Happy Hanukkah

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Mitzvah Day
Simchat Torah Honorees
With Our Gratitude!

Ed and Norma Markowitz
Ed and Norma met at Mothercare Stores in New York City where Norma was responsible for mail order and Ed was a software engineer. They have two children, Jessica and Eric and especially enjoy their family get-togethers for Passover Seders and Break Fast on Yom Kippur. Ed and Norma were active members at Commack Jewish Center and continue to be involved at the Dix Hills Jewish Center. Ed is an active synagogue davener, regularly leading services and helping out whenever possible. Whether it is simply being a Jew in the Pew, leading services, furthering their Jewish education, or making new friends, they are thrilled to be a part of the Dix Hills Jewish Center community.

Ed and Debbie Perkes
Ed and Debbie met on a blind date in 1970. Ed attended Downstate Medical School in Brooklyn where he stayed on to do his Radiology training. Debbie received a master’s degree from Wutzweiler School of Social Work of Yeshiva University and began her career working in the foster care system. In 1978, they spent a wonderful year living in Jerusalem where Ed was a visiting attending radiologist at Hadassah Hospital and Debbie attended Ulpan Etzion and volunteered in the office of the director of rehabilitation services. They have three children, Ariella, Rachel and Jonathan, all living in New York City. The most rewarding part of their new Dix Hills Jewish Center life is the warmth and friendliness of the community. Their involvement with the Giant Step B’nai Mitzvah students has been especially meaningful, and they look forward to continuing to participate in this ongoing project.

Allan and Amy Mintz
Allan and Amy met on a Jewish Singles Week Club Med trip. A friendship developed and when Allan sent Amy flowers wishing her luck on her new position, her mother knew this was more than a friendship. A year and a half later they were married! They have two children, Jayson and Evan. They all had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Israel as a family with Rabbi Buechler on a Dix Hills Jewish Center trip and are thrilled that their children continue to be involved at DHJC, reading Torah and participating in J-Team and Glee Club. Amy and Allan enjoy being involved in Sisterhood, Men’s Club, as well as the Chaiathalon, Cantor’s Concert and Nominating committees.
Dear Friends, 

Lux et Veritas is the Latin phrase emblazoned on the Great Seal of Yale University. Light and truth are the watchwords of this venerable academic institution. Remarkably, as early American academic centers were places where religion was taught and ministers ordained, the Hebrew words Orim v’Tumim also appear with Lux et Veritas (light & truth) being the translation. The Orim and Tumim were the oracular gems that were displayed on the vestment worn by the High Priest Aaron (brother of Moses) representing the Divine light and moral teachings which brings everlasting verities and truths out of the shadows and into the bright light of our lives.

Lux et Veritas captures the angst that so many in our country are still experiencing in the aftermath of our recent Presidential election. The incendiary rhetoric of the campaign ignited many passionate emotions throughout our country. President-elect Donald Trump is congratulated for an electoral victory and Hillary Clinton commended for most gracious concession remarks after the election. Yet truth and civility were horrific casualties in this bruising campaign and the damage inflicted at this point in time, are still in need of great healing. We have yet to transcend the poisonous rhetoric of the campaign into the healing of governance where all Americans and our constitutional values are not only respected but actualized.

We look to the genesis of Jewish values in the book of Genesis to illuminate these turbulent times. We learn from Genesis that there was a hard fought campaign waged by an older man who was independently wealthy. He had charisma and the gift of eloquence, and attracted many passionate adherents yet in the process of his campaign he demonstrated a distinct intolerance and even arrogance and conveniently set aside commonly accepted moral values for the sake of winning. And against all odds, he did win and victoriously lifted the banner of monoteism into our world. Abraham is his name and his campaign story clearly has many modern parallels.

Yet, once monoteism comes into this world, Abraham pivots as he prepares to become a leader. His journey in the campaign for monoteism is most disruptive, yet once the campaign closes and he wins, Abraham abruptly shifts from intolerance to tolerance, from insensitivity to sensitivity and from exclusiveness to inclusiveness. He no longer is Avram as his very name is changed to Avraham (Abraham – the parent of multitudes) to incorporate his new role as a leader not of some, but of all.

Abraham becomes the Abraham that we recognize and emulate – a mentsch, a man of defined moral character and soulful audacity. As a winner and newly appointed leader, he battles on behalf of those whom he had opposed during the campaign. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah were far from monoteism and far from paragons of virtue – yet he with passion and moral rectitude argues and battles on their behalf – to provide them dignity and a voice. Abraham battles against injustice and sets a clear course of creating a just society where righteousness will prevail. He sets aside petty grievances and finds fashions to de-escalate conflict as with Lot and his fellow herdsmen. Abraham transcends the vitriol of the campaign and creates a model of good governance and inclusion based upon the moral values becomes the core of Judaism.

President-elect Donald Trump is given the full respect of the office that he assumes as the leader of these United States. I pray that the model of Abraham can be meaningful to him in this transitional period as many Americans are filled with real fears and trepidations. The rhetoric of the campaign needs to pivot into governance that demonstrates the full depth and breadth of our Constitutional democracy.

Lux et Veritas, light and truth, means that the light must shine so that truth, respect and tolerance are not overshadowed. The campaign was one in which the President-elect trafficked in intolerance and bigotry, and his own words in the campaign denigrated women, people with disabilities, minorities and religious faiths. Now that the campaign has ended, President-elect Trump has pivoted on many of his core political platforms. The role of leader and President-elect has us witness President-elect Trump backing away from many core campaign promises into a more pragmatic, and inclusive role of governance. Yet there has yet to be a pivot to fully disavow the dark forces that his rhetoric unleashed in many shadows in America. Lux et Veritas is the light that President-elect Trump must shine brightly so that those in the shadows who advocate for bigotry, racism and peddle in hatreds will be exposed for their intolerance and poisonous beliefs. For America to remain great, the greatness of this country is E Pluribus Unum – out of the many emerge one people united by bonds of moral goodness where the pursuit of liberty and justice is embraced and offered to all.

Imagine if on Veterans Day, the President-elect would have tweeted, “I salute all veterans of this great country – and I apologize for questioning the courage and honor of Senator John McCain and Gold Star family Khan.” That profound statement is worthy of Abraham and our American President to let the truth of our American beliefs shine brightly. As I pen these words, President-elect Trump has tweeted, “In addition to winning the Electoral College in a landslide, I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of...
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people that voted illegally.”

Lux et Veritas: let the light of truth shine on this baseless claim. Too many falsehoods and specious claims were made during the election. For the President elect to make this baseless and fraudulent claim is an affront to democracy and the Constitution he will be sworn to uphold. Now is the time for President-elect Trump to follow the paradigm of Abraham and cease dividing and cease divisiveness and follow Lux et Veritas – let the light of truth and moral clarity guide him into good governance.

Lux et Veritas is the leitmotif of Hanukkah celebrated beginning on Saturday evening, December 24th. Our ancient ancestors, the Maccabees, were descendents of the Priestly aristocracy (Cohains). They battled against the intolerance of the Seleucid Empire and the baseless hatreds that were sown by Antiochus, the Syrian Greek tyrant. They fought the first war in human history rooted in bigotry and vitriol and insure that the light of moral justice reigns supreme for all. May the light of Hanukkah, of Lux et Veritas, illuminate the truths that we hold self-evident.

I also pause to note in these all too partisan times, that these words advocate truth and justice and are in consonance with the values of our ancestors from Abraham and Sarah and evoke the values enshrined in our Constitution. Our 501c3 status is not jeopardized as religious and charitable institutions do not advocate for candidates for office and/or use their status to advocate for a political candidate. We always advocate for truth - that is bipartisan!

I will continue to advocate for moral justice, dignity and righteousness and, as I have on many occasions demonstrated the deficits and failures of Presidents on both sides of the aisle (President Obama for his moral failings in Syria and with Iran.) Judaism cherishes that truth be spoken to power (to quote the late Elie Weisel) on either side of the political spectrum. May the healing we seek and the values of truth illuminate the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump and may God always bless America.

My hopes and prayers for a joyous and beautiful Hanukkah with the true light of Hanukkah illuminating this great country. Hanukkah teaches every seeker of freedom that light, truth and moral vision UNITE us while in contrast, darkness, falsehoods and intolerance divides people. May the light of Hanukkah unite us and this great country.

Rabbi Howard R. Buechler
Dix Hills Jewish Center
555 Vanderbilt Parkway
Dix Hills, NY 11746
(631) 499-6644

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DHJC LEADERSHIP

RABBI HOWARD BUECHLER rabbibuechler@gmail.com 499-6644
CANTOR STEVEN HEVENSTONE hazzan@dhjc.org 499-6644
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ED WARD executrd@dhjc.org 499-6644
EDUCATION DIRECTOR RICKY TAMOR 499-6655
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUC. TOVA PLAUT dhjcnurseryschool@gmail.com 499-6655
YOUTH DIRECTOR JASON GOLDBERG josangoldberg0909@gmail.com 499-6655

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altman.tagroup@gmail.com
jeff@dubincpas.com
elissaregenbogen@gmail.com
sharistemple@gmail.com
fwcap@aol.com
lsaffeir@clevercookie.com
dbiederman621@gmail.com
staceylhotmail.com
bregen@oplonline.net
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debbiezimmerman@optonline.net

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lcohn1@optonline.net
jlf0858@gmail.com
khellman3@gmail.com
balagan45@aol.com
me1462@hotmail.com
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ckl816@aol.com
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Norman Wieder

richard.morse@mil.com
rmarkman@nmm.edu
goldcoast1994@gmail.com
sportzphan@aol.com
brendarosenberg77@gmail.com
maspey@verizon.com
nisasandler@optonline.net
paulineschwartz@gmail.com
haniashatzer@hotmail.com
geenmaven@gmail.com
weino@optonline.net
norm295@aol.com

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Lux et Veritas is the leitmotif of Hanukkah celebrated beginning on Saturday evening, December 24th. Our ancient ancestors, the Maccabees, were descendents of the Priestly aristocracy (Cohains). They battled against the intolerance of the Seleucid Empire and the baseless hatreds that were sown by Antiochus, the Syrian Greek tyrant. They fought the first war in human history dedicated (the root of the word (631) 499-6644

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altman.tagroup@gmail.com
jeff@dubincpas.com
elissaregenbogen@gmail.com
sharistemple@gmail.com
fwcap@aol.com
lsaffeir@clevercookie.com
dbiederman621@gmail.com
staceylhotmail.com
bregen@oplonline.net
fullhouse32@optimum.net
debbiezimmerman@optonline.net

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lcohn1@optonline.net
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balagan45@aol.com
me1462@hotmail.com
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rmarkman@nmm.edu
goldcoast1994@gmail.com
sportzphan@aol.com
brendarosenberg77@gmail.com
maspey@verizon.com
nisasandler@optonline.net
paulineschwartz@gmail.com
haniashatzer@hotmail.com
geenmaven@gmail.com
weino@optonline.net
norm295@aol.com

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The Sukkah is down, the Thanksgiving Turkey leftovers are gone – and now our homes are filled with the smell of latkes frying on the griddle. As Hanukkah comes upon us we bring out our Hannukiah; the candles are set; there are chocolate coins and of course, we have the dreidel – that wonderful top that we love to spin.

One of the first songs and Hanukkah customs many of us learn is playing with the dreidel. This game comes to us from centuries back, but how did it come to be? Where does this tradition come from?

The dreidel or sevivon is probably the most famous custom associated with the holiday of Hanukkah. Indeed, various rabbis have tried to find an integral connection between the dreidel and the Hanukkah story. The traditional explanation is that the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin, which appear on the dreidel in the Diaspora, stand for nes gadol haya sham – “a great miracle happened there,” while in Israel the dreidel says nun, gimmel, hey, pey, which means “a great miracle happened here.”

A Rabbi from the 19th century noted that Jews played with the dreidel in order to fool the Greeks if they were caught studying Torah, which had been outlawed. Others figured out elaborate gematriot (numerological explanations based on the fact that every Hebrew letter has a numerical equivalent) and word plays for the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin.

Another explanation was that the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin are supposed to represent the four kingdoms that tried to destroy us (in ancient times): Nun is for Nebuchadnezar (Babylon); the Hey is for Haman (Persia); the Gimmel is for Gog (Greece); and the Shin is for Seir (Rome).

The reality is that these explanations, and others, were invented after the fact. The dreidel game initially had nothing to do with Hanukkah. This game has been played by many cultures in many different languages for centuries.

In England and Ireland there is a game called totum or teetotum that is especially popular during the time of the Winter Solstice. In English, this game is first mentioned as “totum” ca. 1500-1520. The name comes from the Latin “totum,” which means “all.” By 1720, the game was called T-totum or teetotum, and by 1801 the four letters already represented four words in English: T (Take all); H (Half); P (Put down); and N (Nothing).

Our Eastern European game of dreidel (including the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin) is directly based on the German equivalent of the totum game: N (Nichts which is nothing); G (Ganz which is take all); H (Halb which is half); and S (Stell ein which is put in). In German, the spinning top was called a “torrel” or “trundl,” and in Yiddish it was called a “dreidel,” a “fargl,” a “varfl” (for something thrown), “shtel ein” (to put in), and “gor, gorin” (take all).

When Hebrew was revived as a spoken language, the dreidel was called, among other names, a sevivon, which is the one that caught on.

However we look at it today, the dreidel has become synonymous with the holiday of Hanukkah. So as we light our Hannukiah, we fry our latkes, we open our gifts, get ready to play with our dreidels, know that we celebrate together, and whether we take all, take half, put in, or do nothing – we are all winners during this fun and enjoyable holiday.

From my family to yours – may you have a wonderful Hanukkah!

\[
\text{I have a little dreidel, I made it out of clay!} \\
\text{And when it's dry and ready, oh dreidel I shall play!} \\
\text{Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel! I made it out of clay!} \\
\text{And when it's dry and ready, oh dreidel I shall play!} \\
\]

\[
\text{It has a lovely body, with a leg so short and thin!} \\
\text{A happy game of dreidel, come play now let's begin!} \\
\text{Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel! I made it out of clay!} \\
\text{And when it's dry and ready, oh dreidel I shall play!} \\
\]

\[
\text{My dreidel's always playful, it loves to dance and spin!} \\
\text{And when it gets all tired, it drops! And then I win!} \\
\text{Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel! I made it out of clay!} \\
\text{And when it's dry and ready, oh dreidel I shall play!} \\
\]
A Message From the President

Chanukah is wonderful family time, sharing great moments with children and family, eating latkes, bringing toys and lighting Menorah candles.

Chanukah, as we know, commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C.E. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, where, according to legend, Jews had risen up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt. All Jews joyously will be celebrating Chanukah around the world with a possible exception - the people of Israel.

Over the last few weeks more than 32,000 acres of forests have burned near Haifa. I’d like to think that we donated many of these trees as kids with our “pushka” money to plant the seedlings. These trees took decades to grow and are now gone on a grand scale. To give you an idea of this scale – consider 32,000 acres in Israel translates into the equivalent of over 15,000,000 US acres or a combination of losing all of New Jersey, Delaware, Connecticut, D.C. and Israel - from one single monster fire. The following informational detail is directly from the JNF that I’d like to share with the entire congregation.

For over six days, our beloved homeland has been engulfed in devastating fires forcing hundreds of families to abandon their homes on the front lines.

Since Tuesday, November 22:

• Over 32,000 acres of forests destroyed by fires set by arsonists.
• Fires have threatened homes in Haifa, the area surrounding Jerusalem, and communities in West Bank.
• In Haifa alone, 700 homes have been damaged, 37 destroyed, 400 are uninhabitable, and 70,000 residents have been evacuated.
• More than 2,500 men and women have been on the front lines battling over 630 arson blazes.
• At least 569 homes burned down throughout Israel.
• 480 water tanker flights have been deployed by neighboring countries to help extinguish fires from above.

Currently, the two critical needs are 1) intensive reforestation of areas destroyed by fires 2) fire-fighting trucks and equipment.

Throughout our almost 50 year history, the DHJC has a proud tradition in its support of Israel during such times of crisis, need and security. Our congregation’s generosity and outreach is second to none. Over the next several weeks we will inform you of suggested and targeted ways we can help Israel.

Other DHJC News:
The Multi-Media Center is close to completion and is already being used for classes, meetings and activities. The DHJC is the only synagogue which has this type of high-tech multi-media center. The center has the capability of creating two meeting/classrooms - each equipped with a large screen Smart HDTV, fully integrated computer workstations, “Star Board” technology that our ECA and Religious School use with their classes. We thank the Men’s Club and Sisterhood for their very generous donations to fund this project.

The expansion of our parking lot has taken longer than anticipated as we need to apply for variances. The applications are nearing completion and we look forward to a positive outcome from the town, with planned construction in the Spring of 2017.

We have also gained a new partner and friend with the organization that purchased the Commack JC property – the Church Unleashed led by Pastor Todd Bishop. Our first joint-community program, an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service was held on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. It was a special evening. Rabbi Buechler and Pastor Bishop are looking at future ways our faiths can come together to learn, work and support each other.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to add my warm congratulations and Mazel Tovs to our three well-deserved Simchat Torah honoree couples – Norma & Ed Markowitz, Amy & Allan Mintz, and Debbie & Ed Perkes. We thank you for your leadership, support and time you all give to our Shul.

Wishing you and your families a Happy and Joyous Chanukah!

Shalom,
Aaron Altman
Wow, time really moves fast here at the DHJC. Every day, our building is “buzzing” with activity and our goal in the office is to be here to assist you, our congregants, committees and leadership, while ensuring the smooth “Day-to-Day” operations.

The multitude of summer projects are nearing completion. With another successful High Holiday season; ECA and Religious School openings; the return to weekly programming and meetings have seen the leaves turn colors to now being cleaned from our grounds by the landscapers. The mark of a successful synagogue is the partnership between the Clergy, the staff and the leadership. We are fortunate to have all these aspects in place with an active and engaged Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, Men’s Club, Sisterhood and all the committees. We encourage all members to get involved, find your niche and embrace synagogue life. It can and will be a rewarding experience.

Let me recognize and thank our Administrative staff team for their hard-work “Day-to-Day”: Tina Gibbons, Rose Hoffman, Juan Patino and Ellen Unger.

As we transition to colder weather, shorter days and the next round of holidays, I personally wish you a Happy Chanukah and Secular New Year. May it be one of health, happiness, family and friendship!

Ed Ward

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**LEST WE FORGET**

For decades, the Dix Hills Jewish Center has offered meaningful programming to commemorate the Holocaust.

To help maintain that tradition, we are once again seeking your support for our Shoah-related educational and memorial programs.

We hope that you will consider making a contribution to help underwrite the costs of these important programs.

Gail Jospa and Renee Steinig
Shoah Commemoration Committee

*“May we be inspired to learn more about our six million brothers and sisters as individuals and as communities to recall their memory throughout the year, so that they will not suffer a double death.”*
The DHJC Men’s Club Events

Veteran’s Appreciation Breakfast

On Sunday November 13, 2016, the DHJC Men’s Club presented a Veteran’s Appreciation Breakfast for those congregants, and their immediate family members who have served in either the US or Israeli armed forces. It gave us an opportunity to honor our service members and to remember the sacrifices each have made, and the courage it took to defend honor, duty, and country.

Cantor Hevenstone presented Israel’s national anthem and Samantha Regenbogen presented the U.S. national anthem. Rabbi Buechler offered prayers and gratitude to our veterans. In addition, the Rabbi held a moment of silence to remember those who fought and died on battlefields to defend our freedoms and way of life.

To quote Thomas Paine, “Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigue of supporting it.” Many of veterans in attendance have carried that burden and experienced the fatigue of waging war in order to bring about peace. To them we say Thank You!! We were there to honor our heroes, to remember their achievements, their courage and their dedication, and to say thank you for their sacrifices.

On this particular Sunday, we stood in the midst of patriots and the family and friends of those who have nobly served.

Attending Sunday’s program was:

- Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci
- Legislator Steve Stern
- Councilwoman Susan Berland
- Councilman Mark Cuthbertson
- Councilwoman Tracey Edwards
- Carol Rocco- Veterans Affairs Advisory Board
- Members of the Commack Jewish War Veterans
- Members of the Greenlawn War Veterans Post

It was an honor to have them in attendance. I understand they have many obligations, and appreciate the time each took from their busy schedule to join us.

This program included 3 special guests:

1) Tomer Regev - A pilot with the Israeli Defense Forces who spoke about his service and life in the military.

2) Steve Stern - Chairman of the Veterans Committee recently introduced and passed the “Housing Our Homeless Heroes Act,” an important legislative initiative to end veterans’ homelessness and ensure our veterans and their families have a place to call home. Legislator Stern also authored the “Protect Our Fallen Heroes Act” which protects military funerals from reprehensible and disrespectful protests upon families grieving the loss of their loved ones to ensure respect for those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation.

3) Beverley Wolfer – Daughter of Esther and Len Wolfer who were “Mayflower” members of the synagogue. Beverley’s brother, Major Stewart Adam Wolfer was killed in action in 2008 at a fitness center within the Green Zone, Baghdad, Iraq.

It was a great privilege and an honor to have our guest speakers participate in our program. Their moving and insightful presentations helped to make our program both poignant and profound.

The service members we honored that day have come from all walks of life, but they share several fundamental qualities. They possess courage, pride, determination, selflessness, and dedication to duty and integrity – all the qualities needed to serve a cause larger than one’s self.

We are the “Land of the Free” because of the bravery of our men and women who fought the battle for our liberty. With sincere gratitude and pride, we salute you and wish you all the very best.

The 4th Annual Men’s Club Comedy Night

Saturday November 19, 2016 was a well attended evening of laughs, camaraderie, fine desserts and drinks. The evening featured comics Rich Walker and headliner John Pizzi. Rich Walker has shared the stage with some of show business’s biggest names such as Ray Romano, Kevin James, and Dom Irrera. His TV appearances include Samantha’s Lil’ Bit of Heaven, News12, and CBS’s Live It Up.

John Pizzi is one of the hottest rising comics in the entertainment industry, and on Saturday November 19th he brought his unique brand of comedy to the DHJC. John has opened for the likes of Joy Behar and Weird Al Yankovic. John’s one-man show of comedy, magic and ventriloquism

Continued on Page 15
The DHJC Men’s Club Events

Continued from Page 13

has appeared on Comedy Channel, America’s Got Talent and now the DHJC.

The DHJC December Men’s Club Events

Second Annual Vodkas and Latkes
Saturday, Dec. 10, 8:00 pm
It is an evening of holiday fun, great food, and premier international vodkas! Beer, wine and other refreshments will be served.

Only $50 per person through Nov. 30, $55 after.

Payments should be made in advance.
RSVP to dixhillsjewishcentermensclub@gmail.com.

Please send checks to the DHJC office, payable to Men’s Club.

Upcoming Men’s Club Event Dates For 2016 - 2017 Are:

• Vodka and Latkes Sat. Dec. 10, 2016 at 8:00 pm
• World Wide Wrap Sun. Feb. 5, 2017 at 8:45 am
• Super Bowl Tailgate Sun. Feb. 5, 2017 at 4:00 pm
• Sports Breakfast Sun. Feb. 26, 2017 at 10:00 am
• FJMC Awards Night Sun. Mar. 19, 2017 at 4:00 pm
• Speaker Event Sun. Apr. 23, 2017 at 10:00 am

Your DHJC Sisterhood

Shalom! We’re so happy about how the new year has begun with Sisterhood involvement at DHJC. In early November, our Rummage Sale brought us much success and enabled us to help so many – not only to clean out our congregants’ homes, but to sell beautiful items at affordable prices, and by working with The Wyandanch Outreach Center, ACLD, Shoes4All, the VA, and Big Brothers to make directed donations to these organizations. We have some great new ideas for our next sale in May and can’t wait to implement them to help even more in our community. Thank you to Diana Mitchnick and Nina Sandler for leading this committee.

On November 13th our fantastic Mah Jongg Committee hosted their fall tournament. As usual, the day had a great turnout and ran smoothly. This very important fundraiser, run by Ronda Brooks, allows us to do programming and community outreach throughout the year. June Kolber opened our Sisterhood Boutique that morning and it was well received. If you want something from the Boutique at any time, please contact her at (516) 901-8033.

Our membership dinner on November 15th, “Through the Looking Glass,” was a beautiful night of socializing, dining, shopping, and honoring our past presidents. We were so happy with how the evening turned out, and felt such a warmth with all of our Sisterhood members joining together as one group. Thank you to all who came out to the dinner, wrapped raffle baskets, and helped to set up. Our committee of Chloe Dubin, Shelli Feigenbaum, Lisa Bloomstein and Ronnit Kessler helped our vision come to life.

Looking forward, our next meeting and Chanukah celebration is on Thursday, December 15th at 7:30pm. There will be Hanukkah games and festivities, and a gift exchange for all who wish to participate. In addition, we are asking for donations by that date of toiletries to be given to the Wyandanch Outreach Center who is in desperate need of them for their clients.

On Sunday December 18th at 2:30 pm, we will be going to the Fay Lindner Assisted Living Center to participate in Hanukkah baking with the residents. We need 15 volunteers to come with us to help residents bake for the holiday. Children over the age of 12 may come if accompanied by their parents.

We’re looking forward to 2017 with a wine glass painting night on January 10th, a genealogy lecture, more Mah Jongg tournaments, a spring fundraiser May 2nd, and much, much more. Amy Mintz has graciously taken on the job of selling Torah Fund cards so feel free to reach out to her at (631) 807-9634. As always, email us at dhjcsisterhood@gmail.com with any questions and don’t forget to “LIKE” our Facebook page, Dhjc Sisterhood.

Wishing you all a wonderful Hanukkah surrounded by your loved ones, happy times and plenty of latkes!

Vicki Weinstein & Debbie Zimmerman
Co-Presidents
The Lighting of Hanukkah Lights

Candles are hypnotic. The collected blaze of the hanukkiyah invites reflection. When we look into the flames, we remember more than we know, and feel more than we can express. Flames work that way.

The first blessings in the birkat mitzvah. It follows the familiar formula “who made us holy with the mitzvot, and made it a mitzvah for us to... Mitzvot are preceded or followed by a brakhah using this formula. It focuses our attention and defines the action as one which will lead to meaning.

The second blessing is she’asah nissim la’avoteninu. It connects our actions on each night of Hanukkah to those of the first Hanukkah. It states, “who performed miracles for our ancestors, in those days at this time of year.” We connect our present actions to our people’s history. We reflect on our own understanding of miracles. In reenacting the first Hanukkah, we search for its meaning.

The third blessing is the she-he-heyanu. It is said on the first night of Hanukkah and at the beginning of most special Jewish events. It thanks God “for giving us life, sustaining us, and helping us to reach the moment”. It sets the moment apart as a special time.

Rituals mean more than we can explain. In lighting the hanukkiyah we conjure our memories of the Maccabees, of the first Hanukkah, of the meaning of dedication. Even without full explanation and even without firm conclusions, we make them part of who we are. The Hebrew phrases lead us to gaze into the flames and reflect. To fully understand Hanukkah, just watch your children watching their candles.

Hanukkah is the single event which unifies the greatest number of Jews. Its history and its temporal nexus fill it with meaning. It is a moment rich in opportunity.

(Excerpted from Building Jewish Life, published by Torah Aura)
“Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death.” - Albert Einstein

Our synagogue is home to CHAI, a multi-synagogue, adult education institute sponsored by nine local conservative and reform congregations in cooperation with the Jewish Theological Seminary and its Hereld Institute for Jewish Studies. The Fall session runs for six weeks and the Spring session for five weeks at a minimal cost of $36 per person for the entire session.

Each of our local clergy teaches a six week thought-provoking class aimed at deepening our knowledge of Torah and Jewish Traditions.

In addition, DHJC’s affiliation with JTS enables us weekly to bring the top scholars of our conservative movement to our Suffolk congregations. It avails us the opportunity to discover a wide-ranging collection of today’s most compelling conversations and teaching from outstanding leaders in Jewish scholarship and education.

On April 29, 1945, the U.S. Seventh Army’s 45th Infantry Division liberated Dachau, the first concentration camp established by Germany’s Nazi regime. A major Dachau subcamp was liberated the same day by the 42nd Rainbow Division.

Seymour Kaplan, a boy from Brooklyn, was just 17 when he left high school to enlist in the U.S. Army during World War II, where he served as a machine gunner in the 42nd Infantry Division. The conclusion of the war brought him to Dachau where at 19 he served as a Yiddish interpreter during the liberation of the camp. Now, at a very spry 90, and as an eyewitness to the realities of the Holocaust, his lifelong mission has been to share firsthand his experience.

Seymour Kaplan was our guest speaker for this year’s 78th Anniversary Commemoration of Kristallnacht. Our religious school students, their parents and grandparents filled the sanctuary. All sat mesmerized as Seymour Kaplan recounted his experiences as one of the American soldiers who liberated Dachau.

Nearly three hundred were in attendance at DHJC for this memorial event. We cried as Seymour described what he saw upon entering the camp. Seymour’s memory was sharp; his voice clear, his eyes clouded by tears as he told his story which touched each of us to our core.

Seymour had brought a duffel bag filled with mementos from that dark time. He wouldn’t display it on the bimah so as not to desecrate the place where our Torahs are kept. A small table was set up below the bimah for the duffel bag. At the end of his talk, the audience crowded around Seymour as he displayed and told the story behind each item. Those who were in the sanctuary that Wednesday night will never forget it!

Our Shoah programming is about never forgetting! If we forget our six million, how they lived and how they died, it would be as if they never lived at all.

Google the “Liberation of Dachau” - Watch it with your children and grandchildren.
Special Gifts Acknowledgment

Haftorah Scroll Sponsors:
With Appreciation to our lead benefactors
The Churgin Family
Stanley, Sandra, Samara & Neil

Haftorah Parsha Sponsors:
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• Lawrence and Lori Spiegel
• Leonard and Ellen Zuckerman
• DHJC Sisterhood
• DHJC Men's Club

Dedicated Special Gifts:
• Kenneth & Sheryl Brodsky  - Sanctuary Seat in honor of Joshua Brodsky’s Bar Mitzvah
• Jacob & Andrea Goldman  - Minyan Seat in honor of Zachary, Joshua, & Noah Goldman’s B’nai Mitzvah
• Annamaria Grossman - Gold Certificate In memory of Peter Perla
• Jerry & Gail Jospa - Bimah Microphone in honor of Julia Bloomstein’s Bat Mitzvah
• Barry & Barbara Liebert - Minyan Seat in memory of Molly Liebert Podorzer
• Jonathan & Quyen Rovner - Minyan Seat in honor of Jack & Max Rovner’s B’nai Mitzvah

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• Alan & Susan Kreitzman
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• Phyllis Pacheco in honor of her Grandchildren
• Henry & Honey Pine in honor of their Anniversary
• Michael & Sharon Steuer
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• Lorraine Kreisberger in memory of Rabbi Steinberg
• Alan & Susan Kreitzman in memory of David Zuckerman
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• Neighborhood Friends in memory of Florence Wolf, mother of Iris Broomfield
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• Steven & Helaine Schneiderman in memory of Peter Perla
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• Leonard & Esther Wolfer in memory of Rabbi Steinberg
• Leonard & Esther Wolfer in memory of David Zuckerman
• Lester & Arline Zuckerman

Kreitzman Adult Ed Fund:
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Lichtenstein Fund:
• Phyllis Lichtenstein in memory of Martin Feller
• Phyllis Lichtenstein in memory of David Zuckerman

High Holiday Prayer Book Fund:
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• Allen & Sharon Kovesdy in memory of Rabbi Steinberg
Special Gifts Acknowledgment

• Allen & Roberta Krieger in memory of Rabbi Steinberg
• Nathaniel & Carole Rothman in memory of Those Who Lost Their Lives on Flight #111, Sept. 2, 1998
• Herb & Carole Schulman in memory of Rabbi Steinberg
• David & Fran Shandel in memory of Martin Feller
• David & Fran Shandel in memory of Jerome Strober
• David & Fran Shandel in memory of Peter Perla
• Sidney & Sheila Sontarp in memory of Rabbi Steinberg
• Bernard & Sheri Vishnick in memory of Paul Felder
• Bernard & Sheri Vishnick in memory of David Zuckerman
• Sylvia Winter in honor of the Arougheti’s 50th Anniversary

Steven E. Goldenberg Prayer Book Memorial Fund:
• DHJC Men’s Club - 5 Prayer Books in memory of Phyllis Audrey Dubin
• Alvin & Rona Heller in honor of Ariella & Kevin Schrier
• Jerry & Gail Jospa in memory of Phyllis Audrey Dubin
• Lloyd & Linda Landow in memory of Rabbi Steinberg
• Mel Meyer in memory of Paul Felder
• Bernard & Sheri Vishnick in memory of Rabbi Steinberg

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• Michael & Ilene Gewirtz in memory of Selma Heyliger
• Carole Greenstein in memory of Rabbi Steinberg
• Robert & Elaine Greenwald in memory of Martin Feller
• Ephraim & Karen Likerman in memory of Paul Felder
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• Mel Meyer in memory of Paul Felder
• Mel Meyer in memory of Peter Perla
• Mel Meyer in memory of David Zuckerman
• Mel Meyer in memory of Martin Feller
• David & Michele Osterland in honor of Julia Bloomstein
• Dennis & Sandra Rosenzweig in memory of Jerome Strober
• Dennis & Sandra Rosenzweig in memory of Rabbi Steinberg
• Dennis & Sandra Rosenzweig in memory of Peter Perla
• Dennis & Sandra Rosenzweig in memory of Milton Dunetz
• Dennis & Sandra Rosenzweig in memory of Rabbi Steinberg
• Dennis & Sandra Rosenzweig in memory of David Zuckerman
• Fred & Elaine Roth in memory of Helen Sachson
• Fred & Elaine Roth in memory of Paul Felder
• Seymour & Shirley Rubin in memory of Martin Feller
• Seymour & Shirley Rubin in memory of David Zuckerman
• Bruce & Ellen Rudin in memory of David Zuckerman
• Roy & Sharyn Shanon - 2 Prayer Books in honor of Rabbi Buechler
• Andrew & Hillary Wohl in memory of Ida Siskind
• Andrew & Hillary Wohl in memory of Jerome Strober

Ruth & Sidney Weissman Bible Memorial Fund:
• Steven & Stacey Feldman in honor of Brenda Rosenberg’s Bat Mitzvah
• Jerry & Gail Jospa in memory of Rabbi Steinberg
• Seymour & Shirley Rubin in memory of Rabbi Steinberg

Library Fund:
• Marcia Feuer in memory of Barney Arkow
• Marcia Feuer in memory of Isabelle Arkow
• David & Esther Fink in memory of Martin Feller
• David & Esther Fink in memory of Rabbi Steinberg
• Gene & Alice Fossner in honor of Debra & Ed Perkes, Simchat Torah Honorees
• Robert & Marilyn Garelick in memory of Fay Kaplowitz
• Robert & Marilyn Garelick in memory of Paul Felder
• Adam & Nicole Glick in honor of Andrew’s Bar Mitzvah
• Carole Greenstein in memory of Martin Feller
• Jerry & Gail Jospa in memory of David Zuckerman
• Danny & Joan Kulchinsky in memory of Paul Felder
• Danny & Joan Kulchinsky in memory of Martin Feller
• Phyllis Pacheco in honor of Sandra & Dennis Rosenzweig and their Grandchildren
• Phyllis Pacheco in memory of Jean Blachor Young
• Dennis & Sandra Rosenzweig in memory of Ida Siskind
• Dennis & Sandra Rosenzweig in memory of Martin Feller

Religious School Fund:
• Lloyd & Linda Landow in memory of Martin Feller
• Alan & Marilyn Plotz in memory of Martin Feller
• Alan & Constance Victor in memory of Rabbi Steinberg

If you made a donation and do not see it listed, please contact Ed Ward - 631.499.6644 or execdir@dhjc.org

Kol Nidre

Our thanks to all who have donated to our 2016-2017 Kol Nidre Campaign. We are well on our way to our goal but we have not achieved 100% participation yet!

Please consider a year end gift prior to December 31st. Call the synagogue office at 631-499-6644 or go to our website dhjc.org and make your gift today. All pledges are payable by June 30, 2017.

Happy Hanukkah!

Cara Kagan • Lee Grebstein • Doris Wegman
Mitzvah Day
**MITZVAH DAY**

I went to Mitzvah Day. I thought it was great! There were all kinds of activities. First there was a storyteller. One of the next activities was making sandwiches for homeless people. We also made Hanukah cards for soldiers. You could also decorate bags and put toiletries in them. Then, you could crochet bracelets or blankets for hospital patients. There was also a car wash. Two hair stylists were cutting hair for people to donate. It was nice because you got to meet new people and you got to talk to a lot of people. I felt proud of myself for helping the people who needed help. I had a great time helping people!

- Kira Schwartz, Kita Gimel, Age 8

**CHAIATHALON**

The Dix Hill Jewish Center’s Fifth Annual Chaiathlon was held on October 16th. It was a beautiful day for our 25-, 10- and 5-mile bike rides, the 5k run in the Dix Hills Park and the walk on the park trails. The 25-mile bikers rode to Cold Spring Harbor and back and some walkers brought the entire family with them, including their dogs. All participants received a striking commemorative t-shirt, a backpack and a blue tooth speaker. What a fun, family day!
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HOME SERVICE FOR HANUKKAH
Reminder for Lighting the Hanukkah Candles

WHO: The head of the family may kindle the hannukiya (Hanukkah menorah) on behalf of the entire family, or each member of the family may help in lighting the candles. It is a beautiful custom for each member of the family to light his/her own Hanukkah menorah each evening.

WHERE: the Hanukkah menorah is traditionally placed in a prominent spot (a window) where it may be seen by those who pass the house. We publicly proclaim the miracle and the message of this joyous holiday.

WHAT: The first night all three blessings are said. On the other evenings, only the first two blessings are recited. The Candles are placed in the Menorah from right to left, and kindled from left to right.

1. Blessing over Candles

Light the shammus candle first, then recite the blessings while holding the candle. Do not light the other candles until the blessings are done!

ברוך אתה נתי ש Explosive Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe

אשר קדשה ב'מ'ות ו'תינון asher kidishanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu Who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us

 القادית נר של שך חנוכה (א'ן) kediklak ner shel Shocuakah (Amen) to light the lights of Channukkah (Amen)

2. Blessing for the Chanukkah Miracle

ברוך אתה נתי ש Explosive Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe

שעשה ניסים לבננתנים בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. (א'ן) she'asah nismim l'benanim beney israel. (Amen) Who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time

3. Shehecheyanu (Who Has Kept Us Alive)

This blessing is recited only on the first night of Chanukkah.

ברוך אתה נתי ש Explosive Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe

שעתינון ו'ציוון ו'גיון לאזמן מ'זון (א'ן) shehecheyanu v'tzivanu v'igiyanu laz'mon hazeh. (Amen) who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season (Amen)
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Our Nursery and Pre-K Classes put on an amazing Thanksgiving Presentation! Our students performed incredibly well and all their hard work, efforts and preparation showed. We are so proud of each one of our students. They sang, they danced and they even prepared delicious treats to share with family and friends. Congratulations on a superb performance!

Social Action Committee

Thank you for your food donations during Rosh Hashanah-Yom Kippur. We donated 450 bags of food – 1,753 pounds of food!

The children of the DHJC Early Childhood Academy helped us load the truck

socialaction@dhjc.org
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The Original Kosher Deli
The Scroll
MEMBERSHIP

As co-chairs of DHJC’s Membership Committee, our responsibility is to make our members feel welcome, help engage them, and reach out to potential new members, in hopes to grow our local Jewish community.

The word, “local”, is an interesting one. The Dix Hills Jewish Center began as a Jewish place of worship, learning, and social gathering for local Jews in Dix Hills. In this case, “local” refers to Jews who could walk to shul, or travel a few minutes by car to get there. As the years passed, our congregation grew to include a broader group of “local” Jews, this time embracing those who had to travel further by car. Our ever-expanding DHJC community brings Jews together throughout Western Suffolk County.

When new members join our synagogue, the Membership Committee prepares Shabbat packages and hand delivers them to each new member’s home. We include Shabbat prayers, wine or grape juice, challah, candles, and some other treats. When we delivered the Shabbat packages, we began to fully understand how our “local” conservative Jewish community has grown, because we traveled sometimes over 20 minutes to deliver a Shabbat package. It was a pleasure to make this effort to show our new members how much we appreciate them joining our community. It was also important to learn how much we need to do to sustain our “local” conservative Jewish community.

New members are important to DHJC and so are our existing members. Together, we maintain a vibrant Jewish community. Together, we observe Jewish holidays and traditions, and support each other in times of need and celebration. Together, we have helped DHJC thrive, and go from being a place for “local” Jews of Dix Hills, to becoming the prominent conservative synagogue in Western Suffolk County.

Please join us at services, holiday observances, continuing education and social gatherings. Our calendar of programs is available on our website, www.dhjc.org. We look forward to seeing you and getting to know you better.

Pauline Schwartz & Yona Miller

NEW MEMBERS

The Membership Committee is happy to officially welcome our new members.

Shalom and welcome to our synagogue.

Susan Assa
David Bergman & Galit Suchovicki
Scott & Anastasia Blyer
Abraham & Shirley Fremeth
Larry & Kate Furer
Alon & Jessica Goldberg
Joshua & Angela Hecht
Jonathan & Paula Hendel
Keith & Ana Hochberg

Vadim Izgur & Dana Cohen
Avi & Shulamit Korine
Jason & Lauren Kurland
Erik & Remy Rubin
Yishai & Lisa Shapir
David & Deborah Sherman
Barry & Robin Steinberger
Judith Weissman

The Executive Board, the Board of Trustees as well as the entire Dix Hills Jewish Center’s families are happy to have you among us. We hope that you will grow to love our shul as we have grown to love and appreciate it. We invite you to join us for one or many of the wonderful events that take place almost every week at the Shul. We also urge you to get involved in one or a few of the committees on the board. There is always room for new members on most of the committees. If you are interested in taking an active role in membership, please give us a call.

Pauline Schwartz & Yona Miller
Simchas & Condolences

Mazel Tovs
Michael & Edith Lehrer on the birth of their granddaughter, Noa Sigalle
Glenn & Stephanie Teplitz on the engagement of their son, Justin to Stacey Cohen
Jason & Nikki Heller on the birth of their son, Jacob Matthew, grandson of Dr. Al & Rona Heller
Jeffrey & Heidi Dorf on the engagement of their daughter, Amy to Hod Hirshman
Howard & Robbin Gurr on the marriage of their daughter, Danielle to Zachary Cohen
Stephen & Renee Steinig on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Talia Gail Eisner
Jeff & Nancy Eimer on the birth of their granddaughter, Molly Blake
Terry & Cindy Palatt on the marriage of their daughter, Danielle to Jason Gottlieb
Paul & Nan Lancey on the birth of their granddaughter, Everly Rose
Mark & Marla Fischer on the engagement of their daughter, Amy to Barry Kessler
Stuart & Ellen Gordon on the marriage of their son, Joshua to Jaclyn Tyndorf
Harry & Myra Wagner on the birth of their granddaughter, Victoria Rose
Norman & Ann Wieder on the birth of their granddaughter, Zoey Noa
Ed & Barbara Buro on the engagement of their daughter, Alyssa to Ben Barzideh
Mitchell & Susan Zipkin on the engagement of their daughter, Erica to Leslie Healey
Jason & Amy Chintz on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Sadie
Ken & Sharon Flax on the birth of their grandson, Brayden Sawyer
Ed & Debra Perkes on the marriage of their daughter, Ariella to Kevin Schreiber
Jerry & Judy Stein and Jeff & Bette Rubin on the birth of their grandson, Spencer Mac
David & Esther Fink on the birth of their granddaughter, Amanda Sloan
Barry & Meredith Walfish on the marriage of their daughter, Charlsie to James Villacci
Bill & Deborah Wolfson on the marriage of their son, Jordan to Neena Cinquino
Bill & Deborah Wolfson on the engagement of their son, Joshua to Brianne Schwab
Bert & Alana Heyligers on the engagement of their daughter, Jenae to Scott Heller
Janice Waxman on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter, Rachel
Jeff & Nancy Eimer on the engagement of their daughter, Erica to Craig Bruno
Mark & Karen Strickler on the birth of their grandson, Reid Logan
Neil & Sandi Lasher on the birth of their grandson

Condolences
Elaine Roth on the passing of her beloved father, Jules Sachson
Robert Jacobs on the passing of his beloved father, Ivan Jacobs
Jeff Dunetz on the passing of his beloved father, Milton Dunetz
Jeff Dubin on the passing of his beloved mother, Phyllis Audrey Dubin
Marty Miller on the passing of his beloved wife, Harriet Miller
Leonard Zuckerman on the passing of his beloved brother, David Zuckerman
Bruce Kowalsky on the passing of his beloved father, Lester Kowalsky
Judith Wertheim on the passing of her beloved husband, Leonard Wertheim
The family, friends and our entire DHJC community on the passing of our esteemed former Rabbi, Nathaniel Steinberg
Barry Liebert on the passing of his beloved mother, Molly Liebert Podozer, beloved grandmother of Michelle Krugman
Lenny Jacobs on the passing of his beloved mother, Judith Jacobs
Naomi Feller on the passing of her beloved husband, Martin Feller
Shari Slepian on the passing of her beloved father, Jerome Strober
Ricky Tadmor on the passing of her beloved mother, Ida Siskind
Neil Lasher on the passing of his beloved father, Sheldon Lasher
Judy Koles on the passing of her beloved father, Paul Felder
Marilyn Perla on the passing of her beloved husband, Peter Perla
Catch the glowing spirit of Hanukkah!!
All are invited to our spectacular
THIRD NIGHT OUT
MONDAY Evening, Dec. 26
6:30 pm Outdoor Candle Lighting
Refreshments for All!

Donuts                Pizza                Hot Chocolate

Fun and Games For All!

Please Donate an Unwrapped Gift!
(Gift Cards, New Gifts)
We will be donating them to Long Island families in need.
SATURDAY BOOK REVIEWS

With Rabbi Buechler
(After Kiddush)

DEC. 17
THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY OF THE MAN WHO SAVED THE JEWS OF BUDAPEST
By Kati Marton

The remarkable story behind the Swedish Diplomat who saved thousands of Jews in Budapest from the Nazis

JAN. 21
MOSES A HUMAN LIFE
By Avivah Zornberg

A masterful retelling of the life of Moses with profound insights from the leading Biblical Scholars of our generation.

FEB. 4
MOONGLOW
By Michael Chabon

In the lens of what his grandparents have experienced in the 20th century and the values they inculcated in him, this is a powerful memoir/novel.

MAR. 4
MISCHLING
By Affinity Konar

A searing novel about the radical evil of Auschwitz.

In this historical debut novel, the voices of identical twins experimented upon by Mengele are described in a lyrical and sensitive fashion.
DEC. 17
**WALLENBERG**
*THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY OF THE MAN WHO SAVED THE JEWS OF BUDAPEST*
By Kati Marton
The remarkable story behind the Swedish Diplomat who saved thousands of Jews in Budapest from the Nazis.

JAN. 21
**MOSES A HUMAN LIFE**
By Avivah Zornberg
A masterful retelling of the life of Moses with profound insights from the leading Biblical Scholars of our generation.

FEB. 4
**MOONGLOW**
By Michael Chabon
In the lens of what his grandparents have experienced in the 20th century and the values they inculcated in him, this is a powerful memoir/novel.

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**MISCHLING**
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A searing novel about the radical evil of Auschwitz. In this historical debut novel, the voices of identical twins experimented upon by Mengele are described in a lyrical and sensitive fashion.
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We believe to be a good funeral director, you should serve the community in times of growth and happiness as well as times of grief. It's not surprising we've served the Jewish community for over 100 years. How we've served is the surprising part. David is active in many organizations in both Suffolk and Nassau Counties. He is a member of the Associate Board of the Parker Jewish Geriatric Center. He serves as the Sexton of Temple Judea of Manhasset and is also the Sexton of Temple Emanuel of Great Neck. David is past Chancellor Commander of Central Suffolk Lodge #790 Knights of Pythias and also served as the Deputy Grand Chancellor of the 15th Pythian District. Currently David serves as the Vice President of Suffolk Jewish Communal Planning Council. He is an active member of Temple Beth El of Patchogue and the Mastic Hebrew Center. He serves as a member of several UJA-Federation committees and is also an active member of The Jewish Funeral Directors of America, Inc.

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Monuments by I.J. MORRIS, INC.
Sunday
December 18
(new date)
THE KIND WORDS

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2015 Israeli Film Academy Awards
12 Nominations
Including:
Best Picture
Best Director
Best Screen Play
Best Actor & Actress

Sunday
January 8

The story of Amos Oz’s youth, set against the backdrop of the end of the British Mandate for Palestine and the early years of the State of Israel. The film details the young man’s relationship with his mother and his beginnings as a writer, while looking at what happens when the stories we tell become the stories we live.

Directed by & Starring
Natalie Portman
2016 Nominee Cinema for Peace Awards
Most Valuable Movie of the Year

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Religious School’s DaF Program
Sunday November 6th

The Story of Noah
Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Josh Brodsky
September 10, 2016
Son of
Kenneth and Sheryl Brodsky

Noah Goldman
September 17, 2016
Son of
Jacob and Andrea Goldman

Andrew Glick
September 24, 2016
Son of
Adam and Nicole Glick

Jack Rovner
October 15, 2016
Son of
Jonathan and Quyen Rovner

Zachary Schnitzer
October 22, 2016
Son of
Jay and Heidi Schnitzer

Justin Frank
October 23, 2016
Son of
Kenneth and Wendy Frank

Brandon Kroin
October 29, 2016
Son of
Matthew and Nikki Kroin

Jason Braverman
November 5, 2016
Son of
Peter and Elisa Braverman

Benjamin Siegel
November 12, 2016
Son of
Dana and Helle Siegel

Lauren Berg
November 19, 2016
Daughter of
Scott and Ellice Berg

Joshua Pincus
November 26, 2016
Son of
Jordan and Lisa Pincus

Zachary Chafetz
December 17, 2016
Son of Marc Chafetz &
Will and Karen Krinsky
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CELEBRATE THE ROARING 20’s

MARCH 4, 2017