



# MERRICK JEWISH CENTRE

## The Bulletin

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### MERRICK JEWISH CENTRE

5777/2016

#### SCHEDULE OF HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES

SUNDAY, October 2nd Erev Rosh Hashanah

Light Holiday Candles .....	6:16 P.M.
Evening Services .....	6:15 P.M.

MONDAY, October 3rd – 1 Tishrei 5777

#### First Day of Rosh Hashanah

Morning Services Rabbi Klein, Rabbi Tilles & Cantor Smolarz.....	8:15 A.M.
Torah Reading .....	9:45 A.M.
<b>The CJL Minyan Rabbi Tilles, Rabbi Klein &amp; Ben Goldwater...</b>	<b>9:45 A.M.</b>
An Intimate, Interactive Adaptation of the Traditional High Holy Day Service	
Pre Service Supervision for Children (ages 4-12) .....	9:30 A.M.
Teen and Children's Services .....	10:30 A.M.
Tashlich (Camman's Pond).....	5:30 P.M.
Evening Services (Mincha/Maariv) .....	6:15 P.M.
Light Holiday Candles after.....	7:13 P.M.

TUESDAY, October 4th – 2 Tishrei 5777

#### Second Day of Rosh Hashanah

Morning Services-Rabbi Klein, Rabbi Tilles & Cantor Smolarz .....	8:15 A.M.
Torah Reading .....	9:45 A.M.
<b>The CJL Minyan Rabbi Tilles, Rabbi Klein &amp; Ben Goldwater...</b>	<b>9:45 A.M.</b>
An Intimate, Interactive Adaptation of the Traditional High Holy Day Service.	
Pre Service Supervision for Children (ages 4-12) .....	9:30 A.M.
<b>Children's &amp; Teen Services .....</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>
Children's Services .....	10:30 A.M.
Evening Services (Mincha/Maariv Service) .....	6:15 P.M.

SATURDAY, October 8<sup>TH</sup> – Shabbat Shuvah

Services .....	9:00 A.M.
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TUESDAY, October 11th –Yom Kippur

Light Shabbat and Holiday Candles..... no later than	6:02 P.M.
Mincha Service .....	5:45P.M.
Kol Nidre Services .....	6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, October 12th – Yom Kippur

Morning Services-Rabbi Klein, Rabbi Tilles & Cantor Smolarz .....	8:15 A.M.
Torah Reading .....	10:00 A.M.
<b>The CJL Minyan Rabbi Tilles, Rabbi Klein &amp; Ben Goldwater...</b>	<b>9:30 A.M.</b>
An Intimate, Interactive Adaptation of the Traditional High Holy Day Service	
Pre Service Supervision for Children (ages 4-12) .....	9:30 A.M.
Children's & Teen Services .....	10:30 A.M.
Yiskor Services .....	10:45 A.M.
Community Yiskor Services .....	3:00 P.M.
<b>Healing Service – Led by Rabbi Ravid Tilles.....</b>	<b>3:30 P.M.</b>
Mincha .....	4:30 P.M.
Neilah .....	5:30 P.M.
Yom Kippur Ends .....	6:58 P.M.

# Schedule of Sukkot and Simchat Torah Festival Services

MERRICK JEWISH CENTRE  
Congregation Ohr Torah

Schedule of Sukkot and Simchat Torah Festival Services



**SUNDAY, October 16th – SUKKOT 5777**  
 Light Festival Candles .....no later than 5:33P.M.  
 Festival Service..... 6:00 P.M.

**MONDAY, October 17th – First Day of SUKKOT**  
 Morning Services..... 9:00A.M.  
 Sukkot Alive!..... 10:30 A.M.  
 Mincha/Maariv Service..... 5:45 P.M.  
 Light Holiday Candles after..... 6:45 P.M.

**TUESDAY, October 18th – Second Day of SUKKOT**  
 Morning Services..... 9:00 A.M.  
 Sukkot Alive!..... 10:30 A.M.  
 Mincha/Shabbat Services..... 5:45 P.M.

**SUNDAY, October 23 Eve of Shemini Atzeret**  
 Light Candles ..... no later than 5:43 P.M.  
 Mincha/Festival Service ..... 5:45 P.M.

**MONDAY, October 5<sup>th</sup> – SHEMINI ATZERET**  
 Morning Services..... 9:00 A.M.  
 Yiskor Services..... 10:30 A.M.  
 Shemini Atzeret Alive!..... 10:30 A.M.  
 Mincha Services..... 5:45 P.M.  
 Maariv Services – SIMCHAT TORAH ..... 6:45 P.M.  
*Torah Processions – Hakafot – Flags – Refreshments!*  
 Light Festival Candles – SIMCHAT TORAH.....after 6:43 P.M.

**TUESDAY, October 26<sup>th</sup>– SIMCHAT TORAH**  
 Morning Services..... 9:00 A.M.  
 Simchat Torah Alive!..... 10:30 A.M.

Aliyot to all – flags, goodies to all who attend!  
 Mincha/Shabbat Services..... 5:45P.M.





## *A Message From Our Rabbi*

Dear Friends,

I have never met anyone who loves his alarm clock. And I have also never met anyone who doesn't look forward with great anticipation to the High Holy Days which annually are, above all else, a spiritual alarm sounded to reawaken us to the challenge of thinking deeply about what our life will look like in the year ahead. It was almost 800 years ago that Maimonides first compared the call of the shofar to a spiritual alarm. Maimonides conceived of the shofar calling us to look long and carefully at our lives, the decisions we have made, the priorities we have established and the values we have come to live by so that we might be able to review our life with eyes wide open and our spirits awake to new possibilities.

The High Holy Days and the month of Elul which precede them should be seen as a gift. When else would we turn our attention away from the world and all its distractions so that we can look seriously at the quality of the life we are living. This season of repentance only works when we allow it to inspire us to see life with new vision.

During this time of the year we take to heart the Jewish teaching that we were born to choose – to elevate our life by choosing wisely. Our tradition would agree with the person who said, “You are not born a winner, you are not born a loser. You were born a chooser.”

One of the wisest teachings about life is that we each have two lives and the second one begins when we realize that in truth we only have one. This is the reality that Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur make impossible to forget. Our second life begins when we realize that it is the only life we have and it will be remembered for the choices we have made. The words of our Machzor remind us that life is our most precious possession and if we choose we can enrich it and thereby create a life which is a blessing to all who know us.

This summer I read in the New York Times magazine the story of the block of marble which became the monumental statue of David on display in Florence. The author, Sam Anderson, wrote, “The David began in 1464 with a mistake. Several mistakes actually. In fact the whole project seemed to be ruined from the start.” No one knew what to do with the large block of marble. And so it sat in the open for 35 years suffering the effects of the weather. And then a man by the name of Michelangelo accepted the commission to carve the marble into a statue of David. It required two years in which Michelangelo shaped the marble block into a masterpiece. The weathered, imperfect block of marble was transformed into David.

What a wonderfully inspiring story of the odyssey of a block of marble. And within the story I saw a lesson. What Michelangelo did with that marble, we are challenged to do with our lives. Michelangelo could reimagine what that marble block might become. In his mind he saw it transformed into a magnificent statue. Each year at this time we are expected to be a little like Michelangelo. We are challenged to imagine our lives differently and, hopefully, inspired to transform visions into a new reality. What the season of the year asks us to believe is that the past does not define who we will be in the future – that we can embark on new directions.

It's time to celebrate the New Year and the possibility that we have to think anew about our future. One thing we know: life has no remote. You've got to get up and change it yourself.

Betty and our children join me in wishing all of you a very sweet, happy, healthy and good New Year.

Faithfully yours,  
Rabbi Charles A. Klein

Michelle & Michael Schwartz & Family  
Senior Rabbinic Chair

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## Rabbi Ravid Tilles

“Courage is a special kind of knowledge: the knowledge of how to fear what ought to be feared and how not to fear what ought not to be feared.”

– David Ben Gurion, First Prime Minister of Israel

This past summer I had the privilege to lead a group of Merrick Jewish Centre members on a pilgrimage to Israel. During our first full day of touring we visited Independence Hall in Tel Aviv. We stood in the very building where, on May 14, 1948, David Ben Gurion declared an independent State of Israel in the Ancient Land of Israel. In this building (a house that was converted into an art museum that was converted into a National Landmark), Ben Gurion established the extraordinary country that we know. Israel is a world leader in technology, science,

medicine, arts, culture, the Homeland at the center of Jewish religious life, and it all started in that room. Every year we commemorate this historic day (the 5<sup>th</sup> of Iyar) by celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut. On that day the fate and the future of the Jewish people changed forever.

When Ben Gurion delivered his famous speech declaring Israel's establishment he stood under a picture of Theodore Herzl who is considered the father of Zionism. Herzl had dreamed of Jewish nationalism but never lived to see it come to fruition. Herzl famously said, “*Im Tirtzu Ein Zo Agadah* – If you will it, it is no dream.” The State of Israel was established against all of the odds and against all logical explanation. How was it that exactly enough UN votes were cast in favor of the Partition Plan, which gave global legitimacy to a Zionist State? How was it that the Jews were able to defend themselves against the onslaught of war from the five neighboring Arab countries? How did they create a strong safe haven for all Jewish people, less than a decade after the Holocaust? The answer to all of these questions is the same: courage, bravery, conviction, hope and belief; that if you will it, it is attainable.

During this time of year, as we enter the High Holiday season, we dream of ways that our life will be better. We envision embodying our ideal character. We hope that our destiny is one of life and goodness; health and happiness; kindness and love. But life is not always as we envision and we face challenges. Natural forces, both internal and external, play a significant role in whether or not we reach our full potential. Sometimes the truth that the pathway to our dreams will be painful and difficult can be scary. In order to reach our goals and live our most fulfilled life, we need courage. Which is why our central prayers for the New Year should center around courage. As it says in the final verse of the Psalm for the High Holidays, Psalm 27: “Be strong and resolute and have hope in Adonai.”

Like Ben Gurion and the first Israelis, we pray for the courage to reach toward our personal goals no matter how difficult they may be to realize. We pray for the courage to take the path less traveled because we know that the reward will be greater. We pray for the courage to maintain our personal convictions, which we believe to be right, even if they are not popular. And we pray for the courage to be able to admit our mistakes, to live a life of integrity and righteousness, no matter the consequences. We pray for the courage to make sacrifices for what we know will be the greater good. We pray for the courage to make our dreams our realities. *Im Tirtzu, Ein Zo Agadah* – If you will it, it is no dream.

On behalf of my wife, Yaffa, and our two sons, Avishai and Micah, we wish you and your families a Shanah Tovah U'Metukah. A happy, healthy, sweet New Year in which all your worthy aspirations will be fulfilled through hope, courage and love.

Rabbi Ravid Tilles  
Associate Rabbi

## We Need Your Help!

Volunteers are needed to assist as ushers at the High Holy Day services. One hour per person is all that is needed. Meet and greet your fellow congregants. . . . . And it will give you an opportunity to “stretch your legs.”

Help us help the congregants attending services this year

Contact the office or Rob Hochhauser  
[roberthoc117@gmail.com](mailto:roberthoc117@gmail.com) or cell phone. (516) 448-2963

# Administrator



Chevre,

I hope you had a relaxing and rejuvenating summer vacation. The MJC has been in full swing preparing for the High Holidays working programming for the upcoming year. On an exciting note, we have ushered in 32 new families as of the date of this article, and more are on their way. For the first time in many years, we are over 700 members strong. I'd like to wish our membership team led by Matt Schechner and Michael Fried a job well done on their recruitment efforts, which were certainly made easier by the high caliber of our clergy, the strength of our Hebrew School and the incredible level of programming provided by the various arms of the synagogue.

## Capital & Endowment Campaign – Phase II

Our Capital & Endowment campaign is entering its second phase after completing its first goal of raising in excess of \$1.7 million. At Rosh Hashanah, our team will display before the congregation its first viewing of the beautifications planned for our synagogue home. We anticipate your delight in when seeing the future of what our facilities will become including: newly designed entry ways, lobbies and the ballroom, as well as updates to our Hebrew School wing and offices. A new thrust of requests for funds will begin in October. We extend heartfelt appreciation to those who have already made their pledge, and we ask the congregation to treat favorably the volunteers who will call upon you in the days ahead seeking new gifts.

## Networking – Another Service Provided by the MJC

With 700 plus families, the MJC has access to an awesome number of resources. This past summer I'm pleased to report that members of our congregation were able to provide internships to 4 of our young adults with follow up offers for them to come back on school breaks and future summers. MJC members have found full time employment through our network – and MJC employers have found new employees, whether it is for a new bookkeeper or for a new nanny. We are happy to help promote your search. One email blast from our office reaches over 1,700 individuals and broaden your results. Contact the office to participate.

Wishing you all L'Shana Tova Umetuka, a sweet and happy and healthy New Year 5777!

B'Shalom,

Jamey Kohn  
Administrative Director

## Lulav and Etrog

The etrog has both a taste and an aroma; so, too, do the people of Israel include individuals who have both Torah learning and good deeds.... The date (the fruit of the lulav) has a taste but does not have an aroma; so, too, do the people of Israel include individuals who have Torah but do not have good deeds.... The hadas (myrtle) has an aroma but not a taste; so, too, do the people of Israel include individuals who have good deeds but do not have Torah.... The aravah (willow) has no taste and no aroma; so, too, do the people of Israel include individuals who do not have Torah and do not have good deeds.... Says G-d: "Let them all bond together in one bundle and atone for each other."

- *Midrash Rabbah, Vayikra 30:11*

# High Holiday Ticket Pickup

Tickets for the High Holidays will be available for pick up on  
the following dates:

**Thursday September 22nd**  
**7:00pm to 9:00pm**

**Sunday September 25th**  
**9:30am to 11:30am**

**Wednesday September 28th**  
**7:00pm to 9:00pm**

**Remember to bring a check for**  
**Kol Nidre**

# *Kol Nidre 5777*

## *THE MERRICK JEWISH CENTRE 2016/5777 KOL NIDRE CAMPAIGN*

### *MJC IS THRIVING*

We are thrilled to announce that our congregation has grown to 700 families. Forty-seven new families joined the synagogue this past year.

This growth is unprecedented in conservative synagogues in the United States. There are many reasons for this growth including our stellar clergy team led by Rabbi Charles A. Klein and Rabbi Ravid Tilles and joined now by Cantor Javier Smolarz and our outstanding and innovative Hebrew School led by Heléna Eilenberg.

Last year MJC hosted an unparalleled number of classes, lectures, youth programs and special events. Twenty-six B'nai Mitzvah were called to the Torah and many Auf Rufs and baby namings took place on our Bimah.

### ***WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!***

Dues alone are insufficient in meeting the needs to maintain our house expenses and vibrant and diverse programming.

**To those that made a contribution last year, thank you so much for your gift. We hope you will consider this generous contribution again for this year. To those who have not participated in this campaign as of yet, we hope you will consider a contribution this year. All of the Kol Nidre contributions help us to continue to keep our congregation thriving and flourishing.**

A gift at any level would be warmly received. Please note that your contribution can be paid all at once or throughout the year. Together - we can surpass our \$135,000 goal!

### ***LET US HONOR YOU***

Contributors will be listed in the main lobby. Gifts in your children and grandchildren's honor will appear on the "Kids for Kol Nidre" board. It is a source of great excitement for them and sets them on the path of charitable giving that will be so important in their own lives.

### ***THANK YOU AND SHANAH TOVAH U'METUKA!***

With warmest wishes for a happy, healthy, prosperous, peaceful and sweet New Year.

*Dr. Barry Silverman & Rena Cohen Kozin*

*Kol Nidre Campaign Co-Chairs*

## **"KIDS FOR KOL NIDRE"**

**Gifts in your children and grandchildren's honor will appear on the "Kids for Kol Nidre" board.**

**We ask you to kindly consider a contribution of \$18 per child. It is a source of great excitement for them and sets them on the path of charitable giving that will be so important in their own lives.**

## Lifelong Learning



As the summer draws to a close and we prepare for the High Holidays and a new year full of exciting opportunities and accomplishments, the Lifelong Learning program is in full swing.

Our Lifelong Learning program offers a variety of learning opportunities that include traditional and contemporary Judaic and secular topics of interest to the multigenerational adult membership of the MJC. Here is a preview of our upcoming events. We hope you can join us!

On four consecutive Wednesday evenings our **Elul program** takes off as Rabbi Klein, Rabbi Tilles, Rabbi Pasternak and Rabbi Siegel share their inspiring insights as we prepare for High Holidays.

### ELUL PROJECT: OUR PATHWAY TO THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

**September 7** - A Time to Reach Higher: The Call to Self-Transcendence in Jewish Literature... Rabbi Charles Klein

**September 14** - From Torah to High Holy Days Liturgy: Deuteronomy 4:4... Rabbi Martin Pasternak

**September 21** - Memories of High Holy Days Gone By: What role does memory play during the Yamim Noraim?... Rabbi Ravid Tilles

**September 28** - Words on Fire: Exploring High Holy Day sermons from the Warsaw Ghetto... Rabbi Dave Siegel

**November 2** - Join Rabbi Klein Wednesday evenings at 8:15 pm for **Treasures of The Talmud: Mining the Talmud for life transforming wisdom with an emphasis on the teachings of Rabbis Akiba and Hillel.** Taught by Rabbi Charles Klein, this class is dedicated by Susan Guttman in loving memory of Leslie Guttman.

Join our own **Richard Knox** as he continues to bring us **Masters of Film Music Series:**

**November 15<sup>th</sup> - Max Steiner** - Often referred to as the "father of film music," Max Steiner (1888-1971) left an indelible imprint on the history of motion pictures during his 35+ year career. Steiner wrote scores for classics including "King Kong," "The Informer," "Gone With the Wind" and "Casablanca." This program will analyze his musical style, which enabled audiences to associate key melodies with characters and places.

**March 7<sup>th</sup> - Bernard Herrmann** - Known primarily for his long collaboration with film director Alfred Hitchcock, Herrmann (1911-1975) also enjoyed a distinguished career with Orson Welles. His first film score "Citizen Kane" put him on the fast track to fame. His compositions for classics such as "Vertigo," "North by Northwest" and "Psycho" endeared him to filmgoers who appreciate the importance of music in getting audiences emotionally invested in the cinematic experience.

### LIFELONG LEARNING PREMIER EVENT

**November 20 - MJC University Day - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Join us for our premier event of the year, a fun day of informal education on a variety of topics. Select up to three 50-minute sessions or two 90-minute sessions. Topics include Film Editing, Facebook 101, and Television Production: How a Commercial Is Produced, the College Application process and more. Light breakfast and registration at 9:30am, supervised activities for young children.

Come join us! We offer something to everyone! Are you interested in becoming an Adult Bat Mitzvah? Looking for a Hebrew language course? Have an idea for a program?

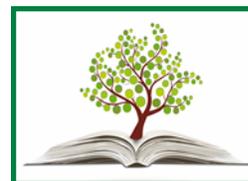
Call the office or drop an email to [mgoldenberg@merrickjc.org](mailto:mgoldenberg@merrickjc.org)

### RETURNING PROGRAMS

Al Haderech program continues and sends Rabbis Klein and Tilles out into the community, eager to teach you and your friends. You pick the topic, you pick the people, you pick the place and you pick the time!

Knitting and Crocheting Club - Wed. 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
Mah Jongg, Bridge and Game Day  
- Thurs. 1:00 pm

On behalf of Jon and me and Lifelong Learning Committee, Wishing you a L'Shanah Tovah, best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful New Year!



## Thank You

May this New Year be sweet, filled with peace, health and happiness for you, your family and the Jewish people.

L'shana Tovah!

Rabbi Charles and Betty Klein

# M.J.C. Men's Club

For the experience of your life

## Social Spiritual Service

The past year has been a momentous one for The Merrick Jewish Centre Men's Club. There were many highlights and many, many people that participated in our programs and activities.

As a result of those programs and the increased participation in Men's Club, scholarships were provided for both Camp Ramah and USY encampment. These scholarships were provided through the Men's Club Youth Activities Scholarship Fund. The funds raised through the Yom Hashoah Candle Program accounts for the majority of the money in the fund. Men's Club will continue to raise funds that will help support our youth as they learn to become the Jewish leaders of tomorrow. Another benefit of the past year's events is the new sukkah that Men's Club is presenting to our congregation.

For the past 20 years Irwin Silversmith has taken the leadership and responsibility of the Sukkah. Men's Club would like to extend a big thank you to Irwin, his family and the scores of people who helped maintain and assemble the sukkah for all those years.

Our new Sukkah will be 4 feet larger and will be made of modules, making the sukkah easier and safer to assemble and take apart. No screws, nails, bolts, hammers or screwdrivers will be needed. All panels will lock into place. There will also be two doors for traffic flow and three windows for ventilation. The windows and doors will provide more airflow and make the sukkah more stable in the wind.

There will be more news about the Sukkah in the next two weeks. We look forward to celebrating with all of our fellow congregants in the new MJC Sukkah.

### Now to the future

The next year of programs is shaping up to be very impressive. Many of our members have met over the summer to plan for a very exciting year. The calendar is filled with activities that all members of Merrick Jewish Centre can participate in. Take a look at the calendar and plan to join us.

**October 9** Assembly of the new sukkah  
Peter Donath and Nat Litman are compiling a list of people who will help

**October 23:** Sunday Morning Minyan, have breakfast and watch a Giants football game. Join us for a great sports program

**November 17:** Men's Club meeting

**November 27:** Paid Up Membership Dinner and Scotch tasting. Plus a Jets Football Game. Join us for a special dinner, raffles and of course NO CHARGE to Paid Up Members

**December 11<sup>th</sup>:** Minyan, Breakfast and a Bowling Party



A special Thank You is in order to all the people who contributed to make the sukkah a reality. A special Thank You to Rabbi Klein and Rabbi Klein's Pulpit Fund and the Martin and Doris Klein Memorial Fund.

at Massapequa Bowl. We are bringing back the traditional family bowling event.

December 15<sup>th</sup>: Men's Club Meeting

**January 5<sup>th</sup>:** Rehearsal for Men's Club Shabbat

**January 14<sup>th</sup>:** Men's Club Shabbat. Men's Club will also be a sponsor for the Congregational Kiddush.

There are many parts to be given out. Thanks to Howie Segal and Charlie Skop who are helping to spearhead the program.

**February 5<sup>th</sup>:** World Wide Wrap and Breakfast

**February 15<sup>th</sup>:** Men's Club Meeting

**March 16<sup>th</sup>:** Men's Club Meeting

**March 27<sup>th</sup>:** Preparing the Yom Hashoah Candles for distribution. It is a fun evening. And it is the candles that provide the Youth Group Scholarships

**April 10<sup>th</sup>:** Syum for the First Born. Join us for a special Men's Club Breakfast as we prepare for Pesach

**April 20<sup>th</sup>:** Men's Club Meeting

**May 15<sup>th</sup>:** Lag B'omer BBQ (last year's was a blast).

This year's them will be sports

**June** Annual Men's Club night at City Field

**July** Annual Men's Club Fishing Trip

In the next few weeks there will be more programs planned. Notices will be sent out for every activity and event.

Shanna Tovah U'Metukah to all!

Hank Arkin

Men's Club President



FRIENDS OF THE IDF

ידידי צה"ל בארה"ב



## Friends of the IDF (FIDF) Presents: The Story of IDF Staff Sergeant Elle

in Australia, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Staff Sergeant (Res.) Elle always knew that she would serve in the IDF. After leaving her family, friends, and home behind in Australia and moving to Israel, Elle began researching the different options for IDF service, and decided to become an IDF paramedic.

Once she was drafted and completed the IDF's paramedic course with an award of excellence, Elle joined a Combat Engineering battalion as a paramedic, where she had the rare opportunity to provide medical treatment to Syrians, Palestinians, and, of course, Israeli soldiers.

"During my service, our battalion was stationed all over the country," she recalls. "However, last summer, during Operation Protective Edge, our battalion was the first Combat Engineering battalion to be called to the South. As soon as I understood the situation, I knew that I couldn't stay back when everyone went in. I requested to be positioned with one of the companies going in so that, if the need arose, I would be ready to help immediately."



After intensive preparation, she and her company entered Gaza. "My squad climbed into the armored personnel carrier wearing full combat gear and began moving towards the border. Everything was dark and surreal as we continued further in. Suddenly, through all the mortars and artillery, a sentence spoken on the radio caught my attention - we were inside Gaza."

"Was I scared? No. Did I fully understand where I was? I don't think so. Either way, we were inside enemy territory

Although she grew up



with no way of knowing how long we'd be in, no way of contacting my family, and no guarantee that everyone would come out the same way we went in." For Elle, the most difficult aspect of service in Gaza was living with the unknown. There was no way to know when someone might need her help, where an attack might come from, or what was happening to soldiers in other units - including her brother, cousin, boyfriend, and several of her friends. She would find out later that three soldiers from her battalion were lost during the operation, including one who had been a very close friend.



One particularly trying moment for Elle came while she and her fellow soldiers were sitting in their armed personnel carrier and heard a familiar whistle and boom, and felt the ground beneath them shake. "It was a very distinct whistle, the same one an RPG makes when it's fired. It was aimed at our trailer, which usually has one ton of explosives in it, and had it been full, I wouldn't be here today. Fortunately, we had used up our supplies the night before, and no harm was done. It was the first time we were under direct attack, and, after a millisecond of experiencing 100 emotions at once, we retaliated as best as we could."

After being inside Gaza for two weeks straight, Elle and her battalion went out for a 20-hour break and witnessed the incredible level of support from Israelis and supporters abroad. "The donations, the volunteers, the BBQ held on our base, the food and toiletry parcels we received from Friends of the IDF (FIDF) supporters -- I don't think people can understand how grateful we were for everything, for every last wet wipe."

The FIDF community salutes Elle for her remarkable bravery and her dedication to the IDF and Israel.

### [We Invite You To Visit](#)

The Merrick Jewish Centre Web Site:  
[www.merrickjc.org](http://www.merrickjc.org)

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

# Sisterhood

Sisterhood and Z'havah would like to thank those women who helped get our first event of the year off to a great start. The wine and chocolate and schmoozing was enjoyed by everyone. We have many more fun and exciting events and programs planned throughout the year. Watch out for flyers and e-mails announcing them. There is something for everyone. Together we can dance, play, eat, learn, and fundraise to help make Sisterhood and Z'havah even stronger.

Come join us this month for a Challah Baking night on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. You can pick up your High Holiday tickets at the same time. October 20<sup>th</sup> features a Sukkah Schmooze at Yaffa Tilles' home. Our **Paid Up Membership Party (PUMP) Spa Night** is on November 16<sup>th</sup>, and is free with your Sisterhood membership of \$40. We are having a Wine Glass Paint Night on December 7<sup>th</sup> and a Chanukah program on December 25<sup>th</sup>. What could be bad about that combination? To start off the New Year during the cold winter months, we have warm programs planned that will educate, excite and relax you. Heading towards spring, we will have our largest fundraiser of the year, our Purim Shalach Manot basket packing and delivering. (Save the Date! Wednesday, March 1st.) The Sisterhood Shabbat service on March 11<sup>th</sup> and the Torah Fund breakfast (date to be determined) will also take place. Back again this year, Sisterhood and Men's Club will be having the Passover Café. Along with another paint night and a few exercise classes, we will be having a combined Sisterhood and Men's club game night! (Details to follow!) There are all of these great events planned, plus Israeli dancing! Check out the full list of programs at the bottom of this article.

We all have busy lives. Why not treat yourself and allow some "me" time to kick back and enjoy a girls' night out while doing some good? Remember, watch your temple mailings and e-mails for sisterhood membership forms and program flyers. Look for the sisterhood table when you pick up your High Holy Day tickets. Looking forward to meeting you then!

Please don't hesitate to call on us with any questions. Ellen can be reached at 546-0725 and Elaina can be reached at 236-4157. Both can be reached at [sisterhood@mjc.org](mailto:sisterhood@mjc.org). For any questions about Z'havah e-mail Yaffa or Alyssa at [zhavahmjc@gmail.com](mailto:zhavahmjc@gmail.com)

We wish you and your family a happy and a healthy New Year.

L'Shanah Tova,

Yaffa Tilles & Alyssa Kussin (Z'havah Co-Chairs)

Ellen Multer & Elaina Corwin (Sisterhood Co-Chairs)

## Program Dates

(z) = Z'havah Program. *EVERYONE is welcome to attend all programs!*

- 9/29 @ 7:30pm - Challah Baking
- 10/20 @ 8pm - Sukkah Schmooze in Yaffa Tilles' Sukkah (z)
- 11/16 @ 7:30pm - Paid Up Membership Party SPA NIGHT!
- 12/7 @ 7:30pm - Wine Glass Painting
- 12/25 @ 9:30am - Chesed activity with the Kids (z)
- 12/25 @ 5:30pm - Family night, Chinese Food and Hanukah Candle Lighting\* (z)
- 1/11 @ 7:30pm - Meditation
- 1/26 @ 7:30pm - Escape the Room OR Mom's Night out Gymnastics\* (z)
- 2/9 @ 7:30pm - Parenting Class - Juggling Judaism in our Busy Lives (z)
- 3/1 Shalach Manot Packing
- 3/11 Sisterhood Shabbat
- 3/22 @ 7:30pm - Xi Gong class
- 3/30 @ 7:30pm - Paint Night\* (z)
- 4/15 @ 8pm - Passover Cafe with Men's Club
- 4/27 @ 7:30pm - POUND workout class (z)

Israeli Dancing: 9/21, 11/30, 1/25, 3/8, 6/14

\*Extra Charge

## Catering at MJC

### New Information About Catering at MJC

The Catering Committee wants you to know that we are the ones to contact with regard to your catering needs at the Merrick Jewish Centre. We have created a new information sheet to help you when it comes to planning catered events and Kid-dush luncheons in the synagogue. This sheet includes information about the different catering options that you can choose from. You will find out what menu choices are available and also details pertaining to room rentals and the use of outside caterers. If you have a simcha or event coming up, please email us at [catering@merrickjc.org](mailto:catering@merrickjc.org) and we will be happy to provide you with the information sheet and the Catering Request Form.

## Thank You

Betty and I would like to express our deepest appreciation to our many friends who so thoughtfully and generously made contributions in our honor over the last few months.

We are always grateful for your concern and friendship.

Yours,  
Charles & Betty Klein

## Chesed

- ◆ Bereavement Support
- ◆ Family Support Services
- ◆ Support Groups and Services
- ◆ Bikur Cholim
- ◆ Mitzvah Days

**“Chesed is practiced by those who accept and fulfill the obligation of Gemilut Chassidim... Deeds of Loving Kindness.”**

Our desire is to provide support for members of our congregational family that are in need.

**We are our brothers' keeper!**

## College Contact

Last year our college program successfully linked the Merrick Jewish Centre with our college students throughout the country. What began several years ago as a program of mailing articles and bulletins to college students, has developed into a program which includes the sending of holiday packages for Chanukah, Purim and Passover.

As we begin this year, we ask that you provide the office with the names and addresses of your college age youngsters so that they can be included on our mailing list for the years 2016-2017. Please note that names and college addresses must be updated each year.

## We Invite You To Visit

The Merrick Jewish Centre Web Site:

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

Check our **CALENDAR** for upcoming events

Visit our **PHOTO GALLERY** and Check our **BULLETIN BOARD**



Last year, President Steve Kussin asked the Long Range Planning Committee to prepare a report with recommendations for a peak at what the Merrick Jewish Centre might look like in 5 – 10 years. As a first step, the Committee developed a mission statement for the synagogue that would guide our work:

**The Merrick Jewish Centre is deeply committed to enriching each congregant's personal Jewish journey through the religious, educational and social opportunities provided by our egalitarian, inclusive and welcoming Jewish community.**

Charged by our mission statement and clarified by our goals and objectives, we prepared our report around the theme of “Step In... To the Centre,” the concept being to encourage all our congregants to take another step into the activities and programs at the Merrick Jewish Centre that will profoundly enhance the value of their membership.

For example:

- If you attend High Holiday services just 3 days a year, consider attending Shabbat services Friday night or Saturday morning once a month.
- If you are encouraging your children to attend Hebrew school, why not set an example by participating in a Life Long Learning event or class?
- If you volunteer on a committee, maybe this is the year to volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors or to chair a committee?
- If you desire an increasing connection to Judaism, let us help you set up a kosher home.

Given these foundational principles, the Long Range Planning Committee projected that the Merrick Jewish Centre might look like something like this in 5-10 years:

A vibrant synagogue with 700-720 members.

In 2015, MJC had 670 members which represented a remarkable 9% net increase since 2010. We project a 5 year growth rate of 5 – 7% as a conservative forecast.

Our latest demographic study shows:

30% of our members have a head of household who is under the age of 50 years old. In 2015, 57% of our new additional members had a head of household who was under the age of 40, compared to 19% in 2011.

Since 2012, Hebrew School attendance has grown from 204 children to 264, a 29% increase.

This powerful trend of younger members and their families is a true testament to the outstanding team efforts of our Membership Committee, Rabbi's Klein and Tilles, Heléna Eilenberg, and Jamey Kohn, as well to our congregants who set the friendly, welcoming tone of the MJC.

A governance structure that makes sense in a 21<sup>st</sup> century world. The existing Constitution and By-laws was created in a different era and now contains many conflicting and outdated provisions.

A Hebrew School enhancing its already outstanding reputation for making Judaism exciting and fun for our children.

There will be increased focus on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to reduce post-bar mitzvah attrition.

A cohesive plan spanning the 10 years of Hebrew School with a “Community Project” concept to replace individual Bar Mitzvah projects.

The executive board will be charged with developing a clergy succession plan insuring a continuation of our

*(Continued on page 14)*

tradition of outstanding rabbinic leadership.

Already underway -- a welcoming, friendly congregation engagement program called ASIFA -- Assuring Inclusion for All -- founded by Rena Cohen Kozin reaching in to our multigenerational congregation to engage members and families who are not already involved in our community. This initiative will be driven by a social media plan supported by a comprehensive database of our congregants allowing ASIFA to focus on our congregants' common interests so that mini-communities can be formed within the MJC. Who knows, maybe there are enough MJC'ers who would like to form a rock band!

An inclusive synagogue with membership criteria welcoming LGBT and intermarried couples and families to become members of the MJC. . With the rate of intermarriage at 50% or higher an established fact in the non-Orthodox world, congregations like ours must make every effort to engage intermarried families that have committed to raising Jewish children.

A revived Lifelong Learning program now spearheaded by Michelle Goldenberg dedicated to offering a variety of learning opportunities that include traditional and contemporary Judaic and secular topics of interest to the multigenerational adult membership of the MJC.

An upgraded building facility, funded by our Capital Campaign, that will experience much needed modern facelift and infrastructure improvements including upgraded security precautions. All possible efforts will be made to reduce the building's carbon footprint and to increase seating capacity during the High Holidays.

A back office focused on continuing to provide premium personal service to congregants. Office operations will be driven by state of the art technology that will streamline all office workflow, bookkeeping and collection activities.

A comprehensive communication plan driven by the idea that the MJC is about making friends.

A social media effort that would manage MJC's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds.

An increase in transparency of Board and committee work.

A shul with enhanced religious participation.

A program of monthly themed Friday night services acts to serve as a powerful tool for attracting families where they will have the time and opportunities to develop lifelong friendships with fellow congregants.

Deepen the volunteer ritual bench

A new Congregational Relations Committee reaching out to local struggling synagogues to see how we can work with each other to keep our Jewish community strong: Hebrew School, food pantry, etc. Our approach will be to ask other local synagogues, "How can MJC help you to serve your congregants via our shared resources?"

Do you know that the Merrick Jewish Center now 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.

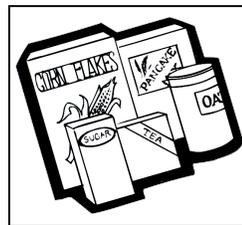
# Kosher Pantry

There are Jewish people on Long Island who are going **hungry**. As you may know, The Chesed Committee is committed to a wonderful initiative in which we support the Kosher Pantry in Massapequa, which helps our fellow Jews in need.



Our role in this project is a **very simple** one: Remember to bring one item of non-perishable food: a can of soup, a box of pasta, a jar of peanut butter, a canister of oatmeal-- and so forth..... and deposit these donations in one of the collection bins in the lobby.

You get the idea! When the kids come to Hebrew school, that's also the perfect time for a drop off. *If each person in our congregation remembered, imagine what we would collect-- and how far our donations would go to alleviating this pressing problem.*



Please -- don't leave it to others. Again, we are fortunate to enjoy three full meals a day; there are fellow Jews just a stone's throw away that are not so lucky. On behalf of Chesed project coordinators Ellen Sussman & Linda Zryb-- "**thank you**" for participating in this mitzvah.

Our food drive for the Kosher Pantry has been very successful. Therefore, we are asking our congregants to please think of the hungry when they go food shopping and buy something extra to donate. Please drop off donations at Merrick Jewish Centre.

**The Kosher Food Pantry is open to all who are in need regardless of religious affiliation.**

# Scrup | Gift Card Program

We are excited to introduce our latest fundraising effort, the **Scrup/Gift Card Program**. Yes... we are asking for your money, but we are giving you something back in return! This program is utilized by many non-profit organizations and has proven to be a very successful fundraiser. However, it will only be successful for us with YOUR participation. So we invite you to join our effort by purchasing gift cards for stores in which you shop. There are many to choose from. Please contact the MJC office today

(516-379-8650 or office@merrickjc.org) to place your order.



## DAILY QUOTE

What is this world comparable to? To the water wheel in the garden: the clay bowls on the bottom rise filled, and the upper ones descend empty. In the same way, not everyone who is rich today is rich tomorrow, nor is one who is poor today poor tomorrow. Why? Because the world is a wheel.

- Midrash Rabbah, Shemot 31

## *The I.N.N. News*

We Are Back!! Once again we are assembling trays of lasagna for the Interfaith Nutrition Network. It has upgraded its facility in Freeport and now have refrigeration and cooking facilities. We meet one Thursday morning a month in the dairy kitchen at MJC. If you would like to join us please contact Shelley Rosenblum at 867-0717 for additional information.

## *With Gratitude*

**We would like to acknowledge the following families who have graciously dedicated our new high holy day torah covers:**

- Linda, Lewis, Robert and David Altman – Celebrating 36 years as MJC members
- The Diamond Family – In loving memory of Barbara Gold-Biton
- Iris and Allan Greenberg – In memory of beloved parents Benjamin & Rose Beilin, Isidore & Bella Greenberg
- Judy Greenberger – In honor of my children and grandchildren Emma, Jacob and Adam
- The Lampert Family – In loving memory of Helen Schlachter
- Harriet Pechter, Laurence Goldstein & Family. Michael Jaffe & Family – In loving memory of Bernard Pechter
- Ilene & Howard Segal – In honor of our daughters Heather, Allison and Lauren
- Ellen and Alan Sussman – In loving memory of our parents Ruth & Jack Moskowitz, Lilian & George Sussman

## *If the Shoe Fits*

**WEAR CANVAS SNEAKERS ON  
YOM KIPPUR**

**THAT'S RIGHT – WE'RE  
ENCOURAGING YOU TO.....**

**SNEAK INTO SHUL THIS  
YOM KIPPUR**

*It is a tradition for Jews to wear non-leather shoes on Yom Kippur. According to our tradition by forgoing leather shoes on Yom Kippur we are symbolically making the statement that in the year to come we will choose to walk in the spirit of kindness, goodness, compassion, humility and a reverence for life.*

**SNEAK INTO SHUL THIS  
YEAR ON YOM KIPPUR  
BUT .....**

**DON'T FORGET TO TAKE  
ALONG YOUR HIGH HOLY DAY  
TICKET!**

## *Remember*

*It is never too late to make  
your*

*Kol Nidre  
Pledge.....*

*But, please, remember to  
follow it  
up with a Check!*

# Chesed

“...And you offer your compassion to the hungry...”

Isaiah 58:10, Yom Kippur Haftorah

Collectively as a congregation we have been well-suited, generous, and proficient at donating food to those in need. Unfortunately the food pantries we assisted were not equipped to take prepared or other perishable food. Now, in addition to our collections of non-perishable food we are announcing a new initiative to recover food from gatherings where leftovers are available. Through Rock and Wrap It Up! we are now connected to a shelter that can take perishable food including produce. This gives us an enormous new opportunity to put extra food from our simchas, whether out or at home, to good use. Also, Rabbi Klein has assured us that it is a mitzvah to donate food from a shiva house. In fact, we have already begun to donate from temple events, shiva houses, and home and office parties. **Thanks to funds from our UJA-Federation Live with Purpose grant we are facilitating the expansion of this mitzvah throughout the congregation.** We are providing every congregational family with a chip clip showing all the information you need to know. If you do not receive one when you pick up your holiday tickets, please pick one up in the MJC office.

Rabbi Klein recently spoke about *eschar mitzvah mitzvah*, the positive feeling one gets from performing mitzvot. Donating our extra perishables is a mighty reminder of how fortunate we are and how much we can do. As the High Holiday season reminds us to seek the best in ourselves, may we all participate in these ways to help people that are less fortunate:

1. Join in the annual UJA High Holiday initiative Project Replenish which requests non-perishable items to feed a family of four for a day. This year, household items are also being sought. Flyers will be on your seats during the holidays.

2. Pick up your blue chip clip and look for opportunities to donate prepared or perishable food, including produce that would otherwise go bad. Too much food after Rosh Hashanah? Consider donating it. Any amount is welcome, but if you are planning a wedding or b'nai mitzvah ask your caterer to include a clause that, "All edible leftover food, prepared but not served cannot go into landfill but must feed the hungry." Our partner shelter is the

Rosa Parks Inn  
98 Whitehouse Avenue

Roosevelt (just three short blocks off Nassau Road) (516) 546-3076

It is just a 15 minute ride for most of us. Please call ahead. If you cannot deliver, Chesed members will assist you.

3. Continue your generous support of the Alix Raingear Kosher Food Pantry by dropping off kosher non-perishable items at the temple and supporting the Chesed Fund.

Thinking about doing something special to start off your New Year? Everyone is welcome to join the Chesed Committee and you can participate in any way your schedule allows. Our first night meeting is Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 PM in the CJL (after minyan). Our first day meeting will be Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:45 PM in the conference room. A small lunch is available at our day meetings.

**May you and your loved ones be inscribed in the book of life for a year of peace and good health.**

Vicki Goldman 208-9031 [vlgoldman@optonline.net](mailto:vlgoldman@optonline.net)  
Dana Knox 546-2018 [dknox36@hotmail.com](mailto:dknox36@hotmail.com)  
Lois Stein 378-7001 [lsteincu@aol.com](mailto:lsteincu@aol.com)

## Merrick Jewish Centre's Rock and Wrap It Up!



**Had a gathering? Excess Food?  
Deliver to Rosa Park's Inn (516) 546-3076  
For delivery assistance  
[Rockandwrapitup@merrickjc.org](mailto:Rockandwrapitup@merrickjc.org)**

## Teen Programs & USY at the MJC

GRADES 8-12

TAKING PART IN TEEN PROGRAMS IS A GREAT WAY TO HANG WITH FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW ONES, DEVELOP FRIENDSHIPS THAT LAST A LIFETIME, BUILD YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATION, MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND HAVE FUN!

### MONDAY TEEN LOUNGE NIGHTS 7-8:30PM

- ~MESSY TWISTER
- ~SUKKAH PARTY
- ~GAME SHOW NIGHT
- ~LOUNGE NIGHT
- ~CHINESE AUCTION
- ~CHINESE FOOD & MOVIE NIGHT
- ~IRON CHEF
- ~COOL TEEN TALK WITH HAL FROM FEES
- ~CHOCOLATE SEDER
- ~LOUNGE NIGHT
- ~BYE BYE BONFIRE
- ~COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

### RUACH & METNY EVENTS

OUTSIDE JEWISH TEEN PROGRAMS (WITH HUNDREDS OF LOCAL TEENS FROM LONG ISLAND TO WESTCHESTER)

KICKOFF EVENT, THEME NIGHTS, and PURIM DANCE, **KINNUS** (A FULL WEEKEND WHEN TEENS COME AND STAY AT LOCAL HOST HOMES & HAVE A WEEKEND FULL OF FUN, ACTIVITIES & FRIENDS), AND OTHER WEEK-END PROGRAMS TOO...

FOR MORE INFO CHECK OUT

<http://www.metnyusy.org/>

ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT MJC TEEN PROGRAMS CONTACT LISA AAMODT/YOUTH DIRECTOR AT [MORAH LISAA@MERRICKJC.ORG](mailto:MORAH LISAA@MERRICKJC.ORG)



## *Operation Build a Sukkah*

Make this the year you build a Sukkah for your family to celebrate Sukkot.

We've increased our MJC Sukkah subsidy to \$200 for those purchasing a Sukkah. This incentive subsidy is made available by the Alan Klein Memorial Fund.

**Build it – and They Will Come!**

## *Share - a - Simcha*

**A Simcha is such a wonderful thing!**

**Would you like to share a Simcha with members of our congregation?**

**Sponsor a Shabbos luncheon!**

**For all reservations and questions please email [catering@merrickjc.org](mailto:catering@merrickjc.org).**

*Tell them you read it in the Bulletin!*

# The Wonderful World of Youth Activities



## Youth Group!



Fun! Friends! Pizza! Join our temple youth program today!  
Events take place on Mondays from 6:15pm to 7:30pm

### 3rd grade

- September 12, 2016: Magic Night
- September 26, 2016: Apple & Chocolate Party
- November 7, 2016: Cake Boss
- December 5, 2016: Hanukkah Sand Art
- January 9, 2017: Tu B'shvat Scavenger Hunt
- February 13, 2017: Board Game Night
- March 20, 2017: Movie Night
- May 1, 2017: Tye-Dye and Gaga
- May 22 2017: End of Year Party

### 4th grade

- September 12, 2016: Magic Night
- September 26, 2016: Apple & Chocolate Party
- November 14, 2016: Spy Academy
- December 12, 2016: Hanukkah Party
- January 23, 2017: Movie Night
- February 27, 2017: Purim Booth Making
- March 27, 2017: Game Show Night
- May 8, 2017: Tye-Dye and Gaga
- May 22, 2017: End of Year Party

### 5th grade

- September 19, 2016: Amazing Race
- \*October 17, 2016: Edible Sukkah Making (NO HEBREW SCHOOL/Youth group from 4:15-6:15PM)
- November 21, 2016: Life Sized Hungry Hungry Hippos
- December 5, 2016: Doughnut Extravaganza
- January 9, 2017: Nerf Battle
- February 6, 2017: Purim Booth Making
- March 6, 2017: Movie Night
- April 3, 2017: Mission Im-Passover (scavenger hunt)
- May 15, 2017: Game Truck and Luau

### 6th and 7th grade

- September 19, 2016: Amazing Race
- \*October 17, 2016: Edible Sukkah Making (NO HEBREW SCHOOL/Youth group from 4:15-6:15PM)
- November 28, 2016: Game Show Madness
- December 19, 2016: Hamikkah Melted Crayon Art
- January 30, 2017: Purim Booth Making
- March 13, 2017: Movie Night
- April 24, 2017: Lights Out Scavenger Hunt
- May 15, 2017: Game Truck and Luau

### Steering Committee(6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade)

- November 14, 2016: Learn to Design Icebreakers (6:15pm – 7:00pm)
- February 27, 2017: Learn to Create and Design Youth Programs (6:15pm – 7:00)
- June 5, 2017: Develop a Calendar for the Upcoming Year (6:00pm – 7:30pm at Moo lala in Merrick)

### Specials

- October 22, 2016: (6:00pm – 11:00pm) 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Late Night (\$20 Per Person)
- December 18, 2016: (5:30pm - 7:30pm) Active Kidz (\$30 Per Person) ALL GRADES
- January or February: Pool Party at the JCC (\$10 Per Person) ALL GRADES
- February 11, 2017: (7:30pm – 8:30am) 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Sleepover (\$30 Per Person)
- March 3 and 4, 2017: Kadima Shabbaton for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> (Stay Tuned for more Details!)
- March 12, 2017: (Time TBA) MJC Purim Carnival

### The Merrick Jewish Centre

Advanced sign-up is required for all events

Pizza dinners will be served at all events

MJC Members \$110

Non Members \$150



# Chag Ha Sukkot

Sukkot is a seven-day harvest holiday that arrives during the Hebrew month of Tishrei. It starts four days after Yom Kippur and is followed by Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. Sukkot is also known as the Festival of Booths and the Feast of Tabernacles.

## The Origin of Sukkot

Sukkot harkens back to times in ancient Israel when Jews would build huts near the edges of their fields during the harvest season. One of these dwellings was called a "sukkah" and "sukkot" is the plural form of this Hebrew word. These dwellings not only provided shade but allowed the workers to maximize the amount of time they spent in the fields, harvesting their food more quickly as a result.

Sukkot is also related to the way the Jewish people lived while wandering in the desert for 40 years (Leviticus 23:42-43). As they moved from one place to another they built tents or booths, called sukkot, that gave them temporary shelter in the desert.

Hence, the sukkot (booths) that Jews build during the holiday of Sukkot are reminders both of Israel's agricultural history and of the Israelite exodus from Egypt.

## Traditions of Sukkot

There are three major traditions associated with Sukkot:

- Building a sukkah.
- Eating in the sukkah.
- Waving the lulav and etrog.

At the beginning of sukkot (often during the days between Yom Kippur and Sukkot) Jews construct a sukkah. In ancient times people would live in the sukkot and eat every meal in them. In modern times people most often build a sukkah in their backyards or help their synagogue construct one for the community. In Jerusalem some neighborhoods will have friendly contests to see who can build the best sukkah.

Few people live in the sukkah today but it is popular to eat at least one meal in it. At the beginning of the meal a special blessing is recited, which goes: "Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has sanctified us with commandments, and commanded us to dwell in the sukkah." If it is raining then the commandment to eat in the sukkah is postponed until the weather is more accommodating.

Since Sukkot celebrates the harvest in the land of Israel, another custom on Sukkot involves waving the lulav and etrog. Together the lulav and etrog represent the Four Species. The etrog is a kind of citron (related to a lemon), while the lulav is made of three myrtle twigs (hadassim), two willow twigs (aravot) and a palm frond (lulav). Because the palm frond is the largest of these plants, the myrtle and willow are wrapped around it. During Sukkot, the lulav and etrog are waved together while reciting special blessings. They are waved in each of the four directions - sometimes six if "up" and "down" are included in the ritual - representing God's dominion over Creation.

The lulav and etrog are also part of the synagogue service. On each morning of Sukkot people will carry the lulav and etrog around the sanctuary while reciting prayers. On the seventh day of Sukkot, called Hoshana Rabba, the Torah is removed from the Ark and congregants march around the synagogue seven times while holding the lulav and etrog.

The eighth and last day of Sukkot is known as Shmini Atzeret. On this day a prayer for rain is recited, demonstrating how the Jewish holidays are in tune with the seasons of Israel, which begins on this day.

## The Quest for the Perfect Etrog

Among religious circles a unique aspect of Sukkot involves the quest for the perfect etrog. Some people will spend upwards of \$100 for the perfect etrog and on the weekend before Sukkot outdoor markets selling etrogim (plural of etrog) and lulavim (plural of lulav) will spring up in religious neighborhoods, such as Manhattan's Lower East Side. Buyers are looking for unblemished skin and etrog proportions that are just right. A 2005 movie titled "Ushpizin" shows this quest for the perfect etrog. The movie is about a young Orthodox couple in Israel that is too poor to build a sukkah of their own, until a miraculous donation saves their holiday.

## Simchat Torah

Simchat Torah is a celebratory Jewish holiday that marks the completion of the annual Torah reading cycle. Simchat Torah literally means "Rejoicing in the Law" in Hebrew.

### The Meaning of Simchat Torah

Throughout the year, a set portion of the Torah is read each week. On Simchat Torah that cycle is finished when the last verses of Deuteronomy are read. The first few verses of Genesis are read immediately afterward, thereby starting the cycle again. For this reason, Simchat Torah is a joyous holiday celebrating having completed the study of God's word and looking forward to hearing those words again during the coming year.

### When Is Simchat Torah?

In Israel, Simchat Torah is celebrated on the twenty-second day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei, directly after Sukkot. Outside of Israel it is celebrated on the twenty-third day of Tishrei. The differences in date are due to the fact that many holidays celebrated outside the land of Israel have an additional day added to them because in ancient times the rabbis worried that without this extra day Jews might become confused about the date and accidentally end their holiday observances early.

### Celebrating Simchat Torah

Simchat Torah services begin in the evening, at the start of the holiday. The Torah scrolls are removed from the ark and given to members of the congregation to hold, then they march around the synagogue and everyone kisses the Torah scrolls as they pass. This ceremony is known as *bakafot*, which means "to march around" in Hebrew. Once the Torah holders return to the ark everyone forms a circle around them and dances with them. There are seven *bakafot* in total, so as soon as the first dance is completed the scrolls are handed to other members of the

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(Continued from page 20)

congregation and the ritual begins anew. In some synagogues it is also popular for children to hand out candy to everyone.

During Simchat Torah services the next morning many congregations will divide into smaller prayer groups, each of which will use one of the synagogue's Torah scrolls. Dividing the service up this way gives every person in attendance the opportunity to bless the Torah. In some traditional communities only the men or pre-bar mitzvah boys accompanied by adults bless the Torah (post bar mitzvah boys are counted among the men). In other communities women and girls are also allowed to take part.

Because Simchat Torah is such a happy day, services are not as formal as at other times. Some congregations will drink liquor during the service, others will make a game out of singing so loud that they drown out the cantor's voice. Overall the holiday is a unique and joyful experience.

Shemini Atzeret, meaning "the eighth day of assembly," is a Biblical Jewish holiday that follows the Jewish festival of Sukkot. It is written: "On the eighth day you should hold a solemn gathering; you shall not work at your occupation" (Numbers 29:35).

### Praying for Rain

Shemini Atzeret marks the beginning of the rainy season following the harvest in Israel.

The prayer for rain, *Tefilat Geshem*, is the only ritual that is unique to Shemini Atzeret. In ancient times, an offering was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem on Shemini Atzeret. But once the Temple was destroyed, the only Shemini Atzeret ritual that remained was the liturgy requesting rain for a plentiful year.

After the prayer for rain is recited on Shemini Atzeret, the phrase *Masbeiv HaRuach U-Moreed HaGeshem* (He causes the wind to blow and the rain to fall) is inserted into the Amidah prayer until Passover.

Ashkenazi Jews recite the Memorial Prayer, *Yizkor*, on Shemini Atzeret.

### Shemini Atzeret and Sukkot

Even though Shemini Atzeret immediately follows the festival of Sukkot, it is a totally separate holiday. A new *Shebechiyanu* blessing is recited. And if one sits in the Sukkah on Shemini Atzeret, the prayer recited for sitting in the Sukkah is not recited.

### Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah

Since the completion of the annual cycle of Torah readings occurred around the time of Shemini Atzeret, a rabbinical tradition developed in the Middle Ages to celebrate the Torah on Shemini Atzeret. This celebration came to be known as Simchat Torah. Simchat Torah celebrates - with joyful processions, singing and dancing - the ending of one cycle of Torah reading and the beginning of a new cycle.

Today in the Diaspora, Simchat Torah is celebrated on the second day of Shemini Atzeret. It is common for Jews in the Diaspora to refer to the first day as Shemini Atzeret and to the second day as Simchat Torah.

In Israel, Simchat Torah is celebrated on the first and only day of Shemini Atzeret. The holiday is referred to as both Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

## Ethics of Our Fathers

Ethics of Our Fathers presents discussions of moral conduct and ethical life. Some might look at this as the golden rule of living. At this season it is good to look at the way we conduct our lives and the way we conduct ourselves with other people. Reflection and introspection are part of this very special time of year.

Ben Zoma says: Who is brave? The one who subdues his negative inclination... (Talmud - Avot 4:1)

Ben Zoma says: Who is rich? The one who appreciates what he has... (Talmud—Avot 4:1)

Ben Zoma says: Who is wise? One who learns from every man. Who is strong? One who overpowers his inclinations. Who is rich? One who is satisfied with his lot. Who is honorable, one who honors his fellows...

Rabbi [Judah HaNassi] would say: Which is the right path for man to choose for himself? Whatever is harmonious for the one who does it, and harmonious for mankind...

Akavia the son of Mahalalel would say: Reflect upon three things and you will not come to the hands of transgression. Know from where you came, where you are going, and before whom you are destined to give a judgment and accounting...

Moses received the Torah from Sinai and gave it over to Joshua. Joshua gave it over to the Elders, the Elders to the Prophets, and the Prophets gave it over to the Men of the Great Assembly. They would say three things: Be cautious in judgment; establish many pupils; make a safety fence around the Torah...

Hillel would say: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not know when?"

Shammai taught; "Say little and do much." (1:15)

Hillel would say: "A person that is (too) shy (to ask questions) will never learn.' and a teacher that is too strict cannot teach . . . . And in a place where there are no men, strive to be a man." (2:5)

Rabbi (Meir) said, "Look not at the flask but at what is therein; There may be a new flask full of old wine, And an old flask wherein is not even new wine." Pirke Avot 4:20

Rabbi Yose said: "Let your friend's property be as precious to you as your own; Give yourself to studying the Torah, for it does not come to you by inheritance; and let all your deeds be done in the name of Heaven." Pirke Avot 2:12

One very wise person once proclaimed, "We have two ears but one mouth, we can achieve twice as much with our ears than our mouths." This is not from Pirke Avot but it is something that we should consider in the New Year 5777.

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Mazal Tov to:

Stacy Luchs and Jodi Luchs on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Elana

Lauren & Eric Rosenberg on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Ethan, and grandson of Alice & Marvin Kreutzberger

Alyssa & Todd Kussin on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Rebecca, and granddaughter of Sharyn & Dr. Steven Kussin

Lauren & Thomas Harnick on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Rachel

Jodi & Michael Goldberg on the B'nai Mitzvah of their children Gabrielle & Charlie

Ellen & Darren Solomon on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Ava-Leigh

Elisabeth & Bart Dorfman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Rachel

Tamar & Michael Zaransky on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Manny

## BIRTHS

Mazal Tov to:

Aliza & Stephen Schauder on the birth of their daughter Lily Drew Schauder, born May 27th, 2016

Esther & Paul Goldberg on the birth of their granddaughter, Chaya Arielle Goldberg, born June 26, 2016 daughter of Jonah & Elizabeth Goldberg

Livia & Joel Morrow on the birth of their granddaughter Rylee Mila Tolkin, born May 5, 2016 daughter of Ariella & Ryan Tolkin

Helen Drogin on the birth of her fourth great grandson Kobi Irving Schwartz, (Yaakov Tzvi) in memory of Jesse Drogin born July 15, 2016 son of Jenna & Jonathan Schwartz

Cheryl & Marty Shaiman and Debbie Blank & Stuart Weinberg on the birth of their granddaughter Bryce Penelope Blank born July 28, 2016

Geri & Dr. Barry Silverman on the birth of their grandson Rafi Jack Siegel, born August 5th, 2016 son of Alexa & Matthew Siegel

Jacki Kaplan & Eric Kaplan on the birth of their granddaughter Lucia Campbell, born June 27th, 2016 daughter of Jessica & Jeff Campbell

Eileen & William Greenspan on the birth of their granddaughter Alexa Morgan Sigel, born March 17, 2016 daughter of Lindsey & Jacob Sigel

Hanna & Bob Saunders on the birth of their grandson Drew Margo Saunders, born August 23, 2016 son of Stephanie Saunders & Nicole Miller—and sibling to Eden Miller

Rena & Steven Berger on the birth of their grandson Logan Blake Berger, born August 31, 2016

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Mazal Tov to:

Robin & Mark Knoll on the engagement of their daughter Sabrina to Jeremy Segermeister

Sandy & Steve Tannenbaum on the engagement of their son Scott to Sara German

Carol & Ira Bernstein on the engagement of their daughter Ruth Alyssa Bernstein to Matt Ben Levin

Joan & Blaine Land on the engagement of their son Mark to Lindsey Coffman

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Mazal Tov to:

Helene & Donald Siegel on the marriage of their son Marc to Stephanie Reisender daughter of Michelle & Glenn Reisender

Michelle & Glenn Reisender on the marriage of their daughter Stephanie to Marc Siegel son of Helene & Donald Siegel

Randy & David Cohen on the marriage of their daughter Samantha to Steven Schenkein

Sandy & Steven Edelman on the marriage of their son David to Dalhia Damaghi

Paulette & Gary Mendelsohn on the marriage of their daughter Sharei to Adam Goldstein son of Phillip & Gloria Goldstein

Gloria & Adam Goldstein on the marriage of their son Adam to Sharei Mendelsohn daughter of Paulette & Gary Mendelsohn

Rhonda & Jeff Mutterperl on the marriage of their daughter Jessica to Chad Hanover son of Freda & Marc Hanover

Amy & Rob Garfinkel on the marriage of their daughter Jessica to Matthew Cory Rosenthal

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Janet & Harvey Fine on the marriage of their daughter Dr. Leah Fine to Dr. Jared Rosenstock

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Deborah Weiss & family on the loss of her beloved father Gerald Birnbaum

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Sherry Gossett & family on the loss of her beloved father Allan Lerner  
Robin Lubow & family on the loss of her beloved mother Annette Lax

Mitchell Mund & family on the loss of his beloved mother Mildred Mund

Ellen Solomon & family on the loss of her beloved father Joel Wasser

Jon Lowe & family on the loss of his beloved father Albert Loew

Ruth Katz & family on the loss of her beloved sister Fay Dor

\*\*\*\*\*

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Sandy Pinkus for speedy recovery of Ruth Silverman  
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Eve Perlmutter—to Charlie Skop & Howard Siegel—thank you for your beautiful “chasonus” and ever-willing performances. We are so very grateful to have you—Yasher Koach!!  
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 Joel Bickel in memory of aunt Muriel Zagin  
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 Lenore Birnbaum in memory of mother Doris Helen Jitomir  
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 Marjorie Bresler in memory of sister Judith Aronowsky  
 Judith Burkkhoff in memory of mother Frances Tropper  
 Fred Burns in memory of father George Burns  
 Phyllis Chaskes in memory of father Morris Beck  
 Stephen Cherniak in memory of father Edward Cherniak  
 Roberta Cogen in memory of mother Sarah Gottlieb  
 Rose & Ray Cohen in memory of Fay Dor sister of Ruth Katz  
 Elaine Corwin in memory of grandmother Rose B. Lipman  
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 Helen Drogin in memory of father-in-law Abraham Drogin  
 Ira Dzigas in memory of father John Dzigas  
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 Judy Elfenbein in memory of father Robert Ades  
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 Rhoda Feldman in memory of aunt Pauline Passman  
 Rhoda Feldman in memory of mother Mariessa Waxman  
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 Marvin Feller in memory of son Alan Feller  
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 David First in memory of mother Sally First  
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 Barrish Flashner in memory of mother Ruth Flashner  
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 Michael Frieman in memory of father Monroe Frieman  
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 James Gelb in memory of uncle Jack Rubin  
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 Bea Goldberg in memory of beloved mother Rene Lasky  
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 Roberta Goldenberg in memory of mother-in-law Lillian Goldenberg  
 Stan Goldberg in memory of brother Gary David Goldberg  
 Bea Goldberg in memory of husband Martin Goldberg  
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Paulette & Gary Mendelsohn in memory of beloved father Nat Kurzer	Evelyn Sprung in memory of husband Jack Sprung and eight siblings	Jack Rubinstein in memory of father David Rubinstein
Larry & Stephanie Meyers in memory of father Murray Meyers	Edward Satum in memory of father Irving Saturn	Barry Lasky in memory of father Charles Lasky
Larry & Stephanie Meyers in memory of mother Margie Meyers	Laraine Sweberg in memory of father Harold Sternbach	Terry Wechsler in memory of mother Ruth Bandel
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Abby Ofsink in memory of mother Rose Lustigman	MeMe Wanderman in memory of beloved Mother Sally Weinberg	Michelle Schwartz in memory of mother Sylvia Cohen
Rochelle Peretz in memory of father Morris Kaplan	Sheila Weintraub in memory of mother-in-law Shirley Weintraub	Laraine Sweberg in memory of husband Ivan Sweberg
Eve Perlmutter in memory of beloved brother Raphael Alexander Meyer	Lorraine Katz Ullian in memory of beloved mother Norma Meltzer	Ivan Menschel in memory of father Max Menschel
Sandy Pinkus in memory of beloved father Irving Levy	Elaine Vogel in memory of brother David Russell	Diana Hoffman in memory of mother Mollie Klein
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Arthur Saftler in memory of wife Doris Saftler	Norman Whitman in memory of father Benjamin Whitman	Lila Rosenberg in memory of mother Lila Rosenberg
Cheryl Shaiman in memory of mother Phyllis Zeizel	Barry Wilansky in memory of wife Stephanie Wilansky	Edward Weisel in memory of father Mortimer Weisel
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Louella Silberberg in memory of grandfather Max Podolsky	Shelley Rosenblum in memory of mother Libby Ruck	Linda Topchik in memory of mother Louise Barokas
Louella Silberberg in memory of father Murray Press	Victor Goldberg in memory of mother Irene Goldberg	

## הַיְהוּדִי הַמְּשֻׁלָּם

אֲהַבְנוּ, בְּכִינוּ, גְּמַלְנוּ, דְּבַרְנוּ יְפִי. הֶאֱמַנו,  
וְהִשְׁתַּדַּלְנוּ, זָכַרְנוּ, חִבְּקָנוּ, טָעַמְנוּ סֵפֶר. יִצְרָנוּ,  
כְּמַהְנוּ, לְחַמְנוּ עֵבוֹר הַצֶּדֶק, מוֹצִינוּ אֶת הַטּוֹב,  
נְסִינוּ, סָרְנוּ לְרָאוֹת, עָשִׂינוּ אֲשֶׁר צוֹיָתְנוּ. פִּרְשָׁנוּ,  
צִדְקָנוּ לְפַעֲמִים, קָרָאנוּ בְּשִׁמְךָ. רָצִינוּ, שְׂמַחְנוּ,  
תִּמְכְנוּ.

## Cleaning out your closet for autumn?

Why not donate your unwanted  
clothes to

The Merrick Jewish Centre  
partnership with  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of  
Long Island?

Just deposit your clothing items into  
our bin in the back of the MJC  
Parking Lot.

By making your clothing donation  
(shoes are OK also), you will ac-  
complish 3 worthwhile endeavors:

- You will be helping Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island, an organization dedicated to providing children facing adversity with 1 to 1 professionally supported mentoring services.
- You will also be supporting Merrick Jewish Centre because MJC receives 7 cents for every pound of clothing you donate. And
- You will be cleaning out your closets by getting rid of out-dated and worn clothing to make room for glorious new threads for the Holidays.

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in need.

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keeper!**

# 11th Annual Merrick Jewish Centre Golf Outing & Day At The Club

The Merrick Jewish Centre's 11th Annual Golf Outing and Day at The Club took place on Monday, August 15, 2016 at The Glen Head Country Club. The day featured 90 golfers enjoying a day full of pars, birdies and even some eagles! Over 20 ladies signed up for a day at the club to play mahjong and other games. Later in the day over 40 people joined in for cocktails and dinner which was held on the club's outdoor patio, which has a stunning view of their magnificent golf course. During the dinner portion of the event, prizes were given out to the golfers for various competitions held on the course during the day. An exciting Chinese auction was also held, which featured great raffle baskets and grand prizes that included an iPad Pro, Sonos Play 1 Speakers and a \$750 VISA gift card. The lucky winner of our 50/50 raffle walked away with \$1,470 in CASH!

We want to thank all of the sponsors as well as all of those who contributed raffle prizes for the event. We ask you to review the sponsor listing in this bulletin, and patronize them and thank them for supporting the Merrick Jewish Centre. Without their participation our outing would not be the success that it is.

We hope that more of you will join us for next year's outing. It promises to be even bigger and better! Mark your calendars – Monday, August 7, 2017.

## MJC Golf Outing Committee

Howard Segal  
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Doug Miro

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Gary Sanders  
JoAnne Skop

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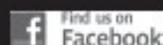
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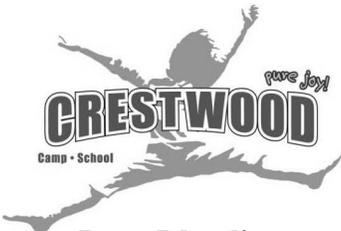
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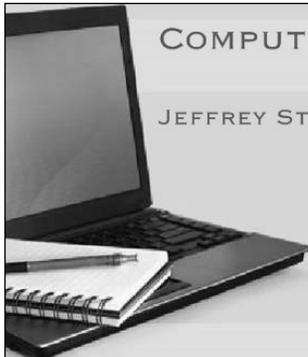
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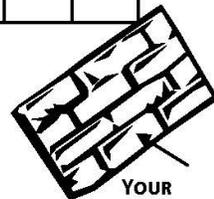
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2016 marks an alarming year in which the daunting cloud of uncertainty is prevalent more than ever. From a turbulent presidential race to widespread terrorism affecting countries across the globe, there is much cause for concern regarding the safety of the Jewish people and our homeland.

The polarizing political climate and rancor rampant in the discourse between both campaigns, as well as an unnerving rise in global terrorism calls for action. Acheinu is spearheading an initiative on Tuesday, September 27 to unite one million people around the world in a Day of Jewish Unity.

**RIDING THE WAVE OF LAST YEAR'S OUTSTANDING SUCCESS OF OVER 500,000 PARTICIPANTS, TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR MILESTONE OF UNITING OVER 1 MILLION JEWS ACROSS THE WORLD!**

In times of crisis, the Jewish nation has historically turned to prayer in order to help us persevere and overcome the odds.

On Tuesday, September 27, join over one million individuals around the world on behalf of the perils facing the world today. Unite for our country. Unite for humanity.

**TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS SPECIAL GLOBAL EVENT:**

1. Recite 2 passages of Psalms, Chapters 20 & 130
2. Refrain from speaking gossip and harmful speech



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