Fans of Jewish Rock – or others who may be curious what it would sound like to set the liturgy and culture of Judaism to a rock-and-roll beat – should mark their calendars for the evening of Saturday Nov. 18, when a giant of the genre, Dan Nichols, will rock our house of worship.

Dan’s solo concerts are an intimate experience in which Dan gets the whole room singing together (lyrics are projected for all to see) to his inspiring music. The concert will begin with a moving Havdalah ceremony.

The performance is the latest in a run of similar evenings put on by the WJC Musical Enrichment Committee in recent years – including those headlined by Trio Shalva, a band that weaves Hebrew folk tradition with jazz and features WJC’s own Nadav Snir Zelniker on drums, and Nava Tehila, a Jerusalem-based group that fuses Hebrew poetry with gorgeous melodies.

Welcome Adam Bender, New Teen Engagement Director

BY KOSTYA KENNEDY

There’s this analogy about Conservative Judaism that Adam Bender heard a few months ago, which has stayed with him ever since. Bender was at a camp in Pennsylvania, a training and bonding getaway for Jewish camp staff and leaders from across the country. Bender has been working with or leading United Synagogue Youth (USY) programs for better than five years now, since he was in high school outside Chicago, and through his years at the University of Minnesota. Now he is 23 years old, a 2016 college graduate with a finance degree, and, as of Aug. 1, the Director of Teen Engagement at WJC. Enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity about his work are not qualities that Bender has any difficulty mustering up.

“So it was in May at this Foundation for Jewish Camp retreat. It was late at night and we were in this breakout room just talking and talking, no one wanted to go to bed,” Bender recalls. “There were about 20 of us and it was great, really interesting, exciting. We were having one of those late-night talks about everything to do with Judaism, about our Jewish beliefs and our ideas and everything.”

Imagine Judaism, its teachings and tenets and ways of life, as a game of chess on a chessboard, Bender heard someone say that night. And imagine that long ago the Orthodox community
Really True Happiness

RABBI JEFFREY SEGELMAN

I am writing this article on Monday August 7th which corresponds to the 15th day of the month of Av. The Talmud tells us that the 15th of Av is one of the two happiest days of the Jewish year. I will leave it to those who are interested to google the 15th of Av (Tu B’Av, in Hebrew.) I would like to focus on the other day.

What is the other happiest day of the year? It is Yom Kippur! That may sound strange as we do not generally associate happiness with Yom Kippur. We think of seriousness, holiness, and let’s not forget hunger. But happiness? Not so much.

But it is the happiest day. After all, at the end of the day (and I mean that literally), Yom Kippur is about the reset, the clean slate, complete forgiveness. Yom Kippur is about putting up a new canvas that need not be stained by the mistakes of the past. Yom Kippur is the victory of forgiveness over guilt and hope over despair. Could there be any greater happiness than that?!?

How does it happen? Sure it is not the result of sitting in shul for endless hours. It is not the pangs of hunger. It is not the confessions that we repeat so many times. Yes, in part it may be the combination of all those things. Yet, all those things are all a means to an end. The entire experience is intended to help us introspect - take an honest look at ourselves - and decide that we can be better. Our teshuvah is the eraser that we hand to God with which we can wipe the slate clean.

But there is one more vitally important thing - in fact, the most important thing. God wipes the slate clean for us if we wipe the slate clean for others. No matter how many hours we sit in shul - no matter how hard we beat our hearts - no matter how much hunger we have to endure - if we will not push the reset button in our own relationships, why should we expect that God would do it for us. Why would God give up a grudge against us, if we held our grudges against others? To get a clean slate, we have to give a clean slate.

And that is probably the most difficult part. Maybe we go through the difficult experience of Yom Kippur not so much to be forgiven but to find the strength to forgive.

There will be a full month from the time you are reading these words until the moment that the shofar is sounded at the end of Yom Kippur. If we are serious about a month, it is enough time not only to look deeply and honestly inside ourselves to see how we can improve, but it is also enough time to think about who we need to forgive and which grudges we need to lose.

After all, a clean slate is surely the greatest happiness.

Marla and my entire family join me in wishing you and yours only the best for a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

FROM THE CLERGY

Joy Club: New Dynamic 70+
Group Formed

JUDY & HOWARD ZWEIG CO-CHAIRS, JOY CLUB

The JOY (Just Older Youth) Club is an opportunity for WJC members age 70+ to socialize, learn, stimulate their minds and have fun with contemporaries. The first event sponsored by JOY will be on Sunday afternoon, September 10 at WJC. The showing will be open to the entire WJC Congregation. JOY Club members are invited to a pre-showing “meet-and-greet” coffee.

The JOY Club members can schmooze with old friends, get to know new friends AND have fun with contemporaries. The first event sponsored by JOY will be on Sunday afternoon, September 10 at WJC. The showing will be open to the entire WJC Congregation. JOY Club members are invited to a pre-showing “meet-and-greet” coffee. The JOY Club members can schmooze with old friends, get to know new friends AND have fun with contemporaries.

We also want to solicit feedback for topics of interest for future JOY events at this time. Our goal is to make the group an exciting, vibrant and on-going organization with maximum participation of all eligible WJC members. Judy and Howard Zweig are current Co-chairs.

Please contact them with your interest, comments or questions: jzweig@optonline.net, hpzweig@optonline.net, 914-381-1077.

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September 2017 - The WJC Review
As I begin my second year of writing for The Review, I want to thank you for the honor and privilege of continuing to serve as your President. I look back on what we have accomplished and look forward to seeing what we can continue to do together as a community.

The theme of this Review is “Welcoming in 5778.” The message entails a lot, more than a President’s Column can discuss. Welcoming the new year is a time for us to look inward, challenge ourselves, try something new or reinvent something about ourselves. As we welcome the new year, I invite you to try a new program at WJC. Look at this year’s Program Guide and pick a program or two (or three) that you haven’t tried before. We have education, religious, social activities and more. You may learn something about yourself that you never thought you would learn before.

We have already welcomed our new Executive Director David Goldstein, who becomes even busier as the High Holidays and the program year start in earnest. Welcome to Adam Bender as our new Director of Teen Engagement to the WJC family. Adam started over the summer and is excited to meet you and your teens. Please join me in wishing Adam much luck and success. Thank you to Cheryl Brause, Steve Kutno and the search committee for their efforts in finding Adam for WJC. And I want to thank Cantor Shoshi for all you have done with our teens over the last two years. We wish you the best in your new role.

As we welcome in 5778, I want to welcome our new Officers and Trustees. Thank you to Rob Weisstuch and the Nominating Committee for their hard work in putting this slate together – especially as we learn to work with our new Officers and Trustees as well as with those returning and thank them all for their hard work in putting this slate together. We wish you the best in your new roles.

Ellen and her family have been WJC members for 17 years. She and her husband, Eric, have three children, Rachel, Sarah and Becca. All three children attended WJC ECC and Religious Schools and had their Bar Mitzvah at WJC. They also all attended Hebrew High School, with one currently enrolled and one having graduated. Ellen began her teaching career at the WJC ECC and currently teaches Pre-K at Central Synagogue in NYC. Ellen was the co-chair of the Hebrew High School Board of Education Subcommittee and is now a member of the Teen Engagement Committee. Having just completed her first year as a Trustee, Ellen is looking forward to serving as an Officer.

As is our recent tradition, I would like to introduce the new Officers and Trustees. The following are short biographies so that you get to know them a little bit better.

I look forward to wishing you a happy and sweet 5778 during our High Holiday services.

Shana Tovah U’Metukah
ZACHARY DeSIENO  
Bar Mitzvah – September 9, 2017

My name is Zachary DeSieno. I will start eighth grade at Hommocks Middle School in the fall. Can’t wait. I am supposed to say what my favorite school subjects are (hint: not math), and what sports I play – I have been wakeboarding a ton at camp, with an Israeli Olympic athlete! Each summer, I spend two sessions at Crane Lake Camp, where I enjoy friendship, sports, and being the camp DJ, even if the food is reportedly not the best. I am looking forward to becoming a Bar Mitzvah at WJC, especially after all the hard work to get ready! I am very grateful to Cantor Goldberg, Rabbi Adir, and Lee Epstein, for all their guidance and patience as I prepared. I am also grateful to all of my family for their love and support.

*Actually, my parents are writing this blurb for me, since I am enjoying Crane Lake Camp this summer, and time is running out to be included in The Review!

HENRY ROFFMAN  
Bar Mitzvah – September 16, 2017

Hi. My name is Henry Roffman and I am going into 8th grade at Hommocks Middle School. My favorite subjects are Social Studies and Science. When I am not in school, I like to play soccer, golf, tennis and basketball. I play on the WJC basketball team. I have also played the piano for eight years.

During summer, I go to Kamp Kohut (we spell camp with a K) and spend time with my family going on vacations and doing other things. This will be my fifth year at Kohut.

I am very excited to celebrate my Bar Mitzvah with all of my family and friends. I want to thank Cantor Alcott for helping me learn my Hebrew, and Rabbi Yolkut for helping me write my D’var Torah. I would also like to thank Rabbi Segelman for teaching me throughout Hebrew school, along with Aleza and all of my teachers over the years. Lastly, I would like to thank my family for their love and support.

Starting Another New (School) Year  
SABRINA LANDAU  EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR

Beginning school after the long summer break can be a time of excitement, but often is also a time of anxiety for students of all ages. The new school year is full of many unknowns and that can feel a little scary at first, especially to our youngest children beginning in the ECC. For some, this is their very first school experience and while we are here to welcome them with open arms, they are not always ready to walk right in and begin. We try to emphasize a message said so well by Winnie the Pooh: “You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think.”

As always, the new school year coincides closely with the Jewish New Year. It is a time for new beginnings and new learning experiences. As we welcome in the holiday of Rosh Hashanah, we look ahead and see a new adventure. We look for motivations and boosting of morale, along with things to ponder. When Dr Seuss wrote: “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose,” it was as if he were speaking directly to us, to our ECC teachers, our ECC parents and most of all, our ECC children.

Welcoming in the New Year is done in various ways with different cultures from around the world ushering it in with many different traditions. After doing some research online, I learned that in the country of Denmark, people keep old dishes and throw them at the doors of their friends to symbolize friendship. Fireworks are used to drive away the evil in China and throwing a bucket of water out the window signifies throwing out the old year and welcoming the new in Mexico.541

We invite WJC children in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade to join Taly and friends for a one of a kind experience with Tevaland on Sunday, September 17th at 12 pm, followed by a dairy lunch. We will have a hands-on lesson about various animals and how it is our job to remember the mitzvah of Tzara’at Ba’alei Chayim, treatment of animals. Tevaland, a nonprofit animal rescue shelter and farm, prides itself on rehabilitating animals and educating others. Several small animals including ducks and a rabbit will serve as ambassadors for other animals on the farm and come to WJC to teach our children on how all of us can be good citizens towards animals and nature. We will have a hot dog lunch and have a hands-on lesson about animal rescue.

For more information, contact Aleza at 914-698-2966.

Kick off the New Year with Tevaland!  
ALEZA KULP  EDUCATION DIRECTOR & CONGREGATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Religious School Begins September 10!

ALEZA KULP EDUCATION DIRECTOR & CONGREGATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

What an exciting year it will be for students in our Religious School! Our school continues to grow with new faculty and families joining our community. I hope our new families will begin to feel at home at WJC, join us for Shabbat and community wide celebrations.

Orlee Krass joins us as our new Special Education Teacher. Orlee is state certified for special education in New York and New Jersey. She previously served as the Director of Education for Matan, a nonprofit organization that advocates for Jewish students with special needs, empowers their families and educates Jewish leaders, teachers and communities. In addition to her work at WJC, Orlee is the Director of the Tikvah program at Camp Ramah in the Poconos. We are thrilled to have Orlee join our WJC family.

Each student will create new connections to our community and Judaism as they share experiences and thoughts in various learning spaces with clergy and teachers. We look forward to a successful and inclusive New Year.

Welcome Back BBQ September 17
5:00-7:00 PM

On September 17 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm, join us as we welcome our teens back from a long summer away. What can be better than a FREE BBQ! Hot Dogs, Burgers, Pickles, and more!

Learn about the amazing teen programming happening at WJC and meet our new Director of Teen Engagement, Adam Bender. Read The Review cover story to learn more about Adam.

We can’t wait to see you there and don’t forget to RSVP to Adam@wjcenter.org.

Every year, on Yom Kippur afternoon, we read about the prophet Jonah. The story teaches children and adults about the importance of forgiveness. Last month, some of our PJ Library children received The Book of Jonah by Peter Speir. While there are many books written that retell the story of Jonah, this book is one of the best with its detailed illustrations and text that closely parallel the story of Jonah in Nevi’im, the Book of Prophets. Another amazing aspect of this book is the reference section that includes the history and geography of Jonah’s journey. The maps engage older children in lessons of Jewish history, while our younger children enjoy the story. As a parent and educator, I highly recommend this book.

If you did not receive this book in the mail from PJ Library, I encourage you to visit the Hendel Family Library at WJC and read it to your children.
The concert will start at 8 PM on Nov. 18, and light refreshments (as well as adult beverages) will be served. Tickets are $25 if purchased in advance; $30 at the door, and $15 with student ID.

Along with another performer, Rick Recht, Dan Nichols is widely credited with creating Jewish Rock beginning in the mid-1990s. Dan is in especially high demand on the Jewish summer camp and school circuit, “delivering hip melodies, positive Hebrew songs, rock rhythms and heightened energy,” as The News and Observer of Raleigh, North Carolina, put it in a profile in 2004. Dan lives in Raleigh with his wife, Elysha, and daughter, Ava.

“We feel lucky to host Dan in our intimate environment,” Alison Gottsegen, chair of the Musical Enrichment Committee, said. “As a former camp music leader (among many other talents), Dan credits his Jewish summer camp for inspiring his career. His music deals with relevant, modern topics (while honoring Jewish tradition), and he is genuine, warm and welcoming.”

Alison said she hopes that congregants, as well as members of the community at large, will turn out not just to hear live versions of some of the most popular contemporary Jewish music in the world – but also for the opportunity for us to gather as one.

“It’s especially important at this time of such political divisiveness to share in communal gatherings like this, which help us sing together, embrace hope and strengthen the ties that bind us,” Alison said.

While Dan is a classically trained singer who received a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he ultimately decided that rock rhythms and chords offered an unparalleled (and, heretofore, untapped) opportunity to connect with Jewish youth. His songs – including “Li’akim (the Na Na Song),” “B’zlelem Elohim” and “Beyond” (familiar to WJC from the Renewal Service) – are now considered anthems in certain Jewish circles, almost as if a parallel universe existed where Bruce Springsteen had been born Bruce Springstein. In addition to his work with his band Eighteen, Dan co-founded Shulhouse Rock, a song-leading workshop for Jewish high school students, in 2009. He has also performed live at Masada as well as at the studios of XM Satellite Radio, for the groundbreaking XM presentation of Radio Hanukkah.

Find more information about Dan at www.dannicholsmusic.com. For WJC performance questions, contact Cantor Ethan Goldberg, cantorecg@wjcenter.org.

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

Simple & Soulful

Join us for another year of Simple & Soulful and let your spirit soar as we journey through an abbreviated Shabbat morning service. This 90 minute service includes group prayer and singing accompanied by instruments, silence for personal reflection and an interactive exploration and interpretation of the week’s Torah portion. Frequent comments and questions encourage us to reflect on ourselves and find personal meaning in age-old prayers. We especially welcome those with children in the 3rd grade and older to attend as a family. Join the rest of the WJC community for a concluding activity together, Kiddush and time to schmooze.

This year Simple and Soulful will occur more frequently, offering even more opportunities to participate in what has become a staple of spiritual life at WJC.

Saturdays, 10:15-11:45am *with Youth Shabbat Learning Program

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Renewal Service

Enjoy and experience the power of great music, communal singing and soulful praying as Ellen Kazis-Walker, Seth Schafler and Randy Heller lead us in a music-filled hour. Special guests join in the music and reflect on their own spiritual journeys. Stay afterwards for dessert and a chance to visit with friends.

Sundays, 7pm
- October 15th, 2017
- December 3rd, 2017
- January 21st, 2018
- March 25th, 2018
- May 6th, 2018
- June 3rd, 2018

NEW TRUSTEES

Laura Grill
Laura Grill and her family have been members for two years. She and her husband Yuval have three children, Talia 7, Noa 5 and Koby 3. Talia and Noa attend our Religious School and Koby is in the 3s program at the ECC. Laura is a WJC Parents Association and Purim Carnival Co-Chair.

Howard Husock
Howard Husock, and his wife Robin Henschel have been members of WJC for ten years. Previously, they lived in Brookline, Massachusetts for most of their lives and were members of Temple Emanuel, Newton, MA. They have three adult children, Aaron 37, Eli 34 and Leon 26, and three grandchildren, Zoe 8, Dillon 5 and Stella, 1. Howard actively reads Torah and Haftorah and also has helped to plan the High Holiday Study Service.

Julie Musicus
Julie Musicus and her husband Andrew have two children, Alexander 12 and Sabrina 9, who both attended the WJC Early Childhood Center and now attend WJC Religious School. Julie serves on the B’nai Mitzvah Committee and is a Sulam graduate.

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essentially put a glass dome over the chessboard and said, "This is it, this is how the game is supposed to go." And then when the Conservative movement started to come along in the 1800s, as Bender put it, "we took the dome off and began to play." Now, the analogy continues, some pieces move one way, some pieces move another way, some pieces may even come off the board. And some pieces stay exactly where they’ve always been and don’t move at all.

“It’s not a perfect analogy,” Bender says, “but it kind of makes sense.”

Bender has two broad agendas for his new role: First, to build strong relationships. In early August he posted an Instagram invitation for WJC teens (and other members) to meet him individually at Starbucks, for a get-to-know-you session and a beverage, on him. Bender wants to become a person WJC teens can trust and approach with matters small and large, simple or complex. As an element of that, he’s been certified by Moving Traditions to lead monthly Shevet Achim (“brothers sitting together”) discussions to help boys navigate teenhood’s choppy waters while connecting to their Jewish identities. A female counterpart will continue with a Rosh Chodesh (“new month”) program that Shoshi Rosenbaum led the past two years.

Bender’s other agenda is to help teens embrace their Jewish identity as a journey with many possible paths, to expose them to various facets and choices within the tradition and give them options to decide how they want their particular Jewish life to express itself. Bender, who grew up Conservative and became increasingly more observant in his teenage years, sees his own relationship to Judaism as an excursion, woven into the larger road of life. “Too many kids I’ve met view a Bar or Bat Mitzvah as almost an end to their Jewish development,” says Bender. “For me that’s where it all gets started, that is where it begins.”

Bender says his own journey began in earnest when he was a seventh grader in the suburban town of Buffalo Grove. He credits a Hebrew School teacher who was particularly candid and open with the students and who loosened up the studying by allowing spirited games of garbage-can basketball during breaks in class, and by playing guitar to augment lessons. There were other key moments in Bender’s early growth, not least attending his first USY event at his synagogue as a high school freshman, and then, a few years later, his first visit to Israel. He recalls sitting on a hill overlooking the old city as the Shabbat horn sounded and the sun fell. A slow sweat rolled down his neck in the day’s late heat and he had this sensation, he says “of just knowing I was in the right place. The world seemed to stop.” He saw with a new clarity that he was part of a deep, wide Jewish community so much larger and more powerful than he’d recognized.

“Adam has an innate passion for cultivating Jewish identity among teenagers,” says WJC member Sam Colin. Sam and his wife Ann and their children hosted Bender in their home for several weeks when he arrived this summer. “He’s forward-thinking about how to make the Hebrew High School experience more attractive against the competing demands on our children’s time.” That all? “On a final note,” Colin continued. “he is an excellent cook for a Shabbat meal (he insisted and it was delicious).”

Bender allows that his spiritual side is not solely Jewish: There’s also the Cubs. He’s an avid fan who played baseball in high school, and afterward in rec leagues (yes, Art Kaplan, here’s fresh meat for the softball team). When Bender, locked in with friends at the Uptown Tavern in Minneapolis, saw the Cubs’ close out a Game 7 nail-biter to win the World Series last November, his tears of joy could not be stopped.

As Bender begins to put together programming—community events and an out of state trip are being developed, and, more immediately, a Sept. 17th barbecue—such life moments are exactly the kind of things he wants to share with and gather from the teens in the community. Just to get to know one another first, to exchange a few ideas, maybe talk a little baseball, maybe even start together on a game of chess.

Koslowe Gallery Launches Fall Exhibit “Across Divides: Borders and Boundaries in Contemporary Art”

October 19th, 2017. The exhibition will be on view through December 2017.

The Koslowe Gallery is delighted to launch our 2017-2018 season with the Rhythm and Ruach, Shabbat Under the Stars, service and dinner on Friday evening, September 8th, with a gallery tour of Across Divides: Borders and Boundaries in Contemporary Art.

As we enter the high holiday season, we contemplate aspects of walls and bridges. Among the missions of the Koslowe Gallery, founded more than 20 years ago by Terri Trieger, is raising awareness of Jewish contemporary art messages. Our goal is to bring to our members, friends and patrons—whose numbers reflect WJC’s multi-purpose nature—thoughtful responses to dynamic and changing times. This year we will explore a range of social, historical, cultural, and theoretical subjects.

These artists, based in the US, Argentina and Israel—are concerned with coexistence. Some engage with spatial boundaries; others explore personal divides that define Jewish identity, ethnicity, language, family, geography and physical or conceptual walls. David Moss, Andi Arnovitz, Tova Beck-Friedman, Ken Goldman, Siona Benjamin, Pavel Wolberg, and Ahuva Winslow are among the many artists represented.

Please join us Sept. 8th, and at a gallery program on Thursday evening, October 19th, 2017. The exhibition will be on view through December 2017.
2017-18 Lecture Series and The HLC Challenge
RUTH OBERNBREIT GLASS  HOLOCAUST LEARNING CENTER

The Holocaust Learning Center (HLC) in collaboration with the Hendel Library, is pleased to announce two initiatives for the coming year. The first is a lecture series with authors of new and fascinating books to be presented on key Holocaust Commemorations, Kristallnacht and Yom Ha Shoah. The second is a challenge to the congregation, to choose a book of their own concerning this period of history.

**LECTURE SERIES**

**Hollywood’s Spies: The Undercover Surveillance of Nazis in Los Angeles**
Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 7:30 PM - Kristallnacht Commemoration

The HLC is excited to welcome author Laura B. Rosenzweig. This book tells the long-hidden story of American Jewish resistance to Nazism during the 1930s and the role that Jewish Hollywood played in combating this threat to democracy. The role that Americans played in fighting domestic Nazism, let alone the Jews of Hollywood, was never fully understood by the public. Rosenzweig recovers this story after 80 years.

**A World Erased: A Grandson’s Search for His Family’s Holocaust Secrets**
Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 10:30AM, Yom Ha Shoah Commemoration

After hearing the PG version of the Holocaust from his grandparents during his childhood and youth, author Noah Lederman craved the uncensored truth about his grandparents’ Holocaust experiences. After college Noah, a travel writer, roamed the world for fifteen months. He wound up in Warsaw and, upon his return to the US, his grandmother, after five years of mourning her husband’s death, unexpectedly began to explore her memories with Noah. These memories had been buried for decades.

**THE HLC CHALLENGE**

We are asking members of the congregation to read a book about events connected to the Shoah. Why not just say: “Read a book about the Holocaust?” Because often an automatic response is some version of “Been there, done that…beyond tragic, no thanks.” The HLC says: “Wait! Not so fast!”

This period has spawned hundreds of books of interest in recent years offering a more nuanced look at this time in history. Our commitment is to reflect this in our lecture series, but we want you to be engaged as well. Browse through your favorite bookstore, or online to find a book that is a good match for you. Better yet, look through the many shelves devoted to the Holocaust in our own Library. Librarian Arlene Ratzabi is available to assist you on Tuesday and Wednesday from 2-6pm. There are titles in all genres: history, psychology, philosophy, fiction, photography, poetry, art, and memoir - memoir being perhaps most important to consider. Soon we will no longer have any survivors alive to tell their story. To read one of the personal accounts of survival is to become a witness. That alone is a mitzvah.

Choose and read a new book sometime between Kristallnacht and Yom Ha Shoah. A comprehensive list of suggested titles will be available in fall. We do hope you will mark the dates and come hear the authors above. Regardless, we ask you to consider participating in this reading challenge!
Social Justice Action 5778 Preview

SHARON SILVER  SoJAC CHAIR

“It is not upon you to complete the task of mending the world, nor are you free from doing your part.” Pirkei Avot 2:21

Women! Men! Teens! Families! There is a program for you. What will you choose?

Each year at Kol Nidre we are asked to choose a tab or tabs to turn down on the Social Justice Action Mitzvah Pledge Card. We glance at it quickly and turn down one or more tabs and place it back in the envelope. This year you can take the time you need to look at the new 5778 Mitzvah Pledge Card in this edition of The Review. There are many programs to consider. Some of these may be new to you, others are on-going.

Look carefully, make your decision, and pick up your envelope at Kol Nidre. You are now prepared to turn down one or more tabs and participate in meaningful projects that benefit WJC and the broader community.

A member of the Social Justice Action Committee will contact you during the year. Please consider joining the Social Justice Action Committee. Your suggestions, participation and input are welcome and allow these initiatives to succeed.

High Holiday Mitzvot

Rejoice for Rosh Hashanah
Help our Jewish neighbors in the Bronx by donating funds used to purchase vouchers for kosher chickens and fresh produce. Make checks out only to the Jewish Community Council of Pelham Parkway and leave for Sondra Levy in the Social Action mailbox or donate directly on their website at jccpelhamparkway.org. Make your donations before September 15.

Bring Your Breakfast on Yom Kippur
Help our neighbors in Larchmont/Mamaroneck by donating cereal and shelf-stabilized milk. Bring your donation on Yom Kippur or anytime during September and October.

For more information or to help with these collections, please contact Sondra Levy at sklevy8@gmail.com.

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Adult Education Committee  
MYRA GLAJCHEN AND KAREN EVERETT CO-CHAIRS

Fall Event with Rabbi Shai Held: Tuesday, October 10th 2017

We are pleased to announce a new Fall event which is specially timed to coincide with the new Torah reading cycle. Rabbi Shai Held returns to WJC to present an overview of his new collection of essays: *The Heart of Torah: Essays on the Weekly Torah Portion*. Join us for what will surely be an engaging conversation with Rabbi Held on Tuesday, October 10th at 7:45pm in the Activity Center. Books will be available for purchase and refreshments will be served.

In this two-volume set of essays—two for each weekly Torah portion—Held illuminates the centrality of empathy in Jewish ethics, the predominance of divine love in Jewish theology, the primacy of gratitude and generosity, and God’s summoning of each of us—with all our limitations—into the dignity of a covenantal relationship.

Jews have been writing commentary on the Bible for literally thousands of years, and it can sometimes seem like “there is nothing new under the sun.” And yet Held’s *The Heart of Torah* is new and strikingly original. Drawing on commentators ancient and modern (and Jewish and Christian) Held opens new literary, theological and psychological horizons in understanding the text that gave rise to Judaism and much of Western civilization. Held’s interpretations are challenging, uplifting and profound.

Rabbi Shai Held is a scholar, theologian, educator, and Co-founder, Dean and Chair of Jewish Thought at Mechon Hadar, an institute for prayer, personal growth and Jewish study in New York City. He holds a PhD in Religion from Harvard University. Rabbi Held is an expert on Jewish and Christian thought, biblical theology, Abraham Heschel and the history of Zionism. Previously, he taught theology, halakha and pastoral skills at the Jewish Theological Seminary and received the prestigious Covenant Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. Rabbi Held was the 2017 Scholar-in-Residence at WJC and is returning by popular demand.
Sisterhood News

CAROL FASMAN & ILEEN GREENBERG  CO-PRESIDENTS

Welcome Back. We hope you had as delightful, relaxing and fun-filled summer as we did. We are now back and planning events for the upcoming year. Our goal is to educate, entertain, create opportunities for friendship and personal growth and to be a part of building a strong, spiritual Westchester Jewish Center Community.

SUKKAH DECORATING – Sunday, October 1, 11am-1pm, WJC
As in past years, our first event will be decorating the Sukkah. Over the years, there have been so many joyous occasions held within the Sukkah walls. Come help us build our beautiful Sukkah so it can be enjoyed by our community.

OPEN SISTERHOOD MEETING – Tuesday, October 17, 7:45pm, WJC Youth Lounge
We always welcome new members to join us both in attending our events as well as creating new programs. We are open to fresh ideas and cultivating leadership opportunities. Help us to revitalize and continue to grow this important arm of life at WJC.

OPENING EVENING EVENT – Thursday, November 2, 7:30pm
Stay tuned for details.

MAH JONGG EVENINGS – November 14, 2017 (other dates TBD)
We welcome all level of skill to join us. As usual, if we have enough new players, we will arrange for instruction. Thank you to Debbie Katz, dkatz1000@aol.com, for organizing.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER – Saturday, December 9, 2017
Cindy Heller is our chairwoman and is looking for volunteers to open their homes to host.

BOOK CLUB – Tuesday, October 24, Location TBD
Our first book selection is What to Do About the Solomons by Bethany Ball. In conjunction with the Hendel Library and the Jewish Book Council, we will co-host additional book and author events throughout the year.

We want to thank Cheryl Nabotny for her work in kicking off the High Holiday season with our annual Honey Fundraiser. Cheryl’s dedication ensures we start off the New Year on a sweet note. Also, for information or to make a donation to the WJC prayer book fund, contact Cheryl at cnatbony@aol.com.

Our Gift Shop is open for High Holiday Shopping. Beautiful items are available as gifts or to enhance your table. Keep your eyes open for the date of our Hanukkah Boutique.

We are always looking for additional gift shop volunteers. For all of your shopping needs or to volunteer, please contact Carol Fasman at cgfasman@gmail.com, 914-450-6661

Award-Winning Film, Larchmont, Showing

Sunday, September 10, 2017 2PM
JUDY & HOWARD ZWEIG  CO-CHAIRS, JOY CLUB

If you missed the movie Larchmont when it was shown at the Larchmont Library and the Emelin Theater, you can catch it for free at WJC on September 10. The screening, sponsored by the newly formed JOY (Just Older Youth) Club will be open to the entire WJC Congregation. JOY Club membership will enjoy a pre-showing “meet-and-greet” coffee with the director/author, Ben Zuckert. Zuckert, who wrote, directed and scored the film is a WJC Nursery School graduate. Will Seife, the film’s cinematographer, also attended preschool at WJC.

Larchmont is the story of a recent college graduate who questions his medical school plans while his dad tries to hide his new unemployment. Filmed in and around Larchmont, the movie was featured at both the Yonkers and Twin Cities Film Festival. Tony winner Gregg Edelman stars in the movie along with supporting performances by local residents. A Q&A with Ben will follow the showing.
Fall 2017 Events

Poker in the Sukkah: Sunday, October 8
2017 Blood Drive: Sunday, November 5
Worldwide Wrap: Sunday, February 4
NCAA March Madness event: Thursday, March 15 (outside of WJC)
Men’s Softball Team: Sundays, April-June 2018

Join us! Contact co-presidents Stu Seltzer or Craig Rubin:
stu@seltzerlicensing.com, craig.rubin@gmail.com

WJC Brotherhood Men’s Softball Team

Three Time Champions of the Westchester Hebrew Softball League!
WJC’s winning team participates in the Westchester Hebrew Softball League, competing against 17 teams representing synagogues and Jewish Men’s organizations across the County. If you are a player who is both competitive and committed (16+ years of age), and available on most Sunday mornings from April 2018 through early October, contact team captains Art Kaplan 914-948-1178 or Dan Kaplan 914-522-7870.

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Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27,
Dec. 4, 11, 18 and 28

WJC Activity Center or Gym

*Meets Mondays except when holidays fall on Mondays; then on Thursday

Beginners: 7:30pm - 8:45pm
Intermediate/Advanced: 8:45pm -10pm

$10 WJC members • $13 non-members
TEENS 13-18 are FREE!

For more information and to confirm whether class is in session, please contact: Linda Alpert Karell, lalpertesq@gmail.com or (914) 584-6738

Westchester Jewish Basketball League invites you to participate in the 2017-2018 season

• Boys and Girls in Grades 5-12 are eligible to participate (mixed teams; mostly boys)
• Every player will participate in every game regardless of his/her ability

The season will run from late November through early March.
Practices will begin in early October.
There’s a sign-up sheet outside the school office.
Print your name, grade and phone number (legibly!)

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High Holiday Greetings
Best Wishes to ALL for a Healthy and Prosperous New Year from the following WJC families

- Susan & Howard Adler
- Laurel & Alan J. Benet
- Judy & Dan Berkowitz
- Michael & Brenda Bloom
- Jeanette & Fred Bogart
- Bill, Jon, Leigh Boorstein & Susan Brust
- Robert & Muriel Bruskin
- Liz & Charlie Chasin & Family
- Marc Cohen, Justin, Jenna & Laurie
- Helen & Stephen Colman & Family
- Miriam Crandall
- The Drescher Family
- Mindy, Andrew, Corey, Russell, Jackie & Tara Feldman
- Miles & Elayne Federman & Family
- Sandra Foreman
- Steven Garfinkel & Elisa Alcabes
- Rich & Caren Gerszberg & Family
- Myra Levine Harris & Robbie
- Cara & Larry Iason
- Jaclyn & Sol Israel
- Debbie & Mark Jacoby & Family
- The Julie Family
- The Kriss Family
- The Kutow Family-Abbe, Stephen, Sheva, Matan & Meirav
- Jeffrey & Jennifer Lavine
- Ellen & Howard Lazarus & Family
- Andrea & Howard Leaf & Family
- Susan & Alan Levy
- Dr. Joel & Sondra Levy & Family
- Cheryl & Glen Lewy & Family
- Janice & Jerry Malett
- Gail & Marty Marcus
- Ellen Dunkin & Joseph Michaeli
- Cynthia & Mark Mishler & Family
- Pamela & Howard Mizrachi
- Sue & Abe Mizrachi
- Bonnie Silverman & David Nanus
- The Nissenblatt Family
- Barry & Barbara Novick
- The Pfeffer Family
- Shirley & Lenny Queen
- Marilyn & Bob Reader
- Marion & Walter Reichman
- Ellie & Ron Rosenberg & Family
- Ralph & Susan Sansolo
- Sharon, Matthew, Andrew & Hannah Sawyer
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- Erica, Marc & Chloe Strongin
- Martine, Nelson & Mason Wax
- Giselle, Alan, Lauren, Jack, Nicole Weissman
- Betty Weissman
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Rabbi Adir’s High Holiday Family Challenge

RABBI ADIR YOLKUT

Serve the Holy One with gladness;
Come before God’s presence with singing
- Psalms 100

One of the messages of the High Holy Days is that we can be joyful in our worship, even in the solemnity of the season. As attested to above, joy and singing go hand in hand.

With that in mind, I challenge you to the following project that we are basing around the theme of Sing Out Your Song.

By September 12th, please send us a photograph that inspires joy in you. It can be a famous photo, or one you took yourself. It can be from the world stage, the national stage, or no stage at all – just a quick snapshot from your iPhone. And please write a caption (150 words or less) bringing us into the moment:

What do you see in this photo?
Why does it touch you?
How did it affect you?

These photos will be placed around us during our singing and praying on the High Holidays. In that way, we will be surrounded by happiness and celebration. If you need a break from prayer or need to find some inspiration, all you have to do is loop around the room and take in all of the good fortune in our lives.

A few quick tips:
1. We want to really see the beauty of your photo, so the higher quality, the better.
2. When possible, credit the photographer or the website where you got the photo. (Spread the love.)
3. Let us know if you want your submission to be anonymous.

Email photo submissions to: rabbiadir@wjcenter.org

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the birth of Samuel Robert Levine
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Lena Gormezano Frankel
From Sharon Silver
Joel Thaler
From Bill & Jill Caslin
Great Participation... Summer Davening

CINDY HELLER AND VICTOR BADNER  SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE

A big thank you to all those who participated in Shabbat morning services this summer – leading Shacharit, leyning Torah, chanting a Haftarah, leading Musaf, preparing a D’var Torah, leading Adon Olam or Anim Zmirot, chanting Eicha. Services were very special due to everyone’s talents.

Much appreciation to Rabbi Segelman, Rabbi Yolkut and Cantor Goldberg for leyning Torah, leading Musaf and ensuring that all went smoothly.

Dan Rosenbaum  Howard Mizrahi  Jerry Fortinsky
Victor Badner  Abe Mizrahi  Larry Thaler
Seth Schaffer  Diane Holsten  Gabe Mizrahi
Randy Heller  Glen Applebaum  Pam Mizrahi
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Jama Purser  Al Sassoon  Bill Natbony
Nancy Thaul  Al Sasson  Marilyn Reader
Andrea Lightman  Larry Thaler  Eddie Reich

Apologies to anyone omitted from the listing.
ON PLANNING AHEAD

Would you like to make a sad event a bit easier to bear? One of the immediate decisions families confront when someone dies is the choice of a burial site. Why not consider making arrangements now, before there is an urgent need. The WJC Cemetery Association oversees our beautiful and convenient cemetery, providing excellent perpetual care. For information, please contact one of us:

Ron Rosenberg: 967-4908
Jill Caslin: 698-6614
Sol Israel: 576-7670
Miles Federman: 698-0861
Walter Reichman: 834-5029
Debbie Zelenetz: 837-3989

From The Review of September 2000

JILL CASLIN ARCHIVIST

In June we introduced a new column featuring the mitzvah efforts of students in our Religious School and at local day schools. This month features five students who worked with the Larchmont/Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force.

Just as a reminder, our goal is to highlight student activities: how they got involved, what they are trying to do, and why they picked a particular project. Please note that this column cannot be used as a vehicle for fundraising. We cannot solicit funds or list private fundraising foundations. We will, however, be happy to list a student or parent name and phone number as a contact for more information. If you want to submit a mitzvah project, please send information to the WJC Office, attn: Alice Weiss.*

The Larchmont/Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force is a very special part of our community, and several young people at our synagogue chose to work with them as their mitzvah project this past spring. The group consisted of fifth grader Nina Sussman and seventh graders Jay Fiddelman, Daniel Scopp, Isaac Sussman and Ben Wrobel. These students helped to sort and pack bags of nonperishable groceries at the Hunger Task Force’s every other Tuesday night sessions.

The Task Force uses an extremely organized assembly line system for preparing food bags, which are then distributed to the needy in our community. Even though at times this proved to be rather hard physical labor, the children all commented that they really had a good time helping and always looked forward to the next session.

And they clearly understood the purpose and meaning of what they were doing. Nina Sussman commented that “this is a good cause” while Jay Fiddelman added that the program needs “caring people to help.” Ben Wrobel and Isaac Sussman both stated that they would “highly recommend” this mitzvah project to anyone. Daniel Scopp said that it didn’t seem like hard work because they knew it was for a good cause and they were able to make a game out of it.

The Tuesday night sessions are also a great way for the whole family to get involved in doing a group mitzvah.

*The above article was written by Alice Weiss. For more information on the Larchmont/Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force (aka The Food Pantry) and its various opportunities for volunteers, their number now is 698-3558.
Synagogue Family

Mazel Tov and Best Wishes to Fern & Myron Tannenbaum on the birth of a granddaughter, Hannah Gabriella to Heather and Ryan Klaiber...Marc Karell & Linda Alpert on the wedding of their son, Dan Karell to Hannah Hudson...Eileen & Peter Lehrer on the engagement of their daughter Debora to Bryan Laulicht...Meira & Tom Fleisch on the birth of a granddaughter, Ella to Michael & Dayna Fleisch...Lester Millman and Leslie Millman on the birth of a granddaughter, Charlotte to Sarah & Jon Divi...Jackie & Sol Israel on the engagement of their son, Jason to Marissa Moskowitz...Mindy & Andrew Feldman on their daughter Tara joining the IDF...Karen & David Everett on their daughter, Hannelora joining the US Army...Elizabeth Ehrlich & Leon Potok on the birth of a granddaughter, Astrid Adaya to Amalia Potok & Leon Kotlyar...Mark Mishler & Family on the birth of a granddaughter, Perrie to Stephanie & Scott Zucker and the birth of a grandson, Jaden to Amanda & Justin Heller...Michelle & Dan Pfeffer on the engagement of their daughter, Lauren to Simon Levinson...Leslie Garfield on the engagement of her daughter, Lauren to Matthew Bloch...Larry & Cara Iason on the birth of a granddaughter, Kylie Madison to Sara & Joseph DiLeo...Shamala & Arthur Seelenfreund on the birth of a grandson, Kent to Jay Viswanathan...Robin Nichinsky & Seth Schafler on the wedding of their daughter, Eliza to Adar Eisenbruch...and on the engagement of their daughter, Anna to Matt Riemer.

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Lisa Steinberger & Family on the loss of her father, Sanford Lefkowitz...Jonathan Smith & Family on the loss of his father, Charles W. Smith...Cathy Dobkins & Family on the loss of her mother, Janet Dobkins...Harriet Suvall & Family on the loss of her mother, Lily Kaplan...Mitchell Bernstein & Family on the loss of his mother, Dvora Bernstein...Donna Samuel & Family on the loss of her mother, Muriel Shaid...Mike Meadow and Andrea Danziger & Family on the loss of his son and her brother, Aaron Meadow...Ira Friedman & Family on the loss of his father, George Friedman...Larry Thaler & Family on the loss of his father, Joel Thaler...Robin Beth Askins & Family on the loss of her father, William Askins...we mourn the passing of our very longtime member (65 years), Greta Koppel.

The Review of
The Westchester Jewish Center
Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543

Rhythm and Ruach Returns.

Join us outdoors for an instrumental Kabbalat Shabbat and voices-only Ma’ariv. Enjoy a congregational Shabbat meal and celebrate the Koslowe Gallery exhibit of “Across Divides: Border and Boundaries in Contemporary Art.”

Schedule for 2017/18:

- 9/8/17: 6:00pm Service “Under the Stars,” (Dinner 7:00pm)
- 10/6/17: 7:30pm Service (Dinner in the Sukkah 6:30pm)
- 12/1/17: 7:30pm Service, (Dinner 6:30pm, book discussion and dessert 8:30pm)
- 2/2/18: 7:30pm Service (Dinner 6:30pm)
- 3/23/18: 7:30pm Service, “Under the Stars” (Dinner 7:00pm)
- 4/18/18: 7:30pm Service, “Under the Stars” (8:30pm book discussion and dessert)
- 5/4/18: 7:30pm Service, “Under the Stars” (Dinner 6:30pm Volunteer Recognition 8:30pm)
- 6/15/18: 7:30pm Service, “Under the Stars” (Dinner 6:30pm Volunteer Recognition 8:30pm)