



January 2021 | TEVET/SHEVAT 5781 Bulletin

HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER

NEWS / COMMUNITY / CONNECTION



2021

winter landscape. river. trees in the snow
by dazhetak

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by Evelyn Abraham



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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

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Sisterhood Contact: Evelyn Abraham
evelyn_abraham@optonline.net

From Rabbi Ari Saks



Feeling God's Presence within Nature

The natural world beckons us to marvel at its mystery and grandeur. Standing amidst evergreens, peering over cliffs, or feeling the sand between our toes, we feel at once a stranger in a vast kingdom *and* right at home. Why is that? Perhaps, as one writer posits, the soul of humankind was forged in the environment of the natural

world. For 50,000 generations human beings and our ancestors lived in and part of the natural world. Only in the past 500 generations, with the advent of farming and thus civilization, have we separated ourselves from nature. Yet, despite the technological advances of civilization, those first 50,000 generations of human existence implanted within us an indescribable, but quite real, attraction towards nature. For many folks, feeling attracted to nature is synonymous with feeling God's presence.

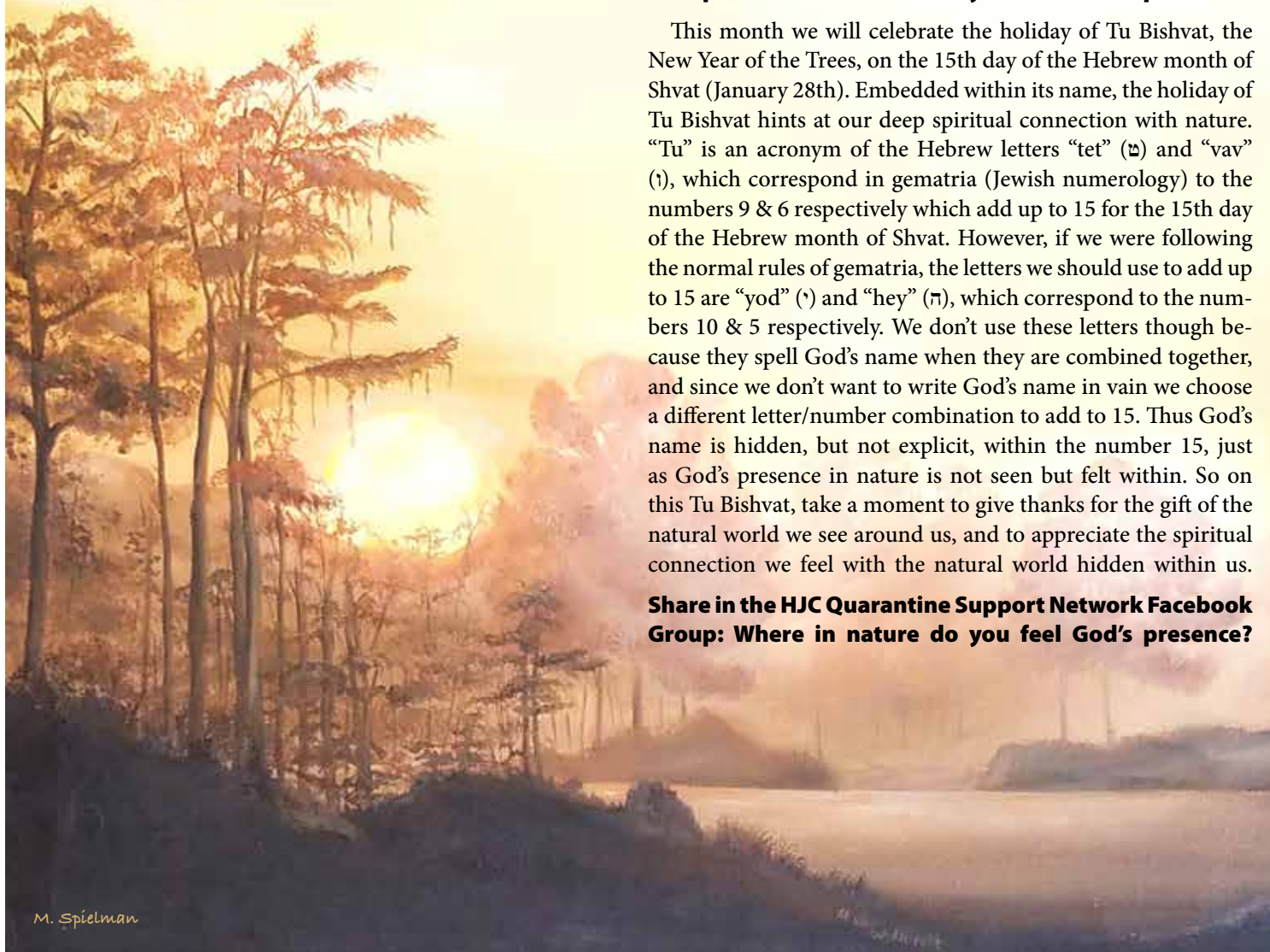
Share in the HJC Quarantine Support Network Facebook Group: Where in nature do you feel God's presence?

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Herschel once said that the most miraculous phrase of the Torah is *"vay-daber Adonai el Moshe leimor — And God spoke to Moses saying."* How amazing is it that God can speak in a way for human beings to understand! I'm not certain though that God can speak in, as orthodox theologian Rabbi Norman Lamm said, "discrete words and letters." Rather I think the kind of speech we hear from God is more akin to the feeling we get when we are surrounded by the incredible mystery and grandeur of nature. In that setting the voice of God is both around us in the sounds of the birds chirping, the leaves rustling, and the water flowing, and it is within us, a seed implanted within our souls from the 50,000 generations we spent living within the wilderness. We don't hear that voice of God, we *feel* it building within us.

Share in the HJC Quarantine Support Network Facebook Group: Where in nature do you feel God's presence?

This month we will celebrate the holiday of Tu Bishvat, the New Year of the Trees, on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shvat (January 28th). Embedded within its name, the holiday of Tu Bishvat hints at our deep spiritual connection with nature. "Tu" is an acronym of the Hebrew letters "tet" (ט) and "vav" (ו), which correspond in gematria (Jewish numerology) to the numbers 9 & 6 respectively which add up to 15 for the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shvat. However, if we were following the normal rules of gematria, the letters we should use to add up to 15 are "yod" (י) and "hey" (ה), which correspond to the numbers 10 & 5 respectively. We don't use these letters though because they spell God's name when they are combined together, and since we don't want to write God's name in vain we choose a different letter/number combination to add to 15. Thus God's name is hidden, but not explicit, within the number 15, just as God's presence in nature is not seen but felt within. So on this Tu Bishvat, take a moment to give thanks for the gift of the natural world we see around us, and to appreciate the spiritual connection we feel with the natural world hidden within us.

Share in the HJC Quarantine Support Network Facebook Group: Where in nature do you feel God's presence?



From Hazzan Israel Gordan



2021!

My last bulletin article was titled 2020, so I wanted to make sure I addressed 2021 in this one. I think a lot of people are hoping that 2021 will be a better year than 2020. I am one of those people, but I recognized that things won't change overnight. I'm sure a lot of people realize that, but it marks an important distinction between how we like to signify changes with specific events but

how truly arbitrary those moments are.

I went to Columbia as an undergrad and while Columbia University is a huge institution with over 21,000 students in many different schools and programs, Columbia College is actually the smallest liberal arts college in the Ivy League: I graduated with 956 people in my class. The summer between my sophomore and junior years I lived on campus and was one of 12 people serving on the New Student Orientation Program committee. We were in charge of creating and designing the weeks' worth of events for New Students before the school year began.

I was the one student invited to speak at the Columbia College Convocation and in my remarks, I noted that this would be the last time everyone would be alone together as a class until Columbia College class day, right before University Commencement during graduation activities. And while those bookend events might

seem especially significant, it is actually all of the time between them that is truly what matters.

We might like to measure our years or lives at points like New Years, Rosh Hashanah, Thanksgiving and Passover. This past year it has been especially easy to note how different things were in comparison to years prior at those times. But it's also important to remember all of the in between times. The regular day-to-day activities that really constitute a life. And those have no doubt been different than years prior as well.

Looking forward to 2021 we can see what weddings, bar mitzvahs, and graduations might look like and when things will "get back to normal." I think there is a serious case to be made that instead of hoping to get back to how things used to be, we should actually look forward to what the new normal might look like. Will Covid be like the flu and something that is always around, or more like Polio to be eradicated? Will we feel comfortable being indoors, unmasked with other people after we receive a vaccination? Three weeks after that point? Once everyone gets a vaccination? Most people? Is there a threshold number that we think will put us more at ease? Or will there always be a lingering suspicion that perhaps we're never entirely safe?

I certainly hope we can feel safe enough to celebrate, mourn, and observe together as a community in person. And I hope that the lessons we've learned make us think seriously about accessibility and what it means to truly include others, in whatever

ways are possible, including over a screen and in person. Here's to a happy AND healthy new year.





Reverse Bucket List

Life coach Trav Bell, nicknamed the “The Bucket List Guy,” created his own coaching program to help others lead a fulfilling and purposeful life. The following is his step-by-step guide to making one.

We have all heard of a bucket list, but have you ever heard of a “reverse bucket list”? While a traditional bucket list creates an attitude

of ambition through goal-setting, a reverse bucket list takes stock of the things in life you’ve already accomplished. According to Bell, “we live in a world of chasing the next goal. Reflecting, being grateful, is a muscle that we don’t flex often.”

After coming out of the challenging year we have just had and as we begin 2021 with resolutions abounding, take a moment to create your own reverse bucket list; something that can inspire you. Flex your grateful muscle. It may be the easiest workout you’ve ever done.

Step 1:

Give yourself 30 minutes of quiet time

Although 2020 created more opportunity for isolation than any of us ever thought we could endure, our lives were filled with an overload of technological attachments. Disconnect! Center yourself and set aside time where you choose to be away from the outside world. No ZOOM meeting. No FaceTime. No Phone. “The biggest challenge for people is taking time out of their lives to work on their lives,” Bell said. “Allowing space to think in

our world where we are busy being busy, ‘Me time’ is limited for most.”

Step 2:

Scroll through old photos

Jog your memory and remember how you felt in those moments when those photos were taken. The Reverse Bucket List “is a done list.” Reflect on your “done list” and let photos lead you to remember other moments of victory in your life that are most personal for you.

Step 3:

Write down as many things that you’re grateful for as you can

“Treat the things you’ve done in your life as if they were on a Bucket List all along,” Bell said. It’s not always about the places you visit. It’s about the people you met, and maybe even the job you *didn’t* get that makes you grateful. Take everything into account: people, places, things.

Step 4:

Recognize that each of these items were an end-point

Don’t add items to your Reverse Bucket List that you started and haven’t finished. “It’s not just about living in the future,” Bell said. “It’s also about recognizing the past and to be grateful.”

Final Step:

Share your Reverse Bucket List

While you want to share your life’s accomplishments, it’s important to do so in a way that inspires and gives thanks rather than a “pat-on-the-back” list. Share it with the people who best understand you, your goals and your ambitions. The Reverse Bucket List is the perfect gift of gratitude to yourself and others in your own circle of influence.



My Bucket List is my reason why I attack life. It’s always been my compass, my motivation. It continues to give me purpose and bring meaning into my life. Ignorantly, I thought everyone had a written list like me... apparently not.

Since being named ‘The Bucket List Guy’ I’ve become a globally recognised Thought Leader on the topic and been crowned ‘The World’s No.1 Bucket List Expert’.



Gevurah - Strength

This year has touched our spirit in so many ways and demanded from us tremendous individual and group strength (gevurah).

Each of us has had to look inside and find strength to deal with grief and loss: loss of life, loss of normal ways of living, loss of our expectations regarding democracy and social justice.

And we have responded strongly.

- Nearly all last year's students re-enrolled in Religious School, plus a few new students.
- We got an excellent team of teachers.
- We were able to make quick decisions regarding changes to the program due to COVID.
- We asserted our support for social justice: "Justice, justice shall you pursue".

The Religious School students spent December learning about gevurah in its various forms: physical strength (the need for exercise), emotional/psychological strength (resilience, mindfulness), mental strength (studying to develop a strong, sharp mind).

The Gan (kindergarten), Alef (1st-grade), and Bet (2nd-grade) classes learned about tzedakah as it relates to Hanukkah. Tzedakah, of course, requires the strength to give up something meaningful to us so as to help others.

The Gimel (3rd-grade) class discussed gevurah and related topics: ometz lev (bravery), netzach (perseverance), chesed (kindness), areivut (teamwork). The lessons included recognizing various strengths such as prayer (faith) and willingness to take risks (such as standing up for what is right), and how to feel a connection to past heroic role models (Judah the Maccabee).

4th-grade students (Dalet) used the inner reflection theme of teshuvah to recognize strengths beyond the physical, including persistence, resilience, selflessness, and confidence. They reviewed courage through the lens of b'tzelem elohim viewing ourselves as an image of God.

Hey (5th-grade) students discussed how demonstrations of strength come at a cost in social capital or reputation or in putting yourself at risk. Those willing to achieve justice must confront such sacrifices with strength of character.

6th-graders (Vav) studied the importance of leaning into challenges, being proactive rather than reactive when difficulties arise. Young Jews should be trained to make use of the Jewish stories, rituals, and mitzvot to gain the "muscle memory" for responding to life with gevurah.

Our children have all demonstrated remarkable gevurah this year, dealing with separation from family and friends, distance learning, wearing masks, and loss of normal life patterns. We hope their HJC Religious School education reinforces the strength of character they have all displayed during this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Leigh and Mark

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. evelyn_abraham@optonline.net





"Dreams don't work unless you take action" ~ Roy T. Bennett

It has been a dream of the ECC; teachers, parents, and children, to elevate the playgrounds at HJC. Yes, we have jungle gyms, slides, and more jungle gyms, and more slides, but do we have equipment that inspires imagination? Do we have equipment that is child friendly to those with disabilities on the Rocky Playground? For years and years the

Rocky Playground only had one huge structure that you must climb up to access. This is very limiting for children who are struggling with their gross motor skills or have a disability. And thus became the wish, the goal, the dream for the school and Parent Association to raise funds to find, purchase, and install structures that not only inspire creativity, but also are child friendly for ALL.

Anyone who ever had to purchase anything for a child's playground

knows that this is a daunting task. Not only are the prices exorbitant, but it also needs to be solid, safe, and installed professionally by a licensed and insured company. It has to withstand the cold, ice, rain, extreme heat, not to mention the extreme wear and tear of hundreds or realistically thousands of children playing on the equipment daily. This is a colossal undertaking, but not for our Parent Association.

We are blessed with truly extraordinary families at HJC. Our community is incredibly supportive, inclusive, warm, and kind. We are also a diverse community and welcome all with warmth and kindness. The Parent Association is truly representative of this remarkable community. Not only do they want to make a difference, they do make a difference. They continue to elevate the ECC by their character and by their desire to make the HJC ECC the best school. We had a dream and a need for a new playground that is inclusive to all children and inspires imagination, and they made it a reality. This is yet another brilliant example of "Where there is a will, there is a way".



ONFAITH



Ari Saks



Mendy Goldberg



Jaimee Shalhevet

ASKING THE CLERGY

Lessons of the Hanukkah miracle for us in 2020

BY JIM MERRITT

Special to Newsday

This year's celebration of Hanukkah, the wintertime Festival of Lights, will be like no other in recent memory as precautions to stem the spread of COVID-19 affect such ancient traditions as nightly menorah lightings. This week's clergy discuss how the message of the eight-day festival, beginning Dec. 10, might generate light and hope in what is expected to be a dark winter.

Rabbi Ari Saks

Huntington Jewish Center

The holiday of Hanukkah is also called the "Festival of Lights" because of the commandment to light candles during the darkest time of the year. With the pain and suffering many of us are experiencing this year, I'm wondering if it's possible for the little lights of what I call this year's "Covid-nukah" to banish the intense darkness of our COVID-19 reality? Or as Chaim Potok wrote in "Miracles for a Broken Planet" ("The Hanukkah Anthology," The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1976), will the "darkness mock their light"?

One Hanukkah in Auschwitz, the Nazis decided to mock their Jewish captives with a "good holiday meal" of a single loaf of bread and a little margarine. However, the Jews turned their meager resources into a small Hanukkah candle and lit it in full view of the Nazis' derisive smiles. In that moment, the

Jews rejoiced in scoring a victory over the chimneys of the great crematoriums, and even over death itself, with their flickering Hanukkah light.

Thankfully, our days are much brighter than those dark days in Europe, but stories of flickering lights scoring victories against intense darkness remind us that however dark this year may be, the lights of "Covid-nukah" can give us faith that we can expel the darkness around us, one little light at a time.

Rabbi Mendy Goldberg

Lubavitch of the East End, Coram

The Hanukkah story happened more than 2,000 years ago, however, its message and miracle are timely and applicable for every time and place, especially today. The triumph of light over darkness, good over evil and the righteous over the wicked is a message that reverberates in every person, and it is especially pertinent this year. A year when everything was upended, a time when no one can predict the next day and uncertainty continues to baffle young and old, poor and rich, from the high offices in Washington to the laymen on Main Street.

The message of the menorah and Hanukkah: Faith that the oil will light, notwithstanding the dark time, and with just a little bit of oil. As the adage from the founder of the Chabad philosophy Rabbi Schneur Zalman goes: "A little bit of light dispels much of darkness." Faith in the one above and the persistent desire to increase every day with more light, goodness and righteousness in the world will never fade

away and will get us through even the darkest, most uncertain times.

Like the flames of the menorah, with a desire to make an impact and illuminate, we too can do the same, and be a beacon of light to all.

Rabbi Jaimee Shalhevet

North Shore Synagogue, Syosset

We teach our children that the miracle of Hanukkah involves a tiny flask of oil that lasted for eight days instead of one. Oil was a precious commodity in those days, making the miracle even greater. As a modern-day joke goes, "Think of it this way. Your cellphone only has enough battery to last for one day, and it lasts for eight days instead!"

Well, I hate to burst anyone's bubble, but in the actual story of Hanukkah, the oil doesn't make even a cameo appearance. The real miracle is the voicing of the voiceless: The small band of Jews who managed to overtake those who were trying to silence them. They reclaimed their Holy Temple and their ancient culture. They did not fall to bigotry and intolerance. And while God helped, it would not have occurred without the dedication of human beings. That is our message for 2020.

While some may have, in past generations and even sadly, recent times, believed that their voice was doomed to remain silent forever, the miracle is slowly occurring that those voices be heard. May we continue to listen to those whose voices have been silenced in the past and make sure that all are heard, respected and loved.

Celebrating Hanukkah Door to Door

We hope you all had a warm Hanukkah filled with light and good health. We also hope that your Hanukkah bag from Membership helped you to celebrate the holiday! We would like to thank our team below for their help!

Allison Reiver and Leslie Hantverk
Membership Co-chairs

**Cheryl Berman
Ellen Steinberg
Felicia Messing
Marilyn Klein
Barbara Rosen
Patricia Schoeffler
Miriam Wirchin
Debbie Cadel
Alice Rosen
Gwen Goldstein
Jed Hantverk
Randi Schuller
Andrea Morris
Jen Ingber
Shari Klaire
Emily Schwartz
Donna Fleiss
Marsha Kalina
Ginny Richman
Mitch Reiver**



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Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Ruth Cohen at yahrzeit.
Janet & Mark Zimmerman in memory of Lee Cole at yahrzeit.
Richard Klee in memory of Murray Klee at yahrzeit.
Patricia Schoeffler in memory of Alexander Cochrane at yahrzeit.
Rosalie & Maxwell Malkiel in memory of David Malkiel at yahrzeit.
Lesley & Jeff Stark in memory of Norman Mattisinko, husband of Joan Mattisinko.
Leslie & Jack Rubin in memory of Norman Mattisinko, husband of Joan Mattisinko.
Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.
Leslie & Jed Hantverk in memory of Phoebe Hantverk at yahrzeit.
Evelyn Abraham & Roger Silverberg in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Shira Jamie Perler, granddaughter of Vicki & Arthur Perler.
Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer, Jordana, Jacob & Nina in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Jonah Neuwirth, grandson of Judy and Lester Fox.
Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer, Jordana, Jacob & Nina in honor of the 80th birthday of Lester Fox.
Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer, Jordana, Jacob & Nina in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Ellie, daughter of Paul & Bonnie Kiner-Strachan.
Shelley Weinberg & family in memory of Jack Freilich at yahrzeit.
Shelley Weinberg in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Koppersmith, grandson of Barbara & Joel Koppersmith.
Shelley Weinberg in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Duke Lipke, grandson of Dalia & Marv Rosenthal.
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Pam & Bruce Fleiss in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Koppersmith, grandson of Barbara & Joel Koppersmith.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Shira Jamie Perler, granddaughter of Vicki & Arthur Perler.
Ellen & Jay Steinberg in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.
Dale & Phil Mintz in memory of Louis Mintz at yahrzeit.
Howard Dubow in memory of Blanche Dubowsky at yahrzeit.
Daniel Himmel in memory of Helen Himmel at yahrzeit.
Anna Katten in honor of Andrea Smoller & Brian Katten.
Barbara & Joel Koppersmith in memory of Sol Rosen, father of Bruce Rosen.

Elaine & Walter Kleinmann in memory of Sol Rosen, father of Bruce Rosen.
Yolanda Barfus in memory of Ethel Sachs.
Vered Cole in memory of Ethel Sachs.
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Susan Rubin in memory of Betty Rubin at yahrzeit.
The Walsdorf family in memory of Burt Walsdorf at yahrzeit.
Allison Reiver in memory of Howard Danzig at yahrzeit.
Micki Sokol in memory of Ethel Sachs.
Roz & Marty Spielman in memory of Ethel Sachs.
Leslie & Jack Rubin in memory of Chester Rubin at yahrzeit.
Leslie & Jack Rubin in memory of Ethel Sachs.
Evelyn Abraham & Roger Silverberg in memory of Ethel Sachs.
Randi & Alan Schuller in memory of Ethel Sachs.

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Marge & Larry Maltin in memory of Ethel Sachs.

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Vered Cole & family in memory of Sol Rosen, father of Bruce Rosen.
Miriam & Joel Wirchin in honor of the birth of Ava Lane Berger, granddaughter of Eileen & Harvey Berger.
Miriam & Joel Wirchin in honor of the birth of Benjamin Asher Hummel, grandson of Marlene & Lenny Hummel.
The Lavi family in memory of Sol Rosen, father of Bruce Rosen.

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Barbara & Joel Koppersmith in memory of Norman Mattisinko, husband of Joan Mattisinko.
Elaine & Walter Kleinmann in memory of Norman Mattisinko, husband of Joan Mattisinko.
Vicki & Tom Rosen in memory of Ella Rosen Rakieten at yahrzeit.
Vicki & Tom Rosen in honor of Debbie Rosenkrantz for her 18 years of dedicated service to HJC.
Lester Gouvia in honor of Rabbi Saks for his inspirational words about Chanukah on NPR.
Vicki & Tom Rosen in honor of their daughter, Nicole Ann Trager, for her thoughtfulness, compassion and love.
Michelle & Michael Behr in memory of Ethel Sachs.

DAILY MINYAN FUND

Marlene & Lenny Hummel with best wishes for a speedy recovery to Tom Rosen.
Bea Pedowicz in memory of Jack Pedowicz at yahrzeit.
Susan Goldmeer in memory of Sam Goldmeer at yahrzeit.
Yolanda Barfus in memory of Norman Mattisinko, husband of Joan Mattisinko.
Miriam & Joel Wirchin with best wishes for a speedy recovery to Tom Rosen.

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Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Cecilia Kriegstein, mother of Alan Kriegstein.

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The Schneider Family in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

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Felicia & Keith Messing in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

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Shari & Larry Feibel in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

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Anne & Barry Specht with appreciation for the support & kindness of Rabbi Saks.

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Laurie & Peter Birzon in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Rosalind & William Wertheim in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Miriam Eckstein-Koas in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Helga Kramer in appreciation of the kindness of Rabbi Saks.

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Janet & Richard Ganes

Susan Jouard

Marge & Larry Maltin in honor of the birthday of Elaine Kleinmann.

Nancy & Brian Cooper in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Elaine & Walter Kleinmann in honor of the birthday of Marge Maltin.

Robert Schpoont in honor of Joni Brenner.

Susan & Roy Glaser in memory of Murray Feuerstein.

Susan & Roy Glaser in memory of Irene Feuerstein.

Gloria Safran in memory of Murray Safran at yahrzeit.

Gloria Safran in memory of Louis Stecker at yahrzeit.

Marilyn & David Klein in memory of Frieda Klein at yahrzeit.

Marilyn & David Klein in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Marilyn & David Klein in memory of Norman Mattisinko, husband of Joan Mattisinko.

Marilyn & David Klein with best wishes for a speedy recovery to Tom Rosen.

Janet & Mark Zimmerman in memory of Irvin Zimmerman at yahrzeit.

Bill Yelen in memory of George Yelen at yahrzeit.

Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Norman Mattisinko, husband of Joan Mattisinko.

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Dave Ingber at yahrzeit.

Nancy & Brian Cooper in memory of Norman Mattisinko, husband of Joan Mattisinko.

Nancy & Brian Cooper in memory of Sol Rosen, father of Bruce Rosen.

Nancy & Brian Cooper in memory of Ethel Sachs.

MAZAL TOV

Barbara & Joel Koppersmith announce the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Zachary Koppersmith.

Judy & Lester Fox announce the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Samuel Jonah Neuwirth.

Dalia & Marv Rosenthal announce the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Joshua Duke Lipke.

Vicki & Arthur Perler announce the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Shira Jamie Perler.

Charlene & Gordon Kerner announce the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Sacha Kerner.

Marlene & Lenny Hummel announce the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Asher Hummel.

CONDOLENCES

Joan Mattisinko on the death of her husband, Norman Mattisinko z"l, former longtime HJC member and HJC past president.

Bruce Rosen on the death of his father, Sol Rosen z"l.

To the Sachs family on the death of Ethel Sachs z"l, longtime HJC member and HJC past president.

NEW MEMBERS

Hunter and Samantha Gimbel of Oyster Bay and their children: Andie, age 9; Jach, age 7; and Alex, age 2.

Myron & Marcia Dimond Stein of Huntington.

Kol Nidre Annual Appeal 5781

GRAND BENEFACTOR

Anonymous
Jonathan & Rachel Brill
Sy & Beryl Okwit

BENEFACTOR

Michael Buchholtz & Mary Uricchio
Jerry & Gail Ellstein
Arthur & Vicki Perler
Richard Rubenstein
Dan & Patricia Schoeffler
Arnold, Victoria & Daniel Schwartz
Jay & Ellen Steinberg

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Amira Garbus
Roselyn Gordon
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Rick, Haley & Adina Davis
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Jules & Carol Einhorn
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Arnie & Debbie Stillman
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Scott & Jennifer Ingber
William & Rosalind Wertheim

DONOR

Bruce & Holly Aronow
Paul & Joan Cohen
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Marc & Nancy Hazan
Lenny & Marlene Hummel
Walter & Elaine Kleinmann
Alan & Ora Kriegstein
Joel & Barbara Kuppersmith
Alan & Meira Lyons
Ari & Johanna Perler
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Bill & Renee Saperstein
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Tyna Strenger
E. Suzanne Susskind
Elliot & Leila Waldman
David & Rissa Walsdorf
Louis & Susan Walsdorf
Shelley Weinberg
Jacques & Marlene Winter

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The Behr Family
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The Bram Family
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Burt & Elaine Epstein

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Elliott & Linda Jonas
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Helga Kramer
Rabbi Neil and Alisa Rubin Kurshan
Martin & Janet Kushnick
Maxwell & Rosalie Malkiel
Lawrence & Marjorie Maltin
HJC Men's Club
Andrew & Jaime Meyer
Alan Orloff & Judy Leopold
Matthew & Darlene Raskin
Tom & Vicki Rosen
Martin & Judi Rosenblatt
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Joel & Miriam Wirchin

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Saul Behr
Peter & Laurie Birzon
Nathan Board
Alexander Churchill & Niaomi Steinberg
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Israel & Joni Brenner
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Marilyn Koven
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Gladys Mishkit
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Marvin & Dalia Rosenthal

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Robert & Marcey Wagner
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Bill Yelen

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Ezra, Rebecca & Asher Behr
Alexander Bernstein, Hayden Boshnack
Jordana, Jacob & Nina Boxer
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Aaron Schuman, Benjamin Chase Schuman &
Eden Melody Schuman
Dana & Jillian Silverberg
Ilyssa & Max Stein
Leo & Emma Sternschein

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

Eileen and Harvey Berger speedy recovery to Tom Rosen

Donna and Ed Fleiss in honor of the birth of Benjamin Hummel, grandson of Marlene and Leonard Hummel

Sue and David Lefkowitz in memory of Meyer Hepner and Viola Stupp at yahrzeit

Sue and David Lefkowitz in honor of the birth of Benjamin Hummel, grandson of Marlene and Leonard Hummel

Phyllis and Andy Levy in honor of the engagement of Andrew, son of Amy and Joel Sobin to Amy Callahan

Phyllis and Andy Levy in memory of Norman Mattisinko, husband of Joan Mattisinko

Vicki and Tom Rosen in honor of the engagement of Andrew, son of Amy and Joel Sobin to Amy Callahan

Vicki and Tom Rosen in memory of Florence Wagner, mother of Larry Wagner

Vicki and Tom Rosen in honor of the birth of Benjamin Hummel, grandson of Marlene and Leonard Hummel

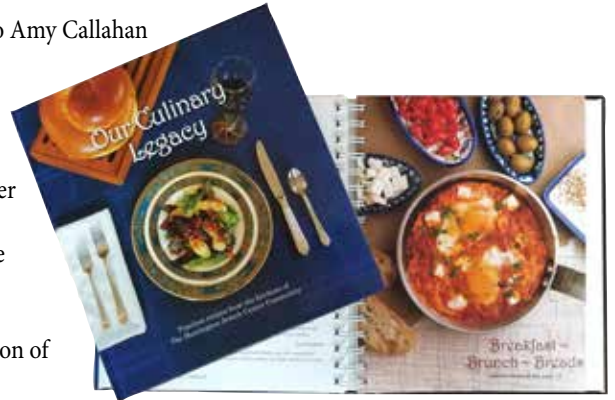
Vicki and Tom Rosen in memory of Sol Rosen, father of Bruce Rosen

Sarah and Jerry Saunders in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks

Sarah and Jerry Saunders in honor of the birth of Benjamin Hummel, grandson of Marlene and Leonard Hummel

Sarah and Jerry Saunders speedy recovery to Tom Rosen

Evelyn Abraham and Roger Silverberg in honor of the birth of Benjamin Hummel, grandson of Marlene and Leonard Hummel



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.

HJC Summer 2021 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 5, 2021.

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

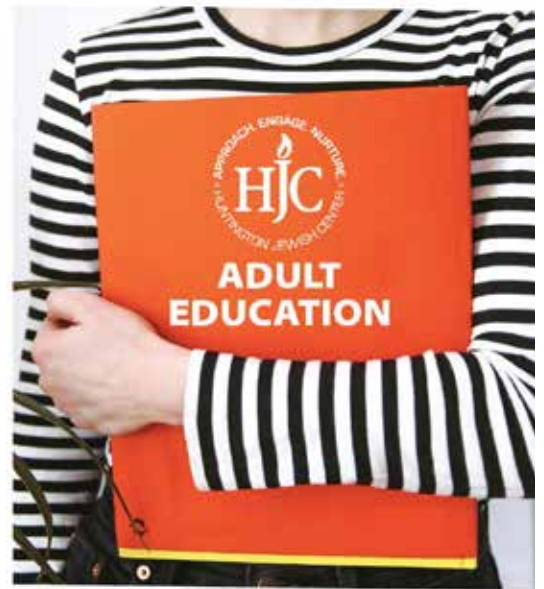
Pirke Avot

(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



Lunch with the Rabbi...in Israel!!

**Spend your lunch with Rabbi Saks
and take a virtual tour of Israel.**

**This program's theme is:
Tu B'Shevat**

This day marks the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle.



**Itinerary information
to follow soon.**

**\$10 for HJC Members
\$20 for non-HJC Members**



Please contact debbier@hjcny.org to register. Zoom information will be shared after registration. This program is organized by Rabbi Saks and Gwynne Wicks in preparation for a synagogue Israel trip in the near future.

HJC Sisterhood presents...

JANUARY JEOPARDY: Famous Jewish Women

An interactive game night via zoom



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021
@ 7:30pm**



Test your knowledge in 10 different categories



Must RSVP by 1/17 to be randomly assigned a team number
and sent a zoom link...
each device must have its own RSVP.

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



MUST PRE-REGISTER IN ORDER TO PLAY



A pre-game practice session will be held on
1/18 @ 7:30pm for zoom game guidelines
and directions
(Pre-game session is not required to play on game night)

***Invite your family and friends
All are invited!***



2020-21 HHI Supply Drive

In December, Huntington Jewish Center begins another season of HHI, the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative —with some major changes because of COVID-19. This season anyone who wants to help with HHI 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 KFlanzenbaumlaw@gmail.com

or Ellen Steinberg at EllenSteinberg728@gmail.com



Jewish Inventors

Hedy Lamarr



Hedy Lamarr was born Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler in 1914 in Vienna, Austria-Hungary, the only child of Emil Kiesler (1880–1935) and Gertrud “Trude” Kiesler (née Lichtwitz; 1894–1977). Her father was born to a Galician-Jewish family in Lemberg (now Lviv, Ukraine), and was a successful bank manager. Her mother was a pianist, born in Budapest to an upper-class Hungarian-Jewish family.

As a child, Hedy showed an interest in acting and was fascinated by theatre and film. At the age of 12, she won a beauty contest in Vienna. She also began to associate invention with her father, who would take her out on walks, explaining how various technologies in society functioned.

She took acting classes in Vienna. She was hired at the age of 16 as a script girl. She gained a role as an extra in *Money on the Street* (1930), and then a small speaking part in *Storm in a Water Glass* (1931). In early 1933, at age 18, Hedy Kiesler was given the lead in Gustav Machaty’s film *Ecstasy*. She played the neglected young wife of an indifferent older man.

The film became both celebrated and notorious for showing the actress’s face in the throes of an orgasm. Kiesler’s expression resulted from someone sticking her with a pin. She was also shown in closeups and brief nude scenes, the latter reportedly a result of the actress being “duped” by the director and producer, who used high-power telephoto lenses. *Ecstasy* gained world recognition after winning an award in Rome. Throughout Europe, the film was regarded as an artistic work. However, in the United States, it was banned, considered overly sexual, and made the target of negative publicity, especially among women’s groups. It was also banned in Germany due to Kiesler’s Jewish heritage.

Kiesler also played a number of stage roles, including a starring one in *Sissy*, a play about Empress Elisabeth of Austria produced in Vienna in early 1933, just as *Ecstasy* premiered. It won accolades from critics.

On August 10, 1933, at the age of 18, Kiesler married Friedrich Mandl, then 33, the son of a Jewish father and a Catholic mother. In her autobiography *Ecstasy and Me*, Mandl is described as an extremely controlling husband. She claimed she was kept a virtual prisoner in their castle home.

Mandl had close social and business ties to the Italian government, selling munitions to the country, and, despite his own part-Jewish descent, had ties to the Nazi regime of Germany. Kiesler accompanied Mandl to business meetings, where he conferred with scientists and other professionals involved in military technology. These conferences were her introduction to the field of applied science and she became interested in nurturing her latent talent in science.

Finding her marriage to Mandl eventually unbearable, Hedy decided to flee her husband as well as her country. She disguised herself as her maid and fled to Paris.

After arriving in London in 1937, she met Louis B. Mayer, head of MGM, who was scouting for talent in Europe. She impressed him enough to secure a \$500 a week contract. Mayer persuaded her to change her name. She chose the surname “Lamarr” in homage to the beautiful silent film star, Barbara La Marr.

When Mayer brought Lamarr to Hollywood in 1938, he began promoting her as the “world’s most beautiful woman”. He introduced her to producer Walter Wanger, who was making *Algiers* (1938). Lamarr was cast in the lead opposite Charles Boyer. The film created a “national sensation”.

In future Hollywood films, Lamarr was often typecast as the archetypal glamorous seductress of exotic origin.

She reportedly took up inventing to relieve her boredom. Lamarr wanted to join the National Inventors Council, but was reportedly told by NIC member Charles F. Kettering that she could better help the war effort by using her celebrity status to sell war bonds.

She participated in a war bond-selling campaign. In total, Lamarr sold approximately \$25 million (over \$350 million when adjusted for inflation in 2020) worth of war bonds during a period of 10 days.

Lamarr enjoyed her greatest success playing Delilah opposite Victor Mature as the biblical strongman in Cecil B. DeMille’s *Samson and Delilah* (1949). A massive critical and commercial success, the film became the highest-grossing picture of 1950 and won two Academy Awards (Best Art Direction and Best Costume Design) of its five nominations. Lamarr won critical acclaim for her portrayal of Delilah.

Although Lamarr had no formal training and was primarily self-taught, she worked in her spare time on various hobbies and inventions. Among the few who knew of Lamarr’s inventiveness was aviation tycoon Howard Hughes. He put his team of scientists and engineers at her disposal, saying they would do or make anything she asked for.

During World War II, Lamarr learned that radio-controlled torpedoes, an emerging technology in naval war, could easily be jammed and set off course. She thought of creating a frequency-hopping signal that could not be tracked or jammed. She conceived an idea and contacted her friend, composer and pianist George Antheil, to help her implement it. Together they developed a device for doing that, when he succeeded by synchronizing a miniaturized player-piano mechanism with radio signals. They drafted designs for the frequency-hopping system. Their invention was granted a patent under U.S. Patent 2,292,387 on August 11, 1942 (filed using her married name Hedy Kiesler Markey). However, it was technologically difficult to implement, and at the time the US Navy was not receptive to considering inventions coming from outside the military. Nevertheless, it was classified in the “red hot” category. It was first adapted in 1957 to develop a sonobuoy before the expiration of the patent, although this was denied by the Navy. At the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, an updated version of their design was installed on Navy ships. Today, various spread-spectrum techniques are incorporated into Bluetooth technology and are similar to methods used in legacy versions of Wi-Fi. Lamarr and Antheil’s contributions were formally recognized in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

Lamarr was married and divorced six times and had three children. Following her sixth and final divorce in 1965, Lamarr remained unmarried for the last 35 years of her life.

Lamarr became a naturalized citizen of the United States at age 38 on April 10, 1953. During the 1970s, Lamarr lived in increasing seclusion. She was offered several scripts, television commercials, and stage projects, but none piqued her interest. With her eyesight failing, Lamarr retreated from public life and settled in Miami Beach, Florida, in 1981.

In 1997, Canadian company WiLAN signed an agreement with Lamarr to acquire 49% of the marketing rights of her patent, and a right of first refusal for the remaining 51% for ten quarterly payments. This was the only financial compensation she received for her frequency-hopping spread spectrum invention.

In the last decades of her life, Lamarr communicated only by telephone with her children and close friends. She often talked up to six or seven hours a day on the phone, but she spent hardly any time with anyone in person in her final years. Lamarr died in Casselberry, Florida, on January 19, 2000, of heart disease, aged 85. According to her wishes, she was cremated and her son Anthony Loder spread her ashes in Austria’s Vienna Woods.



"The ever changing face of the Middle East"

Hussein Ibish, Ph.D

**Senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington
American columnist and author**



Geopolitics in the Middle East re: the Abraham Accord

HJC Israel Committee "Brunch and Learn"

On Sunday morning November 15, the Israel Committee presented our first Brunch and Learn of the year over Zoom. Our guest, Dr. Hussein Ibish, of the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, spoke of how Israel and other US allies view the changing landscape in the Middle East. His presentation was viewed by about 45 Zoom attendees and was highly informative.

He discussed the shift of influence in the Middle East from being U.S. dominated mono-polar following the Cold War, to being multi-polar, including the influence of Iran and Turkey. The Middle East countries engaging in multi-strategic diversification have a variety of motives. He described the various motives of United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, and Sudan in signing the accord.

He said that for the UAE, their main goal was to inhibit Iran. He explained that the UAE was also interested in US weapons, was seeking to repair relations with Democrats in the US, and also wanted to ally with technologically advanced Israel.

For Bahrain, like the UAE, their main focus was also to block Iran, who they see as an existential threat.

Sudan views Turkey as the main political – military influence in the region. He said that Turkey, has few rivals, but many against it in addition to Sudan: Israel, Egypt, and UAE. Sudan's other motive was to get off the US list of state sponsors of terrorism.

Other factors influencing the shift in alliances that he offered relate to peace initiatives with the Palestinians, and to the Iranian threat. Regarding Palestinian peace initiatives, he said that some in the Arab world perceive that Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity for peace. Regarding Iran, Dr. Ibish said that some countries in the Middle East are no longer that confident about depending on the US to protect them from the threat of Iran. Alternatively, they consider that they can depend on Israel when it comes to the Iranian threat.

This presentation provided an illuminating view of Middle East politics and influence at the current time, and highlighted the current power issues, and reasons for multi-strategic diversification.



HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER

510 PARK AVENUE, HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK 11743

TRIBUTE FUNDS - DONATION FORM



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 the _____ Fund.

Name: _____ Phone Number: (____) _____

Address: _____ Zip Code: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Speedy recovery to: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION: I have enclosed a check in the amount of \$ _____ payable to the Huntington Jewish Center.

Please bill my Visa / Master Card / AmEx Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Card Security Code (3 digits on back of Visa / Master Card or 4 digits on front of AmEx) _____ E-mail: _____

All donations of \$10 and above will be listed in the HJC Bulletin. Donations must be received by the 10th of the month to go in the next month's Bulletin.

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SPOTLIGHT ON WOODBURY KOSHER

For over 50 years, Woodbury Kosher has been proudly serving the Jewish community throughout Long Island with their exceptional quality meats and foods, prepared fresh daily by our friends Andrew Feldman, his brother-in-law Ray and their entire Woodbury Kosher staff.

Filling the void for a local kosher butcher, Woodbury Kosher was founded in 1966 by Andrew's father, Jerry Feldman. Jerry, one of 10 children, was the only member of his family to escape and survive the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia. He fled Europe at 17 and settled here in New York.

"My father opened the store because it was the only thing he knew" said Andrew. "He believed in an uncompromising commitment to his customers and we are proud to carry out his legacy."

Andrew, who grew up in the business before taking it over 20 years ago, has worked in the store full time since high school. "I wasn't able to play sports. Everyday my father would send his truck to pick me up after school to come work in the store."



Not only does Woodbury Kosher provide the highest quality meats, kosher products and catering, they also support HJC's Jewish Nutrition Network (JNN) by generously matching customer donations made to the store's ever present Tzedakah box.

So the next time you are entertaining, catering a gathering or just want something "nice" from the Jewish butcher, please remember to visit Woodbury Kosher! Thank you Andrew, Ray and the entire Woodbury Kosher family for your service with a smile, delicious food and thoughtful philanthropy to HJC and our community!

Huntington Jewish Center encourages the participation of people of all abilities in its programs and activities. If you or a family member would like to attend an activity, program, meeting or event but require additional support or special accommodations, please call the HJC Main Office at 631-427-1089 or email hjcadmin@hjcny.org.