



CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

UNDERSTANDING THROUGH THE AFRICAN AMERICAN - JEWISH EXPERIENCE

News and Events of Cultural Leadership - www.culturalleadership.org - Vol. 9 Fall 2011

Cultural Leadership Announces New Executive Director

The Board of Directors of Cultural Leadership is pleased to announce the appointment of Holly Ingraham as Executive Director, effective November 1, 2011. She will succeed Karen Kalish, who retires after founding the organization and serving as its Executive Director since 2005.

Holly brings to Cultural Leadership a strong background in leadership development, expertise in community partnership building and a lifelong commitment to social justice issues. She understands our mission and is passionate about developing future leaders and social change agents. She comes to Cultural Leadership from the University of Missouri – St. Louis where for the last nine years she directed the Neighborhood Leadership Academy, as well as worked with the Community Partnership Project

to connect resources from the university to a variety of communities in St. Louis City and St. Louis County. From her prior work for the Coro Midwestern Center, St. Louis Public Schools, and St. Louis County Government, Holly has experience working with diverse communities, developing and managing youth programming, and nonprofit organization management.

As Executive Director, she will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of Cultural Leadership and supporting the mission of the organization to

create a more just and equitable community by educating high school students to recognize and resolve issues of privilege and injustice through the lens of the African American and Jewish experience.

Holly came to St. Louis in 1989 to participate in the Coro Fellows Program after



completing her undergraduate degree in Government at Pomona College in California. She later went on to receive her Masters degree in Public Policy Analysis at the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 2002.

Cultural Leadership Now Seeking Class 8

The applications are in and Cultural Leadership is now selecting the next class of courageous, passionate, curious students.

We look for sophomores and juniors in high school who have a passion for social justice and are “change-the-world” types. Applicants can be of any race, religion, or ethnicity. Our curriculum is dynamic and extensive and takes the history, successes, failures, and lessons of the African American and Jewish experiences as reference points for making positive change in our world today.

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I entered college at Loyola University Chicago as a biology major, focusing on pre-medicine. But as I got further into my science classes, I realized that they weren't fulfilling me the way I wanted them to. I want to make an impact in the world, and although a doctor can make quite an impact, that wasn't the route I wanted to take. So I decided to re-evaluate, and found the major of Advocacy and Social Change. My long-term goals are to work for a non-profit and better whatever community I find myself in. I credit Cultural Leadership for this epiphany. Thanks to Cultural Leadership, I want to create change and be like the leaders I learned have blazed a trail before me. I am excited for what lies ahead.

-Anna Rathje (5)

When our students see a problem, they grab an ally, or two or three, roll up their sleeves, and get to work.

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From the Founder

Dear Cultural Leadership Family,

It's been a great ride. And now it's time for a new driver.

After leading seven classes of fabulous students in Cultural Leadership, I will be transitioning my role to Founder only, as a new executive director has been selected. This change is good for Cultural Leadership, and it's good for me. I am a starter, not a maintainer. Starting organizations uses a different skill set, a different personality. I created an award-winning, sought-after program which has engendered loads of good will across the community. I'm very proud of it. The board chose Holly Ingraham as the new executive director, confident of her ability to lead Cultural Leadership in a new era. She has already started the transition by finding new office space and preparing for the next class of future leaders who we lovingly call "troublemakers of the best kind."

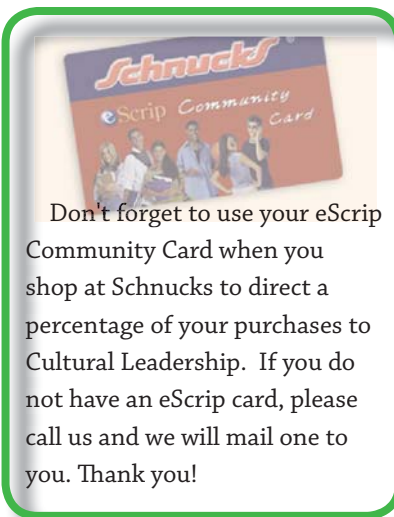
So it's time to move on. Of course, I will continue to support Cultural Leadership and nothing will make me more proud than to watch Cultural Leadership achieve its next successes.

Holly and Maggie (Harris, our wonderful program director), can't lead and grow Cultural Leadership without you. I couldn't have done my job as executive director without you, and they won't be able to either. I hope you will continue to give them your full support, both financially and educationally, so that Cultural Leadership will continue to flourish. They are smart and committed and are passionate about the students and the mission.

Another reason I am moving on is to devote more time to another organization I have started that is exciting and has great potential: Home Works! The Teacher Home Visit Program. We are training and paying teachers, especially in low income under performing schools, to go to the homes of their students to involve parents in their children's education to increase academic achievement, attendance and parental involvement and decrease discipline referrals. We are in 17 schools so far – four early childhood, seven elementary, three middle schools and three high schools. The data is very promising.

I am so grateful for your support and encouragement for these past seven years. Thank you and much love.

*Karen Kalish
Founder*



Cultural Leadership exists to create a more just and equitable community by educating high school students to recognize and resolve issues of privilege and injustice through the lens of the African American and Jewish experience.

Our students develop leadership skills, build relationships, facilitate dialogues and create change in their circles of influence.



Cultural Leadership molds students into young leaders. This year, Class Seven students are completing more than 800 hours of community service through projects they have designed and implemented. Some of their projects include:

Daniel Anderson-Little – starting a program that brings together three congregations (White Protestant, Black Protestant, and Jewish) in University City to discuss each other’s history and culture.

Hannah Davison – tutoring at YRead twice a week.

Channing Hunter – beginning a tutoring and mentoring program for students of color at Governor French Academy.

Ali Hunter, Meredith Joseph, and Michon Madison – starting a club for high school and middle school students in Clayton to talk about accepting and celebrating each other’s differences.

Andrew Tash – visiting elementary schools in the Parkway School District to present “Knowledge through Noise” to teach students about different regions by incorporating each region’s music into a presentation about its culture, food, and history.

Transformational Journey 2011

Once again, we met scores of speakers on this year’s Transformational Journey. Below is the map of the trip and some of those who had the greatest impact on our students:



Justice Clarence Thomas – Supreme Court, Washington DC

G. Douglas Jones – attorney, Birmingham, AL

Hollis Watkins – Civil Rights Leader; Founder of Southern Echo, Jackson, MS

Regina Holliday – healthcare activist and muralist, Washington DC

Afriye WeKandodis – leader of By the River Center for Humanity, Selma, AL

Donna Ladd – investigative journalist, Jackson, MS

Whitney Tilson – investor, businessman, and education reformer, NYC

Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton – student at Central HS, Little Rock, AR, 1959; civic activist

Rabbi Micah Greenstein – Temple Israel; board member of the National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN

Bryan Stevenson – founder and executive director, Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery, AL

Jerry Mitchell – journalist, Jackson, MS

Juan Williams – journalist, Washington DC

Rabbi Bruce Kahn – Equal Rights Center, Washington DC

Representative John Lewis – 5th Congressional District of Georgia, Washington DC; civil rights activist

Mark Hanis – founder, Genocide Intervention Network; grandson of four Holocaust survivors, Washington DC

Colman McCarthy – pacifist; Center for Teaching Peace, Washington DC

Mr. James Robinson – bus driver extraordinaire, St. Louis, MO

Nilaja Sun – playwright, No Child, NYC

Pedro Noguera – professor, author, and expert about education inequity, NYC

Dabney Montgomery – Tuskegee airman, NYC



Arielle Waks, Kyman Caviness, Mercedes Harrison, Tari Nussinov, and Channing Hunter (7) learn about Sukkot in Tari’s family Sukkah on October 16, 2011.



My Year of Significant Change

by Channing Hunter, Class 7



According to statistics presented to us on our Transformational Journey in June, African Americans are among the least educated people in the world. This is disheartening for me, as an African American male.

One of my favorite parts of Cultural Leadership was the “School Swap” in February. During this day, we spend a day in the city public school system and learn how we can make a difference to end education inequality. Our firsthand experience of the education inequity in the city showed me the stark difference in our society based off of things that should not matter. Participating in the School Swap has made me very grateful for my private school. It has also opened

my eyes to the hardships of people around me. Simply by attending school, they face challenges that no American child should have to face, such as receiving a disparate education from their peers. This is a country of opportunity, but not everyone is receiving the same opportunities. For instance, I have realized how little I learn about minorities in school, even though as a minority I learn about Caucasians and other people in the majority all of the time.

President Obama once said, “Our future is written by us, not for us.”

In Cultural Leadership, we are doing our utmost to combat racism and discrimination everywhere we see it. We cannot do this alone, however; we need allies to help us so our future can be bright regardless of color, religion, gender, and ethnicity.

Through Cultural Leadership, I am learning how to use people that think like me to help me achieve a greater goal. I have also learned that helping others helps me. I have learned so much about our history and met so many of the people in our history books. It is truly a life-changing experience. But what good is a life-changing experience without putting it to good use?

The School Swap experience inspired me to start a tutoring program at my school, Governor French Academy. Our program focuses on helping minority students at the school narrow, and eventually close, the achievement gap.

Our work here is not complete until the walls of racism and discrimination no longer separate us from our neighbors, our friends, our fellow citizens and other countries.

Ch- Ch- Ch- Ch- Changes

Martilla Davis (5) transferred to Columbia College in Chicago to pursue her art degree.

Nick Desloge (2) recently graduated from Syracuse University and is working as a strategic marketing consultant at a manufacturing firm in St. Louis. Nick also wants to get involved with a political campaign through the 2012 election.

Scott Friedman (1) transferred to Vanderbilt University Law School in Nashville. He loves it!

Dustin Golberger (2) graduated from Carleton College.

Allyson Golden (2) graduated from Vanderbilt and stayed for Accounting.

Lauren Green (2) graduated from Harris-Stowe State University with a criminal justice degree and Latin honors.

Brian Hamilton (1) graduated from Mizzou in December and is working in Admissions at the school.

Jermecia Jackson (2) transferred from SLU to UMSL to pursue a degree in criminology.

Brionna Jimerson (4) in her third year at Tufts University where she is majoring in American studies with a focus on institutions and power in the US. Last summer, she interned at The New York Observer and contributed features to Scooter magazine. At Tufts, she works as an assistant news editor at the Tufts Daily Newspaper, and as a bible study leader in Tufts Christian Fellowship.

Matt Kleiman (1) in his first year at Loyola University Law School and he is engaged!

Zoe Krause (6) interned at Planned Parent in DC this last summer.

Rachel Marschke (1) graduated from Lawrence and is attending graduate school at Mizzou for Masters of Visual Performance.

Dyelin McBride (7) transferred to Valley Park High School from Vashon.

Jaci Rifkin (2) lives in Boston and is a marketing research analyst at MaPs in Waltham.

Adam Rosen (3) is spending the semester abroad at the University of Glasgow in Scotland where he'll be learning how to play Scotland's iconic bagpipes.

Upon returning home, Adam will keep studying at the University of Denver where he is pursuing degrees in theatre and marketing, with a minor in leadership studies.

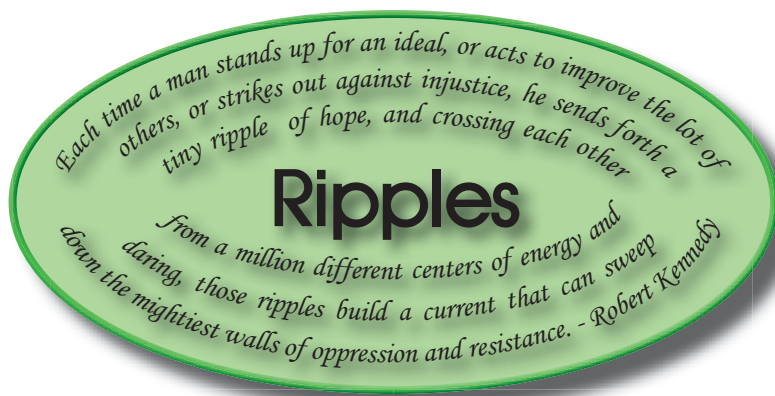
Sean Scott (2) graduated from SLU Business School and is Associate Marketing Manager at World Wide Technology in St. Louis.

Maayan Simckes (1) graduated from Tufts University and is attending graduate school at SLU for a Masters of Public Health.

Tony Westbrook (1) graduated from Fontbonne University.

Jordan Williams (5) interned at Ameren during the summer and has returned to Mizzou for J-School this semester.





Dominique Bullock (2) is working in Chicago Public Schools with City Year Chicago, an AmeriCorps program.

Chelsea Davis, Mercedes Harrison, Micah Hawker-Boehnke, Melinda Oliver, Rachel Platke, and Andrew Tash (7) participated in a discussion for a gun violence documentary funded by SLU. They provided the “youth” voice about the issues of guns and violence, particularly in St. Louis. At the end of filming, one of the producers commented that she teared up during their discussion.

Hannah Davison, Rachel Platke, Andrew Tash (7) and Drew Rubin and Juliana Wishne (6) were accepted into the Student to Student program, in which they will be presenting Judaism to the 60+ high schools in the St. Louis region with little to no Jewish presence.

Camille Foster (5) is in her second year at Mizzou. She is part of the Mizzou Black Women’s Initiative, where she tutors and mentors, is the Activities Chair for the Legions of Black Collegians and was Freshman President of the Action Team.

Stephanie Holzbauer (5) is at George Washington University and interning for Senator Claire McCaskill this Fall. Her focus is education and health care in Missouri. She is excited about these projects!

Zoe Krause, Drew Rubin, and Brandon Rush (6) facilitated at Webster Groves First Congregational Church’s “Peace Be Upon You” event on September 11th. They helped middle and high school students learn about stereotypes, privilege, and having empathy for others.

Cultural Leadership students and alumni would like to share their experiences with the community! They’ve spent a year learning about each other’s history and culture and now they’re ready to share what they’ve learned with the world! Students and alumni want to speak at your school, house of worship, and community groups! To set up a speaking engagement, call (314) 725-3222 or email programdirector@culturalleadership.org

Brionna Jimerson (4) is conducting psychology research at Tufts University about racial constancy in children, and volunteers as part of Ears for Peers, a student-run anonymous hot line for students.

Caroline Stoner (6) is co-leader of the Gay-Straight Alliance at John Burroughs. She has also been promoted at Chill Frozen Yogurt, and now has supervisor privileges!

Juliana Wishne (6) is doing an independent study on civic activism and feminism at Parkway West High School. Juliana is also involved with Civitas to engage middle and high school students in civics and their communities. She is also recruiting young people for the League of Women Voters!



Class 2 students Sean Scott, Laura Goldsticker, and Mia Harlan (L to R) catch up after graduating college.

Notable News

Jeremy Croff (2) graduated from NYU/ Tisch School of the Arts with 3.89 GPA - summa cum laude and received the Founders Day Award. He also received the award for Best Short Film at the St. Louis Jewish Film Festival for his film *Reverend Daughty: The People’s Pastor*.

Nick Desloge (2) wrote a paper, “Star Wars: An Exhibition in Cold War Politics,” which will be published this fall as a part of an anthology.

Terrell Gilkey (5) started freshman year at Brandeis after making it through the Transitional Year Program!

Lauren Greene (2) was inducted into two national honor societies: Sigma Tau Delta and Alpha Chi. She is also the secretary of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund organization, helping fellow classmates become viable competitors in today’s business world.

Brandon Rush (6) is one of 14 kids in the United States to be a part of the National Youth Leadership Council’s Youth Advisory Council. He will be traveling to and running service learning conferences on behalf of NYLC and advising NYLC on how to improve their projects and initiatives.



The Empty Nest

Jarvis Brown, Gateway High School, US Air Force Academy

Trevor Green, CBC, McDaniel University

Drake Hall, Webster Groves High School, Harris Stowe

Bobby Ingram, Parkway Central High School, Indiana University

Kristen Ingram, John Burroughs, Vanderbilt

Adam Kaplan, Whitfield School, Emerson College

Jestin Kusch, Cleveland High School, College of Wooster

Sonya McCanna, Nerinx Hall, Georgia Tech

Jasmine McCurry, Cardinal Ritter College Prep, Berkeley City College

Eliana Parnas, Ladue High School, University of Iowa

Anna Rathje, Lutheran North High School, Loyola in Chicago

Helen Rodgers, John Burroughs, Pitzer College

Hannah Rosenthal, Ladue High School, Princeton

Erin Schroeder, Lindbergh High School, Truman State

Nate Shelton, John Burroughs, Howard University

Josh Simpson, Hazelwood West High School, U.S. Navy

Kendall Tyson, Thomas Jefferson School, Lake Forest College

Jake Warshaw, Crossroads School, Woodbury College in LA

Eric Washington, Jr., University City High School, UMSL

Candace White, St. Elizabeth Academy, SLU

Cultural Leadership Convenes a Courageous Conversation

The most important program in the Cultural Leadership curriculum is the Facilitation Retreat in September. This is when Cultural Leadership participants begin to give back, begin to stand up and take action, begin to get people talking about the issues that continue to divide this community, this city, this nation. Over this weekend, they learn the skills to get people to engage in open and honest dialogue.

During the retreat, our students learn, practice, and refine important facilitation skills, preparing to hold “Courageous Conversations” with their friends and family who came Saturday night to be their audience. They came to not only be supportive but to talk, listen, learn, and offer their own perspectives on some of the most sensitive and divisive issues facing our communities and society. There were conversations on the death penalty, stereotypes, sexism, legalization of marijuana, and the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

Our students were phenomenal. They set ground rules, made everyone feel welcome and valued, got all the voices in the room, didn’t call on the same people over and over, allowed for disagreement in a respectful way, asked provocative questions, threw tough questions back to the group, and managed the conversations in a professional way.

Of course, not everyone agreed. No universal consensus was reached. But for the participants, these conversations offered the first opportunity they had ever had to engage in these discourses in such an honest yet respectful way. To be sure, everyone who participated learned something about themselves, others and the many sides of a complex issue.

After our students led their discussions, many groups continued with impromptu topics that interested them.

Several high-school students expressed genuine joy that they were able to have a conversation with adults about serious issues - all in an environment in which their opinions were heard, respected and valued. Many adults shared how impressed they were with our students’ maturity, fairness, and composure under pressure. During reflection, one student asked if they could meet with their group once a month to continue the “Courageous Conversation!”

We are both proud of our students and thankful to have a community so dedicated to our important mission.

If you have a group of students and/or adults who would like to talk about issues, please call to have a few of our students facilitate the conversation. You’ll be glad you did.

Call 314-725-3222 and ask for Maggie, our Program Director.

A Message from Congregation Shaare Emeth to Members of Class 7

Matt, Andrew, Melinda and Remi,

On behalf of Congregation Shaare Emeth, we want to thank you for speaking to our congregation. Your words were inspirational, meaningful and well said. We all felt lucky to know that you are a wonderful representation of the young leadership in our community. We appreciated your candor and commitment to becoming involved in Cultural Leadership. We thank you again for being a part of our Social Action Speakers Shabbat. Good luck to each of you at all of your presentations. We know firsthand you will all do well.

Shalom...with peace,

Ronnie Brockman, Program Director



Thank You

Cultural Leadership would like to thank the following people for their generous donations of time and talent:

Rev. Linda Anderson-Little, Class 7 parent, for stuffing envelopes for The Cultural Leadership Way.

Everyone who came to stuff application packets for Class 8: Kyman Caviness, Mercedes Harrison, Micah Hawker-Boehnke, Rachel Platke, and Remi Sorbet (all Class 7) with additional help from Recruitment Committee members Steve Parks, Terry Bloomberg, and James Surgeon. Brandon Rush (6) provided crucial advice about the interview process!

Cheryl Adelstein, former board member and parent of Hannah Davison (7), who put together the joint student-parent program at the Missouri History Museum on July 17th.

The following parents for providing meals and snacks for the student programs: Daniel and Linda Anderson-Little, Deby and Dennis Bennett, ShaRhonda Caviness, Bridgette Jenkins and Kenneth Chambers, Michele Roedder, Cheryl Adelstein and Daniel Davison, Tawna and Robert Weerts, Katy and Darlene Hawker-Self, Robyn and Tim Hunter, Leon and Sabrina Hunter, Carolyn Jackson, Ilene and Daniel Joseph, Mildred Madison, Valorie Perry, Marcene and Doug Menendez, Tsitsi and Zohar Nussinov, Linda Oliver, Debbie and Lee Platke, Roy and Rhonda Porche-Sorbet,

Keith and Nedella Spears, Lisa and Rick Tash, Ruth and Mitch Waks.

Samantha Lurie and Jonathan Karp, for chaperoning the September retreat and working with our students to perfect their facilitation skills.

Barbara Harris for her keen eye in reading proposals.

Dr. Richard Nissen of Orthodontic Consultants of St. Louis for his generosity and assistance to a student in Cultural Leadership.

Karen and David Weller of Leadership Alliance for assisting Cultural Leadership in selecting the new Executive Director. Their pre-employment assessment process helped us to differentiate between the many qualified applicants.

Like Son, Like Father: Cultural Leadership Changes a Family

by Keith Spears, Class 7 Parent

About 18 months ago, two colleagues on two different occasions introduced Cultural Leadership to me. Both colleagues highly recommended the program, had daughters go through the program, and shared how both young ladies' experienced positive changes in their lives. What intrigued me the most is the fact that while one of my colleagues is Jewish and the other is African American, they both expressed similar sentiments about Cultural Leadership. From that point, I was convinced I wanted to share this program with my oldest son Devin (and hopefully with my other two boys when they are old enough). I can truly say both of my colleagues were 100% correct in that Cultural Leadership has had a positive impact - not only on my son's life but for my wife and me as well.

The most impactful and positive change I have noticed is that Cultural Leadership has showed my son how intentional efforts, that are planned and communicated effectively, can make a difference. While Devin has been very active in our church, Northern Missionary Baptist Church, the Cultural Leadership program and structure has improved his approach for engaging other youth to participate and interact in various church activities.

So far Devin's favorite part of the program has been the 21-day Transformational Journey. This trip exposed him and his classmates to the struggles, opportunities and triumphs that both African-American and Jewish people have experienced. Meeting people who have made and are continuing to make positive contributions to our community was a highlight of his experience. The journey renewed his desire to keep developing an initiative he started at University City High called "Against the Violence" (ATV). This effort promotes non-violent activities among youth, while allowing them to express themselves through singing, music and dance. Singing and interpreting music through dance has been a passion of Devin's, and Cultural Leadership is providing the discipline and approach to use this God-given gift for positive change. As Maya Angelou once said, "Talent is like electricity. We don't understand electricity, we use it."

Culture Leadership has affected me, too. It has opened my eyes to a part of our world history that I did not fully understand. Before Culture Leadership I was aware of the challenges that Jewish people experienced within the United States and abroad. What I did not realize is how similar Jewish and African-American history has been over the years. The African-American and Jewish history of overcoming challenges and persevering, despite racism and discrimination, make our collaboration not only appropriate, but necessary. I was proud to learn that the Urban League was founded by Jewish and African-American individuals, over 100 years ago, to make a difference in our society. I have learned that being silent is being part of the problem. Speaking up, getting up and not allowing things to stay the same will improve our society and rid it of evil influences. Cultural Leadership has inspired me to serve in other capacities within our community. As Martin Luther King once stated, "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

It is my prayer and my financial commitment, that other youths and adults will experience Cultural Leadership (directly or indirectly) through the youth being trained to be trouble makers of the best kind.



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This list represents all recorded donations made from April 16 through October 25, 2011.

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*In honor of Hannah Davison's
Confirmation*

Judith and Edward Koshner

*In honor of the Birth of Marley
Anderson Gill*

Susan and Gary Meltz

*In honor of Gay Goldenberg
Jan and Richard Baron*

*In honor of Andrew Holtzman's
Confirmation*

Jane Holtzman

Barbara Hostmeyer

*In honor of Toby Barrack's
Confirmation*

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*In honor of Isaac Ilivicky's
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Jane Holtzman

*In honor of Ilene Joseph
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*In honor of Meredith Joseph's
Confirmation*

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*In honor of Karen Kalish's Birthday
Fred and Marie Kaplowitz*

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*In honor of Sally Katzif's Birthday
Susan and Gary Meltz*

*In honor of Susan Meltz's Birthday
Darien and Stephen Arnstein*

*In honor of Helen Rodgers'
Graduation*

Judy and Gil Grand

*In honor of Susan Rogel
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*In honor of Hannah Rosenthal's
Acceptance to Princeton*

Phyllis Rosenthal

*In honor of Nate Shelton's
Graduation*

Judy and Gil Grand

*In honor of Darien Arnstein's
Birthday*

Susan and Gary Meltz

*In honor of Dr. Stanley Feldman's
Birthday*

Susan and Gary Meltz

*In honor of my two daughters,
Susan Meltz and Sally Katzif*

Joan Klearman

*In memory of Ronni Handelman
Peggy Cohen*

Debra and Michael Polinsky

Judy and Gil Grand

Debra and Rick Halpern

*In memory of Nancy and Stan
Feldman's Uncle Kenneth*

Susan and Gary Meltz

In memory of Sherman Katz

Susan and Gary Meltz

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