



# KEHILATH JESHURUN

## BULLETIN

Volume LXXX, Number 4

July 15, 2011

13 Tammuz 5771

### REFLECTIONS ON THE 139TH ANNUAL SYNAGOGUE MEETING: ALL MANNER OF CHESED

Congregants and well-wishers gathered in the Heyman Auditorium on Wednesday evening, April 6th, to pay tribute to two individuals who give of themselves wholeheartedly to the Congregation.

Following matters of yearly KJ business, attention was turned to Annie Walton, KJ Hostess Crew Chief, and then to Isaac Pollak, who received the "Volunteer of the Year Award" on behalf of the Men's Chevra Kadisha Burial Society.

Although different in focus, both honorees are devoted to our congregation. Annie, with her staff, has lovingly prepared buffets and served meals to Ramaz students, Lunch and Learn seniors, KJ Beginners, KJ's Kiddush-goers and

many other program attendees over the past fifty years. She coordinates the magic behind the scenes, making the feeding of hundreds of people seem effortless. If the



An attentive audience

way to a man's (or woman's, in this era of gender equality) heart is through the stomach, then Annie has a permanent place in the hearts of us all.

Isaac Pollak was the recipient of our "Volunteer of the Year Award" in connection with his leadership of the Men's Chevra Kadisha for the past 32 years. On call 365 days a year to perform the mitzvah known as *chesed shel emet* ("paradigmatic chesed," insofar as the one doing the mitzvah has no expectation of reciprocity, recognition or reward), these dedicated volunteers of the Chevra Kadisha sacrifice family time, profession and self in order to render quiet and dignified service to the deceased and the grief stricken.

Both of these individuals are particularly well suited to usher KJ into its 140th year of service to the community.

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### 83 SENIORS ARE GRADUATED FROM THE JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN UPPER SCHOOL OF RAMAZ 46 TO SPEND NEXT YEAR IN ISRAEL SENIORS AND LOWER CLASSMEN WIN MANY ACADEMIC HONORS

Once again it has been an amazing year for the students in Ramaz! Here are some of the impressive results:

Many seniors will be spending next year in Israel at the following Torah institutions and programs:

#### Women's Schools

Michlelet Esther

Midreshet Amit

Midreshet Ein Hanatziv

Midreshet Lindenbaum

Midreshet Moriah

#### Co-ed Programs

Imadi at Hebrew University

Israel Experience at Bar Ilan

Machal/Israel Defense Force

Midrasha Ein Prat

Nativ

Tochnit Shalem

#### Men's Programs

Yeshivat Eretz HaTzvi

Yeshivat Hakotel

Yeshivat Har Etzion (Gush)

Yeshivat Lev HaTorah

Yeshivat Ma'ale Gilboa

Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh

Yeshivat Orayta Yerushalayim

Yeshivat Reishit

Yeshivat Torat Shraga

Yeshivat Yesodai HaTorah

The seniors also earned a wonderful record of college acceptances. Our students had impressive admissions numbers in:

Babson College

Barnard College

Boston University

Brandeis University

Columbia University

Cooper Union

CUNY - Macaulay Honors

College

CUNY - Queens

Emory University

George Washington U.

Harvard University

Indiana University

Johns Hopkins University

LIM/Lab Institute of

Merchandising

McGill University

New York University

Northwestern University

Princeton University

Stanford University

SUNY - Binghamton

SUNY - Purchase

University of Chicago

University of Maryland

University of Massachussets

University of Miami

University of Michigan

University of Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh

University of Texas

University of Rochester

University of Wisconsin

Washington U., St. Louis

Yeshiva University

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## NEW MEMBERS

Fifty-one new households joined the Congregation this past year and were officially inducted and welcomed at the 139th Annual Meeting by Deena Shiff, Financial Secretary of the Congregation:

Devora and Marc Allon	Yael Harari and Ari Benson	Dr. Chana and Eric Selmon
Danielle and Jonathan Auerbach	Franci and Levi Haskell	Monica and Brian Shatz
Sally and Jack Ballan	Suri and Marc Helwani	Rivka and Andrew Silverberg
Orley and David Benisty	Susan and Roger Hertog	Daniel Simons
Russie and Dr. Jeffrey Berger	Amanda and Meir Katz	Shael Sokolowski
Dr. Jordan Ciner	Esther and Marcel Kremer	Danny Sonnenblick
Taryn and Floyd Davis	Spencer Kupferman	Ari Starkman
Megan and Michael Englander	Lee Miller	Elizabeth and Daniel Strauss
Anna and Michael Feldman	Douglas Newton	Victoria and Joseph Sutton
Gwendolyn Francis	Deborah and Randy North	Tali and Adam Tantleff
Rabbi Dr. Leslie Friedman	Esther Peterseil	Michael Traison
Dr. David Friedman	Sharon and Jay Podolsky	Sarah and Jonathan Wainberg
Lewis Gibofsky	Samantha and Lee Podolsky	Benjamin Werber
Sharon and Shachar Gonen	Joy and Philip Pravda	Henry Wilner
Doreen and Charles Hadid	Meredith and Michael Rishty	Esther and Eli Wishnivetski
Aviya and Alexander Halpern	Rachel and Shlomo Roth	Elaine and James Wolfensohn
Cheryl and Fred Halpern	Gabriella and Saul Safdieh	Jack Zaremski

TO JOIN THE KJ ONLINE COMMUNITY,  
SEND AN E-MAIL WITH YOUR FIRST AND  
LAST NAME TO: [LSS@CKJ.ORG](mailto:LSS@CKJ.ORG)  
**BE SURE TO VISIT KJ'S WEBSITE**  
[WWW.CKJ.ORG](http://WWW.CKJ.ORG)

## WELCOME

Kehilath Jeshurun warmly welcomes the following new members who joined the Congregation between the 139th Annual Meeting on April 6th and this Bulletin, which went to press on June 30:

Deborah and Isaac Ash  
Danielle and Jonathan Auerbach  
Susanne Brody  
Jessica and Joshua Fensterstock  
Gealia and Matthew Friend  
Amy and Jimmy Haber  
Jonathan More  
Esther Peterseil  
Amory Propp  
Tali and Adam Tantleff

## ISRAEL ACTION

Check out "Artzeinu"  
The Weekly Israel News Update

<http://artzeinu.org>

edited by fellow  
KJ members  
Joshua Glatt,  
Jonathan Hornblase,  
Dan Ottensofer and  
Erica Schwartz.

This site provides easy access to numerous news sources and videos, and is well organized by general topic.

For information  
about the weekly status  
of the  
Manhattan Eruv

Call the **Eruv Hotline**  
**212-874-6100 ext. 452**  
(Recorded Message)

## KJ FOOD PANTRY

The KJ Food Pantry provides kosher food weekly to New York's hungry. Clients are referred to us through the synagogue and local service agencies. Each week clients come to KJ to receive food staples tailored to their diets, as well as a selection of fresh fruits and vegetables. Ramaz students pack the bags and staff the booth in the lobby of KJ, and Ramaz/KJ members also deliver packages to those who are homebound. For further information or to volunteer, please contact Stacy Scheinberg at [Stacyron@aol.com](mailto:Stacyron@aol.com).

## KJ ANNUAL DINNER

**Save the Date:**  
**Saturday Night**  
**December 3, 2011**  
**at 8:00 pm**

**Ramaz Upper School**  
**60 East 78th Street**

## SHIVAH ASSAR B'TAMMUZ, TISHA B'AV AND THE THREE WEEKS JULY 19 – AUGUST 9

During the summer months, we mourn the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem, which took place on the ninth of Av, and the events that led to their destruction. We fast on the seventeenth day of the month of Tammuz, **Shivah Assar B'Tammuz**, because, according to tradition, it was on that day that the enemy penetrated the walls of Jerusalem prior to the destruction of the Second Temple. The Talmud, however, writes that these were not the only tragedies that befell the Jewish people on this day. On the seventeenth of Tammuz four more tragedies occurred: the first tablets containing the Ten Commandments were broken by Moses after the sin of the Golden Calf; the daily sacrifice was suspended during the time of the First Temple; the wicked Apostomos burned the Torah; and an idol was erected in the Temple.

Additional tragedies also befell the Jewish people on the ninth day of the month of Av – **Tisha B'Av**. On this day, the spies

(*meraglim*) returned to the Jews in the desert with a negative report about the Land of Israel. In addition, it was on this day that the city of Betar was destroyed and tens of thousands of Jews were killed, and the wicked Turnus Rufus plowed the site of the Temple and its surroundings. Tradition asserts that the expulsion of the Jews from England in 1290 and the expulsion from Spain in 1492 also took place on Tisha B'Av.

Our mourning for the destroyed Temples and for the other calamities which occurred on these days extends beyond the fasts themselves. The period between these two fasts, traditionally called The Three Weeks, includes several practices of mourning. During these three weeks we do not get our hair cut, attend weddings or involve ourselves in large joyous gatherings. During the nine days which begin on the first of Av, August 1, and continue until midday on the tenth day of Av, August 10, we are additionally

forbidden to eat meat and drink wine (except on Shabbat), to go swimming, or bathe for pleasure and to do any laundry or dry cleaning that is not absolutely necessary. The Talmud writes that when the month of Av begins, our mood should reflect our mourning for the destruction of the Temples. On Tisha B'Av itself, besides fasting, we are prohibited from washing our bodies, wearing leather shoes, anointing ourselves and having marital relations. It is forbidden, as well, to study Torah on this day excepting the sections of the prophets and the Talmud that discuss the destruction. We do not wear *tefillin* until Mincha and the custom is to sit on low chairs as mourners do until midday. Our observance of mourning also forbids us from greeting friends on Tisha B'Av.

We mourn the Temples that were destroyed over nineteen hundred years ago, and we pray that we will be worthy to see God rebuild the Temple in our lifetime.

### Tisha B'Av 2011

#### Monday Night, August 8<sup>th</sup>, Erev Tisha B'Av

– Fast Begins at 8:05 p.m.  
– Mincha, Maariv & Eicha at 8:00 p.m.  
(in the Gottesman Center Gym, 114 East 85th Street)

#### Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, Tisha B'Av

– Morning Services at 7:00 a.m.  
(in the Gottesman Center Gym, 114 East 85th Street)  
– Shiur by Rabbi Soloveichik at 9:00 a.m.

#### Screening of Films:

(Times are approximate)

- |          |   |   |
|----------|---|---|
| 10:15 AM | <b>"Wasserman - The Rain Man"</b><br>(running time: 58 min / Director: Idit Shechori) <i>Hebrew with English subtitles</i><br>Wasserman cannot forgive God for his family's annihilation in the Holocaust, but life's tribulations and help from a loving community force him to rethink his faith. |  |
| 11:30 AM | <b>"Open Eye"</b><br>(running time: 59 min / Director: Ohad Ufaz, Shirley Barenholz)<br>Shirley, a Dutch-Israeli photojournalist, embarks on an emotional and self-awakening journey as her father, a Holocaust survivor, opens up about his past.  |  |
| 12:45 PM | <b>"The Paths of our Fathers"</b><br>(running time: 60 min / Director: Asaf Shahar) <i>Hebrew with English subtitles</i><br>A film about a family's unusual pilgrimage from North Israel to the Western Wall.   |  |
| 2:00 PM  | <b>"Menachem &amp; Fred"</b><br>(running time: 90 min / Director: Ofra Tevet, Ronit Kertsner)<br>A story of two brothers, who are afraid to meet for years, until letters from when their parents were in the concentration camps arrive and force them to meet.                                    |  |
| 3:45 PM  | <b>"My Sister Tikva"</b><br>(running time: 53 min / Director: Vered Berman)<br>A documentary film about the heartrending story of a girl named Tikva.   |  |
| 5:00 PM  | <b>"A Film Unfinished"</b><br>(running time: 89 min / Director: Vael Hersonski)<br>This film seeks the truth behind one of the most mysterious Nazi propaganda films ever shot inside the Warsaw Ghetto.  |  |



– Shiur by Rabbi Weinstock at 6:45 p.m.  
– Evening Services at 7:35 p.m.  
– Fast Concludes at 8:38 p.m.

Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun  
114 East 85th Street, New York, NY 10028



### KJ

### BEGINNERS

### SHABBAT SERVICE

Every Saturday 9:30 AM

Add some soul to your Shabbat. Plenty of learning and explanation! Lots of singing and questions and answers about the prayers and the parsha packed into what could have been an "ordinary" Shabbat morning. Kiddush following services.

### COMING SOON....

### CRASH COURSE IN BASIC JUDAISM

Mondays, September 12, 19, 26  
7:00 PM

Explore Judaism's views on Belief in God, Prayer, Shabbat, Jewish Observance, and Sexuality. Perfect for beginners or those wishing to brush up on basic Jewish concepts. Taught by Rabbi Elie Weinstock.

# Keter Torah Awards Bestowed Upon

*At the conclusion of the morning service on the second day of Shavuot, Gabriella Major Desdner and Susan Blinken were presented by Rabbi Haskel Lookstein with the Eighth Annual Judith Kaufman Hurwich Keter Torah Award.*

*These are their remarks:*

## A TORAH WAY OF LIFE

On the one hand I feel like I am giving my Bat Mitzvah speech that I never had, and on the other as though I am accepting a coveted Oscar. The truth is that this Keter Torah Award, which I am absolutely humbled by, cannot be compared to any other type of award. First of all, my predecessors who received it were wonderfully deserving and very special, great Jewish women and so is my partner, Susan Blinken. Mazel Tov to you, Susan!

Therefore, I am honored and very grateful to stand here on our very special Yom Tov, Shavuot, in our makeshift but beautiful synagogue.

Being that it is Shavuot, *Z'man Matan Torahteinu*, I have been thinking about how much my family's life has been connected to the Torah.

The Babylonian Talmud Tractate Shabbat Page 88a states:

*And they stood at the foot of the mountain; Rav Avdimi bar Hama bar Hasa said, this teaches that the Holy one Blessed be He held the mountain over them like an overturned tub and told them: "if you accept the Torah- well and fine; otherwise, you will be buried right here."*

How is it that the Talmud tells us that the Jewish people did not accept the Torah, but it was forced upon them? Where is the choice here? Choice is not as important as it may sound. Hashem forcing the Torah on the Jewish people can be compared to all the circumstances life throws on us that we do not get to choose. However, we do have the choice as to how to live up to our obligations. We also learn that the Torah is so central to our lives that without it the world would turn to chaos.

So now I am going to attempt to show you how the Torah has been so central to my family's life. And how, despite whatever circumstances life handed us,

particularly those we did not choose, (like the children of Israel at Sinai, who had the Torah forced upon them), we struggled to live up to our responsibilities, to choose to keep the Torah central to our lives, despite all of life's challenges and quite often against all odds.

As many of you may know, I was born in Debrecen, Hungary. I was 2 years old in 1944 when my mother, grandmother and I were deported to a concentration camp near Vienna, Austria. It was not a gas camp, but it had all the other terrible features, like shaving off my beautiful

curls. My concentration camp experience reminds me of

the story of Ruth. My mother could have hidden me in the village but could not have been able to hide my grandmother. So as Ruth said to Naomi, she said to my grandmother: I will go with you. Wherever you go, we'll go... She unfortunately died in the camp. My mother was

incredible. Working in construction on rooftops in bone-chilling cold weather, she pushed to keep me alive, to get me a piece of bread. Her courage, her will power, and determination were mostly responsible for my life.

Miraculously, we were reunited with my father, who, unbeknownst to us, worked in a labor camp. My parents lost most of their close families (parents, siblings, nieces, nephews, in-law's.). From the ashes they rebuilt and slowly reestablished their lives in Hungary. These years were during the Communist era when Jews gave up their religion for one reason or another unless they were Chassidic Jews. However, we continued to keep a strictly Kosher home (we needed to travel almost an hour to buy Kosher meat).

My father, since he no longer had his own business, had to work on Shabbat, as everyone else did in order to survive. However, he went every Shabbos morning to a Hashkama Minyan at 6 AM and then walked over an hour to work and an hour back. Since there was no Jewish elementary school any more, I was home-taught to read Hebrew, to daven and everything about the Shabbat, the Holidays, etc. by my mother and father.

We continued life in this manner until the outbreak of the Hungarian revolution in 1956, when we had an opportunity to escape Communism (another threat) and flee to the free world so that I could grow up as a young Jewish girl (until then I had no Jewish friends because most Jewish kids my age did not survive) and live in a free country where we could practice Judaism to the fullest extent without any fear.

Although emigrating without any financial means, knowledge of the English language or marketable professions for my parents was very tough, the eventual benefits and results have been very positive and heartwarming for my family.

We settled in New York and luckily my shul has been KJ from the very first Shabbat in America. Our shul has truly been home for me and my family.

My parents, thank God, had the *z'chut* to see me marry a wonderful person, a religious Jew, a physician. We established, thank God, a wonderful family. My father's greatest *naches* was to see our children receive a Jewish education at Ramaz and have each one spend a year of Torah study in Israel. My late husband, Willy, *zichrono livrachah* - or Papa to the grandchildren - was an ardent Zionist, who just loved learning Torah and spending all the time he could in Israel.

Living a Torah way of life, having *menschlichkeit*, ethical and moral values, were the key tenets which were strongly etched into our lives. Thank God, together

*(continued on page 13)*

# Gabriella Major Dresdner & Susan Blinken

## A CULTURE OF KINDNESS

It is a great honor and privilege to be the co-recipient, along with Gabriella Major Dresdner, of this year's Judith Kaufman Hurwich Keter Torah award.

In accepting this award, I want to acknowledge and thank the true Keter Torah, or crown of Torah, in this community, the exemplary group of women who comprise and do the work of the KJ Sisterhood with continuing acts of kindness. And how appropriate it is to discuss kindness on Shavuot!

The Midrash asks, why was the book of Ruth written? The answer, the midrash says, is solely because of the acts of kindness described in the Megillah. These acts of kindness demonstrated thousands of years ago, are mirrored every single day in our KJ community.

When I became Sisterhood President five years ago, I thought, "How will I ever follow and match the acts of chesed of my predecessors?"

My two personal missions during my presidency, were: to continue their legacy with acts of kindness large and small; and, to incorporate the concept of Repairing the World, or *tikun olam*, into as many of the Sisterhood's activities as possible.

The accomplishments of our Sisterhood rest not with me alone, but with the extraordinary group of women, both on our board and in our community, who continually step up to the plate, volunteer and make what we do successful. The honor and privilege of serving this community has been all mine.

Being Sisterhood President, was the best non-paying job I've ever had. And, I have been truly blessed here, by having made lifelong friendships. Just as Naomi guided and mentored Ruth, I have been the beneficiary of guidance, counsel and tremendous mentorship by the women of this community, as I now have the pleasure of mentoring others.

My term as President was supposed to be for just two years, but in the absence of a willing candidate, I eagerly agreed to commit to a second term.

On Erev Rosh Hashana, shortly after making that commitment, I was diagnosed with a serious health issue. I was prepared to step down, concerned that my situation would compromise my ability to serve the

Sisterhood. But Rabbi and Audrey Lookstein encouraged me to stay on. I believe this was a huge act of chesed, and their unfailing support provided me with purpose and the perfect distraction I desperately needed at that time. So I dug my heels in and got to work.

Their act of kindness kept me positive and focused throughout my illness and more importantly, their kindness gave me an opportunity. By continuing as president, I was able to do something for others, while so many in this community were doing things for me.

I experienced acts of kindness all around me. Especially by my family, the jewels in my personal Keter Torah.

My husband Robert, or as Rabbi Lookstein likes to call him, "the Regent Prince of the Sisterhood." But he is so



much more than that. Robert is the one who leads by example in our family. He maintains the highest form of integrity in all that he does, and lives his life doing perpetual acts of kindness every day for others. He is a model of true courage when caving is not an option. He is my guiding light.

I am grateful for my children: my daughter Alexandra, my son, Jared and my son in law, Mordechai Lerner. Alexandra's love of learning and knowledge of Torah and Tanach have taught me so much and given me a free Ramaz education in the process. Mordechai treats my daughter, his wife, and new baby with *kavod* and kindness every day.

Jared's curiosity continues to challenge us and make us laugh every day with his insights about the world around him.

My personal guiding lights -- my own Naomi, Aunt Naomi Bernstein, and my stepmother Karen Lazarowitz -- watch over us all. My father Jerry, who will be 80 years old next week, carries the eternal flame of collective worry for our entire family. And the new light in my life is my new born grandson Eliyahu Meir Lerner. What joy awaits me when I can start to do small and large kindnesses for him.

This evening, marks the 19th anniversary of my mother Elaine Lazarowitz's yartzheit. She was a wonderful role model - a woman who showed me what courage, grace, and resilience in the face of adversity truly means.

I am especially grateful for the legacy left by my maternal grandparents, Jean and Izzy Goldman, who lived by the credo, "Say little, do a lot" and who practiced doing so much for others and showed me how to try and do the same.

The legacy we leave behind is defined by our deeds and actions over a lifetime. My goal is to walk in the ways of Ruth, and show a measure of *her* resilience in the face of adversity, *her* determination, *her* grace under pressure; and most of all, *her* deep abiding love for family. Ruth faced challenges and came out the other side of her ordeal to merit being the progenitor of the line of King David.

As I stand here humbled, in awe of Ruth, and look around this congregation, I realize how, in the course of my life, during times of great joys and great sorrows this community has been a beacon of *gemilut chesed* for me and my family.

In a sense, the essence of *this* community is defined by its culture of kindness. And as the principle of *tikun olam* teaches us: "One small kindness for our community, is one giant kindness in repairing the world." My wish is that together, we continue to be bestowers of acts of kindness, as Ruth, Naomi and Boaz were, so long ago.

May each and every one of us continue to maintain the soul of this community through our every day acts of kindness, whether large or small.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE 139th ANNUAL SYNAGOGUE MEETING

### Recognition for Devoted Service to the Congregation

#### 85 NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED

Rabbi Meir Soloveichik's eloquent invocation was most appropriate to the tenor of KJ's 139th Annual Synagogue Meeting. Cantor Mayer Davis led those assembled in an emotive rendition of our national anthem after which the induction of fifty-one new member households, comprising eighty-five people, took place. (A listing of the new members appears on page 2 of this Bulletin.)

The first order of business which immediately followed was the celebration of milestone anniversaries of affiliation for thirty-five households. Rabbi Lookstein, in his inimitable way, fondly recalled the family histories and communal contributions of each of the celebrants.

*The following members celebrated milestone anniversaries and were honored by the Congregation:*

#### FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRANTS

Irma Clark

Suzanne and Dr. Norman B. Javitt  
Roslyn and Dr. Norman Orentreich  
Ruth and Irwin Shapiro

#### FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRANTS

Doina and Dr. Lawrence Bryskin  
Rosalie and Harry Kleinhaus  
Judith and Herbert Lukashok  
Esther and Jonathan Messeloff  
Roberta and Michael Sigall  
Judith Tanz

#### TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRANTS

Jonathan Art  
Marilyn and Stanley Blumberg  
Elias Buchwald  
Debbie and James Cleeman  
Estante and Martin Fawer  
Jerrold Feingold  
Miriam and Eric Feldstein  
Linda and Charles Fisch  
Vicki and Isaac Hoffman  
Sherri and Michael Horwitz  
Ruth and Gerald Kestenbaum  
Lynette and Steven Koppel  
Barbara Leibowitz  
Andrea Thau and John Lieberman  
Rochelle and Eugene Major  
Jennifer and Mark Meiorowitz  
Robert Morse  
Ilona and Paul Oltuski

Gail and Berndt Perl

Doris Sachs

Carol and Jesse Schwartz

Phyllis and Mark Speiser

Mina and Paul Sub

Gabrielle and Howard Weinreich

Harvey Wolinsky

#### SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ANNIE WALTON

In the presence of family and friends, a beautiful gold locket was presented to Annie Walton in recognition of her 50 years of service to the congregation. The feelings of warmth and appreciation generated by the audience was palpable. It was an emotional moment for all.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Eric Feldstein gave a brief review of the year's business which included a review of the most significant aspects of the three-summer KJ/Ramaz Building Plan, not the least of which are the building closures that will be necessitated by the renovations.

#### BOARD ELECTIONS

The report of the Nominating Committee, as approved by the Board of Trustees, was presented by Surie Sugarman and adopted by the congregation.

*The following officers were re-elected to the same positions for the 2010-2011 Congregational year:*

President .....Eric Feldstein  
Vice President.....Surie Sugarman  
2nd Vice President.....Robert Kurzweil  
3rd Vice President.....Elias Buchwald  
Financial Secretary.....Deena Shiff

The position of Recording Secretary was purposefully left vacant. Jonathan Wagner, who held that position, was elected to fill the position of Treasurer, replacing Joel Katz, whose term as Treasurer expired. Joel was elected to the position of Assistant Treasurer, replacing David Lobel. David was elected to the position of 4th Vice President.

KJ Officer Jacob Doft requested to be relieved of his position as Secretary. Trustee Morris Massel was elected to fill the vacancy.



*50-year Anniversarians Sue and Dr. Norman Javitt*



*25 year Anniversarians Dr. Phyllis and Mark Speiser*



*A rabbinic Mazal Tov to Annie Walton*



*Rabbi Lookstein presents certificate to "Volunteer of the Year" Isaac Pollak*

**REGULAR TRUSTEES**

*In regard to Regular Trustees of the Congregation, two seats were vacated either due to mandatory retirement (the occupant having served the constitutional limit of nine years on the Board), or by choice of the occupant. These seats were held by Barry Best and John Lieberman, who were thanked for their service.*

*The following Regular Trustees' terms expired and were eligible for re-election:*

Anita Abowitz  
Jonathan Art  
Sherry Cohen  
Rae Gurewitsch  
Jay Lefkowitz  
Richard Linhart  
Rochelle Major  
Stacy Scheinberg  
David Stein

The Nominating Committee then recommended that these Regular Trustees be re-elected, and they were.

Two Regular Trustee vacancies on the Board remained to be filled. To fill these vacancies, the Nominating Committee recommended the following Associate Trustees for positions as Regular Trustees and they were so elected:

Aryeh Bourkoff  
Eric Gomberg

The Nominating Committee further recommended the following members of the congregation to serve as Regular Trustees, and they were elected:

Dr. Roy Feldman  
Barry Frohlinger  
Dr. Philip Wilner

**ASSOCIATE TRUSTEES**

*The following Associate Trustees were reappointed:*

Abigail Doft  
Evan Farber  
Michael Kaplan  
Larry Kassman  
Leor Landa  
Sheera Moffson  
Jason Muss  
Judith Ottensoser  
Alan Rechtschaffen  
Robert Schwartz  
Sara Shemia  
Roberta Stetson  
David Sultan

To fill the two Associate Trustee vacancies caused by Associate Trustees becoming Regular Trustees, the following two members of the Congregation were appointed:

Rocky Fishman  
Dr. Jody Levine

**DECEASED MEMBERS**

*In a more sobering moment, and with warmth and sensitivity, Rabbi Lookstein then paid tribute to ten members of the Congregation who were called to their eternal reward since the 138th Annual Meeting:*

Marilyn Feingold  
Maurice Kaufman  
David Lew  
Philip Orlinsky  
Ephraim Propp  
Mina Rein  
Claire Rosenbluth  
Monroe Seibel  
Frances Trainin  
Bernice Wallach

**TRIBUTE TO ISAAC POLLAK****"VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR" AWARDEE**

By honoring Isaac, Pollak, the indefatigable leader of KJ's Men's Chevra Kadisha, we also recognized the many dedicated volunteers who comprise this important group. Originally formed in 1977 by such outstanding congregational leaders as Dr. Mortimer Blumenthal, Benjamin Brown, Dr. Mordie Mann, Martin Rochlin, Rabbi Israel D. Rosenberg and Dr. Lawrence Steinberg, KJ's all-volunteer Burial Society operates under Isaac's collegial, yet professional guidance, and his punctilious observance of tradition in the preparation of congregational family members for burial.

A hushed audience listened as Isaac spoke movingly about his experiences on the Chevra Kadisha. His thoughtful words appear on pages 8, 9 and 12.

**RAMAZ SCHOOL MEETING**

Jacob Doft, Chairman of the Board of the Ramaz School, conducted its brief annual meeting. He called upon Dr. Leora Mogilner, chair of the Nominating Committee, to present its report: She thanked those members of the Board of Trustees who completed their terms of service and rotated off the Ramaz Board:

Richard Born  
Michael Lustig  
Moshael Straus

*The following Board members were elected:*

**CHARTER TRUSTEES**

Dr. Leora Mogilner

**COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER**

Mitchell Davidson  
Samuel Jemal

**ALUMNI TRUSTEES**

Kenneth Eckstein  
Cindy Miller

*The following people were elected to serve on the Ramaz Board:*

**CHARTER TRUSTEES**

Daniel Schwartz  
Ariel Weiner

**PARENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Laura Slager

**ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS**

Perah Dwek  
Julie Friedman  
Erica Schachter Schwartz

*The following Honorary Board Members were re-elected for a one year period:*

**HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS:**

Harvey Beker  
Fred Distenfeld  
Lillian Eisman  
David Gruenstein  
Pearl Hack  
Robert Kapito  
Ilan Kaufthal  
Dr. Jerry Kestenbaum  
Gail Propp

After the congregational membership in attendance approved the slate of Ramaz School trustees, the 139th Annual Synagogue Meeting was adjourned and all were invited to enjoy a delicious repast of frankfurters, sauerkraut, and ice cold beer courtesy of Foremost Caterers.

# A CONTEMPLATION

Isaac Pollak, KJ's "Volunteer of the Year" shares his thoughts on this important mitzvah.

"Show me the manner in which a nation cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people," observed William Gladstone, the British statesman. People who have learned how to care tenderly for the bodies of the dead are almost surely people who also know how to show mercy to the bodies of the living.

I believe what we do embodies that philosophy, perhaps even epitomizes it.

Take a walk back with me 1700 years ago and listen to how all this started.

In approximately 310-320 CE, Rav Hamnuna arrives one morning in the town of Duramatha (Harta or Argiz, currently a suburb of Baghdad) and hears the sound of a funerary horn, announcing that someone has died. When he sees that the citizens of the town continue their vocations and avocations he angrily denounces them.

"Don't you know," he tells the townspeople, "that the duty of arranging for the disposal of the dead devolved upon and involved the entire community and all activities need to cease?"

The townspeople respond, "*Chavruta ika bashuka*." There is a *chevra*, a group or fraternity charged with this duty. Upon hearing this Rav Hamnuna permitted the townspeople to go back to their activities. However what exactly this *chavruta* was charged with doing is not specified.

The next mention of a similar *chevra* is approximately 300 years later where we are told (*Masachet Semachot*) that some *chavrot* go to the "gathering of bones," *likud atzumath*. In what is referred to as Greco-Roman times, bodies were put in a cave or on a hollowed out rock shelf. Twelve months later, when the body had decomposed, the bones were gathered and put into an ossuary or *osophogi*; a limestone container (called a *Gluskama* in the Talmud) and a day of mourning was held, as that which motivated sin, the flesh, is now gone, and the soul can now rise to another level. The *Yahrzeit* we observe today is traced to this day of *likud atzumot*, or bone gathering, as well as the tradition to erect a tombstone a year after death.

It wasn't until the year 1626, when Rav Aron Berachia of Modena compiled

the *Maavar Yavuk*, that we finally have for the first time the exact details of what one does at a *tahara* and what prayers accompany the process: A *tahara* is the process of washing and cleaning the body, going through the Mikvah process and dressing it in shrouds. There are no *tahara halachot*, but rather, a set of tenets that have evolved over the centuries.



I would like to share some personal observations in no particular order about being involved with *Chevra Kadisha* work for over three decades.

## DEATH AS AN EQUALIZER

Chapter 2 in *Malachim Alef* (Kings I) starts with the following sentence:

וַיִּקְרְבוּ יְמֵי-דָוִד לָמוּת

"Now the days of David grew near that he should die." Just a few sentences earlier in the previous chapter he was

וַהֲמִלֵּךְ דָּוִד זָקֵן

"And King David was old," but as he nears his final days, he is referred to only as David and the title "King" no longer applies. When we approach death we can no longer hide behind titles and status; we are all equal in the eyes of our Creator.

When we uncover the body at the beginning of a *tahara*, everybody has the same status. The learned or the unlettered,

the wealthy or the poor; all are treated in the same dignified manner. All Jews stand equal in the sight of their Creator and no one is to be put to shame on his or her last appearance on earth.

William Gladstone is only echoing what we have been doing for the previous 1800 years.



"It's only death and it's happened to everyone that has ever lived," quipped Benjamin Franklin, adding his famous phrase, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes." And in the 21st century, if Benjamin Franklin were alive today he would have added, "Don't forget to cancel your credit cards before you die."

A story to illustrate: A woman died in January 2009. Citibank billed her in February (and March) for their annual service charges on her credit card, and added late fees and interest onto the monthly charge! The balance was \$0 when she died, but that turned into \$60, so a family member placed a call to Citibank.

Here is the exchange:

Family Member: "I am calling to tell you she died back in January."

Citibank: "The account was never closed so the late fees and charges still apply."

Family Member: "Maybe you should turn it over to Collections."

Citibank: "Since the account is two months past due, it already has been."

Family Member: "So, what will they do when they find out she is dead?"

Citibank: "Either report her account to the Frauds Division or report her to the Credit Bureau, maybe both!"

## THREE COMMUNITY MIKVAHS

### The Jacques & Hannah Schwalbe Mikvah

419 East 77th Street  
(between 1st & York Avenues)  
Telephone: 212-359-2020

### The Rennert Mikvah at 5th Avenue Synagogue

5 East 62nd Street  
(just off Fifth Avenue)  
Telephone: 212-753-6058

### The West Side Mikvah

234 West 74th Street  
(East of Broadway)  
Telephone: 212-579-2011

# OF THE CHEVRA KADISHA

Family Member: "Do you think God will be mad at her?"

Citibank: "Excuse me?"

Family Member: "Did you get what I was just telling you, the part about her being dead?"

Citibank: "Sir, you'll have to speak to my supervisor!"

Supervisor gets on the phone:

Family Member: "I'm calling to tell you she died back in January with a \$0.00 balance."

Citibank: "The account was never closed so late fees and charges still apply."

Family Member: "You mean you want to collect from her estate?"

Citibank: (stammer) "Are you her lawyer?"

Family Member: "No, I'm her great-nephew." (Lawyer info was given)

Citibank: "Could you fax us a Death Certificate?"

Family Member: "Sure." (Fax number was given)

After they get the fax:

Citibank: "Our system isn't set up for death; I don't know what more I can do to help."

Family Member: "Well, if you figure it out, great! If not, you could just keep billing her; she won't care."

Citibank: "Well, the late fees and charges will still apply..."

(What is wrong with these people?)

Family Member: "Would you like her new billing address?"

Citibank: "That might help."

Family Member: "Odessa Memorial Cemetery, Highway 129, Plot Number 69."

Citibank: "Sir, that's a cemetery!"

Family Member: "And what do you do with dead people on your planet?"

(Absolutely priceless!)

And we wondered why Citibank was going broke and needed the Feds to bail them out!

## AWARENESS OF SELF

Every one of us who has done *taharas* has a story that has touched him or her in a unique way, and this is one of mine that I would like to share with you.

Approximately 15 years ago, I was in

Hong Kong when, after Shacharit one morning, the Rabbi asked if anyone had any Chevra Kadisha experience and would be available to help in a complicated Tahara later that afternoon. I volunteered. A young Israeli engineering student in his early 30s had died of a blood disease and the local rules mandated that the blood had to be drained from the body. It was then to be refilled with embalming fluid and sealed. Only then could we clothe the body in shrouds before it could be shipped back to Israel in a sealed coffin for burial. All this had to take place in a special government hospital under Chinese medical supervision with an attending doctor from the Israeli embassy. It took about four hours and when it was over I just walked for a long time and couldn't concentrate on work that evening.

This young, very handsome man is often in my mind, especially on the seventh day of Adar, when I recite Tehilim in his memory and others for whom I have



performed a Tahara in the previous 12 months. In situations such as this, life is suddenly thrust into the forefront. Life is more savory. It's as if we were saved from imminent danger. I struggle to find the right words to express this.

You see yourself in a new and intense way. You rediscover yourself with a certain clarity. In a way, you are able to see who you are for the first time, outside familiar surroundings, alone, distinct, whole. You feel the texture of life as you would feel the texture of material that you would rub between your fingers. Your self-awareness of life is raised to a higher level.

When this happens, your day is different, your frenzied schedule of multi-tasking takes on a different hue, your kids and your wife get extra hugs and kisses, and, when you look around you and say "Thank God." You say it with a quiet

intensity that was not there previously.

I would sometimes come home exhausted and drenched from a late night Tahara, tiptoe into my kids' room and just lay down next to one of them and listen to their gentle breathing for a while and let the rhythm of life settle about me.

We become very vulnerable, especially if the *tahara* was on a young child, or a teenager, or on the person who sat next to you yesterday in shul; but this vulnerability enables us to be empowered. It may tear us apart, but it may reassemble us in ways that astonish. So I ask myself, "Who is doing a *chesed* and who has a *chesed* done to him?" More on this subject in a moment.

## YOUR CHEVRA KADISHA MEMBERS

Approximately 33 years ago there was a call to set up a *Chevra Kadisha* at KJ. A year later I joined. Rabbi Israel Rosenberg was our teacher and guide. The very first time I attended -never having seen, much less handled a dead body- Dr. Mortimer Blumenthal AH, in his own gentle way, literally took me by the hand, told me to stay close to him. He hovered over me constantly monitoring me to be sure I was OK. Martin Rochlin AH, was always there in those early days with vim and

passion, full of heart and voice. No task was too difficult for him, and sometimes what we do is quite difficult. Mordie Mann AH, who almost never missed a *tahara* and, even in his 80s, insisted on coming and helping in whatever way he could. There were those among others who have helped us for longer or shorter time periods including Dr. Larry Steinberg, Harvey Geisler, Eugene Roshwalb, Dr. Danny Potaznik, Michael Jesselson, Alan Brown, and our very own Rabbi Haskel Lookstein.

We tend to keep in the background and remain quiet about our activities. But I am accepting this honor for our members and you should know who they are. I often think that what defines us is what we are willing to give of ourselves and, ladies and gentlemen, these folks have given and given.

Here is what happens: A call from the

(continued on page 12)

# ACADEMIC HONORS

## CONGREGATION KEHILATH JESHURUN EXTENDS A MAZAL TOV TO....

**MIA GABRIELLE APPELBAUM**, daughter of Suzy and Michael Appelbaum upon her from the Abraham Joshua Heschel High School. Mia represented The Heschel School in the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous NY/NJ High School Program. She received recognition from Honoring the Righteous World Press Organization for her commitment to Holocaust studies in the area of non-Jews who rescued Jews. Mia will attend New York University College of Arts and Science in the fall.

**ANDREW ARYEH**, son of Nancy and Benjamin Aryeh, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. The recipient of a Tzedakah Award, he will be attending Babson College in the fall.

**JONATHAN ASCHERMAN**, son of Drs. Corinne and Jeffrey Ascherman, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. A recipient of the Lillian Jacobs Award for excellence in character and dedication to the spirit of Jewish ethics, a History Award, and the Daniele Gorlin Lassner French Award, he will be attending Yeshivat Orayta in the fall and Harvard University upon his return from Israel.

**ERICA BARUCH**, daughter of Shira and Dr. Larry Baruch, upon her graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. A recipient of the Sue Moskowitz Chesed Award and a State of New York (Regents) Scholarship, she will be attending Midreshet Lindenbaum in the fall and Columbia University upon her return from Israel. Mazal Tov, as well, to proud KJ grandparents Audrey & Rabbi Haskel Lookstein and Gladys Baruch.

**JONATHAN BAUMGARTEN**, son of Ellen Baumgarten and Frederic Baumgarten, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. He will begin the Israeli military academy Midrasha Ein Prat this summer and attend University of Massachusetts upon his return from Israel.

**AVITAL BENSON**, daughter of Ilana and Daniel Benson, upon her graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. A recipient of the Sue Moskowitz Chesed Award, she will be attending Nativ in the fall and University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing when she returns from Israel.

**JOSHUA BIERMAN**, son of Riva Alper and Joseph Bierman, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. The recipient of a Drama Award, Joshua will be attending Yeshivat Orayta in the fall and The George Washington University upon his return from Israel.

**BENJAMIN BOLNICK**, son of Dr. Taryn Fishman and David Bolnick, upon his graduation from SAR High School. He will be attending Yeshivat Yesodai haTorah in the fall and University of Pennsylvania upon his return.

**SARAH EMMERICH**, daughter of Pamela and Adam Emmerich, upon her graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. A recipient of the Gertrude Lookstein Eishat Chayil Award and a School Service Award, she will be attending Midreshet Lindenbaum in the fall and University of Pennsylvania upon her return from Israel.

**ADAM FERN**, son of Ronnie and William Slochowsky, upon his graduation from Brown University, *magna cum laude*.

**JOSHUA GEISLER**, son of Junko and Dr. Edward Geisler, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. He will be attending University of Maryland.

**ALEXANDRA GUTTMAN** daughter of Gilda Guttman and the late Charles Guttman, upon her graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. She is the recipient of the Boris Z. Gorlin Tikkun Olam Award and the Leonard Friedland Hebrew Language Memorial Award. Alexandra will attend Midreshet Lindenbaum in the fall and University of Pennsylvania upon her return from Israel.

**ZACHARY HERING**, son of Michele and Benjamin Ari Hering, upon his graduation from SAR High School. He will be attending SUNY- Albany in the fall.

**CHLOE IFRAH**, daughter of Michele and Stephane Ifrah, upon her graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. A recipient of the Gertrude Lookstein Aishet Chayil Award, an English Award, and a Yearbook Award, she will be attending Washington

University, St. Louis.

**WILLIAM JEMAL**, son of Jeanne and Samuel Jemal, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. The recipient of a Sports Award, William will be attending The George Washington University in the fall.

**ADAM JOFFE**, son of Davida and Ashley Joffe, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. He will be attending University of Wisconsin in the fall.

**ALEXANDER KLUGER**, son of Hon. Judy and Barry Kluger, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. He will be attending University of Wisconsin in the fall.

**ERIK KOGAN-LARSON**, son of Marika Kogan, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. He will be attending Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh in the fall.

**CAROLINE KOPPEL**, daughter of Lynette and Steven Koppel, upon her graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. The recipient of a Rampage Award, Caroline will be attending Northwestern University in the fall. Mazal Tov to the proud KJ grandmother, Yvonne Koppel.

**TALIA LEFKOWITZ**, daughter of Elena and Jay Lefkowitz, upon her graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. The recipient of a Chorus Award, she will enter Machal, performing a year of service in the Israeli Defense Forces before attending Barnard College

**CHANTAL LOW**, daughter of Lisa and Nathan Low, upon her graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. She is the recipient of the Boris Z. Gorlin Tikkun Olam Award, the Jesse Deutsch Tefila Award, and the Walter Koppel Jewish Political Action Award. Chantal will enter Machal, performing a year of service in the Israeli Defense Forces before attending University of Pennsylvania.

**AARON LUNZER**, son of Elisa Septee Lunzer and Jay Lunzer, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School.

# ACADEMIC HONORS

Aaron will be attending Yeshivat Reishit Yerushalayim in the fall and Yeshiva University upon his return from Israel.

**SAMUEL MAJOR**, son of Rochelle and Eugene Major, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. He is the recipient of the Dr. Irving and Dubby Shulman Derekh Hayashar Citizenship Award, the Drs. Gerald and Vicki Platt Award for demonstrating a love of Am Yisrael and Medinat Yisrael as expressed in the philosophy of religious Zionism, and a History Award. Samuel will attend Yeshivat Har Etzion in the fall and Princeton University upon his return from Israel. Mazal Tov, as well, to proud KJ grandparents Gabriella Major Dresdner and Rudolph Dresdner.

**NATHAN JACOB MARCUS**, son of Jacqueline and Jeffrey Marcus, upon his graduation from Hofstra University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the School of Communications. Nathan won second prize in the annual Hofstra Film Festival for his senior film project, "Mental Patience."

**IAN SETH MARK**, son of Dr. Vivian and David Mark upon his graduation from The Ross Undergraduate Business School (BBA) at University of Michigan.

**HENRY MEDINE**, son of Laura and Mois Medine, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. Henry will be attending Babson College in the fall.

**GABRIEL MERKIN**, son of Lauren and J. Ezra Merkin, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. He will be attending Yeshivat Har Etzion in the fall and Columbia University upon his return from Israel.

**JENNIFER OHEBSHALOM**, daughter of Shireen and Alfred Ohebshalom, upon her graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. A recipient of the Morris S. Arfa Keter Shem Tov Award, the Sam Gyenes Memorial Award, presented to the senior selected by the class as the individual most concerned with the needs and sensitivities

of her classmates, the Jesse Deutsch Tefila Award, a Tzedakah Award, and the David Kagan Memorial Award for the student athletes who best exemplify the values of sportsmanship and menschlichkeit both on and off the playing field. Jennifer will be attending New York University in the fall.

**SPENCER PERL**, son of Gail and Berndt Perl, upon his graduation from Riverdale Country Day School. He will be attending Johns Hopkins University in the fall.

**ALEXANDER ROHR**, son of Pamela and George Rohr, upon his graduation from Harvard College with a major in Government and a minor in Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies. Alex will begin work this summer at Susquehanna International Group. Mazal Tov to proud KJ grandmother, Helen Nash.

**DANIELLA ROTH**, the daughter of Phyllis Roth and Drs. Ram Roth and Aren Gottlieb, upon her graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. The recipient of a Sports Award, Daniella will be attending the Israel Experience at Bar Ilan University in the fall and University of Massachusetts upon her return from Israel. Mazal Tov to proud KJ grandparents Rachel and Shlomo Roth.

**DANIELLA SAKHAI**, daughter of Victoria and Daryosh Sakhai, upon her graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. The recipient of a Spanish Award, a Sports Award, and the Brandeis Book Award, Daniella will be attending University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

**CARLY SCHEINBERG**, daughter of Stacy and Ron Scheinberg, upon her graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. Carly will be attending Washington University in St. Louis. Mazal Tov, as well, to proud KJ grandfather, Sidney Scheinberg.

**JEREMY SCHWARTZ**, son of Anne and Samuel Schwartz, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. A recipient of the Liselotte Samuel Gorlin Mathematics Award and a State of New

York (Regents) Scholarship, Jeremy will be attending New York University in the fall. Mazal Tov to proud KJ grandparents Rae and Stanley Gurewitsch.

**BENJAMIN SHAY**, son of Susan and Scott Shay, upon his graduation from Northwestern University with a double major in Philosophy and American History. Benjamin was selected as a student speaker at Northwestern's Baccalaureate Ceremony.

**JONATHAN SPEISER**, son of Dr. Phyllis and Mark Speiser, upon his graduation with honors from the University of Maryland in Computer Science. He was elected to Phi Kappa Phi and The Hinman CEOs Program. Jonathan will work for Goldman Sachs Technology while developing his own software applications for social mobile networking

**LAUREN SPRINGER** (Ramaz '07), daughter of Barbara Sandberg and Steven Springer, upon her graduation with honors from the University of Pennsylvania, *summa cum laude* and *phi beta kappa*. Lauren will be attending Harvard University Law School in the fall.

**MICHAEL STROMER**, son of Shoshana and Dr. Saul Stromer, upon his graduation from Yeshiva University High School for Boys. Michael will be attending Yeshivat Orayta in the fall.

**DAVID TARNOFSKY**, son of Sarah and Mark Tarnofsky, upon his graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. He will be attending University of Indiana in the fall.

**ANNA WAGNER**, daughter of Phyllis and Jonathan Wagner, upon her graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. A recipient of the Chorus Award, she will be attending Barnard College in the fall.

**RACHELLE ROSE YADID**, daughter of Wendy and Rami Yadid, upon her graduation from the Ramaz Upper School. A recipient of the Debby Sacks Award for Performing Arts, Rosie will be attending SUNY Purchase in the fall.

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## A CONTEMPLATION OF THE CHEVRA KADISHA

synagogue alerts us that a *tahara* is needed and a Yahoo group e-mail is sent to our members. Responses come within minutes with their availability and a mutually convenient time is scheduled among us and the funeral home, ideally as close as possible to the time of the funeral. It sounds simple, but we all have commitments and working spouses and children and schedules, and death doesn't come on schedule. I often tell people: *Don't die during Pesach or the week sandwiched between Christmas and New Year's*. I have had both my sons (Zamir and Ovadya) participate in a *tahara* when they were as young as 15, when they were needed; especially during Pesach.

Within minutes we put it together, and everyone is willing to make a sacrifice and give of themselves. One person drives one and one-half hours from a weekend in the Hamptons, participates in the *tahara*, and drives back; another opens his Blackberry during intermission at the theater with clients, leaves his clients with his wife and grabs a taxi to meet us at the funeral home; and yet another, while en route to a milestone graduation, has the taxi change routes so he could participate in the *tahara* of a young man who died in his sleep leaving three young children.

Please meet these very special members of the Men's *Chevra Kadisha*. Benjamin Brown, 33 years; Dr. Robert Podell, over 20 years; Kenneth Rochlin, 20

years; Samuel Attias, 16 years; Jay Lunzer, 15 years; Larry Adolf, 12 years; Isaac Hoffman, 9 years; Jonathan Hornblass, 9 years; Morris Massel, 3 years; Larry Present, 3 years; Benjamin Rubin, 2 years; Rabbi Josh Lookstein, 2 years; Aaron Gordon, 2 years.

Of course, let us not forget the Women's *Chevra Kadisha*, so capably run by Sue Robins and Tova Bulow for 28 years, with dedicated members who also perform *taharas* in a most selfless fashion.

וכל מי שעוסקים בצרכי צבור באמונה  
הקדוש ברוך הוא ישלם שכרם

*"And all those who faithfully occupy themselves with the needs of the community. May the Holy One, blessed be He, give them their reward. May He remove from them all illness, grant them complete healing, and forgive all their sins. May He send blessing and success to all the work of their hands, Amen."*

### A VERY PERSONAL OBSERVATION

And when the time came for Israel to die he summoned his son Joseph and said:

שִׁים-נָא יָדךָ תַּחַת ירכי ועשית עמדי  
חֶסֶד וְאֵמֶת

*"Do me this favor, place your hand under my thigh as a pledge of your steadfast loyalty and kindness - a true kindness, please do not bury me in Egypt."*

Jewish tradition defines true kindness as a good deed for which there is no reciprocal favor -- such as tending to the needs of the dead. (I have often pondered the inherent contradiction of *chesed* and *emet*. At times the epitome of *chesed* is not to be truthful; perhaps a discussion for another time.) The dead cannot thank you, and there is no earthly reward. (And as a *Chevra Kadisha* colleague quipped, "Neither can they complain of poor

חסדי יהוה עולם אשירה,

כי אמרתי, עולם חסד יבנה,

*"Of Hashem's kindness I will sing forever for I said, 'Forever will [Your] kindness be built.'"*

Maimonides suggests that this tells us that the world is built on *chesed*. None of us could have done anything to earn the gifts of life and consciousness. God owes us nothing, yet chose to bring us into this world and thus give us something. We are a religion of gratitude; our day starts with *Modeh Ani*, grateful am "I" before You. We don't say *Ani Modeh*, "I" am grateful, perhaps suggesting that there is no self, there is no "I" without gratitude, and that one does not become human until "I" gratitude is conveyed.

Having received an inestimable gift of *chesed*, we are called upon to bestow *chesed* ourselves and this is the way we walk in God's ways. By creating human beings in His image, God has chosen to need us. We are called upon to help narrow the enormous gap between the Real, where human dignity is often trampled upon in countless ways, and the Ideal, where the presence of God is manifest.

I often see our work as helping to bridge this gap. In the process we are the recipients of *chesed*. We appreciate life in a different manner. Anyone who has done a *tahara* never sees life the same way. We get so much more than what we give. We appreciate so much more what we have.

Our work is somber (there is no conversation during a *tahara*), even sad, and often very difficult, but it is neither discouraging nor depressing. "A good death and a good funeral," writes Thomas Lynch, a poet and undertaker, "is one that gets the dead where they need to go and the living where they need to be."

May God give the members of our Men's and Women's *Chevra Kadisha*, and all holy societies, the strength to persist in their efforts and may we have as few opportunities as possible to demonstrate the inspiring ability to combine the attributes of *chesed* and *emeth*. Thank you for listening to me about a grave subject we tend to avoid. I can only echo the words of the great Rabbi Akiba, who concluded a funeral with the words, *Lech La'batachim La Shalom*. Go to your homes in peace.



service.") Adherence to this sacred practice is one reason why the volunteer burial society in a community is known as *Chevra Kadisha*, the Sacred Society.

### WHO IS DOING THE CHESSED TO WHOM?

While the traditional meaning is that the person doing the *tahara* is doing the *chesed*, after many years and having performed many *taharas*, I would like to think that this *chesed* goes both ways. Let me explain: In Tehilim 89 we read:

# INVOCATION AT THE 139TH ANNUAL KJ SYNAGOGUE MEETING

by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

החודש הזה לכם  
*Hachodesh hazeh lachem.*

**A**lmighty and most Merciful Father: at the dawn of our freedom You commanded us to sanctify time; for free people are judged by how they choose to spend their time.

Tonight, one day after we commemorated the commanding of Jewish time, we thank you for our "Volunteer of the Year" and his comrades, who, with extraordinary dedication and *chesed shel emet*, readily give of their time at any time, time after time after time; and we thank you as well for our honoree, whose loving efforts, Sabbath after Sabbath, have so enhanced our holiest of times.

Help us all as a community- from our anniversarians to our newest members - to cherish and sanctify our time together; and may we merit joyous times for a long time to come.

(continued from page 4 )

with the Shul and Ramaz, we inculcated strong Jewish values in our children, who in turn with their wonderful spouses are continuing on this path and are *bli ayin hara* doing the same with their children (our grandchildren).

My best memories are from the years when my children attended Ramaz, between earning my BA and the starting of my MS degrees. I devoted quite a bit of time to serving Ramaz and the Shul in what ever ways I could and was necessary. To cull my experience of organizing a Shabbaton for each grade for two years, was very gratifying. Having our favorite Annie May and Ethel help my committee with everything from peeling vegetables for salad center pieces to setting the tables, to washing the blue vinyl tablecloths (we reused them year after year as a savings measure), was just great. The only aggravation I experienced was when people were upset with me regarding where I seated them, but I learned that you cannot be loved by everyone at all times.

## SUMMER 2011 A TASTE OF TORAH AT KJ

Classes with **Rabbi Yossi Weiser**  
Senior Faculty Member, Ramaz Upper School

**TUESDAYS - JULY 12 & 26; AUGUST 2**

**THE BOOK OF EZRA**

7:15 PM - 8:15 PM

In Jewish thought, Ezra's stature is comparable to Moses, and he was worthy of being the giver of the law. Explore his role in the compromised return to Zion and his leadership of the Jews in the early Persian Empire.

**AMERICA AND THE HOLCAUST: 1938-1945**

8:20 PM -9:20 PM

Explore how the government of the United States dealt with issues of jewish survival in the past and how this might reflect upon the situation today. Topics will include refugee policy, the Evian Bermuda conferences, the bombing of Auschwitz, and the postwar treatment of Holocaust survivors.

**THURSDAYS - JULY 14 & 28; AUGUST 4 & 11**

**MORE THAN "JUST SAY NO":**

**THE IMPERATIVE OF HALAKHA (JEWISH LAW)**

7:15 PM - 8:15 PM

Jewish people constantly face challenges to which we must respond. Come learn how to deal with the issues of today using the eternal wisdom of the Torah.

**STUDIES IN THE WEEKLY TORAH PORTION**

8:20 PM - 9:20 PM

Join us in exploring the profound insights and relevance of our tradition as derived from the weekly parsha through the classical commentaries of the last 2,500 years.

**Wednesday Classes with Rabbi Yitz Motechin**

**FUNDAMENTAL JEWISH TEXTS**

7:00 PM

Explore the foundations of Jewish knowledge, including the study of Mishnah.

**JEWISH LAW MADE EASY**

8:00 PM

This class focuses on topics in Jewish law from key original sources to practical application.

*All classes, at 114 East 85th Street, are free of charge and do not require reservations.*

*For more information, contact the Synagogue office at 212-774-5678.*

## Keter Torah Awardee

This was not only gratifying but a great learning experience for me. (By the way, I put the Shabbaton experience on my first resume.)

I pray and hope that my parents and Willy up in the *shamayim* are looking down, full of gratitude, and are having a very special *yom tov* today They are definitely proud that their daughter is standing at the prestigious KJ pulpit and is giving a speech which she should end now. But they are reminding me to give thanks in our traditional manner by making a *bracha*:

*Baruch ata adonai elohenu melech haolam, hatov ve-hametiv.*

In addition, I want to just thank my dear husband, Rudy, my children and grandchildren for giving me so much support, love and *naches*.

I also must thank Gilah Kletenik, our wonderful and brilliant Congregational Scholar, for her much appreciated input.

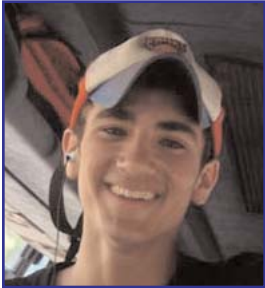
Thank you all and a good Yom Tov!

# THE NEXT AIPAC GENERATION SPEAKS

by Sammy Major

*This year's AIPAC reporters, Sammy Major (Ramaz '11) and Jonathan Deluty (Ramaz '12) were two of more than 10,000 pro-Israel activists from all 50 states who attended the recent AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. - the largest in AIPAC's history.*

*Here, they weigh in on some of the issues that are front and center when discussing the U.S. Israel relationship.*



When you hear something enough times, you begin to believe its true, no matter how absurd and false you know it to be. That's one of the biggest challenges I, as a pro-Israel advocate, face. We've heard those key phrases too many times: apartheid (if you type in apartheid in a Google search engine, "apartheid Israel" is the fifth option that pops up, and the only country), human rights violations, occupation, and so on. We've heard so many times how Israel is guilty of these crimes that we've stopped being outraged every time we hear it. We've stopped being surprised. Maybe we've even started to believe it, not because we think we've been told the truth, but just because we've heard it so many times that there's got to be some truth behind it, right?

This is the danger we face. To forget how wrong Israel's detractors are. To forget why we defend Israel.

Yes, we all have our subjective, personal reasons for loving Israel. My family spends time in Israel at least once a year. I will be there next year, studying in Yeshiva.

But it's more than that. We defend Israel because, objectively, it's the right thing to do. Israel is the only country in the Middle East that shares the core democratic values of the United States. The values that we cherish as Americans, and the values we cherish as human beings.

"America's commitment to Israel's security flows from a deeper place, and that's the values we share." Those are not my words, but the words of President Obama. "As two vibrant democracies, we recognize that the liberties and freedoms we cherish must be constantly nurtured."

These shared values are the basis of the relationship between our two countries. But those who criticize and condemn Israel

work day and night to shatter this invaluable relationship that benefits both countries.

That's why it's my job - and yours, too - to do everything we can to ensure that the bond between the United States and Israel remains iron clad. That means meeting with members of Congress and educating them on these issues. Believe it or not, not everyone is as aware of the facts regarding Israel as those of us in our little silver box. Last year, at the end of the AIPAC policy conference, instead of meeting with my representatives I went to meetings with members of Congress that had only a few people going. These senators and congressmen have few pro-Israel constituents in their districts, so they do not have the same awareness regarding Israel as, for example, a senator from New York. They do not have the awareness we'd like them to have; they do not have the awareness we need them to have.

I met with one congressman's chief of staff who, because of other issues at the time, did not know the basic facts regarding the U.S.- Israel relationship. He didn't know why foreign aid is beneficial to both countries. He didn't know why stopping Iran from achieving nuclear capability was not only a priority, but a necessity, for both our countries. I did the best I could to explain to this staffer why these issues are so important for both the U.S. and Israel. And I'll keep doing it. And I'll keep thanking my representatives for their continued support for Israel and the U.S.- Israel relationship because I know how important that relationship is. I know that my voice, and my vote, counts just as much as the next one. And I know that if I use my voice, not only to convince members of congress, but to convince you to do the same, then our combined voice will be louder than that of those trying to destroy the bond between the U.S. and Israel. Because of my love and appreciation for both the United States and Israel, it is vital that I, along with each and every one of you, own up to my responsibility to defend Israel and ensure that the United States and Israel remain partners in spreading peace and prosperity.



Some of the over 100 KJ/Ramaz faces who participated in AIPAC's inspiring and informative policy conference, led by Audrey & Rabbi Haskel Lookstein and Rabbi Elie Weinstock and Meir Soloveichik. Join next year's delegation! Mark your calendars now for March 4-6, 2012

## ★ SUNDAY, MAY 22 - TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2011 ★

by Jonathan Deluty



Recently, Rabbi Yossi Weiser forwarded a column to me from the *Washington Post*, written by Charles Krauthammer, the well known, Pulitzer Prize winning syndicated columnist, political commentator, and physician.. It is heavily critical of President Obama's speech regarding the 1967 lines, but while reading it, one line in particular really struck me, and I

think it is a very valid point. Not specifically directed at President Obama, Krauthammer writes: "The very idea that Judaism's holiest shrine is alien or that Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter is rightfully or historically Arab is an absurdity. And the idea that, in order to retain them, Israel has to give up parts of itself is a travesty." Regardless of political views, on this day, we Jews have an obligation to remember that there are powerful forces out there trying to wrest from us our holiest site, the Temple Mount.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to be a part of the Ramaz delegation that attended the AIPAC policy conference in Washington, D.C. Firstly, I think it is more important than anything else to discuss what unites America and Israel, not what divides the countries. When our President delivers a speech in which he calls the bond between the United States and Israel "unbreakable," we can all rest assured that he means it. Many people may not know this, but American and Israeli security cooperation today is at an all-time high. That means that under the Obama administration, Israel receives more foreign aid from America than ever before. In fact, the Obama administration just recently gave Israel \$200 million dollars to fund its Iron Dome defense system. I encourage all of you to watch some of the footage online of the Iron Dome shooting down a rocket from Gaza in midair. When I saw it, my jaw dropped and I beamed with pride at my two countries. To know that my voice is heard when I lobby for this type of defense for Israel humbles me and fills me with gratitude towards this amazing country we live in. Oh and just something worth noting: since the Iron Dome was implemented last month, it has shot down 9 out of 10 Hamas rockets. That is a historic number, and something we should definitely take pride in.

At the Conference, the catch phrase that could be heard repeatedly was "we need to ensure the strong U.S-Israel relationship." And we didn't just hear this from AIPAC officials or strictly pro-Israel lobbyists. We heard this from President Obama, Speaker John Boehner, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, House Majority leader Eric Cantor, and the like. To hear the constant stream of pro-Israel rhetoric, to hear the calls for the release of Gilad Shalit, to hear the calls for Hamas to renounce terror, to hear the call for defensible borders for Israel; all of this reassured me that our country stands strong with Israel and will never forsake the Jewish state.

The moment that really solidified my trip, however, was not an official part of the conference. I was sitting with Ethan Fried in the convention center, waiting to lobby my Senator, Robert

Menendez, to sign onto the bill to provide \$3 billion in critical aid to Israel, when all of the TVs in the convention center turned to C-Span and showed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about to address Congress. That speech really encompassed what that trip was all about for me. The Prime Minister spoke very strongly to those elements that give Israel its Jewish character, and solidified why we American Jews support Israel. He said: "In Judea and Samaria, the Jewish people are not foreign occupiers. We are not the British in India. We are not the Belgians in the Congo. This is the land of our forefathers, the Land of Israel, to which Abraham brought the idea of one God, where David set out to confront Goliath, and where Isaiah saw a vision of eternal peace. No distortion of history can deny the four thousand year old bond, between the Jewish people and the Jewish land."

What was the Congressional response to this seemingly controversial statement? A thunderous standing ovation. The recognition of our connection to our land is respected in the United States unlike any other country in the world. I attended a session on the Global delegitimization of Israel. I learned that in Great Britain, *Great Britain*, the most modern country in Europe, it is considered politically courageous for a politician to stand before his constituents and say "I respect the right of Israel to exist." That's it? That's courage? That's the equivalent of me saying "I respect the right of the United States to exist." It means nothing, and yet that basic statement is considered courageous in even the most progressive liberal democracies. I am proud to say this: not the case in America. We in this country recognize the Jewish right to its ancestral homeland.

On the critical issue of Jerusalem, Prime Minister Netanyahu said this: "As for Jerusalem, only a democratic Israel has protected freedom of worship for all faiths in the city. Jerusalem must never again be divided. Jerusalem must remain the united capital of Israel." The response? Another standing ovation! Prime Minister Netanyahu, a foreign leader, received 26 standing ovations. This country has recognized that Jerusalem is not a settlement. It's our capital.

In light of this speech, Krauthammer's words ring even truer. Jerusalem is the capital of our great Jewish nation, and nobody will take that away from us. AIPAC policy conference was able to show me that because we live in such a great and free nation, we will continue to foster the U.S.-Israel relationship, and we will have the political support necessary to protect our small Jewish country and our eternal capital, Jerusalem.

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## Purim at KJ: Sunday, March 20, 2011

800 people attend Megillah reading for adults and children in the Main Synagogue



125 people attend the Sephardic Minyan in the Gottesman Center's Beit Midrash

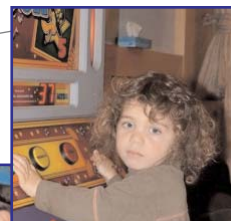
150 people attend Beginners Megillah reading and Purim Party in the Gottesman Center



350 people attend early Purim day service and breakfast and 450 people attend later Purim day service and breakfast



500 people attend Purim Carnival in the Gottesman Center



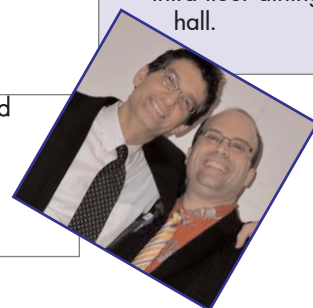
250 attend Megillah reading for parents and infants in KJ's third floor dining hall.

1,000 community holiday gift baskets delivered



125 Jewish Youth Connection attendees hear Megillah reading for parents and Sunday School students

500 adults attend quiet Megillah reading in Gottesman Center.



300 people attend Pizza & Ice Cream Party with musical entertainment. That's 85 pizza pies!



Photo Montage Credit:  
Dr. Jeffrey Rand

## L'SHALOM L'VRACHA, SHLICHOT B'NAI AKIVA!

Photo Credit: Dr. Jeffrey Rand



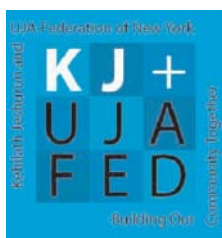
It is with mixed emotions that we prepare to return to our beloved State of Israel after enjoying immensely a year of growth, challenge and success with the hundreds of beautiful children from the KJ/Ramaz family. Although we miss our homes, our homeland, and our families, we know that we will wake up back in Israel and immediately miss the children with whom we have had so much fun in 5771. We will also miss the close friendships that we have forged over the past year with so many families who graciously opened their homes to us for Shabbat and Yom Tov hospitality, and we are indebted to our many hosts for showing us such kindness and warmth. To the entire community we want to say "Thank you and L'hitraot" (not goodbye).



Tamar & Tziporen  
Shel-Akiva Shlichot 2011

We look forward to welcoming you on your many visits to Israel.  
Please keep in touch with us: We are reachable in Israel at:

Tziporen Yoely - Tziporen@gmail.com  
Tamar Taitelbaum - Taitel19@gmail.com, 011-972-052-360-4547



## UJA: PROGRAMS FOR KJ PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

**U**JA at KJ has had a great year with programs such as serving a Thanksgiving meal to clients at Project ORE and celebrating Chanukah with the seniors of Jewish Home Lifecare. We ended the year with a joint KJ/Safra pre-Pesach chesed Program and our Annual Reception. At our joint chesed program, we had fifty-seven people come together at a Met Council Senior Residence on the Upper East Side. Together we prepared and served lunch and created Pesach packages for the residents. The seniors were full of smiles as they were served and chatted with those both young and old.

Our Annual Reception was held on May 12th and hosted by Abigail and Shai Tambor in their lovely home. Dr. Misha Galpern, CEO and President of the Jewish Agency for Israel, was the guest speaker. Rabbi Lookstein spoke eloquently about his passion for UJA-Federation, and Suzanne Doft gave an



*UJA@KJ in action*

amazing presentation about her recent trip to Ethiopia with Jewish Federations of North America. Again, this year, we announced our *Mitzvahs and Milestones* project to keep Shabbat ORE open. Shabbat ORE is a program through the Educational Alliance that offers a Shabbat lunch to clients who otherwise would not have the opportunity to celebrate the holiday. Members of the KJ community have generously come together to raise money to keep the program open, bringing one Shabbat meal a month to those who need it most.

We are looking forward to another full calendar in the year to come. Look out for an invitation to join us while we collect school supplies for children at one of UJA-Federation's beneficiary agencies, UJA's *Supplies for Success* program, at the end of the summer. Thank you all for your support!

Erica Schwartz: [erica.schwartz@hotmail.com](mailto:erica.schwartz@hotmail.com)

Sara Shemia: [Sara.Shemia@PoloRalphLauren.com](mailto:Sara.Shemia@PoloRalphLauren.com)

### KJ SYNAGOGUE MEMBERSHIP:

### BE A PART OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Contact KJ Executive Director  
Leonard Silverman  
at 212-774-5680 or  
[LSS@CKJ.org](mailto:LSS@CKJ.org)

### DEDICATE

Members of the Congregation and others are invited to honor a friend or relative, celebrate a milestone event or memorialize a loved one by dedicating *Chumashim* or *Siddurim*.

**CHUMASHIM** - \$45 each

**SIDDURIM** - \$25 each

Contact the Synagogue office at  
212-774-5600

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Our Sunday Hebrew School is accepting fall enrollments for children entering Kindergarten through Bar or Bat Mitzvah age. Contact 212-794-1592 or [JYC@ckj.org](mailto:JYC@ckj.org) for more information.

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## MEN'S CLUB SPRING SEASON IN REVIEW

The KJ Men's Club is very proud to have recently presented stellar programs for the entire community:

At a kiddush discussion following services on Shabbat, May 14th, Dr. Edmond Cohen, Professor of Anesthesiology, Director of Thoracic Anesthesia at Mount Sinai Medical Center, gave a presentation on "Everything You Wanted to Know About Anesthesia But Were Afraid to Ask." The information Dr. Cohen presented was vitally important, highly relevant and informative, and the attendees were fascinated by his description of the many complicated issues involved in the practice of anesthesiology.

On Sunday evening, May 15th, the KJ Men's Club had the privilege of presenting a Special Supper Lecture entitled, "A Celebration of Dona Gracia," which recounted the story of Dona Gracia Nasi, a Jewish

heroine who, with the help and encouragement of the Turkish Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent, saved Jews from the Spanish Inquisition and also began the

settlement of Tiberias in Israel.

Andree Aelion Brooks, author of the acclaimed book *The Woman Who Defied Kings: The Life and Times of Dona Gracia Nasi*, kept the audience riveted with the tale of this extraordinary Jewish woman.

At the outset of the event, we were privileged to be addressed by Pinar Senturk Sevi, Deputy Consul General of the Turkish Consulate General in New York, which supported this event. Special thanks also go to Turkey's Consul General Mehmet Samsar and Deputy Consul General Ayse Uzer for their enthusiastic encouragement and assistance in making this event a reality. At the conclusion of the program, Rabbi Nissim Elnecave, Rabbi of the Turkish Jewish Community in Brooklyn, recited some special words in memory of Dona Gracia.

Following these presentations, we showed a DVD of a marvelous television program from Israel which we obtained through the good offices of the Israeli Cultural Attache in Istanbul, and Geula Cohen in Israel - this was the celebration

in 2010 of the 500th anniversary of Dona Gracia, held at the residence of President Shimon Peres of Israel - a beautiful and inspiring event which explained the legacy of Dona

Gracia for the present day. Also speaking at the program was Harriet Porto, president of the Dona Gracia Project, which seeks to perpetuate the memory of this remarkable woman..

On Sunday evening, May 22nd, at a KJ Am Hasefer Book Club event which took place at the home of gracious hosts Janie and Robert Schwalbe, KJ member Sandra Rapoport discussed her new and highly

acclaimed book *Biblical Seductions: Six Stories Retold Based on Talmud and Midrash*.

Sandra, a frequent and much in-demand lecturer at

Jewish institutions such as the Manhattan

JCC, and also at Harvard University, focused principally on the story of Ruth and brought this amazing biblical story to life for all present with brilliant analysis and insight.

On Tuesday evening, June 7th, the first night of Shavuot, the Men's Club sponsored (as it has done for many years) a special Shavuot dinner with sumptuous dairy fare as is customary for the chag, and the dinner guests were treated to very impressive Divrei Torah from Ramaz Middle School students.

On Sunday evening, June 12th, we presented the film "Four Seasons Lodge" with filmmaker Matt Lavine present at the screening. This extraordinary documentary told the story of a group of Holocaust survivors who each year went

by Dr. Mark Meirowitz, Men's Club President

to a bungalow colony in the Catskills to enjoy each others' company, but also to share their remarkable life experiences and the suffering they endured. The film



The panel presents Dona Gracia

captured in a heartwarming manner the joys and struggles of this very special group of survivors and provided many powerful and heartrending insights.

On Sunday evening, June 19th, the KJ Men's Club sponsored a theater party to see the Folksbiene production *The Adventures of Hershele Ostropolyer* with Mike Burstyn, at The Baruch College Theatre.

Finally, to provide a powerful conclusion to its programming before starting up again in the Fall, the KJ Mens' Club, on Sunday evening June 26th, sponsored a film screening of *Family in Captivity* with the filmmaker Tal Goren and the JCC Manhattan's Isaac Zablocki, who has been coordinating nationwide showings of the film. The film is an intimate story that follows the day-to-day efforts of the family of abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit to cope and bring Gilad home. This heartbreaking film provided unprecedented access to the

Shalit family, and showed how private and anonymous individuals like Gilad rise to become national symbols. At the outset of the program, a poem was read aloud to the audience written by a student in the Shaindy Rudoff Creative Writing Program at Bar

Ilan University. The poem was provided by Judy

Rudoff. It is entitled "Paris Square, Jerusalem," and describes the agony of Aviva Shalit, sitting in a tent near the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem awaiting news of her son.

The KJ Men's Club looks forward to returning in the fall with another season of outstanding programming for the entire KJ community.



(l. to r.) Dr. Bob and Janie Schwalbe, Sandra and Dr. Sam Rapoport, and Dr. Mark Meirowitz, Men's Club President



Discussing "Family in Captivity"

## THE 139th YEAR OF CONGREGATION KEHILATH JESHURUN A RETROSPECTIVE 2010-2011

### SPECIAL SHABBAT PROGRAMS

Learners Service  
Hashkama Minyan  
Women's Tefilah Group  
Keshet Young People's Minyan  
Intermediate Service  
Teen Minyan  
Minyan Sepharadi

### SHABBAT SCHOLARS

♦Yossi Klein Halevi  
♦Rabbi David Silber  
♦Dr. Barry Eichler

### SEUDAH SHLISHIT GUEST SPEAKERS

♦Dr. Philip Wilner  
♦Rabbi Ian Pear  
♦Atara Eis, *Yoetzet Halacha*  
♦Kim Schneiderman  
♦Rabbi She'ar Yashuv Cohen  
♦Robert Sugarman, *ADL Nat'l Chair*  
♦Rabbi Michael Shudrich  
♦Chaim Edelstein  
♦Rabbi Eli Beer, *United Hatzalah of Israel*  
♦Rav Binny Friedman  
♦Mordecai Dzikansky  
♦Chloe Fine and Adira Katlowitz  
♦Michael Cinnamon  
♦Scott Shay and Jean Paul Le

### HOLIDAY EVENTS

♦Teshuva Shiur  
by Rabbi Saul Berman  
♦Shabbat Shuva Drasha  
by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
♦Sukkot Meals  
♦Purim Mishloach Manot  
♦Shabbat HaGadol Drasha  
by Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
♦Yom Hashoah Program  
Yom HaZikaron Program  
♦Yom Ha'Atzmaut Zimriah & Services  
♦Shavuot Dinner & Tikken Leyl with  
Divrei Torah by *Evan Farber, Rabbi Meir Soloveichik, Rabbi Elie Weinstock, Rabbi Alexander Kaye, Congregational Scholar, Gilah Kletenik*  
♦Yom Yerushalayim Services  
& Bar-b-que

### MEN'S CLUB

Kiddush Discussions:  
♦*The Reluctant Spy: My Secret Life in the CIA's War on Terror* w. former CIA Agent, John Kiriakou

♦*Italian Jewish Communities After the Shoah* with Dr. Massimo Szulc  
♦*Morocco and its Jewish Community, Past and Present* with Hon. Aziz Mekouar, Moroccan Ambassador to the U.S.  
♦*Diabetes* with registered dietician Meredith I. Liss and David Weingard Film Series:  
♦*Jubanos: The Jews of Cuba* with Filmmaker Milos Silber  
♦*New Homes*  
♦*Schmattes: From Riches to Rags*  
♦*Transit Berlin: From Hell to Hope*  
♦*Just Like Home*  
♦*The Last Survivor* w/ Producer (and Ramaz alum) Sam Goldberg  
♦*Leap of Faith*  
♦*Four Seasons Lodge* w/ Producer Matt Lavine  
♦*Family in Captivity* w/ the filmmakers Supper Lectures:  
♦*The Rescue of German - Jewish Academics by Turkey and Atatürk*  
♦*Chinese Policies Toward Judaism* w/ Prof. Xu Xin of Nanjing University  
♦*Jews of Latin America*, moderated by Ariel Kwacz, featuring Rabbi Mendel Waitman (Sao Paulo, Brazil) and Eva Serebrinsky (Santiago, Chile)  
♦*The Church and the Jews Throughout the Ages* w/ Rabbi Benjamin Blech and David Birnbaum  
♦*"A Celebration of Dona Gracia" w/ Andree Aelion Brooks, Author of The Woman Who Defied Kings: The Life and Times of Dona Gracia*  
♦Dr. Stephen Stowe Annual Shabbaton Sponsorship of weekly Seudot Shlishit  
♦Monthly Chug Ivri  
♦Musical Salon with Bonnie Dietrich  
♦Theatre Party: *The Adventures of Hershele Ostrapolyer*

### SISTERHOOD

♦Lecture w/ Keshet: *Breast Cancer: Newest Findings in Genetics and Detection*  
Pre-Holiday Boutiques  
♦*Quick and Kosher" Cooking Class* with chef Jamie Geller  
♦*Wine Tasting* w/ Dr. Stephen Rothman  
♦Museum Tours of  
*THE WHITNEY*: Edward Hopper and his Time  
*SOTHEBY'S*: Important Judaica and Israeli Art Auctions with Sharon Mintz, John

Ward and Jennifer Roth at Sotheby's  
*GALLERY WALK*: Manhattan's Art Deco Buildings  
*THE JEWISH MUSEUM*: Collecting Matisse and the Modern Masters, The Cone Sisters of Baltimore  
♦Annual Spring Luncheon, *Viva Aviv!*  
Fashion Show by Vivaldi Boutique  
♦Sponsorship of Weekly Kiddushim  
♦Preparations of Local Houses of Mourning & Mourner's First Meal  
♦College Connection

### KESHER

♦Shemini Atzeret Lunch  
♦New Members Oneg  
♦Visit to Sukkah City♦  
♦UJA@KJ  
♦Shlock Rock Concert  
♦Tot Shabbat  
♦Spring Luncheon  
♦Keshet New & Expectant Moms' Breakfast  
♦CPR Lectures  
♦Family Purity Shiur  
with *Yoetzet Halacha Atara Eis*  
♦Shabbat Meal for New Parents

### AM HASEFER

♦*Biblical Seductions: Six Stories Retold Based on Talmud & Midrash* with the author Sandra Rapoport

### GUEST SPEAKERS

♦Dr. David Pelcovitz  
♦Rabbi David Flatto  
♦Rabbi Shlomo Brody, *Dean of Yeshivat Hakotel's Overseas Program*  
♦Ambassador Yehuda Avner  
♦Dr. Erica Brown  
♦Rabbi Yuval Cherlow

### SPECIAL EVENTS & PROGRAMS

♦Seymour Propp Memorial Lecture  
♦Yachad Shabbaton  
♦Blood Drive  
Annual Synagogue Meeting  
♦KJ/Ramaz Career Development and Networking Initiatives  
♦Simchat Torah/Shavuot Student Divrei Torah  
♦AIPAC Conference  
♦History at Home  
with Rabbi Alexander Kaye  
♦Operation L'Hitraot Israel Pesach Trip  
♦Chevra Kadisha Seudah Shlishit  
♦KJ Annual Dinner -*TAKE ME OUT TO*

### THE BALLGAME!

♦Israel Bond Shabbat  
♦"UJA at KJ" Reception and Briefing  
♦The Yiddish Schmoozers  
♦Lunch and Learn  
♦Chai Mitzvah  
♦Social Worker Discussion Evenings  
with *Kim Schneiderman*

### BEGINNERS

♦Jewish Youth Connection  
♦Holiday Workshops  
♦*Friday Night Live!* Service & Dinners featuring Rabbi Mark Wildes, Rabbi Binny Friedman, Rapper "Y Love" (Yitz Jordan), Rabbi Ben-Tzion Krasnianski, Rabbi Yuval Cherlow  
♦Hebrew Reading Crash Courses  
♦NJOP Shabbat Across America  
♦Rosh Hashanah New Year's Eve Bash  
♦Sukkah Dinner Under the Stars  
♦Melava Malka  
♦Shabbat Lunches  
♦Passover Seder  
♦Basic Judaism Crash Course  
♦Crash Course in Jewish History  
♦Shabbat Oneg  
♦Jewish Learning Institute  
♦Purim Party

### KJ SINGLES

♦Pre- Chanukah Wine Tasting  
♦Dessert Evening

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

♦Hoshanah Rabbah *Lookstein Challenge*  
♦Tot Shabbat  
♦Purim Carnival  
♦Fall and Spring Shabbatonim  
♦Open Gym Programs  
♦Shabbat morning and afternoon Youth Groups  
♦Super Bowl Party  
♦Mishnayot Learning  
with Rabbi Meir Soloveichik  
♦Bnei Akiva *Yom Tzahal Boot Camp*  
♦Bnei Akiva Sleepovers  
♦Bnei Akiva Shabbaton  
♦Bnei Akiva Ice Cream Party  
♦Bnei Akiva Bowling Excursion  
♦Bnei Akiva Glow-in-the-Dark Dodgeball  
♦Bnei Akiva "Snif" Youth Groups  
♦Bnei Akiva Hamantaschen Baking  
♦KJBL, KJSL, and KJHL sports leagues

## Having a Bar or Bat Mitzvah in 5772?

If you are celebrating a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at KJ between September 2011 and June 2012, please contact Riva Alper in the synagogue office at 212-774-5670 or [Riva@ckj.org](mailto:Riva@ckj.org) to reserve specific rooms for your services, celebratory meals/kiddushes, and other functions. We are booking synagogue programming now, and do not want you to be closed-out from your preferred venues.

## Yeshiva University Appoints KJ Associate Rabbi Meir Soloveichik Director of Newly Established Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought

**Y**eshiva University President Richard M. Joel announced the creation of the new Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought. The center's mission is to develop a cadre of Jewish thinkers well-versed in the great moral, philosophical and theological questions of our age while disseminating genuinely Jewish ideas to the world.

While its primary focus will be serving students, the Zahava and Moshael Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought will also serve to enhance YU's role as "an intellectual catalyst and beacon for all Jews," Rabbi Soloveichik explained. To this end, the center will host, throughout the academic year, public forums at the University's various campuses that address great human questions that have engaged Jewish and non-Jewish thinkers. Visiting faculty will be invited to participate in these events and to teach in the student courses. In the first year, many of the center's programs, as well as much of the student coursework, will relate to the theme "Biblical Ideas and American Democracy."

Moreover, the center will stage a series of one-day learning events in Jewish communities throughout the U.S., Europe and Israel. These symposia and lectures will promote ideas-focused conversations about Jewish life and the Jewish future across the generations.

"Ultimately, the goal of the Straus Center is not just to deepen our understanding of Judaism," Rabbi Soloveichik said, "but also to help us understand how Jewish ideas have, and can continue to, profoundly impact the world."

### CREATE AN ENDURING LEGACY

Please consider participating in the Congregation's Endowment and Planned Giving Program, through which you can create an enduring legacy of active participation in KJ.

Contact Leonard Silverman at 212-774-5680 or [LSS@CKJ.org](mailto:LSS@CKJ.org) for information.

### SPONSORSHIPS ARE WELCOME

To support synagogue programs, we invite prospective Kiddush & Seudah Shlishit Sponsors to contact Riva Alper in the synagogue office at 212-774-5670 or [Riva@ckj.org](mailto:Riva@ckj.org). The base cost of a cake-and-wine Kiddush sponsorship is \$350, to which is added the cost of any extra catered food ordered through Foremost Caterers. Multiple Kiddush sponsors may, at their discretion and initiative, agree to share the expense of extra catered food, but every co-sponsor must pay, separately and individually, the \$350 base fee. Similarly, sponsoring Seudah Shlishit costs every co-sponsor \$250.

## THE KILLING FIELDS OF EASTERN EUROPE

**F**ather Patrick Desbois, president of Yahad-In Unum, has devoted his life to confronting anti-Semitism and furthering Catholic-Jewish understanding. Since 2001, he has led a truly historic undertaking of identifying and locating undiscovered mass graves of Jews killed during the Holocaust in Eastern Europe.

In less than two years, from June 1941 until the spring of 1943, an estimated 1.25 million Jews were massacred in the Soviet Union by the Nazi Einsatzgruppen. The Jewish populations of whole villages were slaughtered in hours; entire regions were annihilated in an afternoon. Unlike in the concentration camps, there were few survivors to tell the world what had happened.

As KJ's guest speaker at the annual Yom Hashoah observance on May 1, he spoke movingly about visiting small villages across the Ukraine and Eastern Europe to interview the residents there who witnessed the killings. Many of those he interviews have never before spoken of the massacres, but they respond to his status as a Catholic priest. One grave at a time, Father Desbois, is unmasking what was a continent of extermination. To further refute the claims of Holocaust deniers, at each site artifacts are collected and most significantly, video testimonies are recorded from eyewitnesses. These invaluable testimonies, which serve as important evidence of this genocide, are archived in Yahad-In Unum's Paris headquarters and are shared with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's permanent collection.



## YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATED ON MAY 1

## MAY THEY GO HIGHER AND HIGHER

We extend a warm Mazal Tov to the following young members of the Congregation who participated in Advancement Day Exercises as they completed the Ramaz Middle School:

**MATTHEW ABRAHAMS**

*son of Stacey and Harvey Abrahams*

**JILL ADLER**

*daughter of Jill and Elliott Adler*

**ALEXANDER AGUS**

*son of Dr. Nicole and Raanan Agus*

**BENJAMIN EMMERICH**

*son of Pamela and Adam Emmerich*

**MEIR GOLDRING**

*son of Hadassah and Dr. Samuel Goldring*

**LAUREN GROSS**

*daughter of Jennifer and Saul Burian  
and Michael Gross*

**JORDANA GUREWITSCH**

*daughter of Karen and Steven Gurewitsch  
granddaughter of  
Rae and Stanley Gurewitsch*

**REBECCA HERING**

*daughter of Michele  
and Benjamin Ari Hering*

**OLIVIA HERSHKOWITZ**

*daughter of Karen and Michael Hershkowitz*

**BENJAMIN HIRSCHFELD**

*son of Dr. Susan Hirschfeld  
and Elie Hirschfeld*

**ALIZA HORNBLASS**

*daughter of Dr. Chani and JJ Hornblass  
granddaughter of Anne and Hon. Jerome  
Hornblass*

**BENJAMIN JASPAN**

*son of Michele and Ronald Jaspán*

**NATHALIE KAHN**

*daughter of Judy and Dr. Hirshel Kahn*

**BENJAMIN KOHL**

*son of Caren and Samuel Kohl*

**SKLYLER LEVINE**

*daughter of Drs. Jody & Elie Levine*

**ANDREW LOBEL**

*son of Judith and David Lobel*

**GABRIEL LOW**

*son of Lisa and Nathan A. Low*

**DAVID MAJOR**

*son of Rochelle and Eugene Major  
grandson of Gabriella Major Dredsner  
and Rudolph Dredsner*

**JACLYN MEHL**

*daughter of Robin Mehl  
and Dr. Sydney Mehl*

**ORLY MINTZ**

*daughter Dr. Elizabeth Wallach  
and Victor Mintz*

**OLIVIA MITTMAN**

*daughter of Robin and Dan Mittman*

**ERICA NEWMAN-CORRE**

*daughter of Erica Newman and Isaac Corre*

**MICHAEL ALLAN ROSENBERG**

*son of Sari and Wilhelm Rosenberg*

**GABRIEL ROTH**

*son of Phyllis Roth and  
Drs. Ram Roth and Aren Gottlieb, KJ  
grandson of Rachel and Shlomo Roth*

**DANIELLE SCHEINBERG**

*daughter of Stacy and Ron Scheinberg  
granddaughter of Sidney Scheinberg*

**NES SCHWARTZ**

*son of Hon. Leana and Bernard Schwartz*

**VICTORIA SPERO**

*daughter of Lavern Sullivan and  
Dr. Marc Spero*

**GABRIELLA TEPPER**

*daughter of Fran and Dr. Alex Tepper*



## RAMAZ ADMISSIONS



Should you have a child who will be of age to enter Ramaz in September 2012, the Admissions Office at Ramaz is open for inquiries. Please call 212-774-8085 or e-mail [Admissions@ramaz.org](mailto:Admissions@ramaz.org) to set up an appointment

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer.

**Laurie Bilger, Director of Admissions, THE RAMAZ SCHOOL**

E-mail: [Admissions@ramaz.org](mailto:Admissions@ramaz.org)

Telephone: 212-774-8085 Fax: 212-774-8099

## HIGH HOLY DAY SEAT RESERVATIONS NOW DUE

**K**ehilath Jeshurun will be holding High Holy Day services in five locations. In addition to the Main Synagogue, parallel services will be conducted in the Heyman Auditorium and in the Gottesman Center's Falk Auditorium and Lindenbaum Recreation Center. The Beginner's Service will be held in the Kaufman Auditorium at the Ramaz Upper School.

High Holy Day seat reservation cards have already been sent to all congregants. **We ask you to please return the card with your requests as soon as possible, whether or not you plan to be with us this fall.**

## A HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICE FOR THE NOVICE WORSHIPPER

*Introducing a Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Service  
for adults with little or no background in Judaism:*

- ☞ Prayers and Rituals Explained
- ☞ Biblical Insights
- ☞ Historical Overviews
- ☞ Great Kiddush
- ☞ Congregational Readings and Singing
- ☞ Over 100 Shofar Blasts
- ☞ Questions and Answers



Rosh Hashanah morning services will be held on Thursday and Friday, September 29th and 30th at 8:00 AM. Kol Nidre services will be held at 5:50 PM on Friday night, October 8th followed by Yom Kippur services at 9:00 AM the next morning.

Services will be conducted at the  
Ramaz Upper School's Kaufman Aud.  
Morris and Ida Newman  
Educational Center  
60 East 78th Street  
(between Park & Madison Avenues)

**For Information Contact:**  
**212-774-5678**  
**or**  
**Beginners @ckj.org**  
**Tickets only \$60**

## LEARN HEBREW IN TIME FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS!

Our Crash Course in Hebrew Reading will have you identifying letters and sounds and give you the basics in time for Rosh Hashanah. Taught by master teacher Sara Rosen, this class is perfect for those who have no background or as a review for those who wish to brush up on their skills.

Co-sponsored by the National Jewish Outreach Program

**Beginning Wednesday, August 24, at 6:30 PM**  
**at the Gottesman Center, 114 East 85th Street**

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

**One picture is worth  
\$1,000,000.**



*Photo Credit: Mara Lassner*

## SEASONS

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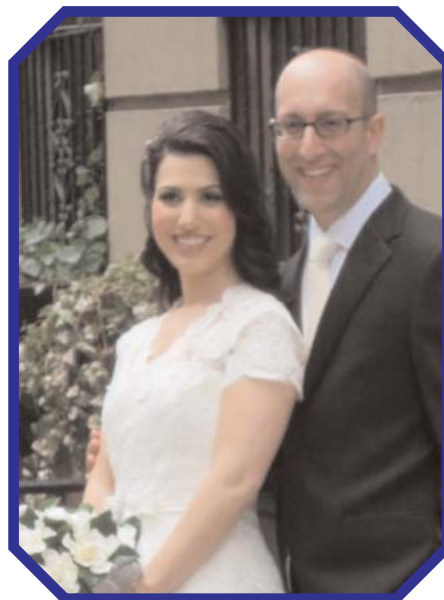


**KJ/RAMAZ  
CAME OUT IN  
FORCE  
ON JUNE 5  
FOR THE ANNUAL  
SALUTE TO ISRAEL  
PARADE**



Photo Credit: Mara Lassner

*Mazal Tov to  
Cillia & Leslie Kleiman and Audrey & Rabbi Haskel Lookstein  
upon the marriage of their children  
Georgie and Joshua*



*April 10, 2011  
Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun  
New York City*

*Photo Credit: Fred Marcus Photography*



Was the Last Time You celebrated being Jewish When you were Twelve or Thirteen?

Turn your 30-31st, 48-49th, 66-67th and 80 plus birthday into a uniquely Jewish lifetime event\*

The 21st century tradition of Chai Mitzvah is celebrated every eighteen years after your Bar or Bat Mitzvah, and any time after 80 years of age\*. It is your opportunity to grow your Judaism in a way that is meaningful to you. Through Chai Mitzvah you will increase your Judaic knowledge, adopt a new ritual or deepen your existing practices and/or engage in the social action of your choice.

Chai Mitzvah programs begin this fall. Congregational Scholar Gilah Kletenik will help you design a Chai Mitzvah program that is meaningful to you. This is your opportunity to engage in the many learning, ritual, and social action projects that KJ and the larger Jewish community have to offer. Chai Mitzvah participants are also encouraged to attend monthly community classes with a unique curriculum designed for each age group. Your experience will culminate in a community-wide celebration.

Grow your Judaism. Become a Chai Mitzvah.

For more information, please contact Gilah Kletenik in the KJ office or [Gilah@ckj.org](mailto:Gilah@ckj.org).

*\* Chai Mitzvah participants may be within two years of the age categories*

## FACILITY USAGE POLICY

One of the many benefits that KJ synagogue members enjoy is complimentary access to KJ worship and catering facilities in connection with celebrating a lifecycle event such as a brit milah, wedding, bar/bat mitzvah, aufruf, etc. Unlike most synagogues, KJ does not charge its members a "Facility Rental Fee" when a lifecycle event takes place at a time and at a location when our facilities would be open and running.

KJ does, however, look to a celebrating family to cover any incremental costs associated with the event that KJ would not otherwise have incurred. For example, if the Gottesman Center would ordinarily be closed on a summer Sunday, or if the Main Synagogue's air conditioning would otherwise be deactivated on

a spring weekday evening, or if maintenance and security crews would routinely close a facility at a certain time, and because of the event KJ now needs to open a closed building, activate a shut-off system, and/or keep workers past their work shifts, KJ will attempt to quantify and recoup from the celebrating family incremental costs that are associated with the event.

Specific details will be discussed with the KJ bookings agent on an event-by-event basis, but the general concept is that while KJ does not seek to enrich itself at the expense of its members' lifecycle events, neither can KJ subsidize celebrations by absorbing their additional operating costs.

## KJ ACCEPTS ONLINE PAYMENTS!

We welcome everyone, members and non-members alike, to conduct KJ transactions online, using your preferred credit card. No convenience fee is charged. Should you take advantage of this secure online payment option, it is important that you let us know exactly what you are paying for, so that we accurately process your remittance. Thank you in advance for your generous support of our synagogue and all that it offers to the broader community

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

APPEAL PLEDGES

KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIPS

SHABBATONIM

SUKKAH MEALS

HIGH HOLY DAY SEATS

### NEDAVOT

BENEVOLENT FUND

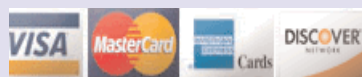
DONATIONS

FACILITY COSTS

BEGINNERS PROGRAMS

SPECIAL PROJECTS

....AND MORE!



ACCESS VIA KJ'S WEBSITE:  
[WWW.CKJ.ORG/PAY](http://WWW.CKJ.ORG/PAY)

## THE ULTIMATE CHESSED



Twining a Bar/Bat Mitzvah simcha with a chesed element is now standard in our community, but no one could have anticipated the ultimate *chesed* that resulted from Alex Agus donating gifts he received in connection with his recent Bar Mitzvah to dedicate a rescue ambulance (called an "ambucycle") to United Hatzalah of Israel. Able to reach victims in an average of 90 seconds (vs. more than 10 minutes for a standard ambulance), these ambucycles, and the dedicated volunteer corps of first responders who ride them, are literally responsible for saving thousands of lives in Israel since they were first introduced.

On the afternoon of March 23, 2011, medic Zev Sofer responded to the bombing outside Jerusalem's Central Bus Station using Alex Agus's ambucycle (see accompanying photo), and Zev was able to treat a grievously wounded 14 year-old boy who would otherwise have died from blood loss. "Shilo ben Ofra" is alive today thanks to Alex Agus's Bar Mitzvah *chesed* project, in partnership with medic Zev Sofer from United Hatzalah of Israel.

To learn how your child, too, might partner with United Hatzalah of Israel, please see <http://www.unitedhatzalah.org>

## In Memoriam

### FAY DEUTSCH

She was a grande dame at KJ after serving in that role in other communities as well. The beloved wife of Josh Deutsch, who has played such an important role in the development of KJ, she was also the devoted mother of three children and many wonderful grandchildren, most of whom were educated at Ramaz. She was also a loving great-grandmother.

Until recent years when illness took away her strength, she never missed a Shabbat in shul, or a school or Sisterhood event. She always had a smile on her face and she was loved by many members of the congregation.

We mourn her passing and we offer our heartfelt condolences to Josh who took such great care of her.

### DR. IRVING HOROWITZ

He was a very elderly member of the congregation who came to us late in life. A loving husband to his wife, Ethel, he was also an adoring father and grandfather. Dr. Horowitz was a very soft spoken person who sat quietly right in front of the bima, arriving very early for a Shabbat service,

and davening piously in his seat. He always had a smile on his face and a warm word on his lips.

A Levi by birth, he typified the role of a Levi as a servant of God and the Jewish people. We will all miss him.

### CELIA KABAKOW

She and her wonderful husband, Dr. Bernard Kabakow, were members of the congregation for some fifty years. They educated their six children in Ramaz and each and every one of them is loyal to Torah, mitzvot, Am Yisrael and Medinat Yisrael. Three of them actually live in Israel. She had thirty grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren, and she loved each of them individually.

Celia was a smiling and noble presence in our community throughout all of these years. Present at every important Sisterhood gathering and, together with Bernie, always supportive of the congregation and Ramaz, she played a very important role in the development of this community.

We mourn her passing, but we so much admire the life that she led and the

influence she had on her family and her community.

### DAVID S. WEIL

He came to the KJ community with his dear wife, Grace, about thirty years ago. Since that time, he brightened up our congregational ambiance with his beautiful smile, twinkling eyes, profound wisdom, Jewish knowledge and gracious personality. He was a gift to this community.

A Jewish leader in Queens for many decades, he was one of the stalwarts in the Soviet Jewry movement and also in religious Zionism. He raised a family devoted to Torah, mitzvot, ahavat Yisrael and loyalty to the State of Israel where he and Grace have a home.

We miss his unforgettable presence in the first seat behind the bima in the Main Synagogue. One cannot replace Sigi Weil who was the sweetest and kindest of men, a true *ohev et ha-b'ri'ot u'me karvan la-Torah*. We will never forget him. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Grace and to all the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## PERMANENT MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR DEPARTED LOVED ONES

Orders placed now will be mounted in time for the High Holy Days: On the walls of the Main Synagogue are mounted seven tablets bearing memorial plaques, representing a permanent and dignified memorial to loved ones. At KJ, now in its 140th year, we keep the lights lit on either side of the plaque each year during the full month of the Yahrzeit and also when we recite Yizkor on Yom Kippur, Shemini Atzeret, Pesach and Shavuot. The cost of a plaque is \$1,000.

**To purchase, please contact Leonard Silverman at  
212-774-8050 or LSS@CKJ.org**



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## WITHIN OUR FAMILY

### BIRTHS

Mazal Tov to

Anita and Jordan Abowitz upon the birth of their fourteenth grandchild, Mikael Moshe Yitzhok Abowitz, born to their children Sarit and Shalom Abowitz of Chicago.

Susan & Robert Blinken, Jr., and Janelle & Dr. Sheldon Pike upon the arrival of a grandson, Elijah Maxwell, born to their children Gavriella (Alexandra Pike) and Mordechai Lerner.

Rachel and Joshua Crane upon the birth of their first child and son, James Reuben Crane. Mazal tov as well to the proud KJ grandparents, Dr. Daniel Crane and Leslie Kay.

Taryn and Floyd Davis upon the birth of their first child and son, Charles Meyer.

Shlomit and Chaim Edelstein upon the birth of a granddaughter, Naomi, the fourth child born to their children Shira and Daniel Edelstein.

Jodi and Fabian Eliasson upon the birth of their second child and first son, Jonas Erik.

Aijia Ye and Elliot Felig upon the birth of their first child and son, George Baoyuan Felig. Mazal tov as well to the proud KJ grandparents, Florence and Dr. Philip Felig.

Ronalee and Russell Galbut upon the birth of their first grandchild, Aidan Galbut Newman, born to their children Marisa and Daniel Newman.

Goldie and I. David Gordon upon the birth of their first grandchild, a girl, Sima Shoshana, born to their children Michele and Aaron Gordon.

Yonina and Eric Gomberg upon the birth of their third child and son, Zachary Ephraim. Mazal tov as well to the proud KJ grandparents, Gail Propp & Cheryl and Fred Halpern.

Sophia and David Gomberg upon the birth of their third child and son, James Robert. Mazal tov as well to the proud KJ grandmother, Gail Propp.

Deborah and David Kahn, upon the birth of a grandchild, the sixth boy born to their children Adi and Fred Kahn, in Israel.

Rosalie and Harry Kleinhaus upon the birth of a grandchild, Maya Yetta, a second daughter born to their children, Elissa and Daniel Wechsler. Mazal Tov to the proud KJ great-grandmother, Sara Mandelbaum.

Ruth and Larry Kobrin upon the birth of a grandchild, a son born to their children Rebecca Kobrin and Kevin Feinblum.

Paula and Dr. David Menche upon the birth of a granddaughter, Sophia Grace, born to their children Livia and Elias

Marcovici.

Ruth and Dr. David Musher upon the birth of their granddaughter, Sylvia Esther, born to their children, Dara and Abe Musher-Eizenman of Ottawa Hills, Ohio. Mazal Tov to the proud KJ great-grandfather, Morris Weiss.

Ruth and Dr. David Musher upon the birth of their grandson, Max Siman, born to their children, Sarah and Matthew Brenner of Newport Coast, CA. Mazal Tov to the proud KJ great-grandfather, Morris Weiss.

Jeanne and Adam Peldman upon the birth of their second child and son, Andrew Kevin.

Inge and Ira Rennert upon the birth of a grandchild, a son born to their children Erynne and Ari Rennert.

Diana and Ira Riklis upon the birth of a grandson, a third child and second son born to their children, Jordana and Benjamin Cooperberg.

Gail and Marvin Schaffer upon the birth of their second grandchild, Aviva Pearl, born to their children, Dr. Ezra and Ilisa Cappell of El Paso, Texas.

Dr. Ilana Brownstein and William ("Zev") Schubert upon the birth of their second child and son, Henry Sylvan.

Monica and Brian Shatz upon the birth of their first child and son, Zachary David. Mazal Tov as well to the proud KJ grandparents Vida and Arthur Mantel.

Nechi Shudofsky upon the birth of a great grandchild, a daughter born to her grandchildren Yael and Eytan Shalev. Mazal Tov to the grandparents Miriam and Binny Shalev.

Jennifer and Dr. Samuel Sultan upon the birth of their first child and daughter, Eliana Orly. Mazal Tov as well to the proud, first-time KJ grandparents, Roni and Dr. Robert Pick.

Grace Weil upon the birth of her Sabra great-grandson, a son of Shira and Steven Botnick who are the children of Dr. Esther (Weil) and Dr. Heshy Sturm.

Leah and Joel Weinberg upon the birth of their second child and son, Simon Drew.

*May these children grow up in the finest tradition of Torah, chupah, and maasim tovim.*

### ENGAGEMENTS

Mazal Tov to:

Rochelle and Cantor Mayer Davis upon the engagement of their daughter, Elisheva, to Benji Samuels, son of Mimi and Stuart Samuels of Woodmere. Mazal Tov as well to proud KJ grandfather, Cantor Emeritus Avram Davis.

Linda Ossad and Robert Ellenberg upon the engagement of their daughter, Ilana Gila, to Joshua Zvi Skolnick, son of Dr. Anita and Stuart Skolnick, of Wyckoff, New Jersey.

Michelle Freudenberger and Andy Dimond upon their engagement.

Sue and Dr. Norman Javitt upon the engagement of their grandson Michael Javitt, son of Drs. Reba Kizner and Daniel Javitt of Jerusalem, to Tovah Chouake, daughter of Drs. Esther and Ben Chouake of Englewood, NJ.

Gladys and Martin Kartin upon the engagement of their daughter, Sarah, to Shragi Weitzner, son of Mitchell and Michelle Weitzner. Mazal Tov as well to the groom's proud KJ grandparents, Roz and Dr. Walter Weitzner.

Susan Kelstein and Jaime Kelstein upon the engagement of their daughter, Rachel (Ramaz '98), to Samuel Maryles, son of Barry Maryles of Chicago, and the late Brenda Maryles.

Edith and Salomon Lipiner upon the marriage of their grandson, Michael Epstein (Ramaz '07), to Aviva Todfeld of Woodmere.

Rhonda and Jeffrey Luxenberg upon the engagement of their son, Alexander, to Allie Rubin, daughter of Michelle & Barry Rubin of Great Neck. Mazal tov as well to the proud KJ Grandmother Alice Smokler.

Dr. Larry Steinberg upon the engagement of his grandson, Avi Mermelstein, to Gaby Schoenfeld, daughter of Polly and Alan Schoenfeld of Riverdale.

Dr. Larry Steinberg upon the engagement of his granddaughter, Rachel Eisenberg of Silver Spring, MD, to Dovid Shteierman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shteierman of Monsey.

*May their weddings take place in happiness and blessing.*

### MARRIAGES

Mazal tov to:

Carole and Dr. Seymour Cohen upon the marriage of their son, Michael, to Laura Effenberger, daughter of Don and Pat Effenberger, of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Miriam and Eric Feldstein, upon the marriage of their daughter, Jenny, to Adam Teitcher, son of Carrie and Dr. Jerrold Teitcher of Oceanside.

Dr. Harvey Wolinsky and Pamela Field upon the marriage of their daughter, Dr. Claire Wolinsky, to Dr. Eric Berkowitz, son of Ivan and Francesca Berkowitz.

## WITHIN OUR FAMILY

### MILESTONES

Congratulations to Donna and Arthur Silverman upon celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

### COMMUNAL HONORS

Matthew Bryskin was honored by Torah Encounters Annual and received the Founders Award at their Annual Dinner on June 21, 2011.

### PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Jacqueline Bryk, daughter of Laurie and Dr. Eli Bryk, upon being receiving the "New York Women in Communication" Foundation Scholarship, which was presented at the annual Matrix Awards, an annual event which honors "Women Who Change the World," on April 11, at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. The Scholarship Foundation is the largest foundation for communications scholarships for women in the tri-state area.

Sheila Kamerman upon being celebrated by the Columbia Population Research Center at the Columbia University School of Social Work on May 12th with a conference in her honor entitled "Comparative Child and Family Policy: A Conference in Honor of Sheila Kamerman".

Dr. Sharon Ann Musher, a daughter of Ruth and Dr. David Musher and granddaughter of Morris Weiss, upon being granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of History at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in Pomona, NJ.

Jonathan (Yoni) Oppenheim, son of Raquel and Magnus Oppenheim, a co-founder of The 24/6: A Jewish Theatre Company (comprised of young Jewish artists who do not perform on the Sabbath) presented a limited engagement production of Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll House* at the off-off-Broadway Theatre "The Tank" in March. Yoni, the director of the performance, adapted a Purim theme into the play, which was reviewed in *The New York Post* and *The Jewish Week*.

Hannah Vorchheimer and Emma Vorchheimer, daughters of Rachel and Dr. David Vorchheimer, upon their graduation performance at Carnegie Hall, with the School for Strings.

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Mazal Tov to

Brenda and Albert H. Bernstein upon the graduation of their twin grandchildren, Emanuel and Arianne Storch, from The

Jess Schwartz Jewish Community High School in Phoenix, Arizona. They will be spending next year at Bar Ilan's Israel Experience program.

Brenda and Albert H. Bernstein upon the graduation of their grandson, Jacob Wasser, from Hillel Day Elementary School in Deal, New Jersey.

Betsy and Joseph Klarfeld upon the graduation of their daughter, Jessica Lynn, upon her graduation from Georgetown University Law School in Washington, DC. She will begin work as an associate in a New York law firm this fall.

Yvonne Koppel upon the graduation of her granddaughter, Jennifer Koppel, from the eighth grade of the Hebrew Academy of Nassau County.

Anna Propp, daughter of Gail and the late Ephraim Propp, has been awarded a Master of Science degree from Weizmann Institute of Science. Her thesis is titled: "Biological activity of RD21 as seen through its interaction with Atserpin1 during plant development and stress."

Sandra and Dr. Samuel Rapoport upon the graduation of their son, Benjamin I. Rapoport, from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. His Doctoral Thesis was entitled "Glucose-Powered Neuroelectronics."

Evelyn and Salomon Sassoon upon the graduation of their daughter, Danielle R. Sassoon (Ramaz '04), from Yale Law School, where she was an editor of the Yale Law Journal. For the next year, she will be a law clerk for Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson, III of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The following year she will be clerking for Justice Antonin Scalia of the United States Supreme Court.

Debby and Dr. Shelley Senders, upon the graduation of their son, Joey, from Fuchs Mizrahi School in Cleveland. Mazal Tov to proud KJ grandparents Audrey and Rabbi Haskel Lookstein

Dr. Phyllis and Mark Speiser upon the graduation of their daughter, Shoshana Speiser, from Boston University School of Law. She served as note editor on the American Journal of Law & Medicine.

Dr. Lawrence Steinberg upon the graduation of his grandson, Jesse Mermelstein, from New York University School of Law.

### CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to:

Mark Benson, upon the passing of his father, Jack Benson.

Ilana Burstein Benson, upon the passing of her mother, Pearl Burstein.

Gail Hadani, upon the passing of her husband, Ilan Hadani.

Michael Hershkowitz, upon the passing of his father, Howard Hershkowitz.

Alexandra & Moshe Hocherman and Geila Hocherman, upon the passing of their son and brother, Adam.

Linda Jesselson and Diana Riklis, upon the passing of their father, Egon Rausnitz.

Seymour Kramer, upon the passing of his sister, Toby Gross.

Esther Messeloff, upon the passing of her brother, Dr. Harold Kadish.

Janet Newcorn, upon the passing of her father, David Yagoda.

Ronald Schwartz, upon the passing of his father, Leonard Schwartz.

Dr. Phyllis Witzel Speiser, upon the passing of her mother, Frances Witzel.

*May they be comforted among all those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.*

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*Shirley Serure*  
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KJ members' announcements of communal, academic and professional achievements.

Please e-mail [Riva@CKJ.org](mailto:Riva@CKJ.org) or mail it to the synagogue, marked "ATTN: KJ Bulletin"**SHABBAT SCHEDULE**

			<i>Lighting of Candles</i>	<i>Friday Evening Services</i>	<i>Saturday Afternoon Services</i>	<i>Sabbath Ends</i>
<b>July</b>	8-9	Balak	8:12 PM	6:45 PM	8:05 PM	9:13 PM
	15-16	Pinchas	8:09 PM	6:45 PM	8:00 PM	9:08 PM
	22-23	Mattot	8:04 PM	6:45 PM	7:55 PM	9:02 PM
	29-30	Masei	7:58 PM	6:45 PM	7:50 PM	8:55 PM
<b>August</b>	5-6	Devarim	7:50 PM	6:45 PM	7:45 PM	8:46 PM
	12-13	Vaetchanan	7:40 PM	6:45 PM	7:35 PM	8:36 PM
	19-20	Ekev	7:31 PM	6:45 PM	7:25 PM	8:24 PM
	26-27	Re'eh	7:20 PM	6:45 PM	7:10 PM	8:14 PM
<b>September</b>	2-3	Shoftim	7:09 PM	6:45 PM	7:00 PM	8:03 PM
	9-10	Ki Tetze	6:57 PM	6:45 PM	6:50 PM	7:50 PM
	16-17	Ki Tavo	6:45 PM	6:45 PM	6:35 PM	7:38 PM
	23-24	Nitzavim/Vayelech	6:34 PM	6:45 PM	6:25 PM	7:26 PM

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

Weekday mornings.....7:30 AM Sunday mornings.....8:30 AM

Mondays and Thursdays.....7:15 AM Rosh Chodesh Weekdays.....7:00 AM

Shabbat mornings.....9:00 AM

**EVENING SERVICES**

July 11 - July 14..... 6:50 PM

July 18 - September 22..... 6:45 PM

**DATES TO REMEMBER****Tuesday, July 19**

Fast of 17th of Tammuz

Fast begins 4:28 AM

Morning Services at 6:50 AM

Evening Services at 8:00 PM

Fast Ends at 9:03 PM

**Monday, August 1**

Rosh Chodesh Av

Morning Services at 7:00 AM

**Monday-Tuesday, August 8-9**

Fast of Tisha B'Av (See schedule p.3)

Monday Night Services at 8:00 PM

Fast Begins at 8:05 PM

Tuesday Morning Services at 7:00 AM

Tuesday Night Services at 7:35 PM

Fast ends at 8:38 PM

**Tuesday-Wednesday, August 30-31**

Rosh Chodesh Elul

Morning Services at 7:00 AM