

February 2021 | SHEVAT/ADAR 5781 Bulletin

HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER NEWS / COMMUNITY / CONNECTION



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Sisterhood News

by Evelyn Abraham

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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

אסאל תשותענ

OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND
FOR YOUR HOLIDAY AND SIMCHA NEEDS



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Webmaster..... Arthur Perler

From Rabbi Ari Saks



What I Learned From Making a Mistake on NPR

In December I was interviewed by NPR's Weekend Edition to share a teaching on Chanukah and it was amazing to hear afterwards how my teaching positively affected people around the nation, people who I never met but felt moved by learning about the light of Chanukah. As part of my teaching, I connected the Jewish holiday of lights with other holidays of light, including Christmas

and Diwali, to describe the interfaith message of finding light in darkness. Unfortunately, I misspoke when I described Diwali as a "Hindi" holiday observed by "Hindi" people. "Hindi," the official language of India, is a language spoken by people of various ethnicities, religions, and backgrounds. It is not a specific religion or a specific tradition, and people cannot be of "Hindi" descent. Hinduism, on the other hand, is a specific religion and cultural tradition with over a billion followers. Thus Diwali is a "Hindu" holiday observed by adherents of "Hinduism."

Thankfully a pair of NPR listeners made me aware of my mistake. One listener, noticing the "Oops" I made, just wanted me to correct my verbiage for the future. The other listener however expressed her "Ouch" in hearing the wrong description of her holiday shared with a national audience. As she said, a faith leader should get it right, and she's right -- as a faith leader I should get it right. So I contacted her to tell her to acknowledge how my "Oops" caused her to feel an "Ouch."

The Difficulty of Achieving Effective Communication

Good communication is one of the hardest things to achieve. To put the challenge in perspective, our tradition teaches us that God intended for good communication to be difficult to achieve. As God says prior to the destruction of the Tower of Babel, "If as one people with one language for all, this is how they have begun to act, then nothing that they may propose to do will be out of their reach. Let us, then, go down and confound their speech there, so that they shall not understand one another's speech" (Genesis 11:6-7).

The challenge of communicating effectively is especially felt when we're trying to forge a new relationship. We each have our own particular "language," our own unique ways of thinking and speaking, so it can take a long time to understand each other's language. During that arduous process, we may encounter landmines in the form of statements we make ourselves or hear from others that, when viewed out of context, could be hurtful or, at worst, experienced as a personal attack. Perhaps it's no wonder then that a Christian colleague involved in interfaith work once said to me, "I find God's presence in the moments we communicate effectively, because it so rarely happens." Combining my colleague's teaching with the knowledge that God confounded our speech at the Tower of Babel, I wonder if God made communication so difficult in order to ensure that we could not communicate effectively without ezrat Hashem, without God's help.

I also wonder if God's decision to make communication challenging encourages us to have more humility because if we start from the premise that communication is challenging, we can better understand that mistakes, miscommunication, and harmful statements are more the norm than not. We should still feel guilty when we make a mistake, but we do not have to live with the shame that we are terrible people for doing so, and vice versa.

The Value of "Oops" & "Ouch"

So how do we exist in a reality in which God has made communication difficult? This is where the value of "Oops" & "Ouch" come into play.

"Oops" is a mistake we make without intent to harm but comes from a blind spot, a misspeak, an error in judgement or word choice. It's where the words of our mouths that do harm do not reflect the intent of our hearts which seek to do good. On the other hand, an "Ouch" is a statement with intent to do harm. Sometimes we qualify these statements in the guise of "speaking truth" or "needing to be honest," especially when we make statements that we know could be harmful but feel compelled to speak them anyway.

There are times though when it is not so clear if we're dealing with an "Ouch" or an "Oops" moment. In particular, statements made out of curiosity can do significant harm when they come out of a place of ignorance. For instance, I remember speaking to one person who when they met a Jewish person for the first time wondered out loud, "Where are your horns?" The questioner did not intend to do harm but their question belied an attitude of ignorance that did cause harm by perpetuating a terrible Jewish stereotype. Or in my own case, a slip of the tongue caused a listener to feel that her religion was belittled on national airwaves. Despite the good intentions of my heart, I could not fix the damage done by my words. As one Chasidic tale teaches us, words are like pillow feathers scattered in the wind, since "you can no more make amends for the damage your words have done than you can recollect the feathers."

The Role of Forgiveness & Mercy

Though we cannot perfectly make amends, we can try our best to do so because just as God confounded our speech, God also created the world with forgiveness and mercy. As the Talmud states, "When God observed that the world could not rest on justice alone, God rendered mercy" (Rosh Hashanah 17b). Part of the value of defining moments as an "Oops" or an "Ouch" go a long way towards understanding how we should or should not be forgiving in a particular moment. If I hear someone make an "Oops," I'm more willing to be forgiving and to help that person correct their mistake, or to encourage them to share what they're afraid of saying to me. If I hear someone make an "Ouch," I'm more likely to contradict that opinion, to fight back. Mistakes help us listen, attacks encourage us to fight. Sometimes we need to fight back especially when words are very hurtful, but If we are going to build a healthy society we need to take advantage of those "Oops" opportunities to listen, to correct mistakes, and to give the other person the benefit of the doubt that their heart is in the right place.

From Hazzan Israel Gordan



What a Difference a Decade Makes!

It's hard to believe that I am just about half-way through my tenth year as the cantor of the Huntington Jewish Center. I started work here on August 15th, 2011, and as the title of this column indicates, what a difference a decade makes! When I started here, I had just graduated JTS with degrees from the Cantorial School and the Davidson School of Jewish Education. I was in my early

thirties and had only one child, who was nine months old. Now I'm in my early forties, have three kids aged 10, 8, and 6, and am back at JTS studying in the rabbinical school. And as everyone knows, the world is a very different place.

Looking at any decade in history will provide examples of profound change, and this one is no different. We just happen to be in the midst of a global pandemic, the likes of which the planet has not seen in over a century. And while there have been so many changes, disappointments, and cancellations because of Covid, there have also been some unexpected, and pleasant surprises.

I feel horrible for people who have had to cancel, postpone, or radically alter plans, such as weddings, b'nai mitzvah, vacations, graduations, etc. And while we have all been staring at our screens for far too many hours each day, we have been opened to a world of programming that would never have been possible

just a year ago. You can join Shabbat services of almost any non-Orthodox synagogue in the country, if you like. You can hear a lecture from professors and experts from all over the world. And you can check in with friends and family, because they're home more of the time and easier to get a hold of.

Over the past decade at least, however, we have not had much of a culture at HJC of musical programming. I am excited to announce several programs over these next few months, all paid for by the Cantor's Professional Development Fund that will begin to change that. At the end of January, we had a special Tu BiShvat concert for our 6-month to 8-year-olds and their families. At the beginning of February, we're excited to be hosting Pizmon, the premiere Jewish collegiate a cappella group, to do a workshop for our Religious School and give a concert for our community. At the beginning of March we'll have Josh Warshawsky as our Rabbi/ Musician in residence, followed by another Jewish college a cappella group, Kol Sasson, for a community concert in the middle of April. All of these events will be over zoom and are followed by my ten year celebration at the beginning of May.

I'd like to think of these events as my thank-you gifts to the community for being such an amazing workplace and home for the past decade. I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Cantor's Fund in the past, and if you like these programs and are so inclined, please continue to donate. I also hope that they lay the groundwork for creating a robust culture of music and musical programming in the years and decades to come at HJC!

2020-21 HIHI Supply Drive

In December, Huntington Jewish Center began 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.

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, chapstick, 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

President's Perspective



It Happened on the Brooklyn Subway

January 27th this week commemorated the 71st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz; this date is now recognized every year as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, memorializing all of the victims of the Holocaust.

In recognition of that solemn anniversary, I would like to share with you the following story that appeared on Facebook. The story is ultimately a positive one, replete with pivotal coincidences; to the story's coincidences, I would add my own — my happening to stumble across this at this particularly relevant time and my own family connections to Hungary and to Auschwitz. I hope you will find it as uplifting as I did.

Marcel Sternberger was a methodical man of nearly 50, with bushy white hair, guileless brown eyes, and the bouncing enthusiasm of a czardas dancer of his native Hungary. He always took the 9:09 Long Island Railroad train from his suburban home to

Woodside, N.Y.., where he caught a subway into the city.

On the morning of January 10, 1948, Sternberger boarded the 9:09 as usual. En route, he suddenly decided to visit Laszlo Victor, a Hungarian friend who lived in Brooklyn and was ill.

Accordingly, at Ozone Park, Sternberger changed to the subway for Brooklyn, went to his friend's house, and stayed until midafternoon. He then boarded a Manhattan-bound subway for his Fifth Avenue office. Here is Marcel's incredible story:

The car was crowded, and there seemed to be no chance of a seat. But just as I entered, a man sitting by the door suddenly jumped up to leave, and I slipped into the empty place. I've been living in New York long enough not to start conversations with strangers. But being a photographer, I have the peculiar habit of analyzing people's faces, and I was struck by the features of the passenger on my left. He was probably in his late 30s, and when he glanced up, his eyes seemed to have a hurt expression in them. He was reading a Hungarian-language newspaper, and something prompted me to say in Hungarian, "I hope you don't mind if I glance at your paper."

The man seemed surprised to be addressed in his native language. But he answered politely, "You may read it now. I'll have time later on."

During the half-hour ride to town, we had quite a conversation. He said his name was Bela Paskin. A law student when World War II started, he had been put into a German labor battalion and sent to the Ukraine. Later he was captured by the Russians and put to work burying the German dead. After the war, he covered hundreds of miles on foot until he reached his home in Debrecen, a large city in eastern Hungary.

I myself knew Debrecen quite well, and we talked about it for a while. Then he told me the rest of his story. When he went to the apartment once occupied by his father, mother, brothers and sisters, he found strangers living there. Then he went upstairs to the apartment that he and his wife once had. It also was occupied by strangers. None of them had ever heard of his family.

As he was leaving, full of sadness, a boy ran after him, calling "Paskin bacsi! Paskin bacsi!" That means "Uncle Paskin." The child was the son of some old neighbors of his. He went to the boy's home and talked to his parents. "Your whole family is dead," they told him. "The Nazis took them and your wife to Auschwitz."

Auschwitz was one of the worst Nazi concentration camps. Paskin gave up all hope. A few days later, too heartsick to remain any longer in Hungary, he set out again on foot, stealing across border after border until he reached Paris. He managed to immigrate to the United States in October 1947, just three months before I met him.

All the time he had been talking, I kept thinking that somehow his story seemed familiar. A young woman whom I had met recently at the home of friends had also been from Debrecen; she had been sent to Auschwitz; from there she had been transferred to work in a German munitions factory. Her relatives had been killed in the gas chambers. Later she was liberated by the Americans and was brought here in the first boatload of displaced persons in 1946.

Her story had moved me so much that I had written down her address and phone number, intending to invite her to meet my family and thus help relieve the terrible emptiness in her life.

It seemed impossible that there could be any connection between these two people, but as I neared my station, I fumbled anxiously in my address book. I asked in what I hoped was a casual voice, "Was your wife's name Marya?"

He turned pale. "Yes!" he answered. "How did you know?"

He looked as if he were about to faint.

I said, "Let's get off the train." I took him by the arm at the next station and led him to a phone booth. He stood there like a man in a trance while I dialed her phone number.

It seemed hours before Marya Paskin answered. (Later I learned her room was alongside the telephone, but she was in the habit of never answering it because she had so few friends and the calls were always for someone else. This time, however, there was no one else at home and, after letting it ring for a while, she responded.)

When I heard her voice at last, I told her who I was and asked her to describe her husband. She seemed surprised at the question, but gave me a description. Then I asked her where she had lived in Debrecen, and she told me the address.

Asking her to hold the line, I turned to Paskin and said, "Did you and your wife live on such-and-such a street?"

"Yes!" Bela exclaimed. He was white as a sheet and trembling.

"Try to be calm," I urged him. "Something miraculous is about to happen to you. Here, take this telephone and talk to your wife!"

He nodded his head in mute bewilderment, his eyes bright with tears. He took the receiver, listened a moment to his wife's voice, then suddenly cried, "This is Bela! This is Bela!" and he began to mumble hysterically. Seeing that the poor fellow was so excited he couldn't talk coherently, I took the receiver from his shaking hands.

"Stay where you are," I told Marya, who also sounded hysterical. "I am sending your husband to you. We will be there in a few minutes."

Bela was crying like a baby and saying over and over again. "It is my wife. I go to my wife!"

At first I thought I had better accompany Paskin, lest the man should faint from excitement, but I decided that this was a moment in which no strangers should intrude. Putting Paskin into a taxicab, I directed the driver to take him to Marya's address, paid the fare, and said goodbye.

Bela Paskin's reunion with his wife was a moment so poignant, so electric with suddenly released emotion, that afterward neither he nor Marya could recall much about it.

"I remember only that when I left the phone, I walked to the mirror like in a dream to see if maybe my hair had turned gray," she said later. "The next thing I know, a taxi stops in front of the house, and it is my husband who comes toward me. Details I cannot remember; only this I know—that I was happy for the first time in many years.....

"Even now it is difficult to believe that it happened. We have both suffered so much; I have almost lost the capability to not be afraid. Each time my husband goes from the house, I say to myself, "Will anything happen to take him from me again?"

Her husband is confident that no horrible misfortune will ever again befall them. "Providence has brought us together," he says simply. "It was meant to be."

Skeptical persons will no doubt attribute the events of that memorable afternoon to mere chance. But was it chance that made Marcel Sternberger suddenly decide to visit his sick friend and hence take a subway line that he had never ridden before? Was it chance that caused the man sitting by the door of the car to rush out just as Sternberger came in? Was it chance that caused Bela Paskin to be sitting beside Sternberger, reading a Hungarian newspaper?

Was it chance—or did God ride the Brooklyn subway that afternoon?

Paul Deutschman, Great Stories Remembered (edited and compiled by Joe L. Wheeler)



There is no "I" in Team

"Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results." - Andrew Carnegie

It is still early in the year of 2021. Not all of our hopes and dreams of resuming our pre-COVID lives have been dashed, but we are still facing the challenges of limited socialization, not only in our personal lives, but in our synagogue life as well. On Saturday night, February 6 HJC will be hosting our first ever

Murder Mystery Night Challenge event, *Murder In The Queen's Court*. This unique program is being brought to us by TeamBuilding, a company that has developed an online experience combining the best elements of a traditional murder mystery game with the unique mechanics of virtual conference rooms.

The company typically markets their "product" to "companies" to promote teamwork, engagement, collaboration and fun among their employees. But this got me thinking; isn't this exactly what we, as a Jewish community, want as well?

In corporate life, team building has a bad rap but time and time again it has been indicated as one of the most important investments a company can make for their employees. It has been described as building trust, mitigating conflict, encouraging communication, and increasing collaboration. By most accounts, effective team building means more engaged employees, which is good for company culture and boosting the bottom line. And if it is done with some ingenuity, it can also be enjoyable.

Here's a crazy thought – what if, in the context of team building, we substituted the word "employee" with the word "congregant" or "member"? What if we expanded the concept to our own synagogue community; isn't spending time together, sharing an experience or working towards a common goal exactly what we want from our shul?

Now, more than ever, the challenge is creating opportunities for members to connect and interact in meaningful ways, outside of the synagogue walls, to keep the positive energy and love for HJC going.

Maybe we can overcome our obstacles by sharing common goals and working together as a TEAM to achieve them. Below are 10 top reasons why corporations invest in teambuilding. Take a close look. It is compelling to realize how we could all benefit.

1. BUILDS TRUST

Trust plays an essential role in building effective teams. Trust makes people feel safe. When members feel safe, they open up. They are more proactive with their ideas and their ability to listen to each other.

2. REGULATES COMMUNICATION

When members work as a team, they communicate. They talk to each other and hold discussions.

3. INCREASES PRODUCTIVITY

Members share the workload. The importance of team building is that it improves individual productivity. As a result, organizations are able to deliver their best.

4. BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER

One of the most important benefits of team building is that it improves interpersonal relationships. When members work together, they share experiences and both failures as well as victories.

5. FOSTERS CREATIVITY AND LEARNING

Successful team building motivates members to learn from each other and build on each other's talents. It brings together individual experiences and as a result, everyone is able to bring something new to the table and learn from each other.

6. HEALTHY COMPETITION

In the synagogue, activities can be a great way to bring out the competitive spirit of members, letting them work with other teams and acquire skills like problem solving, communication and collaboration along the way.

7. MAKES PEOPLE MORE ACCEPTING

Everyone should be given the same importance, resources and equal opportunities to reach their goals. With the world becoming more inclusive towards cultural and gender diversity, members need to do their bit too. Exposure to people from different ethnicities and backgrounds helps people to become more accepting and understanding towards each other's differences.

8. RESOLVES CONFLICTS

Conflicts can sometimes turn into constructive and useful work. Disagreements, especially, might arise if members with diverse experiences are grouped together rather than those with similar experiences. People should be open to hear and accept diverse opinions and perspectives.

9. ACQUIRE SKILLS

Team building enables members to learn from others and develop new skills. It teaches members to hold responsibility and accountability for their decisions and actions.

10. IMPROVES CULTURE

When members work together, it fosters creativity and innovation in the synagogue. Members communicate and collaborate more. More members get to know each other better which motivates them and others to become more involved in synagogue life. This improves the synagogues overall bottom line and simultaneously fosters a positive and motivating spiritual home.

Religious School Leigh Murphy, Director



Responsibilities (Achrayut)

This month, our children learned all about responsibilities (achrayut). These obligations include the 613 mitzvot, plus day-to-day responsibilities

we can all do at home, at school, and in the community.

- Good hygiene it's a responsibility!
- Treating people nicely it's a responsibility!
- Exercising it's a responsibility!
- Helping parents and siblings with house work it's a responsibility!
- Reading and learning it's a responsibility!
- Wearing a mask it's a responsibility!
- Celebrating holy days and holidays it's a responsibility! (We spent extensive time on the mitzvah of planting trees and caring for the environment as part of our Tu Bishvat curriculum).

As you see, our children learned to recognize physical, emotional, spiritual, cognitive/intellectual, and social achrayut. Below are some details about what each class learned:

Gan (kindergarten): Gan class learned about Tu Bishvat, the new year of the trees. We read a few books, sang some songs, and even got our own parsley seeds to plant at home. At the end of our class, I asked each student why trees are so important.

Naomi said, "They feed us."

Eden said, "They give us shade."

Dane said, "They clean our air."

Adam said, "They give us food and keep our air clean."

Alef (1st-grade): This month in Kitah Alef, students learned the letters Aleph, Bet, Gimmel, Dalet, and Hey. We also learned the stories of our Jewish patriarchs and matriarchs, Avraham, Sara, Yitzchak, and Rivka. It was fun learning about Avraham's quest to find the one true G-d and reciting the Shema prayer! It was also fun sharing a story about Rivka's kindness to others!

Bet (2nd-grade): During Tu Bishvat, it is a mitzvah to enjoy fruits of the vine or tree. Our students learned we are commanded to drink 4 cups of juice or wine (which is easy to remember because it's the same number as the number of seasons).

Gimel (3rd-grade): Our class has been exploring our achrayut (responsibilities) toward various people and groups including family, community, school, including Jewish responsibilities and the responsibility to care for ourselves.

Dalet (4th-grade): Students learned how responsibility is an intergenerational obligation. Our sustenance depends on our ancestors having written, taught, developed tools, and planted trees. Likewise, our laying down roots and planting literal and figurative trees now provides sustenance to the world not only in this generation, but future ones, as well.

Hey (5th-grade): We emphasized tikun olam, analyzing the experience of Joseph and his brothers, and more-recent leaders against injustice, such as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. We discussed the importance of standing up for what you believe.

Vav (6th-grade): During this past month, we learned about the great heroes of our people, from Nachshon and King David to Natan Scharansky and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. We discussed the responsibilities these heroes took on and their influence on others and on history. We all decided a Jewish hero brings courage and caring to help the Jewish people and make the world a better place.

FYI - We have a private Facebook page ("HJC Religious School Members")! Persons requesting access have to be accepted by the administrator. Please search for it on Facebook and sign up to get access to interesting postings about Jewish education and holidays and raising healthy, well-adjusted Jewish children.

Sincerely,

Morah Stacey, Morah Melanie, Morah Jen, Moreh Ari, Moreh Paul, Morah Sharone, Moreh Phil Mark Richman, Religious School Committee President Leigh Murphy, Religious School Director

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



Early Childhood News



Developing Character

To reach real peace in the world, we will have to begin with the children.

~Gand

Character education is and should be one of the foundations of early childhood education. It should be a part of every child's early educational experience. Academics just is not enough and should not be thought of as the sole focus of early childhood education. We hold character educa-

tion very near and dear to our hearts. It is one of our many goals of the ECC to have children leave here being a better, kinder, tolerant, child who will then become a more open minded, inclusive, and kind citizen of the community and our world. It all starts here...

We don't just teach character education, we live it. We model it. We want the child to recognize the intrinsic reward of making someone happy instead of rewarding extrinsically. Intrinsic values and rewards are life skills that will serve the child well for the remainder of their lives. They will know how to seek rewards internally rather than always searching for validation and rewards from external sources. One of the many lessons we expose the children to is the concept of "filling someone's bucket." When you are kind to another, you make them happy which fills their bucket. If you are hurtful to another, their bucket is empty. This is not just about filling someone else's bucket. Your actions also have an effect on your own bucket. When you make someone happy, you not only fill their bucket, you fill your own bucket (the intrinsic

reward of feeling proud of yourself).

Character education is also an integral part of Social Emotional Development, which is another key element of early childhood education. Identifying how others are feeling by recognizing their emotions is a component of social emotional development and character education. By recognizing other's facial expressions, you can act accordingly and demonstrate empathy and compassion.

Once again, the ECC does not limit our character education and learning to our four walls. We bring it to the community to show gratitude and kindness to others. This year we had to think outside the box due to our limitations from the Covid 19 health situation. Each month of school we learned about and honored members of a particular group. For example, in October, we taught the children about fire safety and how important the fire fighters are to our community. The children drew pictures and created banners for our local fire departments. A few fire fighters drove through our parking lot to collect their pictures and banners and all of the children were able to say thank you safely outdoors. We celebrated the Health Care workers in November with notes, pictures, and a large communal hand printed rainbow to send to many doctors, nurses, and the Huntington Hospital. We are currently reaching out to Nursing Homes, decorating socks, and sending pictures and video messages of the children to lift their spirits. These efforts and acts of love are not just "projects" or things that we have to do. The children are involved in every step of giving, showing gratitude and kindness. We will always foster their sense of acceptance, tolerance, empathy and responsibility to our world.































Donations

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Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer in memory of Sol Rosen, father of Bruce Rosen.

Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer in memory of Norman Mattisinko, husband of Joan Mattisinko.

Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer in memory of Ethel Sachs.

Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer in honor of the engagement of Daniel, son of Gwen & Ron Goldstein, to Priyanka Duvvuru.

Gwen & Ron Goldstein in memory of Ethel Sachs.

Rosalind & William Wertheim in memory of Sol Rosen, father of Bruce Rosen.

Lesley & Jeff Stark in honor of the retirement of Ellen Steinberg. Marsha Singer in memory of Ethel Sachs.

Jeff Stark in memory of Bella Stark at yahrzeit.

Joanne Mulberg & Peter Cohn in memory of Harry Mulberg at vahrzeit.

Joanne Mulberg & Peter Cohn in memory of Ethel Sachs. Donna & Ed Fleiss in memory of Loretta Nadler at yahrzeit. Les Rothenberg in memory of Anita Rothenberg at yahrzeit. Ceceil and Richard Klein in memory of Sally Klein at yahrzeit. Rissa Walsdorf & Lauren Summers in memory of Isabel Winters at vahrzeit.

Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Saul Wyatt at yahrzeit. Phyllis Simon & Meyer Steinberg in honor of the retirement of Ellen Steinberg.

Joan & Paul Cohen in memory of Ethel Sachs.

Susan & Robert Margolies in memory of Ethel Sachs.

Shelley Weinberg in memory of Ethel Sachs.

Helga Kramer in memory of Ethel Sachs.

Maxine Liebowitz in memory of Ethel Sachs.

David Pincus in memory of Robert Pincus at yahrzeit.

Elliott Waldman in memory of Susie Waldman at yahrzeit.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Rose Epstein at yahrzeit. Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Myra Snyder, mother of Anne Specht.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Norman Mattisinko, husband of Joan Mattisinko.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Sol Rosen, father of Bruce Rosen.

Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Ethel Sachs.

Joseph Glassman in memory of Clinton Glassman at yahrzeit.

Barry Chase in memory of Raymond Chase at yahrzeit.

Shanah & Howard Gordon in memory of Sol Rosen, father of Bruce Rosen.

Ben Eckstein in memory of Louisa Eckstein at yahrzeit. Leslie & Jack Rubin in memory of Gilla Rubin at yahrzeit.

Leslie & Jack Rubin in memory of Mordecai Rubin at yahrzeit.

Leslie & Jack Rubin in memory of Paula Marenberg at yahrzeit. The Holbreich family in memory of Laurie Wolberg at yahrzeit. **Vered Cole & family** in memory of Jack Cole at yahrzeit.

Vered Cole in memory of Rachel Tal Kirschner, mother of Maayan Klein.

William Wertheim in memory of Judith Wertheim at yahrzeit. **David Schoenfarber** in memory of Bertel Robbins at yahrzeit.

ARK AND PULPIT FUND

Kathy Brookhart in memory of Ethel Sachs. Kathy Brookhart in memory of Philip Yablonka at yahrzeit.

BEN TASMAN LIBRARY FUND

Pam & Bruce Fleiss in memory of Lana Fields, sister of Sheila Tasman.

Ruth Shapiro in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

CANTOR'S DEVELOPMENT FUND

Tyna Strenger

Arnold Schwartz in memory Rosalyn H. Schwartz at yahrzeit.

CENTENNIAL GARDEN FUND

Pam & Bruce Fleiss in memory of Sol Rosen, father of Bruce Rosen.

Alice & Bruce Rosen in memory of Betty Goldgeier at yahrzeit.

COLLEGIATE FUND

Lori Sklar in memory of Blanche Sklar at yahrzeit.

COVID-19 RECOVERY FUND

Anonymous

Stacey & Donald Novick in memory of Charlotte Harris at yahrzeit.

Helen & Moshe Sassover in memory of Ethel Sachs.

Martin Spielman in memory of Adolph Spielman at yahrzeit.

Martin Spielman in memory of Minna Spielman at yahrzeit.

Elaine & Walter Kleinmann in memory of Ethel Sachs.

Arnold Schwartz in memory of Daniel S. Schwartz at yahrzeit.

Felicia & Keith Messing in memory of Ethel Sachs.

Richard Klee in memory of Miriam Klee at yahrzeit.

DAILY MINYAN FUND

Bea Pedowicz in memory of Ethel Sachs.

DONALD L. GORDON ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Miriam Eckstein-Koas in memory of Ethel Sachs.

ETHEL SACHS ENGAGEMENT FUND

Julie & Ken Moelis

Zoila & Paul Wiseman

Miriam & Morton Schapiro

Nancy & Ezra Bendit

Stacey & Mark Raskin

Elizabeth Hirsh Naftali

Sarah Liron

Orna & Keenan Wolens

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND

Janet & Mark Zimmerman in memory of Ethel Sachs.

NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

The Satin family

The Jaffe family in memory of Debbie Jonisch at yahrzeit.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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

Susi Susskind in memory of Ethel Sachs.

Elaine & Burt Epstein in memory of Celia Epstein at yahrzeit. **Felicia & Keith Messing** in honor of the 60th wedding anniversary

of Rosalie & Max Malkiel.

Donna & Ed Fleiss in memory of Jules Einhorn, husband of Carol Einhorn and father of Rachel Saks.

Shelley Schachter in memory of her father, Jack Hade.

RABBI'S HOSPITALITY FUND

Pam & Bruce Fleiss in memory of Ethel Sachs.

SOCIAL ACTION FUND/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Ethan Auslander

Ben Eckstein

Woodbury Kosher Meat

Rosalind & William Wertheim in honor of Maxine and Rob Fisher.

Susi Susskind in memory of Norman Mattisinko, husband of Joan Mattisinko.

Arlene Steinberg in memory of Polly Kurzer at yahrzeit.

Joseph Glassman in memory of Selma Glassman at yahrzeit.

Evelyn Abraham & Roger Silverberg in memory of Rachel Tal

Kirschner, mother of Maayan Klein.

Felicia & Keith Messing in honor of Rob Fisher and the JNN team for all their great work they do.

MAZAL TOV

Gwen & Ron Goldstein announce the engagement of their son, Daniel, to Priyanka Duvvuru.

CONDOLENCES

Maayan Klein on the death of her mother, Rachel Tal Kirschner.

NEW MEMBERS

Joshua & Andrea Nelson of Huntington and their children, Bear, age 2 and Olive, 2 months.

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

Evelyn Abraham in memory of Ralph Abraham at yahrzeit

Evelyn Abraham and Roger Silverberg in memory of Ethel Sachs

Maxine and Rob Fisher in memory of Ethel Sachs

Donna and Ed Fleiss in memory of Ethel Sachs

Marlene and Leonard Hummel in memory of Ethel Sachs

Susan and David Lefkowitz

Susan and David Lefkowitz in memory of Ethel Sachs

Phyllis and Andy Levy in memory of Ethel Sachs

Phyllis and Andy Levy in memory of Norma Levy at vahrzeit

Tom and Vicki Rosen in memory of Ethel Sachs

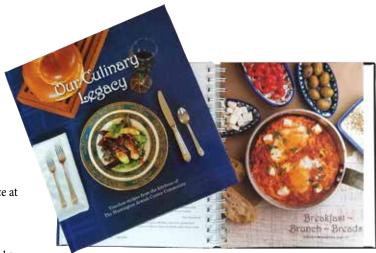
 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Tom and Vicki Rosen} in honor of Debbie Rosenkrantz for 18 years of service at \\ \end{tabular}$

Huntington Jewish Center

Judith Rosenblatt in memory of Ethel Sachs

Roz and Marty Spielman in memory of Ethel Sachs

Arlene Steinberg in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Abby Goldstein, granddaughter



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.

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 **Jav & Ellen Steinberg**

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Robert Schpoont Bob & Cari Schueller **Judy Schwager** Roger Silverberg & Evelyn Abraham Andrea Smoller & Family **Barry & Anne Specht** Daniel & Dafna Stein **David & Debbie Stein** Saul & Sari Sternschein Larry & Beth Wagner Robert & Marcey Wagner Richard & Deborah Wertheim Ian & Sheryl Winkler Bill Yelen

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Leo & Emma Sternschein

CHILDRENS HONOR ROLL Alexander & Nicholas Aronow Ezra, Rebecca & Asher Behr Alexander Bernstein, Hayden Boshnack Jordana, Jacob & Nina Boxer Joseph & Alexander Brill **Emily, Warren & Nora Buchholtz** Hayley & Nicole Feibel Eliana & Max Herskovitz Aaron Jaffee, Matthew Jaffee James Fishelson, Elise, Scott & Leo Kaufman Noa, Eli & Maya Gordan-Uhrman Jason, Joey & Allison Greenstein Josephine Clark, Leo, Eli, Isaac & Naomi Kaufman Talia & Eli Kleinmann Jason, Rachel & Jesse Koreen Brittany, Caroline & Spencer Kreigstein Jack & Doolin Leavy Shira, Orli, Lev, Rina, Valeria, Mia, Victor & Sasha Perler David Reiter, Zachary Reiter Alexa Rind Adam Rubenstein, Mara Rubenstein Sam, Nathan & Hannah Schoeffler Brian, Erin & Isaac Chase, Beth Chase-Schuman. Aaron Schuman, Benjamin Chase Schuman & **Eden Melody Schuman** Dana & Jillian Silverberg Ilyssa & Max Stein



Join us for this wildly entertaining remote Murder Mystery Challenge!
This game contains magic, political intrigue, learning and fun!

Saturday Night, February 6, 2021

8:00-9:30 PM

Register Now! Don't miss out on this fabulous night in the Royal Court! Mandatory RSVP is required by Sunday, January 31 to debbier@hjcny.org. ZOOM event link will be supplied upon registration.

This event is complimentary and limited to the first 50 households that register.

One device per household please. Donations are welcome!



Celebrate with Cantor Gordan as he approaches his Tenth Anniversary at HJC!

These monthly ZOOM events are Cantor Gordan's gift to us as we move toward his May celebration. All generously sponsored by the Cantor's Professional Development Fund.

JANUARY

Celebrate Tu BiShvat
with Cantor Gordan

Friday, January 29th at 4:00pm

PJ Library Bim Bam Shabbat Shirah
Begins with a 10 minute Shabbat Sing with
Cantor Gordan, followed by a viewing of the
JKIDS concert and ending with a live
candle lighting to start Shabbat.



FEBRUARY

Pizmon Jewish A Cappella Sunday, February 7th

A special workshop for our religious school at 11:15am

Community-wide concert at 12:30pm



MARCH

Learn with Artist in Residence Rabbi Josh Warshawsky

Friday, March 5th at 5:00pm
PJ Library Bim Bam Shabbat Service

Friday, March 5th at 6:00pm

Community Kabbalat Shabbat services

Sunday, March 7th at 11:30am Religious School workshop



APRIL

Kol Sasson Jewish A Cappella community concert

Sunday, April 11th

Community-wide concert

at 11:30am



You are invited to come join us for HJC Family Fun Night!

February 21st at 5pm on Zoom!

6th graders Eva Richter and Eliana Herskovitz, with some help from their dads Mike and Scott, are planning a really great night with fun activities!

To learn more, go to our website at http://hjcfamily.com and watch the fun welcome video. There's also a quick Google Form. Fill it out the form to tell Eva and Eliana want you want to do and what would make the evening fun!"



Sing-alongs

How much: ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Why: The pandemic has prevented many of us from getting together over the past

year. We wanted to create an opportunity for families to see each other again

and have fun.

What: An evening of fun activities for HJC families.
When: February 21, 2021 - 5pm to 6:30pm-ish

Where: Zoom (Details to come)

How:

Who: All HJC Families. Kids and Parents! The content will be focused on ECC through

Religious School (2 years old to 12 years old).

We'll have an interactive evening although we may have events and activities

that happen before Family Fun Night and are pre-recorded.

More details coming soon.

ontact: Questions or thoughts or want to volunteer? Reach out to Mike and Scott at

mike@elfhome.com and sjh@herskovitz.net.





HJC Sisterhood

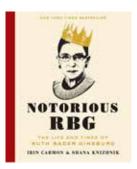
SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, 3/2 @ 1pm – Book Discussion

Notorious RBG:

The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

by Irin Carmon & Shana Knizhnik



Tuesday, 3/9 and Thursday, 3/11
A Two Part Series:
Making a Taste of Passover

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

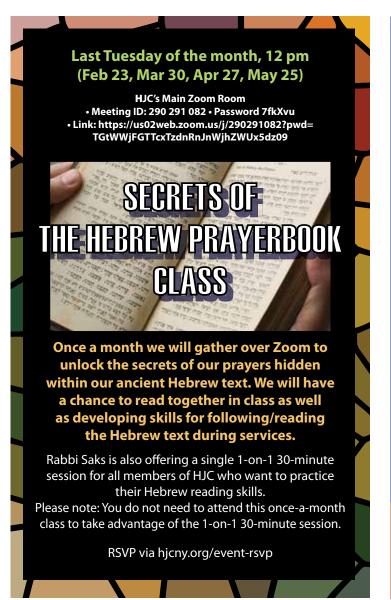
(Ethics of the Fathers)

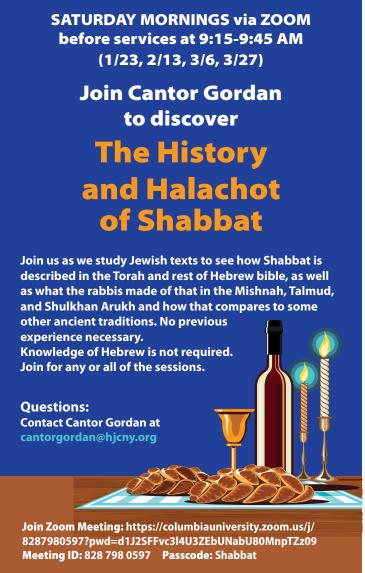
which are ethical teachings and moral maxims providing compelling entry points to the study of Talmud.



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







Modern Living: Maintaining Balance





Modern Living: Maintaining Balance explores a selection of classic and modern Jewish texts from the renowned Florence Melton School curriculum that relate to this contemporary challenge. Participants will discover Jewish wisdom that helps us balance between the needs and demands of family, work, community and self.

Rabbi Ari Saks will teach this 4-lesson course for Huntington Jewish Center on Thursdays at 8:00-9:15 p.m. on February 11, 18 and March 4, 11, 2021. Lessons will be online via Zoom.

Registration & Information: www.meltonschool.org/pop-up





Can you help...

My cousin, Chuck Winer, is seeking a kidney donor, either a direct match or a swap exchange from someone who can save his life or perhaps someone else's life. Chuck was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Medford, MA. He is a Vietnam veteran and 2-time cancer survivor. He has worked in the Massachusetts health care sector for his entire career and has promoted quality health care for all citizens. Chuck is from an Ashkenazi Jewish background. Please visit the websites below if you would like to learn more about Chuck and about kidney donation. Sharing this information on social media would also be very helpful. Thank you for any efforts you can make to help Chuck.

Chuck's Facebook Page:

https://www.facebook.com/ helpchuckfindakidney

Website: www.kidney4chuck.com

Chuck's page on the National

Kidney Registry:

https://nkr.org/dnd472

Thank you,
Roz Spielman

(Chuck's father, my Uncle Sam, did a residency at Huntington Hospital in the early 40's.)

Join us for a virtual Purim family event! Hamantashen at Home

^^^^^^



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What: Hamantashen Baking

When: Thursday, 2/11@ 4:30pm

Where: In your own home

Join us for a FUN hour of preparing your own tray of delicious hamantashen to be baked and enjoyed at home!

Come gather with our HJC synagogue community

MUST RSVP by Tuesday, 2/2 to receive instructions/ingredients for preparing recipe and making hamantashen at home

Please RSVP to Donna Fleiss
Questions are welcome
Email donna.fleiss@gmail.com or call/text (516) 635-7829

This event is sponsored by HJC Sisterhood

VVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVV

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

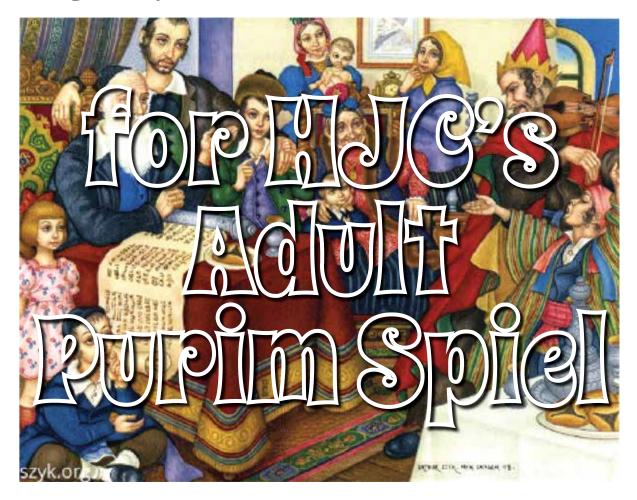
This scholarship is awarded to high school juniors and seniors who spend six to eight weeks during the summer in Israel. They tour, learn, and live the Israeli life in a Jewish educational program.

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.

SAVE THE DATE



The fun and irreverent Purim tradition comes to HJC on Thursday, February 25th

(to take place either before or after the full Megillah reading)

ZOOM ALONG WITH US!



Come enjoy the show!
Written in poetry and rhyme!
A script written way back in 1960s
And produced by CBS TV.





We will perform with scripts in hand, Scooping words off the page, Zoom will be our stage!



Email Dafna Soltes Stein: Dafnadafi@gmail.com



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.

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 arounds.

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

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

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ACTION FUNDS

ETHEL SACHS ENGAGEMENT FUND - Provide financial support that promote, continue or enhance the engagement of our members.

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 Fu	
Name:		Phone Number: ()	
Address:		Zip Code:	
In Honor of:			
	RMATION: I have enclosed a check in the amount of \$_		
Please bill my Visa / M	aster Card / AmEx Credit Card #	Expiration Date:	
•	digits on back of Visa / Master Card or 4 digits on front of An ad above will be listed in the HJC Bulletin. Donations must be rec		

HJC Bulletin

February 2021

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PLEASE MAKE A DONATION

During this trying time your contributions are more important than ever. If you are able to make a donation or tribute to the HJC simply fill out the form on the reverse side of this page and send it together with your donation to:

The Huntington Jewish Center 510 Park Avenue Huntington, NY 11743

This year, in an attempt to be environmentally friendly, our Passover Guide will be delivered electronically. However, if you would like to receive a hard copy of the booklet, please notify the Main Office at 631-427- 1089 Ext. 10 and we will mail one to you.