



THE SHOFAR שׁוֹפָר

United Synagogue of Hoboken

IYAR / SIVAN 5778

MAY 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2018

- 1 Planning a Jewish Wedding 7:30pm
- 2 Panel discussion on the diversity of American Judaism, 7pm
- 4 Musical Family Shabbat service, 6pm
- 11 Nosh in the Garden for Young Professionals, 8pm
- 12 Parenting with Jewish Values 10:30am
- 18 Shabbat in the Park Church Sq, Park 6pm
- 19 Learning Center Year-End Service & Celebration. Starts 9:30am
- 19 Shavuot Eve Torah Study 8pm til early morning
- 20 Services for first day Shavuot, 9:30am
- 21 Services for 2nd day Shavuot, 9:30am including Yizkor memorial prayers approx 11am

JUNE 2018

- 1 Musical Family Shabbat service, 6pm
- 8 Shabbat in the Park Maxwell Place Park 6pm
- 15 Young professionals shabbat dinner
- 19 USH Annual Meeting 7:30pm
- 22 Shabbat in the Park Church Sq, Park 6pm

Friday night services 7pm

Saturday morning services 9:30am

See www.hobokensynagogue.org & USH Facebook page for more info on these and other upcoming events!

By Rabbi Robert Scheinberg

Rabbi Scheinberg's remarks in honor of Former Mayor Dawn Zimmer, March 2018.

To my knowledge, this is the first time that our congregation has sponsored a kiddush in honor of one of our members' work achievements that is not directly connected to our synagogue community. And this kiddush marks a historic moment in Hoboken's history that we have been living for much of the past decade, even though we have not called a lot of overt attention to it.

The city of Hoboken was chartered in the year 1855, and the first synagogue was founded in Hoboken in 1871. During the nearly 150 years of Hoboken Jewish history, there were times when Hoboken's Jewish population was large, and times when it was small. There were times when Jews in Hoboken felt very comfortable here, such as when Hoboken attracted the large Jewish immigrant community that created our synagogue. And there were also times of remarkable discomfort, such as that day in April 1935 when there was a parade of thousands of supporters of Nazi Germany, parading up Washington Street carrying flags with swastikas.

But one constant throughout most of these decades of Jewish life in Hoboken was that the idea that Hoboken would ever elect a Jewish mayor was preposterous. Like many cities around the United States, Hoboken was understood as a place where someone who was Jewish would have a monumental difficulty getting elected to political office no matter how skilled, no matter how dedicated.

That changed, of course, when Dawn Zimmer became acting mayor, and then was elected to the office of mayor, in 2009, and then was reelected in 2013. It was a sign that some of the assumptions that had been made about Hoboken were no longer the case.

We have been blessed that Dawn and her husband Stan, and their sons Jake and Alex, had long been very active in the life of our synagogue, as had Stan's parents Henry and Gertrude Grossbard of blessed memory.



Throughout this period of time, it has been our goal as a community to allow the synagogue to be as much as possible, a refuge from the rough-and-tumble world of politics, to be a place where someone with a demanding public role can truly be herself. This is a big reason why these last 8 years with Dawn at the helm of our city have prompted relatively little fanfare in our synagogue community.

Dawn's tenure as mayor included the bar mitzvahs of both of their sons, Jake and Alex, and I remember asking Dawn and Stan: to what extent should we be making reference to Dawn as the Mayor during the bar mitzvah ceremonies? And Dawn immediately answered that her preference would be not to mention it at all. Which we said was probably impossible, but we would do our best to fulfill this goal of making the synagogue a refuge and a respite. But we also knew that we were looking forward at the appropriate time to the

opportunity to celebrate the remarkable achievements of someone from our synagogue community who has been so dedicated to our local community to help Hoboken to be all that it can be.

(Continued on p.2)



(Continued from p.1) **The opening word** of the torah portion we read today (March 10, 2018) is *Vayakhel* -- which is also the name of the portion. The first line is *Vayakhel moshe et kol adat bnei yisrael* - Moses gathered together the entire people of Israel to speak to them and to have them galvanize as a community, because they were about to embark on their first project as a civic community together. They would begin to raise the funds necessary for the construction of the Tabernacle, and then they will construct it and make it operational.

In other words, in this torah portion, Moses needed to function as a political leader. He needed to assemble the people together, get their attention, to share a vision with them that would inspire them and would become a shared vision, and to get their buy-in on an important task that they would accomplish together. One traditional Jewish commentary says that this task of Moses' was even more difficult for him than negotiating with Pharaoh was. His success was a demonstration of his prowess as a leader: he was able to get things done and make a meaningful difference in the lives of his constituents.

Moses' action in our torah reading reminds us of another leader we know, who has been able for more than eight years to move Hoboken forward, to help the city to recover from crises and challenges and disasters, to help the city to be a fulfilling place to live for people at every level of society, to provide for the needs of the vulnerable and the affluent, and to plan sensibly for the future. We have no precedent in our community for the appropriate gift for a member of the synagogue who is an outgoing mayor of Hoboken. It hasn't happened before, and we don't know when it will happen again. But for the last several years this community has given a special gift to our synagogue presidents when they complete their term of service. It's the kind of tool that Moses might have used to assemble the community in our torah portion. It's a Shofar, which has been in our tradition one of the most powerful symbols of leadership. The Shofar has been used to gather the community, to sound an alarm, and to call each individual to look deeply within themselves - all of which are tasks that you, Mayor Zimmer, have performed as our mayor.

It's our prayer that you know the pride and gratitude of this synagogue community and the rest of our civic community to have benefited from your leadership. It's our joy to present you with this Shofar, with the confidence that additional leadership opportunities await you!

THANK YOU!

Dear United Synagogue Community,
Thank you so much for recognizing my service as the Mayor of Hoboken with the gift of a beautiful Shofar. I was deeply honored by this recognition and we have the Shofar prominently displayed in our living room. Your generous gift also gave me the chance to try blowing a Shofar, which gives me even greater admiration for Rob Harari and everyone who can blow the Shofar for so long! Thanks again and I look forward to seeing everyone when we return from a trip to see our beautiful country.

Dawn Zimmer



In Honor of Mayor Dawn Zimmer

By Phil Cohen

Thanks to Rabbi Scheinberg for asking me to be a part of today's kiddush in honor of Mayor Dawn Zimmer.

I'd like you to think back to the time when Mayor Zimmer was sworn in as the Acting Mayor of Hoboken on July 31, 2009, about 9 years ago. At this time, Hoboken's Government was in terrible shape. How bad was it? The same day she was sworn in, Hoboken's prior mayor had resigned. The prior Mayor himself had just been sworn in on July 1st, but the City was sent into turmoil when, weeks later, he was arrested by the FBI for accepting bribes, and he was on his way to federal prison.

At the time Mayor Zimmer was sworn in, the City's finances were being administered by a state-appointed fiscal monitor, because the administration of the mayor prior to the mayor who resigned had submitted a budget that included nearly a \$12 million deficit. The City's bond rating was near junk bond status. And, the mayor *two mayors* before her, also admitted to accepting bribes, and he spent two years in federal prison.



So, if Mayor Zimmer had simply been an honest politician who submitted balanced budgets and restored a sense of normalcy and integrity to a dysfunctional City Hall that was in great turmoil, it would have been enough. *Dayenu*.



But Mayor Zimmer

accomplished so much more during her nearly 9 years in office, and I wanted to share with you some of those accomplishments.

Open Space

Mayor Zimmer was a passionate advocate for open space. Under her watch, Hoboken added acres of new parks and renovated every existing park in the City. New parks include the award-winning Pier C Park on the Hudson River. She also rebuilt Sinatra Field, the beautiful soccer field on the Hudson, after it started falling into the river, weeks after she became mayor, thanks to some hungry "ship worms" that seemed to enjoy dining on the wooden piling that held the field above the river. Mayor Zimmer also built the athletic fields at 1600 Park Avenue, and many other parks, including the park that first motivated her entry in Hoboken politics, when she was a mom who



advocated for a park in Southwest Hoboken. One of the last official acts she performed as mayor was the ribbon-cutting ceremony on a beautiful new Southwest Park, which is not only a great space for families to enjoy, but it is a model “resiliency park”, designed to hold thousands of gallons of water from rainstorms, rather than releasing those waters directly into Hoboken’s overtaken sewerage systems.

Fiscal Responsibility

As mayor, Dawn’s sound fiscal management enabled Hoboken to go from a city under state fiscal supervision with near junk bond status to a city with an AA+ bond rating, with balanced budgets that included a cash surplus.

Mayor Zimmer also pursued audits of the City’s police and fire departments, despite forceful resistance from Hoboken’s public safety community. She then, despite pressure against her for doing so, restructured and redeployed the City’s police department, saving the City millions of dollars per year, while enhancing community safety by putting more police on the street.

Today’s Hoboken University Medical Center

was previously known as St. Mary’s Hospital. St. Mary’s Hospital had been struggling for years as a cash-strapped institution on the verge of bankruptcy. If the hospital had failed, not only would an important institution that cared for Hoboken’s citizens and the surrounding community close its doors, but more than 1,200 jobs would be lost. To make matters worse, the City had guaranteed a \$52 million bond that would have devastated the City’s finances and would have been payable upon the Hospital’s demise. Mayor Zimmer jumped in, supported the successful efforts to recruit a private owner that purchased the hospital, saved the hospital from bankruptcy and protected the city from a looming fiscal disaster.

Flooding

And then there was Superstorm Sandy . . . Covering 85% of Hoboken with flood waters from the Hudson River, including the Synagogue. So, what did Mayor Zimmer do? She spearheaded a comprehensive flood resiliency plan to protect Hoboken from rising seas and stronger storms and entered the federal post-Sandy Rebuilt By Design Competition, and her design won! She secured \$230 million for Hoboken from the federal government with a plan to protect Hoboken from future devastating storms that will be a model for other coastal cities facing the realities of climate change.



Mayor Zimmer also secured funding to build a second flood pump to prevent flooding in northwest Hoboken, and she implemented a green infrastructure strategic plan to address flooding using rain gardens, bioswales and “resiliency parks” that not only provide great amenities to Hoboken’s citizens, but also, like the Southwest Park, include underground water detention chambers.

In recognition of her leadership in preparing for the impacts of climate change, Mayor Zimmer was selected as a member of President Obama’s Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. Mayor Zimmer was the only representative from New York and New Jersey on this national task force.

Not only did President Obama recognize Mayor Zimmer’s

leadership on climate change issues, but Governor Phil Murphy named Dawn as a member of his Transition Team in the area of Urban and Regional Growth, in recognition of her vision and accomplishments as a thought leader in dealing with climate change, flooding and urban development.

Saying No to Snookie

Last, but not least, when it came time to protect the Safety and Quality of Life for the residents of Hoboken, Mayor Zimmer made

the difficult decision, but stood tall, and said “no” to the stars of the MTV reality TV show *Jersey Shore*, Snookie and JWOWW and said “No, Snookie and JWOWW, you are not welcome to film your reality TV series here in Hoboken.” And she denied them their TV film permits.

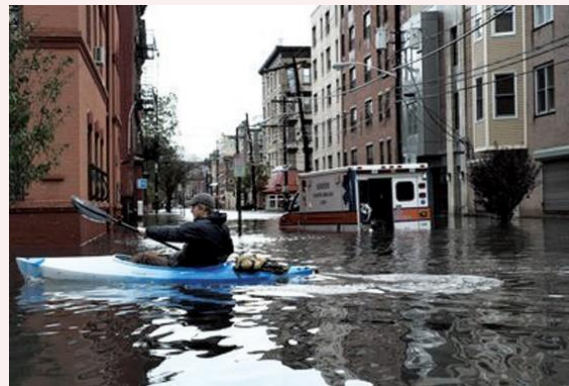
A Leader for our Community

Mayor Zimmer was the first woman ever elected Mayor, not only in Hoboken, but in all of Hudson County. As such, she was a role model to our daughters.

Mayor Zimmer was also the first Jewish Mayor ever elected Mayor, not only in Hoboken, but in all of Hudson County (and she was elected Mayor twice). Her election was an important symbol to people like me that it didn’t matter whether you were born in Hoboken, or whether you chose to live here, you have a legitimate role to play in the civic life of our City.

So, in conclusion, thinking about my role as a Trustee of the Synagogue, and

the purpose of a trustee’s role as a fiduciary of an institution, is to leave the institution we joined in a better place than when we started working for the organization. Looking back on what Mayor Zimmer inherited when she came on board as the mayor of Hoboken, there is no question that almost 9 years later, she has left our City a much better place than the City she found when she started her public service as mayor in 2009.



She did us all proud!

President's Report

David Swirnoff



Feeding the Soul...and Body

I was speaking to a congregant (and LC parent) the other day about USH. She reflected, several times, on the fact that USH is, as we have said publicly, "...not your parents' synagogue." What she took from this statement is that the USH community does a lot more with volunteer efforts than other modern synagogues do.



The example of the volunteer ethos at USH that she came up with is how we handle the kiddush lunch after Shabbat morning services. Of course, we have many b'nai mitzvahs when the bar or bat mitzvah family sponsors kiddush. But for all the others, throughout the year, it's a group effort. Unlike many other modern synagogues, USH does not have a Sisterhood group which prepares the Shabbat kiddush; our members don't donate a certain amount of money to "sponsor" a kiddush that is organized by someone else. At USH, members sign up for a certain Shabbat to bring a kiddush snack or lunch for all to share.

One of the great characteristics of USH is that we are inclusive and community-minded, and that there are many volunteer options of all kinds. For members of our community who might be looking for a short-term volunteer effort (that has a great pay-off!) sponsoring a weekly kiddush is a great way to do so. It can even

be sponsored by more than one family. A kiddush after services can be anything. During the summer months, when the Learning Center vacation break means that there are no classes, the Shabbat morning group is smaller, and this is a great time to offer to prepare a kiddush. The process itself is simple, and your volunteer effort can create an opportunity for all of us to get together and celebrate.



If sponsoring a kiddush sounds like something you'd like to try, please contact Laura in the office or contact congregant Mimi Lavine, who is in charge of the kiddush schedule. They'll help you find a date for your Kiddush, share some menu ideas and make suggestions of where you can buy kosher food. And if you're looking for another way to help, stop downstairs at the kitchen during the end of Shabbat services. You'll usually find a few people there cutting up veggies or bagels, arranging food on platters or setting up the tables downstairs. And the next time you come down after services and break bread with our community, please remember that it's your fellow USH-ers who pulled this together.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

General Fund

Todd Clear and Dina Rose
Edward and Sandra Weinstein in honor of their grandson, Evan Weinstein's bar mitzvah and in appreciation of Rabbi Scheinberg and Evan's teachers

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Jeffrey Finkelstein
Gordy and Monique Haas
Jeffrey Kalman and Barbara Malach Kalman
Louise Kurtz
Mike Marcello and Karen Jurman
Mordechai and Karen Nemet-Nejat
Bruce and Kathy Prussack
Lydia Schleyer
Alan Welner and Diana London in honor of Diana London's mother, Gladys Schuman
Barry and Julie Weinstein

Learning Center Fund

Hope Koturo in memory of Hope's aunt, Eleanor Greenwald

Refugee Fund

Bruce and Kathy Prussack

Ritual Book Fund / Siddur Lev Shalem

Jason and Cindy Altberger in honor of Hannah, Sam and Noah

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING KIDDUSH:

April 14 Jon Gellman and Mimi Lavine
April 21 Russell and Marni Kriegel in honor of Marni's birthday
April 28 Jason and Cindy Altberger in honor of Sam's bar mitzvah

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Jared and Casey Glugeth on their daughter, Nellie's baby naming and to her brother, Lex
Roberto and Merisa Lavie on the birth and bris of their son

CONDOLENCES TO:

Jennifer Kruter on the loss of her husband, Joshua, and to their daughter, Madeline
Irina Shutovsky on the loss of her grandfather, Mordechai Dimitry Ostrovsky, and to her husband, Adam Parker
Howard Olah-Reiken on the loss of his mother, Harriet (Hunny) Reiken and to Howard's wife, Donna and their sons, Avery and Eric
Julie Harari on the loss of her father, Raymond Kovonuk and to Julie's husband, Rob Harari and their children, Joseph and Genna



1ST-5TH GRADE FAMILY SLEEPOVER AT LIBERTY SCIENCE CENTER

"Mom, Dad, It was Really
Awesome and So Much Fun!!!
We got to connect with other
kids and parents in our
community and experience the
museum through a Jewish lens,
with Havdalah, a Hebrew letter
scavenger hunt, and competitions
and activities to connect our
Jewish learning with our learning
about the world. Thank you to
Grace and all the Learning
Center and LSC staff!"



Stamp Out Despair Campaign

Over 2,000 immigrants and asylum seekers in detention in county jails are most concerned about being in contact with family and friends. Detainees are often far from family or friends, are confined for indeterminate periods of time, and have severely restricted access to the outside world. For the month of May, the USH Refugee Support Committee will partner with First Friends of NJ and NY's Stamp Out Despair Campaign. The goal is to gift detainees with writing supply kits. Recipients are grateful not only for the folders themselves, but also for the people who have not forgotten them.

Between May 1 and May 31, please drop off the following items into the collection box located in the USH lobby, which will then be delivered to First Friends for assembly into writing kits:

- ☐ Two-Pocket Folders (No Metal Clips)
- ☐ Plain White Envelopes - Sz.10 (Standard Business Sized Envelopes)
- ☐ Assorted Greeting Cards (Birthday, Thank You, Thinking of You, Get Well, Blank)
- ☐ Small Writing Paper (5 X 8 Inches)
- ☐ Hand Written Notes of Encouragement

Refugee-Chef-Prepared Dinner

On March 17, we held our seventh dinner catered by a refugee chef. It was held at Temple Beth El in Jersey City. The synagogue generously allowed us to use their event space, and we were able to seat 32 people, our largest gathering ever. Those who attended ate delicious Syrian-Kurdish food catered by one of our usual refugee chefs, Fadila Maamo. Each attendee paid \$45 with all proceeds going to the chef. Attendees all received a brutal but needed education in the tribulations of refugee life by hearing Fadila's daughter's story of the hardships their family has endured and is still enduring. Some of the attendees were from the USH community and some from the Temple Beth El community. It was nice to build more of a bridge between these two Jewish communities.



Al Kol Eleh on Israel's 70th

In honor of Israel's 70th Yom Ha-Atzma'ut, this week, 12,000 Israelis learned and performed the classic song. Rabbi Scheinberg's blog - <http://rabbischeinberg.blogspot.com> - has a great article about the song and the video of the performance.

Watch the video!

It is so very moving.

You must listen to it and be open to feeling the emotion of the gigantic crowd as they sing the stirring words.



FOR ALL THESE THINGS

Every bee that brings the honey
Needs a sting to be complete
And we all must learn to taste the bitter with the sweet.

Keep, oh Lord, the fire burning
Through the night and through the day
For the man who is returning
from so far away.

Chorus:
Don't uproot what has been planted
So our bounty may increase
Let our dearest wish be granted:
Bring us peace, oh bring us peace.

For the sake of all these things, Lord,
Let your mercy be complete
Bless the sting and bless the honey
Bless the bitter and the sweet.

Save the houses that we live in
The small fences and the wall
From the sudden war-like thunder
May you save them all.

Guard what little I've been given
Guard the hill my child might climb
Let the fruit that's yet to ripen
Not be plucked before its time.



**Learning Center
End of Year
Service & Celebration**

SATURDAY 19 MAY

Service Begins at 9:30am
Student Arrival Times in the Service:
 Gan & Kindergarten: 11:00am
 1st - 5th grade: 10:30am
 6th & 7th grade: 10:00am

On Shabbat, May 19th this year, we will celebrate the very last day of Learning Center. Please let us know if you'll be able to join the celebration! Students will perform their parts of the service and songs that they have been rehearsing.

Kiddush immediately following service
 Kiddush hosted by 6th grade families, in honor of 6th grade students having their 1st torah reading.

USH 115 park avenue hoboken, nj 07030 UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF HOBOKEN

United Synagogue of Hoboken
Tikkun Leyl Shavuot
 Shavuot eve Torah study
 Sat., May 19, 8pm until early morning

For centuries, Jews have gathered for study and discussion on the evening of the holiday of Shavu'ot, studying Torah well into the night... (and eating blintzes and cheesecake too...)

Teachers including Rabbi Rob Scheinberg, Rabbi Naomi Kalish, Avi Siegel, and more!

Also: Special teen program coordinated by Hoboken USY!

115 Park Ave... free... info hobokensynagogue.org

First Fridays... a new Shabbat evening experience at USH



Welcome Shabbat with vibrant music and community - for all ages, for all ages with Rabbi Rob Scheinberg, Adam Laden, and other musicians!

First session: Fri. May 5, 6pm
 Also: meeting at 6pm on Fri June 1 and Fri July 6
 United Synagogue of Hoboken, 115 Park Avenue
 Free; RSVP office@hobokensynagogue.org



SHABBAT IN THE PARK

Join us for song, prayer and friends to welcome Shabbat!

Bring a Picnic Dinner (Kosher or Vegetarian, Please!) and We'll Provide the Challah and Grape Juice!

Free and open to the community, special activities for families with children 5 and under. RSVP appreciated

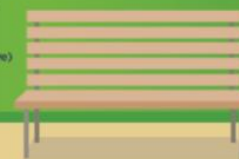
FRIDAYS AT 6 PM -WEATHER PERMITTING-

(Please note: regularly scheduled service takes place at the synagogue at 7pm as usual.)

2018 Dates & Locations*

- May 18 Church Sq. Park - Ice Cream Party! (5th btw Park & Willow)
- Jun 8 Maxwell Place Park (11th and the river)
- Jun 22 Church Sq. Park
- Jul 13 Van Vorst Park (Montgomery btw Jersey & Barrow in Jersey City)
- Sept 7 USH - Pizza Party! (115 Park Ave) (5:30pm start time)

*Starts at 6pm unless otherwise noted



To RSVP or for more information please contact ushpreschool@gmail.com

115 Park Ave Hoboken, NJ 201-653-8666 www.kaplancooperativepreschool.org

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**Israel Day Parade
After Party**

Sunday, June 3

2:00 - 5:00 pm

Hamilton House

255 Brunswick Street, Jersey City



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