



HJC Bulletin January/February  
2017

Tevet/Shevet/Adar  
5777

## HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER NEWS COMMUNITY CONNECTION

### HJC SUMMER 2017 SCHOLARSHIPS

*"The most important thing about Judaism, is that it is not a subject to be learned in class or studied from a book, but a way of life that is to be experienced every day. The beauty of camp is that it makes that possible – a completely immersive Jewish experience. Instead of trying to impart lessons seated at a desk, children experience a living, breathing Judaism all day every day at camp. And not just Shabbat and Kashrut, but Hebrew Language, Israel, Rosh Chodesh, and Jewish values that imbue the rhythms of a regular day with even more meaning.*

*Sleep-away camp also allows kids to learn and grow, away from their parents, surrounded by friends their own age. The set-up of 18 year-old counselors caring for 13 year-old campers allows for major advancements and developments in personal identity growth and faith formation in ways that no other setting can. Daily rituals like morning prayers and birkat hamazon (grace after meals) become simply part of the routine. Jewish learning is engaged in by not only the campers, but all staff. The Ramah Camps is the official network of Jewish summer camps created and run by the Conservative movement."*

~ Hazzan Israel Gordan, *The Gift of Jewish Summer*, HJC Bulletin, September 2016

#### Donald L. Gordon Israel Scholarship

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

#### David S. Rosenman Camp Ramah Scholarship

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

**Applications for both scholarships are available in the HJC Main office and the deadline for submission is April 3, 2017.**



## THE HJC BULLETIN NEEDS YOU!



### Help keep this HJC institution going!

Are you a talented, design-oriented person looking to flex your creative muscles? We are seeking a volunteer editor for our beloved, all-things HJC bulletin.

To learn more or express interest in this unique opportunity, please contact Barbara in the Main Office.

631-427-1089 Ext. 23 or [baxmacher@hjcny.org](mailto:baxmacher@hjcny.org).

Thank you!



Irena Dabkarov  
with Miriam Wirchin  
and Donna Fleiss at  
the Challah baking  
workshop.



HJC Community  
News

President's  
Perspective

Rabbi's Message  
Cantor's Message  
View from the  
Director's Chair

Religious School &  
ECC Updates

Donations  
Spotlights and  
much, much more!

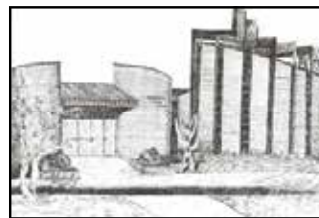


## 2016-2017 HIHI SEASON

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](mailto:ellen.steinberg728@gmail.com) or **Karen Flanzenbaum** at [kflanzenbaumlaw@gmail.com](mailto: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.



**Rabbi David Barnett,**  
*Interim Rabbi*  
423-5355

**Allison Reiver**  
*President*  
427-1089

**Neil Kurshan, Rabbi Emeritus**

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

**Maxine Fisher**  
*Religious School Administrator*  
427-1157 ext. 14

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

**Barbara Axmacher**  
*Executive Director*  
427-1089, ext 23

### HJC Board of Trustees/ 2016-2017

**Allison Reiver, President**

**Vicki Perler, 1st V.P.**  
**Brian Cooper 2nd V.P.**  
**Donna Fleiss, 3rd V.P.**

**Jack Rubin, Treasurer**  
**Ellen Steinberg, Secretary**  
**William Wertheim, Admin. V.P.**



Shari Feibel  
Arthur Frischman  
Stephen Holbreich  
Todd Houslanger  
Scott Ingber  
Marsha P. Kalina  
Alon Kapen

Danny Klein  
Jim Lodge  
Felicia Messing  
Michael Richter  
Sandy Lynn Riefberg  
Ofer Rind  
Dan Schoeffler

Jeff Stark  
Debbie Stein  
Tyna Strenger  
Susi Susskind  
Louis Walsdorf  
Robert Wieser  
Joel Wirchin

### HJC Committee Chairpersons

Bulletin.....	Kim Willen
Calendar.....	Gwen Goldstein
Cemetery.....	Louis Walsdorf
Chai Club.....	
Congregational Dinners.....	Lesley Stark & Joanne Cohn
Early Childhood Center Board.....	Alissa DiBlasio & Rachel Stein
Finance & Budget Committee.....	Arthur Perler
Fundraising.....	Robert Wieser
Greeters.....	Maxine Fisher
High Holiday Honors.....	Joel Kuppersmith
Israel/Ramah Scholarships.....	Judy Fox
Israel Committee.....	Scott Ingber
Jewish Theological Seminary.....	Mitch Pashkin
Kol Nidre Appeal.....	Walter and Elaine Kleinmann
Membership.....	Elaine Kleinmann
Men's Club.....	Ofer Rind
Religious School Board.....	Suzanne Hepworth & 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 Feibel
Youth Directors.....	Susan Pataki, Chaverim & Kadima
	Daniel Brecher, USY

**ROSH CHODESH: Welcoming the New Moon**  
**Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:30 pm**

**Please join HJC Sisterhood on February 27th, 1 Adar,**  
**for a special Women's Study Group**

Rosh Chodesh is the time when the moon is a small sliver of light.  
It's the beginning of a new cycle.  
Like the moon, we have the chance to start over, and to grow into  
who we want to be.  
Join us as we spend 90 minutes studying text, pairing up with a partner  
and sharing some of the wisdom of our lives.

The workshop is being led by our HJC congregant and Sisterhood member,  
Rabbinic Chaplain Joni Brenner

Please RSVP to Evelyn Abraham  
[evelyn\\_abraham@optonline.net](mailto:evelyn_abraham@optonline.net) or 631-424-6922

Hope you can join us for this spiritual evening

5777  
2017

# January

tevet  
shevat

**KAR-BEN**  
PUBLISHING

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 3 tevet JNN RS Closed  NEW YEAR'S DAY HANUKKAH	<b>2</b> 4 tevet ECC / Main Office Closed EC Meeting - 7:30 pm	<b>3</b> 5 tevet RS (MT)	<b>4</b> 6 tevet	<b>5</b> 7 tevet	<b>6</b> 8 tevet Minyan Breakfast - 8 am	<b>7</b> 9 tevet Jr Cong - 10:30 am  Vayigash
<b>8</b> 10 tevet JNN RS/MT Family Workshop Gan Parent-Teacher Conf  FAST DAY	<b>9</b> 11 tevet SH Board Meeting - 8 pm	<b>10</b> 12 tevet Introduction to Hebrew w/Rabbi Barnett - 7:30 pm Alef - MT Parent-Teacher Conf	<b>11</b> 13 tevet HIHI - 6 pm	<b>12</b> 14 tevet Board Meeting - 8 pm	<b>13</b> 15 tevet	<b>14</b> 16 tevet  Vayechi
<b>15</b> 17 tevet JNN RS Closed	<b>16</b> 18 tevet ECC / Main Office Closed  MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	<b>17</b> 19 tevet Introduction to Hebrew w/Rabbi Barnett - 7:30 pm RS	<b>18</b> 20 tevet	<b>19</b> 21 tevet SH Mah Jong Class - 7:30 pm	<b>20</b> 22 tevet ECC Family Shabbat - 5 pm	<b>21</b> 23 tevet Jr Cong - 10:30 am  Shemot
<b>22</b> 24 tevet JNN RS/Hey/Vav Kashrut & Pre - BBM Wksp/USY MC Meeting - 9:45 am	<b>23</b> 25 tevet	<b>24</b> 26 tevet RS/Chaverim (MT)	<b>25</b> 27 tevet HIHI - 6 pm	<b>26</b> 28 tevet SH Book Discussion - 1 pm SH Mah Jong Class - 7:30 pm	<b>27</b> 29 tevet	<b>28</b> 1 shevat  Va'era ROSH CHODESH
<b>29</b> 2 shevat JNN RS /RS Board Meeting - 9:15 am MC Ice Skating Ridotto - 4 pm	<b>30</b> 3 shevat Parents BBM Meeting	<b>31</b> 4 shevat RS / Chaverim (MT) RS				

5777  
2017

# February

shevat  
adar

**KAR-BEN**  
PUBLISHING

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 5 shevat	<b>2</b> 6 shevat SH Mah Jong class - 7:30 pm	<b>3</b> 7 shevat Minyan Breakfast - 8 am sponsored by Rabbi Barnett	<b>4</b> 8 shevat Jr Cong - 10:30 am  Bo
<b>5</b> 9 shevat JNN RS /MC Worldwide Wrap VAV workshop/USY ECC Art Show - Harborfields Library thru February 18th	<b>6</b> 10 shevat EC Meeting - 7:30 pm	<b>7</b> 11 shevat RS	<b>8</b> 12 shevat HIHI - 6 pm	<b>9</b> 13 shevat Board Meeting - 8 pm	<b>10</b> 14 shevat	<b>11</b> 15 shevat ECC /RS Tu B'Shevat Family Seder & Service  Beshalach TU B'SHEVAT
<b>12</b> 16 shevat JNN RS SH Zhava Purim Program - 12pm Israel Committee - Kedar Lecture	<b>13</b> 17 shevat SH Board Meeting - 8 pm	<b>14</b> 18 shevat RS/Chaverim (MT)	<b>15</b> 19 shevat	<b>16</b> 20 shevat HIHI - 6 pm	<b>17</b> 21 shevat	<b>18</b> 22 shevat  Yitro
<b>19</b> 23 shevat JNN RS Closed Ridotto - 4 pm	<b>20</b> 24 shevat Main Office Closed ECC Closed (thru Feb 24)  PRESIDENTS DAY	<b>21</b> 25 shevat	<b>22</b> 26 shevat	<b>23</b> 27 shevat SH Program with JTS - 8pm	<b>24</b> 28 shevat	<b>25</b> 29 shevat  Mishpatim SHABBAT SHEKALIM
<b>26</b> 30 shevat JNN  ROSH CHODESH	<b>27</b> 1 adar SH Rosh Chodesh Prg - 7:30 pm  ROSH CHODESH	<b>28</b> 2 adar ECC & RS Mixer - 4:30pm RS/Chaverim (MT)				



# From Rabbi Barnett

Interim Rabbi



## Becoming Trees of Life

As a way of getting in touch with the ongoing display and manifestation of God's creative and wondrous powers, we are advised by the psalmist to "lift up your eyes to the mountains, from whence comes my help". At this time of year, I am always amazed at the transformation of the landscape, especially the

hills and mountains. I always note on a daily basis, with great fascination, how the deciduous trees shed their leaves, each in sequence for their species. During the first two weeks of December, as I was walking daily to the synagogue in the mornings for our minyan, I admired the last "hold-outs" on the grove of trees beyond our east driveway – even as the colors of those leaves were turning, they held their position, maintained their divinely appointed posts, until the inevitable time for their return to the soil had come, in the best interest for the trees in the long term.

If we humble ourselves to be observant and attuned to the cycles of the trees surrounding us, we can learn from them and be inspired by their ongoing, living legacies. Firstly, we could not survive without them collectively. They provide oxygen for us to breathe, fruit for us to eat, shade for us to relax in, grounding for our soils and embankments, and inspiration for our souls. As we literally breathe the oxygen from the air they provide, we become intrinsically "inspired." Metaphorically, I'm always reminded of my grandmother's admonition whenever we would begin to slouch, to sit straight up like a tree when she would loudly announce "tree." It is not without basis that back during Sukkot the rabbis analogized the straightness of the lulav branch to the human spine, implying not only good and upright physical posture but a "straightforward" and "upright" moral stance as well.

Moreover, as we prepare for our upcoming festival celebrating the New Year for trees, Tu B'shvat, arriving this year on the Shabbat of February 11, 2017, we can become inspired by other aspects of the life cycle of trees. With incredible longevity, even when their leaves are shed, they certainly remain vital and alive. Although many of their interior physiological processes may not be observable to us during the latent season, they are collectively, as it were, "regrouping", reinforcing their

## HJC Community News



### MAZAL TOV

Tyna Strenger on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Jesse Strenger-Skolnik.

Lori Sklar announces the engagement of her son, Noah Kantro, to Ericka Levy.

Vicki & Arthur Perler announce the marriage of their son, Elie, to Lauren Schachter.

### CONDOLENCES

Barbara Gross, Scott Gross & Karann Pashkin on the death of Ivan Jacobs, brother of Barbara & uncle of Scott & Karann.



### 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



As you all know by now, HJC has found it's next rabbi. We are very excited to welcome Rabbi Ari Saks to our community starting August 1. Rabbi Saks was very well-received when he visited us for the weekend in October, and his contract was overwhelmingly approved at our special congregational meeting last month. Finding and securing a new rabbi

has been an incredible process, to which so many contributed. I would like to recognize the many individuals who contributed.

In June of 2015, Joel Koppersmith, Shelley Weinberg, and Billy Wertheim were asked to chair the Rabbi Search Committee. They were each humbled by this honor and also immediately understood the importance of the task. They assembled a committee that represented each and every arm, hand, foot, and leg of our synagogue, not an easy task when you have such a wonderful diverse community as ours. That committee, which, along with the chairs, consisted of Ken Bob, Nancy Cooper, Cantor Israel Gordan (ex officio), Scott Ingber, Lauren Kupersmith, Ayelet Levy, Ellen Meiselman, Keith Messing, Ari Perler, Ofer Rind, Tom Rosen, Debbie Sakellarios, Sarah Saunders, Dan Schoeffler, Andrea Smoller, Jay Steinberg, Mark Zimmerman and me (ex officio), had its first meeting in July 2015, over 17 months ago. They held parlor

meetings to hear from as many of us as possible, they reviewed resumes, they skyped with candidates (sometimes with as many as three in a row), they debated and made some really hard decisions, all with the best interests of HJC in their minds and hearts. They are to be commended for their commitment and for getting us to this very place.

Cantor Gordan spoke with and worked with each of our visiting candidates to help him or her participate in our services and he and Abby helped to show each what family life is like here at HJC by inviting them to their home. Our professional staff of Barbara Axmacher, Ilene Brown and Maxine Fisher met individually with each candidate and then provided us with valuable feedback. For six weeks, we needed lodging for our candidates and their families, and we would like to thank Gail and Jim Lodge, Cindy and Moti Dolgin, Jeff and Lesley Stark, Dalia and Marvin Rosenthal, Ayelet and Ari Levy, and Andrea and Robert Maire for so graciously opening up your homes. Scott and Jen Ingber were kind enough to host dessert receptions in their home so that our congregants could meet the candidates in a less formal setting away from HJC. Barbara Koppersmith drove around all but one of our candidates and their families to show off the town of Huntington and Vered Cole assisted with the other. Paul Greenstein gave tours of our beautiful building. Tom and Vicki Rosen made numerous trips to the airport; Brian and Nancy Cooper showed off the kosher options available in Plainview. Joel Wirchin assisted us with the due diligence process for the candidates. Sisterhood and it's amazing women provided us with six beautiful Kiddushes. Our custodial staff helped keep the building going during these very busy weekends, and we always had the support of our office staff, Debbie Rosenkrantz and Irma Mile.

con't on pg. 15

## Women's League Torah Fund Cards

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.



## Winter Book Discussion

The book selection for the Winter Book Discussion is *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk* by Kelli Estes. Inspired by true events, Kelli Estes's brilliant and atmospheric debut serves as a poignant tale of two women determined to do the right thing, and the power of our own stories. Join us for Tea and Dessert on **Thursday, January 26th at 1PM** in the HJC Library. Please RSVP by January 24th.

**Evelyn Abraham 631 424-6922**  
**Evelyn\_Abraham@optonline.net**



## Bring in the Noise

by Hazzan Israel Gordan



As someone who spends a good deal of time making and listening to music, noise is something that I take seriously. And I have been thinking about it a lot recently, especially as it relates to the synagogue. We are surrounded by noises, both good and bad. How they affect us is a topic of major importance for all us individually, in addition to as a community as a whole. I'd like to explore this topic just a little bit in this month's bulletin article.

One of the main points of contention for many people is noise in the sanctuary during services. People have various reactions to different kinds of noises and they can be a distraction, a disruption, or a great addition to the service. If nothing else, davening is supposed to be participatory. As the cantor, one of the greatest noises I can hear is the mumble of people davening as we move through the liturgy. Not all people, however, are familiar with the Ashkenazic tradition of Jewish worship. Because of that, our service includes several congregational melodies that are simpler in structure, repetitive, and therefore (hopefully) easier to learn and sing along. Perhaps the greatest noise I can hear is a room full of people singing along with me. I believe this action lifts up our prayers to God in a more affective and effective manner for God and for us. In addition, there are the sounds of dialogue that often come with our Torah discussions. The give and take of members of our congregation speaking with and learning from each other over words of Torah is a wonderful segment of our service that requires no knowledge of Hebrew or any inherent musical skill.

Whenever a large gathering of people occurs, however, other noises are sure to come up. And just as important as the noises themselves, are the reactions that other people have to those sounds. As I always say, I would much rather hear the sound of a baby crying or a child laughing than an adult talking or a cell phone ringing during services. But how do we respond to those sounds? Are we creating an even bigger disruption by turning around and glaring? By sighing loudly or commenting rudely? It's very important to consider not only our actions, but the consequences of our actions.

Lately, we've had a series of events called the PJ Library Bim Bam Family Shabbat programs. We had a Friday night service and dinner in November and a Havdallah and dinner in December. While seeing the synagogue alive with young families and small children running around makes me happy, I really think it's the sound of those children running, laughing (and even crying) that brings me the most joy. So when it comes to our congregation, both the young and the old, the new and the less so, I say, bring in the noise – just make sure it's not too disruptive to what's going on around you!



## Sisterhood News

by Donna Fleiss & Miriam Wirchin

### MEMBERSHIP – GET INVOLVED!

Attend an event or join a committee!

\$45 for regular membership/\$40 for Z'havah/\$30 for seniors

Contact Vicki Rosen, V.P. Membership

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

### ANOTHER Z'HAVAH EVENT FOR HJC MOMS & KIDS 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL PIZZA AND PURIM SUNDAY, 2/12 @12pm

### HAMANTASHEN and MISHLOACH MANOT

It is that special time of year when the dairy kitchen is filled with the wonderful aroma of hamantashen.

Sisterhood is sponsoring the baking and sale of hamantashen and preparing Mishloach Manot.

Volunteers are needed!

Order forms are available in the HJC office or online.

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

### ROSH CHODESH: WELCOMING THE NEW MOON

Rosh Chodesh is the time when the moon is a small sliver of light and the beginning of a new cycle.

Like the moon, we have the chance to start over, and to grow into who we want to be.

Join us as HJC congregant and Sisterhood member, Rabbinic Chaplain Joni Brenner leads this group in studying text and sharing some of the wisdom of our lives.

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

### THANK YOU...

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

January 10<sup>th</sup> - Sisterhood Board Meeting @8pm

January 26<sup>th</sup> - Book Discussion @ 1pm

*The Girl Who Wrote in Silk* by Kelli Estes

February 12<sup>th</sup> - Z'havah Pizza and Purim @ 12pm

February 13<sup>th</sup> - Sisterhood Board Meeting @8pm

February 27<sup>th</sup> - Rosh Chodesh program @7:30pm

### Sisterhood Contacts:

Donna Fleiss - donna.fleiss@gmail.com

Miriam Wirchin - mirm1225@aol.com



All who participated in the **challah decorating workshop** sponsored by **Sisterhood** enjoyed learning how to braid a menorah challah just in time for Hanukkah! **Irena Dabakarov**, HJC congregant and ECC mom, baking specialist and cake artist, and blog author of *Do It From Scratch*, graciously volunteered her expertise and time. Thank you Irena!



Collage courtesy of Dalia Rosenthal





## View from the Director's Chair

by Barbara Axmacher



### *The Gratitude List*

Each day I wake up and I'm aware that my life is better than good, which is saying something these days. The world is full of pain and suffering, hardship and turmoil, disappointment and regret. I'm learning there is a responsibility that comes with the privilege of a good life; I am not lucky, fortunate, or merely disciplined; I am

expected to do something with the grace I've been given. And so are you.

As with most people, when I was younger, I didn't understand gratitude. In a universe that seemed to hurt for no reason, giving thanks felt disingenuous. Living in a world where children die of hunger every day, it just didn't make sense. But now I understand. Being grateful is a choice. So I've made a list.

Here's my challenge to you: Take some time today, wherever you are and whatever you're doing, to come up with your own gratitude list. If it doesn't come naturally, don't let that stop you from still giving thanks. There is much to be thankful for, open your eyes and see it. Here are my 10 reasons to give thanks today and every day:

1. *I am thankful for my health and the health of my family.*
2. *I am thankful for my children, who remind me every day of my most important purpose.*
3. *I am thankful for my parents, who made my life their most important purpose.*
4. *I am thankful for my siblings; for the love and the unique memories we alone share.*
5. *I am thankful for my significant other who is my brave companion of the road.*
6. *I am thankful for my friends, who enjoy a great laugh and good food as much as I do.*
7. *I am thankful to do work I enjoy and to have co-workers who I can rely on.*
8. *I am thankful for music for without it my soul would have a huge void.*
9. *I am thankful for my dog; this tiny creature who brings me joy and happiness every time I see her beautiful little face.*
10. *Lastly, and most importantly, I am thankful my intelligence; which allows me to keep the pieces of this giant puzzle (called life) together with dignity.*

## Religious School Update

by Maxine Fisher

Religious School Administrator

As we start the new secular year I want to give recognition to the parents behind the scene of Religious School, the people who without them the school would not run so smooth.

Felicia Messing has been the Chairperson for the last 4 years. She has been an amazing gift to our school. Felicia began co chairing with Sheri Bram. Sheri does not have children in school anymore ( though Alex helps every Sunday in our Bet class) but agreed to stay on since her insight is so valuable to us. Currently Suzanne Hepworth is also co chairing and Suzanne brings a fresh prospective to our meetings.

Shari Feibel is our recording secretary and Mark Levin and Aimme De Laroche are treasurers. Other members are Cari Schueller ( camp Fair), Amal Kapen and Dori Herman. Without these ladies, our school would not be as great as it is. I also want to acknowledge Cantor Gordan whose guidance and support is so important and appreciated. If you want to have a voice in your child's Jewish education, join us!

### Events coming up in January and February:

School starts after winter vacation on **Tuesday, January 3rd**

**Saturday, January 7th** - Junior Congregation

**Sunday, January 8th** - Mitzvah Team Derek Eretz Family Workshop

**Sunday, January 8th** - Vav Family Workshop #3

**Sunday, January 8th** - Parent Teacher Conferences for Gan and Alef

**Tuesday, January 10th** - early dismissal at 5:45 - Parent Teacher conferences start at 6:15

**No school Sunday, January 15th** MLK Weekend

**Friday, January 20th** - ECC & Gan, Alef and Bet Service and Dinner

**Saturday, January 21st** - Junior Congregation

**Sunday, January 22nd** - Vav Family Workshop # 4

**Sunday, January 22nd** - Hey Kosher Workshop

**Sunday, February 5th** - Vav Family Workshop #5 & World Wide Wrap

**Saturday, February 11th** - special Tu Bishvat Junior Congregation

**No school 2/19, 2/22, 2/26**

**Tuesday, February 28th** ECC and RS Mixer.







# Early Childhood News

by Ilene Brown



*"Alone we can do so  
little; together we can  
do so much."*

*~ Helen Keller*

The Early Childhood Center is blessed to have an incredibly dedicated Parent Association. These parents are so committed and work tirelessly to help make the HJC ECC an even better place than it already is. The Parent Association has many goals, but perhaps the two most important goals are to foster community and to raise funds to support the ECC.

The Parent Association have sponsored and hosted many events that help create community and encourage involvement at HJC. Last year they started a mom's night which is held monthly. The moms were able to chat, bond, and create long lasting friendships. The PA is also having a Parents Night so that Dads may attend and also establish friendships with other parents. In the past few years the PA has also held events for the children during the school vacations at HJC and other venues. Once again this provides a forum to create community and forge and strengthen friendships. The PA has developed a mentorship program so that a current or veteran ECC parent is paired up with a family that is new to the HJC ECC. Because of this mentoring program, new families can establish a friendship with a veteran family. It gives the new family a comfort level and a "go to" person. Play dates in the park is just one of the numerous ways that the PA instills a sense of community among the ECC. An email is sent to all ECC families letting them know of a weekly play date in the park that takes place after school hours in the spring time.

These incredibly dedicated parents have also raised a great deal of money over the years via fund raising. They have assembled fund raisers such as "Make a Plate", the new handprint tile wall, Chanukah Happening raffles, and so many more. These funds have paid for new classroom chairs, rugs, wooden toy kitchens, playground equipment, and much more.

The Parent Association is an integral part of the Early Childhood Center and is invaluable to our community. It truly is my good fortune to know and have these families at HJC.

# HJC Moms & Kids

Join us for another Z'havah\* event!



**What: Pizza and Purim**

**When: Sunday, 2/12 @ 12:00pm  
(immediately following Religious School)**

**Where: Family Life Room**

\*\*\*\*\*

**We will be gathering in the Family Life Room for a pizza lunch and a FUN hour of preparing your own tray of 12 delicious hamantashen to be baked and enjoyed at home!**

**\*Z'havah is a way for younger women to gather and affiliate within their synagogue community**

**Please RSVP to Donna Fleiss by 2/8  
[donnafleiss@gmail.com](mailto:donnafleiss@gmail.com) or 631-385-7850**

**This event is sponsored by HJC Sisterhood**

Several of our members would like to help drive our congregants as needed. Please contact Ellen Kahn either by phone 631 692 8548 or email: [ellenkahn@optonline.net](mailto:ellenkahn@optonline.net) if you like to

take advantage of this offer.

**Social Action Committee**



Members of JNN, HJC Sisterhood, and the Social Action Committee, would like to plant a tree

in memory of  
Hannah Kampel.

She was a special person who left a lasting legacy for all those that knew her. She was a devoted HJC congregant dedicated to our community and the values of JNN, Social Action and HJC Sisterhood. Planting a tree in her memory would be a fitting testament to her lifelong devotion to our synagogue and the people throughout the community.

All those who would like to join us as we commemorate her life, please mail or bring your check to the HJC office payable to HJC Sisterhood and indicate on your envelope or check: **Hannah's Tree**. Please note that NO funds from the JNN or Social Action treasury will be used for this project. For those who knew and loved Hannah, this will be a wonderful tribute to her memory.

## The Huntington Jewish Center invites you to our THIRD ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER\*

**Saturday Evening, March 4, 2017  
9:00 pm**

**Cost: \$36 per person**

Enjoy cocktails and dinner at your host's home. After a delicious Meal, meet at HJC for Desserts, Entertainment and Fabulous Raffle Prizes including



**Round Trip Air Fare for two donated by jetBlue!**

Deadline for reservations is February 24, 2017  
RSVP to Debbie in the Main Office.

Questions? Susi Susskind 631-424-5360 or [hssusski@optonline.net](mailto:hssusski@optonline.net)  
Jennifer Ingber 516-241-3585 or [jen81RN@gmail.com](mailto:jen81RN@gmail.com)

\*A progressive dinner is the occasion where you join other congregants at a host's home for cocktails and a kosher dinner. After dinner, "progress" to HJC where we will join for dessert!



# Spotlight on...



## Joan and Norman

### Mattisinko

It is clear from the first moments of meeting them that Joan and Norman Mattisinko have been cooperative and complementary partners in life for a

long time. Both born and raised in Brooklyn, they met at a Jewish Federation brunch in Manhattan in 1959 and married a year later. Norman was working in Melville as an electrical engineer and when their first born, a daughter, Susan, was just under two years old they decided to move to Huntington, significantly cutting the one and a half hour commute he had from Brooklyn. A few years later, they had a son, Robert.

One thing that was important to them was finding a Jewish community and the Huntington Jewish Center was just what they were looking for. It was a young and growing community and the leadership was interested in fostering expansion and meeting its members' needs. With little hesitation, Joan and Norman became actively involved. The first of many accomplishments, Joan and four other Sisterhood members introduced the idea of starting a nursery school with the mission of providing HJC's youngest participants a Jewish education from an early age. At its beginning, the school was a cooperative; one parent of every child was obligated to function as a teacher's aid throughout the school year. Once the mothers began working outside the home and were less available, and the school had enough money so that they could afford two full-time teachers, the staff became exclusively professional. Joan recounts one poignant decision-point when Halloween was approaching and she was very clear that the children would not be coming to the synagogue wearing costumes. For that they would have to wait until Purim. Those early days led to lifelong friendships that Joan and Norman relish to this day.

Joan served as a long-time member of the HJC Sisterhood, chairing several committees but eschewing the role of President. Rather, she went back to school and earned a Masters degree in special education. She then did home schooling for the district and eventually ran the resource room in a Deer Park school. Meanwhile, Norman continued his work as an engineer in AIL and other companies in Melville. As his career wound down, he spent five years in

Burlington, MA, from which he commuted to home on weekends. Along the way, he served as President of the Men's Club, chaired the ritual committee and served one year as an HJC President. Traveling for work forced him to step down from that position.

They both described those early days as rich with friendship. Friday nights were the main event at HJC for years before Shabbat morning became more of a focus. The Friday night Oneg Shabbat was a wonderful venue for fostering strong social connections among congregants, which resulted in years of sharing simchas of baby namings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and marriages, as well as the losses that come with life. They recall that they witnessed the transition from Bat Mitzvahs only occurring on Friday nights to the time when girls could chant their haftarat on Shabbat morning. And Joan proudly mentions that she was one of the four women in the first women's adult Bat Mitzvah class. Joan actively participates on the Sisterhood Board as a member of the Membership Committee, and the Friday Night Live committee. In addition to their contributions at HJC, the JTS Torah Fund has benefited from Joan's presence, where she is on the National Board. She is also involved with Hadassah and various social activities, including a Yiddish club at The Greens, where they have lived for the past 13 years. They are proud of having visited Israel (Joan three times and Norman four), once on a congregational trip with Rabbi Rothenberg. Locally, they also enjoy going to the gym and to NYC, where they take advantage of the theater, museums and their membership at the Metropolitan Opera. More recently Joan and Norman have begun to spend part of their winters in Arizona, where they visit their son and his family; and California, where their daughter lives with her family. It is clear that their 4 granddaughters are the main focus of their lives now.

Joan and Norman are excited to witness the current progress at HJC, looking to the future with the strong lay leadership and anticipating the excitement of soon having a new rabbi. They feel it is their time to step back and allow the next generation to take a more central role in directing the HJC but they will still be involved in areas where they feel they can continue to contribute and offer support.

*Compiled by Marsha P. Kalina*

## SAVE THE DATE: BRUNCH and LEARN

The HJC Israel Committee continues its successful series:

**Sunday February 12, 2017 at 10:00 am**

We are happy to present Dr. Mordechai Kedar, an academic expert on the Muslim and Arab world, its various cultures, history, and values. We anticipate a stimulating session on the topic of Israel's relations with its Arab citizens, and its Arab neighbors.

Dr. Kedar served for 25 years in IDF military intelligence, specializing in Islamic groups, the political discourse of Arab countries, the Arabic press and mass media, and the Syrian domestic arena.

We welcomed a very large turnout from the Jewish community when Dr. Kedar spoke last year, and look forward to his return.

Join us for a stirring and informative session and discussion – and a delicious light brunch.

## ATTENTION TEENS

**Arm yourself with the facts to stand up to anti-semitism on campus.**



You are invited to the 12 PM Sun Feb 5 FAFACT event  
**3000 YEARS of ISRAEL in 60-MINUTES** (with lunch)

- Free Event for 9th - 12th Grade Teens (and their parents)
- FAFACT partners are SWU, SYJCC, JCRCL and UJA
- 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM Sun Feb 5 at Suffolk Y JCC
- 3000 Years of Israel in 60-minutes (Interactive Discussion) (60-minutes) \*\*\*
- Pizza, Bamba, Bagels, Israel Travel Opportunities (w/scholarships) & Music (60-minutes)
- Meet other Jewish Teens
- Israeli Giveaways and Prizes (SWU I-Heart-Israel SWAG)
- For more information, contact David Pinkowitz at [631-491-5343](tel:631-491-5343) or [faact4@gmail.com](mailto:faact4@gmail.com)

\*\*\* Presentation by Paul Friedman, Tri-State Area High School Coordinator for StandWithUs.

For more information and to register, click  
[3000 Years of Israel in 60-Minutes \(with lunch\)](#)

Sunday, February 5, 2017  
12:00 PM to 2:00 PM  
The Suffolk Y JCC (SYJCC)  
74 Hauppauge Rd  
Commack, NY 11725

For more information  
Contact David Pinkowitz at [631-491-5343](tel:631-491-5343) or [faact4@gmail.com](mailto:faact4@gmail.com)



## The Great Hamantashen Sale



Purim begins Saturday evening, March 11<sup>th</sup> and Sisterhood is once again busy in the kitchen baking delicious hamantashen!  
The price is still only \$10.00 per dozen.

Available flavors are:

Apricot  
Raspberry  
Chocolate Chip  
Prune

(All of our hamantashen are dairy)

**Please order early! Orders must be received by Friday, February 17.**

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

Please send payment with your order.

If you could spare an hour or two to mix, roll or fill, please contact  
Donna Fleiss at [donna.fleiss@gmail.com](mailto:donna.fleiss@gmail.com) or 631-385-7850

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Nursery or Hebrew Class

\_\_\_\_\_ Days \_\_\_\_\_ AM \_\_\_\_\_ PM \_\_\_\_\_

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

## HJC Men's Club Family Ice Skate



### HJC Men's Club Annual Family Ice Skating Outing

Sunday, January 29, 2017  
2:00-4:00 PM

Dix Hills Skating Rink  
575 Vanderbilt Pkwy, Dix Hills  
(631) 462-5883

RSVP to Matt Raskin [mattrpt@aol.com](mailto:mattrpt@aol.com)

Come out and join HJC friends and families  
for a fun afternoon of ice skating sponsored  
by the Men's Club of HJC!

**Admission:** Adults \$7.50; Children (under 18)  
\$6.00; Skate Rental \$1.00

*Fees paid to rink day of outing – state you are  
with the Huntington Jewish Center for our  
discount.*

For last minute decisions to attend...it's ok to  
just show up at the rink and enjoy the skating  
and fun!

For more information contact Matt Raskin –  
(516) 736-0254, ICE RINK INFO: (631) 462-5883

# Donations

צדקה

## GENERAL FUND

Morris Lagnado in memory of Albert Lagnado at yahrzeit.  
Nancy Bob in memory of June Philips at yahrzeit.  
Philip Glaser in memory of Bella Cohen at yahrzeit.  
Vered & Jack Cole in memory of Rose Cole at yahrzeit.  
Vered & Jack Cole in memory of Etti Levanon at yahrzeit.  
Marsha Perlmutter Kalina in memory of Martin Perlmutter at yahrzeit.  
Marsha Perlmutter Kalina in memory of Dora Perlmutter at yahrzeit.  
Philip Glaser in memory of Herman Glaser at yahrzeit.  
Selma Greenstein in memory of Hilda Bomser at yahrzeit.  
Gale Greenstein in memory of Arlene Quait at yahrzeit.  
Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Ruth Cohen at yahrzeit.  
Renda Rosenblatt in memory of Henry Lederman at yahrzeit.  
Richard Wertheim in memory of Joel Wertheim at yahrzeit.  
Sheryl Winkler in memory of Eleanor Teitel at yahrzeit.  
Nathan Weiss in memory of Jo Ann Weiss at yahrzeit.  
Ceceil Klein in memory of Herbert Sausmer at yahrzeit.  
Richard Klein in memory of Samuel Klein at yahrzeit.  
Lesley Stark in memory of Jack Magaril at yahrzeit.  
Lesley Stark in memory of Sandra Magaril at yahrzeit.  
Adrienne Rosof in memory of Sylvia Graf Baron at yahrzeit.  
Amy & Richard Marcus in memory of Seymour Marcus at yahrzeit.  
Selma Greenstein with gratitude.  
Janet Zimmerman in memory of Lee Cole at yahrzeit.  
Joan Blank in honor of the birth of her great granddaughter, Bryce Penelope Blank.  
Leslie & Jack Rubin in honor of the wedding of Elie, son of Arthur & Vicki Perler, to Lauren Schachter.  
Gerald Levy in memory of Audrey Levy at yahrzeit.  
Shelley & Marc Weinberg in memory of Jack Freilich at yahrzeit.  
Patricia Schoeffler in memory of Alexander Cochrane at yahrzeit.  
Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Ethel Wyatt at yahrzeit.  
Maxine Liebowitz in memory of Abraham Edelstein at yahrzeit.  
Myrna Tils in memory of Jonas Telmer at yahrzeit.  
Susi Susskind in memory of Esther Vickers at yahrzeit.  
Susi Susskind in memory of Herbert Susskind at yahrzeit.  
Nancy & Brian Cooper in honor of the wedding of Elie, son of Arthur & Vicki Perler, to Lauren Schachter.

## BEN TASMAN LIBRARY FUND

The Fleiss family in memory of Ethel Fleiss at yahrzeit.

## DAILY MINYAN FUND

Tom Rosen in memory of Samuel Rosen at yahrzeit.  
Andrea Smoller in memory of Harvey Marcus at yahrzeit.  
Bea Pedowicz in memory of Mollie Pedowitz at yahrzeit.

## DAVID ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Judy & Lester Fox in memory of Mary Katzin-Simon.

Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the wedding of Elie, son of Arthur & Vicki Perler, to Lauren Schachter.

## DONALD L. GORDON ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in honor of their children, Alex & Zach Ingber.

## SOCIAL ACTION/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Shari & Larry Feibel  
Marlene & Lenny Hummel  
Pamela & Richard Rubinstein  
Ellen & Jay Steinberg  
Gloria Safran  
Patricia & Dan Schoeffler  
Leslie & Jack Rubin  
Sheryl & Ian Winkler  
Barbara & Joel Kuppersmith  
Yolanda Barfus  
Marjorie & Stuart Rothenberg  
Sylvia Brass in memory of Lester Brass at yahrzeit.  
Ora & Alan Kriegstein in honor of Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer receiving the UJA-Federation of NY Community Leadership Award.  
Joan & Norman Mattisinko in honor of Andrea Smoller and Jeff & Lesley Stark being named the HJC Simchat Torah honorees.  
Lori Sklar in honor of the engagement of her son, Noah Kantro, to Ericka Levy.  
Lori Sklar in memory of Norman E. Sklar at yahrzeit.  
Gail Lodge in memory of Jack Grunberger at yahrzeit.  
Gail Lodge in memory of Lillian Grunberger at yahrzeit.  
Meri Schindler in memory of Terry Stafford at yahrzeit.  
Michael Behr in memory of Sheila Behr at yahrzeit.  
Arlene Steinberg in memory of Polly Kurzer at yahrzeit.  
Joan Blank in memory of Fred Eaglstein, son in-law of Ralph & Shimmy Kornblatt.  
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Irvin Epstein at yahrzeit.  
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the engagement of Tiphane, daughter of Renda and Ken z"l Rosenblatt, to Stephen Shoemaker.  
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the engagement of Jason, son of Harvey & Eileen Berger, to Megan Adcock.  
Janet & Martin Kushnick in memory of Aaron Labb at yahrzeit.



root systems, with nutrients from the tops of the trees flowing back down again to their basis and origin in the earth. During our winter season, following the last holiday of Chanukah, we have much to look forward to as we continue to re-dedicate and re-nourish our spiritual souls, looking forward to the upcoming intense period of liturgical and national observances and celebration, with upcoming holidays of Purim, Passover, and Shavuot. The roots of these festivals are all intrinsically connected organically, with interconnecting motifs and beautiful imageries. Their upcoming blossoms and flowers will inspire us anew, as we

*President's Perspective con't from pg. 5*

We also would not have reached this point without our negotiating team of Arthur Perler, Randi Schuller and Ken Bob. Arthur Perler, the chair of the team, spoke often with Rabbi Saks, and then met with the EC and the Board, and helped guide us through the entire process. Once the terms were negotiated, we needed to memorialize them and asked Ron Goldstein to lead us in this area. He took many phone calls and emails from us, and spent a significant amount of time producing a balanced and fair contract. Bruce Rosen reviewed the contract and helped give his perspective as to tax provisions. Jack Rubin, our Treasurer, also provided invaluable advice and a cool head, which was needed at times along the way. The other members of the Executive Committee as well as the Board of Trustees were very involved participants as well, weighing in on each

cultivate and fertilize the receptiveness of our souls to their unique yet related beauties. Just as we celebrate the hidden forces and actions in the living systems of all of our trees during this time, we can become aware of new, creative, and spiritually powerful forces of regeneration and rebirth stemming from our inspired and grounded spiritual cores. In the words of the prophets, we look forward to “netzeer mata’ai”, to the blossoming shoots of divine inspirations coming through God’s inspiration for us as we become receptive to those gifts.

candidate and the terms of the contract.

But what really made this a successful process was each and every one of our congregants. By participating in parlor meetings, six weekends of Friday night services, Shabbat morning services, Saturday night activities, and Sunday meet and greets, by responding to six rounds of our on-line survey, and by grilling our candidates with some very difficult questions during the question and answer period, but always with respect and warmth, we have found ourselves an amazing new rabbi in Rabbi Saks. We have the greatest community here at HJC and Rabbi Saks and his wife Rachel know it and cannot wait to become a part of it. Mazel tov and Yasher Koach to each and every one of us as we plan for a new beginning at HJC!!

### **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](mailto:kwillen@mac.com)**  
**include your current home and cell numbers**

### **Learn Mah Jongg**

Learn to play Mah Jongg on Thursdays April 20th, 27th and May 4th at 7:30 PM at HJC. Classes will be led by HJC Congregants, Rissa and Susan Waldsdorf. It is a game of skill, strategy and calculation. It can increase your cognitive and memory abilities. Mah Jongg is played in groups of 4. We will need a few sets for the class. Please consider donating a set.

Please RSVP by March 20th to Evelyn Abraham at 631 424-6922 or [evelyn\\_abraham@optonline.net](mailto:evelyn_abraham@optonline.net)



## HJC Bulletin January/February 2017

Huntington Jewish Center  
510 Park Avenue  
Huntington, NY 11743

tel (631) 427-1089 fax (631) 427-8118

[huntingtonjewishcenter.com](http://huntingtonjewishcenter.com)

[hjcny.org](http://hjcny.org)

Editor: Kim Willen [kwillen@mac.com](mailto:kwillen@mac.com)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Huntington, N.Y.  
Permit No. 227



### Purim Pizza Party

### Fun-d Raiser

### SAVE THE DATE

**March 12, 2017 - 4:00-8:00 pm**

*Israeli dancing to our very own HJC Klezmer Band*

Pizza

Rabbi Barnett's Homemade Organic Salad

Hamentaschen

Cash bar

*Silent auction for services offered by HJC congregants-*

*Donate a service - buy a service*

**50-50 raffle**

*Details to follow*