

HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER
NEWS COMMUNITY CONNECTION

by Rabbi Kurshan

A Success Story

This is My covenant with you...the words which I have put into your mouth shall not depart from you, not from your children, not from your children's children henceforth and forever. (Isaiah 59:20)

Each year the Covenant Foundation chooses five promising Jewish educators from throughout the United States to receive its prestigious Pomegranate Award. The Pomegranate Prize established in 2011 recognizes emerging leaders in the field of Jewish education who have been in the field for ten years or less. In addition to financial support for their educational endeavors, the award allows prize recipients over a three year period to interact and engage with leading Jewish educators from the spectrum of Jewish life at Foundation sponsored events.

This year a young woman from our congregation was one of the five Jewish

educators to receive the prize. In its award to Lea Winkler, the daughter of Sheryl and Ian Winkler, the Covenant Foundation wrote the following:

"Lea Winkler is a third grade general studies teacher and the STEM Coordinator at Cohen Hillel Academy (CHA), a community Jewish day school in Marblehead, MA. Lea began at CHA as an intern through the DeLet Program at Brandeis University and obtained her first full time position at CHA upon her graduation. Lea received her B.A. in 2009 from Brandeis University, where she majored in History and minored in Elementary Education, and her M.A. in Teaching Elementary Education from Brandeis in 2010. During her time at Brandeis, she taught at the Boston-Area Jewish Education Program (BJEP), an independent Jewish Sunday school, where she began as an aide and became the Hebrew teacher for second through fourth grade. In this capacity, she received the Keter Torah Award for outstanding contribution to the Hebrew language curriculum. Lea also spent six summers working at Camp Ramah in Nyack, first as a counselor and then as a mentor counselor, and has led Junior Congregation at the Huntington Jewish Center."

There are many voices in the Jewish community that lament the quality of synagogue afternoon school Jewish education and its inherent limitations. They opine that there is little that can be accomplished in two or three days late in the afternoon when students are tired and worn out from their day in public school. While there is no question that a much more intensive Jewish education can be offered in a Day School setting, good synagogue schools backed by

Jewishly committed families can offer a substantive Jewish education. Lea is case in point. While her award is fundamentally a recognition of her own hard work, talent, and exceptional achievement, Lea is also a product of our HJC synagogue school. That Religious School led by Cindy Dolgin received national recognition as a School of Excellence and produced students with a strong Jewish education. Lea's award reminds us that we should always strive for excellence in our synagogue school.

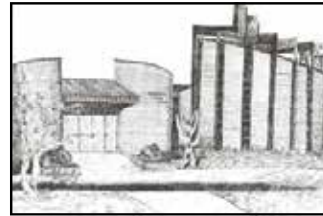
The Pomegranate Award recognizes achievement and distinction in a professional field that too often goes unnoticed. Lea is not unique in the sense that some of our "best and brightest" have chosen the field of Jewish education including one of our congregant's children who now is the lead educator in the Religious School of the Park Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan. Jewish education is a field in which a talented educator can make a difference not only in the lives of students, but also in sustaining a meaningful Jewish identity for the next generation of Jews. We wish Lea continuing success in her career, and hope her example will inspire more of our "best and brightest" to consider Jewish education as a meaningful and fulfilling career.



Sabbatical for Rabbi Neil Kurshan

Please note that Rabbi Kurshan will be on Sabbatical during February, March, and April of 2016. He will be returning to the congregation at the beginning of May to conclude his tenure at HJC.

If you need to reach Rabbi Kurshan while he is away, please contact Debbie Rosenkrantz in the Main Office at 631-427-1089 Ext. 10.



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423-5355

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President
427-1089

Israel Gordan, Hazzan,
Director, Synagogue Programming and
Religious School Innovation
427-1089, ext. 22

Maxine Fisher
Religious School Director
427-1157 ext. 14

Ilene Brown
Director, Early Childhood Center
425-1089, ext 15

Barbara Axmacher
Executive Director
427-1089, ext 23

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Technology.....	Jeff Stark
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Webmaster.....	Arthur Perler
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Adult Education presents ~

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES:

ROMANCE IN JEWISH FILMS



**Saturday evening, January 9 at
7:30 pm
in the Social Hall**

Discussion Leader: Rabbi Neil Kurshan



"Casablanca", (Rabbi Kurshan's favorite movie) starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman is one of the most beloved American films and is a top notch thriller and wartime romance about a world-weary freedom fighter in love with a woman married to another man.

Bring your fob!

5776
2016

January

tevet
shevat

KAR-BEN
PUBLISHING

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 20 tevet	2 21 tevet
					NEW YEAR'S DAY	Shemot
3 22 tevet RS Closed JNN	4 23 tevet EC Meeting 7:30pm	5 24 tevet RS / Chaverim	6 25 tevet	7 26 tevet Professional Staff Meeting 12:45pm Sisterhood Coloring Night 7:30 pm	8 27 tevet Minyan Breakfast 8am	9 28 tevet Jr Congregation 10:30am Rabbi Movie Night 7:30pm Va'era
10 29 tevet RS/USY/Kadima/Vav #3 RS Teacher Conference Family Connect Ridotto 4pm JNN	11 1 shevat Ritual Committee 8pm SH Board Meeting 8pm ROSH CHODESH	12 2 shevat RS Teacher Conference 6:15pm Board Meeting 8pm	13 3 shevat HIHI 6pm	14 4 shevat	15 5 shevat	16 6 shevat Bo
17 7 shevat RS Closed JNN	18 8 shevat Main Office Closed ECC Closed MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	19 9 shevat RS / Chaverim	20 10 shevat	21 11 shevat SH Event TBD	22 12 shevat Friday Night Live! 6pm	23 13 shevat Jr Congregation 10:30am Beshalach SHABBAT SHIRAH
24 14 shevat Mens Club Breakfast /RS/VAV #4	25 15 shevat 2017 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Meeting 8pm TU B'SHEVAT	26 16 shevat RS Tu B'Shevat Seder (Also Sunday, Jan 24)	27 17 shevat HIHI 6pm	28 18 shevat Professional Staff Meeting 12:45pm SH Book Discussion - 1pm	29 19 shevat ** ECC Shabbat **	30 20 shevat Yitro
31 21 shevat RS Board Mtg/9-D Workshop RS /USY/Kadima JNN						

5776
2016

February

shevat
adar I

KAR-BEN
PUBLISHING

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 22 shevat	2 23 shevat RS/ Chaverim	3 24 shevat	4 25 shevat	5 26 shevat Minyan Breakfast 8am	6 27 shevat Jr Congregation 10:30am Mishpatim
7 28 shevat EC Meeting 9:30 am RS World Wide Wrap Vav Workshop #5 JNN	8 29 shevat SH Board Meeting 8pm	9 30 shevat RS ROSH CHODESH	10 1 adar I SH Event (TBD) HIHI 6pm ROSH CHODESH	11 2 adar I Board Meeting 8pm	12 3 adar I	13 4 adar I Terumah
14 5 adar I RS Closed JNN	15 6 adar I Main Office Closed ECC Closed (Thru 19th) PRESIDENTS DAY	16 7 adar I ECC Closed RS Closed	17 8 adar I ECC Closed	18 9 adar I ECC Closed	19 10 adar I ECC Closed	20 11 adar I Tetzaveh
21 12 adar I Ridotto 4pm RS Closed JNN	22 13 adar I	23 14 adar I RS / Chaverim	24 15 adar I HIHI 6pm	25 16 adar I SH Program - Jewish Genealogy 8pm	26 17 adar I	27 18 adar I ECC Family Service & Kiddush 10:45am Ki Tisa
28 19 adar I MC Breakfast 9:15a RS/USY/Kadima Vav Workshop #6 JNN	29 20 adar I LEAP YEAR DAY					

View from the Director's Chair

by Barbara Axmacher



If I Had My Life to Live Over...

Another year has come to an end. As I look back examining the events that shaped it – the highs, the lows, victories and defeats, I am reminded that, through it all, my life is full. I was raised by amazing parents who continue to guide me. I have two beautiful, healthy children. I am in a loving relationship, have wonderful friends, a fulfilling job and am in good health.

I have a roof over my head, food to eat and live in a peaceful community with an abundance of cultural and educational opportunities. I challenge myself everyday to recognize and be thankful for the intangible and irreplaceable value of my good fortune.

For my column this month, I share with you the indomitable and reflective words of Erma Bombeck, who in taking stock of her own life, came to realize these very important lessons and left them as a gift to us all.

With my best wishes, for a happy, healthy 2016 to you and yours.

If I had my life to live over, I would have talked less and listened more.

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was

stained and the sofa faded.

I would have eaten the popcorn in the 'good' living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have sat on the lawn with my children and not worried about grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television - and more while watching life.

I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband.

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day.

I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner."

There would have been more "I love you's".. More "I'm sorrys"

But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute... look at it and really see it ... live it...and never give it back.

© Erma Bombeck



Save the Date: The Rabbi Neil Kurshan Legacy Celebration

5746-5776

1985-2016

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE VERY SPECIAL EVENTS
AS WE PREPARE TO BID FAREWELL TO RABBI KURSHAN

THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 19: PANEL DISCUSSION - 8:00 PM
The American Synagogue: Past, Present, and Future

SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 11: SHAVUOT TIKKUN - 9:30 PM
Rabbi Kurshan will teach his favorite Jewish texts.

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 18: SHABBAT SERVICES & CELEBRATORY
KIDDUSH LUNCHEON - 9:30 AM

SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 19: FAREWELL DESSERT RECEPTION - 7:00 PM

God has told you what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: Only to do justice
and to love goodness; And to walk modestly with your God. ~ Micah 6:8



ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT
THE HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER

510 PARK AVENUE HUNTINGTON NEW YORK 11743
631-427-1089 / www.hjcnyc.org

HJC Community News



MAZAL TOV

Larry and Dorothy Tydings announce the marriage of their daughter, Rachel, to Daniel Zar.

Moti and Cindy Dolgin announce the marriage of their son, Yoni, to Clara Weil.

NEW MEMBERS

Joshua & Dori Herman of Halesite and their children: Heather, age 7 and Joseph, age 5.

ABOUT OUR PARK/CEMETERY

"Wait, don't hang up, or turn the page.... this isn't a sales call..." You've heard that before, but in this case it's true. I won't try to 'sell' you something that you already have. Okay, perhaps that's too flip a way to begin writing about a serious subject – a matter of life and death, but I wasn't sure of the best way to begin and I did want to write it. When it concerned the matter of death our immediate ancestors – those who emigrated from far away places – they had answers: Burial Societies. They recognized the importance of planning for future need. Many of us and our families have been connected to one or more of these organizations. Married couples may have more connections than they want, or need.

Which is what gets me to what I wanted to write: about our cemetery. As members of the Huntington Hebrew Congregation we own a cemetery (read the HJC 2007 Centennial Book p. 16 for history). It's not like many others in that it's truly park-like and a pleasant place to be when you're just visiting, given that it is a burial ground. Sure, it looks like a cemetery should. There are gravestones engraved with names, dates memorial information, but, it's kind of small in comparison even to small cemeteries. There's one road to drive in and out on, and all the paths and access to gravesites are on grass, walkable, and within view of the front gate.

If you haven't visited it you might be surprised to hear how a recent visitor remarked, "I can't believe I'm saying this, but this cemetery is a really lovely place to be if you have to be at a funeral or burial." It was Spring and we were standing under a flowering tree. Walking with a friend through the lanes recently we recalled the many friendships and connections as we saw the names of those we knew or had heard about. During the past few years I've had occasion to be there several times and at some funerals family members have mentioned how pleased

they are, at such a sad time, to know the loved one is buried in a place surrounded by those familiar names. And others have expressed regret that a family member was buried somewhere else because they had already had a plot available and that's what they used, but in retrospect would have preferred this place to visit.

Many of us who have loved ones buried there take advantage of opportunities to visit the graves on whichever occasion we are so inclined. I've been told it's comforting and being easy to reach and spend as much or as little time, is helpful.

No simple answers and no one answer fills all our needs, but a little perspective needed of a question we all have to ask. My suggestion is to take a ride one day and visit our cemetery/ memorial park on Old Country Road – the little one right next to Mt. Golda.

Very respectfully submitted
Tyna Strenger



President's Perspective

by Allison Reiver



Join Us

We have had a busy few months at HJC with varied activities. In November we had the Melting Pot Comedy Hour at which four comediennees with different ethnicities enabled us to laugh the night away. It was a windy, rainy night outside but inside there was warmth and good cheer as over 100 of us socialized together. The Kiddush Lounge resembled a night club and was used in a

new way that showed its potential. A huge Yasher Koach to our Executive Director Barbara Axmacher as she organized the whole evening from the comediennees, to the set-up, to the raffles and beyond. This was Barbara's first fundraising effort for HJC, and it was it a huge success financially and made us excited about future events. Thanks also to Bob Weiser and Bruce Fleiss for their bar tending skills, to Joanne Cohn for manning the popcorn cart, and to Irma Mile for manning the door.

Also in November, at the Annual Huntington Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, we welcomed the Islamic, Hindu, Baha'i, Sikh, and Christian communities to HJC. Cantor Gordan worked with clergy from these other houses of worship to produce a musical evening centered on giving thanks and praying for peace. Over 300 people from the Huntington community came together and it was a beautiful night (and was prominently reported on in the Long Islander). Yasher Koach to Cantor Gordan and Rabbi Kurshan for their efforts in making this a memorable evening, to Debbie Rosenkranz for working on the beautiful program, and to Sisterhood for sponsoring the collation following the service.

In early December we had our annual Hanukkah Happening. The afternoon was filled with arts and crafts, food, singing, and shopping as we celebrated the Festival of Lights together. A packed social hall was a further reminder of the many different programs we offer at HJC that appeal to all different congregants. Thanks to Sisterhood for all of their efforts and to Men's Club, our ECC, Religious School, Youth Group, Social Action, and Membership committees for participating.

We also had our first program for our J on Main Interfaith Initiative (thanks to Cantor Gordan for securing a \$10,000 grant for the second year in a row which enables us to continue with this great program). Many ECC families gathered on a Saturday evening in December for Havdallah, a PJ Library book, Hanukkah candles, dinner, latkes and more. It was a great activity that was made possible by Cantor Gordan, Maxine Fisher, Ilene Brown, Barbara Axmacher, and Ellen Teebor.



Sisterhood News

by Donna Fleiss & Miriam Wirchin

MEMBERSHIP – GET INVOLVED!

Sisterhood has many programs throughout the year.

Attend an event or join a committee!

This year we find a growing number of HJC women are joining our Sisterhood

\$45 for regular membership/\$30 for senior membership

New members to HJC receive a complimentary

Sisterhood membership for their first year.

Contact Vicki Rosen, V.P. Membership

vrosen815@gmail.com/(631) 271-7732

HAMANTASHEN

It is that special time of year again when the dairy kitchen is filled with the wonderful aroma of hamantashen. Once again, Sisterhood is sponsoring the baking and sale of hamantashen.

Volunteers are needed to make dough and prepare the cookies for baking.

Order forms are available in the HJC office or online.

All monies from the sale are used to support our HJC community.

WINTER IS A GOOD TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS!

Start collecting your gently used clothing and items for the Spring Rummage Sale. Drop Off on March 10th & 11th.

SUPPORT the HJC SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP WITH YOUR PURCHASE OF GIFTS FOR ALL YOUR SIMCHA AND HOLIDAY NEEDS!

THANK YOU...

to all the volunteers that helped with the Hanukkah Happening Judaica Shop Sale and to our HJC community for your continued support.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 7th - Coloring Night 7:30pm - 9:00pm

January 11th - Sisterhood Board Meeting @8pm

January 28th - Book Discussion @ 1pm

The Marriage of Opposites by Alice Hoffman

February 8th - Sisterhood Board Meeting @8pm

February 10th - Rosh Chodesh Program 8pm

February 25th - Jewish Genealogy Seminar 8pm

Sisterhood Contacts:

Donna Fleiss - donna.fleiss@gmail.com

Miriam Wirchin - mirm1225@aol.com

Our Second Progressive dinner promises to be a success again this year, and in a few weeks we will have our second Friday Night Live. Come and enjoy the many different programs we have at HJC! Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy and peaceful 2016.

The Great Hamantashen Sale



Purim begins Wednesday evening, March 23rd and Sisterhood is once again busy in the kitchen baking delicious hamantashen! The price is still only \$10.00 per dozen.

Available flavors are:

Apricot

Raspberry

Chocolate Chip

Prune

(All of our hamantashen are dairy)

Please order early!

Orders must be received by Tuesday, March 1st.

Use the handy tear sheet below to submit your orders to the office.

Please send payment with your order.

If you could spare an hour or two to mix, roll or fill, please contact Donna Fleiss at donna.fleiss@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Name _____ Phone _____

Nursery or Hebrew Class

_____ Days _____ AM _____ PM _____

<u>Flavors</u>	<u># of dozen</u>	<u>Price @ \$10/dozen</u>
Apricot	_____	_____
Raspberry	_____	_____
Chocolate Chip	_____	_____
Prune	_____	_____
(No assorted dozens)		

Women's League Torah Fund

The mission of Torah Fund is to provide support and funding for our future Conservative Rabbis, Cantors, Educators and Administrators for Day and Synagogue Schools, Social Workers, Scholars, Professional and Lay Leaders and Researchers. Our donations make it possible for students to study at the Jewish

Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Schechter Institutes of Judaic Studies and Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano. Your Torah Fund contribution strengthens and perpetuates Conservative/Masorti Judaism throughout the world. Please be a sponsor: and no need to fulfill your obligations at once. Donations start at \$18. If you donate \$180 you will receive the Torah Fund Pin for 5776 in recognition of your generous support. This year's pin is designed by Eytan Brandes and features grapes and a grape leaf surrounded by the words Nat'ah Karem (She plants a vineyard) in Hebrew. Please contact Evelyn Abraham or Ethel Sachs for more information and to make your donation.



Sisterhood Winter and Spring 2016 Book Discussions

Please note that in 2016 an additional Book Discussion has been added. It will be on **Thursday January 28th at 1 PM** in the HJC Library. The selection is *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman. Please join us for light refreshments and a lively discussion of this book. Telling the fictionalized life of Rachel Pissarro, the mother of the famous Impressionist Camille Pissarro, growing up in a strict Jewish community on the island of St. Thomas in the early 1800s.

The Spring 2016 Sisterhood Book Discussion will be on **Thursday May 12th at 1 PM** in the HJC Library and the selection is *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks. The ALA Booklist - "In her gorgeously written novel of ambition, courage, retribution, and triumph, Brooks imagines the life and

character of King David in all his complexity. The language, clear and precise throughout, turns poetic when describing music or the glory of David's city. Taken as a whole, the novel feels simultaneously ancient, accessible, and timeless."

Both books are available in the HJC Library, local libraries, Barnes and Noble and Amazon. Please contact Evelyn Abraham for more information.



Pulling Together

by Hazzan Israel Gordan



As most of us know, the rabbi will be going on his last sabbatical during the months of February, March, and April of this year. During this time, there are no Bar or Bat mitzvah celebrations and we expect the rabbinical search process to be in full swing. That is not the only thing that will be happening during those 13 weeks, however, and it is especially important that we all pull together as a community and show up to support all of the wonderful events that are happening during

this time.

Ever wanted to be more involved with services? Have you really wanted to know what's going on and how you can take a leadership role? Please contact me to learn more about "synagogue skills." Perhaps you'd like to learn how to lead kabbalat Shabbat or Musaf. Maybe you want to learn how to read Torah and/or Haftarah. Or maybe you'd like to give a d'var Torah at services. All of these are options for your further involvement in the community and there is no better time than now to contact me to find out how you can learn. We'd love to have a variety of people share their talents from the bimah.

Celebrating a birthday or anniversary? Did a child or grandchild get into college or graduate school? Did you finish paying your mortgage? If you have anything to celebrate, celebrate it here at the synagogue. Contact me to have an aliyah at services or sponsor a Kiddush in honor of yourself or loved one or to mark a major milestone.

We also have the holidays of Purim and Passover occurring during this period. Don't forget to come in costume to celebrate Purim and if you'd like to learn how to read Megillat Esther I can teach you! There are many aspects involved with the preparation for and celebration of Passover and together as a community they are even more meaningful, so be sure to join us to mark the annual festival marking the exodus from Egypt.

We also have our Bim Bam PJ Library Shabbat programs continuing for Saturday mornings in February and Friday evenings in March. We'll be holding a reunion for our 8th grade class (who most recently celebrated their b'nai mitzvah), and a youth Shabbat when youth in 8th through 12th grades can help lead services. Our J on Main Interfaith Outreach initiative will continue with exciting programs throughout Huntington. And of course, we continue to be a host site for HIHI (the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative) during the winter and JNN meets every Sunday morning to help feed the food insecure on Long Island.

Our Early Childhood Center, Religious School, Youth Groups, Men's Club, and Sisterhood will continue to meet and hold programs and we hope that you use this opportunity to explore the options at HJC. As always, time flies and before you know it, we'll be celebrating the rabbi's retirement. Now's the time to get involved so come on down!

Religious School Update

by Maxine Fisher
Religious School Administrator

So many time parents come to me asking how they can keep their post Bar/Bat Mitzvah children involved in Jewish life after they graduate from Religious School. What is there for teens to do? Plenty!!!

First of all, we have 2 wonderful Hebrew High schools. One is SHMA which meets every Wednesday evening at South Huntington Jewish Center. There also is The Rebecca and Ivry Prozdor High School of the Jewish Theological Seminary. We have students who go into the city every Sunday morning to further their Jewish education. Both are excellent opportunities to stay connected to their Judaism and being around other Jewish peers.

Then there are many things going on right in our own building. We have a great youth group program led by Rebecca Buzen. There is the Kadima group that is for 7th and 8th grade and USY for 9th - 12th grade.

There are some very exciting events coming up starting in January such as "Minute to win it" (games and races) on **January 10th** and Challah baking on **January 31st**. For more info and times email rbuzen@gmail.com. It is not too late to join for this year and once again, they are having fun with their Jewish peers.

We are very happy to have our teens volunteer in the Religious School classrooms. All of our teachers always can use an extra hand.

They can volunteer to help out every Sunday morning with the JNN preparing food for people in need or helping with HIHI when we house homeless men at HJC.

Cantor Gordan would love to have your children come back to lead Musaf or read Torah or chant a HafTorah anytime. What a wonderful way to stay connected.

Actually, wouldn't it be great if your children could do all of the above!!! Now I know they all have very busy schedules but wouldn't it be nice if they could do at least one or two of these things?

Dates to remember:

Religious School resumes on **Tuesday, January 5th**

January 9th: Junior Congregation

January 10th: Vav workshop #3 and parent teacher conferences for Gan, Alef and Mitzvah Team

January 12th: early dismissal 5:45 for parent teacher conference. Regular Mitzvah Team time.

Wednesday, January 13th: kitah Hey, Vav and Mitzvah team have an opportunity to see a live performance of “Voices From The Fire” voices of the Holocaust, performed by Theater Three at Woodbury Jewish Center. Parents are invited .

Sunday, January 24th: Vav Workshop #4

Sunday, January 31st: G-d workshop for Gimel and Daled

Sunday, February 7th: World Wide Wrap and Vav # 5

Sunday, February 28th: Vav workshop #6

Hannukah Happening



Weekend away in the Catskills??



The synagogue is thinking of having a weekend away in the Catskill mountains, a two hour ride from here. The **Honors Haven Resort** is a modern, comfortable place and they would provide us with kosher food as well as Sabbath services for those who wish to attend them. This is not a religious retreat but a very fun weekend with lots of indoor and outdoor activities. We would like a sense of how many congregants might be attending . If you think this is something you would be interested in please contact Carol Baker at my email address: **cazyb@att.net**.



Congregational Menorah lighting

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

Early Childhood News

by Ilene Brown



"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

~Winston Churchill

We have been so fortunate to have so many of our community helpers visit us in the past two months. We have had Councilwoman Berland join us, author and father Scott Cohn, the Huntington Fire Department and most recently, a police officer. They have all been so generous with their time, reading to and educating our students about how they contribute to our community. All of the

children learned a great deal from each of the community helpers and enjoyed their time with them.

We decided we would like to give back to our community too. Empathy and gratitude can be taught and discussed at a very early age. When the subject of presents comes up as it pertains to Hanukkah, we talk about how fortunate we are to have a house to live in, food to eat, cars to take us places, and so many toys to entertain us. The teachers discuss how we could help those children who are less fortunate and don't have all of the wonderful things that they do. The children in a few of our classes have been very busy creating things such as necklaces and frames that they can sell at "our store" to the parents and members in our temple. The money that is raised will be going to our community head start program at the Freedom Center. They are in need of many things for their classrooms and we would love to help them and give back to our community.



Spotlight on...

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



Mitzi Popkin

Mitzi Popkin has graced the classrooms, sanctuary and meeting rooms of the HJC with a serene presence for over fifty years. Her deep red lips, coal

black hair and elegant hats set on her head at a perfect angle, express an artistic flair that she shared with her husband Paul.

The Popkins first arrived in Huntington from Scranton, PA, with their sons Seth and Barry so that Paul could work for his uncle designing displays and signage at Popkin's store, an upscale home goods shop "in the station." Paul, a fine artist had owned his own sign and display business back in Scranton. Paul didn't love working for Popkin's store, but he and Mitzi loved Huntington. Paul set up his own business and supported his family doing commercial art.

Mitzi and Paul joined the HJC because it was "natural to join a synagogue. It was part of life." It didn't take long before, "we were knee deep involved. HJC was a huge part of our lives. Paul and I took part in many aspects of the community. So much of our life was devoted to Judaism." While growing up in Scranton Mitzi loved Hebrew School; the Hebrew language came easily to her. Her family lived across the street from the synagogue. The Rabbi's family rented the upstairs floor of her mother's home.

At HJC, Paul contributed through his artistry. He designed the library (of which he was the chairman) and illustrated numerous bulletin covers. Paul also served as a member of the synagogue Board. The walls of the Popkin home are covered with Paul's artwork. This interviewer observed rooms that perfectly capture modernist 1960's decor.

Mitzi's most cherished commitments at HJC were Junior Congregation and Junior Choir. First she taught Alef on Sundays. Eventually she "taught up through all the grades - except Hey. I loved my teaching and I humbly say the kids loved me. It was a mutual love, I was very motivated."

Mitzi's eyes sparkle when she speaks of learning about running Junior Congregation (JC) under her mentor Louis Wolf in Scranton, PA. Wolf was the inspiration for how Mitzi developed JC at HJC. His brilliance was in teaching the children to run JC as an adult congregation was run. "It was a whole big, busy way of life. There were many roles to be played and every child who was motivated found a role that fit his/her personality."

Involvement in JC was a commitment beyond Hebrew School. The children had a Board, committees and meetings. They had elections

and put up campaign posters. And of course services on Shabbat. "The children who were involved felt an important sense of prominence in the HJC community."

Here is a "picture of *Junior Congregation* in action":

- JC Board meetings were "war meetings" similar to adult board meetings; discussion, debate, digging in heels and compromise.
- There was a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary.
- Religious Services: Children sat in assigned rows. Each row had a Unit Leader who phoned the people in his/her row to keep them informed. The Unit Leaders were the "Big Machers."
- Torah Reader and Haftarah Reader committees, Rabbis who gave Dvar Torah, Hazanim who led chanting, Honors Committee gave out honors.
- Every child got a turn to do what s/he wanted, and each other.
- Annual Junior Congregation Banquet - a highlight of the year. The mothers cooked meat loaf and other dishes, waited tables while the children dined on real dishes and table linens.

Mitzi believes that so many children loved to be involved in JC because it was a child-led activity and a reflection of adult community life. The children grew up knowing how to run a congregation and services with confidence and competence – kids like Billy Wertheim, who was the president of Junior Congregation for two years.

Another big commitment of Mitzi's was Junior Choir. Singers learned prayers and songs for Shabbat, special occasions and of course the High Holidays. At rehearsals traditional and modern melodies were practiced.

Mitzi has many wonderful memories of her life at the HJC. "I look back with fondness and cherish those years. I worked full time as a secretary at the Touro Law School, which I loved, but I happily rushed from there to HJC, driving quickly down the hill." After Mitzi retired, parents would stop her in Huntington Village and at HJC services to tell her that she had taught their children. "I am humbled to think that they remembered."

Members who have been at the HJC for years will always remember Mitzi's sons: Seth, now a lawyer in Rockville, MD, with his wife Judith, a musician, and two grown sons Mathew and Jeffery. And Mitzi's son Barry, of blessed memory, an accomplished pianist and singer whose soulful voice was a highlight at Yom Kippur Services when he opened our hearts with his a cappella rendition of "Haben Yakir Li."

Compiled by Dafna Soltes Stein and Mitzi Popkin

Donations

צדקה

GENERAL FUND

Ellen & Dan Teebor
Adrienne Rosof in memory of Sylvia Graf Baron at yahrzeit.
Anita Gelberg in memory of Louis Stecker at yahrzeit.
Shelley & Marc Weinberg in memory of Jack Freilich at yahrzeit.
Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Ethel Wyatt at yahrzeit.
Janet Zimmerman in memory of Lee Cole at yahrzeit.
Gloria Safran in memory of Louis Stecker at yahrzeit.
Gloria Safran in memory of Murray Safran at yahrzeit.
Carol & Marshall Adelstein in memory of Herman Adelstein at yahrzeit.
Richard Marcus & family in memory of Seymour Marcus at yahrzeit.
Patricia Schoeffler in memory of Alexander Cochrane at yahrzeit.
Ceecil Klein in memory of Herbert Sausmer at yahrzeit.
Richard Klein in memory of Samuel Klein at yahrzeit.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of the birth of Nina Aliyah, daughter of Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer.
Lesley Stark in memory of Sandra Magaril at yahrzeit.
Lesley Stark in memory of Jack Magaril at yahrzeit.
Yolanda Barfus in memory of Benjamin Barfus at yahrzeit.
Richard Klee in memory of Murray Klee at yahrzeit.
Ellen Teebor in memory of Chela Fersten at yahrzeit.
Elaine Marsh in memory of Sarah Maidenbaum at yahrzeit.
Judith & Arthur Schwager in memory of Arline Beldegreen at yahrzeit.
Ethel Schwartz Bock in memory of David Schwartz at yahrzeit.
Al Kramer in memory of Lillie Kramer at yahrzeit.
Mark Zimmerman in memory of Irvin Zimmerman at yahrzeit.
Shimmy Kornblatt in memory of Max Black at yahrzeit.
Marvin Lipkind in memory of Esther Lipkind at yahrzeit.
Andrea Morris in memory of Edith Forman at yahrzeit.
Lee Pedowicz in memory of Jack Pedowicz at yahrzeit.
William Wertheim in memory of Max Wertheim at yahrzeit.
Joan Newman in memory of Sol Feinstein at yahrzeit.
Joan Newman in memory of Bessie Lehman at yahrzeit.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ora & Alan Kriegstein
Myrna Tils in memory of Jonas Telmer at yahrzeit.
Renee & Bill Saperstein in memory of Mark Carter, father of Rosalind Wertheim.
Janet & Mark Zimmerman in honor of the birth of Nina Aliyah, daughter of Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer.
Linda & Howard Novick in memory of Rose Novick at yahrzeit.

ARK & PULPIT FUND

Marsha Perlmutter Kalina in memory of Blima Wolf at yahrzeit.

BEN TASMAN LIBRARY FUND

Syd Schlesinger in memory of Alvin Schlesinger at yahrzeit.
The Fleiss family in memory of Ethel Tasman Fleiss at yahrzeit.

Susi Susskind in memory of Esther Vickers at yahrzeit.
Syd Schlesinger in honor of the wedding of Devorah Kahn, granddaughter of Ellen Kahn, to Eliezer Dayan.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN FUND

Gwen & Ron Goldstein in honor of the birth of Nina Aliyah, daughter of Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer.
Linda & Towne Allen in honor of the 65th birthday of Marsha Perlmutter Kalina.

COLLEGIATE FUND

Karen & Michael Fishelson in honor of the wedding of Dana, daughter of Amy Kulchinsky, to Robert Schurz.
Shelley & Marc Weinberg in memory of Mark Carter, father of Rosalind Wertheim.

DAILY MINYAN FUND

Vicki & Tom Rosen in honor of Bill Yelen for driving Tom to the daily minyan.
Susi Susskind in memory of Herbert Susskind at yahrzeit.
Vicki & Tom Rosen in memory of Ella Rosen Rakieten at yahrzeit.
Vicki & Tom Rosen in honor of the birth of Nina Aliyah, daughter of Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer.
Bea Pedowicz in memory of Jack Pedowicz at yahrzeit.

DAVID S. ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the 40th birthday of Jonathan Boxer.
Judy & Lester Fox wishing a speedy recovery to Jim Weiss.
Judy & Lester Fox in honor of Lea Winkler, daughter of Ian and Sheryl Winkler, receiving the 2015 Pomegranate Award from the Covenant Foundation.
Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the birth of Nina Aliyah, daughter of Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer.
Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the marriage of Rachel, daughter of Larry & Dorothy Tydings, to Daniel Zar.

NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

Shelley & Marc Weinberg in honor of the birth of Naomi Leah, daughter of Adam & Lauren Kupersmith.
Allison & Mitch Reiver in honor of the birth of Nina Aliyah, daughter of Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer.

PRAYERBOOK AND BIBLE FUND

Joan & Norman Mattisinko in memory of Lillian Needleman at yahrzeit.

SOCIAL ACTION FUND/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Mary Uricchio
Shelley & Marc Weinberg
Marlene & Leonard Hummel
Richard & Pam Rubinstein

Donations

צדקה

Gloria Safran

Sheryl & Ian Winkler

Elaine & Walter Kleinmann

Jill & Arnie Sherman in memory of Fae Cohen at yahrzeit.

Jill & Arnie Sherman in memory of Louis Sherman at yahrzeit.

Marilyn & David Klein in memory of Shirley Vilinsky.

Marilyn & David Klein wishing a speedy recovery to Bernie Harris.

Joan & Norman Mattisinko in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Nicholas, son of Bruce & Holly Aronow.

Rene Levy in memory of Rose Zucker at yahrzeit.

Miriam Eckstein-Koas in honor of the birth of Asher Dylan, son of Michael & Michelle Behr.

Miriam Eckstein-Koas in honor of the birth of Nina Aliyah,

daughter of Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Rose Epstein at yahrzeit.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the birth of Nina Aliyah, daughter of Tracy Kaplowitz & Jonathan Boxer.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the birth of Naomi Leah, daughter of Adam & Lauren Kupersmith

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND

Sheryl & Ian Winkler in honor of their daughter, Lea, receiving the 2015 Pomegranate Award from the Covenant Foundation.

Andrea & Greg Morris & family in honor of the birth of Rayna Julia Pollack, granddaughter of Maxine & Rob Fisher.

SUMMER 2016 SCHOLARSHIPS

Donald L. Gordon Israel Scholarship – This scholarship is awarded to high school juniors and seniors who spend six to eight weeks during the summer in Israel. They tour, learn, and live the Israeli life in a Jewish educational program.

David S. Rosenman Camp Ramah Scholarship – This scholarship is awarded to youngsters in grades 4 through 12 who spend either four or eight weeks at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires. This camp is under the auspices of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Applications for both scholarships are available in the HJC Main office and the deadline for submission is April 1, 2016.

From our Youth

On Wednesday December 2nd, I came to HJC after school with two friends to help volunteer for HIHI. First we set tables in the social hall and then we cooked dinner and prepared lunches. It really put everything in perspective and was a reminder to feel lucky for the little things that we tend to take for granted such as daily meals and a warm house. I encourage every teenager in HJC to at least come once if not more. It seems like it would be a little tiring after a whole day of school, but once you get there and start helping out, you just want to help even more. It is also a great way to fulfill a community service requirement, and the fact that it is for a local organization makes it even better. My friends and I will definitely be back many more Wednesdays this winter!—**Caroline Kriegstein**

JNN News



**Would you like
to be a driver?**

DRIVERS WANTED!!!

The Jewish Nutritional Network needs Drivers to deliver meals on Sunday mornings. Please consider this worthwhile experience to help families in need. Please contact Rob Fisher for all the details.

Rob Fisher
JNN Coordinator
rfish51@aol.com
631-875-4016

CALLING ALL TEENS (and their parents)!

We are proud to announce that the Huntington Jewish Center has received a micro-grant of \$750 for Teen Engagement. This money will be used for our Intergenerational Storytelling Project. We are meeting on Sunday, March 13th to learn how to interview, have lunch, and actually interview some of the most senior members of our community. We will then be hosting an Oneg on Friday night, May 13th to present and discuss our experiences. This initiative is part of a larger effort to engage our teens including through leading services and/or reading Torah, becoming active in our USY chapter, and getting involved with our Storytelling Project, among other opportunities.

Opportunities for Teen Involvement:

The Storytelling Project – Meeting on **Sunday, March 13th**, with an oneg on **Friday, May 13th**

HIHI – orientation meeting **January 10th**, event **January 13th** (other dates available)

PJ Library Bim Bam Shabbat program: January 29th, and March 11th
5:30 - 6:30pm

Leading Musaf and Reading Torah

Learning how to read Megillat Esther for Purim

Volunteering in our Religious School

Youth groups (USY)

8th grade reunion Shabbat on Saturday, March 5th

All-teens Shabbat on Saturday, April 2nd

For more information on these programs, please contact the following people:

HIHI (Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative)

Ellen Steinberg (ellen.steinberg728@gmail.com)

Karen Flanzenbaum (kflanzenbaumlaw@gmail.com)

Storytelling Project
USY

Nancy Berlow (nancyberlow@gmail.com)

Rebecca Buzen (rbuzen@gmail.com)

If you have any questions regarding this grant and all of our opportunities for teens, please feel free to contact **Cantor Israel Gordan** at (631) 427-1089, x22 or at cantorgordan@hjcny.org or **Maxine Fisher** at (631) 427-1089 x14 or mfisher@hjcny.org



Let's all gather for Rabbi Kurshan's final

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

*Peaceful * Musical * Spirited*

Family Friendly Shabbat

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN THE ROUND

followed by our

COMMUNITY SHABBAT DINNER



JANUARY 22, 2016

Come for the service at 6:00 pm /Stay for dinner at 7:00 pm
Chicken/fish meal * vegetarian options * supervised children's table

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

\$70 max /family

RSVP to Debbie in the front office by Monday, January 18, 2016 or
watch your email for a link to sign up on line

RSVP's after January 18 add \$2 per person to posted prices



SAVE THE DATE

Important Bar/Bar Mitzvah Meeting
For all 2017 parents

Monday, January 25, 2016
8:00 pm

Rabbi, Cantor, Ritual Committee & Sisterhood will be present
to review all details of your simcha

HJC Bulletin January/February 2015

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Concerts in the HJC

Sunday, January 10 at 4 pm: PRINCELY PATRONS

The great princes of Vienna around 1808 competed with each other in all aspects of musical life, mainly supporting Beethoven and Haydn.

In Ridotto: Haydn's Trio in D Major, No.38, and the magnificent 'Archduke' Trio, Op.97 by Beethoven, and more. Performers: The Gloriosa Piano Trio with acclaimed pianist Yoonie Han. Margaretha Maimone is narrator.

Sunday, February 21 at 4 pm ROMANZA

A program that mixes effortlessly Classical with Latin and South American music. A rich tapestry of bright colors, rhythm and form melts into a wonderful concert experience. Stunning musicians are Francisco Roldan, guitar, Mariam Adam, clarinet, Dan Mallon, percussion, and Evelyn Ulex, piano.

Composers are Bustamante, Paquito d'Rivera, Villa Lobos, Barrios and others. A musical feast.