

HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER

NEWS COMMUNITY CONNECTION

INNOVATE & INTEGRATE - CREATING COMMUNITY & CONNECTION



by Rabbi Kurshan

Thanksgivingukkah

I am writing this column in early October, and already I am hearing the references to Thanksgivingukkah. A kosher restaurant in Manhattan is advertising Chanukah menus for Thanksgiving since Chanukah will fall out on Thanksgiving this year—a very unusual occurrence. Chanukah begins this year on Erev Thanksgiving, Wednesday evening, November 27.

This overlap of days does not happen very often. Since Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863, no day of Chanukah has ever fallen out on the 4th Thursday of November. However Thanksgiving was not always the 4th Thursday in November. Originally it was on the last Thursday of November which could be the 4th or 5th Thursday of the month (In 1939 Franklin Delano Roosevelt stipulated that Thanksgiving

had to be the 4th Thursday in order to start the Christmas shopping season a week earlier.) At the end of the 19th century in 1888 and 1899 Chanukah fell out on Thanksgiving which was the fifth Thursday of the month. Thursday, November 29, 1888 was the first day of Chanukah, and Thursday, November 30, 1899 was the 4th day of Chanukah.

What is most interesting is that after this year Thanksgiving will never again completely fall out during Chanukah (at least not for 70,000 years—to be explained later). However since Chanukah begins at sundown we will have a couple of more occurrences of the first night of Chanukah beginning on Thanksgiving night—November 27, 2070 and November 28, 2165. After that even this overlap will never happen again. The partial Thanksgiving Chanukah overlap happened once before in 1918 and even if you were not alive then and think you remember this happening in your lifetime, it is because in 2002 Chanukah started on Friday night, November 29th right after thanksgiving.

If you are interested in the underlying reasons for these anomalies it is because of the interplay of the lunar and solar calendars. The Jewish holidays shift their dates significantly from year to year because the Hebrew calendar is a lunar calendar of 354 days—much shorter than the solar calendar of 365.24 days. Without any adjustment the Jewish holidays would continue to move 11 days later each year. This is what happens with the Islamic calendar, a lunar calendar that makes no adjustment for the solar calendar so that Muslim holidays traverse the entire solar calendar every several decades. On the

Adult Education - 5774



**Continues Monday evenings,
November 18 and 25**

**Semester I
November 18--The Citizen and the Stranger
November 25--Woman as "Other":
Traditional and Contemporary Challenges**

The "Other" in Jewish Tradition

Instructor: Rabbi Neil Kurshan

For most of Jewish history, Jews have been defined as the outsider in almost all the societies in which they have lived. In the modern era in which Jews have power and influence, others such as women, immigrants, the poor, Palestinians, and Israeli Arabs are now defined as the "Other". How do we build the internal strength and security of the Jewish community while being sensitive to the rights and needs of those outside our community?

Each session will begin with a video presentation by a scholar from the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Rabbi Kurshan will then lead a discussion about the presentation incorporating traditional and contemporary Jewish texts. Topics in the fall will include the treatment (and mistreatment) of non-Jews, non-citizens, and women in Jewish texts and tradition. All are welcome.

To register, please contact **Debbie at 427-1089, ext. 10**
or debbier@hjcny.org.

Jewish calendar we add a leap month every few years (7 times every 19 years) to stop this shift and to keep our holidays in the right season of the year. After all who would want to dwell in a Sukkah in the midst of a winter blizzard?

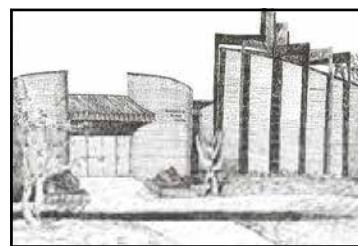
Eleven days however is not an exact difference between the lunar and Gregorian calendars. Even with the leap month adjustment the Jewish holidays are shifting two hours later during each 19 year cycle or a full day every 231 years. So even on the Jewish calendar with the leap years there is a slow drift later which explains why Thanksgiving will never again fall completely during Chanukah. In 70,000 years unless collective action is taken by adding slightly less leap years, the Jewish holidays will drift full circle around the seasons and will be back to where they started.

As you probably noticed this past year we have been celebrating the Jewish holidays very early. We had the earliest possible Purim (February 24th), Pesach (March 26th), Shavuot (May 15th), and Rosh HaShanah (September 5th). Beginning with this Purim we will go back to more normal dates since we are adding the leap moth of Adar II which will push the Jewish holidays back approximately one month. By the way, if you are curious whether Rosh Hashanah can ever come out on Labor Day, the answer is yes. The last time it happened was 1964, and it will happen again in 2032.

I am just thankful that we moved the date of the community Thanksgiving service a few years ago from the eve of Thanksgiving to the Sunday evening preceding Thanksgiving. Had we not make this shift, there would have been no Jews at our community Thanksgiving service this year, since we would have all been at home lighting candles for the first night of Chanukah.



Students working in our new computer lab at HJC.



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November 2013

Cheshvan/Kislev 5774



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>← turn clocks back</p>					<p>1 Minyan Breakfast</p> <p>RS Shabbat Dinner 6:15pm</p> <p>Shabbat Services 6pm</p>	<p>2 Birthday Shabbat </p> <p>Sat. Night at the Movies 7:30pm</p> <p> Toldot</p>
<p>3 RS - Vav Workshop</p> <p>Men's Club 9:30</p> <p>BINGO - 12:00</p> <p>Kad/USY JNN</p>	<p>4 YOGA</p> <p>SH Board 8pm</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh</p>	<p>5 NO ECC</p> <p></p> <p>Election Day</p>	<p>6 Social Action 2pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Shabbat Services 6pm</p>	<p>9 </p> <p>Bat Mitzvah Adina Kirkland</p> <p>Vayetze</p>
<p>10 JNN</p> <p>No Religious School</p>	<p>11</p> <p>ECC Closed</p> <p></p> <p>Veterans Day</p>	<p>12</p> <p>RS Board 4:30pm</p> <p>Chavarim 6:15</p>	<p>13</p> <p>ECC & Social Action Food Drive</p>	<p>14</p> <p>SH Meeting 8pm</p> <p>Speaker - 7:30pm Dr. Jeremy Bernstein</p> <p>HIHI Orientation Meeting - 7pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Parent Assoc. 9:45am</p> <p>Shabbat Services 6pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Family Service 10:30 am</p> <p>Vayishlach</p>
<p>17 JNN</p> <p>Hanukkah Happening 11am</p> <p>Ridotto Kad/USY </p>	<p>18 YOGA</p> <p>Adult Ed. With Rabbi Kurshan 8:00pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Hebrew Chug 6:15</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Shabbat Services 6pm</p>	<p>23 </p> <p>Bat Mitzvah Grace Willen</p> <p>Vayeshev</p>
<p>24 JNN</p> <p>RS-Vav Workshop</p>	<p>25 YOGA</p> <p>Adult Ed. With Rabbi Kurshan 8:00pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Chavarim 6:15</p>	<p>27 </p> <p>EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER CLOSED</p> <p>Erev Hanukkah</p>	<p>28 </p> <p></p> <p>Thanksgiving Hanukkah</p>	<p>29 </p> <p>Main Office Closed</p> <p>Shabbat Services 6pm Hanukkah</p>	<p>30 </p> <p>Bar Mitzvah Aaron Schwartz</p> <p> Miketz Hanukkah</p>

HJC Community News



MAZAL TOV

Jane & Bruce Hallberg on the birth of their grandson, Graham Edward Hallberg.
Andrea & Howard Dubow on the birth of their twin grandsons, Bradley David & Skyler Bennett Dubow.

CONDOLENCES

Denise Stern on the death of her father, William Ungar.
Arlene Steinberg on the death of her husband, Fred Steinberg.
Tyna Strenger on the death of her husband, Gordon Strenger.
Susie Meisler on the death of her sister, Helene Nedlin.

NEW MEMBERS

Mark & Carol Frankenberg of Huntington and their children, Emily, age 11 and Hannah, age 8.
Avi Mosden of Huntington Station and his son, David, age 13.

LIBRARY HOURS:



SUNDAY:

8:30AM-1:00PM

MONDAY-THURSDAY:

8:30AM-5:30PM

FRIDAY:

8:30AM-3:00PM

A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear HJC Family,

Thank you for 40 years of caring, friendship and strengthening of our jewish connection in the place that is truly our second home.

And now I must also add our thanks for your outpouring of support to our family on the loss of Gordon a couple of weeks ago.

Aliza, Dorie and Mara join me in expressing our gratitude and appreciation for all of your visits, phone calls, beautiful messages, food to sustain us, donations to help sustain our shul, warm smiles, words of consolation and many hugs. Most important, those hugs.

Thank you all.

With great affection,

Tyna Strenger



Bar/Bat Mitzvahs



Aaron Schwartz

son of Simi and Paul Schwartz.

Aaron Schwartz is a seventh grade student at the Schechter School of Long Island. He is on the Schechter soccer team and enjoys hanging out with his friends. Aaron is the youngest of four children, and likes to "chill" with his brother

Josh. He attends Young Judaea Camp Sprout Lake and loves learning about Israel. He plans to go on YJ Year Course in 2019. His parents, Paul and Simi, his brother Josh and sisters Gabi and Rachel are very proud of him.



Grace Willen

daughter of Kim and Joe Willen

Grace is thrilled and proud to become a Bat Mitzvah this month. She is a seventh grader at the Schechter School of Long Island and plays soccer, lacrosse and basketball with her Northport friends. She also loves to sing and keeps busy

snowboarding in the winter and wakesurfing in the summer. Grace is excited to celebrate this milestone with all her family and friends. Mom, Dad, Rachel and Hannah are looking forward to the big day.



Adina Janelle Baltus Kirkland

daughter of Michelle Baltus and Gary Kirkland ז"ל

Adina, an eighth grader at Finley Middle School, brings determination, resolve and a will to succeed to the many interests in her life. During the past year alone, in addition to her studies, Adina earned her black belt in Tae Kwon Dao, joined the Huntington

High School fencing team, played travel soccer, and most recently marched with the Huntington High School marching band. Adina has been riding horses since age five. Adina plays piano and French horn and sings. Adina loves nature, the outdoors and animals. In addition to the family pets – a dog and two cats, Adina has a pet turtle named Beethoven and bearded dragon named Nala. Adina's favorite subject is science, and is interested in one day becoming a herpetologist. Adina – your Daddy would beam with pride at your accomplishments and the young woman you have become. Brianna and I love you very much. You make our hearts sing.



Religious school students make an edible sukkah and congregate in the sukkah.

President's Perspective

The Pew Report
by William Wertheim



Lots of people are talking about the Pew report, and what it means for Jews in America, and Conservative Jews specifically. Are we heading for extinction? Have we lost our center? Are there enough numbers of people who will identify as Conservative Jews to keep our synagogues going for the next century? These are important questions to consider, of course. While there are a raft of demographic, population, income, and philosophical trends that we might be facing, I am not a sociologist, so I will refrain from speculating. I instead will concentrate on making our own synagogue as strong, welcoming, and inclusive as we can be. To borrow a phrase from the environmental movement, I think we should "Think Global, Act Local."

One recent example of this was our wonderful Simchat Torah service, when we joined forces with congregants from Temple Beth El and Kehillat Shalom. The usual festive feel of Simchat Torah services, when dancing and singing in the service punctuates the service and everyone experiences the joy, was even more exceptional with seeing friends new and familiar from our fellow Huntington congregations. It may have been my imagination, but I think the singing was just a little more spirited and the dancing a little more joyful as we shared our sanctuary, listened to congregants singing together, and united beyond our usual differences and concerns to celebrate the start of a new cycle of Torah readings. It was the kind of evening that pulls people in, and I think highlighted to our own members that the things that hold us together as a Jewish people are more important and stronger than the things which may separate us as different branches of Judaism. And, I think, it showcased the idea that our own community can be a center and catalyst for Jews in Huntington to come together.

Another recent example, more inward-looking than our Simchat Torah service perhaps, was our recent Membership Outreach project. This effort, which was developed and implemented under the guise of our Membership Committee by Mark Zimmerman, had members of the Board of Trustees call all our congregants just to check in: see how they were feeling about HJC, see how they felt about the programs and the staff, offer a venue for them to voice suggestions or concerns. While the project, a time-consuming one as you might imagine, is not fully finished, we have gathered some fascinating and encouraging information that will help us going forward to better plan for the future. More



Sisterhood News

by Marsha Buchholtz and
Evelyn Silverberg

The Brooklyn Queens Long Island Region (BQLIR) of the Woman's League for Conservative Judaism is presenting a Woman's Health Day on:

**Monday, November 11th
at the Plainview Jewish Center
95 Floral Drive, Plainview, NY**

Two of the three presenters are members of our temple. They are **Dr. Risa Gold**, a psychiatrist, who will discuss stress management and **Wendy Glassman**, Ph.D, who will address the effects of how our smart phone obsessed culture affects language, thinking and problem solving in children. **Peggy Brill** an orthopedic specialist in physical therapy will present the latest techniques in health restoration. There will be a \$36 couvert for Sisterhood members and \$42 for non-members including lunch. The program begins at 9am and ends at 2pm. Please contact **Vicki Rosen** for further information (631 271-7732).

As you most likely know Chanukkah will be "early" this year. The Sisterhood gift shop is now stocked with many new and beautiful Judaica items. Twice every year the Sisterhood board members who manage the gift shop visit the Javits Center Gift Show and bring back unusual and artistic jewelry, holiday serving pieces and other traditional must haves for Jewish life. Please contact:

Maxine Fisher (631-757-7455),
Pam Fleiss (631-549-9629)
Shari Klaire (631-271-0258)
for further information or an appointment.

Every year Sisterhood members, led this year by **Felicia Messing**, polish the silver that decorates our Torahs. The following is the environmentally safe recipe that we use:

*One cup of boiling water
Two teaspoons of baking soda
One teaspoon of salt
Cover bottom of glass or plastic pan with aluminum foil.
Pour in water adding baking powder and salt.
Stir to dissolve.
Drop pieces to be polished into mixture.
Remove, dry and buff.*

(We adapt amounts using much larger quantities and garbage size containers).



A Week in the Life

by Cantor Israel Gordan



A comment that I have heard several times in the last few years from people goes something like this: "Starting the year off with the High Holidays, huh? That's like starting the season with the Super Bowl!" And there are many truths to this. While there may be seventy-five people here on a Shabbat morning, that number can be more than ten times that amount on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The liturgy and nusach of the days are very

complicated and even though I have done this a few times, there is still a lot of practice required in order to prepare for the task of leading those services. But the high holidays are followed very soon afterwards by Succot and the prayer for rain, Shemini Atzeret which includes Yizkor, and Simchat Torah, with all of the hakafot. All of these services require preparation because of the specific details that are unique to each of these special days.

But after the rush of holidays this year, we were greeted at the very beginning of October with long, full, uninterrupted weeks with no Jewish or American holidays (until Thanksgivingukkah at the end of this month). And you may wonder what exactly does that mean for me as the Cantor? Well, I would like to share with you some highlights from the week running from Wednesday, October 2nd through Tuesday, October 8th.

On Wednesday, October 8th, I began my work in the Early Childhood Center by starting music with one of the classes of 2's and one of the 4's classes. Later that day I tutored five Bar Mitzvah students, including a run through in the Sanctuary for two students who were celebrating becoming b'nai mitzvah that Shabbat. Thursday I continued teaching music to the other three classes in the Early Childhood Center, attended our first post-holiday Professional Staff Meeting, met with the rabbi for our weekly check-in, and tutored six more Bar Mitzvah students that afternoon/evening. Friday morning was our first weekly ECC Kabbalat Shabbat service of the year, and is always a highlight of the week. And that Friday night's Kabbalat Shabbat service in the Lief Chapel was the first full Kabbalat Shabbat since the end of August because of all of the Jewish holidays.

The next day was the celebration of the first Bar Mitzvah of the school year, and was for Alex and Ethan Rousso, followed by a delicious Kiddush sponsored by the Rousso family. On Sunday, I began my teaching in the Religious School with 6th graders learning Torah trop, 5th graders learning haftarah trop, and Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders learning music. On Sundays I also tutor three more Bar Mitzvah students. Monday is my day off and Tuesday included a meeting for the PJ Library program, another Bar Mitzvah student, the introduction of new computers to our Religious School students, a run through for another Bar Mitzvah student, and finally, a Ritual Committee meeting at night.

As you can see, while there may be fewer unique details to prepare for when they aren't any Jewish holidays, there are certainly many things going on at the synagogue to keep me busy. I hope you have been enjoying your full weeks as well and I look forward to seeing you and hearing about the details of your lives soon!

Religious School Update

by Maxine Fisher

Religious School Administrator

It's hard to believe that the second night of Hannukah is on Thanksgiving this year. The Religious School is planning plenty of events going on in Religious School leading up to this historic Hannukah.

We will have our first Religious School Family Shabbat dinner and Friday night service on November 1st. Dinner will be at 6:15 PM and services will start at 7:00 PM. Everyone should be home by 8:00-perfect for bedtime!

Sunday, November 3 at 2:00 PM is a Bingo fundraiser for the school. We are hoping for a nice turnout and we will have wonderful prizes for all children. The entrance fee includes bingo cards, a hot dog, chips and a drink. Parents are invited to join us.

There is no school on Sunday, November 10 for Veterans Day weekend.

A highlight of HJC's year is the annual Hannukah Happening, when all arms of the congregation come together to provide a fun family day. This year's "happening" will be on Sunday, November 17 and will start at 11:00 with Cantor Gordan leading us in song in the main sanctuary. At about 11:20 you can enjoy the happening with your family. There will be something for everyone; crafts for the kids, a book fair and the Judaica shop for those last minute gifts, a Kosher Café for lunch, and this year we have added some games and Israeli dancing. Evites have been sent out, or you can RSVP to Diane in the RS office.

We end the month with the second Vav Family workshop with Rabbi Kurshan on November 24.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Happy Hannukah!



Religious school students enjoying the sukkah at HJC.

Early Childhood News

by Susie Meisler



In a few days, it will be Thanksgiving and Chanukah. I can't remember a time when the two holidays came so close together. I have always loved these two holidays since they reminded me of what my mother was all about. I grew up with a mother who was incredibly grateful and counted her blessings, not just at Thanksgiving but each and every day. She would often say out loud, "thank God" when good things came her way. My mother took time to remind us that we shouldn't expect people to always fulfill our needs, either materialistically

or in deed. If it just so happened someone did an act of kindness for us, or gave us a present, we should be incredibly grateful. At an early age I followed my mother's footsteps and on a daily basis took in all of life's blessings while appreciating the acts of kindness that came my way.

Gratitude is a powerful emotion that helps people see their cup either half full or half empty. It is vital to teach children from early on the power of gratitude in their lives. Toddlers and preschoolers by nature are self-centered so to teach them thankfulness is a bit tricky. Grateful children become sensitive to the feelings of others and use empathy to understand what other people are feeling. Children, who are thankful, tend to look outside their one-person universe and understand that parents and other people do things for them—buy toys, make dinner, or dole out hugs and kisses.

A 2003 study at the University of California at Davis showed that grateful people report higher levels of happiness and optimism. Lower levels of depression and stress in thankful people were also shown. In a book entitled *Attitudes of Gratitude*, by Mary Ryan, states that "No one is born grateful... Recognizing that someone has gone out of the way for you is not a natural behavior for children—it's learned."

So how do we as parents teach gratitude? It's simple. You just have to model the behavior you hope your children will one day absorb. Toddlers, as Mary Ryan states, "start to understand that they are dependent; that Mom and Dad do things for them." They recognize that parents' actions make them happy (from playing peekaboo to handing out cookies)—even if kids that age can't articulate their appreciation. At your Thanksgiving dinner, and every night at dinner time, ask you children or have your toddlers point to one thing that makes them feel thankful. By the age of 4 children can truly understand what being thankful means not just in presents they receive but for acts of kindness shown as well.

Have children do a variety of chores each day, such as putting dishes in the dishwasher, making their beds or feeding the dog, so that they get to see that all these acts take effort. Mention often how appreciative you are when the mailman makes a special trip to deliver a package directly to your door, or the sanitation men who work so hard in all kinds of weather take away your heavy garbage bags.

On this upcoming Chanukah, make one night out of eight a night you and your family give time generously to people in need. Bake cookies together for a senior citizen in your neighborhood or bring books and toys to a charitable organization or a hospital.

Early Childhood News (con't)

Although we are in an electronic age, children of all ages can either draw or write a thank you note to someone who has been thoughtful. Young children can dictate what they want to say in appreciation for what was done for them and then draw a picture. Most of my life I witnessed my parents taking the time to write a letter of appreciation for large and small acts of kindness. To this day, I do the same.

Try saying no sometimes when children ask for a toy, another video game, or another piece of candy. If everything children ask for is granted, how will they come to appreciate the sweetness of saying yes?

Make sure that you stop often in front of your children to appreciate the sounds of birds, the beauty of colorful leaves falling from the tree, snow fall in the winter and the burst of buds in the spring. Life has so much to be grateful for and it is up to parents to show children that nature and the simple things in life give all reasons to be grateful.

And so I owe my dear mother a lifetime of gratitude for it was she who often repeated this quote to me by David Steindl-Rast - one that she lived by every day of her life. "In daily life we must see that it is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy."

HJC Family Life Committee presents

WHAT'S MORE JEWISH THAN CHICKEN SOUP (AND BRISKET, AND KISHKE AND.....)

And yet, if we are not to cause undue pain to our fellow creatures, and be good stewards of the world, with health issues and the horrors of factory farming –
What's a good Jew to do?

DR. JEREMY BENSTEIN

from the Heschel Center in Tel Aviv will be speaking at HJC on

SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND JEWISH VALUES ~ DUTIES OF THE DIET ~ Organic? Local? Vegan? Sustainable?



NOVEMBER 14TH AT 7:30PM

Dr. Benstein, author of
"The Way Into Judaism and the Environment"
is a passionate and dynamic speaker on the interplay
of religion, culture and values with questions of
sustainability.

Please join us for an enlightening evening with organic and local desserts

Admission is free
RSVP to Debbier@hjcny.org or 427-1089, ext. 10

Event Sponsored by Sisterhood

importantly, this was a wonderful way to include and give voice to people in the HJC community who might not have known how, or thought to, give their opinion. Many people indicated this was a wonderful idea and the first time anyone had contacted them from HJC just to hear what they had to say. While it remains to be seen what we will take away from this as a congregation, I think I can say with confidence that it helped start a conversation, and helped solidify the bonds of relationship we have with each other and with HJC. Many thanks to Mark Zimmerman for creating this project, and for seeing it through, and to the Trustees who worked hard to contact congregants.

In the Talmud it is written: "The rabbis taught: When Israelites

are in trouble and one of them leaves them for the purpose of avoiding the trouble, the two angels who accompany each man lay their hands upon his head and say: "The man who secludes himself from the community which is in distress shall not see the prosperity of the community." Therefore a man should share the common distress of the community".

Are we in trouble? Is our community in distress? I will leave that answer to others who are more sophisticated than I. But I do think that we should not, as the Talmud warns against, avoid addressing this issue raised by the Pew study. But if we share in the efforts to enhance our own community, and help to bring all our members into closer connection with HJC, we will be able to share in our common strengths.



Kindling the Chanukah Lights: Beginning Wednesday, November 27th

This year (2013), we begin lighting candles on Wednesday night, November 27th and we light the last candle on the night of December 4th.

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

First Blessing

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק
נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

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

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

Second Blessing

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

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

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

Third Blessing (only on the first night)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁהֵחֵינּוּ וְקִיַּמָּנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה

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

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

Donations

צדקה

GENERAL FUND

Lisa Golub in memory of Marjorie Ahronee at yahrzeit.
Andrew Dubow in memory of Samuel Goldstein at yahrzeit.
Philip Glaser in memory of Sarah Glaser at yahrzeit.
Eli Harary in memory of Mollie Harary at yahrzeit.
Roger Koreen in memory of Grace Koreen at yahrzeit.
Loron Simon in memory of Manny Aaront at yahrzeit.
Zachary Lasker in honor of Cantor Gordan for the uplifting davening during Rosh Hashanah.
Shelley & Marc Weinberg in memory of Rose Kramer at yahrzeit.
Joyce Sacknoff in memory of Margaret Fuchs at yahrzeit.
Lawrence Maltin in memory of Ruth Maltin at yahrzeit.
Pamela Geller in memory of Gertrud Hofbauer at yahrzeit.
Marvin Lipkind in memory of Sylvia Hudes at yahrzeit.
Shirley Vilinsky in memory of Lena Trenk at yahrzeit.
Joan Newman in memory of Sol Feinstein at yahrzeit.
Joan Newman in memory of Bessie Lehman at yahrzeit.
Yolanda Barfus in memory of Eva Barfus at yahrzeit.
Harriet Harris in memory of Benjamin Alpert at yahrzeit.
Rosalind Shaffer in memory of Sam Shaffer at yahrzeit.
Durese Nightingale in memory of Estelle Aksman at yahrzeit.
Ellen & Newt Meiselman in memory of Jennie Bloom at yahrzeit.
Ellen & Newt Meiselman in honor of Renda Rosenblatt & Matt Raskin being named Simchat Torah honorees.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of William Ungar, father of Denise Stern.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of Fred Steinberg, husband of Arlene Steinberg.
David Schoenfarber in memory of Gertrude Schoenfarber at yahrzeit.
Rosalind & William Wertheim in memory of Irene Nirenberg, mother of Jeff & Elliot Nirenberg.
Rosalind & William Wertheim in memory of Albert Allen, brother of Sylvia Brass.
Bonnie Pedowicz in memory of Jerry Yarmark at yahrzeit.
The Behr family in memory of Sheila Behr at yahrzeit.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Arlene Steinberg
Arlene Hirschman Taranow in memory of Sandy Friedman, wife of Jack Friedman.
Ethel Sachs in honor of Matt Raskin being named a Simchat Torah honoree.
Ethel Sachs in honor of Renda Rosenblatt being named a Simchat Torah honoree.
Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt wishing a speedy recovery & healthy 5774 to Bob Mane.
Myrna Tils in memory of Louise Friedman at yahrzeit.
Janet & Mark Zimmerman in honor of Renda Rosenblatt being named a Simchat Torah honoree.
Janet & Mark Zimmerman in honor of Matt Raskin being named a Simchat Torah honoree.
Janet & Mark Zimmerman in memory of William Ungar, father of Denise Stern.

Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of the birth of Asher Reed Brodsky Margolies, grandson of Mira & Paul Brodsky.
Liz & Steve Holbreich wishing a speedy recovery to Lew Meltzer.
Susi Susskind in memory of Elsa Laemmle at yahrzeit.
Susi Susskind in memory of Isaac Laemmle at yahrzeit.
Susi Susskind in memory of Lore Laemmle Lieberman at yahrzeit.
Susi Susskind in memory of Eric Lieberman at yahrzeit.
Roselyn Haber in honor of Rabbi Kurshan receiving the UJA Federation of New York Community Lifetime Achievement Award.

BEN TASMAN LIBRARY FUND

Betty & Bob Mesard in honor of Renda Rosenblatt being named a Simchat Torah honoree.
Betty & Bob Mesard in honor of Matt Raskin being named a Simchat Torah honoree.
Betty & Bob Mesard in memory of Fred Steinberg, husband of Arlene Steinberg.
Syd & Mike Schlesinger in memory of Alvin Schlesinger at yahrzeit.
Marianne Sokol in memory of Bernhard Stein at yahrzeit.
Marianne Sokol in memory of Antonia Deutsch at yahrzeit.
Marianne Sokol in memory of Gordon Strenger, husband of Tyna Strenger.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN FUND

Alice & Bruce Rosen in memory of Willy Loewenstein at yahrzeit.
Alice & Bruce Rosen in memory of Charlotte Hammerschlag at yahrzeit.
Alice & Bruce Rosen in memory of Fritz Hammerschlag at yahrzeit.
Alice & Bruce Rosen in memory of Harold Hammerschlag at yahrzeit.
Alice & Bruce Rosen in memory of Betty Goldgeier at yahrzeit.

DAILY MINYAN FUND

Vicki & Tom Rosen in honor of Matt Raskin being named a Simchat Torah honoree.
Vicki & Tom Rosen in memory of Samuel Rosen at yahrzeit.
Vicki & Tom Rosen in memory of Gordon Strenger, husband of Tyna Strenger.

DAVID S. ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the engagement of Josh, son of Gail & Jerry Ellstein, to Rebecca Levin.
Judith & Lester Fox wishing a speedy recovery to Jennifer Ingber.
Judith & Lester Fox in honor of Matt Raskin being named a Simchat Torah honoree.
Judith & Lester Fox in honor of Renda Rosenblatt being named a Simchat Torah honoree.
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of William Houslanger, father of Todd Houslanger.
Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the birth of Bradley David & Skyler Bennett Dubow, twin grandsons of Andrea & Howard Dubow.

Donations

צדקה

Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Steve Seigel.
Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Jerry Scheffler.

DONALD L. GORDON ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Matt Loozis & Lisa Gordon Loozis in memory of Donald L. Gordon at yahrzeit.

Rosalyn Gordon in memory of Donald & Harvey H. Gordon at yahrzeit.

PRAYERBOOK AND BIBLE FUND

Joan & Norman Mattisinko in memory of Max Mattisinko at yahrzeit.

Joan & Norman Mattisinko in honor of Matt Raskin being named a Simchat Torah honoree.

SOCIAL ACTION FUND/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Hannah Kampel wishing a speedy recovery to Al Garbus.

Carol, Gabriel, Rachel, Solomon & Benjamin Hayon in honor of Janet & Marty Kushnick.

Shirley Vilinsky in honor of Paul Greenstein for blowing shofar on Yom Kippur.

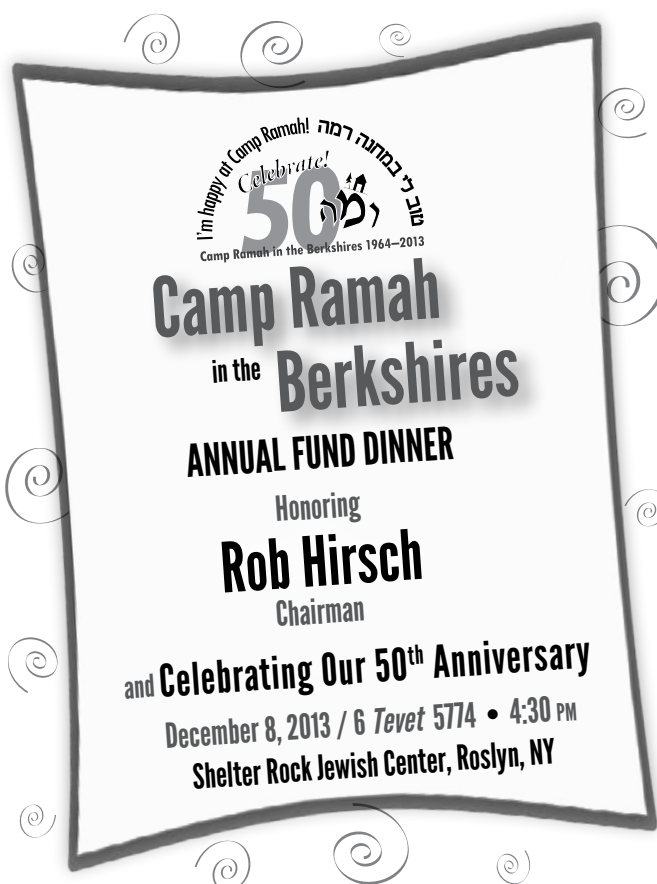
Janet & Martin Kushnick in memory of Ann Labb at yahrzeit.

Janet & Martin Kushnick in memory of Allen Miller at yahrzeit.

Joan & Bob Blank in memory of Sandy Friedman, wife of Jack Friedman.

Hannah Kampel in memory of Fred Steinberg, husband of Arlene Steinberg.

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Purim Masquerade 2014



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Raiders of the lost archive

This article appeared in the Jerusalem Post on 10/23/13 and was written by Sarah Y. Aharon, granddaughter of our member Joseph Koreen

In 2003, a team of 16 American soldiers in Baghdad stumbled upon a lost treasure trove of thousands of documents belonging to Iraq's Jewish community.

These rare materials, thought to have been stored originally in synagogues and private Jewish homes, were sitting in a moldy, flooded basement of the muhkabarat, Saddam Hussein's feared secret police.

The collection, now referred to as the "Iraqi Jewish archive," contains "2,700 Jewish books and tens of thousands of documents in Hebrew, Arabic, Judeo-Arabic and English, dating from 1540 to the 1970s," including a 1568 Bible and several Torah scrolls, according to the National Archives in Washington.

After the initial 2003 discovery in Iraq, conservation teams from the National Archives determined that Baghdad did not have the appropriate facilities for preserving the documents, including temperature controls.

The Iraqi government thus permitted the Americans to take the collection to the US for conservation work, but only on condition of the archive's eventual return to Baghdad.

The current scheduled date of departure to Iraq is June 2014, less than one year away.

The notion of permanently sending these thousands of Jewish items to Iraq is absurd. Violence still abounds in Iraq; there would be no proper accessibility to or preservation measures for the archive.

I wonder if there are even interested audiences in Iraq or proper frameworks for contextualization, considering that fewer than a dozen Jews alive in Iraq today, and Iraqis visiting the collection almost surely have never met a Jewish person before.

The Iraqi Jewish archive's discovery resonates personally; my grandfather was born and raised in a Jewish family in Baghdad. His family, along with the rest of Baghdad's Jewish community, was allowed to emigrate in the early 1950s in an Israeli airlift only if they renounced their citizenships and their property assets.

Thankfully my grandfather was still able to complete his studies at the American University of Beirut's medical school; he became a pediatrician.

But my grandfather's passport, upon leaving Iraq, said that he was "stateless." Meaning Iraq's Jewish community of 100,000-plus was essentially robbed of its major possessions and its nationality. They left their country of origin belonging to nowhere.

This remarkable recovery of Baghdad's Jewish archive is not the first time such a dramatic unearthing of Jewish materials in the Middle East and Central Asia has occurred. The most wellknown example is the Cairo Geniza, a collection of thousands of documentary fragments, many from the medieval period, found in that city's Ben Ezra Synagogue.

The Cairo Geniza was removed to England en masse by scholar Solomon Schechter in the 1890s.

"Geniza" refers to a hidden repository where Jewish communities stored written materials, from religious texts to private commercial and social papers such as handwritten letters and legal contracts.

And just within the past few years, scholars were stunned by discoveries of Jewish documents in Afghanistan dating from 1,000 years ago. This Afghanistan Geniza, rumored to number about 200 documents, was already dispersed to antiquities dealers around the world by the time the press heard about the trove.

The Israel Museum in Jerusalem is trying to acquire the Afghan Geniza items, and as of this past January, it had successfully purchased 29 documents from antiquities dealers.

Discoveries of these magnitudes typically lead to questions regarding possession.

Who rightfully owns a cultural heritage? Baghdad argues that the Jewish archive belongs to Iraq as a collection stored in the country. From that perspective, the Americans, if they keep the collection, are the raiders, rather than the saviors, of this lost archive.

However, for Iraqi Jews – the owners of the archive's materials, as well as the descendants of its original owners – the Iraqi government is the true raider, the party that stole their citizenship, their property assets and their written treasures.

The American government should not set a precedent where Jewish artifacts recovered from the Middle East and Central Asia are sent back to war-torn countries, particularly with the current turmoil following the Arab Spring. If we suddenly heard about centuries-old Jewish documents found in Aleppo, and they were brought to America for conservation, would the US seriously entertain the idea of returning those precious materials to Syria? The Iraqi Jewish archive's manuscripts, documents and holy books, some from five centuries ago and some from just 50 years ago, belonged to real people. Jewish people.

They and their relatives may still be alive to claim them.

The National Archives is now displaying 24 of the Iraqi Jewish artifacts in its new exhibit, "Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage," which opened earlier this month and runs through January 5, 2014.

For those who cannot visit, the National Archives explains that "a special website to launch this fall will make these historic materials freely available to all online as they are digitized and catalogued."

Ostensibly the digitization project is also supposed to offer consolation to those angry and upset about the Jewish archive's planned removal to Iraq.

I'm deeply grateful to and wholeheartedly thank the National Archives for saving the Iraqi Jewish archive.

It's not enough, however, to digitize the collection. A noble and essential goal, to be sure, but frankly it's insufficient when these hundredsof- years-old documents already reside safely in the US.

What if this archive holds my great-grandfather's journal? What if those are my great-great-grandmother's letters that were rescued from ruin? Why won't I ever be able to feel and touch their own works? The entire collection must remain permanently in the United States or Israel. A Jewish institution would be the most

fitting, but not strictly necessary. If the Iraqi Jewish materials can stay together in the National Archives, for instance, I'd be thrilled.

I write this op-ed as a concerned American woman with Ashkenazi and Sephardic heritage from Jewish communities around the world. Our family escaped the pogroms in Russia-Poland at the turn of the century, and they survived the 1941 pogrom in Baghdad, called the Farhud, against its Jews.

I write this op-ed for my grandfather.

I write this op-ed as a researcher of modern Jewish history who understands firsthand the extreme difficulties of finding new primary source materials from the Middle East and Central Asia, let alone translating them.

The crucial goal is not to send this Jewish archive to live in Iraq, where there's no security or open access for all scholars, researchers and global citizens. I write this op-ed as a descendant of a once vibrant community effectively expelled from Iraq, the country that still wants to keep Jewish belongings, if not Jewish citizens.

The writer is the author of From Kabul to Queens: The Jews of Afghanistan and Their Move to the United States (Decalogue Books and the American Sephardi Federation).

Huntington Jewish Center is Participating in National Donor Sabbath Month in Efforts to Increase Awareness for Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation in New York

New York, New York - November is designated as National Donor Sabbath Month. HJC's Social Action Committee is working with the New York Organ Donor Network along with numerous houses of worship across the Greater New York metropolitan area to share the powerful message of life-saving donation and transplantation. During the campaign, the Donor Network asks each of us to remember the greatest gift—the gift of life. This is a blessing which many New Yorkers find out of reach, especially those waiting patiently for life-saving transplants. By registering today as organ, eye and tissue donors, individuals provide hope to the more than 112,000 men, women and children currently on the national waiting list. 8, 000 of those individuals waiting are located here in the New York metropolitan area. For more information about how to get involved, please contact Miriam Eckstein-Koas at miribiri@optonline.net. To sign up to be an organ donor today or for more information about donation, please visit www.SaveLivesNewYork.org.

Go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=B8H9wfZbTXc to see a moving clip about Michael Bovill, a young Long Island man and the gift of life he gave to many grateful recipients.

SIMCHAT TORAH HONOREES

RENDAL ROSENBLATT

Renda Rosenblatt is a person who does not like the limelight or seek it out. Thus she very much fits the parameters of the Simchat Torah honoree who is usually someone who works behind the scenes on behalf of the HJC or in areas where there are not public accolades or recognition.

Renda has been involved in a wide array of activities on behalf of our community. The rabbi and cantor have worked most closely with Renda in terms of her coordination of the Megillah readers on the Shalosh Regalim. Every Sukkot, Passover, and Shavuot Renda finds volunteers to read from the Megillot—from the books that are read traditionally on these days. If you have been in shul for any of these readings, you know how much beauty these readers add to our service. Renda also organizes the ceremony each year on Shavuot at which we welcome and recognize families who have had babies in the last year. She has also served on our Cantor Search Committee, and she was an organizer with Patricia Schoeffler of an HJC retreat that won an award for its programming.

Renda does not only make “pilgrimages” to the shul on the Shalosh Regalim. She has chanted Haftarah on Shabbatot, and there is something beautiful about hearing Renda chant the Haftarah with her British accent. She has also been involved with our Friday night congregational dinners and our Havdalah services. She was one of the chairs of our Collegiate Committee which sends mailing and gifts to our college students so we don’t lose touch with them. We thank Renda for everything she has done on behalf of our HJC community. She has had an important impact on the quality of religious life at HJC.

MATT RASKIN

If you were to ask anyone in the congregation who Matt Raskin is, the immediate response would be that he is our “first chair” shofar blower on the High Holidays. The next thing anyone in the congregation would say is that we have a shofar blower who sounds the shofar better than anyone else.

It would be difficult to find anyone who gets as beautiful a sound from the shofar as Matt. It is a sound of unparalleled clarity, and Matt is able to elicit multiple pitches as if he were playing a musical instrument with keys. Matt makes all this look easy, and while he is also a trumpet player, it is not the case that because someone plays a wind instrument, they will be able to sound the shofar. Many musicians cannot.

For Matt sounding the shofar has deep personal meaning. His father also sounded the shofar in Waterbury, Connecticut where Matt grew up, and thus Matt is not only sustaining Jewish tradition, but also his family legacy. In fact, Matt will sometimes sound shofar with the instrument of his father.

To only cite Matt’s sounding of the shofar on the Yamim Noraim would not do justice to all that Matt has done on behalf of the HJC community. Matt has also given an adult education class on sounding the shofar, and thus ensured that this congregation will produce another generation of young people who can sound the shofar. He has often gone into our Religious School classes, and sounded the shofar for our students while teaching them about the shofar. He has been the lead trumpet player in all our recent theater productions going back to Fiddler on the Roof.

Matt has also given much to the shul in non-musical realms. He has been a member of our Board of Trustees, and our Cantor Search Committee. He has been active in our Men’s Club, often making many Shabbat morning presentations to our Bar and Bat Mitzvah students and coordinating the annual Men’s Club family ice skating outing.

However, we will always primarily associate Matt with sounding the shofar on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur as well as during the month leading up to the holidays. We are grateful to Matt for all that he has done for our synagogue and for the spiritual dimension that he has brought to the Yamim Noraim at HJC.



HIHI SUPPLY DRIVE

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

CLOTHING NEEDS

- Knit hats
- New Warm Socks
- New Underwear M/L
- Winter Gloves
- Jeans
- Sweatshirts
- T-shirts
- Flannel pants/shirts

MISCELLANEOUS

- Spanish DVDs
- Monetary donations welcome
- CD player

KITCHEN SUPPLIES

All food must be marked Kosher, Dairy

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

This year we will be hosting on the following dates:

December 11, 25, January 8, 22, February 12, 26 and March 12, 26

Our sign-up and volunteer meeting will be

November 14 at 7 pm

For more information, please contact:

Ellen Steinberg at ellen.steinberg728@gmail.com

Karen Flanzenbaum at kflanzenbaumlaw@gmail.com

Fall Sisterhood Happenings



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Sisterhood members playing games.



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This Month in American Jewish History

Daniel Webster

To Mordecai M. Noah, Boston, November 9, 1849

I AM afraid it will not be in my power to attend the Anniversary of the "Hebrew Benevolent Society" and the "German Hebrew Benevolent Society" on the 13th of the present month. I am, however, grateful for having been remembered on this occasion, and desire to present my acknowledgments and thanks to the committee.

I feel, and have ever felt, respect and sympathy for all that remains of that extraordinary people who preserved through the darkness and idolatry of so many centuries, the knowledge of one supreme spiritual being, the Maker of Heaven and Earth, and the Creator of Man in his own image, and whose canonical writings comprise such productions as the books of Moses and the Decalogue, the prophecies of Isaiah, the psalms of David, the Book of Job, and Solomon's prayer at the Dedication of the Temple. The Hebrew Scriptures I regard as the fountain from which we draw all we know of the world around us, and of our own character and destiny as intelligent, moral and responsible beings.

I wish, my dear sir, for the associated societies who have honored me with their invitation, a gratifying Anniversary, and am with respect, your obedient servant,

DANIEL WEBSTER

Keeping In Touch by Mark Zimmerman

Looking for connections with other widows...loves Shabbat Under the Stars...she knows personally, 3 families that are not going to join this year due to financial hardship...love the Cantor...would like to see more social events for singles...everything good and glad we called...wondered who would be the next group of late forties-early sixties families who would be potential shul leaders...everyone has been helpful and friendly...would like to see HJC use social media more effectively...challah baking...love it!!

By now, most of you have received a call that began something like this: L'shana Tova. Happy New Year. I'm calling on behalf of the Huntington Jewish Center Board of Trustees. And the rest of the call focused on you—on your thoughts about our synagogue, your suggestions, your questions, your complaints. You weren't asked to come to a program, you weren't asked for a donation, you weren't asked to be on a committee. You were just asked what's on your mind.

And you responded. As you see above, the comments covered a wide variety of topics. We received many compliments, tons of suggestions, some criticisms. And all of your comments will be considered by the Board of Trustees as we continue to work on behalf of our HJC community. But beyond the specific comments we received, we are pleased to have been able to speak to so many of you. Because without

you, there is no Huntington Jewish Center. And the ultimate success of the HJC as an institution depends on the commitment of you—each and every one of you—to want to be a part of our community. Whether your participation is through attendance at services, reading the bulletin, sending your child to religious school, coming to Kol Nidre, making meals as part of the HHI program, or simply belonging because it is important to you to be affiliated with a synagogue, no matter in what way you connect to the HJC, it is of vital importance to us that you do connect.

The Board made the decision to call every member because we believe that your desire to stay connected depends upon your feeling that your connection matters. These calls were not hollow. They were not "robocalls." They were sincerely made by the leadership of the synagogue because we believe that your opinions matter to our institution. And we are greatly appreciative of the feedback we received.

For those of you whom we were not able to reach, and for those of you who may have thought of additional feedback that you'd like to provide, these lines of communication remain open. Please do not hesitate to contact us. Billy Wertheim, our president, welcomes the opportunity to hear from you. E-mail him at william.wertheim@gmail.com or call him at (631) 549-2602. And of course, you can always contact the HJC office, the Rabbi, Cantor, or any of our professional staff.

Thank you for listening, and more importantly, thank you for speaking up. *Let's keep the conversation going, and let's keep the HJC community growing.*

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

We welcome your participation.



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