

Monthly Message from Rabbi Hammerman

Purim is my favorite of our holidays. But can we celebrate twice in a Leap Year?

Many questions arise regarding the Leap Year on the Hebrew calendar. Our Jewish calendar follows the lunar cycle, while our secular (Gregorian) calendar follows the solar cycle. In a 12-month year, the solar calendar has 365 and 1/2 days, while the lunar calendar has only 354 and 1/3 days (11 days shorter). How do we make sure that we do not fall eleven days "behind" each year? Why is this important? In the Torah, we are instructed to celebrate our Jewish holidays in specific seasons: Passover in the Spring, Shavuot in the Summer and Sukkot in the Fall. With that eleven day difference, we could wind up with Passover in the Summer – or a Yom Kippur snowday. There must be a way to fix this!

Indeed, there is. To ensure that our holidays always take place in their appropriate seasons, the Jewish calendar was adjusted - 1,800 years ago - to accommodate for this eleven day difference between the calendars. In the 4th Century C.E., Hillel II scheduled an extra month at the end of the Biblical Year. The Biblical Year begins in Spring with Nisan (Exod. 12:1-2) and ends with Adar. Hillel II, in conjunction with the Sanhedrin (the Jewish Supreme Court) chose to repeat the entire month of Adar (Adar I and Adar II) seven times over a 19-year period. Amazingly, this works out perfectly – and it was figured out 1,800 years ago.

Since the holiday of Purim takes place in the month of Adar, what are we to do in a leap year (such as the current year) when we have two months named "Adar" - Adar I and Adar II? The Talmud in Tractate Megilla (6b) records a disagreement concerning the question of when we read the Megilla (Scroll of Esther) *(continued on page 5)*



Family FUN for EVERYONE!

Sunday, March 13th

11:00am – 1:00pm

Volunteers Needed

Buy a Bracelet – unlimited rides and games - \$20

Tickets – each ticket buys one ride or game -\$1

Questions? Contact Sally Cohen at sallyleah@me.com

Spend Chanukah (5777) in Israel!

The JCCH is considering a Winter-Break Chanukah in Israel trip, tentatively December 21, 2016 – January 1, 2017, led by Rabbi Hammerman. The trip will be "multi-generational" and will have options for both first-time and returnee visitors. Contact the Office to receive additional information.

Check out JCCH's Newly Redesigned Website at

www.jcch.org or follow us on facebook at www.facebook.com/jccofharrison

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Leadership Message: The Times, They Are A Changing

By Martin Rogowsky: Just when we thought we were ready to settle down and concentrate on "building our community," we are once again confronted with a significant change to our JCCH family.

After 10 years of dedicated service to our children and their families, Judy Weinberg is stepping down as our Education Director. All of you should have received a letter from Judy a few weeks ago explaining her thoughts and feelings regarding her career with us. She will be leaving at the end of this school year in June.

Having hired a new Rabbi and recently a new Executive Director, it is now time to recruit a new Education Director. I have created a Search Committee headed by Heather Ross to undertake this critically important job. The Education Director at the JCCH is responsible for the educational development of our children and also oversees all of our youth programs.

Members of the Search Committee working with Heather are Susan Coby, Heather Schwartz, Minna Brown, Andrea Platte, Karina Lubowitz and Marci Caplan. In addition, Rabbi Hammerman, Cantor Singer, Eric Nussbaum and I will serve as ex-officio members of the Committee. It is our goal to have a new Education Director appointed by early May, which will give our new Director time to work with Judy to make the transition a seamless one.

And speaking of changes, we will be devoting more attention to establishing a "Legacy Program." We have members who may be interested in providing for the JCCH in their estate planning. Eric will be working with our "webmaster" to develop a "user friendly" approach on the website to pursue this goal. Obviously, I will always be available to talk in person, with any member who is considering a legacy gift to the JCCH.

And in line with the theme of "changing," I hope all of you will take the opportunity to view our new website. JCCH.org is now up and running and it is a MAJOR CHANGE from our prior website. Eric will be controlling the process of managing the content and our new webmaster promises to keep our website up to date, something that has been lagging in the past. Stay tuned for even more good things on the site.

As usual, I am always available to answer your questions and discuss any ideas or suggestions you might have for more positive changes to our JCCH experience. Feel free to contact me or Eric in the office.

Hopefully, our winter weeks will soon be behind us and we can look forward to Spring Training which means it's time for Purim. See you at the Purim Carnival!!

Mark your Calendar!
IDF Orchestra in Concert

Monday, March 14th 7:30pm
Join the IDF Orchestra as part of
a Westchester Community Concert
at JCCH

The mission of the Jewish Community Center of Harrison's Inclusion Committee is to facilitate the accommodation and appreciation of individual differences so that all members of our synagogue community can participate fully in all spiritual, educational, celebratory, and life event activities at the synagogue.

Yasher Koach and Many Thanks to our February Torah Readers

Deborah Bers	Josh Pearlstein	Cantor Singer
Shalom Dayan	Noah Pearlstein	Jake Teitelbaum
Simcha Dayan	Aaron Pearlstein	Ye'ela Wilchanski
Leo Gilberg	Shira Rosenblum	

A Note from Cantor Singer

I am departing for Israel, for a few days, in order to participate in my late father's Yahreitz (memorial service). A whole year as past since he left us.

In the past, I told you his unique life story, and warm and happy personality. Many of you met him during his short visits to Harrison. He never agreed to stay for long because he preferred his own small home in the West Bank settlement that he, with others, founded.

There is one thought that eats at me this whole year. It has been a number of years since I lived in Israel. During this time away, we got together only two or three times a year, when I was on vacation or when my parents came to visit me. *It wasn't enough!*

I miss him so much. I miss sitting with him, talking to him, hearing his good advice, singing with him, praying with him. It is such a tragedy that I could not spend more time with him.

I want to give you some friendly advice. If you have elderly parents or grandparents, don't take them for granted. Human nature causes us to avoid thinking of bad scenarios and major changes in life. We are lured to think that they will be with us forever. They won't. Invest in this precious connection, initiate visits, go visit them, and bring them to you. Talk to them as much as possible, on the phone or through Skype. Go out of your way to be together. Create events that will, in the future, be a source of good comforting memories.

Lots of happiness, good health and long life to us all!

Save the Date!

**Holocaust Exhibit
at JCCH
April 11th – May 9th
9:00am- 4:00pm**

Contact Carla Ifrah for more information
or (917) 416-5282

March Mitzvah Maven

Nell Lauren Shapiro: Nell is literally counting the days down to her eagerly awaited Bat Mitzvah on 3-12-16. As her big day (and even bigger night...) draws ever closer, Nell continues to diligently prepare under the watchful eye of Rabbi Hammerman and boundless patience of Rabbi Paris and Cantor Singer. Nell's parashat, Pekudei, is about the importance of giving, which is a core principle of the JCCH curriculum and community at large. Nell has been a fixture at the JCCH since nursery school and continues to enjoy her time with friends and family at the only Shul she has ever known. For this, we would like to thank the leadership of the JCCH, and especially Judy Weinberg and Nell's many Hebrew school teachers who have provided her with a rock solid Jewish education.



When Nell is not fretting over every last detail of her upcoming Mitzvah, she is a part time student (kidding, FULL-TIME HONOR student...!) at Louis M Klein Middle School where she enjoys her studies and many, many friends. Nell is an avid soccer player who proudly represents the Harrison Hornets travel team. She also continues to train as a competitive gymnast at ISG Gymnastics in Harrison. When Nell is not studying, playing soccer or competing as a gymnast, she is setting world records for data usage Snap-Chatting her life away on her beloved i-phone. When Nell is not studying or setting data usage records, it means she is having the time of her life with her summer family and friends at Trails End Camp in Beach Lake, PA.

Nell would like to personally thank Rabbi Hammerman, Rabbi Paris, Cantor Singer and Judy Weinberg for helping her prepare for this most important milestone. She would also like to thank her mom, dad, sister and brother for the patience, love and support they have bestowed upon her over the years. The Shapiro family cannot wait for 3-12-16 to arrive. We know it will be a day (and night...) of joy, pride and love for Nell, friends and our entire, extended family.

Mark Your Calendar!

Award-winning journalist Gary Rosenblatt, editor and publisher of "The Jewish Week," will be speaking on "Seeing Ourselves in the Mirror: Jews and the Media," on Sunday, March 6th at 7 pm at the Young Israel of Harrison. The event is sponsored by UJA-Federation's Tov B'Yachad community and is open to the public. Dessert reception to follow. Couvert is \$18 per person. YIOH is located at 91 Union Avenue, Harrison, New York. To register, please visit www.ujafedny.org/tby-yioh or contact glicks@ujafedny.org or [914.385.2120](tel:914.385.2120).

Early Childhood News

By Nancy Isaacs: Some of the best things about the month of March are...spring is just around the corner, the ECC is not closed for any holidays and...the holiday we do celebrate in school is Purim – the most child-friendly holiday of our Jewish year! This year, the Purim Carnival falls on Sunday, March 13th, almost a full 2 weeks before the holiday itself. The gift for us in the ECC classrooms is how we are inspired to keep the spirit of Purim going over those 10 days. This year we decided that each day in between will be a silly day. One day will be silly hat day, another inside out day. A third silly face day, and so on. We will have time to learn more about the city of Shushan and perhaps build our own version.

Our 4's this year particularly love building! Of course, our celebration will culminate in the annual Purimshpiel performed by the teachers and me. And the hallways will be filled with the delicious aroma of baking hamantashen. All families with children up to 5 years old (or older ones who would enjoy, too!) are invited to our next PJ Shabbat on Friday, March 4th at 5:30pm. Join Rabbi and Cantor for a brief service to welcome Shabbat, including a PJ Library story and lots of singing. A delicious dinner follows, then some play time in the gym until 7:15pm. PJ Shabbat also means that wearing pajamas is an option!

The next Mabel and Harry Berman Mishpacha Mitzvah Program is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 9th 5:45-7:00PM** for all 3 and 4 year olds! It should be warm enough and now light enough out to bring your children when you get home from work. Again, pajamas are an option. Parent(s) and child will hear a story about a mitzvah, DO a mitzvah (good deed) and enjoy a pizza dinner together. Please RSVP nancyi@jcch.org so we save you a slice! We will also be hosting an **ECC Open House** the same evening of Wednesday, March 7th from 7:00-8:00pm. Please share with anyone you know who is looking for an early childhood program for the fall or 2's summer program this June. Chag Purim Sameach!

Throw-back" Purim 2015!



Dear Kehilah School Families and the JCCH community,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter after serving the JCCH community for the last 10 years. At this point in my career, I have decided that, as my own children gain more independence, it is time for me to explore new endeavors possibly in the non - profit social justice world.

Choosing to leave has not come easily. However, looking back on all the varied programs I introduced during my tenure here, be they connected to tzedaka, social action, holidays, Israel, family or community, I have no doubt that my passion for our Jewish heritage and love of our traditions has been transmitted to our children (the future leaders of the Jewish community) and families.

The 7th grade Mitzvah Core in which the children learned by example – whether it was feeding the homeless; visiting the elderly; or volunteering at the JCCH is a source of pride. It fills my heart to see 18 bleary eyed teenagers choose to stroll in each Sunday morning to work in the aid program I introduced. I was gratified with the response to programs I initiated such as family learning workshops where parents and children interviewed each other about their Hebrew names; explored together the meaning of holiness in their everyday lives, and Family Havdalah programs –a first time experience for many. I know that these meaningful experiences will be remembered long after the children leave the JCCH. The Adult Hebrew class I started was a source of special pleasure.

A highlight of our year was always the eagerly awaited day when the JCCH was transformed into the land of Israel and all of it's cities were "visited" by our students. I am certain that it will be among their fondest memories. I am proud of how our children are excited to share their Jewish traditions with others, are eager to partake in the myriad activities made available such as a trip to the Jewish Children's Museum, The Bible Players, the Lego program, or the dozens of guest programs and speakers to - name a few.

I loved seeing how the walls of our synagogue are now beautified by the artwork our children created that expresses their connection to Judaism, to Israel, and their interpretation of prayers.

I will miss my Hebrew question of the day as children lined up outside of my office to answer and share their personal moments of the day as well as our interactions during Tefillah, yearly Zimriyah song festival, moderated and acted out by our 6th graders, problem solving with the parents and being a sounding board to many of our congregants.

Most of all, I will miss the personal connections made with so many of you at the JCCH.

I am inspired by all these fine memories. I gain strength and pleasure from a specific piece of art which hangs on the wall of my office – a quote from the Ethics of the Fathers: "Much wisdom I have learned from my teachers, more from colleagues but from my students most of all."

Please make sure to stop by to say good- bye before June 30th. B'shalom,

Rabbi's Message *(continued from front page)*

in a Leap Year. In other words, when is Purim? One opinion argues for Purim in the first Adar, just after the month after Shvat. The contrary opinion links Purim with Pesach. This, indeed, is the practice today - it makes more sense to connect the celebration of redemption on Purim with the celebration of redemption on Passover by celebrating Purim on Adar II.

So, is Adar I bereft of holidays? Not quite. Though Purim is officially celebrated in Adar II, there is a mini version of Purim celebrated in the first month of Adar as well. We call it "Purim Katan" (Little Purim) and feasting and other Purim observances are encouraged. In preparation for our main Purim (March 23rd this year) and Purim Katan (February 23), here is a refresher of the four mitzvot (commandments), associated with Purim:

1. The Reading of the Book of Esther (Megillat Esther)- this year, March 23rd.
2. Enjoying a festive meal on the day of Purim (Seudat Purim)
3. Sending small gifts to family and friends (Mishloach Manot). See email from the JCCH to participate.
4. Sending gifts to the poor (Matanot l'Evyonim)

With blessings for a joyful, meaningful and happy Purim (or, two of them this year).

Donations Needed...

Toys, Games, Books, Puzzles, Art Supplies, Movies, for Special Needs Children

By Jonah Schultz: My brothers and I have been at the JCCH with our family for 16 years. We all graduated from the ECC and Jackson and Philip have already become Bar Mitzvah here. Now it's my turn (Isaac has a couple more years!). For my mitzvah project, I decided to support Green Chimneys because they have supported my family. My older brother Philip has autism and goes to school at Green Chimneys. Philip lives at Green Chimneys along with 108 other children who live in home like dorms on the country campus in Brewster, New York. Green Chimneys is a public school for children with developmental disabilities, learning disabilities and behavioral challenges

The kids at Green Chimneys need toys, books, games, art supplies and projects, puzzles and appropriate movies to play with in their dorms. I am organizing a toy, game, book, movie drive for the residential students at Green Chimneys. I chose this as my Bar Mitzvah project because I see the struggle that developmentally disabled people go through and I want to do my part to make life better for these kids in need. With your help, I hope to collect new items in bins placed at the JCCH and other community centers that are central to my life.

My brother has been a residential student at Green Chimneys for four years. My brother's attitude and overall functionality has increased drastically since going to Green Chimneys. I feel that I have to give back to the people who have helped my brother grow and to the friends he has made.

Green Chimneys is 501C-3 non-profit organization that relies on charitable donations and public funding to provide education and remediation for the young people it serves. Students come from all over the New York area including Westchester County to

attend Green Chimneys. They serve students from kindergarten through 12th grade in residential and day student programs. If you have further questions, please contact my mother Jennifer Schultz at jennmls@me.com or my dad at danny@dfigotham.com. Thank you for your generosity.

Creating Connections

By Ronni Metzger: As we prepare for March, we are inspired by the joyous spirit of Purim. It is actually the Jewish Leap Year, which means that there are two months of Adar, Adar 1 and Adar 2; which means that we have a lot of celebrating to do!! In keeping with tradition, the fun-filled annual Purim Carnival with rides and slides, crafts and face painting, will be held on Sunday morning, March 19th. Then on Wednesday evening, March 23rd, we will be fulfilling the mitzvot of Purim with the Costume Parade and Megillah reading which will include a half-time show, featuring the Gizmo Guys Jugglers.

But March promises more celebrations and activities!

On Saturday morning, March 5th is Sisterhood Shabbat. The women of the JCCH will lead the service. It is one of my favorite shabbatot of the year. Come and feel the warmth of this special Shabbat.

On Tuesday, March 8th, the JCCH is planning a Ski Trip to the Plattekill Mountain Ski Resort. We have arranged for exclusive use of the mountain. It will be fully staffed with access to all the facilities of the mountain, including all the trails, lifts, ski instruction, snow tubing, and the fire pit! For those of us who have ever dreamed of skiing on a private mountain, this is a dream come true!

On Monday evening, March 14th, the JCCH is delighted to host the Westchester Community Concert featuring the IDF Orchestra! This orchestra is the main musical ensemble of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). The band appears at military ceremonies, official visits and honor guards. The FIDF has arranged to bring them to perform here in Westchester. Don't miss this unique opportunity to enjoy the performance of these talented Israeli musicians. The month closes and our thoughts turn to Passover.

On Tuesday evening, March 29th Murray Spiegel, will be speaking at the JCCH with suggestions and ideas on how to enhance your Seder. Murray, also known as *Murray the Passover Guy*, is the author of the book, *300 Ways to Ask the Four Questions*. He will provide you with creative new material; fun and games; connect your children to their family's genealogy; relate to current events; read funny parodies; share chants of the Four Questions from around the world, all designed to enliven your Passover Seder.

Mark Your Calendar...

Wednesday, March 2nd

Current Events with Shari Baum at 11:00am
Club Wednesday at 12 Noon

7:30pm - WJC Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Awards at JCCH.

Guess Who's Coming to Shabbat

What is *Shabbat*?

What does it mean to you?

What does it mean to your family?

How do you celebrate *Shabbat*?

How do you feel *Shabbat*?

How do you create *Shabbat*?

I asked friends, I Googled and I pondered about the above questions. I think you will agree, the results are inspiring, motivating and precious.

'Shabbat quite simply means getting together with family and friends, pausing and reflecting on the week that has just passed.'

'Surrounded by the company of family and friends is where I find peace on a Friday night.'

'Sitting at the table next to someone I love.'

Wishing friends a heartfelt "Shabbat Shalom."

'Lighting candles and making a wish for something new and exciting to happen next week.'

'Shabbat is taking the time to stop and reflect and being grateful for the people I have in my life—all while enjoying a glass of red (and sometimes white) wine. Oh yes, and fresh challah too!'

'Shabbat brings new connections and new ways to think about slowing down and being present.'

'I consciously remind myself to breathe in Shabbat and breathe out the week. I breathe in Shabbat, I place myself firmly in the present tense, and I feel connected, recharged, rekindled.'

'Shabbat is about making the time to carve out space for light and reflection, good food, new friends and shared ideas. We take the time to laugh and mingle and drink and eat. But also make a point to have intentional, directed conversation about miracles and leadership, about history as a lens to see the present and the future.'

'Shabbat means community, connection and ritual.'

'Shabbat is the ultimate Jewish supper club.'

All of the above is reason to take the opportunity to participate in the *Guess Who's Coming to Shabbat* program.

Please email nancyz@zaro.com if you would like to host a *Shabbat* Dinner with other families from our JCCH community. The goal is once you have hosted, one of your guests will host and invite others..... a *Shabbat* 'pay it forward' concept. The dates are March 11, April 15 (Pre-Passover Shabbat at the JCCH), May 20th and June 17th! If you want to host on an alternative date please let me know.

Nancy K Zaro (914)645-6981, nancyz@zaro.com

Care and Feeding of our new Siddurim

By Deborah Bers: You may not think that one would need a user's guide for a new siddur, but it may be helpful to think about what a siddur is for and how it might be used. The word "siddur" in Hebrew comes from the same word as "seder," both having to do with "order." The Passover seder is conducted by following a sequence of rituals and readings, much as our prayer books follow a certain order of prayers in the service.

Many components of our current prayer services come from the Talmudic period, and the first prayer book was actually written down by Rav Amram Gaon, Head of the Yeshiva of Sura, in Babylon, about 1100 years ago. It was then hand-copied for about 1000 years, until 1865, in Warsaw, when it was printed for the first time. Our siddur continues to develop as we add, subtract and amend the prayers and services included within it.

The order of a specific modern service is generally similar across different congregations and different prayer books, but this new siddur has some features that we may not have seen before, except in our other "new" prayer book, our Lev Shalem Machzor, used on the High Holidays. The Lev Shalem ("complete heart") Siddur for Shabbat and Festivals contains updated translations of the prayers, with much of the Hebrew transliterated. There is commentary in the margins about the meaning, significance and historical context of the prayers, as well as poetry, midrash, and other enriching material to study.

In terms of "care and feeding," the prayer books will thrive with frequent use and handling, and careful attention. They are user-friendly, designed for worshippers of varying interests, knowledge of the service, and Hebrew-reading ability. They are meant to be perused, allowing the individual reader to divert from the service when he or she wishes, in order to enrich the worship experience by choosing a reading that is personally appropriate to the moment.

Our Sages have suggested that Jacob's ladder, which "stood on the earth but reached into the heaven," was symbolic of our prayers, arranged in such a way to lead us, step by step, closer to God.

Kids' Klostet Update...

As you shop for your family this winter, remember those who are in need of your generosity, but may not be able to ask for your help.

Kids' Klostet is in need of coats, hats, gloves, scarves, boots, gently used sneakers for both boys and girls. All sizes are welcome. You can also make a financial donation to WJCS Kids 'Klostet to help continue operating. Volunteering is also a wonderful way to help those in need. Thank you!

Joy Avidan

Mishaberach List

The Mishaberach prayer, our chance to individually ask God for a needed blessing for someone else occurs in every service. Over the years, some names that have been added have become fixtures on the list. The source of the names and the status of the individuals have been lost. The reader doesn't know if he is pleading for someone who has recovered or has passed away.

To correct this situation, the Ritual Committee has established a new protocol. Effective April 1st, the current list will be **retired**. All are invited to submit new names, and the submission will last for the entire following month. For example, a submission made on April 21 will expire on May 31. We welcome unlimited renewals as long as they are made every 30 days.

Here is the information required:

- Name and email address of person submitting name.
- Full name in both English and Hebrew (as best one can; transliteration is acceptable) of name to be listed.
- Relationship of person to the person submitting the name.
- Does the person wish to be contacted by the Rabbi?

To submit a name, please send your request to Executive Director Eric Nussbaum at enussbaum@jcch.org. For those who are more comfortable calling the synagogue, the office will gladly continue to take the information.

We think this modification of the names read from the bimah will make this section of the service both more meaningful and relevant.

JCCH Ritual Committee

Action News & Previews

"Good deeds are done by good people" (Shabbat 32a)2

Yad V' Yad - The *Yad V' Yad* Committee – caring for those within our community that are in need, is an ongoing effort spearheaded by Joy Avidan. Shari Baum, LMSW, the onsite social worker from Westchester Jewish Community Services, made available to us by a grant from United Jewish Appeal Federation, has been extraordinarily helpful in aiding the committee with bereavement visits, as well as visiting the ill and infirm members of our community. Anyone who wishes to be a part of this ongoing committee and effort, please call Shari Baum 761-0600 ext. 145.



Matching Gifts Help the JCCH

Many companies offer matching opportunities that can double, triple, or even quadruple the value your donation to the Jewish Community Center of Harrison. Is your company one of them? Ask your human resources department.

Concerned About Jewish Continuity? Announcing Subsidy for JCCH Children at Jewish Camps

—*But what makes a camp Jewish?*

Camp builds community. Jewish camp offers all the benefits of other summer camps while giving a child the chance to experience Jewish community in a safe, supportive setting. Jewish camp weaves Jewish values, culture, and traditions into the fabric of camp, helping campers to connect to their own identity and the larger Jewish community. Whether they're telling stories in their bunks, learning about the environment, or playing kickball, campers explore what Judaism means to them in a safe, nurturing, and fun environment. This is an unparalleled opportunity for your child to be immersed in a vibrant culture of living Judaism. With spirited and dynamic staff members, experiential learning helps campers to recognize and feel connected to the larger Jewish community. Without even realizing it, campers learn and experience the values that make the Jewish religion and culture so unique in today's world. Jewish and Israeli culture is celebrated through song, food, art, and dance. Some camps use and teach Hebrew to make Judaism come alive. The impact of Jewish camp doesn't end on the last day of summer. Children with pivotal Jewish camp experiences are more likely to become adults who value their Jewish heritage, support Jewish causes, and take on leadership roles in their communities.

While Camp Ramah stands as the crown jewel of Conservative Judaism, there are over 60 other eligible Jewish Camps that can also be explored to give your child the summer experience that lasts a lifetime. JCCH wants to encourage our families to take advantage of the incredible opportunities for Jewish identity formation and continuity that Jewish camping has to offer. As an incentive, our leadership along with Men's Club, Sisterhood, and Rabbi Hammerman will subsidize up to \$1000 for every child of a JCCH member family in good standing that chooses to attend a Jewish camp. The next generation of Jewish leaders, especially at synagogues comes from Jewish camps so we encourage you to consider this option for Jewish continuity as camp season approaches. We also hope to host a Jewish camp fair at JCCH next fall, so stay tuned.

First time attendees to Jewish camp are eligible for an additional \$1000 subsidy through *One Happy Camper Fund*: <http://www.jewishcamp.org/camps> For more on this JCCH Jewish Camp Subsidy program, including a list of approved Jewish camps, please contact Glenn Wasserman. All applications must be received by Glenn Wasserman at (wassermanglenn@yahoo.com) no later than April 30, 2016.

Our Family Center Congratulates

Michele & Rob Shapiro in honor of their daughter Nell Lauren Shapiro becoming a Bat Mitzvah

CORRECTION: Betsy Bernstein & Keith Satter in honor of the engagement of her son DAVID to Sarah DePaolo

Simcha & Shalom Dayan in honor of the birth of their grandson Elon Bram Dayan. Proud parents are Erez & Tali Dayan.

Nancy Lewittes in honor of the marriage of her daughter Betsy to Brian Silbert

Jill & Louis Cooper in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary

Lily Sternheim in honor of the birth of her great grandson Cooper Spenc Schlessel

Jane & Norman Alpert in honor of being honored by UJA

Cantor Israel Singer in honor of him becoming a United States Citizen

Condolences to...

Glen Gilbert on the passing of his beloved mother Elaine Gilbert.

Paul Hendler & Family on the passing of his beloved father Richard Hendler

The Zeidman family on the passing of their beloved mother Sue Zeidman

Roberta Schain on the passing of her beloved husband Arthur Schain

Gary Yarnell on the passing of his beloved mother Roberta Yarnell

Refuah Sh'leimah (Get Well Wishes)

Tobi Rogowsky, Emily Lewis

Judaica Boutique!

Don't forget to stop by the Judaica Boutique for that something special. We are always here to help!

Joy Avidan 761-4978 Arlene Levine 472-2132
Shari Aronson 967-8434 Sara Fleischman 967-2044

Sisterhood - a Community of Women with shared Vision & Values

By Deborah Bers & Roberta Hoffberg: The Mishloach Manot committee has worked very hard to bring another creative and useful Purim basket to each congregant to celebrate the victory of Esther against the wicked Haman. This enormous project required the teamwork of an army of volunteers to design, order for, assemble and distribute them, as well as manage the technology to organize it all. We would like to thank all of those who devoted their time, energy and expertise to this important mitzvah and fundraiser.

Don't forget to submit your recipes for the Sisterhood Cookbook! Please contact Nancy Zaro for information on how to submit online. Paper forms are also available.
nancyz@zaro.com (914)645-6981

We look forward to some exciting spring and summer trips and events, and the delivery of badly needed new carpeting in the

synagogue lobby, brought to you by Sisterhood. We are planning our final delivery of care packages to college students, reminding them that we are thinking of them while they are away at school. Please check your emails to find out about upcoming Sisterhood happenings.

Celebrate Special Moments with Kiddush at the JCCH

Sponsoring a Kiddush on Shabbat or a holiday is a wonderful way to celebrate a simcha such as a birth, aufruf, baby naming, or anniversary with your synagogue community. It is also a special way to mark other lifecycle moments, including graduations and yearzeits.

For details on Kiddush sponsorship, contact JCCH Executive Director Eric Nussbaum at enussbaum@jcch.org or 914-835-2850 ext. 108. Or see the Kiddush page on the JCCH website: <http://www.jcch.org/kiddush/>.

JCCH Book Group

The next JCCH Book Group will be meeting in the library on

April 3, 2016

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
led by George Sommerfeld

All books selected for discussion by the JCCH Book Group have a CD audio format available. Please mark your calendars. All are welcome.

MAKE YOUR MITZVAH MARK

Sunday, April 3rd
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

One Mitzvah leads to another

-  Chair an activity
-  Create a new activity
-  Sign up & help out

Let us know your thoughts on how to make this a great Mitzvah Day! Please contact Heather Ross heatherr@optonline.net or Lucille Schnapp jschnappy@msn.com

Description of Funds

JCCH Fund – dedicated to enhancing the activities and programs of our Center

Minyan Fund – supports our weekday Services and Shiva home services

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – a special fund administered by the Rabbi

Cantor's Discretionary Fund - a special fund administered by the Cantor

Religious School Fund – dedicated to providing special programs and materials for our Religious School

Simcha Fund – dedicated to honor your cherished lifecycle events

Early Childhood Center Fund dedicated to providing special programs and material for our Early Childhood Center

Prayer Book & Library Fund administered by Sisterhood for the purchase of and maintenance of JCCH's prayer book collection

Ruth & Irving Claremon Dedicated Service Award Fund dedicated for the purchase of JCCH Dedicated Service Awards

Estelle & Sidney Silverstone Youth Education Endowment Fund – for educational purposes for the youth in our Religious School

Effron Simchat Torah Fund designed to provide the gifts for the Simchat Torah honorees

Mabel & Harry Berman Mishpachah Fund – Supports a Jewish education series for 3 and 4 year olds and their parents

Ellen Kaplan Memorial Endowment Fund – Supports Rabbi, Congregant relations

JCCH Music Fund – for Cantorial Concerts

Inclusion Fund – facilitates the accommodation and appreciation of individual difference

Ruth & Irving Claremon Pulpit Flower Fund – designed to enhance the beauty of Shabbat Services

Holocaust Memorial Exhibit Fund - To support the Holocaust Memorial Exhibit

Contributions

JCCH Fund

Belle & Myon Manes
in memory of Raphael Marder
Lynne Wexton
in memory of Rosalind & Joseph Pollack
Jodi Cafritz & Mark Bronsky
in honor of Paul E. Fierstein
Maxine & Marvin Gilbert
in memory of Bernard Gilbert
Bebe Prince
in memory of Julius Morris
Phyllis Loomis
in memory of Irving Kaplan
Marjorie & Sassoon Peress
Pamela & Brad Mattes
Debbie & Andrew Schiff
in memory of Richard Hendler

Minyan Fund

Roberta Schain
in memory of Berenice Schain
Bonnie & Michael Mendel
in memory of Louis Ruthen
Wendy & Jeff Levi
Minna & Ken Brown
Marci & Rick Caplan
Paula & Andrew Lapkin
Susan & Stephen Flaxman
in memory of Gerald Thurer
Mark Teich
Minna & Ken Brown
Maci & Rick Caplan
Debbie & Andrew Schiff
Barbara & George Sommerfeld
Michele & Peter Sloane
in memory of Richard Abramson
Minna & Ken Brown
in memory of Fay Ehrlich
Jodi Cafritz & Mark Bronsky
in memory of Aruna Chittiappa's father
Cookie & Stan Quittman
in memory of Esther Trupin
Barbara Stahl Jason
in memory of Gershon Stolovitch
Mark Teich
Barbara & George Sommerfeld
Marci & Rick Caplan
Paula & Andrew Lapkin
Debbie & Andrew Schiff
in memory of Elaine Gilbert
Linda & Howard Strauss
in memory of Betty Young
in memory of Lisa Chappetta
Lois Sacks & Lawrence Lefsky
in memory of Hilda Berk
Rita & Bruce Arnold
in memory of Meyer Chazanov
Michele & David Breslin
in memory of Ellen Salko
Fred Woolf
in memory of Nathan Woolf

Marjorie & Sassoon Peress
in memory of Sue Zeidman
Neil Littman
in memory of Hilda Littman
Carol Silverman
in memory of Joan Silverman
Lisa & Mark Ellis
in memory of Roberta Yarnell

Simcha Fund

Minna & Ken Brown
in honor of Aaron Caplan's Bar Mitzvah
in honor of Jake Teitelbaum's Bar Mitzvah
Jodi Cafritz & Mark Bronsky
in honor of Shira Kahn Meer's Bat Mitzvah
in honor of Aruna Chittiappa passing the NY Bar exam
Susan & Bob Schack
in honor of Rabbi Shargel's 70th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah
in honor of the birth of Elon Dayan
Joanna & Matt Siegel
in honor of Jill & Louis Cooper's 25th anniversary
JoAnn & Steve Caplan
Paula & Andrew Lapkin
in honor of Aaron Caplan's Bar Mitzvah
Lily Sternheim
in honor of the birth of Cooper S. Schlessel

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Diane Levy
in memory of Harry Gershweir
Marge & Fred Leffler
in memory of Louis Leffler
Phyllis & Matthew Taubin
Cathy Deutchman
in honor of Rabbi Hammerman
Jodi Cafritz & Mark Bronsky
in memory of Gerald Thurer
in memory of Richard Abramson
Joan & Robert Goldblatt
in memory of Esther Goldblatt
Beth & Glen Gilbert
in memory of Elaine Gilbert
Susan & James Dubin
in memory of Irene Dubin

Prayerbook Fund

Sisterhood
in honor of Jake Teitelbaum's Bar Mitzvah
Sisterhood
in memory of Elaine Gilbert
in memory of Richard Hendler
in memory of Arthur Schain
in memory of Roberta Yarnell
Florence & Allen Kraut
in memory of Lee & Manuel Reiss
in memory of Elaine Gilbert
in memory of Gerald Thurer
Marjorie & Sassoon Peress
in memory of David Peress

Contributions *(continued from page 9)*

Early Childhood Center Fund

Tobi & Marty Rogowsky
in memory of Elaine Gilbert
 Deanna Mancuso
speedy recovery to Tobi Rogowsky
in honor of Eric Nussbaum's special birthday
in honor of the birth of Elon Dayan
in honor of the engagement of Jessica Isaacs to Julie Crane
 Nancy Isaacs
in memory of Richard Hendler
in memory of Elaine Gilbert

Holocaust Memorial Fund

Carla & Philippe Ifrah
in memory of Richard Abramson
in memory of Gerald Thurer
in memory of Elaine Gilbert
in honor of Jane & Norman Alpert being honored by UJA
 Deanna Mancuso
in memory of Elaine Gilbert
in memory of Gerald Thurer
in memory of Richard Abramson

Never Again...

By Jack Ifrah, 17 years old: As allied troops swarmed across Europe during World War II in 1945, the liberation of Nazi camps began. Soviet forces were the first to come across major Nazi camps beginning with Majdanek in July of 1944. The Soviet Union soldiers, along with US soldiers, proceeded to liberate the remaining Jews and other captives from concentration camps throughout Europe.

Upon liberation, Jews faced a very complex problem: hundreds of thousands of Holocaust survivors soon became displaced persons and sought to reunite with their families. Between 1945 to 1952, over 250,000 Jewish displaced persons lived in camps and urban centers administered by Allied authorities and United Nations programs. In search of a new home, Jews had very few options available and while many Jews emigrated to the Americas, countless wanted to return to the original Jewish homeland, Israel (British-controlled Palestine at the time). Although Great Britain rejected the emigration of Jews to Palestine, over 100,000 Jews were able to pass British patrols and move illegally into Palestine.

In 1948, both the United States and the Soviet Union recognized the state of Israel and thousands more found a home there. By 1952, the displaced persons crisis came to an end with over 80,000 Jewish DPs in America, nearly 140,000 in Israel, and an additional 20,000 in other nations such as South Africa and Canada.

March Yahrzeits

The Yahrzeits of the following beloved relatives of our members will be observed this month. Rabbi Hammerman will read their names from the pulpit at the Friday Evening and Saturday Morning Services. For those who have Memorial Plaques in the Synagogue, the lamps will be lit. It is especially fitting and proper that the members of the family be present at that time to recite the Kaddish.

MARCH 5th

Stephen Bauer
 Benjamin Dubin*
 Helen Levine
 David Peress
 Dorothy Raitzin
 Anna Reiter
 Joan Silverman
 Sally Sklaar
 Sadie Stonehill
 Tillie Tunick
 Lillian Weisberger*

MARCH 12th

Ida Brown
 Beatrice Goodman*

MARCH 20th

Joshua Doroff
 Martin Gottlieb
 Anita Hyatt*
 Leo Kaplan
 Raymond Lieberman*
 Elias Tunick

MARCH 26th

Henry Besdine
 Pearl Caughey
 Sherwin Hendler
 Anna Klauber*
 Samuel Lipman
 Isidor H. Lutzker

Remember Loved Ones with a Plaque in our Sanctuary

A memorial plaque in the JCCH Sanctuary is a meaningful and, lasting way to remember a loved one. Each plaque has a light which is lit the week of your loved one's yahrzeit.

For information, contact Executive Director Eric Nussbaum at [914-835-2850 ext. 108](tel:914-835-2850) or at enussbaum@jcch.org.

March Torah Portions

March 5th

Vayakhel

Exodus 36:20-38:20

Exodus 30:11-16

Haftarah: II Kings 12:1-12:17

March 12th

Pekudei

Exodus 39:22-40:38

Haftarah: I Kings 7:40-7:50

March 19th

Vayikra

Leviticus 4:27-5:26

Haftarah: I Samuel 15:2-15:34

March 26th

Tzav

Leviticus 8:1-8:36

Haftarah: Jeremiah 7:21-8:3,

9:22-9:23



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