



HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER

NEWS COMMUNITY CONNECTION



by Rabbi Kurshan

Dilemmas of Faith

Judaism is about what we do, not what we believe. We are Jewish by the fact of our birth or conversion—not by virtue of what we believe. You don't have to believe in God in order to be Jewish. The catechism presents what Catholics throughout the world believe in common. In contrast, we are fond of saying about ourselves two Jews—three opinions. In a world of choice most people subscribe to a cafeteria Judaism where they pick and choose what they want to believe.

All of the aforementioned statements are true. We, Jews, don't worry very much about what we believe, and we don't subscribe to a doctrinal core of beliefs.

Then why am I teaching a course on Dilemmas of Faith? Perhaps the answer is contained in a question I was asked in the hospital a few days ago by a woman whose husband was being kept alive by a respirator. "Why would a God who is good let my husband suffer?" This woman was asking me questions about belief. Is God good and does God care about our

suffering?

We may not have a catechism, an official list of doctrinal beliefs, in Judaism, but we ask questions about belief. If God is good and all-powerful, why is there evil and suffering in the world? Does a belief in God help us to become a good person? If we believe that this is a connection between a belief in God and ethical action, why are there pious Jews who act unethically and agnostic Jews who act ethically? If God once acted in history such when He brought us out of Egypt, why did God leave six million Jews in Europe to perish in the Holocaust. Amidst all the chaos and violence in the modern world is there any place to find God's presence? Can we even believe in God in the modern world

For many of us these questions as well as the other big questions about belief are the luxuries of late night discussions in college, but not questions we have time for amidst the pressures of our families and daily lives. Yet there may be a connection between faith or belief and the things Judaism does care about such as ethical action and mitzvot. It may be true that if we believe in a God who cares about

how we live our lives that we will act more ethically than if we don't believe in God, or if we think God is indifferent to our actions. If we believe that God's presence is with us at the dark moments of our lives rather than we are alone or abandoned by God, perhaps we will get through life with less struggle and with more meaning. In other words, what *can't* pg. 9



Adult Education presents ~

Dilemmas in Faith



Instructor: Rabbi Neil Kurshan with faculty from the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem

Thursday evenings, October 30, November 6 & 13

8:00 pm in the Family Life Center

What does it mean to believe? What do I believe in? Where is God in the midst of suffering? If God once acted through history (The Exodus), why doesn't God intervene now (The Holocaust)? Does a belief in God have any connection with ethical action i.e. why are there pious Jews who act unethically and non-observant Jews who act ethically?

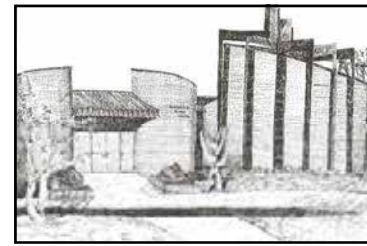
Each session will begin with a video presentation by a scholar from the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Rabbi Kurshan will then lead a discussion about the presentation incorporating traditional and contemporary Jewish texts.

All are welcome.

SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE OF NORTH AMERICA is shaping the future of North American Jewish life through transformative teaching, selecting leaders and nurturing the public conversation.



Adult Education News



Adult Education Course at HJC: Dilemmas in Faith

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8:00 pm in the Family Life Center**

Instructor: Rabbi Neil Kurshan with faculty from the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem

What does it mean to believe? What do I believe in? Where is God in the midst of suffering? If God once acted through history (The Exodus), why doesn't God intervene now (The Holocaust)? Does a belief in God have any connection with ethical action i.e. why are there pious Jews who act unethically and non-observant Jews who act ethically?

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. All are welcome.

Chai Adult Education Institute at the Dix Hills Jewish Center

Monday evenings, November 3, 10, 17 at 24;

7:30-8:15 pm ~ Class Sessions with our clergy

8:15-8:30 pm ~ Minyan and Coffee Break

8:30-9:15 pm ~ Featured JTS Speaker

The Chai Adult Education Institute is a regional adult education program sponsored by five western Suffolk synagogues including the Huntington Jewish Center. Each evening begins with classes taught by synagogue rabbis followed by a lecture given by a professor from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Lecturers for the fall semester include David Hoffman, Amy Kalmanofsky, Marjorie Lehman, Shuly Schwartz and Robbie Harris. **Consult the Chai Adult Education Brochure or contact the HJC Main Office for additional details.**

HJC Jewish Public Affairs Forum

November 18 at 8:00 pm

Two Jews - Three Opinions or Three Jews One Opinion?

How Divided Are We?

In this session, we will look at the issues Jews are passionate about, where there is consensus and where there are divisions. Taking a look at Jewish attitudes on the issues of the day from same sex marriage, through immigration and to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, we will also engage in a short practicum on the art of building consensus

Please RSVP to Debbie at debbier@hjcny.org or Ken Bob at kennethbob@gmail.com.

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Sisterhood.....	Evelyn Silverberg
Social Action.....	Janet Kushnick & Marilyn Klein
Special Arrangements.....	Vered Cole & David Walsdorf
Sunshine.....	Leslie Hantverk
Theater Development.....	Arthur Perler
Technology.....	Jeff Stark
Tree of Life.....	Tom Rosen
UJA.....	Scott Ingber
Youth.....	Shari Klair
Youth Advisor.....	Rebecca Buzen

November 2014

5775 Cheshvan/Kislev



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> <i>Ilyssa Stein</i> <i>Lech Lecha</i>
2 <i>JNN</i> RS Vav Workshop #1 Ridotto 4pm Kad/USY	3 <i>Yoga</i> Chai Adult Ed.- Dix Hill JC 7:30pm SH Book Discussion 11am	4 NO ECC Ritual Comm. 8pm Chaverim  Election Day	5 HIHI volunteer meeting	6 Adult Ed with Rabbi Kurshan - 8pm	7  Minyan Breakfast Shabbat Services 6pm	8 Family Service 5pm <i>Vayera</i>
9 <i>JNN</i> RS Board 9:15am Men's Club 9:15am First day of Fall 	10 <i>Yoga</i> Chai Adult Ed.- Dix Hill JC 7:30pm SH Board 8pm	11 NO ECC NO RS  Veterans Day	12	13 Adult Ed with Rabbi Kurshan - 8pm Sisterhood Workshop 8pm	14 ECC Family Service 5pm Shabbat Services 6pm	15 <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> <i>Gabrielle</i> <i>Berman</i> <i>Chayre Sarah</i>
16 <i>JNN</i> Kad/USY	17 <i>Yoga</i> Chai Adult Ed.- Dix Hill JC 7:30pm	18 Jewish Public Affairs with Ken Bob-8pm	19	20  Shabbat Services 6pm	21 Friday Night Live – 6pm Shabbat Services 6pm	22 Shabbat Shindig 10:30 am <i>Toldot</i>
23 <i>JNN</i> RS Vav Workshop #2 ROSH CHODESH	24 <i>Yoga</i> Chai Adult Ed.- Dix Hill JC 7:30pm	25 Chaverim	26 NO ECC	27 NO ECC Main Office Closed  Thanksgiving Day	28 NO ECC Main Office Closed Shabbat Services 6pm	29 <i>Vayetze</i>
30 <i>JNN</i> NO RS						

Simchat Torah Honorees

Janet Kushnick

Service is very much part of the life of Janet Kushnick, and her service at the Huntington Jewish Center has been an extension of her service to the broader community. Janet is best known at HJC for co-chairing the Social Action Committee with Marilyn Klein. Through their leadership Janet and Marilyn have ensured that this important piece of HJC's efforts has survived and thrived. During the twenty years that Janet has co-chaired the Committee, many food drives in connection with the holidays have been undertaken. The Committee along with ten other synagogues has organized support for Lone Soldiers in Israel. Janet has also been involved in collecting the left overs from the Sisterhood rummage sales and making sure it gets distributed to the HiHi men or to the Family Service League. Janet and the Social Action Committee have also undertaken collections of baby clothes and equipment for new mothers. This year the Committee hopes to organize drivers who will be able to get people to shul especially at night.

However, the scope of Janet's activity in synagogue has also extended beyond Social Action. She served four years as the Corresponding Secretary of Sisterhood. She has served on the Library Committee and helped to transform the HJC library into a user friendly and inviting space. On many occasions Janet has read to the children in the Nursery school, and she is often here on Friday mornings helping to prepare the Sisterhood Shabbat morning kiddushes or on Sunday mornings making sandwiches for the homeless with JNN.

Janet has been a model for many in our community of what it means to lead a life of service. We hope she will be able to work on behalf of the HJC community for many more years and that she will continue to be a source of strength for our

community.

Al Kramer

Al Kramer has been a very visible presence at the Huntington Jewish Center during the sixty years that he has been a member of the congregation. He has been a regular at Shabbat morning services and has often chanted the Haftarah. There was also a period of many years when Al read Torah at the morning minyan, especially on those days during the summer when the Rabbi and Cantor were away on vacation.

Al has always been a passionate Zionist. He has a deep commitment interest in Israel, and has always been very well versed about Israel because of his extensive reading. During the years that HJC hosted an Israel Bond event Al was on the steering committee working to ensure the purchase of Israel Bonds. Al would travel to Israel every other year, and share the stories of his experiences with his fellow congregants.

Al is perhaps best known to our current membership for his sponsorship of the Selichot lecture series in memory of his wife, Eva. The series began 25 years ago, and has become an important part of the High Holiday season at the Huntington Jewish Center. Each year a speaker with a national or international reputation is invited, usually to speak on a topic related to Israel. Among the speakers have been Alan Dershowitz, Daniel Kurtzer, David Makovsky and Bret Stephens. We wish Al many more years of good health and continuing strength.

Thank you from Social Action

Thanks to the congregation, Hebrew School and Nursery School parents our Project Replenish Food Drive was very successful and FEGS was so happy to receive the food for their food pantries that help people in need. Social Action Committee

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page featuring a row of colorful paper figures (in shades of green, yellow, orange, red, purple, and blue) holding hands, creating a sense of unity and community.

Joan Mattisinko on the death of her Sister, Myra Berkowitz
Ted Felderman on the death of his mother, Sylvia Felderman
Rosalyn Gordon on the death of her brother, Leonard Cooper

Marlene & Lenny Hummel announce the marriage of their son, Phillip, to Lilly Shields.

Alan & Meira Lyons of Huntington and their children: Alexa, age 11 and Samantha, age 9
Jack & Barbara Lapidus of Huntington

*In gratitude,
Rabbi Neil and Alisa Rubin Kurshan*

President's Perspective

by William Wertheim



With the holidays behind us, I still want to reflect, and repeat some of what I said on Kol Nidre eve. I feel that the past year flew by: one moment I was standing here as a newly-installed president, the next moment it is the midpoint of my two-year term.

When King David bestowed on Solomon the task of building a temple, he said, "re-eh atah, ki hashem bachar becha livnot bayit

lamikdash—hazak v'aseh." "Take heed now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it." He then provided Solomon detailed plans for the Temple.

Perhaps we do not have it quite as easy as Solomon. We lack blueprints on how to run our synagogue; we are not bequeathed instructions about how to maintain HJC. But what we've been given is even better—a vibrant congregation with diverse backgrounds, who care deeply about our community and who have the talent and creativity to guide our synagogue for years to come.

5774 was truly a wonderful year at HJC, with events that engaged our community and broadened our minds; full of new programs and new faces; full of actions quiet and public which secured our future. Here are a few highlights from the last year:

- Our wonderful Hanukkah Happening brought shoppers and fun-seekers of all ages, selecting from a wide variety of activities, games, gifts, and delicious food
- Our first-ever Camp Fair, profiling Jewish camp experiences from a wide array of camps, brought curious children and parents to learn about their summertime options. There were many first-time campers this last summer, with their unforgettable destinations chosen based on the information gleaned from this event.
- A terrific Purim Masquerade Ball—congregants dressed up in costumes, taking advantage of the coincidence of Purim with Saturday night, with live music that sparked a very full dance floor and a very exciting evening.
- A "Wise Aging" program that started a conversation to tackle some of the issues that face adults with changing roles at home, at work, and in the world at large. The conversation turned out to be an informative and provoking one, and brought out an extremely large number of congregants.
- A moving Yom HaShoah program, with a speaker who had both survived a concentration camp and had gone on to Israel and fight in the Israeli Army.

- A riveting evening listening to our own congregants' experiences this summer in Israel during the fighting in Gaza. Hearing what it was like while the bombs fell, and the intensely personal nature of wartime in Israel, was eye-opening for those of us who listened to these stories.

- A fascinating Selichot lecture with the acclaimed journalist Brett Stephens about Israel, its future, and its relationships with the powers great and small that surround it in the Middle East.

- Our Jewish Nutritional Network (JNN) program meets every Sunday morning to cook, bake, make sandwiches, package them up, and deliver them – 300 meals—to about 75 families each week. They have made over 250,000 meals over the last 20 years—a truly remarkable number.

- Our HiHi program which, for the last 5 years has taken in between 15 and 30 people in our town who have no homes, and in the cold weather months gives them a warm and safe place to stay. Staffed by both professionals and volunteers from HJC, this program has been a key part of the safety net of our town.

- Our Sisterhood—From providing delicious catering, to offering the beautiful selections from the Gift Shop, to supporting a tremendous number of programs throughout HJC, Sisterhood remains a cornerstone of our community.

- Our Men's Club continues to provide community, outdoors programs, and thought-provoking discussions (and a Sukkah!).

- Our community garden continues to feed not only us, but serve as a place for people of all ages to learn about tending gardens and provide food for those in need.

- Our educational programs remain tremendously important. Our Early Childhood Center boasts exceptional programs, the standard to which others aspire; our religious school experience beautifully prepares our children to embrace and feel comfortable with Jewish life; our youth programs, which engages our teens meaningfully in Jewish life, and sent this year two of its members to region-wide leadership positions; our outstanding adult education programs led by Rabbi Kurshan and by Cantor Gordan, and by our own congregants such as Ken Bob, which continue to spark the fire of Jewish learning among our membership.

We were also able to make some important decisions this year which secured our future for the next several years. We renewed our contract with Cantor Gordan, guaranteeing that his beautiful voice will continue to grace our sanctuary, his creative educational thinking will continue to benefit our Religious school, and his energy, intelligence, enthusiasm, and good cheer will continue to strengthen our community. We brought in Ilene Brown to lead our ECC, and ensured that her capable and superior guidance will continue the child-centered, enlightened, and enriching education for our youngest children.

As many of you know, we have some financial challenges this year. We presented a deficit budget at the Congregational Meeting in May. While we were unhappy about this, we knew that we must



Three Under Four

by Hazzan Israel Gordan



As many of you know, my wife and I had another daughter this past summer, Maya, bringing our total number of children to three (two girls and a boy). Since all of our kids are 22 months apart, we've had three kids under the age of four for a few months. But since this article is for the November bulletin and Noa (our oldest child's) birthday is on November 3rd, we will now have three kids aged four and

under, losing some of the specialness to the claim.

This change in title reminds me of the show 'Doogie Houser, MD.' In it, Neal Patrick Harris played a fictional prodigy who, because he was so smart and finished his schooling at such a young age, was a doctor as a teenager. Towards the end of the series, however, the character turned 18 and was no longer considered a prodigy but instead a very smart young adult. While the cutoff may seem arbitrary, much of our lives are dictated by these seemingly random rules, both in general society and within Judaism.

You become a bar mitzvah at 13, you can vote at 18, and drink alcohol at 21. While many of these dates are earlier in life, you have to wait until age 35 to run for president, and cannot join AARP until 65. No one believes you wake up drastically different on your birthday, but a cutoff date has to be drawn somewhere and enforced to some degree to remain fair for everyone.

But dates and rules are not always this way. I can still remember very clearly my senior year of high school sitting in AP English class in late January behind the quarterback of the football team. He was filling out a college application (back in the days when they were on paper), when I asked him what school it was for. He replied "Penn." When I said "wasn't that due on January 1st?" he just smiled and responded, "not for football players."

At the time, I didn't think much of it, but I have often thought back to that day since then as a watershed moment in my development. I now realize that is when I understood that life isn't always fair. Sometimes that's a big deal and sometimes it isn't. Sometimes we have to work to correct those injustices and sometimes we have to focus our energies elsewhere and move on.

You don't get to cast a vote the day after Election Day so it's important to show up before the polls close, but they do have absentee ballots for a reason. And even if this day or week or month or year wasn't as great as you wanted it to be, each day is a new opportunity for you to be your best and help repair the world.

Even if you just have three kids four and under and not three kids under four.

Religious School Update

by Maxine Fisher

Religious School Administrator

October was such a busy and exciting month that I have to share some of the great things that have been going on in our Religious School.

Everyone was busy making decorations for our beautiful sukkah, which really enhanced the whole feel of the holiday. Kitah Hey and Kitah Vav made jelly apples with Morah Hadar for a sweet year. Mr. Greenstein took the upper grades into the Lief Chapel and opened a Torah for the children. They were able to get up close with the scroll and Mr. Greenstein taught them many of the terms associated with the Torah. As I walked past Morah Hana's classroom I hear them already reading Hebrew! Morah Margie's class is deep in study of Israel and Bible stories, and Mr. Greenstein's class is fully engulfed in the Project Etgar curriculum. As you can see, there are lots of exciting things going on!

November brings us the first of the Vav class Family workshops. The first one is on **Sunday, November 2** and the second is on **Sunday, November 23**—both with Rabbi Kurshan.

Junior Congregation this month is on **Saturday, November 8**, and the Shabbat Shindig with Cantor Gordan is on **Saturday, November 22**.

Please save the date of **Sunday, December 14** for our Hanukkah Happening from **11:00 A.M - 1:00 P.M.** If you would like to help please let me know.

Ridotto Next Concert: November 2 at 4 pm
PIANO RECITAL

Israeli pianist Roman Rabinovich
Winner of the 2008 Arthur Rubinstein Competition in Tel Aviv



The Program
JS Bach English Suite no.4 ; Bartok Three Burlesques;
Smetana Four Czech Dances; Haydn Variations in F Major;
Brahms Handel Variations

"Compelling, dynamic and with great sensitivity the Uzbekistan-born, award-winning pianist, plays with crystallized power, energy, and rhythmic tension." Der Kurier, Germany

Pizza in the Hut



Sisterhood News
by Evelyn Silverberg



Congregants and students enjoy festivities and pizza in the Sukkah.



Up close to the scroll with Mr. Greenstein



Membership

If you were not able to join us at the Annual Paid-Up Membership Event, it is not too late to send in your dues envelope. Thank you to Donna Fleiss and the Membership and Programming Committees for organizing a fun night.

Getting Involved

Anyone interested in getting involved in Sisterhood, new or long-term members, feel free to contact me to discuss. We always need help to staff events and fund-raisers, assist in the kitchen for Shabbat Kiddushes, bake Hamentaschen or fill Purim Baskets. Volunteering is so rewarding as well as an opportunity to make new friends and to become a more active member of HJC. There are Sisterhood committees that could use some help, such as the Religious School Festivals, Shabbat Dinners and Rummage Sale.

Fall Rummage Sale

Thank you to all who donated lightly used clothes or household items. Any items not purchased were donated to local organizations to assist the Huntington community. Thank you to all who assisted with the set up and with the sale. If you were not able to donate for the Fall Sale, there is another one planned for April. Watch for announcements in the Biweekly Flyer.

Upcoming Events

Fall Book Discussion – Monday, November 3rdth at 11:30 AM. Marjorie Morningstar by Herman Wouk is the selection. Join us for a light lunch and lively discussion.

Craft Night – Wednesday, November 19th at 8 PM – We will be making head coverings.

Yoga – Monday mornings

Gift Shop – Please remember the Sisterhood Gift Shop for your holiday and gift needs.

HJC ISRAEL COMMITTEE

Calling all those who support the State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East!

If you would like to promote Israel engagement and education at HJC we welcome you to join the HJC Israel committee. Help create meaningful dialogue, plan Israel programming, and be an advocate for Israel.

For more information and/or to join please contact:

Scott Ingber giscott007@aol.com

Nili Gitig ngitig@gmail.com



Early Childhood News

by Ilene Brown



What a difference a few weeks make!

The children at the Early Childhood Center have acclimated to school so nicely. Everyone has successfully separated from their parents and the children have already settled into a routine. It is amazing to me how fast new friendships have formed and how comfortable they are in their new surroundings. The children have been engaged in socialization activities, getting to know one another, and feeling confident about themselves and their environments. They have

been learning about the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and Sukkot.

While educating the children about these holidays, the talented teachers have incorporated all disciplines such as identifying colors, math and graphing skills, science lessons, great literature and literacy activities, and fine and gross motor development. They have been singing songs about apples dipped in honey, shofars, and stringing fruit for the sukkah. To further engage their senses, the teachers have been cooking delicious recipes with apples. Cooking is an activity that incorporates all of their senses and disciplines. The children touch, taste, and smell the ingredients and they count, mix, sequence, and observe changes in the recipe as new ingredients are added.

The children have been busy creating decorations for our synagogue's sukkah. They will be eating snack and having special visits from the Rabbi and the Cantor in the sukkah as well. The Rabbi and Cantor will talk to the children about the holiday and the children will have the opportunity to touch and shake the lulav and etrog.

Chag Sameach!!!

Ilene

Rabbi con't from page 1

we believe may have an impact upon how we act, how we feel, and what we convey to those closest to us.

I invite you to join me this Fall as we consider some of the dilemmas of faith. We will have the opportunity to draw from the wisdom of texts ranging from the Talmud, to the Baal Shem Tov, to Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural address, to the poetry of Zelda and Yehuda Amichai. Also through modern technology we will have access to video presentations from some of the leading teachers at the Shalom Hartman Institute of Jerusalem. Of course the class discussions will also allow us to draw from the wisdom of our fellow congregants. Classes meet at the synagogue on Thursday nights, Oct. 30, Nov 6 and Nov 30. Please join us; your voice will be to the richness of the discussion.

Bat Mitzvahs November



Ilyssa Stein
Daughter of Debbie
and David Stein

Ilyssa is an eighth grade student at Elwood Middle School. She participates on the Elwood Cheerleading Team, competes for Platinum Performance Dance Academy, and plays the flute. Ilyssa loves spending her summers at Camp Green Lane in

Pennsylvania. Always motivated to do her best, Ilyssa works hard at her achievements.

Ilyssa has been attending HJC since the age of 3. Ilyssa enjoyed performing in HJC's Guys and Dolls and building new relationships with members. She is excited to spend her Bat Mitzvah with family, friends, and the many congregants she has grown to know.

Ilyssa - we are so proud of you and love you very much, Mom, Dad, Max and Sandy-dog



Gabby Berman
Daughter of Cheryl and
Peter Berman

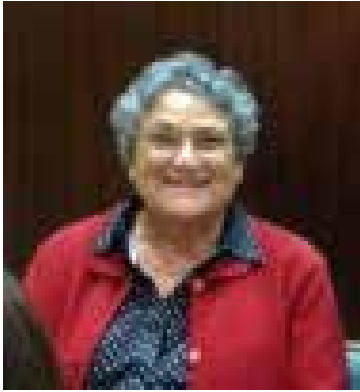
Gabby is an 8th grade student at Elwood Middle School. Her passion is anything music. She plays the clarinet, loves to sing, and listen to music. She enjoys showcasing her musical talents in the HJC musicals. Gabby also throws shot-put on the school track team. She is very witty and has a great sense of

humor. Mom, dad, and sister Jessica are proud of all her accomplishments as she becomes a Bat Mitzvah, but are especially proud that she has become a kind young lady who shows compassion towards others.

Spotlight on...

The Huntington Jewish Center is embarking on a new project that we hope you will embrace. The Storytelling Project is designed to give everyone in our congregation an opportunity to share his or her personal story. The purpose of this program is to enhance connectedness and to involve members in new and different ways. For those of you who are familiar with NPR's Story Corps, this project has a similar angle. It will enable people to hear what others have done in their lives, to share important elements and anecdotes, to bridge generations and to build community. We want to hear your story and where HJC fits into it. Each interview will be written in a narrative format and be printed in the HJC newsletter. We are also experimenting with video taping some of the interviews and hope to create a documentary montage of peoples' stories. Everyone is invited to participate; no one is obligated. There is a small group of committed people who have started to interview some of our most veteran members. This is a long-term project that will likely take years to complete – and will become an on-going part of the HJC culture. We not only hope that you will agree to be interviewed, but we also welcome additional interviewers, writers, editors, videographers and video editors. All ages are welcome to participate.

For more information or to get involved, please contact: Nancy Cooper: 516-356-7109 or email: nancyberlow@gmail.com



Susi Susskind

Susi Susskind describes HJC as her “comfort zone”, her “spiritual home”, her “caring and supportive community” and “the place she needs to visit on Shabbat morning to feel her week is complete.” That was not always the case. Our Conservative congregation in Yenevelt, Long Island was a huge adjustment for Susi when she

first arrived 53 years ago from the city.

Susi was born, in Munich, Germany in 1937, to Lore and Eric Lieberman. Her parents were upper middle class “liberal Jews,” with strong ties to a synagogue in Munich. They enjoyed an affluent life with many comforts, including the services of a chauffeur and nanny. On November 10, 1938, Kristallnacht, her father was swept up and taken to the camps at Dachau. Due to the persistent efforts of his wife, Susi’s father was released and spared certain death in the camps. With visas in hand and affidavits from an uncle in Pennsylvania, 14-month-old Susi and her parents headed to New York via steamship. A childhood story is that Susie climbed onto the lap of an SS officer when they were getting their paperwork in order in Nuremberg.

The Liebermans traveled first class from Hamburg to New York. In Manhattan Susi and her mother stayed in a boarding house while her father headed for Pennsylvania to meet with his uncle. As family legend goes, Susi’s mother discovered that the noisy boarding house was actually a brothel at night. Having none of this, her mother quickly made arrangements to move to a home in Queens.

In Jackson Heights, the Liebermans began shul shopping. They explored storefront synagogues in the area. Nothing clicked until, in April 1945, when Susi was 8, they attended a memorial service for FDR at Temple Emanu-El Reform Congregation on 5th Avenue in Manhattan. There they found their religious home in New York. Susi was mesmerized by the radiance of the sanctuary and the colored light dancing through the stained glass windows. She was drawn in to the soulful organ music and the choir. This

is where Susi spent every Saturday, Sunday and holiday from then on. This is where she became best friends with the cantor’s daughter, Shirley, where she listened and learned, where she was confirmed and where at age 15, she considered becoming a rabbi before regretfully, allowing herself to be talked out of it by the assistant rabbi who convinced her it was not women’s work. Temple Emmanu-El in Manhattan still holds a coveted place in Susi’s heart. Her parents maintained their membership there until their deaths, her father in 1984 and her mother in 2002.

In 1961 Rabbi Julius Mark, senior rabbi of Temple Emmanu-El, married Susi to Herbert Susskind, a handsome young engineer who had been raised in a German-speaking Orthodox home in Washington Heights. Kashruth became an issue for this “mixed marriage”; as “kosher” was just not part of Susi’s reform Jewish vocabulary.

At the time they were getting married, Susi was teaching in Westchester and Herb was working for Brookhaven Labs in Yenevelt, Long Island. They searched for a community far enough east for Herb to get to work and far enough west that they could still be connected to their families. 53 years ago, they came upon Huntington.

In 1964 while Susi was pregnant with their first child, Helen, Herb’s mother passed away. Herb started attending daily minyan at HJC, lead by Rabbi Leif, the chaplain from the VA hospital, and thus began the Susskind’s long relationship with the HJC community. Susi had taken a break from her position as a foreign language teacher and became involved in the life of the synagogue. Friday nights were big family nights at HJC with plentiful onegs. Susi, Herb and their three children attended regularly. Using her experience as an educator, Susi served on the religious school committee, while Herb was on the ritual committee and the Board. Herb attended services on Saturday mornings but Susi did not.

HJC was not an easy transition for Susi. Although happily married to Herb and raising her own family here, HJC did not feel like her beloved Temple Emmanu-El. Susi missed the aesthetics of the services of her youth. Services without the choir and organ didn’t resonate for her. The partially completed HJC sanctuary with cinderblock walls, (now our stained-glass windows) didn’t look anything like the majestic Romanesque structure with Tiffany windows of her childhood synagogue. To fill the void, Susi used to

Donations

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GENERAL FUND

Alan Rubin
The Harmon family in memory of Phyllis & Jerry Kurshan, mother & father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Vered & Jack Cole in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Marvin Quait, father of Gale Greenstein.
Joan & Paul Cohen in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Terri, daughter of Meri & Ed Schindler.
Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Susan Drucker in memory of Oscar Drucker at yahrzeit.
Seymour Schpoont in memory of Edward Diamond at yahrzeit.
Diane & Steven Block in memory of Janice Schwartz at yahrzeit.
Elaine & Walter Kleinmann in memory of Samuel Butlein at yahrzeit.
Martin Rosenblatt in memory of Sidney Rosenblatt at yahrzeit.
Joni Brenner in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.
Joanne & Peter Cohn in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Eve Siegel in memory of Phyllis & Jerry Kurshan, mother & father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Renee Blank Rosenking & Herman Rosenking in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Judi Rosenblatt in memory of Jeanette Hopmayer at yahrzeit.
Miriam & Ron Goldberg in memory of Julius L. Goldberg at yahrzeit.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.
Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer in memory of Marvin Quait, father of Gale Greenstein.
Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.
Joan & Norman Mattisinko in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Lisa Golub in memory of Marjorie Ahronee at yahrzeit.
Marc Weinberg in memory of Sarah Weinberg at yahrzeit.
Frank Wolff in memory of Thekla Wolff at yahrzeit.
Cantor Israel Gordan & Abigail Uhrman in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Amy & Roger Koreen in memory of Phyllis & Jerry Kurshan, mother & father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Maxine Liebowitz in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.
Alvin Wichard in memory of Philip Wichard at yahrzeit.
Arlene Steinberg in memory of Fred Steinberg at yahrzeit.
Arthur Boshnack in memory of Lillian Boshnack at yahrzeit.
Joan Blank in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.
Loron Simon in memory of Manny Aaront at yahrzeit.
Andrea Dubow in memory of Samuel Goldstein at yahrzeit.
Joan & Harold Blog in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.
Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.

Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in honor of Joel Kuppersmith for the admirable job he does handling the High Holiday honors.
Phyllis Levy in memory of Grace Goldblum at yahrzeit.
Robert Mesard in memory of Emanuel Mesard at yahrzeit.
Meri Schindler in memory of Sol Stafford at yahrzeit.
Judi Kugel in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.
Roger Koreen in memory of Grace Koreen at yahrzeit.
Nancy Cooper in memory of Richard Berlow at yahrzeit.
Marvin Lipkind in memory of Sylvia Hudes at yahrzeit.
Harriet Harris in memory of Benjamin Alpert at yahrzeit.
Robert Lifson in memory of Hannah Lifson at yahrzeit.
Lawrence Maltin in memory of Ruth Maltin at yahrzeit.
Shelley & Marc Weinberg in memory of Rose Kramer at yahrzeit.
Joyce Sacknoff in memory of Margaret Fuchs at yahrzeit.
Philip Glaser in memory of Sarah Glaser at yahrzeit.
Ellen & Newt Meiselman in memory of Jennie Bloom at yahrzeit.
Susan & Louis Walsdorf in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Pamela & Bruce Fleiss
Rene Levy in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Susan & David Lefkowitz in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Dafna & Daniel Stein in memory of Phyllis Kurshan, mother of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Dafna & Daniel Stein in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Dafna & Daniel Stein in honor of the birth of Maya Reut Gordan-Uhrman, daughter of Cantor Israel Gordan & Abigail Uhrman.
Dafna & Daniel Stein in memory of Max Schoeffler, father of Dan Schoeffler.
Dafna & Daniel Stein in memory of Betty Mesard, wife of Bob Mesard.
Ofer Rind in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Ofer Rind in memory of Marvin Quait, father of Gale Greenstein.
Sharon & David Wechsler & family in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Joni Brenner in honor of the marriage of Eytan, son of Rabbi Neil and Alisa Rubin Kurshan, to Anna Squires Levine.
Leslie & Jed Hantverk in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Marge & Larry Maltin in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Amira Garbus in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Rosalyn Haber in memory of Phyllis & Jerry Kurshan, mother & father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Jina & Ben Eckstein in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.
Lori & Michael Gilman in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of

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Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

Arlene & Arthur Boshnack in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

Shari & Marvin Chinitz in memory of Phyllis & Jerry Kurshan, mother & father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

Diane & Steven Block in memory of Phyllis & Jerry Kurshan, mother & father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

ARNIE KERNS FUND

Harriet Kerns in memory of William Feit at yahrzeit.

Harriet Kerns in memory of Clara Feit at yahrzeit.

BEN TASMAN LIBRARY FUND

Syd & Mike Schlesinger in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

Pamela & Bruce Fleiss in memory of Judy Tasman.

Miriam & Joel Wirchin in honor of the marriage of Abby, daughter of Sarah & Jerry Saunders, to Jeffrey Fisher.

Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.

Susi Susskind in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.

Judy & Arthur Schwager in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.

Marianne Sokol in memory of Bernhard Stein at yahrzeit.

Marianne Sokol in memory of Toni Deusch at yahrzeit.

CANTOR'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Judy Leopold in memory of William Teich at yahrzeit.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN FUND

Miriam & Joel Wirchin in honor of the marriage of Phillip, son of Marlene & Leonard Hummel, to Lilly Shields.

Joan & Norman Mattisinko in honor of Mary Uricchio & Michael Buchholtz receiving the Humanitarian Award at the UJA-Federation of New York 2015 Suffolk County Inaugural Dinner.

COLLEGIATE FUND

Barbara & Joel Koppersmith in honor of the marriage of Phillip, son of Marlene & Leonard Hummel, to Lilly Shields.

Amy J. Koreen in memory of Robert Blank.

DAILY MINYAN FUND

Rene Levy in memory of Marvin Quait, father of Gale Greenstein.

Barbara & Joel Koppersmith in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

Vicki & Tom Rosen in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.

Maxine Liebowitz in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Marvin Quait, father of Gale Greenstein.

Vicki & Tom Rosen in honor of the engagement of Rachel, daughter of Dorothy & Larry Tydings, to Dan Zar.

DAVID S. ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

Judith & Lester Fox in memory of the father of Max Rudansky.

Susi Susskind in memory of Eric Lieberman at yahrzeit.

Susi Susskind in memory of Elsa Laemmle at yahrzeit.

Susi Susskind in memory of Issak Laemmle at yahrzeit.

Nili Gitig in memory of Martin Roshco at yahrzeit.

Nili Gitig in memory of Lotte Buczaczer at yahrzeit.

Nili Gitig in memory of Max Buczaczer at yahrzeit.

DONALD L. GORDON ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

LEAH GREENE GARDEN FUND

Nancy & Brian Cooper in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Marlene & Lenny Hummel in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

SOCIAL ACTION FUND/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Marilyn & David Klein in memory of Phyllis & Jerry Kurshan, mother & father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

Carol & Jerry Zavin in honor of the 90th birthday of Charlotte Rosen.

Eleanor Siperowitz in memory of Phyllis & Jerry Kurshan, mother & father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

Marsha Buchholtz in memory of Sara Sitron at yahrzeit.

Marsha Buchholtz in memory of Sadie Sitron at yahrzeit.

Sylvia Brass in memory of Gussie Allen at yahrzeit.

Cynthia & Alan Lantz in honor of the 90th birthday of Charlotte Rosen.

Marilyn Johnson in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Jerry Kurshan, father of Rabbi Neil Kurshan.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Marvin Quait, father of Gale Greenstein.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the birth of Matan Raphael Ostin, grandson of Sheila & Bruce Feinberg.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the marriage of Phillip, son of Marlene & Leonard Hummel, to Lilly Shields.

Charlotte Rosen in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.

Amira Garbus in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.

Hannah Kampel in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.

Rosalyn Haber in memory of Beverly Schpoont, wife of Sy Schpoont.

Donations

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Lillian Alexander in honor of the 90th birthday of Charlotte Rosen.
Lorraine Pavenick in honor of the 90th birthday of Charlotte Rosen.

Marlene & Lenny Hummel in appreciation of Rabbi Kurshan officiating at the Aufruf for Lilly & Phillip Hummel.

Edith & Charles Collins in honor of the 90th birthday of Charlotte Rosen.

Pamela Geller in memory of Gertrud Hofbauer at yahrzeit.

Joan & Norman Mattisinko in honor of the 70 year commitment of Hannah Kampel to the Huntington Jewish Center

The following families have given a donation in honor of Hannah Kampel whose devotion to the JNN and numerous other charitable causes inspire them daily. They will miss her but know that Florida is lucky to have her endless energy to positively

impact other people's lives:

Ethan Auslander

Marsha Buchholtz

Maxine and Rob Fisher

Amira Garbus

Pam Geller

Art and Roberta Goldfarb

Marlene and Lenny Hummel

Charlene and Gordie Kerner

Marilyn and David Klein

Gail and Jim Lodge

Bob Mesard

The Messing Family

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Does your health insurance policy seem like it's written in a foreign language?

Is all the fine print too:

- overwhelming?

- time-consuming?

- stressful?

- confusing and even contradictory?

Do you feel vulnerable to incurring unnecessary medical expenses?

The Bottom Line: You are not alone

Through a new HJC fund raising opportunity, you now have access to experts to save you hours of time, plenty of headaches, and potentially significant money...

And in the process, help raise funds for HJC

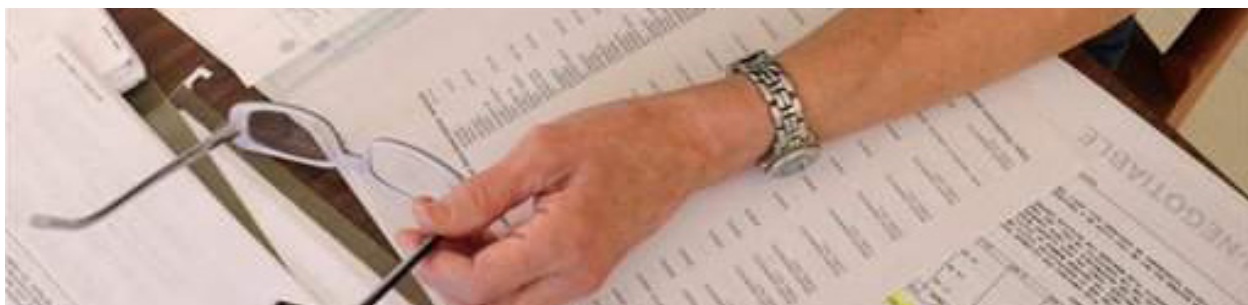
Please mark your calendars to attend one of our MED-ucation forums this fall. Join Systemedic, Inc., a local medical billing company with decades of experience successfully navigating the health insurance maze for its physician clients, to address some of your health insurance questions and to discuss how subscribing to their WatchDog Services benefits HJC.

Forum Dates:

November 5 at 2pm

November 16 at 9:30am

December 4 at 8pm



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 seven 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)
- 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
- Cans of beans
- Paper towels

This year we will be hosting on the following dates:

December 3, 17, 25, January 7, 21 and March 11, 25

Our sign-up and volunteer meeting will be November 5 at 7 pm

For more information, please contact:

Ellen Steinberg at ellen.steinberg728@gmail.com

Karen Flanzenbaum at kflanzenbaumlaw@gmail.com

President's Perspective con't from pg. 6

face the challenges of being a synagogue on Long Island in 2014 with a clear understanding of what may be our impediments as well as our strengths. While a challenging discussion, ultimately it was one which set us on the path towards a more stable future. Though I would prefer we have a surplus, I think it is important to view this as an opportunity: to restate our core values as a community -- a home for Jewish families, regardless of their makeup; a place for Jewish prayer and spirituality; a forum for discussion of Jewish ideas and enjoyment of Jewish and Israeli culture; a community that provides support and caring for its members and for the greater community of which we are a part. It is an opportunity to look critically at ourselves, and decide how best to achieve our aims, and to do so responsibly and accountably. It is an opportunity to explore new ways of securing financial stability, and re-energize traditional ways of ensuring that stability.

Psalms 122 states, "Omdot, Hayu Raglenu B'shearecha Yerushalayim. Yerushalayim HaBinuyah—K'Ir, She chuberah lah yachdav—Our feet are standing within thy gates, O Jerusalem;

Jerusalem, that is built as a city that is compact together." I think that we, as the psalmist wrote about Jerusalem, are a kehillah, a community that is compact together; we are bound together by our desire and commitment to see this congregation remain a center, a haven, and a beacon of Jewish life. We recently had a visitor to HJC who walked in and said, "This is a beautiful building." He meant the architecture, but I think understood intuitively what we see every day, and that I hope to help continue as we move forward this New Year: we have a beautiful kehillah that serves so many different needs and provides so much joy, support, and opportunity for growth for Huntington's Jewish community. It requires only you: your support, your involvement, your willingness to take a little time and come down to HJC. Help out with a program. Come to a workshop. Help in our kitchen or our garden. Support our Kol Nidre campaign. Come to a Men's Club meeting. Support our Israel committee. Come to morning minyan. Whatever it is you choose to do, I know you will find you have taken away from it more than you have given.



listen to the broadcasted Temple Emmanu-El Friday night services on WQXR. She could not connect with Rabbi Tannenbaum as she had with the beloved reform rabbis of her youth.

Nonetheless, Susi threw herself into her new Conservative congregation in Huntington starting with embracing kashering her home as a 40th birthday gift to Herb. Although this kosher conversion was a gift for Herb, this act, as it turns out, was also a gift to herself; and today maintaining her kosher home is now an integral part of Susi's Jewish comfort zone.

Slowly, HJC became Susi's spiritual home as her children were educated here and became b'nai mitzvot here. The HJC community has been here for her through all the difficult years since her retirement in 2000, when Susi served as the caretaker for her mother and then for Herb through his long illness. She has taken great comfort in knowing that she could connect with Rabbi Kurshan whom she felt was always there for her when times were rough, even if she didn't need to call upon him for support. The members of the "Wednesday night knitting group"

including Betty Mesard, Ethel Sacks, Francis Blum, Gloria Safran, Esther Vickers, Shirley Vilinsky, Ellen Meiselman and more, have been there for companionship and support. After Herb passed away, they were all there for her, as were the rest of "the ladies in the back row". She was most grateful for Ethel's help to enter the kiddush lounge for her first Shabbat kiddush without Herb. Now she enters with confidence and joy, every Shabbat morning when she is not attending services out of town.

Susi looks back on her working years, her caretaking years, and her years of adjusting to our little conservative congregation in Yenevelt with good memories. She has chosen to join the HJC Board as a way to give back for everything HJC has given to her. Susi surely has much to offer.

Interview compiled by Lesley Stark and Susi Susskind

SAVE THE DATE!

The Huntington Jewish Center invites you to a
Progressive Dinner*



**SATURDAY EVENING,
DECEMBER 6 AT 7:30 PM**

*A PROGRESSIVE DINNER is an occasion where you will be invited to someone's home for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a kosher dinner. After dinner, there will be sumptuous desserts and surprises at the home of Kim & Joe Willen.

Cost: \$60 per couple or \$30 per single

We hope you will participate in this excellent & fun-filled fundraiser.
You won't be sorry!

If you wish to host a dinner, please contact:
Susi Susskind 631.424.5360 or Carol Baker at 631.499.4934

HJC Babysitters:

Grace Willen

home: 631-754-5865
cell: 631-871-1477

**Babysitters - email your
current information to put
here!**

**Please send your updated information to
kwillen@mac.com**

include your current home and cell numbers

HJC Bulletin November 2014

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FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

Peaceful * Musical * Spirited

Family Friendly Shabbat

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN THE ROUND
followed by our

COMMUNITY SHABBAT FALL FEAST

It's Shabbat before Thanksgiving.
Come share the spirit of gratitude with our HJC family.



November 21, 2014

Come for the service at 6:00 pm /Stay for dinner at 7:00 pm

Meat meal * vegetarian options * supervised children's table

*25/adult, *10/child 5-12, child under 5 free,
* 70 max /family

RSVP to Debbie in the front office by Monday, November 17, 2014
or watch your email for a link to sign up on line
RSVP's after November 17 add *2 per person to posted prices