



תקותינו TIKVATENU



ISRAEL CENTER OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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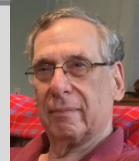
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LET OUR FAMILY WELCOME YOURS

MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

DAVID SCHWARTZ AND SAM WEISS






Please join us for

THE ICCJ

MEMORIAL PLAQUE

DEDICATION CEREMONY

on

Sunday, June 12, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

as we dedicate:

THE ICCJ BALLROOM

IN MEMORY OF MEL KAUFMAN

THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE

IN MEMORY OF

LILLIAN AND HOWARD KURTZ

&

ALL INDIVIDUAL PLAQUES

PURCHASED WITHIN THE

PAST THREE YEARS



RSVPs required to the synagogue office, 718-591-5353 or
helena@iccj2004.org NO LATER than June 3
Please indicate the number of people attending

Zichronam Liv'racha
May their memories be for a blessing.

זיכרונם לברכה

167-11 73rd. Avenue, Flushing, NY 11366

Dear Congregants,

We look forward to see you at our Memorial Plaque Dedication on June 12, when we will commemorate our Ballroom, Office and Individual Plaques in memory of our loved ones.

During the next few months, we will be reaching out to you with pertinent updates, via our ICCJ eblasts.

Wishing you a very Happy Shavuot and wonderful summer, *David and Sam*

FROM OUR RABBI: Rabbi Moshe Saks



One of the most important tasks of the ancient Temple service was performed by the *Kohen* – a descendant from the family of Aaron (the brother of Moses). Together with the *Levi* (who assisted), the many rituals of our Torah concerning animal sacrifice and the like was presided over by the *Kohen*.

What about today, since there is no longer a Temple or animal sacrifice? We still honor both the *Kohen* and the *Levi* by giving them the first and second (respectively) *Aliyot* over the Torah when it is read. In addition, when the Blessing of the Kohanim (“Duchanin”) is done, it is performed by the *Kohanim* in the congregation. Both of these practices have to do with the honor of the *Kohen*.

Another matter is the law concerning a *Kohen* in proximity to a corpse. In ancient times, when the *Kohen* performed the ritual of animal sacrifice, it was imperative that he maintained a state of ritual purity, and so he was not allowed to be involved in or in any way near the deceased, which would have made the

Kohen ritually impure, and thus unfit for his primary role in the Temple.

Today, the Law Committee of our Conservative Movement has decreed that since there is no practical function for *Kohanim* today (i.e., there is no longer animal sacrifice), and since there is a great Mitzvah to honor the dead by being involved in their funeral and burial, we strongly encourage *Kohanim* to take part in the rituals. There is no longer any practical prohibition on a *Kohen* being in proximity to a corpse.

With this in mind, I urge all of the *Kohanim* in our congregation to take part in the funeral service and burial of our fellow congregants, when the funeral and/or the burial is held. Please feel free to contact me for any further questions on this issue.

On another note, it has been my pleasure to serve as your Spiritual Leader during these last three years. May you all go from strength to strength.

Rabbi Moshe Saks



SAYING KADDISH

If you would like to say Kaddish, please contact Rabbi Saks at rabbims@iccj2004.org, rabsaks@gmail.com or 718-591-5610

**Not
feeling
well
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**The Chesed Committee,
headed by Sol Sturm, is here for you
Contact Sol: storm454@rcn.com
or Idan Corsentino: idadanc
or call 718-591-5353**

MEMBERSHIP: Betty Shaffer



The Membership Committee is working diligently to find new ways to expand our member base. Everyone can be an active participant in this endeavor. Be an ICCJ ambassador by inviting those friends, family or neighbors, who are unaffiliated, to join us at our services and events. Give them the website to peruse. Let them know we are an open, welcoming and caring community.

We also want to celebrate the simchas that occur in June. We have many graduates this year and we want to say Mazal Tov to Rachel Alvarado, Emma Brantz, Sofie Braun, Rachel Brenman, Mira Chanowitz, Benjamin Fouks, Peggy Gorel, Eliyahu Kapinsky, Beverly Sylvan Kapinsky and Chloe Wyner, I hope I didn't miss anyone. If so, I apologize and wish you a Mazal Tov as well.

As this will be the last article until September, we want to say Yasher Koach to Rabbi Saks for his help and guidance during his tenure with ICCJ. We wish you and Meira only the best in the future.

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS: Michelle Fouks

We hope you are all well, and had a wonderful Memorial Day. Can't believe the fall, winter and spring have come and gone and now we are getting ready for the summer. It has been another year of ups and downs, relating to COVID. However, the Synagogue has kept you most busy and we have pivoted when necessary. Kol Hakavod to the Clergy, Staff and Lay Leaders, you have all been amazing. Just because it's summer don't think activities will cease. We will be conducting both religious services and fun activities all summer long. Follow your eblasts as they keep you up to date.



At the writing of this article, we are in the midst of planning for Shavuot which starts

Saturday evening, June 4 and concludes on June 6. Remember, we have a Tikkun Leyl Shavuot on June 4, we read the 10 Commandments on June 5 and have Yizkor on June 6. Again, I urge you to watch out for the eblast giving you updated times and information on the happenings surrounding this holiday. Shabbat and Chag Services are in person as well as streaming so please attend whichever you are most comfortable with.

The synagogue services never go on hiatus. We will be continuing weekday evening minyans and Shabbat services throughout the summer.

Please keep your eye on the eblasts for special activities, as well as services during the summer (Tisha B'Av comes to mind). Tisha B'Av this year starts on Saturday evening August 6 and ends August 7.

Finally, I am happy to report that congregants are noticing that each month I ask for Evening Minyan volunteers to sign up for at least 1 day a month. This past month, people started to respond. Note: the Minyan is at 7:30 pm on Zoom, and takes about 15 minutes. It would be so wonderful to see more of our congregational family join.

Remember, if you have a yarhzeit coming up try to let the Rabbi know the month before so we can include that information on our monthly calendar.

We wanted to thank Rabbi Saks and Meira for all they have done for ICCJ, and wish them loads of good luck and good health in your new endeavor. Keep in touch.

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy summer.

L'hitraot (see you soon)

COMMUNICATIONS: Nina Greebler & Linda Korobelnik

The Communications Committee would like to thank the members of ICCJ for all their support this past year. Committees contributed timely articles and wonderful pictures that helped to make the bulletin, website and eblast an informative success.

Changes to the website will be occurring over the summer. When we return from our hiatus, you will see most of the site's facelift.

Though the month of July, and much of August, gives us time to refresh and plan, weekly Shabbat services will continue to stream via the iccj2004.org streaming portal. Zoom will still be the vehicle for our weekly minyanim. So, if you are around, please participate. Eblasts will still be coming to your online mailboxes, so watch for them. Read them, as you may find some information important and beneficial.

On behalf of our committee, we would like to wish Rabbi Moshe and Meira Saks a special Yasher Koach and good health as they embark on their new journey. Special thank you to Rabbi Saks for helping to steer our congregants, both professionally and personally, during these last three years, two of which included Covid.

Special thank you to Helena, whose redesign of Tikvatenu has made it a the special bulletin we look forward to each month. Thank you to Mady for all her help and patience as our committee may drive her "insane" at times. On a personal note, I want to thank my "cohort" and "partner in crime" Nina Greebler. *Linda*

Have a wonderful summer. See you in September. *Nina and Linda*

CHAVERIM: Co-Presidents Susan Losow & Betty Shaffer

As this is the last bulletin until September, it leads to retrospection. While Covid was raging, we were limited to events we were able to hold. We did sponsor the Musical Midrash Program on Zoom in December, which was interesting, insightful and enjoyable. We still have a Walking Tour on the calendar for the end of June. We hope that everyone is healthy and able to join us. Please watch the eblast and flyers for more information.



This summer Chaverim will be working and planning for events that we can all enjoy as a caring community. We wish everyone a safe, warm and healthy summer.

SISTERHOOD NEWS: Presidents Hannah Feldman & Lisa Woliner



'S Wonderful, 'S Marvelous You've made my life so much easier - Those are the like the lyrics to a song that describe my outgoing Co-President Hannah Feldman.

This is the time to say a loving and hearty Thank You to my Co-President, Hannah Feldman. Most of you know Hannah as the sweet loving warm and kind person, yes, she is all that, including the best person to speak to and bounce ideas and problems off. My daily phone calls to her, at any time of the day or night, was always greeted with a cheerful hello. She would always know if something was on my mind, or if I was upset about something, and knew just what to say to make it better or share a laugh to forget why I called in the first place. Just because Hannah is stepping down as my Co-President doesn't mean she won't still be receiving my daily early morning and late night calls.

Over the last year, Sisterhood was undoubtedly busy with programming and fundraising. But, before I go into all that we accomplished this past year, starting from September 2021 to June 2022, Sisterhood was just as busy on Zoom as if we were in the building: Mosaic Art Crafting with Congregation; Hooray for Hollywood Trivia; Passover Seder highlighting the Nobel Prize in Science given to Jewish Women; Eva "A Survivor's Story" a LIVE radio/zoom play; Designer Pocketbook Bingo (the brainchild of Mara Gorel); monthly Bingo; Scattergories; Fanny Brice Presentation; Chanukah Jewpardy; Comedy Night featuring Ellen Orchid; Purim Scavenger Hunt; shared programs with the Men's Club - I've Got a Secret & The Newlywed Game; Book reviews with the Richter Memorial Library; Shelly Sings the Classics joint event with the Education Committee, and ending our year with the incomparable Helena Shayer, accompanied by the Piano Man, Jordan Kaplan, and so

much more. Just thinking about all we have presented to our family at ICCJ, and extended all of our programs to other Sisterhoods within the BQLI region, Sisterhood has managed to get nine non-affiliated new members who attended either our monthly bingo games or other programs.

The Shalach Manot fundraiser, spearheaded by Irma Goldman & Betty Shaffer, allowed us to make a monetary donation to two food banks. Without your participation that would have been impossible. So, thank you again to our ICCJ family. Our Sisterhood calendar, that hangs so brightly in your homes and mine, created by Shari Zuber and Paul Zuber, with the help of Linda Korobelnik and other members of Sisterhood, was a success. This was a wonderful way to support ICCJ even with a small New Year's wish.

Anise Parnes and Cynthia Begel have been diligently working on our Torah Fund program throughout the year.

During the summer months, though Sisterhood will not be having any programs, we will continue to play Bingo and have an occasionally Scattergories game night.

I would like to thank the wonderful women on the Sisterhood Board who have worked hard to plan and bring to fruition so many events and fundraisers this past year. A shout out to Judy Mermelstein who is leaving as Chair of Programming (for a well-deserved rest), but will remain on the Board. Thank you Judy for your handiwork.

It is with hope and prayer that we all meet again soon in the ICCJ building when it is Covid safe. Getting back to some type of normalcy is our goal, but until then Zoom is our best friend.

Have a fun, safe and healthy summer...



Torah Fund's 80th anniversary is underway. Begun in 1942, the Torah Fund Campaign has supported students enrolled in the worldwide Conservative/Masorti institutions of higher Jewish learning, playing an important role in perpetuating Conservative Judaism.

Every member of the ICCJ community has an opportunity to contribute to the spiritual, aesthetic and material well-being of these educational communities by supporting the annual Torah Fund Campaign.

Here are several ways you may participate in this year's Torah Fund Campaign.

Return a filled Torah Fund *tzedakah* box to the Center office this month so that your donation counts this campaign year.

Make an \$80 for 80 Years gift. Join the celebration by acknowledging this significant anniversary.

Share your passion for fashion. Proudly wear the *B'Yachad* pin. Donate \$180 and receive this beautiful thank you gift from Torah Fund.

Purchase greeting cards with a purpose. Send Torah Fund cards to acknowledge life cycle events. They're very affordable at \$5 each. **To buy one card or purchase a custom-made bundle, please contact Cynthia Begel, cbegel@gmail.com.**

For more information about how you may be a part of the Torah Fund Campaign now, as well as the future, **please contact Anise Parnes: a.parnes8166@gmail.com.**

Donating to Torah Fund is a win-win-win idea: It's a gift to someone special; it's a contribution to a worthy cause; and it's tax-deductible.

Todah rabah!

L'shalom,
Anise

Anise Parnes
ICCJ Sisterhood Torah Fund Chair





Randel, Weina Dai. *The Last Rose of Shanghai: A Novel.*

In Japanese-occupied Shanghai, two people from different cultures are drawn together by fate and the freedom of music. 1940. Aiyi Shao is a young heiress and the owner of a formerly popular and glamorous Shanghai nightclub. Ernest Reismann is a penniless Jewish refugee driven out of Germany, an outsider searching for shelter in a city wary of strangers. He loses nearly all hope until he crosses paths with Aiyi.

Ragen, Naomi. *An Observant Wife: A Novel.*

Ragen continues the love story between newly observant California-girl Leah and ultra-Orthodox widower Yaakov from *An Unorthodox Match*. From the joy of their wedding day surrounded by supportive friends and family, Yaakov and Leah are soon plunged into the complex reality of their new lives together as Yaakov leaves his beloved yeshiva to work in the city, and Leah confronts the often-agonizing restrictions imposed by religious laws governing even the most intimate moments of their married lives.

Modan, Rutu. *Tunnels. (Graphic Novel)*

A race for the Ark of the Covenant finds an exploration into the ethics and world of the international antiquity trade. When a great antiquities collector is forced to donate his entire collection to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Nili Broshi sees her last chance to finish an archaeological expedition begun decades earlier—a dig that could possibly yield the most important religious artifact in the Middle East.

Barenbaum, Rachel. *Atomic Anna, a novel.*

In 1986, renowned nuclear scientist, Anna Berkova, is sleeping in her bed in the Soviet Union when Chernobyl's reactor melts down. It's the exact moment she tears through time—and it's an accident. When she opens her eyes, she's landed in 1992 only to discover Molly, her estranged daughter, shot in the chest. Molly, with her dying breath, begs Anna to go back in time and stop the disaster, to save Molly's daughter Raisa, and put their family's future on a better path.

Barr, Lisa. *Woman on Fire, a novel.*

After talking her way into a job with Dan Mansfield, rising young journalist Jules Roth is given an unusual—and very secret—assignment. Dan needs her to locate a painting stolen by the Nazis more than 75 years earlier: legendary Expressionist artist Ernst Engel's most famous work, *Woman on Fire*. World-renowned shoe designer Ellis Baum wants this portrait of a beautiful, mysterious woman for deeply personal reasons, and has enlisted

Dan's help to find it. But Jules doesn't have much time; the famous designer is dying.

Tokarczuk, Olga. *The Books of Jacob, a novel.*

Winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature.

In the mid-eighteenth century, as new ideas—and a new unrest—begin to sweep the Continent, a young Jew of mysterious origins arrives in a village in Poland. Before long, he has changed not only his name but his persona; visited by what seem to be ecstatic experiences, Jacob Frank casts a charismatic spell that attracts an increasingly fervent following. In the decade to come, Frank will traverse the Hapsburg and Ottoman empires with throngs of disciples in his thrall as he reinvents himself again and again, converts to Islam and then Catholicism, is pilloried as a heretic and revered as the Messiah, and wreaks havoc on the conventional order, Jewish and Christian alike.

Shteyngart, Gary. *Our Country Friends, a novel.*

In the rolling hills of upstate New York, a group of friends and friends-of-friends gathers in a country house to wait out the pandemic. Over the next six months, new friendships and romances will take hold, while old betrayals will emerge, forcing each character to reevaluate whom they love and what matters most.

Meltzer, Jean. *The Matzah Ball, a novel.*

Rachel Rubenstein-Goldblatt is a nice Jewish girl with a shameful secret: she loves Christmas. For a decade she's hidden her career as a Christmas romance novelist from her family. Her talent has made her a bestseller even as her chronic illness has always kept the kind of love she writes about out of reach. But when her diversity-conscious publisher insists she write a Hanukkah romance, her well of inspiration suddenly runs dry. Hanukkah's not magical. It's not merry. Desperate not to lose her contract, Rachel's determined to find her muse at the Matzah Ball, a Jewish music celebration on the last night of Hanukkah, even if it means working with her summer camp archenemy—Jacob Greenberg.

Wecker, Helen. *The Hidden Palace: a Novel of the Golem and the Jinni.*

Helene Wecker revisits her beloved characters Chava and Ahmad as they confront unexpected new challenges in a rapidly changing human world. Spanning the tumultuous years from the turn of the twentieth century to the beginning of World War I, both Chava and Ahmad have changed the lives of the people around them. Can Chava and Ahmad find their places in the human world while remaining true to each other? Or will their opposing natures and desires eventually tear them apart—especially once they encounter, thrillingly, other beings like themselves?

Continue on page 7

Jenoff, Pam. *The Woman with the Blue Star, a novel.*

1942. Sadie Gault is eighteen and living with her parents in the Kraków Ghetto during World War II. When the Nazis liquidate the ghetto, Sadie and her pregnant mother are forced to seek refuge in the perilous tunnels beneath the city. One day Sadie looks up through a grate and sees a girl about her own age buying flowers. Ella Stepanek is an affluent Polish girl living a life of relative ease with her stepmother, who has developed close alliances with the occupying Germans. While on an errand in the market, she catches a glimpse of something moving beneath a grate in the street. Upon closer inspection, she realizes it's a girl hiding. Ella begins to aid Sadie and the two become close, but as the dangers of the war worsen, their lives are set on a collision course.

Grossman, David. *More Than I Love My Life, a novel.*

It is the story of three strong women: Vera, age ninety; her daughter, Nina; and her granddaughter, Gili, who at thirty-nine is a filmmaker and a wary consumer of affection. A bitter secret divides each mother and daughter pair, though Gili—abandoned by Nina when she was just three—has always been close to her grandmother. With Gili making the arrangements, they

travel together to Goli Otok, a barren island off the coast of Croatia, where Vera was imprisoned and tortured for three years as a young wife after she refused to betray her husband and denounce him as an enemy of the people. This unlikely journey—filtered through the lens of Gili's camera, as she seeks to make a film that might help explain her life—lays bare the intertwining of fear, love, and mercy, and the complex overlapping demands of romantic and parental passion. The book was inspired by the true story of one of David Grossman's longtime confidantes, a woman who, in the early 1950s, was held on the notorious Goli Otok ("the Adriatic Alcatraz").

Cohen, Joshua. *The Netanyahu: An Account of a Minor and Ultimately Even Negligible Episode in the History of a Very Famous Family. (A Novel)*

Corbin College, not quite upstate New York, winter 1959 –1960: Ruben Blum, a Jewish historian—but not an historian of the Jews—is co-opted onto a hiring committee to review the application of an exiled Israeli scholar specializing in the Spanish Inquisition. When Benzion Netanyahu shows up for an interview, family unexpectedly in tow, Blum plays the reluctant host to guests who proceed to lay waste to his American complacencies.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE: Philip Parnes



As our fiscal year comes to a close, let me take this moment to recap our Social Action Committee activities and campaigns during this year. But before I begin my review, I'd like to thank the ICCJ members who have been so instrumental in what we have done as a committee. Rita Ash, Alice Jena, Anise Parnes, Karen Rothenberg Halper, Adah Sylvan and Clarissa Weiss have contributed in many ways, making our meetings educational and each of our campaigns a community accomplishment.

As a community, we have supported these projects:

- 1) Reducing food insecurity by collecting food in partnership with City Harvest
- 2) Packing and distributing food at Flushing Jewish Community Council's monthly food pantry, supported by Met Council
- 3) Collecting winter coats in partnership with Commonpoint Queens
- 4) Collecting all types of gently used clothing throughout the year for distribution by several non-profit organizations
- 5) Providing voter transportation assistance, ICCJ's version of "Souls to the Polls"
- 6) Raising relief funds for victims of the Twin Parks Fordham Heights fire in the Bronx via donation to Masbia
- 7) Raising humanitarian relief funds for displaced Ukrainians through donations to HIAS (Hebrew Immigration Aid Society), JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee), Masorti Olami (international umbrella organization for Conservative Judaism outside of the US) and Razom (Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief Organization)

Thank you to the Rabbi Saks and the ICCJ Board for supporting all of these projects, and thank you to each ICCJ member who has supported one, some, or all of our social action initiatives this year.

And, I'm thanking you, in advance, for your support in our future social action endeavors!

I'd like to close by extending a most sincere thank you to our ICCJ staff, Helena, Mady and Willie, whose help with all of these projects has proved invaluable. *Todah Rabah!*

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Perhaps an hour a month in total, half an hour every couple of weeks.

As a volunteer of findagrave.com, I work closely with ancestry.com. A request is
made for a grave picture. Mount Hebron Cemetery, off the L.I.E., is one of the
cemeteries I cover. The Yiddish Theatre has a large plot there, Barbara Streisand (not
yet occupied by her, thank G-d), and other Jewish luminaries are there.

I have gotten thank you notes from as far away Israel and New Zealand.

Need help with the Hebrew. In advance, I thank you for your time.

My cell is 917-916-9329. Ask for RJ.

Randy Horowitz
ICCI Member

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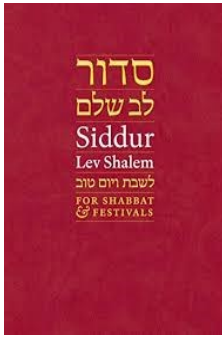
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YOUNG ADULTS: Jordan Brantz & Maxwell Greebler

Young Adults are working hard as they study and prepare for the end of their school semesters. It's been quiet as we study for regents, finals, and other exams. Some are finalizing their college choices, while others are preparing to move back home for the summer.

We plan to celebrate our graduates with the ICCJ community in mid-June. We also look forward to getting together soon to hang out, munch on snacks, watch a movie, and just simply let loose before the

summer months. This will be a bring a friend event. Details to follow in the YA group chat.

To join the chat, send your info to:
jaybeejordan@gmail.com

We wish everyone a safe summer and thank everyone for their support in helping us launch the Young Adults group.

YOUNG FAMILIES: Emilee Wyner & Dina Yakar

ICCJ Young Families have had quite a year! We enjoyed many programs celebrating holidays and had a very successful Arts & Crafts Collection Drive for the children of Cohen's Children's Medical Center. Our last program of the school year, Bagels and Board Games, was held in May.

We hope you will join us in the fall for another year of Young Family programming.

If you have any questions, or want to reach out, email Dina Yakar at iccjyoungfamilies@gmail.com.

Dina Yakar - Young Families Coordinator

EDUCATION: Hannah Feldman, Nina Greebler, & Adam Greebler

On May 15, the Education Committee, Sisterhood and the Richter Library, welcomed Roy Schwartz, author of the book, "Is Superman Circumcised". Mr. Schwartz shared with us the role Judaism played in the comic book industry. This was a very informative and fun event.

THE BORSCHT BELT

For those of you who loved seeing Jewish comedians in the Catskills, on June 19, we will be revisiting those bygone days, brought to us, once again, by Will Friedwald who will talk about the history of these hotels,

show clips, play music and comedy skits from the Borscht Belt circuit, and explain to us why the Catskills

got this name. Those of you who visited these hotels may even see yourselves in some of the clips. Hope to see everyone there.

The Education Committee thanks Rabbi Saks for his involvement and help in making so many of our events so successful. We wish both he and Meira Yasher Koach much success and happiness in their future adventures.

Over the summer, the Education Committee will not offer any events. We will be resuming our educational programming in the fall.

Have a great summer everyone. We look forward to seeing you soon.

GRIEF, BEREAVEMENT & AGING: Sheldon Ornstein Ed.D, RN, LNHA



Dying, which announces the finality of life, can be an experience and an acknowledgment of that loss by the family.

Grief, however, is thought to proceed in stages associated with those who are or who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

As with the dying, however, grieving does not always progress evenly, or with certainty. Much of the theory and process of “grief resolution” has been accepted without sufficient questioning. The researcher Horacek presents evidence, “The mourning period is much more complicated than we know and where ‘high grief’ and death occurs with a grieving individual may adapt, adjust and function well as the grieving period that continues with an infinite variety of presentations.” Therefore, what is it that is actually helpful to the individual who is grieving the loss of a loved one? Rigdon & Associates interviewed numerous elderly widows to determine the things that they found helpful in coping with their grief and that they were able to advise other widows to consider.

Here are several suggested coping skills:

- Give aid to someone else who has also had a recent loss
- Keep busy, accept social invitations
- Learn to appreciate an occasional solitary activity
- Have faith in an eventual recovery and hold to that conviction
- Take one day at a time. However, don’t expect an immediate time table for recovery.

Help will always be much needed and rather than ask what one can do for someone who may be suffering a loss, it is suggested that we accompany the bereaved in new activities or new situations and by these actions, slowly invite them toward building a new life.

Social scientists have sought information from newly bereaved persons to determine what actions were most helpful during the grieving period and after.

The following actions can also assist nurses who are

working with a grieving resident in gaining a clear perspective for comforting those who are experiencing an emotional and/or physical loss.

- “Embrace me when I begin to cry.”
- “Offer me my favorite comfort foods and share them with me.”
- “Hold my hand when I reach out.”
- “Keep me apprised of how funeral preparations for the deceased are progressing, such as place, day and time.”
- “Arrange a visit with appropriate clergy when I request spiritual comfort.”

While it is yet to be determined what the impact of these “crisis actions” can accomplish, it is clear that the approach stands out as helpful to the individual’s immediate grief. The lesson that can be learned is to accept whatever the individual is experiencing and exert caution for not trivializing the loss with such sayings as, “I know it’s a terrible loss but you’ll get over it with time.” Following are several suggestions for assessing the mourner’s progress. The person

- is showing signs of functioning with reasonable clarity and control;
- is able to take full responsibility for their self-care needs;
- has made verbal contact with significant others for personal comfort;
- has expressed questions as to whether the deceased suffered very much.

Nurses in particular can be most helpful for validating these specific questions that the mourner seeks. An important point is to never force one who is grieving, whether it be a resident of a facility or community dweller, to “get over it,” “move on,” or “unfortunately that’s life.”

Outliving those who have passed on can create an emptiness that may never be fully assuaged.

There are, however, other ways of offering comfort to the mourner. Help the mourner put into words or even non-verbal expressions what they are feeling. In time, there will be a growing recognition when the immediate pain and loss will ease.

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On the flip side, I offer a pithy saying from a comedian who had once expressed how we as humans can understand our earthly existence that we hold dear. In a tongue and cheek comment, he joked, "Don't take life so seriously, it's not permanent." Although he was attempting to elicit a healthy belly laugh from his TV audience, he was actually correct. The loss of a loved one is universally expected. However it is the memories that are left behind. Memories that will last forever. Memories that will be conveyed to children and family, eager to hear and learn about their beloved's life story. Also, memories that are spoken of at shared joyful events and at yearly holiday gatherings where Grandma's "special dishes" are being enjoyed, and yes, how memories are being made.

Remember – when Uncle Joe gave us the funds necessary for a down payment on our house. We'll

never forget his loving act and generosity.

Remember – when Dad tirelessly worked at several jobs that enabled me to enter a great college. He will forever be in my memory.

Remember dear Aunt Joanie with her perpetual silly jokes, but who also got me through an unhappy period in my childhood when I lost Scrappy, my pet pup. I can still sense the comforting hugs she gave me as I cried and her promise that we would get another pet dog. Now, whenever I pet Scrappy II, I still remember the warm act of Aunt Joanie and her cherished memory and kindness.

"Though we can no longer see them, they are always in our thoughts and see them each and every day in our memories" (Rabbi Maurice Lamm).

SPORTS CLINIC: Paul Gorel

Wow, this season has flown!!

We hope all the mothers out there had a great Mother's Day, and wish all the dads Happy Father's Day too!!

We want to thank the parents and students for all their cooperation and assistance in keeping the Sports Clinic open and running this season. Your help was and continues to be greatly appreciated!!

The students have done an amazing job this year learning how to swim and perfecting his/her strokes!! Your hard work is noticeable and will be seen by your loved ones during the week of June 12 – June 16 as your 30 second show from outside the pool door (but not on the deck or behind the glass) and take pictures and videos of their child only. Each student will also be presented with a medal, a gift of appreciation and a sweet kosher treat.



Let's hear it for the Wednesday Water Aerobics Congregation Swim Group. It has been a lot of stretching, swimming, workouts, and I look forward to seeing all of you and more next season!!

I would like to thank my staff for making this year a possibility: from wearing masks and shields in the beginning, to staying home and getting coverage when not well, and for putting his/her heart into teaching our students. Thank you to Scott and Jessica our administrators upstairs, and to Rachel, Rebecca, Berta, Amela, Valeria, Max, Kaitlyn, Jonathan Pinkhasov, Johnathan Prout, Joseph, Gaby, Lilly, Nathan, Daniel and David in the pool,

to our volunteer Valentina to Peggy, and Julie working wherever needed when they're home.

I would like to congratulate Rachel and Amela on their High School graduations, Val on her college graduation and Peggy on receiving her Masters in Mental Health Counseling. I wish you all the best in all your future endeavors!!

Finally, I want to wish everyone a very Happy, Healthy, Safe and Fun Summer and look forward to seeing all of you next season!!

OHR Chadash: School Administrator Shari Zuber

Cavalcade of Commemoration & Celebration

“And the days dwindle down to a precious few ...”

In the blink of an eye, a wonderful school year is quickly drawing to a conclusion. When last we met between these lines, it was Purim. Our Model Passover Seder followed suit, with Morah Judy conducting the program in which all the children were active participants in reading the Haggadah, chanting the Four Questions, singing *Dayeinu*, and partaking of charoset, maror, and dubiously eating gefilte fish. The macaroons, however, were a big hit.

Following the Pesach hiatus, our older students commemorated the Holocaust with our Yom Hashoah program. Arlene Ratzabi, ICCJ's librarian and go-to person for the latest in children's literature, conducted a youth book café on Sunday, May 1. She read the story of *Nicky and Vera*, by Peter Sis. It related the true story of how an ordinary English gentleman, when learning of the plight of Jewish children in Europe as the cancer of Nazism began engulfing peaceful nations, managed to rescue hundreds of Czech children before the start of the war and relocate them in safe havens. Our students sat enthralled as the tale unfolded and Arlene conducted a lively discussion afterwards, answering the pointed and insightful queries of our children.

The next week, May 8; was a doubleheader day for Ohr Chadash. The morning began with the first portion of our Siddur Presentation. Zoey Ludwig, a Giborim student, received her Covid-delayed copy of *Lev Shalem*, Conservative Judaism's Shabbat and Festivals prayerbook, personally dedicated to her. Before leading the assembly in *Adon Olam*, to her favorite melody, Zoey enlightened those gathered as to the origins of the prayer and its uniqueness and adaptability to be sung to practically any tune. Zoey's parents beamed with pride as she was presented with her siddur by Morah Shari.

After this presentation, Ohr Chadash celebrated the 74th birthday of Israel's Independence Day. Morah Zehava and Morah Marina enlightened the students to their experiences as Israelis, Morah Zehava as a Sabra, and Morah Marina as an emigre from Georgia, in the former Soviet Union. They recounted their childhoods and the freedom they had to be openly Jewish without fears of reprisals, and they also related how Israel grew and became such a technological marvel over the decades.

As they enjoyed falafels, hummus, and other Israeli gastronomical delights, the children watched videos of history in the making, as David ben Gurion declared the establishment of the modern Jewish nation.



The day being far from over, the children of Chalutzim, our middle grade, were all presented with their first Siddurs. Alex and Berri Cohen, and Ava Levi, informed the assemblage of parents, teachers, and their fellow students about all the particulars of the Havdalah ceremony,

which is generally conducted on Saturday evenings to bid farewell to Shabbat, after the appearance of the first three stars. They then led the Havdalah service, holding the three components, the grape juice, the spices, and the multi-wicked candle while singing the accompanying brachot and concluding with a wish for a good week ahead.

Brian Tokarz and Beata Zagruzny next related the history and meaning of Ein Keloheinu before conducting the singing of this post-Musaf Shabbat song. All the attending parents beamed as their children were presented with their personalized copy of *Lev Shalem*. This was definitely a Kodak moment, one which will be long-remembered at Ohr Chadash.

As of this writing we are one week away from the conclusion of the school year. Feverish planning for the Lag B'Omer/End of Year Program is underway. Outdoor sports activities and a mouth-watering BBQ will cap off this final day of Ohr Chadash 5782. Registration is officially ongoing for the 2022-2023 term. All information about enrolling your children for 5783 is on the Ohr Chadash website. Any questions can be forwarded to me at: info@ohrchadashqueens.org. If you know of any parents or grandparents seeking a religious school for their children/grandchildren please let me know and we will reach out to them.

On behalf of our teachers and myself, we wish all our families a wonderful Shavouth and a great and restful summer.

Yom HaShoah 5782: Love Among The Ruins

Ninety years before the end of the Shoah, poet Robert Browning wrote of *Love Among the Ruins*, a poem of a man and woman finding each other amidst the desolation of a city. During the Holocaust, it wasn't a city in ruins, but rather a complete world and an entire people that were devastated and decimated.

An unlikely consideration during this time was for Jewish people to fall in love, when the greatest consideration was mere survival. However, desperation and the urgent need for concerted efforts for salvation ignited friendships and romance under these most inconceivable circumstances. Furtive glances through barb wired fences, sharing back-breaking toil in labor camps, plotting disruptions in the enemy's war effort from underground confines in a forest, smuggling in needed goods to a ghetto. Who is to say how Jewish youth met during these dangerous years and how acts of necessity blossomed into dependence and trust and then flowered into love.



On Wednesday evening, April 27, 2022, the Yom HaShoah Committee, consisting of six participating synagogues, presented its program, via Zoom, which was dedicated to celebrating, amidst the sorrow of the era, four enduring love stories which

survived the ruins of World War II and saw light of day throughout the 20th century and into the early decades of the 21st.

The commemoration began with the Mincha service, conducted by Rabbi Saks of ICCJ. Following this was a tribute to survivors and those lost, entitled ***We Will Remember You***, which was sung virtually by the LA Children's Community Choir.



Linda Korobelnik and David Kurz related the battlefield and Holocaust events of the fatal year 1942, official implementation of the Final Solution, the expansion of the spider web of concentration and death camps, and advances by Nazi Germany in Europe and North Africa and Japan's victories in the Pacific.

Rabbi Greene of CEHHHB read a message from Rabbi Kogan of HJC, which incorporated the thoughts and wishes of both clergymen. Cantor Zim of CEHHHB chanted the hauntingly hopeful Ani Ma-amin, followed by Carol Greenberg of Hillcrest Jewish Center conducting the lighting of the six yellow memorial candles, enumerating the significance of each of the lights and encouraging everyone to light a memorial candle at home. Rabbi Wise of CEHHHB then delivered an inspirational invocation.

Meredith Deckler of Jewish Center of Kew Gardens Hills recounted the remarkable love story of Joseph and Rebecca Bau, as depicted in Mindelle Pierce's book, ***Love With No Tomorrow***. After FFMJC's Cantor Katz's rendition of the heart-wrenching ***Es Brent***, Rabbi Daniel Wolpe of FFMJC related the love match of Felicia and Eli Friedman, who were members of his former congregation in Florida.

Once Cantor Moshe Bear of Temple Gates of Prayer concluded his chanting of the deeply moving love song, ***Reyzele***, Lawrence Siegel of Temple Gates, told of the romance of Hanne and Max Liebmann, which had been part of the Kupferberg Center's 2017 program, ***Conspiracy of Goodness***.

Ida Lewis, daughter of Holocaust survivors Regina and Victor Lewis, with love and angst, imparted to the more than 200 attendees, the love story of her parents and how it surmounted near-death experiences and blossomed in the post-Holocaust world.

The event's three cantors put their full *genzindt* into the ***Hymn of the Partisans***, rousingly rendering it in Hebrew, Yiddish, and English. Rabbi Moshe Birnbaum of JCKGH next led the 23rd Psalm, prior to Rabbi Saks' conducting of the Mourner's Kaddish.



As our program began with children singing, so it concluded. A video of Jewish children from the Ukraine in 1930 singing ***Hatikva*** was juxtaposed with the singing of children of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation throughout the globe performing the Israeli national anthem. Rabbi Wolpe then led Maariv, the evening prayer service, and the seasonal Counting of the Omer.

The unusual theme of the evening, ***The Light of Love***, proved that even during its darkest hour, the Jewish Spirit can not be extinguished. Even though our enemies demonstrated humanity's worst, in Jewish Hearts we always sought the best. As we continue to do, we seek the Light, we seek Love.

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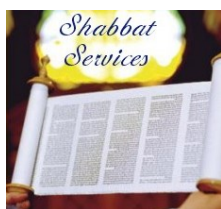
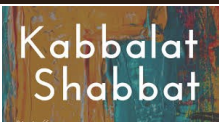
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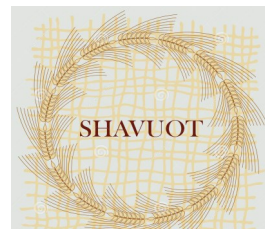
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Please join Rabbi Saks
for



6/3 - 8:03 PM - *Bamidbar*
6/4 - 9:12 PM— **Shavuot**
6/5 - 9:13 PM - **Shavuot**
6/10 - 8:07 PM - *Nasso*
6/17 - 8:10 PM - *Beha'alotcha*
6/24 - 8:12 PM - *Sh'lach*

7/1 - 8:12 PM—Korach
7/8 - 8:10 PM - Chukat
7/15 - 8:07 PM - Balak
7/22 - 8:02 PM - Pinchas
7/29 - 7:55 PM - Matot-Masai



SHAVUOT & SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 2022

8/5 - Devarim - 7:48 PM
8/12 - Vaetchanan - 7:39 PM
8/19 - Eikev - 7:29 PM
8/26 - Re'eh - 7:18 PM