



February 2023 | Shevat / Adar 5783 Bulletin

HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER

NEWS / COMMUNITY / CONNECTION



Sisterhood News

by Evelyn Abraham

SISTERHOOD MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Join Us and Support the Sisterhood of HJC. Your Membership Dues support our wonderful HJC Community and the Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Thank you to all who paid their membership dues. Watch for Emails with Information on upcoming Membership Events.

Note: You now can pay your Annual Sisterhood Membership Dues on the HJC Website in the Online Payment Page. Please scroll down on the type of payment and Sisterhood Annual Dues and Sisterhood Annual Dues Senior Citizen have been added as an option for credit card payments.

\$45 - reg. membership \$30 - senior membership

MISHLOACH MANOT

Purim begins on Monday March 6th.

Sisterhood will help you celebrate Purim by sharing a Purim package from you to your family and friends. Please watch for emails with information on how to participate. We are once again using Happy Purim to handle online ordering of Purim Bags. Sisterhood is handling all packaging and delivery to local congregants. Emails were sent with your unique log in code. For just \$8.00 per recipient or a generous contribution of \$118 you may choose to send to the entire HJC Congregation including HJC Staff and Teachers. Every family will receive one gift package along with a Scroll that lists all who participated in the Fund-raiser. Should you have any questions or want to pay with a check, please contact Evelyn Abraham at (631) 424-6922 or evelyn_abraham@optonline.net

WOMEN'S LEAGUE TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN

This year, the Torah Fund campaign—the dedicated philanthropy of Women's League for Conservative Judaism—has reached its 80th birthday. The new campaign, **Our Chazak v'Ematz campaign, Be Strong & Courageous** has begun.



We summon strength and fortitude in these changing times to continue to make an important impact at our global Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher education: Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Schechter Institutes, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano and Zacharias Frankel College.

Your generosity helps provide essential scholarships and programs to train future leaders of the Jewish community. Torah Fund helps develop future rabbis, cantors, educators, synagogue administrators, social workers, scholars, researchers, lay leaders and others.

If you would like more information on Torah Fund, please contact Evelyn Abraham. If you would like to make a donation: <https://inspired.jtsa.edu/torahfund>

Save paper and send ecards for any occasion. For only \$5 per recipient, you can send an attractive message—and you can even schedule your card to be sent at a specific time! **Revenue from ecard purchases will benefit the Torah Fund Chazak v'Ematz campaign. US supporters, please make your selection today at torahfundecards.jtsa.edu.**

אגודת נשים פתוחה כל השנה עבור חגים וסימחה OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND FOR YOUR HOLIDAY AND SIMCHA NEEDS

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evelyn_abraham@optonline.net



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Religious School Director
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Technology.....	Jeff Stark
Tree of Life.....	Tom Rosen
The Village Project	Elaine Kleinmann, Shelley Weinberg, Lori Sklar

From Rabbi Ari Saks



All About Tu BiShvat

Rabbi Yehuda once said that “all things God created on earth corresponds to what God made in heaven; and all things below are symbols to things above.” This teaching points to a key Jewish lesson: all of God’s creation is meant to teach us something. From a tiny blade of grass to the tallest of redwoods, the world around us is as much part of

God’s gift of Torah as the words contained in our Holy Scriptures. Every year, the holiday of Tu BiShvat -- the Jewish “Birthday of the Trees” -- reminds us that God’s Torah is not just what we read about, but what we experience through appreciating the natural world.

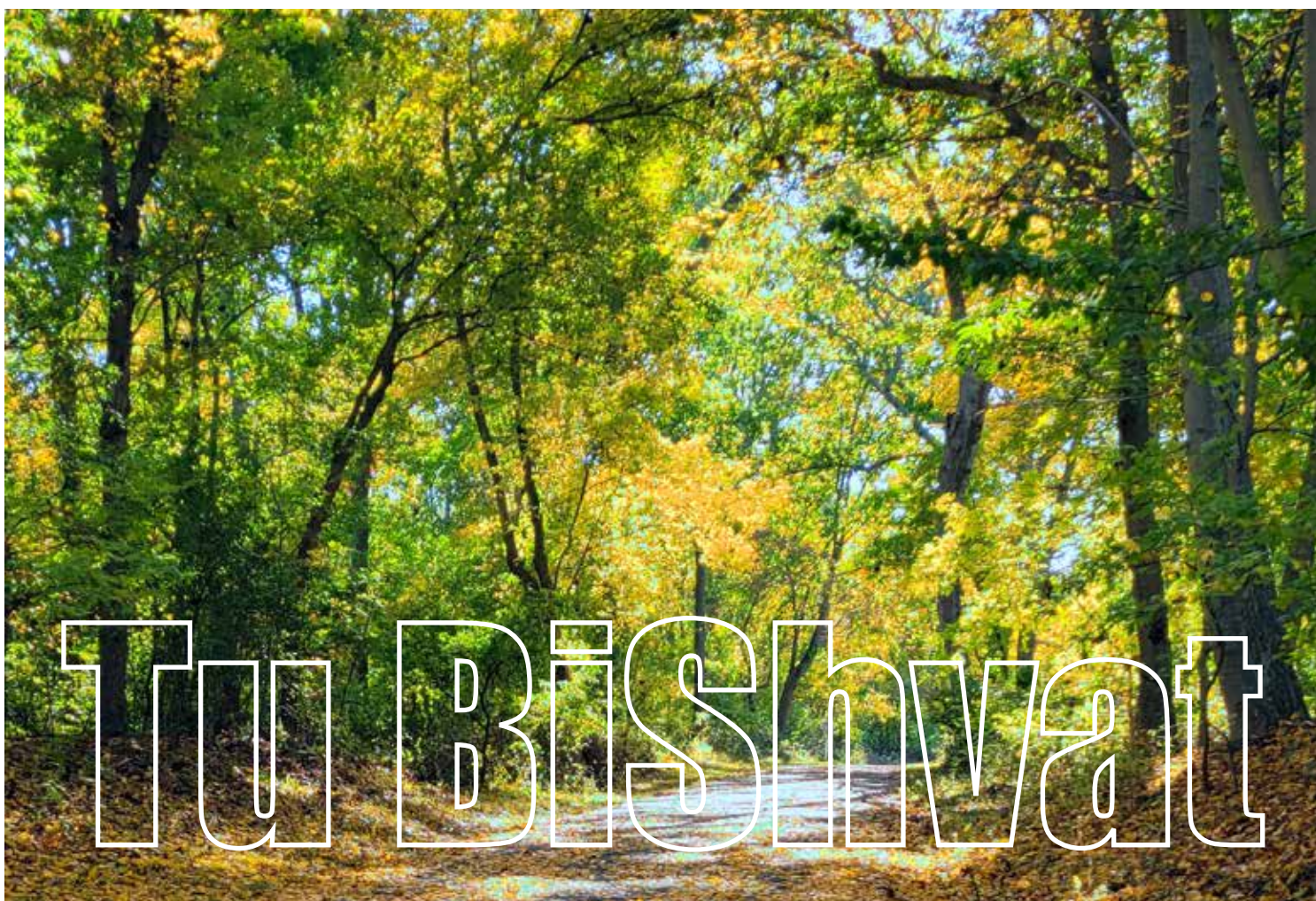
This month, the Religious School (Feb 5), the Village Project (Feb 5), and the Adult Education Committee (Feb 11) will be hosting special Tu BiShvat seders to engage our community in experiencing God’s Torah found in the beautiful bounty of the natural world.

By experiencing the Torah of Tu BiShvat through consuming the fruits of nature, we remind ourselves how we are intimately a part of the Torah of the natural world. As we read in Deuteronomy, “A human being is a tree in the field” (20:19). And as we read in Proverbs, the Torah is a “tree of life to those who hold fast to it” (3:17-18). So I pray that when we enjoy the fruits of Tu BiShvat during (at least) one of our community’s seders, we will remind ourselves to appreciate the Torah of the natural world found around us and within us, on earth and in heaven.

Chag Sameach,

Rabbi Ari Saks

P.S. In addition to these wonderful Seder opportunities, please honor Tu BiShvat and your HJC community by adding a name acrostic to our HJC Family Tu BiShvat tree which can be found at the school entrance between January 31st - February 14th!





Prayer for the World

Every Shabbat I read this beautiful poem, this beautiful prayer by Rabbi Harold Kushner in our Lev Shalem Siddur (page 151). Recently it's been resonating more deeply than ever before. I find it to be meaningful and moving, and is a poignant commentary on resilience, acceptance, gratitude and the importance of community. It brings me peace and I hope it does the same for you. Where there is healing, there is hope.

Prayer for the World

Let the rain come and wash away
the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds
held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory
of the hurt, the neglect.
Then let the sun come out and
fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun heal us
wherever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog so that
we can see each other clearly,
so that we can see beyond labels,
beyond accents, gender or skin color.
Let the warmth and brightness
of the sun melt our selfishness,
so that we can share the joys and
feel the sorrows of our neighbors.
And let the light of the sun
be so strong that we will see all
people as our neighbors.
Let the earth, nourished by rain,
bring forth flowers
to surround us with beauty.
And let the mountains teach our hearts
to reach upward to heaven.
Amen.



February: Celebrating Tu B'Shvat and Jewish Disabilities Awareness & Inclusion Month

Despite February being in the heart of the dreary, grey and cold New York winter, there is much joy and enlightenment to look forward to this month. February has two distinct celebrations that are happening, the holiday of Tu B'Shvat and Jewish Disabilities Awareness & Inclusion Month.

I find Tu B'Shvat to arrive at just the right time of the year to combat the mundaneness of winter time. It arrives as a pick-me-up, to hold us over until the brightness of springtime. To me the holiday symbolizes images of spring, trees, fresh fruits, sun and images of Israel. Each year on Tu B'Shvat, I try to create a contest for my family as to who will be the first to try a new fruit first at the table, or eat the most foods from the seven species, or known in Hebrew as shivat haminim. It is safe to say that I usually eat all of the olives! Each year since I was a child, my family would collect money around the time of Tu B'Shvat to plant trees in Israel in memory of loved ones. HJC is having several wonderful Tu B'Shvat programs to celebrate the holiday that everyone should take part in. We are having a HJC synagogue wide family Tu B'Shvat tree which involves creating a unique name acrostic and will be on display by the ECC entrance that runs through February 12th. The Religious School is also having their own Tu B'Shvat seder which

will be filled with tasting new fruits and learning blessings and songs. The HJC/MJC Village Project is also having their own Tu B'Shvat seder at the Melville Jewish Center. HJC's very own robust adult education committee is having a Tu B'Shvat seder with board certified arborist, Eran Strauss.

February is also Jewish Disabilities Awareness and inclusion month. The purpose of Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month is to raise awareness and to support the rights of all Jews to be accepted and included in all aspects of Jewish and community life. Thanks to the wonderful work of HJC's Inclusion Committee, HJC has done a wonderful job to make sure that everyone feels included here at the synagogue. We have been offering hearing devices for those who need a little extra support listening to services. These devices can be found outside of the Sanctuary. Our handicapped bathroom now has a second handicapped bar installed. On each of our flyers that go out, as well as our membership application we have a statement that says for anyone needing assistance to attend an HJC program to contact the office so we can make arrangements for all to attend. Most recently, HJC is midway through construction in building a ramp so anyone can go up to the Bima to take part in services, regardless of mobility. We all should celebrate and be proud of these incredible steps we have taken to make and continue to make HJC an inclusive congregation for all.

HJC SUMMER 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for the Donald L. Gordon Israel Scholarship and the David S. Rosenman Camp Rama Scholarship for the 2023 summer are available.

These Scholarships allow the recipients to experience Judaism, and its values all day, everyday as a way of life, not just Shabbat and Holidays.

Donald L. Gordon Israel Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to High School Juniors and Seniors. They spend six weeks in Israel touring, learning and living the Israeli way of life in a Conservative Educational Program.

David S. Rosenman Camp Ramah Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to children in grades 4 through 12, who spend either 4 or 8 weeks at Camp Ramah. This camp is under the auspices of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Applications for both scholarships are available in the HJC Main office.

The deadline for submission is April 3, 2023.



Random Acts of Kindness

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Anne Frank

One of my favorite events of the year continues to be the Random Acts of Kindness Kick Off. Hopefully, this is some-

thing that will stay with the children and their parents. Character education is very important to us in the ECC as it is in Judaism. We must practice what we preach. It is not good enough to talk about being a mensch and hang up signs and displays of kindness. We must lead by example. We must teach children the intrinsic reward about doing for others and making others feel good. We love to catch children in the act of kindness and expression of love. We tell them they must feel so proud of themselves to be kind and help others. During our kickoff of Acts of Kindness, we docu-

ment their kindness on a heart and display it in the hallway. We are working on 100 acts of kindness.

We have established a kindness exchange in the school as well. We designate Kindness week as a time to share friendship bracelets, rocks, hand made pictures to all their friends in the classroom. The art of giving. The joy and fulfillment that comes with giving. The intrinsic reward from bringing a smile to another's face because of an act of kindness. Social Emotional Development is a priority of Early Childhood Education. We also love to bring kindness into our community and teach the children about Tikkun Olam. This year we chose a wonderful organization called Birthday Wishes. This organization provides birthday parties for Homeless Children. It is hard and disturbing to think of children not being able to even have a birthday cake and party plates. Birthday Wishes ensures that homeless children have cake, party plates, and even a gift. It is important to us to choose a charity that children can relate to. We want them to be part of the collections, donations, and delivery of the birthday items.





Human Relationships – Why They Matter

When I decided to enroll my children in Kindergarten Religious School I remember being so disappointed, not in the curriculum or the teachers, but in myself. Aren't we supposed to provide for our children better than our parents did for us? Or, at the bare minimum at least provide the same level of care they did? As a Yeshiva graduate I had to accept religious education was going to look

a lot different for my children. Private religious education was simply cost prohibitive for me. So off they went through 7th Grade and like many others, after their Bat Mitzvah – it came to a screeching halt. What was the problem? They did not have any friends. Eight years at the same school and they still did not feel close enough to call someone a friend. I sadly had to accept that was an entity I could not control. They agreed to continue with USY, a Jewish youth organization until 12th grade. They had been attending their functions since 5th grade and were quite willing to continue with great enthusiasm. I had to resign myself to the fact that at least their involvement in this wonderful organization was better than nothing. This also proved to be the case for many of their friends. Yes, friends. Here they made many friends and I learned an important lesson that fuels my vision today at HJC.

Forbes magazine reported attendance at live events has not only bounced back from the pandemic but sales are hitting historic levels. Why? People crave contact and engagement with others. The classroom is a wonderful space to initially meet people. Our teachers make the most of the three-five hours we have each week with your children. How we engage our students is crucial, not for just educational and curriculum content necessarily but for long term engagement and retention. Whether it is a craft that relates to a Torah story, or a heated ethics debate, our teachers' lesson plans involve activities that excite our children, and encourages them to work together to help foster relationships both in and out of the classroom. Outside the classroom offers even more opportunity. Our youth and congregational family programs offers a variety of opportunities to make these important connections. From monthly youth groups, self-defense classes, after school cooking and art classes, community service, seders

and special family programs we seek to satiate this hunger for connecting. These programs and experiences feed the mind, body and spirit and teach children how vital human relationships are. Receiving emails from parents requesting another parent's email in the class because their child made a friend offers me a glimpse of my goal and keeps me pushing forward. As the Canadian writer, Robin Sharma well said, "The business of business is relationships. The business of life is human connection."



Donations

GENERAL FUND

Yolanda Barfus in memory Alfred Levy
Paul & Joan Cohen in memory Alfred Levy
Paul & Joan Cohen in memory of Michael Cohen at Yahrzeit
Paul & Joan Cohen in memory of Saul Wyatt ay Yahrzeit
Jay & Ellen Steinberg in memory of Sheri Bram, wife of Kenneth Bram and beloved HJC member
Jay & Ellen Steinberg in memory of Miriam Waisbrot, mother of Hana Keshet
Jay & Ellen Steinberg in memory of Al Levy, father of Andrew Levy & Ellen Gordon and former president of HJC
Jay & Ellen Steinberg in memory of Selma Greenstein, mother of Paul Greenstein and HJC matriarch
Jay & Ellen Steinberg in honor of the engagement of Melissa Zimmerman, daughter of Janet & Mark Zimmerman to Yotam Dror
Jay & Ellen Steinberg in honor of Gail & Jim Lodge on the birth of their grandson, Zev Samuel
Jeffrey Stark & Lesley Delia-Stark in honor of the engagement of Melissa Zimmerman, daughter of Janet & Mark Zimmerman to Yotam Dror
Jeffrey Stark & Lesley Delia-Stark in honor of the engagement of Josh Rubin, son of Jack & Leslie Rubin.
Roger Silverberg & Evelyn Abraham in memory of Sheri Bram
Roger Silverberg & Evelyn Abraham in memory of Al Levy, father of Andrew Levy
Howard & Andrea Dubow in memory of Dave Dubowsky at Yahrzeit
Howard & Andrea Dubow in memory of Blanche Dubowsky at Yahrzeit
Elliot & Leila Waldman in memory of Susie Waldman at Yahrzeit
Bea Pedowicz in memory of Selma Greenstein
Lawrence & Traci Sachs with gratitude to HJC
Burton & Elaine Epstein in memory of Ceil Epstein at Yahrzeit
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in honor of Gail & Jim Lodge on the birth of their grandson, Zev Samuel
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Al Levy
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Selma Greenstein
Sarah & Jerry Saunders in memory of Rose Epstein at Yahrzeit
Lawrence & Marjorie Maltin in memory of Selma Greenstein
Leonard & Marlene Hummel in memory of Selma Greenstein
Helga Kramer in memory of Selma Greenstein
Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer in memory of Alfred Levy
Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer in memory of Selma Greenstein
Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer in honor of Melissa Zimmerman's engagement
Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer in honor of Nathan Schoeffler's engagement
Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz & Dr. Jonathan Boxer in memory of Miriam Waisbrot, mother of Hana Keshet
Allen & Bonnie Steinberg in memory of Selma Greenstein, mother of Paul Greenstein
Melissa & Michael Richter in memory of Selma Greenstein
William & Rosalind Wertheim in memory of Selma Greenstein
Marshall Levy in memory of Selma Greenstein
Shelly Weinberg in memory of Jack Freilich at Yahrzeit
Leslie & Jack Rubin memory of Selma Greenstein, mother of Paul Greenstein

CAMP RAMAH FUND

Jeffrey & Pamela Goldstein in memory of Al Levy
Judith & Lester Fox in honor of Gail & Jim Lodge on the birth of their grandson
Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Al Levy
Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Robert Lichtenberg
Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Selma Greenstein

CANTOR FUND

Judith Leopold & Alan Orloff in memory of Al Levy, father of Andrew Levy
Judith Leopold & Alan Orloff in memory of Selma Greenstein, mother of Paul Greenstein

COLLEGIATE FUND

Arlene Steinberg in memory of Selma Greenstein
Bill Yelen in memory of George Yelen at Yahrzeit

DAILY MINYAN FUND

Brian & Nancy Cooper in memory of Al Levy
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Bea Pedowitz in memory of Jack Pedowitz at Yahrzeit
Suzanne Susskind in memory of Al Levy
Suzanne Susskind in memory of Selma Greenstein
Susan Goldmeer in memory of Samuel Goldmeer at Yahrzeit
Yolanda Barfus in memory of Selma Greenstein
Andrea Marcus Smoller in memory of Selma Greenstein, mother of Paul Greenstein and beloved HJC member
Carol Einhorn in memory of Selma Greenstein, beloved mother of Paul Greenstein

ETHEL SACHS ENGAGEMENT FUND

Brian & Nancy Cooper in honor of Nathan Schoeffler's engagement
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GARDEN FUND

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Alice & Bruce Rosen in memory of Sol Rosen at Yahrzeit

INCLUSION FUND

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Miriam Eckstein-Koas in memory of Selma Greenstein, mother of Paul Greenstein
Brian & Nancy Cooper in honor of Esti Lodge
Brian & Nancy Cooper in honor of Gail & Jim Lodge on the birth of their grandson, Zev Samuel
Tom & Vicki Rosen in memory of Al Levy, Past President of HJC, and father of Andrew S. Levy
Tom & Vicki Rosen in memory of Selma Greenstein, mother of Paul Greenstein

JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Susan & David Lefkowitz in memory of Selma Greenstein
Joanne Mulberg-Cohn & Peter Cohn in memory of Sheri Bram
Roger Silverberg & Evelyn Abraham in memory of Miriam Waisbrot, mother of Hana Keshet

Scott & Tami Schneider in memory of Miriam Waisbrot, mother of Hana Keshet

Scott & Tami Schneider in memory of Sheri Bram

Joanne Mulberg in memory of Harry Mulberg

Arlene & Arthur Boshnack in memory of Leonard Borger

Suzanne Susskind in memory of Al Levy

Gloria Safran in memory of Selma Greenstein

Gloria Safran in memory of Bella Safran at Yahrzeit

Alice & Bruce Rosen in honor of Rob Fisher and his work with JNN

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Dave Ingber at Yahrzeit

Jennifer & Scott Ingber in memory of Selma Greenstein

Eileen & Harvey Berger in memory of Al Levy

Maxine & Robert Fisher in honor of the 40th anniversary of Jay & Gail Goldstein

Maxine & Robert Fisher in memory of Al Levy

Maxine & Robert Fisher in memory of Selma Greenstein

Laurence & Shari Feibel in memory of Harold Kessler at Yahrzeit

Michael & Michelle Behr in memory of Sheri Bram

Lori Sklar in memory of Blanche Sklar at Yahrzeit

Sydna Atwater in memory of Sheri Bram

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Gloria Safran in memory of Reuben Safran at Yahrzeit

David & Marilyn Klein in memory of Al Levy, father of Andy Levy

MAZEL TOV:

Joseph Herman, son of Dori and Josh Herman on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Amy & Lee Gutman on the birth of their daughter Blake Noa

Lauren & Tsvi Gerstle on the birth of their twin daughters, Gwendolyn Rose and Sabrina Maeve

Gail & Jim Lodge on the birth of their grandson, Zev Samuel

Janet & Mark Zimmerman on the engagement of their daughter Melissa to Yotam Dror

Dan & Patricia Schoeffler on the engagement of their son Nathan

CONDOLENCE:

Sheri Bram, wife of Kenneth Bram & mother of Rachel & Alex Bram

Miriam Waisbrot, mother of Hana Keshet

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Carillon Nursing Home in honor of Rabbi Saks

Randi & Steven Morris in memory of Rhoda Morris

Robert Schpoont in memory of Seymour H. Schpoont

Donald & Laurie Haber in memory of Rosalyn Haber

From the Ben Tasman HJC Library Tyna Strenger

DONATIONS OF BOOKS

Thank you to those congregants who have recently left book donations for our synagogue library. Since the library is not in regular use and various groups have been using the space for other purposes, some of the books have separated from the notes or labels indicating who made the donation.

If you left such a donation and would like to have an acknowledgement please make the request to our email address: hjclibrary@gmail.com.

For those who would like to make a donation of books, please note the following:

COFFEE TABLE BOOKS while lovely, take up a lot of room and we have many and will take only if it is unusual.

SACRED TEXTS if to be used in the library will be kept or disposed of correctly in our gineza.

CONDITION of books will determine if they are kept in the library where we generally have room for single copies.

BRING BOOKS in a bag or box to the office, marked for the library.

Any questions about donating books, please ask us at the email address.

WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO ADD TO OUR COLLECTION BUT IF THERE ARE BOOKS THAT WE CANNOT USE WE WILL DISPOSE OF THEM.

(Indicate if you want them returned to you.)

Thank you for your help.



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Leo & Sarah Kaufman
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Talia Kleinmann
Jason, Rachel & Jesse Koreen
The children & grandchildren of Marilyn Koven: Beth,
Marshall, Julie, Marissa, Jordan, Sydney
Zoe & Josh Krief
Blake Frankel
The children & grandchildren of Maxwell & Rosalie
Malkiel: Michelle, Felicia, Ed, Larry, Susan, Ezra, Becca,
Asher, Gabby, Ilan, Ben, Ava, Matthew, Airelle, Yosef
Molly May
Ben, Ilan, Gabriella Messing
Andrew & Emily Reiver, Lee Reiver, Daniel Reiver
Rebecca Satin
Casey & Sylvie Schneider
James & Jack Parrotta
Sam, Nathan & Hannah Schoeffler
Victoria & Daniel Schwartz
Ilyssa & Max Stein
Bretton Glaser, Alin Glaser , Koa Kessner
Daschel & Jane Goldstein
Sarah Klein, Matt Klein, Samara Klein
Cameron Levy, Jasper Levy, Avery Levy, Dina Sokol,
Leah Sokol, Noah Sokol
Russell Steinberg & Winston Steinberg
Leo and Emma Sternschein
Joanah & Lilah Saks
Alexa Rind

You Had Me At Shalom

BEN'S OF GREENVALE
Thursday, February 2, 2023
7:00 pm

Come meet other Jewish Singles in their 30s, 40s, and 50s who are looking to expand their social circle. It will be a fun and casual night at Ben's in Greenvale. The evening will include a speed dating portion as well as time to casually mingle while having drinks and snacking on some kosher favorites!



The cost per person is \$40 and can be paid at the door on the night of the event, however **advance sign up is a must**. Two drinks (beer and wine) and appetizers are included.

SCAN QR CODE
BELOW TO
ACCESS SIGN
UP PAGE



BEN'S®
KOSHER DELICATESSEN
RESTAURANT & CATERER



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Join HJC Religious School for

A TU B'SHEVAT SEDER

Taste the fruits of Israel

Drink the seasonal "wine"

Learn Tu b'Shevat blessings & songs

Sunday, Feb. 5th, 10:30-12:00 PM

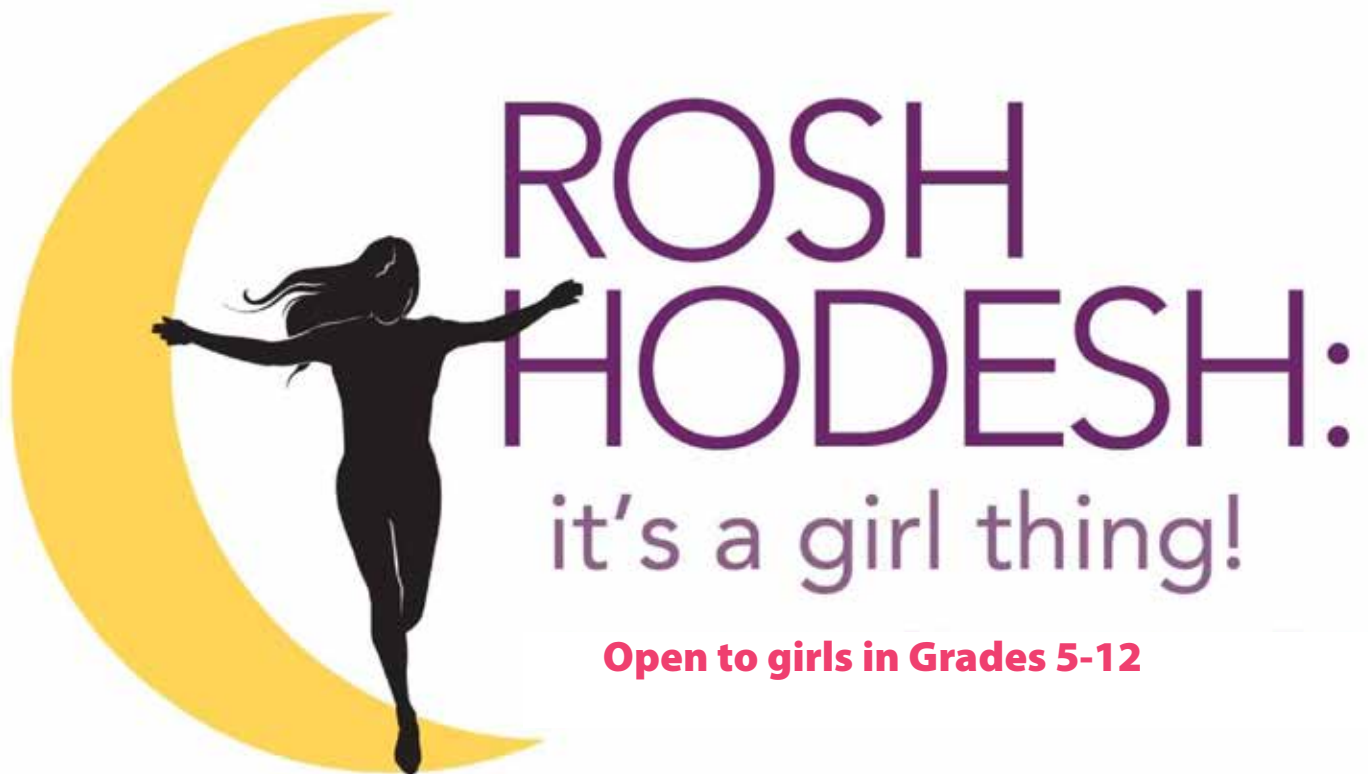
Social Hall

All parents are welcome!



If you require any accommodations to be able to join us and fully participate in this event, please notify the office so we can assist you.

HJC Youth Group* Presents:



CRAFTS MUSIC COOKING
CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY SPORTS
SUPPORT GROUP SOCIAL ACTION AND MORE!



Tuesday, Feb. 14	6:30-8:00
Tuesday, Mar. 21	6:30-8:00
Tuesday, Apr. 18	6:30-8:00
Tuesday, May 16	6:30-8:00

**All meetings are
after school
& include dinner**

EACH session is \$20
RSVP www.hjcnny.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

If you require any accommodations to be able to join us and fully participate in this event, please notify the office so we can assist you.

HJC's Adult Education Presents:

Adult Tu B'Shvat Seder

Lecture and Text Study

Saturday Feb.11 at 7:00- 8:30pm

Tu B'Shvat is a great, amazing festival, an ancient celebration of the new year for trees that has changed and evolved over 20 centuries, and has never been more vital than it is today.

Advice From a Tree:
**stand tall and proud
go out on a limb
drink plenty of water
remember your roots
enjoy the view**

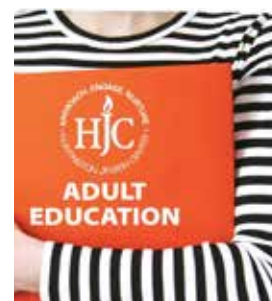


Meet Board Certified Master Arborist Eran "Ron" Strauss.

Born in NYC. Kibbutznik in Israel 1979-1991. Resident of Long Island since 1991. Ron will offer us a powerpoint presentation. He will address many things, including industry standard practices for the preservation of the structure, safety, health and beauty of trees on Long Island. Ron is charming and full of life force. He is passionate about all things nature.



Text Study: We will enjoy a brief Tu B'Shvat seder. We do not know exactly when the first one took place. Somebody somewhere, almost certainly a Kabbalist, almost certainly in Safed, made the connection between the Biblical instruction to observe a new year for the trees on the full moon of Shvat and instruction to observe Passover on the full moon of Nissan and said: "Let's have a Tu B'Shvat seder! Let's have four cups of wine, special foods, and let's have questions and texts like we do at the Passover seder!"



Please use the following link to register:

<https://hjc.shulcloud.com/event/adult-ed-program-with-ron-strauss-1.html>

If you require any accommodations to be able to join us and fully participate in this event, please notify the office so we can assist you.

Jewish Politicians

Al Franken



Alan Stuart Franken was born May 21, 1951, in New York City to Joseph P. Franken (1908–1993), a printing salesman, and Phoebe Franken (née Kunst) (1918–2003), a real estate agent. His paternal grandparents emigrated from Germany; his maternal grandfather came from Grodno, Russian Empire; and his maternal grandmother's parents were also from the Russian Empire. Phoebe was from Allentown,

Pennsylvania. Both of his parents were Jews, and Franken was raised in a Reform Jewish home and attended Temple Israel in Minneapolis. He has an older brother, Owen, who is a photojournalist, and his cousin Bob is a journalist for MSNBC.

The Frankens moved to Albert Lea, Minnesota, when Al was four years old. His father opened a quilting factory, but it failed after two years. The family then moved to St. Louis Park, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis. Franken graduated from The Blake School in 1969, where he was a member of the wrestling team. Franken says that he scored 800 (out of 800) on the math section of his SATs and 662 on the verbal section. He attended Harvard College, where he majored in political science, graduating cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in 1973. As a student, Franken wrote comedy and idolized comedians Dick Gregory and Lenny Bruce because they did acts about hypocrisy and corruption while making the audience laugh.

Franken began performing in high school, where he and his longtime friend and writing partner Tom Davis were known for their comedy. The duo first performed on stage at Minneapolis's Brave New Workshop theater specializing in political satire. They soon found themselves in what was described as "a life of near-total failure on the fringes of show business in Los Angeles".

While at Harvard he met his future wife, Franni Bryson, and the couple later had two children. After graduation he returned to Minnesota to perform in Minneapolis's Brave New Workshop comedy troupe, which in 1975 led to a job with NBC television's *Saturday Night Live* (SNL). On the show Franken was best known for playing the character of self-help guru Stuart Smalley. Franken worked for SNL as a writer and performer until 1980, again during 1985–95, and briefly in 2008. He shared four Emmy Awards for writing on the show and received an additional nine nominations. He also did some acting, wrote and starred in a 1995 film featuring his Stuart Smalley character, and penned the screenplay for the dramatic film *When a Man Loves a Woman* (1994).

After leaving SNL in 1995, Franken became an outspoken political satirist for the left, publishing a number of books, including *Rush Limbaugh Is a Big Fat Idiot and Other Observations* (1999), *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right* (2004), and *The Truth (with Jokes)* (2005). He was also, from 2004 to 2007, the host of the *Air America* radio program *The Al Franken Show* (originally called *The O'Franken Factor*, which was a play on Bill O'Reilly's conservative show, *The O'Reilly Factor*). Conceived by Franken as a weapon in the fight to get Republican

Pres. George W. Bush "unelected," the program used interviews and commentary to advance Franken's progressive political views. The show's final episode, on February 14, 2007, ended with a bang when Franken announced his candidacy for the Minnesota Senate seat. Franken gained respect—if grudging from some quarters—for his tireless campaigning. Running on the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party ticket, he emerged as a real threat to the incumbent Republican senator, Norm Coleman.

Although in the initial count Coleman outpolled Franken by a narrow margin in the November 2008 election, a mandatory recount of 2.9 million undisputed ballots (along with thousands of other disputed and absentee ballots) left Franken ahead by 225 votes. Coleman contested the result, but on April 13, 2009, Franken was again declared the winner. Coleman then took his fight to the courts. After a statewide recount ended with Franken ahead by 312 votes, Coleman again appealed the result, but on June 30 the Minnesota Supreme Court dismissed the challenge and ruled that Franken was entitled to be certified the winner. Because Coleman's term had expired on January 3, Minnesota's Senate seat had been left vacant for six months while the matter played out in the courts. When Franken took office on July 7, the Senate Democrats (supported by two independents) acquired a filibuster-proof 60–40 majority.

As a senator, Franken consistently supported liberal causes. Fiscally, he advocated for an increase in the federal minimum wage and for higher taxes on the wealthy. In 2010 he voted to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," a policy that barred openly gay men and women from serving in the U.S. military. He also supported same-sex marriage, abortion rights, and gun control. In addition, Franken was active in health care reform, and although he championed a single-payer system, he supported the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA; 2010). He was reelected in 2014. Franken later was a vocal critic of Pres. Donald Trump and notably fought to prevent the repeal of the PPACA. In late 2017 a number of women accused Franken of sexual harassment. The allegations came amid a growing sexual misconduct scandal within Congress, and there were calls—particularly from other Democrats—for Franken to resign. Faced with a loss of support from within his party, Franken announced in December that he was stepping down in the coming weeks. He officially left office in January 2018. The following year he returned to radio as host of *The Al Franken Show*, which aired on SiriusXM.

His memoir, *Al Franken, Giant of the Senate*, was published in 2017.



Franken at an election rally with Hillary Clinton in October 2008

HJC IS GETTING GREENER

By Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz

We are deep into winter and months have passed since the efforts and energies of the Environmentalism Committee were focused on our new Native Species Garden. This might seem like an opportune time for a sabbatical, a break from our hard work. Instead, the Environmentalism Committee has turned its attention inside the walls of HJC, identifying how we can become more committed to the environment through our purchases and practices.

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS POLICY

We are pleased to share that the HJC board has adopted a policy of no longer purchasing single-use petroleum-based plastics. Our Shabbat kiddushes, congregational meetings, ECC or Religious School events will no longer be served on plastic table covers, using plastic utensils, or plastic cups.

We have made this change because we value the earth as God's and our role on it as guardians. Petroleum-based plastics release toxins at the point of production and again at incineration, or when they break down in landfills.

Instead of petroleum-based plastics, we will now use reusable utensils and table cloths when possible and biobased products - wood, bamboo, paper, and biobased plastics - when reusable tablecloths and utensils are not an option.

CARDBOARD RECYCLING

HJC has also adopted a policy of cardboard recycling. Cardboard is the most effective type of recycling around. Because the town does not provide houses of worship with access to the town recycling pickup, we were mixing our cardboard waste with our garbage. Recently, the synagogue purchased cardboard recycling as part of its waste removal contract. We are now doing our part to ensure that our cardboard waste no longer gets incinerated, but instead returns to the recycled paper stream.

HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

The Environmentalism Committee welcomes new members. We are involved locally with the **Huntington Interfaith Collaborative for the Environment**. This group represents houses of worship throughout the community. We meet monthly and work on a local level to improve our environment. We would love you to attend those meetings, get involved and report back to us.

We switched to silverware from plasticware on Shabbat for kiddushes. Meet us in the kitchen following kiddush and help us with the washing.

Springtime is around the corner, we will be back in action weeding our garden. Join our team of gardeners.

**HJC Sisterhood
presents
Hamantashen Making
(For Adults Only)***



**What: Hamantashen Making
When: Tuesday, 2/28 @ 7:00 pm
Where: HJC Family Life Center**

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

**Please RSVP by Tuesday, 2/21 as enrollment is limited
All ingredients and materials will be provided**

**Please RSVP to Donna Fleiss
Email donna.fleiss@gmail.com or text (516) 635-7829**

***This event is for adults only
If you have children who would like to participate, please join us at Sisterhood's
Purim family event on 2/5 @ 12:00 pm (See separate flyer)**

This event is sponsored by HJC Sisterhood

HJC Youth Group* Presents:

Shevet Achim – The Brotherhood with Rabbi Saks Becoming Jewish Men

**An invitation for HJC boys from Grades 5th-12th to join Rabbi Saks
for bonding, food, fun, and learning.**

**Sessions will run once a month from November through March
(see dates below) Dinner included.**

**Volunteer service hours may be earned for 10th-12th graders.
Please speak to Rabbi Saks for more information.**

All sessions are on Tuesdays and run from 6:30-8:00 pm



Dates of sessions:

February 28th

March 28th

Each session \$20



<https://hjc.shulcloud.com/event/shevet-achim-the-brotherhood-with-rabbi-saks-.html>



***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**

If you require any accommodations to be able to join us and fully participate in this event, please notify the office so we can assist you.

**Please join us for a viewing and discussion
with the filmmaker of**

WHAT DO YOU PRAY FOR? **על מה אתה מתפלל?**

Hosted by the Inclusion Committee

March 2, 2023 7:30 pm

HJC Family Life Room

"What Do You Pray For" is a documentary film of short interviews of Jews with disabilities who tell viewers in their own words what they pray for and what prayer means to them. The documentary was created by Benjamin Rosloff, a talented filmmaker on the Autism spectrum who served as a Jewish Inclusion Fellow in RespectAbility's National Leadership Program. He is also the grandson of former member and HJC Religious school instructor, Sarah Eidelberg.



A panel discussion with Ben and Rabbi Saks will follow the viewing.

"There are different types of prayers: prayers that praise G-d, prayers that thank G-d, prayers that ask for forgiveness, and prayers that ask G-d for something. There are prayers that are memorized that we recite or sing to familiar melodies. They make us feel good and bring back positive memories. Judaism encourages questions. It is how we learn, how we grow and how we gain an understanding of ourselves, our community and our relationship to G-d. Asking questions is how we learn about people's hopes and dreams and what kind of world they want to live in. Let's ask the question and listen to their answers. Do you pray?"

Please RSVP by Thursday, February 23, 2023

<https://hjc.shulcloud.com/event/inclusion-what-do-you-pray-for.html>

If you require any accommodations to be able to join us and fully participate in this event, please notify the office so we can assist you.

HJC Bulletin

February 2023

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Our Culinary Legacy Cookbook

DONATIONS

Carol Einhorn in memory of Al Levy, beloved father of Andrew Levy

OUR CULINARY LEGACY COOKBOOK MAKES A GREAT GIFT

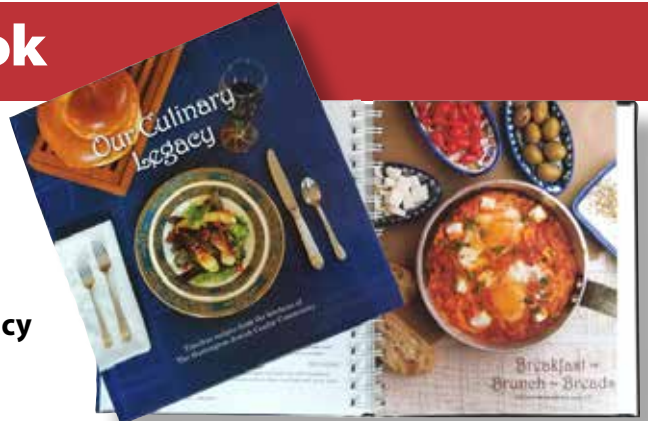
If you are looking to add some new Recipes, the Culinary Legacy Cookbook should be your source.

There are interesting stories as well from our HJC Community.

The cost is \$36 a book or \$44 if you would like it shipped.

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

*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.*