Come to the JRC Kumzitz

We’re celebrating the start of our Jubilee year!

Saturday, January 11, 2014
6:00–8:30pm

It’s going to be a fun night for all ages! Get ready for Havdalah and a lively sing-along song session led by JRC member Jeff Winter. (Bring an instrument and join the jam.) We’ll provide the songsheets and refreshments—you bring the energy!

What the heck’s a Kumzitz?
Kúm-zitz, n. from the Yiddish “Kum, zitz” (Come, sit); Hootenanny, Song Fest

Want to know more?
Contact JRC Jubilee co-chairs Marie Davidson and Lisa Fain at jubilee@jrc-evanston.org

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Rabbinical Commentary — Brant Rosen

I’m sure that by now more than a few of you have seen the recent feature on me in the *Jewish Forward*, which focused on my Israel/Palestine activism—with a significant portion devoted to the impact it has had on JRC.

Whenever I’m interviewed for the press, I’m always a bit nervous about how my words will be portrayed in the final copy—particularly on sensitive topics such as this. Thus I was personally very happy (and relieved) to find this piece, in the main, to be a fairly balanced and nuanced in its description of my work inside and outside of our congregation.

By now, of course, my Palestinian solidarity activism is not a major secret. I’ve been doing this work for a good five years in the bright light of day through writing, speaking and trips to the region. Through it all, however, I have never for a moment underestimated how my activism must surely affect our members and our congregation as a whole. As I was quoted in the article, I’ve been all too aware that that “there were many members of my congregation who didn’t agree with me, and many who were actually deeply pained by the things I was saying and doing.”

I also know full well that no matter how many times I qualify my writing and my speaking with the caveat that I do not speak for my congregation, there will invariably be those who associate my personal opinions with the corporate views of our congregation. I know this is an area of no small pain for some of our members as well.

I’m acutely aware that my activism makes me—and often JRC—a lightning rod for controversy. That’s why I am profoundly grateful to be part of a congregation that respects and understands their rabbi’s need/responsibility to speak his conscience. Indeed, one major reason the *Jewish Forward* wanted to do this story was to explore and illuminate the extraordinary—and fairly unprecedented—example of a congregation that continues to engage the services of a rabbi who openly engages in advocacy that pushes so many of the hot buttons of the organized Jewish community.

At the same time, our congregation is equally committed to creating a safe congregational environment in which the plurality of our members’ views are respected and acknowledged. As soon as I started down this new activist path five years ago, JRC’s leadership responded courageously. Throughout this exceedingly difficult and tense period, our Board thoughtfully developed a process by which JRC could find a way for our congregation to engage in civil discourse on the issue of Israel/Palestine that might coexist with my new activism. (*The Chicago Jewish News* actually did a wonderful story about our efforts at the time, which you can read here.)

Although there have understandably been bumps on the road since then, we remain committed to forging ahead. This past fall, the JRC Board created a new Israel Task Force charged with developing a policy for JRC that will ensure our congregation’s Israel programming is fair and balanced. I’m grateful to JRC members Robin Trilling (our Board VP for Tikkun Olam), Stan Cohen, Joel Blechman, Jil Deheeger, Lou Weiss and Debi Lewis for serving on this task force. Thus far they have met three times and report they are making wonderful progress.

Please feel free to be in touch with them if you have any concerns, feedback or ideas on how we might help create an environment at JRC that respects our diversity of opinion and experience on the subject of Israel/Palestine. I want our members to know they can always come to me in such a way as well. While I understand that it might be difficult for some to approach me given my passion for this particular issue, please know that I am equally as passionate about the maintenance of a safe congregational community that respects all our members’ views on this most difficult and painful of subjects.

BTW: On a related note, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College has just announced it is sponsoring a trip to Israel this spring from May 14 to May 21. If you are interested in experiencing Israel through uniquely Reconstructionist eyes, this will surely be a special and important opportunity. You can read more about the trip here. 🌟

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Rabbi Rosen can be reached through the JRC office: 847.328.7678. In case of emergency, he can be reached at home: 847.475.9603 where an answering machine will record your message if he is out. Email address: rabbi@jrc-evanston.org.
A Note from Our Cantor — Howard Friedland

Our daughter attends a small college in the upper Midwest. My first encounter with the school was when we dropped her off in the fall. I loved the campus, the town, the faculty—even the food. But what impressed me the most was the courtesy of the students. I don’t mean one or two students. Out of a population of two thousand people, at every turn students were holding doors, saying “hello,” saying “thank you” if we held a door for one of them. It wasn’t put on or laden with syrup. Just a place where mutual respect is expected of everyone in the community. I know that’s one of the reasons our daughter chose to go there, and I would suspect it was a determining factor in other students’ decision to attend.

In short, the students practice derech eretz. Derech eretz literally means “the way of the land.” It is a philosophy espoused by Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch of the Neo-Orthodox movement. It is translated as “the proper way of behavior: decent, polite, of good character.” It was said that a person was not equipped to study Torah unless he practiced derech eretz.

This is my soap box issue. We parents, along with high school administrators, push our kids to take every advanced placement course they can so that they can be nervous wrecks through four years of high school, then graduate at age eighteen with the equivalent of a bachelor of science degree in engineering. And to what end?! So that we, as parents, can say we’re proud?

I care more about who my kids become than what they become, and I would argue that they become is the primary factor of what they become. (For those of us concerned about our kids’ ability to earn a living—and who isn’t?—the ability to earn one’s own living, by the way, is included in derech eretz.)

We have all gone on job interviews, and before our talents and qualifications are discussed, the interviewer wants to get a picture of who we are as people. Because when it comes down to qualifications, any number of people may be qualified. The person who gets the job is the one who can work with others in a respectful way, unselfishly. Are there selfish, rude people in the workplace? Sure, but they usually self-destruct over time and move on. And everyone loathes them.

So who’s responsible for teaching derech eretz? Our son goes to a great high school, but there is not one ethics class offered. I would say parents and caregivers have the responsibility. Not only in their example, but in what they say. Our children need to hear us say that proper behavior is important to us, and it needs to be constantly reinforced.

I teach our JRC kids how to chant Torah and the prayers, but I view my main job as modeling good behavior. All of us at JRC have a responsibility to each other to be polite and respectful: parents to children and children to parents; teachers to students and students to teachers. We can take our cue from Camp JRF where good behavior is not policed, but is modeled and thereby enforced by everyone there.

JRC is our home, and all of us, as members, are extended family. We must smile at each other, respect each other, and nurture each other and any guest who visits our home so that it is a place of sanctity.

Those things go a long way. They may even be more important than an A+ on a chemistry test.
Tuches afn Tisch—David Tabak, President

One of my favorite Yiddish expression is "tuches afn tisch." While it can be loosely equated with "lay your cards on the table," clearly our forbearers were more impressed with laying something more tangible on the table.

With this in mind, I feel it my responsibility to report on three major initiatives currently underway at JRC, namely, the Jubilee Campaign to retire our building loan, our strategic plan, and the newly formed Israel Task Force. I believe these three initiatives are essential for the future of our spiritual home.

Jubilee Campaign
We entered this fiscal year with slightly less than five million dollars to raise for our beautiful home (out of a total project cost of 11 million dollars.) I am happy to report, thanks to the generosity of fellow JRC members (some making their third gift), we have raised an additional $1.25 million. I am grateful to the Jubilee Campaign Committee under the guidance of Campaign chair David Pinzur, who has reached out to approximately 25% of our membership. This is an excellent start and I hope you will welcome your fellow member when one calls to ask for a meeting.

Strategic Plan
Last year, the Board of Directors approved a strategic plan to guide us for the next three years. You can learn more about the plan on our web site. At each meeting, the Board receives a report on progress towards our goals. One of the major initiatives is the creation of an annual planning session in which all the committees and task forces come together to discuss their plans for next year and find opportunities for collaboration. The first planning session will take place in February and I look forward to reporting on the outcome. In addition, we are working on establishing a Board section on our website devoted to Board activities, new policies as well as reports on the strategic plan, all accessible to JRC members.

Israel Task Force
If there is one issue I hear more about at JRC, it’s the Israel/Palestine issue. While I am under no illusions we can reach a consensus on this issue, I want to assure you that all positions are heard and no one should ever feel like an outsider at JRC. With this in mind, I have convened an Israel Task Force under the leadership of Robin Trilling, Vice President of Tikkun Olam. I am sure you will be hearing from the Task Force in the near future.

Of course, there is so much more going on at JRC, too much to list in a simple column. I welcome your calls, questions, complaints, kvetches, nudges, and naches and promise to always place my tuches afn tisch in responding.

JRC Community Yellow Pages
JRC is publishing a professional directory, giving you an opportunity to promote your business, highlight your vocation, or let your fellow congregants know about your volunteer activities. Several levels of payment are available, including a free listing and an opportunity to place a full-page ad on the back or inside covers. Starting in January 2014, you will be invited to submit your entry online by the February 1 deadline.
Programming — Tom Samuels, Director

Adult Education
The Adult Education Committee has been very busy. This year’s crop of programming ranges from the historiography of Jewish nationalism, to the Jewish community’s interfaith experiences, to deconstructing Martin Buber; and even to the Jewish graphic novel. Coming up over the next few months we have Natural Parenting and Therapeutic Parenting workshops as part of our Sunday Morning Parenting Class series; an exploration of what it means to hold the dual identities of being both Jewish and American; Gender and Feminism in the Torah; a Sacred Music Tour of Chicago’s African-American synagogue community with Cantor Friedland; and so much more.

Also, a shout out to our teachers, many of whom come from the JRC community itself. The benefit of this extends beyond the transfer of knowledge and information. Community-building, meaning-making and co-creating a sacred and inspiring JRC environment is made possible through these dedicated and engaged members.

To register for Adult Education Programs, please click here.

If you are interested in finding out about the Adult Education Committee, please contact Steve Romm, Chair, Adult Education Committee.

Monthly Friday Night Potlucks
All JRC members are invited to join us for a monthly community Shabbat potluck dinner! Check out the JRC weekly email to sign up for these. Bring your favorite dairy/veg dish, and most importantly, your Shabbat spirit. Guests and visitors are also welcomed.

The next potluck will be on January 10, 2014 starting at 6:15pm.

Make sure to stay after the potluck for a special Shabbat Service and Oneg honoring JRC members as part of our 50th Year Jubilee celebrations. Services start at 7:30pm. (See “JRC’s Jubilee Year special Shabbat Service & Oneg” below.) Please make sure to register in advance.

For more information about our Shabbat Community Potlucks, please contact Sara Polonsky, Potluck Coordinator.
JRC’s Jubilee Year Friday Night

JRC’s Jubilee Year Friday Night Special Shabbat Services and Onegs

Fifty years of JRC mean 50 years of wonderful JRC members! JRC’s Membership Committee invites all JRC members to come together throughout the year to special Friday night Shabbat services and onegs celebrating the people who make JRC a vibrant center of Jewish community, learning and prayer for Chicagoland.

Make sure to put into your calendar January 10, 2014 when we will honor JRC members who joined between the years 1994–2003 with a special Shabbat Service and Oneg (wine, cheese and delectable fare)!

The service starts at 7:30pm followed by the oneg. Don’t forget to come to our Shabbat Community Potluck Dinner starting at 6:15pm, before the service—see article above.

For more information, please contact Sandy Spatz, VP, Membership Committee.

Tu B’shvat Community Seder: Friday January 17, 2014

JRC invites you to our 12th annual interactive, musical, family-friendly Tu B’shvat Seder celebrating the Jewish festival honoring Mother Earth. Children’s programming includes arts and crafts projects, music and more. Sing along with Cantor Howard Friedland and the JRC Junior Choir. Our guest speakers will be Jane and John Balaban, habitat restoration coordinators at Harms Woods in Morton Grove. We will learn about exciting environmental Tikkun Olam, Repairing our World opportunities right here in our own community.

This year’s seder includes a veggie/dairy potluck dinner. So bring your potluck dish, your appetite and your “green” energy.

For more information, please contact Julie Dorfman, JRC’s Green Team.
Religious Education – Terri Bernsohn, Director

In early November, I had the privilege to attend the Reconstructionist Educators of North America (RENA) annual conference which was held at the Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reiserstown, MD. The theme of the conference was “Reconstructing Congregational Education—Keeping Supplementary Schools Relevant and Engaging.” For three days, 25 Reconstructionist educators from Massachusetts to California participated in workshops, panels and informal discussions. (Full disclosure: as the Vice Chair of the RENA Board, I was responsible for the conference programming.)

The Torah portion read during this conference week was Vayetze, in which Jacob wakes from his dream and thinks, “God was in this place, and I didn’t know it.” We talked about the value in being completely present in this moment and in this place in order to fully experience it. We noted that most of us, adults and children as well, rarely allow ourselves to stay still long enough so that we might take in and appreciate the experiences and human interactions of daily life. This conference gave us the opportunity to stop and reflect on the rewarding work we do and to connect with colleagues to share successes and problem-solve our challenges.

These are some highlights of the three-day conference:

• Studying Torah with Rabbi David Teutsch, Director of the Center for Jewish Ethics, followed by an arts exploration of the parsha, led by Jewish educator Marilyn Price.

• “Exploring the Prophets through a Modern Lens,” led by Rabbi Isaac Saposnik, Director of Camp JRF.

• Sharing teaching strategies with a Reconstructionist perspective.

• Engaging in a productive discussion with representatives from the newly configured Reconstructionist movement, collaborating on a vision of mutual support between the movement and RENA educators.

• Creating an infrastructure of support for our teachers and teenage madrichim

• Experiencing a mind-body minchah (afternoon) service which included chanting, movement, meditation and prayer, and was led by Rabbi Ariann Weitzman.

• Collaborating on program development and best practices in congregational schools.

I also want to give a quick update on the Hebrew through Movement curriculum we’re experimenting with this year. I just polled some 4th, 5th and 6th and I’m encouraged by their responses. “I love it! It’s very active.” “We get to actually do the Hebrew instead of listening to it.” And my favorite, “So much more absorbing than the usual textbooks.”

Many thanks to the JRC community for supporting my professional development, and to our teaching staff, who are my willing collaborators in experimenting with curriculum and materials.★★
Youth Group — Chantal Blaustein, Director

Welcome back.

I hope you had a nice summer, mine was exciting and exhausting. We moved to Deerfield and my oldest became a Bar Mitzvah on August 24. Who knew a Bar Mitzvah was harder to plan than a youth group event!!

Something else new and exciting is happening this year. Last year was such a successful one that our teens requested to be in charge this year and, with the help of the wonderful Emily Harris, Tamar Frolichtein-Appel and Kim Grahl, we formed our very first Youth Group Board.

Our first meeting was in June. It was led by the co-chairs Aviva Feldman and Matthew Harris Ridker. They assigned responsibilities like a communication committee led by Sam Frolichtein-Appel, Ben Dorevitch and Shanti Polara, a treasurer, Izzy Eisen, and programming chair, Julia Wellisch.

All high school kids are welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings, we need voices and help.

Our first event for 5th grade and up was in October. Izzy Eisen, with the help of the Youth Group Board, organized and ran an amazing scavenger hunt throughout the JRC building. We also had our traditional trip to Sky High. Sixty kids came and jumped! Thank you to our amazing parent volunteers Julie Victor, Clyde Partner, Sally Pallier, Michael Gladstein, Martin Okun, and David Greenwald for helping.

Our next Youth Group event is December 15 at 1:30pm for 5th graders and up. We are making cookies and distributing them to a shelter. Robin Trilling is working with one our teens, Julia Wellisch, to organize the get-together.

In January we will have a few events. The high school kids are having a board meeting and movie night on January 4, we have our ski trip for 6th graders and up on January 19, and a bowling event for the 4th through 6th graders on January 26.

February 14–16 we have our Midwestern Youth Group Kallah with Shir Hadash and the theme this year is Superhero!!!

I am also excited for this year to welcome our new 5th graders. Do not hesitate to contact me with ideas, questions, and concerns or just to say hello. Hope to see you around!
Library Update — Eva Eisenstein, Librarian

Selected Recent Arrivals in the Library

• The Radical American Judaism of Mordecai M. Kaplan by Mel Scult
  Drawing on Kaplan’s 27-volume diary, Mel Scult describes the development of
  Kaplan’s radical theology in dialogue with the thinkers and writers who mattered
  to him most, from Spinoza to Emerson, from Matthew Arnold to Felix Adler,
  John Dewey, and Abraham Joshua Heschel. (From the publisher’s description)

• Letting It Go by Miriam Katin. This graphic memoir is the second by Miriam Katin.
  The world of Holocaust survivor and mother is turned upside down by the news
  that her adult son is moving to Berlin, a city Katin has villainized for the past
  forty years. Wry, self-deprecating anecdotes counterpoint a serious account of the
  myriad ways trauma infects daily existence, both for survivors and their families.
  (From the publisher’s description)

• The Modern Jewish Mom’s Guide to Shabbat by Meredith L. Jacobs
  Whether you were born and raised Jewish, are in an interfaith marriage, a recent
  Jew by choice, or simply want to bring more tradition to your family and into your
  home, this book is perfect for you. It is comprehensive, useful, and written in a
  warm, engaging, and conversational tone. (From the publisher’s description)

• Hillel: If Not Now, When? by Joseph Telushkin
  This is not a conventional biography, since little is known about Hillel whose
  religious leadership went from about 30 BCE to 10 CE. Rabbi Telushkin, a rabbi,
  lecturer, ethicist, novelist, playwright and author, demonstrates his unusual
  versatility in this book. Anita Diamant writes of this book: “We experience Hillel
  at his most optimistic, succinct, and radical, insisting on the primacy of righteous
  behavior, an armswide welcome for converts, the challenge and blessing of lifelong
  Jewish learning, and the importance of Jewish educators who love their students and
  studies in equal measure.”

• The Prophet’s Wife by Milton Steinberg
  You may be surprised seeing another title by this author, who died in 1950.
  Known throughout the American Jewish world for his iconic novel As a Driven Leaf,
  Steinberg died before he completed The Prophet’s Wife. Very recently Behrman House
  decided to publish the novel as is, with added commentaries and a foreword. It
  deals with infidelity, faith, and power in a gripping story of the biblical prophet
  Hosea and his wife, Gomer.

• A Guide for the Perplexed by Dara Horn
  Dara Horn returns with a spellbinding novel of how technology changes memory
  and memory shapes the soul. (From the publisher’s description) This is not a perfect book
  but it is a great read which leaves one pondering a number of issues

More titles have been added to our small but growing DVD collection. If you wish to
suggest and/or donate a DVD title, (or a book title) please contact me.

If you are interested in sponsoring any of the above titles or any other titles either
with a direct donation or with the JRC Library Birthday Book Program, please
contact me. All users of the Library, and the Librarian will be extremely grateful.

The Library is on the 2nd Floor, east side of the building. Librarian hours are
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays when Religious School is in session. Otherwise
the library is open when the building is open. The Library Catalog is available via
the JRC website under Education, and then Library.

Eva Eisenstein can be reached at eeisenstein@jrc-evanston.org or 847.328.7678 x2255.
Kvell Korner

To kvell (or shep naches) means to be proud of. This column is devoted to letting our community know about the wonderful things happening in the lives of JRC members. If you have news to share, please contact Bonnie Stern.

Daniel Conroe, son of Harriet and Hank Conroe, was married in July to Kelly Paulini.

Aaron Silverman, son of Peter Silverman and Pat Lane, moved to California this fall to take a job at Apple Headquarters in Cupertino. He’s doing statistical analysis of their product warranty program.

Howard and Charlene Gelber celebrated their daughter Dorie’s marriage to Art Chen on October 12, 2013.

Rachel Goldberg, daughter of Larry Goldberg and Betty van Leuven, has accepted a position as an intern at Pie Ranch in California, a year-long post at an organic farm that plants and sells produce, raises small animals, and is very active in outreach to school groups in the San Francisco bay area. Check it out here.

Zach Lieberman, son of Adrienne and Syd Lieberman, designed the interactive snow feature of Macy’s Christmas windows in New York City this year. (Some job for a Jewish boy, huh?) Click on this link to watch the snowflakes doing their magic.

Tessa Fischer has a new grandson, Raphael, of Bogota, Colombia, first child of her son Gabriel.

JRC member Al Goldberg has turned a storefront into a beit midrash for the study of Torah and other Hebrew wisdom texts, Jewish meditation and body movement, and other topics as various teachers initiate. Beit Yichud NFP (House of Unification), intends to further the integration and unity of various perspectives of Judaism as well as hold paradox in the unification of the divine name.

Yael Kurganoff, daughter of Judy Mendel and Jorge Kurganoff, graduated last December from Butler University with a degree in Elementary Education. She is teaching 2nd grade at Bilkent Laboratory and International School in Ankara, Turkey.

Lori Lippitz’s Maxwell Street Klezmer Band celebrated its 30th Anniversary at the Old Town School of Folk Music on Sunday, November 3rd. Two sold-out concerts featured 30 band members from the band’s present and past from around the country. The concert culminated with songs by Rabbi Joe Black, and then all 30 musicians and children from the Junior Klezmer Orchestra gathered on the stage for a joyful grand finale.

Ian Weinberger, son of Seth Weinberger and Barbara Goodman was Musical Assistant on the NBC live broadcast of “The Sound of Music.” (Coincidentally, Ian was drummer in Lori Lippitz’s Junior Klezmer Orchestra for four years!) ✴
THANKS TO ONE AND ALL.....FOR MAKING OUR HIGH HOLIDAYS SO WONDERFUL!
As you can see, it would make a large village!

Staff
Sharon Diaz, Jill Persin, Tom Samuels, Bonnie Stone Stern, Terri Bernsohn, Bonnie Silverman

High Holiday Chair
Kathy Greene

Signage and General Assistance
Rich, Dianne and Rebecca Sperling, Lisa Pildes

Children’s & Youth Services
Terri Bernsohn, Paulette Herbstman and Sandy Sloane, Stan and Sara Cohn, Fran Landt, Bonnie Silverman

Teen Activities
Chantal Blaustein, Billy Kaplan

Open Mike
Ann Kaplan-Perkins

Torah Chanters
Bruce Braverman, Freddi Greenberg, Aviva Feldman, Karen Libman, Ben Melnick, Sam Bearman, Rebecca Hamlin, Ann Kaplan-Perkins, Harold Steinman, Shirley Gould, Ben Friedland, Izzy Fox, Miriam Berkson

Haftarah Chanters
Darlene Grossman, Beth Jacoby, Sam Dorovitch, Jonah Karsh, Jesse Shufro-Zletz, Carol Friedlander

Gabba’eem
Carol Friedman, Leslie Schwartzman

Tashlich Service
Jeff Winter, assisted by Ruth Wenger and Jonathan Markowitz

Personal Reflections
Barbara Israelite, Carolyn Shapiro

Story Tellers
Syd Lieberman, Susan Stone, Bryna Cytrynbaum

Discussion Group Chairs Dianne Sperling and Marie Davidson

Discussion Group Leaders
Shirley Gould, Diane Turner, Elliot Zashin, Larry Goldberg, Tina and Gonzalo Escobar, Gerry Davidson, Susan Stone, Marie Davidson, Rebecca Rubin, Ellen Rosen-Kaplan

Shofar Blowers
Organized by Carol Goldbaum
Deborah Kelly, Stan Cohn, Michael Bloom, Jorie Minsky, Joel Gratch, Ari Bearman, Jesse Shufro-Zletz

Ushers
Organized by Judy Martin

Teen Oneg
Organized by Kim Grahl with many thanks to the families who provided food and a welcoming atmosphere

Clergy Assistants
Maxine Topper, Ray Grossman, Dan Jacobs, Jerry Israelite, Jonathan Markowitz

Reception
Anne Goldberg
Kate Spector, Carol and Howard Ellegant, Barbara Israelite, Leslie Rosen, Jan Wishinsky

Movers
Mike Nolan, Jack Nolan, Dennis O’Keefe, Jonathan Markowitz, Joel Gratch, Arlene Sagan, Jil Deheeger, Julie Shufro, Larry Goldberg and our wonderful custodians, Ernesto Vega and Louis LeBlanc

Accessibility
Linda Kaskel

Bimah Flowers
Organized by Barbara Israelite
Margie Morrison and Mark Zivin, Bonnie Stone Stern and Larry Stern, Alvin and Kate Spector, Mel and Sherry Lopata, Paul Lehman and Ronna Stamm, Ruth Kolodny, David Kleiman, Arnie and Carol Kanter, Barbara and Jerry Israelite, Bob and Judy Holstein, Paulette Herbstman and Sandy Sloane, Freddi Greenberg and Dan Pinkert, Reese and Joel Gratch, Alan and Sallie Gratch, Nina and Elliott Goldstein, Ruth Gilbert and Marshall Lobin, Howard and Carol Ellegant, Aaron and Sheila Cohen, Judith and Gary Childrey

Choir
Led by Danny Wallenberg
Charlene Gelber, Sharon Handelsman, Beth Jacoby, Esther Kaplan, Natalie Blaser, Linda Slavik, Riva Blechman, Susan Cherry, Rebecca Hamlin, Sallie Gratch, Sherry Lopata, Baila Miller, Becky Mitchell, Ann Schmidt, Sallie Brown-Winter, Howard Friedland, Joel Gratch, David Kleiman, Mel Lopata, Alan Gratch, Jerry Herst, Irv Miller, Jim Rider, Bill Schwimmer, Jeff Weisfeld, Jeff Winter, Danny Zeckhauser,

Musicians
Stuart Rosenberg, Fran and Skip Landt, Katia Waxman, Alan Zunamon, Billy Kaplan, Jonah Karsh, Jeff Winter, Alan Goldberg, Tammy Glassburg, Robert Sanders, Michelle Brodsky, Jeremy Gershfeld, Terry Parisoli, Nina and Danny Wallenberg, Benjamin Friedland, Matthew Harris–Ridker, Aviva Feldman, Sam Frolichstein-Appel, Fred Wellisch

Please pardon us for any names inadvertently omitted.
Tzedakah is a central mitzvah of Judaism, humanizing both the donor and the recipient. JRC has established a series of tzedakah funds in response to members’ interests, aiming to serve three functions:

- To support the congregation. All are welcome to membership, to worship, to our school—even those unable to pay full dues. Your contributions make this possible.
- To support important extra-budgetary activities.
- Most importantly, to provide a convenient and meaningful way for JRC members and others to fulfill the traditional obligation of tzedakah as we honor, commemorate, and express gratitude.

To donate online, please click here.

Rabbi Brant Rosen and Hallie Rosen
Cantor Howard Friedland and Terry Parisoli
David Tabak, President, and Denise Eichhorn

Mazel Tov to our September, October, and November B’nai Mitzvah and their families:

Condolences to:
Elaine Morrison and her family on the death of her beloved brother, Irwin Weiss
Margie Morrison Zivin and her family on the death of her beloved uncle, Irwin Weiss
Marilee Cole and her family on the death of her beloved father, Barney (Bernard) Ecker
Ellen Kenemore and her family on the death of her beloved mother, Elaine Wishner
Joan Spigelman and her family on the death of her beloved husband, Irvin Spigelman
Beth Lange and her family on the death of her beloved mother and father, Maxine and Chuck Lange
Robert Lange and his family on the death of his beloved mother, Elaineb Wishner

Rabbi Discretionary Fund
Nina Raskin
In honor of the High Holy Days
Robert Lange
In loving memory of Chuck Lange
Maris and Antonio Garcia
In appreciation
Ruth Gilbert
Condolences to Ellen Kenemore on the death of her beloved mother, Elaine Wishner
Condolences to Joan Spigelman on the death of her beloved husband, Irv Spigelman
Kristen Harris and Sean Collins-Stapleton
In honor of the baby naming for Jane Harris-Stapleton

Steve Rasher and his family on the death of his beloved mother, Assenath “Ossie” Rasher
Richard Harris and his family on the death of his beloved sister, Sandra Joy Harris
Robert Nachman and his family on the death of his beloved father, Adolph Nachman
Josh Bernstein and his family on the death of his beloved father, Eliot Bernstein
Loren Wells and his family on the death of his beloved father, Loyd Edward “Ed” Wells
Joan Silins and her family on the death of her beloved father-in-law, Shepard Whitman
Sarah Silins and her family on the death of her beloved grandfather, Shepard Whitman

Eileen and Peter Galen
In honor of Sheldon Berdon, father of Eileen Galen, grandfather of Liz Levenson, on his Yahrzeit
William Stein
In loving memory of Lena Stein, mother of William Stein, on her Yahrzeit
Harvey Nixon
In loving memory of Jack Nixon, brother of Harvey Nixon, on his Yahrzeit
Tina and Gonzalo Escobar
Refuah Shelaymah to Steve Cohn
Marilee Cole and Family
In appreciation for leading the Minyan at the shiva for Barney Ecker, father of Marilee Cole
Beth, Amy, and Robert Lange
In loving memory of Maxine and Chuck Lange
Sarah and Joan Silins
In loving memory of Shepard Whitman
Judith Levinson
In honor of Rabbi Rosen
Lita and Matthew Passen
In gratitude of the High Holiday services
Hilary Levinson and Stephen Wade
In honor of their marriage
Leslie Rosen and Paul Cetera
In honor of the marriage of Sydney Cetera and Sam Light
Mara Cohen and Family
In loving memory of Jerome Cohen, father of Mara Cohen
Condolences to the Lange family on the death of their beloved mother and father, Maxine and Chuck Lange: Sheila and Aaron Cohen Carolyn Levin Ruth Gilbert Rita Mendelsohn Barbara Goodman and Seth Weinberger David Kleiman

Cantor Discretionary Fund
Robert Lange In loving memory of Maxine Lange
Susan Cherry Condolences to the Lange family on the death of their beloved mother and father, Maxine and Chuck Lange Caryn Lederer and Jared Rodriguez In appreciation Kristen Harris and Sean Collins-Stapleton In honor of the baby naming for Jane Harris-Stapleton Beth, Amy, and Robert Lange In loving memory of Maxine and Chuck Lange Beth Lange In appreciation of all the High Holiday musicians Baila and Irv Miller In loving memory of Sol Miller, father of Irv Miller, on his Yahrzeit Nina and Elliott Goldstein In loving memory of Joseph B. White, dear father of Nina Goldstein, on his Yahrzeit To commemorate the 50th wedding anniversary of Nina and Elliott Goldstein Ferne and Sander Berman In loving memory of David Gassel and appreciation of the Gassel concert

General Fund
Katerina Altenberg In honor of the High Holidays The Niederman Family From their family pushke Vickie and Irv Korey Condolences to Steve Fox on the death of his beloved mother, Selma Fox Cheryl and Mark Kaplan In honor of the marriage of Sam Marks and Leah Cohen Marcie Weiss Condolences to Bob Nachman on the death of his beloved father, Adolph Nachman Heidi and Rich Katz Condolences to Joan Spigelman on the death of her beloved husband, Irv Spigelman Sulie Friedman In honor of the High Holidays Elaine Hendricks In honor of the High Holidays Eduardo Schoua In honor of the High Holidays Naomi Feldman Condolences to Joan Spigelman on the death of her beloved husband, Irv Spigelman Edith Margolis In loving memory of the loved ones of Edith Margolis Steve and Robyn Berger In loving memory of Sylvia Wine, grandmother of Juliet Berger-White, on her Yahrzeit In honor of Juliet, Jeff, Talia, Sophie, and Leo Berger-White Mollie Bass and Ben Swartendruber Condolences to Sam Mordka on the death of his beloved mother, Gail Mordka Sara and Stanley Cohn Condolences to Steve Fox on the death of his mother, Selma Fox Lisa Pildes and Michael Sehr Condolences to Steve Fox on the death of his mother, Selma Fox Kathy Greenberger and Stephen Slaggett In loving memory of Stuart Greenberger, father of Kathy Greenberger, on his Yahrzeit In loving memory of Edward Slaggett, father of Stephen Slaggett, on his Yahrzeit In loving memory of Mildred Ferst, grandmother of Kathy Greenberger, on her Yahrzeit Marlene Stern and Chava Nachmias In loving memory of Flora Stern, mother of Marlene Stern, on her Yahrzeit Barbara Goodman and Seth Weinberger In honor of the birth of Norah Ellen Tauber-Weiss, granddaughter of Marcie Weiss Muriel and Marvin Glick In appreciation of Baila and Irv Miller for their gracious hospitality Phyllis and Michael Mitzen In loving memory of Linda Ungerleider, dear friend of Adrienne Lieberman Ray and Darlene Grossman In honor of the marriage of our daughter Maris to Antonio García Congratulations to Charlene and Howard Gelber on the marriage of their daughter Dorie to Arthur Chen Condolences to Joan Spigelman on the death of her beloved husband, Irv Condolences to Ellen Kenemore and her family on the death of her beloved mother, Elaine Wishner Condolences to Marilee Cole and her family on the death of her beloved father, Barney Ecker Condolences to Beth Lange and her family on the death of her beloved parents, Maxine and Chuck Lange Condolences to Robert Lange on the death of his beloved mother and father, Maxine and Chuck Lange: Linda Kleisch Judy Sloan Cathy Reiff Sharon Punches Lynn Banas Dawn Depa Alison Doherty Janice Fishman Stevenson School Social Club
Condolences to the Lange family on the death of their beloved mother and father, Maxine and Chuck Lange:
Nancy Yalowitz
Lisa Pildes and Michael Sehr
Baila and Irv Miller
Janie and Barry Winkler
Sue Brady
Mary Schiltz
Sandra and Eston Gross
Mary Sotir
Helen Moag
Barbara and David Pinzur
Phyllis and Norman Engelberg
Penny Mills
Sharyn and Edward Reiff
Edie Canter
Sheryl and Steve Newman
Joe Grossman
Karen Trier
Marcie Weiss
Sheila and Aaron Cohen
Shirley Gould
Janie and Barry Winkler
Sara and Stan Cohn
Barbara and Jerry Israelite
Marilyn and Sherwin Berger
Helene and Morrie Nudelman
Maxine Wilkoff
Susan and Sy Frolichstein
Ellen and Lenny Kaplan
Marie O’Connor and James Lucas
Baila and Irv Miller
Anita Dinerstein
Cheryl and Mark Kaplan
Wendy Wooff

Art and Design Fund
Maxine and Chuck Lange
In loving memory of Ruth Horn, mother of Maxine Lange, on her Yahrzeit

Early Childhood Education Fund
Terri Bernsohn
Condolences to the Lange family on the death of their beloved mother and father, Maxine and Chuck Lange
Marge Frank
Mazel Tov to Lou Weiss on the birth of his granddaughter, Lena

Green (Environmental) Fund
Maxine and Chuck Lange
In loving memory of Hyman Horn, father of Maxine Lange, on his Yahrzeit

Kol Haneshamah Prayerbooks
Marie and Gerry Davidson
In loving memory of Harold Davidson, father of Gerry Davidson, on his Yahrzeit
Muriel Levitt
In loving memory of her daughter, Lynne Levin, on her Yahrzeit

Religious School Fund
Deb Yates
In honor of Maya Vincent on her 7th birthday
Janice Footlik
In honor of the High Holidays
Albert Wiener
In honor of the High Holidays
Sister Mary Bridget Murphy
In honor of the High Holidays
Rita Stevens
In honor of the High Holidays
Grace Smith
In honor of the High Holidays
Alice Segal
In honor of the High Holidays
Esta Kaplan
In honor of the High Holidays
Laurie Goldstein and Jon Marshall
Condolences to Steve Fox on the death of his beloved mother, Selma Fox

Ronna Farber Sander Educational Fund
Wendy Weiner and Family
In loving memory of Howard and Dan Weiner, on their Yahrzeits

Library Fund (Sidney and Leota Hirsch Memorial Fund)
Susan Stone and Jay Levy
Condolences to the Lange family on the death of their beloved mother and father, Maxine and Chuck Lange
Charlene and Howard Gelber
Condolences to the Lange family on the death of their beloved mother and father, Maxine and Chuck Lange
In loving memory of Hyman Horn, father of Maxine Lange, on his Yahrzeit
In loving memory of Samuel Gelber, father of Howard Gelber, on his Yahrzeit
In honor of the marriage of Maris Grossman to Antonio Garcia
In honor of the marriage of Dorie Gelber to Art Chen
Naomi and Dan Feldman
Condolences to Robert Nachman on the death of his father, Adolph Nachman
Helga Low–Harper
In loving memory of Victor Low, husband of Helga Low–Harper, on his Yahrzeit

Social Action Fund
Richard Penner
Condolences to the Lange family on the death of Maxine Lange
Andy Bindman
Condolences to Amy Lange on the death of her beloved mother and father, Maxine and Chuck Lange
Diane and Ben Melnick
Condolences to the Lange family on the death of their beloved mother and father, Maxine and Chuck Lange

Adult Education Fund
Eva Eisenstein
Condolences to Steve Fox on the death of his beloved mother, Selma Fox
Condolences to the Lange family on the death of their beloved mother and father, Maxine and Chuck Lange:
Eva Eisenstein
Wilma and Jonathan Nachsin
Vickie and Irv Korey
Heidi and Richard Katz  
Condolences to the Lange family on the death of their beloved mother and father, Maxine and Chuck Lange  
Condolences to Bob Nachman on the death of his beloved father, Adolph Nachman  
Julie Dorfman and Jerry Herst  
In honor of Jay Schwartz  

Social Action Food Fund  
Sherrie Mack  
In honor of Erik Mack  
Julie Dorfman and Jerry Herst  
Condolences to Bob Nachman on the death of his beloved father, Adolph Nachman  
Condolences to Loren Wells on the death of her beloved father, Loyd Wells  
Beth, Amy, and Robert Lange  
In loving memory of their mother and father, Maxine and Chuck Lange  
Harriet and Hank Conroe  
Condolences to the Lange family on the death of their beloved mother and father, Maxine and Chuck Lange  
Candace and Burt Tesler  
In loving memory of David and Rosalie Sapp, grandparents of Candace Tesler, on their Yahrzeits  

Social Action Kehillah Fund  
Wendy Weiner and Family  
In loving memory of Alan Weiner, husband of Wendy and father of Cara, Jamie and Lea, on his Yahrzeit  

\textbf{Thank You}  
Thanks to the following people for hosting JRC onegs:  

\textbf{Welcome New Members}  
Ilyssa Fradin Werstler  
Julieanne Ehre and Hans Deetweiler  
Michelle and Jason Cutler  
Jonathan Berman  
Erin Flynn  
Esther Spodek and Brian Ostrow  
Jennifer Fogle and Joe Moreno  
Nina Lynn and Michael Grossman  
Pam Ferdinand and Mark Thomas  
Rachel Seidman  

\textbf{Returning Members}  
Linda and Bob Hewitt  
Maya Escobar and Loren Wells  

\textbf{JRC STAFF}  
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Brant Rosen • x2223  
\underline{CANTOR}  
Howard Friedland • x2232  
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Eva Eisenstein • x2255  
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Bonnie Stone Stern • x2220  
Elyse Fischmar • x2226  
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\underline{JRC NEWSLETTER}  
\underline{NEXT ISSUE’S DEADLINE}  
February 1  

\underline{JRC Funeral Plan}  
The purpose of the JRC Funeral Plan is to simplify the process and reduce the cost and stress of making funeral arrangements when a loved one dies.  
Administrator: Chicago Jewish Funerals, Ltd., 195 North Buffalo Grove Road, Buffalo Grove, Illinois, 60089; 847.229.8822, or toll free 888.509.5011.  
At your time of loss, call them at any hour of the day. Rabbi Rosen will be contacted immediately, or you may also call him directly. A detailed funeral guide is available from the JRC office. ✨