



Hillcrest



JEWISH CENTER BULLETIN

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30 Heshvan 5785

December 1, 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President's address to the congregation on the night of Kol Nidre.

This will be the second time that I stand before you on this solemn and sacred evening as the President of Hillcrest Jewish Center. We should reflect on the past year on the eve of Yom Kippur, the night of Kol Nidre. Last year at this time, we talked about the past and the future, but did not have any idea of what was to come in just two weeks. October 7th changed not only our lives, but the lives of those around the world. One year later, we are facing more anti-semitism than in the last century. Israel is fighting battles on three fronts and there is no immediate end to the savage aggression that they face every single day.

Here at Hillcrest, we found ourselves in a world filled with constant discord and distractions. But Yom Kippur provides us with a precious opportunity to pause, to momentarily silence the many issues that we have to deal with in our daily lives. We should take the time to reflect on our actions, our words, and our deeds over the past year.

It is a time to take stock of our lives, to ask ourselves difficult questions, and to confront our imperfections and shortcomings. This past year Hillcrest has been filled with both challenges and accomplishments. We have witnessed the fragility of life with the loss of so many of our long-time members, and at the same time appreciate an influx of new members coming to the shul. One of the challenges ahead is the assurance that Hillcrest will continue through the years here in this building and sanctuary that we have all grown to love. The good news is that we are moving along in the process of the sale and leaseback of the building to a prospective buyer which will guarantee that Hillcrest, as we know it, will survive for at least another 20 years. Hillcrest is forever changing for the better. We are planning more activities

for the future with our student cantor, Rachel Black, who will become our full-time cantor in July 2025. With her leadership, we will be scheduling even more events and activities, better than ever.

Our new Hebrew School, located offsite, along with weekday programs for the youngsters through teens, is now up and running and is well attended. On September 8th the spirit of Hillcrest was on display during the gala, honoring our beloved Rabbi on his 18th anniversary at Hillcrest. For those who missed the event, the ballroom dance floor was filled with members doing the hora and dancing to pop music. Over 220 members and guests enjoyed a wonderful affair.

But, outside of Hillcrest, we have seen acts of kindness and courage that inspire us, and we have also seen the persistence of hatred and injustice that remind us of the work that remains to improve our world. In these moments of prayer and reflection, let us also remember those who are less fortunate, those who are suffering around the world, and those who are in need. Let us all do our best to alleviate suffering in our community and in needy places in the world.

This moment is not just about the beginning of a 25-hour fast, but it is a time for deep introspection, self-examination, and spiritual renewal. Kol Nidre is a powerful prayer. It is a religious formula that annuls vows and commitments made in the year that has passed, a symbolic act of seeking forgiveness for any promises we may have broken, intentionally or unintentionally. Kol Nidre is a call to free our souls from the burdens of the past, to begin anew with a clean slate, and to reconcile with ourselves and with our Creator.

As we enter into this sacred day, we should find the courage to let go of our past mistakes and embrace the possibilities of a new beginning. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a year filled with health, happiness, and meaning. And, may the power of Kol Nidre remind us that we have the capacity to change, to grow, and to become the people we aspire to be.

Thank you and Chag Sameach.

Simeon Saturn, President

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY SERVICES

Sunday, December 1 – Rosh Chodesh Kislev ... Services 8:30 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.

Monday, December 2 – Rosh Chodesh Kislev .. Services 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.

Friday, December 6

Candle Lighting 4:10 P.M.

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

Saturday, December 7 – Vayetze..... 9:00 A.M.

Torah Reading: Genesis 28:10-32:3 Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10

Kindershtul 10:15 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:15 A.M.

Teen Minyan..... 10:30 A.M.

Mincha 4:00 P.M.

Shiur and Snacks 4:30 P.M.

Maariv..... 5:00 P.M.

Shabbat ends..... 5:13 P.M.

Friday, December 13

Candle Lighting 4:11 P.M.

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

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Manes Kogan..... *Rabbi*
Rachel Black..... *Student Cantor*

Simeon Saturn..... *President*
Karen Rothman..... *Sisterhood President*
Martin Guttman..... *Men's Club President*
Esther Tokarz..... *Youth/Family President*
Nadine Kochavi..... *Executive Director*
Joan Hausmann..... *Managing Editor*
Contact HJC Office..... *Bulletin Advertising*

Dr. Israel Mowshowitz 771..... *Rabbi Emeritus*
Moti Fuchs 771..... *Cantor Emeritus*

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United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Hillcrest on the Web

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CENTER FAMILY

Congratulations to

Eva & Len Zimmerman on the Bar Mitzvah of grandson Rafael Zimmerman.

Joan Hausmann on the engagement of her granddaughter Sarah Hausmann to Jonah Rabinowitz.

Corrie & Howard Slewett on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Shae.

Condolences to:

Jane Fuerst on the passing of her husband Larry Marco.

Priscilla Nathanson on the passing of her husband Milton Nathanson.

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

New Members not previously listed:

Jacky Almog Mizrahi

Nina Kohn

Karen & Slomi Liran

Marina Frimer & Stuart Weiler

Ingrid Gordon & Alexander Gelfand

Batyah Gottschalk

David Levine

Dorana Jurkevich

Jennifer Tarazona

Julie Rosen

HILLCREST J.C. CONGREGATIONAL

MEETING

Sunday

December 8

at 10:00 am

From Rabbi Kogan

Dear Friends of Hillcrest Jewish Center,

The day after Election Day, I shared a message with you with my first reflections on "the day after." A couple of weeks ago, I also shared brief comments from the bimah on the election's results.

Having gotten a lot of feedback from family and friends, and to uphold the saying: "three is a charm," I decided to share with all of you, this time through the HJC newsletter, a revision to my reflections, which I hope you'll find meaningful.

In my previous message, after Election Day, I wrote:

A shul is an oasis; a place to be together with our friends and to connect with the Divine, with Hashem. It is imperative that we preserve this characteristic of our shul, and not allow heated or hurtful comments to enter our makom kadosh, our holy space. It is enough to trust that we all share similar hopes for our country and for our families, even if one on either side may struggle to fathom how another's path gets them to that similar desired destination. Our Sages share that one of the two reasons Hashem made certain that no two people look exactly alike is so we would have a physical reminder that no two people think alike either (Babylonian Talmud, Berakhot 58a). We all have cast our vote. Some of you went a step further and actively campaigned in favor of one candidate or another. Now that we have done what we needed to do, our Hishtadlut (our effort), is, for the time being, complete. Our Torah dictates that at a certain juncture we must also put our trust in Hashem and believe that things will work out for the best.

As I reread my words, I stand by them.

On the Shabbat after Election Day, I added that the best way to preserve a sense of harmony, friendship, and companionship, among people who have very strong and opposite opinions on divisive topics, is to avoid talking about them. I also highlighted – using the example of Abraham and Lot – that sometimes, and I believe this is one of these times, the best way to avoid a confrontation is to stay away from that space of confrontation. As I advised extended families who have a tradition of ending Thanksgiving meals with a major fight: stay away from Thanksgiving meals with your extended family!

However – and here comes the revision of my previous statement – there is a possibility to hold conversations on difficult and divisive topics under some rules of engagement:

- 1) Those engaged in the conversation are ready and choose to be part of that conversation. In other words, a special space and time for that conversation is established, as opposed to throwing the topic on people who are not ready or willing to engage in it.
- 2) The goal of the conversation is to listen to others who think and feel differently, with respect, and to learn from them without trying to convince them that they are wrong.
- 3) Those engaged in the conversation do it knowing that the opinions of the people taking part in the conversation may touch on sensitive issues or expose thoughts and opinions for which they might not be ready.
- 4) The conversation needs to be facilitated by someone with experience in facilitating difficult conversations. That person will make sure everyone around the table feels validated and has a chance to speak and to share with others what they think and feel.

My personal experience, even with very close friends, is that most people are not ready for conversations on difficult and divisive topics, and hence it is better to stay away from them, if we ought to preserve the sacred spaces of our families and congregations.

Again, my experience is that most conversations that take place around difficult and divisive topics are among people who share the same opinion and who enjoy validating each other's points of view or calling names on those who differ with them.

However, I am glad to be proven wrong, and while personally I am not ready for it, I will be open to a space for a "conversation on difficult topics" at Hillcrest Jewish Center, under the above right conditions.

I also reiterate that if you feel especially anxious about the future of our country, Israel, the Jewish people, or any other issue, and feel I can help, please reach out to me, and let me try to make a difference. You can always reach me on my cell phone: 718-570-3032.

May Hashem bless this great country of the United States of America, and may its best days lie ahead.

With love, faith, and optimism,
Rabbi Manes Kogan

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Highlights of the October meeting

Treasurer's Report: The current balances in the general fund, the payroll account, the capital improvement account and the money market account were presented. The annual dues will reflect the cost of living (2.5%) increase. A \$1,000 donation was made to North Carolina food bank for hurricane relief.

Exec Report: The sale of the building is still proceeding smoothly with no new updates.

HJC Day Camp: Due to financial losses, low participation among current members, and potential liabilities, the Executive Committee chose to wind-down the summer camp.

Executive Director's Report: The Roberts boiler-work is nearly complete, but the other boiler is acting up. Local Law 97 compliance efforts are on track. A list of recommended technology upgrades was presented. This will be addressed once pending funding for applied grants is finalized. The building received a "D" grade for energy efficiency, which is an improvement over previous years. The purchase of high holiday seats has declined by approximately 6% year after year and the price paid for those seats has declined by approximately 8% year after year. As a result, there is an ongoing discussion about consolidating all seating into the sanctuary. A committee will be formed to examine this.

Sisterhood Report: The multi-generation Sukkah decorating event was a success. The Sisterhood paid-up luncheon scheduled for October 28th at 11:30 AM is sold-out. The Joint Men's Club Program "Jukebox Bingo" is scheduled for December 15th and an ad will be sent out with the November bulletin.

Men's Club Report: We're looking forward to seeing everyone for pizza in the sukkah. Please RSVP. We also hope to see everyone at our joint Jukebox event with Sisterhood.

Youth and Family Report: Five families attended the corn maze. A-mazing-ly, no one was lost. Services for children were available during the high holidays. There was a dinner on November 1st for all families of kids aged 2-17 with grandparents encouraged to attend.

Old Business: A daily minyan only had six people the other day. We strongly encourage everyone to come to minyan.

Good and Welfare: Mazal Tov to Monte & Dikla Shulkes on the Bar-Mitzvah of their son, Ty. B'shaha Tovah to Mark & Debbie Solkoff on their

upcoming first grandchild. Thank you to the Security Committee on a great job during the high holidays. Congratulations to Myles Resnick on his upcoming graduation from Binghamton University Phi Beta Kappa. Thank you to Andria and Harold for their work on the Kol Nidre appeal.

See you at minyan,

Mark Solkoff, Board Chair

SHABBAT AND HOLIDAY SERVICES

Saturday, December 14 – Vayishlach..... 9:00 A.M.
 Torah Reading: Genesis 32:4-36:43 Haftarah: Obediah 1:1-21
 Kindershtul 10:15 A.M.
 Teen Minyan..... 10:30 A.M.
 Mincha 4:00 P.M.
 Shiur and Snacks..... 4:30 P.M.
 Maariv..... 5:00 P.M.
 Shabbat ends..... 5:14 P.M.

Friday, December 20
 Candle Lighting 4:13 P.M.
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 21 – Vayeshev 9:00 A.M.
 Torah Reading: Genesis 37:1-40:23 Haftarah: Amos 2:6-3:8
 Bar Mitzvah: Shae Slewett, son of Corrie & Howard Slewett
 Mincha 4:00 P.M.
 Shiur and Snacks..... 4:30 P.M.
 Maariv..... 5:00 P.M.
 Shabbat ends 5:17 P.M.
Havdalah and Pre-Hanukkah Celebration..... 5:30 P.M.

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day
Building closed except for services 8:30 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 25 – Erev Hanukkah, light one candle at night

Thursday, December 26 – First Day Hanukkah, light two candles at night

Friday, December 27 – Second Day Hanukkah, light three candles before Shabbat
 Candle Lighting 4:17 P.M.
 Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 28 – Miketz – Birkat HaChodesh..... 9:00 A.M.
Shabbat Hanukkah - Third Day Hanukkah, light four candles after Shabbat
 Torah Reading: Genesis 41:1-44:17, Numbers 7:24-29
 Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7
 We welcome the new month Tevet

Rosh Chodesh is Tuesday & Wednesday, December 31 & January 1
 Junior Congregation..... 10:15 A.M.
 Mincha..... 4:00 P.M.
 Shiur and Snacks..... 4:30 P.M.
 Maariv..... 5:00 P.M.
 Shabbat ends..... 5:22 P.M.

Sunday, December 29 – Fourth Day Hanukkah, light five candles at night

Monday, December 30 – Fifth Day Hanukkah, light six candles at night

Tuesday, December 31 – Rosh Chodesh - Sixth Day Hanukkah, light seven candles at night

Wednesday, January 1 – New Years Day – Rosh Chodesh
Building closed except for services..... 8:30 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.

Seventh Day Hanukkah, light eight candles at night

Thursday, January 2 – Eighth Day Hanukkah

PRE-HANUKKAH CELEBRATION

Later this month, on the 25th of Kislev (December 21st), we will celebrate Hanukkah. The mitzvot for this festival are lighting Hanukkah candles all eight nights and chanting the Hallel during the morning Shacharit service. Customs include eating latkes, soufganiot and cheese, giving gifts, and playing dreidel. Dreidel is a gambling game where, after you ante up, the letter that comes up when you spin the top tells you what to do: take the whole pot; take half the pot; do nothing; or ante up again. It's a fun way for families to gamble using chocolate coins!

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Pre-Hanukkah Celebration p. 3 cont.

Actually, the dreidel game is the old game of teetotum, which used a spinning top with four sides and four letters. This game of chance was played by the Greeks, Romans, English, French, and Germans. The word dreidel is derived from the Yiddish word dreyen, which means *to turn*.

Rabbis struggled to find a connection between the dreidel and the Hanukkah story. One popular explanation is that dreidels were used to evade King Antiochus' decree prohibiting Torah learning. Students kept a gambling toy similar to a dreidel in their pockets. If Greek soldiers raided these secret schools, children would quickly take out their spinning tops and some coins and explain that they were just playing games. Rabbi Professor David Golinkin is of the opinion that there is an irony here in that the holiday of Hanukkah is about resisting assimilation; yet the dreidel game was adopted from other cultures.

A widely accepted explanation is that the letters on the dreidel (Nun, Gimmel, Hey and Shin), represent *Nes Gadol Haya Sham*, "A Great Miracle Happened There" - the miracle(s) being the recapture of Jerusalem, the rededication of the Second Temple and the oil lasting eight days.

Rabbis, who were influenced by the Kabbalah, determined the gematria (numerical value) of the dreidel's four letters is 358, the numerical equivalent of the Hebrew word Moshiah (Messiah).

Another explanation is that letters represent the four kingdoms, which tried to destroy the Jewish kingdom: N = Nebuchadnezzar/Babylon; H = Haman/Persia; G = Gog/Greece; S = Seir/Rome.

A fifth explanation is that the letters represent the divine aspects of a person: Nun = *Nefesh*, one's soul; Gimmel = *Guf*, one's body; Shin = *Sechel*, wisdom; and Hey = *Hakol*, all of a person's core qualities.

While there are other Hanukkah customs worth investigating, the game of dreidel has enriched and enhanced the celebration of the holiday, especially for children.

Come join us for a Hillcrest Havdalah and a pre-Hanukkah celebration on Saturday, December 21st at 5:30 PM.

Happy Hanukkah to all!

Helene Jacob, Vice President

**SISTERHOOD**

JUKEBOX BINGO – just like regular bingo but without numbers – all song titles or artists of the 50s, 60s or 70s.

All this is happening on Sunday afternoon, December 15th from 1:30-4:30. This is a joint Sisterhood and Men's Club program. Join us! It will be lots of fun!

Only a few days are left before the cutoff date of December 6th. This program is by RESERVATION ONLY. The cost for Sisterhood members, Men's Club members and their spouses is \$15 per person. For all other guests, the cost is \$18 per person. The flyer is enclosed in the Bulletin mailing envelope. Please return the tear-off with your check. **All checks should be made payable to Sisterhood Hillcrest Jewish Center.**

Just a reminder that after the cut-off date for the program, we will no longer be advertising the flyer.

Sisterhood had made a generous donation to the Israel Bond Breakfast to help cover the cost of the food. We also purchased a bond to honor our two Sisterhood members, Bertha Strauss and Andria Grundman-Cooper.

Congratulations to Merle Askenas-Kaplan on the birth of her great-grandson, to Adele Rothstein on the engagement of her granddaughter, and to Joan Hausmann celebrating her 90th birthday. A donation was made by Joan thanking all for their birthday wishes.

We pray for the return of all hostages.
Happy Hanukkah,

*Karen Rothman,
Sisterhood President*

MEN'S CLUB

The table-game *BINGO* has its roots in 16th century Italy, introduced to France in the 1770s, then making its way to North America in 1929 (known then as *BEANO*). Popularizing it then was a Polish Jew (eldest son of an orthodox Rabbi), by the name of Edwin S. Lowe. Educated in Palestine, he eventually resettled in Brooklyn at age 18. Amongst his various occupations was that of *Gaming Entrepreneur*.

Which brings us to **JUKEBOX BINGO**, a recast of that original game, using audio-visuals ("*music*"). An unnamed song is played to the audience by a DJ (*Disc Jockey*). The audience must then guess its name and see if there's a match on their Jukebox Bingo card. The game is made a lot more challenging since the music varies from generation to generation (the 1950s through the 80s, and so forth). Correct answers on each

individual's card are marked with a Jukebox Bingo chip. And, as in traditional *BINGO*, full horizontal, vertical and diagonal alignments of the chips on the card acknowledge you as **A WINNER!!** There's more! All winners of each game played receive a "scratch-off card" with a monetary amount ranging from a couple.... a few.... to ??? dollars.

SOUNDS LIKE FUN? Then please join Hillcrest Jewish Center Men's Club AND Sisterhood on Sunday, December 15th, in the Moreida Auditorium, from 1:30 to 4:30 PM. Refreshments (individually packaged), coffee, tea, soda and water will be served. The nominal cost is \$15 per person for Men's Club AND Sisterhood members and their spouses. For individuals who are not members of Men's Club or Sisterhood, the entry fee is \$18. Relatives and guests are welcome. **RSVP absolutely required BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6.** Please make personal checks **payable to Sisterhood Hillcrest Jewish Center.**

Submitting your 2024-2025 Men's Club annual membership dues of \$45 as soon as possible entitles you to reduced entry fees to many of our events. Any questions, comments, suggestions of future in-house or community offerings (concerts, movies, stage productions, museums, sporting venues, tours, etc.), please contact President Martin Guttman (mpguttman@gmail.com).

We wish you all a Happy Hanukkah.

*Joel Berkowitz
Men's Club Co-VP*

IRA CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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

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

Les Sufrin

ISRAEL BONDS BREAKFAST

On a beautiful Sunday morning, November 3rd, Hillcrest Jewish Center hosted an Israel Bond event honoring Bertha Strauss and Andria Grundman-Cooper with an awesome turnout and a lovely breakfast.

Rabbi Kogan discussed doing good deeds first and then coming around to feeling good about it, as contrasted to the Western philosophy of not doing the good deeds until they feel something for the subject at hand.

We were treated to an inspirational, rousing speech by Rudy Rochman who spoke about what it means to be a Jew, especially during these antisemitic times, and how when we are united, we succeed against our enemies, whereas when we are divided against each other the enemy prevails against us. Unity is the key. He encouraged us to stand up and make ourselves a light unto the nations.

A big thank you and yasher koach to Susan Diamond and her crew for arranging the scrumptious breakfast, to Kathy and Gerry Lewis for chairing the event, and to Arnie and Ellen Schweitzer for their work with Israel bonds at Hillcrest Jewish Center. It was a beautiful Sunday.

Gail Keren

FROM ISRAEL BONDS

After a few years off, Hillcrest Jewish Center came roaring back with a memorable and very successful Israel Bonds breakfast on November 3rd.

The *Ruth Collier Leadership Awards* were presented to Bertha Strauss and Andria Grundman-Cooper and Hillcrest's iron clad support for Israel was on display with a huge number of Israel Bonds purchased.

Special thanks to Kathy Lewis (Event Chair), Susan Diamond and her committee, Rabbi Kogan, Cantor Rachel, Nadine, Melissa, Juana and their crew, and of course, the Collier family.

If still interested in Israel Bonds - still counting towards Hillcrest's 2024 campaign - please contact Arnie Schweitzer at arnie.schweitzer@israelbonds.com or call (516)726-2307.

Attention Snowbirds

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



BERTHA STRAUSS AND FAMILY



ANDRIA GRUNDMAN-COOPER AND FAMILY

Photos by Gerry Lewis

URGENT – HELP NEEDED – PLEASE RESPOND

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

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

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

Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938

Bertha Dreyfuss Strauss spoke these words at HJC services November 9, 2024.

Eighty-six years ago, more than 1,000 synagogues were burned, their pews destroyed; sacred Torah scrolls and holy books were set aflame. More than 7,000 Jewish businesses were ransacked and 30,000 men aged 16-60 were arrested and sent off to German concentration camps.

I was too young to personally remember that time. However, a person in Karlsruhe (where I was born and where we lived) wrote my family's history in a commemorative book for the Karlsruhe Jews.

My father was arrested with other Jewish men in Karlsruhe on November 11, 1938, after Kristallnacht November 9th when synagogues were burned and shops destroyed. He was sent to the Dachau concentration camp. He was released on December 7, 1938. He was assigned to a forced labor unit of the city of Karlsruhe, possibly on road construction. After this experience my parents decided to immigrate to the US. But they received a high quota number and visas were no longer granted.

In October 1940 my parents, my brother and I and all the people in our city were deported to an internment camp in Southwestern France, Gurs, then to Rivesaltes. My parents were then sent to Auschwitz. Fortunately, my brother and I were rescued by the organization OSE (Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants)

When Hitler took over as chancellor of Germany as early as 1933 and even before, Jews were the targets. We see now the rise of antisemitism in the US and all over Europe. Israel is going through horrors now. Young people, especially Jews, are rallying in support of Hamas. We must do more to educate and teach our kids and perhaps their parents.

We remember with pride the role of the synagogue and the prominence of the synagogue in German society, and the cruelty that was inflicted on Jews 86 years ago. We must resolve to end the explosive antisemitism we are experiencing today.

We must recognize that what just happened in Amsterdam this week is the real-life example of what happened on Kristallnacht 86 years ago and we realize what we experience today as the rise of antisemitism should not be taken lightly. We must open our eyes to this situation.

Jerusalem Post Reporter Presents

This is your roving correspondent bringing you an up close and personal report about the very informative and

knowledgeable speaker who visited Hillcrest on Sunday, November 10th.

The gentleman in question was Herb Keinon, a senior contributing editor from the Jerusalem Post for the last 38 years.

Originally from Denver, Colorado, Mr. Keinon spoke of his family's involvement in the IDF, with his sons' needing to serve multiple tours of duty in both Gaza and Lebanon. This, he explained, is due to the lack of enough able-bodied Israelis to serve in the combat zones on an on-going basis. He felt Israel had reached a point now where there is serious discussion about the participation in the military of members of the Haredi community who have been exempt from service up till this time. This is now looked at as an existential need to aid in the survival of the State.

Mr. Keinon expressed the belief that October 7th was an occasion that will reshape Israel for generations to come. He discussed how the failures experienced by military intelligence and the IDF have been a teachable moment that will direct military strategy from now on. Time will only tell what will result from the election results in the U.S.

Yasher Koach to the Adult Ed committee for arranging yet another learning opportunity. *Alan Reisner*

Tree of Life:

The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting

On October 27, the Adult Education Committee showed the film "Tree of Life: the Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting." The movie had a great impact on the more than fifty people who were in attendance.

When the movie ended the room was silent as most of the audience had an emotional reaction to it. One woman said her legs were shaking at the end and another said she was speechless. Everyone was absorbing the important messages contained in the film: community, respect, helping one another, along with the impact violence has on one's life. *Kathy Lewis*

A Note from Gail Keren

Although it was very hard to watch and to be reminded of these tragedies, I think it's very important that we are reminded of them and work towards preventing such tragedies in the future.

I thought it was very useful that the program discussed gun control and hatred speech. I also like the idea from Chabad of doing mitzvot in the deceased person's name. I think that's very concrete and practical.

Perhaps in the future we could say kaddish as a group after similar programs

and end all programs with the singing of Hatikvah. I think that would be a fitting end and tie up the programs nicely.

Please share my appreciation with the anonymous donor for making the film available and for the good breakfast.

MEZUZAH HANGING

It was a special day at the Jones-Cintron household as we had the Rabbi and Silvia visit to help us affix new mezuzahs (we used Silvia's brother's beautiful kosher handwritten scrolls). Baruch Hashem, each room in the house now has a mezuzah and we are happy we secured our home with blessings for the New Year. We treated the Rabbi and Silvia to coffee, sponge cake and bowties in appreciation for a job well done!

If you want your mezuzahs checked, or if you have only one mezuzah and wish to have one on each room, consider inviting Rabbi Kogan to your home to help with the project. Just make sure to have his favorite cake handy when he is finished!

Thank you, Rabbi Kogan and Silvia, for helping us perform this important mitzvah. *Gwen Jones-Cintron*



Save on your 2024 Taxes

Just a reminder to send in all contributions before December 31, 2024 to take advantage of any deductions on your 2024 tax return. Your check payable to Hillcrest Jewish Center is the most economical way to make your payment. HJC has MasterCard, Visa, Amex and Discover available to assist you, but there is a 3.1% service charge if credit cards are used. Please see Juana, Melissa, Brona or Nadine.

SYNAGOGUE OFFERINGS

General Fund:

Susan & Ralph Straus in honor of Joan Hausmann's special birthday.

Susan & Ralph Straus in honor of Sela & Steve Zellman's grandson's Bar Mitzvah.

Sela & Steve Zellman extend a Mazal Tov to Joan Hausmann upon her special birthday and to thank her for everything she does for Hillcrest. *cont. on page 7*

General Fund Donation

Joan Hausmann thanks all the people who wished her a happy 90th birthday at the kiddush following services on November 2nd, and many more who were not able to attend but had wished her well at services the week before. Thank you to those who made donations, and to her family for the new leaf in her honor. Thank you to Susan Diamond and her team. Special thanks to the Talking Sports small group for the Mets cap with the Postseason emblem. Last but not least, thank you to Rabbi Kogan for the phone call at 9:00 AM when he sang Happy Birthday on the actual birthdate in October. I love you all.

Regina & Mark Damon thank Rabbi & Silvia Kogan for their New Year visit to our home, blowing the shofar and bringing blessings.

Mimi and Ed Collier congratulate Sela & Steve Zellman on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Erik.

Iris Schachter wishes Mazal Tov to Abby Heinfink and her family on her Bat Mitzvah.

Iris Schachter wishes Mazal Tov to Joan Hausmann on her big birthday.

Iris Schachter wishes Mazal Tov to Ilana Galatan, Ellen Hochstein, Gwen Cintron-Jones and Rochelle Mandell on the celebration of their Bat Mitzvah.

The Schweitzer family thanks Jeffrey Rosenberg for handling all the honors during Hillcrest's High Holiday services.

Aviva & Jimmy Peress thank Susan Diamond.

Merle Askenas-Kaplan & Bernie Kaplan congratulate Julianna Rose Kaplan on receiving her Tanakh from Solomon Schechter School of Long Island.

Susan & Ralph Straus in honor of Susan Diamond and the Kiddush Committee for the beautiful kiddushim they make every weekend and for the Israel Bond Breakfast.

Dorothy & Larry Schonfeld wish a speedy recovery to Sherry Reisner.

Deborah Arluck thanks Kathy & Gerry Lewis for arranging the showing of the movie *A Tree of Life*.

Sela & Steve Zellman wish Sherry Reisner continued good health.

Marianne Halpern for yahrzeit of mother Zelda Tish.

Dorothy & Larry Schonfeld express their condolences to Jane Fuerst and family on the loss of Larry Marco.

Sela Zellman for yahrzeit of father Philip Eisenstat.

Harriet Rosengarten for yahrzeit of beloved mother Lillian Horen.

Carl Gruber for yahrzeit of mother Faye Gruber.

Sherry & Alan Reisner extend condolences to Jane Fuerst, Michael & Larissa Marco, and the rest of the Fuerst-Marco family on the passing of beloved husband and father, Larry.

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

Sheldon Lorber for yahrzeit of father Harry Lorber.

Stanley Klein in memory of Fred Horen, loving brother of Harriet Rosengarten.

Stanley Klein in memory of Howard Rosenthal with condolences to Phyllis Rosenthal and family.

Susan Hamburger for yahrzeit of grandmother Esther Goldman.

Beth Ritter for yahrzeit of husband Gene Ritter.

Beth Ritter for yahrzeit of aunt Barbara Cassell.

Mimi & Alan Frank in memory of Larry Marco, beloved husband and father.

Sharon Taxin for yahrzeit of mother Anne Chester.

Michael Cantor for yahrzeit of grandmother Fannie Zucker.

Paula Schoen for yahrzeit of father Martin L. Schoen.

Joel Berkowitz for yahrzeit of grandmother Sheindel Peltz.

Bernard Spear for yahrzeit of mother Gussie Spear.

Andria Grundman-Cooper for yahrzeit of mother Pearl Grundman.

Andria Grundman-Cooper for yahrzeit of father Samuel Grundman.

Susan Beberfall for yahrzeit of mother Flora Beberfall.

Nina Kohn for yahrzeit of father Joseph Kohn.

Doris Fried for yahrzeit of father David Berkowitz.

Doris Fried for yahrzeit of mother Ida Berkowitz.

Hilda Dorf for yahrzeit of father Jacob Siegel.

Mark Solkoff for yahrzeit of uncle Sydney Philip Solkoff.

Alan Frank for yahrzeit of father John Frank.

Mimi Frank for yahrzeit of brother Mark Levy.

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

Abby Belson for yahrzeit of aunt Esther Dinkoff (Esther bat Shlomo HaKohen).

Iris Schachter in memory of Howard Rosenthal, husband of Phyllis.

Iris Schachter in memory of Saul Spiel, son of Norton Spiel.

Roxanne & Arthur Solarsh in memory of Howard Rosenthal, beloved husband of Phyllis Rosenthal.

Roxanne & Arthur Solarsh in memory of Harriet Rosengarten's beloved brother Fred Horen.

Aviva & Jimmy Peress in memory of Howard Rosenthal.

Alan Bloom for yahrzeit of mother Rose Bloom.

Norman Mickenberg extends condolences to Phyllis Rosenthal and family upon the passing of her husband Howard Rosenthal.

Benjamin Burman in memory of Efraim Burman.

Aggie & Ted Weisz in memory of beloved father Solomon Weisz.

Fredda Chodrow-Goldberg for yahrzeit of grandfather Abraham Chodrow.

Anita Kent for yahrzeit of mother Ethel Kornhauser.

Carol Pine for yahrzeit of grandmother Tziporah Pinchuk.

Susan & Ralph Straus in memory of Howard Rosenthal.

Sela & Steve Zellman extend heartfelt condolences to Norton Spiel on the passing of his son Saul.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Shulkes Family.

Michael Berlin.

Beth Ritter thanks Rabbi Kogan for his thoughtfulness and generosity on Sukkot.

Shirley Goldfeder in honor of Rabbi Kogan, a very special Rabbi and dear friend.

Esther Tokarz thanks Rabbi Kogan for giving her the honor of Kallat Torah.

Gail Keren thanks Rabbi Kogan for the Parshat Noach/rainbow aliyot.

Pearl Shachar in honor of a lovely Adult Ed program with Tecumseh Ceasar.

Mowshowitz Library Fund:

Anne Neiwirth in appreciation for her Bat-Kohen aliyah on Parshat KiTavo.

Roberta Sufrin for yahrzeit of father Myer Shapiro.

Roberta Sufrin for yahrzeit of mother Lillian Shapiro.

Hillcrest Scholarship Fund:

Aviva & Jimmy Peress wish Mazal Tov to Abby Heinfink and her family on her Bat Mitzvah.

Prayer Book Fund:

Roberta Sufrin for yahrzeit of father Myer Shapiro.

Roberta Sufrin for yahrzeit of mother Lillian Shapiro.

Askenas Audio Visual Fund:

Merle Askenas-Kaplan & Bernie Kaplan congratulate Julianna Rose Kaplan on receiving her Tanakh from Solomon Schechter School of Long Island.