

HAKOL

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

September/October 2025

Vol. 75 • No. 1

Elul/Tishre/Cheshvan 5786

Toast to the New Year & Service

Monday, September 22

5:00 pm at HERJC

*Shana
Tova*

High Holiday Information
Pages 8-11



POTLUCK BRISKET BAKE-OFF & BBQ

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS

"Coming of
Age Story,"
Pnina Knopf
PAGE 21

Eulogy for
Norman Doctor
PAGE 25



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Notes from the Hazzan



HAZZAN BONNIE ZAKARIN

Holding Sorrow, Singing Hope

As we prepare to greet the High Holy Days, our community carries a weight that words cannot fully capture. This summer has brought with it an unusual amount of sorrow—too many funerals, too many hospital visits, too many phone calls bearing painful news. We've said goodbye to beloved members of our congregational family: pillars of kindness, wisdom, and faith. Each loss has left a mark on our hearts and on the life of our synagogue.

And still, the calendar moves us forward. The month of Elul calls us to begin the work of reflection, to take stock of our deeds, our relationships, our intentions. The High Holy Days beckon us toward teshuvah—return. Return to who we are at our best. Return to God. Return to community.

This season is about remembering: remembering what we've lost, remembering who we are, and remembering the people whose lives shaped ours. Yizkor will be especially tender this year, as we say the names of those whose seats are now empty. But memory is not where the journey ends.

The beauty of our tradition is that even in our mourning, we are called toward life. Rosh Hashanah reminds us that creation is ongoing—that each year, each day, is another chance. The shofar cries out not only in grief, but also in hope. And hope, I believe, lives in music.

Music has a way of reaching us when words fall short. It can hold our sorrow and our joy at the same time. In the days ahead, the melodies of our tradition—ancient and familiar—will guide us. They will accompany our tears, and they will uplift our spirits. They will remind us that even as we grieve, we are part of something enduring and alive.

I am looking ahead to a year filled with renewal, with meaningful prayer, with laughter, with learning, and, yes, with music. Let us enter 5786 together with open hearts—honoring those we miss, and embracing the future with courage and song.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Shanah Tovah—a good, sweet, and healing new year.
Hazzan Bonnie Zakarin

Thursday, October 2

Community Break Fast at HERJC

stay after final Shofar
\$18/Person



The Rabbi's Remarks



RABBI MICHEL SCHLESINGER

Supporting Israel Through Supporting Our Community

People often ask me, "Rabbi, what is the best way to support Israel during this prolonged and difficult period of war since Oct. 7th?" My heartfelt answer is simple yet profound: support your local congregation.

The tragic events that unfolded after Hamas' brutal attacks, the ongoing war, the disturbing rise of antisemitism on college campuses and beyond, and Israel's increasing isolation in the international arena have all highlighted one undeniable truth—the destiny of Israel and the Jewish diaspora are deeply intertwined. The diaspora relies on a strong Israel that remains both Jewish and democratic, just as Israel depends on a vibrant, committed, and thriving Jewish diaspora.

In the High Holiday liturgy, we are reminded, "Avinu Malkeinu, kotveinu besefer chayim

“In times of uncertainty, our collective strength becomes our greatest asset. Together by supporting one another and our congregation, we reinforce the resilience of our Jewish identity.”

tovim—Our Father, Our King, inscribe us in the Book of Good Life." As we approach the High Holiday season, let us embrace these words, renewing our dedication through heartfelt prayer, meaningful reflection, and generous action.

This sacred season offers us a unique opportunity to recommit ourselves to community and tradition. Participate not only in your Aliyah, but ensure your presence, along with your family's, throughout all our religious and social gather-

ings. Let this be a year when you deepen your involvement with our congregation. Identify an area in which your unique skills, passions, and knowledge can meaningfully contribute, and let us know how you wish to engage.

Our congregation, HERJC, is blessed with a small, yet dedicated, team of passionate professionals. However, it thrives and grows stronger only with active lay leadership and the generous support of members like you. This year, consider increasing your financial commitment. Your generosity ensures our beloved community's financial health and enables the continual expansion of meaningful programs and activities that enrich us all.

In times of uncertainty and challenge, our collective strength becomes our greatest asset. Together, by supporting one another and our congregation, we reinforce the resilience of our Jewish identity and our unwavering support for Israel.

May we welcome the year 5786 with renewed hope, striving together for peace and dignity for Israelis, Palestinians, and all peoples of the world.

Rabbi Michel Schlesinger



JOIN US!

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service
and Sukkot Dinner**

Friday Night, October 10, 6:00 pm



HAKOL

HAKOL is published by the Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Centre/ Congregation Etz Chaim

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From the Executive Director



LISA STEIN

I hope everyone had a meaningful, productive, and relaxing summer. Summer seems to go so fast, and yet it is also nice to welcome fall and get back into our routines. This year, it was really nice to see so many congregants over the summer! We were thrilled to welcome so many people joining on Shabbat mornings, and at our summer Friday evening Shabbat at the Park, and most recently Shabbat on the Beach. As we all know, being together is incredibly powerful.

Recently I came across an article in the online *Jewish Journal*, entitled “Bringing Synagogues Back to Life.” Now, I am happy to say that I do not think HERJC needs to be brought back to life, but nonetheless I was intrigued, so I read the article and was inspired by what I read. The author, Dr. Ron Wolfson, a renowned Jewish educator and inspirational speaker, writes in the article, and in his books, about the power of relationships in synagogues. The criticalness of positive relationships within the clergy, staff, and fellow congregants is not to take away from the importance of authentic prayer or meaningful and fun programs. Nevertheless, relationships are a sustaining long term factor in synagogue success.

As our congregation knows, we recently increased our dues and are putting measures into place to be more financially responsible. I am proud that HERJC is intentionally making changes that will improve the business aspect of our sacred work—and I am even happier to know that we are already aware of much of what is referenced in the article. I am inspired as we head into 5786 to continue to find ways to be innovative in our programming, and to take Dr. Wolfson’s concepts, including the ideas (which we know to be true), that different people connect in different ways and that there are tiers of engagement. At HERJC we want to be ready to welcome new and current members in whichever way is most comfortable. And we hope you will connect in multiple ways! We aspire to identify those avenues to reach people where they are, while also raising the level of engagement.

Dr. Wolfson goes on to say, “Let’s put people first before programs. People will come to synagogues for programs, but they will stay for relationships.” As you plan to join us for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur—think about coming for Sukkot and Simchat Torahs as well. Look around and smile at someone you have not met before—HERJC is full of caring, intelligent, thoughtful, and dedicated people; one of the things I love most about HERJC! It is my hope that as we lead into the High Holiday season, we will all find ways to connect, with our faith, and with each other. Please feel free to reach out if there is anything I can do to assist in your synagogue experience.

שנה טובה ומתוקה, Lisa



From the President



JASON MELZER

Dear congregants,

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer creating memories with loved ones. As the High Holidays approach and the weather begins to change, we are reminded of the cycles we experience in our lives. With G-d's help, we receive the opportunity to experience certain holidays each and every year. There is a certain comfort that comes with knowing that each year, these occasions return to us. We can be grateful for that comfort; however, I suggest that we should not allow that comfort to create complacency. We must strive to make each time we celebrate a holiday like Rosh Hashana or Yom Kippur unique and special in its own way and not to allow the subconscious knowledge that they will return to us next year to reduce the joy, reverence, or any other energy we bring to these moments.

This High Holiday season let us work together to bring new energy to our observances. By doing so, we may enhance the enjoyment for ourselves and our families. The idea of bringing renewed energy to holidays each year is deeply rooted in our Jewish tradition. Our holidays are not only commemorations of significant events in Jewish history, but also opportunities for continuous spiritual renewal and growth. The concept of "*chiddush*" (novelty) encourages us to approach each holiday with a fresh perspective, emphasizing that the lessons and significance of these occasions remain relevant and vital, regardless of how many times they are observed. By intentionally adding new traditions, themes, or experiences, we cultivate a sense of excitement and anticipation that keeps our holidays meaningful and relevant year after year. Particularly relevant to the High Holidays is the concept of "*teshuvah*" (repentance and return). Our High Holidays serve as an annual opportunity to reflect, reassess, and improve ourselves. The idea of bringing renewed energy signifies a spiritual rebirth—an ongoing process of personal and communal transformation.

Your congregation's leadership is working hard to bring new experiences and the most meaningful moments possible to your High Holiday services. We are striving to do our part to make this Holiday Season one that will allow you and your families to celebrate, reflect, and grow together. We invite you to join us in bringing renewed energy with you when you enter the doors of our synagogue this High Holiday season. Make sure to embrace long-time friends you may not have seen in a while. Introduce yourself to one of our new member families and welcome them to our community. Spend time with us at one of our Ruach events, such as our "Toast to the New Year" in order to enhance your High Holiday experience. Together, we will make this year's High Holidays an experience without comparison, even with the knowledge that B"H they will return again next year. Shanah Tova!

With love and respect,
Jason

“The idea of bringing renewed energy to holidays each year is deeply rooted in our Jewish tradition.”

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SHABBAT

Friday night

6:00 pm – In person

Saturday morning

9:30 am – In person
and Zoom

MORNING MINYAN

Monday, Thursday, & Rosh Chodesh

7:45 am – In person
and Zoom

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday

7:45 am – Check calendar
for in person and Zoom

Sunday

9:00 am – Zoom ONLY

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: herjc18

Follow

 @herjcny



 **HERJC**



 **Early Childhood
Center**





POTLUCK BRISKET BAKE-OFF AND BBQ



**Sunday, September 7 at 5:00 pm at HERJC.
We are looking for brisket makers and also
grill masters to help at the event!**

We are asking everyone to please bring a side dish (no drinks or dessert).
Let us know what you can bring!

\$18/person (ages 4 & under free)
Please contact Lisa Stein at execdir@herjc.org.

**Everyone
Welcome!**

A Word From the Ritual Committee

BY MICHAEL GOLDWASSER

Shalom! The Ritual Committee is looking forward to another year of continuity and change, where we help the HERJC community to both feel at home, and to grow and challenge itself. It's important to us that we hear from you about any issues or concerns that you might have concerning rituals at our shul so that we can best serve the needs of the congregation. We also can serve as a liaison between congregants and clergy—sometimes members have something to say to the Rabbi or Hazzan, but are not comfortable reaching out directly (though some of you are very comfortable speaking up!).

Last year, we started collecting Hebrew names for honors on the HERJC website, and we're still far from completing the task. Every HERJC member deserves to have a card with their Hebrew name on it, and it helps things go more smoothly when one of us is called for an honor on the bima. If you don't have a card, are not sure if you have a card, or need your card to be updated, you can enter your family's names on the HERJC website—look for the "HERJC Members Hebrew Name Project" button near the top of the homepage. You can also email or call the office with the correct information.

As I've mentioned before, we'd love to see more people participating in leading services. There are so many opportunities to be on the bima—leading a prayer or a section of the service, doing one of our English readings, and, of course, leading songs. Not to mention chanting Torah blessings, reading Torah or Haftarah, or hagba and galila, all of which are perfect for post-Bnei Mitzvah. And there's a whole team of people who are willing to help you prepare: you can always ask for help from the Hazzan, the Rabbi, or anyone on the Ritual Committee.

One other great way to participate is by becoming a Torah Gabbai. The Gabbaim announce those being honored at the Torah, help the readers as needed, tell the congregation which pages/chapters/verses are being read, and help with handling and dressing the Torah. Even if you don't have the Hebrew skills for calling names and helping the readers, you can still assist by being the one who does the non-Hebrew tasks. The Torah Gabbaim are led by Stuart Markowitz, who has created a thorough how-to guide with step-by-step instructions. Several congregants have joined the Torah Gabbai rotation over the last year and I think that if you asked any of them, they'd tell you that it has been a rewarding experience. If you're interested, reach out to Stuart directly, or you can always come to me for more information.

We hope that you enjoy the upcoming holidays of Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions related to ritual. Shana tova!



Mazal Tov to Our Bar Mitzvah



EVAN FRANK

September 20, 2025

Mazel Tov to Barbara and Michael Frank on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Evan. Evan is endlessly curious, always friendly, sensitive, and compassionate to those around him. Evan plays baseball on his junior high team, loves the Mets, and always volunteers help to look after our youngest congregants during the holidays. Evan plans to continue attending services at temple and youth group. Evan has one sibling, Simon (15).

The Harry Kassel Patrons Society



If Harry Kassel (z"l) 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

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

CHAI

Leslie & Jonathan Altus
Laurie & Joseph Brofsky
Doris & Yosef Dlugacz
Stefanie & Stuart Doloboff
Renee Fischer
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
Janie & Michael Krasne
Heidi & Steven Kreit
Debra and Jeffrey Langendorff
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
Barbash Family
Joan Berkowitz
Linda & David Burton
Ilene & Lawrence Cohen

Barbara and Paul Cooper
Shelley & Arthur Debin
Naomi & Norman Doctor
Stacey & Jaime Ezratty
Lauren & Barry Goldstein
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
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 and Zinovi Abelev
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
Cristina Zancani & David Schieren



High Holidays



The origins of Rosh Hashanah may be sought in a royal enthronement ritual from biblical times, though the Bible itself never mentions the “New Year” or “Day of Judgment” aspects of the holiday. Even though Rosh Hashanah falls in the seventh month, later rabbinic tradition decided to designate it the beginning of the year. Although the origin of this tradition may have been adopted from the Babylonians, the rabbis imbued it with Jewish significance as the anniversary of the day on which the world was created, or of the day on which humanity was created. Another explanation can be found in the significance of Tishrei as the seventh month, hence the Sabbath of the year. (www.myjewishlearning.com)

High Holidays Yamim Noraim ימים נוראים

High Holiday Tickets

- Tickets will be mailed to everyone by the middle of September. White tickets for members, blue tickets for guests, pink tickets for teens, and green tickets for young adults.
- You may call the office to purchase additional tickets or you may do so online. Contact the office for more information.
- Please make sure to have your ticket with you.
- Family members who belong to other USCJ congregations may request courtesy reciprocal tickets by calling the office or they can have their home synagogue send us a letter on synagogue letterhead.

Security

The safety of everyone celebrating the holidays with us is of utmost concern to us. Please be sure to have your ticket with you each time you come to the synagogue. We will be checking tickets at the door. Everyone must have a member or guest ticket to enter. In order to best monitor the facility, all entry will take place through the sanctuary parking lot doors.

Special Seating Needs

Anyone requiring special seating or parking because of physical limitations should notify the office at 516-599-2634 or execdir@herjc.org immediately.

The HERJC Neilah Tradition

The last service of Yom Kippur is called Neilah, the “Service of the Closing of the Gates.” As twilight fell on Biblical Jerusalem, the gates of the Temple were closed. Neilah signals the end of the period of repentance and we are reminded to enter the Gates of Repentance before it is too late. Congregants are invited to come up on the Bima for a short, personal prayer while the Ark is open. The service ends with one mighty blast of the Shofar. Bring your Shofar and join us.

Parking — Be Good Neighbors

We close the HERJC parking lot during the High Holy Days to maintain the dignity of our worship. If you park on the side streets, please be considerate and do not disturb our neighbors. We thank you in advance for your cooperation. Handicapped parking passes are available for those who need it. Please contact the office to request one.

Synagogue Decorum

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on HERJC property. **Please do not bring electronic devices of any kind into the synagogue.**

Youth Programs

Children 3 and over are invited to join us for drop-off programming in the school wing. A supervised play area will be set up in the Youth Lounge for children under 3 accompanied by one adult.



Schedule of Services

SELICHOT

■ Saturday, September 13

Program & Service at HERJC ... 8:00 pm

ROSH HASHANAH

■ Monday, September 22

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Toast to the New Year 5:00 pm

Followed by a brief service 5:45 pm

■ Tuesday, September 23

Day 1 - Rosh Hashanah

Morning Service 9:30 am

Youth Programming 11:00 am

Tashlich 5:00 pm

at the Duck Pond in Hewlett Harbor
followed by Shofar and music

■ Wednesday, September 24

Day 2 - Rosh Hashanah

Morning Service 9:30 am

Youth Programming 11:00 am

■ Friday, September 26

Kabbalat Shabbat Shuva 6:00 pm

■ Saturday, September 27

Shabbat Shuva followed

by Kiddush 9:30 am

YOM KIPPUR

■ Wednesday, October 1

Erev Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre Service with

candlelighting 6:00 pm

■ Thursday, October 2

Yom Kippur

Morning Service 9:30 am

Youth Programming 11:00 am

Yizkor (Time is approximate)

Open to the Community 1:00 pm

Mincha Service 4:45 pm

Neilah Service 6:00 pm

Final Shofar 7:15 pm

Community Break Fast

(\$18/Person) 7:15 pm

SUKKOT

■ Monday, October 6

Erev Sukkot

Evening Service 6:00 pm

■ Tuesday, October 7

Day 1 - Sukkot

Morning Service followed by

Dairy Potluck Luncheon 9:30 am

■ Wednesday, October 8

Day 2 - Sukkot

Morning Service 9:30 am

■ Friday, October 10

Kabbalat Shabbat Service followed by

Dinner: \$25/Adult (13+),

\$12/Child (4-12) 6:00 pm

■ Saturday, October 11

Shabbat Service followed

by Kiddush 9:30 am

HOSHANA RABBAH

■ Sunday, October 12

Erev Hoshana Rabbah Service

and Tikkun followed by

Sushi in the Sukkah 6:00 pm

■ Monday, October 13

Hoshana Rabbah Service 7:45 am

Night Yizkor Service 6:00 pm

SHEMINI ATZERET/ SIMCHAT TORAH

■ Tuesday, October 14

Service 9:30 am

Yizkor 11:00 am approx.

Simchat Torah Celebration 6:00 pm

■ Wednesday, October 15

Service featuring our Honorees

followed by Luncheon 9:30 am

Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:00 pm

In Memoriam 5784-5785

This Yom Kippur, as we prepare for Yizkor, we are mindful of the memories of those members of our congregation we have lost in the last year.

Susan Alt

Naomi Doctor

Norman Doctor

Bruce Garver

Lenore Ostroff

Lester Pollack

Faye Stein

Steven Suffin

את-נשמותיהם
יצרר בצרור החיים

"May Their Souls Be Bound
Up In the Bond of Life"

KOL NIDRE APPEAL

We are in the midst of our 5786 Kol Nidre Appeal. In these difficult economic times, we need your help more than ever. Please be generous when our volunteer calls.

The Kol Nidre Committee

Please note that all times are approximate.

During Sukkot, all services will be in the Sukkah with music, weather permitting.



High Holidays

ORDER YOUR LULAV AND ETROG NOW!

■ **Cost: \$45 – Orders Due: Friday, September 26**

The Lulav and Etrog are lovely symbols of Sukkot which are used both at home and for the Lulav procession during the service. Owning your own Lulav and Etrog set really adds to the enjoyment of the holiday.



To order, please scan the QR code and fill out the form or call the HERJC office at 516-599-2634. Once purchased, we will contact you with pick-up date and time.

DAIRY POTLUCK IN THE SUKKAH

■ **Tuesday, October 7, Following 9:30 am Service**

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE AND SUKKOT DINNER

■ **Friday, October 10, 6:00 pm**

PIZZA IN THE HUT ECC FAMILY PROGRAM

■ **Thursday, October 9, 5:30 pm**

You are welcome to fulfill the mitzvah of eating in a sukkah by bringing your own kosher meal into the HERJC sukkah. Please call 516-599-2634 or email office@herjc.org to make arrangements to eat in our sukkah!



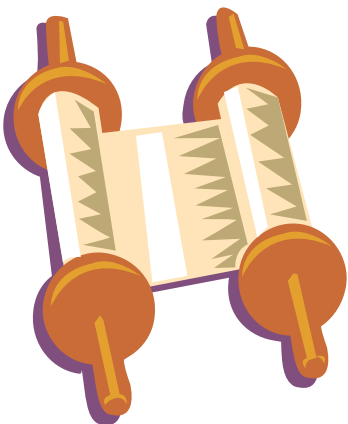
SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICES AND CELEBRATION JOIN US!

■ **Tuesday, October 14, 6:00 pm**

Join us for Simchat Torah Services as we sing, dance, and celebrate during the traditional Hakafot. Share our joy as we finish reading the final words of the Torah and immediately begin again with "In the beginning."

■ **Simchat Torah Service, Wednesday, October 15, 9:30 am followed by luncheon**

Join us as we honor our Kallat Torah, Melissa Chizzik-Schnall and Chatan Bereshit, Elliott Polinsky. Come and share the joy of Torah, community, and everlasting continuity.



Our Simchat Torah Honorees

KALLAT TORAH: MELISSA CHIZZIK-SCHNALL



Melissa's HERJC story truly exemplifies the meaning of *L'dor V'dor*. Brought up in a family that was active at HERJC, Melissa learned the importance and responsibility of supporting and passing down Jewish traditions, values, and knowledge from a young age.

She has been surrounded by the HERJC community through all stages and life-cycle events, from her baby naming through Hebrew School graduation; from participating in HERJC's Youth Group, to becoming a leader in the Metropolitan Region USY youth programs; from being a member of HERJC's Junior Congregation to being a Junior Congregation Leader and Hebrew School teacher; from meeting her husband,

Melissa has been surrounded by the HERJC community through all stages and life-cycle events.

Andrew, when they were both Youth Group Advisors at HERJC, to the sacred moment they stood under the chuppah as they committed to creating their own Jewish home; from accompanying her father to minyan whenever he received a call that there was a need, to being embraced by the "minyanares" during daily minyan, so she was able to honor her father through the recitation of the Mourner's Kaddish.

Now, as the mother of her almost five-year-old son, Jordan, Melissa is grateful to have the warmth of the extended HERJC family as a model for his Jewish observance. Melissa is a member of HERJC's Youth Committee and Education Committee, in addition to her full time job as an Assistant Principal, and role as Board Chair of the Friedberg JCC. Melissa is honored to be this year's Kallat Torah and looks forward to celebrating Simchat Torah with all of you.

CHATAN BERESHIT: ELLIOTT POLINSKY

Elliott was raised in Woodmere and grew up to take over the family business in Brooklyn. He met his wife, Audrey, playing basketball in North Woodmere Park. After getting married and living in Manhattan for several years, Audrey and Elliott moved out to Hewlett to raise their two sons, Isaac and Gabriel. Both boys went to Hebrew School and were Bar Mitzvahed at HERJC.

Elliott is grateful for all the support from the HERJC community and hopes he can return that support to all.

Elliott has been involved with the School and Youth Committee, the Purim Carnival, the Cantor search committee, and the House committee. He has been head of security, and the gabbai on Shabbat. Recently, he sold his business

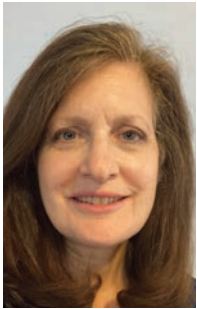


and became a regular at morning minyan on Mondays and Thursdays.

Elliott is grateful for all the support from the HERJC community and hopes he can return that support to all. He is honored to be this year's Chatan Bereshit, and wishes a hearty *Yasher Koach* to Melissa Chizzik-Schnall on her being named Kallat Torah.



Sisterhood



BEVERLY WACHTEL

Happy 75th Anniversary to HERJC Sisterhood! 2025 marks the 75 years that the Sisterhood of Congregation Etz Chaim/Hewlett East Rockaway Jewish Centre has been affiliated with Women's League for Conservative Judaism. In celebration of this momen-

tous occasion, we thought about phrases that best represent 75 years of Sisterhood to use as our theme for the year. We chose *L'Dor V'Dor* which means "From Generation to Generation."

This phrase and other variants of the expression are found numerous times in the Bible, and we repeat it in our daily prayers. At HERJC, we even say it louder to emphasize it in our morning prayers, thanks to Norman Doctor.¹

"L'Dor V'Dor" refers to continuity, to the responsibility of passing on spiritual knowledge and cultural traditions from generation to generation for the purpose of sustaining the customs, heritage, and collective memory of the Jewish people.¹ In Pirke Avot, the rabbis describe how the Torah is passed from one generation to the next, forming an on-going chain of transmission, knowing that Jewish survival depends on passing the torch to every generational link in the chain.²

Sisterhood has long known that as Jewish women, it is our responsibility to pass down our history, knowledge, traditions, experiences, and values through the generations to strengthen our Jewish community and ensure the future of Conservative Judaism. As you know, Sisterhood is an affiliate of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Even the WL logo emphasizes the role women play as keepers of the flames of mitzvot, family, study, Israel, Torah, and community. The W represents the ancient menorah in a strong, contemporary style, to recognize that as we adapt to the future, we are connected to our past.

Recipes are surely a tradition we pass on from generation to generation. Our Jewish holidays revolve around food! We hope you'll join us as Rebecca Osder leads us in

a four-part cooking series centered around the holidays. Sept. 17, before Rosh Hashanah (when we dip apples in honey for a sweet year), we'll cook with apples, apples, apples as we make Apple Pie and also Stuffed French Toast. On Dec. 3, before Hanukkah, (when we eat foods prepared in oil in to commemorate the miracle of the oil, enough for one day which burned for 8 days, in the Second Temple), we'll make Latkes and more. On Feb. 11, as we prepare for Purim, we'll bake Hamentashen (representing Haman's three-cornered hat, to commemorate the downfall of Haman and celebrate the Jewish people's survival). Then on Sunday, March 29, before Passover, (when we avoid flour and chametz to commemorate the Israelites' hasty departure from Egypt when they didn't have time for their bread to rise), we'll bake Flourless Chocolate Cake and make Matzo Crack. Join us for one or as many as all four sessions as we prepare holiday favorites and bring home some new recipes to pass on to our families.

Join us on Saturday, Oct. 11 for our annual Sweets in the Sukkah event. This year our event will be on Saturday night. We're starting with Havdalah at 7:00 pm and serving a light meal and sweets. Our *Ushpizot*, spiritual guests whom we discuss, will be women who represent the theme "from generation to generation."

On Tuesday, Oct. 28, at Movie Night co-sponsored by Adult Ed., we're watching the Israeli movie "Maktub". *Maktub* means "it is written." Placing prayers written on slips of paper into the cracks of the Western Wall in Jerusalem is a tradition that has been passed on through the generations. The movie is a comedy about two gangsters, the sole survivors of a restaurant bombing in Jerusalem, who decide to answer the written prayers of strangers that were left at the Kotel.

Coming up . . . Save the date for our annual Membership Event on November 13.

1. www.milkenarchive.org/music/volumes/view/ldor-vador/

2. www.myjewishlearning.com/article/what-does-ldor-vador-mean/



Sisterhood Events



Join us for one or as many as all four sessions as we prepare holiday favorites and bring home some new recipes to pass on to our families.

Wednesday, September 17 (before Rosh Hashanah) Apple Pie and Stuffed French Toast

Wednesday, December 3 (before Hanukkah) Latkes and more

Wednesday, February 11 (as we prepare for Purim) Hamentashen

Sunday, March 29 (before Passover) Flourless Chocolate Cake and Matzo Crack



ANNUAL WARM CLOTHING DRIVE

Sunday, November 2
9:00 am - 12 noon

Monday, November 3
12:30 - 3:30 pm

We are collecting coats, jackets, suits, gloves, hats, scarfs, mufflers, sweaters, etc., to help needy men, women, and children keep warm this winter. Please search your closets and donate!

Volunteers Needed



MOVIE NIGHT JOIN ADULT ED & SISTERHOOD

■ **Tuesday, October 28 at 8:00 pm, Upstairs Board Room**

Join us for a screening of "Maktub", an Israeli comedy about two gangsters with hearts of gold, even if they cling to some of their criminal ways. After surviving a restaurant bombing in Jerusalem, they decide to fulfill the wishes of strangers by answering the prayers left at the Kotel.



Thursday, November 13
at 8:00 pm

Annual Sisterhood Membership Event

September 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.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

1 8 ELUL

Labor Day

OFFICE CLOSED

9:00 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

2 9 ELUL

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

7 14 ELUL

First Sunday of Religious School

9:00 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

9:00 am-12:00 pm - Gan through Zayin (Grades PreK-7)

9:30 am - Torah Learning & Breakfast

5:00 pm - Brisket Bake Off

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

8 15 ELUL

6:30 - Executive Committee Meeting

7:45 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

9 16 ELUL

First Tuesday of Religious School

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan

4:15-6:15 pm - Alef through Vav (Grades 1-6)

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

14 21 ELUL

9:00 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

9:00 am-12:00 pm - Gan through Zayin (Grades PreK-7)

9:30 am - Torah Learning & Breakfast

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

15 22 ELUL

7:45 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

6:30 pm - Israel Committee Meeting

6:30 pm - Board of Directors Meeting

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

16 23 ELUL

First Day of Mommy & Me

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan

4:15-6:15 pm - Alef through Vav (Grades 1-6)

6:30 pm - Ritual Committee Meeting

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

21 28 ELUL

9:00 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

9:00 am-12:00 pm - Gan through Zayin (Grades PreK-7)

9:30 am - Torah Learning & Breakfast

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

22 19 ELUL

Erev Rosh Hashana

Office Closes at 2:00 pm

ECC Closed

6:15 pm - Erev Rosh Hashana Service

7:45 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

5:00 pm - Toast to the New Year & Service

6:33 pm - Holiday Candlelighting

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

23 1 TISHRE

Rosh Hashana - Day 1

Office/ECC/Religious School Closed

9:30 am - Rosh Hashana Service

11:00 am - Youth Programming

5:00 pm - Tashlich followed by Shofar and Music

7:30 pm - Holiday Candlelighting

28 6 TISHRE

9:00 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

9:00 am-12:00 pm - Gan through Zayin (Grades PreK-7)

9:30 am - Torah Learning & Breakfast

3:00 pm - Open House at Juliana & Rabbi Schlesinger's Home

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

29 7 TISHRE

7:45 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

30 8 TISHRE

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan

4:15-6:15 pm - Alef through Vav (Grades 1-6)

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan



of Events

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

3 10 ELUL

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan
7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

4 11 ELUL

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

5 12 ELUL

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan
10:00 am - ECC Family Fun Day
6:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service
7:02 pm - Candlelighting

6 13 ELUL

PARASHAT KI TEITZEI

9:30 am - Shabbat Service
7:59 pm - Havdalah

10 17 ELUL

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan
7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

11 18 ELUL

7:45 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan
7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan
8:00 pm - Sisterhood Board Meeting

12 19 ELUL

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan
6:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service
6:00 pm - Religious School Shabbat
6:50 pm - Candlelighting

13 20 ELUL

PARASHAT KI TAVO

9:30 am - Shabbat Service
7:47 pm - Havdalah
8:00 pm - Selichot Program at HERJC

17 24 ELUL

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan
7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan
8:00 pm - Adult Ed & Sisterhood Cooking Series

18 25 ELUL

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

19 26 ELUL

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan
6:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service
6:38 pm - Candlelighting

20 27 ELUL

PARASHAT NITZAVIM

Bar Mitzvah of Evan Frank
9:30 am - Shabbat Service
7:35 pm - Havdalah

24 2 TISHRE

Rosh Hashana - Day 2
Office/ECC Closed
9:30 am - Rosh Hashana Service
11:00 am - Youth Programming
7:28 pm - Holiday Ends
7:30 pm - Holiday Candlelighting

25 3 TISHRE

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

26 4 TISHRE

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan
6:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Shuvah
6:27 pm - Candlelighting

27 5 TISHRE

PARASHAT VAYEILECH

Shabbat Shuvah
9:30 am - Shabbat Service
7:23 pm - Havdalah



**OVER 240
MILLION TREES,
AND COUNTING!**

www.jnf.org

Jewish National Fund was established more than 100 years ago by a small group of leaders. By purchasing plots of land, they hoped to establish the groundwork for the birth of our nation of Israel.

Tree Certificates are available for purchase in the Nursery Office. Contact Betsy at 599-1169 or email her at nurseryoffice@herjc.org



October Calendar

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY



Sunday, Oct. 12
Sushi in Sukkah



1 9 TISHRE

Kol Nidre/Erev Yom Kippur

Office Closes at 2:00 pm

ECC Closed

6:00 pm - Kol Nidre Service

6:18 pm - Holiday Candlelighting

5 13 TISHRE

9:00 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

9:00 am-12:00 pm - Gan through Zayin (Grades PreK-7)

9:30 am - Torah Learning & Breakfast

9:30 am - Adult Ed Speaker, Live On NY: Rabbi Josh Rabin

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

6 14 TISHRE

Erev Sukkot

Office Closes at 3:00 pm

7:45 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

6:00 pm - Sukkot Service

6:10 pm - Holiday Candlelighting

7 15 TISHRE

Sukkot - Day 1

Office/ECC Closed

9:30 am - Sukkot Service followed by Potluck Luncheon

4:15-6:15 pm - Alef through Vav (Grades 1-6), Sukkot Activity

7:07 pm - Holiday Candlelighting

8 16 TISHRE

Sukkot - Day 2

Office/ECC Closed

9:30 am - Sukkot Service

12 20 TISHRE

Sukkot - Day 6

Religious School Closed

9:00 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

9:30 am - Torah Learning & Breakfast

6:00 pm - Hoshana Rabba Tikkun & Sushi in the Sukkah

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

13 21 TISHRE

Sukkot - Day 7/Hoshana Raba

Office Closes at 3:00 pm

ECC Closed

9:00 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

5:59 pm - Holiday Candlelighting

6:00 pm - Yizkor Service

14 22 TISHRE

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

Office/ECC/Religious School Closed

9:30 am - Service with Yizkor

6:00 pm - Simchat Torah Celebration

6:56 pm - Holiday Candlelighting

15 23 TISHRE

Simchat Torah

Office/ECC Closed

9:30 am - Simchat Torah Service followed by Luncheon

6:55 pm - Holiday Ends

19 27 TISHRE

9:00 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

9:00 am-12:00 pm - Gan through Zayin (Grades PreK-7)

9:30 am - Torah Learning & Breakfast

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

20 28 TISHRE

7:45 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

6:00 pm - Congregational and Open Board of Directors Meeting

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

21 29 TISHRE

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan

4:15-6:15 pm - Alef through Vav (Grades 1-6)

6:30 pm - Ritual Committee Meeting

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

8:00 pm - House Committee Meeting

22 30 TISHRE

Rosh Chodesh

ECC Touch-a-Truck Day

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan

8:30 am - ECC Storytime

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

8:00 pm - Sisterhood Book Club

26 4 CHESHVAN

Adult Ed Museum Trip - Time TBD

9:00 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

9:00 am-12:00 pm - Gan through Zayin (Grades PreK-7)

9:30 am - Torah Learning & Breakfast

4:00 pm - Beresheet Festival - Location TBD

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

27 5 CHESHVAN

7:45 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

28 6 CHESHVAN

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan

4:15-6:15 pm - Alef through Vav (Grades 1-6)

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

8:00 pm - Adult Ed & Sisterhood Movie Night

29 7 CHESHVAN

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan

7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan



of Events

THURSDAY

2 10 TISHRE

Yom Kippur
Office/ECC Closed
7:45 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan
9:30 am - Yom Kippur Service/Yizkor
11:00 am - Youth Programming
4:45 pm - Mincha Service
6:00 pm - Neilah Service
7:15 pm - Holiday Ends/Break Fast
7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

9 17 TISHRE

Sukkot - Day 3
7:45 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan
10:30 am - ECC Visit from The Bristol
5:30 pm - Pizza in the Hut
7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan

16 24 TISHRE

7:45 am - In Person & Virtual Morning Minyan
7:30 pm - Virtual Evening Minyan
8:00 pm Sisterhood Board Meeting

23 1 CHESHVAN

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

30 8 CHESHVAN

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

FRIDAY

3 11 TISHRE

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan
6:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service
6:15 pm - Candlelighting

10 18 TISHRE

Sukkot - Day 4
7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan
6:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service
6:04 pm - Candlelighting
7:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Sukkot Dinner

17 25 TISHRE

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan
5:53 pm - Candlelighting
6:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service

24 2 CHESHVAN

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan
5:43 pm - Candlelighting
6:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service

31 9 CHESHVAN

7:45 am - Virtual Morning Minyan
5:34 pm - Candlelighting
6:00 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat Service

SATURDAY

4 12 TISHRE

PARASHAT HA'AZINU

9:30 am - Shabbat Service
7:12 pm - Havdalah

11 19 TISHRE

PARASHAT SUKKOT

Sukkot - Day 5
9:30 am - Shabbat Service
7:00 pm - Sisterhood Sweets in the Sukkah
7:01 pm - Havdalah

18 26 TISHRE

PARASHAT BERESHIT

9:30 am - Shabbat Service
6:50 pm - Havdalah

25 3 CHESHVAN

PARASHAT NOACH

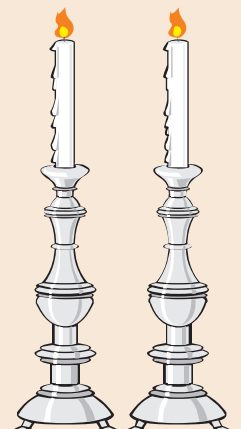
9:30 am - Shabbat Service
6:41 pm - Havdalah

Light the Shabbat Candles and Recite the Following Blessing

ברוך אתה ה'
אלהינו מלך העולם,
אשר קדשנו במצותיו,
וצונו להדליק נר
של שבת.

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
Shel Sha-bat.

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.



Candlelighting times are listed on the calendar





Harry Laufer Education Center



Early Childhood Center

CHERYL KARP

Welcoming a New Year

As September approaches, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of a new year—both on the school calendar and in the rhythm of the Jewish calendar. It is a season of transitions: beach towels are replaced by backpacks, the sound of sprinklers gives way to morning routines, and at the ECC, our classrooms fill once again with the voices, footsteps, and laughter of our youngest learners.

There's a certain kind of magic in these early days. Children arrive with wide eyes, some hesitant, some eager, and many a mixture of both. There is excitement in the air, but also the quiet tension of the unknown. For many of our ECC students, especially our youngest ones, this is their very first experience away from their caregivers.

There is something deeply hopeful about new beginnings: sharpened crayons, new lunchboxes, the slightly-too-big backpacks that our little ones wear with pride. For me, the end of summer always brings back a personal memory.

I remember one September morning with my own child, many years ago. She was holding her stuffed bunny in one hand, my hand in the other, stepping nervously through the ECC door for the very first time. My little girl looked as if she was being swallowed whole by her backpack.

We stood there for a moment and she looked at me, unsure, and I remember thinking . . . *Is she ready? Am I ready?* And then together we walked in. A few hours later, I peeked in the classroom window—and there she was, painting with new friends, giggling, and completely at home. That was the first moment I truly understood what a sacred space the ECC is for our families.

And that's true for so many children. Some adapt quickly, eager to explore and connect. Others need time.

And love. And consistent, gentle presence. At the ECC, we honor each child's unique journey. We understand that transitions can be challenging, and that separation may bring tears—sometimes for children, sometimes for parents, sometimes for both. Our teachers are trained not only in education, but in empathy. They know how to hold space for a child who needs extra reassurance, how to read the quiet cues of a hesitant little one, and how to build trust one interaction at a time.

This month, we welcome new faces and familiar ones, each child bringing with them a world of curiosity, potential, and wonder. Our teachers are ready with open arms, warm hearts, and the deep intention of creating a nurturing environment where each child can grow, explore, and thrive. We work closely with families during these first few weeks to make the transition as smooth as possible. Whether your child runs through the door or needs extra hugs and reminders—you are not alone. This is a community, and we walk this path together.

In many ways, the ECC embodies the themes of the High Holidays: reflection, renewal, and beginning again. Just as we take stock of who we are and who we hope to become in the year ahead, our children are doing the same in their own way. They are discovering what it means to be part of a group, to express themselves, to take turns, to trust new adults, and to try something they've never done before.

As we enter the new year, both school and Jewish, we are reminded that beginnings are sacred. They ask us to reflect, to prepare, and to show up with love. We are honored to begin this journey with you and your families. May it be a year filled with growth, connection and many joyful discoveries.

Shana Tova from all of us in the ECC.

Warmly, Cheryl Karp



ECC OUR YEAR TO SHINE ONE PIECE AT A TIME

■ **Friday, September 5**
ECC Family Fun Day

■ **Monday, September 8**
First Day of ECC

■ **Tuesday, September 16**
First Day of Mommy & Me

■ **Monday-Wednesday, September 22-24**
ECC CLOSED—Rosh Hashana

■ **Wednesday-Thursday, October 1-2**
ECC CLOSED—Yom Kippur

■ **Tuesday-Wednesday, October 7-8**
ECC CLOSED—Sukkot

■ **Thursday, October 9**
ECC Visit from the Bristol-10:30 am
Pizza in the Hut-5:30 pm

■ **Monday-Wednesday, October 13-15**
ECC CLOSED—Sukkot,
Hoshana Raba, Shemini Atzeret,
Simchat Torah

■ **Wednesday, October 22**
ECC Storytime-8:30 am
Touch-a-Truck Day

Pizza In the Hut

Thursday, Oct. 9
5:30 pm



Family Fun Day

Friday, September 5
10:00 am

Join us for an afternoon of connection and celebration! Children and their families will have the chance to meet teachers, enjoy light refreshments, and listen to great music.

Together, we'll celebrate being the unique pieces that fit together to create the big, beautiful puzzle of our community.



Touch-A-Truck Day

Wednesday, October 22

Our students are in for an exciting day of exploration! They'll meet community workers and get a close-up look at about 20 different trucks right in our parking lot. From fire engines to construction vehicles, it's a hands-on learning experience they won't forget!



Religious School



CHARI NACSON

Kicking Off a Meaningful Year of Jewish Growth and Community

As we begin this exciting new year at our religious school, we do so with open hearts, eager minds, and a shared commitment to the Jewish values that have guided our people for generations. This year, we will focus not only on learning—but on living our Judaism through action, connection, and purpose.

We will dive deeply into the wisdom of our Prophets and learn about the lives of great *tzadikim*—righteous individuals—drawing lessons from their courage, compassion, and vision. Through their stories, students will explore timeless themes of justice, hope, and responsibility.

We will also celebrate the mitzvot our children perform each day—from acts of *chesed* (kindness) to *tzedakah* (charity). Using the examples of our ancestors, both ancient and modern, as our guide, we will each strive to be a *דוגמה אישית*—a personal example of Jewish values in action.

Finally, we remain deeply connected to Israel, the heart of the Jewish people. Our learning will include understanding the land, the people, and the modern challenges and triumphs of the State of Israel. We aim to nurture a strong Jewish identity rooted in love, support, and awareness of our shared homeland.

Together—students, families, and educators—we will build a year filled with Jewish pride, learning, and connection. We're so glad to have you with us on this meaningful journey.

L'Shanah Tovah U'Metukah—to a sweet, joyful, and enriching year ahead!

Religious School Schedule

SEPTEMBER

■ Sunday, September 7

First Sunday of Religious School
Gan through Zayin (Grades PreK-7) . . 9:00 am-Noon

■ Tuesday, September 9

First Tuesday of Religious School
Alef through Vav (Grades 1-6) 4:15-6:15 pm

■ Sunday, September 14

Gan through Zayin (Grades PreK-7) . . 9:00 am-Noon

■ Tuesday, September 16

Alef through Vav (Grades 1-6) 4:15-6:15 pm

■ Sunday, September 21

Gan through Zayin (Grades PreK-7) . . 9:00 am-Noon

■ Tuesday, September 23

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED—ROSH HASHANA

■ Sunday, September 28

Gan through Zayin (Grades PreK-7) . . 9:00 am-Noon

■ Tuesday, September 30

Alef through Vav (Grades 1-6) 4:15-6:15 pm

OCTOBER

■ Sunday, October 5

Gan through Zayin (Grades PreK-7) . . 9:00 am-Noon

■ Tuesday, October 7

Alef through Vav (Grades 1-6) 4:15-6:15 pm
Sukkot Activity

■ Sunday, October 12

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED—SUKKOT

■ Tuesday, October 14

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED—
SHEMINI ATZERET/SIMCHAT TORAH

■ Sunday, October 19

Gan through Zayin (Grades PreK-7) . . 9:00 am-Noon

■ Tuesday, October 21

Alef through Vav (Grades 1-6) 4:15-6:15 pm

■ Sunday, October 26

Gan through Zayin (Grades PreK-7) . . 9:00 am-Noon



MY JEWISH “COMING OF AGE” AT MY AGE: DECEMBER 20, 2025

by Pnina Knopf

The Jewish “Coming of Age” is known as a Bar Mitzvah for a male at age 13 or a Bat Mitzvah for a female at age 12. If you grew up in the 1950s and 60s in a Conservative Jewish family, only male children had a Bar Mitzvah. My three brothers all had a Bar Mitzvah. Although all four of us attended The Brandeis School, a Hebrew day school, and we grew up attending Shabbat services every Saturday, I did not have a Bat Mitzvah.

My husband, Lewis, and I got married in 1975. Our children attended Hewlett East Rockaway Jewish Centre Nursery School and Hebrew School. They had Jewish “Coming of Age” Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. After my son’s Bar Mitzvah, we no longer belonged to a synagogue.

Fast forward to the Jewish Holidays in 2023. I was feeling the need for a spiritual connection to my Judaism. And so began my path to finding my way back to HERJC.

I walked into Lisa Stein’s office in October 2023 and asked if the Rabbi would meet with me (I was not a member). Lisa was the first to answer my questions, assure me that the Rabbi would meet with me, and was warm and welcoming. On November 3, 2023, I had my first meeting with Rabbi Schlesinger. I had previously met Hazzan Bonnie. After meeting both the Rabbi and the Hazzan again together, I was hooked! I joined HERJC in January of 2024 and haven’t looked back.

I joined Sisterhood and the Israel Committee, and I attend services and kiddush on Saturday mornings. In April, 2024 I had a “Blessing in Front of the Torah” for my grandson, Liam, who flew in from Houston.

My spiritual home has been found. I have met many new people and I feel part of the HERJC family. To complete my spiritual circle, I approached Hazzan Bonnie on November 2, 2024, after services that Saturday and told her I’d like to have the Bat Mitzvah I never had when I was 12. I told her that this was a “gift” I wanted to give to myself to celebrate my 75th birthday. She enthusiastically encouraged me (as did Rabbi Schlesinger) to follow my dream and I had my first Bat Mitzvah lesson two weeks later. And . . . as the saying goes . . . the rest is history. My Bat Mitzvah was scheduled for Saturday, December 20, 2025, the day before my 75th birthday!

I have been meeting with Hazzan Bonnie on a regular basis and have learned to read Torah!

I’m going “all in” and doing a Mitzvah Project too. SIBSPlace, an affiliate of Mount Sinai South Nassau, is a free therapeutic program serving children, ages 5 to 17, living with a sibling with a cancer diagnosis or another devastating medical illness, a parent with a cancer diagnosis and/or child coping with the death of a sibling or parent. SIBSPlace provides guided therapeutic support to help well children express feelings and develop skills to cope with the traumatic and emotional impact of a loved one’s medical diagnosis and/or loss. SIBSPlace opens its doors to all children, no matter what hospital is treating their loved one. Family support, bereavement groups, and a summer camp are also offered.

I started volunteering with SIBSPlace in 2001, one year after it was created and SIBSPlace has always remained close to my heart. The goal of my Mitzvah Project is to bring awareness about SIBSPlace to the HERJC congregation, the community, and my family and friends, and to help support this program, “A Place Where a Child Matters Most.”



Pnina Knopf and family

MY JEWISH COMING OF AGE *Continued on page 23*



Personals and Donations

Personals

Mazal Tov!

B'nai Mitzvah

Barbara and Michael Frank as their son, Evan becomes a Bar Mitzvah.

Engagements

Jacqueline Simons and Kenneth Fink on the engagement of their son, Harrison to Skylar Kaplan.

Special Wedding Anniversaries

• SEPTEMBER

Amy and Frank Pomponio (20)

Ivy and Thomas Reilly (20)

Nora and Jack Skiba (10)

Lisa and Richard Wainer (35)

• OCTOBER

Barbara and Paul Cooper (40)

Special Birthdays

• SEPTEMBER

Barbara Braverman

Kathy Feffer

Lawrence Fener

Sherry Friedman

Lawrence Gottlieb

• OCTOBER

Laurie Austin

Rebecca Baum

Paul Cooper

Vicki Cordova

Jay Fader

Michael Greenberg

Jody Grobman

Sylvia Gutenplan

Larry Kaminsky

Brian Partman

Martin Rosen

Joy Kaminsky

Zeena Kassel

Geoffrey Lurie

Sharon Rusinowitz

James Siegenfeld

Brian Weisner

And ...

Sam Chadick on her son Shane graduating from high school.

Sam Chadick on her son Tyler's marriage.

Melissa Chizzik-Schnall on being honored by the Friedberg JCC.

Irene Drantch on being honored at the Temple Am Echad Gala.

Carolyn and Jay Fader on the wedding of their daughter, Alison Fader to Sean Klim.

Aleta and Ariel Grunberg on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Bar Schuchman.

Jinette Quinones on her retirement.

Nancy and Michael Rehns on the wedding of their niece, Alison Fader to Sean Klim.

Cheryl and Jeffrey Strom on the marriage of their daughter, Arielle Strom to Frank Salvatore.

Condolences

Michael Burstein on the loss of his father, Irving Burstein.

Carolyn Fader on the loss of her father, Jack Arkin.

Liz Kislik on the loss of her mother, Susan Alt.

In Memoriam

We Mourn Our Loss
in the Passing of Our Members

Susan Alt Norman Doctor

Our Sincere Sympathy and
Condolences to Their Families
in Their Bereavement

David Koffler on the loss of his mother, Sandra Koffler.

Nancy Levitt on the loss of her mother, Susan Bieber.

Bruce Mirkin on the loss of his father, Dr. Allan Mirkin.

Daniel Mirkin on the loss of his father, Dr. Allan Mirkin.

Brian Silver on the loss of his mother, Janice Silver.

Nancy Wachs on the loss of her father, Charles Baum.

Memorial Plaques

Lisa Berkowitz-Herrnson in memory of Harold Grill.

Lisa Berkowitz-Herrnson in memory of Libby Grill.

Lev Herrnson in memory of Jacqueline Herrnson.

Lev Herrnson in memory of Kenneth Herrnson.

Ivy Reilly in memory of Sheila S. Weisel

Welcome New Members

Meredith and Vinny Cusumano

Shiran & Alex Dyomin

Noy & Harris Freedman

Arielle & Ari Herman

Rivka and Andrew Silverberg

Erica Sneider

Funds

*The Congregation gratefully acknowledges
the following contributions which were
received May 1, 2025-August 8, 2025.*

Anita Zaret's Birthday Fund

Anita and Sy Zaret in memory of Susan Alt.

Anita and Sy Zaret in memory of
Natalie Slavin.

Fern Zipkin for Tzedakah.

Chesed Fund

Lisa and Lev Herrnson in memory of Maria Torres.

Ivy and Thomas Reilly in memory of Susan Alt.

Ivy and Thomas Reilly in memory of Susan Bieber.

Ivy and Thomas Reilly in memory of Sandra Koffler.

Carol Rubinstein in memory of Maria Torres.

Early Childhood Center Fund

Noy and Harris Freedman with wishes for a speedy recovery to Noam Bat Yaffa.

Robin and Ben Mintz in honor of their grandchildren, Harrison and Parker Kizhner, graduating from Pre-K.

Robin and Ben Mintz in honor of Cheryl Karp and the ECC family for the wonderful education their grandchildren received and the beautiful graduation.

Robin and Benjamin Mintz in memory of Norman Doctor.

Marla Gross and Michelle Mussman in honor of Sharon and Sheldon Gross' 60th anniversary.

Nancy and Michael Rehns in memory of Susan Alt.

Nancy and Michael Rehns in memory of Sandra Koffler.

Helaine and Ron Ronen in memory of Susan Alt.

Carol Rubinstein in memory of her mother-in-law, Ida.

Carol Rubinstein in memory of her grandmother, Kate Polonsky.

Education Fund

Norman Doctor in memory of Sandra Koffler.

Norman Doctor in memory of Janice Silver.

Valerie and Abbey Doneger in memory of Charles Baum.

Terri and Steven Gold in memory of Dr. Allan Mirkin.

Jane and Marty Lesser in honor of Gabriel Horton's Bar Mitzvah.

Marsha and Larry Miller in memory of Charles Baum.

Elizabeth and Mitchell Podgorsky in memory of Sandra Koffler.

Deborah Polokoff and Joel Zeitlin in memory of Jack Arkin.

Natalie Zeiger in honor of Joel Zeitlin's 90th birthday.

In Memory of Susan Alt

Barry Borodkin

Lisa and Ed Cohen

Norman Doctor

Pam and Dan Gerstman

Judy and Steven Herbst

Harriet and Neil Meixler

Denise and Bob Sher

In Memory of Susan Bieber

Lisa and Ed Cohen

Norman Doctor

Terri and Steven Gold

In Memory of Norman Doctor

Madeline and Keith Harrow

Susan and David Koffler

Jane and Marty Lesser

Natali Matalon

Jane and Harry Mison

Susan Poltarak

Roberta and Stuart Sugarman

Gail and Mel Weinstein

Carol and Samuel Yedid

Endowment Fund

Lauren and Barry Goldstein
Ivy and Thomas Reilly

Hazzan's Music Fund

Kathy and Larry Feffer in honor of Gail Weinstein being the HERJC Woman of Achievement at the BQLI gala.

Sandra Greenberg in memory of her grandmother, Sarah Weisman.

Sharon and Sheldon Gross in appreciation of Hazzan Zakarin making a special day even more special.

Adrianne and Martin Klein in memory of Jack Arkin.

Pinna and Lewis Knopf in memory of Charles Baum.

Pinna and Lewis Knopf in memory of Susan Alt.

Pinna and Lewis Knopf in memory of Miriam Cohen.

Pinna and Lewis Knopf in memory of Charles Baum.

Heidi and Steven Kreit in appreciation of Hazzan Zakarin.

Ethel and Jan Liebeskind in memory of Sandra Koffler.

Amy and Ehud Moritz in memory of Norman Doctor.

Elizabeth and Mitchell Podgorsky in memory of Norman Doctor.

Elizabeth and Mitchell Podgorsky in memory of Edythe Steinberg.

Audrey and Elliott Polinsky in memory of Janice Silver.

Barbara and Ken Rappaport in honor of Torah Fund Honoree, Hazzan Bonnie Zakarin.

Ivy and Thomas Reilly in commemoration of Ivy's mother, Sheila Weisel's unveiling.

Carol Rubinstein in memory of Rose Fielder Kuntz and Morris Fielder.

Carol Rubinstein in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Eliana, granddaughter of Miriam and Howard Weisbrod.

Shari and Brian Silver in appreciation of Hazzan Zakarkin's support and guidance.

Cheryl and Jeffrey Strom in memory of Susan Alt.





How can you help?

1. Volunteer to help with set-up (10:15–11:30 am) and/or clean-up (4:00–5:00 pm) of the SIBSPlace BBQ and Reunion, celebrating 25 years of SIBSPlace, on Sunday, September 7, 2025, at The Schamroth Home, 191 Meadowview Ave., Hewlett Harbor.
2. Donate items that will benefit the children who attend the program such as: snacks, art supplies, and relaxation items. You can request that I send you a flyer with information which also includes a link to their Amazon Wishlist. Please send all donated items to me so I can present them together. There will be a box in the temple should you desire to make a donation.
3. In the fall, date TBD, SIBSPlace will invite volunteers to help at their location, 510 Merrick Road, Rockville Centre with a game night or another activity with the children.

If you have any questions about my Mitzvah Project, please feel free to contact me by text/phone (516-641-4142) or email (pzki221@gmail.com).

I look forward to seeing you at my Bat Mitzvah!

Ellen and Jim Tannenbaum in appreciation of Hazzan Zakarin

In Memory of Susan Alt

Prina and Lewis Knopf
Audrey and Elliott Polinsky
Carol Rubinstein
Cheryl and Jeff Strom

Kiddush Fund

Susan Fishler in memory of Norman Doctor.
Ivy and Thomas Reilly in memory of Norman Doctor.

Kol Nidre Fund

Sharon and Sheldon Gross in memory of Norman Doctor.
Ivy and Thomas Reilly

Prayer Book Fund

Shari Doloboff in memory Dr. Allan Mirkin.
Lisa and Michael Greenberg in memory of Norman Doctor.
Marsha and Larry Miller in memory of Norman Doctor.
Lonnie and Joel Parker in memory of Susan Bieber.
Nancy and Michael Rehns in memory of Jack Arkin.
Denise and Robert Sher in memory of Maria Torres.
Nora and Jack Skiba in memory of Norman Doctor.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Marsha Becker in memory of her mother, Sadie Strassman and her mother in law, Ethel.
Barbara and Alfred Braverman with wishes for the complete and speedy recovery of Robert Sher.
Barry Borodkin in honor of Naomi Schlesinger's Bat Mitzvah.
Barbara and Paul Cooper in memory of Charles Baum.

Barbara and Paul Cooper with wishes for a speedy recovery to Alyce Diamond.

Kathy and Larry Feffer with wishes for the complete and speedy recovery of Robert Sher.

Hildy Feldman in appreciation of Rabbi Schlesinger's kindness and prayers.
Hildy and Paul Feldman in appreciation of the lovely Purim basket from the Ezratty family.

Hildy and Paul Feldman in honor of Naomi Schlesinger's Bat Mitzvah.

Irene and Larry Fener in honor of the marriage of Alison Fader to Sean Klim.

Irene and Larry Fener in memory of Jack Arkin.

Irene and Larry Fener in honor of Joel Zeitlin's aliyah.

Rita and Larry Gottlieb in honor of Naomi Schlesinger's Bat Mitzvah.

Charney and Charles Greenberg in honor of the HERJC Youth Lounge being dedicated to Sandy Feit.

Aleta and Ariel Grunberg in memory of Maria Torres.

Madeline and Keith Harrow in honor of the yahrzeit of Dorothy Harrow.

Madeline and Keith Harrow in honor of the yahrzeit of Jack Trieger.

Madeline and Keith Harrow in memory of Faye Stein.

Madeline and Keith Harrow in memory of Rose Markowitz.

Charlene and Gordie Kerner and Amy in honor of the anniversary of Sharon and Sheldon Gross.

Susan and David Koffler in memory of Dr. Allan Mirkin.

Jane and Marty Lesser in memory of Irving Burstein.

Robin and Ben Mintz in honor of Aleta and Ariel Grunberg being honored at the HERJC Gala.

Robin and Ben Mintz in appreciation of Rabbi Schlesinger blessing their house with new mezzuzot.

The Polokoff Family in memory of Janice Silver.

Ivy and Thomas Reilly in commemoration of Ivy's mother, Sheila Weisel's unveiling.

Denise and Robert Sher in honor of Naomi Schlesinger's Bat Mitzvah.

Shari and Brian Silver in appreciation of Rabbi Schlesinger's support during the final days and following weeks of the passing of Janice Silver.

Nora and Jack Skiba in memory of Ferne Skiba.

Nora and Jack Skiba in memory of Maria Torres.

Nora and Jack Skiba in memory of Janice Silver.

Nora and Jack Skiba in memory of Charles Baum.

Nora and Jack Skiba in memory of Riva Skiba, Shaya Jeros and Deral Willis.

Nora and Jack Skiba in honor of Stanley Cohen's birthday.

Roberta and Stuart Sugarman in memory of Susan Bieber.

Jane and Mitchell Weingrad in memory of Harris Joffe.

Jane and Mitchell Weingrad in appreciation of Rabbi Schlesinger being there during difficult times.

In Honor of Nora Skiba's Special Birthday

Marge Magner
Bob Williamstad
Maxine Linedan
Andrew Koss
Meaghan Skiba
Michael Skiba

In Memory of Susan Alt

Valerie and Abbey Doneger
Lisa and Michael Greenberg
Madeline and Keith Harrow
Adrienne and Martin Klein
Jane and Marty Lesser
Robin and Ben Mintz
Audrey and Elliott Polinsky
The Polokoff Family
Nora and Jack Skiba
Roberta and Stuart Sugarman
Lois and William Weiner
Joel Zeitlin

In Memory of Norman Doctor

Barry Borodkin
Aleta and Ariel Grunberg
Robin and Ben Mintz
Sharon and Ron Nash
Arthur Riegel

In memory of Sandra Koffler

Barry Borodkin
Laura and Alvin Epstein
Terri and Steven Gold
Lisa and Michael Greenberg
Madeline and Keith Harrow
Nora and Jack Skiba
Roberta and Stuart Sugarman

Yahrzeit Fund

Pearl Aarons in memory of Lena Aronowitz.
Terry and Stuart Ain in memory of Herbert Ain.
Nancy and Franklin Benson in memory of Dr. Joseph Benson.
Mitchell Brand in memory of his father, Benjamin Gottlieb.
Elyse Coleman in memory of Rebecca Bruh.
Lisa and Richard Drillich in memory of Joseph Drillich.
Hollis Farberman in memory of Mildred Whitman.
Hollis Farberman in memory of Mel Farberman.
Lauren and Barry Goldstein in memory of Ida Weiss.
Lynne and Arnold Gordon in memory of Rhoda Anstendig.
Dara and Michael Janowitz in memory of Barbara Herschkowitz.
Wendy Kassel in memory of Harry Kassel.
Zeena Kassel in memory of Harry Kassel.
Ronni and Gary Krull in memory of Susan Krull.
Tova and Stuart Markowitz in memory of Henrietta Dobin.
Robin and Benjamin Mintz in memory of Benjamin's father, Bernard Harold Mintz.
Barbara and Kenneth Rappaport in memory of Millicent Rothstein.
Ester Silverman in memory of Herbert Silverman.

General Synagogue Fund

Pearl Aarons in memory of her mother in law, Lena Aronowitz, her sister, Mildred Katz and her sister in law, Rose Portugal.
Eddy Abrevaya in memory of his wife, Deanna, his brother-in-law, Howard Silver and his mother-in-law, Leona Weiner.
Phyllis Acker in memory of her father, Mack Levins.
Terry Ain in memory of her parents, Millie and Ralph Carron.
Gail Alweis in memory of her mother, Goldie Feinberg.
Gerald Backman in memory of his mother, Marion.
Yona Beno in memory of his sister, Tova Sabag.
Paula Belmont in memory of Florence Baker.
Nancy and Franklin Benson in memory of Gladys Benson and Joseph Benson and her father, Irving Rappaport.
Nancy and Franklin Benson in memory of Dr. Stanley Benson and Dr. Joseph Benson.
Leonard Blankopf in memory of his parents, Frances and Max.
Mitchell Brand in memory of father, Benjamin Gottlieb.
Joseph Brofsky in memory of his father, Irving.
Ilene Browner in memory of her grandfather, Joseph.
Marilyn Cohen in memory of her mother, Edith Greenstein.
Elyse Coleman in memory of her grandmother, Rebecca Bruh.
Alyce Diamond in memory of her husband, Richard.
Doris Dlugacz in memory of her parents, Lily and Harry Bondy.
Shari Doloboff in memory of Jeanette Marcus.
Irene and Bruce Drantch in honor of the marriage of Jeff and Cheryl Strom's daughter, Arielle Strom to Frank Salvatore.
Bruce Drantch in memory of his mother, Doris.
Irene Drantch in memory of her parents, Claire and Charles Goldberg.
Richard Drillich in memory of his father, Joseph.
Sonia Elisha and Sol Shimshi in honor of the birthdays of Sandy and Marvin Greenberg.
Steven Estrin in memory of his father, Alan and his grandparents, Irene and Irving Davis.
Stacey and Jaime Ezratty in memory of Jack Arkin.
Stacey and Jaime Ezratty in memory of Dr. Allan Mirkin.
Stacey Ezratty in memory of her mother, Janet Goldberg.
Hollis Farberman in memory of her husband, Mel and her mother, Mildred Whitman.
Marnie and Mitchel Feffer in memory of Irving Burstein.
Jeffrey Feigenblatt in memory of his father, Charles.
Hildy and Paul Feldman in memory of Lester Pollack.
Paul Feldman in memory of his mother, Carol and Arlene Pollack.
Roberta Feldman in memory of her father, Irving Lippert.
Sanford Feldman in memory of his mother, Shirley Levy.

Renee Fischer in memory of her mother, Alice Roth.
Walter Fishkind in memory of his mother, Bernice.
Allen Frank in memory of his mother, Rita and his sister, Lois Grinker.
Judith Frank in memory of her father, Alexander Oppenheim.
Judith and Allen Frank
Lauren and Barry Goldstein in memory of Ida Weiss.
Rita and Larry Gottlieb in memory of their brother in law, Harvey Lipton.
Vicki and Irwin Graber for Hailey Kshonz's safe return from Israel.
Sandra and Marvin Greenberg in memory of Marvin's mother, Lillian Greenberg, Sandra's parents, Helen and Ely Benin and Sandra's uncle, Sidney Benin.
Gary Grossman in memory of his father, Sidney.
Aleta Grunberg in memory of her mother, Blanche Schwartz.
Edward Halbridge in memory of his mother, Esther.
Elaine Halbridge in memory of her parents, Sue and Ruben Gross.
Steven Herbst in memory of his mother, Sylvia.
The HERJC Board of Directors in memory of Maria Torres.
Cheryl and Marc Ivler in memory of Rene. Dara and Michael Janowitz in memory of Dara's mother, Barbara Herschkowitz.
Cheryl Karp in memory of her brother, Gary Berzansky.
Howard Karp in memory of her mother, Lillian.
Zeena Kassel in memory of her husband, Harry.
Wendy Kassel in memory of her father, Harry.
Ira Katz in memory of his brother, Irving.
Lois Kemp in memory of her brother, Martin Kaufman.
Ora Kirsch in memory of her parents, Beatrice and Marvin Schiffman.
Martin Klein in memory of his parents, Anne and Simon.
Heidi and Steven Kreit in memory of Janice Silver.
Heidi and Steven in memory of Heidi's uncle, Gerald Trussel.
Heidi and Steven Kreit in memory of Sandra Koffler.
Heidi and Steven Kreit in memory of Michael Ashkin.
Ronnie and Gary Krull in memory of Susan Krull.
Mark Kurot in memory of his mother, Henrietta and his grandmother, Rose.
Syndee Kurz in memory of her father, Leo Oltchick.
Debra Langendorff in memory of her father, Richard Diamond.
Adrienne Lurie in memory of her parents, Frieda and Bennie Morris.
Geoffrey Lurie in memory of his father, Abe and his step mother, Claire.
Alan Markowitz in memory of his mother, Ruth.
Harriet and Neil Meixler in honor of the anniversary of Sharon and Sheldon Gross.
Marsha Miller in memory of her parents, Rita and Charles Schwartz.
Judy Mintz in memory of her father in law, Murray.
Robin and Ben Mintz in memory of Ben's father, Bernard.
Amy Moritz in memory of her mother, Helen Levine.

Ronald Nash in memory of his father, Peter.
Sharon Nash in memory of her niece, Allyson Rosenblatt.
Ruth Nodiff in memory of her mother, Kate Abrin.
Mati and Jeffrey Olin in memory of Maria Torres.
Matilde and Jeffrey Olin in memory of Maria Torres.
Allen Ostroff in memory of his uncle, Nathan Cassoff.
Elaine and Jack Pearlman in memory of Elaine's mother, Mary Gantcher and Jack's mother, Celia.
Asher Platt in memory of his father, Murray.
Laurie Platt in memory of her father, Sidney Kalikow.
Elizabeth Podgorsky in memory of her parents, Edythe and Lester Steinberg and her grandfather, Jacob Steinberg.
Elizabeth and Mitchell Podgorsky in memory of Maria Torres.
Audrey and Elliott Polinsky in memory of Dr. Allan Mirkin.
Audrey and Elliott Polinsky in memory of Susan Bieber.
Audrey and Elliott in memory of Maria Torres.
Audrey and Elliott Polinsky in memory of Jack Arkin.
Audrey and Elliott Polinsky in honor of the graduations of Tali and Sivan Goldwasser.
Amy Pomponio in memory of her grandmother, Laura Greenbaum.
Barbara Rappaport in memory of her mother, Millicent Rothstein.
Ivy Reilly in memory of her mother, Sheila Weisel.
Sydell Rothafel in memory of her father, Lois Meyer and her brother, Harvey Meyer.
Carol Rubinstein in memory of her mother in law, Ida.
Donald Schaeffer in memory of his mother, Irene and his uncle, Stanley Kevelson.
Ellen and George Schieren in memory of their grandson, Rafael Emilio.
George Schieren in memory of his mother, Frances.
George Schieren in memory of his father, Rubin.
Marlene Schulman in memory of her husband, Jerome.
Gary Sebold in memory of his father, Lester.
Denise and Robert Sher in memory of Maria Torres.
Denise and Bob Sher in memory of Susan Bieber.
Denise Sher in memory of her father, Leonard Harvey, her step father, Thomas Grossman and her grandfather, Nathan Lebovitz.
Robert Sher in memory of his mother, Rose.
Robert Shiffman in memory of his father, Seymour, his grandmother, Estelle Steinman, his grandfather, Louis Shiffman and his great grandmother, Rose Jaskol.
Shari Silver in memory of her aunt, Sandra Kroog.
Esther Silverman in memory of her husband, Herbert, her brother, David Sacksner and her father-in-law, Max.
Arlene Silverstein in memory of her mother, Ruth Kornbluth.
Barbara and Joe Sklar in honor of the marriage of Jeff and Cheryl Strom's daughter, Arielle Strom to Frank Salvatore.
Barbara and Joe Sklar in memory of Susan Bieber.

Barbara and Joe Sklar in memory of Sandra Koffler.
Barbara and Joe Sklar in memory of Jack Arkin.
Barbara Sklar in memory of her father, Sol Kessin.
Joseph Sklar in memory of his father, Nicholas.
Gary Stehr in memory of his father, Alvin.
Dena and Gregg Stein in memory of Dena's father, Sol Feinberg, Dena's brother, Bruce Feinberg and their son, Sammy Stein.
Robin Toor in memory of her parents, Bernice and Lawrence Blank.
Marjorie Wecksell in memory of her father, Jack Kravitz.
Margory Weilgus in memory of her mother, Ruth Kaufman.
Leonard Weilgus in memory of his brother, Stuart.
Andrew Weingarten in memory of his father, Leonard and his sister, Cheryl.
Jane Weingrad in memory of her father, Harris Joffe.
Gail Weinstein in memory of her father, Benjamin Geiver.
Gail and Mel Weinstein in memory of Janice Silver.
Gail and Mel Weinstein in memory of Janice Silver.
Anita and Sy Zaret in memory of Lila Chafetz.
Anita and Sy Zaret in memory of Natalie Slavin.
Seymour Zaret in memory of his sister, Sandra Paskowitz.
Carolyn Schwartz in honor of Aleta and Ariel Grunberg being the 2025 HERJC Gala honorees.
Barbara and Joe Sklar in honor of Gail Weinstein being the HERJC BQLI honoree.
Anita and Sy Zaret with wishes for the good health of Francine Frank.
Fern Zipkin in honor of Anita Zaret.
In memory of Jack Arkin
Stacey and Jaime Ezratty
Audrey and Elliott Polinsky
Barbara and Joe Sklar
In memory of Susan Alt
Barbara and Paul Cooper
Irene and Bruce Drantch
Laura and Alvin Epstein
Stacey and Jaime Ezratty
Ethel and Jan Liebeskind
Ellen and Joseph Margolin
Liz and Mitch Podgorsky
Audrey and Elliott Polinsky
Allison Porter
Carrie and Daniel Rolnick
Barbara and Joe Sklar
Trish Erwin and S. Weisberg
Anita and Sy Zaret
In memory of Norman Doctor
Sheryl and Robert Behar
Shelly and Arthur Debin
Sharon and Sheldon Gross
Pnina and Lewis Knopf
Heidi and Steven Kreit
Adrienne and Geoffrey Lurie
Audrey and Elliott Polinsky
Carol and Chazz Schoenfeld
Shari and Brian Silver
Kenan Stern
Anita and Sy Zaret
In memory of Sandra Koffler
Heidi and Steven Kreit
Audrey and Elliott Polinsky
Barbara and Joe Sklar



EULOGY FOR NORMAN DOCTOR

By Rabbi Michel Schlesinger

When I visited Norman in the hospital, he was already quite weak. His voice was soft and faint, but his mind and spirit remained clear and purposeful. He asked to speak with me. "Rabbi," he said, "I was raised Orthodox—but I have to be honest. I don't really believe in God." I was a little surprised. And so I asked him, "Then why do you attend religious services every single day?" He looked at me and, with a gentle smile, replied: "Because I believe in people. I believe in community." That was Norman.

He may have questioned theology, but he never questioned humanity. He may have wrestled with faith in God, but his faith in others was unwavering. He came to services not out of obligation, but out of love—for the faces he saw, the conversations he cherished, the rituals that gave structure and meaning to life, even when belief was elusive.

Norman understood something profound: that Judaism is not only about belief, but about belonging. About showing up. About being there for one another. In that simple exchange, Norman taught me—and all of us—something essential: that a life of faith can also be a life of connection, compassion, and consistency. His seat in the synagogue may now be empty, but his presence—his values, his kindness, his quiet honesty—will remain with us. He believed in people. And we, his people, will remember and honor him.

Zichrono livracha—May his memory be a blessing.



Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

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The purposes, function, and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months.

I certify that the above statement made by me is correct and complete.

—Lisa Stein, Executive Director



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.*

9/1 - 8 Elul

Jay Hoffman
Douglas Debin

9/2 - 9 Elul

William Stern
Harold Janow

9/3 - 10 Elul

Fred Meisner

9/4 - 11 Elul

Raymond Wilk
Alan Weinstein
Richard Frank

9/5 - 12 Elul

Kenneth Kornblau
Ely Benin
Joan Kemp
Mary Greenberg
Roberta Schneider

9/6 - 13 Elul

Harry Feingold

9/7 - 14 Elul

Herbert Roth
Jerome Frankel
Sol Stein
Jacqueline Herrnson

9/8 - 15 Elul

Joseph Benbasset
Charles Cutler
Hugh Schieren
Ramon Wainer

9/9 - 16 Elul

Amelia Doloboff
Gerry Jeros

9/10 - 17 Elul

Gussie Baker
Evelyn Bernstein
Ethel Glass
Margaret Anton

9/11 - 18 Elul

Victor Behar

9/12 - 19 Elul

Fred Lamon

9/13 - 20 Elul

Moses Sacksner

9/14 - 21 Elul

Martin Silverstein
Rochelle Harris

9/15 - 22 Elul

Belle Landesman
Samia Shemesh
Joel Gevarter

9/16 - 23 Elul

Mark Breitrose
Louis Cohen
Andrew Rosenblum
Dora Trompeter
Mildred Kelmenson
Beverly Ritholtz
Diane Kislin

9/17 - 24 Elul

Leon Feinberg
Leonard Barashick
Mark Fetner

9/18 - 25 Elul

Paul Sonenthal
Beverly Eisenberg

9/19 - 26 Elul

Tibor Markowitz

9/20 - 27 Elul

Jack Schieren

9/21 - 28 Elul

Garry Toor
Irving Behr

9/22 - 29 Elul

Edna Cohen
Gloria Goldstein
Beth Mesika

9/23 - 1 Tishrei

Rose Oppenheim
Jeanette Trieger

9/24 - 2 Tishrei

Ann March
Evelyn Rady
Hyman Silverman
Ruth Spritzer
Gloria Wolk

9/26 - 4 Tishrei

Isidor Altus
Carl Fader
Carol Davison
Libby Grill

9/27 - 5 Tishrei

Shirley Katz
Harry Samuels

9/28 - 6 Tishrei

Kate Rubinfeld

9/29 - 7 Tishrei

Donald Halbridge
Harold Streigold

9/30 - 8 Tishrei

Leona Kurz
Silvia Rubin

10/1 - 9 Tishrei

Rose Lassinger
Lester Reitman
Phil Saltsberg
Belle Alpert

10/2 - 10 Tishrei

Stanley Misikoff
Lewis Braun
Allison Isaacs

10/3 - 11 Tishrei

Alfred Mayer
Steven Freeberg
Wilbur Weinberger

10/4 - 12 Tishrei

Sophie Barsky
Milton Schusterman
Sylvia Wecksell
Audrey Suffin

10/7 - 15 Tishrei

Leonard Goldberg
Victoria Ain
Alvin Austin

10/8 - 16 Tishrei

Miriam Kandel

10/9 - 17 Tishrei

Calvin Ginsberg
Abraham Wecksell
Raymond Senter
Betty Bellin
Edward Koplowitz
Ruth Cohen Feingersch

10/10 - 18 Tishrei

Oscar Borodkin
Stanley Ehrlich
Irving Meixler
Joel Welkowitz
Minnie Meixler
Herbert Roth
Michael Langendorff
Kenneth Herrnson

10/11 - 19 Tishrei

Isand Scharf
Bertha Goodstadt

10/12 - 20 Tishrei

Anna Brand
Samuel Katz
Alex Markowitz
Rose Traub
Julian Podgorsky

10/14 - 22 Tishrei

Harvey Grapek
Raquel Behar
Lorraine Mechlin
Jeanette King

10/15 - 23 Tishrei

Bella Levine
Phyllis Schwartz
Hyman Bedarsky
Bernard Freeberg

10/16 - 24 Tishrei

Ruth Beldner
Sadie Schieber

10/17 - 25 Tishrei

Abraham Bedar
Sarah Welkowitz
Ruth Coleman
Stella Freeberg

10/18 - 26 Tishrei

Max Lesser

10/19 - 27 Tishrei

Sally Ostroff

10/20 - 28 Tishrei

Vivian Wachtel
Ethel Brody

10/21 - 29 Tishrei

Ernest Breiner
Gloria Polansky
Roselyn Podgorsky
Harriette Shiffman

10/22 - 30 Tishrei

Benjamin Markowitz
Herbert Wachtel
Sonia Greenberg
Hilda Chinitz

10/23 - 1 Cheshvan

Sifra Menison
Allen Parks

10/24 - 2 Cheshvan

Norma Meisner
Harriet Renick

10/25 - 3 Cheshvan

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10/26 - 4 Cheshvan

Ada Geiver
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10/27 - 5 Cheshvan

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10/29 - 7 Cheshvan

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Shirley Kirschner
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10/31 - 9 Cheshvan

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