

HCRJ

NOVEMBER 2018

HOUSTON CONGREGATION FOR REFORM JUDAISM

The Jews of Poland



The story of the Jews of Poland can be divided into two major chapters: before and after the Holocaust. Before the Holocaust, Jews were the largest minority in Poland, and while antisemitism may have permeated significant pockets of the greater Polish culture, Jews and Poles lived side by side for centuries. Jews spoke Polish. Poles spoke Yiddish. They interacted with each other in the streets, in the market place and in their places of business. For hundreds of years, Jews were part of Poland, and Polish culture was, in part, Jewish.

This strong Jewish presence began in the Middle Ages, as the Jews of Europe fled from the Crusaders in the thirteenth century. In 1264, the Statute of Kalisz created legal protections for Jews which were later extended by King Kazimierz Wielki (Casimir the Great) in the early fourteenth century.

These legal protections created an environment of relative autonomy and tolerance. As a result, the Jews of Poland developed a rich social and cultural life, and by the sixteenth century, nearly 80 percent of the world's Jewish population lived in Poland.

The relatively peaceful existence of Polish Jewry led to the rise of several significant religious movements. Among the most recognizable today is the Hasidic community, which continues to wear the same clothing (black hats and long black coats) as was worn in the 1800's in Poland.

For centuries, the Jews of Poland lived in shtetls, and with the exception of a small minority of well-off Jewish merchants, bankers and factory owners, most Jews were poor. They made a living as traders, semi-skilled craftsmen and shopkeepers.

With the industrial revolution, most Jews migrated from the shtetl to larger urban centers such as Warsaw, Vilna, Krakow, and Lodz. These cities became the cultural, religious, and intellectual centers of world Jewry. With such a vibrant population, Jews developed extensive networks of cultural and literary institutions. From this dynamic community emerged a wellspring of religious trends, new political theories and ideologies including Zionism and socialism. These ideas and many others were explored in thousands of newspapers, books, journals and plays (mostly in Yiddish).

At the end of the eighteenth century, Poland was partitioned between Russia, Prussia, and Austria. This partition left a majority of the Polish Jewish population under harsh Russian policies and subjected to strict geographic and professional restrictions. The Jews of this territory (which is known as the Pale of Settlement) were forbidden to live outside of this region.

In the 1880s and 1890s, anti-Semitic violence surfaced throughout the Pale of Settlement in the form of organized massacres called pogroms. In response to this new reality of hate and intolerance, two million Jews emigrated out of this region. Most of them flee to the United States. Others, inspired by the teachings of Zionism, migrate to Palestine. Even after this mass exodus, the Jewish population of Poland continued to be the highest percentage of Jews in any European country. On the eve of World War II, three and a half million Jews (approximately ten percent of the Jewish population) still lived in Poland.

When the Nazis set their sights on Poland, they placed their major killing centers there with a railway system that could efficiently bring Jews and other prisoners from their homelands to be murdered in the camps. By the end of the war, nearly five million Poles died—including three million Jews and 1.9 million non-Jewish Polish citizens.

Fewer than 10,000 Jews live in Poland today, but the legacy of Polish Jewry remains through the ideologies, religious movements and cultural treasures which emerged from one of the most dynamic Jewish communities in history. Join us for a celebration of Polish Jewry at our 5th Annual Deli Shabbos (details on page 6).

November Calendar

- | | | |
|----|----------|---|
| 2 | 6:00 PM | Tot Shabbat |
| | 6:15 PM | Family Dinner |
| | 7:15 PM | Family Shabbat |
| | | Chanukah Store Opens |
| 4 | 9:00 AM | Religious School Family Breakfast |
| 5 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Yoga |
| | 8:00 PM | JCC Book & Arts Festival Community Read |
| 7 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Mah Jongg |
| | 1:00 PM | Senior Chai Watercolor Class |
| 8 | 10:30 AM | Interest Group: Jewish Burial Rituals |
| 9 | 7:15 PM | Shabbat Services (Veterans Shabbat) |
| 10 | 10:30AM | Bar Mitzvah of Louis Fisher |
| | 4:30 PM | Havdalah in Pajamas |
| 11 | 9:30 AM | Religious School |
| | 10:00 AM | Torah Tots |
| | 10:00 AM | Bar/Bat Mitzvah Information Meeting |
| | 10:30 AM | Vendor Fair |
| 12 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Yoga |
| 13 | 11:30 AM | Knitzvah Group |
| | 7:00 PM | Board Meeting |
| 14 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Mah Jongg |
| | 1:00 PM | Senior Chai Watercolor Class |
| 16 | 6:00 PM | Deli Shabbat Dinner |
| | 7:15 PM | Shabbat Services |
| 18 | | No Religious School |
| 19 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Yoga |
| 22 | 10:00 AM | Thanksgiving Day Meal Deliveries |
| 23 | 7:15 PM | Shabbat Services |
| 25 | | No Religious School |
| 26 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Yoga |
| 27 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Glass Fusing |
| 28 | 10:00 AM | Senior Chai Mah Jongg |
| | 1:00 PM | Senior Chai Watercolor Class |
| | 7:00 PM | Hoops and Hanukkah at the Rockets |



Saturday, December 1
9:30am-10:30am

Do you like breakfast tacos? Do you want to learn more about the weekly Torah portion? Then, join us for Tacos and Torah as Rabbi Gross leads us in a lively discussion on the weekly portion! Sign up with Justin at 713-782-4162 or admin@hcrj.org.

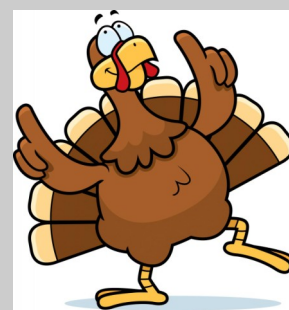
Family Shabbat

Friday, November 2

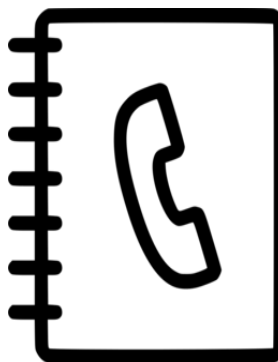
Tot Shabbat: 6:00PM
Dinner: 6:15PM
Family Services: 7:15PM

Menu: Thanksgiving
Feast: Fried turkey,
Thanksgiving sides, salad, chicken nuggets
and macaroni and cheese.

For Our Tots: Tot Shabbat Services on
November 2 at 6:00PM. Join us for Shabbat
fun.



HCRJ Directory



We are putting together a directory of HCRJ congregants that will be sent electronically to every family. If you would like to **OPT OUT** of the directory, please contact Melissa Wolfson at hcrj@hcrj.org. The directory will include all family member names (including children), address, email address and phone numbers.

Save the Date

Mitzvah Day 2018

December 16 from 9:00AM-12:30PM



Your Hands Can Make a Difference



November 18th Margaritas and Mitzvot. Friends over 21, meet at Escalantes in Meyerland on Sunday at 6pm for some cocktails and appetizers then head over the Target to shop for our Count Me In gift drive. All purchases can be left with the Count Me In team at Target so you don't have to worry about delivery etc... RSVP to Michelle Renfrow hcrjyouth@hcrj.org

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Honors and Memorials Fund

In memory of Lawrence and Rose Miller

From **The Gerald W. Miller Philanthropic Fund of the Dallas Jewish Community Foundation**

In memory of Charles A. Snyder

From **Sherry Snyder**

In honor of a speedy recovery for Shirley Sirota

From **The Knitzvah Group**

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

From **Marlene Beckelman**

From **The Estate of Henry Lam**

General Operating

From **Myron Marks**

From **Ted and Maria Johnson**

In appreciation of HCRJ live streaming services

From **Michael and Gary Nathanson**

Torah Tots

From **Michael and Gary Nathanson**

Arrangements

From **Ted and Maria Johnson**

Brag and Boasts



Mazel Tov to Louis Fisher, son of Joey and Ron Fisher, who will become a Bar Mitzvah on November 10, 2018.

Sabbath Oneg Sponsorships A wonderful mitzvah opportunity awaits you!

Celebrate a life cycle event or honor a loved one by sponsoring a Friday Night Oneg (Sabbath reception), a Family Sabbath Dinner or a Religious School Breakfast. These events represent just some of the ways our community gathers in fellowship, and your sponsorship enables us to frame these occasions with additional beauty and joy.

If you wish to sponsor a meal or a Sabbath reception, please contact the temple at least two weeks prior to the event. Thank you for your ongoing support of HCRJ.

- Sabbath Oneg —\$100.00
- Religious School Breakfast—\$100.00
- Family Shabbat Dinner —\$150.00
- Contribution to Arrangements Fund

November Oneg Sponsorships

November 2: Open to sponsor

November 9: Sponsored by the Fisher family in honor of Louis' Bar Mitzvah

November 16: Sponsored by Barbara Brownstein in memory of Rabbi Marc Brownstein

November 23: Open to sponsor

November 30: Open to sponsor

Sponsorship donations can be made online at www.hcrj.org/donations or by calling the temple office at 713-782-4162.

Consecration Class of 2018



Mazel Tov to Ella Shaw, Lielle Morgenstern, Isabel Kariel and Flint Goldman



It was another exciting month at HCRJ. From volunteering at Undies for Everyone to Consecration, Sushi in the Sukkah, Religious school and much more!



November 11 at Religious School

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Information Meeting: Calling all Parents of 5-7th graders at 10:00AM

We ask all parents considering dates for Bar/Bat Mitzvah with children in grades 5, 6, and 7 to attend this important meeting. If you already have attended this meeting in the past **and** already have a date on the HCRJ calendar, no additional information will be presented. This is the first opportunity that 5th grade parents will have to submit their preferences for a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. To reserve a date on the calendar, 3 dates must be submitted along with the \$500 fee. Topics for this meeting include: The Bar/Bat Mitzvah process at HCRJ, mitzvah projects, how to begin to prepare for this special event in the life of your family. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would still like more information about Bar/Bat Mitzvah, please e-mail Fran Brochstein at fran@hcrj.org.

Planning a Party? Bar/Bat Mitzvah? Join us for HCRJ's 6th Annual Vendor Fair

10:30AM to 12:30PM

HCRJ will be hosting dozens of our preferred vendors who will be available for you to meet with. Experience everything you need to make your Bar or Bat Mitzvah or any event a success! Meet vendors in every category allowing you to get connected face-to-face. This free event allows you to see and experience everything your events can be. Come see a multitude of vendors on-site to help you plan for the big day! Explore a wide variety of goods and services – including all the newest ideas – all for you! Invitations, Hotels, Photographers, Videographers, Green Screens, Caterers, Décor and so much more! Come meet with the best vendors out there!

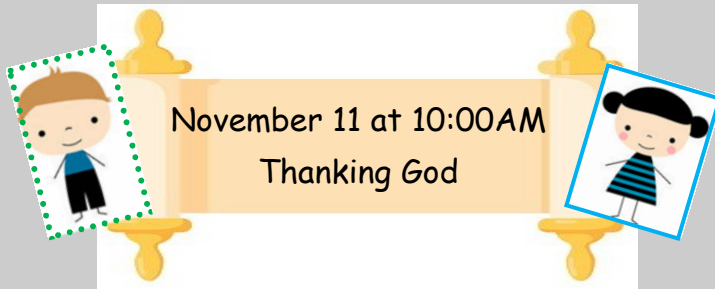
Count Me In Volunteer Day for 8th-12th Grade

Car pool over to the Merfish teen center after Hebrew school to help organize and sort gifts for our Houston families in need who will be receiving Hanukkah gifts this year. No experience needed. Lunch provided. RSVP to Michelle Renfrow hcrityouth@hcrj.org

Torah Tots

Have a tot 18 months - 4 years old?

Parents and tots are invited to join in to learn about the Jewish holidays through stories, songs, movement, crafts, community and so much more! This monthly program is open to the community and there is no cost to attend.



RSVP to Fran Brochstein at
fran@hcrj.org

HAVDALAH IN PAJAMAS

Special event for HCRJ families with kids age 10 and younger

**Saturday, November 10
4:30 p.m.**

Crafts: creating dream catchers
Havdalah Service and song session
Breakfast for Dinner:
chicken & waffles and cereal bar

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE PJ.

Havdalah in Pajamas is for families with kids age 10 and under, and is free. RSVP to Justin at 713-782-4162 or admin@hcrj.org by Thursday, November 8.

Havdalah in Pajamas Co-Chairs:
Ginger Greenberg & Coby McElroy

December 2 at Religious School



Chanukah Religious School Program

Sunday, December 2 is a morning not to be missed! An all school Chanukah celebration will take place in 8 different spaces for our students. Our Ozers will lead 8 creative ways for making this holiday oh so bright! Parents of 1st-6th grade... While your child is boosting their Chanukah spirit, you will be part of a meet & greet along with our first parent-ed talk lead by Riana Sherman (see details below). Families will rejoin at 11:30 for a latke snack.

PARENTING SPEAKER SERIES

December 2, 10:00AM to 12:00PM

Meet and Greet for parents followed by a discussion about the importance of Jewish camp in the lives of our children. More details to come. RSVP to Fran at fran@hcrj.org.

Guac & Talk with Rabbi Gross

A Special Program for 11th & 12th Graders
December 2, 12:00 – 1:00PM

Join Rabbi Gross for chips, salsa, guacamole and queso. During this brief hour together 11th and 12th graders are invited to have conversations about hot topics of global and personal concern, issues which may challenge our Jewish values and college. This is the first of three meetings.



Chanukah Shabbat: December 7

Join us for our congregational observance of Chanukah on this seventh night of our Festival of Lights. Following services, potato latkes and apple sauce will be the highlight of the evening at our latke oneg.



Annual HCRJ Chanukah Store



Our Chanukah Store is opening soon! Come check out the store opening on November 2 during Family Shabbat. The store will remain open through December 7 (while supplies last). Get your candles, wrapping paper, Chanukah decorations, menorahs, gifts and more. Proceeds benefit the Religious School. Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Fran Brochstein at fran@hcrj.org if you are able to assist.

Houston Rockets vs. Dallas Mavericks



Hoops & Hanukkah Night!

**Wednesday, November 28th
@ 7:00pm**

**Tickets are NOW AVAILABLE!
Upper Level: \$30**

**Offer includes Hoops & Hanukkah t-shirt &
exclusive access to pre-game
shootaround!**

Availability is limited!
Deadline: November 14th

Purchase Tickets
Contact: Justin Deutsch
hcrj@hcrj.org
713-782-4162



Count Me In
a program of

If you picked up a bag for Count Me In, please return it to HCRJ by Sunday, November 4.

Senior Chai Living Life over 60

The Senior Chai program is dedicated to enriching the lives of those 60 and above. Your input is valuable to us in shaping a calendar of events that meet your interests, so please send any programming ideas to hcrj@hcrj.org. This program is underwritten by the Barg and Shelby families in memory of David & Mozelle Barg and Robert & Esther Shelby. Please RSVP for all Senior Chai programs to Melissa Wolfson at hcrj@hcrj.org.

Speaker with Houston Jewish Funerals

Thursday, November 8 at 10:30AM

Spirituality, grief, loss and Jewish burial rituals will be the topics at this learning session with Houston Jewish Funerals. Also explore the emotions experienced during times of loss and the grieving process.

Glass Fusing

November 27, 10:00AM, \$10 to attend

Register at: www.hcrj.org/events/glassfusing

Glass fusing is defined as the heat bonding of separate pieces of glass in a kiln. Join us as we explore glass fusing at HCRJ. We will discuss the basics of the technique, learn the vocabulary and engage in creating our very own fused glass creation. Participants can choose to make one mezuzah that once completed is ready to hang on your doorway or a 4" x 4" slumped dish. Participants will learn to score and cut glass themselves and make a one of a kind piece of art. Instructor Michelle Renfrow has been fusing glass for several years and is excited to teach you a new art form!

Watercolor Class

Wednesdays, November 7—December 19 (no class November 21)

1:00PM to 3:00PM, no cost to attend

Artist Noelle Shawa will start teaching another series of our Watercolor class on Wednesday, November 7. This 6-week class is suitable for those who have never painted before and for those who have some experience.

Yoga Class

Mondays, 10:00AM to 11:15AM, No cost to attend

Taught by Suzy Shapiro, a certified yoga instructor, this class will focus on strength and stamina, balance and flexibility, and a new sense of well-being.

Mah Jongg

Wednesdays, 10:00AM to 12:00PM

Join us for a weekly game of mah jongg! Coffee and light snacks are served. Instruction provided on request. No cost to attend.

Special Shabbats in November



Family Shabbat: November 2

Tot Shabbat: 6:00PM

Dinner: 6:15PM (Menu: Fried turkey, Thanksgiving sides, salad, chicken nuggets and macaroni and cheese.



Veterans Shabbat: November 9 at 7:15PM

Honor our veterans. Value their sacrifices. Consider the values worth fighting for. Join us for a special Sabbath honoring our veterans on November 9. Please email photos of yourself serving to be displayed at our oneg (if you sent in a picture in past years, we still have it).



5th Annual Deli Shabbos: November 16

Dinner: 6:00PM \$25 per person (register at www.hcrj.org/event/2018delishabbat)

Shabbat Services: 7:15PM

On Friday, November 16 at 6:00PM, we will be welcoming Ziggy Gruber (owner of Kenny & Ziggy's) to the pulpit for our Fifth Annual Deli Shabbos. The theme of this year's Deli Shabbos experience will be Poland. Ziggy is preparing a very special Shabbat Dinner followed by a sermon about the history of the food that we will share. The service will also feature violinist, Jacqueline Audas, one of the very talented musicians who played at our high holy days services.

Jewish Community Center's Meals on Wheels Program

Thursday, November 22, 10:00-11:30am

Spend time with your family and HCRJ while giving back on Thanksgiving morning! We'll be delivering Thanksgiving meals to homebound seniors. This is a great opportunity for families! Children will be able to make holiday pictures to give to seniors that are visited.



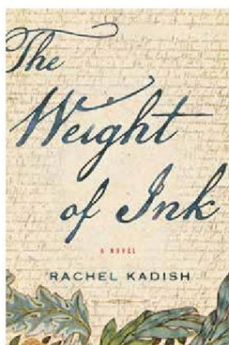
The Meals on Wheels program is for individuals 60 years or older, incapacitated or disabled, and who are limited in meal preparation. Recipients are often nutritionally at-risk adults who may be disabled, living alone, or low-income earners.

Please bring 2 small coolers (1 for hot meals & 1 for cold milk). Sign up with Justin at 713-782-4162 or admin@hcrj.org.

Ann and Stephen Kaufman Jewish Book and Arts Festival

HCRJ is proud to be a partner of the Community Read for the second straight year.

Books are available for \$18.39 from the HCRJ office. Book purchases come with complimentary admission to the event, and we also have 10 additional free tickets to distribute. Contact Justin to sign up at 713-782-4162 or admin@hcrj.org.



COMMUNITY READ
Rachel Kadish
The Weight of Ink
Monday, November 5
8:00 PM

Winner of the 2017 National Jewish Book award, Rachel Kadish's new novel weaves together the lives of two London women separated by centuries. An emigrant from Amsterdam in the 1660's, who becomes a scribe for a blind rabbi, and an unwell historian who has a passion for Jewish history become connected when the historian is approached by a former student who has discovered seventeenth-century Jewish documents. Uncovering the identity of the scribe, who marked her passages as "Aleph," will be the historian's ultimate project.

For more information visit www.erjchouston.org/bookfestival

BIRTHDAYS

11/1 Mitchell Jacobs
 11/2 Paul Herman
 11/3 Jack Markman
 11/4 Caren Sweetland
 11/5 Robert Sweetland
 11/5 Bari Ross
 11/5 Mike Eagle
 11/5 Melvyn Douglass
 11/6 Patricia Hurwitz
 11/7 Ronald Schramm
 11/8 Anna Mason
 11/8 Gail Gross
 11/8 Deanna Sline
 11/10 Seth Nichamoff
 11/11 Anat Shaw
 11/13 Stuart Goldman
 11/13 Terri Bernstein
 11/14 Edward Rosenthal
 11/14 Robert Abramczyk
 11/15 Debbie Barrash
 11/15 Ricky Mikelman
 11/18 Sylvia Brauer
 11/18 Marjory Okin
 11/19 Dana Hammerman
 11/19 Kay Zeidman
 11/19 Paula Abramson
 11/21 Raymond Brochstein
 11/21 Jason Frankel
 11/22 Barry Okin
 11/22 Mikal Innerarity
 11/23 Andy Maltz
 11/23 Jennifer Berko
 11/26 Jay Marks
 11/26 Jeanette McBee
 11/26 Paul Feinberg
 11/26 Mike Malloy
 11/27 David Wizig
 11/27 Gary Wolf
 11/28 Cydney Baron
 11/29 Hade Cashion

KIDS' BIRTHDAYS

11/2 Jonathan Schramm
 11/2 Seth Abramczyk
 11/4 Zachary Bell
 11/6 Rachel Hecht
 11/6 Mackenzie Cashion
 11/11 Noah Pintar
 11/12 Dana Vais
 11/15 Kayleigh Horn
 11/20 Jackson Fisher
 11/22 Ari Marazzo
 11/23 Madeline Feinberg
 11/23 Jaron Shelby
 11/24 Collin Lore
 11/26 Teagan Garcia

ANNIVERSARIES

11/1 Todd & Leslie Mogil
 11/1 Bill Mattox & Elisabeth Lindheim
 11/3 Steven & Melissa Wolfson
 11/8 Dave & Rachel Koenig
 11/13 Fred & Stephanie Pevow
 11/14 Lewis & Marilyn Fram
 11/15 Raymond & Susan Brochstein
 11/19 Bradley & Laura Frank
 11/19 Matt & Laurie Tenny
 11/20 Peter & Yvette Pintar
 11/20 Samuel & Jennifer Touchet
 11/21 Bill & Marcia Chaffin
 11/22 Morton & Jean Fefer
 11/22 Mitchell & Lharissa Jacobs
 11/30 Mitchell & Jess Rosen
 11/30 Joel & Sheryl Androphy
 11/30 Andy Wigderson & Tova Kronick

YARZEITS

11/1 Frank Hauver
 11/1 Al Rosen
 11/2 Terry Susman
 11/2 Tina Goldstein
 11/3 Sheila Wakula
 11/4 Ida Lait
 11/4 Martha Williams Ainsworth
 11/4 Merritt Fruhman
 11/5 Sam Abramson
 11/5 Faiga Mikelman
 11/5 Miriam Schwartz
 11/5 Harriet Levine
 11/7 Sandra Caplan
 11/7 Bob Markoski
 11/8 Victor Gaudette
 11/9 Rabbi Marc Brownstein
 11/9 Bertie Helfgott
 11/9 Anna Bonchick
 11/10 James Rosborough
 11/11 Barbara Karam
 11/12 Morris Sacks
 11/12 Ricky Fox
 11/13 Eric Rose
 11/13 Morris Zeidman
 11/14 George Sullivant
 11/15 Leon Johnson
 11/17 Mannie Podorzer
 11/18 Amber Bernard
 11/18 Pearl Levy
 11/18 Amber Bernard
 11/19 Betia Zitmanovich
 11/19 Isadore Calderon
 11/20 JW Levin
 11/21 Gertie Weintraub
 11/21 Yakov Zitmanovich
 11/21 Eunice Johnson
 11/22 Avi Ariel
 11/22 Arnold Leidner
 11/23 Anna Golodryga
 11/24 Isaac Kaplan
 11/26 Gail Robinson
 11/27 Morris Levie
 11/28 Samuel Popper
 11/28 Rose Smith
 11/28 Herbert Novitt
 11/29 Irving Graubart
 11/29 Arthur Wigderson
 11/29 Bernard Schmulen
 11/30 Don Bernard
 11/30 Craig Johnson
 11/30 Jeanne Tonn

You are invited to join HCRJ
 for our monthly



November 2, 2018
 Dinner 6:15 pm
 Sabbath Services 7:15 pm

\$5.00 per person

Please feel free to bring a side dish to show off your culinary talents.

November Family Shabbat Menu

Thanksgiving Feast: Fried turkey,
 Thanksgiving sides, salad, chicken
 nuggets and macaroni and cheese.

Steven M. Gross, Senior Rabbi
 rabbigross@hcrj.org

Adam Weinstein, President

Michael P. LeBurkien, Rabbi Emeritus
 rabbileburkien@sbcglobal.net (private email)

Adam Forman, Vice President

Melissa Wolfson, Executive Director
 hcrj@hcrj.org

Jaime Perkins, Secretary

Fran C. Brochstein, Interim Director of Education
 fran@hcrj.org

Debbie Barrash, Treasurer

Justin Deutsch, Program Coordinator
 admin@hcrj.org

Bruce Shelby, Past President

Michelle Renfrow, Director of Youth Engagement
 hcrjyouth@hcrj.org

Jaime Perkins, Membership Chair

Marna Meyer, High School Principal
 marna@hcrj.org

Rochelle Sinderbrand, Bookkeeper
 rochelles@hcrj.org

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 Website: www.HCRJ.org

Newsletter articles, suggestions for articles and corrections are welcome. Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month.