



June 2021 | Sivan / Tamuz 5781 Bulletin

# HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER

NEWS / COMMUNITY / CONNECTION

SUMMER 2021

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AND SAY  
AHHH

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# Sisterhood News

by Evelyn Abraham

## SISTERHOOD MEMBERSHIP

Join Us and Support the Sisterhood of HJC

*It is not too late to send in your Sisterhood Dues*

New members to HJC receive a complimentary Sisterhood membership for their first year. Please return your Membership Letters as soon as possible.

Checks are payable to Sisterhood of the Huntington Jewish Center.

**\$45 - regular membership    \$40 - Z'havah**

**\$30 - senior membership**

## BQLI REGION

## WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT GALA

**The annual BQLI  
Region Woman of Achievement Gala is  
Thursday June 10th at 7:30 PM.**

It will be a Virtual Event and the HJC Sisterhood will be honoring Joni Brenner. If you are interested in attending, please contact Evelyn Abraham for reservation information.

[evelyn\\_abraham@optonline.net](mailto:evelyn_abraham@optonline.net)

## 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.



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](mailto:evelyn_abraham@optonline.net)

## JUDAICA SHOP

OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND

FOR YOUR HOLIDAY AND SIMCHA NEEDS

**Sisterhood Contact:** Evelyn Abraham  
[evelyn\\_abraham@optonline.net](mailto:evelyn_abraham@optonline.net)



**Rabbi Ari Saks**

Rabbi  
631-423-5355

**Andrea Marcus Smoller**

President  
516-901-7179

**Cantor Israel Gordan**

Cantor  
631-427-1089 ext. 22

**Barbara Axmacher**

Executive Director  
631-427-1089 ext. 23

**Leigh Murphy/Mark Richman**

Religious School  
631-427-1157

**Ilene Brown**

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

**Neil Kurshan**

Rabbi Emeritus

### HJC Board of Trustees / 2020-2021

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# From Rabbi Ari Saks



## *Our HJC Family, Our HJC Home*

What language should we use to describe a synagogue? *Synagogue* and *Community* are terms that connote a group of like minded people who affiliate together for a particular purpose, whether it's to do a ritual or to help someone find a job. On the other hand, the terms *Home* and *Family* evoke a closer connection, one in which we feel tied together despite (or because of?) our flaws. The former terms depict a place and a group we can move in and out of as we please; the latter terms describe a condition that is *always a part of us*, no matter how often we are present or absent.

One of my favorite quotes is from the Zionist thinker Ahad Ha-am: *more than the Jewish people have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jewish People*. I think what Ahad Ha-am means here is that what keeps the Jewish people together is the feeling of seeing each other as family, and wherever we see our family, that place feels like home. We may have been separated by both physical and spiritual distances from one another during the pandemic, but on those special Shabbatot we *are* able to get together — like our recent Shabbat by the Sound — we can feel like we're coming home to our family.

As we move towards the end of the pandemic, may we merit more beautiful Shabbatot to spend together as our HJC family in our Jewish home, the Huntington Jewish Center.

Kol Tuv,  
Rabbi Ari Saks





# From Hazzan Israel Gordan



## *Israel: Here We Come!*

It's hard to believe that it has been almost ten years since I started as the cantor of the Huntington Jewish Center, but now that I have had some time and space since my event, it is starting to sink in as something a little more real. Again, I want to thank everyone who worked so hard on making the program such an incredible evening and the fundraiser such a success. It was completely overwhelming to see and hear from so many of you, as well as some special guests, and I hope that everyone who wanted to, got the chance to view the program as well.

What I tried to express in my portion of the program is the incredible amount of love and support that I have felt: not just at the program, or even just when I started out as new, but consistently throughout my time here over the past decade. I feel very lucky to not only work with this community, but also to raise my family here, and I know my wife, Abby, feels the same way.

In looking back over my tenure, it is very easy to think of certain points as transitions, but the truth is, that life is constant change. I began as the cantor, and in my second year, I added many religious school responsibilities to my portfolio. Then came the retirement of Susie Meisler from the ECC and the welcoming of Ilene Brown as our new director. When Rabbi Kurshan retired, we interviewed many candidates before hiring an interim

rabbi, followed by Rabbi Saks joining us a year later. We tried a new Religious School director when I returned to JTS to start rabbinical school, and then, after a volunteer-led year, it looks like we have a new member of our team beginning on July 1st to lead our education and family outreach programming. And now, after almost exactly ten years at the HJC, I will be leaving.

But only for a year!

The plan for the 2021/22 academic year is for my family and me to be in Jerusalem where I will be learning at the Schocken Institute as part of my rabbinical school program. My children will be attending an Israeli school, and my wife will continue to work for JTS remotely (much like she has been doing this year). While we are departing in mid-August, I will return for the high holidays, before going back to Israel again for Succot and the rest of the year.

It is not easy to say this, and it certainly is not easy to pick up a family and move them across the world for a year, but this seems like an opportunity that we cannot pass up and a gift that we hope our kids will grow to appreciate: the chance to not only live abroad for a year (and have a place to come back to afterwards), but hopefully a personal connection with and love for Israel: it's people, food, language, sites, history, and everything else that make it unique and wonderful.

So, if you're up for it, come on over for a visit. We'd love to see you. Next year in Jerusalem!

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## 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.**

# From Our Outgoing President *Dan Schoeffler*



## *Looking back ... and forward*

***"The time has come," the Walrus said, "To talk of many things" ...***

Of course, Lewis Carroll was hardly a Talmudic scholar, but this line from a favorite poem\* of mine makes a quick and easy introduction when I'm struggling to come up with my own. Pay no attention to the Walrus.

Serving as President of HJC has been one of the great honors of my

life. Over the past two years, we faced many unexpected challenges (including a little once-in-a-century pandemic). It was kind of like buying tickets at the amusement park for the twirling tea cups and all of a sudden finding yourself strapped into the Cyclone. What made it possible to overcome these challenges was that none of us, including me, was in it alone. There are multitudes to thank and far too many to name but what counted is that you were there when we needed you most. For that I and we are truly grateful.

HJC has given so much to me and my family over so many years

that I feel very privileged to have been able to give something back. Before we arrived in Huntington (a mere 28 years ago), I could count on one hand the number of Shabbat services I had attended without a bar or bat mitzvah invitation. Over time, though, we found ourselves showing up in shul with alarming frequency. It took years, but eventually I learned most of our Shabbat liturgy and nigunim, a smattering of Biblical Hebrew, and even the right times to sit and stand in services. There was something about sharing Shabbat with each other that made HJC a natural Saturday destination — it was somewhere we could bond with friends who believed in the same values we did. For our family, HJC was and always will be the "warm and welcoming" place that we love to describe in our brochures.

Over the past year, I have sprinkled a tidbit or two of Jewish history and Yiddish into my Shabbat morning announcements. It seems fitting that I should close that way here, too. There's a Yiddish expression which translated says, "If everyone pulled in one direction, the world would tip over." My prayer for HJC going forward is that we tip the world over.

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming Andrea Smoller as our next President of HJC. I know she will do a tremendous job leading us into an exciting and promising future.

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### **\*The Walrus and the Carpenter** BY LEWIS CARROLL

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"The sun was shining on the sea,  
Shining with all his might:  
He did his very best to make  
The billows smooth and bright —  
And this was odd, because it was  
The middle of the night.

The moon was shining sulkily,  
Because she thought the sun  
Had got no business to be there  
After the day was done —  
"It's very rude of him," she said,  
"To come and spoil the fun."

The sea was wet as wet could be,  
The sands were dry as dry.  
You could not see a cloud, because  
No cloud was in the sky:  
No birds were flying overhead —  
There were no birds to fly.

The Walrus and the Carpenter  
Were walking close at hand;  
They wept like anything to see  
Such quantities of sand:  
If this were only cleared away,  
They said, it would be grand!

If seven maids with seven mops  
Swept it for half a year,  
Do you suppose," the Walrus said,  
That they could get it clear?"  
I doubt it," said the Carpenter,  
And shed a bitter tear.

O Oysters, come and walk with us!  
The Walrus did beseech.  
A pleasant walk, a pleasant talk,  
Along the briny beach:  
We cannot do with more than four,  
To give a hand to each."

The eldest Oyster looked at him,  
But never a word he said:  
The eldest Oyster winked his eye,  
And shook his heavy head —  
Meaning to say he did not choose  
To leave the oyster-bed.

But four young Oysters hurried up,  
All eager for the treat:  
Their coats were brushed, their faces washed,  
Their shoes were clean and neat —  
And this was odd, because, you know,  
They hadn't any feet.

Four other Oysters followed them,  
And yet another four;  
And thick and fast they came at last,  
And more, and more, and more —  
All hopping through the frothy waves,  
And scrambling to the shore.

The Walrus and the Carpenter  
Walked on a mile or so,  
And then they rested on a rock  
Conveniently low:  
And all the little Oysters stood  
And waited in a row.

The time has come," the Walrus said,  
To talk of many things:  
Of shoes — and ships — and sealing-wax —  
Of cabbages — and kings —  
And why the sea is boiling hot —  
And whether pigs have wings!

But wait a bit," the Oysters cried,  
Before we have our chat;  
For some of us are out of breath,  
And all of us are fat!  
No hurry!" said the Carpenter.  
They thanked him much for that.

A loaf of bread," the Walrus said,  
Is what we chiefly need:  
Pepper and vinegar besides  
Are very good indeed —  
Now if you're ready, Oysters dear,  
We can begin to feed!

But not on us!" the Oysters cried,  
Turning a little blue.  
After such kindness, that would be  
A dismal thing to do!  
The night is fine," the Walrus said.  
Do you admire the view?

It was so kind of you to come!  
And you are very nice!"  
The Carpenter said nothing but  
Cut us another slice:  
I wish you were not quite so deaf —  
I've had to ask you twice!"

It seems a shame," the Walrus said,  
To play them such a trick,  
After we've brought them out so far,  
And made them trot so quick!"  
The Carpenter said nothing but  
The butter's spread too thick!"

I weep for you," the Walrus said:  
I deeply sympathize.  
With sobs and tears he sorted out  
Those of the largest size,  
Holding his pocket-handkerchief  
Before his streaming eyes.

O Oysters," said the Carpenter,  
You've had a pleasant run!  
Shall we be trotting home again?"  
But answer came there none —  
And this was scarcely odd, because  
They'd eaten every one."



## *An Introduction*

It truly is an honor and a great privilege to be addressing you as the next President of the Huntington Jewish Center.

Thank you for having the confidence in me to continue our important work as we move forward with our leaders, clergy, staff, and, of course, our membership. HJC has always been a place where we can create new and innovative opportunities

for us all, while retaining the warmth our rich tradition brings. This is an extraordinary time we are living through, with many challenges yet to be met, but it is our strength of community that puts us in good stead. As we work together, my hope is that we will each continue to grow, support and nurture each other. Together, we are an exceptional community. Separately, each one of us has unique strengths and talents, but our true strength lies through our collective work together.

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of our professional and lay leadership, especially Rabbi Saks and Cantor Gordan, HJC has continued to thrive over the years since a few Jewish families joined together in Huntington to form the Huntington Hebrew Congregation in 1907. Of course we have had many challenges over the years, this past year being only the most recent. Through the pandemic, we have had to find new ways to pray and new ways to be together when we could not actually be physically together. We needed to find new and creative ways to engage with our beloved community.

A little bit about me: I joined HJC in 1989, when my oldest son, Brandon, entered our Early Childhood Center, the ECC. Since it was important to me to create a life for my children which included a strong connection to Judaism, one where we would celebrate traditions, explore, discover and learn, one which would foster friendships and community, I came directly to HJC. And this is just what my family found here at HJC.

My participation in synagogue life started on the Board of the ECC, then, as Brandon was joined by Stephanie and Max and my children grew, I then moved on to the board of the Religious School. Chairing Family Life for several years with our past president Vicki Perler soon followed. I have participated in Fundraising for many years with my partner in crime, Mary Uricchio, successfully supporting the financial efforts of our theatrical performances and Rabbi Kurshan's retirement. For more than 10 years now, I have chaired our Ritual Committee, as we continually strive to meet the challenges to conserve and honor our traditions, while meeting people where they are, acknowledging and appreciating modern life, as a Conservative synagogue.

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

place of prayer, faith and spirituality.

The pandemic has changed our lives in ways large and small. As we reflect on what has transpired over the past months, we will need to utilize what we have learned about ourselves, and HJC as an institution, to forge forward. We've shown that we can work successfully, mastering new skills under extraordinary circumstances. With great confidence in our adaptability as individuals, as a community, and as an organization, we are emerging financially sound at a time when many synagogues are struggling.

Through our diversified and inclusive programming, as well as our extraordinarily successful High Holiday services, we have retained much of our membership. Our wonderful clergy, staff and lay leaders worked long and hard to ensure everyone, whether they were attending services over Zoom in the comfort of their homes, in our sanctuary, or outside under the tent, had an opportunity for a meaningful prayer experience. Innovative and creative programming has continued throughout the year; there has truly been something for everyone.

No one, and no community, is immune to challenges, and we have certainly seen our share over this pandemic. We have also more than proven our resiliency in our ability to overcome adversity over this past year. And now, we are in a very different place and the reason is because of the strength, commitment and fortitude of our clergy, our staff, our lay leadership and you, our community. Our challenge over the next two years will be to reopen in a thoughtful, safe and meaningful way, while continuing to provide the high caliber programming and opportunities to participate in prayer for us all. This will be a time for new beginnings. We will need to continue to provide a variety of opportunities, virtual and back in our sanctuary, our spiritual home, so that everyone, in their own time, will come back to engage in prayer and community. This will be our challenge in the coming months. For it is this community that has held us together over more than 100 years and is the backbone of HJC.

Thank you to our retiring Trustees who have served our community well, including Brian Cooper and our past-President Vicki Perler who are retiring from the Executive Committee. Welcome to our newly elected Trustees, who will share their strengths and talents with us. Our Officers – Leslie Hantverk, Ora Kriegstein Jack Rubin, Dan Schoeffler, Ellen Steinberg and Janet Zimmerman – all of whom bring a rich experience, and a strong commitment to our beloved synagogue family. And a very special thanks to Dan Schoeffler, our extremely capable and knowledgeable Past President. He has spent countless hours working with me, sharing his vast experience. His dedication is awe inspiring and I will be forever grateful to his generosity of spirit. I look forward to working collaboratively with all of them.

And, of course, a deep appreciation and thanks to my children, Brandon, Alex, Stephanie, Lee, Max, Marielle, my sister Debra, my honey, Brian and to my whole family, for their support and love. I feel a profound gratitude to have reached this season and to be able to serve HJC in this capacity and to be able to give back. I look forward to working with our clergy, our lay leadership, staff, our dedicated Board and beloved community as we work together to step forward into the challenges of the future and new beginnings.



## Onward and Upward

While we eagerly and happily welcome summer 2021, that means we must also say goodbye to another year at HJC. But before we officially wrap up our 2020 – 2021 calendar year, it's a great time to reflect on some of the many wonderful things that despite COVID-19, marked the ebb and flow of our synagogue life.

One of our most notable achievements was the incredibly robust High Holiday programming we offered as we deftly navigated the limits of a worldwide pandemic to offer in-person, virtual, indoor and outdoor services to accommodate everyone in our community. We watched in awe as HJC President Dan Schoeffler calmly and assuredly guided us through a very difficult 14 months, earning him the profound distinction of managing the most unprecedented presidency in HJC history. With the passage of this time we saw changes for our congregation; EC and Board retirements and additions, a class of young ECC graduates, and another class of BBM embarking on their journey into adulthood. We said good-bye to our longtime and beloved office manager Debbie Rosenkranz, welcomed her worthy replacement Rachel Gritz and will also welcome new Religious School Director Gina Guiffre in July. And while our building was closed for all but

Shabbat and B'nai Mitzvah, we embraced the value and reach of ZOOM and enthusiastically maintained an increased level of community involvement, producing many successful virtual programs and events; multiple Adult Education classes with Rabbi Saks and Cantor Gordan, an HJC Family Fun Night, (mostly) True Things, a Murder Mystery Challenge, Sisterhood Jeopardy, a drive through Purim "Car"nival, Born in the USA and Jewish with the Men's Club, Yom Ha'atzmaut Across America with the Israel Committee, and the Cantor's 10th Anniversary Celebration just to name a few! HIHI managed a very successful supply drive for the homeless, volunteers of the JNN assembled an amazing 20,000 lbs of fresh fruit & produce to be handed out at Manor Field Park Huntington Station and the Membership Committee organized 3 door to door community-wide goodie bag deliveries; High Holidays, Hanukah and Purim! And while we did our best to stay connected, we also did our very best to stay healthy with no reported cases of COVID-19 at HJC! In an often dark time, we managed some very bright spots proudly, cautiously and lovingly. As we enter into 2021 – 2022, the promise of continued growth in both our community and our spiritual development is so promising. We should all look back to this past year and acknowledge the difficulty, but look forward to a brighter future together - secured by the commitment of our congregation, love for our synagogue and respect for each other.

## HJC Adult Education Virtual Learning

**MONDAY EVENINGS at 8 PM**

**Lester Fox is 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](mailto:foxles@optonline.net)





## Living Things

***"Let us develop respect for all living things. Let us try to replace violence and intolerance with understanding and compassion. And love."***

~ Jane Goodall

I love that quote for so many reasons and don't understand

why so many of us cannot live with respect and kindness towards one another instead of intolerance and anger. It seems we often take one step forward and two steps back. One of our priorities in the ECC is our Character Education curriculum. It does truly start at the ripe age of two years of age or even before. While children of such a young age may not understand the nuances of all men are created equal, for them it can start with the respect of all living things.

As much of our learning takes place in the natural environment, especially this year, nature is the perfect place to teach young children about caring for our world. Ants, bees, birds, worms, every living thing, has a purpose and thus an intrinsic value. When we find ants in the classroom, the first instinct might be to step on it, but not in the ECC. We will gently pick it up and

bring it outside, explaining to the children that even ants are G-d's creatures and are living things that we must respect. We model and teach the children how to hold living things without harming them and discuss what their jobs are to help the Earth.

This year, thanks to our amazing Parent Association, we were gifted chick eggs. We observed the entire life cycle from egg to chick. The children were able to document the growth and development of the embryo via candling the egg (a special light that allowed us to see inside the egg). They noted when the beak started to form as well as legs, feet, and wings. It was miraculous. They children knew that we handled the egg with great care. The most exciting day was when the chicks emerged from their eggs. The excitement was palpable among the children and teachers. Once the feathers were dry and the chicks were moved out of the incubator, we were able to take them out for the children to observe them as they scurried around our floor covering. They were very respectful of these new living things and were quiet and gentle so they would not scare the chicks.

If we can start to teach children at a very early age about tolerance, respect, kindness, and to care for all living things, perhaps we would have a much more peaceful and accepting world.







## Shalom and Todah Rabah!

Thanks to all involved in making this a successful year of Religious School. In particular, we are grateful to Leigh Murphy, whose herculean volunteer work allowed our children to learn, grow, and socialize in a safe manner.

**Gan:** Gan class was happy to end the year in face-to-face instruction. Over the last few weeks, we celebrated Israel's birthday, learned about the Jewish value of kavod (respect), and practiced Shabbat rituals. The good weather allowed us to have outdoor Music class with the Cantor and Community Time with the entire Religious School. When there's time, we got to play in the awesome new playground!

**Alef:** We learned about Shavuot by singing songs and creating our own origami Torah scrolls. We also explored the different cities and regions of Israel, including Jerusalem, Beersheva, and Tel Aviv!

**Bet:** We were so happy to be back in class and took advantage of the nice weather. We made flags of Israel for Yom Ha'atzmaut and created flags we would design if we had our own country. We also discussed Kavod (Respect), and how we can respect our peers, family, and teachers. We created houses out of popsicle sticks and talked about Shalom Bayit- (Peace in the Home)

**Gimel:** We transitioned from learning about Koach HaDibbur (the power of words) to the final unit, which has been developed around the concept of Shalom (peace). Since the start of this unit, we have been focused on how to foster peace when there is a conflict around us or in the world. We also started to introduce some of the customs and history behind the upcoming holiday of Shavuot, and found ways to connect the holiday with the idea of peace. Finally, we have been working on learning how to sing Modeh Ani, and to perform the melody for it on Boomwhacker musical instruments as well. We talked about how creating music together requires listening to one another and cooperation, and how in doing so it fosters the kind of peace and harmony (shalom) required by the Torah.

**Dalet:** The students continue to enjoy being with each other in-person to end the year. We completed a project celebrating the four seasons of the year starting with this Summer, highlighting personal events and activities, and Jewish holidays and customs. Community Time is great every week. We have a feeling of accomplishment making it through this school year having fun, great discussions and learning.

**Hey:** We learned about Yom HaShoa (Holocaust Remembrance Day). We discussed the life of the Jews before the war and talked about the revival of life after the Shoa. We did an activity about a boy named Tommy, and the picture book that his father prepared for him while in Terezin. We also read the stories of little girls and their dolls surviving the Holocaust. The dolls and the picture book were donated to the Yad Vashem Center in Jerusalem. The following week we learned about Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Memorial Day) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day). We saw how the entire country comes together mourning the brave soldiers who fought to protect Israel. The Memorial Day starts with a siren that is heard all over the country and everyone stops what they are doing and stands in a moment of silence. We looked at the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations in Har Hertzal; the lighting of the 12 torches; dancing, singing, soldiers marching, and fireworks. We discussed what dream Hertzal had, and his dream coming true in 1948 when Israel was established. Our last unit that we studied in MyShalom Learning is "Shalom." It is a perfect unit to wrap up the year in the hopes of peace, tolerance, and following the mitzvah of Love Your Neighbor as Yourself.

**Vav:** Vav Class learned about Hakarat HaTov (Recognizing the Good). This important value teaches us to be grateful for everything we have, challenging us to say 100 b'rachot each day. As part of our learning, each student was given a "thank you" card to send someone whom they want to thank. We also finished learning about Israel's participation in Eurovision. We watched Israel's singers, starting in 1978 and ending with Eden Alene, this year's representative – teaching us how much Israel has changed over the years.

FYI - We have a private Facebook page ("HJC Religious School Members") and a private Instagram page @hjcreligiousschool)! Persons requesting access have to be accepted by the administrator. Please search for it on Facebook/Instagram 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*

*Morah Tara*

*Moreh Paul*

*Morah Sharone*

*Moreh Phil*

*Mark Richman, Religious School Committee President*

*Leigh Murphy, Religious School Director*

# News from the Inclusion Committee

*Miriam Eckstein-Koas and Lesley Stark, co-chairs*

***The HJC Inclusion Committee is pleased to announce two significant steps towards inclusivity in our kehillah: a new assisted listening system and the creation of a new Inclusion Fund.***

## Listening System

The Inclusion Committee has purchased and installed an assisted listening system to enhance sound for our congregants and guests dealing with hearing impairments. This system, purchased from Listen Technologies, is designed to bring clarity to sound by blocking out interference noise and increasing volume that has been lost due to distance from the sound system speakers. Purchase of our LISTEN system was made possible by a grant from UJA and our initial purchase of 6 receiver units for this pilot program was covered entirely by the grant.

**The system is simple:** A small radio frequency transmitter is connected to a microphone or a system sound input. It broadcasts the sound directly to a receiver worn on a lanyard around the listener's neck. The listener hears the sound through their own hearing aid (via T-coil) or with headphones or earbuds (for individuals who do not use compatible hearing aids). While the system is primarily intended for the sanctuary and will ordinarily transmit sound from the microphones on the bimah, it is also a portable system that can be moved for events held in other locations in and around the synagogue building or courtyard. When we tested the system, we were very pleased to find that even while it sits in the sanctuary, it delivers precise and clear audio across a very long distance in our synagogue building. Moreover, there are plans to upgrade the entire sanctuary sound system in the near future using funds raised during the Cantor's 10th year anniversary celebration, which will render the LISTEN system even more effective.

Our greeters are being trained to assist worshipers entering the sanctuary who may want to take advantage of assisted listening. There will be signage in the hallway outside the main sanctuary

alerting people to the existence of the system. Greeters will help the individual determine which type of receiving unit to use and provide it. Individuals wishing to use our headphones or earbuds will be provided with disposable sanitary covers for the ear pieces. We strongly recommend, however, that regular synagogue attendees who will use headphones or earbuds on a regular basis bring their own personal set. Any ordinary headphones will do (we are using the inexpensive JVC Model HAS160B headphones).

During preparations for the High Holidays, we will be asking congregants to contact us if they have a hearing impairment and wish to use the system so that we can ensure, if financially feasible, that we have a sufficient number of receivers on hand. Expansion of the LISTEN system can be made possible, in part, by donations to HJC's newly created Inclusion Fund.

## Inclusion Fund

We are pleased to introduce a new fund that is now open for donations - the Inclusion Fund. The Inclusion Fund will be used towards projects at HJC that support inclusion, so that all members, no matter their abilities, can access meaningful prayer and communal experiences. Keep this fund in mind

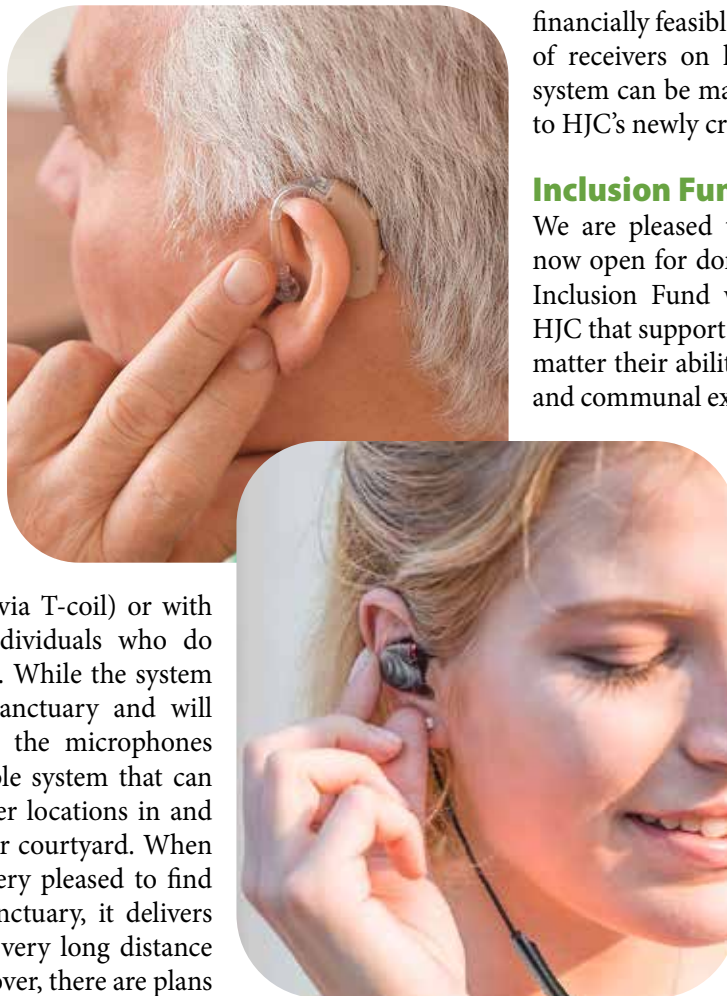
the next time you want to mark a simcha or make a donation in someone's memory at yahrzeit. **Members who would like to donate to the fund can do so via the synagogue website at <https://hjcny.org/about-hjc/donations/quick-donation/>**, where the Inclusion Fund is found under "General Building and Operational Funds". Alternatively, you may use the paper donation form available from the office. It is our hope that this fund will enable the Inclusion Committee to further create a more welcoming, physically-

accessible spiritual home for all HJC members and visitors.

Lastly, we invite anyone who is interested in inclusion and accessibility to join us at our meetings and get involved!

Miriam: [miribiri18@gmail.com](mailto:miribiri18@gmail.com)

Lesley: [ldelia@optonline.net](mailto:ldelia@optonline.net)



# Donations

## GENERAL FUND

**Wendy & Joseph Glassman**

**Doris Schoenfarber** in memory of Moe Fink at yearzeit.

**Andrew Cohen** in memory of Thelma Cohen at yearzeit.

**Dan Schoeffler** in memory of Matthew Schoeffler at yearzeit.

**Mitchell Reiver** in memory of Kenneth Reiver at yearzeit.

**The Holbreich family** in memory of Belma Holbreich at yearzeit.

**Selma Greenstein** in memory of Edith Bass at yearzeit.

**Ellen & Jay Steinberg** in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Alexander, son of Victoria & Todd Houslanger.

**Lawrence Maltin** in memory of Morris Maltin at yearzeit.

**Vered Cole** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

**Andrew Cohen** in memory of Albert Cohen at yearzeit.

**Andrew Cohen** in memory of Thelma Cohen at yearzeit.

**Randi & Alan Schuller** in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Alexander, son of Victoria & Todd Houslanger.

**Bruce Aronow** in memory of Irving Aronow at yearzeit.

**Jill and Morris Lagnado** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

**Debbie & David Stein** in memory of Arthur Wirchin, father of Joel Wirchin.

**Stuart Rothenberg** in memory of Bernard Rothenberg at yearzeit.

## CANTOR'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

**Janet & Mark Zimmerman** in memory of Miriam Marlowe Shiff, cousin of Leslie Hantverk.

## CENTENNIAL GARDEN FUND

**Miriam & Joel Wirchin** in memory of Fanny Lust, mother of Janet Ganes.

**Debbie & David Stein** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

**Debbie & David Stein** in memory of Fanny Lust, mother of Janet Ganes.

**Miriam & Joel Wirchin** in honor of the engagement of David, son of Bruce and Alice Rosen, to Jamie Epstein.

## DAILY MINYAN FUND

**Beverly Weinstein** with thanks and appreciation to Rabbi Saks and the HJC community for their support during her time of sorrow.

**Bea Pedowicz** in memory of Dora Rencoff at yearzeit.

## DAVID S. ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**Judy & Lester Fox** in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Alexander, son of Victoria & Todd Houslanger.

**Judy & Lester Fox** in memory of Bunny Kaplan.

**Judy & Lester Fox** in honor of the engagement of David, son of Bruce and Alice Rosen, to Jamie Epstein.

**Judy & Lester Fox** in honor of Alan Kriegstein being named the HJC Men's Club Man of the Year.

**Judy & Lester Fox** in honor of Ilan Messing, Faith Zimmerman, Russell Strachan and Alexa Rind being named the HJC Men's Club Youths of the Year.

## ETHEL SACHS ENGAGEMENT FUND

**Nancy & Brian Cooper** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Heather, daughter of Dori & Josh Herman.

## INCLUSION FUND

**The Kriegstein family** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

**Nili Gitig** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

**Miriam & Joel Wirchin** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

**Elaine & Walter Kleinmann** in memory of Eric Butlein at yearzeit.  
**Miriam Eckstein-Koas** in memory of Tom Mola, life partner of Barbara Axmacher.

**Miriam Eckstein-Koas** in memory of Arthur Wirchin, father of Joel Wirchin.

**Miriam Eckstein-Koas** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

**Miriam Eckstein-Koas** in memory of Adele L. Eckstein at yearzeit.

**Gwen & Ron Goldstein** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

**Bill Yelen** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

## ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT FUND

**Dafna Soltes Stein** in memory of Rabbi Abraham Soltes at yearzeit.

**Dafna Soltes Stein** in memory of Sara Rudavsky Soltes at yearzeit.

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Susi Susskind** in memory of Hertha Susskind at yearzeit.

**Susi Susskind** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

**Bill Yelen** in memory of Arthur Wirchin, father of Joel Wirchin.

**Elizabeth Legatt** in honor of the birth of Russell Irvin Steinberg and Winston Maccabee Steinberg, grandsons of Ellen & Jay Steinberg.

**Shari & Larry Feibel** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

**Shari Feibel** with thanks to Rabbi Saks for the April Adult Education class, Secrets of the Hebrew Prayerbook.

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

**Susi Susskind** in memory of Thea Gabriel at yearzeit.

**Barbara & Joel Koppersmith** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

**Sarah & Jerry Saunders** in memory of Arthur Wirchin, father of Joel Wirchin.

**Sarah & Jerry Saunders** in memory of Fanny Lust, mother of Janet Ganes.

**Sarah & Jerry Saunders** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

**Jennifer & Scott Ingber** in memory of Fanny Lust, mother of Janet Ganes.

**Jennifer & Scott Ingber** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

**Beth & Rob Uebele** in memory of Larry Kushnick at yearzeit.



#### **SOCIAL ACTION FUND/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK Cont'd**

**Mark Stine** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Abby, daughter of Cari & Bob Schueller.

**HJC Sisterhood** in honor of the April Jeopardy winners – Dan Schoeffler, Andrea Forman Morris & Miriam Eckstein-Koas.

**Nancy & Brian Cooper** in memory of Gerald Cooper at yahrzeit.

**Nancy & Brian Cooper** in honor of Debbie Rosenkrantz on the occasion of her retirement & years of service to HJC.

**Gail & Jim Lodge** in honor of the birth of Russell Irvin Steinberg and Winston Maccabee Steinberg, grandsons of Ellen & Jay Steinberg.

**Gail & Jim Lodge** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman.

**Bill Yelen** in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Alexander, son of Victoria & Todd Houslanger.

#### **YOUTH FUND**

**Janet & Mark Zimmerman** in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Alexander, son of Victoria & Todd Houslanger.

**Miriam & Joel Wirchin** in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Alexander, son of Victoria & Todd Houslanger.

## **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**

**HJC Sisterhood** in honor of Wendy Glassman

**Vicki and Tom Rosen**

**Vicki and Tom Rosen** in memory of Steven McCartin, brother of Donna Zimmerman



### **THE CULINARY LEGACY COOKBOOK MAKES A GREAT GIFT**

If you are looking to add some new recipes for the holidays or any day, the Culinary Legacy Cookbook should be your source.

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](mailto:evelyn_abraham@optonline.net)) if you have any questions about making donations and ordering the Cookbook, Apron or Grocery Bag.

## **MEMORIAL PLAQUES**

Each year at Selichot, we dedicate plaques in memory of our departed loved ones.  
This year, Selichot falls on Saturday evening, August 28.  
The plaques are \$450 and the deadline to order is June 21.

If you are interested in purchasing a plaque, orders are now being taken.

Contact Debbie at [debbier@hjcny.org](mailto:debbier@hjcny.org) for more information.

# Thank You to Our Sustaining Members

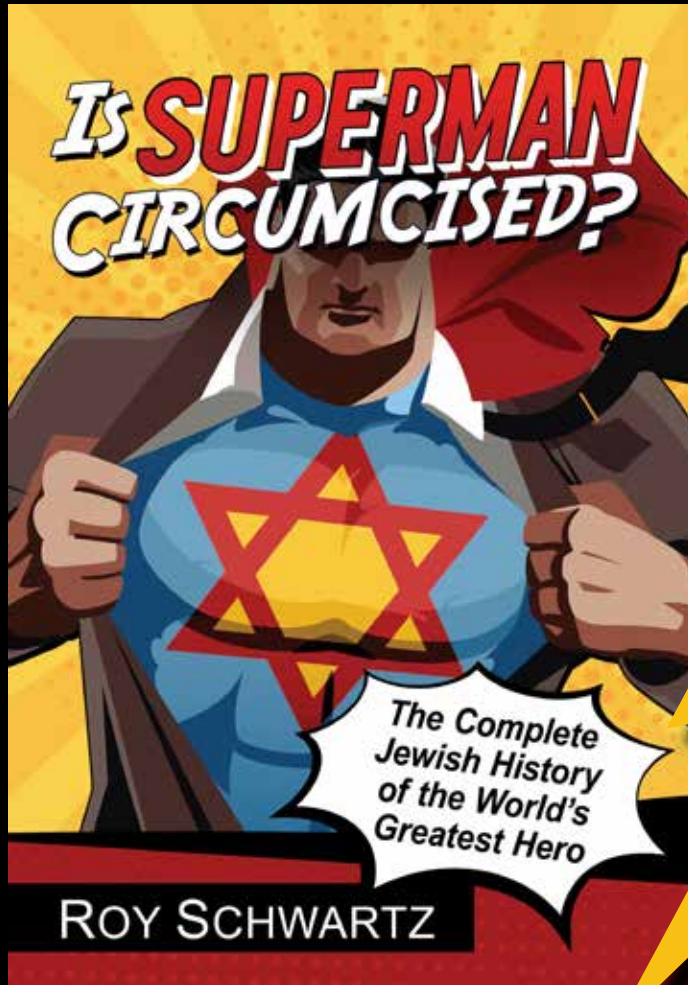
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Mr. & Mrs. Joel Wirchen  
Mr. Bill Yelen

Rabbi Saks and the Men's Club Present a SPECIAL Book Event:

# ***IS SUPERMAN CIRCUMCISED?***

The Complete Jewish History of the World's Greatest Hero



Join Rabbi Saks and the Men's Club for a special book event with author and HJC member Roy Schwartz who will be sharing insights from his latest book on the Mensch of Steel.

This will be a hybrid event with options to attend in-person and via Zoom & LiveStreaming

**Sunday, June 13th**

**10:00 am – Bagel Brunch outside in HJC's Courtyard**

**10:30 am – Event begins**

Roy will be signing books at the conclusion of the event.

Copies will be available at a discounted price of \$30 - with **100% OF PROFITS DONATED TO HJC.**

Zoom participants will have an option to buy the book  
and send in a dedication request with the book available for pickup later.

Please RSVP at [hjcny.org/event-rsvp](https://hjcny.org/event-rsvp) and choose **Book Event – Is Superman Circumcised** in the drop down menu.

Please indicate in the notes if you plan on attending in person, via zoom, or via LiveStream

All HJC COVID protocols will be followed.



***Thank you to the following people who have generously contributed to a Scroll of Honor to commemorate Cantor Gordan's 10 years of service at HJC. We are beginning to work on the Scroll so please let us know if you would like your name displayed differently than how it appears below by emailing Lesley Delia (ldelia@optonline.net) or Allison Reiver (allisonreiver@gmail.com) by June 15th.***

Evelyn Abraham & Roger Silverberg  
 Michele Baltus & Rick Davis & family  
 Harvey & Eileen Berger  
 Peter & Laurie Birzon & Family  
 Nathan Board  
 Kenneth & Nancy Bob  
 Arthur & Arlene Boshnack  
 The Bram Family  
 Jonathan & Rachel Brill  
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 Jeffrey & Donna Zimmerman

# Jewish Authors

## Franz Kafka



Franz Kafka (3 July 1883 – 3 June 1924) was a German-speaking Bohemian novelist and short-story writer, widely regarded as one of the major figures of 20th-century literature. His work fuses elements of realism and the fantastic. It typically features isolated protagonists facing bizarre or surrealistic predicaments and incomprehensible socio-bureaucratic powers. It has been interpreted as exploring themes of alienation, existential anxiety, guilt, and absurdity. His best known works include “Die Verwandlung” (“The Metamorphosis”), *Der Process* (*The Trial*), and *Das Schloss* (*The Castle*). The term *Kafkaesque* has entered the English language to describe situations like those found in his writing.

Kafka was born into a middle-class German-Jewish family in Prague, the capital of the Kingdom of Bohemia, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, today the capital of the Czech Republic. He trained as a lawyer and after completing his legal education was employed full-time by an insurance company, forcing him to relegate writing to his spare time. Over the course of his life, Kafka wrote hundreds of letters to family and close friends, including his father, with whom he had a strained and formal relationship. He became engaged to several women but never married, though he held marriage and children in high esteem. He had several girlfriends and lovers across his life.

Kafka had a lifelong suspicion that people found him mentally and physically repulsive. However, those who met him invariably found him to possess a quiet and cool demeanor, obvious intelligence, and a dry sense of humour; they also found him boyishly handsome, although of austere appearance.

Although Kafka showed little interest in exercise as a child, he later developed a passion for games and physical activity, and was an accomplished rider, swimmer, and rower. On weekends, he and his friends embarked on long hikes, often planned by Kafka himself. His other interests included alternative medicine, modern education systems such as Montessori, and technological novelties such as airplanes and film. Writing was vitally important to Kafka; he considered it a “form of prayer”. He was highly sensitive to noise and preferred absolute quiet when writing.

Kafka began his first novel in 1912; its first chapter is the story “Der Heizer” (“The Stoker”). He called the work, which remained unfinished, *Der Verschollene* (*The Man Who Disappeared* or *The Missing Man*), but when Brod published it after Kafka’s death he named it *Amerika*. The inspiration for the novel was the time spent in the audience of Yiddish theatre the previous year, bringing him to a new awareness of his heritage, which led to the thought that an innate appreciation for one’s heritage lives deep within each person. More explicitly humorous and slightly more realistic than most of Kafka’s works, the novel shares the motif of an oppressive and intangible system putting the protagonist repeatedly in bizarre

situations. It uses many details of experiences of his relatives who had emigrated to America and is the only work for which Kafka considered an optimistic ending.

During 1914, Kafka began the novel *Der Process* (*The Trial*), the story of a man arrested and prosecuted by a remote, inaccessible authority, with the nature of his crime revealed neither to him nor to the reader. He did not complete the novel, although he finished the final chapter. According to Nobel Prize winner and Kafka scholar Elias Canetti, Felice is central to the plot of *Der Process* and Kafka said it was “her story”. Canetti titled his book on Kafka’s letters to Felice Kafka’s *Other Trial*, in recognition of the relationship between the letters and the novel. Michiko Kakutani notes in a review for *The New York Times* that Kafka’s letters have the “earmarks of his fiction: the same nervous attention to minute particulars; the same paranoid awareness of shifting balances of power; the same atmosphere of emotional suffocation—combined, surprisingly enough, with moments of boyish ardor and delight.”

According to his diary, Kafka was already planning his novel *Das Schloss* (*The Castle*), by 11 June 1914; however, he did not begin writing it until 27 January 1922. The protagonist is the *Landvermesser* (land surveyor) named K., who struggles for unknown reasons to gain access to the mysterious authorities of a castle who govern the village. Kafka’s intent was that the castle’s authorities notify K. on his deathbed that his “legal claim to live in the village was not valid, yet, taking certain auxiliary circumstances into account, he was to be permitted to live and work there”. Dark and at times surreal, the novel is focused on alienation, bureaucracy, the seemingly endless frustrations of man’s attempts to stand against the system, and the futile and hopeless pursuit of an unobtainable goal. Hartmut M. Rastalsky noted in his thesis: “Like dreams, his texts combine precise ‘realistic’ detail with absurdity, careful observation and reasoning on the part of the protagonists with inexplicable obliviousness and carelessness.”

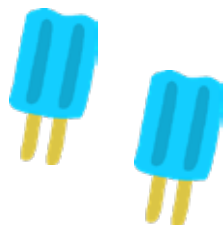
Kafka died in 1924 at the age of 40 from tuberculosis.

Few of Kafka’s works were published during his lifetime: the story collections *Betrachtung* (*Contemplation*) and *Ein Landarzt* (*A Country Doctor*), and individual stories (such as “*Die Verwandlung*”) were published in literary magazines but received little public attention. In his will, Kafka instructed his executor and friend Max Brod to destroy his unfinished works, including his novels *Der Process*, *Das Schloss* and *Der Verschollene* (translated as both *Amerika* and *The Man Who Disappeared*), but Brod ignored these instructions. His work has influenced a vast range of writers, critics, artists, and philosophers during the 20th and 21st centuries.

Unlike many famous writers, Kafka is rarely quoted by others. Instead, he is noted more for his visions and perspective. Shimon Sandbank, a professor, literary critic, and writer, identifies Kafka as having influenced Jorge Luis Borges, Albert Camus, Eugène Ionesco, J. M. Coetzee and Jean-Paul Sartre.



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# Jewish Inventors

## Lina Stern



Lina Solomonovna Stern (26 August 1878 – 7 March 1968) was a Soviet biochemist, physiologist and humanist whose medical discoveries saved thousands of lives at the fronts of World War II. She is best known for her pioneering work on the blood–brain barrier, which she described as hemato-encephalic barrier in 1921.

Born in Libau in the Russian Empire (today Liepāja, Latvia) into a Jewish family and educated in Geneva, Switzerland, she pursued an academic career and performed original research in biochemistry and in the neurosciences. From 1918 onwards she was the first woman awarded professional rank at the University of Geneva, being a Professor of chemio-physiology, and researching cellular oxidation.

In 1925 she had emigrated to the Soviet Union out of ideological convictions. From 1925 to 1948 she served as Professor of the 2nd Medical Institute.

From 1929 to 1948, Stern was Director of Institute of Physiology of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Among many problems Stern and her group worked on were longevity and sleep. Under her leadership, multidisciplinary groups of colleagues worked on the problems of the hemato-encephalic and histohematic barriers. The results of this work were later implemented in clinical practice and saved thousands of lives at the fronts of World War II. In 1939 she became the first female full member of the Academy (academician). In 1943 she won the Stalin Prize.

The blood–brain barrier refers to a diffusion barrier formed

by the endothelial walls of the blood vessels and capillaries in the brain. This barrier prevents most substances in the blood from entering the brain while allowing small molecules like oxygen and carbon dioxide to diffuse freely. While working at the University of Geneva, Stern published a series of studies demonstrating the existence of the blood-brain barrier with colleague Raymond Gautier. Beginning in 1918, the two performed systematic experiments on the movement of various substances from the blood into the nervous system and estimated the extent to which these substances were able to permeate the brain. From these studies they were able to conclude that there exists a barrier between the blood and brain, which they termed in French “barrière hématoencéphalique”. In a 1934 paper, Stern also independently introduced the notions of barrier selectivity and barrier resistance, realizing that the blood–brain barrier both selectively allows certain substances to enter the brain and protects the internal milieu of the brain from that of the blood. Today these are acknowledged as two of the main functions of the blood–brain barrier.

A member of the Women’s Anti-Fascist Committee and the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee (JAC) since the outbreak of World War II, Stern was the sole survivor out of 15 arrested and convicted to death sentence when the JAC was eradicated in January 1949. Her death sentence was changed to a prison term, followed by five-year exile. The exile was in Dzhambul (current Taraz), Kazakhstan.

After Stalin’s death, life became easier. Finally she was exonerated by the Presidium, returned to Moscow and 1954–1968 she headed the Department of Physiology at Biophysics Institute. She often spoke of anti-Semitism denying in testimony that the Soviet Union was her “motherland”. She renounced the Bolshevik revolution putting it in the context of discrimination against Jewish people.



Lina Stern and Ivan Pavlov among the delegates of XIV International Congress of Physiology, Rome, 1932

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## Thursday, June 3, 8:00 p.m.

### Contestants

**Aaron Cohen**  
*Woodbury Jewish Center*

**Adam Davis**  
*Temple Beth-El of Great Neck*

**Nancy Dubin**  
*Temple Am Echad, Lynbrook*

**Israel Gordan**  
*Huntington Jewish Center*

**Steven Hevenstone**  
*Dix Hills Jewish Center*

**Alison Levine**  
*Temple Beth El of Huntington*

**Brian Shamash**  
*Temple Israel of Great Neck*

**Bonnie Zakarin**  
*Hewlett-East Rockaway  
Jewish Centre*

### Musical Director

**Ofer Barnoy**  
*Temple Beth Sholom, Roslyn*



# HJC Bulletin

June 2021

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## From the Ben Tasman HJC Library Tyna Strenger

### FICTION:

**THE GIRL FROM BERLIN** (2018) by *Ronald H. Balson*. A property dispute in sun drenched Tuscany spans generations going back in time covering Jewish life in wartime Germany, refugees, and the very nature of family. How complicated it is to prove who has the right to the land propels a fascinating mystery that at once is page-turner and historical fiction.

**APEIROGON** by *Colum McCann*. Bassam (a Palestinian) and Rami (an Israeli) inhabiting a world of intractable conflict, coloring every aspect of their daily lives and also of their young daughters. From stone throwing to death by rubber bullet, through unruly crowds and suicide bombers, the two men learn each other's stories and the loss that connects them. A novel that balances on the knife edge of fiction and non-fiction.

**THE WOMAN WITH THE BLUE STAR** by *Pam Jenoff*. 'A moving story of wartime bravery and the conquering strength that friendship provides' in a novel that blends emotional power with historical accuracy.

### NON-FICTION

**ISRAEL: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth** by *Noa Tishby*. A fascinating & moving readable history written by an American-Israeli. Available now at Amazon and soon to be in some local libraries.

**LITTLE FAILURE** (2014) by *Gary Shteyngart* telling his painful and sometimes hilarious adjustment to American culture after his family immigrates to New York from the Soviet Union in 1979, at age 7. Covering perplexing situations from family, Hebrew school, Oberlin College and beyond.

**JEW VS. JEW** By *Samuel G. Freedman* \*\*this book is in the HJC Ben Tasman Library\*\* The author explores the meaning of Judaism in America today, concluding that beneath its prosperous exterior, American Jews are bitterly divided along sectarian and political lines (hard to believe). \*\*shelved under JUDAISM

**PHILLIP ROTH: THE BIOGRAPHY** by *Blake Bailey*. Approved and participated in with interviews over several years. The work offers some insight into his lower middle class Jewish upbringing and further understanding of a giant in the literary world.



With each Bulletin we read we get closer to the Library being open and available....happy reading

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