



Hillcrest



JEWISH CENTER BULLETIN

Vol. 86, No. 4

11 Kislev 5786

December 1, 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month, as we celebrate Hanukkah, we are reminded of the power of light – not just the light of the menorah, but the light each of us brings to our Hillcrest Jewish Center community. The story of the Maccabees is not only one of resilience and faith, but also of unity. When a small group came together with courage and conviction to fight for religious freedom, they sparked a miracle that continues to inspire us thousands of years later. It is summed up in a worthwhile line from the prophet Zechariah: “Not by might nor by strength but by My spirit,” says the Lord” (Zechariah 4:6).

Our HJC congregation continues to thrive because of the dedication and participation of each member. Whether you attend services regularly, volunteer your time, attend our classes and programs, or simply share your presence and spirit, you help keep our community's light shining brightly. We appreciate each member's contribution to our community.

December, marking the end of 2025, is a time for reflection and gratitude. I'd like to express gratitude to the HJC members and staff who responded after my recent fall and after my husband's recent surgery. Howard and I are most thankful for our caring community.

As I look back on these past nine months of my presidency, I am proud of what we have accomplished: new and diverse learning classes, programs and events with Rabbi Kogan, Cantor Black and guest lecturers; acts of tzedakah and a strong Kol Nidre Campaign; new initiatives for engagement for all ages; trustees leadership development; and the comfort we have provided each other in times of loss or challenge.

The HJC mission is clear: to foster love of Judaism and the Jewish people through study of Torah, the performance of mitzvot, meaningful prayer, the performance of acts of Chesed (loving kindness) and to inspire our members to

engage in “Tikkun Olam” – making this world a better place in which to live.

As we look ahead to 2026, we will continue to build upon this strong foundation, deepening our commitment to Jewish life, to one another and to a shared purpose. Let us carry the light of Hanukkah beyond the eight days – into every day of the year.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous and meaningful Hanukkah. Be sure to register for HJC's annual Havdalah Hanukkah Bash on December 20th.

B'Shalom,

Helene Jacob, President

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY SERVICES

Friday, December 5

Candle Lighting	4:10 P.M.
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv	4:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 6 – Vayishlach

Torah Reading: Genesis 32:4-36:43 Haftarah: Obediah 1:1-21

Kindershtul, Junior Congregation	10:30 A.M.
Mincha	3:45 P.M.
Shiur and Snacks	4:15 P.M.
Maariv	5:00 P.M.
Shabbat ends	5:13 P.M.

Friday, December 12

Candle Lighting	4:11 P.M.
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv	4:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 13 – Vayeshev – Birkat HaChodesh

Torah Reading: Genesis 37:1-40:23 Haftarah: Amos 2:6-3:8

We welcome the new month Tevet

Rosh Chodesh is Saturday and Sunday, December 20 and 21

Teen Minyan	10:30 A.M.
Mincha	3:45 P.M.
Shiur and Snacks	4:15 P.M.
Maariv	5:00 P.M.
Shabbat ends	5:14 P.M.

Sunday, December 14 – Erev Hanukkah, light one candle at night

Monday, December 15 – First Day Hanukkah, light two candles at night

Tuesday, December 16 – Second Day Hanukkah, light three candles at night

Wednesday, December 17 – Third Day Hanukkah, light four candles at night

Thursday, December 18 – Fourth Day Hanukkah, light five candles at night

Friday, December 19 – Fifth Day Hanukkah, light six candles before Shabbat

Candle Lighting	4:13 P.M.
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv	4:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 20 – Miketz – Shabbat Rosh Chodesh

Shabbat Hanukkah - Sixth Day Hanukkah, light seven candles after Shabbat

Torah Reading: Genesis 41:1-44:17, Numbers 28:9-15, 7:42-47

Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7

Kindershtul, Junior Congregation	10:30 A.M.
Mincha	3:45 P.M.
Shiur and Snacks	4:15 P.M.
Maariv	5:00 P.M.
Shabbat ends	5:17 P.M.
Havdalah	6:00 P.M.

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Manes Kogan..... Rabbi
Rachel Black Cantor

Helene JacobPresident
Karen Rothman Sisterhood President
Martin Guttman Men's Club President
Esther Tokarz Youth/Family President
Nadine Kochavi.....Executive Director
Joan Hausmann..... Managing Editor
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Dr. Israel Mowshowitz..... Rabbi Emeritus
Moti Fuchs..... Cantor Emeritus

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Affiliated with

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Hillcrest on the Web

www.HillcrestJC.org

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E-mail: info@hillcrestjc.org

CENTER FAMILY

Congratulations to:

Aviva & Jimmy Peress on the birth of their granddaughter Zoe Ella.

Condolences to:

Paul Gershon on the passing of his wife Alice Gershon.

The family of longtime member Shirley Domber.

The family of longtime member Stanley Klein.

May the families be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

A TRIBUTE TO BERTHA

My friend Bertha is a special person. She is friendly to everyone and always willing to help. She understands the importance of family and community. Most of all, Bertha is a Jew. She grew up in Europe, and as two of the lucky ones, she and her brother are survivors of the Holocaust. This gives Bertha a unique outlook on life.

Everything is important to Bertha. She cooks and bakes traditional food for every holiday. She is involved. Bertha is an active member of Hillcrest, Sisterhood, Hadassah and the Yom Hashoah committee, where we have worked together for over thirty years.

The Holocaust is never far from the center of her thoughts. She has spoken to many groups here and around the city and enjoys speaking at schools where she can impress the younger people about the seriousness of a life that is no longer, of the times of our great tragedy. You have seen the film of the wonderful Mitzvah she recently participated in when she was selected to work with students and speak with their families over dinner she pre-

From Rabbi Kogan

Dear Friends of Hillcrest Jewish Center,

On November 9th, we commemorated at Hillcrest Jewish Center a new anniversary of Kristallnacht. Over 100 participants gathered to learn about the Witness Project, a project spearheaded by UJA that brings together high school students and Holocaust survivors to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and support survivors through the therapeutic recounting of their experiences.

All those present had the opportunity to become witnesses ourselves of the atrocities committed by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Shoa, through a moving film, narrating the life experience of five holocaust survivors, including our own Bertha Strauss. Bertha, who came accompanied by her family (4 generations of Strausses were present), was witness herself to the love, appreciation, and admiration of her friends and fellow congregants at Hillcrest Jewish Center, who came out not only to commemorate Kristallnacht, but to honor and celebrate Bertha.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the presence of Dylan Reisberg, one of the high school students who worked with Bertha on the Witness Project. Dylan shared a beautiful poem she wrote about Bertha.

A big yashar koach goes to the Adult Education Committee of Hillcrest Jewish Center and to Kathy Lewis for putting together the event, to Carol Greenberg for her meaningful words, to everyone who attended the event, and especially to Bertha, who continues to inspire us all.

Rabbi Manes Kogan

A Poem by Dylan Reisberg

In shadows deep where silence fled,
A young girl stood, her heart full of dread.
The world outside is only a storm of pain,
Yet in her mind, love's whispers remain.

"Take care of your brother for me," she said,
The words woven in tears, where hope nearly bled.
The woman held them close, like a delicate thread,
A promise unbroken, though all else has fled.

The sun took its bow, as shadows stretched long,
But in her heart, echoed a mother's song.
Each word a caress, a guide through the night,
In the midst of such sorrow, a flicker of light.

"Be brave, my sweet child, when the world feels
so vast,
Hold him through darkness, until this will pass."



A pact made in whispers as her soul took flight.
She'd cherish those words, armed through this fight.

In every soft cry of her brother's sweet call,
She'd carry their mother's love overall.
But in a world turned to ashes,

Where hope dwindles thin,
The memory of warmth would guide her within.
Though the shadows grew longer, and the nights turned to gray,
A mother's love lingered like a light on the way.

So she vowed in the stillness, with tears on her face,
To hold on to courage when there once was a trace.
With each step she took, in the echoes of time,
She kept her mother's promise, a heart's sacred rhyme.

Photo by Sherry Reisner

pared. Discussions were varied, but it was important to enlighten these young adults about what was real life for her and history for them.

Perhaps, by her work, Bertha has instilled a spark of kindness and understanding in the next generation who will have respect for the Jewish people and will teach their own children that anti-Semitism is a disease that has no place in their lives.

Bertha – a role model of our time!

Carol Greenberg, Holocaust Committee Chair

From Exec. Dir. Nadine Kochavi Hot Off the Presses!

It feels like we just celebrated the Jewish New Year, and now we're already approaching 2026! With the rush and excitement of the High Holidays behind us, it's wonderful to look ahead to Hanukkah – a time to bring extra light and hope into the months ahead.

You won't want to miss our **Annual Havdalah and Havdalah Bash** on **Saturday evening, December 20th!** Join us for candle lighting, singing, delicious Hanukkah treats, and other festive activities. Please check your daily emails for more details and to register for the dinner.

To help you stay connected with everything happening at HJC, we're excited to share our new **"What's Happening at HJC" Program Guide**. This guide offers a quick reference to upcoming services, classes, and events for Fall and Winter 2025.

You can download the guide from our website at hillcrestjc.org or access it through the Daily Digest newsletter. If you'd like a printed copy, please contact the synagogue office to request one.

Lastly, please take a moment to **update your household's membership information**. In mid-November, you should have received a mailing with your current details that we have on file. You can return updates by mail, by phone, or by logging into your membership account through **ShulCloud**. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the synagogue office.

We wish you a very happy Hanukkah and a wonderful start to 2026!

Nadine Kochavi

Attention Snowbirds

Continue to receive mail from HJC. Notify the office, in writing, of your winter address, the start and return dates, and we will make the mailing list changes. Thank you.



SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY SERVICES

Sunday, December 21 – Rosh Chodesh – Seventh day Hanukkah, light eight candles at night

Monday, December 22 – Eighth day Hanukkah

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Building closed except for services 8:30 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.

Friday, December 26

Candle Lighting 4:17 P.M.

Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 27 – Vayigash 9:00 A.M.

Torah Reading: Genesis 44:18-47:27 Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15-28

Winter Shul, all ages 10:30 A.M.

Mincha 3:45 P.M.

Shiur and Snacks 4:15 P.M.

Maariv 5:00 P.M.

Shabbat ends 5:21 P.M.

Tuesday, December 30 – Fast of the 10th of Tevet

Fast begins: 5:47 A.M. Fast ends 5:09 P.M.

Morning Minyan Torah Reading: Exodus 32:11-14, 34:1-10 7:00 A.M.

Mincha Exodus 32:11-14, 34:1-10 Haftarah: Isaiah 55:6-56:8 4:00 P.M.

Maariv 5:00 P.M.

The Adult Education Committee presents

OPERATION BENJAMIN

Sunday, December 7 at 10:00 am

The mission of Operation Benjamin is to identify Jewish soldiers who were mistakenly buried under Latin Crosses and replace their headstones with a Star of David. This noble work has taken Operation Benjamin on fascinating and often mysterious journeys around the world, where they uncover forgotten stories of Jewish soldiers and piece together the past in ways that bring closure to both history and families. These remarkable efforts have allowed Operation Benjamin to bridge the gap between the past and the present, walking through archives, cemeteries, and battlefields in the pursuit of long-lost truths. The work is a true *chesed shel emet* – a true loving-kindness or an act of kindness that cannot be repaid.

Laurie Bilger has worked with Operation Benjamin for the past several years. Her activities include arranging the logistics for Operation Benjamin missions to American military cemeteries; training students who assist with genealogical research; and communicating with Operation Benjamin families and outside organizations who seek to learn more about their important work.

A light breakfast will be served at 10:00 AM followed by the presentation at 10:30. This event is free to Hillcrest members. The fee for non-members is \$5.

Please RSVP to the Hillcrest office at 718-380-4145.

Kathy Lewis



REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Shalom everyone. Here are some highlights from our October meeting.

Executive Committee Report:

Review of High Holidays services: Services were well timed, page numbers announced, honors managed well.

Friendship Kiddush pricing policy for multiple sponsors: A motion was made and passed based on the Executive Committee's recommendation that the cost of sponsorship for a friendship kiddush will continue to be \$500. If it is co-sponsored, there will be a minimum fee of \$100 per sponsor if there are more than 5 sponsors.

Shabbat volunteers needed: Weekly Shabbat volunteers will be solicited to assist with security and greet people close to the entrance. Half-hour shifts will be determined by an electronic form allowing all members to sign up for a slot. If you are interested, speak to President Helene Jacob.

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Board of Trustees *cont. from page 3* Executive Director's Report:

Kol Nidre Campaign 2025: \$154,500 has been pledged so far. Thank you to all who have contributed and yasher koach to those who have been able to increase their contribution.

High Holiday Ticket Sales: 249 in sanctuary, 42 in ballroom

Repairs to flooring/removal of carpet have been, and will continue to be done by the maintenance staff in offices and the Cantor's residence in order to reduce allergens.

Our maintenance staff members are busy making repairs in line with Local Laws. Roof repairs are needed.

Security is usually not present on Sundays. A motion was made and passed to include security for morning and evening minyan. The additional cost will be \$10,000+ per year.

Sisterhood Report: October 27th will be the paid-up membership luncheon with Cantor Rachel. November 17th will be a light lunch with the program "Empowering Women." On December 8th the program will be "Protecting Ourselves: understanding and preventing elder fraud." There will be a light lunch.

Men's Club Report: Pizza in the Sukkah and a movie were held on October 9th.

Youth and Family Report:

There will be a dinner for teens and Jr. Congregation Nov. 7th. Teen Keshet was cancelled on October 12th due to bad weather. The next meetings will be November 2nd and December 7th with a new leader, Yaffa Reichwald. We visited the Queens County Farm Museum for the Maize Maze on October 19th and 15 people attended. "Shabbos in box" is coming up for Thanksgiving.

All children's services are in full swing. Some new children are attending and one of those families has joined. High holiday youth services and the Simchat Torah party were well attended. Youth and Family is inquiring about using the Youth Room upstairs.

Old Business:

High Holiday streaming report: Kol Nidre/Yom Kippur 42 people attended via computer.

Sale of the building update: Lawyers have made progress; comments and corrections have been received, and the committee has looked at them with suggestions made. Our lawyer will send this to their lawyer to inspect. An accounting of the legal fees spent was reported to the board.

UJA Re-connect Grant (Shabbat dinner 10/24).

Cantor Rachel is preparing a special musical program. As of our meeting, 79 people have already signed up and \$1,000 in sponsorships have been pledged. This program will continue sporadically throughout the year.

Non-member Participation Committee update: The committee met and came up with a fee schedule for non-members of \$180 per year for the Rabbi's and Cantor's classes and for small groups, \$100 per year. Pickleball fees will remain the same. A motion was made and passed to accept the committee's recommendation.

New Business:

Cantor Rachel's Installation and Concert will be held in the spring rather than in November. A committee is forming that will be chaired by Debbie and Mark Solkoff.

There was a concern about food brought in by people from the Summit School. It has been determined that a non-Jew bringing in non-kosher food is ok.

There will be a Kristallnacht presentation on Sunday, November 9 at 4:30 pm. entitled The Witness Project "Passing the Torch to the Next Generation."

Good and Welfare: Silvia Kogan appreciated the concern, food during shiva. The board retreat was a positive experience for all who attended. Early voting begins Saturday; check all the proposals on back of ballot. Thank you to Helene and Harold for the refreshments. Happy birthday Helene.

Mark Solkoff, Board Chair

SISTERHOOD STITCHERS



(From left) Gabriella Garasola, Barbara Resnick, Marge Lilienthal, Lisa Hochstein (holding her blanket) and Ronnie Ramah with the donated blankets.

photo by Marty Resnick

Once again, the Sisterhood Stitchers were happy to donate 200+ handmade blankets for the newborns at Jamaica Hospital. We presented the blankets at the Sisterhood Luncheon to Ronnie Ramah, Marge Lilienthal and Gabrielle Garasola from the Mother/Baby Staff at Jamaica. At the Luncheon, they told us how much they appreciate the time, effort and love that the Stitchers put into each blanket. We are so happy to be able to give this beautiful gift to a needy baby. As Ronnie said, "It is a true honor to continue this collaboration."

We are always looking for more Stitchers to help us with this wonderful Mitzvah Project. You can also donate to our yarn fund (as the Staff of Jamaica Hospital did). For further information, contact Barbara Resnick.

SISTERHOOD

You won't want to miss our program on Monday, December 8th at 12 noon – "Protecting Ourselves: Understanding and Preventing Elder Fraud." Our guest speaker will be Carolyn Fitzgerald, Supervisor of the Elder Fraud Unit within the Frauds Bureau at the Queens District Attorney's Office.

A light lunch will be served at noon. You must register for this program. The cut-off date is December 3rd. We only prepare enough lunch for those who are registered. Please make sure we have your tear-off at the bottom of our flyer.

Reserve the date of Monday, January 12, 2026. Our Lunch/Movie afternoon is returning. This time we will be having Chinese food. We are showing the film "Bad Shabbos." Again, this is a registration only event. Please fill out the tear-off on the bottom

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SISTERHOOD *continued from page 4*
of our flyer, along with your payment, check payable to Sisterhood Hillcrest Jewish Center, and leave in the Sisterhood mailbox.

Yes, Purim is just around the corner. Our Shalach Manot flyer will be mailed in January. This is our only fund-raiser of the year. We thank you for your past participation and let me say "We get by with a little help from our friends."



Sisterhood is delighted to have presented our Kol Nidre check in the amount of \$10,000 to Hillcrest Jewish Center's President Helene Jacob.

We are also happy to have purchased a leaf for our long-time board member and friend, Bertha Strauss, for her participation in the *Witness Program Project, Passing the Torch to the Next Generation*.

Happy Hanukkah, with our hope for a peaceful 2026.

*Karen Rothman,
Sisterhood President*

MEN'S CLUB

Just the other day, at my local CVS pharmacy, I had the distinct pleasure of reuniting with a long-time Hillcrest Jewish Center male congregant, along with his lovely pride and "Joy" (HINT). It was the first time I've seen him since COVID struck.

I bring this up only to emphasize the fact that Men's Club reaches out to those who, for one reason or another, haven't as yet availed themselves of our fraternity of handsome, friendly, knowledgeable, informative, helpful, well-meaning, and a whole lot more male constituents of this gathering spot which we call Hillcrest Jewish Center. Socialize with us throughout the year with the many events we offer: in-house movies, outdoor

events, speeches, breakfasts/lunches, and much more. What it all comes down to is this, **"Now is the time for ALL good HJC-Men to come to the aid of their Club."** Once a year membership dues is only \$45.00.

Watch for postings of upcoming events.
Happy Hanukkah!

*Joel Berkowitz,
Co-VP of Men's Club*

IRA CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

The Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) has been permanently extended. This allows IRA owners and beneficiaries over age 70 to tell their IRA institutions to make a specific dollar amount payment directly to the charities of their choice. This applies to traditional and Roth IRAs.

This is very important! The QCD must be made directly from the IRA to the charitable organization. Any qualified charity is permitted, but does not include donor advised funds, a supporting organization, a private foundation, or a split interest charitable trust.

The QCD amount will not be included in the taxpayer's income and is not deductible on the taxpayer's return. It does lower the adjusted gross income on your tax return.

The QCD will count toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution from his IRA. It is limited to \$100,000 per year, and husband and wife are treated as separate entities.

Les Sufrin

Save on your 2025 Taxes

Just a reminder to send in all contributions before December 31, 2025 to take advantage of any deductions on your 2025 tax return. Your check payable to Hillcrest Jewish Center is the most economical way to make your payment. HJC has MasterCard, Visa, Amex and Discover available to assist you, but there is a 3.1% service charge if credit cards are used. Please see Juana, Melissa, Brona or Nadine.

Save the Date
IRIS SCHACHTER
and
ESTHER TOKARZ

will be honored by
HJC and Israel Bonds
Sunday, March 15, 2026

Details to follow

MOWSHOWITZ LIBRARY NEWS

Hillcrest members are welcome to use our library. You can come at your convenience. Just check with the office. They will let you in except for occasional class times. Just put your name on the card in the back of the book and leave the cards in the office. On Shabbat, ask Carol Kantro or Aviva Peress for help. Our new titles include:

Heart of a Stranger by Angela Buckdahl (Rabbi of Central Synagogue)

Chutzpah Girls by Julie Silverstein (about some amazing Jewish women)

One Hundred Saturdays by Michael Frank (fascinating account of life in Greece and Rhodes during WWII)

The Wind Knows My Name by Isabel Allende (story about immigrants by a wonderful writer)

The Anatomy of Exile by Zeeva Bukai (story about Israelis in the U.S. and relationships between Palestinian Arabs and Israelis)

To Heal a Fractured World by Jonathan Sacks (what are our duties to others, to society, and to humanity)

Weight of Ink by Rachel Kadish (set in London in the 1660s and in the early twenty-first century, it is the interwoven tale of two women of remarkable intellect: Ester Velasquez, an emigrant from Amsterdam who is permitted to scribe for a blind rabbi, just before the plague hits the city; and Helen Watt, an ailing historian with a love of Jewish history)

Aviva Peress

URGENT – HELP NEEDED

Besides Shabbat, if you already attend one of the morning or evening minyans at least once a week, please *disregard*.

For everyone else – simply put, the morning/evening minyan was there for many of us when WE had to say Kaddish. Now, it needs our help to keep going for others. Can you please commit to at least one morning or evening minyan per week? If you miss it occasionally, that's fine. Can you also convince a friend or family member to join you?

Please let us know which morning/evening minyan(s) you can attend. Email your name(s) and which minyan to Ischachter1@gmail.com.

JANUARY BULLETIN DEADLINE
Monday, December 8

Do you have something that you would like to put in the January Bulletin? Send it to Joan's email as an attachment rhausm2251@aol.com.

Youth Service Leader Spotlight Eliana Schulman



Hello, everyone! I am Eliana Schulman, and I am honored to lead Teen Minyan at Hillcrest this year. My family became members of Hillcrest Jewish Center when I was about 6 years old, and my mom, Ginger, is a past president, and my dad, Jon, led Junior Congregation and was involved in other synagogue committees as well. I attended youth services and became a Bat Mitzvah at Hillcrest after being trained in Torah and Haftarah reading by Cynthia Schweitzer and Cantor Fuchs, z"l.

Growing up, I attended Solomon Schechter School of Queens until eighth grade and Schechter School of Long Island for high school. I was active in our H2I chapter of USY and became the Religion/Education Vice President for the Queens, Manhattan, and Brooklyn division. In the summers, I was a camper at Ramah Berkshires and then a counselor at Ramah Nyack.

I then attended the University of Delaware's Honors College, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Human Development & Family Sciences as well as Sociology. At UD, I served as the President of Hillel's *Gesher*, volunteered in a mental health safe haven for young adults, worked in Psychology, and taught Hebrew School at a local synagogue. I recently moved back to New York to pursue a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Adelphi University.

In addition to leading Teen Minyan, I enjoy reading Torah at Hillcrest. I am passionate about Judaism and the Jewish community and love teaching and learning from others.

The past two years have been particularly challenging for our people, myself included.

I am grateful to connect with our community in this way and foster this love for Judaism in our teens.

Youth & Family Special December Events Led by Director of Engagement Cantor Rachel Black

Friday, Shabbat December 5

Junior Congregation grades 2-7

Teen Minyan grades 8-12

Services 4:30 – 5:45 PM

Dinner 5:45 – 7:15 PM

Sunday, December 7 – 5:00-6:00 PM

Keshet - Connecting Jewish Teens

Keshet Teens is a monthly program to connect, learn, and have fun together with pizza, outings, and meaningful discussions led by Yaffa Reichwald. Middle-schoolers are welcome to join the HJC teens.

Friday, December 26 – 2:30 PM

Visit to the Children's Library

Discovery Center

Meet at 89-11 Merrick Boulevard,
Jamaica, NY 11432

GROUP LEAF FOR OUR SIMCHA TREE

*Purchase of a group leaf
has begun in honor of
BERTHA STRAUSS*

All funds collected through our Simcha Tree are allocated to the Hillcrest Jewish Center Capital Improvement Fund which helps sustain the structural needs of our beloved synagogue.

A minimum pledge of \$25 is required for all participants who wish to be part of the group leaf. Each donor should contact the office to add their pledge. Once \$360 has been pledged, the leaf will be ordered. The leaf will be announced in the Bulletin following its mounting, including the listing of all those who participated in its purchase.

SYNAGOGUE OFFERINGS

As a member-in-good-standing, you may phone the office with your donation and the amount will appear on your next HJC bill.

Reminder

There is a \$25 minimum donation required for the listing to be printed in the Bulletin (one name per yearzeit listing).

General Fund:

Susan & Ralph Straus thank Rabbi Kogan, Cantor Rachel and Jeffrey for the beautiful services conducted on the High Holidays.

Mark Rothstein for the honor of Chassan Torah.

Judith & Marty Guttman wish Yashar Koach to Jeffrey who is the engine that makes HJC services run.

Judith & Marty Guttman wish Yashar Koach to Cantor Rachel as her beautiful voice carried us through the holiday season.

Sherry & Alan Reisner wish a hearty Mazal Tov to Gwen Jones-Cintron & Chris Cintron on the birth of grandson Ben Noah Kudo.

Sherry & Alan Reisner wish a hearty Mazal Tov to Dorothy & Larry Schonfeld on the birth of granddaughter Elodie Pearl.

Sherry & Alan Reisner wish a hearty Mazal Tov to Aviva & Jimmy Peress on the birth of granddaughter Zoe Ella.

Jerry Kirschbaum wishes Mazal Tov to Rabbi Manes & Silvia Kogan on the engagement of their daughter Abby to Yoni Bierig.

Jerry Kirschbaum wishes Mazal Tov to Rabbi Manes & Silvia Kogan on the engagement of their son Ilan to Sara Merkin.

Jerry Kirschbaum thanks Rabbi Kogan for his friendship and support.

Alan Reisner thanks the whole Hillcrest community for their thoughts and prayers during his recent illness.

Nicole & Erik Goluboff and Abby Belson, with gratitude to Steve Gorochoew on his birthday.

Joel Berkowitz for yearzeit of grandmother Sheindel Peltz.

Zane Tenenbaum for yearzeit of mother-in-law May Ellenbogen.

Zane Tenenbaum for yearzeit of mother Harriet Tenenbaum.

Dorothy Schonfeld for yearzeit of father Bernard Werner.

Dorothy Schonfeld for yearzeit of mother Anne Werner.

Susan Beberfall for yearzeit of mother Flora Beberfall.

Steven Rosenhaus for yearzeit of brother Jay Rosenhaus.

Rabbi Manes Kogan for yearzeit of great-grandparents Menachem Manes Akselrod and Yehudit Zelikovich de Josid.

Susan Hamburger for yearzeit of grandmother Esther Goldman.

Doris Fried for yearzeit of father-in-law Harry Fried.

Doris Fried for yearzeit of father David Berkowitz.

Doris Fried for yearzeit of mother Ida Berkowitz.

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General Fund*continued from page 6*

Merle Askenas-Kaplan for yahrzeit of father-in-law David Askenas.

Sherry & Alan Reisner extend condolences to Silvia Surazski Kogan and the entire Kogan family on the passing of beloved mother and grandmother, Fanny Koza de Surazski.

Sherry & Alan Reisner extend condolences to Nina Kohn on the passing of her beloved brother George Israel Kohn.

Sherry & Alan Reisner extend condolences to Jane Fuerst and the whole Fuerst-Marco family on the passing of her beloved mother Florence Diana Fuerst.

Sherry & Alan Reisner extend condolences to Janet Cohen and family on the passing of her beloved sister Helene Dyzenhaus.

Sherrie Jackson for yahrzeit of mother Essie Jackson.

Silvia Surazski Kogan for yahrzeit of father Ernesto Surazski.

Sheldon Lorber for yahrzeit of father Harry Lorber.

Ellen Rothstein, Mark Rothstein and Susan R. Asch for yahrzeit of grandfather Max Rothstein.

Ellen Rothstein, Mark Rothstein and Susan R. Asch for yahrzeit of father Edward Rothstein.

Ingrid Gordon for yahrzeit of mother Karin Gordon.

Ted Weisz for yahrzeit of father Solomon Weisz.

Mariann Springer for yahrzeit of mother Syd Frankfurt.

Fredda Chodrow-Goldberg for yahrzeit of grandfather Abraham Chodrow.

Michael Cantor for yahrzeit of grandmother Fannie Zucker.

RoseAnn & Gary Darche with love from Ben's parents, in memory of Alice Gershon, the best second grade teacher in the U.S.A.

Rita Schreff in memory of Alice Gershon.

Leni Schertz in memory of Alice Gershon.

Susan & Paul Diamond in loving memory of Alice Gershon, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

Dorothy & Larry Schonfeld extend condolences to Paul Gershon upon the loss of his beloved Alice.

Fredda Chodrow-Goldberg expresses deep condolences to Paul Gershon and family on the passing of Alice Gershon, a kind and lovely person with a beautiful smile.

Carol Pine for yahrzeit of mother Tziporah Pinchuk.

Aviva & Jimmy Peress in memory of Iris David, beloved sister of Jimmy.

Aviva & Jimmy Peress in memory of Daniel and Simon Muller.

Sela & Steve Zellman extend condolences to Paul Gershon and family upon the passing of Alice Gershon.

Steffi Weiss for yahrzeit of husband Marc Weiss.

Joan Hausmann for yahrzeit of mother-in-law Stella Hausmann.

Yvette Bercovitz for yahrzeit of beloved devoted mother Mildred Mittler.

Harriet Rosengarten for yahrzeit of beloved mother Lillian Horen.

Jerry Kirschbaum extends condolences to Silvia Kogan on the passing of her mother Fanny Koza de Surazski.

Ari Goldberg for yahrzeit of father David Goldberg.

Susan & Cliff Hamburger in loving memory of Alice Gershon, beloved wife of Paul Gershon.

Susan & Cliff Hamburger for yahrzeit of Susan's grandmother Esther Goldman.

Rochelle & Herb Mandell send condolences to Paul and the Gershon family; Alice was a dedicated educator and loved her students, and she was a dear friend.

Shari & Paul Zuber in honor of Ilan's engagement.

Shari & Paul Zuber in memory of Fanny Koza de Surazski, mother of Silvia Kogan.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Tina Schnall.

Bernie & Merle Kaplan give Rabbi Kogan an ATTA-BOY and thank him for his kindness. Luv ya!

Judith & Marty Guttman wish Yashar Koach to Rabbi Kogan for his inspiring D'var Torahs.

Aimee Harel in honor of Rabbi Kogan & Silvia Kogan.

Rita & David Wise in appreciation for the class.

Alan Reisner thanks Rabbi Kogan for his support and prayers during his recent illness.

Pauline Marcus and Fran's mom in memory of Fanny Koza de Surazski, Silvia's mom.

Phyllis Rosenthal extends condolences to Silvia Kogan upon the passing of her mother Fanny Koza de Surazski.

Linda & Richard Morris send condolences to the Gershon family on the loss of Alice Gershon.

Marion & Martin Herman in memory of Alice Gershon, a good friend and a sweet soul.

Marion Herman in memory of mother Rose Silver who will never be forgotten.

Martin Herman for yahrzeit of father Jack Herman.

Sheila Chustek extends condolences to Paul Gershon and family on the passing of Alice Gershon, a wife, mother, and a wonderful friend.

Mowshowitz Library Fund:

Roberta Sufrin for yahrzeit of father Myer Shapiro.

Roberta Sufrin for yahrzeit of mother Lillian Shapiro.

Helene & Howard Jacob send heartfelt condolences to Silvia Surazski Kogan and the entire Kogan family on the passing of her mother Fanny Koza de Surazski.

Helene & Howard Jacob send heartfelt condolences to Paul Gershon on the passing of his beloved wife Alice.

Prayer Book Fund:

Roberta Sufrin for yahrzeit of father Myer Shapiro.

Roberta Sufrin for yahrzeit of mother Lillian Shapiro.

Askenas Audio Visual Fund:

Merle Askenas-Kaplan for yahrzeit of father-in-law David Askenas.

*The Officers and Board of Trustees,
Rabbi Kogan and his family,
Cantor Rachel and her family,
and the Staff of the Center
extend to all members
their wishes for good health, happiness and peace in 2026*