



## Rabbi's Desk

Rabbi Aaron Benson

*"In Emperor Julian's mind the myths that shock the vulgar are noble allegories to the wise and reverent. Purge religion from dress if you like; but remember that you do so at your peril. One false step, one self-confident rejection of a thing which is merely too high for you to grasp, and you are darkening the Sun, casting God out of the world."*

*Five Stages of Greek Religion, Gilbert Murray*

During his brief reign, Julian, a pagan, attempted to turn the Roman Empire away from Christianity. He even encouraged the Jews to rebuild the Temple, but his death in battle ended his efforts and Christianity prevailed. The passage above reflects his belief that not every effort to "reform" or make "more rational" or to strip away "superstition" from religion is, in the end, for the better. When that which was formerly irreplaceable and invaluable is seen as open to improvement, it can also be opened to degradation in meaning and power.

My continuing resistance to the belief that a *minyan* can be formed entirely remotely stems from such a view. Why must a *minyan* be in person? Because it simply must. That is where its power and mystery lie. Put it online and it becomes like everything else.

But that does not mean there are no technological innovations to serve us

during this time of quarantine, social distancing and pandemic. The recently issued *teshuvah* (responsa) by the Committee for Jewish Law and Standards (CJLS) does Conservative Judaism proud with the thoughtfulness and thoroughness with which it examines the permissibility of live-streaming services even on *Shabbat* and holidays. I disagree with one part and agree with another, so I'd like to explain in more detail why I take the positions that I do. Please note, that the language below may sound "stern" or "authoritarian," but I employ it as the subject matter calls for a more formal "rabbinic" tone; nobody is actually in trouble, don't worry!

Returning to the idea that a *minyan* must be made up of people physically present together (though they can certainly be at safe distance from each other if need be), my biggest reason -

for disagreeing is what I stated above - a *minyan's* power as a shared, in person experience, simply cannot be undermined. But this is not the only reason.

The CJLS's *teshuvah* relies on precedent for counting individuals at a distance from each other, for example up on a roof and down in the street or across a field from each other, or allowing the *minyan* to be all remote as in both cases the individuals still "see" each other. I think this is not the correct reading as in the earlier cases the people described were still together physically. Online, not only are we not actually "seeing" other people directly, we are also not "hearing" them directly, which is also a requirement of prayer.

While a community of the past obviously had no remote technology, that does not

*continued on page 4*



Heather Welkes

**Mazal Tov to our Zayin graduates!** L-R: Gabriel Finger, Tyler Stickelman, Jillian Queller, Sari Schneider, Sarah Golden, Eleanor Schneider, Matthew Blumenthal, Daniel Nemesure, Zevi Asner, Jake Schwarzbard, Donovan Hunt

North Shore Jewish Center  
385 Old Town Road  
Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776

Rabbi Aaron Benson  
Cantor Daniel Kramer  
Rabbi Emeritus Howard Hoffman

### NSJC Staff

Executive Director: Marcie Platkin  
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Main Office: 631-928-3737

Fax: 631-928-9700

Rabbi's Cell: 631-318-0180

Religious School: 631-928-1174

Office Hours: M -Th 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Website: northshorejewishcenter.org

Email: executive.director@nsjc.org

Bulletin Editor: Sharon Waxenbaum

Proofreader: JoAnne Shapiro  
bulletin@nsjc.org



## Daily Minyan

### Mornings

Monday & Thursday.....TBA  
Tues. Wed. & Fri.....TBA  
Saturday.....TBA  
Sunday.....TBA

### Evenings

Sunday - Thursday.....TBA  
Friday..... TBA  
Saturday.....TBA



NSJC will schedule virtual  
*shiva* visits as needed.  
Zoom links will be in your email.



## Candle Lighting

June	5	8:03 pm
June	12	8:05 pm
June	19	8:10 pm
June	26	8:10 pm



## Mincha/Ma'ariv

June	6	8:05 pm
June	13	8:10 pm
June	20	8:10 pm
June	27	8:10 pm



## NSJC Youth Group

Grades 4 & 5 • Sundays

Grades 6, 7 & 8 • Sundays

Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 • Wednesdays

Watch for fall schedule!

## Tot Shabbat • Fridays



Family Shabbat • Fridays/Saturdays

Services resume in the fall!

***"Two are better than one...and a threefold cord will not easily break."***

*Kohelet Perek 4*

During these stressful days, your NSJC family stands ready, willing and able.

We are here for each other. Social distancing can take a toll on many of us.

Please check in on each other. Give a friend or neighbor a call.

Do you know someone who may need a helping hand? To request help for yourself or for someone you know, or to offer your help, please call the office at 631-928-3737.

### Email contact:

**Rabbi Benson** - Rabbi.Benson@nsjc.org

**Marcie Platkin** - executive.director@nsjc.org

**President Paul Gold** - paul.gold@nsjc.org

**Bookkeeper Mary Ellen Shouler** - bookkeeper@nsjc.org

**Secretary Sharyn Carr** - secretary@nsjc.org

### Social Media contacts:

<https://www.facebook.com/nsjc.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/nsjcyouthgroup/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nsjcsisterhood/>

<https://www.facebook.com/nsjcmensclub/>



*The Congregation and Board of Trustees offer  
their deepest condolences to the following:*

**Arthur Golnick and Alan Golnick** - On the loss of their son and brother,  
Jay Golnick on May 6, 2020.

**The Mendelsohn Family** - On the loss of Helene Mendelsohn on May 21, 2020.

*Zichranam livracha.*

May the memory of the righteous remain for a blessing.



## Services in June

<b>June 5/6</b>	<b>Parshat Nasso</b>
Friday	5:45 pm <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Zoom link in email
Saturday	9:15 pm <i>Havdalah w/Cantor Kramer</i> Zoom link in email
<b>June 12/13</b>	<b>Parshat Beha'alotcha</b>
Friday	5:45 pm <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Zoom link in email
	9:20 pm <i>Havdalah w/Cantor Kramer</i> Zoom link in email
<b>June 19/20</b>	<b>Parshat Sh'lach</b>
Friday	5:45 pm <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Zoom link in email
	9:25 pm <i>Havdalah w/Cantor Kramer</i> Zoom link in email
<b>June 26/27</b>	<b>Parshat Korach</b>
Friday	5:45 pm <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Zoom link in email
	9:25 pm <i>Havdalah w/Cantor Kramer</i> Zoom link in email



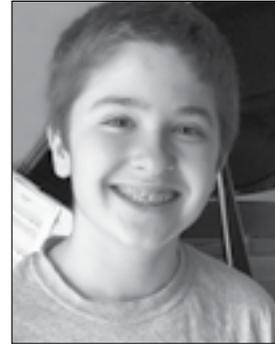
## Milestones

**NSJC Sisterhood** has received the Women's League of Conservative Judaism's Jewel in the Crown Award. It will be presented at a WLCJ Virtual 2020 Convention ceremony on Sunday, July 12, 2020. See page 8 for award description.

**JoAnne & Marc Shapiro** celebrated the birth of their granddaughter, Phoenix Margaret Shapiro, on May 17, 2020. She is welcomed by proud parents, Kirstin & Zachary Shapiro and grand aunt and grand uncle, Phyllis & Jim Frank.



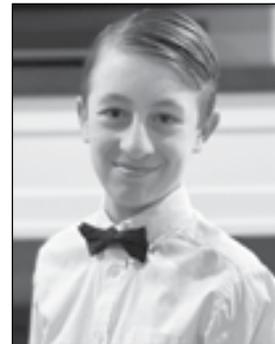
The congregation and the NSJC Board of Trustees extend a *mazal tov* to the following *B'nai Mitzvah* and their families:



Daniel Nemesure, son of  
Barbara & Seth Nemesure  
Thursday, June 4, 2020 10:00 am



Matthew Blumenthal, son of  
Judy Bernstein & Jeremy Blumenthal ז"ל  
Sunday, June 21, 2020 10:30 am



Jacob Schwarzbard, son of  
Diana & Itchak Schwarzbard  
July 2020 *Parshat Pinchas*



Zevi Asner, son of  
Haschmonit & David Asner  
August 2020 *Parshat Eikev*

*Rabbi Benson continued from front page*

mean we cannot imagine a better parallel to inform on our present situation. Had, for example, the precedent been that a community in the past arranged for its members to all pray at home at the same time and relied on this to count as a *minyan*, that would better convince me, but at no point was such a policy instituted.

Furthermore, to rely, as the *teshuvah* states, on these being “unprecedented times” and thus requiring drastic changes is hubris common to the way Americans in general think of history. To imagine our current situation is any different and certainly any worse than that which Jews went through in the times of cholera, the Black Death, or the Holocaust only demonstrates a lack of knowledge and understanding of true horrors that did not produce such major breaks with tradition. As a member of our community who survived Auschwitz told me regarding the current situation, “I’ve seen worse.”

Nevertheless, to allow for remote streaming of services is not, in many ways, even so much of an innovation. A fixed camera trained on the *bimah*, for example, set up before *Shabbat* or *yontif* and allowed to play, is in many ways no different than the security cameras we employ that similarly run nonstop. A camera, as the *teshuvah* lays out in great detail, should not be manipulated, definitely not by a Jew (no dramatic closeups as the Cantor chants *Kol Nidrei*), but for in-person participants to walk in and out of the frame as they otherwise participated as per normal does not pose insurmountable problems.

The *teshuvah* further delineates how one at home could set up things so as to at least minimize, and I believe at most avoid entirely, any direct transgression of *Shabbat* and holidays. While the same could be said of someone who leaves the radio (or Spotify) playing all *Shabbat* without changing the volume or channel technically does nothing wrong, there is still a sense of violating the “spirit” of *Shabbat*. I would argue that the present circumstances do allow for us to forego particular concern with this value. Not to mention, one would likely be inside watching, one’s family would understand no violations had actively taken place and thus would have no doubts about the behavior. Furthermore, the person praying on their own at the same time as those on the stream would further seem to me to diminish the violation of the spirit of observance.

Nevertheless, there are many concerns for the person watching at home which are of concern to me, but not to the point I would forbid. The *teshuvah* goes into exhaustive detail, and I would suggest those looking to implement the procedure follow its detailed instructions. Among the considerations are:

- To set up the feed before the holy day and to let it run through its end.
- To turn off sleep mode so that the screen does not go dark.
- Not to type and not to record as these are likely forms of writing which is forbidden even on *yontif* even to those who

might legitimately understand electricity to be permissible to manipulate on holiday days.

- Finally, and to my mind most likely to be transgressed, one is not a part of the *minyan* on camera, and so responding “amen” or responding to the *Barchu* or *Kedushah* or reciting the *Kaddish* should not be done as the individual at home is, as explained above, not in a *minyan*. Unless of course there is a *minyan* present together at the remote site as well, but such a situation and all its details go far beyond what I address here.

Regarding the last point about participation, and I suppose all the points about what one needs to do at home while watching, I am not blind to the fact that it is likely to be observed to different degrees by different people. Nevertheless, I don’t think the rules would be impossible to observe. Just like we don’t chain off the parking lot on *Shabbat* so that if you park down the street and walk the last block, or if you park right out in front (“like the Queen of Romania” in the words of Miss Daisy when Hoke does in front of her synagogue in the Alfred Uhry story), we don’t shun or punish those who make such choices on their own. I don’t see such fears, though worthy of concern and education, to be worth forbidding what ultimately, I believe is a halachically defensible as well as communally vital interpretation of Jewish Law.

What does all this mean for NSJC? Circumstances will dictate to be sure. Will this be how *Shabbat* services function for a while? Will it mean High Holidays are conducted like this? I’m not sure. Will we continue to allow such practices even after a new normal is established? Again, I can’t say for sure, though I have more concerns about making it a regular practice at all times, going back to my argument about the “magic” of being together.

Yet I hope that studying and thinking about this will be worthwhile for you as it continues to be for me. As we are taught to say at the end of a study session, in acknowledgement of the mental and spiritual rigor such learning offers, “the Lord was pleased, because of God’s righteousness, to render the Torah great and glorious.”

No matter what we face, may we face it together as a community and with reliance on the guidance of the Torah and the love of God.



Sharon Waxenbaum

## Annual BQLI Woman of Achievement Gala

The annual BQLI Women of Achievement Gala, scheduled for June, has been postponed. Please watch for updates.

Our NSJC Sisterhood looks forward to celebrating with our Woman of Achievement, **Ann Helfgott!**



## Sisterhood

Carol Greenberg & Marilyn London  
Co-Presidents

This has been an unusual year for all of us. Sadly, we've lost beloved synagogue members to COVID-19 and we offer our condolences to their families.

Sisterhood derives its strength from caring and helping. *Chesed*, compassion and caring, is alive and well at North Shore Jewish Center. When the pandemic cut us short mid-March, Board of Trustees members began to call congregants to check in. The Writers Club met on Zoom, and the *Rosh Chodesh* group has met virtually as well. Sisterhood offered projects such as knitting bears, writing to prompts, and attending Zoom Women's League workshops. The NSJC Book Club is meeting and our members are doing Tai Chi through a virtual class. We are separated by social distancing, but together as a congregation.

Our good news is that NSJC Sisterhood has been honored with the Women's League Jewels of the Crown Award for 2019-2020. We've turned lemons into lemonade!

Seeing so many of you at the Friday night *Kabbalat Shabbatot* brings smiles all around. We hope that all of you stay safe. Tend your gardens. Love your children. Teach your children. Show *chesed* to one another. Until our doors are open again, read your NSJC emails to learn how to join in Sisterhood and synagogue activities. Looking forward to seeing you on Zoom!



## Men's Club

Jerry Green, President

As our Men's Club program year officially comes to a close, I would like to take a moment to look back at some highlights: we ushered for High Holy Day services, constructed the NSJC *sukkah*, enjoyed our annual Scotch 'n Steak membership barbeque, recited *Kaddish* at the Central Islip Cemetery, flipped flapjacks at the December 25<sup>th</sup> Pancake Breakfast, honored our past presidents at Men's Club *Shabbat*, sponsored Family Breakfast/Bowling, participated in the World Wide Wrap, sponsored Defensive Driving classes, organized *shiva minyanim* and coordinated programs with Sisterhood that included a breakfast, "A Night in the Catskills," Comedy Night and the annual Art Auction.

The COVID-19 pandemic shut down much of our spring routine, and the second joint breakfast, the FJMC Man of the Year dinner and our annual softball league games were cancelled as a result. (Many of you may not have received your *Yom HaShoah* candles, for which I apologize.)

I thank our dedicated Men's Club Board for making all this possible by running our programs, and for supporting me, our organization and the congregation. I look forward to embarking on a new year as we continue to engage with our community.



To read the entire CJLS responsa:  
***Streaming Services on Shabbat and Yom Tov***  
as cited in Rabbi Benson's column

go to:  
**[rabbinicalassembly.org](http://rabbinicalassembly.org)**

## Torah Portion of the Week



Study the *Parshat HaShavuah*,  
the Torah portion of the week,  
with Rabbi Margie Cella

Download the link from our weekly email!

אני יכול לקרוא עברית!  
אני יכול לקרוא עברית!  
Learn to Read Hebrew Online  
with Marty Rubenstein!  
Wednesdays, 11 am  
To join, contact Marty at  
[inewton5@gmail.com](mailto:inewton5@gmail.com)  
אני יכול לקרוא עברית!  
אני יכול לקרוא עברית!

## Moments with a Torah Hum

David Kramer offers brief  
yet deep thoughts on Judaism.



Give a listen!

Download the link from our weekly email!



## Jewish Learning Center

Heather Welkes, Principal

I began teaching in 1999 and while my career is far from over, I've had some memorable experiences. There was the terrifying time that one of my students had a seizure in class. Another time I had to call a parent because I caught a first grader flushing my chalk down the toilet. Then there was the time when the custodian left my door open and my classroom hamster escaped. And while I knew that going into the field of education would be far from dull, nothing prepared me for teaching through a pandemic.

On a Wednesday afternoon we were in our classrooms but by Sunday we were uploading Zoom and meeting to reconfigure our entire curriculum from in-person learning to distance learning. We scanned and called, texted and downloaded, in order to create a whole new JLC experience. Our entire schedule was revised to make sure that families didn't have all of their kids in class at the same time, in case they didn't have a device for each child. Our matzah-making program was cancelled and I had to come up with ways to celebrate the holidays when we are not physically together. The first week I found myself emptying my schedule and the second week it was jam-packed with webinars about how to make the most out of teaching virtually.

Here's the good news: it worked! The kids were excited to log on and see their friends, and the teachers jumped right in, head first (even the ones who were not the most tech savvy.) We still learned Hebrew, we still celebrated holidays, and we still held assemblies to recognize our students for their hard work.

While we could not have an in-person ceremony, we were still able to celebrate our graduates. The current *Zayin* students hold a special place in my heart because I met most of them when they were in Miss Lois' Pre-K class when I ran our nursery school music program. I got to know the class even better when I became their *Alef* teacher. I've watched them grow for almost ten years and I can say, with great confidence, that NSJC turns out the most creative, funny and *mentsch*-like students.

Even without the traditional graduation ceremony, we made the kids feel special. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, we drove in a caravan to each of the kids' homes and surprised them by blasting music, honking horns, waving signs and throwing confetti. We also Zoomed a virtual graduation and played a video slideshow of the children, complete with personalized messages from their parents. The students showcased their learning and digital diplomas were presented.



## MITZVAH PROJECT UPDATE



### Daniel Nemesure, *Bar Mitzvah* Thursday, June 4, 2020

"My *Mitzvah* Project focuses on helping to save the environment. I'm doing what's right, as did Samson's parents. [*Haftarah* for Naso, Judges 13:2-25] I've been collecting bottles and cans for recycling over the past several months and I plan to continue this effort through the summer.



The money that is collected from the recycling will be matched by myself with the proceeds sent to an environmental protection agency."

### Matthew Blumenthal, *Bar Mitzvah* Sunday, June 21, 2020

Many people in the world suffer from hunger. This problem is particularly bad now because people have lost their jobs due to the Coronavirus pandemic. As one part of my *Mitzvah* Project I am hosting a trivia contest for my friends, using a website called *freerice.com*. For each question they get right, they earn 10 grains of rice. At the end, all of the rice collected will be given to a world hunger program. My goal is to collect 30,000 grains of rice. The second part of my project helps students and their families living in my school district who rely on the school lunch program. Now that school is closed, they are in need of nutritious food. I'm hosting a virtual food drive to collect food and gift cards for the Three Village School District Food Pantry. I will collect nonperishable food and supermarket gift cards in a bin by our mailbox (7 Yorktown Road, Setauket) until June 15<sup>th</sup>. Or, you can donate to my fundraising Paypal account (<https://paypal.me/pools/c/8pooAsjuUI>) and I will shop for you. Any donation is appreciated. Thank you!



As we wrap up the JLC calendar year, plans are being made for the fall. We don't yet know what future programs will look like - digital, in-person or a hybrid. We do know that we will continue to make it work, meet everyone's needs and, most importantly, we will keep our children connected to NSJC and their Jewish friends.

Knowing that our students will be home from camp this summer, plans are currently being developed for a summer program that will feature Zoom sessions focusing on everything from social time, rituals, games and activities to keep them engaged. Keep an eye out for the schedule emailed in mid-June.

We may be physically distant, but we are still a NSJC family!



### Zayin Graduation Parade

On Sunday morning, May 24<sup>th</sup>, NSJC teachers, congregants, employees and Board of Trustees members drove to the home of each *Zayin* graduate to surprise them with a drive-by parade. Pictured is Miles Welkes holding a sign wishing the students *mazel tov!*



## JLC May Calendar (Jewish Learning Center)

**Wed, June 6: Regular Zoom classes**

**Sun, June 7: No classes • Zoom assembly at 10:00 am**

Each class will share a special project. There'll be a video slideshow with highlights from the year, and our teachers and volunteers will be recognized. Everyone is welcome:

**Meeting ID: 773 6675 2071 Password: Assembly**

**Parents!**

Keep an eye out for a JLC summer programming email.



Family Heritage/Thanksgiving!

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Tooting at Tashlich!



Students in the Sukkah!



Havdalah Candle-making!



Blowing our own Shofarot!



Hamantaschen Bake-Off!



Purim Sameach!



Simchat Torah Dress-Up!



Chanukah Chappening!



Tu B'Shevat 7 Species Muffins!

## NSJC Sisterhood Receives WLCJ's Jewels in the Crown Award

Every Sisterhood chapter across the United States can be a jewel when it offers programs that nurture and sustain Jewish life and vitality in their local communities. Sisterhoods who have gone that extra step and met the criteria of a wide range of activities, those developed and sponsored by Women's League of Conservative Judaism (WLCJ) as well as home-grown programs and initiatives, can be acknowledged as one of the "glittering jewels" in the crown of the organization.

The WLCJ **Jewels in the Crown Award** was established to honor those Sisterhoods that demonstrate achievement in three categories. Highlights of our NSJC Sisterhood's achievements included the three areas of **Education/Programming**: *Sederai*, *Rosh Chodesh* group, Weekly Torah class, *Sukkah-Go-Round*, Sisterhood *Shabbat*, *Tikkun Olam* projects; **Community Service/World Affairs**: *Pink Shabbat*, collecting items for those in need, *Sederai*, cooking at a soup kitchen, marching in Celebrate Israel and Solidarity parades, women's safety program, financial donations to programs at NSJC, in the community and in Israel; **Women's League Activities**: attending BQLI *Mitzvah* Days, WLCJ *Shabbat*, consulting with WLCJ, attending WLCJ convention.

The NSJC Sisterhood award presentation will take place during the **WLCJ Virtual 2020 Convention** to be held on **Sunday, July 12, 2020** from **10:30 am - 5:00 pm** via Zoom. Attendance is free, but registration is necessary.

Watch for details!



**Rosh Chodesh**, the new month, is a reminder to all Jews of the rhythm of the Jewish calendar, yet it has taken on a special resonance with women. Join our Sisterhood sisters as we study, discuss and learn while focusing on our spiritual growth. **The next meeting will be zoomed on June 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Watch your email for the July and August meeting dates.

The **Mother Bear Project** hopes to provide comfort and hope to children affected by HIV/AIDS in emerging nations by giving them a gift of love in the form of a hand-knit or crocheted bear.



If you would like to participate in Sisterhood's *chesed* (kindness, compassion) project, please contact Sisterhood Co-president Carol Greenberg at [sixmutts@optonline.net](mailto:sixmutts@optonline.net) and she will send a pattern to you.

For more information go to [motherbearproject.org](http://motherbearproject.org).

## NSJC Book Group

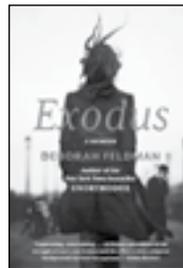
Please contact **Susan Kessler** at [elksuk@aol.com](mailto:elksuk@aol.com) for Zoom details!



### **Hush by Eishes Chayil**

June 4 • 1:30 pm

Written by Judy Brown, under the pseudonym, Eishes Chayil, the novel deals with sexual abuse in a Hasidic community in Brooklyn. It was selected as a Best Book of the Year by Kirkus Reviews.



### **Exodus by Deborah Feldman**

July 16 • 1:30 pm

Deborah Feldman, the author of the best selling memoir *Unorthodox*, chronicles her continuing journey as a single mother, an independent woman and a religious refugee.

## MERCAZ READS ISRAEL

**MERCAZ reads Israel** an online book club featuring contemporary Israeli literature that provides insight into and understanding of the lives and concerns of our Israeli counterparts.

### **Discuss "A Rabbi's Daughter" with author Avigail Graetz**

**Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>  
1:00 pm EDT on Zoom**



Our first selection, *A Rabbi's Daughter*, a novel by Avigail Graetz, is a semi-autobiographical story of three generations of strong women. Drawing inspiration from the author's life experience growing up in southern Israel, in the home of a Masorti (Conservative) rabbi serving a Masorti *kehillah*, this book is the first Israeli novel set against the background of Masorti Judaism.

To **join** the club and **register** for author discussion go to [mercazusa.org](http://mercazusa.org).

And join the Facebook group, our online home!

## NSJC Writers Club



In the NSJC Writers Club, we share our writings, bounce ideas off one another and work to improve our writing skills. We invite a range of writers - the novice through the more experienced,

and teens to adults - to join us as we work with varied genres: poetry, creative writing, memoir, etc. We help each other explore new ways of expressing ourselves. For

Next meeting will take place on

June 1<sup>st</sup> • 7:30 pm

Watch your email for the Zoom link!

## Dairy for Shavuot

Thank you to Carol Greenberg and Terry Kocivar for sharing their recipes for blintzes and a dairy kugel (noodle pudding) and to Hilary Kramer and Marilyn London for their hands-on demonstrations!



**Hilary Kramer** demonstrated how to make her award winning cheese cake. (Her cake placed second in Abraham & Straus' - yes, that A & S - 1981 baking contest!)



**Marilyn London** demonstrated how to make her "favorite (and only)" mother-in-law Ruth London's dairy coffee cake.



## Dear NSJC Family,

23 years ago, then NSJC Executive Director Lila Pahl asked me to take on the role of NSJC Bulletin editor. At that time, Rabbi Hoffman mentioned to me, in passing, that often the announcement of a program or the write-up of a successful activity is all we have to show for the efforts put in by the many volunteers who create the spiritual life of our *kehillah*. I took both his observation and this incredible responsibility to heart.

And so, through the years of holiday observances and members' lifecycle events, Men's Club and Sisterhood programs, Seniors and Youth Group activities, Hebrew School, fundraisers, educational/social events and community outreach, it has been my goal to present promos and recaps that reflected well on our synagogue and represented the considerable depth and range of programs and services that NSJC offers to our members and to our greater community.

My husband, Preston, retired last year and we are presently spending our time between homes in Connecticut and Florida. Writing and editing the Bulletin over the years has been an inspiring experience and truly a labor of love.

I'm grateful beyond words for having had the opportunity to and the privilege of working with our dedicated NSJC volunteers, who selflessly shared their considerable talents and donated their time to enhance our community. It was a relief to have had a dependable source of support from our clergy, Lila, Marcie Platkin and our office staff, and our custodial staff. *Yasher koach* to my proofreaders for their keen vision, patience and senses of humor!

Thank you to Pres, and to our children, Erin and Josh, for their encouragement in all my endeavors. And thank you to the many friends we have made here over the years - you have enriched our lives beyond measure.

*L'hitraot!*

Sharon

Check out the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism weekly **Torah Sparks**, with insights and learning materials on the *parsha*, Torah

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Each week you'll find a **d'var Torah**, a discussion on some aspect of the reading by CY faculty, alumni and friends; a **Vort**, a short thought from Chasidic rebbes or other thinkers about some point in the text; and **Table Talk**, questions to stimulate discussion on the *parsha* around the *Shabbat* table. A printable PDF is linked at the end of each week's presentation.

Go to: [learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/](http://learn.conservativeyeshiva.org/torah-sparks/)





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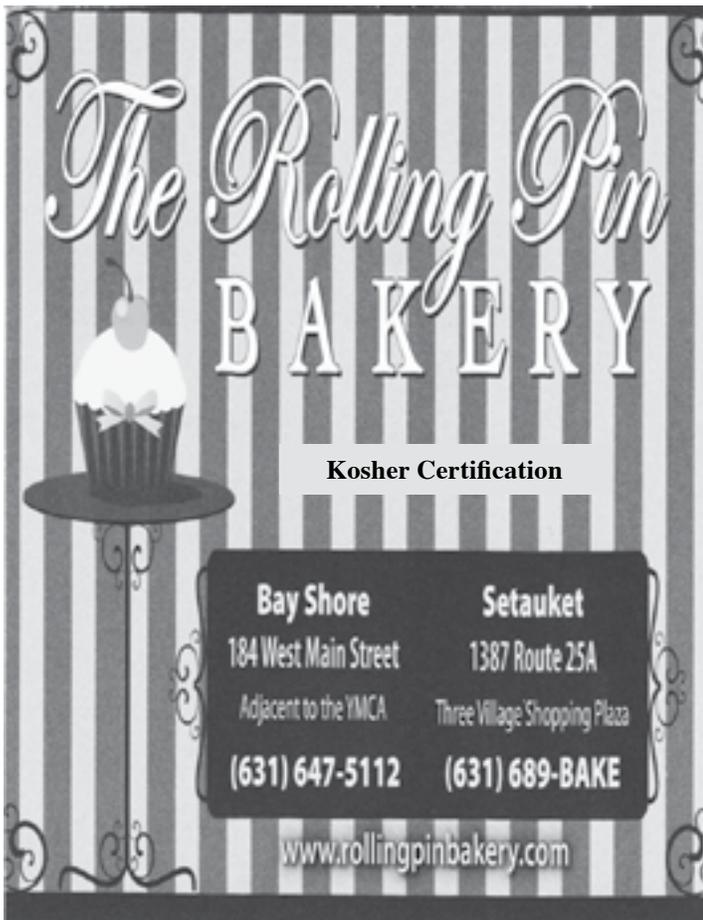
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## Defensive Driving Teaching Opportunity

Men's Club Board member **Fred Graff** will be stepping down from his Defensive Driving (DD) course responsibilities after over 20 years of organizing and seven years of teaching the course.

While offering this class here at NSJC will remain a Men's Club function, there is now an opportunity for any NSJC member, male or female, to become a licensed DD teacher.

Men's Club hosts this six-hour course, that is open to the community, once a month from September through June. If you wish to become a licensed defensive driving instructor and teach the course here at NSJC as a volunteer, Men's Club will pay for the licensing fee.

Upon becoming licensed, you will become an "agency" and receive a book with all the materials necessary for teaching the course. This will authorize you to teach defensive driving at other venues as well, such as libraries, businesses, etc., for which you will receive compensation.

Please contact Fred at [thegraffs4@optonline](mailto:thegraffs4@optonline) for further information.



A *chesed* project related to *Parshat Tazria-Metzora* would be a modern-day precaution for spreading disease - making a mask. The following are links to videos on how to make a mask:

- COVID-19: How to make masks from home:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqCHJozg-MM>
- How to sew a reusable face mask:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inJQexwK8Y>
- How to make DIY Face Masks for healthcare workers:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8O88qNImD8M>
- For beginners! How to make a fabric face mask at home:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_6UcIDaxfqk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6UcIDaxfqk)
- DIY: Instant facemask from socks! No sew, no rubber band:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPdrF85KXSE>
- DIY Mask Simply Easy (out of socks):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oMYII7ccTbM>
- How to make a quick mask, no sew and no elastic mask:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkcjt59j\\_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkcjt59j_8)
- How to make DIY face mask out of a bra:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuGbEa2ex74>

(WLCJ Online Learning April 20, 2020/26 Nisaan 5780)



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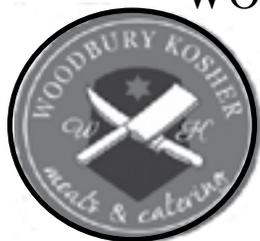
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