



HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER NEWS COMMUNITY CONNECTION



by Rabbi Kurshan

The Privatization of Judaism

A recent article in the Jewish Week titled, "Home is Where the Hebrew School Is" describes a growing number of families who are bypassing synagogue programs to hire private tutors to give their children a Jewish education. Many of these parents also opt for private Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies in homes, restaurants, and country clubs. These families defend their choices as allowing them more flexibility in their harried lives, as offering a more personalized education for their children, and as providing an education that sometimes carries a lower price tag.

The abandonment of Hebrew School is only one part of a broader trend toward the privatization of Judaism. Many large cities have organizations that will help individuals plan a baby naming, create a "Jewish" wedding ceremony, and arrange a funeral. You can hire a rabbi who will design

a personalized curriculum and study individually with you. You can fulfill all your Jewish needs without even having to go outside the confines of your family or sometimes even of yourself. You don't need to be preoccupied with Israel or with any of the difficult challenges facing the Jewish community. If you are wealthy, you can set up your own Jewish philanthropy and give money wherever you like without being bothered by the priorities of the Federation of the established Jewish community.

These trends within the Jewish community are reflections of broader shifts in our secular world in which the individual self becomes more important than the community or sometimes even the family. The self is sovereign and the arbiter of what it needs without reference to anyone else. Judaism becomes one path among many spiritual paths in life toward the fulfillment of the self. Judaism is meaningful only insofar as it fulfills one's spiritual needs. The rabbi becomes a spiritual trainer who plots out a spiritual path that will actualize the spiritual growth of the individual.

The problem with this increasingly common expression of Judaism is that it is exclusively inward; it is to some degree selfish, and paradoxically, it makes it impossible to find the deepest levels of meaning in life. In his seminal work, *God in Search of Man*, Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote of the vital connection between the individual Jew and the Jewish people. "Jewish existence is not only the adherence to practical

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

Peaceful Musical Spirited

Family Friendly

Friday Night Shabbat Services in the Round

Followed by

Kosher Chinese Shabbat Dinner



April 24, 2015

Come for Services at 6:00 p.m. / stay for dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Meat meal - Vegetarian options - Supervised children's table

\$25/adult \$10/child 5-12 children under 5 free

\$70 maximum per family (for families with more than 2 children between 5 and 12)

RSVP to the front office by April 20
or watch your e-mail for a link to sign up on-line
after April 20 add \$2 per person to posted prices

Mechirat Chametz

The Selling of Chametz

Jewish law prohibits the use or legal possession of any Chametz, leaven of any kind, on Passover. In order to be certain that all Chametz has been removed from our possession, Jewish tradition requires us to sell our remaining Chametz to a non-Jew. This Chametz, then, becomes the property of the non-Jew for the duration of Passover and should be set aside in a place in one's home that will be unused during Passover.

The authorization of the right to sell Chametz can be granted to another. If you would like Rabbi Kurshan to sell your Chametz on your behalf, please fill out the form below. In order to symbolize that one is transferring the authority to sell, it is customary to make a token monetary transfer. The money contributed will be used to provide needy families with Passover necessities. If you send a check, please make it out to Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, c/o Huntington Jewish Center.

AUTHORIZATION OF PROXY

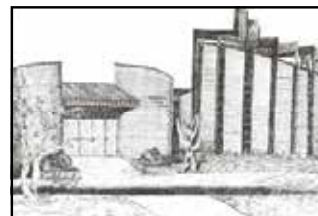
Whereas according to Jewish Law one is not permitted to maintain or possess Chametz during the Passover holiday, I, the undersigned, hereby authorize Rabbi Kurshan to sell the Chametz whether it be found in my residence or elsewhere. This Chametz that I wish sold includes every kind of leavened food or liquid whether in separate entities, mixed forms, dishes or utensils. I understand that Rabbi Kurshan will sell the Chametz for me to a non-Jew for the entire week of Passover and that I shall derive no use or pleasure from it during that time.

(Name) _____

(Address) _____

(City and State) _____

PLEASE RETURN THE PROXY TO THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE BY
THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 2, 2015



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

Barbara Axmacher
Executive Director
427-1089

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Kol Nidre Appeal.....Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz and Jonathan Boxer
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Technology.....Jeff Stark
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UJA.....Scott Ingber
Youth.....Shari Klaire
Youth Advisor.....Rebecca Buzen

Attention all Committees of the Synagogue!!!!

Advertise your volunteer opportunities here!!!

If you would like to post a volunteer opportunity here, please contact Kim Willen at kwillen@mac.com

Send me any and all information you have about volunteer opportunities in your group and we will list them in the Bulletin (this will be a ongoing monthly posting).



April 2015 - Nissan/Iyar

5775

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
				ECC Closed	7am - Passover Siyyum 6pm - Friday Night Services 7:02pm - First	9:30am - Shabbat 7:39pm - Candle
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
ECC Closed						
RS Closed						
JNN 8:30am - Morning Minyan 9:30am - Shacharit 2nd	Yoga			7pm - Micncha/Maariv - 7th 7:06pm - Candle Lighting	Main Office Closed 9:30am - Shacharit 7th Day 6pm - Friday Night Services 7pm - Mincha Maariv - 8th	9:30am - Shabbat
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
ECC Closed RS Closed JNN 8:30am - Morning Minyan 9:30am - EC Meeting 4pm - Ridotto	Yoga 7:30pm - Wise Aging Rabbi 8pm - Sisterhood Board	6:15pm - Chaverim	2pm - Social Action 7:30pm - Yom Hashoah	Rummage drop-off 12:45pm - Professional 8pm - BOT Meeting	6pm - Friday Night Services	9:30am - Shabbat Services 10:30am - Shabbat Shindig
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Rummage Sale JNN 8:30am - Morning Minyan 9am - RS Yom Haatzma'ut 9:15am - Men's Club 6pm - Kadima 7:30pm - USY	Yoga 7:30pm - Wise Aging Rabbi	6:15pm - Chaverim			6pm - Friday Night Services	9:30am - Shabbat Services
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
JNN 8:30am - Morning Minyan 9:15am - RS Board Meeting	Yoga 7:30pm - Wise Aging Rabbi	8pm - Jewish Public Affairs		8pm - Ritual Committee		



Schedule of Passover Services 5775 – 2015

Friday, April 3.....*Fast of the First Born and Siyyum*..... 7:00 a.m.
 An early morning service in the Lief Chapel will be followed by a study session and a light meal sponsored by the Men's Club to break the fast. All first born and others are welcome.
 Also see "**SIYYUM - THE FAST OF THE FIRST BORN**" below.

Friday, April 3 SederCandle Lighting 7:02 p.m.
 Mincha, Maariv, First Seder 6:00 p.m.

Shabbat, April 4*Shacharit, First Day* 9:30 a.m.

Second Seder Candle Lighting 9:39 p.m.

Sunday, April 5*Shacharit, Second Day* 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 9.....*Mincha, Maariv, Seventh Day*..... 7:00 p.m.
 Candle Lighting.....7:06 p.m.

Friday, April 10.....*Shacharit, Seventh Day* 9:30 a.m.
We will honor our Shabbat and Weekly Torah Readers during services

Friday, April 10.....*Mincha, Maariv, Eighth Day* 7:00 p.m.
 Candle Lighting.....7:06 p.m.

Shabbat, April 11*Shacharit, Yizkor, Eighth Day* 9:30 a.m.
 Yizkor will be recited during services on the Eighth Day
 Members of the Congregation will chant Shir HaShirim (Song of Songs)
 on Shabbat morning, April 11th
 (All times reflect Daylight Savings Time)

SIYYUM - THE FAST OF THE FIRST BORN

The Torah relates that the first born of the Israelites were spared from the last plague which was visited upon the Egyptians. As an act of gratitude and as a means of reenacting a great event of ancient history, the custom has arisen to have all the Bechorim (first born) fast on Erev Pesach. As a substitute for this fast, Bechorim may participate in some sacred study in the synagogue on the morning before Pesach. Thus, the fast is obviated while the purpose is enhanced. There will be a service and study session Friday morning, April 3rd beginning at 7:00 AM. The Men's Club will sponsor a light breakfast following services.



CONVERSION: The Experience

**Tuesday, April 21st
8:00 pm**

Please join HJC Sisterhood as several of our "Jews by Choice" congregants share what the conversion experience was like for each of them. As part of HJC's "Storytelling Project", this program will allow us to learn a little more about how the process of conversion affected the lives of our congregants. A question and answer period will follow.

**Please RSVP to Sarah Saunders
(ssaunds@aol.com/631-757-2622)**



Library News

The Ben Tasman Library is looking to increase its FICTION section by adding some MYSTERY to the shelves and is interested in acquiring novels written by FAYE KELLERMAN. This author has written a series with a Modern Orthodox Jewish couple, L.A. cop Peter Decker and his wife, Rina Lazarus, who have cases that are connected to Jewish law and lifestyle.

If you have any of these books, still in good condition, and would like to donate any to the library, we would be very pleased to accept them. If you would like to make a cash donation to buy such books we would also be pleased to accept that. (You may be familiar with Jonathan Kellerman as an author of another series of novels, but as they do not connect with any Jewish issue we are not looking to put those books on our shelves at present).

Donations may be made at the HJC office, mail, or phone one of the library committee members. Please contact Tyna Strenger at [631-549-1989](tel:631-549-1989)/strenger@optonline.net for further information. Thank you in advance for supporting your library.

Book review of light fiction by Eileen Front:

Mr. Rosenblum Dreams in English by Natasha Solomons

The eponymous Mr. Rosenblum emigrates from Germany in 1937 determined to become a proper English gentleman. The story is well told, both funny and sad. It deals with the usual problems of the transplanted including prejudice with a deft and light touch.

The Ben Tasman Library has books of interest for all ages, all tastes, from scholarly or just for fun. Please use the library. The library committee has worked hard to create an inviting place that will be well used by the entire congregation from all members and families. And always, please remember to return borrowed books in a timely fashion.

Sisterhood of the Huntington Jewish Center

510 Park Avenue, Huntington, NY 11743

Matzah Fund



March 2015

Dear Congregant,

For each of us, Passover is a holiday overflowing with memories – Seders with our grandparents, relatives and friends; asking the four questions for the first time; a first Seder with a new husband or wife; or the first time a loved one was not present. Happy memories and sad merge together at one time as we gather around the Seder table during this special Jewish holiday.

The needy in our community, in other Long Island communities, and our men and women in the armed forces also have Passover memories. By supplying them with essentials to celebrate this holiday, their special memories, like our own, will be accompanied by the warmth and beauty of the Passover Seder.

Please be part of this mitzvah, especially this year, by contributing to Sisterhood's Annual Matzah Fund Appeal. Your check can be made payable to the Huntington Jewish Center Sisterhood, sent or delivered to my attention in the synagogue office or payment can be made through PayPal by clicking on the [Mitzvah Opportunities page](#) and then selecting Matzah Fund (near the bottom of the page under Community and Social Action Funds). As Passover is right around the corner, please send in your contribution as soon as possible.

All of us in Sisterhood thank you for your generosity and concern and wish you and your family good health and happiness in this Pesach season.

Sincerely,
Felicia Messing
Cooperation and Community Services

Welcome Barbar Axmacher - Executive Director

Dear Fellow Congregant,

Please join me in welcoming our new Executive Director, Barbara Axmacher! I'm pleased to report to all of you that Barbara Axmacher has accepted our offer to become our new Executive Director. She combines a long list of qualities we were looking for for this role, including superior organization skills, creative ideas about marketing and outreach, and a fresh perspective and enthusiasm for the position. Additionally, she is very well-connected in Huntington, having extensive experience in the not-for-profit world

in Huntington. I know you all share my gratitude for the success and hard work of the committee: Shari Feibel, Alan Kriegstein, Alan Orloff, Ethel Sachs, Louis Walsdorf, and Joel Wirchin, and its capable chairs, Andy Levy and Ellen Steinberg.

We are organizing a series of "meet and greet" meetings with the congregation. Please stay tuned for the dates and times. Barbara's first day was Monday, March 2nd.

I also want to thank Andy Levy for so deftly standing in as our interim executive director. He really kept the office and the synagogue going, and we are very grateful to him.

Please stop by the office and say hello to Barbara, and show her our warm HJC welcome!

Billy Wertheim
President, Huntington Jewish Center

HJC Community News

NEW MEMBERS

Alex & Orit Hodarkovsky of Cold Spring Harbor and their children: Isabel, age 3 ½ and Daniel, age 1 ½.

Marc & Jordanah Creegan of Centerport and their children: Jude, age 5 ½, Victoria, age 4, and Juliette, age 2 ½.

Justin & Rachel Stein of Huntington and their children: Henry, age 7, Annabel, age 4, and Edith, age 1 ½.

David & Joely Kleet of Huntington and their children: Harper, age 4 and Maxwell, age 2 ½.

CONDOLENCES

Hazel Dotan on the death of her father, Arthur Jochnowitz.

Laurie Birzon on the death of her father, Murray Stoller.



Huntington Jewish Center Summer Adventure 2015

HJC is the place to be during the summer! Our Summer Adventure program is filled with fun for children starting at age 2 through 6 (going into 1st grade). We have an amazing dedicated staff of loving, warm teachers and counselors. We will take care of your children like they are our own. We are all CPR certified and take safety very seriously. We are here to work together with you and give your child the best summer experience possible.

The children will enjoy water play, theme days, magicians, arts & crafts, puppet shows, basic sports skills, music and so much more! All of these amazing activities take place in our beautiful, fenced in sprawling playgrounds. Our program focuses on socialization through fun and traditional summer games that we all remember.

Our beautifully air-conditioned classrooms provide great comfort and relief from the sun as well as an amazing place for rainy days so our fun never ends.

Huntington Jewish Center offers a flexible schedule and has early / late care options. Any questions please call 631-427-1089 x11

We are looking for counselors 18 and older to work for the camp. Contact us if you are interested.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Jen Bamberger
Program Director



President's Perspective

by William Wertheim



Well, it's that time of year again! The snows are melting, the days are lasting a little longer, a few intrepid birds are making their way out to the trees...and Pesah is approaching! Pesah was always my favorite holiday when I was growing up, and though I have a little more sympathy now for my mother and grandmother than I did then, it still is my favorite holiday. I think it is a combination of things: the excitement of the

preparation, the feeling that spring is finally here, the joy of seeing family, and the interest of the story and the fun of re-telling and explicating the tale of our journey from slavery to freedom.

This Pesah we have a lot to look back on with satisfaction. First, I know many of you have already met Barbara Axmacher, who has begun her role as Executive Director of HJC. I have been impressed with her intelligence, her perceptiveness, her energy, and her creativity, and I know she will be a tremendous boon to HJC. If you haven't yet done so, drop by her office and introduce yourself!

Second, I want to say a few words about the show. When in November we started auditions for *Kiss Me, Kate*, it seemed hard to imagine putting on a polished production. As we began rehearsals, we encountered more than a few obstacles: challenges in casting, a more complex story and music and staging than we'd attempted before, challenges in costuming and sets and crew and lighting and sound... yet at the end of it all, HJC was graced with 4 amazing performances of *Kiss Me, Kate*. That it was so good, and so well-executed, is a tribute to the hard work of many people: Michelle Mallardi, our director once again; Ken Gold, our music director, our incredible stage crew; the unbelievable efforts of Mary Uricchio and Andrea Smoller, who did a phenomenal job with the ads for the Playbook, and Kim Willen for her great design skills with the Playbook; the hard work of Bruce Fleiss and Larry Wagner in building and Michelle Stack in painting the sets. I also think we all owe a huge debt of gratitude to our three producers: Maxine Fisher, Andrea Morris, and Miriam Wirchin. Producing a show is a monumental task under normal circumstances, and doing it as a volunteer part-time position while the rest of life goes on and the show itself throws an unusual number of curveballs at you is heroic.

What was particularly special about the show, I believe, was the way it brought our community together. HJC members got to see each other and know each other in a new light—both as “stage folks” and as team members pulling together to accomplish something for HJC. It was also, by necessity, a chance for others outside of HJC to see



Sisterhood News

by Evelyn Silverberg

Women's League and Torah Fund

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. Our Woman of Achievement will be honored on June 3, 2015 at the BQLI Awards & Dinner Gala at Temple Israel in Great Neck.

Spring Rummage Sale

As you do your spring cleaning, please set aside any gently used clothing and household items for the Spring Rummage Sale. Drop off Dates are April 16th & 17th and the Sale will be held on April 19th & 20th.

Collegians

Thank you to the Collegian Committee for sending wonderful and creative Holiday Themed packages that remind our daughters, sons and grandchildren of their connection to HJC. This year there were 40 College Students included in this program which is sponsored by Sisterhood and Donations.

Spring Book Discussion

Spring Book Discussion is Monday May 4th at 11 AM. The Book Selection is *The Other Half of My Soul*. Light Lunch will be provided. The Book can be purchased at local bookstores, borrowed from your library or downloaded to your Kindle. *The Other Half of My Soul* by Bahia Abrams is the story of a Syrian born Muslim drawn into an Extremist Organization and an American born Syrian Jew from Brooklyn looking to break away from an Orthodox upbringing.

Upcoming Events

April

13th - Sisterhood Board Meeting 8 PM

16th- 17th Drop Off Spring Rummage Sale

19th – 20th Spring Rummage Sale

20th – BQLI Region Spring Conference at Midway Jewish Center

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

the wonderful community we have here, and feel the embrace of our warmth as they joined us as cast, crew, and audience. Many people observed to me how unusual this community was in its ability and willingness to tackle problems together, to welcome newcomers to its midst, and to see and bring out the best in each other. “Ki ger hayitem b’eretz mitzrayim”—for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt. It made me proud that we took that precept to heart and treated our visitors as valued participants as each of us who are members at HJC were treated.

On a final, unrelated note, by the time this Bulletin comes out, we will have welcomed back Rabbi Kurshan from his sabbatical. We know it was restorative and we are looking forward to hearing his new reflections. We also will have hosted the El Al ambassadors, courtesy of our Israel Committee on March 15. I think it's very exciting to see the re-energizing of our Israel committee, and I'm sure this will be a terrific program.

Hag Sameach everyone!



Teens “Do” HIHI

by Hazzan Israel Gordan



Last month I wrote about a micro-grant that we received from the Jewish Education Project (which is itself a beneficiary of UJA-Federation of New York). We received \$750 for teen engagement at our synagogue. We were very excited by this honor and I'm now proud to share with you how we've spent some of that money and how we've been able to engage some of our teens.

The grant proposal that I wrote was to use our pre-existing program of HIHI (the Huntington

Interfaith Homeless Initiative), which is volunteer led by Ellen Steinberg and Karen Flanzenbaum as a means of engaging our teens. As the program exists, different houses of worship host homeless men to eat and sleep each night all winter long. At the HJC, we host the men seven or eight times each year. For each date that we are hosting, volunteers set up the room, prepare and serve dinner, clean up, prepare and serve breakfast, and prepare a lunch for the men to take with them, in addition to other needed supplies. Members of our congregation, and others, volunteer their time and money to pay for all the supplies that our needed.

On Sunday, March 1st, we hosted a representative from LICares as well as the Helping Hand Project (formerly M'yad L'yad) to talk to us about homelessness on Long Island and what we can do to help. We had 13 teenagers from the HJC community (and their friends) attend our initial meeting as a way to learn more about the problem and our response to it.

Then on Wednesday, March 11th we had almost 20 teens come in the afternoon and evening to help set up, clean, prepare the food, and serve the men. We even had two volunteers come in the early morning to help with breakfast. While all of those costs would normally have been covered by the volunteers themselves, we used our grant money to cover those costs, allowing for the maximum participation of potential teens in our community.

The feedback has been extremely positive and we are looking forward to other ways our teens can be involved in the synagogue and community life, be it through community service, religious opportunities, social programs, or elsewhere. Hopefully, many of them will return for our last HIHI program of the season on March 25th. But we've also discussed the idea of creating a teen service corps.

Through partnering with USY, we can show our teens that there is much to be gained from involvement in the synagogue after Bar Mitzvah. In addition to our regional SHMA Hebrew High School program, our teenagers can volunteer in our own Religious School, be active in local, regional, and national USY programs, volunteer with our JNN and HIHI programs, and can go beyond our synagogue walls together to volunteer at Huntington Hospital, Carillon Nursing Home, the Helping Hands Mission, LICares, Family Service League, or any number of other worthy service opportunities. The sky is the limit and I look forward to hearing from you and your teenagers about ways to get involved.

Religious School Update

by Maxine Fisher

Religious School Administrator

Spring is finally here, and so is Passover!

That means no school **Sunday, April 6, Tuesday, April 7, and Sunday, April 12**. Please join us for services over the holiday (see schedule in the bi-weekly announcements). There will be Junior Congregation on April 11 and a Shabbat Shindig on **April 18**.

Please join your children at our Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration on **Sunday, April 26**. Each class has prepared a special presentation in honor of Israel's 67th birthday.

Don't forget, there is Nitzanim every Shabbat for ages 4-8. It is a fun program in which the children sing, dance, listen to a story, play games, and learn a prayer and/or something related to the weekly Torah portion. Parents are welcome to join their children for this special Shabbat experience.



Light a Candle, Preserve a Memory

Seventy Years Since Liberation

This April 15th, **Yom HaShoah** will mark a milestone: seventy years since liberation of the Nazi camps at the end of World War II. Seventy years, and we still live in a world where the imperative from that time, **Never Again!** - feels as urgent and relevant as ever.

To commemorate this occasion, the Men's Club will soon be delivering, to every member of the congregation, a yellow yahrzeit candle to light at our homes on the evening of April 15th. In addition, we will all have the chance to participate as a community in a **Worldwide Million Candle Challenge**, to remember the more than 1 million children who perished in the Shoah.



Please look for more information on this important program in upcoming flyers. It does not take much to participate, yet it is crucial to who we are as a people. In the words of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *"To us Jews, the essence of faith is memory. To believe is to remember."*

Thank You

Allison Reiver and Karann Pashkin would like to thank the following people for helping with the Purim Bags this year. Our job was made much easier by their contributions.

**Joan Blank
Ellen Kahn
Eileen Front
Leslie Hantverk**

**Tom and Vicki Rosen
Ethel Sachs
Sarah Saunders
The Vav Class
Mitch Reiver
Mitch Pashkin
Barbara Gross
Jeff, Stacey and Rachel Moss**



Rabbi can't from page 1

doctrines and observances, but primarily the living in the spiritual order of the Jewish people, the living in the Jews of the past and with the Jews of the present...(The people) Israel is the tree; we are the leaves. It is the clinging to the stem that keeps us alive."

We find meaning in our lives as Jews through our connections to the Jewish people. Many of the mitzvot in Judaism can only be carried out if there is a community with which to perform them. If one's only Jewish connections beyond the self are the members of one's own family, there will not be many opportunities to fulfill the mitzvot of visiting the sick, dancing at a wedding or paying a shiva call.

I will always remember the pivotal experience in my return to Judaism as a young man. I was a graduate student leading a very detached and carefree life when I noticed a minyan advertising its Friday night services in the student newspaper. At that time in my life, I had only been attending services a couple of times a year, but decided to go with a friend to this synagogue on a Friday night. We arrived at the synagogue a little late only to find eight people waiting to begin the service in a dimly lit room. My friend and I were the ninth and tenth for the minyan, and I will never forget how meaningful it felt to be needed by the community. I learned at that moment that meaning in life does not come from the satisfaction of the self, but rather through the fulfillment of our obligations and responsibilities to others.

When I participate in the celebration of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at the HJC, the most meaningful moment for me is not the chanting of the Haftarah or even when the parents rise and recite the Shehecheyanu often with tear-filled eyes. It happens when a

regular Shabbat attendee comes through the receiving line and tells a Bar/Bat Mitzvah student that they have enjoyed coming to know them during the previous months and how happy they are to see them on the Bimah on this special day in their lives. It is at that moment that I know that this young person has come to know the sense of connection and meaning that comes from feeling part of a community.

My intention is not to vilify those who abandon the community for a more individualized expression of Judaism. In some cases, those who have left the community departed because of negative experiences. Synagogues and other Jewish institutions have to become compelling settings of meaningful Jewish engagement and cannot only harp on the importance of the Jewish people and the Jewish community. Jewish institutions must be places in which Jews can connect meaningfully with their fellow Jews and feel that they are making a difference in other people's lives.

Judaism is not really about meeting our own needs on our schedule. It is about being linked to a community of people, to Shabbat, and to Israel. It is about our responsibility toward the Jewish community. God is not found within the isolated self but rather in the midst of the community's life. It is our connections to the Jewish community that define what it means to lead a Jewish life and what it means to be part of this 4000 year story of the Jewish people.

Editor's Note: During the Rabbi's sabbatical, the Rabbi's column is a reprinting of a previous written article. (This was originally published in March 2010).

Early Childhood News



Purim Day, Purim Day, what a happy holiday. The children can't get enough of this fun, celebratory holiday and I must admit that I couldn't either! The ECC kicked off this fun holiday with literature, music, storytelling and drama. The teachers do such a wonderful job telling the story of Purim. As an extra special bonus, the talented Miss Phyllis, performed a Purim puppet show for each class. Of course, one of the many highlights of this holiday is shaking the grogger

to blot out Haman's name. The festivities began with the HJC Purim carnival. Many of the ECC families came to mingle and eat. The children dressed up in their favorite costumes and played games provided by the USY. Later in the week, all were invited to the reading of the Megillah by Cantor Gordan. I must say this was an experience as most adults were even dressed in costume, some costumes even more lavish than the children's costumes! The air was clearly filled with excitement and joy. Both children and adults sounded their groggers when Haman's name was read. Finally, every child in the ECC came to school in costume to celebrate Purim. We sang songs, danced, and paraded in the Leif Chapel. All children created their own Purim basket and filled it with goodies. I am looking forward to celebrating both Spring and Passover.



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



Tyna Strenger - Member of HJC for over 42 years.

Tyna and Gordon Strenger, like many of our congregants, moved to Huntington when, as a young couple, Gordon's job selling records and tapes of pre-recorded music drew them to Suffolk County. In 1972, they "immigrated" from the Upper West Side of Manhattan, with their then 7-year-old twins, Dorie and Mara and 9-year-old daughter, Aliza (known as Lisa then).

Tyna identifies herself today as a "Jew by Choice." Although born to Jewish parents and immersed in Jewish culture, religious practice was not a significant dimension of Tyna's childhood and her only memory of the inside of a synagogue was an occasion when she entered a shul to find her grandmother to accompany her on her walk home. As an adult, while living on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, Tyna and Gordon attended High Holiday Services and lectures at B'nai Jeshuran Synagogue, and sent their girls to the synagogue nursery school, but they were never members at a synagogue before joining HJC.

Upon coming to Huntington Tyna and Gordon knew they wanted to send their daughters to Hebrew school. After comparison-shopping between South Huntington JCC and Huntington Jewish Center, they chose HJC. Gordon's cousin, Irene, mother of our congregant, Barry Feigenbaum, was a member at HJC, and Tyna and Gordon had been to HJC for the B'nai Mitzvot of Barry and his brother and sister. HJC already felt like family to them, so they joined and HJC quickly became the center of their lives.

Tyna and Gordon were not just members, they also quickly became very involved. Between the three girls, Hebrew school was, at times, a five-day-a-week commitment. The Strenger family were regular "Friday nighters" in the Main sanctuary (Leif Chapel became used later on). Tyna and Gordon attended years of Rabbi Kurshan's adult education classes and Tyna was in the very first adult Bat mitzvah class (along with Joan Mattisinko). The Strengers traveled to Israel on the first Rabbi Rothenberg-lead trip (along with Ethel and Ben Sachs). They have been members of the same Chavurah for over 30 years (along with Elaine and Walter Kleinman and Betty and Bob Mesard). In addition, the Strengers were involved in Hadassah, Sisterhood, the Chai Club and more.

For all that she has received, Tyna has given back to HJC enormously. In between working for Barnes & Noble in their supermarket division, as a Plant Lady providing houseplant care in businesses, offices and private homes, and working with Gordon in the recorded music business, Tyna managed to find time to give of her time to HJC. She was active on the school committee when her girls were young and was on the Saturday night dinner dance committees. Quite significantly, Tyna was active in the movement to include women in the HJC minyan and regularly attended morning minyan in the Lief Chapel. Tyna has been on the Board of Trustees twice, is an active member of the committee to restore the Ben Tasman Library and the Tree of Life Committee. She has single handedly maintained the printer cartridge return program for the last 15 years. With gratitude, I note that Tyna has real history here; she sat on the selection committee that chose Rabbi Kurshan. And as an additional note, some of you may not know an important piece of HJC history worth preserving; the "I did Yigdal at HJC" t-shirt was Gordon's brainchild.

Tyna is grateful for the many positive relationships she has formed at HJC. She identifies HJC as "family," "her rock" and a place to feel "purposeful." Tyna recalls that after the September 11th World Trade Center attacks her immediate urge was to be at HJC surrounded by everyone and everything that made her feel safe and grounded. As she looks back at all the HJC friends and family she has lost over time, including now Gordon and her dear friend Betty Mesard, she says with sincerity, "I thank God I have HJC in my life".

Interview compiled by Lesley Stark and Tyna Strenger

Donations

צדקה

GENERAL FUND

Susan & Sam Goldmeer
Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Abraham Cohen at yahrzeit.
Yolanda Barfus in memory of Marie Palumbo at yahrzeit.
Rosalind Shaffer in memory of Abraham Sandlofer at yahrzeit.
Rosalind Shaffer in memory of Anna Shaffer at yahrzeit.
Gwynne Wicks in memory of Bella Berkowitz at yahrzeit.
Barry Specht in memory of Joseph Specht at yahrzeit.
Gwen & Ron Goldstein in honor of Joanne Mulberg Cohn for all she does to help make Shabbat special.
Arlene Alcosser & Larry Black in memory of Ben Black at yahrzeit.
Bob Mesard in memory of Lillian Mesard at yahrzeit.
Ethel Schwartz Bock in memory of William Schwartz at yahrzeit.
Marvin Marsh in memory of Herbert Marsh at yahrzeit.
Burton Epstein in memory of Samuel Epstein at yahrzeit.
Stephen Holbreich in memory of Mortimer Holbreich at yahrzeit.
Peter Cohn in memory of Harry Cohn at yahrzeit.
Peter Birzon in memory of Irving Birzon at yahrzeit.
Vered & Jack Cole in memory of Rosalyn H. Schwartz, mother of Arnold Schwartz.
Yolanda Barfus in memory of Harriet Seidman at yahrzeit.
Renda & Ken Rosenblatt in memory of Babette Rosenblatt at yahrzeit.
Carol & Marshall Adelstein in memory of Anna Adelstein at yahrzeit.
Marsha Perlmutter Kalina in memory of Jan Perlmutter at yahrzeit.
Arthur Perler in memory of Shirley Perler at yahrzeit.
Ruth Wies in memory of Stanley Cohen at yahrzeit.
Andrea Dubow in memory of Rose Goldstein at yahrzeit.
Howard Dubow in memory of Rose Sirulnick at yahrzeit.
Gary Schoer in memory of David Schoer at yahrzeit.
Amy Marcus in memory of Norma Gordon at yahrzeit.
Vered & Jack Cole in memory of Meir Levanon at yahrzeit.
Selma Greenstein in memory of Max Bass at yahrzeit.
Selma Greenstein in memory of Herman Greenstein at yahrzeit.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of Arthur Jochnowitz, father of Hazel Dotan.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of Maxine Fisher, Andrea Morris & Miriam Wirchin for the great job they did as producers of Kiss Me, Kate.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of Ken Gold for the great job he did as musical director of Kiss Me, Kate.
Risa Gold in memory of Michael Firestone at yahrzeit.
Risa Gold in memory of Robert Greco at yahrzeit.
Anita Gelberg in memory of Ray Stecker at yahrzeit.
Adrienne & Bernie Rosof in memory of William Baron at yahrzeit.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Wendy and Joseph Glassman in memory of Selma Glassman at yahrzeit.
Joan Blank with appreciation to Rabbi Kurshan.
Doris & Donald Maiman in memory of Larry Maiman at yahrzeit.
Marjorie Maltin in memory of Sylvia Solomon at yahrzeit.

BEN TASMAN LIBRARY FUND

Syd & Mike Schlesinger in memory of Hyman Sudran at yahrzeit.
Syd & Mike Schlesinger in memory of Morton Schlesinger at yahrzeit.
Syd & Mike Schlesinger in memory of Paul Popkin, husband of Mitzi Popkin.
Syd & Mike Schlesinger in honor of the 80th birthday of Tyna Strenger.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN FUND

Zachary Lasker in honor of the "darn hot" performance of Cantor Gordan in Kiss Me, Kate.

DAILY MINYAN FUND

Bea Pedowicz in memory of Martin Rencoff at yahrzeit.

DAVID S. ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the marriage of Rachel, daughter of Barbara & Paul Bermanski, to Efram Marks.
Judy & Lester Fox wishing a speedy recovery to Nick Sakellarios.
Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the birth of Ayelet Moriah Rogoff, granddaughter of Pat & Larry Schatt.
Judy & Lester Fox in memory of "Bubbie Shirley."
Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Abraham Gabriel Baker-Butler, grandson of Carol & Howard Baker.

DONALD L. GORDON ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Rosalyn H. Schwartz, mother of Arnold Schwartz.
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Jesse Green.
Jennifer & Scott Ingber in honor of the 80th birthday of Robert Bring.

PRAYERBOOK AND BIBLE FUND

Joan Blank in memory of Robert Blank at yahrzeit.
Marianne Sokol in memory of Marvin Sokol at yahrzeit.

SOCIAL ACTION FUND/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Leslie & Jack Rubin in memory of Gilla Rubin at yahrzeit.
Leslie & Jack Rubin in memory of Mordecai Rubin at yahrzeit.

Donations

צדקה

The Kampel family in memory of Herbert Abramowitz,
husband of Gloria Abramowitz.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of Rosalyn H. Schwartz,
mother of Arnold Schwartz.
Ellen Kahn in memory of Lilly Levy at yahrzeit.
Ellen Kahn in memory of Richard Kahn at yahrzeit.
Ellen Kahn in memory of Abraham Levy at yahrzeit.

Barbara & Joel Kuppersmith in memory of Lawrence Meshover
at yahrzeit.
Barbara & Joel Kuppersmith in memory of Rosalyn Kuppersmith
at yahrzeit.
Barbara & Joel Kuppersmith in memory of Seymour
Kuppersmith at yahrzeit.



PLEASE HELP LONG ISLAND'S NEWBORNS IN NEED

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

Won't you please help us by buying or donating new or very gently used, washed and cleaned:

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

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

Throughout the month of March, HJC will have collection bins set up at both entrances.

Please bring your **bulk** donations, labeled from HJC to:
Lorraine Grenier, 8 Melody Lane, Huntington, NY

Last year, **Newborns in Need** was overwhelmed with the generosity of HJC. With everyone's support, we hope to repeat this mitzvah once again. If you need a tax receipt, please leave your name & address with your donation.

Any questions, please call **Jill Sherman**, Chairperson HJC's **Newborns in Need** drive, at (631) 423-8133. Thank you.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Each year at Selichot, we dedicate plaques in memory of our departed loved ones. This year, Selichot falls on Saturday evening, September 5th. If you are interested in purchasing a plaque, orders are now being taken in the synagogue office.

The plaques are \$450 and the deadline to order is June 4th.

HJC Babysitters:

Grace Willen	home:631-754-5865
	cell: 631-871-1477
Rachel Moss	cell: 631-944-1420
Noah Morris	cell: 631-427-4798.

Babysitters - email your current information to put here!

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



Save The Date - Sunday, May 31, 2015 ***The 2015 Celebrate Israel Parade***

Theme: Israel Imagines

The founders of Israel had a dream. They imagined a vibrant, independent and Jewish state that would not only be a haven for Jews from all over the world, but also one that would incorporate the best characteristics of its citizens - a state whose greatest natural resource? Its people!

***Today's Israel is a result of that dream. On May 31st on 5th Avenue, we will highlight some of the things that Israel imagined, and continues to imagine - some that have come to fruition and some still to be achieved:
If you will it, it is no dream!***

Israel Imagines!

***For more information or to express interest:
Contact Keith Messing at kmessingk@gmail.com***



HJC Bulletin April 2015

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Mazel Tov to the Cast and crew of *Kiss me, Kate* on a wonderful performance

