



"Simcha 2016"

Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 5 PM

We will be honoring

Maris & Stewart Blechner

Couple of the Year

Jack Cohen

Keter Torah Award

Joshua Liederman

Frank Strassfeld Heritage Award

**From the Desk of
Rabbi David Wise**

Can We Do Real Interfaith Work



In the last several weeks, I've had ample opportunity to think about the

relationship Jews and Judaism have with other religious traditions.

Interfaith conversations are both complicated and exhilarating to me. On the one hand, we celebrate the values that all faith traditions share in common—the universal elements of religion. But then there are stark differences that we ought not paper over. And sometimes there will be awkward moments. When I attend gatherings of the interfaith network called Faith in New York, there's always a faith reflection at the beginning. Christian clergy tend to say things in their prayers to which Jews can't comfortably respond "amen." The key is to be secure enough in one's religious tradition to not be threatened by someone else's.

So in this installment of *The Rabbi's Nightstand*, I want to share my thoughts about having read the 2013 bestseller *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* by Reza Aslan. You may recall some of

May at HHJC

May 1

Sisterhood Planning Meeting

May 2, 9, 16

Adult Education - iEngage 3.0

May 4

Joint Yom Hashoah Program

May 7

Simcha Shabbat

May 14

Lay Led Shabbat and
Lunch & Learn

May 14

Shabbat Mini Minyan

May 15

Sisterhood and Men's Club
Communications Program

May 16

CSA Kick Off Meeting

May 22

Chesed Eldercare Workshop

May 22

Simcha 2016 Dinner Dance



**See Page 12 for a removable
monthly calendar of events
and service times**

Daily Service Schedule

Monday & Thursday
6:45am & 7:30pm

Tuesday
7:00am & 7:30pm

Wednesday
8:00am & 7:30pm

Sunday & Legal Holiday
9:00am & 7:30pm

Friday Morning 7:00am

Rosh Chodesh 6:30am

Shabbat Mornings 9:00am

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Shabbat Schedule



Friday, May 6, 2016

Candle Lighting 7:39 PM
Mincha 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 7, 2016

Achrei Mot 9:00 AM
Mincha 7:25 PM
Havdalah 8:43 PM

Friday, May 13, 2016

Candle Lighting 7:46 PM
Mincha 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 14, 2016

Kedoshim 9:00 AM
Mincha 7:30 PM
Havdalah 8:50 PM

Friday, May 20, 2016

Candle Lighting 7:52 PM
Mincha 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 21, 2016

Emor 9:00 AM
Mincha 7:40 PM
Havdalah 8:56 PM

Friday, May 27, 2016

Candle Lighting 7:58 PM
Mincha 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 28, 2016

Behar 9:00 AM
Mincha 7:45 PM
Havdalah 9:02 PM

Junior Congregation

May 14
10:30 AM - 12 PM

We now have a list in the office of members who will help give rides to doctor's appointments during the week and to synagogue on Saturday morning. If anyone needs help please contact the synagogue office. If anyone else is interested in signing up to help, please contact the office.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
★ **The next few months are a** ★
★ **time for many joyful occa-** ★
★ **sions: weddings, engage-** ★
★ **ments, B'nai Mitzvah, etc.** ★
★ **It's just the right time to** ★
★ **sponsor a Kiddush after** ★
★ **Saturday services and** ★
★ **share your simcha with the** ★
★ **Temple family! Call the of-** ★
★ **fice and confirm your date.** ★
★ ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Handicap Access

We have an operating handicapped lift. This is available for all who may need access to any level of the building. Please contact the center office to arrange for one of our staff to assist you in its operation. There is also a handicapped restroom located past the Menchel Social Hall.

The House Committee

CENTER ADMINISTRATION

Rabbi

David Wise

Rabbi Emeritus

Dr. H. Joseph Simckes

Cantor

Sol Zim

Ohr Chadash Education Director

Ruth Merrill

Nursery School Director

Robyn Rosenberg

Ritual Director

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Benjamin Grunfeld

Financial Secretary

V.P. Religious Life

Dr. Benjamin Solomowitz

V.P. Life Long Learning

Seth Seidman

Secretary

Marilyn Teleky

Men's Club

Jan Katz

Sisterhood

Beth Diker

Marilyn Teleky

Office & Accounting

Nancy Morse

Lou Ann Boscarino

**OUR DAILY MINYAN
NEEDS YOU!
PLEASE DO A MITZVAH AND
SUPPORT OUR DAILY
MINYAN A COUPLE OF DAYS
A WEEK EVEN IF YOU DO
NOT HAVE A YAHRZEIT.**

Hollis Hills Jewish Center

210-10 Union Turnpike
Hollis Hills, NY 11364
Tel: (718) 776-3500
Fax: (718) 776-3672

Dateline is Published Monthly

Check out HHJC on the Internet
<http://www.hollishillsjc.org>

The deadline for article and advertising submission is the 10th day of the preceding month. Dateline Editor: Nancy Morse; Please submit articles and letters to the editor via email to: office@hollishillsjc.org. (Word or Publisher format is appreciated)

Notices

Do you receive emails from HHJC including Rabbi Wise's weekly Shabbat notes? Contact the office to subscribe or subscribe on the homepage at www.hollishillsjc.org

If you are bringing pre packaged food into the Synagogue, please consult with Rabbi Wise.

Bereavement Support

The Bereavement Support Group meets the First and Third Monday night of the month at 7:30 PM with compassionate, caring, warm and concerned friendly people.

Refreshments are always served and are complimentary. All faiths are welcome. Led by Rabbi Dr. H. Joseph Simckes and Marty Kevelson.



Cantor Sol Zim



**Our Cantor's
Voice
The Greater NY
Jewish
Community
Supports
Queens College
Hillel**

I want to share with all of you a very special event I recently took part in that I know you will appreciate. I had received a call from Uri Cohen, the Executive Director of *Queens College Hillel*, asking me if I would be part of a celebratory/fundraising event that they would be holding in Manhattan. In fact, Uri is no stranger to HHJC. His father, Rabbi Cohen, comes to *daven* at our shul from time to time and Uri himself occasionally joins us for services, together with his wife and child. He explained to me that this event would be taking place at the apartment of a very active member of QC Hillel, who was a previous President of this wonderful organization. Uri asked me to perform a mini concert and of course I agreed. After all, not only was this a Jewish community event but it is in support of one of the greatest Jewish organizations in Queens (*Queens College Hillel*) that "seeks to create meaningful Jewish experiences that encourage Jewish students to make an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning, and Israel." *Hillel* is performing a great mitzvah... providing Jewish students the opportunity to experience Jewish culture, tradition, Shabbatot, and all sorts of won-

derful programs. When I logged on to the QC Hillel website I was so proud and impressed. I came to realize that Queens College has the 9th largest population of Jewish students of any campus in the country. There are approximately 4,000 Jewish students out of a total of 16,000 undergraduates.

As I arrived at the building on Park Avenue, with my musicians and their instruments, I wondered how I would be able to pull this off. How can I do a 'Sol Zim Concert' in such small quarters? I envisioned the neighbors downstairs banging at the door complaining about their ceilings shaking and the windows shattering. Well, there were no complaining neighbors. In fact, I think some of the neighbors joined the party. The apartment was spacious and the acoustics were fantastic. There were at least 80 guests and we had the time of our lives. There were young and old, of all different Jewish backgrounds and nationalities (Orthodox, Conservative & Reform, Ashkenazi & Sephardic, American Jews, European, Israeli, Russian, Middle Eastern, etc.). Many of those who attended this event are originally from Queens and although they now live in Manhattan, they are *Queens Natives* at heart and are some of the world's leading & strongest supporters of Jewish Organizations, Culture & Education. Everyone was filled with emotion. We sang Hebrew songs, Yiddish songs, Can-

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(Rabbi Wise Continued from page 1)

the controversy that surrounded this book. Aslan is an Iranian-born scholar of ancient religions who happened to be born Muslim, adopted evangelical Christianity, and then returned to his Muslim roots.

The main thesis of *Zealot* is precisely as the title states. Aslan argues that from the little one can discern from a scholarly analysis of the Gospels and from research about religious and political trends in that era, Jesus of Nazareth was a fervent religious nationalist, like many of his contemporaries. And, also like many of his contemporaries, his brazen acts of zealotry were deemed seditious by the Roman authorities, and they crucified him as they did scores of other zealots. But his scholarship about Jesus the man, the historical figure, comes from places of passion for both academic rigor and religious tolerance.

All this didn't stop some Christians from a hypersensitive response to the book. Critics claimed that Aslan wrote this book as an assault on Christian belief from a Muslim's point of view (Search YouTube for a Fox News interview that was notoriously accusatory).

This raises a question: can we ever tolerate someone of another faith's analysis of our beloved religious tradition? We all loved Thomas Cahill's *The Gifts of the Jews* back in the 1990s, but it was complimentary to us—just look at the title! If a Muslim or a Christian were

to write a legitimate scholarly work that challenged Jewish religious assumptions, would we insist that anti-Semitism was the author's motivation? Indeed, that was the thought about mid-19th century German Protestant scholars of the Hebrew Bible—biblical criticism as a form of delegitimizing the "Old Testament." Would that be our reaction today?

At the same time, we Jews often wonder what's taking Islam so long to have its scholarly enlightenment—for modern Islamic scholars to do "biblical criticism" on the Koran, and to acknowledge the human and historical elements of Shari'a. And we wonder what took the Catholic Church so long to revise their theology of Jews and election. Using the same criteria as above, one could argue: Who are we to dictate theological and scholarly terms to any other faith?

The more interfaith work I do—with Muslims as well as Christians—the more I come to realize that there are three keys to its success. The first is that we should abandon our hopes for pluralism. Pluralism means that everybody's right. I don't believe that everybody's right, but I believe in tolerance—the ability to live side by side with people I think are wrong. That leads to the second principle of interfaith work—self-confidence in one's own faith. This is crucial for two reasons: one, I'm not threatened by your being wrong; two, I'm not hypersensi-

tive to critical questions about my tradition. Third and finally, people of different religions should feel safe about raising tough questions about each other's tradition. If a Christian asked me what I wish I could change about my religion, I'd have an answer (I'd probably have many!). Can I ask a Muslim the same question? If these three criteria are in place, interfaith dialogue can be more than mere platitudes and smiles about making a better world.

Temple Family

Robin and Mark Mandell joyfully announce the birth of their granddaughter, Samara Vivian Schaffer, on February 26, 2016 born to Stephanie and Julius Schaffer

Mazal Tov to June and Cantor Zim, and the entire Zim family, on grandson Jonathan's graduation from University of Miami School of Law Summa Com Laude

Mazal Tov



Ohr Chadash News

Ohr Chadash Blossoms In The Spring by Morah Shari Zuber

Sometimes there are mitzvot which provide singular joy and other times there are mitzvot that continue to give. Through the unbounded efforts of Silvia Surazski Kogan, wife of Rabbi Manes Kogan of Hillcrest Jewish Center, the families of Ohr Chadash were able to become part of a Queens-Ashkelon connection whereby our children's gently used Halloween costumes became Purim ensembles for youngsters from disadvantaged single-parent families in Israel.

Mrs. Kogan provided storage for the costumes for the past several years, and through the kindness of family members, such as the elder Kogan daughter Daniela, herself, her brother Rabbi Gustavo Surazski of Ashkelon's Kehillat Netzach Israel Synagogue, and others who sojournd from here to Eretz Israel, the costumes found their way to new homes and brought increased happiness to Israeli children for whom the celebration might not have been so bright. When the outfits reached their intended destination, Rabbi Surazski was instrumental in the distribution of the apparel.

To prove that it is truly a small Jewish world, Terri Davis, sister-in-law of Ohr Chadash's reading specialist, Cherie Davis, and a member of Rabbi Surazski's congregation, sent a letter of appreciation to Morah

Ruth Merrill to extend a hearty *Todah Rabah* to the Ohr Chadash families for all their efforts in making this mitzvah a wonderful reality.

By the time our students sat down with their families at this year's Passover celebration, they had been well-prepared for all the fine nuances of the holiday. On Sunday morning, April 10th, the Gan-Katan, Shorashim, and Mechina classes visited the Chabad of Northeast Queens' Matzah Bakery in Bayside. They learned the stringent rules of Passover matzah making, called upon all their muscle strength to grind the grain which was used, employed extra elbow grease to roll out their individual pieces of dough, and watched astonishingly as their efforts bore fruit when their own personalized pieces of matzah were removed from the special ovens.

(Continued on page 6)

Grocery Gelt

Stop & Shop:

All Locations

Dan's Keyfood:

73rd Ave./ Bell Blvd.

105-02 Queens Blvd.

Danny's Drive In Cleaners:

190-05 Union Turnpike

Fairway Supermarket:

242-02 61st Avenue, Douglaston



Sisterhood

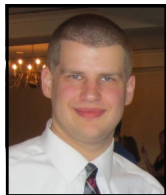
Shalom. So far Sisterhood has had a very eventful Spring, 2016 and we plan to continue with events that will be fun, social, educational, spiritual and delicious. By the time the next Dateline is available, our Sisterhood Women's Seder will be a sweet memory. I am sure that all who attended learned something new, drank 4 cups of wine together and participated in some singing, dancing and merriment. I would like to thank the Women's Seder committee for a job well done.

On Sunday, May 15th at 11 AM, Sisterhood and Men's Club are uniting for a special program on "Communicating with Style: How to be a More Effective Communicator". Mindy Stern, a member of HHJC and Sisterhood and an energetic, effective communicator, will be our speaker. Mindy's talk will be followed by a sushi lunch or for those who do not eat sushi, an Asian fusion lunch. At that time, we can all practice our social communication skills.

Our year-end event will take place on Wednesday, June 15th at 8 PM. As usual, there will be food and drink as well as sharing, activity and laughter. More details will be provided soon.

Please watch for information about "Honey from the Heart", our 2nd annual Rosh Hashanah fund raiser. Details will be available during the summer. The 2016 Breast Cancer walk at Jones Beach will be on Sun-

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**Youth Director**

Dan Bacharach

April was a great month at H2I! We started the month off with our H2I Shabbat Havdalah Swim & Gym at Hillcrest on April 2, at which everyone had a great time welcoming a new week with some fun athletic activities! The next day, on April 3, our Kadima and USY groups joined middle and high schoolers from across NYC at Sutton Place Synagogue in Manhattan for a Social Actions Day, while our younger groups Beat the Clock in some fun competitions. On April 10, our younger groups participated in Cupcake Wars, while our high schoolers competed for the "Israel Cup," participating in fun activities like a blind taste test of Israeli food items. From April 15-17, many of our 7-12 graders attended METNY Regional Convention at Hudson Valley Resort, spending Shabbat with hundreds of their peers from across New York, and on April 17, all of our groups participated in an Ice Cream Seder, a twist on our usual Chocolate Seder.

It's hard to believe it is already May and our programming year is wrapping up. On May 15, our Kadimaniks will participate in a METNY Kadima Program, while our youngest groups will take part in Israel Sand Art. That evening, our USYers will host Chapter Elections and

(Ohr Chadash Continued from page 5)

The following Sunday, April 17th, was a very hectic school day. The Holocaust is a major focus of the Dalet-Hey curriculum and the students provided readings in commemoration of the Shoah, as preparation for their involvement in the multi-synagogue program which will be held at ICCJ on Wednesday evening, May 4th.

Also on that Sunday morning, the Mechina class observed the hard work which their older schoolmates had put into providing a Model Seder from which they could learn the proper order of the service, how to recite the Four Questions, and the melodies and lyrics of the traditional songs of the holiday. Aleph through Geshet conducted a wonderful warm-up for the actual family events they would be participants of at the end of that week.

On Shabbat morning, April 16th, Shabbat HaGadol, the last Sabbath before Pesach, ICCJ hosted

the Ohr Chadash student body in the last of the school's shul Shabbat services. A morning of learning and prayer concluded with a delightful kiddush prepared by the wonderful ladies of the synagogue's Sisterhood. *Todah Rabah Ladies.*

After the Passover break, our students will return to an extremely hectic last full month of learning and celebration.

Morah Ruth A. and the Aleph class have been working hard for months in anticipation of the presentation of their first sidurim. Parents, morot, and schoolmates will be in attendance for this Sunday morning, May 15th, special program.

That Friday, May 20th, will be the final Kabbalat Shabbat dinner of the 5776 school year. Keep an eye out for all the details. That Sunday, May 20th, is the annual Lag B'Omer Sports Day. All information will be forthcoming soon.

We hope that everyone had a *zissan* Pesach and we look forward to the spring days and events on the Ohr Chadash horizon.

(Cantor Zim Continued from page 3)

torial, Ladino, Broadway, Opera and more. The biggest request of the evening was for all to share in singing my *Avinu Shebashamayim*. It was a truly beautiful evening, everyone joined together in spirit and song, to support Queens College Hillel, an organization that dedicates its' efforts to making sure that Jewish College students are offered Jewish culture & tradition, whether they are far from home living in dormitories or if they live around the corner. Queens College Hillel aims to be a Jewish resource to all Jewish students. I hear their Shabbat dinners are pretty good too.

I am so proud to be part of the Queens Jewish Community.

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Queens Village
Chit Chat 'Bout This & That
By Sue Heppenheimer

We hope by the time you receive this chatter,
 Spring has arrived and the cold is a past matter,
 As you get to go outdoors these days,
 Enjoy what Mother Nature has brought by warming ways!

We hope you all had a good Passover week, and enjoyed the delicious foods and your families that joined you for the Seder evenings.

Happy birthday wishes to Mark Reiss. Have a wonderful day with your family. I also want to make double wishes for my daughter, Margo Gray, who celebrates a special birthday and anniversary during the month. Dreams do come true, and here is one that did.

Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers, other family members get their recognition later.

See you soon.

(Youth Group Continued from page 6)

their annual Final Dinner, in which we discharge and install our chapter officers, and bid farewell to our graduating seniors. May 21 is our final H2I Shabbat, a morning service at ICCJ. Then, our final day of programming is May 22, when our three younger groups have our annual year-end picnic, while our USYers join METNY for a trip to Six Flags!

(Sisterhood Continued from page 5)

day, October 16th. We plan to participate in the walk that morning because Sukkot starts that evening. It will be a busy but fulfilling day. Stay tuned for more details.

Please continue to support our Sisterhood and attend all the events. You may also consider becoming even more involved and volunteer on the planning committee for the coming year. Thank you.

Beth Sofer Diker
 Marilyn Teleky
 Sisterhood Co-Presidents

HHJC - Sisterhood Gift Shop



For all your Judaica needs!

We need your help with our daily Minyan.

Please join us mornings or evenings!

Monday & Thursday
6:45am & 7:30pm

Tuesday
7:00am & 7:30pm

Wednesday
8:00am & 7:30pm

Sunday & Legal Holidays
9:00am & 7:30pm

Friday Morning 7:00am
Rosh Chodesh 6:30am

JUDITH LESNIK
CHESED COMMITTEE

Please note the date change for our Spring workshop on Medicare, Medicaid and Trusts.

DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 22ND
 TIME: 10:00 AM

PRESENTORS:

JOAN ROBERT- KASSOFF,
 ROBERT & LERNER, LLP

WENDY WILLIAMS-
 CONNECTING HAND II

PLACE: MENCHEL HALL

Coffee and cake will be served.

Bring family and friends to this noteworthy event, to see how this information can effect you and those you love.

Cut Out and Save

Contact Information
(in confidence): Leave or Send a Message to Our Support Lines

To Reach the
Congregational Nurse
Linda Liederman, R.N.
Phone: 646-598-2974

Email:
nurse@hollishillsjc.org

To reach the office:
 718-776-3500

To reach Rabbi Wise:
 Enter option "3"
 Or: rabbiiwise@hollishillsjc.org

Chesed Committee Chair
 Laura Brodsky:
 lbrodsky@hollishillsjc.org



**Uncovering Gross
Domestic Product:
How the GDP Calculation
Undervalues Social Justice**

By David Meyers

Nobel Prize winning economist Milton Friedman once famously wrote, "There is one and only one social responsibility of business...to increase its profits." Others, like Whole Foods CEO John Mackey, have consistently argued that businesses are responsible not only to investors but to society. This contrast highlights the moral dilemma businesses face between a responsibility to shareholders and an obligation to community. While the debate over corporations' plasters our media and enters our conversations as we near the 2016 presidential election, I believe a more fundamental and festering ethical failing embedded within the study of economics has enabled society to turn a blind eye to economic justice.

Over winter break, I learned about Rabbi Wise's initiative to have weekly missions in which community members assist at a Jamaica, New York food bank. As I sat listening to the idea, I thought 'what a wonderful way to give back and get people involved.' A week later, I returned to Montreal to continue my studies at McGill University. Arriving at my first macroeconomics class of the semester, the professor began, as most teachers do, with an overview reiterating the national income (GDP) equation - consumption spending plus

investment spending plus government spending plus net exports. Listening, I thought back to my conversation with Rabbi Wise. Something seemed to be missing, uncaptured, even neglected. I realized that the hours assisting in the food bank were not captured in the equation I had just heard -- an equation which is supposed to illustrate the wellbeing of our country seemingly failed to do so. In short, I realized that the implicit assumptions within the study of economics seemed to undervalue volunteerism and discredit the importance of social justice.

Further research seemed to validate my original concern. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 62.8 million Americans spent 7.9 billion hours volunteering in 2014. This contributed an estimated \$184 billion to the United States economy. That's the same size as the entire productive capacity of Vietnam! Yet not a single dollar was accounted for when statisticians and economists formulated GDP.

Economics can be a cold, exacting science which discredits the value created by volunteer work, or it can adapt and change to include the currently unseen benefits of community engagement. The necessity and importance of this academic shift is best captured in the Bellagio Institute quote, "when we change what we measure, we begin to change

how we think and we also begin to change the policy agenda." Economists, academics and government officials use the GDP equation to develop government policy. However when they do so they miss the opportunity to understand the value of volunteering. Hopefully, in the future this can be changed.

Our worth, as individuals and as a nation, is poorly represented by the mere calculating of dollar figures. The act of volunteering, as Rabbi Wise promotes, not only includes hidden "add-on" value to our economy as a result of unrecorded, unpaid labor but also adds another dimension that cold numbers cannot represent -- the positive value received by both giver and receiver and the achievement of a higher purpose. Though unconventional, even blasphemous, to current economic thought, at this time when we reckon our worth and pay our annual share, it is important for us to recognize that we survive as a people when we act "for the people, by the people." It is the glue that unites us and it is the net worth that gives us actual value.

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Page at
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hollishillsjc](http://www.facebook.com/hollishillsjc)



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**Message From the V.P.
of Religious Life
Dr. Ben Solomowitz**

On May 14, Parshat Kedoshim, we will have our next lay-led Shabbat morning service. This will be followed by a lay-led discussion of the parsha over lunch.

Sixteen of our congregants will participate in leading davening, laining torah, chanting the haftarah and guiding the discussion of the parsha.

Our lay-leaders work closely with our Rabbi and Cantor who guide them in learning davening and torah skills, and improving their Hebrew reading. The leaders of the lay-led lunch and learn delve deeper into the meaning and intricacies of the parsha.

Please come and daven with us on May 14 to support our volunteer lay-leaders. Remember to read the parsha beforehand so you will be able to participate in the discussion. Bring a friend with you to introduce them to our synagogue and think about being a lay-leader on our next lay-led Shabbat.

Be Active in HHJC

Be Involved

Join a committee

Membership

Fund Raising

Adult Education

Facilities

Life Long Learning

Chesed Committee

Call the Office Now

**NEWS FROM THE
SISTERHOOD OF
THE HOLLIS HILLS
JEWISH CENTER:
YOUR DONATION MADE A DIFFERENCE!**

By Maris Blechner

Good news can certainly be spread at any time. Here is some news that we thought you should know about the charitable donation part of the 2015 Sisterhood Purim Basket orders, which we will be replicating shortly. If you remember, we asked everyone for at least five dollars for charity, which is a tradition of the holiday. That money, a total of almost \$900 last year, has gone to the following charities:

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF JORDAN RIVER VILLAGE FOUNDATION – supporting their Israeli camp for ill children of all ethnic and religious backgrounds.

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF NEVE HANNA – helping needy disadvantaged Israeli Youth at the Neve Hanna Youth Village.
AMERICAN ZIONISH MOVEMENT – Their Purim campaign to help needy disadvantaged Israeli youth.

DOROT – intergenerational volunteer services to the elderly.

MAZON – a national Jewish response to hunger – feeding the needy.

THE MASORTI FOUNDATION FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM IN ISRAEL – two programs: The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program for Israeli Children with Special Needs and the IDF Lone Soldier Project.

THE NALAGA'AT CENTER – empowering and supporting deaf and blind Israelis.

TOMCHEI SHABBOS OF QUEENS – Volunteer services, bringing food baskets to needy Queens families.

YAD SARAH - and their network of volunteers aiding disabled, elderly, and housebound Israelis.

All of these charities have web pages, if you want more information about them. Thank you for being part of helping those in need.

(Cantor Zim Continued from page 6)

We are a very united, devoted, welcoming & loving community and HHJC is one of the top leading forces pioneering and guiding the way to ensure that Jewish tradition & culture survives.

I hope you all enjoyed your Passover Seders with family & friends. Can't wait to see you all at our HHJC SIMCHA 2016 on **Sunday, May 22nd** when we will be honoring some very special individuals. *Couple of The Year*-**MARIS & STEWART BLECHNER**...*Keter Torah Award*-**JACK COHEN**... and the *Frank Strassfeld Heritage Award*-**JOSHUA LIEDERMAN**, *Chaired by* **MICHAEL WOLKOFISKY**. Don't miss this *exciting evening*...with Delicious Food, Great Band, Music & Dancing. Reserve your seats now!

See you in shul.
Cantorially always,
Cantor Sol Zim



**Remember Our Synagogue
Operating Funds**

HHJC General Fund
Etta Strassfeld Life Long Learning &
Continuing Education Fund
Rev. Frank Strassfeld Synagogue &
Ritual Beautification Fund
Judith Lesnik Chesed Fund
Lena Schwartz Youth Fund
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Cantor's Choir Fund
Samuel Schneider Building Fund
Gerald M. Misher Memorial Fund
Harold J. Ross Memorial
Environmental Fund

Nichum Avelim

MAY G-D GRANT CONSOLATION TO
THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED A
LOSS IN THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES:

Stephen Gersten, beloved
brother of Ronnie Gersten

MAY THEY BE COMFORTED AMONG
THE OTHER MOURNERS OF ZION
AND JERUSALEM

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Lenora Silvers
In memory of Ezra Miles
Hadassah & Irving Miles

In memory of Leslie Ferentz
In memory of Ari Blechner
Maris & Stu Blechner

In memory of Herbert Plush
Rita Plush

In memory of Samuel
Goldowski
Anita Goldowski

In memory of Henry Feiner
Kristina & Robert Feingold

Thank you to Sisterhood for the
wonderful Shabbat Service and
Kiddush

Ida & Daniel Weisser

Wishing Refuah Shelemah to
Gordon Goldman
Lynne & Marty Kevelson

In memory of Morty Brooks
Rita Plush

In memory of George Axelrad
Suzanne & Nathan Heilweil
Vicky & Michael Wolkofsky
Mira Clivner
Ruth Janko & Family
Arlene & Abraham Shulman
Pat, Albert & Anita Katz
Jean & Doug Fairtile
Irving Schnitzer
Diane Gottlieb
Ida & Daniel Weisser
Kristina & Robert Feingold
Ronnie Gersten
Irene & Michael Borman
Tova & Sam Oko
Arlene & David Schwartz
Jerry Sandell

In memory of Isak Artmann
Beate Axelrad

In honor of Rachel Landau
becoming a Fulbright Scholar
Joan & Jack Cohen

In memory of William Heilweil
Suzanne & Nathan Heilweil
Wishing Refuah Shelemah to
Elizabeth Johnston
Suzanne & Nathan Heilweil

In honor of Joan Green's
birthday
Harriet & Bernd Bildstein
Nelly & Jerry Belopolsky
Eric Jacobowitz

In memory of Henry Klein's
beloved mother
Lynne & Marty Kevelson

In memory of Nathan Resnik
Barry M. Lasner

In memory of Benj Pollak
In memory of Ralph Danzig
In memory of Anna Danzig
In memory of Jacob Pollak
Rosalie Pollak¹⁰

In memory of Isidore Shapss
In memory of Rose Shapss
Rita & Martin Krumerman

In memory of George S. Ader
Harriet & Bernd Bildstein

Thank you to the Minyan Group
Beate Axelrad & Family

In memory of Celia Maltzman
In memory of Benjamin Altman
Sandie Altman-Baker

In memory of Benjamin
Weingarten
Sharon & Martin Goldstein

In memory of Mildred Naftol
In memory of Ethel Suwal
Janet & Jerome Naftol

In honor of Joan Green's
special birthday
Ruth Janko

In memory of Marcus Rothman
The Brafman Family

In memory of Zahri Abergel
Rachel & Armand Lugassy

In memory of Pearl Belitzky
Adele & Martin Goldman

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Robin & Mark Mandell

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In memory of Sarah Tantleff
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Congratulations to Janet Hiller
for her great Haftorah Reading
Your biggest fan

In honor of Linda & Arthur
Liederman's 35th Wedding
Anniversary
Suzanne & Nathan Heilweil



*In honor of Dan Sackett, 84 at
Douglaston*
Suzanne & Nathan Heilweil

Mishaberach for Marty Margolis

*In memory of Benjamin Lewis
Schimer*
In memory of Rosalyn Schimer
Susan Ruth Schimer

In memory of Carole Storch
Irene Mandelblatt

In memory of Bessie Deutch
In memory of Anna Wells
In memory of Irving Wells
Susan & Alvin Deutch

*In honor of Diana Kofman
being named HHJC Youth of
the Year*
Mira Clivner

In memory of Jacob Schnitzer
Irving Schnitzer

*In memory of Susan Ruth
Fastow*
Melvin Fastow

In memory of Filip Eisdorfer
Nadia & David Adar

*In memory of Gussie
Belopolsky*
Nelly & Gerry Belopolsky

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Renee Sklar & Family

*In memory of Murray
Solomowitz*
Jaye & Benjamin Solomowitz

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Sally & Harvey Goldstein
Charlotte & David Karsch

*Thank you to Rabbi Wise for
making David and Andrea's
Aufruf very special*
Renee & Joel Slutsky

*In memory of our beloved
husband and father*
Beate Axelrad & Family

In honor of Rabbi P. Barmash.
We were inspired by you
mellifluous chanting and eulogy
for our dear beloved George
Beate, Penny & Joy Axelrad

Thank you to Rabbi Wise for
your excellent leadership in
iEngage
Diane Gottlieb

Cantor's Fund

*In honor of Cantor Zim. Thank
You.*

Carol & Joel Lieber

In memory of Carole Storch
Suzanne Chemtob
Beate Axelrad

Thank you to Cantor Zim for the
sweet melodies provided for
David and Andrea's Aufruf
Renee & Joel Slutsky

*In memory of our beloved
husband and father*
Beate Axelrad & Family

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becoming a Fulbright Scholar*
Flo & Bob Gropper

*Wishing Continued Good
Health to Marilyn Seidenfeld*
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*Thank you to the Chesed
Committee*
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with many thanks*
Beate Axelrad & Family

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Irene Schneider

*In honor of Joan Green's
birthday*
Irene Schneider

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Usher Farber
Wishing Refuah Shelemah to
Gordon Goldman
Henry Gerber

Wishing Refuah Shelemah to
Jack Cohen
Wishing Refuah Shelemah to
Frances Richard
Henry Gerber

In memory of Charlotte Borko
In memory of Carole Storch
In memory of Raymond Hutt
In memory of George Axelrad
Henry Gerber

*In honor of Rachel Landau be-
ing named a Fulbright Scholar*
*In honor of the birth of Robin &
Mark Mandell's granddaughter,*
Samara Vivian Schaffer
Henry Gerber

*In honor of the birth of Marina &
Alfred Weisz's granddaughter,*
Davina Sadie

In honor of the marriage of
Lauren Verstandig and Ian
Cutler
Henry Gerber

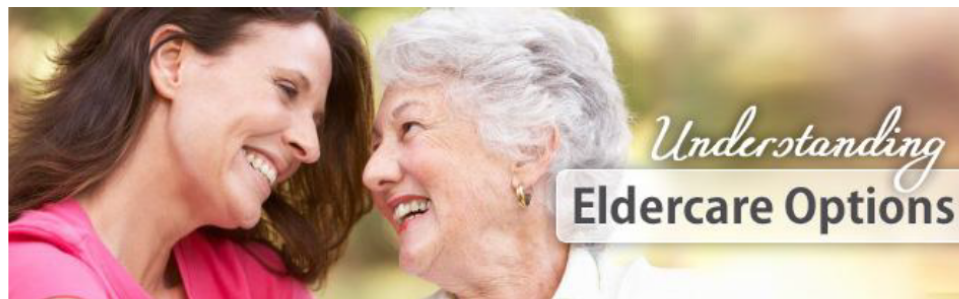
**Donations continued on
page 16**

**Below is a monthly calendar for posting on bulletin boards and refrigerators**

~ May 2016 ~ Nissan - Iyar 5776 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Nissan 23 8 th day of the Omer Minyan Times 9 AM and 7:30 PM Sisterhood Planning Meeting – 10 AM	2 Nissan 24 9 th day of the Omer 6:45 AM and 7:30 PM Adult Education-Engaging Israel 3.0 – 8 PM	3 Nissan 25 10 th day of the Omer Minyan Times 7 AM and 7:30 PM	4 Nissan 26 11 th day of the Omer Minyan Times 8 AM and 7 PM (evening Minyan at ICCJ for Yom Hashoah) Joint Yom Hashoah Program at ICCJ- 7:15 PM	5 Nissan 27 12 th day of the Omer Minyan Times 6:45 AM and 7 PM Yom Hashoah	6 Nissan 28 13 th day of the Omer Morning Minyan 7AM Candle Lighting 7:39 PM Mincha - 7 PM	7 Nissan 29 14 th day of the Omer Achrei Mot 9 AM Mincha 7:25 PM Havdalah 8:43 PM Simcha Shabbat - 9 AM
8 Nissan 30 Rosh Chodesh Iyar 15 th day of the Omer Minyan Times 9 AM and 7:30 PM Mother's Day	9 Iyar 1 Rosh Chodesh Iyar 16 th day of the Omer 6:30 AM and 7:30 PM Adult Education-Engaging Israel 3.0 – 8 PM	10 Iyar 2 17 th day of the Omer Minyan Times 7 AM and 7:30 PM	11 Iyar 3 18 th day of the Omer Minyan Times 8 AM and 7:30 PM Yom HaZikaron	12 Iyar 4 19 th day of the Omer Minyan Times 6:30 AM and 7:30 PM Yom HaAtzma'ut	13 Iyar 5 20 th day of the Omer Morning Minyan 7AM Candle Lighting 7:46 PM Mincha - 7 PM	14 Iyar 6 21 st day of the Omer Kedoshim 9 AM Mincha 7:30 PM Havdalah 8:50 PM Lay Led Shabbat and Lunch and Learn -9 AM Junior Congregation 10:30AM –12PM Shabbat Mini Minyan – 11:15 AM-12PM
15 Iyar 7 22 nd day of the Omer Minyan Times 9 AM and 7:30 PM Sisterhood & Men's Club Communications Program – 11 AM	16 Iyar 8 23 rd day of the Omer 6:45 AM and 7:30 PM CSA Kickoff – 7:30 PM Adult Education-Engaging Israel 3.0 – 8 PM	17 Iyar 9 24 th day of the Omer Minyan Times 7 AM and 7:30 PM	18 Iyar 10 25 th day of the Omer Minyan Times 8 AM and 7:30 PM	19 Iyar 11 26 th day of the Omer Minyan Times 6:45 AM and 7:30 PM	20 Iyar 12 27 th day of the Omer Morning Minyan 7AM Candle Lighting 7:52 PM Mincha - 7 PM	21 Iyar 13 28 th day of the Omer Emor 9 AM Mincha 7:40 PM Havdalah 8:56 PM Sophy Kaplan Bat Mitzvah
22 Iyar 14 29 th day of the Omer Minyan Times 9 AM and 7:30 PM Chesed Eldercare Workshop –11AM Simcha 2016 Dinner Dance – 5 PM	23 Iyar 15 30 th day of the Omer 6:45 AM and 7:30 PM	24 Iyar 16 31 st day of the Omer Minyan Times 7 AM and 7:30 PM	25 Iyar 17 32 nd day of the Omer Minyan Times 8 AM and 7:30 PM	26 Iyar 18 33 rd day of the Omer Minyan Times 6:45 AM and 7:30 PM Lag B'Omer	27 Iyar 19 34 th day of the Omer Morning Minyan 7AM Candle Lighting 7:58 PM Mincha - 7 PM	28 Iyar 20 35 th day of the Omer Behar 9 AM Mincha 7:45 PM Havdalah 9:02 PM
29 Iyar 21 36 th day of the Omer Minyan Times 9 AM and 7:30 PM	30 Iyar 22 37 th day of the Omer 9 AM and 7:30 PM Memorial Day	31 Iyar 23 38 th day of the Omer Minyan Times 7 AM and 7:30 PM				



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**Rabbi Dr. H. Joseph Simckes
Life After Retirement**

**“Do You Know How to
Curse Jewishly?”
(A Curious Post-Purim &
Pre-Passover Reflection)**

The daily Amidah is usually referred to as “the Shmoneh Esrei”, i.e. “the eighteen” (i.e. the 18 fundamental prayers required to be said daily by responsible Jews as a religious formula against spiritual callousness). However, in typical Jewish fashion, the eighteen prayers are actually nineteen. (just count them!) They have a surplus. That’s right. Back in the day when our siddur was being officially formulated, Rabbi Gamliel, the chief of the Sanhedrin, centered then in Yavneh, realized that “the proliferation of heretics and informers”, i.e. Jewish-born spiritual saboteurs eager to undermine rabbinic authority, hoping to gain favor in the eyes of the cruel, dominating roman rulers of Judea and Samaria, would circulate false, derogatory statements about their fellow Jews. *

To counter that immediate and present danger, Rabbi Gamliel asked a brilliant yet humble scholar, Rabbi Shmuel Hakatan, i.e. “little Sammy”, to compose a 19th prayer for the amidah to combat these spiritual terrorists. His prayer was accepted and ever since may be found in our amidah as a Jewish mantra against traitorous plans/or/ deeds by self-hating Jews or others, to be said thrice a day as a cautionary alert.

When we look objectively at this 19th prayer, however, its lan-

guage seems relatively modulated and non-caustic. How come? Given “little Sammy’s” sweet admonition recorded in Pirkei Avot, “rejoice not in the fall of your enemy!” (Chapter 4:24), we should not be surprised. He was chosen by R. Gamliel because he knew how to “curse” as a Jew, i.e. with a sensitized tongue and refined language. Had a more “hot-headed” scholar composed our 19th prayer, it might have included such barbed hints as “anyone who happens to assist self-hating Jews over the cliff, both chariot and rider, will surely be greeted in heaven by Elijah the prophet with a hug and a kiss!”

The point of this article, however, is to teach us a major Jewish principle: curses are kosher...But if and when a curse is necessary, check out how Shmuel Hakatan did it in the 4th century c.e. Learn his technique and follow his linguistic example. In fact, you might search out old Yiddish curses, slang-words and negative phrases should you ever need to “lash out” Jewishly at authentically nasty individuals or groups. These old Yiddish phrases have a special spice or “ch’ain” to them and will enable you to curse tastefully!

Truth be told, the Hebrew language and our Jewish culture in general does not contain many good swear words. That is not our strong suit. ** Do you want to pray? There is no better way than to start out with a curse that has been re-framed, re-worded, re-constructed, translated into a blessing! Actually, it is the true model of what Jewish religion is

all about, i.e. to turn a cosmos of chaos (“tohu va-vohu!”) Into a universe of justice and peace.

We call it, “tikkun olam”, i.e. perfecting the world, putting the broken pieces of creation back together again, healing the wounded, loving the unloved, untwisting the swastikas of hate into Jewish stars of hope. The rabbis themselves argue that the best way to kill an enemy is to transform him/her into a friend!

In short, don’t decry the curse or the cursers, transform them! Don’t curse the darkness, light a candle!

Happy Pesach!
Rabbi Dr. Hirsch Joseph
Simckes.

* During the middle ages and continuing into our own times, the blood libel was circulated by Jewish meshumadim and gentile anti-semites, leading, of course, to the vicious 19th century Russian forgery, “ the protocols of the learned elders of Zion” – a slimy text gobbled up by hundreds of thousands of Jihadis and misinformed citizens in the Middle East and elsewhere today.

** Rev. Frank Strassfeld, our beloved shamash, of blessed memory, was a rich source of classic Yiddish ways of scolding scoundrels, such as, “zol zei brennen vi a licht!”, i.e. “ may they burn like a candle!”, and other warm admonitions.

*** The sound of hundreds of Purim graggers, pounding feet, hoots and howls is also a welcome response to even the mention of a villainous character!



Social Justice Action

It's an honor and pleasure to thank the 25 congregants who have participated in preparing and serving dinners to hungry Queens residents for the past six months. Through word of mouth our number of participants keeps growing by one or two people a week. To expand our outreach, several of us participated in Tomchei Shabbat's annual Passover Package Delivery, bringing complete meals for a week to some of the many needy Jewish families in adjacent zip codes.

The experience of serving food to those less fortunate turns out to be as meaningful to the giver as the receiver. Participants have described to me the wonderful feelings they have, after their shift at the soup kitchen. It's like a spiritual exercise where the experience releases something similar to endorphins and afterwards you just feel better. Maybe it puts one's own problems into perspective or maybe directly feeding the hungry is something we as Jews, have always been instructed to do. Last month Rita Plush wrote an article about her experience and this month Alan and Marilyn Geltman wrote about their experience. I encourage you to volunteer one shift at the Soup Kitchen and I guarantee you'll be surprised and pleased by your own reaction.

Arne Abramowitz

It was quite moving to see the generally shy and sometimes

uncomfortable anticipation on the faces of the many individuals that came for the served meals. They would hesitantly extend their hands toward the multiple plates being served, trying to not appear too anxious and wanting to assist in the distribution without appearing impatient. I decided it was important that these "customers" should be made to feel like patrons in a restaurant and receive the excellent service we all expect when we eat out. I smiled and greeted the individuals stating "Good evening" and asking each of them how they were doing tonight.

There was not a lot of instruction. We all waited awkwardly to receive directions or plates to serve. But the kitchen supervisors were all veterans and they had their system which we all tried to follow when we were given directions. Most of the "patrons" seemed to understand the rules, relating to "no seconds and no takeout orders," or it was soon explained to them. However, it was clear, some exceptions were made.

We took part in this program three evenings. Each time there were servers, that's us, waiting to get a filled plate or plates to bring to the patrons, because the kitchen was a bit slow in filling the plates. That is not a criticism, but an observation that a better distribution of tasks might resolve the wait at the tables. We enjoyed the interaction with the patrons and

the volunteers providing the meals. However, I was not prepared to say no to a hungry patron who requested more, when I knew there were additional portions and everyone else had been served. I understand the orderly protocol that's required, but hunger and desperation does not have a protocol. Persistent requests on the patrons' behest, did succeed in additional servings; but the discomfort I felt remained.

I believe this service to the community by volunteers is both important and rewarding. I do, however, believe some prior communication as to the number of volunteers committed each night and a little flexibility in the duty roster might avoid volunteers standing around while patrons waited for their dinners. Thank you for providing us the opportunity to participate in this program.

Marilyn & Alan Geltman

MEANINGFUL GESTURES

Dateline prints "acknowledgements" for not only the recording of social and personal events, but also as a recording of acts of Tzedaka (Charity) and Chesed (Kindness). Please note your tribute will be made public in Dateline for a minimum contribution of \$20. Also the cost of the Etz Hayim Chumash is \$65 and the Sim Shalom Siddur is \$36.

**May Birthdays**

Dr. Stewart Belchner	5/1
Harold Fluss	5/3
Jo Ann Luquis	5/3
Steven Fusfeld	5/4
Cara Trager	5/4
Jack Cohen	5/5
Judy Glasel	5/5
Manuel Herman	5/5
Sam Solasz	5/5
David Glasel	5/7
Marcy Sackett	5/7
Adrienne Glaubiger	5/8
Robert Gropper	5/8
Sandy Bidon	5/9
Melanie Katz	5/9
Victor Gabay	5/10
Steven Siegel	5/11
Leonard Sunshine	5/13
Linda Liederman	5/14
Steven Verstandig	5/18
Laura Brodsky	5/19
Jo Beth Greenbaum	5/20
Victoria Gaberman	5/23
Hon. Ira Margulis	5/24
Marilyn Teleky	5/24
Lynn Gonen	5/25
Jesse Sanders	5/27
Florence Gropper	5/28
Gerda Schoen	5/28
Mark Kusten	5/29
Emil Schoen	5/30

May Anniversaries

Marcy & Jeffrey Sackett	5/3
Nancy Borko & Steven Fusfeld	5/5
Michele & Mark Ehrlich	5/17
Joan & Martin Waxgiser	5/23
Naomi & Irwin Horowitz	5/25
Barbara & Steven Siegel	5/26
Renee & Cary Diamond	5/29
Linda & Henry Burke	5/30
Ilene & Lewis Strongin	5/30

**Sophy Kaplan -
Bat Mitzvah May 21
A Word From Her Parents**

Mazal Tov, Sophy Kaplan!



Sophy Kaplan is a beautiful young lady, loved by her family, friends and our whole community. Sophy has a scientific mind and a kind heart, with a soft spot for animals. In the spirit of Tikkun Olam, for her Bat Mitzvah project, Sophy is collecting pet food for animal shelters because she learned that shelters are forced to put animals to sleep due to lack of food. Sophy loves horseback riding and takes care of horses in Brookwood camp (where she's been a camper for 7 years). She aspires to be a veterinarian when she grows up.

Sophy is an Honor student at MS74. She is a member of the Student Council and a representative in the "Respect For All" project. Sophy is kind, considerate, friendly, honest, fair

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AND MANY MORE....**

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and fun to be with. She plays the piano and sings. Sophy sang in HHJC Jems choir and regularly performs in Russian Folk Rock festivals (where all performances are in Russian).

She enjoys learning new things. Sophy traveled extensively with her family, attaining knowledge about different countries and cultures.

It is with great pride and joy, we will celebrate our daughter becoming a Bat Mitzvah on May 21st.

Mazal Tov

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page 11**
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