



# HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER BULLETIN

INNOVATE & INTEGRATE - CREATING COMMUNITY & CONNECTION

Iyar/Sivan 5772

May 2012

## My First Time in Israel By Rabbi Neil Kurshan



I made my first trip to Israel later in life than many people now make their first trip. While my parents felt it was important for me to have the experience during high school

of living abroad, they sent me to France rather than Israel where I spent a summer living with an official of the French government and his family and attended state dinners.

Israel happened later in my life. I was emerging from my college years, a time when I had been detached from Jewish practice and the Jewish community. As part of my growing interest in Judaism in the years right after college, I had decided that it was important to spend time in Israel. I was a graduate student at the time, and contacted what was then called the Kibbutz Aliya Desk in Manhattan which placed students on kibbutzim where they could work as volunteers during the summer.

I received my kibbutz assignment while I was still in the States, but learned just before my departure that I had been placed on a kibbutz populated mostly by Americans. I remember marching down to the Israel Kibbutz Aliya office in Tel Aviv as soon as I landed in Israel demanding to be transferred to a "real" Israeli kibbutz. The office was happy to oblige, and sent me to Kibbutz Kinneret on the shores of Lake Kinneret, one of the oldest and most beautiful of the kibbutzim in Israel.

However, I am getting ahead of the story. While I only remember fragments of that summer in Israel some 40 years ago, I will never forget landing at what was then known as Lod Airport. As the wheels of the plane hit the tarmac,

everyone applauded and spontaneously broke out singing Am Yisrael Chai. I still remember vividly a profound feeling that I had returned home. To this day I cannot explain in any rational way this feeling that Israel was my home, but I felt it the instant I touched down, and my first instinct was to get off the plane and kiss the ground.

I spent my first Shabbat in Israel in Tel Aviv and remember being overcome with emotion as the service began with Y'did Nefesh. It was the melody that we and most congregations use to begin the Friday night service, but I had never heard it before. To this day, even though I have heard the melody virtually every Friday night, each time it is sung it brings me back to that first Shabbat in Israel.

It was not long before I was brought down from the lofty heights of the spirit to the realities of modern day Israel. On the way to my kibbutz assignment, I stopped in Haifa. I was crossing a street in the lower port area when I was stopped by an Israeli policeman who gave me a ticket for jaywalking. I guess that was my own way of understanding the Zionist dream that we should be able to live in Israel as a normal people in a normal state.

I eventually made my way to the kibbutz where I worked for a month. I was assigned to cut down banana trees. After one hour of work in this sub-tropical climate on the shores of the Kinneret, I thought I had reached the limits of my physical endurance. I could not imagine doing this backbreaking work the remainder of the summer and asked to be transferred to the kitchen. I spent most of the remainder of the summer taking off and putting dishes on the conveyor belt of the kibbutz's commercial dishwasher. To this day I regret spending most of my summer in a work experience that I could have done any place in the world. In those days the

kibbutz took its volunteers on trips, and I remember traveling on the back of an open truck to Eilat and sleeping under the stars on the shore of the Red Sea.

Much of the summer is now a blur to me, but I remember stopping in London for a few days on my return trip. As I toured some of the historical sights dating back to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, I was struck at how recent it all seemed after having dug in the soil of Israel for artifacts dating back 2000 years. In any case I returned from that summer feeling an inextricable connection to Israel and a love for the country. I am fortunate that I have been able to share that love with my family and with so many of you in the congregation on our seven congregational trips to Israel. I always return from Israel already planning my next trip.



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# May Events



## Shavuot Tikkun

Saturday Evening, May 26 at 8:15 pm

This year's "First Time in Israel Project " will culminate in a Tikkun (study session) on the eve of Shavuot led by Rabbi Kurshan. We will look at Jewish sources on Israel spanning the Talmud, Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav, Rabbi Joshua Heschel, Yehuda Amichai and other contemporary writers in order to sort out what Israel has meant in our personal psyches as well as the collective psyche of the Jewish people. Join us for an evening of study and discussion. A dairy dessert will follow the session and all are welcome.

## Welcoming of the Newborns

Sunday, May 27, 2012 ~ The First Day of Shavuot  
at approximately 11:00 am

All parents and grandparents of newborns of this past year will be included in a special ceremony to express their thankfulness and the newborns will be welcomed into the community.

Kindly respond to Renda Rosenblatt at 631-427-8398 or [rendabrit@gmail.com](mailto:rendabrit@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

Please include child's name, parents, siblings and grandparents names. Babysitting will be available for siblings, ages 1 - 3, from 10:00 am to noon.

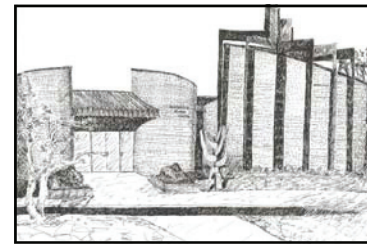
## Minyan in the Park

Sunday, June 10 at 7:30 am.

It's that time of year again! The annual Caumsett Park Minyan will be held on Sunday, June 10 at 7:30 am. (Please note that because of the conflict with Shavuot, the date has been changed from Memorial Day Weekend.) This uniquely inspiring service is held at the Long Island Sound overlook behind the Science Center, one of the most beautiful spots on Long Island.

Meet at the park entrance at 7:30 am with bicycles or walking shoes since the location of our service is a mile into the park. Congregants who want auto transportation from the park entrance, or who need directions, are asked to call the HJC office in advance.

Breakfast in the park, sponsored by Lester Fox, will follow the service. In the event of rain, call 631-423-5355 after 6:30 am for information about cancellation.



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

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## HJC Committee Chairpersons

Bulletin.....	Kim Willen
Calendar.....	Gwen Goldstein
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Friday Night Live.....	
Greeters.....	Maxine Fisher
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Israel Committee.....	Scott Inger
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Kol Nidre Appeal.....	Drs. Jay & Ellen Steinberg
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Men's Club.....	Eric Gemunder
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Religious School Board.....	Lisa Rouso
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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



# May 2012

## Iyar/Sivan 5772

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah w/ Rabbi 10:30am  7th Grade Wedding 6:30pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Minyan Breakfast <i>Young Women's Torah Study</i> 10:30am <b>Hey Shabbaton</b> Shabbat Services 8pm	<b>5</b> <b>Bar Mitzvah</b> Josh Prisamt   <b>Acharei Mot-Kedoshim</b>
<b>6</b> Men's Club 9:30am   USY	<b>7</b> ECC Mother's Day Boutique  Sisterhood Book Discussion 11:30am	<b>8</b> Religious School ~Yom Ha'Atzma'Ut Observed  Chavarim: 6:15 Hebrew Chug: 6:30pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> ECC Parent Night Out 7pm   <b>Lag Ba'omer</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Gimel Shabbaton</b>   Shabbat Services 8pm	<b>12</b> <b>Bat Mitzvah</b> Caroline Kriegstein  Havdallah 8:30pm <b>Emor</b>
<b>13</b> 	<b>14</b> Sisterhood Board Meeting 8pm	<b>15</b> Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah w/ Rabbi 10:30am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Dalet Shabbaton</b>  <i>Young Women's Torah Study</i> 10:30am Shabbat Services 8pm	<b>19</b> <b>Bat Mitzvah</b> Marisa Singer   <b>Behar-Bechukotai</b>
<b>20</b> 7th Grade Graduation 10am RS Board 11:45 Kad/USY	<b>21</b> ECC Parent Assoc. 9:45am  <b>Congregational Meeting 8:00pm</b>	<b>22</b> <i>ECC Blintz Bake Off</i> Chaverim 6:15 Hebrew Chug 6:30pm <b>ROSH CHODESH</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Ritual Comm. 8:00 pm	<b>25</b>   Shabbat Services 8pm	<b>26</b>   Tikkun Leyl 8:15pm <b>Bemidbar Erev Shavuot</b>
<b>27</b> <b>RS CLOSED</b>  Shavuot Services 8:15pm <b>SHAVUOT</b>	<b>28</b> <b>ECC CLOSED</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	<b>29</b>   Hebrew Chug 6:30pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		



# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE Words and Music

By Mitch Pashkin



This is my last article as president of HJC. I am not doing the traditional last article contained with thank you's or advice about the future. I am not going to espouse a philosophy on leadership.

One of the most difficult parts of my presidency has been finding a topic for a monthly bulletin article. As president of a Jewish institution and as a person interested in many topics related to Judaism and the Jewish religion, there

have been times when I thought of writing something about Jewish religion or philosophy rather than about the running of the synagogue. I never ventured down that road out of hesitancy for coming off as attempting to "preach". This is not the role of the president.

I still firmly believe this. However, with my last article as president, I am going to take a short drive down that road before getting back onto the highway.

After being a very reluctant "three-time-a year-Jew" for a great many years, for many different reasons I have been a regular service attendee on Friday nights, Saturday mornings and many holidays for the last several years. While it may appear to some that my presence at services during my presidency merely has been out of obligation as president, this has not been the case. I enjoy services.

The addition of Cantor Gordan to our professional staff has greatly enhanced the meaning of services for me. As I sit during services enjoying both Cantor Gordan's music and the words of Rabbi Kurshan, I have found that the words and music from Shabbat stay with me throughout the week. I have been thinking about a topic for my last bulletin article and this combination of words and music has pervaded my thoughts.

When I think of words and music, I often think about a movie I enjoy called Eddie and the Cruisers - I don't think I can incorporate movie and musical references into my writing as well as my friend Mitch Reiver - but here it goes. For those who have not seen it (probably most of you), the movie is about a band in the early 1960's, Eddie (Michael Pare) and The Cruisers and their brief fling with success. Most of the movie focuses on the relationship between Eddie and Frank (Tom Berenger). Eddie excels at playing musical instruments but cannot write lyrics. Frank is a great lyricist; and when Frank joins the band, the band finally finds the success it has been seeking. All of the success disappears when Eddie and his music die (I'll leave it at that for those who may want to watch it). Despite their often volatile relationship, they need each other. As Eddie says to Frank during one scene, "words and music, words and music".

Just like the key to a successful, inspiring and uplifting band is the right combination of words and music, the same holds true for a religious institution. When I go to services and listen to Cantor Gordan and Rabbi Kurshan, I am moved, inspired and I believe often changed for the better by this combination of words and music. While I often go into services tired and beleaguered and weighed down from the week, the words and music take me away from the stresses and help get me back on track.

The challenges of being President are many. It is because of the words and music that I will continue to go to services on a regular basis and stay involved through my work with the ritual aspects of HJC. As Rabbi Kurshan said in a meeting the other day (I am paraphrasing here), while HJC has many challenges ahead of it, we are fortunate to be a healthy institution that can face and meet these challenges. I believe that the words and music we have the opportunity to hear during services and at other times are one of the key foundations to our healthy institution known as HJC.

After two years on the bimah, I look forward to going back to my seat in the row behind Lester Fox. I am going back to being a supporting player and to listening to the words and music from a different vantage point but hopefully with as much meaning and inspiration. I hope to see you in schul and listen together to the words and music.



Congregants help out in the garden on Mitzvah Day.

# HJC Community News

## Yashir Kochach to this month's B'nai Mitzvah

**Caroline Julia Kriegstein**  
**Daughter of Ora and Alan Kriegstein**



Caroline is a seventh grader at East Woods School where she is on the Academic, Citizenship and High Effort honor rolls. She does gymnastics, plays school soccer and lacrosse, and also enjoys taking part in her school's theater productions. Caroline loves spending time on the beach in the summer and especially enjoys boating and tubing. Her mom, dad, sister Brittany, brother Spencer and dog Finnegan love her so much and are so hugely proud of her! Caroline is working very hard to prepare for her Bat Mitzvah and we are all so excited to share this special milestone with family and friends.



**Joshua Prisamt**  
**Son of Carol and Steven Prisamt**



Josh is a seventh grader at Stimpson Middle School. A young man with many passions, he is pursuing an acting career and can be seen in various television commercials. As a boy scout, he particularly enjoys camping and hiking. His greatest love, however, is being out on the water sailing his beloved "My Toy Too." Josh's family is so very proud of his accomplishments and know he will shine on his big day.

## Mazal Tov

Madeline & Allen Sinowitz announce the birth of Madeline's granddaughter, Sophie Hannah Schwartz.

## We extend our sincere condolences to...

Barbara Stone on the death of her husband, Herbert Stone  
Eric Biener on the death of his mother, Gloria Biener

# News News News News





## The Passing of Time by Cantor Israel Gordan



While this past winter was an extremely mild one here on Long Island, it is still amazing to experience the passing of the seasons. Since this is my first year as the cantor of the Huntington Jewish Center, every event and occasion on the annual calendar has been a first for me: the High Holidays, Succot, Thanksgiving, New Years, Passover, etc, aligned with Fall, Winter, and Spring. As

we continue to hurtle along through 2012, this seems like a perfect opportunity to examine the passing of the year and see how religion and community can offer so much and add a sense of meaning and purpose to all of our lives.

I can still remember when I was a very young child being at Temple Emanuel in Newton, Massachusetts for services when Rabbi Chiel was giving a sermon before Yizkor. He said that he was once somewhere when he saw two kids playing cowboys and Indians and one said to the other "your days are numbered." This struck him as not only a fitting quote from a movie Western to be used for the game, but also as extremely prescient in a way that no child could possibly understand. I have thought of that idea often, and it seems apt now.

At this point in the year, we are in the midst of counting the Omer, when our days are literally numbered. Seven weeks pass between Passover and Shavuot and we keep track of each day. We started counting on the second night of Passover and the 49th day is the day before Shavuot. Although this time is marked as a somewhat solemn period, we also observe Yom HaShoah, Rosh Chodesh Iyar, Yom HaZikaron, Yom HaAtzmaut, Lag BaOmer, Mothers Day (just wanted to see if you were paying attention!), Yom Yerushalayim, and Rosh Chodesh Sivan, in addition to Shabbat every week. There are some parallels between this period in the calendar and the three weeks before Tisha B'Av (as well as the seven weeks between Tisha B'Av and Rosh Hashanah), and even some special tunes that are used for certain tefillot.

The idea of marking periods of time in the calendar and not just single days also exists in Christianity with Lent and Advent, as well as Islam with Ramadan. It can be almost too difficult to conceptualize an entire year and sometimes a single day or week is not enough to commemorate an event. But a season of counting really allows us to take stock, reflect, and look forward to what's ahead while giving a special "flavor" to that period of the year.

Many of us can conceptualize the Summer, or the period from Thanksgiving through New Years as a special time of the year. I hope that as we continue our journey from Passover to Shavuot and from the Exodus from Egypt to the Revelation at Sinai, we really notice the world around us, the passing of time, and the changing of the seasons. And I hope that we can all consider our days as numbered in a good way.



Susie Meisler, Rabbi Kurshan and Mrs. Fisher at the Nursery School seder.

## MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Each year at Selichot, we dedicate plaques in memory of our departed loved ones. This year, Selichot falls on Saturday evening, September 8th. If you are interested in purchasing a plaque, orders are now being taken in the synagogue office. The plaques are \$450 and the deadline to order is June 1.

## First Time in Israel Project



If you have been inspired by the contributions of your fellow congregants about their first time in Israel but have not yet written, we still want to hear from you. We will happily accept your submissions until the last weekday before Shavuot (Friday, May 25). Tell us in a paragraph or two about your first trip to Israel: At what stage of your life did you go? With whom did you go? What are your memories? What was the most moving moment? What has this trip meant in your subsequent life?

Please send to **Rabbi Kurshan** at [hjcrabbi@optonline.net](mailto:hjcrabbi@optonline.net).



## Sisterhood News by Sue Lefkowitz

### Upcoming Events:

**May 7, 2012** – Carol Baker will lead the discussion of the book “The Invisible Bridge” by Julie Omingier. The book is available in the HJC office for \$13. There will be a light lunch.  
Please RSVP to **Syd Schlesinger** NOW – [syd519@gmail.com](mailto:syd519@gmail.com)

**May 23, 2012** – “Woman of Achievement” Gala Dinner, at the Dix Hills Jewish Center. At this time the HJC Sisterhood will be honoring Syd Schlesinger. Please send check to Ethel Sachs, 155 Altessa Blvd., Melville, N.Y. 11747.

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The refurbishing of the Library continues. Your participation in this effort would be greatly appreciated. Contact **Syd Schlesinger**,

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I apologize for the omission of the names of Marilyn Klein and Ella Rose Trager from the listing of participants in our Hamantashen project

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### Coorespondence

Dear Sisterhood,

Below is a note from a congregant who received Maot Hittim Funds this year. Thank you in advance for your generosity and allowing me to help those in need within our congregation with Passover assistance.

Sincerely,  
Neil Kurshan, Rabbi

Dear Sisterhood Members,

I have asked the rabbi to forward this letter to you-to THANK YOU for the generous contribution you have made to my family to help us to celebrate a zissen Pesach during a time when we are in much financial distress. It is humbling to us as a family to need this help, but we are full of gratitude and admiration for the HJC community for reaching out to us and helping us, so that even when we are in difficulty, we may still rejoice at Pesach along with k'lal Yisrael.

Your doing this traditional mitzvah makes me proud of our Jewish traditions, and I hope that next year I will be in a position to give back and help someone else in the same way. Many blessings upon your head! Wishing you and yours a wonderful Pesach!

Thank you again,  
Anonymous Ma'ot Hittim Recipient

(It certainly brings tears to one's eyes as we at Sisterhood do so many wonderful things for our community. I, as President, am thankful to all the many women who participate.)

## Third Annual Taste of Passover

March 29 was a wonderful evening filled with good food, good wine and good feelings all around. This was really a family affair. Sisterhood and Nursery School provided wonderful food prepared right in our own kitchen. Men's Club brought a great selection of wines. Everyone got a chance to see some demonstrations, and then taste a variety of dishes from charoset to dessert. There were new faces and lots of people returning for the third time. We are already planning some new touches for next year and look forward to seeing more new faces. Everyone went home with a recipe book containing the recipes of the evening plus a number of others, some from Chai Club. If you couldn't make it this year, hope to see you next year.

Syd Schlesinger



# sisterhood





## ***Your Children are not the Center of the Universe***

I have been facilitating Mommy and Me groups for years and perhaps the single most repeated message I have given parents is this, "the center of the universe in a family is the parents." When children have parents that spend most of their energy making the lives of their children as 'perfect' as they can, everyone in the family suffers, especially the parents.

Having been married for over 40 years, I have been witness to many strained marriages because so much time was spent on smoothing the path for their children at home, at school, in their social lives and with siblings. Parents who forgot that they were the most important people in the family used their personal time to bring children to hundreds of activities, music, dance, karate, and art lessons, sports practice, Kumon for extra educational help. There was little time at night for parents to relate to one another. Homework, which parents generally should not be involved in, dominated the evenings activities. Fear that children would not get into a great college, drove many parents into a state of perpetual concern, fear and over involvement, leaving little time for one another.

Dinnertime should be a sacred period for the whole family to connect and communicate about the events of the day. Instead it has evolved into a more unstructured part of the day. Dinnertime should be an opportunity for both parents to help children navigate the upcoming events of the week and give advice to questions they need answered. I hear from so many parents that everyone in the family eats at different times due to overcrowded schedules. Unlike the French culture where cooking, baking and eating together are sacred, dinnertime in America has somehow lost its importance.

Many years ago, my mother, father and I went out for dinner. I was probably no more than 8 years old. I had an incredibly close relationship with my father and simply adored him. So it was not unusual for me to ask my dad the question, "Who do you love more, me or mom?" His reply shocked me till this day, but it also gave me the most important lesson and basis for the strong foundation I have developed with my husband during the years my children were growing up. He simply said, "I love you both differently- I love you dearly, but your mom will always be the love of my life, my first love and I will always put her first in my life." I am pretty certain that this one comment, which stayed with me when I took on the overwhelming responsibility of parenting, allowed my husband and I to secure our relationship as the 'center of the universe' in our home-much to the chagrin of my children!

Children must learn how to cope when they are not the center of the universe. They must learn the art of waiting, taking turns socially, playing independently, problem solving at home and at school, failing at tasks so they can recognize the importance of hard work, and understanding the concept that they will not always win, succeed and be the best at everything they attempt to do. They should also know that parents' private time is crucial for their relationship.

Parents need to step back from sending their children to hundreds of outside structured activities and allow them to just 'chill out.' Children need be creative and learn how to spend their free time. Help your children put down the electronic toys and get them outside with friends to play in the sunshine. Instead of playing Wii games of basketball and soccer, let your children go in the back yard with neighborhood kids and let them loose. This will also yield valuable time for parents to do what they need to do for themselves.

Make dinnertime a sacred moment in your family life. Have your children help you cook and bake. French moms take time to bake every day to teach children that there will be a sweet at every dinner. It also teaches children to wait till it cools down and wait again to eat the dessert after dinnertime. If a father or mother doesn't come home from work until after their children's dinner time, let the kids eat early and come back to the table for dessert when the working parent is eating his/her meal. Ask children at the dinner table what their favorite part of their day was and then make sure to share your favorite part.

Putting children to sleep at a reasonable time allows parents the opportunity to have alone time together. Make sure that your children know that you will not be coming back into the bedroom after you say goodnight. This is your special time of the day with each other. This will allow children to clearly know that their parents are a united front who value one other. Have a weekly steady date night with your spouse, even if it is in the house. Play games, read a book together, chat about your concerns, watch television. Remember that once your children leave your nest, you both need to have developed a friendship that is built on shared experiences and companionship or else you are left scrounging to find common ground. Try not to change the day of the week you set aside for yourselves. The ritual of date night can be likened to the importance of the ritual of Shabbat, setting time aside to recharge and connect.

Working to keep a strong marital relationship is critical since conflict in the home can be damaging for a child. Parents who are not connecting can have a very deep impact on their children and influence their relationships at school and how they will continue to develop relationships in the future. This directly links to a social learning theory; children will model what they have observed from family members, especially parents. When parental relations are negative, children are at risk.

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, who was the President of the University of Notre Dame, once said, "The most important thing a father can do for his child is to love their mother." Of course the opposite holds true as well. Giving children the clear message that you love one another will influence their future relationships with others, especially their spouse when or if they choose to get married.





## Welcoming Partners in Caring to Huntington Jewish Center



Under the auspices of Partners in Caring, a UJA funded program bringing together F·E·G·S Long Island (the region's Jewish human services agency) and synagogues, we have an F·E·G·S social worker, Barbara Sheryll, LMSW as part of our Huntington Jewish Center staff on a part-time basis.

This partnership strengthens our connection to both F·E·G·S and the Long Island community. Partners in Caring will bring educational programs and workshops, volunteer opportunities and projects, and free and confidential short-term individual counseling and referral services to our synagogue. For more information or to speak to a social worker:

please contact Barbara Sheryll, LMSW at (631) 462 - 9800 ext. 251  
by e-mail [bsheryll@optonline.net](mailto:bsheryll@optonline.net)

You can also contact HJC's PIC liason, Janet Zimmerman, at 631-491-4084  
or at [ladyzim@optonline.net](mailto:ladyzim@optonline.net)

UJA-Federation of New York's

**Partners in Caring**

### ***Spring Book Discussion and light lunch***

**Monday, May 7 11:30 am**

**The Invisible Bridge  
By Jolie Orringer**

This is a compelling story of a young architect student arriving in Paris just before the onset of the second world war. His promise to deliver a letter begins a series of complications when he learns a secret that will change his life forever.

Carol Baker will lead the discussion. The book is readily available. Please join us with old friends and new friends.

For any questions contact

**Syd Schlesinger**

**[Syd519@gmail.com](mailto:Syd519@gmail.com), 631-261-2330**

### ***USY News by Josh Morris***



Two weeks ago, our chapter received the opportunity to attend a combined event with ENJC or East Northport Jewish Center. The event was held at the sister shul and all who attended were in for a real treat; a chocolate Seder! Equipped with an adapted Hagaddah, the chapter members took turns reading how dark chocolate symbolized the bitterness of the lives of the Jewish slaves in Egypt and drinking four full cups of chocolate milk. Instead of a visit from Elijah, the local dentist made a quick stop in to make sure everyone was functioning properly.

Another recent activity carried out by our USY chapter members was on Mitzvah day in which USYers helped in the creation of fleece blankets which were eventually donated to a local children's hospital. Besides the gratifying sense of accomplishment and good doing the chapter members received from participating, the hospital was also very pleased to receive the donation.

As the year winds down and students start preparing for AP and final exams I would like to remind everyone that we will continue to have meetings from now until the beginning of June and attending can be a great way to relieve some stress! Enjoy the warm weather!

# Donations צדקה

## GENERAL FUND

Nathan Newman in memory of Simon Newman at yahrzeit.  
Lawrence Tannenbaum in memory of Belle Tannenbaum at yahrzeit.  
Marsha P. Kalina in memory of Jan Perlmutter at yahrzeit.  
Myra & Marvin Marsh in memory of Burt Marsh at yahrzeit.  
Alan Orloff in memory of Eric Orloff at yahrzeit.  
Marjorie Maltin in memory of Sylvia Solomon at yahrzeit.  
Ginger Schneider in memory of George Schneider at yahrzeit.  
Rosalyn Haber in memory of Minnie Simon at yahrzeit.  
Dale & Phil Mintz in memory of Lee Mintz at yahrzeit.  
Roberta Marsh in memory of Kate Jacobs at yahrzeit.  
Roberta Marsh in memory of Daniel Marsh at yahrzeit.  
Arthur Perler in memory of Barnett Perler at yahrzeit.  
Denise Kramer in memory of Morris Newirth at yahrzeit.  
Shelley & Marc Weinberg in memory of Milton Weinberg at yahrzeit.  
Andrea Dubow in memory of Rose Goldstein at yahrzeit.  
Elaine Epstein in memory of Irving Gleicher at yahrzeit.  
Ethel Schwartz Bock in memory of Blima Devissa at yahrzeit.  
Diane & Steven Block in memory of Alice Pearlman at yahrzeit.  
Irene Nirenberg in memory of Sadie Nirenberg at yahrzeit.  
Adrienne Rosof in memory of William Baron at yahrzeit.  
Elaine Marsh in memory of Burt Marsh at yahrzeit.  
Elaine Marsh in memory of Harry Maidenbaum at yahrzeit.  
Patricia Schoeffler in memory of Lilian Cochrane at yahrzeit.  
Jay Steinberg in memory of Ruth Steinberg at yahrzeit.  
Ron & Miriam Goldberg in memory of Ann Benjamin Goldberg at yahrzeit.  
Eugene Laikin in memory of Anna Laikin at yahrzeit.  
Renda & Ken Rosenblatt in memory of Milton Rosenblatt at yahrzeit.  
Carol & Marshall Adelstein in memory of Frieda Moak at yahrzeit.  
Marvin Rosenthal in memory of Clair Rosenthal at yahrzeit.  
Loron Simon in memory of Charles Simon at yahrzeit.  
Rosalind Shaffer in memory of Benny Shaffer at yahrzeit.

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

April Mitzman  
Miriam & Joel Wirchin in honor of the engagement of Ariella, daughter of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan, to Leo Simonovich.  
Sue Lefkowitz in honor of her 23rd anniversary of not smoking.  
Sue & David Lefkowitz with thanks to Rabbi Kurshan.  
Susi Susskind in memory of Richard Kahn, husband of Ellen Kahn.

## ARK & PULPIT FUND

Joan & Robert Blank in memory of Louis Galowitz at yahrzeit.

## CENTENNIAL GARDEN FUND

Gwen Goldstein in memory of Philip Marcus at yahrzeit.

## DAILY MINYAN FUND

Bea Pedowitz in memory of Morris Pedowitz at yahrzeit.

## DAVID S. ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Madeline Sinowitz in memory of Leon Levy at yahrzeit.  
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Hannah, daughter of Patricia & Dan Schoeffler.  
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in honor of Shari Klaire & Paul Greenstein for their contribution to our youth.  
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Jack Lust, father of Janet Ganes.

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the marriage of Shmuel Aiello, grandson of Ethel Sachs, to Eliana Ramage.

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the 25th wedding anniversary of Jennifer & Scott Ingber.

Madeline Sinowitz in memory of Eugene Levy at yahrzeit.

## DONALD L. GORDON ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Rosalind Shaffer in memory of Erna Kaplan.

Gail & Jim Lodge in memory of Steve Grunberger at yahrzeit.

Elaine Stein & Loron Simon with thanks to Rosalyn Gordon & Harvey Fader.

## LEAH GREENE GARDEN FUND

Judith Leopold in memory of Yetta Teich at yahrzeit.

Judith Leopold in memory of Norman Greene at yahrzeit.

## LIBRARY FUND

Syd & Mike Schlesinger in memory of Mollie Schlesinger at yahrzeit.

## PRAYERBOOK & BIBLE FUND

Frances Blum in memory of Joseph Bernstein at yahrzeit.

Micki & Marvin Sokol in memory of Richard Kahn, husband of Ellen Kahn.

Joan & Norman Mattisinko in memory of Richard Kahn, husband of Ellen Kahn.

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND/ JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Marilyn Johnson & Stacie Deiner

Hannah & Bill Kampel in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Kushnick, grandson of Janet & Martin Kushnick.

Hannah & Bill Kampel in honor of the marriage of Shmuel Aiello, grandson of Ethel Sachs, to Eliana Ramage.

Hannah & Bill Kampel in memory of Richard Kahn, husband of Ellen Kahn.

Charlotte Rosen in memory of Richard Kahn, husband of Ellen Kahn.

Maxine Liebowitz in honor of the marriage of Shmuel Aiello, grandson of Ethel Sachs, to Eliana Ramage.

Janet & Martin Kushnick in memory of Richard Kahn, husband of Ellen Kahn.

Syd & Mike Schlesinger in memory of Richard Kahn, husband of Ellen Kahn.

Syd & Mike Schlesinger in memory of Hyman Sudran at yahrzeit.

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

Sue & David Lefkowitz in memory of Richard Kahn, husband of Ellen Kahn.

Sue & David Lefkowitz in honor of the marriage of Shmuel Aiello, grandson of Ethel Sachs, to Eliana Ramage.

Gloria Safran in memory of Ray Stecker at yahrzeit.

Rene Levy in memory of Richard Kahn, husband of Ellen Kahn.

Syd & Mike Schlesinger in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Kushnick, grandson of Janet & Martin Kushnick.

Shirley Vilinsky in honor of the marriage of Shmuel Aiello, grandson of Ethel Sachs, to Eliana Ramage.

Sylvia Brass in memory of Samuel Allen at yahrzeit.

Marilyn & David Klein in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Kushnick, grandson of Janet & Martin Kushnick.

Marilyn & David Klein in memory of Richard Kahn, husband of Ellen Kahn.

Ron Koas in memory of Ya'akov Koas at yahrzeit.

Eileen & Harvey Berger in memory of Irving Rothenberg at yahrzeit.

Eileen & Harvey Berger in memory of Dolores Berger at yahrzeit.

Eileen & Harvey Berger in memory of Irving Berger at yahrzeit.

Beryl & Sy Okwit in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Kushnick, grandson of Janet & Martin Kushnick.

Ruth Wies in memory of Calmy Wies at yahrzeit.

Jordan Kushnick in honor of his Bar Mitzvah.

Lawrence Kushnick in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of his son, Jordan Kushnick.



## Religious School Yad Project

The Religious School Yad Project took place on March 11th with the 4th – 7th grade students participating. They first sat through a lecture on Bar/Bat Mitzvah and a tour of the sanctuary by Avi Zukerman of The Ultimate Art Workshop. The Students then made their individual silver plated heirloom quality yads with their Hebrew names on them. When they were all assembled Mr. Zukerman opened up a Torah and asked the children to find a word that starts with the first letter of their names and point to it with their very own new yad. It was a wonderful program co- sponsored by Religious School and Sisterhood.



## Mitzvah Day

On Sunday, March 25th we came together for a synagogue wide Mitzvah Day Program. There was something for everyone to participate in. Children from Religious school and their parents worked very hard helping to organize the library, clean our museum, prepare the dairy kitchen for Passover, helped fill our new outreach gardens with soil, clean up our organic garden, make Passover cards for residents of Gurwin, sew together knitted squares for blankets for Gurwin, made blankets for a children's hospital and raised money for the JNN with a bake sale. It was a very rewarding day for all and a very good community bonding experience.



## 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.hjcnyc.org](http://www.hjcnyc.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.



## Seders at HJC



## 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.

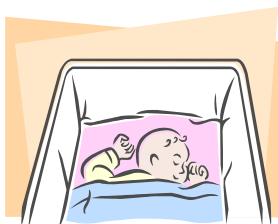
This is a meaningful way to develop your own strengths as a Jewish leader and contribute your talents to the congregation. If you are interested, or know of someone in the congregation who may be interested in serving on the **Board of Trustees**,

please contact **Cheryl Silberman**,  
Chair of the Nominating Committee  
at [clk1623@gmail.com](mailto: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 21, 2012** pursuant to the terms set forth in the HJC bylaws.

Students from the Nursery school and the Religious school enjoy their seders at HJC.





# PLEASE HELP LONG ISLAND'S *NEWBORNS IN NEED*

The Social Action Committee of HJC is once again helping the Long Island Chapter of *Newborns in Need*...a national nonprofit organization, which provides essentials to babies whose mothers would otherwise have nothing. Many young moms leave the hospital with a baby facing serious illness and little or no resources to provide the basic necessities. Poverty and illness can touch the tiniest babies and their families become overwhelmed. Through the efforts of Newborns in Need, a nurse or social worker can deliver an overflowing diaper bag full of clothing, blankets and hygiene products to help ensure a healthy and warm start in life.

**Won't you please help us by buying or donating new or very gently used:**

- **Baby Clothing preemie to size 12 months (Nothing Larger)**
- **Baby Blankets and Linens**
- **Diapers, Diaper Bags, Wipes, and Baby Toiletries**
- **Formula, Pacifiers, and Non BPA Bottles**
- **Infant Strollers (non umbrella)**
- **Bassinets and Portacribs**
- **Infant Swings and Exersaucers**
- **Infant seats**
- **Gift Cards**
- **Checks made out to *Newborns in Need* (which will be used to purchase new Pack & Play Portable Cribs)**

**Please note:** We are **unable** to accept used car seats and cribs because of safety codes or toys, stuffed animals, furniture and changing tables due to insufficient storage.

**Throughout the month of May, HJC will have collection bins set up at both entrances.** Please bring your bulk donations to **Lorraine Grenier** at 8 Melody Lane in Huntington. Last year, *Newborns in Need* was overwhelmed with the generosity of HJC. With everyone's support, we hope to repeat this mitzvah once again. Any questions, please call Jill Sherman, Chairperson HJC's *Newborns in Need* drive at (631) 423- 8133. Thank you.

# **Attention Golfers and Eaters!**

Save the Date for Two Great Events!

**Wednesday, July 25, 2012**

## **HJC Golf Outing and Barbeque**

The Crab Meadow Golf Course

Registration 11:00 am

Shotgun Start: 1:00 pm

Barbeque: 6:00 pm at HJC



You don't need to play golf to join us for the BBQ!

Details, cost, ticket information and sponsorship opportunities to follow!

For more details contact Matthew Kirschner at 917-826-3242

or [matthew.t.kirschner@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.t.kirschner@gmail.com)





## This Month in American Jewish History

### George Washington

To The Hebrew Congregation of Savannah, Georgia  
May, 1790

I thank you, with great sincerity, for your congratulations on my appointment to the office which I have the honor to hold by the unanimous choice of my fellow-citizens; and especially for the expressions, which you are pleased to use in testifying the confidence that is reposed in me by your congregation.

As the delay, which has naturally intervened between my election and your address, has afforded an opportunity for appreciating the merits of the federal government, and for communicating your sentiments of its administration, I have rather to express my satisfaction, than regret, at a circumstance, which demonstrates (upon experiment) your attachment to the former, as well as approbation of the latter.

I rejoice, that a spirit of liberality and philanthropy is much more prevalent than it formerly was among the enlightened nations of the earth, and that your brethren will benefit thereby in proportion as it shall become still more extensive. Happily, the people of the United States of America have, in many instances, exhibited examples worthy of imitation, the salutary influence of which will doubtless extend much farther, if, gratefully enjoying those blessings of peace, which, under the favor of Heaven, have been obtained by fortitude in war, they shall conduct themselves with reverence to the Deity, and charity towards their fellow-creatures.

May the same wonder-working Deity, who long since delivered the Hebrews from their Egyptian oppressors, and planted them in the promised land, whose providential agency has lately been conspicuous in establishing these United States as an independent nation, still continue to water them with the dews of Heaven, and to make the inhabitants of every denomination participate in the temporal and spiritual blessings of that people whose God is Jehovah.

George Washington

#### Editors' notes:

The leaders of Savannah's Mikve Israel Congregation wrote to Washington, on May 6, 1790, congratulating him on his election as president. The letter, signed by Levi Sheftall (1739-1809), president of the Mikve Israel, apologized for the delay in writing congratulations to the President: "...Our eccentric situation added to a diffidence founded on the most profound respect has thus long prevented our address and expressing our unbounded confidence in your [Washington's] integrity and unblemished virtue....unexampled liberality and extensive philanthropy [that] have dispelled that cloud of bigotry and superstition which has long, as a veil, shaded religion - unriveted the fetters of enthusiasm - enfranchised us with all the privileges and immunities of free citizens, and initiated us into the grand mass of legislative mechanism."

Washington dispatched an immediate response at the end of the same month, making it the first letter from the new President to an American synagogue (the famous Tuoro synagogue letter was sent in August, 1790). A copy of the letter is on display at Mikve Israel in Savannah, but the original is lost. Washington's personal copy is preserved in the President's Letter Book, in the Library of Congress. Click here to see an image:

<http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mgw2&fileName=gwpage038.db&recNum=144>



## News From The Jewish Theological Seminary's Chancellor Arnold Eisen

### JTS Chancellor Eisen Blogs on the Special Importance of Camp Ramah and Jewish Camping in the 21st Century

As spring turns to summer, The Jewish Theological Seminary's Chancellor Arnold Eisen is focusing on the particular significance of Conservative Judaism's camping arm—Camp Ramah, which operates under the religious and educational auspices of JTS—and its increased importance in raising Jewish children and grandchildren in the 21st century. In a recent blog post on [On My Mind: Arnie Eisen](#), where the chancellor shares his personal thoughts, he wrote:

"The current enthusiasm for serious Jewish camping is well justified. There are not many things any of us could do for the future of Judaism and the Jewish community in North America that would be more effective than getting more Jewish kids to spend more time in serious Jewish camps, experimenting with different educational aims and methods at those camps, and increasing the presence there of Hebrew, Israel, and compelling, relevant teachings from the Jewish tradition—such as Jewish ethics pertaining to relationships and other issues that are at the forefront of kids' and teens' minds. Our people, our tradition, and our society will be the better for this effort. Why is this so? There are two major theoretical sources for understanding why Jewish camps like Ramah matter so much right now."

To read the chancellor's entire essay on Jewish camping and learn more about those two sources, go to [On My Mind: Arnie Eisen](#).

For more information about JTS and Camp Ramah, or to support JTS, please contact Gwynne Wicks at (212) 678-8866 or [gwwicks@jtsa.edu](mailto:gwwicks@jtsa.edu).

### A Post-Holiday Keepsake From JTS: The 2012 *Freedom Torah* eBook

Pesah is meaningful, thought-provoking, and enjoyed annually by one and all as it offers an opportunity for Jewish families and friends to join together in commemorating the Exodus and its many lessons for today's times. This year's holiday was particularly noteworthy because The Jewish Theological Seminary published its new [Freedom Torah](#)—a free iBook app for iPads—of past Torah commentaries from JTS's world-renowned scholars, with thoughtful questions for discussion around the seder table.

"The seder directs me, grounds me, fills me with far more than food and wine," says JTS Chancellor Arnold Eisen. "You may be at sea, the Haggadah seems to say; you may be facing a host of troubles that surround you on every side . . . but, together, we sons and daughters can open a door for Elijah, the prophet who announces Messiah, as our ancestors did before us. We can accomplish redemption. The answer to the seder's questions, when all is said and done, comes not in words but in action, in hope."

A free copy of the [Freedom Torah](#) iBook, which can be used at future Passover discussions or as a stepping stone to topical and current conversations among family and friends, is available for iPads [here](#), with simple printed text accessible to all on the [JTS website](#).

For more information about the [Freedom Torah](#), or to support JTS, please contact Gwynne Wicks at (212) 678-8866 or [gwwicks@jtsa.edu](mailto:gwwicks@jtsa.edu).

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## Bulletin News

Submissions for the next bulletin are due by  
May 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

Thank you for your cooperation!

## Math Tutor Available

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Jake Kramer (19 yrs. old) home: 385-4317

Shana Ledner (16 yrs. old) cell: 516-236-6687  
home: 754-0246

Esti Lodge (17 yrs. old) cell: 759-0943 home: 427-4654

Marisa Pashkin (16 yrs. old) home: 423-6472

Jenny Rosen (16 yrs. old) cell: 514-9061 home: 239-6498

Rina Steinberg (15 yrs old) cell: 255-9808 home: 424-2954

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

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