



March 2023 | Adar / Nissan 5783 Bulletin

HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER
NEWS / COMMUNITY / CONNECTION



Sisterhood News

by Evelyn Abraham



SISTERHOOD MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Join Us and Support the Sisterhood of HJC. It is not too late to pay your Membership Dues. Your Membership Dues support our wonderful HJC Community and the Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Thank you to all who paid their Sisterhood 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

Thank you to Donna Fleiss, our Co-Chair of the Hamantashen Committee and all who helped bake 146 dozen Apricot, Chocolate Chip and Raspberry Hamantashen. These delicious cookies were baked in the Dairy Kitchen with love and make our Sisterhood Mishloach Manot unique and very special. Thank you to Rachel and Diane in the Main Office who helped with the membership lists and delivery routes. Thank you to Maxine Fisher and Felicia Messing for your support and helping with ordering. Thank you to all who helped pack the 300 Purim Bags and delivered to congregants who live locally. We once again used Happy Purim to handle online ordering of Purim Bags. Sisterhood handled all packaging and delivery to local congregants. Please contact for any questions: 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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Tree of Life..... Tom Rosen

The Village Project Elaine Kleinmann, Shelley Weinberg,

Lori Sklar

From Rabbi Ari Saks



The Scourge of Antisemitism in America

“Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow, it only saps today of its joy

- Leo Buscaglia

**“Rest and joy, a light for the Jewish people
The Sabbath day, a day of delights.”**

- Shabbat Friday night song entitled “Menucha ve-Simcha”

Dearest HJC community,
Yesterday, the American Jewish community awoke to another wor-

rying reminder of the scourge of antisemitism in America as White Supremacist groups called for a “National Day of Hate” against the Jewish community this Saturday, February 25th. According to an alert from the NYPD, these White Supremacists are asking their followers to “shock the masses with banner drops, stickers, fliers and graffiti” as a declaration of how “the one true enemy of the American people is the Jew.”

Please note that HJC’s leadership is aware of the threat and the need for heightened security this Shabbat. We proactively contacted the second precinct who agreed to make extra patrols and alerted our security staff who made appropriate upgrades.

Tragically, threats like these have become more commonplace in the Jewish community since the massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue nearly four and a half years ago. In response to these threats the organized American Jewish community mobilized to invest heavily in heightened security. For instance, Secure Community Network (SCN), the Jewish Federation’s non-profit and independent security organization, increased their yearly budget from less than \$1 million in 2016 to over \$5 million by the end of 2020, and Federation’s LiveSecure program, which offers grants to Jewish organizations to create a system of safety and security, raised \$130 million within two years of its launch in the Spring of 2021. In other words, we have more money and more resources devoted to our safety and security than ever before, but sadly these financial resources can’t stop the ubiquity of hate from making us feel worried.

I wonder then if we need some spiritual resources to help us manage our worry.

It is ironic that the day these antisemites chose for their “National Day of Hate” is also the first Shabbat of the month of Adar, a month in which we are commanded to be joyful. As the first quote above intimates, joy is negatively correlated to worry; the more we worry, the less we are capable of experiencing joy. As such, how could the Jewish people have any hope of experiencing joy given our centuries’ long experience of antisemitism, the vast majority of which never included the kind of resources we have available today to keep ourselves safe and secure!

Yet the Jewish people are full of joy.

Indeed, as hinted by the second quote above, a significant part of the purpose of our people’s mission is to cultivate the light of joy! Thus, the month of Adar demands that we be joyful with every fiber of our being because without that command, our endless worry, caused by the eternal hatred of the Jews, would sap joy right out of us.

We can’t stop people from saying hateful things, and no amount of money can stop us from being worried about what that hate might cause. But within all that hate and worry is the unique, beautiful, illogical, and profound mission of our people - to be joyful.

So in response to the call for a “National Day of Hate” let’s have an “HJC Shabbat of Joy;”

So in response to the call to “shock the masses,” let’s sing, laugh, and “schmooze with the mensches,” because the one true enemy of antisemitism is the miracle of Jewish joy.

So in response to the dread of worry, let’s be joyful this Shabbat, in our safe and secure Jewish home.

May the month of Adar bring us more joy than ever before!

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Ari Y. Saks





Inclusion Means All

Inclusion is a core principle and an important Jewish value, and here at HJC we continue to work towards the establishment of a community where all people can experience the richness of Jewish life and Jewish community. The full inclusion of all Jews in Jewish life includes people with disabilities, interfaith families, non-Jewish family members, those facing cognitive or mental health challenges, and those who identify

as LGBTQ+, so that all can fully participate in the fullness of Jewish community. Although there is always more work to be done, HJC has continued to do our best, striving to create a community where we all feel embraced, supported and celebrated. A community where we all feel we belong. Communities must do more than be welcoming, we need to be open to transformation.

As a denomination, Conservative Judaism has taken a firm and public stance for inclusion. As early as 1990, the Rabbinical Assembly's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, which sets halakhic policy for the Conservative Movement, stated their desire to "work for full and equal civil rights for gays and lesbians in our national life." In 2011 the Committee recommitment themselves to that resolution and added specific goals that include extending "its call for full and equal civil rights to bisexual and transgender persons," supporting "the extension of civil rights and privileges . . . to same sex couples," and calling on communities to "develop an action plan to create a safe and welcoming atmosphere for LGBT individuals." In 2016, the Rabbinical Assembly passed a historic resolution on affirming the rights of transgender and non-conforming people affirming "its commitment to the full welcome, acceptance, and inclusion of people of all gender identities in Jewish life and general society."

Here at HJC we have made changes and modifications in recent years that have supported the belief that the value of every person is based solely on that person's inner essence and that Judaism must be made accessible to every person in our community.

Our Inclusion committee, under the guidance of our chairs, Miriam Eckstein-Koas, who started the committee in 2018, and Lesley Delia Stark, have brought many projects to the fore which have enabled each and every person to participate at HJC to the best of their abilities. These projects have included our assisted hearing system, which was financed through grant money, and our handicap bathroom, which is now fully ADA compliant. For more on the work of the Inclusion committee, and upcoming programs, please see their article in this Bulletin. And, of course, if you'd like to learn more or participate, please don't hesitate to reach out.

The most recent project at HJC, and perhaps the most visible, is the ramp in our sanctuary, currently under construction. This project, which has been jointly funded by HJC and the Spivack Inclusion Fund, will allow all to access our bima. Everyone, regardless of physical ability, can now be called up to the Torah for an aliyah on the bima. This project has been discussed for many, many years, and we owe many thanks to Michael Fishel-

son for its beautiful design and construction, to Ellen Steinberg for working behind the scenes to make it happen, and to our Trustees (past and present) for approving the project. We should all be proud to see this important project on the verge of coming to fruition. It is now abundantly evident that HJC is an exceptionally welcoming space to all who enter our doors.

The Inclusion committee is not the only place where considerable efforts continue to be made towards embracing the value and honoring the essence of every person. At our recent Ritual committee meeting, we engaged in a fascinating presentation from Rabbi Deborah Silver regarding the use of language and how to best call up someone for an aliyah who identifies as non-binary. Non-binary people identify as neither exclusively male nor exclusively female. Many prefer that they are most accurately referred to in English by gender neutral pronouns, such as they and them. This is challenging since Hebrew is a binary language. After ample study reviewing the prevailing thought, the committee engaged in a lively discussion and ultimately agreed that "To be called by our name is to be acknowledged for who we truly are", and that HJC will now call people up for an aliyah utilizing gender neutral language, should they request it. To be called to the Torah is a sacred encounter, and our names convey who we are to our community. We will thus be honoring the halakhic principle of civility, derekh eretz, which requires that people be called to Torah in the way that they prefer to be called, and in a way that is not embarrassing or disrespectful to them.

As a congregation, we must continue to embrace and value each and every person, based solely on the inner essence of the individual. We should all be proud that as members of HJC, we belong to a community that strives to do this everyday, and in every way possible. Sensitivity to gender diversity is a Jewish value as our tradition teaches us that all humans are created *b'tzelem Elohim*, in G-d's image, and we are each obligated to respect human dignity, *kavod habriyot*.

This change in our practice will ensure that everyone is honored and respected as we each are called by our name as we are called to the Torah. Through these notable efforts, we will continue to work towards ensuring every member, and every person, feels truly welcomed in our beloved HJC community.

Resources:

"How to call Non-Binary Jews to the Torah"- <https://exploringjudaism.org/every-day/prayer/prayer-in-synagogue/how-to-call-non-binary-jews-to-the-torah/>

CJLS teshuva: https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/calling-non-binary-people-to-torah-honors-cjls-oh-139_3-2022-final.pdf

LGBTQ Community Supports and Resources:

Keshet- www.keshetonline.org

Keshet works for the full equality of all LGBTQ Jews and families in Jewish life. They equip Jewish organizations with the skills and knowledge to build LGBTQ-affirming communities, create spaces in which all queer Jewish youth feel seen and valued, and advance LGBTQ rights nationwide.

For additional background information, including common LGBTQ+ terminology- <https://www.keshetonline.org/resources/made-in-gods-image-gender-diversity-and-our-communal-role-2/>



The Spirit of Purim

The month of March is upon us, and Purim is right around the corner! Purim is such a wonderful way to embrace unity, togetherness, bravery, and triumphing over adversity. While Purim is a time where it is fun to dress up, eat Hamantaschen, and crank groggers while the megillah is read, there is so much more going on behind the scenes when it

comes to deep and meaningful themes with Purim.

One major important component of the story of Purim is when someone's hidden character becomes revealed. With the story of Purim, Esther hid her identity as a Jew until she felt that the timing was right for her to reveal her true self as well as reveal Haman's plot to destroy the Jews, ultimately saving the Jewish people. It took immense courage for Esther to come forward and admit she was Jewish to stand up for what she believed was right in her heart.

The story of Purim really resonates with today's world. It is important for us as Jews to stand up for others where we see wrongdoing and speak for those who can't be heard, even if we are currently safe and it may not affect us directly. Whether it's reaching out to someone who is dealing with a death of a loved one or a serious illness, giving charity to those that are less fortunate, or seeing the mistreatment of a worker in the public by an irate customer. It is important to stand up for what we believe in and show compassion for our fellow human beings. Revealing our true selves is central to our growth, and just as Esther did in biblical times, paves the way for our future existence as Jews.



Here at HJC, there are quite a few ways to embrace the spirit of Purim. Our Purim Carnival on March 5th is being brought back in person, after several years of being on a hiatus! It is such a great way to embrace the whole community starting with our youngest learners. I hope everyone joins in on the wonderful Purim Spiel and Megillah reading this year which also will be brought back in person with a special Star Wars themed Spiel! The Spiel will surely bring out everyone's "inner force". Chag Sameach!

HJC SUMMER 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for the Donald L. Gordon Israel Scholarship and the David S. Rosenman Camp Ramah Scholarship for 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.



***"Once there was a tree, and she loved a little boy.
And the boy loved the tree... very much." ~Shel Silverstein***

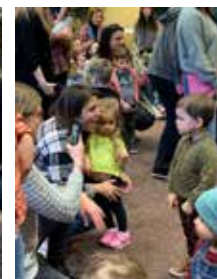
One of our favorite holidays is Tu Bishvat. One of our many, many goals is to instill the love of nature into every child. Not only to love nature, but to be an advocate for nature and to take care of the world. A while back I wrote an article for the bulletin about Nature Deprivation Disorder. Trees

are perhaps the most important and tangible parts of nature for us. To be able to walk outside and gaze among the trees allows us to destress and unplug. All of our senses are engaged. Trees and nature provide us with relaxation and a sense of gratitude. We learn all about the numerous gifts of trees to our Earth, including oxygen, paper, wood, fruit, shade, and countless other gifts. When Tu Bishvat comes around, it gives us a great opportunity to celebrate trees as they should be cel-

ebrated. This year we took our celebration a step further. We tried to use only recycled materials for our art projects, especially when creating pictures of trees. We have learned that it is hypocritical to create pictures of trees from paper, given that we must destroy trees for paper, thus the use of recycled materials.

This year each class adopted a tree on our school grounds. They hugged the trees, watered them, decorated them with pictures of gratitude, and sang Happy Birthday to them. We know that children learn best in their natural environment.

To add to the festivities, Rabbi, the teachers, and the children all worked together to learn new songs and dances for Tu Bishvat. Rabbi taught each age group a dance and a song. We then invited all the ECC families to come for a community wide Tu Bishvat celebration. It was heartwarming to see the children, parents, and teachers singing, dancing, and celebrating trees as a community. The joy, excitement, and gratitude was palpable.





Let's Get Loud: Celebrating Purim with Joy, Laughter, and Teamwork

Purim is a holiday that celebrates Queen Esther, Mordechai and the Jewish community's victorious defeat over Haman's plot to kill the Jews. When I think of this story in more contemporary terms, it reminds me of the power of working together toward a common goal and the importance of supporting each other.

In our Religious School, I have seen this spirit of teamwork and community support in action through the efforts of so many but I would like to focus on The Men's Club and Sisterhood and their relationships to the Religious School. Both groups are an integral part of our synagogue community and their dedication and hard work helps to support our school in numerous ways.

In the dog days of summer, I know I can expect to hear from Felicia Messing on behalf of the Sisterhood asking how they can help with Buzz Programming treats for the High Holidays. For Sukkot, they provide a fruity snack in the sukkah. On Chanukah, we all enjoy hot cocoa and donuts. Tu b'Shevat and Passover seders would not be possible without their dona-

tions. And their annual signature hamantaschen baking event is a classic HJC tradition. And so it goes holiday after holiday through Shavuot and the last day of school.

The Men's Club has also been actively involved in volunteering their time and cooking skills to support our school. They have helped organize and run many pancake breakfasts, World Wide Wrap Day, and they are the chefs in the kitchen for our Purim Carnival. This year they are funding a trip to the New York Heritage Museum in NYC for students and their families in Grades 5 and older to support our Holocaust curriculum.

These two ancillary synagogue arms are a testament to the importance of teamwork and community involvement. Their persistent dedication and hard work has helped to strengthen our school community and has provided countless opportunities for our students and their families to learn, grow and thrive.

As we celebrate Purim this year, let us remember the importance of working together as a community. Let us take inspiration from the story of Esther and Mordechai, and strive to support each other in times of need, keeping gratitude in our attitude for all the dedicated volunteers and supporters who work tirelessly to make our Religious School and synagogue community a better place. Chag Purim Sameach!





Men's Club Happenings

Men's Club can be many things, mostly what you make of it! We have social events, coordinate and participate in Community projects for HJC or for the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC). FJMC is the umbrella organization guiding all Men's Clubs that belong to it and is open to all synagogues or individuals that want to be a part of it.

It is a place where one can find community, learn to Daven, Leyn (chant) Torah and Haftarah, learn how to give D'var Torah (speech about Jewish Learning or weekly Parsha). It is also a place where one can learn to lead, a useful skill for your personal or professional life. I encourage everyone who is thinking about their place in the community to take a role in Men's Club and further their personal development.

Every couple of months we have a "Beer and Bible" get together at Six Harbors Brewery in Huntington. We had a very interesting discussion, and it was a very enjoyable get together!

We had a nice turnout for our last Men's Club meeting. Rabbi Saks led an interesting discussion about how he as a Rabbi deals with the dilemma of loving the game of football while knowing

it is a dangerous sport. There is a fine line we all walk between cheering when our team is winning but recognizing the tragedy of injury and not letting ourselves forget the humans on the field.

Tallit inspection - Men's club was asked to help inspect the HJC Talleisim on behalf of the Ritual Committee to see which ones are kosher and can be cleaned, which are fixable and can be cleaned, and which are beyond end of life. Robert Schpount and Lester Fox stepped up to help get this done and went through approximately 100 Tallit.

Thank you, Lester and Robert!

Sunday, February 12, HJC joined World Wide Wrap, an international initiative to promote the wrapping of Tefillin during Morning Minyan. Wrapping Tefillin is a deeply personal Jewish

mitzvah and a meaningful way to experience "first thoughts" of the day, reflecting on our connection to God via prayer. Tefillin can be a powerful source of comfort and for coping with family illness, loss of a loved one and the infinite challenges of everyday life. About 20 people showed up for Morning Minyan, performed the Mitzvah of wrapping Tefillin, then enjoyed breakfast sponsored by Men's Club.

Men's club is donating \$1,000 of our Holocaust Education funds to our Religious School. Gina, our Religious School Director will use that money to hire a bus, driver and buy tickets to the NY Heritage Museum in NYC. She is signing up students and parents to make the trip.

Scott Herskovitz
President, Men's Club



Donations

GENERAL FUND

Paul & Joan Cohen in memory of Abraham Cohen at Yahrzeit

Laurence & Shari Feibel in memory of Alfred Levy

Laurence & Shari Feibel in memory of Miriam Waisbrot

Laurence & Shari Feibel in memory of Sheri Bram

Richard Klee in memory of Carol Klee at Yahrzeit

Karen & David Sachs in memory of Selma Greenstein

Arnold Schwartz in memory of Rosalyn H. Schwartz at Yahrzeit

Roger Silverberg & Evelyn Abraham in honor of the engagement of Melissa Zimmerman, daughter of Janet & Mark Zimmerman to Yotam Dror

Jay & Ellen Steinberg in honor of the engagement of Jillian Silverberg, daughter of Evelyn Abraham & Roger Silverberg to Andre Belanger

Jay & Ellen Steinberg in honor of the engagement of Nathan Schoeffler, son of Patricia & Dan Schoeffler

Jay & Ellen Steinberg in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Joey Herman, son of Josh and Dori Herman

Jay & Ellen Steinberg in memory of Marcy Flanzenbaum

Leslie & Jack Rubin in honor of the engagement of Melissa Zimmerman, daughter of Janet and Mark Zimmerman to Yotam Dror

Leslie & Jack Rubin in memory of Paula Marenberg at Yahrzeit

Leslie & Jack Rubin in memory of Gilla Rubin at Yahrzeit

Leslie & Jack Rubin in memory of Mordecai Rubin at Yahrzeit

Leslie & Jack Rubin in honor of the engagement of Nathan Schoeffler, son of Patricia and Dan Schoeffler

Leslie & Jack Rubin in honor of Gail & Jim Lodge on the birth of their grandson

Leslie & Jack Rubin in memory of Al Levy, father of Andy Levy

Leslie and Jack Rubin wishing Dan Schoeffler a speedy recovery

COLLEGIATE FUND

Stephen & Liz Holbreich in memory of Laurie Wolberg at Yahrzeit

CAMP RAMAH FUND

Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Cookie Matez

Judith & Lester Fox in memory of Marcy Flanzenbaum

DAILY MINYAN FUND

Joel & Miriam Wirchin in memory of Selma Greenstein

ETHEL SACHS ENGAGEMENT FUND

Joseph & Wendy Glassman in memory of Selma Glassman at Yahrzeit

Ronald & Gwen Goldstein with gratitude to Ora Kriegstein, a marvelous teacher

Joel & Miriam Wirchin in memory of Al Levy, father of Andy Levy

GARDEN FUND

Ronald & Gwen Goldstein in honor of the birth of Zev Samuel, grandson of Gail & Jim Lodge

Joel & Miriam Wirchin in memory of Sheri Bram

HJC SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

Janet & Mark Zimmerman in honor of the engagement of Nathan Schoeffler, son of Patricia and Dan Schoeffler

INCLUSION FUND

Miriam Eckstein-Koas in honor of Gail & Jim Lodge on the birth of their grandson, Zev Samuel

Andrea Marcus Smoller in honor of Gail & Jim Lodge on the birth of their grandson, Zev Samuel

Andrea Marcus Smoller in honor of Amy & Lee Gutman on the birth of their daughter Blake Noa

Andrea Marcus Smoller in honor of the engagement of Nathan Schoeffler, son of Patricia and Dan Schoeffler

Andrea Marcus Smoller in honor of the engagement of Melissa Zimmerman, daughter of Janet and Mark Zimmerman

Andrea Marcus Smoller in memory of Sheri Bram, beloved wife of Kenneth Bram and mother of Rachel & Alex Bram

ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT FUND

Miriam & Joel Wirchin in memory of Miriam Waisbrot mother of Hana Keshet

JEWISH NUTRITION NETWORK

Robert & Maxine Fisher in honor of Dan & Patricia Schoeffler on the engagement of their son Nathan

Robert & Maxine Fisher in honor of Mark & Janet Zimmerman and the engagement of their daughter Melissa

Robert & Maxine Fisher in honor of Gail and Jim Lodge of the birth of their grandson

Eileen & Harvey Berger in memory of Selma Greenstein

Woodbury Kosher in honor of Rob Fisher & the JNN

RABBI'S TZEDAKAH FUND

Carillon Nursing Home in honor of Rabbi Saks

Mimi, Zack & Samantha Himmel in memory of Daniel Himmel at Yahrzeit

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

The Holbreich Family in memory of Mortimer Holbreich at Yahrzeit

MAZEL TOV:

Evelyn Abraham & Roger Silverberg on the engagement of their daughter Jillian Silverberg to Andre Belange

Andrea Smoller on the birth of her grandson Cole Avery

CONDOLENCE:

Marcy Flanzenbaum mother of **David Flanzenbaum**

**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 Religious School Presents:



PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, March 5, 11:00-1:00 pm

**Professional
carnival games added!**

**Inflatables!
Arts & Crafts
Prizes!**

**Food/Drink available for purchase
Tickets available at door – CASH ONLY**

www.vecteezy.com

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 Attend a Shiva Minyan

by Janet Zimmerman

Many years ago a good friend of mine, an HJC congregant, lost her father. My friend, who was devastated, assumed that since she was an active member of the congregation, that lots of supportive people would show up for shiva minyans. Well, not many people came, and she asked me for help. I wound up calling my brother, who is not a member of our synagogue, and he rushed over to help out my friend. I vowed then and there that I would work to ensure that this kind of situation didn't happen again. I volunteered to be the person who, if needed, would help a bereaved congregant have enough people to say kaddish.

Here's how the process works: When Rabbi Saks meets with the family of the deceased, he finds out if people are needed. If the answer is yes, then the rabbi contacts me. I then call the family to find out how many people they need each night. Then, I call or email "regulars." I reach out to groups such as Sisterhood and morning minyan, and then I go through the roster and contact people until I have a minimum of 10.

To help with this process, we have an online link, thanks to Cantor Gordon. When the HJC office sends out a notice that someone has passed away, in that notice is a clickable link, which brings you to a spreadsheet. You can simply type your name into a box which indicates the date you will attend. This is a very easy and simple way to organize and streamline the process. If you would rather email me directly or call, that is fine too.

Sometimes people assume that they don't have to sign up.

Please, either sign up or let me know via email or a phone call that you will be attending. If you don't then I will be calling people unnecessarily.

When someone loses a beloved family member, the grief can be overwhelming. Having the support of our fellow congregants can be so very helpful and comforting. Oftentimes it can feel quite uncomfortable to walk into the home of someone we don't know. It can feel awkward, especially if you feel that the person has no idea who you are. But many congregants have told me how meaningful it has been for them to have people they don't know come at a time of intense sadness. The gratitude of the mourner is palpable and real. We often refer to ourselves as the HJC family. We celebrate holidays together, share meals, attend programs. We also need to be there for each other during hard times. That's what a family does for its members. Please think about attending a shiva minyan the next time you see a notice that one is needed. And if you have children who are past the age of bar/bat mitzvah, add their names to the spreadsheet and bring them! They will rightly feel important that they are counted in this meaningful mitzvah. Again, If you are not able to use the spreadsheet for any reason, you can email me or call me. My contact information will be on the notice that is sent out.

Please try and push past the feeling of discomfort of going to an unfamiliar home, and realize that the mourner will be so appreciative of your presence at such a supremely sad time in their lives. You don't need any special skills, you don't need to read Hebrew or know the prayers. You just need to be there.

We thank our many Hamantashen bakers and helpers for their dedication and comraderie! We had fun together in the HJC kitchen and are thankful to all who contributed their time and energy.

Evelyn Abraham
Lesley De Lia
Shari Feibel
Donna Fleiss
Janet Goldstein

Rhonda Kahane
Julie Luks
Felicia Messing
Alice Rosen
Sarah Saunders



HJC Religious School invites you to:

A Taste of Gan



**HIGH QUALITY
JEWISH EDUCATION
FOR OUR YOUTH**

With Morah Laurel & Gina Giuffre, Director of Education

Thursdays, March 16 & 23, 2:15-3:15PM

**Let your child experience Religious School Kindergarten
with crafts, music, and Jewish learning!**

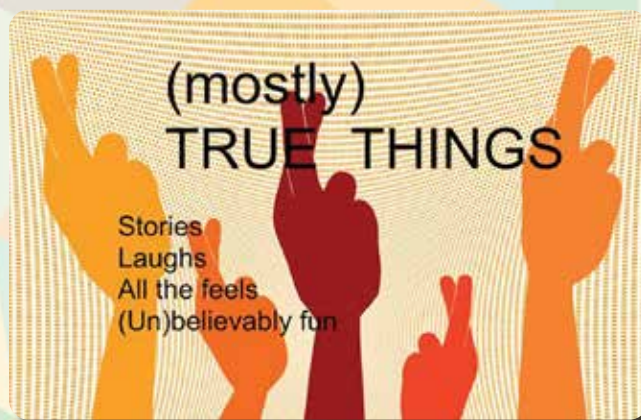
All Classes are Free!



RSVP by March 13: HJCRSDirector@HJCNY.org

Special discount for families that register for 2023-2024 school year by May 21st!

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.



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

We're back live!

**Come hear stories from the lives of fellow HJC members.
4 storytellers, 3 (mostly) true stories!**

**Come for fun, coffee, dessert
and getting to know more about fellow congregants.**



Ed Fleiss



Emily May



Mike Richter



Marcey Wagner

Join our Fun(d) Raiser on Saturday, March 25, at 8:30

\$25 per person or \$30 at the door.

Includes 1 coffee, 1 cordial and dessert buffet.

Deadline for reservations is March 22. RSVP to Main Office.

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

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Rabbi Saks's Farewell Kiddush
June 17 at HJC**



**Join us as we celebrate Rabbi Saks's rabbinate
at the Huntington Jewish Center,
and wish him and his family farewell.**

*- Rabbi Farewell
Kiddush Committee*



HJC Religious School Presents:



**An interactive, comical experience
retelling the story of Passover.**



**You've never heard the
Passover story like THIS before!**

Sunday, March 26th 10:30-12:00 pm

Open to entire congregation, come enjoy!

Appropriate for all age groups

Made possible by the Herskovitz Family Fund



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.

SUNDAY
APRIL 16
10am

PRESENTATION
BY AUTHOR
BRAD
KOLODNY



AT HUNTINGTON
JEWISH CENTER
510 PARK AVENUE
HUNTINGTON
631-427-1089

THE JEWS OF LONG ISLAND 1705-1918

Brad Kolodny



"A WELL-ILLUSTRATED AND PAINSTAKINGLY RESEARCHED
CHRONICLE THAT TEACHES US MORE THAN WE HAVE EVER
KNOWN BEFORE ABOUT THE EARLY JEWS OF LONG ISLAND."

-JONATHAN D. SARNA

Professor of American Jewish History Brandeis University & Chief
Historian Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History

Books available for sale and signing following the presentation

This event is co-sponsored by Men's Club and Adult Ed

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.

ABOUT OUR PARK/CEMETERY

"Wait, don't hang up, or turn the page.... this isn't a sales call..." You've heard that before, but in this case it's true. I won't try to 'sell' you something that you already have. Okay, perhaps that's too flip a way to begin writing about a serious subject – a matter of life and death, but I wasn't sure of the best way to begin and I did want to write it. When it concerned the matter of death our immediate ancestors – those who emigrated from far away places – they had answers: Burial Societies. They recognized the importance of planning for future need. Many of us and our families have been connected to one or more of these organizations. Married couples may have more connections than they want, or need.

Which is what gets me to what I wanted to write: about our cemetery. As members of the Huntington Hebrew Congregation we own a cemetery (read the HJC 2007 Centennial Book p. 16 for history). It's not like many others in that it's truly park-like and a pleasant place to be when you're just visiting, given that it is a burial ground. Sure, it looks like a cemetery should. There are gravestones engraved with names, dates memorial information, but, it's kind of small in comparison even to small cemeteries. There's one road to drive in and out on, and all the paths and access to gravesites are on grass, walkable, and within view of the front gate.

If you haven't visited it you might be surprised to hear how a recent visitor remarked, "I can't believe I'm saying this, but this cemetery is a really lovely place to be if you have to be at a funeral or burial". It was Spring and we were standing under a flowering tree. Walking with a friend through the lanes recently we recalled the many friendships and connections as we saw the names of those we knew or had heard about. During the past few years I've had occasion to be there several times and at some funerals family members have mentioned how pleased they are, at such a sad time, to know the loved one is buried in a place surrounded by those familiar names. And others have expressed regret that a family member was buried somewhere else because they had already had a plot available and that's what they used, but in retrospect would have preferred this place to visit.

Many of us who have loved ones buried there take advantage of opportunities to visit the graves on whichever occasion we are so inclined. I've been told it's comforting and being easy to reach and spend as much or as little time, is helpful.

No simple answers and no one answer fills all our needs, but a little perspective needed of a question we all have to ask. My suggestion is to take a ride one day and visit our cemetery/memorial park on Old Country Road – the little one right next to Mt. Golda.

Very respectfully submitted
Tyna Strenger

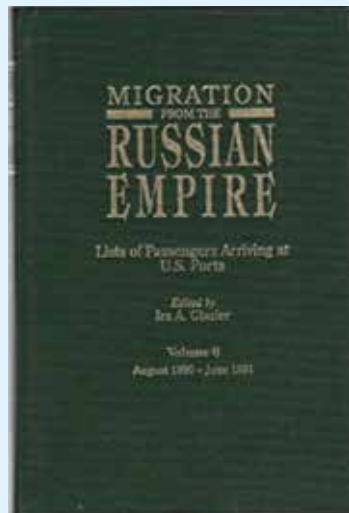


THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING, THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING.

**THAT WAS A GREAT COMEDY IN 1966,
BUT THIS IS ABOUT A CENTURY EARLIER...
and it's not a comedy...**

We have a donation to the library of a set of books titled:

**Migration From the Russian Empire: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports
published by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, MD in 1995.**



The series contains data on passengers of Russian nationality who emigrated to the U.S. between 1875-1910, taken from ship manifests. The information includes last and first names of families (who traveled together) name of country to which the passenger 'belonged', the relationship and occupation of the head of household person.

Each book is arranged by date and by ship on that date, and by surname. The ship manifests show the ship name, port of debarkation(s) to New York, Boston and Baltimore, as I've seen in the short time of perusing some of the data.

There are 6 volumes in this set, of which we have received Vol. 2, 3, 4 and 5.

The time period included here begins in October 1882, the earlier years covered in volume one, which is unfortunately not in our library at this time. Each book has an index by family name, including first name(s) and page number, so it's an easy task to look up several names at one time to determine if who you're searching for is listed in that volume.

If you are at all interested in looking at or borrowing any of these volumes, please let me know by email hjclibrary@gmail.com. Because I'm working on this now I have the books at my home but would be happy to bring them to the library for your use.

Note: my family originated in Russia and part of what is now Ukraine, but I so far have not been able to find any information about their emigration....of course, I never knew the dates or exact ports from which they left....they also may have changed the family name from the one I know. Still looking.



HJC Bulletin

March 2023

Huntington Jewish Center
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Our Culinary Legacy Cookbook

OUR CULINARY LEGACY COOKBOOK MAKES A GREAT GIFT

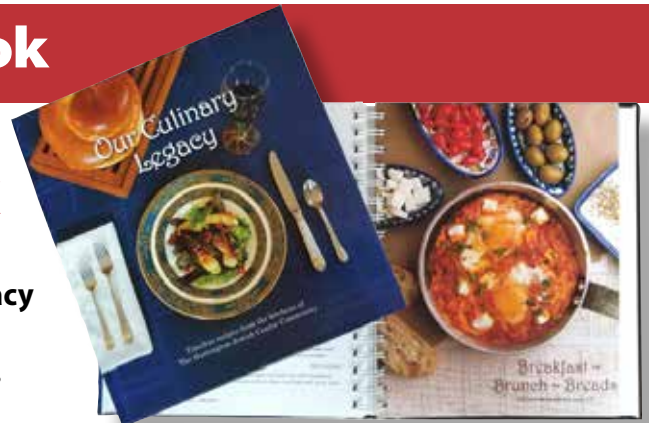
If you are looking to add some new Recipes, the Culinary Legacy Cookbook should be your source.

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.*