

Junior Congregation



Chatter

THE place to read all about what's going on in Junior Cong!

Volume 3 Issue 3

Junior Congregation Chatter puts its spotlight on many upcoming events. Read on!

November 7th

The Family Shabbat Service

On **Saturday, November 7th at 10:00 am**, the Greenburgh Hebrew Center proudly debuts its redesigned Family Shabbat Service. This family-friendly service begins at the beginning – with *Modeh Ani* and *Mah Tov* – and continues on to everyone's favorite, *Adon Olam*. Rabbi Kenter will lead an informal break-out session. Cantor Kanarek will enliven you with spirited melodies. And, yes, children will receive a Junior Congregation sticker for their participation. So, clap, snap, and sing along. You will feel enlightened and inspired.

November 13th – Kinnus is coming

GHC is honored to host the 2009 Fall Kinnus November 13th–15th. Kinnus is a weekend-long USY (United Synagogue Youth) event where Jewish teens from many conservative synagogues come together to engage in social, educational, charitable, and religious activities. We will host 160 guests, including the teens and their adult chaperones. If you are able to serve as a host family, please contact GHC's VP of Youth Terri Altamura at terrialtamura@gmail.com. All host families are invited to an orientation meeting on Sunday, November 1st following the Jewish Education Fund breakfast in honor of the Lazar family (see article on page 2). Best of all, in lieu of Junior Congregation, come with your kids to **Shabbat morning services on November 14th** to watch these amazing teens in actions.

October occasions

10/31 No tricks but lots of treats with Judy Goldstein & friends. Come see the debut of that awesome parashat play "**Lech L'cha: Three's a Crowd**" directed by the daring duo of Kanarek & Goldstein.

News in November

- 11/7 **Family Shabbat Service** – new and improved – will be held in the Main Sanctuary at 10:00 am. Yes, the kids will earn a sticker.
- 11/14 **Kinnus weekend** – no scheduled Junior Congregation service. Join us in the Main Sanctuary as USY teenagers take over the service. Yes, the kids will earn a sticker.
- 11/21 **Alison Kellner** leads Junior Congregation in the Chapel.
- 11/28 Thanksgiving weekend – there is **no scheduled Jr Congregation** – earn a sticker by joining us in the Main Sanctuary.

Doings in December

- 12/5 Our wonderful **clergy** leads Junior Congregation today – 10:30 am in the Chapel.
- 12/12 It's the return of that talented college-seeking senior – **Evvie Jagoda**. What better way for our students to start off their Chanukah than to spend this Shabbat morning with Evvie.
- 12/19 Don't miss professional teacher **Alison Kellner**, today at 10:30.

GHC honors the Lazar family

Jr. Cong teen leader Chad Lazar among honorees

The Jack Sonkin Memorial Award is being presented to the Lazar family in honor of their many contributions to education and youth here at the Greenburgh Hebrew Center. The award, presented by the Jewish Education Fund, will be conferred at a breakfast on [Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 9:45 am](#). Featured at the breakfast will be guest speaker [Rabbi Mitchell Cohen](#), the Director of the National Ramah Commission, the organization which oversees all of the Ramah camps worldwide.

Rebecca and Eliot Lazar, along with their three children, are long-time members of the Greenburgh Hebrew Center. Over the years, each member of the family has made an indelible mark on the GHC Religious School, USY (United Synagogue Youth group), Junior Congregation, and overall synagogue life. Amongst his many contributions, Dr. Eliot Lazar is well-known for his tenure (2005-2007) as president of this congregation. However, Eliot got his “start” on the Religious School Board of Education and as a Junior Congregation leader. For many years, Becky served as the Vice President of Youth. She continues to be a valued member of the Board of Trustees. Young adults Jenna and Andy have been active members of and leaders in USY. Of course, we here at *Junior Congregation Chatter* are proud to acknowledge one of Junior Congregation’s talented (and in demand) teen leaders [Chad Lazar](#) is also among the day’s honorees. In addition to his role in Junior Congregation, Chad is a USY officer and co-chairperson of the USY Kinnus which GHC will host this November 13th through 15th (see page 1 for details).

In addition to placing the spotlight on this very deserving family, the breakfast also helps to fund the [Jewish Education Fund](#). The Jewish Education Fund encourages and supports education of our young people beyond their formal studies at the GHC Religious School. Activities supported by this fund include: Ramah Day Camp (Nyack), Ramah sleep-away camp (Berkshires, Palmer), Etgar, USY (United Synagogue Youth) on Wheels, USY Pilgrimage, and USY Encampment. The Fund is heavily supported from gifts and contributions.

We hope you will help us to honor the Lazar family on Sunday, November 1st. For more information or to make a reservation, please call the GHC office at 693-4260. You may also email the office at office@g-h-c.org. The cost of the breakfast is \$18 per person. If you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation to this very important fund, we would be most appreciative. Please make your checks payable to the Jewish Education Fund.

Thank you. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, November 1st.

♪ Just a few notes ♪

♪ I'll Be There: Junior Congregation services begin **at 10:30 am and end at 12 noon**. Those ninety minutes definitely fly by when you're having fun!

♪ Remember the Time: Please bring all well-labeled food items for the kiddushim into the Dairy Kitchen before Shabbat begins (late Friday afternoon).

♪ Sometimes you feel like a Nut (Sometimes you don't): We thank you for sponsoring a Junior Congregation Kiddush. **Please note that all products purchased for the Kiddush must be nut-free** to keep our kids safe and healthy. We will be happy to give you suggestions to make your shopping easier.

♪ You Are Not Alone: We warmly welcome all parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins [once or twice removed] to join our students for this wonderful experience we call Junior Congregation.

♪ And Just Enjoy Yourself: What more needs to be said?

The Frequent Daveners Club

As parents, we know that positive reinforcement is always helpful. So, in order to encourage students to attend Junior Congregation services more frequently [and above the requirement], we offer an incentive program. Last year, we had an amazing 25 students enter our "Frequent Daveners Club". This year, the benchmarks for joining the Frequent Daveners Club are:

- Attend 16 - 19 times - students will receive a \$5 gift card to Cold Stone Creamery.
- Attend 20 - 23 times - students will receive a \$10 gift card to Barnes & Noble.
- Attend 24 times or more - students will receive a \$15 gift card to Best Buy.

HELP WANTED

Sponsors needed for Saturday morning kiddushim (snack). Please send all inquiries to Lisa Dayan at dayan@kmm.com.

No experience necessary.
No peanut products please.

If you have enjoyed reading this edition of *Junior Congregation Chatter*, please make your email address available to us so your family doesn't miss a thing. Email helps us all to stay green!

Who will be "Class of the Month"?

Each month, we reward the class that, by percentage, has attended the most Jr. Cong services. The winning class will have its name printed in the *Chatter* and will also receive a special classroom treat. (October attendance was still being tallied at press time.)