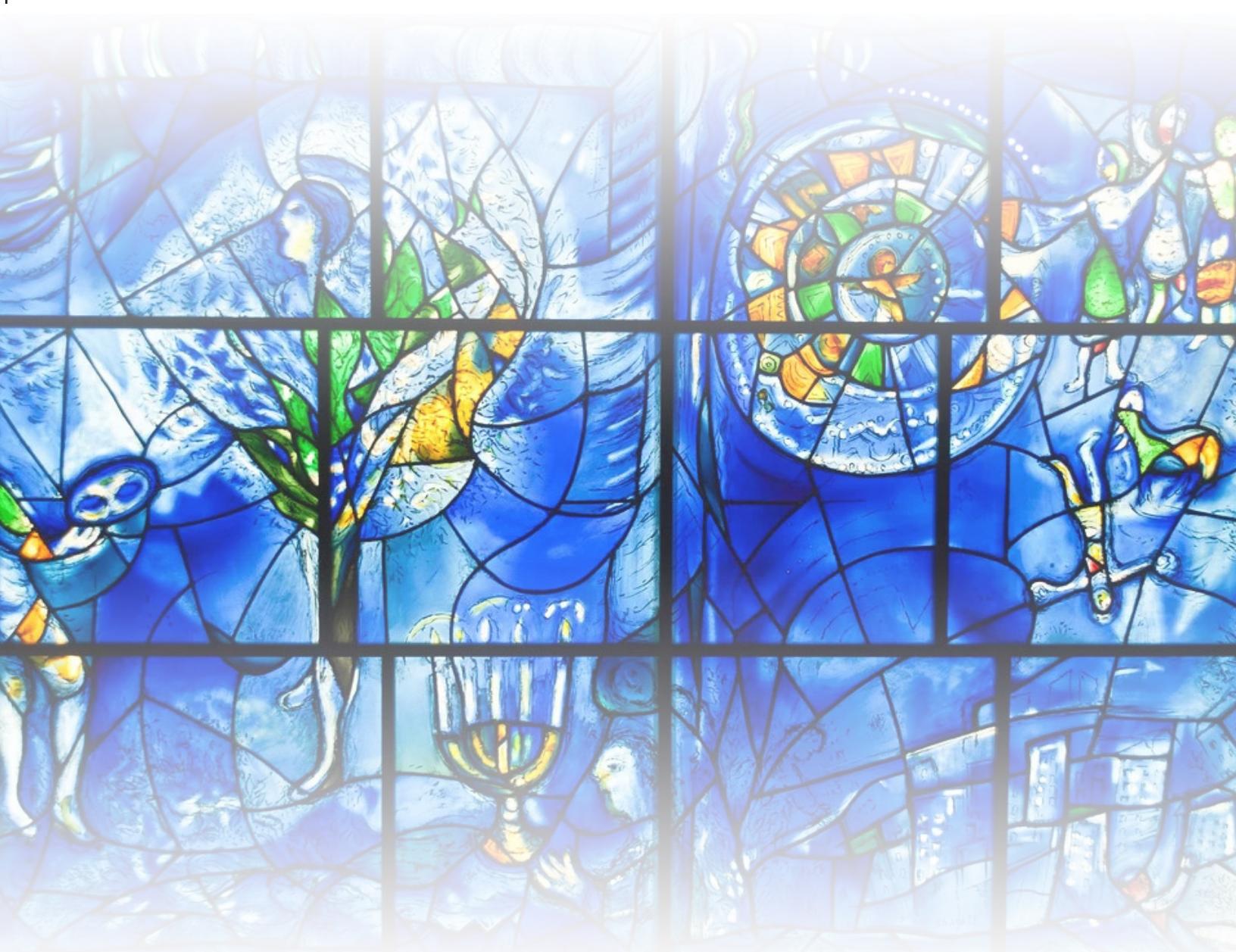




**MERRICK  
JEWISH  
CENTRE**  
**CONGREGATION OHR TORAH**

# The Bulletin



*Spring 2023*

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[www.merrickjc.org](http://www.merrickjc.org)

*Vol 24, Issue 1*

# FROM RABBI DORSCH



The Mah Nishtannah, also known as "The Four Questions," is an important part of almost any Passover celebration. Nevertheless, for a variety of reasons, I believe that using them as central to our understanding of the Passover holiday is somewhat confusing, and misleading.

For starters, the four questions aren't really four questions at all. "They" are actually only one question: Why is this night different from all other nights? We give four answers, which don't even really make that much sense in the context of modern Passover celebrations. On all other nights we dip once-- but during the Seder we dip twice. I thought we weren't supposed to double dip. Additionally, I imagine that few of us recline at the Seder. Many of the Seders that I have attended involve cramming too many chairs around a table. When the Seders were modeled after the Greek symposium and people were reclining on couches as a sign of social status, maybe reclining made sense. But today, if it happens, reclining is usually an afterthought.

I think one of the reasons the four questions are traditionally recited by the youngest child is because they are simple and relatively insignificant. Asking these questions is a beautiful tradition dating back almost 2,000 years. However, when I think about the commandment to teach our children about the holiday, they fall short of capturing its essence.

As central as the four questions are to the Seder, and our Passover experience, I am not entirely sure how well they serve to help us really grapple with the themes of the holiday. On the contrary, I think using these questions as the basis for conversations and celebration can be misleading and undermine the themes the holiday is really about.

Which is why this year, I would like to propose four new questions to ask at your Seders and Passover celebrations.

1) VeHi SheAmda La'Avotein. Every generation there seems to be someone who rises up against us and tries to destroy us. What is our role in perpetuating this cycle of violence? What can we do to ensure that our faith and tradition not only persevere but excel?

2) Dayenu. It would have been enough. During the Seder, we recognize the amazing miracles that God has performed for the Jewish people, redeeming us not just from Egypt, but throughout all of Jewish history. We say that it would have been enough. But, is it ever really enough? Do we expect more from God? Could we expect more from each other and ourselves? At what point in our lives will we be able to say "Dayenu," and mean it?

3) During the third cup of wine, as we say each one of the plagues, we remove drops from our glass, representing the pain and suffering that came about as a result of our freedom. As Jews living in America, we may be freer than we have ever been before. What is the price that we pay for our freedom today? Do others pay a price? How can we honor and acknowledge their sacrifice?

4) Lamed et Binchah. You shall teach your children. We talk about the four types of children who experience the

# FROM RABBI DORSCH

Seder ritual differently. But we often forget to talk about the fifth child, the one who does not attend. Every year, there seems to be more fifth children than the year before. Whether they may be wicked or wise, what can we do to ensure that our great-grandchildren will sit at a Passover Seder?

Just to be clear, there is nothing cuter than when a child stands up on a chair and sings the same Ma Nishtanah that we have been singing for 2,000 years. My kids and I have been practicing singing them for a month already. Being at a Seder without that would feel incomplete. Nevertheless, I do feel that we can be more thorough in the way we grapple with the important, universal themes of Passover, ensuring that we continue to pass down our traditions, from generation to generation, for generations to come. We will always ask the Ma Nishatanah at our Seders, but we need to remember that we cannot be the youngest child forever.

So if we really want our upcoming Seder Night to be "different from all other Seder nights, we need to be posing questions that encourage us to learn and grow. We must ask questions which don't only dwell in the past, but questions which may be painful, questions that challenge us to look toward the future. All of which I look forward to exploring with you.

Wishing everyone a Happy Passover!

**Rabbi Joshua Dorsch**



Zissen Pessach from the Warschawski's!

## The Bulletin

published quarterly by

Merrick Jewish Centre

CONGREGATION OHR TORAH

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Howard Tiegel, President

Howard Zryb, Editor

# HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Culminating in our recent and very wonderful Purim celebration, our students are thriving in their vibrant, experiential learning! Dr. Steve Scoll inspired our students about the humanity of each and every person, teaching them perspective and understanding! It was a very special day!



Bet families learning all about how to make Challah as part of their study of Shabbat!



# HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Hay students learning about their mitzvah of the year "feeding the hungry" by making meals for the family shelter!



Gimel reflecting on what they learned in a scavenger hunt where they had to find facts about Chanukah!



# HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Dalet students and their families finding many creative ways of learning about their grade's mitzvah of the year- Bal Tashchit- do not destroy!



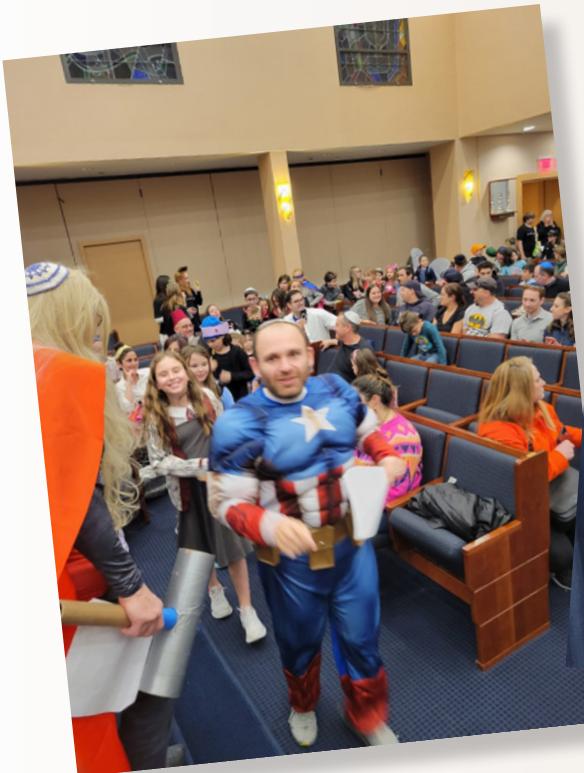
Vav students learning brachot by putting them together!



Cantor Warschawski engages Vav students in leading prayers!

# HEBREW SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

## Megillah Reading on Purim!



Costume parade at megillah reading!



Bet Class singing Al Hapurkan!



Hay class singing "Oh, once there was a wicked, wicked man!"

# PURIM CARNIVAL

What a wonderful carnival!

The PTO, led by PTO chair Holly Sugarman and VP Samara Tetenbaum, with the help of a wonderful committee, created such a dynamic and fun morning for all!!



# MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club is developing programs which would be of interest to the entire MJC congregation. The World Wide Wrap saw the largest participation in recent years. The program, which was led by Charlie Skop and Howie Segal, exemplified the cooperation between Men's Club, the Ritual Committee, and Hebrew School. Each of the three arms of the synagogue were the backbones of this important and meaningful program. It was wonderful to see moms and dads with their families participating in the mitzvah of T & T.

The Men's Health Forum which was coordinated by Steve Kussin was received enthusiastically by a group of over 50 men. Steve worked tirelessly to provide a very professional form for this important topic. The question and answer format was informative for all those that participated. And of course the pizza dinner was enjoyed by all.

Once again Steven Greenstein and Charlie Skop organized and coordinated the Shabbat Service. A large group of our members was transformed into a group of aspiring "Cantors" as they led the service from start to finish. Following the annual service, Men's Club sponsored a "sumptuous Kiddush Luncheon" for the entire congregation.

Next on the agenda is Yom Hashoah candles. Our Men's Club provides a special memorial candle to all members of the congregation. We must never let the world forget about the six million Jews who were inhumanly slaughtered by the vile Nazi Regime. We believe that it is so important to keep the Shoah in the minds of all people, with the mantra Never Again Men's Club has asked for contributions for the candles to offset the cost of the program. Any profits from the contributions will be deposited in the Men's Club/ Paul Stone Fund for Youth. Men's Club, through this fund, has provided funds for new desks in our Hebrew School and supported families that send their children to Jewish summer camp.

Men's Club with the guidance of Dr. Andrew Rojtan is embarking on synagogue-wide CPR education program. The MJC has been very attuned to safety within our synagogue and community. However, we must also be aware of the value of CPR emergency training. The goal of the activity is to create awareness concerning the steps to follow if an emergency situation arises. The program, which will be held on Sunday April 23rd, is limited to 40 people. Register and join us for a fantastic, important, and lifesaving program. Plans are in the works to make this an annual MJC Men's Club program.

In addition to these programs Men's Club is also preparing for a Lag B'omer extravaganza which will be offered to the entire MJC family. Of course, there will be great food, and activities for adults and children. On May 30<sup>th</sup> we go back to City Field for a great Mets game. This year the Mets will take on the Philadelphia Phillies. We know who our Rabbi will be rooting for.

It is Men's Club's pledge to provide, continued, programs, financial support and exciting activities for the members of the Merrick Jewish Centre.

We wish one and all a Happy, Kosher, and Zissen Pesach

B'Shalom

**Adam Goldstein**

**Hank Arkin**

Adam Goldstein

Hank Arkin

Co-presidents

# LIGHT THE CANDLE OF REMEMBRANCE ON APRIL 17TH



The Merrick Jewish Centre Men's Club is sponsoring the Yellow Yom Hashoa Memorial Candle Project. The Yellow Memorial Candles will be distributed to all member families of MJC.

Never let the light of Memory of the Shoah be extinguished!

Let the candle flames burn brightly on the evening of April 17th.



#### Help with a Contribution

Please make a contribution to defray the costs of the candles. Contributions can be in any amount or in multiples of Chai. Contributions can be made on-line at [merrickjc.org](http://merrickjc.org).

Monies raised will go to the Paul Stone Men's Club Scholarship for MJC Youth. Your generosity will help develop Jewish leadership for the future.

Preserve the memory of those that perished in the Shoah and help our children and future generations know and understand their past.

#### Looking for volunteers to:

- help with packing
- deliver candles to people in their neighborhood or on their block



Men's Club & the Health & Safety Committee presents

# CPR TRAINING

April 23rd, Sunday morning, 9:30 am

A light breakfast will precede the training

**Dr. Andrew Rotjan, DNP** will be the trainer

FYI: There has been a call for more CPR training and AEDs in light of the death of a student at school

Registration limited to 40 - first come, first served

You can register at the MJC website or  
RSVP to Steve Kussin ([sk3015@aol.com](mailto:sk3015@aol.com))

Open to all MJC members



**MERRICK  
JEWISH  
CENTRE  
CONGREGATION OHR TORAH**

## Hank Arkin and Keith Yarde

will be honored for their years of dedicated service to M.J.C. and the Men's Club

### Mets vs. Phillies

Field Level Seating.

Hank and Keith will be honored on the field with the Mets Spirit Award prior to the game.

This event is open to all members of Merrick Jewish Centre & their friends.

*All attending will have a chance to win two Mets tickets*

questions??? mensclub@merrickjc.org or call the MJC office

Clip and return with payment to the MJC office or go to merrickjc.org

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of (\$70 / ticket) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for # \_\_\_\_\_  
tickets. Deadline for ordering is May 1, 2023. Tickets are subject to availability

Name \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to sit near..... payment via Venmo @Merrickjc-Mens Club; code is 1182

**Men's Club  
May 30<sup>th</sup>  
\$70 per ticket**



ceremony at 6:45pm  
game starts 7:10pm

# WORLD WIDE WRAP



# SISTERHOOD

Although winter was fairly quiet for Sisterhood, March came in with a resounding "WE ARE HERE" as everyone came out of hibernation for our annual Purim packing on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. We finished in record time and the energy was buzzing as all helped to make our Shalach Manot project a success. The bags have been distributed, with each and every member getting a bag this year, whether they sent or not. It is part of our inclusion policy and we invite you to come grab one if you haven't already. Many thank you's to Joanne Skop and her team for always making this happen.

Our Rosh Chodesh Circle is moving along at a good pace, and our last gathering was thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated. We learned about why Rosh Chodesh is considered a holiday for women. We studied about the month of Tevet and its characteristic of darkness, as well as being the month of seeking and that the time is opportune to unbind yourself and prepare to bathe in the light of the coming month. To help us bring light into our space, we had a candle lighting meditation and made colorful suncatchers. The camaraderie and open discussion provided a wonderful bonding time for our group.

The March meeting, "The Art of Love", took place at the Merrick Mikvah, where we learned about the mikvah and the laws pertaining to it, and how they tie into the month of Nisan.

During Passover, we will join with Men's Club to present our ever popular "PASSOVER CAFÉ," held at the MJC with live music from Pocket Change, a duet of fun rock music which will entertain us as we snack on kosher for Passover treats, sing along, drink along, and catch up with friends. Please join us on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, motzei Shabbat at 8:00 PM for a great time. Registration on the MJC website.

Rosh Chodesh Iyar will be celebrated Passover-style with a nod towards freedom from bondage, both personal and collective, and a musical component with tambourine painting and music making. More information will follow soon.

We are preparing for a fun spring and much more in the months ahead. Join us, step into our circle, become part of a vibrant group of dedicated caring women who are waiting for YOU!

Cheryl Uram



# SHIVA MINYANS ARE BACK

## Home Shiva Minyans are back!

There is one MJC committee that wishes it had less activity: the shiva minyan squad. Unfortunately, however, family losses do happen—and we are here to help those families.

Since I took over as squad leader, we have covered almost 700 individual bereavements (and many more minyans). However, for the past three years, this service, co-sponsored by the Men's Club and Chesed Committee, was understandably on hold. With the pandemic beginning to wind down, our squad members are ready to assist once again.

Should a family sustain a loss, we ask that you do the following:

1. Contact the office staff, which in turn will contact me.
2. Designate which day(s) you would like a minyan in your home.
3. Generally, minyans promptly begin at 8:00 pm. However, if you prefer a different time, we will try to accommodate you. (Please understand some of our squad members go to the home straight from work.)
4. Should you need to cancel for whatever reason, please notify the office so I don't send a squad member out needlessly.
5. If squad members show up, don't turn them away if suddenly you have someone else to conduct the minyan.
6. Arrange to have a family member or friend pick up the prayer books and shiva chairs from the office beforehand.
7. Return them to the office when the shiva period is over.

We can go weeks without a call— and then suddenly there are several families in need, all asking for a full “shiva” number of minyans. We do our best to cover them all.

Our members are very proud to be able to provide this service to MJC families.  
If you have any questions or concerns before or during the shiva period, don't hesitate to email me.

Steve Kussin  
Minyan Squad Leader  
[sk3015@aol.com](mailto:sk3015@aol.com)

PS – If you would like join us and learn how to conduct a minyan, let me know.

# FROM THE CHESED COMMITTEE

Many thanks to all who contributed to Chesed's "Send-a-Seder" campaign. Through the generosity of our congregants, we were able to collect over \$4,000 to purchase supermarket gift cards for those in need. These gift cards will add Passover food to the tables of many Long Island families and let them know that we care! Wishing you a Ziessen Pesach!

From Gail Warrack, Dir. of Volunteer Services at Mid-Island JCC:

"May all who are hungry, come and eat" is a reminder that even while there is a feast in front of us for Passover, our neighbors are hungry. Our journey to freedom must include our neighbors.

Thank you so much for keeping those in need on your mind and for your incredible donation of Shoprite gift cards. These cards will enable us to provide holiday foods and gift cards so clients can purchase perishable food items. How special it will be for each to celebrate the holiday with a festive meal!"

From Rachayle Deutsch, Kadima Program Director:

"This is awesome, thank you so much! This will greatly help our clients prepare for this often overwhelming holiday. Your community is so kind. A healthy and happy Passover to all!"



# SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Sustainability Committee has been hard at work over the last several months, busy as the bees you might be beginning to see.

We are proud to announce that Merrick Jewish Centre has joined the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition, a collective of Jewish community organizations who recognize the existential threat and moral urgency of climate change and are committed to taking action.

As Coalition members, we will be developing a Climate Action Plan, detailing climate actions taken to-date and outlining our goals for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and mobilizing the broader Jewish community in climate action in the coming year. We will update and publicly share our Climate Action Plan annually.

The global climate crisis is an historic inflection point for our planet, our communities, and our people. Jewish tradition compels us to respond. To learn more about this initiative, visit adamah.org/coalition.

Through this Coalition, we are mobilizing a collective Jewish response to the climate crisis. We are proud to be Coalition members and look forward to partnering with Jewish community organizations across North America to take meaningful, collective climate action.

In January, on MLK Jr./Mitzvah Day, together with the Chesed Committee, the UJA, and Northwell Health, we assembled emergency supply kits with hand-crank radios, cell phone chargers, flashlights, multi-tools with can openers, first aid kits, decks of playing cards, scissors, activity books, and more. The kits will be delivered to low income families in flood-prone areas nearby.

The Teaching Garden is approaching its first phase of construction, and we hope to have four raised beds for vegetable growing situated in front of the C JL by Earth Day. If you would like to participate in garden-related activities, contact me.

March 11, we hosted an inspirational, aspirational Green Kiddush, generously sponsored by the Sisterhood, to illustrate what a near zero-waste kiddush experience could be. We served delectable plant-based fare, all of which was prepared by members of our committee and wonderful volunteers from the MJC at large. Everything that could be composted or recycled was directed into the proper waste stream, and we had very little trash to dispose of after the event. Special thanks to Morah Debbie's classes who decorated the compostable tablecloths.

We have lovingly created a Sustainable Events guide, which outlines best practices for planet-friendlier Simchas. While copies will be available from us and the main office, we recommend downloading the guide and viewing on a device, rather than using a physical "hard" copy.

The Sustainability Committee has created the first official Dayenu Circle for Nassau County ([NassauCountyDay-enuCircle@gmail.com](mailto:NassauCountyDay-enuCircle@gmail.com)) where we will connect with other climate-minded, nearby Jewish people to amplify our voices and foment real change. On April 30, please join us for a Community Conversation on Investing in a Just, Livable Future. We will have speakers, snacks, and a very important discussion on the role Jewish institutions hold in fossil fuel investments. Bring a friend, or ten!

Have you joined the MJC Swap & Shop Facebook Group? Our secondhand (free) marketplace will get better and better the more people who join. It's a great place to unload something you can't use, or find something you can!

Finally, I'd like to introduce the newest members of the Merrick Jewish Centre, but unfortunately I can't, because they don't yet have names. But, you get to name them! Submit your ideas through this form, and the Hebrew School students will vote for their favorites.

Sustainably yours, Lauren Krueger & The Sustainability Committee  
Lauren Krueger

# OCEANS 18 RECAP

January 21, 2023 was a night to remember at the Merrick Jewish Center. It was the premiere event of "Oceans 18" and it was a huge success on all levels.

The Merrick Jewish Centre presented "Ocean's 18," a gala-style event that took place in our newly renovated building. It was the building's "coming out" party in more ways than one. This was the first major event that took place in building where we were able to showcase the beautiful redesigns of both lobbies and the ballroom. It was the first major gala style fundraiser we have held since 2018 and the first major event (excluding religious services) that took place at the MJC in the "post Covid era."

The "Ocean's 18" premiere event was the first of its kind for the Merrick Jewish Centre's almost 100 year-long history. The night consisted of table games and included a traveling magician, a photo booth, a DJ with giveaways, an open bar, and all sorts of raffle prizes ranging from sports to art and even a grand prize trip to the Ritz Carlton at Grand Cayman Islands. Ocean's 18 attendees enjoyed a delicious and incredible food experience by Colbeh with all sorts of Persian delicacies, as well as something for everyone. And since the NY Giants were playing that night, we were also able to show the playoff game in our gaming lounge.

You may have heard the phrase or noticed the theme on the "Ocean's 18" videos and promotions; you may have heard the phrase or noticed that our MJC's incredible President, Howard Tiegel, has shared with everyone on several occasions that "The Future is Now." A theme that has been repeated over and over during the past year. It's a mantra that has gained a life of its own around the MJC and was proven on this special night when all the different demographics of the MJC mingled together. The proof is in the RECAP video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wMuaZTiLmg> which encapsulated all the fun of the evening.

"The Future is Now," it truly is! Our new Senior Rabbi Josh Dorsch has hit the ground running on so many levels as well as our Executive Director Donna Bartolomeo. They both work tirelessly for the benefit of the MJC, along with our Education Director, Helena Eilenberg, and Cantor Benny Warschawski. Together with the new construction of the ballroom, parking lot lobby entrance, and Fox boulevard lobby, we are making a statement that we are ALL IN for our future as it is indeed happening NOW!

"Ocean's 18" most certainly did not happen on its own and was a major labor of love. Ali Sussman and I led a group of dedicated and tireless committee members: Hank Arkin, Jen Bachrach, Donna Bartolomeo, Marissa Bleier, Gabby Fox, Phyllis Goldberg, Adam Goldstein, Mindy Goldstein, Briana Heymann, Matthew Knee, Maya Lerner, Jonathan Koota, Casey Rosenfeld, Emily Slutsky, Jackie Watson Heather Johnson Warschawski. We want to share a VERY special thanks to Rena Cohen Kozin for her guidance and leadership.

We are thankful to each member of the committee for all that was done in preparation for this first-time event. We plan on making this an annual one with the support of all of you, our MJC family.

And once again we would like to thank our sponsors for participating in the Ocean's 18 event. Without you it would not have been considered a full success and we cannot wait to partner up with you in the future!

Sponsors: Cheryl Uram, The Ritz Carlton Grand Cayman, Anonymous in honor of MJC Rabbi and Steph Dorsch, Anonymous in honor of MJC lifelong learning, Rivkin Radler, Attorneys at Law, Mike and Marco's, Guterman's, Turnkey, Fanduel, New tradition, Sandra Wegman, GCG Media Services, Jaguar of Freeport, Coleman Country Day Camp, Jildor and special thanks to Kristen and Michael Desideri for sponsoring the libations.

Vendors: Colbeh, Dynamic Events, JJ Pixx Photo booth, DJ Rob Pace, Lou the Juggler (Lewis Johnson) and Living Legends Memorabilia and Collectible, inc. MJC: Rabbi Dorsch, Cantor Warschawski, Donna Bartolomeo, Helena Eilenberg, Wendy Schneps, Keith and Lori Yarde and Howard Tiegel.

Best from your Ocean's 18 Co-Chairs,

**Jonathan Schwartz**

**Allison Sussman**

# MJC EVENTS

## Save The Date: First Klein Legacy Event Scheduled

The first event under the auspices of the Rabbi Charles and Betty Klein Legacy Fund will be held on Thursday evening, June 1 at 7:30 pm. Dr. Stephen Berk, an eminent scholar and remarkable lecturer will speak about the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. Dr. Berk will speak on the role Israel has played in the life of the Jewish people and the challenges Israel faces as it looks towards the future.

Dr. Berk is well known to many of our congregants who have participated in long distance learning with him either here or in Florida. He is Professor of History at Union College and has an illustrious career in writing, teaching and consulting. Dr. Berk was consultant to the Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles and produced a six-hour audiotaped lecture series on the Holocaust. He has lectured throughout the U.S. and led many educational trips to Eastern Europe.

"Professor Berk is spellbinding," stated Lifelong Learning Co-Chair Steven Greenfield. "He can speak for an hour without a single note and has complete command of facts which are assembled into a coherent narrative. If you have never attended one of his lectures, this is a rare opportunity, not to be missed."

Please mark your calendar for June 1 and plan to attend this inaugural event and celebrate with Rabbi and Betty.

## Lifelong Learning Opportunities Continue into the Spring

Rabbi Dorsch continues his Bible and Bagels course on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. Additional participants are welcome—just show up in the CJL and enjoy the lively discussion!

Richard Knox shares his expertise on Hollywood topics every Sunday morning via Zoom. And Carrie Dale teaches Zoom Zumba classes each week. Check the Lifelong Learning Schedule on the Website for details.

Sharyn Kussin generously teaches both a Hebrew Class and a Spanish Class. Again, sign up through the website or email [LifelongLearning@merrickjc.org](mailto:LifelongLearning@merrickjc.org).

An extraordinary opportunity to celebrate Israel and learn from a top scholar is set for June 1 when Dr. Stephen Berk kicks off the first event under the Rabbi Charles and Betty Klein Legacy Fund. A full description of that event is displayed elsewhere in this Bulletin. Please mark your calendars for a memorable event.

If you have ideas for learning together, please contact co-chair Joanne Skop or me.

Steve Greenfield





## MERRICK JEWISH CENTRE DESSERT RECEPTION

on behalf of  
**UJA-FEDERATION OF NEW YORK**

### HONORING



**Phyllis Goldberg  
& Peter Donath**



**Geri & Barry  
Silverman**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023**

7:15 PM

#### CHAIRS

Sara Eckstein, Bennett Gewurz,  
Bari Swartz, and Donna Wexler

#### MERRICK JEWISH CENTRE

225 Fox Boulevard  
Merrick, New York



#### GUEST SPEAKER

**Lena Katsnelson - UJA Campaign  
Director, FSU (Former Soviet Union)  
and Recipient of UJA Services**

For more information, please contact Jake Weiner  
at 516.762.5857 or [weinerj@ujafedny.org](mailto:weinerj@ujafedny.org).



UJA-Federation of New York cares for Jews everywhere and New Yorkers of all backgrounds, responds to crises close to home and far away, and shapes our Jewish future. 6900 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 302, Syosset, NY 11791-4414 • 516.762.5800

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# SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Tuesday, April 4 - 13 Nissan

*Bedikat Chametz - Searching for Chametz*

After 7:52 pm

Since the possession of any amount of chametz at all is considered a violation of the law, great effort must be made to remove all food substances that contain hameitz from the home before Passover. After intense cleaning and the removal of all visible chametz, a search—popularly called b'dikat hameitz—is undertaken the night before Passover after sundown. A candle is lit and used to search out the hameitz hidden in even the darkest recesses of the house. The blessing recited before the search can be found at the beginning of the Passover Haggadah.

Wednesday, April 5 - 14 Nissan

*Biur Chametz - Burning of Chametz*

Before 11:53 am

The next morning we participate in a ceremonial burning of the small amount of chametz that was found during the search the night before. This ceremonial burning is called biur chametz ("destruction of chametz").

After the chametz has been burnt in the fire, we recite the following declaration:

"All leaven or anything leavened which is in my possession, whether I have seen it or not, whether I have observed it or not, whether I have removed it or not, shall be considered nullified and ownerless as the dust of the earth."

*Siyyum Bechorim*

It is customary for the first-born male to fast on this day preceding Passover, as a commemoration of the first-born Egyptians who died in the tenth plague. In place of the fast, however, tradition developed the practice of concluding a portion of study of a Rabbinic text after which celebration takes place, and the atmosphere of rejoicing overrides the requirement to continue the fast.

Join our Shacharit morning service.

Taanit B'Chorim

6:30 am

Service for the First Born, followed by a Siyyum Breakfast

Festival Services (Mincha-Maariv)

6:30 pm

Light Festival Candles

7:05 pm



HAPPY  
PASSOVER

# SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Thursday, April 6	
Festival Services	9:30 am
Light Festival Candles	8:05 pm
Friday, April 7	
Festival Services	9:30 am
Mincha-Maariv Services	7:00 pm
Light Shabbat Candles	7:07 pm
Saturday, April 8	
Morning Services	8:30 am
Mincha-Maariv Services	8:00 pm
Sunday, April 9	
Morning Services	6:30 am
Mincha Services	12:30 pm
Monday, April 10	
Morning Services	6:30 am
Mincha-Maariv Services	8:00 pm
Tuesday, April 11	
Morning Services	6:30 am
Festival Services	6:30 pm
Light Festival Candles	7:12 pm
Mincha-Maariv Services	8:00 pm
Wednesday, April 12	
Festival Services	9:00 am
Mincha-Maariv Services	6:30 pm
Light Festival Candles	8:12 pm
Thursday, April 13	
Festival Services	9:00 am
YIZKOR MEMORIAL SERVICE	10:30 am
Mincha-Maariv Services	7:30 pm
Passover Ends	8:21 pm



# PASSOVER GUIDE 5783

The body of Jewish law pertaining to the observance of Passover is immense and this year, Passover begins on Erev Shabbat. Below, please find information regarding some of the most pertinent topics within the laws of Pesach.

## Laws relating to Leavened Bread

The prohibition of eating leavened food during the festival of Passover is found in the Torah. According to the Torah, one is not allowed to consume, to see, or to have any leavened food in one's possession for the entire holiday period. Therefore, before the advent of Passover, all leaven with the exception of that which will be eaten on Shabbat, has to be removed both from one's sight and one's legal possession. Non-Passover dishes, pots, and chametz, whose ownership has been transferred, should be locked up and covered in order to prevent accidental use.

Chametz can be sold online. Please consult the MJC office, or contact Rabbi Dorsch to sell your Chametz.

Siyumm Bechorim - Wednesday, April 5  
6:30-7:30 am IN-PERSON in the CJL and on ZOOM

A firstborn (whether of the mother or of the father) should fast on the day before Passover in commemoration of the deliverance from Egypt. It is the custom for synagogues to make a siyyum. A firstborn who is present may eat, and having eaten, need not fast that day. This year, the siyyum marking Rabbi Dorsch's completion of the Talmudic tractate Pirke Avot, and the seudat mitzvah will be held in-person in the CJL and on ZOOM at 6:30 am.

## Bedeikat Chametz

It is a mitzvah to search for and destroy Hametz. If cleaning is unusually difficult this year due to ongoing conditions of isolation, it is well to remember that at the end of that process we renounce "all chametz whether I am aware of it or not." If cleaning is sufficient to protect against obvious contact with chametz, we can rely on the formula of bittul (renunciation), which is to be said this year on Shabbat morning.

The search is performed by the light of a candle (traditionally) or a flashlight. Before the search begins, most people distribute token bits of bread around the home so that the search is successful. (Some bag the bits of bread to prevent inadvertent spilling of crumbs.)

Any chametz found is traditionally brushed into a wooden spoon using a feather. (Alternatively, any bagged chametz is collected.) The associated bracha and nullification formula appear at the beginning of the Haggadah. 1. Recite the bracha 2. Search darkened rooms of the home by the light of a candle or flashlight. 3. Collect all token bits of bread and any chametz not designated for sale or for consumption on Shabbat.

Apart from this, all other chametz utensils should be cleaned and stored away and replaced by Pesach utensils. Matzah should not be eaten until the Seder.

We participate in a ceremonial burning of the small amount of hameitz that was found during the search the night before. This ceremonial burning is called biur hameitz ("destruction of hameitz").

## Kashering For Passover

Please feel free to refer to this video series from the Rabbinical Assembly for additional insights into the process of kashering for Pesach:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAUaYjTp5xS6-rM0AlxKKC6VauyofyjaD>

For homes in which vessels will not be able to be kashered in the normative manner, we recommend designating a few cooking vessels to be used for Passover cooking before and during the holiday, to clean them well, and let them sit for 24 hours. So long as they don't have visible foodstuff caked on, they are acceptable for preparing Passover food. This technique can also be used for cutlery and non-porous dishes as well.

For homes in which kashering in a normative manner remains a possibility:

The process of kashering utensils depends on how the utensils are used. According to Jewish law leaven can be purged from a utensil by the same process in which it was absorbed in the utensil. Therefore, utensils used in cooking are kashered by boiling, those used in broiling are kashered by fire and heat, and those used only for cold food are kashered by rinsing.

A) PURGING: Most cooking utensils can be made kosher by immersion in boiling water. This includes metal pots, most baking pans and flatware, and most

# PASSOVER GUIDE 5783

other kitchenware. The procedure follows:

1. The article to be kasherized is thoroughly scoured.
2. The article is set aside and not used for 24 hours.
3. The article is completely immersed in a pot of actively boiling water.
4. If a pot is too large to fit into another pot, the pot to be kasherized is filled to the brim with water, and the water is brought to a boil. While the water is boiling, a hot stone or a piece of metal is dropped into the pot in order that the water is kept at its peak heat and also that the water boils over the side of the pot.
5. The articles are then immediately rinsed under cold water.
6. The pot that the articles were kasherized in is then itself kasherized—see step 4.

B) OPEN FLAME: Any utensils which come in direct contact with fire, such as a barbecue spit, a broiling pan or rack, kasherized by open flame. The procedure follows:

1. The article to be kasherized is thoroughly scoured.
2. The article is set aside and not used for 24 hours.
3. The article is then put under an open flame and thoroughly heated until the metal glows red hot, or is so hot that a piece of paper is singed when it is touched to metal.

SPECIAL CASES Knives with wooden handles cannot be kasherized, because particles of food which could lodge between the handle and the blade cannot be effectively removed by purging. In regard to glassware, the proper method to kasher glassware is to soak in clear water for seventy-two hours changing the water every 24 hours. Corning Ware is considered glassware. Fine (glazed) china that has not been used for twelve months is considered as new. It may be used for Passover if thoroughly scoured and cleaned in hot water. Earthenware and other unglazed pottery cannot be kasherized, since the material they absorb cannot be purged. Plastics with a high heat tolerance can be kasherized as if they were metal. Melmac and other plastics that might melt cannot be kasherized, since the requisite amount of heat most likely could not be applied. Utensils covered with a non-stick surface, such as Teflon, can be kasherized like other utensils, so long as the Teflon coating has not been cracked or broken. Teflon-coated cookware can be kasherized for Passover by careful cleansing and by boiling water. Such items should only be kasherized after 24 hours of non-use.

**SURFACES:** All table surfaces, shelves, kitchen and pantry surfaces used during the year should be thoroughly cleaned and scoured before placing Passover utensils, etc., upon them. It is highly preferable that all such surfaces be covered during the entire week of Passover, especially if you place hot utensils, pot or pans upon them. To make your Passover kitchen attractive, but still kosher, you could use a heavy type of shelving paper, heavy foil, or an ornamental new plastic cloth to cover all surfaces. Shelves upon which you place your Passover dishes should always be thoroughly cleaned and relined.

**SINKS:** A metal sink can be kasherized by thorough cleaning and by pouring boiling water over it. A porcelain sink should be cleaned and a sink rack used because porcelain cannot be kasherized for Passover.

**APPLIANCES OVENS:** Every part that comes in contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned. The oven should be heated as hot as possible for at least one half hour. Self-cleaning ovens should be scrubbed and cleaned and then put through the self-cleaning cycle. Continuous cleaning ovens must be kasherized in the same manner as regular ovens. The shelves, bins and walls are then thoroughly scoured. During Passover all shelves should be covered with shelf paper or foil. A sink is kasherized as a large pot. The interior of a dishwasher is thoroughly scoured, paying careful attention to the strainer over the drain. The



# PASSOVER GUIDE 5783

dishwasher is left unused for 24 hours, and then run through a wash cycle without soap. Any metal surface of a small appliance that comes in contact with food should be kashered by purging. Plastic parts are treated as mentioned. An electric frying pan which can be immersed should be purged. Many electrical appliances cannot be immersed and, therefore, can-not be kashered. An electric mixer should have its beater purged (metal) or washed (glass). An electric can opener should have its blade and magnets removed and purged. The rest of the appliance should be cleaned so that no food remains on any surface. A microwave oven can be kashered by cleaning it and then placing a bowl of water in the appliance. The microwave should be kept on as long as it take for the water to evaporate. Auto-claving renders the microwave kosher. Convection ovens are kashered like regular ovens. Make sure to clean thoroughly around the fan.

**GAS STOVES:** The stove as well as the burners should be thoroughly scrubbed and cleansed and then turned on until red hot.

## Purchasing of Food

Food requiring no Kosher for Passover certification no matter when purchased:

- Baking soda
- Pure bicarbonate of soda, without additives
- Eggs
- Fresh fruits and vegetables (including pre-washed bagged)
- Fresh or frozen kosher meat (other than chopped meat)
- Nestea (regular and decaffeinated)
- Pure black, green, or white tea leaves
- Unflavored tea bags
- Unflavored regular coffee
- Olive oils (and other pure oils)
- Whole or gutted fresh kosher fish
- Whole or half pecans (not pieces)
- Whole (unground) spices and nuts
- OU/Star-K Raisins
- Kosher wine
- Plain butter, either salted or unsalted



Israeli postage stamps honoring Passover, 1981

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The following list of basic foods is ideally for pre-Passover purchasing food, but could extend, if determined necessary based on challenges with shopping due to the pandemic, and their likely production before Passover began, to purchase on Hol-HaMoed as well.

- all pure fruit juices
- Filleted fish
- Frozen fruit (no additives)
- Plain cheeses (without added flavor morsels)
- Non-iodized salt
- Pure white sugar (no additives)
- Quinoa (with nothing mixed in)\* GF ideal
- White milk
- Some products sold by Equal Exchange Fair Trade Chocolate
- Frozen Vegetables (needs to be checked for possible chametz before cooking)
- Chopped meat
- Plain, non-flavored almond milk, rice milk, soy milk, cashew milk.
- Non-flavored Cream Cheese with ingredients of milk and cream, salt, stabilizers (xanthan and/or carob bean and/or guar gums)
- Non-flavored Yogurt with milk and bacteria, only (which are Lactobacillus bulgaricus and Streptococcus thermopiles).
- Canned Tuna with just tuna, water or oil, salt, and pyrophosphates
- 100% maple syrup
- 100% Agave
- Ground Salt and Peppers
- Plain (non-Flavored) Decaf Coffee
- Pure Honey
- Dried fruit, prunes only without potassium sorbet

Food requiring a Kosher for Passover label at any time:

- All baked goods
- Farfel
- Matzah
- Any product containing matzah
- Matzah flour
- Matzah meal
- Pesah cakes
- All frozen processed foods
- Candy
- Chocolate milk
- Herbal tea
- Ice cream

- Liquor
- Soda
- Vinegar
- Margarine

## Kitnyot

Until the fall of 2015, the CJLS position on kitniyot (for Ashkenazim) has followed that of the longstanding Ashkenazi minhag of refraining from eating them. These foods included: beans, corn, millet, peas, rice, soy, and some other plant based foods like mustard, buckwheat and sesame seeds. The one exception was an approved permission of peanuts and peanut oil, provided said items have proper year-round kosher certification and do not contain hameitz ingredients.

However, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards formally permitted Ashkenazim (who choose) to consume kitniyot in 2015.

Fresh kitniyot: Corn on the cob and fresh beans (like lima beans in their pods) may be purchased before and during Passover, that is, treated like any other fresh vegetable.

Dried kitniyot (legumes, rice and corn) can be purchased bagged or in boxes and then sifted or sorted before or on Passover. These should ideally not be purchased in bulk from bins because of the concern that the bin might previously have been used for hameitz, and a few grains of chametz might be mixed in. In any case, one should inspect these to the extent possible before Passover and discard any pieces of chametz. If one could not inspect the rice or dried beans before Passover, one should remove pieces of chametz found in the package on Passover, discarding those, and the kitniyot themselves remain permissible.

Frozen raw kitniyot (corn, edamame [soy beans], etc.): One may purchase bags of frozen non-hekshered kitniyot before or during (if necessary) Passover provided that one can either absolutely determine that no shared equipment was used or one is careful to inspect the contents before Passover and discard any pieces of chametz). Even if one did not inspect the vegetables before Passover, if one can remove pieces of (chametz) found in the package on Passover, the vegetables themselves are permissible.

# THE “BULLETIN” BOARD



MERRICK  
JEWISH  
CENTRE  
CONGREGATION OHR TORAH

## Cemetery Information

The sale of Cemetery Plots at the Merrick Jewish Centre grounds at Wellwood Cemetery is on-going for members in good standing of our congregation.

Please contact the MJC Cemetery Committee for information. We can be reached by email at: [cemeterycommittee@merrickjc.org](mailto:cemeterycommittee@merrickjc.org)

## MJC Helpline

We're here to listen and offer support during this crisis.

Please call 516-379-8650

We have assembled a team of wonderfully capable mental health professionals to offer phone counseling to our members who feel the need to speak with a caring therapist. Your Rabbis are also available. Please leave a message and a team member will return your call.

## Clothing Donation?

Drop off your bags in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters bin located in the back of our parking lot, and the office will provide you with a tax receipt. Too many bags to carry? Call the office and a volunteer will be happy to schedule a home pickup.

Thank you!

We invite you to visit the Merrick Jewish Centre website [www.merrickjc.org](http://www.merrickjc.org)

Check out our CALENDAR for upcoming events  
Visit our PHOTO GALLERY  
Check out our BULLETIN BOARD

## We want to hear from YOU!

Do you have something to contribute?  
Is there something you would like to see in future issues of the MJC Bulletin?

Contact Howard Zryb at [hzryb@aol.com](mailto:hzryb@aol.com)  
with your ideas and suggestions.

Do you know that the Merrick Jewish Centre has its own YouTube Channel?

You can find sermons, classes, and recordings of special events all on the Merrick Jewish Centre YouTube Channel.

You can go to our website ([www.merrickjc.org](http://www.merrickjc.org)) and click on the link for the YouTube Channel, and there you will find a long and growing list of videos available.

## Virtual Minyan Services

Morning Services:  
Saturday Shabbat 9 am (In-person & Livestream)

Evening Services  
Sunday through Thursday at 8 pm (in-person & Zoom)  
Friday Shabbat at 6:30 pm (in-person & Livestream)

Zoom meeting ID: 649-098-3015  
Password: Mitzvah613

Zoom call in phone number: 1-929-205-6099  
ID: 649-098-3015  
Password: 6489824613

## HELP US MAKE A MINYAN



# LEO FRANK'S LEGACY

## Why Leo Frank's Lynching Matters Today

by [Maayan Meir](#) | Aish.com

An innocent Jewish man was hanged by a mob in 1913. Anti-Semites today are justifying his murder.

Last week, Neo-Nazis protested outside the Broadway theater where Ben Platt stars in the revival of "Parade", a musical about the antisemitic lynching of Leo Frank in Atlanta before World War I. The show reflects the current wave of antisemitism in the US and conveys a horrific chapter of American Jewish history - a modern-day blood libel that took place in the US in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Most Jews would rather not think about that time in history when the menacing ghosts from Europe suddenly appeared in sunny Georgia. But to understand the threat of antisemitism today it's imperative to learn about this dark tale of prejudice, hate, and cold-blood murder.

Leo Frank was a 29 years old engineer from Brooklyn. Following his marriage to Lucile Selig, a woman from a well-known and wealthy Jewish family from Atlanta, he moved to Atlanta, where he worked as a superintendent of a pencil factory.

In 1913, a 13-year-old factory worker named Mary Phagan was discovered lying dead and mutilated on the floor of the factory basement. Initial investigation found out that Frank was the last man to admit to have seen Phagan, meeting her when she went to his office to receive her weekly wages. At once, he became the prime suspect.

Circumstantial evidence alone would probably have not been enough to convict Frank, but then an important testimony was added. The factory janitor, an African-American called Jim Conley, testified that Frank told him he had killed the girl and asked him to dispose of the body. In vain Frank's attorney tried to demonstrate that the evidence pointed to Conley as a murderer, not to Frank. In the South, known for its racism, no black person's testimony had ever been accepted over a white person's version. But Conley made history: this time, anti-Semitism was proven to be an even stronger prejudice.

The newspapers from that time give a hint at how large a part prejudice played in this trial. The pastor of the church to which the Phagan family belonged wrote, "When the police arrested a Jew, and a Yankee Jew at



Leo Frank

# LEO FRANK'S LEGACY

that, all of the inborn prejudice against the Jews rose up in a feeling of satisfaction, that here would be a victim worthy to pay for the crime."

The jury convicted Frank but impartial observers railed against the injustice. Newspapers from the North criticized the trial, prominent Jews protested, and even the judge who oversaw the trial confided that he was not convinced of Frank's guilt. Neither was the governor of Georgia, John Slaton. The jury sentenced Frank to death by hanging, but Slaton expressed his belief that if he let that punishment take place, he would be letting an innocent man die. Accordingly, he commuted Frank's death sentence to life imprisonment. That courageous decision would later cost him his political career.

The citizens of Georgia, however, did not agree with the governor. Populist writers wrote explicitly about the need for the citizens to take the law into their hand. A group of well-known people from Marietta, Mary Phagan's hometown, decided to follow that advice. On August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1913, Frank was abducted from his cell, driven to a location near Marietta and hanged from a tree. Leo Frank was lynched by a mob.

His captors didn't try to hide their identity. Many pictures were taken there, showing those who committed the lynch posing by the swinging body. Soon enough, everybody in Marietta and in Atlanta knew who the perpetrators were. No action was ever taken against them.

Frank was buried in New York but the ramifications of the case did not end with his death. A few weeks after the lynch, a group of Georgians, many of them were among Frank's murderers, formed a new chapter of the Ku-Klux-Klan. On the Jewish side, the frustration from the resurfacing of the ancient prejudices against the Jews led to the founding of the Anti-Defamation League.

But the greater effect of the case was probably the trauma suffered by Southern Jewry. Steve Oney, a journalist and a writer who researched the case for 17 years before writing the award-winning book, *And the Dead Shall Rise*, told the Forward in 2009 that Southern Jews never recovered from the Leo Frank trial. "It drove them into a state of denial about their Judaism. They became even more assimilated, anti-Israel, Episcopalian. The Temple did away with chuppahs at weddings – anything that would draw attention."

The final evidence of Frank's innocence emerged only 1982. Alonzo Mann, 83, a former worker in the pencil factory, told two journalists from The Tennessean that he saw Jim Conley carrying Phagan's body in circumstances that contradicted the janitor's testimony and confirmed Frank's version. At the time his parents told him to keep his mouth shut, and he did so. Over the years he disclosed his knowledge of the real murderer's identity only to a few family members and close friends. But when the two journalists, acting on a tip, approached him, he was more than willing to come clean. He related his story, submitted to a lie-detector test and passed with flying colors. Finally, the truth was out. In 1986, the state of Georgia granted a posthumous pardon to Leo Frank.

The lynching of an innocent man is something no country likes to recall. The fact that the American Jewish community couldn't save Leo Frank is not pleasant to reflect on either. Small wonder, then, that few people outside of Georgia remember the name of Leo Frank today.

But that has begun to change. The Washington Post recently reported that the largest and most accessible databases you will find online if you are searching for facts about the Frank case are run by well-known white supremacists and anti-Semites. More than a hundred years after the lynch, they are still trying to establish Frank's guilt and to justify the perpetrators of his murder.

"I don't think the Jewish community takes this seriously enough," Steve Oney told the paper. The lynch of Frank, he pointed out, took place only after old fears and superstitions about the Jews were stoked. These websites are trying to do the same thing: present the story of Leo Frank case not as an example of an egregious injustice, but rather as a heinous crime committed by a Jew.

Forgetting painful chapters of history comes with a price tag. If the Jewish community – and decent people everywhere – would rather forget the Leo Frank case, there are others who will always be eager to keep alive the memory of Leo Frank the Jewish Criminal, who murdered an innocent girl. Remember-

# LEO FRANK'S LEGACY

45,400 THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

## MOB TAKES FRANK FROM JAIL

### Contraband Stamp Going on Cotton

*Alfred Powers Has Agreed To Take Momentous Step And Washington Is Notified*

*John Slaton That Justice Is Done? Has Failed to Stop Frank from Being Lynched.*



**IN HANDS OF MOB**



**Prisoner Rushed From State Farm In An Automobile**

**Mob of Twenty-Plus Men Lasciate  
Desertare, Quicquidem the Virgin,  
and Taken Charge of prisoner. "We'll  
Leave Frank's Body on the Grave of  
Mary Phagan in Marietta," Declared  
Member of Mob. Frank Made Day  
Before Execution.**

Atlanta, Ga., August 19.—A cold-blooded mob of twenty-plus men lashed away at Governor John Slaton this morning and carried him to the Marietta prison farm, where he is to spend his last hours in death, and made his body available for lynching.

Such scenes like as today in Georgia were repeated when a prisoner used to wait seven or eight years for the state to do its duty and give him justice, and when he was lynched by a mob.

*The past is never really the past...*

ing Frank the Victim is the only way to combat these efforts, the only way to make sure the defamation of Frank doesn't continue today, so many years after his innocence was proven beyond any doubt.

Lynches and blood libels may seem like things of the past. But the internet campaigns against the martyred Leo Frank serve as an important reminder: antisemitism is never quite dead, and look where it can lead to, even in the US.

Like What You Read? Give Jews around the world the chance to experience engaging Jewish wisdom with more articles and videos on Aish. As a nonprofit organization it's your support that keeps us going. Thanks so much!

John Slaton, Governor of Georgia

# MESSAGE FROM THE ADL

On March 29th, Scott Richman, the Regional Director/New York, New Jersey for the ADL spoke to our congregation. Here are some comments Richman was kind enough to send along for inclusion into this edition of the MJC Bulletin:

It was an honor to be invited to speak at Merrick Jewish Center on March 29th. I only wish that it were under better circumstances. The bomb threat that your community received may have only been a threat and not a real bomb, but the terror that a community feels when it receives such a threat is very real.

Unfortunately, according to ADL's 2022 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, there were 91 such bomb threats in Jewish institutions across the country last year and 23 right here in New York and New Jersey, so you are not alone. Several of these specifically referenced the horrific shooting in Buffalo on May 14, 2022, where a white supremacist gunman opened fire at a supermarket and killed 10 people and injured 3 others. They are a portion of the 589 antisemitic incidents that took place in Jewish institutions, 84 of which took place in New York, an incredible 35% increase from the year before.

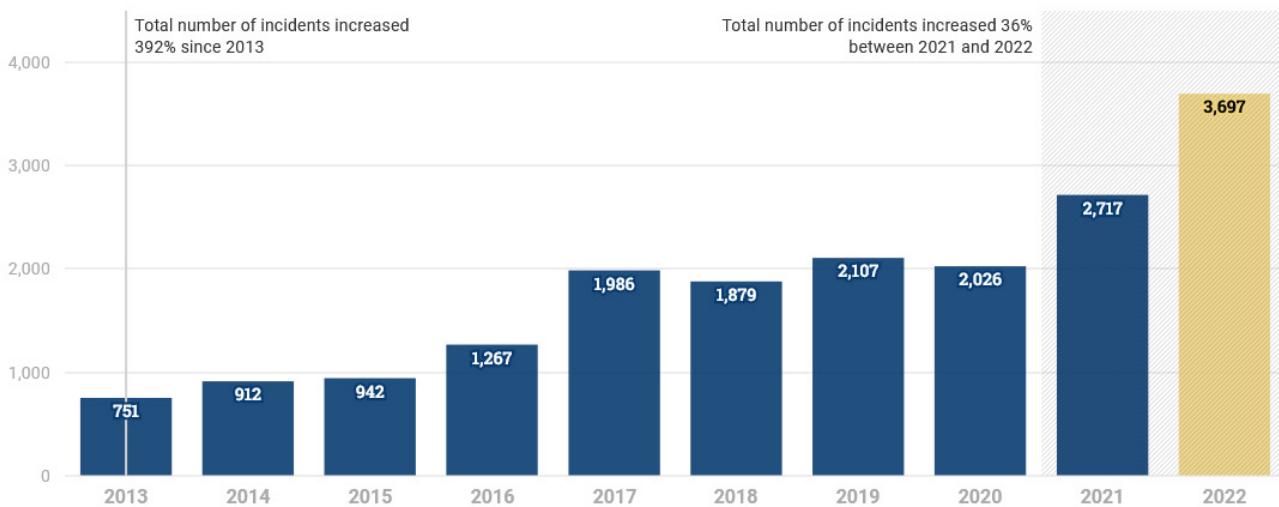
As I discussed during my talk, ADL has been putting out this Audit since 1979, and 2022 was the highest year on record for antisemitic incidents, both nationwide and in New York, which leads the nation in antisemitic incidents. It is 5 times the number of incidents that we had seen just a decade ago in 2013. We are talking about 3,697 incidents nationwide, nearly 1,000 more than the year before and a staggering 580 incidents in New York, which is a 39% increase relative to the 416 incidents reported in 2021. Incidents in New York alone accounted for 15.7% of all documented antisemitic incidents in the United States in 2022. ADL documented 42 antisemitic incidents in Nassau County, which is a 31% increase over 2021.

ADL observed increases across all three categories tracked in the Audit of Antisemitic Incidents: harassment, vandalism and assault. Of particular concern were 72 reported incidents of antisemitic assault in New York, which accounted for 65% of all antisemitic assaults reported nationwide in 2022. This is a 41% increase from the previous record of 51 antisemitic assaults recorded in New York in 2021. ADL also saw notable increases in reported incidents of antisemitic harassment and vandalism, particularly incidents involving swastikas.

For more information on ADL's audit, visit [ADL.org](https://ADL.org), and to get involved with ADL on Long Island, write to [NewYork@adl.org](mailto:NewYork@adl.org).

## Antisemitic Incidents, Ten Year Review

2013–2022



ADL has tracked antisemitic incidents in the United States since 1979. The annual audit of recorded incidents compiles data on assaults, vandalism and harassment. The 2022 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents is the source of the data in these graphs. ADL does not publish personal information with incident data.



# CURIOS ABOUT CURIOUS GEORGE

## How Curious George's Jewish creators saved the beloved monkey from the Nazis

The curious little monkey always got into trouble and ended up OK; his creators needed a little of his luck.

July 14, 2020 By [Rebecca Dube](#)

Almost everyone knows the story of [Curious George](#) - the good little monkey who was always very curious, and who always manages to escape danger just in the nick of time.

But fewer people know the story of George's greatest escape. During World War II, his creators, German Jews named Margret and H.A. Rey, fled Paris a few steps ahead of the Nazis - with help from one curious little monkey.

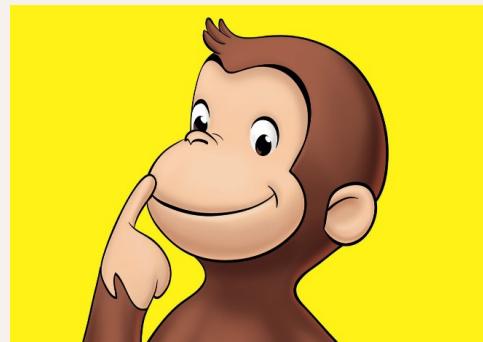
In fact, George helped rescue the Reys twice, as Louise Borden wrote in "[The Journey that Saved Curious George](#)," a book for young readers about the true story behind the beloved character.

"It seems like the character was always saving the creators," said Claudia Nahson, senior curator at the Jewish Museum in New York City, who curated an exhibit about Curious George and the Reys in 2010.

The Reys were living and working in Paris when Hitler invaded Poland in 1939. They moved to a friend's house in the south of France and continued writing and drawing, even as the Third Reich's shadow darkened across Europe. As German citizens and Jews, they were doubly in danger: Their German background made them suspect in southern France, but their Jewish faith meant almost certain death if they were delivered to the hands of the Germans.

Undaunted, the married couple continued drawing and writing. They were especially entranced with "Fifi," as he was originally named, a curious little monkey who was always up to mischief. Their whimsical, brightly colored, optimistic creations contrasted starkly with the darkness of war closing in around them.

A suspicious local reported them: Who was this strange German couple, holed up in a chateau working feverishly on something mysterious? When the local police arrived to interrogate them, Margret and H.A. Rey showed him their Curious George drawings. Satisfied that the creators of such sweet cartoons were innocent, the authorities left them in peace.



*Curious George*

In 1940, the Reys returned to Paris for work. This time, they escaped only a few days before the Nazis marched into the capitol city. They fled Paris on bicycles, carrying only a few possessions including, of course, their portfolio of Curious George stories and drawings. They biked 75 miles, then managed to get a train to Spain. They were again stopped and searched by police; once again, their stories and drawings of Curious George charmed the authorities into letting them pass to safety.

"It's this narrow escape, saving the day, and those are ideas that are very much embedded in their books. It felt like that year, they were living it through their art, as well as in their life," Nahson said.

They made their way to Lisbon, then on a ship to Brazil, then eventually to the United States in 1940.

The Reys started a new life in America, settling first in New York City and then moving to Cambridge, Massachusetts. They wrote more than 30 books together, including seven starring Curious George. Their books have been translated into more than a dozen languages, including Yiddish and Hebrew.



*H.A. Rey, creator of "Curious George" (Photo: wikicommons/Elsa Dorfman)*

# CURIOS ABOUT CURIOUS GEORGE

## The Holocaust Hero who saved Curious George

Stand for Israel | October 17, 2022

Aristedes de Sousa Mendes was a Portuguese diplomat who defied his nation's dictatorship during World War II, issuing thousands of visas to European Jews which allowed them to escape certain death at the hands of the Nazis. Among the thousands of lives he saved were H.A. and Margret Rey, the married couple who created beloved children's book character Curious George.

Born in 1885 in Cabanas de Viriato, Portugal, Sousa Mendes trained as an attorney and began a career as a consul for Portugal, a job that would find him traveling the world. An independent and just-minded man, Sousa Mendes often angered his government by expressing his views. This independent streak found him suspended and in financial straits.

In the early 1930s, Portugal fell under the rule of dictator Antonio de Oliveira Salazar. Salazar's decrees made it very difficult for refugees from Nazi Germany to escape via Portugal - until Aristedes de Sousa Mendes defied these unjust laws.

Viewing the Portuguese dictatorship's law as inhumane and racist, Sousa Mendes began to defy it right away.

As the Nazis spread across Europe, Sousa Mendes issued thousands of visas to those escaping them.

This decision - in opposition to his country, and to the detriment of his career - caused Sousa Mendes to have a nervous breakdown. But after a period of seclusion and rest, he defiantly declared: "From now on I'm giving everyone visas. There will be no more nationalities, races or religions."

These acts of supreme good continued until the government of Portugal stopped him, blacklisting and banishing Sousa Mendes and his family. Now refugees themselves, the family ate their meals at the soup kitchens of Lisbon's Jewish community. For the rest of his life, Aristedes de Sousa Mendes was never recognized for his acts of sacrifice, and died poor and alone.

Today, however, it is widely recognized that Aristedes de Sousa Mendes issued 30,000 visas, 10,000 of which went to Jews escaping the Nazis. Long after he died in 1954, Aristedes de Sousa Mendes is remembered for his heroic and selfless actions, honored internationally by many bodies, and named Righteous Among the Nations by [Yad Vashem](#).



# IN THE SYNAGOGUE FAMILY

## BAR/BAT MITZVAHS

- Jessica & Jason Gertler on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Shawn
- Lauren & David Schwed on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Sam
- Alyssa & Vincent D'Elia on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Mason
- Alyssa & Todd Kussin on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Kaylee
- Allison & Andrew Neyjovich on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Robert
- Jacqueline & Robert Watson on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Olivia
- Ilyse & Scott Schonfeld on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Aaron
- Michelle & Louis Cohen on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Aubrie
- Robyn & Josh Leventhal on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Julia
- Rhonda & Scot Kilman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Sami
- Sarah & David Goldberg on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Charlie
- Dana and Jason Rogoff on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Zoe
- Amy and David Kramer on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Nikki
- Jamie and Shawn Field on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Jenna

## BIRTHS

- Phyllis Goldberg & Peter Donath on the birth of their granddaughter, Rachel
- Sharei & Adam Goldstein on the birth of their daughter, Eloise Dove, granddaughter of Paulette & Gary Mendelsohn
- Mindy & Evan Fischer on the birth of their granddaughter, Emmy Reece to Jaimee Fischer
- Mindy & Evan Fischer on the birth of their grandson, Asher Leo to Mara & Tom Jenks

## CONDOLENCES

- Melanie Diamond & Family on the loss of her beloved father, Leon Biton
- Ellen Tulchiner & Family on the loss of her beloved father, Bernard Steinfeld
- Carolyn Schechner & Family on the loss of her beloved mother, Sandra Sparber
- Maya Lerner & Family on the loss of her beloved mother, Susanna Brakhman
- Phyllis Wittenberg & Family on the loss of her beloved father & member, Stanley Treiman
- Lauren-Fischer Diamant & Family on the loss of her beloved mother, Sandy Fischer
- Frank Supovitz & Family on the loss of his beloved father, Edwin Supovitz
- Sylvia Jorisch & Family on the loss of her beloved mother and member, Betty Duani
- Jeffrey & Lauren Rait & Family on the loss of his beloved father, Lee Rait
- Lisa Schutzman & Family on the loss of her beloved father, Sheldon Friedman

## MARRIAGES

- Arielle Barry and Benjamin Greenstein BLANCHE BATNICK FUND-RS

# DONATIONS

## BLANCHE BATNICK FUND

Wishing you a lovely Passover, a contribution has been made to the Blanche Batnick Fund/ MJC.  
With love, LaVelle & Ken from Lisa & Brian Land

## CHESED FUND

In honor of

Sharei and Adam, Mazel Tov on the birth of Eloise Dove. We are so happy for you. Much love, Linda and Ron from Linda and Ron Rosen  
Susan and Stan Bloomfield's anniversary from Dr. Steven & Sharyn Kussin

Sam Knee's Bar Mitzvah. From Sharyn and Steven Kussin from Dr. Steven & Sharyn Kussin

Marilyn and Robert Hochhauser for all they do for Merrick Jewish Centre from Ilene Lambert

Phyllis Goldberg's birthday from Ilene Lambert

your granddaughter, Kaylee's Bat Mitzvah from Ilene Lambert

The Bar Mitzvah of Sam Knee, son of Matthew and Naomi. Mazel Tov from Lewis & Linda Altman

Dear Paulette and Gary, Mazel Tov on the birth of your granddaughter, Eloise Dove. from Linda and Ron Rosen

Dear Gloria and Phil, Mazel Tov on the birth of your granddaughter, Eloise Dove. We are so happy for you. Love, Linda and Ron Rosen

Alyssa & Todd Kussin's daughter, Kaylee's Bat Mitzvah from Raymond & Rose Cohen

Sharyn & Steve Kussin's granddaughter, Kaylee's Bat Mitzvah from Raymond & Rose Cohen

Sarita Mlawer's birthday and becoming a great grandmother, Mazel tov! and many more! from Sarah Wexler

In memory of

Gerald Storch from Alan & Ellen Sussman

Lisa Schutzman's father, Sheldon Friedman from Dr. Steven & Sharyn Kussin

Anita Hochhauser from Ilene Lambert

your beloved father, Gerald Storch from Ilene Lambert

Gerald Storch from Ira & Tina Blankstein

Betty Duani from Irma Koton

Arthur Malin, beloved father of Robin Zeigelbaum. from Joel & Gail Antin

In memory of Father of Frank Supovitz from Karen and Gary Sanders

Susanna Brakhman, beloved mother of Maya Lerner. From Linda and Lewis Altman from Lewis & Linda Altman

Stanley Treiman from Lewis & Linda Altman

Your mother, Susanna Brakhman. May her memory be a blessing to her family and all who loved her. from Mindy & Ed Goldstein

Shirley Berman, mother of Susan Kosberg from Robert & Carol Bruckner

your father, Gerald Storch from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser

Sandra Sparber from The Brodman Family

## DANIEL FRIEDMAN FUND

In memory of

In memory of Daniel Friedman, forever in our hearts. from Laura and Jeff Reizner

## DR. ALAN KLEIN FUND

In memory of

In Memory of Susanna Brakhman from Louise Pitlake and Seth Pitlake

## ENDOWMENT FUND

from Anonymous

In honor of

the birth of Eloise Dove Goldstein from Paula and Howard Tiegel

# DONATIONS

In memory of

Riva Sheyner mother of Maya Lerner from Frieda and Alex Rosenberg, Aaron, Jessica, Oren, Aiden and Dylan

Sheldon Friedman from Paula and Howard Tiegel

Edwin Supovitz from Paula and Howard Tiegel

Susanna Brakhman from Paula and Howard Tiegel

Sandra Sparber from Paula and Howard Tiegel

In Memory of Gerry Storch, Beloved Father, Grandfather, and Friend from Paulette & Gary Mendelsohn

Edwin Supovitz father of Frank Supovitz from Phyllis Goldberg and Peter Donath

In memory of Leon Biden, may his memory be for a blessing. from Saul Jacob Rosenberg

Rose Greenfield from Steven & Mary Greenfield

## GENERAL FUND

In memory of

Gerald Storch from Alan & Cindy Greenblatt

Stephanie. We share your sadness of your loss from Leonard & Geraldine Moskowitz

## HEBREW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of

Happy birthday Carly Sussman! Ella had a wonderful time celebrating you this past weekend! from Danielle Curatolo

In memory of

Sandy Sparber from Florence and Lou Siegel

Gerald Storch from Laurie & Joe Siegel

## HOWARD CHASKES FUND

In honor of

Phyllis Goldberg's and Peter Donath's UJA Honor. from Phyllis Chaskes

Phyllis Goldberg. Best wishes on your special day. Love Sandra Pinkus  
the birth of your granddaughter, Eloise Dove Goldstein. from Stanley Becker

In memory of

your beloved husband, Stan Tishler from Phyllis Chaskes

Stanley Treiman from Phyllis Chaskes

Betty Duani, beloved mother of Sylvia Dorisch. from Phyllis Chaskes

## IRVING LIPFIELD

In honor of

the Pulewitz, Eisenberg & Gershak family from Allen & Barri Gershak

In memory of

Harvey Gershak from Allen & Barri Gershak

Bernard Steinfeld, beloved father of Ellen Tulchiner. We hope with each passing day your sorrow lessens. Bari and Allen Gershak from  
Allen & Barri Gershak

Sylvia Jorisch's mother, Betty Duani. from Allen & Barri Gershak

## KOZIN FUND

In appreciation of

Steve Greenfield from Rena Cohen Kozin

In memory of

Your Beloved Mother Susanna Brakhman from Rena and Steven Kozin

# DONATIONS

## PAUL STONE YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND (MEN'S CLUB)

In honor of  
the birth of your granddaughter, Preslie Emelia. from Ilene Lambert  
The birth of your new granddaughter from Linda and Lew Altman  
their daughter Kaylee's Bat Mitzvah from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser

## In memory of

Your wife, mother and grandmother, Judith Jacobskind from Bob and Gail Alexander  
Your beloved father and grandfather, Gerry Storch from Linda & Lewis Altman  
Gerald Storch from Merrick Jewish Centre Men's Club

## PJ LIBRARY

### In appreciation of

In Appreciation and Deep Gratitude to Charlie for conducting the absolutely beautiful Baby Naming Ceremony of Eloise Dove Goldstein. You made it very special for us all! Yasher Koach to you! from Paulette & Gary, Sharei & Adam

## In honor of

The birth of your granddaughter, Eloise Dove. May she always be a source of joy to you and your family. from Mindy & Ed Goldstein  
The birth of your daughter, Eloise Dove. May she always be a source of joy to you and your family. from Mindy & Ed Goldstein  
the birth of their granddaughter, Rachel from Raymond & Rose Cohen  
Paulette and Gary Mendelsohn on the birth of their granddaughter, Eloise Dove. from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser  
Sharei and Adam Goldstein on the birth of their daughter, Eloise Dove. from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser

## In memory of

Susanna Brakhman, mother of Maya Lerner From Amy Kramer and Family from David & Amy Kramer  
Gerald Storch from Raymond & Rose Cohen  
your dear friend, Gerald Storch from Raymond & Rose Cohen

## PRAYER BOOK

### In honor of

The birth of you granddaughter, Eloise Dove. May she always be a source of joy to you and your family. from Mindy & Ed Goldstein

## In memory of

In Memory of Beloved Father of Melanie Diamond's Father from Paulette & Gary Mendelsohn

## RABBI CHARLES & BETTY KLEIN LEGACY FUND

In honor of  
Frank Supovitz's return to good health from Linda & Lewis Altman

## In memory of

Helen Drogin from Amy Schwartz & Carol Atwood  
Morton Tobin from Harriet and Barry Lasky  
your beloved friend and companion, Gerry Storch from Linda & Lewis Altman  
Your beloved father, Edwin Supovitz from Linda and Lewis Altman  
Your beloved mother, Betty Duani from Linda and Lewis Altman  
In Memory of Sandra Sparber from Louise Pitlake

# DONATIONS

## RABBI DORSCH DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of  
Steve Greenstein With much thanks, Rena Cohen Kozin

In honor of  
Carly Sussman's 6th birthday! from Brett Vanunu

The passing of Muriel Goodheart, mother of Lyle Goodheart and Mindy Stanton. from Lyle Goodheart & Mindy Stanton  
Steve & Sharyn's granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah(Kaylee) from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser

In memory of  
my mother, Yetta Stam from Albert & Ruth Stam  
Gerald Storch from Dr. Scott & Mrs.. Ilyse Schonfeld  
Edwin Supovitz with our deepest sympathy from Rena and Steven Kozin  
of your mother, Susanna Brakhman from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser  
Lee Rait from The Rait Family

## STACY ROSENBERG FUND

In memory of  
Gerald Storch from Jeffrey & Caren Rosenberg

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## YAHRZEITS

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Joseph Widman from Larry & Tova Friedman  
Celia Friedman from Larry & Tova Friedman  
Daniel Friedman from Larry & Tova Friedman  
sister, Sheila Moskowitz from Alan & Ellen Sussman  
Ellen's mother, Ruth Moskowitz from Alan & Ellen Sussman  
Leatrice Hartstein from Alan & Leslie Chibnik  
David Bronstein from Alan & Norma Bronstein  
Fay Weissman from Alan & Rhonda Weissman  
Arthur Weissman from Alan & Rhonda Weissman  
Ruth Lipfield from Allen & Barri Gershak  
Irving Goodson from Arleen Orbuch  
Joe Orbuch from Arleen Orbuch  
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Walter Sefton from Arnold & Barbara Duren  
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Bernard Brenner from Donald Brenner  
Solomon Rosenberg from Doris Rosenberg  
Shephard Melzer from Douglas & Marcia Melzer  
Rubin Melzer from Douglas & Marcia Melzer  
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Benjamin Fox from Dr. Jeffrey & Dr. Felise Fox  
Dorothy Feinberg from Dr. Jeffrey & Dr. Felise Fox  
Marvin Annapolen from Dr. Keith & Linda Annapolen  
Alvin Horowitz from Dr. Mark & Robin Knoll  
Ira Haselkorn from Dr. Steven & Dr. Joan Lomasky  
Muriel Lomasky from Dr. Steven & Dr. Joan Lomasky

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Seymour Levine from Eli Levine  
Lillian Rosenberg from Ellen Zipkin  
Fannie Zipkin from Ellen Zipkin  
Mary Salsberg from Elliot & Andrea Weintraub  
Paul Hymes from Elliot & Ina Hymes  
Yaffa Simhayoff from Elliot & Susan Sims  
David Zryb from Esther Goldberg  
Ethel Popick from Eugene Popick  
Samuel Distenfeld from Evelyn Zisner  
Bertha Zisner from Evelyn Zisner  
Joseph Schuval & Jennie Schuval from Everett & Myrna Schuval  
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Rosalie Mutterperl from Jeffrey & Rhonda Mutterperl  
Shirley Keller from Jeffrey & Rhonda Mutterperl

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Philip Feinberg from Lawrence & Linda Feinberg  
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my beloved mother, Betty Altman from Lewis Altman  
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Burt Lipman from Philip & Elaina Corwin  
Rhoda Finkelstein from Philip & Susan Buglione  
Arlene Mintzer from Phyllis Chaskes  
my husband, Stanley Goldberg from Phyllis Goldberg  
Raymond's father, Stanley Cohen from Raymond & Rose Cohen  
My Beloved Mother Etta Cohen from Rena Cohen Kozin and Family  
Michael Toporek from Richard & Carol Toporek  
Murray Feldman, father of Dana Knox from Richard & Dana Knox  
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If you want superior performance from your HVAC system, Luxaire HVAC Services, Inc. is here to help. We are the leading experts on energy efficiency and performance for large commercial HVAC systems. Our factory trained technicians are certified on all makes and models of HVAC equipment. **Call or email us today!**

**INFO@LUXAIREHVACSERVICES.COM**

**IT'S TIME TO MAKE A STATEMENT  
AT THE ENTRANCE TO MJC**

**ARE YOU REPRESENTED ON OUR FAMILY WALKWAY? DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL SIMCHA TO CELEBRATE?  
TAKE A LOOK, THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM FOR NEW ADDITIONS!**

**OUR FAMILY WALKWAY CONTAINS BRICKS, WITH PERSONALIZED INSCRIPTIONS.  
BRICKS ARE PRICED AT \$180/BRICK OR 3 BRICKS FOR \$500.  
WE INVITE YOU TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE A FAMILY SIMCHA  
(WEDDING, BIRTH, BAR/BAT MITZVAHS, GRADUATION, SPECIAL BIRTHDAY)  
OR TO MEMORIALIZE A LOVED ONE.**

**EACH BRICK CAN BE IMPRINTED WITH THREE LINES OF UP TO 15 CHARACTERS OR SPACES PER LINE.  
PLEASE PRINT YOUR INSCRIPTION IN CAPITAL LETTERS.**

**Brick One**


**Brick Two**


**Brick Three**


**NAME \_\_\_\_\_**

**ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_**

**PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_**

**E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_**

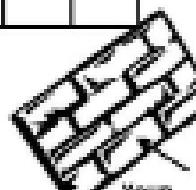
**SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_**

**We enclose our check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.**

**(Please mail your check & completed, signed form to the MJC office).**

**Any questions, please contact:**

**LINDA ALTMAN at: [linda328@optonline.net](mailto:linda328@optonline.net)**



**YOUR  
FAMILY'S  
NAME  
CAN BE PLACED  
ON OUR BRICKS**