



HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER

NEWS COMMUNITY CONNECTION



by Rabbi Kurshan

Three Portraits of Aging Wisely

Wisdom is the substance upon which the inner security of the old will forever depend. But the attainment of wisdom is the work of a lifetime.

Abraham Joshua Heschel, To Grow in Wisdom

Growing old in a youth obsessed culture is not easy. The use of the word, “senior” in the sentence, “He is a senior in high school.” has a very different association than in the phrase, “Senior Citizen”. We can make a long list of the “d” words associated with growing older: decline, disability, dependence, depression and dementia. A recent cartoon showed an older woman with gray hair saying: “I used to look good; now I look good for my age.” Anthropology professor, Frida Kerner Furman asked fifty college students to come up with the words they associate with the elderly and growing older. Among the phrases were frail, unattractive, slow drivers, cantankerous, forgetful, lonely, inactive,

useless, needing attention, set in their ways, complaining, stubborn, and out of touch. The students did not have a single positive association.

In contrast to this “declinist” image of growing older Judaism saw old age in a positive light—as a stage of life to be desired and that offered the possibility of wisdom. The Mishnah proclaims:

At fifty he can begin to give advice to others

At sixty he enters old age

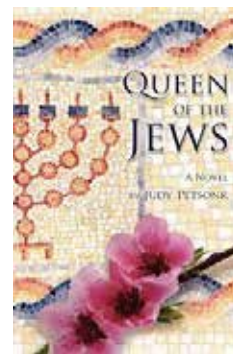
At seventy he turns gray

At eighty he becomes full of vigor. (Pirkei Avot 5:25)

The Midrash tells a story of Avraham’s attitude toward old age. According to a story in Beresheet Rabbah the elderly, until the time of Avraham, had no distinctive physical appearance. Avraham was distressed that people who saw his son, Isaac, and him together could not tell who the elder was. Thus Avraham did not receive the Kavod—the honor and respect—that was accorded to the old. He pleaded with

HJC Sisterhood

Special Author Event and Signing



Queen of the Jews
by
Judy Petsonk

Thursday, December 4th at 8:00 pm
All are invited!

DISCOVER THE MACCABEE QUEEN

Combine Cleopatra and Hillary Clinton and you’ll have some idea of Salome Alexandra (Shalom-Zion), the real-life queen who ruled Judea in the first century BCE. She commanded troops and may have signed a treaty with Cleopatra III, but her people called her the Queen of Peace. Married to a grandson of the Maccabees, she saved the rabbis when her husband tried to destroy them. Judy Petsonk’s novel, *Queen of the Jews*, recreates the world of ancient Jerusalem and the fiery woman who shaped its heritage and is a marvelous window into a little-known chapter of Jewish history.

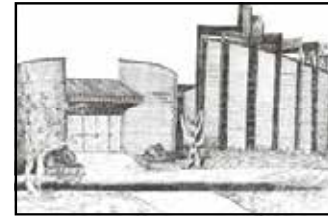
Books will be available for purchase and signing during the evening.

RSVP Syd Schlesinger syd519@gmail.com/631-261-2330

Please join us and share a very special evening!

God to “crown” him with old age, and thus wrinkles and gray hair came into the world. The story is a stark contrast to a comment made to me recently by a woman who said: “When I was young, I was bothered when men stared at me on the street; now that I am older I am *con’t pg. 9*

Adult Education



Neil Kurshan, Rabbi
423-5355

Israel Gordan, Hazzan
427-1089, ext. 22

Ilene Brown
Nursery School Director
425-0525

William Wertheim
President
427-1089

Maxine Fisher
Religious School Director
427-1157

Jane Hallberg
Administrator
427-1089 ext. 23

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES: AGING WISELY

Saturday evenings: December 13, January 17 and February 7
7:30 pm

Discussion Leader: Rabbi Neil Kurshan

We will watch three beautiful and critically acclaimed successful films that focus on the theme of growing older with wisdom. Each film depicts with sensitivity and originality a transition in life that is often tinged with sadness, but which in these films is portrayed with humor, poignancy, and beauty. Our first film in the series, *Quartet*, is the directorial debut of Dustin Hoffmann. It is an old-fashioned drama about a group of aging singers who need to decide whether they can let go of the fears, errors, and disappointments of the past to engage themselves once more with the art that blessed their lives with beauty and meaning.

Refreshments will be served, and there will be a parallel children's movie shown in the gym with babysitting. BYOKB ~ Children: Bring Your Own "Kozy" Blanket; Adults: Bring Your Own Kosher Bottle.

Upcoming films are *Number Our Days* (January 17) and *Amour* (February 7).

All films will be viewed in the Social Hall in our new large screen venue.

HJC Board of Trustees/ 2014-2015

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Chai Club.....
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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 Klaire
Youth Advisor.....Rebecca Buzen

FYI FYI FYI

Just a reminder that the next issue of the bulletin will be a combined January/February edition. Please send any content in by December 10.



DECEMBER 2014 ~ 5775 Kislev/Tevet

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Social Action 2pm HIHI	4 Systemedic Presentation 7:30-9:30pm	5 Minyan Breakfast Family Shabbat Service 5pm Shabbat Services 6pm	6 BAT MITZVAH Sophie Stein Progressive Dinner <i>Vayishlach</i>
7 RS Board RS Workshop Men's Club 9:30 Endowment meeting 9:30am Ridotto 4pm <i>JNN Kad/USY</i>	8	9 Chaverim 6:15	10	11	12 Shabbat Services 6pm	13 BAT MITZVAH Hayley Feibel Sat. Night at the Movies 7:30pm <i>Vayeshev</i>
14 <i>JNN</i> Hanukkah Happening 11-1 Camp Fair 11-1 <i>Kad/USY</i>	15 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parent Meeting 8:00pm	16 Candle Lighting 6:15pm Erev Hanukkah	17 HIHI 	18	19 Shabbat Services 6pm Hanukkah	20 <i>Miketz</i> Hanukkah
21 <i>JNN</i>  Winter Begins Hanukkah	22 ROSH CHODESH Hanukkah	23 ROSH CHODESH Hanukkah	24 Hanukkah	25 Main Offic Closed Christmas	26 Shabbat Services 6pm	27 <i>Vayigash</i>
28 <i>JNN</i>	29	30	31 HIHI	1 Main Office Closed New Year's Day	2 Minyan Breakfast Shabbat Services 6pm	

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ~ NO EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

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Kindling the Chanukah Lights: Beginning Tuesday, December 16



This year (2014), we begin lighting candles on Tuesday night, December 16 and we light the last candle on the night of December 23.

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

First Blessing

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

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

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

Second Blessing

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

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

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

Third Blessing (only on the first night)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
שֶׁהֵחֵינּוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמֶן הַזֶּה

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

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

DON'T MISS OUR NEXT GET MED-UCATED FORUM

*Join fellow congregants who have already committed to reducing their
vulnerability to unnecessary medical expenses*

AND AT THE SAME TIME

Helping to raise funds for HJC

*Local medical billing company Systemedic, Inc., is here to help us navigate the
health insurance maze through subscription to their WatchDog Services. They will:*

- help us understand the fine print of our health insurance plans
- review our explanations of benefits and doctors' bills to ensure accuracy
- be available for unlimited phone consultations on medical insurance/billing issues
- provide step-by-step guidance on medical billing error resolution
- file medical insurance claims from out-of-network providers

and much more

To learn more about this opportunity, please join us at one of the next Get MED-ucated forums:

**Forum Dates: November 16 @ 9:30am
December 4 @ 8pm**

*There will be time both during and after the sessions to address
your health insurance questions and concerns.*

For immediate information, please contact Susan or Robert at Systemedic, Inc.

845-639-0007

sue@sysmedinc.com • rob@sysmedinc.com • www.get-meducated.com



HELP HJC HELP YOU...AND IN TURN...SUPPORT THE HEALTH OF HJC

HJC Community News

CONDOLENCES

Sam Goldmeer on the death of his son, William Goldmeer.

Florence Mane on the death of her husband, Bob Mane.

Barbara Gross, Scott Gross & Karann Pashkin on the death of Edward Gross, husband of Barbara & father of Scott & Karann.

Morris Lagnado on the death of his mother, Julia Lagnado.

Mitzi Popkin on the death of her husband, Paul Popkin.

Danny Carrillo Masa, HJC's Head Custodian, on the death of his mother, Marta Beatriz Masa Ortiz.

Andrea Smoller on the death of her father, Harvey Marcus.

MAZAL TOV

Rabbi Neil & Alisa Rubin Kurshan announce the birth of their grandson, Tamir Yaakov Simonovich Kurshan, son of Ariella Kurshan & Leo Simonovich.

NEW MEMBERS

Elliott & Linda Jonas of Huntington



Ben Tasman Library

During the cold winter months, our HJC library is a warm and inviting place to relax, read browse, and stay awhile. Choose from our wonderful collection of books and magazines and perhaps from one of the selections below.

Hanukkah Books for Children

The Littlest Maccabee by Sylvia Rouss (Ages 3-6)

The delightful tale of how a small, white mouse helped Judah and the Maccabees with the battle and light the oil lamp that miraculously burned for eight days.

The Borrowed Hanukkah Latkes by Linda Glaser (Ages 4-8)

It's the last night of Hanukkah and Rachel just found out that even more relatives are coming for latkes. So mama must make more latkes. But wait- there are only 3 small potatoes left and it's too late to go to the store. Rachel has the solution. She will borrow potatoes from their next door neighbor, Mrs. Greenberg who is stubborn as an ox and all alone and does not want to join the gathering as she does not want to be a bother. Luckily, Rachel is one stubborn little girl who also has a heart of gold.

Adult Picks

Fiction:

Suddenly Love by Aharon Applefeld

A poignant, heartbreaking new novel - the story of a lonely elder and his devoted young caretaker who transform each other's lives

in ways they could never have imagined.

The Train to Warsaw by Gwen Edelman

This is a stunning novel exploring the enduring wounds of the Holocaust and a truthful meditation on how we can never really fully know each other even after decades of marriage. Two people escape the Warsaw ghetto, reunite and live happily in London. They return to the ghetto which has disappeared, but there are still secrets between them.

Non-Fiction:

Ellis Island by Barbara Benton

Well written, thoroughly researched, with a photo archive which tells it all, the reader practically shares the immigration experience. Although it was one of seventy centers throughout which new arrivals passed, it is iconic in the public mind. A wonderful description of the history of Ellis Island from its construction in 1892.

The Reawakening by Primo Levi

This biography is a testament to the human spirit and recounts, in rather stark terms, the author's liberation by the Russians, his difficult journey back to his home and family (alive and well and home intact), where he regains his physical and mental strength.

Library Committee: Syd Schlesinger, Chair; Donna Fleiss, Eileen Front, Ellen Kahn, Marilyn Klein, Janet Kushnick, Tyna Strenger, Miriam Wirchin

President's Perspective

by William Wertheim



As you know, Heshvan is unique in the Hebrew calendar in that it has no Jewish holidays. "Mar Heshvan"—bitter Heshvan—is its name. Though with Thanksgiving peeking around the corner, in the US, Jews still have some festivities to look forward to.

Right now, it's hard to feel bitter or sad. I'm writing this as I watch the earliest dance rehearsals of "Kiss Me, Kate," our HJC show

for this year. Even though it's only the first rehearsal, the excitement and the energy of those auditioning is inspiring. People are smiling, a little nervous, and laughing as they learn their moves and start to do them in unison. While the show won't go on for a few months, I am definitely not alone in saying I can't wait. There's still time, by the way, to get involved even if you're not inclined to get up on the stage. We'll need people who can play music, and we need people to go behind the scenes: help with production and design of the sets, help with tech and audio support, help with makeup, costumes, the playbill...and of course selling ads! If you're able to pitch in, please contact the producers—Maxine Fisher, Andrea Morris, or Miriam Wirchin and they will be thrilled to sign you up.

There are some other important projects ongoing that I want to bring your attention to as well. First, I'm happy to report that we are going ahead with a major security upgrade for HJC. As you know from the solicitation that was sent out a couple of weeks ago, we will be installing a "key fob" system for accessing the doors, which utilizes a proximity reader rather than the current keypad. The keypad is really not secure, and too prone to being publicized to those who do not need access to our premises. This will be an important upgrade for all of us, and a particularly important one for the ECC. Many other synagogues have already made this move away from the outmoded keypad technology. While some have questioned the need to change, with the number of unhappy events that have made the headlines in the last few years involving people causing havoc in a variety of settings—particularly Jewish settings—it's clear we need to make a change in our procedures. Many, many thanks to Jennifer Cahn, Becky Cohn, and Andy Levy for leading this effort.

We are looking for donations to help fund this project, and I'm very excited that we've been offered a wonderful matching opportunity. Two anonymous donors have offered to match donations to both this Security project, and donations to our outstanding JNN program. That means that a donation to either of these causes will yield three times the amount you donate (if your company

also does corporate matches!). As I noted in my words over the High Holidays, the JNN program has provided more than 250,000 meals throughout the years it's been in existence. The hardy volunteers who come early every Sunday morning to make sandwiches, soup, and other healthy food, and pack those meals for those who cannot afford to provide for themselves or their families, need whatever financial support you can see your way to give.

The catch with these generous anonymous donors is that they will only provide this match for donations given through December 31, 2014. So please, donate now to both of these critical projects—help secure our safety, and help provide nourishment for those in need.

So, in spite of the absence of Jewish Holidays in Heshvan, there is lots to celebrate at HJC! As a final note, I hope to see you all at our Progressive Dinner on December 6th! And then, we can look forward to Hanukah...

JNN BREAKING NEWS!!

An anonymous donor has generously agreed to match all donations to the JNN up to \$900. If your company has a matching gifts program the funds could be tripled or quadrupled. All donations must be made before 12/31/14.

JNN is now feeding approximately 75 families which comprises about 340 people, mostly children. To give you an idea of our needs, on a weekly basis, we use 340 apples, 30 loaves of bread and many other items. Please consider making a donation to this unbelievable program that takes place right here in our own synagogue. Every Sunday we meet at 8:30am in the HJC dairy kitchen. Please come down and lend a hand.

Any question please contact **Rob Fisher, JNN coordinator - rfish51@aol.com**



Would you like to be a driver?

The Social Action Committee would like to establish a program of volunteers who could drive physically independent people in need of transportation to local appointments.

Contact **Renee Levy 427-7471**
Janet Kushnick 271-8803
or **Marilyn Klein 271-8461**



Family Bar Mitzvah

by Hazzan Israel Gordan



On the Shabbat of November 7th and 8th, 2014, I had the great pleasure and honor of attending services outside of Philadelphia, PA in honor of my nephew, Elisha, becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Elisha is the first grandchild of my parents, as well as his mother's parents to become a Bar Mitzvah, and so he is the first member of the "next generation" to celebrate such a milestone.

The day was especially

meaningful for me as his uncle for many reasons and I'd like to share some of those with you here.

I can still remember when my nephew was born on Halloween, just after the tragic events of September 11th, 2001. It is interesting to note that all kids who are now celebrating their Bar or Bat Mitzvah were born after September 11th. I had just graduated from college and had not yet begun working so I was able to be at his Brit Milah as well as his Pidyon HaBen. God willing, I will be at his wedding as well, in due time. In addition to my personal connection with my nephew is my professional one.

As a cantor, I work on Shabbat, and almost every Shabbat I am leading services at the Huntington Jewish Center. While this is a job that I love, I unfortunately do not get the chance to attend Shabbat services at other synagogues very often. My brother and sister-in-law co-founded Lechu Neranena in Bala Cynwyd, PA as one of the few partnership minyanim in the world. A partnership minyan is an Orthodox minyan where men and women sit separately, but women can lead Kabbalat Shabbat and Pesukei D'Zimra and can be called up to the Torah and read Torah and Haftarah. The minyan rents a room in the Woman's Club of Bala Cynwyd and they hold services once a month on Friday nights and occasionally on Saturday mornings.

Kabbalat Shabbat was led by my 11 and a half-year-old nephew, Abner, and Ma'ariv was led by the Bar Mitzvah boy. On Saturday morning, a woman from the community led P'sukei D'zimra while I led Shaharit. The Bar Mitzvah boy led the Torah service, chanted all of the Torah and Haftarah, delivered a d'var Torah, and led the Musaf service. He was surrounded by his immediate family, all four grandparents, all 3 uncles, 4 aunts, and 10 first cousins, as well as his friends and family.

Again, as a cantor I have been witness to many B'nei Mitzvah at HJC, even during the short time that I have worked here. I am always amazed at how nervous I get as the person who trained the child, and I can only imagine what the parents must be feeling. But as someone who was not involved with my nephew's Bar Mitzvah, I just got to enjoy the day and see for myself how well he did after all of the hard work and preparation he must have put in in advance of his simcha. It was great to see how invested his parents were in not only the event, but in celebrating with the community for such a wonderful milestone. I hope that all of us are able to enjoy the blessings of family and community and can go from strength to strength and simcha to simcha. Mazel tov!

Religious School Update

by Maxine Fisher

Religious School Administrator

With the cold of winter comes the warmth of Chanukah. We are very excited to participate once again in the Chanukah Happening on December 14 along with the Early Childhood Center, Sisterhood, Men's Club and the Social Action committee.

There will be plenty of crafts for the children (all free thanks to Sisterhood), raffle baskets (to raise money for the ECC), and a Social Action table where you can make a Chanukah card and tissue flowers for seniors in a local nursing home. There will be a book fair and the gift shop will have plenty of items for that last minute Chanukah shopping. Men's Club will prepare hot dogs, latkas, and donuts for you to purchase. If you would like to help please let me know. The Chanukah Happening is not just for children so come down and join the Happening.

Also, during the Chanukah Happening, there will be a Camp Fair in the Kiddush Lounge with many Jewish summer camps represented.

On Tuesday, December 16 we have our annual congregation candle lighting outside. Cantor Gordan will lead us in singing Chanukah songs, and Sisterhood will supply hot cocoa and donuts in the Kiddush lounge.

Enjoy the warmth of Chanukah,

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





Sisterhood News

by Evelyn Silverberg

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.

Getting Involved

There are Sisterhood Committees that could use some help such as the Religious School Festivals, Shabbat Dinners and Rummage Sale. Please contact me if you are interested.

Women's League and Torah Fund

This year's theme for Women's League is Mishpachah (Family) and the Torah Fund pin is the Tree of Life. All contributions to Torah Fund are used to fund specific projects or towards scholarships at the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York), Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles) and the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem). Please contact Vicki Rosen or Ethel Sachs to make a donation.

Upcoming Events

Book and Author Talk – Maccabee Queen – Thursday, December 4th: 7:30 PM

Chanukah Happening and Book Fair – Sunday, December 14th: 11AM – 1PM. The Sisterhood Gift Shop will be open as well as a selection of fiction, nonfiction and cook books for all ages. Books make wonderful and memorable presents for children and adults.

Chanukah Candle Lighting – Tuesday, December 16th

Clay Bead Jewelry Making – Thursdays, January 22nd and 29th

Yoga – Monday mornings

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



Celebrate with us at the



HJC Chanukah Happening

Sunday, December 14th

9:00 am-1:00 pm Gift & Book Fair,
Raffle Baskets

11:00 am -11:30 am
Singalong with Cantor Gordan!

11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Children's Crafts & Games, ages 2 – 12
Hot dogs, Latkes, Donuts, Drinks (for purchase)

Sponsored by

Sisterhood, Nursery School, Religious School, Men's Club, HJC Youth
Group & Social Action
Special thanks to all of our HJC Volunteers



Rabbi con't from page 1

bothered that no one stares anymore.”

Old age from a Jewish perspective was something to be sought out and desired because it was a stage of life accorded respect and honor. In secular culture we tend to be valued and measured by what we do or by how we appear, and thus old age is a time to be feared. Judaism had a different standard for judging the human being—a more intrinsic standard. Everyone is created in the image of God. Everyone is unique possessing inherent value.

This year our Saturday Night at the Movies Series will focus on three beautiful and critically acclaimed films more in keeping with the Jewish view of aging than some of our modern attitudes. Each film is a beautiful depiction of the wisdom, depth and emotional richness that can accompany this stage of life. Each

film portrays with sensitivity and originality a transition in life that is often tinged with sadness, but which in these films is shown with humor, poignancy, and beauty. *“Quartet”*, the directorial debut of Dustin Hoffmann, is an old-fashioned drama about a group of aging singers who need to decide whether they can let go of the fears, errors, and disappointments of the past to engage once more with the art that blessed their lives with beauty and meaning. In her poignant award winning documentary, *“Number our Days”*, Barbara Myerhoff depicts a group of elderly Jews in Venice, California sustained by their humor and indomitable spirit. *“Amour”* is a touching and tender drama about the care and unconditional love of a long married couple for one another during the final stage of their lives.

A detailed schedule of dates and times for this series can be found

Early Childhood News

by Ilene Brown



Are we teaching our children to think or NOT to think? As a teacher at HJC for 11 years, I learned through observation of interactions with parents and children and at times in my own classroom that we teach our children NOT to think. I was amazed at how all of us spoon feed the children the answers and resolve all of their problems and therefore, they never learn to think on their own!

Many years ago I became passionate about teaching children to think. When I asked a child a question, I actually

would give them time to think and respond on their own instead of giving them the answer. I also ask questions that are open ended versus "yes or no" responses. Children learn much more effectively when they are actively engaged in the process or when they can draw their own conclusions.

As parents and teachers, we don't always wait for them to think. We often jump in and answer for them. I found that their "free play time" is the most conducive time for getting them to think and reason as this is when typical problems arise. For example, when two children are arguing over wanting to play with the same toy. In a typical classroom, you will hear a teacher resolve the problem for them by saying, "Take turns" or "Who had it first"? At HJC, the teachers act as guides or facilitators and will ask the children what they think they should do. The teacher will observe the children arguing and say, "I see you both want to play with that toy", "how can we resolve this problem?" or "what can we do because you both want it?" These statements encourage children to think and resolve this problem on their own! We are teaching them life skills and reasoning skills.

By having the children think of resolutions, we foster self-esteem, independence, empowerment and thinking skills! Can you imagine how much more peaceful your home would be if children could think how to resolve their own problems?

HJC Babysitters:

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

Rachel Moss cell: 631-944-1420

Babysitters - email your current information to put here!

**Please send your updated information to
kwillen@mac.com
include your current home and cell numbers**

Bat Mitzvahs December



Sophia Stein
Daughter of Jonathan Stein and Betty Borden
December 6

Sophie is an eighth grade student at Cold Spring Harbor Junior High School. She plays field hockey and lacrosse, and loves making jewelry in her spare time. Sophie loves spending her summer's at Alford Lake Camp in Maine. She has a great sense of humor and an empathetic, caring nature.

She has been studying hard for her bat mitzvah and is very excited about it. We are very proud of her and are looking forward to the big day!



Hayley Feibel
daughter of Shari and Laurence Feibel
December 13

Hayley Feibel attends Oldfield Middle School where she plays on the school tennis team. Though she graduated religious school last year, she volunteers every Sunday to help

Morah Hadar with the Hey and Vav class. Hayley is continuing her Jewish education by attending the SHMA Hebrew High School program at the South Huntington Jewish Center, and is an active member of the HJC Kadima Youth Group.

In her spare time, Hayley is learning to play keyboards and takes tennis lessons. She loves roller coasters, waterslides, and Disney World. Her mother, father, and sister Nicole are very proud of Hayley for working so hard towards her Bat Mitzvah.

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



HANNAH KAMPEL

Hannah Kampel has been a member of Huntington Jewish Center for most of the last seventy years. She and her husband Bill moved to Long Island in 1944. Their search for a Jewish community in their new home brought them to HJC. Hannah had grown up in Brooklyn with her immigrant parents, who owned a restaurant. They were not religious and Hannah had no synagogue experience as a child. But she and

Bill knew they wanted to become part of a Jewish community. Hannah recalls that at the time, HJC was a small synagogue. She immediately joined the sisterhood. She was nineteen years old at the time and much younger than the other members. Five years later she was Sisterhood president.

For Hannah, synagogue life is about people. In 1952, Bill, who was a dentist, was recalled into the military. The family spent two years in Texas. The Jewish community there was small but Hannah fondly remembers how people cared for each other no matter what their observance. After Bill's discharge from military service, they returned to Long Island and HJC. Hannah took up where she had left off.

Hannah describes herself as a hands-on type of person and one who gets things done. While HJC was still on Nassau Road, she got in touch with the Women's League in order to start a library for the synagogue. She, along with others, founded the Social Action Committee. Her husband Bill was one of the leaders of the Yiddish Committee and was editor of the bulletin for ten years. Hannah is especially proud of the Jewish Nutritional Network which she helped start over twenty-five years ago and which continues to help feed the hungry of Long Island. It is one of the volunteer programs recommended to local high school students to fulfill their community service requirement. Additionally,

Hannah spent hours each week helping in the synagogue office.

Hannah's motto is "you can only take out what you put in." She has spent her life giving to others. Along with her many synagogue activities, she was a volunteer at Gurwin Jewish Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and president of their Auxiliary Committee. She and Bill were involved in the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity that helped raise funds for the dental schools in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, which they visited during a trip to Israel. Fundraising for these schools continues to this day. Over the years, Hannah has helped raise funds for individuals with serious financial needs such as one woman who needed a heart transplant.

Hannah and Bill raised their two children, daughter Gerri and son Michael, as part of the HJC community. Their two children attended the HJC Hebrew School. Michael and his wife remained members of HJC until recently. Hannah has a grandson and two great grandchildren of whom she is very proud. Her grandson, Joshua, attended HJC Hebrew School and had his Bar Mitzvah at HJC. Hannah and Bill were married 69 years until Bill's death two years ago. Since Hannah was interviewed for this article she has relocated to Florida where she will share a home with her son and daughter-in-law.

Hannah does not like to sit still. She loves to dance and for twenty years she was a member of The Red Hot Mamas, a dance group for people ages 55+. They have performed in Heckscher Park. Hannah hopes to continue dancing by trying out for The Follies in Florida. Hannah confesses she will miss the friendships she made at HJC. She feels that she has been very lucky and her search for a Jewish community was successful.

Interview compiled by Nancy Bob and Hannah Kampel.

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Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Corey Sherman.

Judy & Lester Fox in honor of Joel Kuppersmith for the terrific job he does with the High Holiday honors.

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Janet & Martin Kushnick in memory of Paul Popkin, husband of Mitzi Popkin.

Hannah Kampel in memory of Bob Mane, husband of Florence Mane.

Hannah Kampel in memory of Edward Gross, husband of Barbara Gross and father of Scott Gross & Karann Pashkin.

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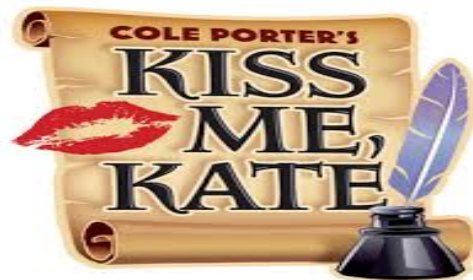
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