

HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER

NEWS COMMUNITY CONNECTION

INNOVATE & INTEGRATE - CREATING COMMUNITY & CONNECTION



by Rabbi Kurshan

What Animates Jews?

It is no secret that many Jews are indifferent to Judaism; it is no secret that many Jews are uninvolved with Jewish life; and it is no secret that non-Orthodox synagogues have been struggling to attract new congregants.

While the reasons for these trends are complex, part of the problem is that many Jewish institutions are still working within old paradigms. They are trying to attract Jews through the same issues that drew Jews into the Jewish community fifty years ago: the creation of the state of Israel, the Holocaust, and anti-Semitism. We may bemoan the fact that these issues no longer command the

passion of most Jews—especially younger Jews—but we should not conclude that there is nothing that will appeal to contemporary American Jews.

I read an interesting book this past year by Rabbi Sid Schwarz titled *Jewish Megatrends* that outlines some of the themes that appear most likely to command the passions of contemporary Jews. By and large the book is a recounting of Jewish institutions that have reinvented themselves and that are successfully drawing Jews through their doors especially those who are part of Generation X and the Millennials. Rabbi Schwarz identifies four strategies that are attracting the next generation of Jews into the community.

First there is an intense desire among many Jews to advance tzedek (justice) in the world. Many Jews want to further social justice through the framework of Judaism. So many of our college kids used their college breaks in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to go to New Orleans with Hillel to help that community recover. Every semester break I hear of some of our students working in Central or South America or in some other under developed community on a Tikkun Olom Project.

Second in an era of globalization, Jews are interested as adults in learning what their sacred texts have to say about life and wisdom in juxtaposition to the

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Dietary laws observed.

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UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK

2014 SUFFOLK COUNTY

Inaugural Dinner

presenting the

Community Lifetime Achievement Award to *Rabbi Neil Kurshan*

Community Leadership Award to *Nina Sandler*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2013 • 6:30 p.m.
Dix Hills Jewish Center • 555 Vanderbilt Parkway, Dix Hills, New York

Cabinet Chair Rick Morse
Inaugural Chair Matthew Kreinces

Couvert: \$90 per person

The couvert represents the value of the event and is not tax-deductible.

values of secular culture and other religious traditions. In recent years there has been an explosion of Jewish Studies classes at colleges and Jews going online to get answers to find answers to their questions about Judaism.

Third many Jews are seeking kehillah (community). In a world increasingly dominated by technology and fewer face to face opportunities, people are seeking synagogues not so much to meet other Jews, but to find a place that will support them in times of need, link them to a community with which to celebrate in times of joy, and give them a place where they can find meaningful friendships. Many Jews are open to coming together within small networks of like-minded neighbors committed to similar values and life styles

And lastly in a secular culture, many Jews--younger ones in particular--are seeking access to Kedusha to the sacred dimension of life which lifts life out of the ordinary and mundane and connects it to something holy, meaningful, and enduring. Jews are seeking lives with a sacred purpose.

Institutions that can tap into these trends are likely to thrive and institutions that ignore these trends are likely to wither. Within our synagogue we have had a very good response to programs which respond into these trends.

Almost eighty people expressed an interest in being part of a chavura this past year and we were able to create seven new chavurot. This Fall we are hoping to bring the leadership of the chavurot together to share resources and ideas with one another. In the area of social action I remember the night a few years ago of the orientation for the HiHi program, our program which provides shelter to the homeless one night a week during the winter. There was a huge turnout and the question of the organizers that night was how we would be able to use everyone who wanted to participate in this effort. Our Spirituality Institutes have drawn many participants to programs that do not exist in most other Jewish institutions. This Fall Cantor Gordan and I hope to attend a conference in Manhattan focusing on changing the paradigm that exists in most synagogues from the idea of "attending services" to the idea of engaging people in prayer.

We can do more in all these areas. I have learned during my years at HJC that good ideas for new initiatives in the synagogue do not only come from professional leadership; they also come from you. If there is a project you would like to undertake, we would like to hear from you.

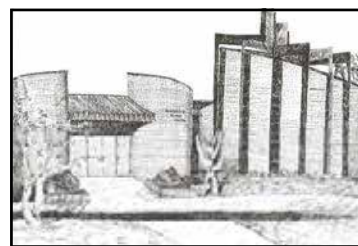
I hope this will be a year during which each of us will find at HJC a resource for helping to make the world a little better and more just; that connects us more closely to others in our community, that gives us access to the wisdom and learning of our tradition, and that allows us to touch the sacred dimension of life. Alisa and I wish all of you a Shana Tova U'Metukah—a sweet and healthy New Year.

Adult Education - 5774



- A new Saturday night movie series on the theme of "Fathers and Sons";
- More forums on Jewish Public Affairs led by Ken Bob
- New opportunities to master synagogue skills with Cantor Gordan
- A new study and discussion opportunity incorporating the resources and teachers of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem on The "Other"--how Jews treat minorities and the disenfranchised--coordinated by Rabbi Kurshan

Watch for more information and details about dates over the holidays.



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| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
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| Sunshine..... | |
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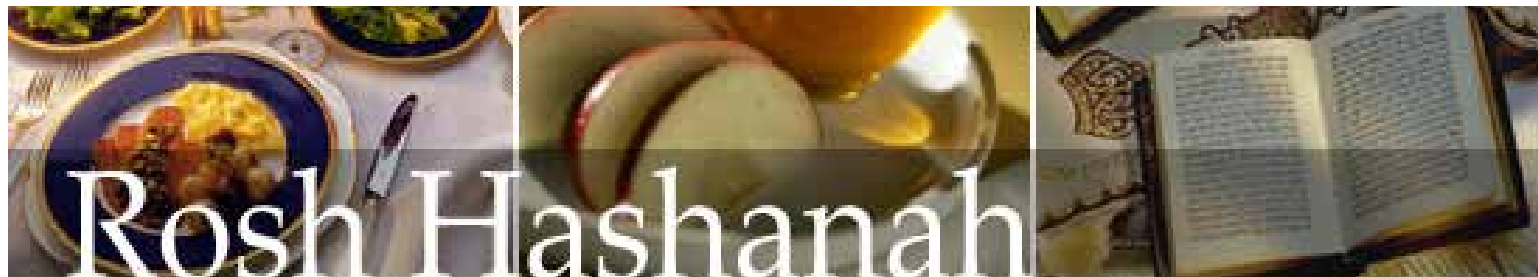
September 2013

Elul/Tishri ~ 5773/5774

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Cemetery Visitation-11am JNN | 2 Office Closed Labor Day | 3 ECC Staff Meeting 8:45am Choir Rehearsal 8pm | 4 Services 7:15pm Erev Rosh Hashanah | 5 Office Closed Services 8:15am Services 7:15pm Rosh Hashanah | 6 Office Closed Services 8:15am Shabbat Services-7pm Rosh Hashanah | 7 Services-9:30am Ha'azinu |
| 8 Communal Tashlich-11am First Day of Religious School JNN | 9 ECC Parent Orientation 7pm First Day of Kindergarten SH Board -8pm YOGA | 10 ECC First Day | 11 | 12 Professional Staff-12:45pm | 13 No ECC Services 7pm Kol Nidre | 14 Services 9am Yom Kippur Yizkor |
| 15 JNN RS Welcome Parents-10am RS Board-9:30 Lulav Shuk-11-1 Men's Club Sukkah Building | 16 ECC Parent Assoc.-9:45am EC-7:30pm YOGA | 17 Chaverim 6:15pm | 18 Services-6:45pm Erev Sukkot | 19 Office Closed Services-9:30am Services-6:45pm Sukkot | 20 Office Closed Services-9:30am Shabbat Services -6pm | 21 Services 9:30am Family Service 10:30am Chol Hamoed |
| 22 BOT-9:30am USY/Kad JNN | 23 YOGA | 24 Family Life Congregational Dinner- 6:15pm | 25 Minyan -7am Social Action 2pm Services-6:30pm Erev Shemini Atzeret | 26 Office Closed Services-9:30am Services-7pm Shemini Atzeret Yizkor | 27 Office Closed Services-9:30am Shabbat Services -6pm Simchat Torah | 28 Services 9:30am Bereshit |
| 29 ECC Meet and Greet-11am Men's Club 9:30am RIDOTTO JNN | 30 YOGA | PROJECT ISAIAH FOOD DRIVE August 31st thru September 15th | | | | |

~ 2013 HIGH HOLIDAYS SCHEDULE ~

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday Evening, September 4th | Rosh Hashanah, First Night | Evening Services 7:15 PM |
| Thursday, September 5th | Rosh Hashanah, First Day | Services begin 8:15 AM Babysitting 10:15-12:15 |
| Thursday, September 5th | Rosh Hashanah, Second Night | Services 7:15 PM |
| Friday, September 6^h | Rosh Hashanah, Second Day Concluding Service/Shabbat (Lief Chapel) | Services begin 8:15 AM Babysitting 10:15-12:15 7:00 PM |
| Friday, September 13th | Kol Nidre | Services begin 7:00 PM Babysitting 7:00-9:00pm |
| Saturday, September 14th | Yom Kippur | Services begin 9:00 AM Babysitting 11:00 – 12:45 Mincha 4:30 PM Yizkor service 5:45 PM Neilah 6:30 PM |
| Wednesday, September 18th | Sukkot, First Night | Services begin 6:45 PM |
| Thursday, September 19th | Sukkot, First Day | Services begin 9:30 AM Babysitting 10:30-12 noon |
| Thursday, September 19th | Sukkot, Second Night | Services begin 6:45 PM |
| Friday, September 20th | Sukkot, Second Day | Services begin 9:30 AM Babysitting 10:30 -12 noon |
| Wednesday, September 25th | Erev Shemini Atzeret | Services begin 6:30 PM |
| Thursday, September 26th | Shemini Atzeret | Services begin 9:30 AM Babysitting 10:30-12 noon |
| Thursday, September 26th | Simchat Torah | Services begin 7:00 PM |
| Friday, September 27th | Simchat Torah | Services begin 9:30 AM Babysitting 10:30-12 noon |



**ROSH HASHANAH, KOL NIDRE & YOM KIPPUR
2013 - 5774**

SELICHOT SERVICE

Saturday Night, August 31 11:30 PM

CEMETERY VISITATION

Sunday, September 1 11:00 AM

ROSH HASHANAH

1st Evening, Wednesday, September 4 7:15 PM

1st Day, Thursday, September 5 8:15 AM

Torah Reading 9:30 AM

Youth Services 10:30 AM

Sermon 10:40 AM

Musaf 11:30 AM

Babysitters Available from 10:15-12:15

2nd Evening, Thursday, September 5 7:15 PM

2nd Day, Friday, September 6 8:15 AM

Torah Reading 9:30 AM

Youth Services 10:30 AM

Sermon 10:40 AM

Musaf 11:30 AM

Babysitters Available from 10:15 AM to 12:15 PM

Concluding Service/Shabbat (Lief Chapel) 7:00 PM

Tashlich, Sunday, September 8 11:00 AM
(At Village Green Brook)

YOM KIPPUR

KOL NIDRE, Friday, September 13 7:00 PM

Babysitting Available from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

YOM KIPPUR DAY, Saturday, September 14

Pseukei d'Zimrah 9:00 AM

Shacharit 9:30 AM

Torah Reading 10:30 AM

Youth Services 11:15 AM

Sermon 11:30 AM

Musaf 12:15 PM

Healing Service (Lief Chapel) 3:30 PM

Mincha 4:30 PM

Yizkor 5:45 PM

Neilah 6:30 PM

Break-the-Fast 7:30 PM

Babysitters Available from 11:00 AM to 12:45 PM

President's Perspective

Summer by William Wertheim



"One must maintain a little bittle of summer, even in the middle of winter"—Henry David Thoreau.

Well, as summer draws to its close, we will have a bundle of recollections of this summer, filled with fun and meaningful moments, to maintain throughout this upcoming year. Even

though summertime at HJC means a slower pace, and a hiatus for people as they take vacations in places far and near, there has been a lot to enjoy here at 510 Park Avenue. Some of the summer highlights?

-We had a tremendously successful summer camp program this year. Led by Jen Bamberger, our Summer Adventure camp had a great summer with lots of enthusiasm. Over 50 children played, enjoyed, learned, and had fun while taking advantage of all of HJC's resources. If you know families with young children looking for summer activities, look no further than HJC!

-Our Outreach garden is growing, and growing wonderful foods. We have two organic gardens, one on HJC's property and one on Depot Road. The efforts in the garden are spearheaded by Joanne Cohn and Jeff Moss, our resident green thumbs, and a number of other congregants have helped dig, water, stake, weed, and generally get dirt under their fingernails and have a good time. Some of the bounty of the harvest has graced the tables of Shabbat kiddushes; more importantly, much of the harvest is donated to feed needy people in Huntington.

-For any who might have missed my many announcements, we had a tremendously successful Golf Outing and Barbecue on July 24th. Fifty-five golfers showed their skill on the links at Crab Meadow, and of course everyone played really well. It was a beautiful, sunny day, and the pleasure of being out in the warm sun and hitting a few good shots was only outpaced by the good company of friends. The barbecue afterwards brought over 130 people for delicious food prepared by Woodbury Kosher, and nobody walked away hungry, even if they didn't all win the raffles. Though the day was officially a fundraiser, it truly was a community event and brought people together for fun and a good cause. The only mystery remaining: just how far did Ethel Sachs' prize-winning long drive go? Many thanks to Matt Kirschner for his farewell, organizing the golf outing, and to Sue Lefkowitz and Hannah Kampel for organizing the food.

-Although it's always sad to see Rabbi Kurshan and Cantor



Sisterhood News

by Marsha Buchholtz and Evelyn Silverberg

Sisterhood

- Connects to Jewish women of all generations
- Commits to our Synagogue and its children
- Contributes to the greater Jewish community

Sisterhood sponsors a variety of educational, cultural and social programs which enrich our minds and create a sense of community.

Join us for our 2013/2014 programs:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Silver Polishing..... | Sunday, August 25, 2013 (10:00 AM) |
| Rummage Sale..... | Sunday, October 6/Monday October 7, 2013 |
| Book Discussion..... | Monday, October 7, 2013 (11:30 AM) |
| Paid Up Membership Dinner..... | Thursday, October 10, 2013 (6:30 PM) |
| Craft Program..... | Thursday, November 14, 2013 (8:00 PM) |
| Hanukkah Happening..... | Sunday, November 17, 2013 |
| Challah Workshop..... | Thursday, December 5, 2013 (10:00 AM) |
| Murder Mystery..... | Saturday, January 25, 2014 (8:00 PM) |
| Speaker TBA..... | Thursday, February 27, 2014 |
| Taste of Passover..... | Thursday, March 27, 2014 (8:00 PM) |
| Rummage Sale..... | Sunday, March 30/Monday March 31, 2014 |
| Challah Workshop..... | Thursday, April 24, 2014 (10:00 AM) |
| Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration... | Sunday, May 4, 2014 (9:30 AM) |
| Book Discussion..... | Monday, May 5, 2014 (11:30 AM) |
| Israel Movie..... | Tuesday, May 6, 2014 (8:00 PM) |
| Sisterhood/Men's Club Shabbat.. | Friday, June 27, 2014 |

A bittersweet farewell to past president, Sue Lefkowitz, who is leaving us for the Sunshine State (Florida).

Gordan leave for their vacations, it does give an opportunity for congregants to test the waters themselves. A number of congregants led services both Friday nights and Saturday mornings, and gave d'vei torah on Saturday mornings. Honestly, one of my favorite parts of the summer is listening to people's interpretations and opinions about the weekly parsha, as we wait for the Torah Teasers to return. I enjoy tremendously listening to Cantor Gordan sing and harmonize, and gain immeasurably from Rabbi Kurshan's insights, but I also really enjoy hearing our fellow congregants give voice to ideas they don't always share during the year. If you've not done so in the past, I encourage you to think about trying one this coming summer.

-We kicked off the summer with a new tradition: Cantor Gordan organized a special Shabbat recognizing the graduating High School seniors. This was a wonderful event, with a large group of seniors poised to begin new chapters in their lives at a wide array of wonderful colleges. In particular, most of the group had been together since nursery school at HJC's ECC, and seeing how they



A Happy and Healthy by Cantor Israel Gordan



By the time you read this bulletin article, I will have completed my second year at the Huntington Jewish Center. In that short amount of time, I have already worked with three different presidents and yet I have only been to the selichot lecture and service once (I missed last year for the birth of my son, a reasonable excuse, in my opinion). It is amazing how quickly time goes by, and also how much can be accomplished over the course of two short

years. But even more importantly, it is exciting to look forward with great anticipation to the coming year and all of the exciting events, initiatives, and services that we have planned.

As we are all aware, Rosh Hashanah, and indeed all of the Jewish holidays before the extra month of Adar, falls out extremely early on our secular calendar. With Labor Day only two days behind us, we will already begin the celebration of the Jewish New Year. While this adds a certain amount of stress to clergy to the month of August, it also means that Yom Kippur, Succot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simhat Torah will all be over before the end of September, allowing us to truly focus on fall programming before the school year is too far along.

Another interesting fact about our schedule is that for the first time, Hanukkah begins the night before Thanksgiving, adding an extra element of giving thanks to the Jewish Festival of Lights that celebrates miracles in days of old and in our time. What an exciting opportunity for us to gather with friends, family, and the entire community to enjoy these important Jewish and American holidays. We have much to be thankful for as a Jewish community in 21st century America and much to work for as we continue our efforts of repairing this world that we are commanded to do by God.

I am also excited to begin implementing, in earnest, changes to our Religious School curriculum to better meet the needs of our students and families. While preparation for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah is important, it is also necessary that we are educating our children to be active, engaged, and knowledgeable Jews in the larger community. We owe them learning that is steeped in tradition while acknowledging the changes of contemporary society. We are excited to be using more technology in our classrooms as a way to engage students as well as fully integrating each year's learning in a systematic way towards knowledge of Hebrew, Jewish History, Israeli Culture, and other topics we know will instill in them a love of being Jewish.

Finally, I hope you use this coming year as an opportunity to ask questions as a way to find out more. If you have ever wanted to learn how to read Torah or chant Haftarah, or lead services, or what nusach is, or how the service is structured, please, do not hesitate to call, email, or speak to me in person. My door is almost always open and I look forward to hearing from you soon. All of my best for a happy and healthy new year to everyone. Shana Tovah!

Thank you

Marty and Janet Kushnick would like to thank our fellow congregants for showing their compassion and sincere caring during our difficult time of mourning for our son Larry.

Religious School Update

by Maxine Fisher

Religious School Administrator

It is so hard to believe that by the time you receive this bulletin, the summer will just about be over. But the end of the summer also means many new beginnings. The most obvious new beginning is Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, which happen to fall at the very beginning of September this year. The Hebrew date for Rosh Hashanah is 1 Tishre: another beginning. We begin Religious School this year on Sunday, September 8 and along with the start of the school year there are also some other new beginnings.

To start, I am happy to welcome Elana Marcus back to HJC. Elana has taught previously in our Religious School, but we are excited to have her begin anew as our Hey (5th grade) class teacher. Elana also will be lead our youth group this year. We also have a new Nitzanim/Junior Congregation leader, Victoria Eller.

We are beginning a new Family service program with two Friday night and three Shabbat mornings services. Those dates are:

Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:00am – 12:00pm

Friday, November 22, 2013 6:15pm – 8:00pm with dinner

Saturday, January 11, 2014 10:00 am– 12:00pm

Friday, January 24, 2014 6:15pm – 8:00 pm with dinner

Saturday, May 10, 2014 10:00am – 12:00pm

Cantor Gordan will lead these services.

This fall we will begin using our new computer lab in the Tasman Library. One last new beginning for this year: we have established a new credit system for Shabbat/Holiday attendance, which you will receive more information in the Parent Handbook.

On Sunday, September 8 at 9:00 we will have an orientation for our Gan families. At 10:45 that same morning we will hold our Tashlich service. Please join your children and the congregation for this beautiful ritual.

On Sunday, September 15 you can pick up your lulav and etrog, and parents from the Alef class through the Mitzvah team are invited to join us for a welcome meeting at 9:00.

As it happens every year, I am always sad to see the slow pace of the summer fade away but I also look forward to all these new and exciting beginnings.

Shanah Tovah,

Maxine

Social Action News

The Social Action Committee will hold the annual **Project Isaiah/ Replenish Food Drive** from **Friday August 30 to Sunday Sept. 15**. During that time bags and collection bins will be placed in the front and back lobbies for your donations. Please do your part to honor Tikum Olum and help to feed people in need.

The Social Action Committee is continuing the project of sending small packages to **Lone Soldiers in the Israeli Army**. If you are interested in sending a package please call one of us for instructions.

Janet Kushnick 271-8803 Marilyn Klein 271-8461
Ellen Kahn 692-8548

Early Childhood News

by Susie Meisler



I have observed through the years that many people want to live on top of the mountain. However all the happiness and growth I have personally experienced through my many hiking trips, occurred while climbing it. This summer certainly proved that to me once again.

At the end of our last spectacular hike in the Italian Dolomites two years ago, my husband and I talked about how much longer we would be able to continue our physical, spiritual and emotional challenge of climbing mountain ranges.

We realized that at 65 years of age, we

just might be pushing the envelope. However, with that said, we made our plans for a hiking trek to Machu Picchu in Peru which was on our bucket list for many years. We knew that this was probably going to be our most difficult climb as part of our journey would be to reach the altitude of 15,200 feet and face the fact that oxygen at that level is almost non-existent.

So for one year we researched all there was to learn about Peru, Machu Picchu, the Incas and its many breathtaking vistas on top of the mountains in the Andean region. It reminded me about how I prepared for my journey into parenting. I read all the books about becoming a parent. I spoke to many new moms and dads that just had children. I then refreshed my memory by reviewing the dozens of early childhood educational courses I took for my Master's program. I spent many waking hours trying to envision what might lie ahead before me in this new role. I knew that no one can fully prepare for what lay ahead, but darned if I wasn't going to try!!

The city of Cusco, where my husband and I began our trek, was beautiful, but because it is miles above sea level, we were immediately challenged in the simple task of breathing. It took several days acclimatizing to the thin air. Cusco is 10,750 feet above sea level and we were going to climb to the Salkantay glacier – capped mountain pass, 15,200 feet high. This mountain, as I later learned, was referred to as the "Savage Mountain." It was a good thing I didn't know this until I got home.

With the help of two guides, pack mules, horses, 10 other people from around the world willing to make this difficult journey, my husband and I gradually, and I mean extremely gradually, made our way up this mountain. Several of the people were well prepared for this trip as they trained for six months prior to the hike. Although I am in pretty good shape physically, no one could have rushed my painful, lung squelching experience hiking up this path. I knew from the first 20 minutes of the climb, that I would be taking one step at a time in a measured, rhythmic fashion as I surely could not rush the process of climbing any faster.

It was that slow pace of staying in the moment, focusing on each step that gave me the opportunity to witness the beauty of this journey. The guides gave me the right to hear my own heartbeat, pace my steps, and take in the beauty that surrounded the mountain. I was clearly reminded by them that this was my journey to take, and I did not have to follow the footsteps and pace of the other hikers.

This is also true for children, who should not be rushed into growing up or keeping up with others around them. The gift of childhood allows children the time they need to mature and learn critical lessons. Their slow, step by step style of exploring, observing, and breathing along the road to maturity is a necessary one for them to have in order to reach adulthood with the feeling and joy of

HJC Community News



MAZAL TOV

Madeline & Allen Sinowitz announce the engagement of Madeline's son, David Schwartz, to Shana Celli.

Hannah Kampel announces the birth of her great granddaughter, Jessica Winn Kampel.

CONDOLENCES

Marc Hazan on the death of his father, Isaac Hazan.

Ellen Kahn on the death of her brother, Ernst S. Levy.

Wendy Glassman on the death of her mother, Jeraldine L. Mello.

Janet & Martin Kushnick on the death of their son, Lawrence Kushnick.

Doris Schoenfarber on the death of her mother, Sally Fink.

To the family of Myrna Breger.

Dale Mintz on the death of her father, Carl Kaplowitz.

Todd Houslanger on the death of his father, William Houslanger

NEW MEMBERS

Kevin Younai & Amy Shehata of Huntington.

Scott & Dina Bloomfield of Greenlawn & their son, Liam, age 2.

Andrew & Jennifer Cahn of Lloyd Harbor & their children: Azalea, age 4 and Marisa, age 2.

Bob & Cari Schueller of Huntington Station & their children: Mikah, age 8 and Abby, age 5½.

Early Childhood News (con't)

accomplishing tasks independently. Children tell us in many different ways that we should allow them the time to master the tasks and developmental challenges of growing up. They need time to learn to relate to a peer group, to be a part of a family, to learn to play with siblings and friends, to explore nature, and to develop happy experiences that they can look back on when they are adults.

As a parent, you need to stop looking at the way other children develop and the speed at which they do so and have faith that children determine on their own when they are ready to do certain tasks. By not rushing children's development all the time, children can understand about being still and just enjoy a quiet moment, such as sitting outside and watching a bird in a tree. Had it not been for the step by step process of my climb, my husband and I would have missed the beauty of the mountain ranges, the sound of the hail storm hitting our bodies as we reached the peak, the condors that flew overhead, the glacier lake that sat below us, the cloud and rain forest yet to come and the smiles on everyone's faces when they reached the mountain top before us and waited with great applause as we did the same.

I have learned much from this past trip-not only about my own life style, but my professional outlook for the many parents I still have left to teach. It was Ralph Waldo Emerson who said, "Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow." Parents should always continue to encourage their children to try new tasks, but it is always the children who determine the speed at which they do it. As an old Chinese proverb states, "To get through the hardest journey we need to take only one step at a time, but we must keep on stepping."

Wishing all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year and may you hear your heartbeat with each measured step you take this year.



You are cordially invited to make the Ben Tasman Library part of your experience at HJC!

The Ben Tasman Library is for *you* – the HJC synagogue family. Browse our expanding fiction collection, thumb through a magazine, learn about someone among the many biographies, look for new recipes, see the Tanach translated into Yiddish - the reference section is extraordinary. Expand your knowledge with our collection of books on Israel, the Arts, Judaism, Jewish Holidays, Humor, the Holocaust, Philosophy and much more!

Take out a book for your reading pleasure. Take a book off the shelf, write your name date on the card in back of the book, leave the card in the box provided and return the book in 3 weeks and a new book in 2 weeks. It's that simple!

Check our newest additions as well as our "Wish List" – what a wonderful way to celebrate or commemorate! Book plates are waiting to be inscribed. Yiddish classes are expected to be offered this fall, and our religious school students will be utilizing laptops in the library as part of their curriculum. The new furniture which has been purchased has made the library a warm and inviting place to sit quietly and think, away from the usual distractions and...

Of course, we need you to do more than simply use the library – we need you to own it! It is a warm and wonderful place where there is still much to be done and so much to be offered.

Beginning Sept. 8th, hours of the Ben Tasman library will be:

Monday –Thursday: 8:45am-6:00pm

Friday: 8:45am-3:00pm

Sunday: 8:30am -1:00pm

*Please contact Syd Schlesinger for suggestions, information, or to volunteer.
631-621-2330/syd519@gmail.com*



Something Old Something New

Save Wednesday Oct 2

for an introductory session on Jewish folklore (an only one of this kind). The program will be held in our newly refurbished library and conducted by **Dr. Milton Bloch**, an expert in Yiddish. He will introduce us to the Yiddish that has been integrated into the English language; the humor, music and discussion of the Yiddish "**gemitlikeit**"—so much more to follow. We have set up a Yiddish section in the library and hope this will be the beginning of your renewed connection to this wonderful legacy.

Please rsvp to renelevy7@gmail.com

Donations

צדקה

GENERAL FUND

Esther Vickers in memory of Morris Molinoff at yearzeit.
Loron Simon in memory of Ida Floman at yearzeit.
Marvin Lipkind in memory of Abraham Lipkind at yearzeit.
Risa & Noah Finkel in memory of Marvin Sokol, husband of Micki Sokol.
Risa & Noah Finkel in memory of Isaac Hazan, father of Marc Hazan.
Nancy Bob in memory of Mickey Philips at yearzeit.
Charlene Kerner in memory of Shirley Mannis at yearzeit.
Beverly & Sy Schpoont in memory of Rose Schpoont at yearzeit.
Stacey Moss in memory of Ronnie Deutsch at yearzeit.
Arnold Schwartz in memory of Marvin Sokol, husband of Micki Sokol.
Arnold Schwartz in memory of Isaac Hazan, father of Marc Hazan.
Myrna Tils in memory of Ida Telmer at yearzeit.
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the engagement of their daughter, Abby, to Jeff Fisher.
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the college graduation of Jonathan, son of Ellen & Jay Steinberg.
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the high school graduation of Josh, son of Andrea & Greg Morris.
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Jeraldine L. Mello, mother of Wendy Glassman.
Joyce Sacknoff in memory of Esther Katz at yearzeit.
Rosalind & Billy Wertheim in memory of Hani Weber at yearzeit.
Rosalind & Billy Wertheim in memory of Jeraldine L. Mello, mother of Wendy Glassman.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of Jeraldine L. Mello, mother of Wendy Glassman.
Leonard Kramer in memory of Gloria Feinstein at yearzeit.
Leonard Kramer in memory of Gloria Kramer at yearzeit.
Susan Lax in memory of Rosel Kleiman at yearzeit.
Cynthia Aboff Seretan in memory of Melvin Aboff at yearzeit.
Daniel Himmel in memory of Jan Himmel at yearzeit.
Leila Waldman in memory of Ruth Diem at yearzeit.
Judi Rosenblatt in memory of Paul Hopmayer at yearzeit.
Martin Rosenblatt in memory of Marshal Rosenblatt at yearzeit.
Ben Eckstein in memory of Mor Eckstein at yearzeit.
William Hirschfeld in memory of Shirley Hirschfeld at yearzeit.
Nancy Hazan in memory of Herbert Gossett at yearzeit.
Nancy Hazan in memory of Rebecca Rosenblum at yearzeit.
Gerald Levy in memory of George Levy at yearzeit.
Risa Finkel in memory of Ruth Rosenthal at yearzeit.
Philip Glaser in memory of Roberta Glaser at yearzeit.
Ken Bob in memory of Frederick Bob at yearzeit.
Bernard Harris in memory of Rose Harris at yearzeit.
Lisa Hadar in honor of the college graduation of Jonathan, son of Ellen & Jay Steinberg.
Lisa Hadar in honor of Joel Wirchin as the HJC President.
Lisa Hadar in honor of the birth of Liav & Tagel, twin granddaughters of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan.
Lisa Hadar in honor of the HJC Guys & Dolls producers, Maxine Fisher, Andrea Morris & Miriam Wirchin.
Lisa Hadar in honor of Rob Fisher for his work & dedication to the Jewish Nutrition Network.
Lisa Hadar in honor of Karen Flanzenbaum & Ellen Steinberg for their work & dedication to HHFI.
Philip Glaser in memory of Aaron Glaser at yearzeit.
William Hirschfeld in memory of Nathan Hirschfeld at yearzeit.
Bernie & Adrienne Rosof in memory of David Rosof at yearzeit.
Amy Marcus in memory of Stanley Gordon at yearzeit.
Mary Uricchio in memory of Kathleen Uricchio at yearzeit.

Marvin Lipkind in memory of Lester Lipkind at yearzeit.
Liz Holbreich in memory of David Zirkel at yearzeit.
David Schoenfarber in memory of Justin Schoenfarber at yearzeit.
Diana Messing in memory of Joseph Reitman at yearzeit.
Howard & Warren Kleet in memory of Maxwell Kleet at yearzeit.
Vered & Jack Cole in honor of Dalia Rosenthal reading an aliya from the Torah.
Liz Holbreich in memory of Charlotte Zirkel at yearzeit.
Maxine Liebowitz in memory of Jeanne Edelstein at yearzeit.
Joan & Robert Blank in honor of the 50th birthday of Billy Wertheim.
Ellen & Newt Meiselman in memory of Jack Bloom at yearzeit.
Ellen & Newt Meiselman in memory of Rachel Meiselman at yearzeit.
Elaine Epstein in memory of Molly Gleicher at yearzeit.
Ethel Schwartz Bock in memory of Samuel Schwartz at yearzeit.
Harriet Harris in memory of Rita Alpert at yearzeit.
Marilyn & Gary Woghin in memory of George Woghin at yearzeit.
Sanford Brunswick in memory of Howard Swernoff.
Shirley Vilinsky in memory of Hesh Vilinsky at yearzeit.
Ruth Wies in memory of Richard Wies at yearzeit.
Ronald Goldstein in memory of Arthur Goldstein at yearzeit.
Sheryl Winkler in memory of Joseph Teitel at yearzeit.
Amy Koreen in memory of Howard Rappaport at yearzeit.
Judith Goldstein in memory of Arthur Goldstein at yearzeit.
Vered & Jack Cole in memory of Sally Fink, mother of Doris Schoenfarber.
Vered & Jack Cole in memory of Myrna Breger.
Vered & Jack Cole in memory of Michael Cole at yearzeit.
Mitchell Golub in memory of Charles Golub at yearzeit.
Leonard Hummel in memory of Gene Hummel at yearzeit.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Rebecca Golub
Janet & Martin Kushnick
Carol & Steve Feldman
Sandy & Jack Friedman
Judith Goldstein
Barbara & Joel KupperSmith in memory of Isaac Hazan, father of Marc Hazan.
Sue & David Lefkowitz with thanks & appreciation to Rabbi Kurshan.
Eileen & Harvey Berger with thanks & appreciation to Rabbi Kurshan.
Janet & Mark Zimmerman in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.
Linda & Howard Novick in memory of Bernard Malkin at yearzeit.
Carol & Martin Cohen, Lorraine & Howard Breslow and Terri & Jeffrey Glatzer with thanks to Carol & Howard Baker.
Amira Garbus in memory of Naima Hoory at yearzeit.
Myrna Tils in memory of Alvin Tils at yearzeit.

CANTOR'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Betty & Bob Mesard in honor of Abby Uhrman successfully completing her Ph.D. in Education and Jewish Studies at NYU Steinhardt.
Betty & Bob Mesard in memory of Avi Factor.
Rosalind & William Wertheim in honor of Abby Uhrman successfully completing her Ph.D. in Education and Jewish Studies at NYU Steinhardt.

ARNIE KERNS FUND

Harriet Kerns in memory of Arnold Kerns at yearzeit.

Donations

צדקה

BEN TASMAN LIBRARY FUND

Vicki & Tom Rosen

Arlene & Fred Steinberg & family in memory of Abe Kurzer at yahrzeit.

Shelley & Marc Weinberg in memory of Max Kramer at yahrzeit.

Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Ernst S. Levy, brother of Ellen Kahn.

Norma & David Raspler in honor of Joel Wirchin.

Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.

Marsha Buchholtz in memory Sara Sitron at yahrzeit.

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

CENTENNIAL GARDEN FUND

Sisterhood of the Huntington Jewish Center

Eileen & Harvey Berger in honor of Joel Wirchin as the HJC President.

Alice & Bruce Rosen in memory of Anny Loewenstein at yahrzeit.

Alice & Bruce Rosen in memory of Marianne Hammerschlag at yahrzeit.

Alice & Bruce Rosen in memory of William Goldgeier at yahrzeit.

Michael Swernoff in memory of his father, Howard Swernoff.

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

Joan & Robert Blank in memory of Frances Blank at yahrzeit.

Joan & Norman Mattisinko in honor of the special birthday of Dalia Rosenthal.

Joan & Norman Mattisinko in honor of the special birthday of Billy Wertheim.

COLLEGIATE FUND

Judi & Marty Rosenblatt in honor of Dalia Rosenthal reading an aliya from the Torah.

Marianne Sokol in memory of Myrna Breger.

DAILY MINYAN FUND

Beryl & Sy Okwit in honor of Ed Schindler being named HJC Minyannaire of the Year.

Helaine Levy in memory of her sister, Heidi Kubashky.

Rosalind & William Wertheim in honor of Ed Schindler being named HJC Minyannaire of the Year.

Meri & Terri Schindler in honor of Ed Schindler being named HJC Minyannaire of the Year.

Vicki & Tom Rosen wishing a speedy recovery to Selma Greenstein.

Sylvia Brass in honor of the birth of Jessica Winn Kampel, great granddaughter of Hannah Kampel.

Selma Greenstein in memory of Morton Greenstein at yahrzeit.

Paul Greenstein in memory of Morton Greenstein at yahrzeit.

DAVID S. ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Ofer Rind in honor of the birth of Liav & Tagel, twin granddaughters of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Kurshan.

Ofer Rind in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Rachel, daughter of Stacey & Jeff Moss.

Ofer Rind in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Lindsey, daughter of Marjorie & Stuart Rothenberg.

Ofer Rind in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Sarah, daughter of Jane & Eric Gemunder.

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of Rosalyn Gordon receiving the Joseph Gurwin Leadership Award.

Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Isaac Hazan, father of Marc Hazan.

Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Jeraldine L. Mello, mother of Wendy Glassman.

Adele Kalstein in memory of Jeraldine L. Mello, mother of Wendy Glassman.

Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Scott Sokolic, brother of Jeremy Sokolic.

Judith & Lester Fox with thanks & appreciation to Joel Wirchin.

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the 80th birthday of Norman Mattisinko.

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of Ed Schindler being named HJC Minyannaire of the Year.

Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.

Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Aunt Sue.

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the 50th anniversary of Camp Ramah in the Berkshires.

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the engagement of Talia, daughter of June & Steven Ledner, to Joshua Kobrin.

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the birth of Asher Martin Gitig, grandson of Nili Gitig.

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the birth of Itai Sadia, great grandson of Beryl & Sy Okwit.

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the graduation of Sarah, daughter of Laura & Robert Sachs, from SHMA.

Madeline Sinowitz in memory of Geraldine Levy at yahrzeit.

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of Abby Uhrman successfully completing her Ph.D. in Education and Jewish Studies at NYU Steinhardt.

Judith & Lester Fox wishing a speedy recovery to Micki Sokol.

Allen Sinowitz in memory of Lillian Sinowitz at yahrzeit.

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of the 50th birthday of Billy Wertheim.

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of Dalia Rosenthal reading an aliya from the Torah.

Judith & Lester Fox wishing a speedy recovery to Selma Greenstein.

Judith & Lester Fox wishing a speedy recovery to Lisa Felderman.

Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Sally Fink, mother of Doris Schoenfarber.

Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Myrna Breger.

Judith & Lester Fox in honor of Matt Kirschner for a wonderful golf outing.

DONALD L. GORDON ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Amy & Richard Marcus in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Jeraldine L. Mello, mother of Wendy Glassman.

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of the grandmother of Miriam Wirchin.

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.

LEAH GREENE GARDEN FUND

Judy Leopold & Alan Orloff wishing a speedy recovery to Selma Greenstein.

Judy Leopold & Alan Orloff in memory of Myrna Breger.

PRAYERBOOK AND BIBLE FUND

Beryl & Sy Okwit in memory of Joseph Herskowitz at yahrzeit.

Beryl & Sy Okwit in memory of Anita Palumbo, sister of Yolanda Barfus.

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

Beryl & Sy Okwit in memory of Sally Fink, mother of Doris Schoenfarber.

Beryl & Sy Okwit in memory of Myrna Breger.

SOCIAL ACTION FUND/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Ellen Kahn

Sheryl & Ian Winkler

Ethan Auslander

Michael & Michelle Behr in memory of Sheila Behr at yahrzeit.

Michael & Michelle Behr in memory of Blanche Zimmerman at yahrzeit.

Janet & Martin Kushnick in memory of Ernst S. Levy, brother of Ellen Kahn.

Hannah Kampel in memory of Ernst S. Levy, brother of Ellen Kahn.

Barbara & Lew Meltzer in memory of Jeraldine L. Mello, mother of Wendy Glassman.

Barbara & Lew Meltzer in memory of Jaimie Greene, grandson of Alice Greene.

Barbara & Lew Meltzer in memory of Ernst S. Levy, brother of Ellen Kahn.

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

Hannah Kampel in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Natalie Lefkowitz, granddaughter of Sue & David Lefkowitz.

Hannah Kampel in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.

Donations

צדקה

Betty & Bob Mesard in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.
Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Jeraldine L. Mello, mother of Wendy Glassman.
Eileen & Harvey Berger in honor of Amy Sobin being named the HJC Woman of Achievement.
Eileen & Harvey Berger in honor of Sue Lefkowitz as the HJC Sisterhood President.
Mitzi & Paul Popkin in memory of Herbert Haber, husband of Rosalyn Haber.
Mitzi & Paul Popkin with thanks & appreciation to Joel Wirchin for his dedication to HJC.
Rosalind & William Wertheim in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.
Ellen Kahn in memory of Ayshe Rosin at yahrzeit.
Ellen Kahn in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.
Joanne & Peter Cohn in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.
Sue & David Lefkowitz in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.
Ethel Sachs in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.
Janet & Martin Kushnick in memory of Esther Kushnick at yahrzeit.
Rosalyn Haber in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.

Mitzi & Paul Popkin in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.
Rene Levy in memory of Michael Zuckerkandel at yahrzeit.
Rene Levy in memory of Bob Levy at yahrzeit.
Gwen & Ron Goldstein in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.
Marlene & Leonard Hummel in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.
Marilyn & David Klein in memory of Ernst S. Levy, brother of Ellen Kahn.
Marilyn & David Klein in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.
Hannah Kampel in honor of the birth of her great granddaughter, Jessica Winn Kampel.
Sue & David Lefkowitz in memory of Estelle Rubin at yahrzeit.
Sue & David Lefkowitz in honor of the birth of Jessica Winn Kampel, great granddaughter of Hannah Kampel.
Sarah & Jerry Saunders wishing a speedy recovery to Selma Greenstein.

YOUTH FUND

Charlotte Rosen in memory of Ernst S. Levy, brother of Ellen Kahn.
Charlotte Rosen in memory of Lawrence Kushnick, son of Janet & Martin Kushnick.

Book Discussion October 7, 2013

Once again, a wonderful afternoon is in store. Micki Sokol will lead a discussion of ***To the End of the Land***, by the prominent Israeli author David Grossman. His ability to weave a tapestry of history and personal experience makes this an extraordinary reading experience. Your Ben Tasman library has purchased 2 copies of the book which will be on loan for a period of 14 days.

Please respect this policy so that we can reach as many people as possible. Until the library starts regular hours on September 8 the books will be available in the office. Simply fill out the card in the book and leave in the container provided.

As usual there will be a light lunch and we need a few volunteers to help with this task.

Please respond by Oct 1.
Syd Schlesinger syd519@gmail.com
mickisok@optonline.net

Special Program on Labor Day Shabbat--August 31, 2013

To mark Labor Day this year we will recognize one of the people who works for us in the shul. **Danny Corrillo**, our lead custodian, will be interviewed by Rabbi Kurshan at the Kiddush following Shabbat morning services about his life, family, and work for our HJC community. Danny has worked at HJC for many years, and we hope you will join us as Danny shares a little of his life and work with us. *Services begin at 9:30 am in the Lief Chapel.*

Simchat Torah Services



**Thursday evening,
September 26th
Main Sanctuary at 7:00 pm**

**Flags and refreshments will be provided by Sisterhood.
All children will be blessed under the Congregational Tallit.
Special final procession with unusual gift for all children.**

**Friday morning, September 27th
Main Sanctuary at 9:30 am
Dance with the Torahs and luncheon**

HJC Golfs

Foursomes tee off at HJC's annual golf outing.



Rabbi Kurshan's Installation Speech–June 2013

I recently attended a conference in Manhattan sponsored by UJA Federation of New York. The subject of the conference was how to build a connected congregation—a congregation in which people want to contribute their time, talent, and resources because they share a sense of ownership and responsibility for one another and for the collective. One of our challenges at HJC is how to create a more purpose driven community. How do we ensure that our many programs and activities are aligned with the sacred purposes of our community that are so eloquently articulated in our vision statement?

There are no simple answers to this question because any good answers must go to the heart of how we see ourselves as a community and of what we aspire to be. Part of our distinction as an institution is that we are unusually diverse for a suburban congregation. We span many ages, interests, school districts, and religious backgrounds. Our diversity is our richness, but it is also our challenge. How do we draw together such a wide array of people to create a sense of shared purpose?

I continually ask myself what draws people to this synagogue. The answers are not the same for everyone, but there are two things that strike me as applying to broad swaths of our community. First people want to do good. Many of us want this synagogue to be a place which enables us to do something that will make the world a little bit of a better place. We want a community that we feel is striving for social justice and to repair the breaches in the world. Whether this means feeding the hungry through our JNN program, or providing shelter for the homeless through HIHI, or providing a refuge as we did in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, we feel proud of Jewish tradition and our institution when we know it is working to make the world better. We have many wonderful initiatives at HJC in the area of social action through the many projects of our Social Action Committee, through JNN and through HIHI, but I am convinced there is more we can do in the realm of social justice and more of our congregational family whom we can engage.

Secondly I think we are drawn to this institution because we seek a place where we are known, where we matter, and where we are valued for the full human beings we are. Our vision statement

states: “We seek to be a Kehilah Kedosha, a holy community that respects each individual as infinitely valued. We seek to provide meaningful opportunities for expression rooted in our tradition and in connection to the Jewish people and Israel.” I heard a new term at this conference I attended, “matteredness”. In most places and institutions in which we find ourselves we are valued for only part of ourselves—for what we consume, for our professional talents, or for our artistic creativity. In the synagogue we should be appreciated and accepted for the full human beings that we are. Relationships matter in congregations.

We are at the very early stages of discussing a project that would enable us to share our stories with one another and that would enable us to better know each other. While I was away on sabbatical, Cantor Gordan led a discussion at one of our monthly minyan breakfasts in which each person re-counted what had first brought them to the minyan. In anticipation of Passover this year I hope to undertake another writing project in which I will invite you to tell a story about your most memorable Seder. And we are speaking about many other possibilities for telling our personal stories to each other here at HJC within the context of our broader Jewish story.

This is only the very beginning of an outline how we can work together toward becoming a more purpose driven congregation that prioritizes relationships and gives us each a sense that we matter to one another and to this community. Each of us wants to be engaged in this synagogue as a place that links us to Jewish tradition and to a purpose that reaches beyond our span of our years. We want to use our time here at HJC in a way that we know would make our parents proud and that will be an example to our children.

In Pirkei Avot we read the words of Rabbi Tarfon:

“The day is short; the task is great, but the reward is bountiful, and the Master is insistent.”

A year is not a long time. We have much work to do together, but ours is a sacred task; and it is work that we are called upon to do. May we go forward together in this important work.

Shana Tova



Thank You

I want to offer a “warm and hearty” thank you to those many of you who so kindly supported the Scroll of Honor presented to me at my end-of-presidency Toast and Celebration this past June 4. It was a memorable evening full of laughs and recognition and it meant the world to me. Thank you to all who organized, attended and contributed to the event.

Wishing us all a great year ahead under our new leadership.

Thanks again, and Shana Tova !

Joel Wirchin

President William Wertheim's Installation Speech- June 2013

Rabbi Kurshan, Cantor Gordan, members of the Board of Trustees, fellow congregants, friends, and family:

Hakol tzafui, v'hareshut n'tunah: All is foreseen, yet free will is granted. When Cheryl Silberman asked me over a year ago to consider becoming president, I admit it was not the foremost plan I had in my mind. I had just completed my 6th year on the Board of Trustees, and was contemplating a few more dinners at home and a few less cups of coffee at late-night meetings. My younger children were both at home, but I knew for not too much time longer; my wife had slowed down a little in her travel, and a change in job responsibilities meant a little more freedom to my schedule. While I knew that Huntington Jewish Center was a focal point in my life, I did not entertain ideas that I would lead it as president.

And yet, I began to ponder what HJC had meant to me, and what its place really was in my world. Ideas began to sprout about the significance of our shul community, and what I could do to sustain it, what I could do to give back. How could I, who has benefited so much from Huntington Jewish Center, shirk this responsibility? Moreover, I thought about what our synagogue's core purposes are. I thought about our vision statement, carefully and thoughtfully crafted: a kehilla kedosha, a holy community founded on respect; a commitment to the principles and tenets of Judaism made accessible to all; Tikun Olam—striving to repair the world to advance social justice; an evolving and responsive means of blending Jewish law and our changing world; an egalitarian embrace of people of a wide variety of backgrounds, walks of life, kinds of families. These principles mean something to me; I embrace them.

So I could not refuse, though given my lack of experience at that time and my life circumstances, I asked to delay for a year. I had the great good fortune that Joel was willing to take the reins for a year, and to mentor me about the details, the challenges, and the rewards of being president. So now it is my turn, and I am humbled by the responsibility, but not daunted by the task. I wish to explore a little with you some of these values, and how I hope to see them driving our activities for the next 2 years.

Al shlosa devarim haolam omeid: al hatorah, v'al ha'avodah, v'al g'milut hasadim. On three things the world stands; on torah, on service to G-d, and on acts of loving kindness. What are our values? First, kehilla kedosha. We are, first and foremost, a community. Like any community, we have moments of unity and moments of dispute, moments when we seek each other and moments when we as individuals seek solitude. But we remain a community, and we have worked hard to preserve the respect we hold for each other. In many ways this is the most fundamental value. I hope over the course of my term to keep this as a mainstay of everything we do. I interpret this to mean we respect and rely on each other, and we open our doors and our hearts to new faces who join our number, whether it is for a day, a month, or years. Those of us who are synagogue veterans have our comfortable circle of friends on whom we rely. But programs like our Havurot, and outreach done through our wonderful Membership committee, should both embrace new members and help inspire our existing members to create new bonds, to create new friendships, to develop new relationships. We should enjoy both our comfortable affinities and expand our networks with new bonds. We should continue to make sure that all who enter our synagogue find us warm, approachable, kind, and engaged. What will sustain us in years to come, and allow our synagogue to remain strong, is our fundamental ability to welcome both the member of many years and the newcomer in our midst.

Second, what draws us in to this community? For some, it is the spiritual appeal of our traditions. The wordless melody of a nigun on a Friday night that imbues a sense of peace into our frenetic week; the comforting repetition of the prayers recited each morning in the Lief Chapel; the provocative discussion about what centers us in an adult education class; the compelling sound of a shofar on Rosh Hashanah—each of us has a unique key that grounds us, that awakens our souls to our place in the world. For some, it is the intellectual basis of our heritage. The back-and-forth of the Torah

Teasers; the eye-opening reflections of the Rabbi's Divrei Torah, or the satisfaction of exploring new ideas in writing our own Dvar; the urge to better understand to political and social currents in Israel and World Jewish life; the desire to educate our children and ourselves—because we come from different places in our knowledge and understanding of Jewish law, we have different needs and levels at which we engage our tradition. For some, it is the pursuit of social justice that draws us in. A desire to make our world at home and far away a better one; a desire to help our own people and people downtrodden irrespective of their ethnicity and faith—whether through such activities as helping with the JNN, the HiHi program, or other programs—this pulls us and strengthens our place in our synagogue community. I hope to communicate loudly all the things that draw people in, to highlight the strength in our efforts, and to nurture new endeavors that will keep our synagogue as vibrant as it is now.

Third, who do we welcome into our community? How do we make them feel welcome? And are we open to those of a variety of life experiences? We are long removed from the simple family structure of the 1950s. We live in a world of single-parent families, same-sex parents, second families and step-families, in addition to the array of new parents, parents of young children & teens, empty-nesters, and kvelling grandparents. We have Jews by choice, Jews by birth, observant Jews, curious Jews, and Just Jews. Whether through our ECC, or religious school, our services, or our programming, I want to ensure that all feel engaged and wanted, that their ideas and opinions matter, and that their voices are important to further the life of the synagogue. And to me that means both the flexibility to connect those of similar life stages and of similar affinities, and to create opportunities for people with different interests to learn from each other and see each other as part of the broader fabric of our community. Because it is that which links us together as Jews which far outweighs those things which may separate us.

I also hope, and ask all of you, to contribute to this community with your time, effort, and skill. No one person can manage all there is to manage, or achieve all that may be achievable, alone. No one person can create the ideas that fuel our programs. I have seen in my experiences thus far on the Board and as a Vice-President the incredible power of volunteers: in creating new events, and sharing and communicating our ethos, in giving meaning to our spirituality, in enhancing our understanding. It is through collectively working, thinking, sometimes disagreeing—but always communicating—that we provide the frame for our community. So I ask all of you for your help, as you have done in the past, to sustain our Kehilla Kedosha.

I want to close by mentioning two people who came from different backgrounds, and how they found a home at HJC. They are not here tonight, though I wish more than anything they were. My father, a child of many generations of American Jews, grew up hostile to religion and uninterested in its trappings. When my parents moved to Huntington he was still suspicious and antagonistic to Judaism, and indeed any faith. But he did have a willingness to learn. My mother, a war refugee from a rural town in the heart of traditional Ashkenazi practice, felt in her very being the importance of Jewish peoplehood, and the need to prove the Nazis efforts to exterminate us in vain. For my mother, enrolling her children in religious school was an unquestioned way to provide them a window to their history. To my father, the only way he could justify this was to try to understand it intellectually. Both of them, in different ways, managed to approach each others' views, through adult education, through observance, through the joy of watching their children achieve milestones, and through the deep and lasting friendships they made here. It is not so different today than it was in 1964: the details might change, but our needs as people, as Jews, as congregants, are the same.

Lo alecha hamlacha ligmor, v'lo ata ben chorin l'hibateil mimena. It is not incumbent upon you to finish the task, but neither are you free to desist from it. I cannot hope to do everything right; I am confident I will be reminded when I don't. But I hope to listen, to learn, and to engage, and by doing so I hope to live up to each value we as a synagogue have articulated. Shabbat Shalom, and thank you so much for the trust you have placed in me by giving me this role.



This Month in American Jewish History

The New York Times - September 22, 1855.

A FAST DAY - HEBREW CEREMONIES - THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

The Israelites of the City have participated largely during the present month in the Festivities incident to the commencement of their Civil year.

The Hebrew calendar begins nearly at the point where ours ends. The middle of the month of September is the first of the Civil Year. The first month ends in the middle of our October. It has two names, Ethanim and Tisri. The sacred or religious year begins with the month of Abib or Nisan - corresponding to our March and April. At this season of the year, the festivities which correspond to those of the Christian New Year, occupy the attention of the Israelitish portion of our population. It is their grand Holiday season. Active labor is suspended. The hum of commercial business, even, is partly hushed. The devout among the Hebrews religiously observe these days, and punctiliously attend the Synagogues - to make their atonement for the sins of the year, and, in obedience to the requirements of the old Levitical law, to review the mercies which have been vouchsafed to them during the twelve (illegible) months of the Civil Year and the occasion of festivities month which has passed. But while this is the (illegible) is also marked by the occurrence of one great Fast Day - the Day of Atonement, an epoch of the Sacred Year, and an occasion of high importance in the faith.

The law requires that on the tenth day of the seventh month, (this year, Sept. 22,) "there shall be a Day of Atonement; it shall be a holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict Your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord."

The Day began as the sun went down last night, and it ends as the sun sets this day, - twenty-four hours even to even. Work is forbidden to all devout believers for all of to-day. It is a Hebrew Sabbath, especially sanctified. Neither food nor drink are to be (illegible) so long as to-day's sun peeps over the horizon. The Day is a holy day. "It shall be to you a Sabbath of rest."

Accordingly, in suitable commemoration of the day, the Synagogues of the City were all opened at sundown last evening. They remained open during the night, and the prayers and ceremonies appointed by the Law are now proceeding. The Israelites have pretty generally laid aside their active labors and the Synagogues are well filled. It will be an instructive spectacle to look in to-day at any of the churches. We append a list of them:

Ahabat Chesed, Columbia Street; Anshai Chesed, Norfolk Street; Beth Abraham, Henry Street; Beth El, Broadway; Beth Elohim, Division Street; Beth Hamidrash, Pearl Street, Beth Israel and Bikkur Cholim, Chrystie Street; Bnai Israel, Thompson Street; Bnei Jeshurun, Greene Street; Rodeph Shalom, Clinton Street; Shaarai Rachamim, Attorney Street; Shaarai Shamayim, Attorney Street; Shaarai Tephila, Wooster Street; Shaarai Zedek, Henry Street; Shearith Israel, Crosby Street; Temple, Twelfth Street

Rabbi RAPHAEL officiates at the Green Street Synagogue (Bnai Jeshurun); Mr. ISAACS in Wooster Street; Mr. Henry at Shaarai Zedek in Henry Street. At the Chrystie Street Sanctuary (Beth Israel) is a large and very finely tuned organ. Mme. RACHEL suspended her performances last evening, in order to participate in the ceremonies of the evening at the Twelfth Street Temple, and to permit her family to enjoy the like privilege. Preaching will take place between 10 and 2 o'clock to-day, in Rabbi RAPHAEL's and Rev. Mr. Isaac's desks.

The Forms of Prayer used by the Israelites on this occasion may not be familiar. We have taken some pains to procure a literal translation of the Hebrew form, and extracts are given below.

The following is not unlike, in general character, to the Litany of the modern Protestant Episcopal Church:

For the sin which we have committed against thee by extortion and usury. And for the sin which we have committed against Thee by immodest discourse. For the sin which we have committed against thee by chattering. And for the sin which we have committed against thee by the twinkling of our eyes. And for the sins for which we were obliged to bring a trespass-offering, for either a certain or doubtful sin. And for the sins for which we have incurred the penalty of extirpation and being childless. For the sin which we have committed against thee by embezzlement, and for the sin which we have committed against thee by ecstasy.

At the end of this supplication - "O may our supplication ascend at eventide, our prayer approach the divine presence in the morning, and our praise be conspicuous until even."

The Ark is opened. A hymn is sung, entreating the Supreme Being to accept the prayers of the faithful - "for the merit of our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who originally arranged the Forms of Prayer; as also for the merit of Moses and Aaron, David, Solomon and the Prophet Samuel."

The priest utters the following: May he who answered Aaron with the censer, answer us. May he who answered Elisha in Jericho, answer us. May he who answered Jonah in the belly of the fish, answer us. May he who answered the virtuous, pious, perfect and upright, answer us.

The phrases employed are very peculiar. For instance: They by whose tuneful song the vestibule is shaken, say Holy. They whose cheeks are comely, like a swallow they (illegible) and say Holy and Blessed. They whose formation is four faces and no back, say Holy. They whose feet are straight, say Holy. The tranquil angels, in whose abode is peace, say Holy,

The contrite acknowledgement is: "We have trespassed, we have dealt treacherously, we have stolen; we have spoken slander; we have committed iniquity and done wickedly; we have acted presumptuously; we have committed violence; we have framed falsehood; we have counseled evil; we have uttered lies; we have scorned; we have rebelled; we have blasphemed; we have revolted; we have acted perversely; we have transgressed; we have oppressed, we have been stiff-necked; we have acted wickedly; we have corrupted; we have done abominably; we have gone astray, and have caused others to err; we have turned aside from the excellent precepts and institutions, and which hath not profited us; but thou art just concerning all that is come upon us, for thou hast dealt most truly, but we have done wickedly."

When the Law is elevated, the people say: "And this is the Law which Moses set before the children of Israel, by the command of the Lord, by the hand of Moses. It is a tree of life to those that lay hold on it; and the supporters thereof are happy. Its ways are ways of pleasantness and all its paths are peace. Length of days is on its right, and on its left are riches and honor. The Lord was pleased for his righteousness' sake to magnify the Law and adorn it."

The Forms of Prayers in general use is that of LEVI, published in several (illegible) volumes, by ABRAHAM, London, Anno Mundi 3,594. The Books of Prayers possess the peculiarity of the Hebrew language of reading from back to front - or from right to left. The service is performed in Hebrew; the men sitting with covered heads; the Priest standing at his desk in the center of the Synagogue, chanting the prayers.

The crown of hearers and doers of the Law ebbed and flowed last night. The severity of the weather had an influence. It is permissible to leave the Synagogue and return, - if not done too often, and if performed in a manner so quiet as not to disturb the worship.

The occurrence of this Feast of the Chosen People is but once in the year, and it is the more honored in consequence of the fact that it comes so seldom. The general tendency of these ceremonies is to elevate the standard of morality among the Israelites; the Day of Atonement recalls to their recollection the sins they have committed, and the devout repent their misdeeds. The type of this ceremony foreshadows also the faith which underlies the Christian creed.

Editor's Note: This interesting window into mid-19th century American thought about Jews predates the adoption in America of the terms "Jew," or "Jewish," which, when eventually introduced, had a pejorative connotation. From colonial times until the turn of the 20th century, we were known as Israelites or Hebrews, terms of great respect in Protestant America. L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu, V'Gemar Chatimah Tovah.

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THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

Communal *Tashlich**



Rabbi Kurshan, Cantor Gordan and Maxine Fisher invite all HJC men, women, teens and children to take part in a communal *tashlich* program. Songs, meditations, prayers, study and bread throwing are geared to all ages and will be enhanced by everyone's participation.

WHEN: Sunday, September 8, 2013 at 11:00 am SHARP!

Please be on time so that there is one less thing to atone for this season!

WHERE: HJC, Rear parking lot.

We will head to the Sabbath Day Park Brook all together, please park before 10:45 am at HJC.

WHAT TO BRING: Any left over Rosh Hashanah challah! *Don't worry if it's stale!*

THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PLEASE NOTE:

- All Religious School classes will head to the Sabbath Day Park Brook (the usual HJC *tashlich* spot) together. We will cross at the traffic light, a safety escort will be provided.
- Dismissal will take place when we return to HJC

***in Hebrew *tashlich* means "to throw" or "cast off"**

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had grown from adorable toddlers to accomplished young men and women was incredibly gratifying—especially since one of them was my daughter Anna.

On that topic, this has been a summer of transitions. There were big personal milestones—notable birthdays and recently, my wife Rosalind and I celebrated our 25th anniversary. As my daughter packs up the last of her belongings and heads off to college, I am wistful for the time that has gone by, but excited for her new adventures that will allow her to share experiences with her older brother Ariel, and scout out the way for her younger brother Matthew. And so like the closing days of summer, I find this transition very much directing me towards the New Year both personally and at HJC. We can put aside and treasure the memories of a great summer, but it's time now to look forward to the year ahead, and the promises of new projects that will engage, enlighten, and sustain us. May you all enjoy the final weeks of summer, and from my family to yours, may it be a good, sweet year for all of you. Shanah Tovah Tikatevu.

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