Judaism has always been an integral part of Jan's life. A Bensonhurst boy, he grew up in a mixed-marriage home; his mother was Greek-Sephardic, and his father was Ashkenazi, or a "zig-a-zug." That was how the Greek side heard "zay gezunt" as all the non-Greeks greeted each other!

Jan went to the Yeshiva of Flatbush elementary and high schools. He then attended Brooklyn College for a year, and transferred to Stony Brook University where he majored in Economics, served on the Hillel Board and most importantly for his children, met his wife of almost 32 years, Melanie. He started his career in Inventory Management at a jewelry manufacturer and distributor, and has stayed in this industry for over 30 years.

Melanie and Jan are the proud parents of Alyssa, a civil engineer, and Chelsea, a news assistant for NY1. They are proud of the girls' senses of responsibility, equity, and most important, family.

Jan has been involved in the Men's Club at Hollis Hills Bayside Jewish Center for nearly a decade, as Vice President, President and active member. As president, his goal was to hold monthly Men's Club activities. These ranged from bowling, board game night, movie night, Singing in the Sukkah, ball games, Sushi and Sake with the Sisterhood, World Wide Wrap, and the famous Super Bowl Sunday Tail Gate Barbecue at the center. This could not be done without the support of the Men's Club team, Rabbi Wise and Cantor Zim.

Jan would like to thank the committee for this honor, and congratulates all of the other Men's Club and Youth Honorees. Kol Hakavod to all.
My name is Zachary Zabib, and I am a Junior at the Solomon Schechter School of Long Island. First off, I would like to say how humbled I am to be receiving this honor. Among my various interests are watching football, playing frisbee, swimming, and learning new things. My main passions, however, are USY and Israel related activities. I have pursued leadership opportunities in both fields, being elected the Divisional President of Sababa USY, and the Israel Awareness Club President, at my school. These are two topics that I could talk about endlessly, so if you're interested approach me, and we could have a fine discussion! For as long as I could remember the Hollis Hills Jewish Center, now the Hollis Hills Bayside Jewish Center, has been my home community. From a young age, I started to attend High Holiday services at our synagogue, and I even went to the HHJC pre-k. I also had the honor of celebrating my bar-mitzvah with the Hollis Hills Bayside Community. I was not very active at our temple until the end middle school. After a meaningful trip to Israel with my graduating class from the Solomon Schechter School of Queens, which I attended for 9 years, I decided it was time for me to become more observant and more involved in our community. Since then I've made efforts to attend Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat Schacharit Services as often as possible. Through coming to services so often, I picked up valuable skills such as how to lead all kinds of services. The Hollis Hills Bayside Jewish Center community has profoundly impacted my Jewish journey, and I am deeply honored to have been awarded Youth of the Year.

Congratulations to all of the other honorees.

-Zack

Jordana is a senior at Solomon Schechter School of Long Island where she is founder and co-captain of the Dance Team, a member of the Moot Beit Din Team and a Peer Connector for freshmen.

Jordana has been actively involved in USY for several years and currently serves as the Communications Vice-President for the Sababa division.

Jordana will be attending college in the fall where she plans to study business and become an active member of Campus Hillel.

Jordana is most appreciative of the Hollis Hills Bayside Jewish Center Men's Club for selecting her for this honor.
David Landau

David is so excited to be recognized by the Hollis Hills Bayside Jewish Center’s Men’s Club for this wonderful honor, and equally proud to represent a shul and community that are so dear to him. Anybody that regularly attends Shabbat services at the Hollis Hills Bayside Jewish Center certainly knows David. He is truly “a Shul baby,” David has been attending services and events at HHBJC since he was a new born! As a young adult, David remains very passionate about his Jewish identity and community, and continues his journey with his involvement in United Synagogue Youth (USY), where he holds a leadership position.

As a junior at Bayside High School, David consistently maintains high grades, and is able to pursue his passion with his concentration in the school’s Music and Production program. Last year, he was recognized for musical excellence for his contributions to the student based theatrical production “SING”. David’s passion for music includes singing, song writing, playing multiple instruments and music production. He particularly enjoys playing all the instruments (drums, guitar and bass guitar) on his original compositions.

While our family is so proud of David’s accomplishments, intelligence, talent, unique style and big personality; what we are particularly proud of is his “Tzedek and Chessed”, his “Righteousness and Kindness”. It is these qualities that draw people to David, and are most often mentioned when people speak of him. David is thrilled to be part of this special event.