



The Herald
Hamvaser
המבשר
GREENBURGH HEBREW CENTER

JULY—AUGUST TAMMUZ—ELUL 5782

Vol. 51 No. 6

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

"Go forth from the land to a place I will show you." (Genesis 12)

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step" (Chapter 64 of the Dao De Jing)

"To be fully alive, fully human, and completely awake is to be continually thrown out of the nest." (Pema Chodron)

Like so many on my Interfaith clergy trip to Israel this past May, I did not want to go. It was a bad time of year to go. There was so much to do. As the year comes to a close, there are so many loose ends to tie up. I really did not know anyone else who was going on the trip and the ones whom I did know were not close friends. Yet the leaders of the trip were persistent and to be able to see my daughter in Israel was a draw. So I conceded and went. And as the lyrics of one of the great songs of Fiddler on the Roof says, "Wonder of wonders, miracle of miracles- God took a Daniel once again, stood by his and side and- miracle of miracles- walked him through the lions den!"

I have been to Israel many times and now again for the first time. Each trip has had a purpose, each trip brought meaning and yet this time...

One story can illustrate the impact of my trip and is found in the most obvious place. It was a gift from Rabbi Howard Goldsmith of Congregation Emanu-el of Westchester. I have been to the old and the new Yad Vashem, Israel's national, and the world's preeminent,

Holocaust Museum. The name Yad Vashem comes from the prophet Isaiah, who asks, "And to them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name (a "yad vashem") that shall not be cut off." (Isaiah 56:5).

The night before our trip to the Museum, Rabbi Goldsmith asked that we write on a piece of paper two sentences that would not be shared with others but that we would put our names to. On that paper we would write: first, our greatest accomplishment; and, second, our greatest hope or vision for the future.

The next morning we arrived at Yad Vashem and after a brief introduction (another reminder that there were people who had never been there before, still inconceivable to me, that a religious figure, no matter the religion, had not been to one of the most powerful places on earth), Rabbi Goldsmith collected the pieces of paper and said something to the effect of "this place took the accomplishments and dreams of more than six millions Jews and another seven million other people." I had no idea where that exercise was going and now I was hurting. We made our way through the museum at a breakneck pace of two hours (not enough time by any measure).

We emerged from the incredible architecture that begs you to take a breath; as if throughout the entire journey you cannot help but hold your breath, only to realize how blessed, how lucky I am to still be able to breathe while the entire experience is suffocating. A small tear falls and I think to myself of the two sentences I had written on the paper and no longer have. A sense of loss that is so enormous I cannot even begin to understand on any intellectual

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We're RENOVATING the

Youth ★ Lounge

you can donate:

- Used books and board games
- Fidget toys
- Nok hockey & other games
- Flat screen TV
- Mini fridge
- New pool cues
- Used laptops

What we're hoping to do

We're hoping to turn it into



What we would do there



We would be super grateful
for any donations made.
Thank you!

From the vav &
zayin class

RABBI cont'd from pg. 1

level. I pause for a moment to wonder about why I am so emotional. Is it because on this trip I am not the leader, I am not the rabbi? I do not have to concern myself with schedules, with logistics, with answers. I do not have to carry anyone else's pain.

After reestablishing our equilibrium, we continue on. Fully emotionally spent, there is one more place to visit before we leave. We stop in the shade and read a poem.

It is meant to be read in a loop.

Written in Pencil in a Sealed Freightcar | By Dan Pagis

Here in this boxcar

I am Eve

With my son Abel

If you see my older boy

Cain son of Adam

Tell him that I am...

כָּאֵן בְּמִשְׁלוֹחַ הַיָּדָה

אֲנִי חַוָּה

עִם הָבֵל בְּנִי

אִם תִּרְאוּ אֶת בְּנֵי הַגָּדוֹל

קִי'וּ בְּן אָדָם

תִּגִּידוּ לוֹ שְׁאֲנִי

Immediately my mind turns to the next exhibition, The Children's Memorial. We approach and I see a relief of a small baby with a round face and angelic smile. I see in his eyes my grandchildren and I start to cry, not tears running down my face but from my core, a deep painful wrenching of the heart. We enter a completely dark room illuminated only by a single candle reflected off many mirrors. A man from another group, someone I had never seen before and whom I will never see again, puts his arm around me, a shared moment of humanity. We emerge into the light; he goes off to his tour and I go to mine. I regain my composure to the sounds of fellow clergy reciting the mourner's kaddish.

Rabbi Goldsmith gathers the group and says, I took your accomplishments and dreams away, now I give them back to you. Cherish them and make them happen.

My two sentences.

My greatest accomplishments: My children.

My dream/vision for the future: To be surrounded by my wife, my children and grandchildren and to hold them tight.



What better way to wish a *Sweet and Healthy New Year* than sending a jar of honey?

Send a personalized package, including a festive 8-ounce jar of delicious clover honey which is certified Kosher by the Orthodox Union and guaranteed to be 100% pure honey, plus a gift card and the blessing for the New Year, anywhere in the United States.

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(Note that this site works best using the Google Chrome browser)

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Questions: contact honey@ghcny.org



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CANTOR

This summer I will have the pleasure of attending two weddings of two of my good friends, each of whom I met while I was in cantorial school. They both played important roles in my journey through school, and I am grateful that each of them has come into my life. They both attended my wedding in 2018, and I am excited to be there to celebrate with them.

At both ceremonies I will be doing some, or all, of the sheva brachot, the seven blessings that are recited as part of the marriage ceremony under the chuppah. The number seven, which is an auspicious number for Jews, represents the days of creation, as well as completion, perfection, and wholeness.

It is unknown who composed the sheva brachot – they are recorded in the Talmud (Ketubot 7b-8a), yet their origins are likely several centuries earlier.

The themes of the sheva brachot are that of creation and joy. The first four blessings focus on the theme of God's power of creation – of the fruit of the vine, of all things for Your glory, of man, of man and woman in God's image. According to Rabbi Daniel Gordis, "marriage furthers God's power of creation". Through marriage (though it is not the only way), humans create home, family, and perhaps children, continuing God's work. The fifth through seventh blessings move to the theme of joy, as well as creation. The sixth blessing recalls the Garden of Eden, saying "Grant perfect joy to these loving companions, as You did to the first man and woman in the Garden of Eden". The final and longest blessing praises God for creating joy and gladness, loving partners, mirth, song, delight and rejoicing, love and harmony, peace and companionship. "May there ever be heard in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem voices of joy and gladness, voices of loving partners, the jubilant voices of those joined in marriage under the bridal canopy, the voices of young people feasting and singing"

Amidst all the tragedy, suffering and pain in the world today, what a beautiful and hopeful image these blessings paint. While we cannot forget the struggles going on all around us, it is truly happy occasions that keep us going and allow us to connect to the joy and creative power of humanity.

PRESIDENT' MESSAGE

For those that read my March-April article, I had made you aware of how disappointed Leslie and I were at not being able to see our youngest son, Jason, and his fiancé, Ashley, at the end of January due to Ashley testing positive for Covid the day before we were scheduled to fly out. We were going to Disney World and as the last time we were there was 25 years ago, we were looking forward to it. As it turned out, while we were disappointed at the time, all was good. The weather in Orlando was 35 degrees and our scheduled flight home, due to the Noreaster that hit on that Saturday, was severely delayed and we would not have come in until three o'clock in the morning. Well, at the beginning of May, we had our chance to try it again, and this time we were quite successful.

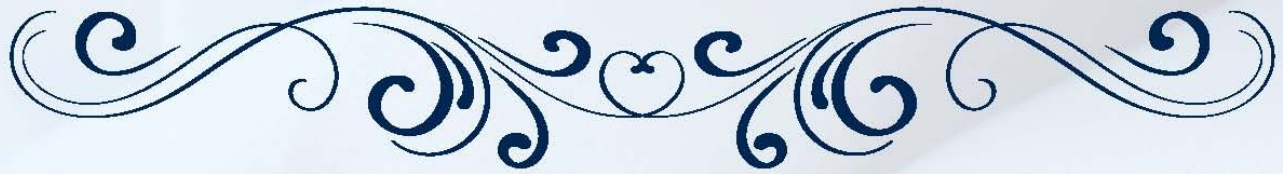
We had a great time and (although the temperature averaged 95-degrees) all went well. By now you should be asking, what does this have to do with GHC? The fact of the matter is, especially during the last two to three years, what was originally planned may have had to be altered. There were many challenges we faced and thanks to our professional team and efforts by our many volunteers, we were able to overcome them. You may not have all liked EVERY decision that was made or how EVERY activity was accomplished, but we all stood together and worked through whatever the challenges were.

Last Hamvaser, I thanked all those who have volunteered and spent/spend a lot of their personal time to make GHC a place where everyone can appreciate and enjoy being a part of a community. I now feel it only appropriate that I thank those who are our paid professionals and whose dedication and love for GHC is shown every time they are in the building.

First and foremost, we owe tremendous gratitude to our Rabbi, Jay Stein. The Rabbi spends countless hours, many on his own time, doing GHC business. Whether it is speaking to congregants, working on services, conducting discussions or classes in person or virtually, or teaching in our Religious School, the Rabbi has always come through. Unless you are in a position like mine, you REALLY have no idea as to the amount of time the Rabbi spends on behalf of his congregation. Next time you see him, it would be only fitting that you say "thank you!"

Cantor Anna May has always stepped up and undertakes more than just her cantorial responsibilities during services. Not only has she been teaching and preparing our

Cont'd on pg. 7



Scroll of Gratitude

Greenburgh Hebrew Center



We have all, at some period in our lives, experienced difficult times, both before and during the pandemic. However, there have also often been bright spots, people who have reached out to help. Was there someone who went shopping, picked up a prescription, took your dog for a walk, called to say hello, brought you a meal, drove you to the doctor, picked up your kids from school, etc.? Recipients are not limited to members of GHC.

If saying "thank you", just wasn't enough, here is an opportunity to show your appreciation. Inscribe their names on our Scroll of Gratitude. We are asking for a small donation of \$18.00 per name and a description of how that individual helped you in your time of need. Only his/her name will be added to the scroll, but with your permission, we will print the specific information as to why the name appears.

Your Name_____

Person(s) you are grateful for_____

Reason(s)_____

___ I give permission to have this information shared with the congregation



PRESIDENT' MESSAGE cont'd from pg 5

B'nei Mitzvah children (who, by the way, have all done a great job on their big day), but she is also involved singing and teaching with the Religious School children and even helps out in our Early Childhood Center. You would never know, that, technically, she is a part-time Cantor.

Amy Kessler, our Director of Education, has done an excellent job dealing with both the Religious School and Early Childhood Center. It was not easy, especially during Covid, to adjust schedules and teachers, as well as to deal with parent's concerns. Her steadfastness, patience, and enthusiasm are to be commended.

To all our teachers in both the Religious School and Early Childhood Center, GHC would not be what it is today without your commitment and help.

Our office staff, led by Madaline Bruno, with the help of our former bookkeeper Yoko Yamamoto and now our new bookkeeper, Wellington Castro, as well as Jacqui Walker, do the unsung tedious work that often gets unnoticed. Whether it be printing letters, mailings, stuffing, keeping track of payments and activities etc., the office keeps GHC's engine running.

Finally, to our lead custodian, Andrew Lewit, and Andre Whitted, who comes in twice a week, thank you for helping to set up the building, cleaning the building, buying supplies and keeping a watchful eye out that everything is going smoothly. The custodial staff gets pulled in many directions by many people, so please keep that in mind when speaking to them.

Now that we are coming to the summer, life at GHC will probably slow down. However, we still have services that you are welcome to attend. To top it off, you will be treated to a nice lunch! We also have tentatively scheduled some Kabbalat services at Dobbs Ferry Park on July 15 and August 12th. You can bring a picnic dinner and watch the sunset over the water. Quite a relaxing and nice way for your family to be together with other GHC families. Please read GHC News for updated information.

Mark down also our Membership Appreciation Barbeque which will be held on Sept 5th. This has always been a very successful and fun barbeque.

I wish you and your families a very enjoyable summer.

Keep smiling, Jeff Liss

VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION

Congratulations to all of the Religious School and ECC students and families on finishing an incredible year at GHC. The collaboration and support from GHC's clergy, leadership, and all of the teachers, has been an important ingredient in ensuring the success of our programming. And of course, a huge thank you to Amy, for leading the way and making sure it has been a great year for everyone.

I am stepping into the role of Vice President of Education after Stephanie Luftig's commitment and leadership to the position for many years, and, boy, are these big shoes to fill. Thank you Stephanie, for staying close by and continuing to provide support to me and others.

In this new role, it is my hope to further strengthen our schools and educational programming, while keeping our children and their Jewish education at the forefront of every decision.

A little about me:

I have been passionate about education since I was in the second grade (that is when I decided I wanted to be a teacher), and after receiving my Masters degree from Bank Street College with a certification in elementary and special education I taught for over a decade in public and independent schools; both in and out of the classroom. I now run GO Education Services, a business that provides families with support and guidance in their children's educational experiences through individualized tutoring and more.

For the past nine years, my family and I have been members of GHC. My three daughters (Keren age 13, Lia age 11, and Jenna age 9) have been making their way through the religious school with some ups and downs, but all ended this year on a positive high note. Let's keep this great energy and momentum going!

As Vice President of Education, I look forward to collaborating with the teachers, clergy, and school leadership, as well as all parents with children enrolled in either school, to help ensure GHC's continued growth and success. I would love to hear from you with any ideas, questions, comments and concerns about your child(ren)'s experience at GHC. Please reach out to introduce yourself if we have not yet met, and please join me in any way you can. The best way to reach me is: vpeducation@ghcnyc.org or on my cell phone, 917-723-6106.

I am very excited about working with you on the upcoming school year.

Shara Sheinberg, Vice President of Education

SISTERHOOD

I hope that you are enjoying a relaxing and fun-filled summer, whether it be on a vacation or in your own backyard.

Sisterhood was so pleased that on May 7 we were able to have Sisterhood Shabbat in person in the GHC Sanctuary for the first time since 2019! Our all-women led service was uplifting and it was great to see so many in attendance at the service. Thank you to all who participated (the list is too long to print here) and to Rabbi Stein and Cantor May for your help in organizing the day. And thank you to Arlene Krawitz and Robin Rosenberg for your help in making Sisterhood Shabbat so successful. Besides Sisterhood Shabbat, we also celebrated the marriage of Andrew Ecker and Ariel Dumas at an aufruf, which made the day even more special and festive. After the service we had a delicious kiddush luncheon at which we honored our Sisterhood Woman of the Year, Sharon Weiss, for all that she has done for both Sisterhood and GHC, an honor well deserved. Thank you to our kiddush luncheon sponsors, who generously donated in honor of Sharon Weiss. A special thanks goes to the Ecker family.

On Wednesday, June 8, we had our End-of-Season dinner at a local restaurant, outdoors on their beautiful patio area. It was a nice relaxing evening and we had the chance to catch up and talk and enjoy a delicious dinner.

The High Holiday Honey Sale has begun! It is hard to believe that we have started thinking about Rosh Hashanah but now is the time to order these beautiful honey gifts for family, friends, neighbors and people who helped you out during the past year. The price of \$13.50 per jar includes shipping provided free-of-charge by ORT if you order by the end of the day on August 1. You can still order after August 1 but shipping will be an extra \$6.50. The personalized package, including an 8-oz jar of kosher honey, gift card and the blessing for the New Year will be delivered to your chosen recipients a week or two prior to Rosh Hashanah. The Honey Sale benefits Sisterhood/GHC and ORT, a not-for-profit global Jewish organization that promotes education and training in communities worldwide.

In August we will provide details about our High Holidays Greetings Card, a wonderful tradition started at GHC by Nettie Goldstein, and our Annual High Holidays Bake Sale. Please be on the lookout for the details as we get closer to the High Holidays.

On Sunday, September 18, at 10:30AM, Sisterhood will have its in-person Welcome Back Brunch with a guest speaker from the organization Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE). FORCE, whose mission is to improve the lives of individuals and families facing hereditary cancer, advocates for access to care, better treatment and prevention options. Please plan on attending this event, which promises to be educational and impactful, and to be together and socialize with your GHC family and guests.

Sisterhood is always looking for new board members and volunteers. No experience is necessary; just bring your enthusiasm and ideas. As it says on the GHC website "Sisterhood GHC is THE place for Jewish Women." Sisterhood is a major supporter of GHC culturally, spiritually and financially. We would love to have you join us. Contact me at Sisterhood@ghcny.org if you're interested or just want to discuss your thoughts on events, programs or any of the myriad of things that Sisterhood does to benefit our GHC community.

Allyn Salpeter, Sisterhood GHC President

OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES

The entire Greenburgh Hebrew Center community expresses its deepest sympathy to:

The family of Edward Sheldon Plotkin, on his passing.

Stanley Stone, on the passing of his beloved wife, Francine Stone.

Kenneth Atlas, on the passing of his beloved mother, Muriel "Mikki" Atlas.

Lisa Dayan, on the passing of her beloved mother, Barbara Gross.

May their memory always be a blessing.

CARING COMMUNITY

Dear Friends,

Last month I wrote about our amazing Caring Community. The reaction to this piece has been very gratifying. We do what we do because of you. Perhaps you donated to the Hesed fund. Perhaps you are a volunteer, on standby, when needed. Perhaps you make calls on a regular basis. Perhaps you write lovely notes.

Perhaps you are in the Religious School, making and sending beautiful cards.

Perhaps you are the dedicated team I am happy to be part of.

For all of this, thank you. Wishing you an enjoyable summer and a kinder and gentler New Year.

Sheila

MEMBERSHIP

GHC is the place to be!!!! If you are reading this article, you probably are a GHC member. If you are not yet a member, why are you waiting to “join the club”? GHC has so much to offer our members and our community. We are similar to a restaurant’s menu. You choose the items that appeal the most to you. Similar to a restaurant, we offer many choices to attract many tastes. Sometimes it is exciting to taste a new dish, which is also true at GHC. Why not try a new activity, class or event?

At GHC you will find prayers and services for Shabbat, holidays and ordinary days. They are in- person and online. If you only come on the High Holidays, try Shabbat. You will find our services are filled with music, Hebrew and English prayers, Torah, insightful and thought-provoking sermons, and are followed by a delicious lunch. If you have been attending online, come join us in person.

At GHC you will find educational classes for ALL ages. Our youngest learners enjoy their days in the ECC, while our older children have fun in Religious School. On the second Saturday of the month during the school year,

children who are six and younger have fun at the Mishpacha Service, where they sing, play games, make projects and learn prayers, while 2nd through 7th graders run their service at Junior Congregation. Our teens enjoy attending Hebrew High School and in the near future will gather in the newly decorated Teen Lounge. There are adult classes on a great variety of subjects. If you want to learn about a specific topic, let us know and we will find a great teacher to teach it!

At GHC you will find new and exciting activities. We are planning events for the coming year. Possible ideas include Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat Services at the Dobbs Ferry Waterfront, a Labor Day Barbeque (already scheduled for September 5th and free for members!) Field Day, a Purim Carnival, a Hanukkah Dinner, a Mystery Night, Sukkah Fun, Fun at a Park, Snow People Building, a Masquerade Ball, interesting speakers and more! Do you have a fun idea? Call me and share it!

Through GHC’s SATO Committee (Social Action/Tikun Olum) we participate in many activities that help others, including, but not limited to, collecting socks and underwear for those in need, our annual Turkey Drop, collecting holiday gifts, and donating food to various food banks.

Here at the GHC “Restaurant”, there is a big menu. Keep “chewing” on the activities that you enjoy AND taste a few new “dishes”. You might just like it (almost as much as chocolate!). Bring your friends to an activity, class or service. We are anxious to share all that we have with you and many more people. If you know someone who might be interested, please give me the name. If you know that someone has moved into the area, invite them to GHC or share their information and I will contact them. As Jeff, our president, says: **GHC is more than just a synagogue!**

Lastly, I would like to form a Membership Committee with members that represent different groups at GHC. If you are interested, please contact me at VPmembership@ghcny.org.

Looking to see you soon—Leslie Liss

DONATIONS

MAY 1, 2022 TO MAY 23, 2022

GENERAL

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Baskin, Howard & Rhonda | In Memory of | Benjamin Borah |
| | In Memory of | Jerome Grossman & Joseph Baskin |
| Fried, Deanna | In Memory of | Irving Fried |
| Hertz, Cynthia & Dubbrin, Allen | In Memory of | Fran Stone |
| Jagoda, Andy & Debbie | In Memory of | Barbara Gross, mother of Lisa Dayan |
| | In Memory of | Fran Stone |
| Katz, George | In Memory of | Gertie Ripps & Alan L. Ripps |
| | In Memory of | Elsa Katz |
| Krawitz, Jesse N. & Arlene S. | In Memory of | Melanie |
| | | The graduation of Naoh Greenwald, grandson of Sheila & Hal Greenwald |
| Leib, Myra | In Honor of | |
| | In Memory of | Fran Stone |
| | In Memory of | Charles Leib |
| | In Memory of | Philip Leib & Evelyn Leib |
| | | Thank you for the opportunity to chant the Haftarah numerous times over the past few years. It is always a pleasure to attend services at GHC, with your excellent past and present cantors. |
| Mittel, Joseph | Donation | |
| Robin, Eillen Schon & Jean Schon | In Honor of | Andrew Ecker's wedding |
| | In Memory of | Fran Stone |
| Segall, Bruce & Rosenberg, Robin | In Memory of | Mikki Atlas |
| | In Memory of | Edward S. Plotkin |
| | In Memory of | Fran Stone |
| Zucker, Gilda | In Honor of | Andrew Ecker's marriage to Ariel |

CARING COMMUNITY/HESED FUND

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--|
| Goldstein, Andy & Judy | In Honor of | The graduation of Noah Greenwald, grandson of Sheila & Hal Greenwald |
| | In Memory of | Fran Stone |

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Feinkind, Michael & Naomi | In Memory of | Fran Stone |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------|

JEWISH EDUCATION FUND

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Sonkin, Ellen | In Memory of | Bruce I. Sonkin |
| Zarate, Lenore | In Memory of | Jacob Trushin |

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Salpeter, Allyn | In Honor of | Marriage of Gavi Stein and Evan Klein |
| Weinfeld, Deanna | In Memory of | Fran Stone |
| | In Memory of | Mikki Atlas |

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DONATIONS

| | | |
|------------------------|----------|--|
| Matthews, Giles & Beth | Donation | |
|------------------------|----------|--|

Cont'd on pg. 11

DONATIONS

MAY 1, 2022 TO MAY 23, 2022 cont'd from pg. 10

YIZKOR/YAHRZEIT FUND

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Fried, Deanna | Donation | Passover Yizkor |
| Fuhrman, Joan | Donation | Yizkor |
| Uber, Sophie | In Memory of | Ilya Uber |

SISTERHOOD

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Lobel, Sheldon & Adele | Donation | |
| Baskin, Howard & Rhonda | In Honor of | Sharon Weiss |
| Goldstein, Andy & Judy | In Honor of | Sharon Weiss |
| Jagoda, Andy & Debbie | In Honor of | Sharon Weiss |
| Kenter, Barry & Judith Dickstein | In Honor of | Sharon Weiss |
| Stein, Jay & Gross, Sharon | In Honor of | Sharon Weiss |

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I wish to donate to the fund indicated.

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In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Other _____

Please send an acknowledgment to :

Name _____

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City / State / Zip _____

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Date received _____

To celebrate, remember, express appreciation & support my synagogue, I have chosen the fund indicated below:

Capital Fund \$ _____

Chesed Fund \$ _____

Cantor's Discretionary \$ _____

Early Childhood Center \$ _____

General Fund \$ _____

GHC Garden Fund \$ _____

Green Team \$ _____

Jewish Education Fund \$ _____

Julia B. Chazen Camp Fund \$ _____

Kiddush Fund \$ _____

Prayer Book Fund \$ _____

Rabbi's Discretionary \$ _____

Rabbi Lubliner Memorial \$ _____

Religious School \$ _____

Religious Affairs \$ _____

Rockowitz Youth Fund \$ _____

Security Fund \$ _____

Social Action Fund \$ _____

Torah Fund \$ _____

Yahrzeit & Yiskor Fund \$ _____

Youth Programs Fund \$ _____



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LABOR DAY

10th Annual Membership Barbeque!!!!

Monday, September 5th

4:00-7:00 PM

Come join us for a barbeque dinner, games,
fun, time with friends, laughter

Cost: Free to GHC members!!

Free to ECC and RS Families!!

RSVP: vpmembership@ghcny.org



Hamvaser – newsletter
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