

December 2016

Kislev/Tevet 5777



HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER NEWS COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Celebrate with your
Family
at the
HJC Chanukah Happening



Sunday, December 18th 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Singalong with Cantor Gordan 11:00 in the Family Life Room

Children's Crafts

that dogs, Latkes, Donuts, Drinks for purchase

Gift Fair and Raffle Baskets from 9:00 am

rsvp bbillings@fIJCNY.org

Sponsored by Sisterhood, Religious School, Early Childhood Center, Men's Club, Social Action, Youth Group And special thanks to Abb of our tIJC Volunteers HJC Community Candle Lighting Sunday, December 25th 5:15 pm



Join with the HJC Community at the chanukiah in front of HJC.

Add to the joy and light of Chanukah by celebrating with the HJC community!

Everyone is invited to come inside afterwards for hot cocoa and donuts. (Courtesy of Sisterhood)

All are welcome!

Thanks to all who participated in our Z'havah Pizza and Sukkah Decorating program and for beautifying our HJC sukkah!











Bar Mitzvahs December



Damian Ashar Levin

Son of Mark B. Levin and Aimee de la Roche

Damian is an eighth grade High Honor Roll student at Hauppauge Middle School. Aside from focusing on his studies, Damian plays goalie

on a nationally competitive club lacrosse team representing LI, called the LI Outlaws 2021 Select. He also plays lax goalie for Hauppauge Middle School and shooting guard, on his CYO Travel Basketball Team.

Damian enjoys playing viola, making YouTube videos, and playing Xbox with his friends. Damian loves the Yankees, Dolphins, Islanders and of course, his little sister Sara.

Damian has been attending HJC since the age of 3. He has formed lasting friendships with other HJC members. Damian is excited to experience his Bar Mitzvah with family, school and sports friends and the many HJC congregants and friends he has been blessed to get to know.

Mazel Tov...We are so very proud of you Damian.

Mark (Samantha), Aimee and Sara



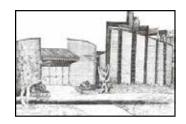
Russell Strachan

son of Bonnie Kiner-Strachan and Paul Strachan

Russell Strachan is an 8th grade student at the Schechter School of Long Island.

Russell's interests include building/designing, drawing, football and

traveling with his family and friends. He loves being a big brother to his younger sister Ellie and all of the little ones in the synagogue. Russell belongs to Kadima and the robotics club at school. He enjoys helping others. For his Bar Mitzvah project he is collecting warm hats for those in need, which will be distributed through the synagogue and a local church.



Rabbi David Barnett,

Interim Rabbi 423-5355

Neil Kurshan, Rabbi Emeritus

Israel Gordan, Hazzan,

Director, Synogagogue Programming and Religious School Innovation

427-1089, ext. 22

Ilene Brown

Director, Early Childhood Center

425-1089, ext 15

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427-1157 ext. 14

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	Gwen Goldstein					
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Congregational Dinners	Lesley Stark & Joanne Cohen					
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S	Arthur Perler					
Family LifeSuzanne Hepworth	n, Cari Schuller, Andrea Morris, Lisa Hadar					
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Youth	Shari Klaire					

Youth Advisor......Raquel Sosnovich

5777 2016

December

kislev tevet



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 kislev	2 kislev	3 kislev
				Light a Candle Program begins	Minyan Breakfast - 8 am	Bar Mitzvah - 9:30 am Damien Levin
				SH Rosh Chodesh Prgm - 7:30 pm		Jr Cong - 10:30 am
				ROSH CHODESH		Toldot
4 kislev	5 kislev	6 kislev	7 kislev	8 kislev	9 kislev	10 10 kislev
JNN RS/Gimmel Daled Wrkshop		Introduction to Hebrew w/Rabbi Barnett - 7:30 pm		SH Cake Decorating - 8pm		Bar Mitzvah - 9:30 am Russel Strachan
	EC Meeting - 7:30 pm	RS/Chaverim (MT)	HIHI - 6 pm			ECC Family Havdalah - 5:15 pm Vayetze
11 11 kislev	12 la kisiev	13 kislev	14 kislev	15 ^{15 kislev}	16 KISIEV	17 17 kislev
JNN RS RS Board Mtg - 9:15 am		Introduction to Hebrew w/Rabbi Barnett - 7:30 pm				Jr Cong - 10:30 am
MC Meeting - 9:45 am	SH Board Meeting - 8 pm	RS	HIHI - 6 pm	Board Meeting - 8 pm		Vayishlach
18 ^{18 kislev}	19 kisiev	20 kislev	21 21 kislev	22 kislev	23 23 kislev	24 kislev
JNN RS/USY Camp Fair / Chanukah		Introduction to Hebrew w/Rabbi Barnett - 7:30 pm				
Happening - 11 am - 1 pm Ridotto - 4 pm	RS /Chaverim (MT)	RS				Vayeshev
25 kislev	26 kislev	27 ^{27 klslev}	28 kislev	29 kislev	30 1 tevet	31 2 tevet
JNN / RS Closed SH -TBD / Outdoor Candle Lighting 5:15 pm	ECC Vacation through December 30th	Introduction to Hebrew w/Rabbi Barnett - 7:30 pm			М	, N
HIHI - 6 pm CHRISTMAS DAY HANUKKAH	HANUKKAH	RS Closed HANUKKAH	HANUKKAH	HANUKKAH	ROSH CHODESH HANUKKAH	Miketz HANUKKAH

MAKE A NOTE!

We are excited to announce that we are expanding the **MAZAL TOV** section of the Bulletin and The Reach to include milestone birthdays, special achievements (graduations, awards) as well as births, engagements and weddings! If you have a simcha you would like to share with the HJC congregation, please notify **Debbie** in the Main Office.

2016-2017 HIHI SEASON

This winter, HJC will again participate in the HIHI program. HIHI stands for Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative which is a Family Service League program. From December 1 until March 31, different congregations in the Huntington area provide shelter, food and clothing for a group of homeless men. This year, we will be hosting for 8 nights. There are many different types of volunteer activities for adults and children, 5th grade and older. If you are interested or want to learn more about this wonderful program, please contact: Ellen Steinberg at ellen.steinberg728@gmail.com or Karen Flanzenbaum at kflanzenbaumlaw@gmail.com. We will be hosting on December 7, 17; January 11, 25; February 16; March 2, 15, 29. Donations of gently used men's jeans, sweatshirts, coats, hats, gloves, scarves and warm long-sleeved shirts are greatly appreciated. Also needed are new socks, boxers and T-shirts.



Amy Koreen was the lucky raffle winner of the fall floral centerpiece presented by Frank Lazzaro, speaker of The White House Photo Tour and Floral Seminar.

From Rabbi Barnett

Interim Rabbi



A Chanukah Dedication is More than a Celebration

So often, when we might think of family gatherings during the holiday season, there could be a roomful of people routing for NFL teams such as the Jets or the Giants playing against the Patriots or other rival teams. When the favored team wins, or even as they're winning,

you'll hear riotous shouting and cheering, and an ensuing celebration if your team wins. However in a Jewish sense, if we associate that same season with the time period of the Maccabees, we're not talking about a sports game – although there is a sports connection as mentioned below – but rather a very bloody and nasty war. It was a guerilla war, with guerilla tactics employed by the Jews against the armies of the Assyrian Greeks, and those tactics eventually made their way in the annals of military history.

Moreover, we now know that the war itself was not simply a battle of Jews against oppressive and cruel foreigners. Thanks to the scholarship during the last century of Elias Bickerman along with others, we have learned that this was an internecine war, involving fighting amongst Jewish factions who allied themselves with the Assyrian Greeks, pitted against more traditional Jews allying themselves with the Maccabees. Central to the "pull" of those amongst the Jews who wanted to assimilate with the Greeks was in fact the desire of many men to compete in the nude, as was the Greek custom, in many of their athletic events. In those venues, when Jewish men then showed evidence of having been circumcised, it was seen as a disgrace and an embarrassment. Thus a central identifying practice of our people, which as I taught at a recent Shabbat service is intrinsically related to the basic concept of the very nature of a covenant between ourselves and God, was called into auestion.

Fortunately, the military war was won. Had it not been won at that critical moment in history, in all likelihood we would never have survived as a people or as a religion. There would likely never have been an opportunity to restore Jewish hegemony to Israel, and there would have not been the destruction of the Jewish temple by the Romans some two hundred years later in the same manner as took place. The entire subsequent history of

HJC Community News



MAZAL TOV

Congratulations to new HJC member Bridget Carlton on the grand opening of her new store, Jesse & Sullivan, located in Huntington Village.

CONDOLENCES

Loron Simon on the death of his daughter in-law, Mary Katzin-Simon.

NEW MEMBERS

Daniel & Amy Bernzweig of Huntington and their children: Bella, age 6 and Dylan, age 5.

Aaron Schuman & Beth Chase-Schuman of East Northport and their son, Benjamin, age 2.



SAVE THE DATE!

Important Bar/Bar Mitzvah Meeting For all 2018 parents

> Monday, January 30, 2017 8:00 pm

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

President's Perspective

by Allison Reiver



Look How They've Grown

A few weeks ago Mitch and I visited Lee and Dan, our two youngest boys, at college in Ann Arbor. Andrew, our oldest son and a graduate of the University of Michigan, joined us for the weekend. For all of you who have ever been to a Parents' Weekend at your children's college, I am sure you remember it as a weekend of fun and kvelling, as you realize they are suc-

ceeding on their own without our helicopter blades hovering over them. Our experience last week really struck me in a different way. While we did indeed have fun and kvell, we took note that the many young men and women who our boys introduced us to were Jewish. While this may not seem like a revelation, it certainly is different from their time in public school. Our boys all went to public school in Huntington and had very successful and enriching years. They had many amazing teachers and coaches and were surrounded by great friends and teammates. The one thing they were not surrounded by in school was Jews. They each had one or two Jewish friends in their groups.

So I found it particularly interesting that now, in their larger worlds, they have surrounded themselves with Jews. From a sociological perspective, how did this happen? They grew up at HJC, attended the Early Childhood Center and the Religious School and celebrated their bar mitzvahs with our community. We celebrated Shabbat and the holidays in our home and they saw Mitch and me get involved with the HJC community. For

many years, they went to sleep-away camp in the Adirondacks and for the first time were surrounded almost entirely by Jews, mostly from the tri-state area and Canada. When we visited our boys on the first camp visiting day, Dan, who was nine at the time, said with incredulity, "everyone here is Jew-ish!" Andrew went on Birthright after college, and now lives in NYC with some camp friends and his college freshman roommate (with whom he went to the HJC ECC over 20 years ago). We visited Israel together with our best friends, a trip of a lifetime. Maybe all of these factors (or none of them), taken together, made them seek out fellow Jews.

Our boys are now forging their own paths, which is being shaped by their time in Huntington, during which they met people they may never have met and were a part of a very diverse world, college and beyond. Each is figuring out how he wants to lead his life to be a capable and productive man and with whom he wants to surround himself. What an amazing concept!!



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

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER

to be held on MARCH 4, 2017. If you are interested in hosting a

dinner in your home, please contact **Jennifer Ingber** at

516-241-3585 or **Susi Susskind** at 631 424-5360.

Watch for details to be announced in January!



Season's Greetings

by Hazzan Israel Gordan



It may seem strange for me to write about Halloween in the middle of November for publication in December in a Synagogue Bulletin. But since Hanukkah is fast approaching, it seemed like an appropriate topic of conversation, especially in considering how we as Jews relate to holidays – Jewish, American, and otherwise.

Hanukkah, as it is popularly known, is the festival of lights. We learn that when the ancient Jews rededicated the Temple

after its destruction, they found a cruse of oil that was only supposed to last one night. When it was lit, it lasted eight nights and we have celebrated Hanukkah for eight nights since then. Instead of starting with eight candles and taking one away each night representing the dwindling amount of oil, we add one each night, increasing the light and joy at the darkest time of the year. This year, not only is the first day of Hanukkah Christmas Day, but the last day of Hanukkah is New Year's Day. Many people feel that these are especially dark times in which we are living and are looking forward to the holidays to bring some warmth and levity to our world. The whole holiday season is about peace on earth, goodwill towards man, and the spirit of giving. That, however, has almost nothing to do with Hanukkah's historical roots.

The rededication of the temple came only after the Maccabees defeated Antiochus and his army. More importantly, the Maccabees were religious zealots who waged their battle specifically to counter the assimilationist ways of many of the Jews living under Antiochus' rule at that time. Rather than allow Greek culture and customs to infiltrate Jewish living, Mattathias and his sons fought to keep Judaism pure. They weren't allowed to celebrate Sukkot at its proscribed time and instead observed a Hanukkat Habayit L'David, a rededication of the House of David for eight days in its place. Many religious historians believe this is the true reason for the length of the holiday. Strange that we use the Christian custom of giving gifts for our celebration of Hanukkah in America today.

And while the gift giving at Christmas may have origins in the gifts of the wise many in honor of Jesus' birth, the current state of holiday shopping frenzy is more about American consumerist culture than anything else. The only way to be, is to buy. Buying gifts and spending money have taken over any ideas of faith, spirituality, or God when considering the holiday.

Which brings me back to Halloween. While the holiday may have pagan roots and maybe even some anti-Semitic history, in its current state, it is almost entirely a purely American, consumerist event. But what a great one! Instead of worrying about spending money and buying gifts, kids get to walk around in the dark, dressed up, and get free



Sisterhood News

by Donna Fleiss & Miriam Wirchin

MEMBERSHIP

If you were not able to join us at the Annual Paid Up
Membership Dinner, it is not too late to send in your
Sisterhood membership dues!
\$45 for regular membership/\$30 for senior membership
\$40 for Z'havah 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

GET INVOLVED!

Sisterhood has many programs throughout the year.

Attend an event or join a committee!

We always need volunteers to staff events, fundraisers, assist in the kitchen for Shabbat Kiddushes, Religious School festivals, bake hamantashen or fill Purim baskets.

FALL RUMMAGE SALE

Thank you to all who donated lightly used clothes or household items and who assisted with the set-up and sale.

Any items not purchased were donated to local organizations.

A special TODAH RABAH goes to Marlene Hummel, our Rummage Sale chairperson.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE AND TORAH FUND

This year's theme for Women's League is P'ri yadehah, ("fruit of her hands"). The Torah Fund pin features a wheat branch signifying the sustenance we wish for all our families and friends, and the olive branch represents our prayers for peace.

All contributions to Torah Fund are used to fund specific projects or towards scholarships at the JTS (New York), Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles) and the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem).

Contact Evelyn Abraham or Ethel Sachs to make a donation.

HAPPY HANUKKAH!
SUPPORT the HJC SISTERHOOD JUDAICA SHOP
WITH YOUR
PURCHASE OF GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1st - Rosh Chodesh Program 7:30pm

December 8th - Challah Decorating 7:30pm

December 12th - Sisterhood Board Meeting 8pm

December 18th - Hanukkah Happening 11:00am-1:00pm

December 25th - Hanukkah Candle Lighting 5:15pm

Sisterhood Contacts:
Donna Fleiss - donna.fleiss@gmail.com
Miriam Wirchin - mirm1225@aol.com

Friends and members, old and new, gathered at the Sisterhood Membership Dinner enjoying each other's company and the inspirational film, *Advanced Style*. Mazal Tov to **Donna Fleiss**, HJC Sisterhood's Woman of Achievement!





HJC Sisterhood presents

Challah Decorating with Irena Dabakarov





Thursday, December 8th @ 7:30 pm

Join us as Irena Dabakarov, baking specialist and cake artist, ECC mom and blog author of *Do It From Scratch* (www.do-it-from-scratch.com) demonstrates how to braid challah in a different and unique way. Each participant will prepare their own challah to be baked and enjoyed at home!

All are invited!

Recommended for adults and children 12 and over. $RSVP\ by\ 11/28/16$

Evelyn Abraham at evelyn_abraham@optonline.net or 631-424-6922

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. Torah Fund Greeting Cards are a special way to send greetings to family and friends and make donations to the Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. There are All Purpose, Baby, Condolence and Mazel Tov Cards, Minimum Donation for a card is \$5.00. Please contact Evelyn Abraham at 631 424-6922 or evelyn_abraham@optonline.net if you would like to purchase Torah Fund cards or would like a Tzedakah box.

Learn Mah Jong

Come join us on January 19th, 26th and February 2nd at 7:30 PM at HJC for Mah Jong classes. It is a game of skill, strategy and calculation. It can increase your cognitive and memory abilities. Mah Jong is played in groups of 4. We will need a few sets for the class. Please consider donating a set. Please RSVP by December 19th to Evelyn Abraham at 631 424-6922 or evelyn_abraham@optonline.net









View from the Director's Chair by Barbara Axmacher

I've Learned....

Written by Andy Rooney, a man who has the gift of saying so much with so few words.

- · I've learned....That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
- · I've learned....That when you're in love, it shows.
- · I've learned....That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.
- · I've learned....That having

a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

- · I've learned....That being kind is more important than being right.
- · I've learned....That you should never say no to a gift from a child.
- · I've learned....That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.
- · I've learned....That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.
- · I've learned....That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.
- · I've learned....That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.
- · I've learned....That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
- · I've learned....That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.
- · I've learned....That money doesn't buy class.
- · I've learned....That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.
- · I've learned....That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.
- · I've learned....That the Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?
- · I've learned....That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.
- · I've learned....That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.
- · I've learned....That love, not time, heals all wounds.
- · I've learned....That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.
- · I've learned....That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.
- · I've learned....That there's nothing sweeter than sleeping with your babies and feeling their breath on your cheeks.
- · I've learned....That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.
- · I've learned....That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

Religious School Update

by Maxine Fisher Religious School Administrator

As we start the month of Kislev, we start thinking about Chanukah and exchanging gifts. Starting December 1st, we will once again have our **Light a Candle** program. Look for the bulletin in the Religious School hallway. Take a candle and donate a gift to a child or family in need. This year we also will be collecting money which will defray the cost of delivering these gifts. Thanks to Robin Laban for coordinating this reject.

Dates to remember:

December 3rd and 17th is Junior Congregation @10:30 December4th - Vav (6th grade) pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah family workshop with Rabbi Barnett @9:45 December 4th @9:45 Gimel and Daled Families Brachot Workshop with Dafna Soltes Stein December 10th ECC Gan-Alef-Bet Havdalah@5:15 December 18th- Chanukah Happening 11:00-1:00 December 18th Camp Fair

Have a wonderful Chanukah!!!







Early Childhood News by Ilene Brown



"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' Fred Rogers, aka Mr. Rogers

Our Early Childhood Center has been very busy focusing on a community helpers unit among many other units. We are very fortunate to have so many helpers in our local community. You are never too young to learn about these people who serve our community so selflessly. We wanted the children to learn about these extraordinary people, so we invited some of these community members to come visit the children of our ECC.

Our first visit was from Officer Jamie Wendt, a Suffolk County police officer. Officer Jamie met with each class and talked to the children about how the police serve the community. She also talked about stranger danger, seat belts, and much more.

Our second visit was from the Huntington Fire Department. They arrived with fire trucks and all of their equipment. The children were fascinated to see all the fire fighters gear including heavy pants, coats, hats and masks. The fire fighters talked to the kids about fire prevention and safety. Following the discussion, each child was able to sit on the fire truck, a dream come true.

Our most recent visit was from "Doc" Spencer, the otolaryngologist and Suffolk county legislator. Dr. Spencer's children attended the HJC ECC many years ago and he was so happy to come back and visit. He read a story and then talked to the children about his two very important jobs that help the community.







Keep Israel On Your Radar With the Help of the HJC Israel Committee

Joni Brenner

Happy New Year from all of us on the HJC Israel committee.

Do you have an interest in an Israel related topic that you would like to see presented at HJC? This is your invitation to come to a meeting and to consider joining our committee.

In the past we have presented speakers, screened films and sponsored various cultural events. Israel has long been an important part of the HJC community. We strive to show our support of Israel, which is best accomplished by educating our community about the complex issues of Israeli society.

The Israel committee had three successful programs this past year. The first brought Dr. Mordechai Kedar, an Israeli scholar of Arabic and the Israeli Arabic people, to HJC for a brunch and learn. He teaches at Bar Ilan University and works with the Israeli and Arab population. Dr. Kedar spoke about ISIS, its threat to the Middle East, and the geopolitics of the region and its affect on Israel. The talk was enlightening. The event was attended by over 100 people from both HJC and the greater Jewish community of Huntington.

Given the success of this event, a second brunch and learn was sponsored by the Israel Committee. Dr. Eric Mandel, the founder and a director of MEPIN, the Middle East Political and Information Network spoke on the BDS movement and the current situation facing Jewish students on college campuses today.

For its third program, the Israel Committee hosted a film to celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut. The committee has always liked using the arts to convey the richness and vibrancy of the Israeli people. This documentary, Above and Beyond by Nancy Spielberg, tells the story of the birth of the Israeli Air Force with the aid of American volunteers. One of the American volunteers was at the event to give his personal reflections.

This year we are considering a panel discussion reflecting the different voices of Israeli politics, several films, and an Israeli entertainer. The HJC Israel Committee looks forward to providing programming in the coming year that will engage our community and create connections with Israel and the Israeli people.

Our mission statement reads as follows:

"The HJC Israel committee's mission is to create and strengthen connections between the HJC community and Israel. Our goal is to educate our community about the richness of Israel-its arts and culture, technological advances, and history, as well as the realities of Israeli society with its political, socioeconomic and geographic challenges."

This year of 5777, add your voice to ours. What jumps out at you in the mission statement? Help shape Israel programming at HJC by joining our committee. Israel and its issues are dynamic and nuanced. Join us in the exploration of its culture, society and politics.

JNN BREAKING NEWS!! ANONYMOUS DONORS WILL TRIPLE MATCH ALL DONATIONS

Two anonymous donors from our HJC community have generously agreed to TRIPLE match all donations to the Jewish Nutritional Network that are made between now and December 31,2016.

If your company has a matching gift program your donation could be quadrupled.

The JNN prepares 250 meals in the HJC dairy kitchen every Sunday morning. One hundred percent of your donation will go towards feeding families in need.

Please consider making a donation to the JNN by contacting the HJC office.

Rob Fisher
JNN coordinator
rfish51@aol.com

<u>Kindling the Chanukah Lights: Beginning Saturday evening, December 24th</u> (After Shabbat ends)



This year (2016), we begin lighting candles on Saturday night, December 24 after Shabbat ends and we light the last candle on the night of December 31 (after Shabbat ends).

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

First Blessing

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלֶם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתִיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְּלִיק נר של חנפה.

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

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

Second Blessing

בָּרוּדְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶדְּ הָעוֹלֶם שֶׁעֶשֶׁה נָסִים לְאֲבוֹתִינוּ בַּיָמִים הָהָם בִּזָּמִן הָזָּה.

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

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

Third Blessing (only on the first night)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלְם שֶׁהֶחֵיָנוּ וִקִּיִּמְנוּ וִהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמֵן הַזֶּה

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

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

Spotlight on...



Syd Schlesinger

Syd Schlesinger grew up in Bensonhurst where her family belonged to two Orthodox shuls. Her parents emigrated from Eastern Europe and Syd remembers sermons at the shul were in Yiddish, which was what her parents spoke at home. Syd received a BA from Hunter College where she

studied music, speech and drama.

As a young adult Syd worked in musicals Off Broadway, and then in advertising. She finally settled into a very fulfilling job running the Manhattan division of Israel Bonds. It was an exciting opportunity where she met and worked with the leaders of the Jewish community.

Mike and Syd met on Rosh Hashanah in 1958 at the Green Mansions Tennis Center – a place where people strolled the grounds even if they didn't play tennis. They were engaged in December and married in June 1959. They were married by Rabbi Freilich who was Syd's boss at Israel Bonds. He was a wonderful, caring person and it was very special to be married by him. Syd and Mike drove crosscountry on a two-month trip for their honeymoon. They explored the west and Mexico. Syd remarks, that "it was an extraordinary experience."

Syd and Mike arrived in Huntington with their one-year-old daughter, Amy, in 1962. Four years later, Andy was born. They left Brooklyn with the hope of owning their own home and finding a nice community. Huntington seemed to be the perfect place. Mike taught computer programming and enjoyed woodworking. A house provided the space for Mike to set up a woodshop. Eventually, they moved to Greenlawn, where they lived for 43 years. Syd was a stay-at-home mom when the kids were little; she then worked as a substitute music teacher, gave piano lessons and later became a travel agent (which she still does occasionally).

Syd wanted to belong to a synagogue after the move to Long Island. She and Mike "checked out" HJC and were very impressed with Rabbi Tannenbaum. They joined HJC when Amy was 2 years old. They quickly made many close

friends, and HJC became a second home to Amy and Andy. She remembers with delight cooking all the food for both of her childrens' Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. Amy was married by Rabbi Rothenberg.

Syd has many wonderful memories of her early years at HJC. Involvement in synagogue life was very important to her. When Cantor Stern wanted to form a choir for Friday nights, Syd joined immediately. Over time she became the choir leader. She appeared in many of the HJC musicals which gave her the opportunity to display her talent and knowledge. And she even had the lead role in Milk and Honey.

Syd and Mike always believed in social action and the importance of giving back. They began to cook for the homeless at Temple Beth El and continued with JNN at HJC for many years until Mike became ill. Syd continues to work at JNN to this day. They also loved to read to the nursery school children at HJC; something Syd continues to do.

Syd also became involved in Sisterhood where she had many roles over the years. She is most proud of the HJC library. She and other volunteers turned the library into a beautiful, modern, inviting space for all to enjoy. Syd acknowledges the wonderful people who helped with this project and the tremendous support of Sisterhood. Mike was an HJC board member for many years and editor of the HJC Bulletin. He was very proud to have won first prize from United Synagogue for the Bulletin.

Syd has suffered loss in her life: the deaths of her parents and the passing of Mike in the summer of 2015. Her happiest times are spent with her four grandchildren: Alex, Molly, Pierson and Natalie. Syd's children and grandchildren all live in Connecticut. When Mike died the children suggested she move there to be near them. It was never a thought. She sold their home and moved into Huntington Village to be closer to all the wonderful friends who have cared, supported and been there for so many years. Syd feels strongly about the needs of the elderly, their connection to the synagogue, and keeping them involved in the HJC community. For her, a new chapter at HJC is unfolding.

Interview compiled by Joanne Mulberg.

Correction: In last month's "Spotlight On..." Selma Greenstein's maiden name was incorrectly stated as Sass. Her correct maiden name is Bass.

Simcha Torah Speech

by Lesley Delia and Jeff Stark

Lesley: First, let us just say a heartfelt THANK YOU for this honor and tell you how deeply flattered we are by the recognition. If we ever felt tentative about our acceptance in to this longstanding community, where we did not have the chance to raise our family, now we know we are an integral part of HJC.

We want you to know, however, that the recognition is just icing on the cake. The delicious cake was the opportunity to serve this congregation and to meet and collaborate on truly meaningful projects with so many gracious, wise and talented people. Nothing we have contributed to HJC was accomplished alone...everything was done collaboratively ... and that was the beauty of it.

Jeff: As some of you may know, Lesley and I met while we were both single parents of divorce serving on the Religious School board at the Suffolk Jewish Centre in Deer Park, while our children attended that school. At the time, I was the chairperson of the board and Rabbi Maza encourage Lesley to fill a vacancy on the board...(we still think he might have been trying to fix us up)...Lesley served on the RS board and then took over the chair when I stepped up to be the Treasurer during some very difficult and stressful financial times for the SJC. I served as the Treasurer there for six years, while Lesley stayed on as the RS Board chair and eventually sat on the synagogue board for several years.

Lesley: During this time our personal relationship grew and eventually we became a couple. Synagogue life was a huge part of our relationship nd has remained central in our lives, just as Jewish life provides the rhythm of our lives. Despite our best efforts to keep the doors open at SJC, our shul just could not sustain itself in Deer Park as it's demographics changed and eventually merged with Dix Hills JC. At the same time, we decided to marry and move to Huntington. We found a new home only about mile from HJC and, as fate would have it, Jeff's mom passed away shortly after we bought the house and he needed a place to go to morning minyan. We found the HJC minyan and the warmth there hooked us on HJC....and also, we needed a rabbi to marry us and we found Rabbi Kurshan. So instead of following our friends to Dix Hills we joined HJC and have never regretted that decision. When Rabbi Kurshan met with us and learned about our involvement at SJC, he must have pushed the speed dial button on his red Batman phone to then President Noel Rubinton, and we soon found ourselves at Shabbat dinner at Noel and Amy's house ...and the next thing you know ... Jeff was learning to be Treasurer at HJC, a position he has held twice, for a total of eight years, and so, here were are.

Jeff: We both come by our synagogue involvement honestly. Lesley grew up at Temple Beth Emeth, a conservative congregation in Hewlett, where her parents were founding members, who helped the fundraising efforts to erect a building by directing and producing the theatrical productions for many years. My parents were Sisterhood and Men's club leaders at our shul in Brighton Beach. We are each drawn to different dimensions of synagogue life. I have been drawn to the financial life of the synagogue, both as treasurer of the synagogue, not so easy a task, and as Treasurer of Men's club, which is a breeze since Men's club has no money. I also serve on the Technology committee here, which is an extension of my professional life as an electrical engineer. And of course, each year Men's club counts on us to harvest our bamboo for the sukkah roof.

Lesley: As I experienced my job, as Director of a legal services program as very stressful for me, I have been drawn to anything at HJC that did not feel like was a second job with meetings, budgets and politics. I wanted to come here to feel warm and fuzzy. Aside from participating in our beautiful Friday Night services, I have enjoyed coordinating Friday Night Live for the last eight years, setting attractive tables and bringing our community together to bond over food and wine and music. That same feeling has drawn me to want to host visiting Rabbis and Cantors, host Shabbat dinners at home, and participate this year in hosting congregants for Rosh Hashona dinner. I think I found my niche here... and I love it.

I have been involved in helping Sisterhood in the kitchen, running crafts workshops for Sisterhood, assisting with HIHI for several years now, and I did get involved in JNN on Sunday mornings until Hannah told me she didn't need any more help ... and that I was spreading the peanut butter too thickl.

The Story telling project has also appealed to my love of learning about people and their dynamics and my love of writing. Last year, after I retired from my job of 33 years, at he request of Allison, I agreed to bring my management skills to chair the events surrounding Rabbi Kurshan's retirement. My goal was to involve as many people as possible in this process so it would be a true community "feel good " event and I am glad I did because I met so many amazing people in the process.

Jeff: So we just want to say thank you for this honor and we have been grateful for the opportunity to serve HJC in collaboration with all of you. We look forward to many more happy and productive years here with all of you.



Simcha Torah Speech

by Andrea Smoller

Thank you Allison, Cantor Gordon and Rabbi Barnett.

When my youngest son, Max started college in Delaware, I drove him down early one morning, helped him unpack, set up his room, and then went for a walk in town, while he got a bite to eat with his new roommate. As I walked around, I came upon a lovely store with inspirational cards, perfect for framing. This was the perfect gift for him...a way to leave a little something of myself behind, a way to perhaps inspire my son as he embarked upon his college years, after an especially challenging year in both of our lives.

The quote I chose for him was:

"Life isn't about finding yourself, Life is about creating yourself."

When I stop to think about this quote, which is still displayed in his apartment today, I realize just how meaningful it is, and how, without even knowing it, it has been a guiding principle in MY life. Finding oneself suggests one is lost, or at least, misplaced, and needs finding. Creating yourself, on the other hand, conveys intention and purpose, and encompasses ALL possibilities for the future.

One of the ways I have created a meaningful and fulfilling life is through my involvement with our HJC. Although I moved to Huntington in 1980, I did not join HJC until 1989, when my oldest son, Brandon entered nursery school. I didn't look around Huntington for the perfect preschool but came straight here, and found what I was looking for. It was important to me to create a life for my children which included a strong connection to Judaism, one where we would celebrate traditions, explore, discover and learn, one which would foster friendships and community. And this is just what we found here at HJC.

Although I went to Religious school growing up, and was Bas Torah at age12, with five other girls on a Sunday, my knowledge was limited. In 1969, in an Orthodox temple, where the education of girls felt like an afterthought, we read a portion of our Haftorah, and not much more, on that Sunday in June. Thankfully, much has changed in the years between my Bas Torah and my daughter, Stephanie's Bat Mitzvah, in which she was able to fully and completely participate. I started wearing my Tallit as my daughter became a Bat Mitzvah. It felt right, and the decision, compelling, powerful, important and significant.

When I first started coming to services I found that my synagogue skills were certainly extremely minimal, as my purpose in temple attendance as a teen was primarily to socialize. The more I attended services here, the more I wanted to be here, and I yearned to learn more. I intentionally decided to attend services more frequently, finding a quiet and peaceful spirituality, a place of reflection and refuge. Our sanctuary, had truly become a sanctuary of peace for me. I attended many of Rabbi Kurshan's Adult Ed classes, always thought-provoking, learning piece by piece, over the years.

I created a place for myself here, through prayer and spirituality, but also through committee involvement, community and friendship.

My connection grew, first through the Nursery School Board, then to the Religious School Board. I co-chaired the Family Life committee with Vicki Perler for several years...and, as my children grew, so did I. Somewhere along the way, probably about 15 years ago, I had the honor of serving on the Board of Trustees and was on the Executive committee for four years. Until this year, I remained on the Board, an important and very fulfilling place to be. I have served on the Ritual committee for a number of years, chairing it the past six years.

I participated in theater, both on stage (briefly) and behind the scenes. For several years now, I have co-chaired, along with my partner in crime, Mary Uricchio, to whom I owe much gratitude for working together so seamlessly, with the utmost dedication and good humor, the Playbook for our plays, as we carefully honed our fundraising skills to chair the Rabbi Kurshan Legacy Fund, upon the retirement of our dear Rabbi Kurshan.

Most recently, I have been honored to be a member of the Rabbi Search Committee, a responsibility I...and the entire committee... take extremely seriously, with clear understanding of the import of the decision, as we collectively strive to create a committed, strong and re-vitalized Jewish home for the future of ourselves, and future generations in Huntington.

So, looking back on my last 27 years here at HJC, my FIRST 27 years what have I created?

I created a life infinitely enriched...a life which has been immeasurably deepened by being intertwined in the fabric of a strong community. The relationships which we have built and created together over the years, are ones in which we can rejoice together in happy times, and ones which help sustain and surround us with comfort during the difficult ones. HJC has been a refuge, a place of learning, a place of community, a place of exploration, and a place of prayer, faith and spirituality.

It is truly an honor to be one of the Simchat Torah honorees, which I so happily share with Lesley and Jeff...Mazel Tov, who have each made enormous contributions to HJC. Simchat Torah, our day of rejoicing with the Torah in which we celebrate the completion of the reading of the Torah, and immediately begin B'reisheet, in which we recount the story of G-d's creation of the world. How fitting to speak of creating a meaningful and fulfilling life on this day, as we read the story of creation in the Torah.

I feel a profound gratitude, and I am deeply honored to be recognized in this way, but truly it is I, who should be honoring our HJC community, a second family, a second home for so many, myself included.

Thank you to the HJC leadership for honoring me. Thank you to everyone here today, especially my mother, my family who could not be here today, and Brian...and all of you, my dear friends.

Donations אדקה

GENERAL FUND

Lisa Golub in memory of Marjorie Ahronee at yahrzeit. Roger Koreen in memory of Grace Koreen at yahrzeit. Shelley Weinberg in memory of Rose Kramer at yahrzeit. Andrea Dubow in memory of Samuel Goldstein at yahrzeit. Yolanda Barfus in memory of Eva Barfus at yahrzeit. Susi Susskind in honor of Andrea Smoller and Jeff & Lesley

Stark being named the HJC Simchat Torah honorees.
Harriet Harris in memory of Benjamin Alpert at yahrzeit.
Ellen Meiselman in memory of Jennie Bloom at yahrzeit.
Tania & Marvin Lipkind in memory of Sylvia Hudes at yahrzeit.
Joyce Sacknoff in memory of Margaret Fuchs at yahrzeit.
Judi Rosenblatt in memory of Jeanette Hopmayer at yahrzeit.
Rosalind Shaffer in memory of Sam Shaffer at yahrzeit.
Myrna Tils in memory of Louise Freidman at yahrzeit.
Miriam & Joel Wirchin in honor of Andrea Smoller and Jeff &
Lesley Stark being named the HJC Simchat Torah
honorees.

Pam Singer in honor of Howard & Shanah Gordon & family.

Morris Lagnado in memory of Julia Lagnado at yahrzeit.

Nancy Berlow in memory of Richard Berlow at yahrzeit.

Tyna Strenger in memory of Gordon Strenger at yahrzeit.

Phyllis & Andrew Levy in memory of Grace Goldblum at yahrzeit.

Mary Uricchio & Michael Buchholtz in honor of Andrea Smoller and Jeff & Lesley Stark being named the HJC Simchat Torah honorees.

Barbara Gross in memory of Edward Gross at yahrzeit. Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of Andrea Smoller and Jeff & Lesley Stark being named the HJC Simchat Torah honorees.

Lesley & Jeff Stark in honor of Andrea Smoller being named an HJC Simchat Torah honoree.

Leslie & Jack Rubin in honor of Andrea Smoller and Jeff & Lesley Stark being named the HJC Simchat Torah honorees.

Loron Simon in memory of Dorothy Simon at yahrzeit.

Loron Simon in memory of Manny Aaront at yahrzeit.

Randi & Alan Schuller in memory of Gary Schuller at yahrzeit.

Bonnie Pedowicz in memory of Jerry Yarmark at yahrzeit.

Richard Levine in memory of Isaac Levine at yahrzeit.

David Schoenfarber in memory of Gertrude Schoenfarber at yahrzeit.

Andrea Smoller in honor of Jeff & Lesley Stark being named HJC Simchat Torah honorees.

Andrea Smoller with much thanks & gratitude.
Joan Newman in memory of Bessie Lehman at yahrzeit.
Joan Newman in memory of Sol Feinstein at yahrzeit.
Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in memory of Mitzi Popkin.
Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in memory of William Hirschfeld.
Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in memory of Richard T. Rosen,
brother of Tom Rosen.

Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in memory of Arthur Bernhang. Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in memory of Marvin Marsh, husband of Myra Marsh. Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in memory of Bessie Black at yahrzeit.

Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in honor of the engagement of Elie, son of Arthur & Vicki Perler, to Lauren Schachter.

Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt honor of the birth of Bryce Penelope Blank, great granddaughter of Joan Blank & Elaine Marsh.

Shimmy & Ralph Kornblatt in memory of their son in-law, Fred Eaglstein.

Toby & David Gerber with thanks & appreciation.

Bonnie Pedowicz in memory of Rosalind Yarmark at yahrzeit.

Marc Hazan in memory of Sonia Hazan at yahrzeit.

Ethel Schwartz Bock in memory of Nathan Hellerbach at vahrzeit.

Tom Rosen in memory of Samuel Rosen at yahrzeit.

BEN TASMAN LIBRARY FUND

Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Anita Gelberg, sister of Gloria Safran.

Syd Schlesinger in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jesse Strenger Skolnik, grandson of Tyna Strenger.

Marianne Sokol in memory of Bernhard Stein at yahrzeit. Marianne Sokol in memory of Toni Deutsch at yahrzeit. Syd Schlesinger in memory of Alvin Schlesinger at yahrzeit.

COLLEGIATE FUND

Judi & Marty Rosenblatt in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Elsie Cole, granddaughter of Vered & Jack Cole.

DAVID ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Ella Neuwirth. Judy & Lester Fox in memory of Larry Tannenbaum.

Judy & Lester Fox in honor of Andrea Smoller and Jeff & Lesley Stark being named the HJC Simchat Torah honorees.

Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Joseph, son of Rebecca & Lenny Kaplan.

Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the marriage of Jodi, daughter of Kay & Larry Smith, to Alex Ehrlich.

Judy & Lester Fox wishing continued good health for Carol Baker.

Judy & Lester Fox in honor of Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer receiving the UJA-Federation of NY Community Leadership Award.

DONALD L. GORDON ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Miriam & Joel Wirchin in honor of Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer receiving the UJA-Federation of NY Community Leadership Award.

SOCIAL ACTION/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Elaine & Walter Kleinmann

Donations צדקה

Janet & Martin Kushnick in memory of Allen Miller at yahrzeit. Janet & Martin Kushnick in memory of Ann Labb at yahrzeit. Arlene Steinberg in memory of Fred Steinberg at yahrzeit. Robert Fisher in memory of Julian Fisher at yahrzeit. Lawrence Maltin in memory of Ruth Maltin at yahrzeit. Susan & David Lefkowitz in memory of Meyer Hepner at yahrzeit.

Susan & David Lefkowitz in memory of Viola Stupp at yahrzeit.

Rabbi, con't from pg. 4

post-second Temple period Diaspora Jewry, if any, as we have known it, would have been called into question. All this from a relatively small group of dedicated Jewish zealots, partisans, and warriors! Ultimately, those Jews who remained loyal to the basic precepts of our tradition and identification of ourselves as Jews, and maintained an ongoing sense of community despite previous divisions within it, were those who passed on the torch of Jewish survival to us remaining today. Conversely, all of those who insisted on joining the larger Greek culture despite the struggles of fellow brethren were eventually lost and unidentifiable in the greater cauldron of assimilation into the greater population of the world.

From this, we can learn and affirm some very important lessons. The very term for the holiday, Chanukah, implies a

"dedication". More than a mere ephemeral celebration for a sports game, here we speak of lifelong and generational dedications and commitments. When we dedicate a new house, in the "Chanukat Bayit" ceremony, we are calling upon God to not only bless the home, but also affirming unto ourselves our commitment that the home will be a Jewish home, with Jewish life permeating the home, present with Jewish symbols, starting with the mezuzah itself, as dramatically testifying to that connection. Similarly, for our own community as well as our nation at large, no time could be better for affirming basic principles we hold to be worthy, shared, and fundamentally universal in our experience, and reaffirming our commitments and dedication to all that unites us as Jews and as Americans.

Cantor con't from pg. 6

candy! What could be greater than that! I've always loved the whole idea of Halloween and I love seeing children delight in the strange American customs. In any case, the beauty(and danger) of being a 21st century American Jew is that we get to decide what and how we celebrate. Let us make sure that people of all faiths continue to have that

freedom in our country and that we can all not only find fun and meaning in our observances, but that we come closer to God, to ourselves, and to our community in doing so.

from the Director's chair con't from pg. 8

- · I've learned....That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.
- · I've learned....That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.
- · I've learned....That I wish I could have told my Dad that I love him one more time before he passed away.
- · I've learned....That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.
- · I've learned....That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
- · I've learned....That I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.
- · I've learned....That when your newly born grandchild

holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.

- · I've learned....That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.
- · I've learned....That it is best to give advice in only two circumstances; when it is requested and when it is a life threatening situation.
- · I've learned....That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

A very special Thank You to everyone for a remarkable year at HJC.

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