



HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER BULLETIN

INNOVATE & INTEGRATE - CREATING COMMUNITY & CONNECTION

Adar/Nisan 5772

March 2012

An Enduring Gift By Rabbi Neil Kurshan



I was very moved by an article that recently appeared in The Jewish Week written by Elicia Brown. In her column she describes an experience that forever changed her life. As a high school student she

spent a summer with other teenagers on a peer trip to Israel. Elicia Brown is now a journalist who writes about Jewish topics, and in her column she describes the enduring impact of the trip to Israel she had made many years earlier:

“After the program I never ate another cheeseburger. After the program I couldn’t think of Shacharit, the morning service, without recalling the desert at dawn—our voices earnest but unimpressive in the vastness of the world, the boys’ tallitot flapping in the summer wind.”

Elicia wrote this column for many reasons, but one of them was to thank two people she never met, Abraham and Bernice Rosen. The Rosens were long-term members of Elicia’s childhood synagogue, Temple Gates of Prayer in Flushing. With no children of their own, the Rosens bequeathed a large portion of their estate to a fund that would send young people from the synagogue to Israel. Today many years after the Rosens died, few remember the details of their lives. However, the fund they established continues to cover the cost of a trip to Israel for the young people of the synagogue. This month eighteen children and teenagers from Temple Gates of Prayer will leave for a trip to Israel with their rabbi, the cost of the trip fully covered through the Rosens’ generosity.

We are fortunate to have a similar fund in our own synagogue. The Donald L. Gordon Israel Scholarship Fund was generously established shortly after I began my tenure at HJC by Roz and Harvey Gordon in memory of their son, Donald, who died tragically at a young age. Each year for the past twenty-two years this fund has made it possible for some of our teenagers to travel to

Israel on a summer program with a group of their peers. To date the fund has subsidized the cost of a trip for approximately 100 students from our congregation. Without the support of this fund many of these students would never have been able to make the trip.

At the end of each summer at our Israel Oneg on Labor Day weekend I listen proudly as our students speak of their summer experiences in Israel. They return from Israel transformed. What was a foreign and strange country before their trip is now a country and a people they speak about with the pronoun, “we”. Many of them are already trying to figure out how they will find a way during their college years to spend a semester or a year in Israel.

In recent years an increasing number of students have been applying for the scholarships. This has placed greater demands on the fund. We would like to continue to support students as generously as we have in the past, and if you are able to give to the fund, contributions of any amount would

be welcome. I can promise that your gift will have a life-long impact on the student for whom it helps to provide a trip to Israel.

A couple of weeks ago a conversation at a Shabbat morning Kiddush with a mother of an HJC student whom we sent to Israel several years ago led me to pull from my file the student’s letter thanking us for the scholarship. The student wrote the following in 2005 just after her return from her summer in Israel:

“This trip to Israel had been a hope of mine for many reasons. For me the land of Israel does not only mean the continuation of the Jewish people, but the sustenance of the Jewish nation. My weeks in Israel were the fulfillment of a dream to participate in the historical reality of Herzl, Ben Gurion, and Golda Meir.”

I re-read the letter because her mother told me at the Kiddush that her daughter, who had recently made aliyah, was now a sergeant in the Israel Defense forces. She recently met a young man on a Kibbutz in Israel, and this month they are to be married in Israel. This milestone in the story of this young woman’s life began with a gift of a trip to Israel.

ATTENTION ALL CONGREGANTS:



We are looking for congregants who are interested in serving on the 2012-2013 **HJC Board of Trustees**. Board members serve an important role as part of the management and administrative body which oversees and leads our synagogue. The Board determines policy and manages the synagogue’s assets and personnel on behalf of our entire membership. This is a meaningful way to develop your own strengths as a Jewish leader and contribute your talents to the congregation. If you are interested, or know of someone in the congregation who may be interested in serving on the **Board of Trustees**,

please contact **Cheryl Silberman**, Chair of the Nominating Committee
at clk1623@gmail.com

Nominations must be presented to the Nominating Committee no later than 15 days before the election of Officers and Trustees at the Congregational meeting, which will take place on **May 21st, 2012**, pursuant to the terms set forth in the HJC bylaws.

Adult Education



Walking With Life: From Womb to Tomb with Jewish Texts

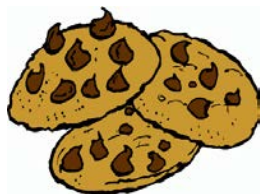


Instructor: Rabbi Neil Kurshan

Monday evenings
March 12, 19, and 26 at 8:00 pm
in the Family Life Center

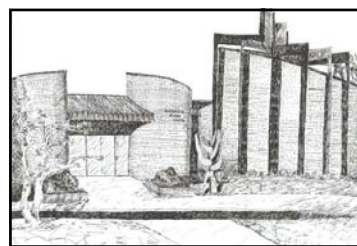
Rabbi Kurshan continues his examination of the Jewish Life Cycle, and topics in March will include Young Adulthood; Love, Marriage and Commitment; and Parenting. Each class includes a presentation by Rabbi Kurshan, a study of classical Jewish texts, and time for personal reflection. Each session is independent; new participants are welcome.

Thank you Chip'n Dipped from HJC's Social Action



Huntington Jewish Center's Social Action Committee would like to give our heartfelt thanks to **Chip'n Dipped Cookies and Chocolate**. They have been generously donating their delicious kosher cookies and brownies every week to the **Jewish Nutritional Network**. We use this food to help provide a wonderful treat to those homeless individuals that we feed.

Please support **Chip'n Dipped Cookies and Chocolate** whenever you want an amazing cookie, brownie or artisan chocolates. They also specialize in gift baskets customized for any occasion including birthdays, holidays, get well, new baby, condolence/shiva as well as corporate gifts. They are located in the heart of Huntington Village at **342 New York Avenue** just a few doors south of Main Street.



Neil Kurshan, Rabbi
423-5355

Israel Gordan, Cantor
427-1089, ext. 22

Sue Meisler
Nursery School Director
425-0525

Mitch Pashkin
President
427-1089

Maxine Fisher
Religious School Director
427-1157

Jane Hallberg
Administrator
427-1089 ext. 23

HJC Board of Trustees/ 2011-2012 Mitch Pashkin, President

Cheryl Berman, 1st V.P.
Scott Inger, 2nd V.P.
Michelle Stack, 3rd V.P.

Andy Levy, Treasurer
Allison Reiver, Secretary
Vicki Perler, Admin. V.P.

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Eric Gemunder	Lisa Rouso	Fred Weiss
Amal Kapen	Andrea Smoller	Bill Wertheim
Matthew Kirschner	Darryn Solotoff	Kim Willen
Alan Kriegstein	Jeff Stark	Donna Zimmerman

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
Friday Night Live.....	
Greeters.....	Maxine Fisher
High Holiday Honors.....	Bruce Fleiss
Innovate & Integrate.....	Michelle Stack
Israel/Ramah Scholarships.....	Judy Fox
Israel Committee.....	Scott Inger
Jewish Theological Seminary.....	Mitch Pashkin
Kol Nidre Appeal.....	Drs. Jay & Ellen Steinberg
Membership.....	Darryn Solotoff
Men's Club.....	Eric Gemunder
Nursery School Board.....	Leigh Keil
Religious School Board.....	Lisa Rouso
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 Inger
Youth.....	Shari Klair
Youth Advisor.....	Elana Marcus



March 2012

Adar/Nisan



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Ritual Comm. 8pm	2 Minyan Breakfast <i>Young Women's Torah Study 10:30am</i> Shabbat Services-6pm	3 Kosher Cooking Throw Down- 7:30pm Tetzaveh
4 RS/NS 11AM Purim Carnival 	5 Yoga Adult Ed. w/ Rabbi Kurshan 8:00pm	6 Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah 10:30am Hebrew Chug 6:30pm	7 Megillah Reading-7pm Fast of Esther	8 NS Purim Show  PURIM	9 Shabbat Services-6pm SHUSHAN	10 Ki Tisa
11 Men's Club Speaker RS Board 11:45  Bingo-12 noon USY	12 Yoga Adult Ed. w/ Rabbi Kurshan 8:00pm Sisterhood Board - 8pm	13 Chaverim-6:15 Hebrew Chug 6:30pm	14 HIHI	15 NO NS Teacher Conf. Kindergarten in session	16 <i>Young Women's Torah Study 10:30am</i>  FNL - 6:00pm	17 Vayakhel- Pekude
18 RS-4th grade Treasure Hunt 10am Kad/USY	19 Yoga 9:45am Parent Association Adult Ed. w/ Rabbi Kurshan 8:00pm	20 Adult Bar/ Bat Mitzvah 10:30am Mitzvah Team Wedding-6:30 Hebrew Chug 6:30pm	21 HIHI	22 Parent Bar/Bat Mitzvah Work- shop- 8 pm	23 NS Daddy & Donuts 8:30am Shabbat Services-6pm	24 Vayikra ROSH CHODOSH
25 Mitzvah Day 11:00 am	26 Yoga Adult Ed. w/ Rabbi Kurshan 8:00pm	27 Blood Drive 3-9pm  Chaverim-6:15 Hebrew Chug	28	29 Sisterhood Taste of Pass- over -8pm	30 <i>Young Women's Torah Study 10:30am</i> Shabbat Services-6pm	31 Bar Mitzvah Jordan Kushnick Tzav

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE by Mitch Pashkin



Updates

There are several important items about which I want to update you with in this article.

The roof replacement is complete. At the end of January, we completed the replacement of the roof. The manufacturer of the roofing material conducted its inspection and gave us the guarantee that will ensure that we have a solid leak-free roof for many years to come. Besides being leak free for the first time in about 3 years, no longer having to periodically replace ceiling tiles, having garbage pales in place to catch drips or having to worry about water soaked ceiling tiles falling onto the floor, the roof replacement project was finished on budget. We did not exceed the cost estimated for this project. The credit for both shepherding this project through to completion as well as for keeping the project within budget goes to our fellow congregant, Alan Kriegstein. Alan spent numerous hours figuring out the best solution that worked within our budget and then meticulously monitored the work as it progressed over the last several months and dealt with the issues and delays that arose as a result of many different factors. Alan patiently handled all the issues to make sure that the project stayed on track and within budget.

As President, one of the most gratifying choices you can make is the choice of a person to lead a project or committee. Just as was the case with the committee that brought Cantor Gordan to HJC led by Allison Reiver and Billy Wertheim, the choice of Alan Kriegstein to head up HJC's building committee and handle the roof replacement project was a choice I appreciated as one that made my job as President easier. Also, it was a choice that tremendously benefitted the congregation. On behalf of the entire congregation, I want to thank Alan for his tireless and very successful efforts.

The search for a new Religious School Principal is under way. Maxine Fisher fulfilled a very important role as interim principal over the last several months after stepping in at the last minute to get the school up and running for the current school year. As an HJC congregant, Maxine cannot be considered for the position of running the Religious School on a permanent basis. This is based on a policy that has been in place for many years at HJC and which recently was discussed and left in place by the Board of Trustees. The members of the search committee, led by Cheryl Berman and Andrea Morris, are Sheri Bram, Shari Klaire, Stacey Moss, Vicki Perler, Maxine Fisher, Marjorie Rothenberg, Dan Kahn, Rabbi Kurshan and me. The committee has been working hard to consider all possible options in regard to the structure of our Religious School and the right person to lead our school. One of the committee's goals is to find a person who can increase enrollment in our Religious School especially by increasing the rate of transition from the Early Childhood Center to the Religious School. Not only will this benefit the Religious School, it also is a vital ingredient in the long-term prosperity and growth of the congregation as a whole.

Through the generosity of Risa Gold, Michael Fishelson and Jim and Gail Lodge, HJC now has a washing machine and dryer which will be used primarily to offset the cost of the washing done for the HiHi program as well as enabling us to provide some clean clothes for the men we house during several nights over the winter months. The washing machine and dryer also can be used by other arms of the schul. I want to thank these congregants for their generosity.



USY NEWS

by Josh Morris

This past month we sent away two of our board members, Anna Wertheim and Julia Morett-Vij on a program called TRY, which allows them to spend a semester in Israel! We'll miss them very much but hope they have tons of fun on this once in a lifetime experience.

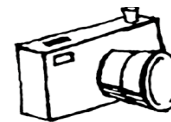
At one of our past meetings we showed our more relaxed side and watched the football game while cooking up some French toast and drinking hot chocolate.

Coming up: USY plans on preparing for the Purim carnival which always features a large teen presence. Look forward to new, exciting and never before seen games at this year's Purim carnival.

As always, the halfway mark still isn't too late to join USY so do not hesitate to ask me, **Elana Marcus** or **Shari Klaire** if you are interested! Also be sure to purchase tickets to the **Kosher Cooking Throwdown!** I heard the yente organizing it really knows her stuff.

Finally, the Nominating Committee, led once again by Past President Cheryl Silberman, has started its work of finding congregants to sit on the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee. In addition, this year the Nominating Committee along with the Executive Committee has the responsibility of finding someone to be the next President. Although normally the successor to the President comes from the Executive Committee, at the moment this is not an option; and we must look elsewhere within our congregation for a person qualified to lead the congregation for the next two years. I hope that by the time you read this article a qualified person from our congregation will have agreed to be nominated. If this is not the case, we will be communicating with the congregation regarding our options for dealing this unique situation.

Attention all HJC Members PHOTOS WANTED



If anyone has photos taken at HJC events, feel free to submit them to me at kwillen@mac.com for the Bulletin by the 10th of the month for the next month's bulletin.

HJC Community News

Welcome to our New Members

Jed & Leslie Hantverk of Melville and their children, Sam & Emily
Louis Rosenthal & Beth Isaacson of Commack and their son, Justin
Lee & Lainie Seelig of Huntington and their children; Zoe, age 2½ & Jonah, age 1

Mazel Tov

Madeline & Allen Sinowitz announce the birth of Madeline's granddaughter, Ella Reese Smiley
Roz & Marty Spielman announce the birth of their grandson, Ren Laszlo Spielman
Michelle & Michael Behr announce the birth of their daughter, Rebecca Ariella Behr

We extend our sincere condolences to...

Gordon Strenger on the death of his sister, Jean Levine
Mark Wax on the death of his father, Irving Wax
Ruth Furst on the death of her husband, Stephen Furst

Yashir Kochach to this month's Bar Mitzvah

Jordan Kushnick
Son of Margery Segal and Lawrence Kushnick

Lamed Vavnik Project

A new program was started this year with HJC's Bar/Bat Mitzvah class and 7th grade Solomon Schechter students called the **Lamed Vavnik Project**. Jewish legends speak of the lamed-vuvniks, who toil unnoticed in their work of Tikkun Olam. The numerical value for "lamed" and "vuv" is 36, and the "lamed-vuvniks" are 36 righteous people, who roam the world in each generation. They do acts of kindness, show compassion for the poor and the homeless, and leave as quietly as they arrive, with only their good deeds as evidence of their presence. Tradition tells us that on the merit of these 36 people, God sustains the world from generation to generation.

The **Lamed Vavnik Project** at HJC emphasizes and has the students participate in community service during the time leading up to their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. The students must participate in at least three community service events, write an essay describing the Community service and what it meant to them, and give tzedakah from their bar/bat mitzvah gifts to the **Lamed Vavnik fund** at HJC. At the end of the year all of the participating students in the class will collectively designate to which charities they would like to pledge the funds. Participation in the **Lamed Vavnik Project** is optional and in addition to the bar/bat mitzvah requirements of HJC. The entire class has signed on to participate and the program is already in full swing. Here is a picture of some of the students making lunch for the men at HIHI. The students are learning to perfect the world in their own way!



Jordan is a caring young man with a heart of gold. His sense of humor is boundless and enjoyed by many. He has a healthy inquisitive nature, looking to learn more about each subject. Jordan is a computer whiz, avid reader and writer and a history buff. He enjoys chorus and volunteering in the Best Buddies program. Jordan's family is extremely proud of him and looks forward to his upcoming bar mitzvah.





What I Did During Winter Vacation by Cantor Israel Gordan



I spent the end of 2011 and the beginning of 2012 in sunny Southern California. While it was great to be in 80 degree weather each day of my time there, I also had some fantastic job-related experiences that I wanted to share with the congregation that I hope will help you understand what I, and other cantors, do.

On the last Shabbat of 2011, I went to Saturday morning services at Ikar in Los Angeles, a newer Jewish community that can best be described as a sort of “independent minyan meets BJ” type of congregation. They meet at a JCC on Los Angeles’s West Side and are lead by a “Davenning Team” of people. There is no instrumental accompaniment, but they do use drums to support the singing. The service is fairly traditional, with the Torah service being somewhat more stretched out, and certain parts of P’sukei D’zimra skipped. While there are certainly elements of the service that aren’t what I would choose to do, there are a lot of great and interesting things going on there, particularly in regards to their music. There are several instances throughout the service where traditional tunes are replaced by newer melodies, especially during the Torah service.

It is interesting to note that while we use many melodies of various types throughout our services, one area that has seen very little change is the Torah service. If you go from one Conservative Synagogue to another, you will almost always hear the same tunes during the Torah service. While I think that familiar tunes are great for comfort and continuity, especially when visiting other communities, new tunes can enliven or even shed new light on a piece of liturgy in a way that could offer some surprises. By changing

the melody, the volume, the speed, and/or other musical aspects of a piece, different phrases of the text may come into focus, therefore altering one’s relationship with the words. I think we have been doing a great job with introducing new tunes into the community while preserving older ones and I look forward to continually learning new music that I can share with all of you.

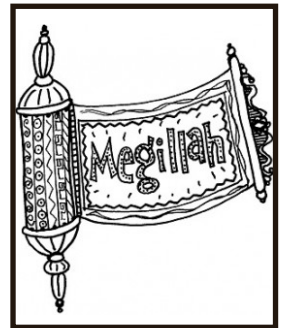
After the New Year had officially begun, I attended the annual winter joint convention of the Cantors Assembly, the American Conference of Cantors, and the Guild of Temple Musicians. By bringing together over 90 members of the Reform and Conservative movements from the West Coast and beyond (I was not the only one from the Northeast!) for two nights and two-and-a-half days, we were all able to sing, learn, and enjoy each other’s company in the beautiful setting of Palm Springs. As a cantor in the field, it’s easy to not hear what other people are doing and what else is going on in the world of the cantorate. By attending the conference, I was able to learn from a master of Tot Shabbat programs, hear from a panel about teaching Bar/Bat Mitzvah students, and practice new music with fellow cantors. I felt like I was able to learn a lot and make connections with colleagues from all over the country.

It’s always great to get away to get recharged and gain perspective, but another nice thing about going away is coming back. Hearing from and about other synagogues and cantors also makes me appreciate that the HJC is a great place filled with wonderful people who are doing fantastic things. There is always room for learning, growth, and improvement, but it’s also important to appreciate our accomplishments. I hope this New Year continues to be great for everyone and that we keep on singing our way through it!



Purim services

Wednesday night
March 7 at 7:00 pm



In years past Pogman, NYC’s Finest, Football Fanatic, The Greaser, Borat, and the Sheriff from Oklahoma have spent Purim with us. One of Rabbi Kurshan’s colorful cousins and a hard-to-identify Cantor Gordan will once again add (off) color to Purim services. All adults and children are invited to come in costume, and we will hold our annual costume parade. Groggers and hammtaschen provided by Sisterhood. Join the fun in the Main Sanctuary, and blot out Haman’s name. There will be a full reading of the Megillah Thursday, March 8 beginning at 7:00 am.



Sisterhood News by Sue Lefkowitz

מה יפה ירושלים

Your Dues For 2011- 2012 are due NOW

Did you know ???

Your Dues help Sisterhood support the following activities as well as other functions:

- Holiday Recognition Projects
- Chanukah Happening
- Taste of Passover
- Collegians receive holiday packages
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah gifts
- High Holiday babysitting
- HJC Library
- Ramah Scholarship
- Social Action
- Youth Group
- Jewish Nutritional Network (JNN)
- Kol Nidre
- Yad program
- M'Yad L'Yad
- Masorti
- Mercaz
- Teacher Development Fund
- Torah Fund Woman of Achievement
- UJA Federation
- WLCJ Convention
- Shabbat Dinner for New Moms
- Adult Bat Mitzvah Class
- Hey Class Trip to Jewish Museum

Save the date

March 29th

For a Taste of Passover

Share your recipes, find new ones,
cook or just come and enjoy

April 27 - Program to be announced
May 7 - Book discussion led by Carol Baker,
"The Invisible Bridge" by Julie Ominger
(start reading now)

Sisterhood extends its sincere thanks to:
Alyson Richman

for giving us an insight relating to the development of her recent best selling book "The Lost Wife". The presentation was greatly enjoyed by all in attendance.

Sisterhood hosts Author Event *The Lost Wife*

On Tuesday evening, February 7, Sisterhood sponsored a special Author Event and Book Signing of *The Lost Wife*. Alyson Richman, HJC nursery school mom and well-known author, talked about her latest book inspired by a true story about concentration camp survival during the Holocaust. *The Lost Wife* was selected as the 2012 Long Island Reads selection and is now a national best-seller.

Congratulations Alyson!

It was a very special evening enjoyed by all who attended.



NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

By Sue Meisler, Director



Genesis 1:12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

We cannot overstate the importance of trees. If not for trees, human life on earth would not be possible. Trees are the largest single source of breathable oxygen in the atmosphere, not to mention that they are also a major source of food and medicine. For me and many other hikers, they also contribute aesthetically while keeping human stress level down.

In our school, children talk about the trees and their importance all year long. This past February, our students participated in a meaningful Tu B'Shevat Seder, celebrating God's gift to our earth. Our nature hikes around the shul and the planting we do all year with the children both in and out of our classroom, reiterates that every human being on earth has a responsibility to hold trees on earth in high regard. We make sure that we talk about the Jews in Israel and their effort throughout time to plant trees in their country when most people didn't believe it was possible to do so in the desert.

I was recently moved to tears when I heard the story of an African woman named Dr. Wangari Maathai and thought I could use this story to impact the children in our school. I had received a beautiful accounting of her life several years before from a former congregant who knew how much I regard trees. I wanted to share who Dr. Wangari Maathai was with you from the article I received, (but could not find the source of who wrote it,) and what impact it had on me as a director of an early childhood program.

"Thirty years ago, in the country of Kenya, 90% of the forest had been chopped down. Without trees to hold the topsoil in place, the land became like a desert. When the women and girls would go in search of firewood in order to prepare the meals, they would have to spend hours and hours looking for what few branches remained.

A woman named Wangari watched all of this happening. She decided that there must be a way to take better care of the land and take better care of the women and girls.

So she planted a tree. And then she planted another. She wanted to plant thousands of trees, but she realized that it would take a very long time if she was the only one doing it. So she taught the women who were looking for firewood to plant trees, and they were paid a small amount for each sapling they grew.

Soon she organized women all over the country to plant trees, and a movement took hold. It was called the Green Belt Movement, and with each passing year more and more trees covered the land.

But something was happening as the women planted those trees. Something else besides those trees was taking root. The women began to have confidence in themselves. They began to see that they were capable of many things, and that they were equal to the men. They began to recognize that they were deserving of being treated with respect and dignity.

Changes like these were threatening to some. The president of the country didn't like any of this. So police were sent to intimidate and beat Wangari for planting trees, and for planting ideas of equality and democracy in people's heads, especially in women's. She was accused of "subversion" and arrested many times.

For almost 30 years, she was threatened physically, and she was often made fun of in the press. But she didn't flinch. She only had to look in the eyes of the thousands of women and girls who were blossoming right along with the trees, and she found the strength to continue.

And that is how it came to be that over 30 million trees have been planted in Africa, one tree at a time. The landscapes—both the external one of the land and the internal one of the people—have been transformed."

The story spoke to me in ways that altered my thinking of what qualities I hope to inspire in children at an early age. Wangari's life reinforced the notion that young children understand that they are capable of making change in the world and in their own behavior. Teachers and parents should show by example that helping others as well as being responsible for our earth should be part of our daily conscience. When we hear or see people in need, not only at home, but elsewhere in the world, we need to ask ourselves how are we making children a part of the solution to make a difference? Children are born with compassion so what are we adults contributing to maintain that?

There is a beautiful story called "The Hummingbird" told by Wangari Maathai that all children should hear again and again. It tells of a red throated hummingbird who peacefully lived in the forest with other animals enjoying all the gifts the forest offers. One day, a fire raged in the forest and all the animals took chase feeling despair at the thought of leaving their only home and never returning. When the animals reached the outskirts of the forest, they saw a red throated hummingbird carrying small drops of water in its beak—back and forth, and back and forth in an attempt to put the fire out.

The animals below looked up in amazement. The lion looked up, the elephant, the bear and the badger as they asked the hummingbird what she thinks she can do to put the fire out carrying only drops of water again and again. Undeterred by the impossibility of it all, the little bird answered, "I am doing what I can."

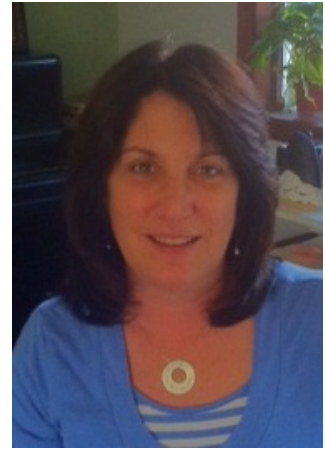
We need to shift our thinking in education and remember to educate children not only for state tests and college entrances, but for recognition that our earth and our humanity are at risk. Everyone on earth has a moral and ethical responsibility to maintain and preserve our natural resources, our respect for human differences, and ensure the right of each person to have a voice.

As Dr. Wangari Maathai stated, "When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and seeds of hope. We also secure the future for our children." It is our responsibility as adults to continually make young children aware of how they can become "hummingbirds" and do all that they can do to ensure a better world for all—one tree at a time!



HJC Teams Up With UJA-Federation of New York's Partners In Caring (PIC)

Partners In Caring brings a wide array of comprehensive educational and support services to you and your family. Services include individual, group and family counseling (free of charge), workshops for youth, teens and parents, and workshops tailored to the needs of families. Examples of workshops that other synagogues have benefited from include ***Bullying and Violence Prevention, Substance/Alcohol Abuse, College-Bound Concerns, Stress Management, Internet Safety, and Living and Coping in Uncertain Times.*** If you would be interested in any of the above services or workshops, or have any other ideas that you would like to explore, you can contact HJC's PIC social worker:



Barbara Sheryll, LMSW
PIC Social Worker

Barbara Sheryll, LMSW, at 631-462-9800 ext. 251.

You can also contact HJC PIC liaison, **Janet Zimmerman**
at (631) 491-4084, or e-mail ladyzim@optonline.net

UJA-Federation of New York's
Partners in Caring

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO DO A MITZVAH !



HJC Social Action Committee invites you to :
"GET SWABBED"

If you are in good health, between the ages of 18 and 55, you have a chance to save a life by being a Bone Marrow Donor.

When - Tuesday, March 27th

Where - HJC

Time - 9AM-12:30 PM & 3 PM - 9 PM

Volunteers needed at registration table.

Any questions please contact

Marilyn Klein (NANNY26@Verizon.net) or

Janet Kushnick (MARTTRIAL@AOL.com)

Donations

צדקה

GENERAL

Elaine Marsh in memory of Sarah Maidenbaum at yahrzeit.
 Joan Newman in memory of Bessie Lehman at yahrzeit.
 Nathan Newman in memory of Anna Newman at yahrzeit.
 Ellen & Newt Meiselman in honor of the 25th wedding anniversary of Allison & Mitchell Reiver.
 Ellen & Newt Meiselman in honor of the 45th wedding anniversary of Susan & David Lefkowitz.
 Ellen & Newt Meiselman in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Joel Bennett, grand son of Judith & Lester Fox.
 June Klein in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Matthew, son of Rosalind and Billy Wertheim.
 June Klein in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Oren, son of Elizabeth & Ronen Yaari.
 June Klein in honor of the 45th wedding anniversary of Susan & David Lefkowitz.
 Leila & Elliott Waldman in honor of the 45th wedding anniversary of Susan & David Lefkowitz.
 Richard Klee in memory of Murray Klee at yahrzeit.
 Rosalyn & Herbert Haber in memory of Betty Simon at yahrzeit.
 Rosalyn & Herbert Haber in memory of Abraham Haber at yahrzeit.
 Maxine Liebowitz in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Ellen & Newt Meiselman.
 Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer in honor of the engagement of Ariella, daughter of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan, to Leo Simonovich.
 Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Joel Bennett, grandson of Judith & Lester Fox.
 Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer in memory of Henry Lederman, father of Renda Rosenblatt.
 Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer in honor of the birth of Lev Cameron Perler, grandson of Vicki & Arthur Perler.
 Marvin Lipkind in memory of Esther Lipkind at yahrzeit.
 Howard Baker in memory of Abraham Baker at yahrzeit.
 Yolanda Barfus in memory of Benjamin Barfus at yahrzeit.
 Mark Zimmerman in memory of Irvin Zimmerman at yahrzeit.
 Phil Mintz in memory of Louis Mintz at yahrzeit.
 Ethel Schwartz Bock in memory of David Schwartz at yahrzeit.
 Judith & Arthur Schwager in memory of Arline Beldegreen at yahrzeit.
 Esther Vickers in memory of Dora Molinoff at yahrzeit.
 Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in memory of Max Black at yahrzeit.
 Diana Messing in memory of Lillian Reitman at yahrzeit.
 Richard Kahn in memory of Adolf Kahn at yahrzeit.
 Randi Schuller in memory of Elaine Bodian at yahrzeit.
 Bonnie & Lee Pedowicz in memory of Jack Pedowicz at yahrzeit.
 Paulette Fritz Schiffman in memory of Charles M. Fritz at yahrzeit.
 Michele Baltus in memory of Gary Kirkland at yahrzeit.
 Arthur Goldstein in memory of David Goldstein at yahrzeit.
 Arthur Goldstein in memory of Sadie Goldstein at yahrzeit.
 Arthur Goldstein in memory of Morris Epstein at yahrzeit.
 Arthur Goldstein in memory of Pearl Epstein at yahrzeit.
 Albert Kramer in memory of Lillie Kramer at yahrzeit.
 William Wertheim in memory of Max Wertheim at yahrzeit.
 Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Michael Cohen at yahrzeit.
 Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Jean Levine, sister of Gordon Strenger.
 Charlotte Rosen in memory of Jean Levine, sister of Gordon Strenger.
 Ethel Schwartz Bock in memory of Rose Lena Schwartz at yahrzeit.
 Arlene Rubenstein in memory of Edward Rubenstein at yahrzeit.
 Jill Lagnado in memory of Moshe Zweigenbaum at yahrzeit.
 Howard Dubow in memory of Dave Dubowsky at yahrzeit.
 Howard Dubow in memory of Blanche Dubowsky at yahrzeit.
 Joyce Sacknoff in memory of Sidney Fuchs at yahrzeit.
 Shari Klaire in memory of Jerry Friedman at yahrzeit.

Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of the ordination of Mark Elber as a rabbi by Aleph (Alliance for Jewish Renewal).
 Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of Jean Levine, sister of Gordon Strenger.
 Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of Irving Wax, father of Mark Wax.
 Marilyn Koven in memory of Lillian Frank at yahrzeit.
 Donna Fleiss in memory of Loretta Nadler at yahrzeit.
 The Fleiss family in memory of Michele Fleiss at yahrzeit.
 Steven Lax in memory of Harold Lax at yahrzeit.
 Burton Epstein in memory of Ceil Epstein at yahrzeit.
 Gail & Jerry Ellstein in memory of Irving Wax, father of Mark Wax.
 Risa Gold in memory of Michael Firestone at yahrzeit.
 Risa Gold in memory of Celia Firestone at yahrzeit.
 Jeffrey Levitt in memory of Alfred Levitt at yahrzeit.
 Arlene Boshnack in memory of Leonard Borger at yahrzeit.
 Benjamin Eckstein in memory of Louisa Eckstein at yahrzeit.
 Sam & Sema Stein in memory of Belle Jayson at yahrzeit.
 Lawrence Tannenbaum in memory of Sarah Tannenbaum at yahrzeit.
 Rissa Walsdorf in memory of Isabel Winters at yahrzeit.
 Rob, Alyssa, Zachary & Reese Koppersmith in memory of Herbert Miller.
 Jay Meyer in memory of Henry Meyer at yahrzeit.
 Diane & Steven Block in memory of Max Block at yahrzeit.
 Richard Kahn in memory of Irma Kahn at yahrzeit.
 The Fleiss family in memory of Ethel Fleiss at yahrzeit.
 Frank Wolff in memory of Ethel Fleisig at yahrzeit.
 Ed Schindler in memory of Aaron Schindler at yahrzeit.
 Doris & Donald Maiman in memory of Larry Maiman at yahrzeit.
 William Wertheim in memory of Judith Wertheim at yahrzeit.
 Loron Simon in memory of Geraldine Simon at yahrzeit.
 Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Saul Wyatt at yahrzeit.
 Ian Winkler in memory of Roslyn Winkler at yahrzeit.
 Marvin Marsh in memory of Ruth Marsh at yahrzeit.
 Marilyn & Gary Woghin in memory of Albert Moak at yahrzeit.
 Vicki Perler in memory of Herman Held at yahrzeit.
 Yolanda Barfus in memory of Marie Palumbo at yahrzeit.
 June Klein in memory of Stuart Klein at yahrzeit.
 Peter Cohn in memory of Carol Cohn at yahrzeit.
 Joanne Mulberg Cohn in memory of Harry Mulberg at yahrzeit.
 Kim & Joe Willen in memory of Irving Wax, father of Mark Wax.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Carol & Steve Prisamt & family
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 Andrea & Jeremy Perler
 Howard Novick in memory of David Novick at yahrzeit.
 Rosalyn & Herbert Haber in honor of the 45th wedding anniversary of Susan & David Lefkowitz.
 Janet & Mark Zimmerman in honor of the engagement of Ariella, daughter of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan, to Leo Simonovich.
 Ethel Sachs in honor of the engagement of Ariella, daughter of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan, to Leo Simonovich.
 Jennifer & Robert Gordon in memory of Harvey H. Gordon at yahrzeit.
 Susan & Nathan Board wishing a speedy recovery to Joan Mattisinko.
 Elaine & Walter Kleinmann in honor of the retirement of Marvin Orenstein.
 Susi Susskind in honor of the milestone birthday of Shirley Vilinsky.
 Susan & Nathan Board in memory of Murray Lipsky at yahrzeit.
 Susan & Nathan Board in memory of Sam Lipsky at yahrzeit.
 Renda Rosenblatt with thanks to Rabbi Kurshan for guiding her through a difficult time on the death of her father, Henry Lederman.
 Renda Rosenblatt with thanks to everyone for their support and caring on her return to the States after the death of her father, Henry Lederman.
 Renda & Ken Rosenblatt in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Hannah, daughter of Patricia & Dan Schoeffler.

Donations

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Patricia & Dan Schoeffler with thanks & gratitude to Rabbi Kurshan.
Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in memory of Charles Feldman, father of Daniel Feldman.

ARK & PULPIT FUND

Joan & Robert Blank in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Ellen & Newt Meiselman.
Steven Wertheim in memory of Irving Wax, father of Mark Wax.

CANTOR'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Patricia & Dan Schoeffler with thanks & gratitude to Cantor Gordan.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN FUND

Joan & Norman Mattisinko in honor of the 45th wedding anniversary of Susan & David Lefkowitz.

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Arlene & Fred Steinberg & family in memory of Harry Steinberg at yahrzeit.

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Tom Rosen in memory of Ella Rosen Rakieten at yahrzeit.
Jacqueline Hulkower in honor of the special birthday of Sam Goldmeer.
Vicki & Tom Rosen in honor of Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz receiving her Doctor of Philosophy from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

DAVID S. ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Susan & David Lefkowitz in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Joel Bennett, grandson of Judith & Lester Fox.
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Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Stella, mother of Vickie Shink.
Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Irving Wax, father of Mark Wax.
Pam & Jeff Simon Goldstein in memory of Stella, mother of Vickie Shink.
Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Hannah, daughter of Patricia & Dan Schoeffler.
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Henry Lederman, father of Renda Rosenblatt.
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Irving Wax, father of Mark Wax.
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in honor of the birth of Lev Cameron Perler, grandson of Vicki & Arthur Perler.
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DONALD L. GORDON ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Lisa Gordon Loozis and Matt Loozis in memory of Harvey H. Gordon at yahrzeit.

LEAH GREENE GARDEN FUND

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Joanne & Peter Cohn in honor of the 45th wedding anniversary of Susan & David Lefkowitz.

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Marianne & Marvin Sokol in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Lois De Leon, granddaughter of Joan & Norman Mattisinko.
Betty & Bob Mesard in honor of the 45th wedding anniversary of Susan & David Lefkowitz.
Betty & Bob Mesard in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Ellen & Newt Meiselman.
Syd & Mike Schlesinger in memory of Mildred Harmon at yahrzeit.
Joan & Norman Mattisinko in honor of the engagement of Ariella, daughter of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan, to Leo Simonovich.
Betty & Bob Mesard in memory of Jean Levine, sister of Gordon Strenger.
Susan & David Lefkowitz in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Lois De Leon, granddaughter of Joan & Norman Mattisinko.
Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Jean Levine, sister of Gordon Strenger.
Betty & Bob Mesard in memory of Irving Wax, father of Mark Wax.
Betty & Bob Mesard in memory of Rose Levine at yahrzeit.
Syd & Mike Schlesinger in memory of Jean Levine, sister of Gordon Strenger.
Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Irving Wax, father of Mark Wax.

NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

Susie & Jay Meisler in memory of Irving Wax, father of Mark Wax.
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Barbara Rubinfeld in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Hannah, daughter of Patricia & Dan Schoeffler.
Susie & Jay Meisler in honor of Shari Klaire & Paul Greenstein for their contribution to our youth.
Susie & Jay Meisler in memory of Morton Karfield at yahrzeit.
Susie & Jay Meisler in memory of the mother & mother-in-law of Maureen Lutz.

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Marsha Buchholtz in memory of Fanny Wolinsky at yahrzeit.
Joel & Barbara Kuppersmith in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Ellen & Newt Meiselman.
Pamela Geller in memory of Isaac Geller at yahrzeit.
Ruth Wies in memory of Annie Cohen at yahrzeit.
Rene Levy in honor of the milestone birthday of Shirley Vilinsky.
Ethel Sachs in honor of the milestone birthday of Shirley Vilinsky.
Shirley Vilinsky in honor of Shari Klaire for sponsoring the January Miyan breakfast.
Shirley Vilinsky in honor of the 45th wedding anniversary of Susan & David Lefkowitz.
Ellie Siperowitz in memory of Louis Siperowitz at yahrzeit.
Janet & Martin Kushnick in memory of Benjamin Kushnick at yahrzeit.
Barbara & Joel Kuppersmith in memory of Irving Wax, father of Mark Wax.

Donations

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Susan & David Lefkowitz in honor of the marriage of Danielle Vilinsky, granddaughter of Shirley Vilinsky, to Ian Herrick.
 Syd & Mike Schlesinger in honor of the special birthday of Maxine Fisher.
 Martin Spielman in memory of Adolph Spielman at yahrzeit.
 Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz receiving her Doctor of Philosophy from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
 Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Rose Hankin Epstein at yahrzeit.
 Shirley Vilinsky in honor of Paul Greenstein for sponsoring the February Minyan breakfast.

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

Ethel Sachs in honor of Paul Greenstein for his contribution to our youth.

YOUTH FUND

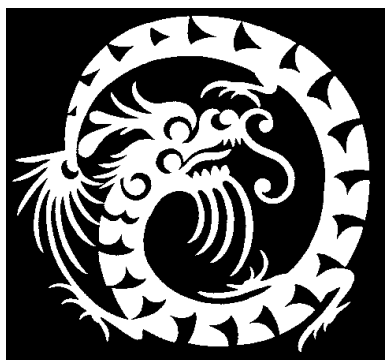
Rabbi Dan & Amy Dorsch & Cheryl, Jay, Joshua, Matthew & Emma Dorsch in memory of Irving Wax, father of Mark Wax.
 Ethel Sachs in honor of Shari Klaire for her contribution to our youth.

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Year of the Dragon Shabbat dinner



Community Shabbat Dinner and Friday Night Live

March 16, 2012 6:00 pm
 Dinner at 7:00 pm

Friday Night Live is a lively, inclusive, and accessible service creating a warm and welcoming spirit led by Rabbi Kurshan and Cantor Gordan.

We will extend that spirit to our community dinner following services which will feature a KOSHER-CHINESE MENU. Please RSVP to the synagogue office.

SPREAD THE NEWS... INVITE YOUR FRIENDS



There are so many worthwhile activities happening at the HJC. We encourage you to use social media to spread the word about events which you plan to go to, or events which you'd like your friends to consider attending. Since many events are open to non-members as well, let's all make an effort to inform the community-at-large about the great things going on at our synagogue.

From our website, www.hjcny.org, click on any activity or event listed under the "LATEST NEWS" heading. The descriptive page has easy-to-use buttons to share the event through Facebook, Twitter, or Google +1. Let's promote the attendance and active involvement of our members, and for open events, non-members, through this simple social media connection.

Kol Dichfin 2012 "Let All Who Are Hungry Come and Eat"



Conservative congregations around the world including the Huntington Jewish Center are providing seder meals to alumni of Conservative Movement programs, especially our younger alumni, college students, young marrieds, military, etc., either at the synagogue or at the home of a congregant. If you have children or grandchildren away from home, they can locate participating congregations at

<http://projectreconnect.org/passover>

Also if you would be willing to host someone for a Seder, please contact Rabbi Kurshan at hjcrabbi@optonline.net

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Barbara Sheryll, LMSW

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e-mail at bsheryll@fegs.org

or visit www.GrandparentsCircle.org

The Grandparents Circle is a program of the
Jewish Outreach Institute.

Huntington Jewish Center

Blood Drive

In Memory of Ethel Tasman Fleiss



Tuesday, March 27, 2012
3:00 pm – 9:00 pm
HJC Kiddush Lounge

***Must have valid I.D. (picture or signature) *Minimum weight 110 lbs.**

***Between 16-76 years of age**

(16 with parental consent, 76 with doctors note)

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

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By March 20 or call Jennifer Ingber @ 516-241-3585

to schedule an appointment.

Name: _____ Phone number: _____
I would like to donate at: 3:00___ 3:15___ 3:30___ 3:45___ 4:00___ 4:15___ 4:30___
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 **Long Island** Blood Services



This Month in American Jewish History

JEWISH WOMEN CALL FOR CHANGE

Manifesto presented to the Rabbinical Assembly of the
Conservative Movement on March 14, 1972

The Jewish tradition regarding women, once far ahead of other cultures, has now fallen disgracefully behind in failing to come to terms with developments of the past century.

Accepting the age-old concept of role differentiation on the basis of sex, Judaism saw woman's role as that of wife, mother, and home-maker. Her ritual obligations were domestic and familial: nerot (candles), challah, and taharat ha-mishpachah (family purity, i.e. laws of mikveh and sexual purity). Although the woman was extolled for her domestic achievements, and respected as the foundation of the Jewish family, she was never permitted an active role in the synagogue, court, or house of study. These limitations on the life-patterns open to women, appropriate or even progressive for the rabbinic and medieval periods, are entirely unacceptable to us today.

The social position and self-image of women have changed radically in recent years. It is now universally accepted that women are equal to men in intellectual capacity, leadership ability and spiritual depth. The Conservative movement has tacitly acknowledged this fact by demanding that their female children be educated alongside the males—up to the level of rabbinical school. To educate women and deny them the opportunity to act from this knowledge is an affront to their intelligence, talents and integrity.

As products of Conservative congregations, religious schools, Ramah camps, LTF, USY, and the Seminary, we feel this tension acutely. We are deeply committed to Judaism, but cannot find adequate expression for our total needs and concerns in existing women's social and charitable organizations, such as Sisterhood, Hadassah, etc. Furthermore, the single woman—a new reality in Jewish life—is almost totally excluded from the organized Jewish community, which views women solely as daughters, wives, and mothers. The educational institutions of the Conservative movement have helped women recognize their intellectual, social and spiritual potential. If the movement then denies women opportunities to demonstrate these capacities as adults, it will force them to turn from the synagogue, and to find fulfillment elsewhere.

It is not enough to say that Judaism views women as separate but equal, nor to point to Judaism's past superiority over other cultures in its treatment of women. We've had enough of apologetics: enough of Bruria, Dvorah, and Esther; enough of Eshet Chayil (the woman of valor)!

It is time that: Women be granted membership in synagogues; Women be counted in the minyan; Women be allowed full participation in religious observances—(aliyot, ba'a lot kriyah, shlichot tzibur) (being called to the Torah, reading torah, leading services); Women be recognized as witnesses before Jewish law; Women be allowed to initiate divorce; Women be permitted and encouraged to attend Rabbinical and Cantorial Schools, and to perform Rabbinical and Cantorial functions in synagogues; Women be encouraged to join decision-making bodies, and to assume professional leadership roles, in synagogues and in the general Jewish community; Women be considered as bound to fulfill all mitzvot equally with men.

For three thousand years, one-half of the Jewish people have been excluded from full participation in Jewish communal life. We call for an end to the second-class status of women in Jewish life.

EZRAT NASHIM
411 Avenue N
Brooklyn, New York 11230

Editor's note (from the Jewish Women's Archive): Denied their request to address the Rabbinical Assembly, Ezrat Nashim had the manifesto included in the packets distributed to the rabbis, and invited those rabbis' wives to a special meeting on March 14. The "call" was well-received at the convention, but the Conservative movement did not act immediately. When the Jewish Theological Seminary finally voted to admit women to the rabbinical school, in 1983, Ezrat Nashim members celebrated the decision for recognizing "the compelling moral claim of women's equality as well as the changed status of women in the modern world."



This Month in American Jewish History

Thomas Jefferson

Letter to Isaac Harby, of Charleston, SC

January 6, 1826

Monticello, January 6th, 1826

SIR: I have to thank you for the copy you have been so kind as to send me of your "Discourse before the Reformed Society of Israelites." I am little acquainted with the liturgy of the Jews or their mode of worship; but the reformation proposed, and explained in the Discourse, appears entirely reasonable. Nothing is wiser, than that all our institutions should keep pace with the advance of time, and be improved with the improvements of the human mind. I have thought it a cruel addition to the wrongs which that injured sect have suffered, that their youth should be excluded from the instructions in science afforded to all others in our public seminaries, by imposing upon them a course of Theological Reading which their consciences do not permit them to pursue; and in the University lately established here, we have set the example of ceasing to violate the rights of conscience by any injunctions on the different sects respecting their religion.

I pray you to accept the assurances of
Respect and esteem.

Thomas Jefferson

Note: In the early years of our nation, rabbis and prominent members of synagogues frequently corresponded with presidents and former presidents for a variety of reasons. Washington's famous letter to the Tuoro Synagogue in Newport, RI, was written in response to a letter from the Schul's 'president,' who sought assurances that the Bill of Rights would protect Jews. Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, was a favorite correspondent of synagogue leaders. Isaac Harby sought Jefferson's support for the liberalizing, but contentious, changes proposed in his community - these were the early beginnings of Reform Judaism in America. Considering Jefferson's critical role in guaranteeing religious freedom for Jews and all Americans, a positive response would be a great coup for his position. Jefferson responded in the letter above, written just 6 months before his death on the country's 50th Independence Day.

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Submissions for the next bulletin are due by

March 10, 2012

send to:

kwillen@mac.com

Please send all submissions in word documents, jpegs or pdf file formats

If you need help formatting a submission, call Kim Willen at 631-754-5865 or e-mail kwillen@mac.com

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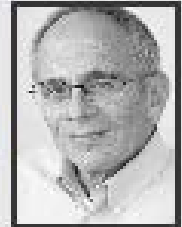


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