



Hatzilu engages the Jewish community in the fight against poverty by providing food, financial, social work intervention and assistance, and emotional support to Jewish persons and families in need in the Nassau County area.

No Questions Asked

Rabbi Howard Stecker — Temple Israel of Great Neck

I went to college in New York City and often, on the way to class, was asked for money by people on the street. Initially I gave without reservation. Over time, friends and others suggested that I should probably be more circumspect. After all, I wasn't sure how the money would be used and I might be giving financial support for self-destructive behavior.

So, following the example of others I witnessed, I began asking those seeking money if I could buy them a sandwich or a piece of fruit. Some refused, but many accepted.

As a rabbi, I'm often asked to provide money for people in need. In keeping with the dynamic I discovered as a young man, I respond by giving food cards, no questions asked.

Centuries ago, Rav Yehuda articulated the principle, *ein bodkin lim'zonot* (*Talmud, Bava Batra 9a*), meaning that when it comes to providing food, we don't ask questions. We don't examine background, we don't try to assess motivation. If someone says he needs food and we are able to provide it, we do so, no questions asked.

I believe this is something that Hatzilu has always understood. From the time I moved to Long Island as a rabbinical student, over 20 years ago, I have always been impressed by the intuitive sensitivity that animates Hatzilu's many volunteers. The sensitivity emerges from the bedrock understanding that food is a basic human need and hunger is simply unacceptable.

From ancient Palestine to modern New York City and its environs, the words of Rav Yehuda continue to reverberate. *Ein bodkin lim'zonot*. When it comes to giving food, no questions asked, except for one: How can we continue to help?

SAVE THESE DATES

**WALK FOR HATZILU — SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2012
TEMPLE BETH TORAH, 245 CANTIAGUE ROAD, WESTBURY**

**LONG ISLAND KOSHER BBQ CHAMPIONSHIP — SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2012
TEMPLE BETH TORAH. CHAMPION WILL REPRESENT LONG ISLAND AT THE
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS. PART OF THE PROCEEDS GOES TO HATZILU**

For More Information Contact Elissa Friedman at 516-931-2884

HATZILU NEEDS YOU! — CALL 516-931-2884 TO VOLUNTEER

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT — Herb Weiss

When times got tough, my mom, of blessed memory, would remind me that “life isn’t a bowl of cherries”. It was a credo that she had learned from her mother. Mom, of Polish nationality, survived the camps during the second world war, as did my father. Who knew better than they how tough life can sometimes be ?

There are times when life can throw a dagger at you. Nassau County recently let go at least 250 workers because of budget cuts. As I watched the news report on television, I saw the pained faces of some of those who had been unceremoniously terminated. All across America workers are being laid off after many years of service to their employers. Our economic system tells us that progress comes with a cost and that in the end we collectively benefit from what can seem an uncaring, impersonal economic system. Try imparting that message, however, to someone who has lost their job and has bills to pay.

The financial and familial problems that many will experience at some point in their lives are precisely the point of Hatzilu and why the work we do is so important. I won’t pretend that we can rescue our clients from poverty, but we can, with your help, make their lives a little better and more manageable, and that is truly something.

Let me point out something else important that Hatzilu does. We encourage young people to become active in our work. On November 20th of last year, a group of teenagers from The Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation, known as the Social Action Teens or SATs organized a food drive of non perishable food products that they delivered to the warehouse we operate. We can all be proud that we have teenagers in our midst who are actively engaged in bettering the community. We look to work with B’nei Mitvoth by pairing them with food deliverers so that they can experience first hand the importance and sense of accomplishment that comes from assisting the needy.

We at Hatzilu wish you a very sweet, kosher and freilich Passover.



YASHER KOACH

Congratulations go to Dan Seid and his crew of teenagers from Congregation Ohav Sholam of Merrick who volunteered their time on January 15 to help organize the Hatzilu Kosher Warehouse. Hatzilu is a non-profit organization that helps needy Jews in Long Island by providing food, financial aid, social work intervention, and emotional support. These teens, under the supervision of Dan Seid, went above and beyond to help Hatzilu! They went through the entire warehouse inventory like a tornado, throwing out expired food and reorganizing all the food on the shelves! They even made up signs to label the food categories on each shelf. Not only did their work help organize the whole warehouse; by placing the signs on the shelves, they have created a system to help keep the warehouse organized. A hearty “thank you “ to Dan Seid and the teens!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR — Elissa Friedman

Spring is the time of year we begin to look forward, the days are longer and somehow the air seems fresher. For Hatzilu the spring of 2012 will be filled with many exciting fundraising initiatives. The Annual Passover Appeal is underway and we are grateful for all the generosity of our donor’s. New this spring are two events that are sure to raise much needed funds for Hatzilu clients. On Sunday, May 20, 2012 a Walk-a-thon will be held at Cantigue Park. The walk is a great opportunity to enjoy springtime and support our worthy cause. On Sunday June 10th Hatzilu will be one of three charities to receive support from Temple Beth Torah’s First Annual Long Island Kosher BBQ championship. This all day event will be filled with delicious BBQ and great family activities; we strongly encourage everyone to join us. As we embark on a spring we will continue to put the ‘fun’ in fundraising as we help more than 100 families each month meet their basic needs. Thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support. As always if you know someone in need feel free to contact me at 516 931-2884 or via e-mail at efriedman@miyjcc.org.

Happy Spring!

WHY HATZILU ? — Dona Schwab

Hatzilu provides services to a wide range of clients. Many new families come to Hatzilu due to unemployment, divorce, disability or catastrophic illness. One such family has depleted all of its savings to care for a severely ill wife. The husband, who is unable to work, is responsible for her care. Hatzilu is helping them through this difficult time.

All Hatzilu clients are required to apply for all government programs for which they qualify. Hatzilu supplements these entitlement programs for the appropriate cases. A former client was desperate when his claim for social security disability was denied. He was unable to work and had to reapply and wait a long period of time before he finally got the designation necessary to get him this much deserved aid. Hatzilu helped him with both food and funds during this difficult wait.

Some of our clients are in the midst of difficult divorces where they are unable to obtain funds to care for their children. Hatzilu provides food and funds until the problems are resolved.

Hatzilu has many elderly clients. Some of these are Holocaust survivors, some are infirm, some have no one else to turn to. Even a small stipend from Hatzilu makes their lives more bearable. Hatzilu seeks to provide solutions that allow the recipients to retain their dignity.

A current donor to Hatzilu was a former client who lost his job and almost lost his house. Hatzilu assisted him and he went back to school and now has a successful career again.

Hatzilu alone cannot support the enormous needs of our clients. Hatzilu partners with many other agencies to best serve the poor Jewish community but Hatzilu gets all of its funds from **your** contributions. Services to clients are provided by volunteers. **Hatzilu needs you to help us help those in need. Your donation directly benefits our clients.**

“You may not be able to help the whole world but you can make a difference in your own community” E.P. Carter

HATZILU HISTORY — Manny Bardash

This past year I received two batches of old Hatzilu documents from the mid 1970s to the 1990s. One was passed on to me by Ron Greenfield, a current Hatzilu Trustee and son of Hatzilu's founding president Saul Greenfield z"l of Temple Israel of Great Neck. The second was given to me by Bernie Rosenberg of Temple Isaiah of Great Neck. I worked with both of these gentlemen in our beginning years and for most of the years since and have found a treasure of memories in these documents that I have inherited.

I have specifically identified Saul's and Bernie's synagogue affiliation in the introduction because Hatzilu's founders were people whose synagogues (or arms therein) were strongly committed to Hatzilu's mission. The list of Congregations that have been affiliated is a long one that will be the subject of a future column or two.

In this introductory column I would like to acknowledge all our past presidents, listed below. We have lost contact with those whose names are followed by an asterisk *. If you have contact information for them please forward it to me (516-466-4297 or mbardash@ieeee.org).

1976 - 1978	Saul Greenfield z"l - Temple Israel of Great Neck
1978 - 1979	Bill Harris* - Temple Beth El, Cedarhurst
1979 - 1982	Al Cohen z"l - East Nassau Hebrew Congregation, Syosset.
1982 - 1984	Norman Zimmerman* -
1984 - 1986	David Posner* - Temple Beth Am of Merrick
1986 - 1994	Herman Werner - North Shore JC, Port Jefferson Station
1994 - 2007	Al Nevins z"l - South Baldwin Jewish Center
2007 - 2008	Hank Kasvan - Midway JC, Syosset & Manny Bardash - Temple Israel of Great Neck
2008 - 2011	Joe Sklar - Hewlett - East Rockaway JC

**MAKING A LEGACY GIFT TO
HATZILU — Herb Weiss**

We have received several inquiries about how someone can include Hatzilu in their estate plans. Making a testamentary bequest to Hatzilu is easy and will help us to continue in our mission to serve the Jewish needy on Long Island.

One of the easiest ways to create a legacy gift to Hatzilu is to add specific language in your will. You can also make a gift to Hatzilu through unused retirement funds, life insurance, real estate, securities and other kinds of assets.

For more information about creating a legacy gift to Hatzilu, please contact our Executive Director, Elissa Friedman, at the Mid-Island Y JCC (telephone: 516-822-3535 ext. 335), or our President, Herb Weiss, (telephone: 212-643-6400 ext. 109). We will be happy to work with you and your attorney to make this legacy gift a reality.

Thank you to Freeport-Merrick Rotary Club for their generous donation of food coupons for our clients.

I DO CARE!

Please make your check payable to HATZILU RESCUE

ORGANIZATION

Your donation is tax deductible.

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