The Voice of Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre/Congregation Etz Chaim

November/December 2024

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Cheshvan/Kislev 5785



Join us for our Annual HERJC Chanukah Brunch December 15 at 12:00 pm at HERJC

> MORE CHANUKAH CELEBRATION INFORMATION ON PAGES 8 & 9

Village of East Rockaway Menorah Lighting December 14 (see p. 17)



Friendsgiving Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner November 22

SEE INFORMATION ON PAGE 7

Notes from the Hazzan



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HAZZAN BONNIE ZAKARIN

One of the most beautiful sounds in a synagogue is the joyful voices of children. Their singing brings a unique energy to our community, reminding us of the pure, enthusiastic spirit that is at the heart of our tradition. This is why I am so excited to announce the return of our beloved Kinder Cantors, our synagogue's youth chorus.

After a short pause, our Kinder Cantors will once again be lifting their voices in song, bringing ruach (spirit) and a special vibrancy to

our Shabbat services. These young singers remind us of the importance of passing down our traditions and how the next generation carries the future of our community in their hearts and voices.

This year, I am celebrating my 10th anniversary here at HERJC, and I can think of no greater joy than having the Kinder Cantors join me for a special concert in the spring. I will be inviting my colleagues from around the country to perform with us. Having the Kinder Cantors participate in this meaningful concert is a symbol of the continued growth and strength of our musical community. I am so looking forward to hearing them sing alongside our congregation and my colleagues, filling the sanctuary with their voices of innocence and hope.

The Kinder Cantors bring much more than music; they bring a reminder of what makes a community whole. Children represent our future, and when they sing, they do more than perform – they lead us in prayer and lift our spirits. The joy they express through music is contagious, and I encourage you all to join us on Shabbat to experience their voices as they enrich our worship and bring light to our services.

As we prepare for both their performances throughout the year and the special anniversary concert, I want to thank the children, their families, and all who have supported this beautiful project. Let's make this year's return of the Kinder Cantors one filled with music, community, and celebration.

If you'd like more information please don't hesitate to reach out! With excitement and gratitude, Hazzan Zakarin



Our first Kinder Cantors rehearsal is November 5 at 11:30 am in the HERJC chapel.

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HAKOL 就 www.herjc.org

From the Rabbi



RABBI MICHEL SCHLESINGER

A Light That Shines Through Time: Celebrating Chanukah in a Leap Year

This year, Chanukah comes to us a little later than usual, thanks to the leap year in the Hebrew calendar. As the lights of our menorahs brighten the darkness, we find ourselves at a unique intersection, where the warmth of our festival coincides with Christmas and New Year's celebrations. This overlap offers a powerful moment for reflection,

connection, and deepening the meaning of our traditions.

Chanukah is, at its core, a celebration of light. We recall the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days, a beacon of hope and resilience in the face of oppression. Each night, as we add a candle to our menorahs, we remember that even a small light can grow and dispel great darkness. It is a message that resonates not only for Jews, but for all people who yearn for moments of peace, justice, and renewal.

In this year's convergence of holidays, we are reminded that light is a universal language. While the world celebrates in its own ways, we share with our neighbors the message of hope and the belief in the power of miracles, even in the most unlikely moments. Whether

May our lights shine brightly, not only in our homes but in the world around us. May we continue to rededicate ourselves to acts of kindness, justice, and peace. it's the birth of a new year or the rededication of a sacred space, we are united in our collective desire to find meaning in times of renewal and transformation.

The leap year, in which an extra month is added to our Hebrew calendar, serves as a reminder of time's malleability. It provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the ways we adapt and adjust, both individually and as a community. Just as the Jewish people recalibrated their calendar centuries ago to ensure our holidays remained in sync with the seasons, we, too, make adjustments in our lives. Sometimes, those adjustments

come in the form of adding time – whether it be to recalibrate ourselves, reconnect with loved ones, or deepen our spiritual practices.

As we light our menorahs during this overlapping season, let us embrace the opportunity to draw connections between the lights of our own homes and those of our neighbors. Let us use the extra moments this leap year affords us to reflect on the timeless values of Chanukah – faith, courage, and the triumph of light over darkness.

May our lights shine brightly, not only in our homes but in the world around us. May we continue to rededicate ourselves to acts of kindness, justice, and peace. And may this Chanukah, though later on the calendar, come at just the right moment in our hearts.

Chag Urim Sameach - Happy Festival of Lights!



HAKOL

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Learning with Rabbi Schlesinger – Tuesday, November 12 at 8:00 pm The Relationship Between Israel and The Diaspora Following October 7

Join us for evening minyan at 7:30 pm with Rabbi Schlesinger's learning program to follow. Coffee and dessert to be served.

HERJC Mission Statement

Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre—Congregation Etz Chaim (HERJC) is a warm, vibrant, traditional-egalitarian Conservative congregation. Our diverse, forward-thinking community is one in which learning, prayer and social action flourish.

Since its founding in 1949, HERJC has been recognized for creating a welcoming environment in which each member - Regardless of age, stage of life or background feels a connection to one another, to the Jewish people, to the United States, to the land and State of Israel, to Judaism, and to God.

We are committed to continuing to provide innovative, interesting and thoughtprovoking programs that:

- Foster lifelong learning from pre-school through adulthood
- Celebrate our Jewish heritage
- Deepen the sense of community among our Congregational family
- Promote religious involvement of all members, and enhance their spiritual experience
- Encourage intergenerational cooperation
- Nurture the State of Israel and our relationship with it
- Serve the needs of our members, the local community, the United States, and K'lal Yisrael, the Jewish people, throughout the world.

Pirkei Avot says the world rests on Torah, Avodah, and G'milut Chasadim. So too does our Congregation.

From the Executive Director



LISA STEIN

The Talmud (Shevuot 39a) introduces us to the Rabbinic principle 'Kol Yisrael Areivim Zeh BaZeh,' כל ישראל ערבים זה בזה, that 'all of Israel is responsible for one another.' As Jews, we are obligated to help take care of others. I would say that this important Jewish value is one most of us take to heart in our daily lives, doing what we can to be of assistance. The leadership here at HERJC is looking at this value on an even larger scale, and I am pleased to say, so is New York State. As you may recall,

a number of months ago we shared with the congregation that HERJC received considerable grant funding to improve our security. At this time, a focus on security is one way that we can show each other how seriously we take the concept of doing all we can to take care of our community. We have begun work on all four of our security projects. Here is a brief summary;

- **Project 1:** New computer hardware and software has been purchased and installed. We have also hired a new IT company, making our work more productive and utilizing up-to-date technology, vastly improving our cybersecurity.
- **Project 2:** A new public address system was installed throughout the building, linked to our phone system, that enables us to initiate an emergency announcement, including to our outdoor spaces within seconds. An additional component of this project will include internal security cameras.
- Project 3: In the front of the sanctuary, behind the bima, new bulletproof glass block has been installed, replacing the ordinary windows. An egress door has also been installed for an additional exit.
- **Project 4:** The mostly glass school doors will be replaced by more secure, solid, and bulletproof doors. This project is being designed, and we are getting permits in order to move forward.

It is frightening that we live in a time where we must plan this way to provide for the safety of our members, but we are grateful that we are able to do so. The funding comes from the Securing Against Hate Crimes grant through the New York State Department of Justice. In addition to this financial support, we also look to our HERJC Security and House Committees who have invested tremendous time and energy into these projects. A particular thank you to Bruce Drantch, Jay Fader, Keith Harrow, Audrey Polinsky, and Elliott Polinsky for all their hard work.

I am particularly pleased that we have been able to put these measures in place at a time when we are seeing tremendous engagement here at HERJC! Over the course of the High Holidays, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur 2024/5785, we welcomed over 1,500 people through our doors. We began the Holidays with our 'Toast to the New Year' which we held outside on the patio with a lovely crowd and continued with a completely full sanctuary at many points during Rosh Hashanah. Sukkot through Simchat Torah was full of energy and fun, even as we continued to keep Israel and the hostages at the forefront of our minds. In addition, our communal Shabbat dinners bring us together to pray, to eat, and to shmooze – what could be better? **Please join us on November 22nd for our next Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner!**



From the President



JASON MELZER

Dear congregants,

It is now November, the High Holidays are behind us, and we have returned to our usual schedules and daily routines. As the cold weather sets in, many of us tend to "hibernate" a bit. Impromptu weekend gettogethers with friends are less common and we see our neighbors less often. During the cold winter months, the need for connection, warmth, and support becomes even more crucial, and for HERJC, this season

presents a unique opportunity to come together in faith, fellowship, and service.

Winter, with its shorter days, longer nights, and often harsh conditions, can bring about feelings of isolation and vulnerability. However, the sense of unity that is deeply rooted in our Jewish religious traditions can help alleviate these challenges and offer spiritual and emotional warmth in addition to physical comfort.

Winter can also be a time of spiritual nourishment. Hanukkah provides us with an opportunity for celebration, reflection, and communal prayer, bringing us together in a shared experience of faith, hope, and determination. When we gather for celebrations, we

6 Hanukkah provides us with an opportunity for celebration, reflection, and communal prayer, bringing us together in a shared experience of faith, hope, and determination. not only strengthen individual relationships with our faith, but also reinforce bonds among community members, fostering a sense of belonging and unity.

We are blessed with a thriving sense of community at HERJC and our winter programming provides us with the ability to connect on many levels. There are opportunities to serve the larger community around

us, deepen our knowledge of Torah, or simply to enjoy each other's company. I encourage all of you to take advantage of these opportunities and help to bring warmth to all of us during this winter season.

It was a privilege to serve you during my first High Holiday season as your lay leader. I have been getting to know many of you on a deeper level. I will continue to strive to meet more of you on a one-on-one basis. Please know that I am happy to make myself available to any of you should you like to share any thoughts regarding HERJC and how we can make our synagogue a place of belonging.

Two Dynamic Speakers - Join Us!

With love and respect, Jason



IRA KOHLER Nov. 06, 7:30pm at HERJC

Lone Soldier Ira Kohler Ira Kohler shares his incredible story as a lone soldier in the IDF's 890th battalion.

SAM SOKOL

Nov. 24 at 2:00 pm on Zoom

Israel After a Year of War Times of Israel Political Correspondent, Sam Sokol explains where we are, how we got here, and what's next.



SERVICE SCHEDULE

SHABBAT

Friday night, 6:00 pm In person Saturday morning, 9:30 am In person and Zoom

MORNING MINYAN

Monday, Thursday, and Rosh Chodesh, 7:45 am In person and Zoom Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 7:45 am Check calendar for in person and Zoom days Sunday, 9:00 am In person and Zoom followed by breakfast National holidays 9:00 am

EVENING MINYAN

Sunday-Thursday, 7:30 pm Zoom ONLY

Call-in for all Services: +1 929 205 6099 US (NY) Meeting ID: 834 2299 4395 Passcode: 5235888







Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre ETZ CHAIM ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

ENSURING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER.

Together we can fill the tree with leaves. Each leaf represents a generous donor and each donation to the HERJC Etz Chaim Endowment Fund helps to secure the future of our synagogue and Jewish education for years to come. Help us to achieve our goal of \$2,000,000.



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Mazal Tov to Our B'nai Mitzvah

JACOB INGBER

November 9, 2024

Mazal Tov to Karen and Adam Ingber on the B'nai Mitzvah of their son, Jacob.

Jacob has a great smile, a warm heart, and a curious nature. He enjoys playing saxophone in the Lynbrook Middle School Band and is also a member of the Cross Country and Tennis teams.

He enjoys wake boarding, water skiing, and golfing at Camp Taconic.

Jacob also spends time raising money and volunteering for Sunrise Day Camp.

Jacob has one sibling, Sadie (9).

ALEXANDER BAUM November 30, 2024

Mazal Tov to Rebecca and Joshua Baum on the B'nai Mitzvah of their son, Alexander.

Alexander is bright and joyful. He is a mathematician and a deep thinker, loves music, is always playing games, and is always kind to everyone.

In his spare time, Alexander volunteers at the community garden, Arts Below Sunrise, and has per-



formed at Assisted Living and Community Choir fundraisers. Alexander has two siblings, Anneliese (19) and Daniel (16).



MAXWELL STEIN

November 30, 2024

Mazal Tov to Lisa and Stu Stein on the B'nai Mitzvah of their son, Maxwell.

Maxwell is kind, intelligent, thoughtful, funny and compassionate. He loves sports and plays on his middle school volleyball and baseball teams, while also playing flag football and travel baseball outside of school.

Maxwell volunteered for a week in the HERJC ECC this past summer and loved being with the children and he hopes to have the opportunity to volunteer again. Maxwell attended Camp Young Judaea Sprout Lake for many summers and this year will go to the high school program at Camp Tel Yehudah. Maxwell has one sibling, Gabriella (19).



Join us on Friday, November 22 6:00 pm for a

Friendsgiving



Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner with the HERJC community

SCAN THE QR TO RSVP



Chanukah

NIGHTLY BLESSINGS

Baruch ata Adonai, Elohaynu Melech Haolam, asher kidshanu b'mitsvotav, v'tsivanu, l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

בָּרוּדְ אַתָּה ה׳ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשְׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצוְנוּ לְהַדְלִיק גֵר שֶׁל חֲנָכָּה.

We praise You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your Mitzvot and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

Baruch ata Adonai, Elohaynu Melech Haolam, she-asa nisim la-a-vo-tenu, ba-yamim, ha-hem bazman ha-zeh. בָּרוּדְ אַתָּה ה׳ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לַאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְמַן הַזֶּה.

We praise You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

TO BE ADDED ON THE FIRST NIGHT AFTER THE OTHER 2 BLESSINGS

Baruch ata Adonai, Elohaynu Melech Haolam, she-he-che-yanu v'ki-y'manu, v'higianu lazman ha-zeh. בָּרוּדְ אַתָּה ה׳ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֶחֶנֶנוּ וְקִיְמֵנוּ וְהָגִּיעֵנוּ לַזָּמַן הַזֵּה.

We praise You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has given us life, sustained us and enabled us to reach this season.

Chanukah Treats

Chanukah Gelt - Fun and Easy!

From www.delish.com

Whether or not these gold foiled-covered chocolate coins were part of your childhood celebrations, Chanukah Gelt are a simple treat you can make at home to complete your celebration. Many opt for the store-bought version, but this Chanukah treat is so easy to make (& customize!)

Yields: 24 servings • Prep Time: 5 mins Total Time: 25 mins • Calories/Serving: 48

Ingredients

- Neutral oil, for brushing
- 6 oz. dark chocolate or semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 dried apricots, cut into thin strips (optional)
- 1 Tbsp. slivered almonds (optional)
- 1 tsp. gold sprinkles or white sparkling sugar (optional)
- 1/2 tsp. coarse Himalayan sea salt (optional)



Directions

- 1. Lightly brush a nonstick 24-cup or 2 (12-cup) mini cupcake pans with oil.
- In a small heatproof bowl, microwave chocolate in 20-second increments, stirring between each, until melted and smooth (or use a double-boiler).
- Pour 1 to 1-1/2 teaspoons of chocolate into each prepared cup, tapping pan to evenly distribute chocolate. Sprinkle with desired toppings, if using. Refrigerate until chilled, about 10 minutes.
- Turn pan upside down onto a cutting board. Tap back of cups to remove gelt. Serve immediately or wrap in foil.



Holiday Festival at East Rockaway Village Hall Saturday, December 14, 5:00 pm

HERJC Chanukah Party Sunday, December 15, 12:00 pm

Chanukah Youth Program

Sunday, December 15, 5:30 pm

Early Childhood Center Chanukah Party

Wednesday, December 18, 5:30 pm

Chevre Shabbat - Chanukah Friday, December 27, 6:00 pm

East Rockaway Village Hall Candlelighting

Monday, December 30, 6:00 pm

Latke Tip - Cooking for a Crowd

You can make latkes in advance. Set the oven to 250°F to keep latkes warm while you are cooking the others. But don't let the batter sit too long or it will brown. Shredding some onion with the potatoes

can also help prevent browning.

Latke Tip - Vegan or Gluten-free For vegan latkes, you can leave the egg out and they will still bind, though they won't be as creamy in the middle. You can also be as creamy in the miluule. You can also substitute flax egg. For gluten-free latkes, Substitute nax egg. For Sinten-nee larkes, substitute potato starch for the flour. They will be delicious!

a 375°F oven.

off the fryer.

From whatjewwannaeat.com

Latke Tip - Get the Best Taste

Fried food tastes good with salt - It's just science! Drain latkes on a cooling rack and salt them immediately after you take them

Latke Tip - Feeze and Thaw

Plan ahead! Fry as usual, and then freeze

the latkes on a sheet pan and pack in a freezer-safe resealable bag. When ready to

serve, let latkes thaw slightly and reheat in

Latke Tip - Be Creative With Spices

Add cumin, cayenne, za'atar, cinnamon, and salt. What about toppings? Sour cream and applesauce are delish, but how about a horseradish spread, lox and cream cheese,

Latke Tip - Fry, Baby, Fry!

Use an oil with a high smoke point to

achieve perfectly golden latkes like canola oil. Use enough oil to reach the latke sides

too. Pro tip: add a peeled small carrot to your oil which soaks up the brown bits that

flake off so they don't end up in your latkes!

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Getting to know our new members...

Dana and Travis Stockman are passionate, loving, and excited to join the HERJC community. Travis is a lawyer and Dana works in legal discovery. While they don't have any children yet, they are focused on growing



their family, as well as their careers. They love a good book, movie, or TV show, but mostly love traveling. Travis grew up here and had his Bar Mitzvah at HERJC. Dana and Travis are looking forward to HERJC being a place for them to embrace and practice Judaism. **Samantha and Lee Schneider** grew up in the area and love the idea of raising their children so close to their families. Lee is a lawyer specializing in civil defense. Samantha and Lee have two children: Jordan, who is in second grade and Ally, who is in Kindergarten. They both love to stay active from using the Peloton to playing pickleball. They are big

(but unlucky) sports fans-Go Jets, Mets, and Knicks! Lee was Bar Mitzvah'd at HERJC and Samantha grew up going to Sons of Israel. Both Jordan and Ally graduated from the ECC. The Schneiders love the warm and welcoming HERJC community.



Randi and Stephen Bonica are excited to be new members at HERJC! Randi is from Midwood, Brooklyn and Steve is from Metuchen, NJ and they have lived in Rockaway Beach, for almost ten years. Steve is a high school science teacher in downtown Brooklyn. Randi is a jewelry artist, entrepreneur and small business consultant and runs her business Salt and Sparkle from home. Randi and Stephen have one son, Murray (5) who absolutely loves being Jewish and learning about Judaism. He attends HERJC Religious School in the Building Blocks program. Steve is an avid cyclist and runner and can often be found racing on the weekends or coaching others. Randi and Stephen are also hoping to make some friends and find a sense of community that they don't currently have where they live.



A Word From the Ritual Committee

BY MICHAEL GOLDWASSER

HERJC's Ritual Committee has several main goals that feed into finding the balance between continuity and change when it comes to rituals at our shul. We want to help HERJC members connect with being Jewish by providing opportunities to both practice Judaism and express ideas about how we practice Judaism. We also strive to be a liaison between congregants and clergy. Throughout the year, we will use this space to keep the congregation posted about new ideas, and to request participation from members of the shul, so stay tuned!

HERJC Members' Hebrew Names Collection

One of the things that we are working on is updating the name cards for honors at services. Every member of HERJC is worthy of getting an honor, and the proceedings move much more smoothly if we have cards on file for you and your family with each of your Hebrew names on it. So if you don't have a card, are not sure if you have a card, or need your card to be corrected or updated, you can now enter your family's names on the HERJC website – look for the "HERJC Members' Hebrew Name Collection" button near the top of the homepage. You can also email or call the office with the information.

B'nai Mitzvah Anniversary Commemorations

We would also like to invite all members to commemorate their b'nai mitzvah by participating in Shabbat morning services on the anniversary of their big day. Even if you don't remember your parasha or your Haftorah, you can still do a Torah blessing or have some other honor. And if you do want to read Torah or Haftorah, but you're a bit rusty, the Hazzan will gladly help you. And that doesn't just apply to bnei mitzvah anniversaries – we'd love to have any congregant read on any Shabbat. Please contact the Hazzan at hazzan@herjc.org if you'd like to read.



The Harry Kassel Patrons Society



If Harry Kassel (*z"I*) were alive, I believe he would say the Patrons Society which he envisioned 47 years ago has achieved more than he could ever have imagined. Our Early Childhood Center has over 110 students and extended its services this year to Israeli children to provide them with a stable life while fighting rages in Gaza. Our Religious School has over 85 students with the influx of new members who see their children's education as paramount to a Jewish community. Our overall membership rose by over 25 families this year, continuing the trend of HERJC's growth and positive feedback for our synagogue. In truth, *The Harry Kassel Patrons Society* and those who participate as Patrons reflect the incredible generosity of HERJC members who secure our future by maintaining our present. Their contributions as Patrons

are shining examples of what these families mean to HERJC, and we owe them our gratitude for their stalwart support. Their participation is a sign of the Patrons' collective belief in HERJC and in the legacy Harry sought to create.

Thank you to our new and continuing Patrons. If you would like to become a Patron, please contact Lisa Stein at execdir@herjc.org.

KETER TORAH

Lisa & Edmund Cohen Marilyn & Stanley Cohen Stephanie & Steven Kaufman Joan Laufer

DOUBLE CHAI

Pamela & Daniel Gerstman Terri & Steven Gold Aleta & Ariel Grunberg Robin & Mark Hoorwitz Iris & Alan Jacobs Laurie & Asher Platt Arthur Riegel Nora & Jack Skiba

CHAI

Leslie & Jonathan Altus Arnelle & Brian Blinderman Laurie & Joseph Brofsky Doris & Yosef Dlugacz Stefanie & Stuart Doloboff Marcia & Marc Goldberg Lisa & Michael Greenberg Jody & Richard Grobman Lisa & Lev Herrnson Steven Kandel Lois & Marc Kemp Meredith & Michael King Liz & Harold Kislik Lisa & Kenneth Kornblau Melissa and Paul Kotcher Janie & Michael Krasne Heidi & Steven Kreit Nancy & Paul Levitt Marsha & Larry Miller Melanie & Stephen Moelis Audrey & Elliott Polinsky Joan & Martin Rosen Nanci-sue & Eric Rosenthal Meryle Samuels Ellen & George Schieren Nancy & Steven Stern*

SIMCHA

Susan & Stanley Alt Joan Berkowitz Linda & David Burton Ilene & Lawrence Cohen Barbara and Paul Cooper Shelley & Arthur Debin Naomi & Norman Doctor Stacey & Jaime Ezratty Vicki & Irwin Graber Frank Grobman Elaine & Edward Halbridge Madeline & Keith Harrow Joy & Larry Kaminsky Barbara Kaplan Zeena Kassel Wendy Kassel, Lisa Kassel & Mitchell Winter, & Richard Kassel & Penny Venetis Susan & David Koffler Syndee & David Kurz Debra & Jeffrey Langendorff Adrienne & Geoffrey Lurie Myra & Alan Markowitz Judith Mintz Randi & Jonathan Polansky Nancy & Michael Rehns Ivy & Thomas Reilly Carrie & Daniel Rolnick Rosalie & Kenneth Roth Joan & Donald Schaeffer Juliana & Rabbi Michel Schlesinger Denise & Robert Sher

Shari & Brian Silver Jacqueline Simons & Kenneth Fink Barbara & Joseph Sklar Roberta & Stuart Sugarman Nancy & Scott Wachs Marjorie & Joel Wecksell

OLIM

Elana & Zinoviy Abelev The Barbash Family Marnie & Mitchel Feffer Leslie & Jason Gang Elaine & Brett Garver Regina & Lev Ginzburg Allison & David Horton Karen & Adam Ingber Margo & Jason Melzer Rebecca Osder Erica & David Rechtweg Ileane & Herbert Tischler Jason Winter & Betsy Schwartz; Rebecca Winter, Joshua Waitt: & Xander Winter Hazzan Bonnie & Moshe Zakarin

Hazzan Bonnie & Moshe Zakarin Cristina Zancani & David Schieren



Do You Have a College Student?

Help us stay connected to your children. Fill out the form using the QR so we can send them some treats!



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Sisterhood



BEVERLY WACHTEL

Am Yisrael Chai! The People of Israel Live! The Jewish People Live! We've planned this year's programming around this theme - while we continue to hope, pray, worry, and also celebrate life during this stressful time of war in Israel and growing anti-Israel/anti-

semitic extremism around the world. In November and December, we're experiencing and learning about how the Jewish people support each other, we're bringing in speakers about Israel and extremism, and we're bringing in (and supporting) Jewish entertainers. Here's what's coming up in November and December!

We kick off November with our annual coat drive. *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world, is a tradition of the Jewish people. Help those who are less fortunate than we are by donating your gently used warm outer clothing during our Coat Drive on November 3-4, and by donating food for our food collection throughout the year.

On Veterans Day, Monday, November 11, we'll hear HERJC member Ed Freeberg and his colleagues from Post 652 tell us about the fascinating history of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S. and some of their projects. The JWV is a Jewish Voice for Veterans and a Veterans' Voice for Jews. This event is co-sponsored by Adult Ed.

At our Membership Dinner on Thursday, November 7, we'll enjoy the iconic songs of Barbra Streisand sung by Dorian Clara, another Jewish girl from Brooklyn and a talented tribute artist. Join Sisterhood and be entertained at HERJC Sisterhood's Dinner Theatre!

On Tuesday, December 3, we'll hear from Tzivia Appelman, an Associate Analyst at the ADL Center on Extremism, about Anti-Israel Activism since October 7 both in general and locally in New York. While this program was arranged by Sisterhood, it is a HERJC event. It is provided to HERJC by ADL as a benefit of our partnership in the ADL Signature Synagogue Program sponsored by Sisterhood. At our Comedy Night on Thursday, December 12, we'll laugh the humor of radio personality and multi-cultural Jewish comedian, Allan Fuks. Allan, the child of Russian-Ukrainian Jews, was born in Belgium, raised in the South Bronx, and now lives in Queens, and his humor reflects his diverse background. It has been a stressful and difficult year for the Jewish people. If laughter is the best medicine to help us cope, or at least to escape our ills for an evening, then Allan Fuks is the cure! This event, being held at HERJC, is open to our entire congregation and to the congregations of the other Synagogue Sisterhoods co-sponsoring this Joint-Sisterhood event.

On Wednesday, December 18, participants in our book club will discuss the book *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. We continue to meet every other month. This month's book is a family story that asks, "Can love make a broken person whole?" Though the story of the book is unrelated, this question hits home when thinking of the people in Israel who are broken by war.

Sisterhood and the Adult Ed Committee have arranged for two wonderful guest speaker events in November. Ira Kohler, a Lone Soldier from Plainview who served in the IDF at the time of the terror attack on Oct. 7 will be joining us at HERJC on Nov. 6 to share his experiences with us. *Times of Israel* reporter Sam Sokol will join us on Zoom from Israel, on Nov. 24, to talk about the situation in Israel. Thanks to our congregation's support of our fundraisers, Sisterhood is covering the fees for these speakers.

We hope you'll join us at our events!

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 8:00 pm

Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano

Interested in joining us? Contact Roberta.sugarman@gmail.com.





Sisterhood Events

SISTERHOOD MEMBERSHIP EVENT: DORIAN CLARA SINGS BARBRA

■ Thursday, November 7 at 7:00 pm in the HERJC Ballroom

Be entertained by the Songs of Streisand sung by another Jewish girl from Brooklyn! Dorian Clara is a talented tribute artist with over 30 years of experience and training from the prestigious Juilliard School of Music. Come enjoy dinner (Chinese food, one of Streisand's favorites!), the company of friends, and dinner theatre style entertainment.

Couvert: \$36 • 50/50 raffle • RSVP a must! • Look for your invitation in the mail!

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

Monday, November 11 at 8:00 pm at HERJC

Join us on Veterans Day for a presentation by the Jewish War Veterans Post 652 **Commander Gary Glick**, **Eric Spinner** and **Ed Freeberg** as they discuss:

- A brief history of the JWV
- Project Maggid, JWV storytelling program
- Jews who served in the U.S. Military
- Chesed Projects sponsored by JWV

Co-sponsored by Sisterhood and Adult Ed



Iorian (Iara

ANTI-ISRAEL ACTIVISM SINCE OCTOBER 7

Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 8:00 pm

Speaker: Tzivia Appleman, Associate Analyst at the ADL Center on Extremism

Laugh to the humor of radio personality and multi-cultural Jewish comedian Allan Fuks.



Topic: Who's behind the hate, extremism, antisemitism and terrorism? What's happening around the world and here in New York?

COMEDY NIGHT

■ Thursday, December 12 at 8:00 pm at HERJC



Allan Fuks (pronounced Fooks) is an award-winning comedian with an unusual perspective informed by his unique background who was born in Belgium to a Russian-Ukrainian Jewish family and then raised in the South Bronx projects with the last name "Fuks" (his parents aren't known to make the best choices).

This Joint-Sisterhood Event is open to the entire congregation! Free for members of Sisterhood, \$20 for other HERJC members

Co-sponsored by the Sisterhoods of: Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre, Temple Beth El of Cedarhurst, Oceanside Jewish Center, South Baldwin Jewish Center, Congregation B'nai Sholom-Beth David and East Meadow Beth-El Jewish Center. Questions? Contact: bowachtel@gmail.com

ANNUAL SISTERHOOD WARM CLOTHING DRIVE



Sunday, November 3 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Monday, November 4 12:30 - 2:30 pm

In the front entrance/ lobby area

LOOKING AHEAD

Sisterhood Shabbat Saturday, January 18

BRINGO Thursday, January 23

Get Your Torah Fund Pin Early!

Torah Fund Campaign of WLCJ Pin 5785 (2024-25)



Am Yisrael Chai The people of Israel Live! Am Yisrael Chai is an expression of Jewish solidarity for the Jewish nation and the continuity of the Jewish people.

Contact Barbara Kaplan BQLI Region Torah Fund VP at barbkrd63@gmail.com

HAKOL 💓 www.herjc.org

November Calendar



Year-Round **Food Collection**

Please continue to bring kosher non-perishable food items to the Synagogue. We deliver regularly to a food pantry. The need is great, so please help us to fight hunger.

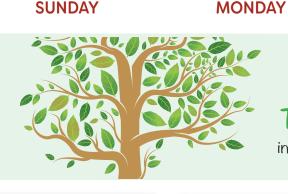


Recycling **Opportunities** at HERJC

The Early Childhood **Center Collects**

used ink cartridges. cell phones and "garbage" (which becomes art!), such as CLEAN paper towel tubes, coffee cans, egg crates, baby food jars, plastic containers, ribbons, wrapping paper, wallpaper, buttons, yarn, spools, fabric, shopping bags and anything else you can think of!

They can be dropped off outside the ECC School doors, or call the office at 599-1169.



3

10

2 CHESHVAN

Daylight Savings Time Ends

9:00 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning

Minyan followed by Breakfast

9:00 am - Religious School

(Building Blocks - Grade 6)

9:00 am-12:00 pm

Sisterhood Coat Drive

5:30 pm - Youth Program (Gr. 5-7)

7:00 pm - Youth Program (Gr. 8-12)

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

9 CHESHVAN

Religious School Closed

9:00 am - In-Person & Virtual

Morning Minyan followed

by Breakfast

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

9:00 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning

Minyan followed by Breakfast

9:00 am - Religious School

(Building Blocks - Grade 6)

5:30 pm - Youth Thanksgiving

Program (Grades 5-7)

7:00 pm - Youth Thanksgiving

Program (Grades 8-12)

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

9:00 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan followed

by Breakfast

9:00 am - Religious School

(Building Blocks - Grade 6)

2:00 pm - Guest Speaker Sam Sokol

(on Zoom)

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

24 23 CHESHVAN

17 16 CHESHVAN

4 **3 CHESHVAN**

7:45 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 12:30-2:30 pm - Sisterhood Coat Drive 6:30 pm - Israel Committee Meeting 6:30 pm - Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 8:00 pm - Executive Committee Meeting

11 **10 CHESHVAN**

Veterans Day ECC Closed 9:00 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 8:00 pm - Sisterhood & Adult Ed Event

18 **17 CHESHVAN**

7:45 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 7:00 pm - Gala Committee Meeting 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 8:00 pm - Congregational Meeting followed by Open Board of Directors Meeting

25 **24 CHESHVAN**

7:45 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minvan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

Commemorate a happy event by placing a leaf on the TREE OF LIFE

in our Lobby. Contact the office.

5 **4 CHESHVAN**

TUESDAY

Election Day Religious School Closed ECC Closed 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

12 **11 CHESHVAN**

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 4:15 pm - Religious School (Grades 1-6)

6:00 pm - Religious School (Grade 7)

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

8:00 pm - Learning Event with Rabbi Schlesinger

18 CHESHVAN 19

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 4:15 pm - Religious School (Grades 1-6)

6:00 pm - Religious School (Grade 7)

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minya 8:00 pm - Education Comm. Meeting

26 25 CHESHVAN

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 4:15 pm - Religious School (Grades 1-6)

6:00 pm - Religious School (Grade 7)

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan





of **Events**

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
November 3rd Daylight Savings Time Ends Set Clocks Back 1 Ho	ur	30 TISHRE Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan7:45 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan9:30 am - ECC Whole School Shabbat5:30 pm - Tot Shabbat5:32 pm - Candlelighting	2 1 CHESHVAN PARASHAT NOACH Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan 9:30 am - Shabbat Service 6:31 pm - Havdalah
6 SCHESHVAN 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 7:30 pm - Guest Speaker Ira Kohler: Lone Soldier at HERJC	 7 6 CHESHVAN 7:45 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 8:00 pm - Sisterhood Membership Event 	8 7 CHESHVAN 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 4:25 pm - Candlelighting 6:00 pm - Chevre Shabbat	9 8 CHESHVAN PARASHAT LECH-LECHA B'nai Mitzvah of Jacob Ingber 9:30 am - Shabbat Service 5:24 pm - Havdalah
13 12 CHESHVAN 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 10:00 am - Veterans Visit ECC 6:30 pm - Parsha & Pizza at HERJC 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	14 13 CHESHVAN 7:45 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 7:00 - 9:00 pm ECC Vendor Night 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 8:00 pm - Sisterhood Board Meeting	15 14 CHESHVAN 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 4:18 pm - Candlelighting 6:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service	16 15 CHESHVAN PARASHAT VAYERA Instrumental Shabbat 9:30 am - Shabbat Service 5:19 pm - Havdalah 6:30 pm - Ruach Progressive Dinner
20 19 CHESHVAN 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 8:30 am - ECC Storytime 6:30 pm - Rabbi Schlesinger's Talmud Class at HERJC 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	21 20 CHESHVAN 7:45 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	22 21 CHESHVAN 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 4:14 pm - Candlelighting 6:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service & Religious School Shabbat of Gratitude 7:00 pm - Friendsgiving Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner	23 22 CHESHVAN PARASHAT CHAYEI SARA 9:30 am - Shabbat Services 5:15 pm - Havdalah
27 26 CHESHVAN ECC Closed 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	28 27 CHESHVAN Thanksgiving ECC Closed Office Closed 9:00 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	29 28 CHESHVAN ECC Closed Office Closed 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 4:11 pm - Candlelighting 6:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service	30 29 CHESHVAN PARASHAT TOLDOT B'nai Mitzvah of Maxwell Stein B'nai Mitzvah of Alex Baum 9:30 am - Shabbat Service & Maxwell Stein B'nai Mitzvah 4:00 pm - Alex Baum B'nai Mitzvah 5:13 pm - Havdalah

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December Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
30 CHESHVAN	2 1 KISLEV	3 2 KISLEV	4 3 KISLEV
Rosh Chodesh Kislev Religious School Closed 9:00 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan followed by Breakfast 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	Rosh Chodesh Kislev 7:45 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 8:00 pm - Executive Committee Meeting	7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 4:15 pm - Religious School (Grades 1-6) 6:00 pm - Religious School (Grade 7) 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 8:00 pm - Sisterhood Event: ADL Program	ECC Picture Day 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 8:00 pm - Sisterhood Board Meeting
8 7 KISLEV	9 8 KISLEV	10 9 KISLEV	11 10 KISLEV
9:00 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan followed by Breakfast 9:00 am - Religious School (Building Blocks - Grade 6) 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	7:45 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 6:30 pm - Israel Committee Meeting 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 4:15 pm - Religious School (Grades 1-6) 6:00 pm - Religious School (Grade 7) 6:30 pm - Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 	7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan
 15 14 KISLEV 9:00 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan followed by Breakfast 9:00 am - Religious School (Building Blocks - Grade 6) 12:00 pm - HERJC Chanukah Party 5:30 pm - Youth Program (Grades 5-7) 7:00 pm - Youth Program (Grades 8-12) 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 	 16 15 KISLEV 7:45 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 8:00 pm - Board of Directors Meeting 	 17 16 KISLEV 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 4:15 pm - Religious School (Grades 1-6) 6:00 pm - Religious School (Grade 7) 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 8:00 pm - Education Committee Meeting 	 18 17 KISLEV 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 8:30 am - ECC Storytime 5:30 pm - ECC Pre-Chanukah Party 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 8:00 pm - Sisterhood Book Club
22 21 KISLEV Religious School Closed 9:00 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan followed by Breakfast 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	ECC Closed 7:45 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	24 23 KISLEV ECC Closed Religious School Closed 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	25 24 KISLEV Chanukah First Candle ECC Closed Office Closed 9:00 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 7:00 pm - First Candlelighting 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan
29 28 KISLEV Chanukah Day 4 - Fifth Candle Religious School Closed 9:00 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan followed by Breakfast 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	30 29 KISLEV Chanukah Day 5 - Sixth Candle ECC Closed 7:45 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 6:00 pm - East Rockaway Village Hall Candlelighting 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	31 30 KISLEV Chanukah Day 6 - Seventh Candle Rosh Chodesh Tevet New Year's Eve ECC Closed 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	JAN 1 TEVET Chanukah Day 7 - Eighth Candle New Year's Day ECC Closed Office Closed 9:00 am - Virtual Morning Minyan
	NE.		



of **Events**

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	Light the Shabbat Candles and
5 4 KISLEV	6 5 KISLEV	7 6 KISLEV	Recite the
ECC Picture Day 7:45 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 6:30 pm - Parsha & Pizza at Congregation Sons of Israel 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 9:30 am - ECC Whole School Shabbat 4:09 pm - Candlelighting 6:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service	PARASHAT VAYETZEI Instrumental Shabbat 9:30 am - Shabbat Service 5:12 pm - Havdalah	Following Blessing בְּרוּהְ אַתָּה ה' אֶלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶהְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצָוָנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר
12 11 KISLEV	13 12 KISLEV	14 13 KISLEV	
		PARASHAT VEYESHEV	שֶׁל שַׁבָּת.
7:45 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan 8:00 pm - Joint Sisterhood Event: Comedy Night with Allan Fuks	7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 4:10 pm - Candlelighting 6:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Religious School Shabbat of Chanukah Songs 9:30 am - Shabbat Service 5:00 pm - Holiday Festival at East Rockaway Village Hall 5:14 pm - Havdalah	Ba-ruch A-tah Ado-nai E-lohei-nu Me-lech Ha-olam A-Sher Kee-di-shah-noo Bi-mitz-vo-tav Vi-tzee-va-noo Li-had-leek Ner
19 18 KISLEV	20 19 KISLEV	21 20 KISLEV	Shel Sha-bat.
7:45 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	7:45 am – Virtual Morning Minyan 4:12 pm – Candlelighting 6:00 pm – Kabbalat Shabbat Service	PARASHAT VAYESHEV 9:30 am – Shabbat Service 5:16 pm – Havdalah	Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has hallowed us through commandments, and has commanded us to kindle the Shabbat Lights.
26 25 KISLEV Chanukah Day 1 - Second Candle ECC Closed 7:45 am - In-Person & Virtual Morning Minyan 7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan	27 26 KISLEV Chanukah Day 2 - Third Candle ECC Closed 7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan 4:17 pm - Candlelighting 6:00 pm - Chevre Shabbat: Chanukah	28 27 KISLEV PARASHAT MIKETZ Chanukah Day 3 - Fourth Candle 9:30 am - Shabbat Service 5:21 pm - Havdalah	
		^e East Rockaway ter Festival	

December 14 at 5:00 pm Menorah Lighting • Crafts • Donuts On the calendar

East Rockaway Village Hall, 376 Atlantic Ave.

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Harry Laufer Education Center



Nursery School

Jewish Traditions Across Generations

As I sat in synagogue over the recent High Holidays, I couldn't help but feel a

deep sense of pride and joy. The familiar melodies and prayers filled the air, and as I looked around, I saw so many young adults—faces I've known since they were children many now with children of their own. These young adults were once nursery school students here at the Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre, and to witness them now, they are continuing the traditions of Judaism, which touched me in a profound way. It reminded me of the sacred work we do here in the Early Childhood department, where the seeds of Jewish identity are first planted.

It is often said that the foundation of a person's values and beliefs is laid in early childhood, and I see the truth of that statement year after year. In our Early Childhood Center, we don't just teach the alphabet, colors, or numbers; we also help introduce children to the beauty and meaning of Judaism. We celebrate Shabbat together, learn about the holidays, and explore Jewish stories and values through songs, play, and community gatherings. For many children, these experiences are their first encounters with the rhythms of Jewish life, moments that will shape their identity for years to come.

What struck me most during the holidays was the sense of continuity. The members I now see standing at the Bima with their own little ones, lighting candles, singing the songs, are the children who once sat around our classroom tables, wide-eyed and curious, absorbing the same traditions. And now, they are passing these traditions onto their children, ensuring that the legacy of Jewish life continues into the next generation. It is a beautiful and powerful reminder of the enduring nature of faith and community.

One moment in particular stood out to me this year. One of our most recent ECC graduates stood on the Bima and

read the opening prayers for Rosh Hashanah like an adult, with confidence and grace. Watching this young person chant the ancient words with strength and poise, I couldn't help but feel an overwhelming sense of pride. This was a child who once learned about Jewish life in our Early Childhood classrooms, and now he was embodying the very essence of those teachings. It was a proud reminder of the impact we have in shaping not only the children's academic and social development, but also their spiritual growth.

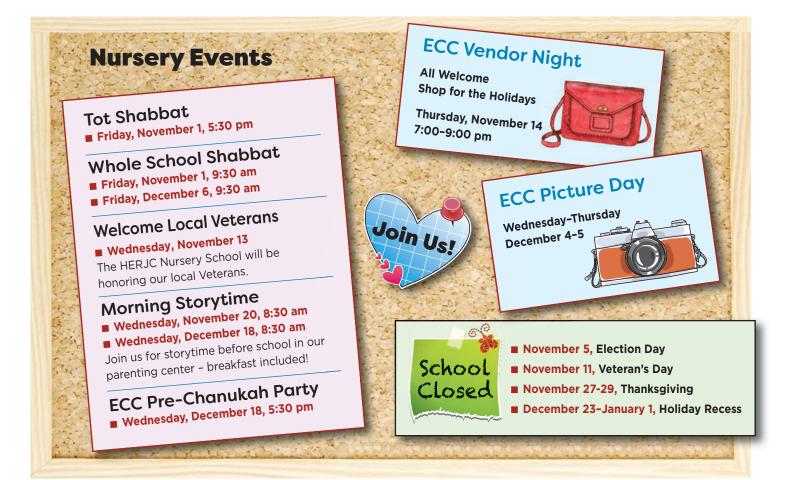
The Hebrew phrase L'dor V'dor-from generation to generation, encapsulates this experience perfectly. Our work in the ECC isn't just about educating children in the here and now; it is about creating lifelong connections to Judaism that will be passed down through the generations. What begins in the ECC classrooms carries on in family homes, at Shabbat tables, and during holiday celebrations. The lessons of kindness, community, and spirituality are woven into the fabric of each child's life and they continue to carry these values forward.

As an Early Childhood Director, I have the privilege of witnessing this continuity firsthand. I see the bonds formed between children and their families, the traditions passed down, and the joys of discovery as youngsters learn about their Jewish heritage. It is incredibly rewarding to know that the work we do here has such a lasting impact.

I want to thank the families who continue to trust us with the education of their children, and I want to encourage all of us to think about ways we can support the next generation in their journey. Whether it is bringing your children to synagogue, lighting candles together at home, or simply sharing a story from our tradition, these small acts are the building blocks of a vibrant Jewish future. Let us continue to nurture these connections, supporting one another as a community so that the values and traditions we hold are passed on, L'dor V'dor, from generation to generation.



HAKOL www.herjc.org



rabbi michel schlesinger TALMUD

Now in-person at HERJC!



Wednesday, November 20, 6:30 pm at HERJC

Continues Monthly Wednesdays

Email contactus@herjc.org for more information

Religious School



CHARI NACSON

As I settle into my new role here at HERJC, I'm gaining a deeper understanding of how each committee interacts with the Religious School. We're not a standalone entity: our collaboration is essential. I meet regularly with the Education Committee, which connects closely with the Parent Association. I'm also in constant touch with the ECC, as our students overlap and they feed into our program.

The Israel Committee is particularly engaged, especially during these trying times, focusing on what our children learn about Israel. Recently, the Ritual Committee reached out to discuss ways to involve the children more in *tefillot* and prepare them for their Bnai Mitzvot. I've also learned that Sisterhood

plays a vital role in providing *siddurim* for our second graders, and even the House Committee allowed us to showcase our students' projects. I mustn't forget the Youth Committee, as Early Childhood feeds into the Religious School, which in turn supports the Youth Group.

I now see the Religious School as a spider web, intricately woven into the fabric of HERJC. I've come to appreciate the school's integral role at the heart of our synagogue community. Each committee member is deeply invested in their work, and I strive to be a "yes" person, fulfilling the wishes of both committees and individual parents.

My primary goal is to raise proud Jewish individuals who understand the significance of their identity. I focus on Hebrew, Torah, *Tzedakah*, *Mitzvot*, Ethics, and Community as I plan programs and curriculum for our students which our teachers expertly implement, each adding their own experiences and flare.

In addition to our weekly classes, I've introduced a Word of the Day initiative, encouraging teachers to incorporate more Hebrew in daily interactions. I want our kids to see Hebrew as a living language, not one used only in prayer.

We're actively collecting *tzedakah* and writing letters, and we packed donations for Terri's Angels, which supports soldiers in Israel. This month, our own Stefanie Atiyas helped students bake round *challot* for Rosh Hashanah. Our fifth to seventh graders are attending Sunday morning minyan and Tuesday evening sessions to gain experience leading *tefillot*. We also have monthly Rosh Chodesh activities that celebrate relevant holidays.

The Rabbi visits our Religious School monthly, and the Hazzan leads music (*Shira*) for our youngest children, *Tefillah* for Pre-K to sixth graders, and monthly pre-b'nai mitzvah teachings for seventh grade. Our Israeli representative, Tamar, meets with first to seventh graders weekly to teach various aspects of Israel. I hope you've seen the meaningful projects Tamar helped create in response to the tragedies of October 7th.

All our activities are planned with *kavanah* (intention) to align with the goals I've set for our program and the visions of HERJC's committees. I look forward to continuing this collaborative journey with our amazing volunteers, working together to cultivate the "good Jews" and good people we all aspire to raise.

Wishing everyone a season filled with gratitude and light! I look forward to the wonderful moments we'll share together in the days ahead.





Religious School Schedule

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 3 Building Blocks through Grade 6 9:00 am-Noon

Tuesday, November 5 ELECTION DAY-RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED

Sunday, November 10 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED

Sunday, November 17 Building Blocks through Grade 6 9:00 am-Noon

■ Friday, November 22 Religious School Shabbat of Gratitude 6:00 pm

Sunday, November 24 Building Blocks through Grade 69:00 am-Noon

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 1 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED
■ Tuesday, December 3 Grades 1 through 6
Sunday, December 8 Building Blocks through Grade 6 9:00 am-Noon
■ Tuesday, December 10 Grades 1 through 6
Saturday, December 14 Religious School Shabbat of Chanukah Songs 9:30 am
Sunday, December 16 Building Blocks through Grade 6 9:00 am-Noon
■ Tuesday, December 17 Grades 1 through 6
Sunday-Tuesday, December 22-31

Sunday-Tuesday, December 22-31 HOLIDAY RECESS-RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED

Youth Director



MYLES GREENBAUM

I am pleased to say that HERJC's Youth Programming is in full swing and we are now full steam ahead moving into our November/December events. For our kickoff programs, we held a High Holiday Olympics for our younger kids, and "Minute to Win It" for our high

schoolers. As this was my first event with HERJC, I was so happy to see the enthusiasm and excitement our teens have for youth programming. I cannot wait to see our movement grow with time.

On 10/20 we hosted our fun Sukkot events. November starts out with a Board Game Palooza/Movie Night on 11/3! Please keep an eye out for more information and I am looking forward to seeing you all in our programs soon!

Youth Events

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 3

Youth Program (Grades 5-7)	5:30-7:00 pm
Youth Program (Grades 8-12)	7:00-8:30 pm

Sunday, November 17

Youth Thanksgiving Program	ı (Gr. 5-7) 5:30-7:00 pm	۱
Youth Thanksgiving Program	ı (Gr. 8-12) . 7:00-8:30 pm	۱

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 15

Youth Program (Grades 5-7)	5:30-7:00 pm
Youth Program (Grades 8-12)	

Paae 21

Personals and Donations



Personals

Mazal Tov!

B'nai Mitzvah

Rebecca and Joshua Baum as their son, Alex becomes a B'nai Mitzvah. Karen and Adam Ingber as their son,

Jacob becomes a B'nai Mitzvah. Lisa and Stu Stein as their son,

Maxwell becomes a B'nai Mitzvah.

Births

Marni and Isaac Dana on the birth of their twin granddaughters, Halle Jordyn and Samantha Reese.

Special Wedding Anniversaries

NOVEMBER
 Allison and Harris Moreida (30)
 Helaine and Ron Ronen (45)
 Debra and Paul Weiss (35)
 DECEMBER
 Michelle and Stephen Beinhacker (35)
 Beth Shapiro and Adel Elbehiry (20)

Helaine Ronen

Aldev Sanchez

Richard Wainer

Hazzan Bonnie

Amy Pomponio

Zakarin

Asher Platt

Jodi Rotblut

Jeffrey Strom

Scott Wachs

Lois Weiner

Anita Zaret

Martin Sobel

Special Birthdays

 NOVEMBER Joan Berkowitz Irene Drantch Stacey Ezratty Elaine Halbridge Donald Katz

 DECEMBER Susan Alt Leslie Altus Lesli Deninno Paul Feldman Elaine Garver Heather Kalan Joesph Margolin Benjamin Mintz

And . . .

- Kathy and Larry Feffer on the baby naming of their granddaughter, Julianna Madelyn Zweben.
- Marnie and Mitchel Feffer on the baby naming of their niece, Julianna Madelyn Zweben.
- Rose and Marc Held on the baby naming of their daughter, Molly Rae Held.
- Nancy Levy on her son, Jason becoming engaged.
- Joan and Marty Rosen on the baby naming of their great granddaughter, Sloane Naomi Stern.
- Gwen and Michael Stern on the baby naming of their daughter, Sloane Naomi Stern.
- Steven Stern on the baby naming of his granddaughter, Sloane Naomi Stern.

Lois and William Weiner on the baby naming of their granddaughter, Molly Rae Held. Jacqueline and Howard Zweben on the baby naming of their daughter,

Julianna Madelyn Zweben.

Condolences

- Barbara Frank on the loss of her mother, Eileen Seaman.
- Nanci Freiman on the loss of her stepfather, Leonard Weiss.
- Kevin Harrison on the loss of his father, Bob Harrison.
- Lev Herrnson on the loss of his mother, Jacqueline Herrnson Douglas Link on the loss of his father,
- Gil Link. Harris Moreida on the loss of his father,
- Bert Moreida. Howard Moreida on the loss of his
- father, Bert Moreida. Richard Wainer on the loss of his father,
- Mickey Wainer.
- Carly Weg on the loss of her grandfather, Leonard Weiss.
- Russell Weg on the loss of his grandmother, Betty Weg.
- Mitchell Weiler on the loss of his father, Gerald Weiler.

Welcome New Members

(May 2024–October 2024) Carolyn Adler & Jose Valle Randi and Stephen Bonica Barbara and Alfred Braverman Kareene Harari Courtney Meltzer-Baum & Craig Meltzer Dana Rodriguez and Travis Stockman Sondra and Marvin Rose Samantha and Lee Schneider Lisa and Richard Wainer Phyllis Weinberger Elaine & Steven Winograd

Funds

The Congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions which were received from September–October, 2024.

Chesed Fund

Ivy and Tom Reilly in honor of the HERJC members who participate in daily minyan and in memory of their deceased loved ones. Ivy and Tom Reilly in memory of Ivy's mother, Sheila Weisel.

Education Fund

Heidi and Steven Kreit in honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of Matthew Barbash. Heidi and Steven Kreit in honor of the

- B'nai Mitzvah of Max Stein. Lisa and Edmund Cohen in memory
- of Louis Cohen. Pam and Dan Gerstman in memory
- of Mickey Wainer.
- In Memory of Jacqueline Herrnson Norman Doctor Heidi and Steven Kreit Audrey and Elliott Polinsky Roberta and Stuart Sugarman

Hazzan's Music Fund

- Marsha and Larry Miller and Family in appreciation of Hazzan and Moshe's help and support during their period of bereavement.
- Laura and Alvin Epstein in appreciation of Hazzan Zakarin.
- Ivy and Tom Reilly in appreciation of Hazzan Zakarin's kindness, strength and spirituality at the funeral service and shiva minyan of Sheila Weisel, Ivy's mother.
- Ivy and Tom Reilly in appreciation of Hazzan Zakarin's instruction, guidance and patience on the occasion of Alexa's B'nai Mitzvah.
- Barbara and Mitchell Weiler in appreciation of Hazzan Zakarin.
- Irene and Bruce Drantch in memory of Charles Schwartz.
- Sandra and Marvin Greenberg in memory of Sandra's father, Ely Benin and Marvin's grandmother, Mary.
- The Wachs Family in memory of Charles Schwartz.

Kiddush Fund

Liz and Mitch Podgorsky in memory of Jackie Herrnson.

Early Childhood Center Fund

- Robin and Ben Mintz in honor of the baby naming of Julianna Zweben. Carol Rubenstein in honor of the baby
- naming of Julianna Zweben. The Knopf Family in memory of Charles
- Schwartz. Sara and Ted Liebowitz in memory of
- Sara and Ted Liebowitz in memory of Mickey Wainer.

Prayer Book Fund

Denise and Bob Sher in memory of Bert Moreida.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Valerie and Abbey Doneger in

- appreciation of Rabbi Schlesinger's kindness and guidance.
- Laura and Alvin Epstein in honor of Rabbi Schlesinger.
- Kathy and Larry Feffer in appreciation of Rabbi Schlesinger's great service for their granddaughter, Julianna's baby naming.
- Gloria Fried in honor of the Greenberg Family.
- Marsha and Larry Miller and Family in appreciation of Rabbi's and Juliana's support during their period of bereavement.
- Ivy and Tom Reilly in appreciation of Rabbi Schlesinger's support and meaningful officiation of the funeral service and shiva minyan of Sheila Weisel, Ivy's mother.
- Ivy and Tom Reilly in appreciation of Rabbi Schlesinger's tutelage and blessings on the occasion of Alexa's B'nai Mitzvah.
- Sandra Sharon in appreciation of Rabbi Schlesinger and his wonderful Talmud class.
- Marsha Becker in memory of her husband, Jack and her father, Herbert Strassman.
- Marsha Becker in memory of Beth Singerman Berman.
- Sheryl and Robert Behar in memory of their son, Jason.
- Barry Borodkin in memory of Jacqueline Herrnson.
- Barbara and Paul Cooper in memory of Mickey Wainer.
- Rita Doneger in memory of her husband, Henry.
- Lisa and Michael Greenberg in memory of Bert Moreida.
- Madeline and Keith Harrows in memory of Madeline's mother, Jeanette Trieger, grandfather, Benjamin Markowitz, and Madeline and Keith's brother-in-law, Stanley Ehrlich.
- Nora and Jack Skiba in memory of Jackie Herrnson.



HAKOL 🗰 www.herjc.org

General Synagogue Fund

Elysa and Peter Graber Lipperman in appreciation of receiving an Aliyah and in honor of Irwin Graber. Stacev and Jaime Ezratty in honor of the

B'nai Mitzvah of Matthew Barbash.

- Barbara and Paul Cooper in honor of the baby naming of their grandchild, Zoey Taylor Cooper.
- Linda and Owen Spanier in honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of Matthew Barbash.

In Memory of Bert Moreida Laura and Al "Eppy" Epstein Stacey and Jaime Ezratty Heidi and Steven Kreit Liz and Mitch Podgorsky Audrey and Elliott Polinsky Nanci-sue and Eric Rosenthal

- Terry Ain in memory of her mother, Millie Carron.
- Gail Alweis in memory of her father, Leon Feinberg.
- Mona and Barry Barone in memory of Stanley Alt.

Yona Beno in memory of his sister, Samia Shemesh.

- Joan Berkowitz in memory of her husband, James.
- Mitchell Brand in memory of his father, George.
- Laurie Brofsky in memory of her grandmother, Minnie Orgel.

Ilene Browner in memory of her father, Murray.

- Dora Burstein in memory of her mother, Rose Lassinger.
- Edmund Cohen in memory of his mother, Edna.

Lisa Cohen in memory of her father, Paul Sonenthal.

Barbara Cooper in memory of her sister, Rochelle Harris.

Arthur Debin in memory of his brother, Douglas.

Alyce Diamond in memory of her mother, Belle Landesman. Norman Doctor in memory of his

- mother, Gus and his sister, Abby. Shari Doloboff in memory of her
- mother-in-law, Amelia and her father-in-law, Sidney.
- Stacey Ezratty in memory of her father, Leonard Goldberg.
- Stacey and Jaime Ezratty in memory of Mickey Wainer.
- Irene Farber in memory of her husband, Sheldon and her mother-in-law, Gertrude.
- Judith Frank in memory of her mother, Rose Oppenheim.
- Edward Freeberg in memory of his parents, Stella and Bernard and his brother, Steven.
- Marc Goldberg in memory of his grandmother, Celia.
- Marcia Goldberg in memory of her father, Jack Greenberg.
- Lynne Gordon in memory of her mother, Rhoda Anstendig.
- Rita Gottlieb in memory of her mother, Sophie Barsky.
- Marvin Greenberg in memory of his grandmother, Mary.
- Sandra Greenberg in memory of her father, Ely Benin.
- Edward Halbridge in memory of his brother, Donald.
- Judy Herbst in memory of her mother, Ethel Glass.

Shabbat on the Beach

- Ira Katz in memory of his mother-in-law, Dorothy Schnitzer.
- Fred Knobloch in memory of his mother, Regina.
- Pnina and Lewis Knopf in memory of Lisa Judd.
- Melissa Kotcher in memory of her father, Mark Breitrose. Mark Kurot in memory of his
- grandfather, Solomon. David Kurz in memory of his mother,
- Leona. Jeffrey Langendorff in memory of his
- father, Michael. Suzanne Levy in memory of her father, Joel Gevarter.
- Ethel and Jan Liebeskind in memory of Stanley Alt.
- Adrienne Lurie in memory of her father, Bennie Morris.
- Geoffrey Lurie in memory of his mother, Moira.
- Alan Markowitz in memory of his father, Alex and his brother, Tibor.
- Myra Markowitz in memory of her mother, Henriette Dobin.
- Myra and Alan Markowitz in memory of Mickey Wainer.
- Stuart Markowitz in memory of his grandmother, Henriette Dobin.
- Audrey Marrus in memory of her mother, Anne Lord.
- Barbara Misikoff in memory of her husband, Stanley.
- Amy Moritz in memory of her father, Herman Levine.
- Linda Pachter in memory of her husband, Stephen and her mother, Irene Halpern.
- Ronnie Pinquist in memory of her father, Irving Seckler.

- Laurie Platt in memory of her parents, Pearl and Sidney Kalikow.
- Asher Platt in memory of his parents, Dorthy and Murray.
- Michelle Rehs in memory of her father, Marvin Turkel.
- Carol Rubinstein in memory of her father, Morris Fielder and her brother, Herbert Fielder.
- Laurie and Brian Sandler in memory of Elaine Sandler.
- Joan Schaeffer in memory of her father, Irving Behr.
- George Schieren in memory of his brother, Hugh.
- Marlene Schulman in memory of her grandfather, Thomas Custer.
- Denise and Robert Sher in memory of their son, Noah.
- Shari Silver in memory of her nephew, Jason Behar.
- Esther Silverman in memory of her father, Moses Sacksner and her brother, Lyon Sacksner.
- Nora and Jack Skiba in memory of Gerry Jeros.
- Faye Stein in memory of her mother, Ruth Siegelberg.
- Ilene Tischler in memory of her mother, Ruth Landesman.
- Joel Wecksell in memory of his parents, Abraham and Sylvia.
- Phyllis Weinberger in memory of her husband, Wilbur.
- Melvin Weinstein in memory of his mother, Faye and his brother, Alan.
- Miriam Weisbrod in memory of her mother, Rose Lassinger.
- Ilene Wilensky in memory of her father, Donald Beaver.





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Sponsoring a Kiddush is a meaningful way to bring people together in fellowship and gratitude. Your contribution helps us provide delicious food and drinks for everyone to enjoy.

> From the HIAKOL DCLIIIVE

From the Rabbi's Study

Rabbi Andrew Warmflash, September 2016



The Real Hanukkah Miracle

Hundreds of years after the Maccabees defeated the Syrian Greeks who were oppressing our people, the Talmud

posed a question: Mai Hanukkah? Why do we celebrate Hanukkah? The answer it gives is the familiar story: When our ancestors recaptured the Temple, they found that there was only one small cruse of oil to rekindle the light in the sanctuary. Miraculously, it burned for eight days.

There are several problems with this story. First, it isn't in any of the sources that predate the Talmud which all give other reasons why the holiday lasts for eight days and candles are lit each night. Second, the prayer we add to our services each time

we say the *Amidah* during Hanukkah makes no mention of the oil. Instead, it thanks God for the miraculous victory of the few over the many, those who upheld the Torah over those who sought to destroy it.

Finally, the oil miracle is rather paltry. What was so important about the fact that the oil lasted 8 days? If it hadn't, it would not have been a tragedy. Our ancestors would simply have waited until new oil could be produced and re-lit the light.

All of this suggests that the miracle of the oil probably didn't literally take place. So, why do we light the menorah? I think it symbolizes the true miracle of Hanukkah: We are the oil! Our people's light, and the light of the Torah we live by, were both nearly extinguished by a powerful enemy who sought to destroy us.

By any reasonable standard, our light should have burned out a long time ago. Yet, with God's help, we survived and thrived while our foes have vanished from the stage of history. This is a true miracle, one that has been repeated again and again throughout history. It continues to this day.

When we light the menorah, and display it in our windows, it is a sign that proclaims to the world that this great miracle continues. It declares: This is a Jewish house. We are still here, and our light will continue to grow brighter with each passing day.

Happy Hanukkah!

Yahrzeits

The Yahrzeit of the following beloved relatives of our members will be observed during the next few weeks. It is especially fitting and proper that the members of the family be present at the appropriate Service to observe this occasion.

11-01 - 30 Tishrei Sonia Greenberg Benjamin Markowitz Hilda Chinitz Herbert Wachtel Hilda Chinitz

11-02 - 1 Cheshvan Sifra Menson Allen Parks

11-03 - 2 Cheshvan Harriet Renick Norma Meisner

11-04 - 3 Cheshvan Pola Weinreich Pearl Lipton Betty Lariar Alfred Morris Fener

11-05 - 4 Cheshvan Sylvia Breen Ada Geiver Philip Rodin Rachel Barouch

11-06 - 5 Cheshvan Mela Laufer Jacob Cowen Millie Feinberg Norma Krull Elaine Sandler

11-08 - 7 Cheshvan Betty Rose Cutler Shirley Stern Shirley Kirschner Ruth Kravitz

11-09 - 8 Cheshvan Lillian Greenberg

11-10 - 9 Cheshvan Marion Hoorwitz Samuel Hauser Ellin Cohen

11-11 - 10 Cheshvan Jeff Heller Joseph Greenberger William Jacobs

11-12 - 11 Cheshvan Jeffrey Ritholtz Rebecca Radusky Michael Yedid Sally Kislik Esther Borodkin Joel Herbert Beldner **11-13 - 12 Cheshvan** Mildred Sebold Sherry Cohen

11-14 - 13 Cheshvan Martha Alweis 11-15 - 14 Cheshvan

Pearl Rosenblatt Louis Weinstein

11-16 - 15 Cheshvan Sarah Alpert Carmela Moritz

11-17 - 16 Cheshvan Marc Lesser Isaac Jerusalmi

11-18 - 17 Cheshvan Benjamin Platek

11-19 - 18 Cheshvan Ruth Kalka Judith Levine

11-20 - 19 Cheshvan Barbara Berger Regina Rosenfeld Betty Goldfinger

11-21 - 20 Cheshvan Joseph Glass Sylvia Hershkoff Fern Carol Zeitlin Louis Mast Fern Carol Zeitlin Solomon Karp Sarah Altus

11-22 - 21 Cheshvan Harry Feldsott Leon Lurie

11-23 - 22 Cheshvan Charlotte Nash 11-24 - 23 Cheshvan Frieda Streigold Martin Stone Frances Cohen Amy Strong

11-25 - 24 Cheshvan Seymour Saul Fishkind

11-26 - 25 Cheshvan Francis Lebovitz Samuel Aarons Dinah Weil **11-27 - 26 Cheshvan** Rose Meyer Samuel Riegel

11-28 - 27 Cheshvan Kenneth Marcus Kevin Rubinstein Stanley J. Marcus

11-29 - 28 Cheshvan Berdie Kaufman Bayla Solow Evette Yedid

11-30 - 29 Cheshvan Joseph Ezratty Fanny Grunberg Sheila Mason

12-01 - 30 Cheshvan Herbert Warmflash

12-02 - 1 Kislev Eydie Weisbrod Samuel Greenstein

12-03 -2 Kislev Oscar Zaretsky Louis Taishoff Ida Barash Frances Schwartz Meric Moshe Underweiser

12-04 - 3 Kislev Barnet Baron Benjamin Weiten Annie Borodkin Nettie Sunshine Elsa Menchel Kenneth Kelmenson

12-05 - 4 Kislev Ruth Rappaport Emanuel Schaeffer

12-06 - 5 Kislev Celia Kandelman Nettie Knobel Philip Levitt Nat Forrest Martin Miller Gary Bader

12-07 - 6 Kislev Arline Kotcher Mildred Gottlieb Selma Lesser Herbert Eisenberg **12-08 -7 Kislev** Ruth Harvey Pauline Kislik

12-09 - 8 Kislev Pauline Gorman Kate Rosen Miriam Herzberg

12-10 - 9 Kislev Jason Heller

12-11 -10 Kislev Jean Fine Benjamin Kolbrenner Edward S. Pauker

12-12 -11 Kislev Helen Benin

12-13 - 12 Kislev Bertha Alweis Solomon Dobin

12-14 - 13 Kislev Solomon Dobin Marcia Arkin Benjamin Schieber

12-15 - 14 Kislev Jack Baker Albert Yedid Jerry Kopito Irma Reitman

12-16 -15 Kislev Donald Stern Phyllis Rodin

12-17 -16 Kislev Herman Commike George Brand Morris Aaron Gold Irwin Schecker Samuel Eisenberg

12-18 -17 Kislev Mary Hauser Joseph Rost Frieda Wolk

12-19 -18 Kislev Celia Schwartz

12-20 -19 Kislev Beatrice Garver Sheldon Philip Prager Faye Berger Ronnie Osder Evelyn Lamon Scott Kemp Herbert White **12-21 - 20 Kislev** Sol Farberman

12-22 -21 Kislev Goldie Kirschenbaum Elaine Scharf Beatrice Black

12-23 -22 Kislev Adena Joy Feffer Violet Davis Gus Belmont

12-24 -23 Kislev Miriam Eizikovics Murray Katz Marilyn Warmflash Julia Leibman Anna Commike

12-25 -24 Kislev Manny Roth Howard Schneider

12-26 -25 Kislev Meyer Klein Ernestine Chaut Bertha Lieber Feingold Sydell Gould Mr. Bernard Morgan Harvey Gorman

12-27 -26 Kislev Harriet Weiss Janice Berkowitz Lori Suser Morris Sopher

12-28 -27 Kislev Bernard Schoengold Harold L. Schmier

12-29 -28 Kislev Goldie Nestor Edward S. Abrams Patricia May Polokoff

12-30 -29 Kislev Nancy Stern Lena Sklar Fox

12-31 -30 Kislev Henry Jaskol Mary Silverstein

Paae 25



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