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News From Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre ~ Nov/Dec 2021

Rabbi Schlesinger



Make Music with HERJC

Music has accompanied the experience of the Jewish people from biblical times to our day. At the moment we became a nation, after leaving Egypt, as related in the book of Exodus, Moses and Miriam led the Israelites in a song of thanks for the attaining of freedom. During the period of the two Temples in Jerusalem, music was an integral part of the religious service including during Shabbat. Today, it continues to be a part of Jewish religious expression in homes and synagogues.

There is classical and contemporary liturgical music. Reading the Torah and Haftarah have special melodies. Each service in the synagogue has a **nussach**, a specific musical style. And there are also the **nigunim**, melodies composed for liturgical purposes that do not require texts. Although it is a very young country, the State of Israel has developed an important musical catalogue in both the popular and the classical arena.

Because Jews wandered for several millennia, music from all continents has influenced Jewish music. Today, due to the encounter between different communities in countries like the United States, France, Germany and even Brazil, styles emerge in which the different influences can no longer be isolated with precision. But whatever the source, the music remains central to our religious expression.

We are experiencing an exciting moment at HERJC. As we begin offering in-person activities again, people are feeling more comfortable coming to the temple to join us. The pleasure of being together in person is absolutely evident. Making and experiencing music together in the synagogue continues to provide great pleasure.

I would like to underline the Kabbalat Shabbat service that happens every Friday at 6:30pm as an incredible opportunity to start making your way back to HERJC. This is a religious service that lasts less than one hour, including a spiritual and musical experience. I would like to invite you and your family to experience the new phase of HERJC's Kabbalat Shabbat musical service. Through music, this powerful uniting instrument, we will continue to establish a profound dialogue between tradition and the contemporary world.

Rabbi Schlesinger

Hazzan Zakarin



When Peter, Paul, and Mary first sang the words, "Don't let the light go out./ It's lasted for so many years./ Don't let the light go out./ Let it shine through our hope and our tears," they did not realize how powerful a meaning these words would have even to this day.

We as a community have been on a journey together over the past two years, and the light has continued to burn brightly at HERJC. I hope and pray that we continue to increase the brightness of our light here at HERJC with every program, every Nursery and Religious School class, with every smile that walks through our doors, and with every member of the HERJC community.

Hazzan Zakarin

HERJC COVID GUIDELINES: All adults and children over the age of 12 must be vaccinated to attend any service or event in the building. Masks must be worn unless eating.

A Message from the President



As we prepare for Chanukah, the state of HERJC is strong. Our synagogue's economic pillars remain intact: a successful Kol Nidre appeal; a growing community with 21 new/returning members; robust Nursery and Religious Schools; a successful catering operation; and expanded fundraising opportunities with the forthcoming rebranding of the Patrons Society. These, together with our energetic clergy, Rabbi Schlesinger and Hazzan Zakarin, enable HERJC to thrive. Let's not rest on our laurels, however. If you see something good at HERJC or wish it to be better, consider three options: (1) volunteer your time to it; (2) donate to keep it vibrant; or (3) find a way to bring it to HERJC.

Stephen Moelis

Nursery News

EVERY WEEK IN THE NURSERY

Musical Monday Mornings

Music with Our Friends from Tkiya

Use the following link for a sample of our newest music program. <https://tkiya.org/chanukah/>

Tuneful Fridays

Music with our Hazzan, Bonnie Zakarin

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

It's been a busy month with guest readers during Annual Read-a-thon & Book Fair week, a special visit with our local fire department who brought a fire truck to HERJC, and a warm welcome to our local veterans.

Thanksgiving Celebration

Wed, Nov 24

Our children will gather together for a special Thanksgiving luncheon as we count our blessings together.

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

Chanukah Celebration

Dec 3, 11am

A special in-house Tot Shabbat as the HERJC Players present the Chanukah story in music, song, and theatre!



Chanukah with HERJC

East Rockaway Village Hall

Chanukiah Lighting

Dec 2, 6:15pm

Come and light the village chanukiah and sing together! Our Hay and Vav students will be having class at Village Hall following the chanukiah lighting.

HERJC Chanukah Celebration

Dec 5, 11am

We are excited to be part of something bigger! HERJC will be participating in the USCJ Hanukkah Homecoming campaign. Come home to HERJC for Chanukah festivities, food & fun including brunch with latkes & a fill-your-own sufganiot station, a DJ and scavenger hunt for the kids, and a tapestry project to be on display at HERJC.



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Sisterhood Book Discussion

Dec 9, at 8pm

The Lost and Found Bookshop

By Susan Wiggs

In the wake of a shocking tragedy, Natalie Harper inherits her mother's charming but financially strapped bookshop in San Francisco. She also becomes caretaker for her ailing grandfather, Andrew, her only living relative—not counting her scoundrel father.

In this thought-provoking novel, *New York Times* bestselling author Susan Wiggs ...asks the question, "If you had to start over, what would you do and who would you be?" (from the author's website)

For info, contact: roberta.sugarman@gmail.com

Light Up the Night

Dec 6, Begins at 6pm

Join us as we light up the night for Chanukah, an event not to be missed! Drive through our parking lot to celebrate the lights of Chanukah! Music, fun, and gifts for all!

Religious School Special Activities

Alef Family Project

Nov 21, 9-10am

We will be creating Chanukiyot for Chanukah.

Chanukah Celebrations in Classes

Tues, Nov 30 & Thur, Dec 2

We will be making and lighting candles, filling our own sufganiyot, and having a school-wide dreidel contest!

Bet Family Project

Sun, Dec 12, 9-10am

We will be creating challah covers and making challah!



Kinder Kantors

Sun, Nov 14 & Dec 12,

Following Religious School

Eat, learn, and sing Jewish music!

Youth Group Schedule

Chaverim Grades 2, 3 & 4

Kadima Grades 5-7

Sundays after RS, Noon-1:30pm

Nov 14, 21 Dec 12 & 19



USY Grades 8-12

Sundays:

Nov 21 & Dec 5, 5:30-7pm

Dec 19, end of year party, Time TBD

Youth & Family Engagement

Blessings and Bagels*

Dec 18, Jan 29, Feb 12, 9-10am

Join Morah Rebecca in the gym for an informal Shabbat Morning Program for 2nd graders through B'nai Mitzvah and their families. Students will lead prayers learned in class and Tefillah. Bagels and snacks will be served.



Shabbat Yeladim*

Dec 4, Jan 8, Feb 5, 9-10am

Shabbat Morning program for age 3 to 1st graders and their families. Join Rebecca in the gym for stories, songs

and a craft based on the Torah, Chagim, and Mitzvot. Birthday blessings/wishes will be shared each month. All are welcome.

Youth & Family Shabbat and Dinner

Open to all members of the HERJC community

Friday Evenings, Nov 19, Dec 10, at 6:30pm

Students from our Religious and Nursery Schools will be invited to the Bimah to join Hazzan Zakarin in leading prayers/songs learned in class and in Tefillah.

\$25/adult, \$15/child (ages 3-12)

No charge for children under 3.

RSVP to the HERJC office, 599-2634.

Hooray for Havdalah!



Nov 27, Jan 22

Open to all members of the HERJC community

Saturday evening times will change monthly depending on candlelighting times.

Say good-bye to Shabbat and welcome a new week with Rebecca, Hazzan Zakarin*, and Rabbi Schlesinger*. Stay and schmooze while enjoying a meal or snacks. Participate in a craft or Tikkun Olam activity. We welcome our talented HERJC community members to perform in our open mic session.

GUIDELINES: RSVP and Health attestation required for all families attending. Per COVID guidelines, all adults and children over the age of 12 must be vaccinated to attend. Masks must be worn unless eating.

*Hazzan and Rabbi will join when available.

Youth & Family Mitzvah Day

Tues, Dec 28, Time TBA (during Dec school recess)

Help make a difference in the world, one act of kindness at a time. Details to follow.

Follow HERJC on
Facebook & Instagram
for the latest happenings!

Chag Chanukah Sameach!



Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre
Congregation Etz Chaim
295 Main Street
East Rockaway NY 11518



Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 8
East Rockaway, NY



Come home to HERJC to celebrate.
December 5th is the date,
From 11-12:30, don't be late!
A brunch, DJ, keepsake tapestry,
Sing-along, scavenger hunt,
So much to do!
All we need are
Special members like you!
Our Chanukah "homecoming"
Is filled with cheer.
A great miracle will happen here!



Learn with Rabbi Schlesinger



Join Rabbi Schlesinger for
**Fascinating Talmud Stories
That Every Jew Should Know**

In Person*, on Zoom & Livestreamed

Thur, Nov 18, 8pm

What is the Talmud Model for Democracy?

Important questions for our society at large and our congregation in particular. See you there.

Thur, Dec 16, 8pm

The Rabbis in Their Own Eyes: Criticism and Seeking Improvement

The Rabbis were courageous enough to criticize themselves. In this meeting we will study different legends in which the sages demonstrated this.

*RSVP to the HERJC office at 516-599-2634 or office@herjc.org.

Contact the Rabbi if you would like to sponsor one or more meetings at rabbi@herjc.org