

## *On Simhat Torah*

In addition to the *Hakafot* - the procession with the Torahs - and a lot of good spirited fun - the congregation bestows among the highest honors of the synagogue calendar year:

*Kallat* and *Hatan Torah* - the *aliyah* for the last portion read in Deuteronomy - and the *Kallat* and *Hatan Bereshit* - the *aliyah* for the first portion read in Genesis.

As in past years, our congregation again bestows these honors upon very deserving members who have committed themselves greatly to the ongoing needs of this community - past, present and future.

The importance of these honors cannot be overstated! The continuing commitment and dedication of these very special members of the *South Huntington Jewish Center* speak for itself!

*Fondly,*  
*Rabbi Jacknis*

# ***Simhat Torah***

***South Huntington Jewish Center***

**Proudly Honors:**



**Robert Oberstein**  
*Hatan Torah*



**Eric Gottheim**  
*Hatan Bereshit*

**Sunday Morning, October 11, 2020**  
***23 Tishrei 5781***

**Robert Oberstein**  
**Hatan Torah**

Bob and his wife, Sheila, joined SHJC nearly 40 years ago following their move from Fresh Meadows and, previously, from Bayside, where they also had lived during most of their childhood. They were seeking a warm, accepting and supportive congregation, with a conservative approach to ritual observance, which they surely found in our shul. In the early years, they frequently attended Shabbat evening services, which gradually extended to Shabbat morning and Yom Tov services as well as weekday minyanim, at which Bob is honored to be considered a “regular.” Over time, Bob committed to increasing participation, initially volunteering on the Education committee, and later the Ritual, Rabbi Search and other committees, eventually rising to the office of Ritual Co-Vice President. In the latter role, he met with dozens of families to plan Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Auf Ruf, Baby Naming and Men’s Club honors, and to ensure the orderly flow of services. In all of these efforts, Sheila has been his constant support.

Bob credits Rabbi Jacknis and former clergy in addition to our long-term members for deepening his appreciation and understanding of our Jewish heritage, and for empowering our congregational family to feel that we are a link in the chain of Jewish history and tradition. Further, by sharing and imparting their knowledge, Bob has acquired the “shul skills” needed to lead the evening Ma’ariv service, both at shul and in the homes of grieving families.

Bob retired after 35 years of a fulfilling career as a school psychologist, assisting children and adolescents as well as their teachers and families. In the following years, while there is never enough time in the day, he has enjoyed gardening, exploring history and current events, and trying to maintain a regular schedule of jogging on local tracks. Sheila and Bob take great pride in their daughter and son, Lainie and Todd, their spouses and five grandchildren, ranging in age from 20 to two, with whom they attempt to remain fully involved in spite of all the restrictions that we hope to rise above in the near future.

**Eric Gottheim**  
**Hatan Bereshit**

Shortly after moving to Melville in 1991 I joined SHJC and settled into the community. A few months later I met Lori. As our relationship grew, we faced the challenges of merging two families into one. Following Lori’s lead we enrolled the remaining children in the Solomon Schechter Day School to augment their Jewish education. Lori and I married in 1993 and made Melville our home and SHJC the spiritual home for our new family.

All our children became Bat/Bar Mitzvah at SHJC while continuing their studies at Solomon Schechter. A number of them had the opportunity to be taught Torah and Haftarah trope by our Rebbetzin, Suri, at Solomon Schechter. As each of our children prepared for their Bat/Bar Mitzvah we began attending Shabbat services with all of them and became SHJC “Shabbat Regulars”. While the children were attending the Solomon Schechter Day School of Suffolk County Lori became very active and we were honored by the school for her efforts. The event was held at SHJC.

During the decade of 2000 – 2010 starting with Eve and finally ending with Joshua, the six children all attended university and achieved their degrees. During this period I agreed to join Les Barry as the Ritual co-Vice President. In this role my involvement with SHJC deepened. After several years serving in this capacity I stepped down assuming that my tenure was complete.

The following decade brought more blessings. We have been very fortunate that we have been able to add sons and daughters-in-law to our family as well as grandchildren. Eve and her husband, Eric, have provided us with granddaughters, Sophie and Ella. Tiffany and her husband, Rob, have provided us with grandsons, Pierce and Jace. Joshua and his wife, Mara, have added granddaughters, Peri and Kara, to the family. Jordan and his wife, Leah, have son, Yaakov, and daughter, Shalva. Our latest addition to the family has been this past April when we welcomed grandson, Parker, son of Monica and her husband, David, to the fold.

In July, 2019 I decided to retire after 43 years as a Property/Casualty Actuary. I was looking forward to doing some traveling with Lori and indulging in my new career as “Executive Grandpa”. I was assuming that retirement would provide me with additional leisure time and agreed to help out on an interim basis as the Ritual co-Vice President of SHJC. I am now serving the second year of my interim appointment as Ritual Vice President (I dropped the co- as I assumed the entire position). With the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting our retirement travel plans, Lori and I have been enjoying more of our time on grandparenting duties, although some is achieved remotely. The COVID-19 pandemic has also changed my responsibilities as SHJC Ritual VP as we have had to make many changes to the services to protect our congregation. I am thankful for the assistance I have received from the members of the Ritual Committee.

I would like to extend a hearty mazel tov to Bob Oberstein for being honored as Hatan Torah. This is a well-deserved honor for him. I would also like to thank the Rabbi and Suri for their dedication to our congregation these many years. On a personal level, Lori and I have enjoyed sharing their contributions to our Solomon Schechter family. Lori and I look forward to post-COVID times when we can celebrate more simchas with the SHJC family.