birth of Eli Jonah Gordan-Uhrman, son of Abigail Uhrman and Cantor Israel Gordan.
Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Steve Prisamt, husband of Carol Prisamt.
Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Sheldon Kapen, father of Alon Kapen.

COLLEGIATE FUND

Vicki & Tom Rosen in honor of Justin Fleiss being accepted to Towson State College for the Class of 2017.

DAILY MINYAN FUND

Tom & Vicki Rosen in honor of Phyllis & Andy Levy for being gracious hosts in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.
Susi Susskind in memory of Herbert Susskind at yahrzeit.
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Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Sonia Hazan, mother of Marc Hazan.
Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Steve Prisamt, husband of Carol Prisamt.
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ben, son of Felicia & Keith Messing.
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Steve Prisamt, husband of Carol Prisamt.
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Sheldon Kapen, father of Alon Kapen.

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Mark Elber in memory of Gerson Elber at yahrzeit.
Jennifer & Robert Gordon in memory of Donald Lyle Gordon at yahrzeit.

EDWARD SPEVACK KOCHAVIM FUND

Judith & Seth Popkin in honor of Cookie & Mark Cohen for their kindness, generosity, and "warmth" during Hurricane Sandy.

Donations צדקה

Randi & Alan Schuller in memory of Sheldon Kapen, father of Alon Kapen.
Randi & Alan Schuller in memory of Phoebe Hantverk, mother of Jed Hantverk.

LIBRARY FUND

Micki & Marvin Sokol in memory of Sonia Hazan, mother of Marc Hazan.
Betty & Bob Mesard in honor of and with thanks to Tyna & Gordon Strenger.
Micki & Marvin Sokol in memory of Gertrude Stein at yahrzeit.
Syd & Mike Schlesinger in memory of Mildred Harmon at yahrzeit.
Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Irving Tanenberg, father of Marsha Karant.

PRAYERBOOK & BIBLE FUND

Mitzi & Paul Popkin with deep appreciation to Cookie & Mark Cohen for their
overwhelming kindness & hospitality during the recent storm.
Rita Gulack in memory of Martha Arenstein, wife of Effy Arenstein.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Sheryl & Ian Winkler with thanks & appreciation to Maxine & Rob Fisher.

SOCIAL ACTION FUND/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

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Judith & Seth Popkin in honor of Joel Wirchin for his assistance during Hurricane Sandy.
Hannah Kampel in memory of Steve Prisamt, husband of Carol Prisamt.
Janet & Martin Kushnick in memory of Aaron Labb at yahrzeit.
Jill & Arnie Sherman in memory of Louis Sherman at yahrzeit.
Jill & Arnie Sherman in memory of Fae Cohen at yahrzeit.
Gail & Jim Lodge in memory of Steve Prisamt, husband of Carol Prisamt.
Shirley Vilinsky in honor of Ed Schindler for sponsoring the November minyan breakfast.
Joan & Norman Mattisinko in memory of Bill Kampel, husband of Hannah Kampel.
Rosalind & William Wertheim in memory of Bill Kampel, husband of Hannah Kampel.
Rene Levy in memory of Rose Zucker at yahrzeit.
Tara & Brad Kerner in honor of Gordon Kerner for his commitment to the Social Action & JNN programs at HJC.

Sisterhood Book Event



Sisterhood members discuss "The Jews of Kabul to Queens" with Sarah Aharon.

HJC Lone Soldier Packages!



The HJC Mitzvah Team and Vav class are making packages for the Lone Soldiers in Israel and we need your help. We are collecting the following items 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 January 6, 2013.

The Great Hamantashen Sale



Purim begins Saturday evening, February 23 and Sisterhood is once again busy in the kitchen baking delicious hamantashen! The price is still only \$10.00 per dozen.

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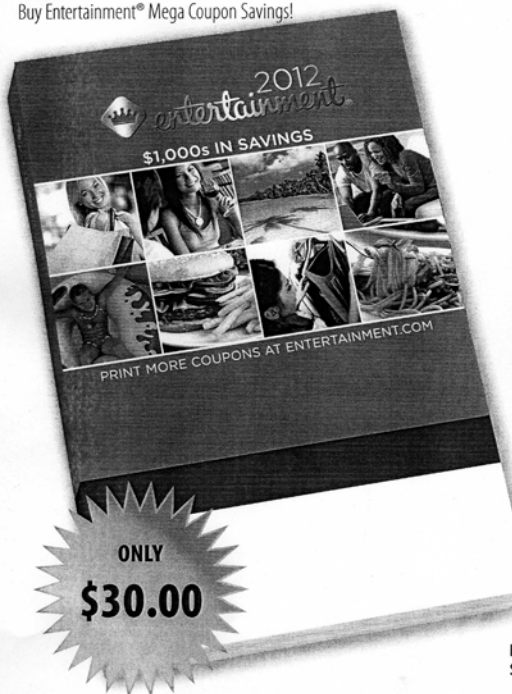
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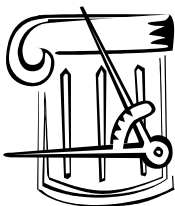
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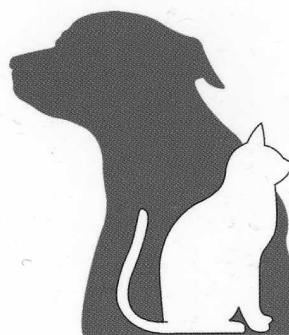
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