



Sunday, October 3, 2010

25 Tishrei 5771

HONOR OUR FOUNDERS BRUNCH



**Valuing the Traditions of the Past
Facing the Demands of the Present
Preparing for the Challenges of the Future**

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HONOR OUR FOUNDERS

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 Stanley and Ethel Feinberg
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 Melvin *z'l* and Florence Jacobson
 Harold Kail
 Muriel Kail
 Benjamin *z'l* and Susi Kleiman
 George *z'l* and Rhoda *z'l* Kopp
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 Sidney *z'l* and Frieda Paley
 Norman and Marilyn *z'l* Pell
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South Huntington Jewish Center
 2600 New York Avenue
 Melville, New York 11747

Rabbi Ian S. Jacknis

Hazzan Brian Shamash

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Memories of “The Good Old Days”
Honoring our Founding Members
Rabbi Ian S. Jacknis

“The Good Old Days” – that’s how we remember them, the very early days of the South Huntington Jewish Center. And yet almost every Founding Member who I have spoken to tells me that those first few years of our synagogue were NOT easy!! There wasn’t a lot of money around. People had to work very, very hard. There was no professional and support staff. Everything that needed to be done – including cleaning the toilets (please forgive me for raising such an “indelicate” image in this forum of honor) – had to be done by our Founding Members. And they tell me that there were LOTS of “disagreements” on LOTS of issues confronting our infant congregation – everything from whether we should be an Orthodox, Conservative or Reform synagogue to the type of sign we should put up on the front of the building!

Surely those days were NOT easy!! And yet our Founding Members look back upon those days with great fondness and love and with an almost “reverential nostalgia” for the *mitzvah* they performed in giving birth to our congregation, now fifty years old!!

I guess time has a way of softening the hardships of reality in our memories but perhaps that’s for the best. We tend to forget the hard work, the many sacrifices that we made, the great challenges and obstacles that we faced and remember just the nice memories – of friendship and caring – of lifelong relationships that were created – of wonderful people we worked with, some we continue to see and to treasure, others now gone from this world yet who we remember with great love and affection.

The thing that really brings a smile to my face in hearing about “the good old days” is how many people – and indeed there have been *several* of them – who have told me with great pride, “You know Rabbi my son/daughter was the first *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* in our synagogue.” Perhaps. Perhaps not. I can’t help but wonder how ALL of these kids could have been the “first.” But I guess it doesn’t really matter. Our memories are precious and should be treasured even if they aren’t exactly the “truth.” After all, “truth” has a way of being colored by time and by love.

May God continue to bless the Founding Members of the South Huntington Jewish Center with long life and good health! May we build upon their vision, dedication and hard work in the years to come!

September, 2010
Tishrei, 5771

Dear Friends,

What a privilege to be here to be among founders, along with their children, second and third generation congregants during this momentous, historic milestone in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the South Huntington Jewish Center.

We give thanks to God for life, for health, and for all that has sustained our community over the past fifty years. We celebrate the divine energy that pours through our separate selves and makes us one. We sing of these founders and their children, whose life renews itself in their gift of making our synagogue a place filled with heartfelt love and joy.

We pray that a similar love and joy may spread from SHJC to *Yerushalayim* then throughout the world. We rejoice with our friends who now experience the fruit of their labors.

On behalf of Emily, Ella, Maya and myself we wish *Yasher Koah*, *Hazak u’Barukh* and *Todah Rabah* to all. Thank you for being such a connected part of our South Huntington Jewish Center family and greater community.

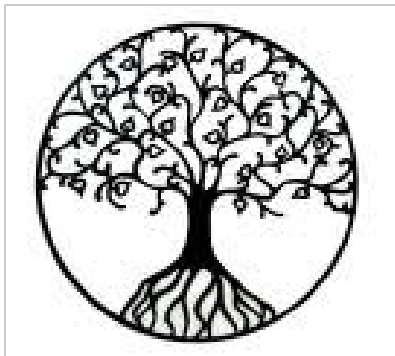
Kol Haneshamah T’halel Yah! Halleluyah!

Let every soul praise God! Halleluyah!

Hazzan Brian Baruch Shamash

Randi Chavis, President

It was early spring, 1997. Ted and I had moved into Dix Hills four or six weeks earlier. Cole was a few months old. Ariana was in 2nd grade, Rebecca was in kindergarten. They had been going to religious school at a Synagogue in Elmont that didn't require membership for pre-Alef kids. We wanted to join a shul before the High Holidays. I visited Dix Hills Jewish Center where a nice lady in the office gave me membership material and I walked around a little by myself throughout their building. A week or so later, I came with Cole to the South Huntington Jewish Center. I was standing in the doorway to the old office waiting for a membership pamphlet when both Rabbi Jacknis and Cantor Bear started calling out, "I hear there is someone here to check out our shul," and "So we might have a new member here." They both insisted on showing me the synagogue, from the sanctuary to the religious school wing to the playground. The visit must have lasted at least a half hour, with them cooing over Cole, joking around together and displaying a genuine affection for each other, their jobs and the congregation. By the time they went back to their offices, there was really no question about which shul we would be joining. But even if there had been, the deal was sealed when two Sisterhood members found me in the lounge of the ladies room nursing Cole, who had gotten hungry during the grand tour. Mindy Maze and Phyllis Vogel were so warm and welcoming that by the time I left the building, I knew SHJC would become our Jewish home away from home.



Program

- Welcome.....Randi Chavis
- Remarks.....Councilwoman Susan Berland
- Hatikvah and
Star Spangled Banner.....Hazzan Brian Shamash
- Motzi and Kiddush.....Rabbi Ian Jacknis
- Buffet opens
- Montage
- A Song of Dedication and *Shehecheyanu*.....
.....Hazzan Brian and Emily Shamash
- Remarks.....Congressman Steve Israel
- Remarks.....Rabbi Ian Jacknis
- Presentation of Honors.....Rabbi Ian Jacknis and
Randi Chavis
- Guests to speak.....Frieda Paley
Norman Pell
Meyer Steinberg

Open to audience to share SHJC memories

1960's by Meyer Steinberg

The Inception of the South Huntington Jewish Center 50 years afterwards as remembered by Meyer Steinberg

The beginning of the SHJC occurred shortly before 1960 at meetings in homes of our founders. One of the meetings was at Marty and Fran Liebman's house. There was much discussion as to what type of synagogue we should have. Reform, Conservative or Orthodox; Some wanted emphasis on religious services, some wanted emphasis on Hebrew school and others wanted mainly social activities. We finally decided to incorporate all three activities into joining the Conservative movement.

There were about 50 member families when we rented a store on Route 110 across from the Waldbaums Shopping Center, which is now where Dino's restaurant is located. The first Rosh Hashanah holiday service took place at the Sweet Hollow Presbyterian Church on Old Country Road. The minister and congregation invited us and allowed us to cover up some of the Christian symbols.

With the help of Sid Paley z'l, our first Rabbi, Rabbi Kapner, and myself as Ritual Chairman, we arranged the services. The following year, we held services at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Hall on Pinelawn Road. We had a large crowd including non members from around the neighborhood.

Tillie Brand z'l with the Sisterhood arranged great Purim and Chanukah parties for the children in the store.

A Men's Club was organized and had rip-roaring weekly gatherings with card playing, first in the store and then in the synagogue.

Land was obtained through the services of Ruby Wagner and Leon Lazer. They sold us the land and then donated backmost of the money.

Don Steingisser was our architect and Bill Mandel was our builder. The finance committee were able to obtain large loans from the local bank with little down payment.

We had strong minded board meetings, which sometimes resulted in knock down drag out verbal fights. It was on all sorts of synagogue issues and could last well past midnight. Somehow it all got resolved by the end of the meeting.

My son David was the first Bar Mitzvah in the new building in 1966. Mindy Lewis was our first Bat Mitzvah. Shortly after that we acquired the services of a caterer. Crystal Caterers began in 1968 by Lenore and Ken Perlmutter. As a 2nd generation, Steve has run the business for about 30 years.

After several more interim Rabbis we finally obtained Rabbi Morris Shapiro z'l. Rabbi Shapiro was a highly respected Talmud Rabbi who taught us much and put SHJC on the map. He was with us 23 years.

After 3 more building expansions; One under Martin Liebman, another under Joel Girsky and finally under Alan Reid, Monique Mensch and Ed Rudofsky, we arrive at our current renovation.

I can go on and on about my remembrances. At one time I was going to write a book about all the incidences, both serious and humorous at the SHJC over the years.

We now are fortunate to have a great current staff led by Rabbi Jacknis, Suri and Hazzan and Emily Shamash who are leading us into the future.

For me, it has been an honor and privilege, thank God, to have lived through the history of the SHJC and to witness the growth through the second and now even the third generation of family members of the SHJC.

I miss many of my dear friends, who have passed on, the most recent was a founder and dear friend, George Kopp z'l. And of course, I miss my wife, Ruth z'l, who was an ardent and active member and would have appreciated that our synagogue continues to serve the needs of our great Jewish community.

1970's by Joel Girsky

When I was President twenty five years ago for our 25th anniversary, I thought of our 50th and wondered where we would be.

The South Huntington Jewish Center is introduced to all the new families in the same fashion today as it was then. My wife Beverly joined the Sisterhood and I joined the Men's Club. Our children were young and the SHJC in these early stages provided a place for us to meet other young Jewish families. I can remember with pride seeing my nephews and nieces as well as my own children, go through the Hebrew School and not only becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, but developing a Jewish heritage.

Every Thursday night a group from Men's Club got together to play cards. We talked, joked and planned for the future. Those friendships made 40 years ago are just as strong today. I can remember the arguments, the fights, the cliques and the factions. I can remember the gentle swings to the right, the gentle swings to the left and the gentle swings to the right again. The only thing that has changed are the people.

Our Synagogue has grown many times since those early days. I clearly remember being part of our Men's Club, the clearing of dirt and the laying of sod in the back end of our building, only to see it torn up three months later as the new ground breaking and the new construction was started for our school wing and first additions.

The South Huntington Jewish Center provided families a Jewish environment that allowed all of us to understand our religion, practice our religion and love our religion to a far deeper degree than we ever thought possible.

For over two decades it was Rabbi Shapiro who instilled this love of Judaism for our community. For almost two decades it's Rabbi Jacknis.

Times may change but things remain the same. South Huntington Jewish Center continues to be vibrant because of all the people, past and present, who worked tirelessly to make this building a home. It is the people who have extended themselves emotionally, financially and physically to provide a place that people have thought of as their second home.

Fifty years has gone by in the "wink of an eye". As I, along with the others who have been here this long period of time reach senior citizen status, it's comforting to know that the future of Judaism, as it relates to and through the South Huntington Jewish Center, is well placed.

1980's by Alan Lefkowitz

The 1980's at SHJC was a time of transition. The founding members melded with and handed off leadership to the baby boomers. Many new families joined the SHJC family and as membership grew these members were encouraged to take leadership positions in the synagogue. Families joined for various reasons including the "*hamaisht*" atmosphere, social interaction, the need for nursery school with an educational and Jewish flare.

During the '80's we prepared and held our silver anniversary celebration. It was a black tie event well attended by originating and newer members alike.

The SHJC nursery school expanded its programs and transitioned from a cooperative school to a teacher / director school without parent participation. A new liaison to the board was established to represent Nursery School interests at the board level. Many new programs were introduced and fund raising events such as the nursery fashion show were instituted.

Rabbi Morris Shapiro *z'l* our long time Rabbi and ritual leader, retired in 1989 and a big retirement event was held in his honor. In an effort to expand participation in services, families were encouraged to attend Friday evening services when the children were singled out for a special blessing from their parents. In a paradigm shift women were accorded the benefit of being counted in the minyan and reading from the Torah as our synagogue became egalitarian.

The physical plant was renovated with an expansion and enhancements to the simcha room and an addition of the room which is now used as the Bet Midrash.

1990's by Ed Rudofsky

The 1990's were a period of growth and optimism. Melville was "booming" and so was SHJC, which continued and expanded its many programs, as well as renovating and redeveloping its physical plant.

As SHJC's fourth decade opened in 1990, Rabbi Earl Kideckel was our spiritual leader, Saul Rubenstein our Cantor, Alan Lefkowitz our President, Howard Teplitz the Principal of the Religious School, Sheila Cole the new Director of the Nursery School, and Crystal Caterers our synagogue caterer.

In 1991, Robert Wishnew was elected as President, and Classroom 7 was dedicated in honor of our beloved teacher and "Rebbitzen Emeritus," Rochelle Shapiro z"l.

1992 was a year of soul-searching for the Congregation as it struggled with the always difficult question of whether there should be a change in spiritual leadership.

In 1993, Sue Turner Kaye was elected as President, Rabbi Ian Jacknis was installed as our new Rabbi, and the Nursery School was accredited by New York State.

1994 brought the Send-a-Kid to Israel (SKI) Program, and a decision by the Rabbi and Board to participate in the UJA/Federation Gift of Israel Program. Both of these developments reflected our decision to "put Israel on the agenda" of every SHJC family. That year Cantor Rubenstein retired, becoming our Cantor Emeritus, and was succeeded by Cantor Robert Heyman.

In 1995, Alan Reid was elected for an unprecedented second term as President. The Rabbi and Suri were honored at State of Israel Bond Drive. This year saw the advent of the "Bagels, Blocks and Beyond" parenting program and "TOT Shabbat."

1996 brought the 36th Anniversary of SHJC's founding; the Jerusalem 3000 Fair; and Men's Club Cigar Night, as well as a transition from Cantor Heyman to Cantor Moishe Bear.

In 1997, Monique Mensch was elected President. This year saw a number of "firsts" and notable developments: the Girsky family began sponsoring the annual Hei class trip to the National Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.; the Religious School expanded its hours to include a Sunday/Monday/Wednesday program; the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Committee was formed; we had our

first simulcast of High Holy Day services in the Simcha Room; we began our tradition of holding Rosh Hodesh services each month; and we hired our Family Educator, Phyllis Hilf-Pellman. Our long-time SHJC office manager, Carol Greenberg z"l retired and was succeeded by Vicki Strasser.

1998 saw the formation of the Expansion Committee and the beginning of the renovation of our building. Mrs. Shapiro retired after teaching in our Religious School for 30 years. SHJC began participating in the national "Read Hebrew America" program. Other firsts including the Nursery School "Adopt A Family" program, the Family Education "Pushka Power Project," and the first "Pizza In The Hut" program.

In 1999, yours truly was elected President. The building remained under construction. The Men's Club ran SHJC's first Golf Outing and the Nursery School ran the first "Ladies Night Out." Other "firsts" this year included the first "Shabbat Under The Stars," the first Caf e Tel Aviv in honor of Yom Ha'Atzmaut and the first organized participation in the Salute to Israel Parade.

As the decade of the "90's" ended, the Congregation was robust, vibrant, buzzing with activity, poised for the completion of construction and dedication of the new Sanctuary and building, and looking forward to the new century with pride in its accomplishments and confidence in its future.

2000's by Keith Archer

I have been asked to describe life at South Huntington Jewish Center during the period 2000 to 2010. I served as president of our synagogue for two of these years. During the early years of this decade, our synagogue was in a growth mode, fueled by the rapid pace of new residential development in the surrounding communities which, in turn, brought new Jewish families to our area. It was this growth that served as the catalyst for the expansion program which added new classrooms to our Religious School and Nursery School and saw the expansion and renovation of our sanctuary. We are extremely fortunate that SHJC has enjoyed a reputation for being a "hamish" synagogue-one that has a warm and open atmosphere that embraces each new member who walks through its doors. This was true in 2000 and remains so today.

Our Rabbi, Rabbi Jacknis, is and has always been one of the kindest

and most generous persons I have ever known. He has always made himself available to our congregants and to others who sought his good counsel. This has never changed. During the years as our Rabbi, Rabbi Jacknis has earned the love and respect of all our members for all that he does on behalf of our congregation. I must say the vision that always comes to my mind is of Rabbi Jacknis rushing from one place to the other, from one meeting to another, all in furtherance of his responsibilities which he has always taken very seriously. Three years ago, Rabbi Jacknis celebrated his Bar Mitzvah year at SHJC. The dinner and other celebrations in honor of his tenure at SHJC were a big success in terms of raising funds for our synagogue, and celebrating Rabbi Jacknis' years of tireless and unselfish devotion to our congregation, which we all hope will continue for years to come. Our Religious School had developed a reputation as having the highest quality programs and best teachers in the area.

Under the leadership of Howard Teplitz (affectionately known as "Mr. T") our Religious School did a fantastic job of preparing our children for the day on which they would ascend the bimah for their bar and bat mitzvah. There are many stories that could be told about Howard. We all recall how Howard would each year don a different costume (along with Rabbi and Suri) at Purim as he stood on the bimah while the megillah was read by Rabbi, Suri and others. Howard retired as Religious School principal in 2006, after more than 25 years of outstanding service to SHJC. Our synagogue and Religious School was extremely fortunate to have Sherry Gutes succeed Howard as Religious School principal and continue the tradition of providing the finest educational curriculum found in any religious school on Long Island. Since joining the synagogue in 2006, Sherry has instituted new and innovative programs which have enhanced our children's Religious School experience which has the goal of inculcating our children with the love of Judaism and the need for Jewish continuity.

During the early years of this decade, Sheila Cole was our Nursery School director. "Miss Sheila" as she was known. I knew her first, though, as an outstanding 4's teacher. It is truly a pleasure to watch her greet all of her "graduates" whenever she sees them in our shul. Sheila grew our Nursery School to the point where additional classrooms were required to accommodate all of our kids. It was a very common experience to walk through the Nursery School and hear our teachers singing songs and reciting Shabbat and holiday prayers with the children. Upon Sheila's retirement in 2005, Randi Alexander became the new Nursery School director. Randi came to

SHJC from the Plainview Y. Randi took the helm of a Nursery School program which, like our Religious School, had developed a reputation for excellence.

Randi has brought her own special touch to the Nursery School which has flourished and continues to provide our young children with a warm and caring environment that serves as the gateway to our Religious School.

In 2005, Brian Shamash joined the SHJC family as our Hazzan, succeeding Moshe Bear, who had been our Cantor for several years. Hazzan Shamash had an immediate impact on our synagogue by assuming the leadership of our bar/bat mitzvah program, adding a new rhythm to our prayer service and instituting new and exciting musical programs with significant emphasis on including more of our young children in our Shabbat and holiday services. With his youthful spirit and young family, Hazzan Shamash soon became the Pied Piper to our synagogue's musically talented children and adult members. It can safely be said that we entered into a new and exciting era with Hazzan Shamash, one that will continue for years to come.

The lay leadership of our synagogue, which has always unselfishly devoted countless hours to SHJC, is now in transition. When my family came to SHJC in 1988, the lay leadership was made up of longstanding members of the synagogue. In time, more and more "young" members have risen to the occasion and have become the new lay leaders of our synagogue—as it should be, as we go *l'dor v'dor*, from generation to generation, and *m'hayil el hayil* from strength to strength.

There is much more that can be said about our synagogue. Suffice it to say, the more things change, the more they stay the same. During the past 10 years our synagogue has continued its tradition of excellence, which is sure to continue for years to come.

Dear Friends,

Edith and I had looked forward to attending the 50 year celebration honoring the founders of the South Huntington Jewish Center.

As the first Education Vice President, I have always held dear memories of those early days when we worked together to build a religious, cultural and community center in our area.

Though we are not able to participate at this time, we send our sincere best wishes to our “old” friends and wish continued success to the South Huntington Jewish Center.

Sincerely,

Richard (Dick) Burbell, Founder

Ethel Hoffman, Founder

I always remember that when we were in the store front, when someone went to the bathroom, you could hear the flushing. It still makes me laugh!

Mel Hoffman, Founder

As founding members of SHJC, we were involved in not only the formation of the synagogue, but in the vote to determine whether or not we would be a conservative or reformed shul. It was simply a vote, and the conservative movement at South Huntington Jewish Center was confirmed.

In the early years, I handled the printing of the original temple newsletter called "The Shofar" along with the synagogue journals. I also was involved in fundraising for SHJC, including a successful trip to Puerto Rico.

We are a three generation family at SHJC and going strong. Our eldest daughter, Debra Hoffman-Jarmon was Bat Mitzvahed at the temple 41 years ago. She was one of the first Bat Mitzvahs at South Huntington Jewish Center. She was also married at SHJC to Steve Jarmon, with the reception catered over 25 years ago by Crystal Caterers (Steve Perlmutter's parents). Our second daughter, Caasi Harris was Bat Mitzvahed at SHJC. She along with her husband Keith and twin daughters Rebecca and Chelsey are also synagogue members. Rebecca and Chelsey celebrated their Bat Mitzvahs at SHJC 5 years ago. Our third daughter, Amy Hoffman Feldman, a SHJC member along with her husband Doug and family, had her Bat Mitzvah at the temple 36 years ago. Their twin sons, Matthew and David, just graduated from SHJC nursery school!

I was President of SHJC in 1967, and was one of the original signers of the temple incorporation papers. I had both a business and personal relationship with the President of the Meadowbrook National Bank. He arranged for me to meet with the loan officer at the officer's home. Marty Liebman and I met at the house of the loan officer to get the OK for a mortgage. We fought very hard to get the congregants to pass a building fund in order to get the mortgage (\$120/year for 3 years). We did alot of heavy campaigning to secure the building fund vote. We got it done, and we got the mortgage.

I was heavily involved in the expansion of the temple. We were able to get sod donated for the grounds from McGovern Sod Farms. We also were able to get a bulldozer donated plus a worker to clear the parking lot and add additional parking.

Myrna Hoffman, Founder

I was very supportive of Mel. We both felt strongly about having a synagogue in South Huntington. I envisioned having our children attend Hebrew School and being Bat Mitzvahed. Happily these events did happen. It is all due to the early support of the 50 or so congregants who felt the same way we did. We attended Friday night services regularly with the children. We enjoyed it very much. It was a wonderfully intimate place to be – we knew everyone. It was our home away from home.

Susi Kleiman, Founder

The formation of our synagogue really started 53 years ago. When we moved into Melville, we were part of a small group of young families with very little money. However, we wanted a shul where our children could receive a Jewish Education.

At that time, there was one reformed synagogue in Huntington, plus the Huntington Jewish Center on New York Avenue, which was conservative. When we looked into joining Huntington Jewish Center, both the cost of membership and building fund were too high. Distance was also an issue. So, we decided to form our own synagogue in Melville.

The first meeting was held at the Schweitzer home. They had little furniture, and we sat on the floor. We were young and we had limited funds, but we were determined. We had to first decide if we were going to be reformed, orthodox or conservative synagogue. We “battled” it out, but in the end, we settled on a conservative shul.

Our first meeting place for Friday night and Saturday morning services was a store front on Route 110 (across the street from Waldbaums; now a sandwich shop). My husband, Benjamin Kleiman was the first House Chairperson. Ninety percent of us attended Friday night and Saturday morning services on a regular basis. Every Saturday night, after Shabbat, Benjamin would transform our shul from a sanctuary that held 20 to 30 congregants into a classroom of long tables and chairs in preparation of Sunday morning Hebrew School. And, as part of his responsibility, Benjamin had to also fix the toilets, as the kids would stuff them up on occasion.

Since our storefront temple was small, we had to find a larger building that could accommodate a larger group of worshippers for the High Holidays. The first two years we observed Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur at the White Church on Old Country Road. The Church was very accommodating, and covered their religious items when we were there. We brought in our Torahs and an *Aron Kodesh* to house the Torahs. The *Aron Kodesh* had a lock, so we could lock the Torahs when we were not in the building.

The third year we observed the High Holidays at the Electric Union Hall. And in the fourth year, we celebrated the High Holidays in our temple currently located on New York Avenue. With young kids, strollers, hats and gloves, we were able to walk with our children to our synagogue.

Although we had little money, we had great talent among us, including our architect Donald Steingesser, and builders William Mandel and Sol Chaiken. Jerry Margolies was our first treasurer. Everyone worked hard to build SHJC and to make it financially strong.

We had meetings every night, and if we were not meeting, we were talking on the phone. We spent a large amount of time on creating fundraising events. Our synagogue community became a family of best friends. We worked very hard, holding events ranging from rummage sales (which brought in \$400 - \$500 on average) to trips to the mountains, Mystery Weekend Nights, trips to Paradise Island, and tickets to shows at Westbury Music Fair.

One of the congregants who worked very hard for the success of SHJC was Robert Jasinover, who died at the very young age of 49. In his memory, the Jasinover family and their friends donated the *Sefer Torah*, a Holocaust Torah, saved from Europe. It is housed in a glass cabinet in our Sanctuary. Although we can not use it for services because it is not *Kasher* – (fit for ritual use)- it is a reminder of Robert's dedication to growing and strengthening South Huntington Jewish Center.

There were so many people who gave so much. The temple was our life. There was a feeling of community with everyone working so hard towards one goal, and in the process, many of us became best friends.

Sheila Kopp

One of the most important values of SHJC is the warmth and caring of the Board and the congregants. I was overwhelmed by the support and response I received when My husband, George Kopp ז"ל, one of the founders of SHJC, got sick and then passed away.

It reminded me, once again, what a wonderful community SHJC can be.

Marty Liebman, Founder

My early memories in the formation of our synagogue was the meeting of countless Jewish families in our area.

As membership chairman I would canvass the South Huntington/Melville area during Chanukah time when many Jewish families would put out menorahs in their windows. When seeing a Jewish home, I would ring the bell, introduce myself and outline our synagogue's existence. Most families were very receptive to this approach. On some occasions, our Rabbi would accompany these visits and it made for interesting discussions on Judaic topics of interest. This was our own beginnings!

Frieda Paley, Founder

In May 1960, a small group of 15 families got together to discuss the formation of a shul in the South Huntington area. Each family was asked for an initial donation of \$5.00 as a good faith commitment for the project. That was how the South Huntington Jewish Center was born, and like a new born baby, it took a lot of care, tending and nurturing for it to survive.

Sid and I were among those who initiated the idea to create our own synagogue. We wanted a facility where the people of this area could come together to worship and to learn. Others who agreed included Meyer and Ruth *z'l* Steinberg, George *z'l* and *Rhoda z'l* Kopp, Marty and Fran Liebman, Mel and Myrna Hoffman, Ralph *z'l* and Nettie Rhein, Dave *z'l* and Ruth *z'l* Pollack, Dick and Edith Burbell, Tim and Ethel Feinberg, and a handful of others. I especially remember the first high holiday service in the tiny store that we had rented on Route 110, where Dino's is currently. It was much too small to accommodate even our small congregation. Sid spoke with one of our neighbors who was an elder in the nearby Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow about our problems, and, in turn, he suggested to the other elders that they offer us the use of their brand new educational building. The crosses were moved out and we moved in our ark, which was built by Tim Feinberg. It had a velvet curtain that I ran up on my sewing machine. That was the year we began our continuing tradition of inviting the parents of members to worship with us at no cost. We needed to encourage people to stay here to pray rather than go to their parent's shul.

At first we did not have any Torahs, so we borrowed two Torahs from

another synagogue. Shortly thereafter, Meyer Steinberg's mother offered to donate a Torah if the shul would agree to purchase a second one, so the synagogue would have the required two Torahs. Sid went down to the East side and arranged for the purchase of the two Torahs. However, we needed a place to dedicate the Torahs. The storefront was not a suitable facility for such an honor. Sid went over to the Huntington Town House and persuaded the management to donate a room, refreshments and even a photographer to us!

I also remember the time I got a call at home that the toilet in our little store was overflowing. Ruth Steinberg and I rushed over to take care of it before the Hebrew School students arrived.

Ruby Wagner, a local builder who also was a holocaust survivor, heard from his cousin, Sol Chaiken, that we were looking for land to build a new synagogue. Ruby offered to sell us five acres of property at a minimal price and then donated back to us most of the money.

I remember on the day the bulldozers had just cleared the site, Sol Chaiken and Bill Mandel, Chairman of the building committee, were standing in the middle covered with mud and dirt. As I arrived we stood there and hugged with tears of joy streaming down our faces.

Sid chaired the first ground breaking, which initially was rained out and had to be postponed. Our then Congressman, Otis Pike, waited in our house hoping the rain would end. But it didn't. The groundbreaking was held the following week without the Congressman, whose schedule couldn't accommodate it.

There were lots of frustrations and disappointments, often too much acrimony and in-fighting. As the first families of the South Huntington Jewish Center struggled to create a house of worship, a place of learning, a Jewish community center which would serve the growing and changing Jewish community, the negatives were outweighed by the positives. It was all a lot of work, but much of it has been a labor of love. As I sit here thinking of all the memories, I can only think of the *Shehecheyanu* prayer: I am grateful that I, together with my family, have lived to this day.

Norman Pell, Founder

I have many wonderful memories during my association with South Huntington Jewish Center. It was an incredible time of my life. On the occasion of the synagogue's 50th Anniversary Celebration, some of the following thoughts come to mind...

One of the most exciting and vivid memories for me was the first Bat Mitzvah, which took place in the store on Route 110. It was the Bat Mitzvah of Ethel and Fred Hoffman's daughter. We were so thrilled.

When the synagogue was being built, one of the first things that was going up were 3 arches, which were part of the foundation of the building... part of the building itself. When the arches were in the process of going up, we had a day of very bad weather – a lot of wind. I wanted to see how the wind would effect the arches. When I went down to the grounds, I was amazed to see the number of members who had the same feeling. The feeling of community was incredible.

We were getting ready for one of the first Bar Mitzvahs in the new building – the Bar Mitzvah celebration of Meyer and Ruth Steinberg's son, David. It was a major celebration. Wouldn't you know that the air conditioning went out. However, we still had a blast. We really took lemons and made lemonade.

There was one other incident that stands out in my life. I was doing a lot of traveling in NY state and the Rabbinical Assembly was having a meeting in one of the hotels in the Catskills. Our Rabbi at the time was Rabbi Shapiro. I figured I would pay him a visit. And so I went to the hotel and saw Rabbi Shapiro and he said, "Norman, I want to introduce you to somebody". He introduced me to Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. The introduction was just around the time of the Civil Rights uprising. I was just mesmerized to meet this gentleman from both American and American Jewish history.

Meyer Steinberg, Founder

I remember when we formed the SHJC with 50 families. We were in a little store on route 110 on the west side across from the Waldbaums shopping center. The storefront was too small to accommodate all the families for the High Holidays. For the first few years we held our services in the Presbyterian Church on Old Country Road, who lent us their building. We needed to cover up some of the Christian symbols. We set up an ark, which I designed with Timmy (Stanley) Feinberg. Susi Kleiman ran like mad before sundown to "bench light" before the holiday with her candlesticks. We also held services in the Electrical Union Hall that was down Half Hollow Road.

Some may wonder why we have such a large A-frame building when inside we have a low flat roof. Well, we had an architect member by the name of Donald Steingisser. He designed the building more for a Florida tropical climate because all the heat escaped up this huge open space ceiling and it was always cold. Our heating bills were outrageous! Except one July Shabbat when my son, David, who was our first Bar Mitzvah in the building. The air conditioner broke and it was a very warm night. Sol Chaiken climbed up and fixed the air conditioner to help make our guests more comfortable.

When Marty Liebman became President, we thought of building out a new sanctuary. We wanted to sell the Shul to an A & P for a supermarket because of the architecture, but it didn't pass the board.

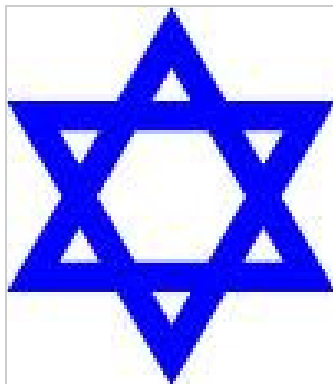
And then there was the time on Simhat Torah, when Rabbi Shapiro and the congregation was dancing with the Torah and people were kissing the Torahs as we were going around with the *Hakafos*. Phyllis Simon was there and so I gave her a kiss. Rabbi Shapiro saw this and he reminded me from the bimah, "You know Meyer, that is not a Torah!" That remark really floored me.

We also had great times at *Shala Shudas* (the third meal) with Rabbi Shapiro on Saturday afternoon when we studied *Pirke Avos*, "The Ethics of the Fathers," and as we drank the scotch and beer (boilermakers), we studied very hard!

Then there was the Yom Kippur War in Israel in 1973. We rallied the entire Jewish community in South Huntington. It was a weekday and the synagogue was packed. We raised quite a bit of money to support the State of Israel and I believe a few people went over to help Israel by defending the country through working and releasing Israelis to serve in the Israeli Defense Forces.

Sharon, Jed, Jason and Dana Albert

Soon after moving to Melville, we began our search for a synagogue. Since Jed takes no decision lightly, I knew this process would take several weeks...going to each conservative synagogue within a reasonable distance of our home. Our first 'stop' was at the South Huntington Jewish Center for a Friday night service. We met Rabbi Jacknis (who remembered our names immediately), as well as, several congregants who came over to talk to us. The service was warm and welcoming. When the service was over, Jed turned to me and said...'ok, let's join here'. I thought I had misunderstood!! But no....we both felt that SHJC feeling.....and wanted to be a part of this special place. We have been members now for over fifteen years...and look forward to the next fifteen....and then the next fifteen after that!!



Charles (Teddy) Berg, 2010, 2nd Generation member

THE BEGINNING FROM AN 8 YEAR OLD'S PERSPECTIVE

The original Huntington Jewish Center was at the corner of Nassau and Woodhull Roads; behind Jacobsen's Funeral Home and across New York Avenue from the "Big H" (Home Depot) Shopping Center. (Huntington Station was a real town in those days; New York Avenue was lined with stores, which are now just parking lots, including a Kosher Butcher.) My brother Bob was Bar Mitzvahed there in 1959 and I was scheduled to begin Hebrew School that fall. The growth of the Huntington Jewish Community was largely in the southern end of the town where farms were being converted into developments. In response, Huntington Jewish Center planned their new building for its present location on Park Avenue.

That was the straw which broke my mother Ida's back; there was just so far she would "schlep" 3 or 4 days a week for Hebrew school and services. Obviously, 5 miles was O.K. but 6 was not. So, you see, I (or perhaps the 8 or 9 aleph students of the SHJC) was the reason why a new synagogue came to be built in South Huntington. Others in my class included Bob Rothman, Carol Feinberg, Barbara Pell, Jeff Schreck, Sheva Kleiman and Mitch Greenstone. We went on to be the first Bar Mitzvah class in 1964-1965, the first graduation class in 1967 and the first high school class in 1969. (My parents actually paid a synagogue building fund at 3 different synagogues in their lifetimes.)

The "Store" (which everyone seems to know about) has been a series of eateries (currently Dino's Joint) since we left there around 1962. It had a backroom (now the kitchen) which was our classroom, and the front room, where services were held. There was a bathroom in the front room, near the side entrance and a few feet from where the ark stood in the opposite corner. Going to the bathroom during services involved walking past everyone to the front of the room and making a left at the ark. The side entrance between the 2 buildings worked out well in the fall for Sukkah construction.

Since our class was always the "first" we had the Rabbi as our teacher every year. (A teacher, Mrs. Greenstone, wasn't hired until the second year when a new aleph class came along. That new aleph class included a cute little girl (Barbara Sobel) who was my high school / college girlfriend and fiancé; she pursued a teaching job upstate and the rest was history. My mother, a school music teacher, was the Sisterhood's perennial "program chairwoman" and Barbara's mother Hilda was her accompanist for the ¹³shows they produced each year. (It

would have been a great story if we had actually married.)

Back at the store, Rabbi Friedlander (our second Rabbi) drove in from Brooklyn for Shabbat and Hebrew School. He drove an ugly black Plymouth, was always late and always hungry. Upon his arrival he sent Carol Feinberg (our best student) to Villa Stella restaurant (now the defunct Empire Schezuan Gourmet) for an American Cheese Sandwich on white bread which he ate during class. The bathroom was the only break from the ensuing 1½ hours; I used it regularly.

The Bet, Gimmel and Daled years were instructed by Rabbi Reich whom we all got pretty comfortable with. It was quite a surprise when Rabbi Shapiro came along just in time for our last year of Hebrew School and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. His name is the one that everyone remembers though he was actually our fourth Rabbi/ teacher in 5 years.

Freda Paley has a picture of the groundbreaking for the new building; I'm the kid in shorts with my back to the camera looking up at my mother playing the Star Spangled Banner and Hatikvah on an electric piano (the first time she ever played on one). My mother thought that Bermuda shorts and a bow tie was a good look for me; the other kids thought differently, but it made me tough.

The new building was far from finished when we moved in. The cinderblock construction was exposed in every room and concrete was our flooring for some time. In short, the whole place was cold, dusty and smelled like new construction. Our current "Kiddush Room" was the school wing and rabbi's office; the door to the current school hallway went outdoors. There were 3/4 classrooms; one had a sliding partition.

There's a lot more to tell; if you weren't part of those first 5 years you have no idea how every day was a battle to succeed. At the same time it was very personal; that is necessarily lost.

One last thing, Tim (Stanley) Feinberg built our first ark in his driveway across the street from my parents' house. Some of the ladies lined it with velvet others made the curtains; that's how things were done back then. That ark moved first to the store, next to our new sanctuary and finally served many years for our minyans and junior congregation; it was lovingly and well built to stand the test of time.

Jim Dale, 2nd Generation member

Here are some of my many memories from my (many) years at SHJC:

My sister's Bat Mitzvah in June 1975

My Bar Mitzvah on October 24, 1981

My sister's wedding on July 15, 1989

My wedding on June 1, 1996 (on the old bima!)

Larissa's and Hallie's baby namings

Working/playing at Sisterhood Bingo

SHJC Rummage Sales

Eric Diton

Very special to have my bris, Bar Mitzvah, and wedding all presided over by the immortal Rabbi Shapiro.....not on the same day, of course.

David and Beverly Figelman

I estimate that my father, Benjamin Figelman, must have joined SHJC in the early 1960's. He was the first member to donate an entire memorial plaque to the synagogue, and it was the first memorial plaque to be owned by SHJC. It hangs today on the right side of the sanctuary.

As was the tradition then – families worshipping together – as it remains today, three generations of our family life events – weddings, Bar & Bat Mitzvahs, baby namings – were all celebrated at SHJC. At one time we even owned a complete row of pew seats – 10 in total. Today we still own 6. In 1965 our daughter Sharon was born, and her baby naming took place at SHJC. Interestingly, when Sharon's daughter Erica was born (1999), the baby naming also took place at SHJC.

Our son Marc worked for Steve Perlmutter at Crystal Caterers, starting as a busboy in 1977 when he was 15 years old and working his way up to bartender through high school and college years. In the old days, when Crystal Caterers had back to back weekend affairs, my son, along with everyone else working for Steve (including his young wife) would sleep overnight on the floor, so that they could clean up the room and get it ready for the next affair the following day. Marc loved it – and growing up in temple taught him what it meant to work and be responsible for having a regular job.

We use to attend Friday night Shabbat dinners regularly with Rabbi Shapiro. Rabbi Shapiro made his own wine, and would go around the room filling everyone's glass. We did not know how he made as much wine as he did. Rabbi Shapiro used to joke with us that if you saw a Rabbi walking around with his yarmulke far forward on his head he had had too much to drink.

We attended the first Shabbat dinner to welcome Rabbi Jacknis and Suri before Rabbi Jacknis was officially hired. During Saturday morning Shabbat services welcoming Rabbi Jacknis, we lost electricity, and had a black-out. Synagogue worshippers along with the clergy took folding chairs and went outside to continue the service. It was a very hot day. Rabbi Jacknis, however, kept his cool and good humor. He remained relaxed, calm, collected and in control. Beverly was very impressed and amazed how he conducted the services under such adverse conditions. Rabbi Jacknis had made this a memorable experience for the congregants of SHJC.

Willa Gerber

Our best memories have been watching our children and their friends grow up in our nursery school and religious school.

Deborah Diton Gerofsky, 2nd Generation member

I've been thinking about my lifetime, literally, at SHJC . . . too many years to tell about . . . I even remember way back to Rabbi Rich . . . as kids we were not encouraged to come up on the bimah and participate like it is now, so mostly we were bored during the adult services and sermons and were laughing all of the time with our siblings and friends.

I grew up with Rabbi Shapiro . . . he Bat-Mitzvahed me and all of my friends, he officiated at my marriage to Brian at SHJC on 8/27/83 and he came to our home (actually to my parents' home) for the bris of Evin and Alex. When we were younger it was hard for kids to feel close to Rabbi Shapiro. He was more a figure of respect, a man we knew survived the Holocaust and was an incredible scholar, and we always had such a hard time understanding him! I remember once during a sermon Rabbi Shapiro said the word "hilariousness" when referring to something that was way over the top. My family all looked at each other at the same time and asked, "Is that a word?" and just cracked up. To this day, when something is just ridiculous, everyone in my family says it's "hilariousness" and cracks up.

One of the greatest gifts that I am thankful for from SHJC is the everlasting friendship with one of my closest friends, Caasi Hoffman (now Caasi Harris and still a member of our temple and her parents are also founding members). Caasi and I met in Hebrew school and were in a carpool with Mark Bosswick and Mindy Kleinman (her Mom, Sue Kleinman, is a founding member and close friend of my parents). From Hebrew school we became best of friends. Each of our families bacame like our own familiy. We were in the temple choir together with Cantor Tiger (I remember how nervous we were when we had to get up in front of the entire congregation on the high holy days and sing "Venislach" together!). Cantor Tiger had the funniest way of singing the "Shehecheyanu" and it always made us crack up. We went to our first Kinnus together at the Huntington Jewish Center and both had a crush on the boy whose house we were staying in! We made the centerpieces together for the "Kinnus Kattan" at SHJC . . . and it all began 40-45 years ago at SHJC. We are still best of friends today.

Amy Hoffman Feldman, 2nd Generation member

My memory is from when my Dad was President of the temple. Every Friday night we would enjoy a Shabbat dinner. My Dad would come home from work with challah and a cinnamon raisin roll from a bakery near his office. My Mom prepared a delicious dinner, as always. Then, once ready for temple, the whole family would sit and watch the Tom Jones television show. When it was over, we were off to Friday night services!

Cheryl Haiken, 2nd Generation member

South Huntington Jewish center has been part of my life for almost 4 decades. Many of my childhood memories revolved around SHJC; the activities and the people. If my mother wasn't on the golf course, she was at the synagogue or working on a synagogue activity. Every Tuesday night she made egg salad for the Wednesday Bingo game. Tuesday night was also Sisterhood or the Temple Board meeting and my father and I were in charge of boiling the eggs. Needless to say, we had many hard boiled eggs exploded on my kitchen ceiling because of the forgotten pot on the stove.

SHJC was smaller in size but we were large in involvement. I remember everyone doing work and working hard. Belonging to South Huntington Jewish Center meant something to the families. I was taught that it is a responsibility to be involved and to make a difference in whatever I'm doing. Not only did my parents instill that philosophy, but also all the families that we were working alongside. We were a family and SHJC was our home.

The pride I felt watching two of my children become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah and soon to see my third only enhances my connection to the synagogue. No matter how old I get, I continue to feel comfort sitting in the sanctuary. Especially when I hear Meyer Steinberg sing. His voice brings me back to my childhood when I used to hear Sidney Paley z'l sing with such emotion and passion.

I'm fortunate that my children have the same experience with SHJC in their hearts. Rabbi Jacknis and Hazzan Shamash continue to create the environment I want my children to learn from.

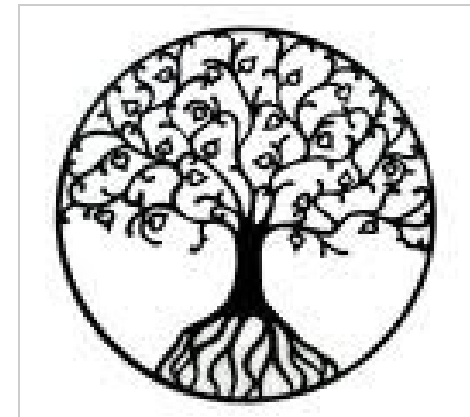
Caasi Hoffman Harris, 2nd Generation member

I remember in 1968 going to Friday night services every week in my girl scout uniform while my dad was the president of the temple, nibbling on nuts and raisins after the service and stopping at Carvel for dessert.

I remember meeting my dearest friend Debbie Diton Gerofsky in Hebrew school and enjoying all of our friends' Bar and Bat Mitzvahs together in 1972.

I remember being at my sister Debbie's wedding in 1979 and realizing that my sister Amy's friend from USY, Keith Harris, was a waiter for Crystal Caterers that evening!

I remember feeling very proud in 2005 to see each of my twin daughters, Chelsea and Rebecca, become a Bat Mitzvah as the **third** generation of my family at SHJC.



Mayer and Adrienne Horn

Adrienne ran a tennis night with Dede Kaden as a fund raiser for SHJC Sisterhood.

Adrienne worked bingo for years as a fund raiser for Sisterhood. Many times she brought our children, Jeff and Eric.

Adrienne attended many of the "rabbi's classes" with Rabbi Shapiro.

Adrienne assisted Hazaan Shamash for many months by helping with routine office duties.

Adrienne had her bat mitzvah with a group of women in June 1982. Adrienne was taught by the late Harold Greenberg, the late Rochelle Shapiro, and by Rachel Segal. Mayer's brother and sister-in-law (who have since become frum and no longer travel on the Sabbath) joined us for this Friday evening simcha.

Our son, Jeffrey, had his bar mitzvah on a rosh kodesh on Sunday, April 5, 1981. The Sunday bar mitzvah enabled observant members of our family to attend the service and the reception that followed.

Our son, Eric, had his bar mitzvah on chol hamoed Sukkat, on Sunday, September 25, 1983 - 30 years, less one day, after Mayer's bar mitzvah. The Sunday bar mitzvah enabled observant members of our family to attend the service and the reception that followed.

Our sons, Jeff and then Eric, encouraged *us* to attend Shabbat services - both Friday evenings and Saturdays. They were routinely on the bimah, leading services. On Saturdays, they would typically stay all day and play with Rabbi Shapiro's sons, Jerome and Simcha. On several occasions, Rabbi Shapiro's sons came to our home. On at least one occasion, Rabbi and Rebetzen Shapiro came also.

The comfort and confidence that our sons had participating in SHJC services enabled them to participate in Mayer's sister's Orthodox shul in Brooklyn. In one seven day period, between simchas and holidays, Jeff and Eric attended Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Reform services - and participated in all.

Our sons loved our religious school: Jeff was salutatorian of his class and Eric was valedictorian of his.

Mayer served as a lay leader as a board member, as corresponding secretary, and as treasurer.

Mayer organized a cantorial concert.

Mayer edited the SHJC newsletter, working closely with the late Carol Greenberg.

Mayer edited our chai - 18th - anniversary journal, and co-edited with Richard Schwartz the following year's journal.

Amy Kauffman

I was very excited for my first trip to Israel in Oct 2007. I was selected by National Hadassah to represent the Nassau Region on a Young Women's Mission to Poland and Israel. I was a relatively new member of SHJC at the time and just starting to get to know some of the leadership. Sherry Gutes told me she would

like me to come in during Religious School for a special send off. I was so touched and honored. I went in during my daughter's class time and Rabbi Jacknis, Phyllis Pellman and Sherry Gutes told the class that I was going to Israel. Everyone wished me a safe trip going and coming, gave me \$ to bring for donation and hugs. The only thing better than going on this Mission was coming home and sharing my stories with the congregation and inspiring other families to go to Israel.

When Sheila Cole was the director of the SHJC nursery school, I was one of the teachers of the 2's program. It was very exciting to meet the families and children who were sharing their first formal educational experience at SHJC in my class. (These babies are now in our Religious school just about to receive their bar and bat mitzvah dates.) One day a year, Sheila and all the teachers turned the entire nursery school into the holy land of Israel and the kids all went on a virtual trip. They had airline wings, took a virtual flight, went to Hadassah Hospital, saw the Western Wall, the Dead Sea, the dessert and so many other wonderful sites. It was a unique program. The preparation was time-consuming but it was a valuable, special event.

When my family and I were the new faces at Family Ed programs and services, Randi (Chavis), then Executive VP, used to greet us every time she saw us. It was easy for us to remember her because she always had her trusty palm pilot with her and let's face it, not so many women in the congregation are taller than 5'4. The very first time we met, Randi wrote our names down in her palm pilot and asked if she could take our picture to help her place the names and faces. So we had our impromptu photo shoot right there in the simcha room. Randi's warm welcome made us feel right at home. It made such an impression on then 12 year old Kayla that she mentioned it in her bat mitzvah speech a year and a half later!

One morning at Shabbat services, my Torah chanting coincided with a couples aliyah for their uf ruf. The bride and groom to be were a little nervous and maybe even a tad embarrassed with the congregation watching them. After their aliyah, Rabbi Jacknis wished them well,

recalled some of their family history, made a connection between one of our members and one of their family members who were both from the South Shore and finally led the congregation in Siman tov.... Up there on the bima, Rabbi and Randi began to dance around the couple and pulled me in to join in this joyous, festive hora around the couple. They stood perfectly still not sure what they should do. It was only a minute or two but I'm sure it felt longer to them. I can recall the Rabbi's face, beaming, as he blessed them with good wishes and then the moment was over and we continued with the service. I went home with an extra big smile that day and I imagine that the couple is still smiling themselves.

I remember all the times I sat at Shabbat morning services and Kayla went up on the bima to help Hazzan lead a prayer-usually Ashrei.

Watching my daughter, Kayla, on the bima sitting in the chair next to Hazzan Shamash on the day of her bat mitzvah was awesome. A twelve year old girl with a teenage attitude sat proudly looking out at a room full of family and friends. She davened, chanted and smiled with confidence and joy. It was truly a simcha!

Yom HaShoah is a solemn day. Sitting in the sanctuary watching the Religious school students enter in two lines carrying candles your eyes fill with tears. When they recite the names of the victims the tears fall slowly from your eyes. As the tears roll down your cheeks you at once feel proud of the connection the children have made with our history; confident that they will make the world better and yet so sad that their young minds have to learn of such tragedy. Honoring a survivor by listening to his or her story helps us each to bear witness so that we will Never Forget. It is one of the most important programs at South Huntington. The team work between Sherry Gutes and Phyllis Pellman in makes this somber event incredibly powerful.

Kayla's Bat Mitzvah date was 4/12/08. From the day the letter went out telling us her date everytime Rabbi Jackins saw Kayla, he would smile, raise one finger in the air and announce "April, 12th". It always amazed us how he could remember the special date; nit just Kayla's, but every upcoming (and past) Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

The Israeli Day parade in NYC was a fabulous day spent with SHJC. Riding the bus with anticipation of marching in the city with my children and friends made me feel so proud. Shirts were passed out so we would all match and the SHJC banner and flags all ready for us to march with...All the kids held the banner together. There was so much enthusiasm and pride in our SHJC group. The smiles were radiant!

We sang as we marched and Rabbi Jacknis and Allen Hecht, the President, danced arm in arm making all of us giggle (I have it on video!) It was just one great day being part of the SHJC community.

Jackie Kligerman

Both in my childhood and as an adult I belonged to Conservative synagogues that were not egalitarian, and I always felt that I missed something in my spiritual life as a woman in terms of participating in ritual observances and in Shabbat and holiday services. Since I became a member at SHJC I have thankfully had many firsts. Receiving the honor of an *aliyah* and reciting the *brachot* before a Torah reading was a joyful 'first'. Then learning to read Torah, and being honored to have been asked to read a number of Torah portions is very special for me. Recently I learned and recited my first *Haftarah*, which was an unbelievably beautiful experience for me.

Happy Birthday SHJC, and thank you!

Almarie Kralstein

I have so many memories from this Temple, it is difficult to pinpoint one. The first memory was the nursery school. I had just moved here with a 2 year old and I stopped working and knew no one in this area.

I heard good things about SHJC's nursery school, but I was hesitant because it was a conservative synagogue and I was not Jewish. I came in to look around and with my daughter Carsen and met Sheila Cole. Sheila took us to a classroom and without so much as a good-bye, Carsen flew in the room. Sheila showed me around and explained that this would be my new home. She assured me I would meet my closest friends here. I thought she was nuts and hurried back to the class to collect my child and go find another place.

I could not get Carsen to leave, unless I promised that she be allowed to come back. So with reluctance, I signed her up and just decided to stay away from Sheila Cole.

Everything she said to me came true. This is my home away from home and I have made nearest and dearest friends here! Sheila Cole, I have come to love and respect. My children are comfortable as I do. I came I Catholic and decided to convert so I could be a part of this warm and beautiful community. 30

Judith Kunoff

I remember when Ayelet & Maayan were President Ed Rudofsky's *Bima Buddies* proudly wearing their pins while sitting in the VIP chairs up on the bima displaying their best behavior.

I remember Ayelet & Maayan during Shabbat morning services; they must have been 2 and 4 years old. As I would sit in my seat participating in the service, they would sit on the floor with their clear plastic knapsack packed with a model stream, rocks, trees, and Polly Pockets. They would quietly create a jungle and play with their dolls, every so often emerging to sing shema or adon olam.

I remember Ayelet & Maayan's b'not-mitzvah respectively, each with the congregation filled with lulavim and etrogim singing hallel shaking the branches and smelling the fruit. I remember each of their d'vrei torai torah and how eloquently they presented their words of learning to us. I remember their torah reading and each of them fulfilling the position of shlihat tzipur. These were very proud days for us

I remember when we hosted the USY Rakevet Kinnus. I remember so many SHJC families opening up their homes to Jewish Youth from the Conservative Movement coming from all over Suffolk County to experience a Shabbat like none other. I remember the Saturday night activity with our parking lot complete with a climbing wall, a joisting stage and more, along with a DJ and an outdoor BBQ. 100 Jewish kids living life to it's fullest. I remember watching Andrew and Cole climbing the wall and Ayelet knocking her opponent off kilter (or was it she who was knocked off?).

I remember Ayelet singing with the SHJC choir, their youngest member at the time. The choir, especially Arlene, taking her under their wing. She attended rehearsals and sang in concerts with them. The lone kid in the choir.

I remember Maayan singing with the SHJC youth chorus on the high holidays as well as Purim and other holidays. The smiles on their faces are indelibly planted in my mind.

I remember 2010; assisting Cheryl Haiken as she spearheaded the efforts to ensure the 50th Anniversary would be a success as defined by her dream. Cheryl's vision of the 50th set the bar high and SHJC was lucky she carried it out. I remember her undying energy focusing

on every detail from the logo competition to the timeline to each and every 50th event. I remember as she *kvelled* listening to the stories of the founders as they shared their versions of their past 50 years with us at a video interview. I remember as she shared with me her elation as she opened the timeline package ready to be hung for Rosh Hashana; she was so impressed with the efforts of so many women who worked so hard to make something so very special. I remember as Cheryl shared with me her conversations with each of the founders every time she spoke with them on countless phone calls or at countless meetings at the shul. Her drive to make us all proud of the past 50 years which make SHJC what it is, is something we should all aspire to. Her love for this synagogue is a memory I shall cherish, one which is so very hard for me to share with you on these pages. Thank you Cheryl!

Shari & Marty Kunoff

Little Andrew Kunoff just came home from camp and was exhausted. We had to go somewhere so we dropped him off with his Aunt Judy at SHJC. It was Tisha b'Av. When we arrived late we noticed that Andrew was passed out asleep on the top step of the Bima while services were still going on. No one seemed to mind, especially the Rabbi. I thought, what a great shul, this is truly our second home. It gave us such a great feeling that our son could feel comfortable.

The pride of watching our son Andrew becoming a Bar-Mitzvah on March 20, 2010. --

Marty Kunoff

Any time my wife Shari gets to dance with the Rabbi (ie, his 13th anniversary year). --

Shari Kunoff

My adult Bat-Mitzvah on December 17, 2005 and reading from the torah for the first time. --

Karen Lippman

It was at SHJC where I remember my children, Ben and Jack when they began their Jewish lives. Ben started in a Mommy and Me in the Fall 2000. Jack had his bris when he was born in 2001 and started in Nursery School in 2003. The SHJC Nursery School was our first introduction to what this synagogue would become to our family. I remember Rabbi Jacknis singing songs and acting silly with our children during the holiday shows. He was singing "Rolla, Rolla Rolla, Matzah Ball while our children were jumping around like frogs. My family cried as our children graduated Nursery School in their cute little caps and gowns. We felt such love and warmth during those beginning years at SHJC. We just knew that this was where we wanted to be. It was in the Bagels, Blocks and Beyond class, where my Jewish spirituality was reawakened. It was at SHJC where my husband, Eric took a refresher Hebrew reading class so he would feel more comfortable in synagogue. It was at SHJC where I read Torah for the first time during Sisterhood Shabbat. It was at SHJC where I became an Adult Bat Mitzvah even though I had a Bat Mitzvah as a child. It was at SHJC that we found a home. The memories that we have made here will never be forgotten. Thank you SHJC for being here for us. We can't wait for what is to come.

Jani and David Majewski

I remember meeting Rabbi Jacknis and immediately feeling the warmth and Hamish feeling I was looking for in a synagogue. I knew right away this was the place for my family. Over the years, the feeling has own strengthened.

Besides watching our children become a Bat and Bar Mitzvah, two very proud moments for us at SHJC were about our children. Watching our daughter Jari perform sign language for the Cantor's Concert made me glow with delight. The other moment was when our son Joshua won the Jeffrey Leeds Award at Hei graduation and recognized the values that are important to us.

We look forward to continuing and strengthening our ties to the SHJC community.

Mindy and Jerry Maze

In January 1974 we moved to the area. We came to Friday night services and we met Roberta and Harold Greenberg z'l and Evelyn z'l and Julian Maiman.

At the first Sisterhood meeting I attended I met Phyllis Vogel.

We made lifelong friendships.

We were honored to be honored as *Kallat* and *Hatan Bereshit* in 2001.

Our children were educated at SHJC, became a Bar and Bat Mitzvah and our daughter was married here in 1994.

In 2010 we celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary!

Susan Nassberg

I find it very apropos that as I approach my 50th birthday a milestone in my life that SHJC is also celebrating 50 years a milestone in all our lives.

I have spent almost every Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur in the Sanctuary old and new. I have seen children grow, get married, have kids and in some cases grandchildren. I do not know many of their names but their faces never change. I look forward each year to seeing these total strangers and most of all seeing Rabbi Jacknis smile and his wonderful sermons.

My fondest memories growing up revolve around the Temple. My mother being honored as Queen Esther, My father coaching the youth group basketball team and my acting as manager and scorekeeper. My Mother running 'Temple Bingo' was a very large part of our lives. My father going to Mens Club meetings and oh-oh-oh all the Temple politics. I could write a 1000 page book on all I learned about Temple politics.

Spending numerous afternoons working with Cele Sher in the Temple Library. Most of my teen years were spent with my Youth Group buddies in the all purpose room, going on kinnus and so many stories it would take days to tell. Though I do not see these people much they will always be great friends and a huge part of who I am.

I feel blessed when I look back over my 50 years and realize how important SHJC was in my life. Seeing Rabbi Shapiro marry my sister, Cheryl Haiken. My nephew and nieces special moments; Adam's bris, Rebecca's and Sarah's baby naming and Adam's and Rebecca becoming a Bar and Bat Mitzvah, and next year I can add Sarah to that memory bank.

For me SHJC is not only a place to worship, but a place to feel safe. A place I can be gone from for years and always feel welcomed back like I never left. A place I will always call home.

Leah Noskin

We would be honored to have you share with us

The Joy of the Bat Mitzvah of

Leah

On Friday evening, the twenty-seventh of May,

Nineteen seventy seven

At eight-thirty o'clock in the evening

Please join us at the Service and Kiddush following

At the South Huntington Jewish Center

New York Avenue

Huntington Station, New York

Arthur, Dennis, Steven and Amy Noskin

R.S.V.P: 423-2132

This is my invitation to my Bat Mitzvah at the South Huntington Jewish Center on May 27, 1977. I was the first woman to be an adult Bat Mitzvah at the synagogue. I did my haftorah alone.

Sheila and Bob Oberstein

On the occasion of the presentation of a Sefer Torah by the Milton Weinberg family on Sunday, December 11, 1988, our children, Elena and Todd, were honored with the inscription of letters into the newly dedicated Torah.

Harvey and Gitty Ornstein

Harvey was Vice-President of Men's Club. All three of my children, Karen, Aileen and Laurie attended Hebrew School and became a Bat Mitzvah here. Aileen and Robby Kirshoff were married by Rabbi Shapiro and our grandchildren, Gabriel and Dara, had their Bar and Bat Mitzvah here as well. Harvey taught Hebrew reading to the adult women's Bat Mitzvah class.

Eileen Paley

We held our first dinner dance in the Twin Oaks Beer Hall with the music of the Art Swanson Band. After drinking one too many L'Chayims, Meyer threatened the band, which probably never played for a Jewish group before. They didn't know how to play "Adon Olom", and Meyer kept yelling that they were heathens.

Maxine Peresechensky

Breaking ground for the expansion and new sanctuary—wearing hard hats and coming to Temple every night to check on the progress of what was done every day. We get to share this memory every time we enter the building.

Roz Rudofsky

The beautiful plaques hanging in the religious school wing for the achievements by our students in religious school. Upon returning years later, they could view their accomplishments as well as those of their classmates who won awards, such as Valedictorians, Salutatorian, Jeffrey Leeds Award, etc.

Rare disease, but thankful

Lass says it at Bas Mitzvah

Being afflicted with the rare disease of dystonia did not prevent 13-year-old Laurie Ornstein of Dix Hills from participating fully and enjoying the celebration of her Bas Mitzvah yesterday — Thanksgiving Day.

The ceremony was held at the South Huntington Jewish Center with Rabbi Morris Shapiro officiating. It also marked the young lady's ninth year battling with the little known muscular disease which has kept her movements confined to a wheelchair since she was four.

Laurie's health problem is shared by an estimated 2,000 throughout the nation — mostly young people, but including some adults. It is a disease of the central nervous system which affects the muscles. It reduces or destroys the victim's ability to walk, to talk and use of the hands. Its causes are not known, except that in the case of adults, it can be the result of extreme fright.

Laurie's contraction of the disease launched the effort by her parents, Harvey, an assistant high school principal in Queens, and her mother Gertrude, to form the Dystonia Foundation, a group dedicated to aiding research in the disease. They had the cooperation of Dr. Irving Cooper, a prominent brain surgeon, of St. Barnabas Hospital for Chronic Diseases in the Bronx.

Since the formation of the foundation, 2½ years ago, in conjunction with other families with members hit by dystonia, the Ornsteins have been engaged in fund-raising projects,

with the proceeds devoted to research. They organize or encourage such projects as cake sales, tee shirt sales, presentations to service clubs and mail solicitation.

Mrs. Ornstein said the aid is given to the medical researchers on a request basis. She said the foundation has an advisory board of neurologists who make requests for funds to aid certain research projects, and the group does its best to meet the requests.

The most promising avenue in combatting dystonia is brain surgery. Laurie, the parents assert, would not have been alive to celebrate her Bas Mitzvah had she not undergone three brain operations. The surgery in this case is performed partly without anesthesia. The patient is under anesthesia while the skull is being penetrated and later while the incision is being closed. But during the actual work on the brain tissues, the patient has to be awake. The brain can be manipulated without pain.

As with many other youngsters with dystonia, Laurie is exceptionally bright. She skipped a year during her five years' at religious school, and is now attending the BOCES III school for the physically handicapped.

The foundation, a non-profit group — has an office at 425 Broad Hollow Road in Melville, an address to which the Ornsteins and other foundation members would be glad to have donations to the cause mailed. Further information on the foundation and its work may be obtained by calling the office at (516) 249-7799.



Dystonia victim Laurie Ornstein is bas mitzvah as Rabbi Morris Shapiro, center, and Cantor Rubenstein listen. (Carl Rozycki Photo)

Steven Schwartz and Amy Zuker

Rabbi, Thank you for making us, no matter how old we are, "that nice, young couple!" since 1993.

Roni and Marc Silverman and Family

Our community has been blessed to have South Huntington Jewish Center for the last 50 years. Happy Golden Anniversary!

Phyllis Simon

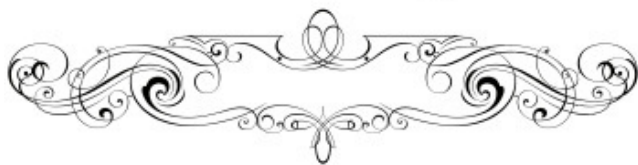
Many, many moments in my adult life have been shared with my South Huntington Jewish family-and the memories of these...shall be cherished forever.

I've chosen to focus on "my career" at the Synagogue as the librarian. Some years ago, the then-President, Marvin Adler, asked me to "reopen" the library. Though I loved Judaica and librarianship I never had thought of merging two of my interests! With trepidation I accepted the position. Marvin encouraged me and assured me that I'd do just fine. Within a brief time I was completely at home working, as if I'd been in our Synagogue library forever.

Helene Dale Weinberg

In the Spring of 1963 the South Huntington Jewish Center thespians presented the musical show-"L'il Abner". It was given on two successive days in the auditorium of the former Memorial Junior High on Pidgeon Hill Road. The cast had a spectacular time singing and emoting and dressing in ridiculous costumes. The friends and families in the audience laughed their heads off.

I am the only cast member who is still a Temple member.



SCROLL OF HONOR

Gold

Dr. and Mrs. Henry John Abrams
 Sharon, Jed, Jason and Dana Albert
 Harry Dale z'l
 Beverly and Joel Girsky
 The Roy Goodman Family
 Bonnie Guthartz
 Benjamin z'l and Susi Kleiman
 George Kopp z'l
 The Kreinces Family
 Ilyse, Barry, Lauren and Hannah Leibowitz
 Jani, David, Jari and Josh Majewski
 Helene and Robert Marcus
 Monique and Alan Mensch and Family
 Marge and Herb Pryves
 Cantar Abbe Sher and Family
 Phyllis Simon and Family
 Marcia and Bernard Sosnick
 The Sloan Family
 Drs. Ellen and Jay Steinberg
 Meyer Steinberg
 The Tobias and Chavis Family
 Phyllis and Dr. Allen Turtel
 Myra and Harry Wagner

Silver

Cheryl, Jeffrey, Adam, Rebecca and Sarah Haiken
 Fred and Ethel Hoffman
 Addison May Kurtzman, September 16, 2009
 Sheila and Bob Oberstein
 Jack, Pam, Scott and Lauren Schwartz

Bronze

Judith, Yoram, Ayelet and Maayan Amiran
 Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Gershen
 Peter, Sheva, Noah and Seth Harris
 Amy, Mitchell, Kayla and Jamie Kauffman
 The Lippman Family
 The Nadler Family
 Leah Noskin
 Alan and Bunny Pokrassa
 Stuart and Debra Kleiman Polsky and Family
 Shirley and Artie Rosenwasser
 Ruth and Herb Rubenfeld
 Joan and Richard Schwartz
 Mindy Kleiman Stein and Daniel Boyle
 Kay and Herb Zaks



Thank you for helping us honor our founders and members
 who have made South Huntington Jewish Center
 the best it can be for 50 YEARS!!

Yasher Koach