



The Hatzilu Rescue Organization provides food, financial aid, social work intervention and assistance, and emotional support to Jews in need in the Nassau County area.

From the Hatzilu Mission Statement

HATZILU—WHAT'S IN A NAME? RABBI MICHAEL KATZ

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Sometimes, we take things for granted; sometimes, we overlook the obvious. How many times have we heard, or said, the word “Hatzilu” without even thinking about what it means, or about the ideas that the word conveys. So let’s start with a little Hebrew lesson: HATZILU is a Hebrew word whose original root is made up of three letters— NUN, TZADI, LAMED. The root’s basic meaning is “to strip away,” “to tear away,” or “to snatch away.” From this, we get a word that has come to mean “Rescue,” “Deliver,” and “Save.” The “U” at the end of the word (a vav in Hebrew) indicates that it is a plural command, addressed to many people, not to just one person.

From these facts, we learn two important lessons. First, it’s not enough to just “give” charity or food to people who are in distress. Rescue work demands more of us; we cannot do “drive-by Tzedakah.” To fulfill the mitzvah of “Hatzilu” we have to do more for the poor; we have to “snatch them away” from where there are, from the troubling circumstances that imprison them and hold them back from living a normal life. That’s not easy; it requires a great deal from us—our time, our resources, our empathy and our creativity. Second, by ourselves alone, we cannot accomplish all that has to be done. We need to join together, to pool our resources, to help one another to help those who are in need. And now for a little Bible lesson: If you look in the Psalms, you’ll find the word “Hatzilu” in the eighty-second Psalm. There, God says: “Rescue the wretched and the needy, Save them (“hatzilu”) from the hand of the wicked” (Psalm 82:4). The important lesson we learn is that what we at Hatzilu do is in response to a command from God. In fact, we are in partnership with God; by helping the needy, we become the means by which God touches the lives of human beings.

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JOE SKLAR

2010 has been a sad year for the Hatzilu family. Our oldest client who was 100 years old passed away. She had no family and the same Hatzilu volunteer who had been working with her since 197? made all the arrangements for her funeral.

Another death occurred as well. We had been helping the family of a 20 year-old cancer patient. They had exhausted their resources in trying to fight her cancer and turned to Hatzilu for additional support. Our monthly grant helped pay for the expenses involved in getting treatment at a hospital in Manhattan. Tolls, parking and meals out add up. Tragically, the cancer did not respond. At least her parents felt that they did all that was humanly possible to cure her.

Hatzilu deals with a diverse group of clients. Our help improves the quality of their lives, or at least gives them the additional financial resources to try to solve their problems. It is only through your generosity that we are able to make a difference in the lives of the people in our Hatzilu family.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ELISSA FRIEDMAN

For as long as I can remember the beginning of spring has been marked by the holiday of Passover. *Pesach* has been a significant holiday for my family. Each Seder is shared with family and friends re-telling the story of the Jewish exodus from Egypt. We share new recipes and enjoy spirited debates about the world as we know it. This year the holiday took a new tradition for my family.

On Sunday, March 21st I took my son to Nassau Provisions Kosher Food warehouse in an industrial park in Freeport and we joined about seventy-five other volunteers in preparing Passover Packages for needy families on Long Island. The sense of community and compassion is hard to put into words. Cheryl Garber, Alan Hirsch and all the members of the Shomrin society worked tirelessly to organize this massive undertaking. We had the chance to meet volunteers from all over the island some that had been volunteering for many years and others like me and Jake who were there for the first time.

We made our first delivery on a quiet tree lined street in Jericho. As we approached the house (clearly in disrepair) I could see the concern on his face as we rang the doorbell and waited for an answer. When the older woman answered the door in a housecoat that brought me back to the sight of my own grandmother, her smile immediately put him at ease. We carried in all six packages of fresh vegetables, eggs and bag after bag of kosher for Passover food. The recipient didn't know how to thank us enough.

When we left Jake turned to me and said that for the first time he understood that one person really can make a difference in the life of a complete stranger. Hatzilu is about making that difference, offering kindness and support to strangers connected to us through our Jewish values. I have an open door policy and welcome calls from our community of volunteers and donors as well as clients.

Visit our Website:
Hatzilurescue.org

ROY ENTIN — A REMEMBRANCE

JOE SLATER

Roy Entin's shining light was extinguished forever July 15, 2006. Roy made Hatzilu part of my life as well as part of the lives of the hundreds of volunteers that he recruited for Midway Jewish Center's annual Hatzilu luncheon.

I first met Roy in the early 80's when I was rushing one cold morning to catch a Long Island Railroad train at the Hicksville station. As I stepped on the first step to scurry up to the platform, I heard the blare of a shofar and looked around to see this roly-poly man with goggle-like glasses and a bushy mustache calling out for people to donate money to help feed the Jewish poor. Alternately, he blasted the shofar and called out for donations. All the while this cherub of charity was enduring not only the cold but also the stony-faced glares of many of my fellow commuters. None of that deterred him from his mission—to feed our elderly brothers and sisters. Because of his enthusiasm in the face of his surroundings, I along with others felt compelled to feed his pushka. That was the first of a number of compelling times relating to Roy and me.

Roy's ecstatic devotion, however, was to Hatzilu. Aside from collecting Tzedaka at the train station, Roy organized Midway's annual Hatzilu luncheon. More than any other activity at the shul, this luncheon, as managed by Roy, brought Jews of all persuasions (and occasionally non-Jews) together for a cause. For one day, it didn't matter what kind of Jew you were. We were all there to help our "Bubbes and Zaydes" by providing a "froeliche time" for them away from the rigors of their daily lives. That was Roy's ethos—help the Jewish poverty stricken residents of The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau and Suffolk counties

While many other volunteer activities in the shul had to beg for volunteers, the entire Hatzilu Luncheon volunteer group, which hadn't met at any other time during the year, came together like a well-oiled machine under Roy's gentle direction. Roy's planning sheets, with the Rube Goldberg-like cartoons on them, formed the basis for all of our Hatzilu luncheons—even long after Roy "retired" from Hatzilu.

On the morning of the luncheon, he was at Midway at 6 AM to insure that the "chicken flickers" (i.e. Hank Kasven and the other cooks) were starting up the stoves.

At about 11:30 Roy would gather up all of the volunteers and form us into two lines to greet and press the flesh of the people coming from the South Bronx, Brooklyn and Far Rockaway. Our main directive was "schmooze" and make them feel at home. Roy could schmooze with the best of them. Those "Bubbes and Zaydes" loved him and he loved them. When he was the guest of honor at one of our last luncheons, everyone's eyes welled up in tears of love when he ascended the Bimah to greet all of us.

Roy had a loving heart for all. Once, when someone maligned one of the volunteers for not doing enough, Roy's response was "Always remember, like my father told me, a poisson (Brooklynese for person) is just a poisson." The fact that they were there to help was more than enough for him.

We all have to thank Roy for being a benevolent voice during the formative years of Hatzilu.

THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW

ANNE GOLDBERG, SOCIAL WELFARE CHAIRPERSON

Most Hatzilu clients living in Nassau County used to have a more secure financial situation.

Consider a single mother struggling to support two teenagers by herself. Due to the economic downturn her job was eliminated. She needs Hatzilu more than ever. A couple is sidelined by illness. He is in a wheelchair from an injury. She has cancer and needs long and extensive treatment. They need Hatzilu. Mr. and Mrs. L. and others like them were professional people who have outlived their families and their savings. They don't have a very comfortable old age. They rely on Social Security and Hatzilu.

Add to these clients all too many families struggling to accept the fact that due to the present economy they no longer have regular income and they cannot afford their previous lifestyle—familiar to most of us. House, car, clothes, entertainment and even visits to the supermarket become too expensive. Hatzilu can only help these families for a very short time and on a very limited basis. We simply are not receiving the donations which would allow us to do more.

It is the way things are now. But, with the donations we receive from people like you, we support over 50 families in Nassau County with money and food that enables them to get by. Please keep it up.

DID YOU KNOW:

- Last year 600 grants were made and more than \$100,000 was distributed on Long Island
- 52 families in 26 communities receive monthly cash grants
- Hatzilu volunteers deliver food packages to 55 needy families on Long Island
- Six human service professionals (i.e. social workers, therapists, etc.) determine which clients receive money and how much
- More than 60 people volunteer their time to Hatzilu activities.
- Last year we received two sizeable testamentary bequests. They enabled us to expand our grant program during the economic downturn. If you would like more information about making a gift or bequest to Hatzilu, contact our Executive Director, Elissa Friedman at 516-931-2884

I DO CARE!

Please make your check payable to HATZILU RESCUE ORGANIZATION

Your donation is tax deductible.

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Mid-Island Y JCC

45 Manetto Hill Road

Plainview New York 11803

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General Membership Meeting—

All Are Welcome

Tuesday, May 25th at 8 pm

Mid-Island Y JCC, 45 Manetto Hill Road, Plainview