



January 2022 | Tevet / Shevat 5782 Bulletin

HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER  
NEWS / COMMUNITY / CONNECTION

# TU B'SHEVAT 2022/5782





# Sisterhood News

by Evelyn Abraham

## SISTERHOOD MEMBERSHIP

### Join Us and Support the Sisterhood of HJC

It is not too late to mail in your check for the Sisterhood Membership Dues.

*Watch for Emails with Information on upcoming Membership Events.*

New members to HJC receive a complimentary Sisterhood membership for their first year.

Checks are payable to

Sisterhood of the Huntington Jewish Center.

Mail to Huntington Jewish Center attention: Sisterhood Dues.

**\$45 - regular membership / \$30 – senior membership**

*Thank you to Rabbi Saks, Roger Silverberg and Felicia Messing for leading the group in Chanukah Songs and for hot chocolate and donuts at the HJC Community Menorah Lighting.*

*Thank you to Men's Club for your support.*

## B'Yachad

### The 2021-2022 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 or purchase Torah Fund cards, 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**

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516-901-7179

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Cantor  
631-427-1089 ext. 22

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Religious School Director  
631-427-1089 ext. 14

**Ilene Brown**

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

**Neil Kurshan**

Rabbi Emeritus

### HJC Board of Trustees / 2021-2022

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Tree of Life.....	Danny Klein & Tom Rosen

# From Rabbi Ari Saks



## *The Need to Self Scout*

This is one of my favorite times of the year, and not just because it is the beginning of a new year, but because as an avid football fan it is the beginning of the playoffs of the National Football League as well as Bowl season (which is another type of playoff) for college football. The next few weeks will be full of anticipation and excitement as the Eagles as teams from across

America, though probably not from the tri-state area, vie for a spot in the most widely watched sporting event of the year -- the Super Bowl.

Making it to the playoffs (or to a bowl game for college teams) is not an easy accomplishment. It is the result of thousands of hours of hard work, dedication, and luck to reach this level of success. Yet, a common factor that distinguishes the playoff teams from the non-playoff teams is the ability to “self scout.” As opposed to simply “scouting,” or assessing, the opponent that a team hopes to defeat, good teams assess their own strengths and weaknesses as well. How can we do a better job? How can we put ourselves in a better position to succeed? This step is critical because when we are willing to look at ourselves in the mirror and critically assess our performance to make it better while staying true to our core principles, we can make the necessary

adjustments that often separates a single victory from a pattern of consistent success.

How appropriate then that this exciting time of the football season occurs at the the beginning of a New Year, which, according to Jewish wisdom, is a time for t’shuvah, a type of “personal self-scouting.” So my prayer for all of us during this New Year season is, whether or not you are a football fan, that on a personal and communal level, we do the necessary self-scouting to raise our game to a “playoff level” of success.

Happy (secular) new year!  
Rabbi Ari Saks







## Low Tire Light

After all of the hustle and bustle of planning for Thanksgiving, and Chanukah quickly on its heels, do you feel as though your reserves are a bit low as we approach another dreary pandemic winter?

The stress of thinking outside the box and planning for what has continued to be very different holiday gatherings, takes its toll on

us. We are remembering, and yes, missing and mourning, carefree holidays of the past when we were able to be together with our loved ones without a second thought. Many conversations I have had with people over the past weeks have focused on this sense of loss. How to make the holidays meaningful, albeit, in a different way, and how to step forward as the long winter stretches ahead. A daunting thought for some. And, we may feel as though our tires are running low.

How many of us have seen the low-tire pressure light illuminated on our car dashboard and thought, "I wonder how long I can ignore this warning light?" We tell ourselves that we can operate on a low tire for a while. But, we also know that doing so over time can cause further damage, and maybe we'll get really stuck. It's the same for mental wellness. A properly inflated "wellness tire" is an integral piece of a safe and healthy life. Ignoring the warning light of stress, just like ignoring the low-tire light, could have an impact on our overall wellbeing.

More than ever, it's important to recognize the warning lights that may be arising, and give attention and support in the areas we are feeling deflated. We need to take a good look, turn our attention to ourselves (for a change) and identify areas where our

tires are a bit flat. Maybe it's time for a mini-tune-up?

*In the midst of winter, I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer* —Albert Camus

The COVID-19 pandemic is still taking and disrupting lives. Although vaccines and treatments promise that someday life will return to some kind of normalcy, a growing number of people are experiencing pandemic burnout. A sense of exhaustion is on the rise. Although we know that it can be overwhelming to keep up with Covid precautions month after month, we know we must remain vigilant. This is especially important as much of the country is experiencing an upsurge in cases driven by recent holiday gatherings and the highly contagious Omicron variant. Here at HJC, based on federal, state and local regulations and with input from our Medical Advisory Panel, we recently compiled a "Covid Policies and Procedures" document, which will help guide all of our activities at HJC, including our Religious School and Early Childhood Center. This is a "living" document and will be

updated as needed. "Many thanks to Janet Zimmerman and Ellen Steinberg for their hard work on the policies and the compilation of this exhaustive document." We know that just as we think we're clear on a policy, time and time again we are thrown a curve ball and modifications are essential.

As we continue this journey, navigating on this unpredictable road, keep in mind that driving with a flat tire can be ineffective, frustrating, and even, dangerous. Worse, disregarding our personal warning lights can lead to burnout and exhaustion. Take a moment, take a breath and give yourself the time for the tune-up we all need. Maybe even lean on each other a bit. Remember, we are all on this road together. Our HJC community stands with each of us, supporting us all, stronger than ever.





## *Loveliest of Trees*

I remember when I was in the 8th grade, my English teacher, Mr. Sargeant, made our class memorize a poem as an assignment:

*Loveliest of trees, the cherry now  
Is hung with bloom along the bough,  
And stands about the woodland ride  
Wearing white for Eastertide.  
Now, of my threescore years and ten,  
Twenty will not come again,  
And take from seventy springs a score,  
It only leaves me fifty more.  
And since to look at things in bloom  
Fifty springs are little room,  
About the woodlands I will go  
To see the cherry hung with snow.*

- A.E. Housman



Of course, when I was 13, the biggest challenge was to memorize the poem, not to develop a metaphorical analysis of what it meant. But Mr. Sargeant had another agenda. So, in the Spring of 1974, I learned that life is short, we should seize the day and try our best to make the most of whatever time we have on the planet. Lofty aspirations for a teenager, but believe it or not, I can still recite (most of) the poem even today.

Trees are very significant in Judaism. They play an important role in many Torah stories, including the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden, the olive tree that grew after Noah's flood, and the Burning Bush where God spoke to Moses. And just like the symbolism of the cherry tree in Housman's poem, the Tree of Life symbolizes personal development, uniqueness and individual beauty and as the branches of a tree strengthen and grow upwards to the sky, we too grow stronger, striving for greater knowledge, wisdom and new experiences as we move through life. This year, on January 17 (or 15 Shevat, hence the name) we celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the New Year or "birthday" of the trees. The holiday, originating in the Talmud, is based on the date chosen for calculating the agricultural cycle of taking tithes from the produce of the trees, which were brought as first-fruit offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Tu B'Shevat has developed into an ecological holiday that reminds us of our connection to the earth and to our role as caretakers not only of the environment, but to our own lives. In honor of this unique celebration, enjoy some interesting facts;

- The Torah is often referred to as the "Tree of Life."
- Uprooting a fruit tree is discouraged in Jewish law.
- The law of Orlah states that you're not allowed to harvest a tree's fruits for three years. The tree needs all its energy to strengthen its roots and branches for a long and healthy life!
- Israelis celebrate Tu B'Shevat by planting new trees. Jews around the world host seders, or ritual meals, in which the seven species that grow in Israel (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates) are eaten.
- The Hebrew phrase *lo tash'chit* means you should feel for trees as you do for humans. Just like people, trees are also God's creations and we should treat them well.
- The Talmud tells us that parents used to plant trees when babies were born: a cedar tree for a girl and a pine tree for a boy. Years later, the trees could be used to make a chuppah, or wedding canopy. These trees also represent their parents' hopes for their children to plant roots, grow, and blossom. Today, the Jewish National Fund honors this tradition by planting a tree in honor of every baby born in Israel.
- The Judean date palm – which used to grow around the Dead Sea in Israel – was thought to be long extinct. In 2005, scientists helped a 2000-year-old seed sprout, and it grew into a date palm tree named Methusaleh, after the longest-lived person in the bible. Since then, six more date palm trees have sprouted, and you can still visit Methusaleh in Ketura, Israel!







## When Children Pretend...

***"When children pretend, they're using their imaginations to move beyond the bounds of reality. A stick can be a magic wand. A sock can be a puppet. A small child can be a superhero." ~ Fred Rogers***

Imagination is a gift to us all and needs to be nurtured. Technology has brought us many gifts, but for children it could hamper the imagination and rob them of the valuable experiences of early childhood. For the past few years, the ECC educators and I have worked hard creating new dramatic play areas. In most preschools in the country, you will find that the majority have a kitchen set up as their dramatic play center. Why would we limit the children to one dramatic play area for the entire school year? Why not give them more experiences to set their imaginations free and expand their brains? Dramatic play provides the children with opportunities

to see the world from a different perspective, it offers new language and vocabulary, helps children develop confidence, problem solving skills and other important socialization skills. I am so proud of what we have accomplished in the ECC. The teachers work tirelessly to create new dramatic play centers in their classrooms. Most recently we honored our Healthcare Heroes by creating doctor's offices and hospitals in their classrooms. We asked the children to contribute to creating these areas and asked them for their ideas which forces them to think on a higher level. The Healthcare Hero centers were completed with ambulances (made by children out of large boxes), examining tables, stethoscopes, bandages, x-rays, crutches, and so much more. When we honored fire fighters in the month of October for Fire Safety month, the dramatic play centers had "burning" buildings, hoses, fire trucks, etc. Some teachers have created diners, Dunkin Donuts, TOA, Ophthalmologist, Veterinarians, Post Offices, and more. Dramatic play is not only fun and engaging, but also an invaluable learning tool for early childhood.







## Caution: Handle with Prayer

It was a cool, dry, sunny autumn afternoon when my cell phone rang. A young man's voice on the other end began: "Ms. Giuffre? I hope you remember me, I was in your class 6 years ago." The voice sounded familiar as I quickly scanned my cerebral rolodex, I was wondering where this conversation was going. It didn't take me long to place the voice. Memories of an apathetic

preteen who rarely participated in class or Junior Congregation services flooded my mind. With sensitivity I responded, "Yes, I remember you Josh, how are you?" He continued, "I just started college and honestly, I am having a hard time. I remembered some prayers you taught us and it's really helping me. I just wanted to thank you." I was speechless. Who knew he was even paying attention? How did he get my cell phone number? Why would he feel the need to call and thank me? I couldn't answer those questions but I did know he taught me a lesson that day.

Parents enroll their children in religious schools for several reasons. One of them is the expectation the institution will teach their children Hebrew and prayer for Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation. With limited time and family demands increasing, the task of successfully meeting this requirement becomes increasingly more difficult. An often overlooked resource is Nitzanim and Jr. Congregation services. Here is where mind, body and spirit gather in a relaxed Shabbat setting. Hebrew reading, prayer competency and their melodies are reinforced and congregating with our friends in a more informal setting than a classroom

is priceless. Both of our children services are currently only 45 minutes in length due to COVID but those few minutes prove to be invaluable. As a B'nai Mitzvah tutor, I have always found a direct correlation between strong Hebrew readers and Shabbat service attendance. The two go hand in hand. Show me a student who is a strong Hebrew reader and I guarantee you they attend services with some regularity.

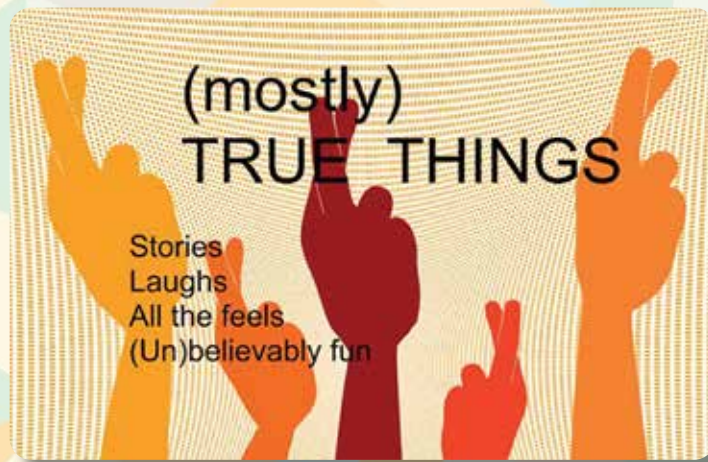
Once we master the prayer text and memorize the melodies then what? How do we get our children to create their own personal "kavanah" or intention to each prayer? How do they connect to words that offer hope, continuity and help us keep our "gratitude meter" in check? Children certainly do not consider all the ups and downs that life will bring nor should they. As parents, it is our responsibility to prepare them. We dedicate a lot of time keeping them physically healthy and supporting their academics; what are we doing for their souls? Prayer is a tool. It is an instrument we can rely on when life gets tough. The time your child invests today germinates. You never know how or when it will bloom but if the seeds are not planted then nothing will grow. When I think of Josh, the quiet child who often attended unwillingly and only at the encouragement and insistence of his parents, I am reminded of the strength and powerfulness in prayer. Bring the body and the mind will follow.



# 2021 Sustaining Members

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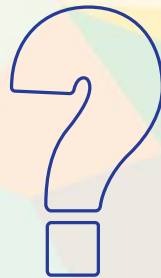


*"Stories may well be lies, but they are good lies that say true things, and can sometimes pay the rent." Neil Gaiman*

**Join us and hear stories about the lives of fellow HJC members.**  
**4 storytellers, 3 (mostly) true stories, 1 totally true.**  
***Guess who's telling the truth!***



Scott Murphy



Shari Feibel



Debbie Cadel

**No Charge  
No Coffee  
No Liqueurs  
No Dessert  
No Prizes  
Just Fun!**



Alan Lyons

**Saturday, January 8, 2022, 7:30pm**

**Register for this special event at [www.hjcny.org/event-rsvp](http://www.hjcny.org/event-rsvp)**

(mostly) True Things was created and is hosted by Jude Treder-Wolff. To learn more visit: [www.mostlytruethings.com](http://www.mostlytruethings.com)

## HJC Adult Education Presents

# Mindful Jewish Meditation, Somatic Attention and Guided Visualization

**60 minutes via Zoom**

**Thursday Jan 13th, Feb 3rd and Feb 24th at 7:30pm**

*Facilitated by Dafna Soltes Stein: Dancer, Artist Educator, Somatic Educator,  
Certified Laban Movement Analyst, Moving for Life Certified Instructor*



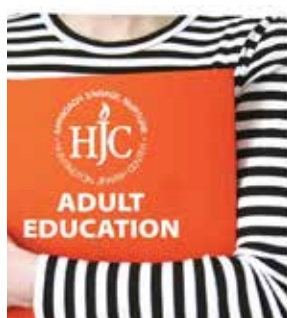
In the book *GOD IN YOUR BODY: Kabbalah, Mindfulness and Embodied Spiritual Practice* author Jay Michaelson shares "There is not, to my knowledge, an ancient Jewish system of physical exercise like yoga or Tai Chi. Creating a Jewish or kabbalistic exercise practice, then, involves learning from other traditions and joining their wisdom to the teachings of Judaism."

In these sessions, Dafna will share aspects of her embodied Jewish spiritual practice by combining elements of Jewish spiritual learning from Rabbi Zalman Schachter Shalomi, Jay Michaelson and Colette Aboulker-Muscat. Woven together with somatic bodywork Dafna has studied and adapted these elements into her teaching since the early 1970's. She also incorporates the works of Rudolph Laban, Irmagard Bartenieff, Moshe Feldenkreis, Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen and Martha Eddy.

*Please wear comfortable clothing and be prepared to visualize, sense, feel, breath and move gently.  
Your body and soul will be refreshed.*

**RSVP: <https://hjcny.org/event-rsvp/>**

Choose "Mindful Meditation" on the drop down menu.





# HJC Adult Ed Happenings Jan-April 2022

We are pleased to have had some nice offerings through the fall and early winter and are looking forward to more programs in the coming months. Until further notice all classes will continue to be held via Zoom. We feel so fortunate that this has become a comfortable way for the community to learn together.

## Please take note of the upcoming programs and dates:

Every Monday at 8pm –

**Prophets** ongoing class with *Lester Fox*

**Melton Classes** with *Rabbi Saks* – please see separate announcements for Tuesdays in Jan and Feb

Thursday Jan 13th, Feb 3rd and Feb 24th at 7:30pm –

**Mindful Meditation** with *Dafna Saltes Stein*

There is not an ancient Jewish system of physical exercise and spiritual practice like yoga or Tai Chi. Creating a Jewish or Kabbalistic exercise practice involves learning from other traditions and joining their wisdom to the teachings of Judaism. Come explore what Dafna has created for herself.

Wednesday Jan 19th, Feb 16th and March 30th at 7:30pm –

**Mussar (Ethics and Spirituality)** with *Marcey Wagner* – this class is for women only and is being co-sponsored by HJC Sisterhood. Mussar is a centuries old Jewish spiritual practice that gives specific instructions on how to live a meaningful and ethical life. It is based on ethics and morals and uses practices to help us develop our internal virtues. The dynamic of studying as all women is particularly suited to Mussar, where issues concerning ethics and morals can be studied in a gender-specific environment where participants have shared sensibilities.

Details to follow on the upcoming flyer.

Tuesday March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd at 7:30pm –

**Psalms** with *Rabbi Emeritus Neil Kurshan*

The Book of Psalms offers us the promise of accessing a spiritual language of hope and optimism in an unsettled world. It is comprised of some of the most beautiful spiritual poetry in world literature. These classes will give participants the opportunity to experience and answer questions about specific Psalms. No knowledge of Hebrew required.

More details on the upcoming flyer.

Thursday, April 7th –

**A Pesach learning program** with *Cindy Dolgin* – details to be announced.

Sunday, April 24th –

**A Yom Hashoah program** – details to be announced.

Thursday, April 26th –

**Jewish Public Affairs** with *Ken Bob*

Questions about programs may be directed to Nancy Cooper: [nancyberlow@gmail.com](mailto:nancyberlow@gmail.com) or 516-356-7109

## SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAY, JANUARY 9th

HJC SISTERHOOD  
presents

# MOVIE NIGHT and DISCUSSION

7:30pm via zoom

Watch for additional HJC and Sisterhood publicity for more info...Hope you can join us!

# Environmental Justice on Long Island



**Co-sponsored by the Environmentalism and Social Justice Committees**

**Shabbat, Saturday, January 15**

**Gabrielle Houston**

**will address the congregation following services at 11:30-12**

Gabrielle will speak on the topic of Environmental Justice on Long Island. This will combine the themes of MLK Day and Tu B'Shevat (a Jewish environmental holiday) - looking at how waste management on Long Island is racist, and what can be done to address these wrongs from both a race and environmental perspective.

Gabrielle Houston is a graduate from The New School and has a Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management. Gabrielle partnered with GAIA for her master capstone project "Tracking Long Island Waste Flows" where she worked with a local community group to uncover Long Island's racist waste management plans and opportunities for zero waste. Gabrielle is continuing her work with GAIA to develop toolkits for grassroots and environmental justice groups interested in anti-incineration and zero waste campaigns.



View one of these movies prior to January 15, and join the conversation with a background on the topic:

**"The Story of Plastic," "Dark Waters," "A Civil Action," or "An Inconvenient Truth."**

**Nitzanim will be extended until 12:15 with the extra time devoted to a Tu B'Shevat activity.**

**Special Tu B'Shevat take home Seder for each attendee.**

**RSVP: <https://hjcny.org/event-rsvp/>**



# Donations

## GENERAL FUND

**William Wertheim** in memory of Max Wertheim at yahrzeit.  
**Michelle & Michael Behr** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Elana Kupersmith, daughter of Lauren & Adam Kupersmith.  
**Patricia Schoeffler** in memory of Alexander Cochrane at yahrzeit.  
**Ellen & Jay Steinberg** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Elana Kupersmith, daughter of Lauren & Adam Kupersmith.  
**Howard Baker** in memory of Abraham Baker at yahrzeit.  
**Howard Dubow** in memory of Blanche Dubowsky at yahrzeit.  
**Paul & Joan Cohen** in memory of Michael Cohen at yahrzeit.  
**Richard Wertheim** in memory of Seymour Wertheim at yahrzeit.  
**Silvina & Jeff Kramer** in honor of the birth of Sonny James Haviland, grandson of Rissa & David Walsdorf.  
**Toby & David Gerber** in honor of live streamed HJC high holiday services.  
**The Walsdorf family** in memory of Burt Walsdorf at yahrzeit.  
**Rissa & David Walsdorf** in memory of Isabel Winters at yahrzeit.  
**Leslie & Jack Rubin** in memory of Chester Rubin at yahrzeit.  
**Michele Baltus, Rick Davis & family** in memory of Audrey Davis at yahrzeit.  
**Mary Beth Polek & Ethan Auslander** in honor of HJC.  
**Ellen & Jay Steinberg** in memory of Irene Lederman, mother of Renda Rosenblatt.  
**Leslie & Jack Rubin** in memory of Irene Lederman, mother of Renda Rosenblatt.  
**Evelyn Abraham & Roger Silverberg** in memory of Irene Lederman, mother of Renda Rosenblatt.

## COLLEGIATE FUND

**Debbie & David Stein** in honor of the engagement of Kiana Davis to Alex Ganes.  
**Bill Yelen** in memory of George Yelen at yahrzeit.

## DAILY MINYAN FUND

**Bea Pedowicz** in memory of Jack Pedowicz at yahrzeit.

## DAVID S. ROSENMAN CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**Judy & Lester Fox** in memory of Gene Silverman, father of Gail Dragon.  
**Judy & Lester Fox** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Amalia Gerber, granddaughter of Rabbi and Alisa Kurshan.  
**Judy & Lester Fox** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Amelia Kaye, granddaughter of Hilary & Barry Kaye.

## ETHEL SACHS ENGAGEMENT FUND

**Miriam & Joel Wirchin** in memory of Frances Marcus, mother of Andrea Marcus Smoller.

## HI HI

**Bill Yelen** in honor of Hi-Hi.  
**Mary Beth Polek & Ethan Auslander** in honor of Hi-Hi.

## INCLUSION FUND

**Randi & Alan Schuller** in memory of Elaine Bodian at yahrzeit.  
**Nancy & Brian Cooper** in memory of Frances Marcus, mother of Andrea Marcus Smoller.

## NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

**The Satin Family** in honor of Miss Ilene, Miss Sharon, Miss Lisa and Miss Anita.

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**The Pashman Family** in memory of Alex Rosenbloom.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

**Meira Lyons** in honor of the birthday of Alan Lyons.

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND/JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

**Mark Zimmerman** in memory of Irvin Zimmerman at yahrzeit.  
**Janet Zimmerman** in memory of Lee Cole at yahrzeit.  
**Tami & Scott Schneider** in honor of Rob Fisher and the JNN.  
**Vicki & Tom Rosen** in memory of Ella Rosen Rakieten at yahrzeit.  
**Gwen & Ron Goldstein** in memory of Frances Marcus, mother of Andrea Marcus Smoller.  
**Pamela Geller** in memory of Isaac Geller at yahrzeit.  
**Carol & Eric Solomon** in memory of Jules Haskel at yahrzeit.  
**Carol & Eric Solomon** in memory of Frances Marcus, mother of Andrea Marcus Smoller.  
**Meira, Alan, Nathaniel and Gabriel Lyons** in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Jordana Boxer, daughter of Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz and Dr. Jonathan Boxer.  
**Marilyn & David Klein** in memory of Frieda Klein at yahrzeit.  
**Marilyn & David Klein** in memory of Frances Marcus, mother of Andrea Marcus Smoller.  
**Ora & Alan Kriegstein** in memory of Frances Marcus, mother of Andrea Marcus Smoller.  
**Jennifer & Scott Ingber** in memory of David Ingber at yahrzeit.  
**Jennifer & Scott Ingber** in memory of Frances Marcus, mother of Andrea Marcus Smoller.  
**Jennifer & Scott Ingber** in honor of the engagement of Alex Gaines to Kiana Davis.  
**Bill Yelen** in memory of Frances Marcus, mother of Andrea Marcus Smoller.  
**Mary Beth Polek & Ethan Auslander** in honor of JNN.  
**Nancy & Brian Cooper** in memory of Irene Lederman, mother of Renda Rosenblatt.  
**Lori Sklar** in memory of Blanche Sklar at yahrzeit.

### Condolence:

Irene Lederman, mother of **Renda Rosenblatt**

### Mazal tov:

**Janis & Darryn Solotoff** celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Andrew Solotoff.  
**Karen and Michael Fishelson** announce the engagement of their son, James Fishelson to Elizabeth Berger.

## **KOL NIDRE 2021**

### **Grand Benefactor**

Beryl & Sy Okwit  
Anonymous  
Rachel & Jonathan Brill

### **Benefactor**

The Schneider Family  
Barry & Dawn Sosnick  
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Tyna Strenger  
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The Bram Family  
The Behr Family  
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Gail & Jim Lodge  
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Jaime & Andrew Meyer  
Arlene Rubenstein  
Rosalie & Max Malkiel  
Roselyn Haber

### **Pledger**

Dale & Phil Mintz  
Marv & Dalia Rosenthal  
Deborah & Richard Wertheim  
Marjorie & Stuart Rothernberg  
The Richter Family  
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Morris & Jill Lagnado  
Madeline and Peter Nack  
Bruce & Alice Rosen  
Evelyn Abraham and Roger Silverberg  
Andrew Cohen  
Donna & Ed Fleiss  
Marilyn & David Klein  
Allison & Mitch Reiver  
Bea Pedowicz  
Miriam Eckstein-Koas  
Sheryl & Ian Winkler  
Marcy & Robert Wagner  
Marilyn Koven  
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ANONYMOUS  
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Maayan & Danny Klein

Anne & Barry Specht  
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Judi & Martin Rosenblatt  
Cindy & Richard Kaufman  
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Sue & Robert Margolies  
Harriet Kerns  
Ofer Rind  
Sari & Saul Sternschein  
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Lauren & Adam Kupersmith  
Eva Grubler  
Laurie & Mark Wax

### **Contributor**

Debbie & Bill Cadel  
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Renda Rosenblatt  
Leigh & Scott Murphy  
Darlene & Matthew Raskin  
Maxine & Rob Fisher  
Sarah Eidelberg

### **Childrens Honor Roll**

Casey & Sylvie Schneider  
Sam, Nathan, Hannah Schoeffler  
Samara, Sarah, Mathew Klein  
Jordana, Jacob & Nina Boxer  
Russell & Ellie Strachan  
Emily, Warren & Nora Buchholtz  
Andrew, Kiana, Brianna, Haley & Adina Davis  
Noa, Eli & Maya Gordan-Uhrman  
Andrew, Lee & Dan Reiver  
Talía & Eli Kleinmann  
Ezra, Rebecca & Asher Behr  
Leo Kaufman  
Julie Koven, Marissa Koven, Jordan Dickter,  
Sydney Dickter Bretton, Alin & Koa Glaser  
Debra & Lea Jaffe  
Daschel & Jane Goldstein  
Alex Bernstein & Hayden Boshnack  
Alexander & Nicholas Aronow  
Hunter, Liam, Benjamin & Nikos  
Jason, Joey & Alli Greenstein  
Hirsh Schpoont  
Jesse & Alex Ganes  
Brian, Erin, Beth, Aaron Grandchildren: Benjamin,  
Eden & Isaac  
Joseph & Alex Brill  
Benjamin, Ilan & Gabriella Messing  
Jonah & Lilah Saks  
Alexa Rind  
Leo & Emma Sternschein  
Yosef, Matthew, Ilan, Ezra, Rebecca, Asher, Gabriella,  
Sirelle, Ava & Ben



## We Are What We Remember

Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning

### A Discussion Series with Rabbi Saks



**T**his 4-session course of the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning explores the impact of collective memory on our ongoing historical development and our understanding of Judaism today. Participants will encounter in a number of different ways one of the most powerful keys to Jewish survival: the enduring determination to never forget.

Lesson 4 - Date TBD **Israel: National Memory Evolving**

See Course Description here: <https://meltonschool.org/we-are-what-we-remember>

**Zoom - HJC's Main Zoom Room**  
**All sessions beginning at 8 pm**

Cost for course is \$18

**RSVP to: [www.hjcny.org/event-rsvp](http://www.hjcny.org/event-rsvp)**



# HJC Adult Ed & Sisterhood Present for Women:

## Mussar with Rabbi Cantor Marcey Wagner

*Mussar is a traditional Jewish path of spiritual development that leads to awareness, wisdom, and transformation.*

**Wednesday Jan 19th, Feb 16th and March 30th at 7:30pm**

**Question:** *If you follow all (or most) of the laws in the Torah, Talmud, and other books of the tradition, will you be a kind, nice and considerate person?*

**Answer:** *Not necessarily.*

**T**his is the challenge that Mussar attempts to address. Mussar is a centuries old Jewish spiritual practice that gives very specific instructions on how to live a meaningful and ethical life.

Mussar is based on ethics and morals and uses practices to help develop internal virtues. By following these practices and nurturing these inner virtues we become better, kinder, more moral individuals.

In contrast to much of "traditional" Judaism, Mussar does NOT rely on rules of do's and don'ts. Therefore, those who are not inclined to follow traditional rules are attracted to Mussar as a way to improve and transform themselves through a Jewish lens.

Mussar was originally created in a male dominated environment, however it works well in multiple settings in today's world, including in an all women's group. The dynamic of studying together as women is particularly suited to Mussar, where issues concerning ethics and morals can be studied in a gender-specific environment where participants have shared sensibilities.

**In this 3-part series we will explore the following:**

**Part 1:** *What is Mussar? The history and development of Mussar. The study of Mussar today.*

**Part 2:** *Middot and Practices: A look into the defined characteristics of the soul and how to strengthen them through various proscribed practices*

**Part 3:** *What can Mussar add to my life? How can I incorporate aspects of this practice in my life today?*



**Please register for this at:**  
<https://hjcny.org/event-rsvp/>

Choose "Mussar with Marcey Wagner" in the drop down.

For questions about this course please contact:

Nancy Cooper - [nancyberlow@gmail.com](mailto:nancyberlow@gmail.com) 516-356-7109

Marcey Wagner - [marceywag@gmail.com](mailto:marceywag@gmail.com)





**HJC's Social Justice Committee  
invites you to a virtual program:**

# **"We Refuse to be Enemies"**

**How Muslims and Jews Can Make Peace,  
One Friendship at a Time**

**When:**

**Thursday, January 27  
7:30 PM**

**Speakers:**

**Sabeeha Rehman and Walter Ruby**

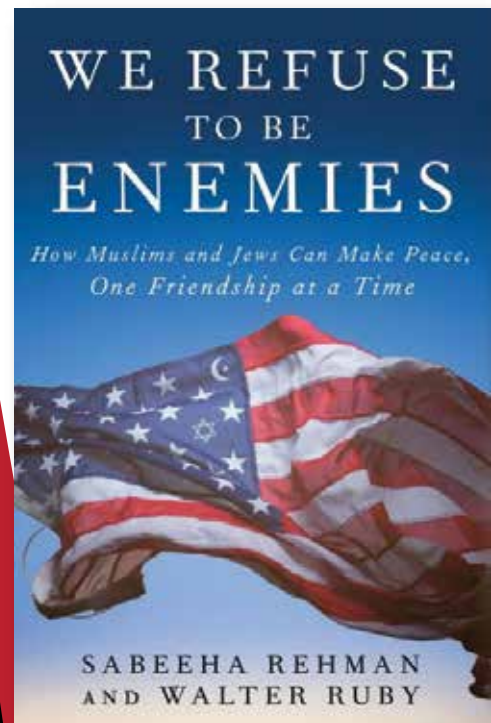
*We Refuse to Be Enemies* is a manifesto by two American citizens, a Muslim woman and Jewish man, concerned with the rise of intolerance and bigotry in our country along with resurgent white nationalism. Together they have spent decades doing interfaith work and nurturing cooperation among communities. They have learned that, through face-to-face encounters, people of all backgrounds can come to know the Other as a fellow human being and turn her or him into a trusted friend. In this book, they share their experience and guidance.

**Sabeeha Rehman** is the author of the memoir, "Threading My Prayer Rug. One Woman's Journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim," She is a contributor to the Houses of Worship column of the Wall Street Journal, and excerpts of her book have been published in Salon.com.

**Walter Ruby** is an activist in Muslim-Jewish relations who has organized hundreds of twinning events bringing together thousands of Jews and Muslims in countries around the world. He has written articles for the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, Jerusalem Post, and Forward.

► **RSVP at [www.hjcny.org/event-rsvp](http://www.hjcny.org/event-rsvp)**

**ZOOM link will be provided upon registration.**



**HJC Youth Group\* Presents:**

# **KRAV MAGA** **(ISRAELI SELF DEFENSE)**

**Sunday, January 9th, 12:00 – 1:30 PM**  
**Fee \$15/pp**

**Grades 5 - 8**

**Dairy Lunch Provided**  
**(All HJC COVID protocols followed)**

**RSVP [www.hjcny.org/event-rsvp](http://www.hjcny.org/event-rsvp)**



\*HJC Youth Group provides various social opportunities throughout the school year for all children ages 5-18 including but not limited to Chaverim, Kadima, & USY

**HJC Youth Group\* Presents:**

# **THE FLOOR IS LAVA!**

**Build your own obstacle course and test your balance!**



**Grades K - 3**  
**Dairy Lunch Provided**  
**(All HJC COVID protocols followed)**



**Sunday, Jan. 30th, 12:00-1:30 p.m. / \$20/PP**

**RSVP [www.hjcny.org/event-rsvp](http://www.hjcny.org/event-rsvp)**

\*HJC Youth Group provides various social opportunities throughout the school year for all children ages 5-18 including but not limited to Chaverim, Kadima, & USY



# From the Ben Tasman HJC Library Tyna Strenger

## Some interesting titles that have come across the desk:

### FICTION:

**Our Country Friends** by Gary Shteyngart. When a group of old friends, and friends of friends, gathers in a country house to wait out the pandemic, they end up spending six months in isolation, during which old betrayals emerge, forcing each character to reevaluate who they love and what matters most. Since I haven't read this myself, I'm not aware of any 'Jewish' connection, but there usually is in this author's work.

### NON-FICTION: MEMOIR

**Exodus Revisited** by Deborah Feldman. This follows Unorthodox, originally published 2014, delving deeper into what inspired her original decision to leave her Satmar community. Feldman has embarked on a journey of self-discovery, beginning life anew as a single mother, an independent woman and a religious refugee coming to terms with her Jewishness in search of a community to which she can belong.

### NON-FICTION

**Anti-Judaism** by David Nirenberg, Dean of Divinity School at University of Chicago

On December 11th, Rabbi Saks spoke of this book during the Shabbat service Torah discussion, citing it as the "explanation of the origins of anti-semitism". Nirenberg's many works cover the connections and effects that the religions of the Middle East have with one another and if we had any of his books in our library they would be catalogued as "Reference" being well suited for any scholarly study.

### HISTORICAL FICTION:

**Paris Library** by Janet Skeslien Charles, who was manager of the American Library in Paris, sets this novel in Paris 1939. Based on a true story describing how a 1980's teenager befriends an elderly neighbor and uncovers her past as a librarian at the American Library in Paris and went on to join the resistance when the Nazis arrived. (unrelated first novel was Moonlight in Odessa)

**Milk Fed** by Melissa Broder described as Dark, Hilarious, Delicious: Sex, Food, Desire, Discomfort, Spirituality and ruthless life under the tyranny of "diet culture".

If there is something you would like the library committee to consider, please submit that to [hjclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:hjclibrary@gmail.com).



## Save the Dates for 2022!

January 9	Sisterhood Dinner & A Movie	May 22	Celebrate Israel Parade
January 27	Social Justice Speaker Event	May 29	Minyan in the Park
February 12	Progressive Dinner	June 15	Golf Outing
March 13	Purim Carnival	June 17	Shabbat by the Sound: Sisterhood & Men's Club Shabbat
March 27	Mitzvah Day		
April 8	Friday Night Live		
May 3	Sisterhood's Mother's Day Cocktails		
May 4	HJC's Celebration of Congregational Trip to Israel		
May 12	Comedy Night/Murder Mystery		
May 16-26	HJC's Trip to Israel		

## List of Holidays 5782 - 5783

1st Hannukah Candle	November 28	8th Day of Passover	April 23
2nd Hannukah Candle	November 28	Holocaust Memorial Day	April 28
Tu B'Shevat	January 17	Israel Independence Day	May 5
Fast of Esther	March 16	Lag Ba'Omer	May 19
Purim Reading of the Megillah	March. 17	Jerusalem Reunification Day	May 29
Search for Chametz, evening	April 14	Erev Shavuot	June 4
Fast of First Born	April 15	1st Day of Shavuot	June 5
Erev Passover, 1st Seder	April 15	2nd Day of Shavuot - Yizkor	June 6
1st Day of Passover, 2nd Seder	April 16	Fast of Tammuz	July 17
7th Day of Passover	April 22	Tisha B'Av	August 7

# HJC Bulletin

January 2022

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Huntington, NY 11743

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## Our Culinary Legacy Cookbook

### THE CULINARY LEGACY COOKBOOK MAKES A GREAT GIFT

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.

There are interesting stories as well from our HJC Community.

If you have not placed your order yet, the cost is \$36 a book. You can order online <https://hjcny.org/hjc-cookbook/> or send a check payable to HJC Sisterhood 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 if you have any questions about making donations and ordering the Cookbook, Apron or Grocery Bag. [evelyn\\_abraham@optonline.net](mailto:evelyn_abraham@optonline.net)



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