

December 2020 | KISLEV/TEVET 5781 Bulletin

HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER NEWS / COMMUNITY / CONNECTION



Sisterhood News

by Evelyn Abraham

Hanukkah is coming!

When it's time to gift remember that HJC's Judaica shop has some really unique and beautiful merchandise.

Please call Debbie in the main office to be put in contact with one of our gift shop associates. 631-427-1089



אסאל תשובענ

OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND FOR YOUR HOLIDAY AND SIMCHA NEEDS

Join Us and Support the Sisterhood of HJC It is not too late to send in your Sisterhood Dues

New members to HJC receive a complimentary Sisterhood membership for their first year. Please return your Membership Letters as soon as possible. Checks are payable to Sisterhood of the Huntington Jewish Center.

> \$45 - regular membership \$40 - Z'havah \$30 – senior membership

Sisterhood Contact: Evelyn Abraham evelyn_abraham@optonline.net



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Rabbi

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Executive Director 631-427-1089 ext. 23

Leigh Murphy/Mark Richman

Religious School 631-427-1157

Ilene Brown

Director, Early Childhood Center 631-427-1089 ext. 15

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From Rabbi Ari Saks



Chanukah During COVID

Very shortly we will celebrate the holiday of Chanukah. Though many of us will not be able to spend it in person with our families or with our community, there is much light embedded within this holiday that can illuminate our lives. The historian Josephus coined the term for this holiday "Chag Ha-Urim," or the "Holiday of Lights" which is why the

proper greeting on this holiday is Chag Ha-Urim Sameach, Happy Festival of Lights. So as we begin the Festival of Lights during this unique year of COVID, I'd like to offer 8 ways -- one for each night of Chanukah -- to feel the warmth of the holiday's light.

1. Study Torah

The origin story of the dreidel is tied to the Greek prohibition of studying Torah. When Jewish students were gathering to study Torah, the Greeks would try to catch them in the act. Though they could hide their texts easily, the Jewish students could not hide being in groups together. So they took out dreidels to show the Greeks that they were not gathered to study Torah rather they gathered to play a well known spin-the-top game. Now that there is no fear of studying Torah, let's freely open our texts

in honor of the Jewish students who kept the practice alive in difficult times.

2. Play games

The dreidel is a ubiquitous component of the Hanukkah experience such that no Chanukkah should come and go without one spirited game of dreidel. But more than the dreidel itself, the purpose of play on Chanukah is to elicit the joy and laughter that comes with playing games with friends and family. So this Chanukah, find a game -- whether it's dreidel or something else, whether it's in person or online -- that will lift your spirits.

3. Create delicious memories

One of the unwritten rules of the holiday is that as much as possible you should make food that highlight the ingredient of oil. Sufganiyot (doughnuts) and latkes (fried potato pancakes) are just the more well known staples of a Chanukah diet, but feel free to use oil to create other delicious memories this Chanukah!

4. Stand up for justice

At the core of the Chanukah story is the notion that the Jewish people deserved to worship God in the way they saw fit. When that right was denied, the Maccabees rose up to fight for what they saw as a just cause. So too should we be inspired in our day to fight for the causes we see as just.

5. Pray

Though God is notably absent from the original story of Chanukah, God plays a critical and central role since the Maccabees fought for the right to worship God in the Temple, and the rabbis of the Talmud claimed that a single jug of oil lasting eight days was a miracle from God. During this holiday we have special prayers and songs related to lighting the nine-branched chanu-

kiyah as well as special additions

to our services in order to thank God for the miracle and gift of this holiday. Let us try to take advantage of these prayerful opportunities.

6. Give gifts

Though giving gifts is not part of the original Chanukah story, it is a central feature of the American Chanukah story. So let us take the time this holiday season, especially when we can't be together in person, to use this American Chanukah tradition to share our appreciation for everyone -- our friends, our family, the stranger, the widow and the orphan.



7. Tell the story & Light the candles

The key mitzvah of Chanukah is pirsumei nisa, which means "publicizing the miracle." To fulfill this mitzvah we place our Chanukah candles by our front windows so passerby can see them, and we take the time to share the story of Chanukah with our family and the larger community.

8. Join with your community

Though we will most likely be physically apart for this holiday there will be opportunities for us to gather with the help of technology. At a time of year when light is at its scarcest, we can come together to add the lights that God created within each of us together to form one brilliant communal fire that will never cease to provide us warmth, support, and comfort no matter how dark it is outside.

Chag Ha-Urim Sameach, Rabbi Ari Saks

From Hazzan Israel Gordan



2020!

In rabbinical school, the class in which we learn about Jewish law, or halakha, is called codes. This semester in codes, I have been studying the laws of Shabbat. At the start of each class session, our professor does a quick check in to see how everyone is doing and asks if anyone has any news to report. The other day, one of my classmates said that he was going to the dentist the next

day. While this wouldn't normally be a news item, he was a little concerned because during Covid, he has been eating far more candy than usual as a coping mechanism. He wasn't actually concerned that he had destroyed his dental hygiene or health, but he believed that it was important for all of us to make allowances for getting through particularly difficult or stressful times.

That made me think about how much content I have been streaming since the beginning of the pandemic. While many people enjoy binge watching shows, I have actually gotten into the habit of watching movies and have gone through an alarming amount in the past several months. It's hard to figure out when, exactly, I do this considering I'm still teaching in the ECC and religious school, I'm still tutoring the B'nai mitzvah students, leading services, taking 18 credits at JTS, and am married with three kids. But it has been a perfect escape, not just at the end, but oftentimes in the middle of a long day. I find that when I am watching a movie, whether it is new or something I have seen be-

fore, whether it's a drama or a comedy, I really don't think about anything else. I get to escape into the story and the picture that is in front of me, and that sensation brings me great joy.

The pandemic has been tough for most people in profound ways: psychological, financial, and emotional, among many others. Add to that an extremely contentious election, and a general sense of dread, worry, and uncertainty about the future, and it is easy to see how simple pleasures can be important releases for many people. Being bombarded by the relentless news, we all want to tune out. Many people have reported eating more than usual, or drinking more, getting into particular hobbies, learning new skills, or taking on projects. And others have been too incapacitated by worry to accomplish much of anything.

All this makes a clear case for the importance of our community. The HJC is a great place to go for advice or assistance, or as a way to learn about other resources that are out there. In addition, religion, tradition, and ritual, are important methods to not only connect to something greater, but also to build connections and resilience. Prayer and meditation have been shown to be greatly beneficial to physical and mental health and well being.

While everything is harder in these times of physically distancing, we can still make connections to each other in person on Shabbat morning, and over zoom for other services, meetings, and educational offerings through the synagogue. We also provide opportunities for you to help others through our food drives, JNN, and checking in with old friends. Finally, it's also a great place to come to, even if you're just looking for a recommendation on what to stream next.



President's Perspective by Dan Schoeffler



High Holday Survey Results

Many thanks to the 99 HJC members who completed our High Holiday survey last month!

As you know, our services this year were made possible by an incredible, all-out effort by so many people — our clergy, staff, volunteers, and outside contractors. Overall, you rated almost every aspect of our services and pro-

grams highly and the feedback is greatly appreciated. The survey results will help guide our approach for next year (hopefully post-COVID!!!) and make the holidays even better.

We promised that we would share the survey results with you and here are the most important findings:

Demographics of respondents

- 87% were age 50+, 70% were age 60+ (and 9% were over 80!)
- 62% of respondents have attended HH services at HJC for more than 20 years; 15% between 11 and 20 years
- This year, 42% are attending fewer HJC services and programs than last year; 47% are attending about the same; 10% are attending more

HH services in general

- About the shorter length of services this year, 41% said it was about right for this year, another 41% said it was also about right for the future, and 5% said it was too short
- Most overall aspects of HH services received high marks (over 4.0 out of 5). These included: organization, communication of the schedule; registration; the HH packet and goody bag; the integration between the online and in-person services; the Rabbi's sermons and speaking and the Cantor's singing.
- "Why do you attend High Holiday services?" The most common response was the same as Tevye's tradition! Others mentioned: to pray, to be with community, to connect with God, because it's what Jews do, spiritual regeneration and reflection.

Indoor services

- 34% of respondents attended one or more indoor services at HJC this year.
- All of the specific aspects of being indoors received scores of at least 4.8 out of 5. These were: security; health and safety; physical accessibility; ticketing and seating; and the look and feel of the building and grounds.

Outdoor services and programs

• 21% of respondents attended one or more events outside at HJC with the largest number attending on Yom Kippur day. All of the elements received average scores of 4.2 or above out of 5. These were: security; health and safety; physical accessibility; ticketing and seating; look and feel of the building and grounds; and the tent and outside lighting.

Online services and programs

83% of respondents attended one or more of our online services and programs. Yizkor was attended by 74%; most rated it very good or excellent but some felt it was less meaningful in an online Zoom format. Audio and video quality of services were rated highly. Fewer people viewed the prerecorded programs and some of those felt they were not as meaningful as the services themselves.

Overall responses:

- What was most meaningful and valuable? Many said: the simple fact that we held services and gave most people an option to attend in a way they were comfortable. Also mentioned were sermons, singing, davening, Kol Nidre.
- What to change or keep for next year: Many said they hoped the pandemic would be over and that we would be back in shul. Some would like to see Yizkor held in the Sanctuary and streamed rather than over Zoom. In general, many appreciated the livestreaming of services from the Sanctuary.

Streaming in the future (following the guidance of the Conservative movement)? 84% in favor. If there is streaming, most expect to attend services and programs (online and in-person) either the same or more than without it.

Overall satisfaction with HJC: average rating 8.6 out of 10. Comments: Flexibility during the pandemic; sense of belonging and supportive community; personal connections to clergy and congregants.

Recommending HJC: 94% of respondents said they would recommend HJC to a friend or family member. Comments: warm and friendly; great Jewish community experience; spiritual, caring and warm congregation; "I just love the place"; "it is my home".

Again, our sincere thanks to everyone who made the holidays so special and to all who participated in the survey!

Dan Schoeffler

President

View From The Director's Chair



Silver Linings

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." - Charles Dickens

A global pandemic is not a good thing but maybe COVID-19 has a silver lining.

We're all finding new ways to connect with ourselves, with our families, and our loved ones. We're realizing how important community is and doubling-down on investing

in it. We're deepening our appreciation for the teachers, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, grocery store workers, garbage collectors, bus drivers and janitors – people whose contributions became infinitely more meaningful than ever before.

We've realized we can do things that seemed impossible and we can make sacrifices for the greater good. Maybe after learning how to come together to fight this virus, we will continue to carry that spirit in the fights against racism, sexism, inequality, and climate change.

And if you can't read one more bad news story, read the following good-news outcomes from living in a time of coronavirus.

- **1. Generosity and Community-Mindedness.** Since the beginning of the pandemic, our HJC community has demonstrated what generosity in action looks like; lending a hand to those in need by performing wellness checks, phone calls, shopping for older friends and neighbors, dropping off care packages and prayer books, managing food drives and simply looking out for each other.
- **2. Leveraging Technology.** Yes, it is tedious and tiresome to be forced to connect virtually most of the time now, but the technology is working; Live-Streamed High Holiday & Shabbat Services. Zoom Meetings, Adult Ed Classes and Brunch & Learns. Virtual Happy Hours and Dinner Parties. Skype Book Clubs. Grandparents using FaceTime. Technology has provided a vehicle to connect, not only to share information, but smiles.
- **3. Pollution is down.** Venice's canals are clearer than they've been in decades, months of pollution reduction in China has saved thousands of lives, and New York researchers found a 50% drop in carbon monoxide levels. Once we've saved ourselves from the virus, let's keep on saving the planet from ourselves. We're clearly able to do it.
- **4. Happy Dogs.** I'm loving the newly-minted @DogsWorkingFromHome Instagram account, sharing posed photos of our

fur babies working alongside us (complete with reading glasses and noise-canceling headphones!). "I get genuine joy from seeing how happy they are to have their humans home all the time.

- **5. Musical phenoms and free concerts.** It is truly surprising how many talented musicians are hiding out in apartment buildings across the globe! The videos from Europe of dozens of people out on their balconies listening to musicians and/or singing along tugs at every last one of our heartstrings. Or how about for months in NYC at 7:00 PM each night at shift change, thousands of New Yorkers banged on their pots and pans in appreciation of the medical workers on the front lines. It was a symphony of love.
- **6. Library story time is getting a celebrity makeover.** How would you like to have Jennifer Garner read your kids a book this afternoon? The best of the American sweethearts—Garner and Amy Adams, led #OperationStorytime with famous voices like Josh Gad and children's authors joining in. Literature truly does bring us all together.
- **7. Virtual birdwatching is officially a thing.** Last Spring, a tweet from professional birder Nick Lund asked people to send in photos of the birds in their backyards. Hundreds of people complied, sending in everything from bluebirds to bald eagles to your common duck. Long live nature and our appreciation of it.
- **8. Young Broadway Stars.** Empathetic to student performers who rehearsed for months for shows that were canceled, Broadway legend Laura Benanti invited performers to share their talents with #SunshineSongs. If you're ready to break out into spontaneous applause, Billboard Magazine gathered some of the best. (https://www.billboard.com/articles/news/broadway/9336834/laura-benanti-high-school-musicals-sunshine-songs)
- **9. Time for Hobbies.** The life-altering reality of waiting out a global pandemic has included lots of free time and mental energy that's best dedicated to something (anything!) other than constant worry. You don't need to be productive or active or constantly learning in this time of crisis, but if you find yourself curious to try something new, do it. The stakes have never been lower.

These are the things that make our lives better: health, love, friend-ship, family, community, pets, music, literature, theater, nature, leisure. We still have all these things, we just have to appreciate them in a different way for now.

The Social Action Committee

wants to thank everyone for your generous donations to the Helping Hand Mission Thanksgiving Food Drive.

HJC filled 35 boxes!!!

In addition, we brought 2 full bags of additional groceries to the Harry Chapin Food Pantry.

Thank you for your "Flexigidity"

To survive myriad trials and tribulations, the Jewish people have always needed to demonstrate "flexigidity" - a combination of what is untouchable and what is negotiable. Our approach to Religious School this year is an example of our community's "flexigidity." While not compromising on our commitment to high-quality Jewish education and identity-building, we radically modified our approach to it to accommodate new circumstances.



Some of the key features of this year's Religious School are:

- Screening for COVID signs, symptoms, or exposures
- Outdoor Community Time
- Outdoor learning: such as Hebrew letter hopscotch
- Zoom Hebrew education Tuesday afternoons
- Shalom Learning structured curriculum, which allows consistent education quality and frees the teachers to think about novel delivery mechanisms
- Use of large, plasma-screen TV to show curriculum-related videos
- Greater reliance on volunteers (Thank you!)

Thank you for entrusting your children's Jewish education to HJC Religious School and for your flexibility.

If you have suggestions on how our program can be improved, please reach out to either of us.

Leigh Murphy, Religious School Director

Mark Richman, Religious School Committee President

JNN Update



Hope everyone is safe & well. The volunteers from HJC have been lovingly assembling groceries in Huntington Station for several months now with no end in sight! We still need your help to continue this endeavor of purchasing fresh fruit, produce and other staples. Interested?

Please contact Rob Fisher at robfisher720@gmail.com

Early Childhood News Ilene Brown, Director of Early Childhood Education



Where there is a will, there is a way

"Where there is a will, there is a way. If there is a chance in a million that you can do something, anything, to keep what you want from ending, do it. Pry the door open or, if need be, wedge your foot in that door and keep it open."

Pauline Kael

Although this quote has been abbreviated to "Where there is a will,

there is a way", it still communicates the importance of determination and perseverance. It rings very true to me in these unprecedented times when we are unable (or think we are unable) to initiate many of the things we did prior to Covid. By this time last year, the ECC and the ECC PA would have already hosted 5-10 events to build our community and foster relationships. Clearly bringing people together has been one of the many challenges of Covid. What do we do? Nothing? Forget about community? Wait around until Covid is gone? Well, if you are blessed enough to work with an amazing group of teachers and have the best parents of any school, you think outside of the box and look for ways to attain your goal and make the very best of a trying situation. Thanks to the ECC PA, we did indeed safely host 2 events to bring the ECC families together- IN PERSON!

The first one was our Pumpkin Painting Event that was held on

the side lawn of HJC immediately after school one day. The PA supplied the pumpkins and paint. The parents brought blankets to sit on, physically distanced on this beautiful day, and all wore face coverings. The parents were still able to chat, socialize, and have fun with their children decorating and painting their very own pumpkins.

The second event that the Parent Association created was Family Bingo Day. This incredibly fun event took place on a Sunday afternoon in the parking lot of HJC. Families registered for this activity and were provided with their very own Bingo table and chairs, as well as their own disposable Bingo cards and stampers. Each family's table was covered with a bright and cheery disposable table cloth. Andrea Rosenbaum, the PA President, was our Bingo announcer, calling out the Bingo numbers and letters. There was a great deal of joyful chatter as families grew closer to filling their Bingo cards. It was so exciting to hear a child scream, "Bingo"!!! The PA also purchased prizes for those children who won Bingo and all children were given little containers of Play Doh and stampers. Because we had such a big response to this event, we were required to have two sessions to keep our gathering under 50 attendees per Covid restrictions. We worked vigilantly and diligently to clean and sanitize chairs, table, and replace the tablecloths before the next Bingo group arrived.

These events were a win-win for all and a true testament to the quote "Where there is a will, there is a way......"





























Donations

GENERAL FUND

Maxwell & Rosalie Malkiel

Emily & William May in memory of Joan Spanier at yahrzeit.

Ceceil Klein in memory of Herbert Sausmer at yahrzeit.

Richard Klein in memory of Samuel Klein at yahrzeit.

Morris Lagnado in memory of Albert Lagnado at yahrzeit.

Sari & Saul Sternschein in memory of Jules Einhorn,
husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Renda Rosenblatt in memory of Henry Lederman at yahrzeit.

Richard Wertheim in memory of Joel Wertheim at yahrzeit.

Anne & Barry Specht in memory of Myra Snyder, mother of
Anne Specht.

Sheryl Winkler in memory of Eleanor Teitel at yahrzeit. **Leslie & Jack Rubin** in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Daniel Klein in memory of Earl Klein at yahrzeit.

Jack Lapidus in memory of Solomon Lapidus at yahrzeit.

Lesley & Jeff Stark in memory of Jack Magaril at yahrzeit.

Lesley & Jeff Stark in memory of Sandra Magaril at yahrzeit.

Sy Schpoont in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of
Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

BEN TASMAN LIBRARY FUND

Pam & Bruce Fleiss in memory of Florence Wagner, mother of Larry Wagner.

CANTOR'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Dawn & Barry Sosnick with thanks for the beautiful High Holiday services.

Susi Susskind in memory of Jerry Lieberman at yahrzeit.

COVID-19 RECOVERY FUND

Marilyn & David Klein

Vered Cole in honor of the 80th birthday of Steve Holbreich. Vered Cole & family in memory of Rose Cole at yahrzeit. Vered Cole & family in memory of Etti Levanon at yahrzeit. Tom Rosen in memory of Samuel R. Rosen at yahrzeit. Randi & Alan Schuller in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks. The Solomon family in memory of Cecilia Kriegstein, mother of Alan Kriegstein.

DAILY MINYAN FUND

Bea Pedowicz in memory of Mollie Pedowitz at yahrzeit. **Susi Susskind** in memory of Herbert Susskind at yahrzeit.

DAVID S. ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Judy & Lester Fox in honor of the birth of Ava Lane Berger, granddaughter of Eileen & Harvey Berger.

Judy & Lester Fox in memory of Jeffery Nirenberg.

Judy & Lester Fox in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Kathy Brookhart in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

The HJC Men's Club in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Lesley & Jeff Stark in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT FUND

Barry Sosnick in support of the Israel Committee Brunch & Learn with Hussein Ibish.

PRAYERBOOK AND BIBLE FUND

Dalia & Marv Rosenthal in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Rosalie & Maxwell Malkiel

Dawn & Barry Sosnick with thanks for the beautiful High Holiday services.

Roz & Marty Spielman in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks. **Larry Wagner** with thanks & appreciation to Rabbi Saks for his support.

Jill & Morris Lagnado in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Liz & Steve Holbreich in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Michelle & Michael Behr in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Janet & Mark Zimmerman in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Joanne & Peter Cohn in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Barbara & Joel Kuppersmith in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Zachary Kuppersmith.

Barbara & Joel Kuppersmith in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks. **Rina & Eric Jaffe** in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Marge & Larry Maltin in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND Cont'd

Eileen & Harvey Berger in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Vered Cole & family in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Shelley Weinberg in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Susi Susskind in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Elaine & Walter Kleinmann in memory of Jules Einhorn

Elaine & Walter Kleinmann in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Ora & Alan Kriegstein in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Eric Solomon in memory of his father,
Robert David Solomon.

SOCIAL ACTION FUND/ JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Emily & William May in memory of Jerome Schwartz at yahrzeit.

Tyna Strenger in memory of Gordon Strenger at yahrzeit. Dalia & Marv Rosenthal in honor of Charlene Kerner. Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Irvin Epstein at yahrzeit.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Kenneth Reiver, father of Mitch Reiver.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Gerald Lawrence Cooper, father of Brian Cooper.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Eric Butlein, brother of Elaine Kleinmann & Robin Yanes.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Sol Marenberg, father of Leslie Rubin.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the birth of Hannah Beth Wirchin, granddaughter of Miriam & Joel Wirchin.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the birth of Ava Lane Berger, granddaughter of Eileen & Harvey Berger.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the engagement of Maya, daughter of Cindy and Moti Dolgin, to Or Shaked.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the engagement of Dana, daughter of Evelyn Abraham & Roger Silverberg, to Alan Rosenthal.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of the engagement of Anna, daughter of Donna & Ed Fleiss, to Gary Sundt.

Gloria Safran with wishes for a speedy recovery to her niece, Joan Deem.

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

mother of Anne Specht.

Jill & Arnie Sherman in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Evelyn Abraham & Roger Silverberg in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks. **Gloria Safran** in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Ruth Gold, mother of Ken Gold.

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in honor of the birth of Hannah Beth Wirchin, granddaughter of Miriam & Joel Wirchin.

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Kenneth Reiver, father of Mitch Reiver.

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Robert David Solomon, father of Eric Solomon.

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in honor of the engagement of Jake, son of Silvina & Jeff Kramer, to Carly Boxer.

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Sol Marenberg, father of Leslie Rubin.

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Cecilia Kriegstein, mother of Alan Kriegstein.

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Eric Butlein, brother of Elaine Kleinmann & Robin Yanes.

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Myra Snyder, mother of Anne Specht.

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

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

Maxine & Rob Fisher in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Janet & Mark Zimmerman in support of the efforts of JNN.

Ora & Alan Kriegstein in memory of Sol Marenberg, father of Leslie Rubin.

Lori Sklar in memory of Norman Sklar at yahrzeit.

YOUTH FUND

Dawn & Barry Sosnick with thanks to Rabbi Saks for his support of the Mitzvah Team.

CONDOLENCES

Anne Specht on the death of her mother, Myra Snyder z"l Carol Einhorn and Rachel Saks on the death of Jules Einhorn z"l, husband of Carol and father of Rachel.

Sandra Weintraub on the death of her husband, Steve Weintraub z"l.

Jane Gemunder on the death of her father, Donald Tesher z"l.

Kol Nidre Annual Appeal 5781

GRAND BENEFACTOR

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Our Culinary Legacy Cookbook

To fulfill Our Culinary Legacy Cookbook's mission to feed the hungry on Long Island, Sisterhood has made a generous donation to the Jewish Nutrition Network.

DONATIONS

Donna and Ed Fleiss in honor of the birth of Ava Lane Berger, granddaughter of Eileen and Harvey Berger

Donna and Ed Fleiss in honor of the engagement of Andrew, son of Amy and Joel Sobin to Amy

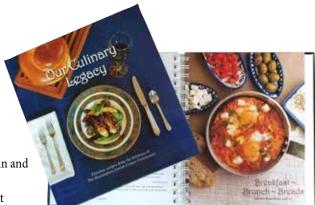
Sue and David Lefkowitz in honor of the birth of Ava Lane Berger, granddaughter of Eileen and Harvey Berger

Phyllis and Andy Levy in honor of the birth of Ava Lane Berger, granddaughter of Eileen and Harvey Berger

Phyllis and Andy Levy in honor of the birth of Sienna, granddaughter of Phyllis Goldstein and Howard Horowitz

Phyllis and Andy Levy in memory of Grace Goldblum, mother of Phyllis Levy at yahrzeit Vicki and Tom Rosen

Roz and Marty Spielman in honor of the birth of Ava Lane Berger, granddaughter of Eileen and Harvey Berger



OUR CULINARY LEGACY COOKBOOK

The Culinary Legacy Cookbook makes a great gift. If you have not placed your order yet, the cost is \$36 per book. Since this is a limited run, submit your orders now.

You can order online https://hjcny.org/hjc-cookbook/

or send a check to HJC and mark attention Sisterhood Cookbook.

APRONS AND BAGS WITH CULINARY LEGACY COOKBOOK

If you are looking for a gift to give family or friends, in addition to the cookbook, buy an Apron (\$15) and Grocery Bag (\$5) with the Cookbook logo.

Please contact Evelyn Abraham (evelyn_abraham@optonline.net) if you have any questions about the Cookbook or want to buy an apron or bag.

B'Yachad

The 2020-2021 Torah Fund Campaign Is Underway

Funds raised by Torah Fund have gone toward scholarships in support of the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York, NY), Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles, CA), Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem), Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires, Argentina), and Zacharias Frankel College (Potsdam, Germany).

Our Torah Fund theme this year is "B'Yachad" – Together. In these unsettled times we're living right now, we will experience many changes. We will navigate the changes and uncharted territory B'Yachad, Together.

Since the Torah Fund office and JTS remain closed, greeting cards and the 2020 – 2021 pins are not available yet.

Thank you for your donations to Torah Fund, supporting programming that prepares our future Jewish leaders for their roles in this continuously changing world. If you would like to make a contribution to this year's Torah Fund campaign, please contact Evelyn Abraham.



Kindling the Chanukah Lights: Beginning Thursday evening, December 10



This year (2020), we begin lighting candles **on Thursday night**, **December 10** and we light the last candle **on the night of December 17**.

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

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

Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, sheh-asa nissim la-vo-tei-nu bayamim ha-haim 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)

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.

Jewish Composers

Stephen Sondheim



Stephen Joshua Sondheim, born March 22, 1930, is an American composer and lyricist known for his work in musical theatre. One of the most important figures in 20th-century musical theatre, Sondheim has been praised for having "reinvented the American musical" with shows that tackle "unexpected themes that range far beyond the traditional subjects" with "music and lyrics of unprecedented complexity and so-

phistication." His shows have been acclaimed for addressing "darker, more harrowing elements of the human experience," with songs often tinged with "ambivalence" about various aspects of life.

His best-known works as composer and lyricist include A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (1962), Company (1970), Follies (1971), A Little Night Music (1973), Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (1979), Merrily We Roll Along (1981), Sunday in the Park with George (1984), and Into the Woods (1987). He is also known for writing the lyrics for West Side Story (1957) and Gypsy (1959).

He has received an Academy Award, eight Tony Awards (more than any other composer), a Special Tony Award, eight Grammy Awards, a Pulitzer Prize, a Laurence Olivier Award, and a 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 2010, the former Henry Miller's Theater on Broadway was renamed the Stephen Sondheim Theatre; in 2019, it was announced that the Queen's Theatre in the West End of London would be renamed the Sondheim Theatre at the end of the year. Sondheim has written film music, contributing "Goodbye for Now" for Warren Beatty's 1981 *Reds*. He wrote five songs for 1990's *Dick Tracy*, including "Sooner or Later (I Always Get My Man)", sung in the film by Madonna, which won the Academy Award for Best Original Song. Film adaptations of Sondheim's work include *West Side Story* (1961), *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (2007), *Into the Woods* (2014), *West Side Story* (2021), and *Merrily We Roll Along* (TBA).

Sondheim is Jewish, having been born into a Jewish family in New York City, the son of Etta Janet ("Foxy", née Fox; 1897–1992) and Herbert Sondheim (1895–1966). His father manufactured dresses designed by his mother. The composer grew up on the Upper West Side of Manhattan and, after his parents divorced, on a farm near Doylestown, Pennsylvania. As the only child of well-to-do parents living in the San Remo on Central Park West, he was described in Meryle Secrest's biography (Stephen Sondheim: A Life) as an isolated, emotionally neglected child. When he lived in New York, Sondheim attended the Ethical Culture Fieldston School. He later attended the New York Military Academy and George School, a private Quaker preparatory school in Bucks County, Pennsylvania where he wrote his first musical, By George, and from which he graduated in 1946. Sondheim spent several summers at Camp Androscoggin. He later matriculated to Williams College and graduated in 1950.

He traces his interest in theatre to Very Warm for May, a Broadway musical he saw when he was nine. "The curtain went up and revealed a piano," Sondheim recalled. "A butler took a duster and brushed it up, tinkling the keys. I thought that was thrilling."

When Sondheim was ten years old, his father (already a distant figure) had left his mother for another woman (Alicia, with whom he had two sons). Herbert sought custody of Stephen but was unsuccessful. Sondheim explained to biographer Secrest that he was "what they call an institutionalized child, meaning one who has no contact with any kind of family. You're in, though it's luxurious, an environment that supplies you with everything but human contact. No brothers and sisters, no parents, and yet plenty to eat, and friends to play with and a warm bed, you know?"

Sondheim detested his mother, who was said to be psychologically abusive and projected her anger from her failed marriage on her son: "When my father left her, she substituted me for him. And she used me the way she used him, to come on to and to berate, beat up on, you see. What she did for five years was treat me like dirt, but come on to me at the same time." She once wrote him a letter saying that the "only regret she ever had was giving him birth". When his mother died in the spring of 1992, Sondheim did not attend her funeral. He had already been estranged from her for nearly 20 years.

When Sondheim was about ten years old (around the time of his parents' divorce), he became friends with James Hammerstein, son of lyricist and playwright Oscar Hammerstein II. The elder Hammerstein became Sondheim's surrogate father, influencing him profoundly and developing his love of musical theatre. Sondheim met Hal Prince, who would direct many of his shows, at the opening of *South Pacific*, Hammerstein's musical with Richard Rodgers. The comic musical he wrote at George School, *By George*, was a success among his peers and buoyed the young songwriter's self-esteem. When Sondheim asked Hammerstein to evaluate it as though he had no knowledge of its author, he said it was the worst thing he had ever seen: "But if you want to know why it's terrible, I'll tell you." They spent the rest of the day going over the musical, and Sondheim later said, "In that afternoon I learned more about songwriting and the musical theater than most people learn in a lifetime."

Sondheim began attending Williams College, a liberal arts college in Williamstown, Massachusetts whose theatre program attracted him. A member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, he graduated magna cum laude in 1950.

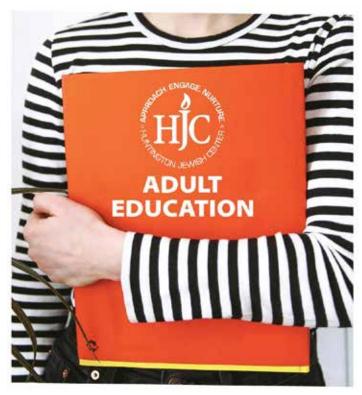
The first musical for which Sondheim wrote the music and lyrics was *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, which opened in 1962 and ran for 964 performances.

The Kennedy Center held a Sondheim Celebration, running from May to August 2002, consisting of six of Sondheim's musicals: *Sweeney Todd, Company, Sunday in the Park With George, Merrily We Roll Along, Passion* and *A Little Night Music*. On April 28, 2002, in connection with the Sondheim Celebration, Sondheim and Frank Rich of the New York Times had a conversation. They appeared in four interviews, entitled "A Little Night Conversation with Stephen Sondheim", in California and Portland, Oregon in March 2008 and at Oberlin College in September. The Cleveland Jewish News reported on their Oberlin appearance: "Sondheim said: 'Movies are photographs; the stage is larger than life.

A supporter for writers' rights in the theatre industry, Stephen Sondheim is an active member of the Dramatists Guild of America. In 1973, he was elected as the Guild's sixteenth president, and he continued his presidency for the non-profit organization until 1981.

HJC Adult Education Virtual Learning

MONDAY EVENINGS at 8 PM



Lester Fox will be offering a weekly study of two fundamental texts:

The Torah

through the weekly portion

and

Pirke Avot

(Ethics of the Fathers)

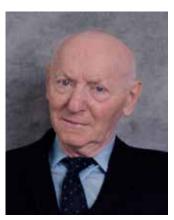
which are ethical teachings and moral maxims providing compelling entry points to the study of Talmud.

These study sessions will entail a close review of the texts. Lester's lifetime of study has given him a rich background in Jewish ideas and practices. His extensive knowledge is matched by his capacity to teach. Lester brings to discussions a unique blend of humor, erudition and, above all, passion.

Please contact Lester Fox at foxles@optonline.net

Jewish Authors

Isaac Bashevis Singer



Isaac Bashevis Singer; November 11, 1903 – July 24, 1991, was a Polish-American writer in Yiddish and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1978. The Polish form of his birth name was Icek Hersz Zynger. He used his mother's first name in an initial literary pseudonym, Izaak Baszewis, which he later expanded. He was a leading figure in the Yiddish literary movement, writing and publishing only in Yiddish. He was also awarded two U.S.

National Book Awards, one in Children's Literature for his memoir *A Day Of Pleasure: Stories of a Boy Growing Up in Warsaw* (1970) and one in Fiction for his collection *A Crown of Feathers and Other Stories* (1974).

Isaac Bashevis Singer was born in 1903 in Leoncin village near Warsaw, capital of Congress Poland in the Russian Empire - lands that were a part of the Russian partition territories of the former Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth. A few years later, the family moved to a nearby Polish town of Radzymin. The exact date of his birth is uncertain, but most probably it was November 11 a date similar to the one that Singer gave both to his official biographer Paul Kresh, his secretary Dvorah Telushkin, and Rabbi William Berkowitz. The year 1903 is consistent with the historical events that his brother refers to in their childhood memoirs, including the death of Theodor Herzl. The often-quoted birth date, July 14, 1904 was made up by the author in his youth, possibly to make himself younger to avoid the draft.

His father was a Hasidic rabbi and his mother, Bathsheba, was the daughter of the rabbi of Biłgoraj. Singer later used her name in his pen name "Bashevis" (Bathsheba's). Both his older siblings, sister Esther Kreitman (1891–1954) and brother Israel Joshua Singer (1893–1944), became writers as well. Esther was the first of the family to write stories.

The family moved to the court of the Rabbi of Radzymin in 1907, where his father became head of the Yeshiva. After the Yeshiva building burned down in 1908, the family moved to Warsaw, a flat at Krochmalna Street 10. In the spring of 1914, the Singers moved to No. 12.

The street where Singer grew up was located in the impoverished, Yiddish-speaking Jewish quarter of Warsaw. There his father served as a rabbi, and was called on to be a judge, arbitrator, religious authority and spiritual leader in the Jewish community. The unique atmosphere of pre-war Krochmalna Street can be found both in the collection of Varshavsky-stories, which tell stories from Singer's childhood, as well as in those novels and stories which take place in pre-war Warsaw.

In 1917, because of the hardships of World War I, the family split up. Singer moved with his mother and younger brother Moshe to his mother's hometown of Biłgoraj, a traditional shtetl, where his mother's brothers had followed his grandfather as rabbis. When his father became a village rabbi again in 1921, Singer returned to Warsaw. He entered the Tachkemoni Rabbinical Seminary and soon decided that neither the school nor the profession suited him. He returned to Biłgoraj, where he tried to support himself by giving Hebrew lessons,

but soon gave up and joined his parents, considering himself a failure. In 1923, his older brother Israel Joshua arranged for him to move to Warsaw to work as a proofreader for the Jewish Literarische Bleter, of which the brother was an editor.

In 1935, four years before the Nazis invasion, Singer emigrated from Poland to the United States. He was fearful of the growing threat in neighboring Germany. The move separated the author from his common-law first wife Runia Pontsch and son Israel Zamir (1929–2014); they emigrated to Moscow and then Palestine. The three met again twenty years later in 1955.

Singer settled in New York City, where he took up work as a journalist and columnist for The Jewish Daily Forward, a Yiddish-language newspaper. After a promising start, he became despondent and for some years felt "Lost in America" (title of his 1974 novel published in Yiddish; published in English in 1981).

In 1938, he met Alma Wassermann née Haimann (1907–1996), a German-Jewish refugee from Munich. They married in 1940, and their union seemed to release energy in him; he returned to prolific writing and to contributing to the Forward. In addition to his pen name of "Bashevis," he published under the pen names of "Warszawski" (pron. Varshavsky) during World War II, and "D. Segal." They lived for many years in the Belnord apartment building on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

In 1981, Singer delivered a commencement address at the University at Albany, and was presented with an honorary doctorate.

Singer published at least 18 novels, 14 children's books, a number of memoirs, essays and articles. He is best known as a writer of short stories, which have been published in more than a dozen collections. The first collection of Singer's short stories in English, *Gimpel the Fool*, was published in 1957. The title story was translated by Saul Bellow and published in May 1953 in the Partisan Review. Selections from Singer's "Varshavsky-stories" in the Daily Forward were later published in anthologies such as *My Father's Court* (1966). Later collections include *A Crown of Feathers* (1973), with notable masterpieces in between, such as *The Spinoza of Market Street* (1961) and *A Friend of Kafka* (1970). His stories and novels reflect the world of the East European Jewry in which he grew up. After his many years in America, his stories also portrayed the world of the immigrants and their pursuit of an elusive American dream, which seems always beyond reach.

Prior to Singer's winning the Nobel Prize, English translations of dozens of his stories were frequently published in popular magazines such as Playboy and Esquire. They were publishing literary works and included his stories among their best; in turn, he found them to be appropriate outlets for his work.

Singer was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1978.

Between 1981 and 1989, Singer contributed articles to Moment Magazine, an independent magazine which focuses on the life of the American Jewish community.

Singer died on July 24, 1991 in Surfside, Florida, after suffering a series of strokes. He was buried in Cedar Park Cemetery, Emerson, New Jersey. A street in Surfside, Florida is named Isaac Singer Boulevard in his honor; and so is a city square in Lublin, Poland. The full academic scholarship for undergraduate students at the University of Miami is also named in his honor.

2020-21 HIHI Supply Drive

In December, Huntington Jewish Center begins another season of HIHI, the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative.—with some major changes because of COVID-19. This season anyone who wants to help with HIHI can do it from the comfort of their own homes. We will offer food and clothing for approximately 21 guests for 10 Wednesdays through March, 2021

Dec 23, and 30; Jan 6, 20, and 27; Feb 3, 10 and 17; Mar 3, and 10

WE WILL NOT BE HOSTING, BUT WE WILL BRING FOOD AND SUPPLIES TO GLORIA DEI CHURCH. We need many supplies, especially men's warm clothing, protective masks, and hand sanitizer. Please bring in one or more of the items below and help us serve those who would otherwise be sleeping outdoors during the coldest months. Donations can be left in bins that we will put in the lobby of HJC:

- Winter Gloves
- Hooded sweatshirts (M-XXL) and long-sleeved tees
- New underwear
- Winter coats
- Work boots
- Jeans (sizes 32-40)
- Hand sanitizer, masks** [important!]
- Disposable razors, shaving cream, chapped stick, hand cream, tissue packs

In addition, financial donations are greatly appreciated. The breakfast & lunch bags will need to be entirely non-perishable this season. If you are interested in preparing bagged breakfasts and lunches or delivering the food, please contact us for the Sign-Up details, including suggested meals.

Karen Flanzenbaum at <u>KFlanzenbaumlaw@gmail.com</u> or Ellen Steinberg at <u>EllenSteinberg728@gmail.com</u>





HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER 510 PARK AVENUE, HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK 11743





GENERAL BUILDING AND OPERATING FUNDS

GENERAL FUND - supports services and operational continuity of the synagogue.

ANNUAL KOL NIDRE CAMPAIGN - supports operational continuity and programming.

TREE OF LIFE - (\$360 minimum contribution)

BUILDER'S WALL - (\$500 minimum contribution)

ARK & PULPIT FUND - supports ongoing care and restoration of the Ark and Torahs.

LIEF CHAPEL BENCH PLAQUES - dedicate a seat of a Lief Chapel bench (\$500 minimum contribution)

HUMASH - a limited number of Etz Hayim Humashim are available for dedication. A contribution of \$72 includes a dedication bookplate.

BEN TASMAN LIBRARY FUND - defrays the expense of library supplies.

PRAYERBOOK AND BIBLE FUND - supports the ongoing need for prayer books.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN FUND - established in recognition of our 100 years, enables the synagogue to continue to beautify the grounds.

DAILY MINYAN FUND - helps maintain materials and books for minyan and the Lief Chapel.

LEAH GREENE GARDEN FUND - supports general landscaping and property beautification.

YVONNE COHEN DEDICATION FUND - supports special projects for the Nursery & Religious Schools and general congregation.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ACTION FUNDS

SOCIAL ACTION FUND / JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK -

defrays operating costs of the weekly program of feeding the needy and supports mitzvot, holiday baskets and activities for the needy.

HJC COVID-19 Recovery Fund

Provides support to HJC families impacted by COVID-19.

EDUCATIONAL FUNDS

NURSERY SCHOOL FUND - supports current Nursery School activities and special projects.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND - supports Religious School activities and special projects.

YOUTH FUND - supports activities for Chaverim, Kadima and USY groups within the HJC.

ARNIE KERNS FUND - supports special projects in the Nursery and Religious Schools.

COLLEGIATE FUND - supports holiday packages and mailings sent to college students (along with Sisterhood).

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND - defrays expenses of seminars and leadership development programs for lay leaders.

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT FUND - enables HJC Religious School teachers to participate in continuing education programs.

EDWARD SPEVACK KOCHAVIN FUND - subsidizes expenses for Special Education programs.

DAVID S. ROSENMAN / CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND provides scholarships for children attending Camp Ramah.

DONALD L. GORDON / ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND provides scholarships for children to travel to Israel.

ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT FUND - fund to support Israel education and quality programming to enhance Israel engagement.

SCHECHTER FUND - provides scholarships for children attending the Schechter School of Long Island.

CLERGY FUNDS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND - provides funds for the Rabbi for needed purposes.

RABBI HOSPITALITY FUND - defrays expenses of entertaining congregants at the Rabbi's home.

CANTOR'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND - provides funds for the Cantor for education, development and musical support.

Date:	Please direct my contribution of \$ to t	he Fu
Name:		Phone Number: ()
Address:		Zip Code:
In Honor of:		
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Please bill my Visa / Ma	ster Card / AmEx Credit Card #	Expiration Date:
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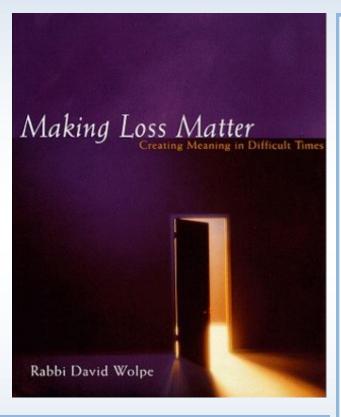


The HJC Adult Education Committee Presents

A Book Discussion... with Ora Kriegstein

Making Loss Matter: Creating Meaning in Difficult Times

We are all
experiencing loss
during this
unprecedented
time. For some, it's
the devastating
loss of a loved one;
for all, it's the loss
of normalcy, of life
as we knew it.



"Losses are the stuff of life. They will not miss you...

We search for an answer to the riddle of "why" because we want control....

I was not searching for a why, but for a how... How do I make this loss meaningful?"

Rabbi David Wolpe

Book can be ordered online or from Book Revue

Tuesdays at 8:00 PM In 3 PARTS (Zoom Link to Follow)

December 3

December 9

December 17

Huntington Jewish Center

For more information, contact Ora Kriegstein at 516-287-0337 ora.bcs18@gmail.com

HJC Bulletin

December 2020

Huntington Jewish Center 510 Park Avenue Huntington, NY 11743

Tel 631.427.1089 / Fax 631.427.8118

shalom@hjcny.org www.HuntingtonJewishCenter.com www.hjcny.org

Editor: Sandy Lynn Karow hjcbulletin@gmail.com

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