

# United Synagogue of Hoboken

TEVET/SHEVAT 5780

January 2020



#### The most difficult Hanukkah

By Rabbi Robert Scheinberg

This Hanukkah was like no other I can remember.

This is not entirely for upsetting reasons. Our community was fortunate to have several wonderful Hanukkah events, in anticipation of Hanukkah and during the holiday, including events for families with young children, Learning Center families, young professionals, and the general community. We have celebrated new babies, special birthdays and bar mitzvah anniversaries, and other special milestones together.

But repeated acts of antisemitic violence cast a shadow over Hanukkah this year.

I spent the first night of Hanukkah at the site of the Jersey City Kosher Supermarket in Greenville, taking part in the candle lighting together with the Satmar community, and playing guitar to accompany Joely Greenfeld, a leading singer from the Satmar Hasidic community in Brooklyn and the brother of Mindy Ferencz z"I, as he sang the candle blessings and the Hanukkah hymn Maoz Tzur.

Throughout the week came more and more reports of anti-Jewish acts of intimidation and violence - by some counts, ten such incidents in New York City in one week. And it reached a terrible crescendo last night with the machete attack on a Hanukkah gathering in Monsey, New York. We pray for the recovery of those who were injured, including Joseph Neumann whose health situation is unfortunately very precarious. All our prayer services since this incident have included some prayers for healing for those affected by this tragedy - those who are injured, those who are traumatized, and all of us - and an opportunity to stand in solidarity with those who are attacked for being Jewish.

All these incidents raise so many issues for us, in addition to our efforts to care for those most immediately affected. These incidents may make us feel unsafe and raise painful and ancestral memories of tragedy. They prompt us to reexamine the ways we secure our synagogue and educational programs. They raise challenges for us as we seek to understand the role we play in the ethnic and cultural mosaic of the United States and of Hudson County.

In an email to the community from last week, USH President Jeremy Morley has outlined some of our security responses to the Jersey City incident and other incidents (the text of that email is available upon request). Please know that we are constantly reevaluating our security procedures, as this is a matter to which we assign the highest priority, and you can expect more updates in the days and weeks to come.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### January 2020

- 1/3 Special Shabbat with the Heschel Harmonizers
- 1/4 Special Shabbat with the Heschel Harmonizers
- **1/14** Speakeasy Game Night
- 1/20 Panel with Israeli Model UN Delegates
- 1/21 Women's Torah Study Group
- 1/26 TRIBE Paint and Sip
- 1/28 Speakeasy: Residents of the Rising Song Institute

#### February 2020

- 2/1 Sweet Tastes of Torah
- 2/8 KLC 1<sup>st</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sleepover
- 2/9 Speaker Brunch: Gili Getz
- 2/29 Casino Night

Friday night services 7:00 pm
Saturday morning services 9:30 am
See www.hobokensynagogue.org and the
USH Facebook page for more info on these and
other upcoming events!

זכר צדיק לברכה May the memory of the Righteous be a Blessing

Moshe Deutsch Z"L

Leah Mindel Ferencz

Douglas Miquel Rodriguez Z"L

Detective Joseph Seals Z"L

#### (continued from page 1)

We are grateful for the members of our community who are mental health professionals who have been available following shabbat services to discuss some of the issues raised by these incidents, including the challenges of discussing them with children. These conversations, as well as conversations about antisemitism, will continue.

At moments when we feel alone, I hope we can take some comfort in the number of people of all faiths and backgrounds who are standing with us. A <u>letter</u> condemning bias crimes against Jews was signed by an impressive range of Hudson County clergy representing dozens of houses of worship and at least six different religions. (You are welcome to sign on to the letter at <a href="http://bit.ly/GreenvilleShootingStatementDec2019">http://bit.ly/GreenvilleShootingStatementDec2019</a>.)

Celebrating Hanukkah in one of the most diverse counties in the United States reminds us of how the ancient King Antiochus felt threatened by religious diversity. The Jewish community declared at that time to an intolerant king: You don't need to feel threatened by us. We can be a vibrant part of this region's mosaic even as we remain true to the religious practices of our ancestors. What a privilege it is to live in a country that enshrines religious freedom in the Constitution of the United States. What a privilege to live in one of the most diverse places on earth, to get to know our various neighbors and to affirm and celebrate their connections to their various religious and cultural traditions. May we always remember how beautiful the mosaic is that we create when we are united in all our proud diversity.

And celebrating Hanukkah also reminds us that our role in the world is to light a candle in every place of darkness. With each successive day of Hanukkah we can make our world that much brighter -- unless we're too afraid to try.

During our services this past Shabbat, we read these words by Rabbi Harold Kushner:

"More than eighty times in the Bible, God tells people not to be afraid (usually translated as "fear not"). God says it to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, to Moses. He repeats it four times in His first remarks to Joshua, lest Joshua be overwhelmed by the task of succeeding Moses. He tells each of the prophets not to be afraid of the demands of their role and commands them to tell the people not to be afraid as well. ... Why do we need to be told "Don't be afraid" so often? I believe that God realizes how many things there are that frighten us, but God does not want us to live lives dominated by fear. A small dose of fear keeps us alert and alive, but an overdose can leave us perpetually tense, emotionally closed, and paralyzed to the point of inaction.... Fearful people cannot be happy, generous, charitable, or forgiving. Fear constricts the soul and keeps us from being as fully human as God would like us to be."

We pray that the afterglow of our Hanukkah lights this year will continue to bring brightness to the world, and blessings for the secular year ahead for you and your family \$\phi\$





### **President's Message**

### By Jem Morley

To the United Synagogue of Hoboken community,

I want to take this opportunity to update the community on security issues.

We are engaged in a constant process of reviewing our security measures for the safety of our congregants, pre-school children, parents, care providers, Learning Center families, guests and our wonderful and devoted staff. We are also concerned to preserve the integrity of our historic building. Last week's events in Jersey City were shocking for so many reasons, and of course they prompt us to further review the security measures we have in place.

Over the last several years, and during the past week, we have secured substantial advice and assistance from many outside agencies, including the Prosecutor's Office of Hudson County, the Police Departments of both Hoboken and Jersey City and the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey's director of Jewish community security, Gerard Dargan.

We have made, and we are continuing to make, significant improvements to the physical structure of the building. We have constructed a new and enlarged vestibule with security-hardened walls and doors sufficiently apart that they cannot be held open by one person at the same time. We are in the process of installing special security doors, security windows, and security hardware. This work, which will be completed by the end of January, will create some temporary inconvenience and we will appreciate your patience.

We have been awarded a grant of \$75,000 by the State of New Jersey, Office of Homeland Security, to be paid upon completion of the current work on the vestibule and building perimeter, but it will cover no more than half of the cost.

We have installed many other security measures, including several new video cameras, panic buttons and other methods of electronic surveillance, and this process will continue and will be expanded. We will install further access control systems. We have strong relationships with the Hudson Country Sheriff's Department and the Hoboken Police, both of whom have been extremely cooperative. The Sheriff's Department has been providing an ongoing police presence during our synagogue services on Friday evenings and Shabbat mornings, and we have been assured that this will continue for the coming year. The Hoboken Police are providing ongoing support and surveillance. We are most grateful to both of them.

We previously felt that continued and better training, technology, and physical control of the entrances is a more effective way to address our security concerns, as opposed to hiring external security staff. For that reason, we hired security personal for what was hoped would be on a short-term basis only. Unfortunately, we have now determined that we must engage the services of security personnel on an ongoing basis, notwithstanding the very substantial expense, and so we will continue to provide a guard for all time that the Preschool or Learning Center are in operation.

In downtown Jersey City, the Kaplan Preschool operates a "Gan Katan" drop-off class for children who are 2 and 3 years old. We have now determined that, even though the program is very small, and the cost is very high, we must provide ongoing security personnel at that location also, at least through the end of the current school year in June.

We will continue to review security issues on a constant basis, with the security committee reviewing procedures, coordinating with the leadership of the Kaplan Preschool and the Learning Center, with Rabbi Scheinberg, and local law enforcement to evaluate possible alterations.

These are extremely expensive steps for our community to take. We hope that the financial burden will be shared by all of us who use our building and are part of our community. We will never allow hatred to diminish our programs.

To make a donation towards our increased security costs, please go to <a href="http://www.hobokensynagogue.org/donate.html">http://www.hobokensynagogue.org/donate.html</a> and select the Donation type of Security Services. We deeply appreciate your contributions towards these unprecedented expenses♥

Shalom

Jeremy Morley President, USH Board of Trustees



# FEBRUARY 1, 2020 SWEET TASTES OF TORAH

Limping Toward the Promised Land: How the Bible Embraces Those with Special Needs

Join us for the North Jersey Board of Rabbis' annual communitywide evening of study, music, and celebration. Our keynoter, Dr. Ora Horn Prouser, will discuss how when we see biblical characters as relatable individuals, we can apply their experiences as inspiration to overcome our own challenges and embrace our difficulties as opportunities for personal growth.

The keynote is meant to be a conversation starter for our first session discussion groups. These sessions will cover:

- Biblical Personalities and Depression •Disabilities of the Soul
   Esau and ADHD Isaac and Intellectual Disability
  - •Family Dynamics in Families with a Disabled Member • Joseph and Giftedness • Jacob and Physical Disabilities
- Joseph and Giftedness Jacob and Physical Disabilities
   Miriam and Gender in Education Moses and Speech Disorders
   Perspectives on Samson The Trouble with Isaac

Doors Open: 6:30 p.m; Havdalah: 6:50 p.m. Temple Israel & Jewish Community Center, Ridgewood

Register online at www.sweettastesoftorah.weebly.com or send your check payable to the North Jersey Board of Rabbis 32 Franklin Place, Glen Rock, NJ 07452

#### Don't Miss Our Thought-Provoking Sessions

The American Sound: A Musical Refuge from Antisemitism

From "Challahs in the Ark" to "Bagels from Benny" — Learning from an Evolving Jewish Folk Tale

Divine Disaiblity: A Disabilities Studies Approach to Understanding God

God and Guns

Locating God in the Book of Esther

Other Biblical Characters on the Margins

> Parents and Children in the Book of Genesis

The Classic Path to Personal and Communal Jewish Excellence

Hakarat Hatov (acknowledging the good) for the Mysterious Druze Community

> The Case of the Biblical "Blemished Priest"

MORE SESSIONS ONLINE

#### COST

\$15 per person by Wednesday, January 29 \$20 at door (cash or check only)

North Jersey Board of Rabbis 32 Franklin Place Glen Rock, NJ 07452 201-652-1687

Thursday mornings, 9.30-11am

# Torah Study with Rabbi Scheinberg



UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF HOBOKEN

115 Park Avenue, Hoboken NJ rsvp office@hobokensynagogue.org

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Saturday, January 11 at 8:00pm The Joel and Marilyn Freiser Speakeasy Series at the United Synagogue of Hoboken presents:

# 2nd Annual Game Night

Is this the Speakeasy?
Or am I on a cruise?

Join us for a FUN and PRIZEfilled evening of BINGO (many variations!), group trivia challenges and Let's Make a Deal.

The Speakeasy is an intimate, candlelit performance space within the United Synagogue of Hoboken.
Complimentary wine, beer and snacks are served.

\*\*\*\$15 members; \$20 non-members\*\*\*

Tickets: e-mail office@hobokensynagogue.org or online at www.hobokensynagogue.org or by calling 201-659-4000 115 Park Avenue, Hoboken, NJ 07030

# Women's Torah Study Group

Come join us to scmmoze, nosh, and study torah and liturgy with a lively group led by Anne Pettit.

We meet at USH on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm



To RSVP or be added to our mailing list please email ritual@hobokensynagogue.org

Made with PosterMyWall.com

#### **DONATIONS**

#### **GENERAL FUND**

Rosenberg Feldman Smith LLP Jeffrey and Kimberly Coran Jonathan Zaid Anat & Ori Klein Jeff and Jennifer English

#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Barry and Julie Weinstein Inez Benjamin Foundation Rosenberg Feldman Smith LLP

#### Mazel Tov to:

Brooke Stempler on her Bat Mitzvah; and to her parents Rick and Isabella Stempler; and to her

#### Thank you for sponsoring Kiddush:

12/7: Isabella and Rick Stempler in honor of their daughter Brooke's Bat Mitzvah.
12/14: Razel Solow and Joel Trugman in honor of their daughter Dina's engagement
12/21: Elisabeth Oldmixon and Andrew Reibman in honor of their daughter Shifra's birthday
12/28: Merry Firschein and David Swirnoff in honor of David's birthday

#### Condolences to:

Steve Calmas on the loss of his mother Sandra Calmas: and to his wife Lauren; and to their children Sam and Aly.

Rebecca Kramnick on the death of her father, Isaac Kramnick, and to Rebecca's husband Phil Cohen and their children Madeline and Anna, and to Isaac's wife, Miriam.



# **USH** scholarship available for Jewish Camp Experience for children and teens!!!!

An anonymous USH member has generously established the USH Jewish Camp Experience Scholarship Fund to encourage synagogue youth to attend Jewish sleepaway camps and other summer experiences (such as USY on Wheels) for the summer 2020 season. All USH children and teens (preferably under the age of 14) who will be returning campers are eligible to apply for this **need-based** scholarship.

The deadline for applying for the scholarship is February 17, 2020; awards will be announced no later than February 25, 2020. Jewish summer camps which are eligible for this scholarship can be found on the Foundation for Jewish Camp list:

http://jewishcamp.org/find-a-camp/

The application can be found at:

bit.ly/ushcampscholarship2020

If you have any questions about the scholarship, or if your child or your family meet the requirements to apply, please contact Rabbi Scheinberg at 201-659-4000.





# Chesed (caring) Committee

Would you like to support and grow your community? Would you like to be a part of a force that mobilizes into action when a member of our community has a great need? If yes, consider being a volunteer for the Chesed Committee!

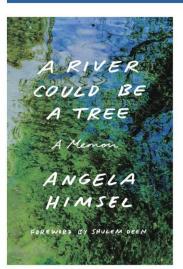
Whether your schedule is predictable or unpredictable, the Chesed committee has a place for any USH member who is willing to be called upon when life happens. We need people who can, for example: assist with shiva arrangements, visit the sick, drive or prepare meals for those who are dealing with stressful circumstances, or offer respite to a family with a challenging situation.

If you would like to contribute in any of these situations, or would like to discuss ways in which we can extend our outreach. please contact Elisabeth at chesedcommitteeush@gmail.com.

Made with PosterMvWall.com

THE 17TH ANNUAL PHILIP & CLAIRE MEISTRICH BRUNCH SERIES

# SUNDAY BRUNCH



Brunch with Angela Himsel,

author of "A River Could be a Tree: A Memoir"

In this memoir, journalist Angela Himsel powerfully traces her unlikely journey from her Indiana upbringing in a cult-like Evangelical doomsday sect, to studying in Israel and



embracing and converting to Judaism.

Sun., Mar. 29, 2020 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

\$18 for members \$25 for nonmembers



Purchase tickets by email to office@hobokensynagogue.org or online at www.hobokensynagogue.org

THE 17TH ANNUAL PHILIP & CLAIRE MEISTRICH BRUNCH SERIES



Brunch with Gili Getz:

The Forbidden Conversation: A One Man Performance

As Israel becomes an increasingly divisive issue among American Jews, conversations about Israel now frequently degenerate into bitter arguments and angry accusations. In his powerful and poignant one-man play "The Forbidden Conversation," Gili Getz addresses this issue head-on, with candor, wit, and passion. Group discussion to follow the performance.

Sun., Feb. 9, 2020 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

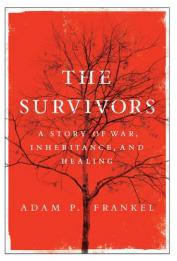
\$18 for members \$25 for nonmembers



Purchase tickets by email to office@hobokensynagogue.org or online at www.hobokensynagogue.org

THE 17TH ANNUAL PHILIP & CLAIRE MEISTRICH BRUNCH SERIES

# SUNDAY BRUNCH



Brunch with Adam Frankel

author of "The Survivors: A Story of War. Inheritance and Healing"

Barack Obama's speechwriter Adam Frankel describes his grandparents' Holocaust experiences in Europe, their effort to put these experiences behind them when they immigrated to Connecticut, and the ways that subsequent



generations in his family continue to contend with the lingering aftereffects of the trauma of the Shoah. In honor of Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Sun., Apr. 19, 2020 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

\$18 for members \$25 for nonmembers



Purchase tickets by email to office@hobokensynagogue.org or online at www.hobokensynagogue.org

#### The USH "Pair for Prayer" Initiative

The skill of leading Jewish prayer services has long been an important aspect of Jewish leadership. A knowledgeable Jewish community like ours has many people who have these skills (and all bar/bat mitzvah students in our community acquire some of these skills), but we can always use more. You are invited to fill out the form at <a href="http://bit.ly/pair\_for\_prayer\_USH\_2019">http://bit.ly/pair\_for\_prayer\_USH\_2019</a>, to indicate what skills you have and what skills you are willing to teach as a volunteer. We will then make an effort to pair people together to acquire these skills. Many recordings, texts, etc are available to assist you, whether you are a teacher or a learner, at rabbischeinberg.blogspot.com.

#### **Shabbat Dinner Initiative**

We would like to try a new approach to encouraging people in our community to share Shabbat meals together. We invite you to fill out this questionnaire (<a href="http://bit.ly/USH\_Shabbat\_Dinner\_Initiative\_2019">http://bit.ly/USH\_Shabbat\_Dinner\_Initiative\_2019</a>) and to indicate if you are interested in hosting a Shabbat dinner and inviting others from our community, and/or in being a guest at a Shabbat dinner. We also invite you to indicate your approximate age and life stage, if you would be interested in connecting with others who are demographically similar to you. We will then work with the hosts to help them to invite people who have indicated a desire to be guests. We also have resources available to help people to learn and lead the Shabbat evening rituals (see <a href="http://rabbischeinberg.blogspot.com/p/resources-for-hosting-shabbat-dinner.html">http://rabbischeinberg.blogspot.com/p/resources-for-hosting-shabbat-dinner.html</a>). It is our hope that this initiative will strengthen the bonds that connect us to each other, as well as strengthen our connection to Shabbat. There is also an opportunity on the questionnaire to indicate if you would like to assist in organizing this initiative.

#### TRIBE Hanukkah Party 12/22





Lunch/learn Sat Jan 11:

# Antisemitism today: continuing the conversation

Anti-Sem-i tism

Nam-te-No-mo-tissom, am-rital in (1882); tism

nostility toward or discriminatio, chinic or racial group

Join us for the continuation of our open and respectful conversation about antisemitism today: what it is, where it comes from, how to talk about it and deal with it as individuals and as a community.

Lunch/learn with Rabbi Rob Scheinberg Sat., Jan. 11, following kiddush (approx 1pm) Free! RSVP hobokensynagogue.org



115 Park Avenue, Hoboken NJ

Made with PosterMyWall.co

#### **Refugee Committee**

The Refugee Support Committee invites congregants to host a refugee-chef-cooked dinner at their home. A limited number of diners attend and pay for their dinners and the proceeds go to the chef and her family. You provide the table and chairs; the committee provides the rest. Please contact Simone Crespi at <a href="mailto:screspi@gmail.com">screspi@gmail.com</a>, if you would like to volunteer as a host. Our dinners have been scrumptious and successful. If you can't lend your home for a night, then please consider donating to the USH "Refugee Fund." We use the money to provide direct services to refugees as well as to hold educational events at USH. Thank you!

UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF HOBOKEN 115 Park Avenue Hoboken, NJ 07030-3703

NEWARK, NJ

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org. **U.S.POSTAGE PAID** PERMIT No. 602







#### **UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF HOBOKEN**

115 Park Avenue, Hoboken, NJ 07030 201-659-4000 www.hobokensynagogue.org

President: Jeremy Morley president@hobokensynagogue.org

Rabbi: Robert Scheinberg rabbi@hobokensynagogue.org

Preschool Director: Rachelle Grossman preschool@hobokensynagogue.org 201-653-8666

Learning Center Director: Grace Gurman-Chan lc@hobokensynagogue.org 201-659-4000, x4

Shofar Editor: Jordan Firestein and Sarah Rosenblum shofar@hobokensynagogue.org Proofreading provided by Jane Klueger, Louise Kurtz, Allen Reuben and Rabbi Scheinberg

USH Office administrator: Sue Cordeiro office@hobokensynagogue.org 201-659-4000





- Ultrasound
- X-Ray Low Dose CT
- PET/CT
- · Bone Densitometry OVER 45 MAJOR INSURANCES ACCEPTED

79 Hudson Street, Hoboken 201.222.2500

www.HobokenRadiology.com > I

Sharon Stern DDS PC Cosmetic & Family Dentistry



Gentle Dental Care 710 Washington Street Hoboken, NJ 07030

tel # 201-650-8800 fax # 201-656-4319 hobokensmile@yahoo.com www.drsharonstern.com