



*Huntington Jewish Center*

*Bruce Fleiss*

Bruce has been a member of the Huntington Jewish Center since the day he was born - a third generation member from a family that has had a lasting and continuing impact on the HJC community, including donating the HJC library that still bears his grandfather's name. Bruce started Sunday school at HJC in 1966 and celebrated his Bar Mitzvah there. His family subsequently moved away and joined another synagogue for several years, but Bruce soon returned to HJC after getting married and moving back to Huntington. He and his wife of over 27 years, Pam, have met many of their closest friends through HJC activities, including their involvement in their son's religious school family functions. Several years ago, they were proud to celebrate their son's fourth generation Bar Mitzvah at HJC as well.

Bruce has long been one of the HJC community's most reliable, go-to guys, lending his support and expertise to practically every arm of the synagogue. Any event that needs a sound system, for example, relies on Bruce to make it happen, whether it be a visiting lecturer, the Rabbi's movie night, or the High Holiday services themselves. He is known for spending countless days and nights designing and building sets, and working on the stage crew of the semi-annual HJC theatre productions. As if all that weren't enough, Bruce also spent several years coordinating the High Holiday honors, and was a long serving house manager for the Rabbi's residence.

Many years ago, Bruce was volunteered to take on the task of rejuvenating the HJC Mens Club. It is not an exaggeration to say that, without his efforts, there likely would not be an active Men's Club today at HJC (and not just because he's the only person who knows how to operate all the warmers in the meat kitchen). As a past President, Bruce has continued to offer invaluable help, advice and support for all the Presidents who have followed him and remains one of the most active core members of the club.

When he isn't working or volunteering, Bruce enjoys sports, projects around the house, and time with family and friends, especially his involvement with his son's ongoing baseball career. It's always been tough for him if he had to miss any of his son's games, from the time he was his kindergarten coach, up through his club baseball days in college.

It's well known throughout HJC, that accolades make Bruce uncomfortable and he prefers to remain low key and behind the scenes. Indeed, it took many years to convince him to accept this honor, as he has always maintained that he does things to help others simply because he enjoys what he does. As it's been said, there is no limit to what a man can do if he doesn't mind who gets the credit, and HJC is very fortunate and thankful to have been the beneficiary of Bruce's unsung efforts for all these years.

Bruce would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ben Messing, the HJC "Youth of the Year" with whom he is very grateful to share this honor.