



HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER NEWS COMMUNITY CONNECTION



by Rabbi Kurshan

The End of the Year

As the end of my tenure at the Huntington Jewish Center draws closer, I am looking forward to the next few months with mixed emotions. On the one hand, I am excitedly anticipating a new stage in Alisa's and my own life, and part of my sabbatical has been devoted to laying the groundwork for this transition. On the other hand, I will be giving up the community and the personal connections which have brought us so much meaning and satisfaction to my life during the past thirty-one years.

In planning with synagogue leadership for the events that will mark the end of my service to HJC, we have tried to achieve a combination of celebration, reminiscence, and reflection. We have also tried to be cognizant of what will lay the foundation for a positive transition and a secure future for the synagogue community.

One of the greatest challenges facing us as we move ahead is the changing nature

of the synagogue as an institution. I spent the past weekend in Squirrel Hill, a neighborhood in Pittsburgh which has the distinction of being the oldest continuous urban Jewish community in the United States. I attended Shabbat morning services at Temple Beth Shalom, a synagogue more than 100 years old that was founded around the same time as the Huntington Jewish Center. Before services began in the downstairs social hall, I took a look at the Main Sanctuary which seats 1700 people and which is now rarely used except on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. While the Jewish population of Squirrel Hill has remained relatively stable, the synagogue population has not. There are many possible reasons why the population in many synagogues is declining even when Jewish demographics in a particular location are on an upswing. The millennials who would normally join synagogues at this point in their lives are not joiners. Additionally, it is well documented that many Jews no longer believe they need to join a synagogue in order to lead a Jewish life. Fewer seek to benefit from the services of a rabbi or the Jewish community. Furthermore, many synagogues tend to be large, formal institutions seemingly incompatible with an online world of informal and ad hoc relationships.

To address some of the issues that will shape the future of HJC and other synagogues, we are planning an evening of discussion on Thursday evening, May 19

titled "The American Synagogue: Past, Present, and Future." The evening will feature a panel of three distinguished speakers each of whom brings an expertise and unique view to this subject. Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove is the senior rabbi at the Park Avenue Jewish Center and has spoken extensively on the centrality of the synagogue. He has undertaken a cultural transformation of one of the flagship synagogues of the Conservative Movement to enable it to respond to the changing dynamics of the Jewish community. Rabbi Joy Levitt grew up in the Huntington Jewish Center --her mother, Shirley, is one of our longstanding congregants and her father, Gene, (z"l) was a president of our synagogue. Joy is the executive director of the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, one of the most dynamic and cutting edge JCC's in the United States. She is an out-of-the-box thinker who has implemented many highly innovative approaches to enable synagogues to transform the ways they engage Jews. Rabbi Jeremy Kalmanofsky is a former Assistant Dean of the Rabbinical School of the Jewish Theological Seminary who now serves as the rabbi of Anshe Chesed in Manhattan, an Upper West Side synagogue with an unusual structure that

con't on page 2

Reminder:



Annual Congregational meeting

May 26 at 8:00 pm

incorporates numerous sub-communities under one roof. His experience at JTS and Ansche Chesed gives him a unique perspective on the possibilities for the synagogue of the future.

I am honored that each of these individuals has agreed to join us on the evening of the 19th. I will moderate the discussion, and believe the evening will shed light on some of the challenges that we and all synagogues are facing. The evening is open to our own congregants and to the community-at-large so I hope you will also bring your friends. Please RSVP to hjcrsyp123@gmail.com so we can plan appropriately for the discussion and the reception to follow. I hope you will join me as we chart a course that will allow us to thrive as a synagogue community in the years ahead.

Library News



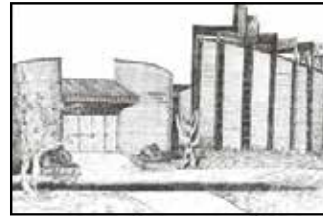
Thank you to all who donated books to the Ben Tasman library. We are now no longer accepting book donations as the shelves are now overflowing with wonderful selections in all categories. However, we will happily accept contributions to be used toward the purchases of new children's books and adult fiction. Donation forms are available at hjcn.org or in the HJC library.

HJC Babysitters:

Grace Willen	home: 631-754-5865 cell: 631-871-1477
Rachel Moss	cell: 631-944-1420
Noah Morris	cell: 631-427-4798
Ilyssa Stein	home: 631-754-2729 cell: 631-678-1654

Babysitters - email your current information to put here!
Please send your updated information to
kwillen@mac.com
include your current home and cell numbers

MEMORIAL PLAQUES – Each year at Selichot, we dedicate plaques in memory of our departed loved ones. This year, Selichot falls on Saturday evening, **September 24th**. 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 3rd**.



Neil Kurshan, Rabbi
423-5355

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

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

Allison Reiver
President
427-1089

Maxine Fisher
Religious School Director
427-1157 ext. 14

Barbara Axmacher
Executive Director
427-1089, ext 23

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HJC Committee Chairpersons

Bulletin.....	Kim Willen
Calendar.....	Gwen Goldstein
Cemetery.....	Louis Walsdorf
Chai Club.....	
Congregational Dinners.....	Lesley Stark & Joanne Cohen
Early Childhood Center Board.....	Suzanne Hepworth, Juliet Saturn, Jessica Frischman
Finance & Budget Committee.....	Arthur Perler
Family Life.....	Suzanne Hepworth, Cari Schuller, Andrea Morris, Lisa Hadar
Fundraising.....	Robert Wieser
Greeters.....	Maxine Fisher
High Holiday Honors.....	Joel Wirchin
Israel/Ramah Scholarships.....	Judy Fox
Israel Committee.....	Scott Ingber
Jewish Theological Seminary.....	Mitch Pashkin
Kol Nidre Appeal.....	Amal & Alon Kapen
Membership.....	Tracy Kaplowitz & Elaine Kleinmann
Men's Club.....	Ofar Rind
Religious School Board.....	Sheri Bram & Felicia Messing
Ritual.....	Andrea Smoller
Selichot Lecture.....	Jennifer Ingber
Sisterhood.....	Donna Fleiss & Miriam Wirchin
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
Webmaster.....	Arthur Perler
Youth.....	Shari Klaire
Youth Advisor.....	Rebecca Buzen

5776
2016

May nisan
iyar

KAR-BEN
PUBLISHING

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 23 nisan <i>SA: NEWBORNS IN NEED</i> <i>Ridotto 4pm</i> <i>RS Closed JNN</i>	2 24 nisan <i>EC Meeting 7:30pm</i> <i>Chai Institute - DHJC</i>	3 25 nisan <i>RS / Chaverim</i> <i>ECC Mothers Day</i> <i>Boutique 6pm</i>	4 26 nisan	5 27 nisan <i>Professional Staff Meeting 12:45pm</i> <i>Temple Beth-El 7pm</i> <i>Community Yom Hashoah</i> YOM HASHOAH	6 28 nisan <i>Minyan Breakfast 8am</i> <i>RS Gimmel/Daled Dinner & Shabbaton 6:30pm</i>	7 29 nisan <i>Alex Rind Bat Mitzvah 9:30am</i> <i>Jr Congregation 10:30am</i> Achard Mot
8 30 nisan <i>RS Closed</i> ROSH CHODESH MOTHERS DAY	9 1 iyar <i>Ritual Committee 8pm</i> <i>SH Board Meeting 6pm</i> <i>Chai Institute - DHJC</i> ROSH CHODESH	10 2 iyar <i>Jewish Public Affairs Forum 6pm</i> RS	11 3 iyar YOM HAZIKARON OBSERVED	12 4 iyar <i>SH Book Discussion 1pm</i> <i>Board Meeting 6pm</i> YOM HAATZMA'UT OBSERVED	13 5 iyar <i>Oneg for Teen Storytelling Project</i>	14 6 iyar Kadoshim
15 7 iyar <i>RS/Kadima / USY (Israel Committee)</i> JNN	16 8 iyar <i>Chai Institute - DHJC</i>	17 9 iyar <i>RS</i> <i>Panel Discussion (2nd choice)</i>	18 10 iyar <i>Jewish Education Project</i>	19 11 iyar <i>Panel Discussion 8pm (1st Choice)</i>	20 12 iyar <i>ECC Grandparents Day</i>	21 13 iyar <i>Lauren Chait Bat Mitzvah 9:30am</i> <i>Jr Congregation 10:30am</i> Emor
22 14 iyar <i>MC Meeting 9:15am</i> <i>RS Board Meeting</i> <i>USY/Kadima/Family Connect/Lag Ba'Omer Field Day/Yom Haatzma'ut Celebration 6pm</i> JNN	23 15 iyar <i>Chai Institute - DHJC</i> VICTORIA DAY CANADA	24 16 iyar <i>RS / Chaverim</i> <i>Panel Discussion (2nd choice)</i>	25 17 iyar	26 18 iyar <i>Congregational Meeting 8pm</i> LAG BA'OMER	27 19 iyar <i>ECC Contingency Day</i>	28 20 iyar <i>Harry Watkin-Fox Bar Mitzvah 9:30am</i> Behar
29 21 iyar <i>Minyan in the Park</i> <i>Caumsett 7:30am</i> <i>J on Main Event - Yoga in the Park</i> <i>RS Closed</i>	30 22 iyar <i>ECC Contingency Day</i> MEMORIAL DAY	31 23 iyar RS				

Light A Candle, Preserve A Memory

Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, will be observed this year at sundown on the 27th of Nisan, 5776, corresponding to **May 4, 2016**.



To help us commemorate this day, our Men's Club, in cooperation with the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, will again be delivering a special yellow yahrzeit candle, made in Israel, to each home in our community.

This is the 5th year that we have participated in the FJMC Yellow Candle™ program. Proceeds raised by this effort are already being used to support Holocaust education. Last month, HJC Men's Club was proud to wholly fund, through last year's sale of Yom

HaShoah candles, a moving Religious School field trip to the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County (pictured).

Please join with your fellow congregants and members of Jewish communities all over America on Wednesday, May 4th to light a Yellow Candle in memory of a victim of the Holocaust, and please consider supporting our educational efforts. Place the candle in your window, a single light against the darkness, as a tangible statement to **Never Forget!**



View from the Director's Chair

by Barbara Axmacher



Not only is a Jewish mother proud when her son becomes a doctor or a lawyer, but also when her daughter becomes the Executive Director of a fine Long Island synagogue! My mother very

lovingly shared the piece below with me a few weeks ago and I am happy to share it with you! Perhaps you will learn something new or maybe you even have your own interesting fact to add. Enjoy!

Interesting Facts About Jewish People in New York:

1. The first Jews to set foot in North America arrived in New York as a group of 23 in 1654.
2. Congregation Shearith Israel, founded in New York in 1654, was the first synagogue in the colonies. It was the sole purveyor of kosher meat until 1813.
3. By the late 19th century, there were over 5,000 kosher butchers and 1,000 slaughterers in New York.
4. In 1902, the Beef Trust raised the price of kosher meat on the Lower East Side from 12 to 18 cents per pound. After butchers' boycotts proved ineffectual, 20,000 Lower East Side women stole meat from kosher butcher shops and set it on fire on the streets in protest. The *Forward* supported their efforts, running the headline "Bravo, Bravo, Bravo, Jewish women!"
5. On March 25, 1911, the Triangle Shirtwaist fire claimed the lives of 146 garment workers, the majority of whom were Jewish immigrants. Reporting on the tragedy, the "*Forvitz*" wrote that 'the disaster is too great, to dreadful, to be able to express one's feelings.'
6. When entertainer Al Jolson came to New York City at age 14, he held jobs in the circus and as a singing waiter. Born to a cantor, Jolson's career took off when he began performing in black face.
7. In 1903, the Lower East Side Chinese and Jewish communities formed an unlikely partnership when Chinese organizers put on a benefit for Jewish victims of the Kishinev pogrom, raising \$280. (Could the benefit occurred on a Sunday night???)
8. In 1930, there were over 80 pickle vendors in the Lower East Side's thriving Jewish pickle scene. The briny delights were brought to America in the mid-19th century by German Jewish immigrants.
9. The egg cream is thought to have been invented by the Jewish owner of a Brooklyn candy shop. Musician Lou Reed was a famous admirer of the frothy drink.
10. From the beginning of the 20th century till the close of World War II, the Lower East Side's 2nd Avenue was known as the Yiddish Theater District, or the Jewish Rialto. It extended from 2nd Avenue to Avenue B, and from 14th Street to Houston. Considered Broadway's competitor, the Jewish Rialto was home to a variety of productions including burlesque and vaudeville shows, as well as Shakespearean, Jewish and classic plays, and were all in Yiddish.
11. The Jewish Rialto's most popular haunt was the Cafe Royal on Second Avenue and 12th Street, where one could find performers such as Molly Picon and Charlie Chaplin sharing blintzes.
12. Pushcarts were all the rage among Jewish vendors on the Lower East Side from the turn of the century until 1940, when Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia banned their use. Jewish pushcart operators sold everything from vegetables to cigars to stockings.
13. At Sammy's Roumanian Steak House on Christie and Delancey, every table is provided with a bottle of chicken fat as a condiment; resident emcee Dani Luv entertained diners with renditions of Jewish standards and punchy Borsht Belt humor.
14. One of the first kosher Chinese restaurants in New York was Moshe Peking, whose all-Chinese wait staff wore yarmulkes.
15. The Second Avenue Deli opened in 1954 in the then-fading Yiddish Theater District. It featured a Yiddish Walk of Fame on the sidewalk outside its original location on Second Avenue and Tenth Street, and served up such Jewish specialties as matzo ball soup and corned beef. In 2007, it closed and reopened in Murray Hill.
16. Famed music club CBGB was opened in 1973 by Jewish founder Hilly Kristal.
17. Mayor La Guardia, who served for three terms from 1934 to 1945, was born to

HJC Community News



CONDOLENCES

Simi Schwartz on the death of her mother, Shelly Edelstein

a Jewish mother and descended from Rabbi Samuel David Luzzatto, but practiced as an Episcopalian.

18. The Jacob K. Javits Convention Center was named in honor of the Jewish U.S. senator, who served from 1957 to 1981.

19. Sig Klein's Fat Men's Shop opened in the late 1800s at 52 Third Ave., and carried plus-sized clothes for men. Its sign featured the slogan: "If everyone was fat there would be no war."

20. Abraham Beame was the first practicing Jew to become mayor of New York. He held office from 1974 to 1977.

21. The popular and proudly Jewish mayor Ed Koch, who served from 1978 to 1989, was known for the phrase "How'm I doing?" which he would ask passersby while standing on street corners or riding the subway. *Newsday* called him the "ultimate New Yorker."

22. The erection of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883 and the Williamsburg Bridge in 1903 catalyzed a Jewish exodus from the Lower East Side to Southside Williamsburg. Crossing the bridge on foot, the LES's Jews left in search of better living conditions.

23. By 1930, more than 40% of New York City's Jews lived in Brooklyn.

24. Jewish-fronted band, The Ramones formed in the Forest Hills neighborhood of Queens in 1974.

25. Allen Ginsberg moved to New York to attend Columbia in 1943. He was purportedly related to seminal Zionist thinker Ahad Ha'am.

26. Poet and kabbalist Lionel Ziprin entertained visitors including Thelonius Monk, Charlie Parker, and Bob Dylan in his Lower East Side living room, expounding for hours on Jewish esoterica and history.

27. The bagel originated in Poland, and arrived in New York City in the 1880s in the hands of

Bar/Bat Mitzvah



Alexa Rind

daughter of Michelle Stack and Ofer Rind

Alexa is a 7th grade high honor roll student at the J. T. Finley Middle School, where she joyfully indulges in a wide range of interests from art club to field hockey to playing alto sax in the school band. She is an award-winning visual artist and has recently expanded her musical palette to include the ukulele as well. As a graduate of the Huntington schools Dual-Language program, she has a respectable command of the Spanish language and can roll her R's like nobody's business, but that doesn't necessarily mean she'll order for you in a mexican restaurant. She does like to whip up a mean guacamole when watching sports with her dad though. When not in school or relaxing at home with her dog, Stella, Alexa can mostly be found at Platinum Performance Dance Academy rehearsing with her dance team, with whom she loves competing at a national level. In the Summer, she looks forward to her days at Camp Cedar Lake in the Poconos and USY Encampment at Ramah Berkshires, where she cherishes all the close friends she has made. HJC has been a second home to Alexa her whole life and the community has been like a second family. She looks forward to gathering her family and friends together to celebrate her becoming a bat mitzvah and her parents could not be more proud of the fine young lady she is becoming.



Lauren Sarah Chait

daughter of Michael and Samantha Chait

Lauren Sarah Chait attends Old Field Middle School.

She has been on the Principals Honor Roll for the past two years. She is a talented musician/singer who has performed at Lincoln Center as part of the cast ensemble for the play, *The Secret Garden*, and also enjoys baking.

Hello! I'm Lauren and my bat-mitzvah is May 21st of this year. I'm most looking forward to becoming a bat-mitzvah and reaching this milestone in my Jewish education. I'm excited to read from the Torah for the first time in front of others, and to become an adult in the Jewish community.

Lauren Sarah Chait is the daughter of Michael and Samantha Chait and sister of Benjamin Chait.



Harry Watkin- Fox

Harry Watkin-Fox is in 7th grade at the Plainview Old Bethpage Middle School where he is on the high honor roll and participates in the chorus, orchestra, jazz band and chess club. He is an accomplished pianist who also sings baritone and plays the cello. Among his musical accomplishments, he has achieved numerous competitive distinctions including performances at Alice Tully Hall and Symphony Space in Manhattan as well as the Tilles Center on Long Island. He is an aspiring scientist who regularly participates in local science fairs. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his friends, playing video games and visiting with his grandmother.

President's Perspective

by Allison Reiver



We are Never Alone

It's no secret that many of our HJC congregants (like Jews everywhere) make south Florida their home away from home during the cold winter months. I have had occasion to be in south Florida over the last few months, the first time in January when my mom fell and broke her hip, and the second time in April when Mitch and I vacationed at my

parents' condominium in Hunter's Run in Boynton Beach. During my first trip in January, I was eating with my dad in the restaurant at Hunter's Run and in walks Sue and Dave Lefkowitz with Hannah Kampel (Sue and Dave were visiting Hannah, who lives with her children at Hunter's Run). We attracted other diners as we expressed complete joy in seeing each other so far from our HJC home. A similar greeting was had in April when Mitch and I, reading poolside, looked up and there stood Ellen and Newt Meiselman. We could not have been happier to see each other.

That's the beauty of HJC in a nutshell. We have formed bonds and connections with people with whom we may never have crossed paths. We have prayed together, shared joyous news, asked about each other's families, and grieved with each other. Personally, this experience is best reflected for me by the time I have spent with the members of the rabbi search committee. During the time we have been meeting, Lauren Kupersmith became a mom for the third time, Ari Perler became a dad for the second time, Shelley Weinberg became a grandmother for the fifth time, and Matthew Wertheim was admitted to Northwestern University. These are just a few of the life cycle events that have occurred and just for the committee members. As a congregation we go through births and deaths together, and everything good and bad in between. What can be more powerful or comforting? Because of our attachment to HJC and everyone there, we are never alone, even when we are thousands of miles away.



Sisterhood News

by Donna Fleiss & Miriam Wirchin

A TASTE OF PASSOVER/MATZAH FUND

Thank you to all those who shopped, prepared food, demonstrated and participated in the 7th annual A Taste of Passover event! And, Todah Rabah to all those who generously donated to the Matzah Fund where monies were distributed to those in need this Passover season.

COLLEGIAN UPDATE

Thank you, once again, to our Collegian Committee - Patricia Schoeffler, Jill Sherman and Deborah Cadel - for sending wonderful and creative holiday themed packages that remind our daughters, sons and grandchildren of their connection to HJC. This year there were approximately 40 college students included in this program which is sponsored by Sisterhood and donations.

BQLI WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT

If you have already not sent in your reservation, please do so and join us as we celebrate our HJC Sisterhood Woman of Achievement, Felicia Messing.

On June 8th, Women's League for Conservative Judaism will be sponsoring their 2016 Awards and Dinner Gala at Temple Israel of Great Neck recognizing Felicia as well as other notable women from conservative synagogues in the Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island area.

Please contact Evelyn Abraham or Ethel Sachs, our Torah Fund co-chairs, for registration information.

RSVP TO RABBI KURSHAN'S FAREWELL SHABBAT

Sisterhood is sponsoring a lite Kiddush on June 18 and we need your RSVP which is so very important due to the anticipated large response as we celebrate Rabbi Kurshan's farewell Shabbat.

Please RSVP by email no later than May 27 to shabbat618@gmail.com.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 9th - Sisterhood Board Meeting 8pm

May 12th - Book Discussion @ 1pm

The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks

June 6th - Sisterhood Board Meeting 8pm

June 10th - Shabbatbeque & Sisterhood/Men's Club Shabbat

Sisterhood Contacts:

Donna Fleiss - donna.fleiss@gmail.com

Miriam Wirchin - mirm1225@aol.com

HJC SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

...for all your gift and holiday needs

The HJC Sisterhood Gift Shop is ready to assist you with all your Judaica needs for all occasions! Gifts for Bar/Bat Mitzvah, graduation, birthday, holidays, engagement, wedding, baby, and many other occasions! Our items are sold at below market cost, no tax, and all profits go right back to supporting the Sisterhood of HJC!

For more info or to make an appointment, please contact:

Eileen Berger: berger4u@optonline.net/261-2164

Maxine Fisher: mirifish@aol.com/757-7455

Pam Fleiss: threebearsf@verizon.net/549-9629

Leslie Hantverk: handl24@aol.com/367-1439

Shari Klaire: cranky20@aol.com/271-0258

Andrea Morris: joligran@gmail.com/427-4798

Women's League Torah Fund

Thank you to all who made a contribution to the 2015-2016 Torah Fund Campaign. Your Torah Fund Contributions strengthen and perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism throughout the world.



Sisterhood Spring Book Discussion

The Spring Book Discussion will be on Thursday May 12th at 1 PM. We will be discussing *the Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks. A rich and utterly absorbing novel about the life of King David, from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *People of the Book* and *March*. A copy of the book is available in the HJC Library, local libraries, Barnes and Noble, Book Revue and Amazon.

My Italian Secret and It Happened in Italy

On March 20th, the Sisterhood and Men's Club sponsored the screening of the documentary, *My Italian Secret*. This documentary told the stories of the people of Italy who defied the horrors of the Holocaust. If you missed the screening or want to see the documentary again, a DVD is available in the Huntington Jewish Center Library as well as a signed copy of the book, *It Happened in Italy* by Elizabeth Bettina. This book is the basis for the documentary.

Lower East Side Trip

On Sunday, April 3, approximately 40 people participated in the Lower East Side walking tour sponsored by Sisterhood and Men's Club. We boarded a coach bus at HJC and were transported into the city where a few others joined the tour. The day was cold and blustery as all toured the Bialystoker Synagogue, a shtetel and the Eldridge Street Synagogue before separating into smaller groups to enjoy lunch before the bus trip back to HJC. What an interesting and fun way to spend the day! Watch for other great Sisterhood/Men's Club events!



A Taste of Passover

The 7th Annual A Taste of Passover took place on April 7. The event, sponsored by HJC Sisterhood, Men's Club and ECC was, once again, a delicious success!



Join us as we celebrate Rabbi Kurshan



The American Synagogue: Past, Present and Future

a special panel discussion moderated by Rabbi Neil Kurshan

Thursday evening May 19, 2016 - 8:00 pm

Join us as the panelists discuss their unique perspectives and invite us to explore this important topic facing contemporary Judaism

Panelists:

Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove

Senior Rabbi
Park Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan

Rabbi Jeremy Kalmanofsky

Rabbi
Ansche Chesed, Upper West Side, Manhattan

Rabbi Joy Levitt

Executive Director
The Jewish Community Center, Manhattan

RSVP by May 10 to

hjcrsvp123@gmail.com
for more information contact Debbie at (631) 427-1089

The Rabbi Neil Kurshan Legacy Celebration

Huntington Jewish Center 510 Park Avenue, Huntington



RABBI KUSHAN TO SHARE HIS FAVORITE TEXTS

Come to the Shavuot Tikkun, (study session)
following services on **Saturday June 11, 2016**
to explore the wisdom of those texts

Services at 9:00 pm, Tikkun at 9:30pm

FABULOUS dairy desserts to follow the Tikkun

Don't Miss:

Rabbi Kurshan's Farewell Shabbat

**June 18, 2016
9:30 am
in our HJC sanctuary.**

Sisterhood is sponsoring a lite Kiddush to help us celebrate and your RSVP is so important due to the anticipated large response.

Please RSVP by email no later than May 27 to shabbat618@gmail.com

and

Farewell Dessert Reception

**Sunday, June 19, 2016
7:00 pm**

for details and rsvp go to www.hjcny2016.com



SHAVUOT FOOD DRIVE



Tuesday, May 31 – Tuesday, June 7



Please join our HJC Synagogue family, Nursery School and Religious School in helping those in need in our community on Long Island.

There will be receptacles in the building to collect nourishing non-perishable healthy food in unopened containers.

Please do not bring Passover food.

All food will be donated to help refill local food pantries.

We know we can count on your support!

Any questions? Please call Marilyn Klein at 631/271-8461 or Janet Kushnick at 631/271-8803

It Ain't Just Cake

Lesley DeLia - Stark

By now you have received your invitation to Rabbi Kurshan's Farewell Dessert Reception on the evening of June 19, 2016 to mark his 30 years of service to HJC. Many congregants have been asking what they can expect. Expect a joyful evening in a beautifully decorated room and patio tent... anticipate carefully selected speakers highlighting Rabbi Kurshan's contributions to our HJC community ... look forward to participating in a jubilant hora to usher Rabbi Kurshan and Alisa into the next phase of their lives.

And no ... Marie Antoinette did not design the menuit ain't just cake. Let the white gloved waiters with silver trays pamper you as they offer you delicate mini pastries and tarts and chocolate dipped fruits and truffles. Wander over to the open bar for some first rate Kosher wines and visit the beautiful

barside buffet for the vegetable crudités and potpourri of terra chips. Do not miss filling your real china plates at the exotic fresh fruit table. Not convinced to bring your appetite yet? OK ... we can drop a few more hints but won't share ALL the surprises on the menu. Check out the International Cheese Board, the baked brie carving station with assorted fresh fruit preserves or try some of the yummy warm goat cheese on toasted baguettes with spicy pear chutney.

Many congregants have asked me whether the \$54 cost of the event includes fundraising for HJC. I can tell you unequivocally "NO" ... in fact, HJC is subsidizing this event so we can guarantee a special sendoff for Rabbi and Alisa and a memorable moment to help us all transition into the next phase of our lives at HJC. We all need to be together to mark this significant crossroad so please do not miss this lovely evening and ... RSVP TODAY! You will be so glad that you did.



Spring Cleaning

by Hazzan Israel Gordan



The weeks before Passover seem to be a time when Jewish institutions like to organize many workshops, conferences, and events, cramming in as much as possible before the Passover cleaning begins in earnest. In a two-week span of time, I attended: A Yom Iyyun (or day of learning) at the Jewish Theological Seminary co-sponsored by the Rabbinical Assembly and Cantors Assembly on the new Siddur Lev Shalem; a teen engagement meeting convened by the Jewish Education Project; a workshop

on Continuous Synagogue Engagement run by the Jewish Education Project; and I took part in the Spring Conference of the Metropolitan New York region of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. In addition, I also presented at the Suffolk Y JCC on Passover as part of their "Voices of Freedom" series of classes on the spring Jewish holidays.

While this level of participation can be a bit overwhelming, it is great to take part in so many different organizations within the larger Jewish community. It helps give a broader perspective of the issues that face different Jews and institutions across the denominational spectrum. I'm happy to share with you some of what I learned at each of these events.

The Rabbinical Assembly published the Mahzor Lev Shalem back in 2010 and we have been using it at the Huntington Jewish Center since then. I believe that most people thoroughly enjoy the clean lay-out, new translations, supplementary readings, and commentary on the traditional text. Since then, an editorial committee has been meeting every week and is proud to introduce the Siddur Lev Shalem – a siddur for Shabbat and Holiday use published in the same style as the mahzor. There are many beautiful poems and readings that I have used at services both on Friday nights and Saturday mornings during the month of April.

Teen engagement, and indeed continuous synagogue engagement, is a topic that the Jewish Education Project is uniquely able to tackle with the support of UJA Federation of New York and the perspective of multiple denominations' experiences. There are many liminal moments in the lives of members of a congregation: the birth of children, the completion of nursery school, the bar/bat mitzvah, becoming an empty nester, etc. Rather than treating these life events as discrete moments, it's important to recognize the synagogue as a life-long commitment and source of support and meaning. While people may "use" its resources, it must be about keeping God at the center and helping people live purpose driven lives. Engaging the whole person as well as the whole family, can help to build a welcoming and inclusive community.

At the USCJ spring conference, inclusion was the topic of the evening: from prayer to disabilities to interfaith outreach. While we have much to be proud of, especially in regards to our J on Main Interfaith Initiative, there is still much work to be done. All the answers can't come from the professional staff and if you have any suggestions on any of the topics above, we'd be happy to hear them!

Religious School Update

by Maxine Fisher

Religious School Administrator

It has been unbelievably crazy weather this past winter and the start of spring. Warm when it should be cold and cold when it should be warm. As I write this I think the tide has finally turned and we are on our way to warmer weather. Yeah!!

So now we can focus on outside programs.

Sunday, May 1st please join us as Huntington Jewish Center has a booth at the Huntington Tulip Festival. Children can make tissue flowers for Mother's Day. We will be there all day.

Friday night, May 6th at 8:00 is our Gimel and Daled class Shabbaton. Come see how these children lead parts of the Kabbalat Shabbat service. We are so proud of them!

No school Mother's Day. Enjoy your Mother.

Sunday, May 15th is our school wide **Yom Ha'atzmaut** (Israel's Independence Day) celebration. Our classes will each teach or perform in honor of Yom Ha'atzmaut. Join us! We will have a very special speaker, our own Vered Cole. Vered will tell her story of living during the struggle for independence.

Another way we can enjoy the glorious spring weather is to have a **Lag B'Omer** field day with all kinds of races and activities for our children to celebrate. That will take place on **Sunday, May 22nd**.

No school Sunday, May 29th for Memorial Day weekend but please join us at Caumsett Park at 7:30 am for morning minyan and yoga.

Sunday, June 5th we will join the **Celebrate Israel Parade** in NYC. We are hoping to fill the bus as we did last year. Look for more info to come.

Last day of school Tuesday, June 7th.

Have a wonderful spring!!!



Thank you

At the recent HJC Blood Drive in memory of Ethel Tasman Fleiss 33 volunteer donors responded to our annual appeal. Many thanks to all who took time out of their busy schedule to donate blood at HJC for the LI Blood

Services. A special acknowledgement to our repeat donors. Stay healthy and enjoy spring! We look forward to seeing you in 2017!

Blood Drive Co- Chairs

Jennifer Ingber and Donna Fleiss

Early Childhood News

by Ilene Brown



A Visit to the Atria-Pay it Forward-Part 2

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these."

George Washington Carver

One of the highlights for me of this school year has been without a doubt our visit to the Atria by our 4 year old classes.

We visited the Atria as another part of our "Pay it Forward" campaign. Part of the education in early childhood should include character education. Instead of only learning inside our four walls, the children of our ECC have had many opportunities to experience their local community first hand. They have been very involved in committing random acts of kindness both inside and outside of HJC. They have visited and collected for local "in need" preschools, delivered brownies and milk to nine fire departments, collected six boxes of books and toys for Cohen's Children's Hospital and most recently visited the Atria to perform and chat with our local seniors. The children sang four very beautiful songs, including, *"The World is a Rainbow"*, *"You are my Sunshine,"* *"Inch by Inch"* and the finale, *"God Bless America"*. The children sang so beautifully and it was such a blessing to watch the expressions on the senior's faces. Their faces lit up with joy and emotions as they watched and listened to the children perform. Following the performance, the children handed out cake to the seniors that we purchased for them. The children went around with baskets of cake offering it to all the residents. The seniors were so happy to talk to the children and the children were equally as happy to talk to the seniors. The children brought so much joy to the Atria that day and in return they felt happy.



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



Roslyn Haber *- Member of HJC for 59 years*

Roz Haber has spent her entire adult life as a member of HJC and, as she poignantly puts it, her three children were not the

only members of her family to grow up here. In the 59 years that she has been a member of HJC, Roz grew from the daughter of Polish/Russian immigrant parents who operated a kosher butcher shop in the Bronx, into the mature Jewish woman she is today. Together Roz and her late husband Herb have contributed much to our HJC community.

Like so many of our long time members, Roz and Herb Haber came to HJC as a young couple in 1956 because Herb had a promising opportunity for employment here. That job as a CPA happened to be with Harvey Gordon, who was already a long time member of HJC, having spent his own childhood here. Roz and Harvey Gordon introduced Roz and Herb Haber to HJC and that is where the story begins. HJC has been a home to Roz through moves to four residences in the Huntington and Kings Park area. She has lived at HJC through four Rabbis (and soon a 5th), two HJC buildings, a bris for each of her two sons, two Bar Mitzvahs, two weddings of their children, the birth of four grandchildren, and sadly the loss in 2013 of her beloved husband, Herb.

Roz and Herb met through their parents' designs when Herb returned from serving in the Korean War while Roz was at NYU studying English, Social Studies and Education. They married in June 1954. When Roz and Herb arrived in Huntington two years later they had their 6 month old son, Gary, in tow. Roz had already resigned her job as a NYC school teacher when Gary came along so she came to Huntington as a young stay-at-home mom without a driver's license, who walked to town from their apartment on Oakwood Road pushing a baby carriage, when she needed to shop.

Initially, it was Herb who became most involved at HJC during the years that Roz was raising their three young children, Gary, Donald and Susan. Herb was active on several committees, the HJC synagogue board and he eventually served for many years as

the HJC Financial Secretary.

Roz drove Hebrew School carpool, chauffeuring, among others, our own Andy Levy. She found time to join Sisterhood, where she has participated for years assisting in preparation of Shabbat kiddush, baking hamentashen and serving as a greeter for Friday night services. While attending services in the main sanctuary, Roz always glances at another Sisterhood project...the beautiful framed needlework wall hanging that was crafted by many Sisterhood members, and she searches out the purple section that she herself made.

Through her connection to Sisterhood, Roz made her contributions, both locally and globally. As an active member of the National Council of Jewish Woman in the 1970's, Roz was involved with their Huntington community programs, including programs involving childcare and mental health. Her proudest and most memorable contributions were her involvement in organizing a summer networking social program for Jewish college students from various congregations in Huntington Township. Another project was a letter-writing program designed to maintain communication with Russian refuseniks who had been removed from their homes and relocated to remote locations in the Soviet Union who had little communication with the outside world and the Jewish community.

Roz's contributions to HJC never end. After being interviewed for this story, Roz expressed an interest in participating in the Storytelling Project and helping us to tell the stories of other congregants. We welcome Roz's on-going interest and commitment to HJC.

*Compiled by Lesley Stark
and Roslyn Haber*

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GENERAL FUND

Laurie & Peter Birzon in honor of the birth of Shalva,
granddaughter of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Rubin Kurshan.
Laurie & Peter Birzon in memory of Sondra Stoller at yahrzeit.
Laurie & Peter Birzon in memory of Murray Stoller at yahrzeit.
Laurie & Peter Birzon in memory of Irving Birzon at yahrzeit.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of the birth of Mia Shaina Perler,
daughter of Johanna & Ari Perler and granddaughter of
Vicki & Arthur Perler.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of the birth of Shalva,
granddaughter of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Rubin Kurshan.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of Laurie Wolberg, sister of
Steve Holbreich.
Adrienne & Bernie Rosof in memory of William Baron at
yahrzeit.
Vered & Jack Cole in memory of Meir Levanon at yahrzeit.
Yolanda Barfus in memory of Harriet Seidman at yahrzeit.
Robert Rosen in memory of Pearl Rosen at yahrzeit.
Howard Dubow in memory of Rose Sirulnick at yahrzeit.
Amy Marcus in memory of Norma Gordon at yahrzeit.
Sandra Goldman Weintraub in memory of Richard Goldman at
yahrzeit.
Marsha Perlmutter Kalina in memory of Jan Perlmutter at
yahrzeit.
Lawrence Tannenbaum in memory of Belle Tannenbaum at
yahrzeit.
Daniel Stein in memory of Martin Stein at yahrzeit.
Elaine & Burt Epstein in memory of Irving Gleicher at yahrzeit.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of Shelly Edelstein, mother of
Simi Schwartz.
Elaine Marsh in memory of Burt Marsh at yahrzeit.
Gary Schoer in memory of David Schoer at yahrzeit.
Vered & Jack Cole in memory of Meir Levanon at yahrzeit.
Phil Mintz in memory of Lee Mintz at yahrzeit.
Albert Kramer in memory of Louis Kramer at yahrzeit.
Mira & Paul Brodsky in memory of Laurie Wolberg, sister of
Steve Holbreich.
Mira & Paul Brodsky in memory of Norma Levy, mother of Andy
Levy.
Nathan Newman in memory of Simon Newman at yahrzeit.
Ethel Schwartz Bock in memory of Blanche H. Schwartz at
yahrzeit.
Joyce Kramer in memory of Harold Blog.
Mitchell Drucker & family with thanks and appreciation to
Marcey Wagner.
Ellen & Newt Meiselman in memory of Benjamin Meiselman at
yahrzeit.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Judi & Marty Rosenblatt in honor of the birth of Shalva,
granddaughter of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Rubin Kurshan.
Judi & Marty Rosenblatt in memory of Laurie Wolberg, sister of

BEN TASMAN LIBRARY FUND

Marianne Sokol in memory of Marvin Sokol at yahrzeit.
Bill Yelen in memory of Helen Yelen at yahrzeit.

DAILY MINYAN FUND

Laurie & Peter Birzon in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Ella,
granddaughter of Vicki & Tom Rosen.

DAVID S. ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Alex Goldberg,
grandson of Jerry Reiter.
Judy & Lester Fox in memory of the father of Noel Rubinton.
Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the engagement of Jodi,
daughter of Kay & Larry Smith, to Alex Erlich.
Judy & Lester Fox in memory of Florence Wasserman, mother of
Barry Wasserman.
Judy & Lester Fox in memory of Harold Blog.
Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Silver,
granddaughter of Linda Hametz.
Judy & Lester Fox in honor of Paul Greenstein being named the
HJC Men's Club Man of the Year.
Judy & Lester Fox in honor of Matthew Wertheim being named
the HJC Men's Club Youth of the Year.

SOCIAL ACTION FUND/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Eileen & Harvey Berger in memory of Irving Rothenberg at
yahrzeit.
Eileen & Harvey Berger in memory of Dolores Berger at
yahrzeit.
Eileen & Harvey Berger in memory of Irving Berger at yahrzeit.
Jill & Arnie Sherman in memory of Jeanne Sherman at yahrzeit.
Amira Garbus in memory of Albert Garbus at yahrzeit.
Leslie & Jack Rubin in memory of Shelly Edelstein, mother of
Simi Schwartz.
Maxine & Rob Fisher in memory of Roslyn Fisher at yahrzeit.

Minyan & Yoga

*Mindfulness for the Body & Soul,
May 29 at 7:30 am*

Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve, Breakfast served.





YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO ATTEND SERVICES AT THE
HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER
ON
SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2016 ~ 6 SIVAN 5776
THE FIRST DAY OF SHAVUOT

ALL PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS OF NEWBORNS
WILL BE INCLUDED IN A SPECIAL CEREMONY
TO EXPRESS THEIR THANKFULNESS
AND
THE NEWBORNS WILL BE WELCOMED INTO THE COMMUNITY

THIS CEREMONY TO WELCOME THE NEWBORNS
WILL TAKE PLACE AT
APPROXIMATELY 11:00 AM

KINDLY RESPOND TO RENDA ROSENBLATT
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND
E-MAIL: RENDABRIT@GMAIL.COM
(Include newborn's name, parents/grandparents names,
and sibling names)

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU!

BABYSITTING WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SIBLINGS, AGES 1-3,
BETWEEN 10:00 AM AND 12:00 NOON

Mitzvah Day



Congregants take part in Mitzvah Day at HJC.

Ridotto

Ridotto continues its exciting 2015-2016 Concert Series.

RIDOTTO, Concerts “with a Touch of Theatre”, presents: “Awakening”. Realism in music was at first, Anti-German. Composers like Faure, Ives, and Ravel developed a new harmonic and rhythmic language in breaking with the Romantic tradition. Ridotto presents Clarissa Lyons, soprano; Renate Rohlfing, piano; Pala Garcia, violin; and John Popham, cello, in a program that includes Ravel’s Piano Trio, Andantino by Faure, Copeland’s Emily Dickinson Songs, and songs by Samuel Barber.

CONCERT: Sunday May 1 at 4 pm in the Huntington Jewish Center, 510 Park Avenue in Huntington, NY 11743. The hall is handicapped accessible, free parking, air conditioned.

TICKETS \$10 (student), \$18 (members), \$20 (seniors), \$25 (adults).

Reservations strongly recommended: (631) 385-0373, or Ridotto@optonline.net

Information: www.ridotto.org

con’t from page 4

Eastern European Jewish immigrants.

28. Three hundred all-Jewish New York bagel craftsmen formed a trade union in the early 1900s, the Bagel Bakers Local 338, which established standards for bagel production and conducted meetings in Yiddish.

29. In December 1951, New York City was hit with what *The New York Times* termed the “bagel famine,” when a dispute between the members of the Bagel trade union and the Bagel Bakers association led to the closing of 32 out of 34 of the city’s bagel bakeries.

30. As a result of the bagel outage, the sale of lox dropped nearly 50%. Murray Nathan, who helped resolve an earlier lox strike in 1948, was brought in to mediate the situation. The outage lasted until February.

31. Coney Island Bagels and Bialys, the oldest kosher bagel shop in New York, was set to close in 2011 until two Muslim businessmen, Peerzada Shah and Zafaryab Ali, bought the store and promised to keep it kosher. Ali had previously worked at the shop for 10 years.

32. Lou Reed was born in Brooklyn, and in 1989 released an album whose title, “New York,” paid tribute to the city.

33. In a reinterpretation of Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Raven,” Lou Reed asked the four questions at the Downtown Seder at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in 2004.

34. Musician Lenny Kaye was born in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan in 1946. He met Patti Smith while working at Village Oldies on Bleecker Street and went on to become a member of the Patti Smith Group.

35. Starting in the 1970s, hundreds of

thousands of Jews left the Soviet Union for New York, many settling in Brighton Beach, which came to be known as “Little Odessa.”

36. Established in 1927, Kehila Kedosha Janina at 280 Broome St. is the last remaining Greek Jewish synagogue in the Western Hemisphere.

37. Streit’s Matzo Company, the last remaining neighborhood matzo factory, stands at 148-150 Rivington St.

38. The oldest Orthodox Jewish Russian congregation in the United States, Beth Hamedrash Hagadol, is still active at 60 Norfolk St.

39. On the corner of Essex and Rutgers, down the street from the original Forvitz building on Seward Park, the Garden Cafeteria served as a gathering place for Jewish actors, artists and playwrights such as Sholem Aleichem and Isaac Bashevis Singer from 1941 to 1983. It became Wing Shing, a Chinese restaurant, in 1985, and now houses Reena Spaulings Fine Art.

40. Seward Park on the Lower East Side was created in 1900. New immigrants worked in the park’s artisan market, and on special occasions such as elections, thousands gathered in the park to watch the Forvitz’s flashing news sign in Yiddish.

41. Jewish gangs rose to prominence during the Prohibition; at a conference in New York in 1931, Jewish gangsters agreed to partner with Italian Americans, and together remained the most dominant groups in organized crime until several decades after WWII.

42. After an appeal from a New York judge, Nathan Perlman, Jewish gangster Meyer

Lansky and members of Murder Inc. broke up Nazi rallies around the city for over a year, with the one stipulation that there be no killing.

43. Lines of a sonnet by Sephardic poet Emma Lazarus, who was born in New York City in 1847, are inscribed on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty.

44. The house that stands at 770 Eastern Parkway in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn is the center and spiritual home of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement. Formerly inhabited by Chabad’s late leader Menachem Mendel Schneerson, Lubavitchers have built replicas of the building all over the world to serve as movement outposts.

45. The first Reform congregation in New York City, Temple Emanu-El, was founded in 1845 by 33 mostly German Jews, and moved to its present location in 1929. Members have included Joan Rivers and Michael Bloomberg.

46. As large numbers of German Jews fleeing Nazi persecution made their homes in Washington Heights in the mid-1930s, the area was dubbed “Frankfurt on the Hudson.”

47. Sweet ‘n’ Low was invented in 1957 in Brooklyn by Benjamin Eisenstaedt.

48. Bronx-born Milton Glaser designed the “INY” logo in 1977.

49. Eight hasidic dynasties are headquartered in the Borough Park neighborhood of Brooklyn.

50. As of 2011, 1 in 6 households in New York are Jewish.

51. Outside of Israel, New York City is home to the largest population of Jews in the world.

HJC Bulletin May 2016

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Yom HaShoah is Thursday, May 5th

Once again, we are gathering together with Temple Beth El and Kehillath Shalom Synagogue to observe this important day as a unified Jewish community. The service will be taking place at 7pm on May 5th at Temple Beth El.