MERRICK JEWISH CENTRE

CONGREGATION OHR TORAH

The Bulletin

Winter 2020

office@merrickjc.org
www.merrickjc.org

Vol 21, Issue 4

A Message from Rabbi Klein

A Chanukah Message
Light the Night II: The Return of the Guinness Record

I'll never forget the night when over one thousand of us gathered, each with our own Menorah, ready for the MJC to establish the Guinness Record for Most Menorot Lit in the same place at the same time. It was a glorious evening- one which filled us with enormous pride. We left the MJC that night feeling that we had celebrated Chanukah in a way that people all across our country would notice. And they did! The story of our triumph that night was told and retold in the media.

How exciting it was to relive that thrill this past Sunday when so many of us joined together on Zoom to light our Menorot. Yes- we set the record once again! This will be a record for the ages. May we be together in person next year, feeling the uplift that is experienced whenever we gather as a community.

Throughout Chanukah we'll each light the Menorah and doing so will connect ourselves and our families spiritually with the great miracles which occurred in the time of the Maccabees. Especially this year, the light of the Menorah inspires us with the memory that even in the darkest of times our people did not succumb to despair. When we see how the Chanukah lights up our homes we understand the enduring meaning of this holiday which has served as a reminder for over 2000 years the great secret of Jewish existence has been the faith of our people that the worst moments were but a prelude to a better tomorrow. Our people always believed that so long as we held tight to the memory of the miracles of Chanukah we would never allow hope to die.

In this most unusual of years, in the midst of a horrifying pandemic, we light the candles of our Menorah and we affirm in our words, and in the powerfully inspiring act of lighting the candles of our Menorah, that the light of those eight nights will carry us through the challenging and frightening days ahead.

We have come far since the days of the Maccabees always finding our greatest strength in the human spirit. Especially this year may the Chanukah lights lift our spirits and may we keep hope alive. This is no time to give up or to give in. This is the time to light the candles, to be strong and to strengthen one another.

From our home to yours Betty joins me in wishing you a joyous Chanukah. I pray that you stay safe and stay well.

Faithfully yours,

Charles A. Klein

Rabbi Charles Klein
Michelle & Michael Schwartz and Family
Senior Rabbinic Chair

The Bulletin
published quarterly by
Merrick Jewish Centre
CONGREGATION OHR TORAH
225 Fox Boulevard
Merrick, NY 11566
Temple Office: (516) 379-8650
Charles A. Klein, Rabbi
Jack Dermer, Assistant Rabbi
Benjamin Warschawski, Cantor
Jill Burns, Administrative Director
Howard Tiegel, President
Heléna Eilenberg, Education Director
Howard Zryb, Editor

A Message from Rabbi Dermer

The winter months are, for many of us, months of anticipation. On the coldest nights, we imagine the coming of spring and the good weather which will enable us to get back on our bicycles or back to the beach. So too as this new year approaches, I think it goes without saying that most will be thrilled to wave goodbye to 2020, and are thinking expectantly about all that 2021 will hopefully bring into our world.

Jewish tradition, in large part, affirms a future oriented perspective. History, much of our liturgy reminds us, looks hopefully toward a Messianic age which we call Olam haBa, the world that is to come. Even on a more concrete level, so much of our practice as Jews is undertaken with an eye toward the next generation; how we will prepare those who come after us to further our beliefs and traditions.

But with all of that forward momentum, both in our own personal lives during this season and in Jewish tradition as a whole, I'd like to remind you of another approach.

Mindfulness has become a buzzword in our contemporary spiritual landscape, and rightfully so. Mindfulness meditation is the practice of focusing our attention on our breath as we notice the thoughts of past and future which come into our minds. Simply acknowledging these thoughts and letting them go, we are instructed in this practice to return to the sensations of the present moment. You may have heard the quote, "The past for all its importance, is history, the future is a mystery - but the present is a gift."

The benefits of adopting a practice of mindfulness meditation for our mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being are extensively documented and widely recognized. Psychologists have linked even 5 minutes of present moment breathing, set aside each day without the interruption of news or text alerts, to increased productivity, reduced anxiety, as well as a deeper sense of compassion and patience for ourselves and those around us.

While you might be among those who argue that "sitting around" couldn't possibly be beneficial, I challenge you, the next time your mind is running in a million directions, to pause and to try this simple approach. As one meditation expert, a Jewish teacher by the name of Sylvia Boorstein reminds her students when they are feeling overwhelmed, "Don't just do something, sit there!" And if you thought that what I'm speaking of sounds too "new age," I remind you of the long legacy within traditional Judaism of meditative practices. One Chassidic commentator, for example, focused on the word Hayom, today, which is repeated often in the Torah, as a way of reminding us that G-d's voice is heard most clearly in the here and now, and that it is up to us to work on being present and aware as we listen for the call.

There's no question that all of us are eager for a new start in 2021. Many months into a pandemic that has upended our world and interrupted so much of life as we know it, we recognize that we are in the midst of a marathon, not a sprint. Like the child in the back of the car on a long road trip, all of us are asking, "Are we there yet?" - and rightfully so. But with all of that future oriented focus, I hope you will also know what it means to pause, in particular when you are feeling overwhelmed, and to take moments to simply appreciate the gift of a deep breath, or the hidden blessings within each moment which we so often miss.

It is because we believe so deeply in the power of this mindfulness practice that, alongside our Lifelong Learning Committee, we have formed an MJC Jewish Mindfulness group. Each Monday evening, for 15 minutes from 7:45-8PM on Zoom, we will be gathering together to learn a short spiritual teaching and to practice the sacred art of meditation. If mindfulness meditation is something you've always wanted to learn about, but haven't taken the initiative to try, this group is the perfect entry point. Wherever your starting place in the world of daily mindfulness, all are invited to take part in this new experience, and I pray that the community we form as we meditate on Zoom will help each of us ease into the peace and the inner healing which are our sacred inheritance.

B'Shalom, Rabbi Dermer

From the Cantor

Greetings,

I can hardly believe that my first High Holiday season as your Cantor has come and gone already! NO ONE could have predicted that the High Holidays would have looked the way that they did, so drastically altered by the sad reality of the Coronavirus. Yet, somehow, the season proved no less meaningful even with all of the changes to our Jewish Holiday routine. Despite the added stresses and difficulties of the pandemic, I enjoyed the novel journey of creating, preparing, scheduling and leading our synagogue services during this important time of year. I hope you enjoyed being a part of that journey, in whatever way you were able to, as well. As a synagogue we could not have done it without all of you. Whether you were deeply involved in this process or just tuning in to the livestream services occasionally, I thank you for lending your time, energy, forbearance, spirit and creativity to our Tishrei cycle together.

And just like that the Jewish and Gregorian calendars turn our attention to the Festival of Chanukah and the upcoming New Year, that can't seem to come fast enough. But before we say goodbye to 2020, I would like to focus on the message of the fall season as it leads into winter.

The end of October through New Year's Eve are chock full of holidays and observances that touch our lives as Jews and Americans: Halloween, Kristallnacht, Thanksgiving, Christmas and, of course, Chanukah. While all of these holidays have varied meanings, background and lore, they all seem to share a common thread even across the "inter-religious-ecumenical-pagan" divide. In their own way, each reminds us: Light Can Vanquish Darkness! What an "en pointe" message in this tumultuous year as we hustle to put 2020 behind us.

The light-filled pumpkins of Halloween chase away the dark shadows of the dreaded spirit world. The six Kristallnacht lights, in memory of the 6 million Jews lost in the Shoah, vanquish the darkness of forgetfulness by reminding the world that we Jews are still here. We continue to celebrate life and memorialize the cherished memories of the ruined cities of our past. The light of thankfulness on Thanksgiving holds at bay the darkness of winter and lethargy as the active harvest season comes to a close. For Christians, the lights of the Christmas holiday light up the cold winter streets with "goodwill to Men." And finally, the Chanukah candles vanquish the darkness of the Temple's destruction through the miracle of oil. Despite the devastating loss of the holy Temple, those little candles remind us not to let the "lights" go out. Those eight beautiful lights mirror the light of Creation. They whisper to us across time, "Keep on building no matter how cold it gets outside and no matter how bleak the odds may seem. In the end, your light will vanquish the darkness!"

As I complete my first year as cantor of the Merrick Jewish Centre, I pray for this pandemic to abate and for 2021 to be a year of light in comparison to the relative darkness of 2020. I hope to see "your light" in shul, in whatever form that takes over the next few months, and I wish you all a guten vinter!

Regards,

Cantor Benjamin Warschawski

Our President's Message

Dear Friends:

During a year like no other, on Sunday, December 13, we had a night like no other, when nearly 300 of our congregants and their extended families joined Light the Night 2020, our Zoom-based Chanukah celebration.

Led off with wonderful videos from Rabbi Klein and Betty, Rabbi and Dermer and Kayley, and Cantor Warschawski, Heather and Sam, the opening segments of the evening's event were filled with the much-needed joy, hopefulness and brightness of Chanukah. In case you missed them, they can be accessed on YouTube at these links:

Rabbi Klein and Betty Latkes Recipe and Dancing
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80PQ-E4UMb8&feature=youtu.be

Cantor and Family "Ocho Kandelikas"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bdRZj6T4Sg&feature=youtu.be

Rabbi Dermer and Kayley Bring Adam Sandler to Merrick
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2CwQcGe–k&feature=youtu.be

And then, with the blessing to light the candles having been offered, we went ahead and set the record for the most menorot ever lit during a single Zoom event, with 717.

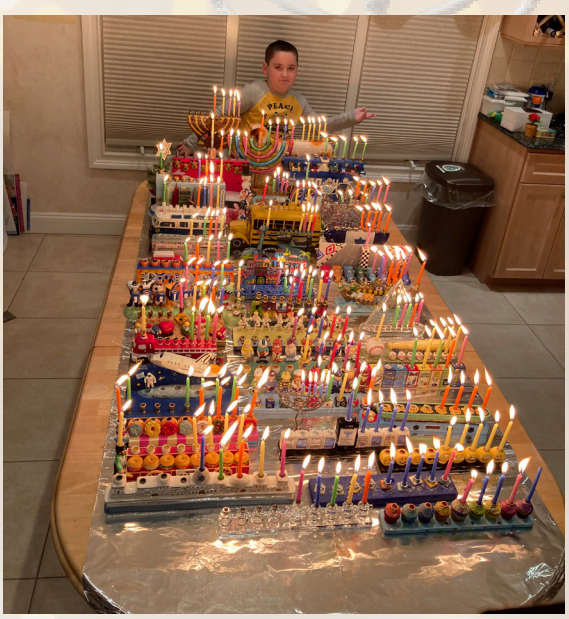
It was an exciting evening, highlighted by our having brought together the congregation at once, even if it had to be virtual.

Please see the photos of the Rosman family's amazing collection of 40 menorot, and a special one they built for this year that requires no explanation.

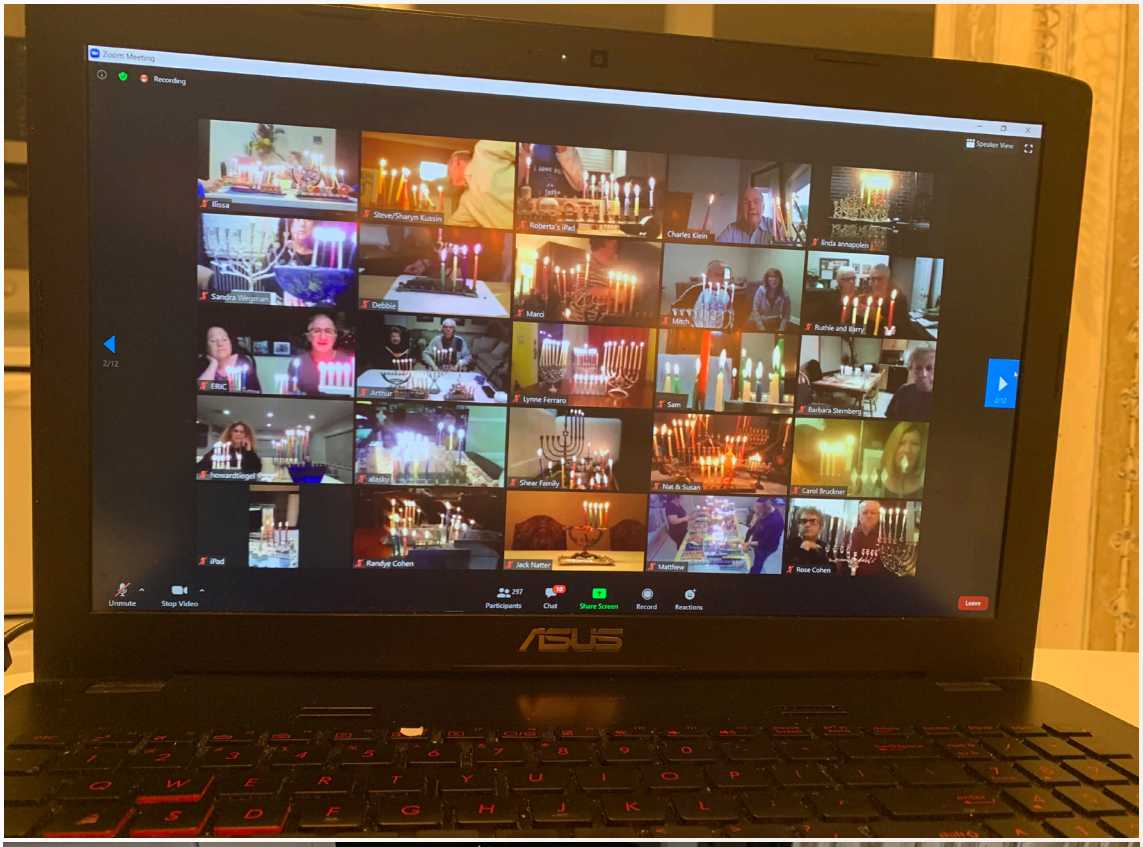
May we all be together, in person, next year, as we Light the Night again in 2021!

Chanukah Sameach!

Howard Tiegel, President



Light the Night 2020



Hebrew School Happenings

MJC Virtual School is Thriving!

Mid October, after being in Hebrew School for three and a half weeks, we gathered our attendance records and …. wonder of wonders--our student attendance was 95%!

Now that we have been in school for 3 months, we can attest that our virtual Hebrew School is truly thriving.

Our students and their parents, along with our wonderful teachers, have shown their commitment to engaging in Jewish education. Excellent attendance is the norm in our small Judaica classes of five to seven students and one to four students in each Hevruta (Hebrew) class. Teachers and students are building such positive relationships due to the more personalized learning. New games and activities along with curriculum and texts designed for online learning are filling our classes. Our teachers are sharing their ideas with each other, bringing new ways to reach students as well as relying on the most tried and true methods of all- their personalities and natural abilities to connect with students. In addition, our parents have been truly supportive and appreciative of the teachers' great efforts. They have been real partners in making virtual education work.

As the year progresses, we are still moving forward with new and exciting educational opportunities. Our Vav (sixth grade) classes will begin a twinning program with an Israeli grade in the village of Mitzpe Ramon in Southern Israel. We are also continuing two successful programs from our virtual summer camp- a book club, where students will read a book outside of Hebrew School and then meet on separate days to discuss it, and cooking together on Zoom beginning with making latkes and sufganiyot for Hanukkah.

We acknowledge that there is nothing like singing together (something that we all know is SO hard on Zoom), nothing like in-person learning with new and old friends and building community. However, in these trying times, the success of our virtual classes is something to celebrate. Feedback from local public school administrators is that we are doing a service by keeping our 218 k-7 students from compromising the pods that the schools have worked so hard to maintain.

We all look forward to the day when we can come back together and will rejoice when that happens! In the meantime, mazal tov and yashar kochechem to our students, their parents and our teachers for making this new learning experience such a success!

Heléna Eilenberg, Education Director

Hineni הנני Appeal Thank You!

Hineni Appeal - Our Thanks

We are truly grateful and humbled by the generosity of everyone who participated and donated to the Merrick Jewish Centre's Hineni Appeal.

The response of the congregation and friends of the MJC has been overwhelming. With this support, we raised nearly $350,000, and our congregational community demonstrated remarkable commitment to the future of our synagogue.

We want to acknowledge our profound appreciation to everyone who participated in this urgent and important appeal. We are listing all the contributors on the Scroll of Honor below, which can also be found on our website.

Once again, we want to convey our deep gratitude, and share our hopes that you and your loved ones stay safe and well.

Respectfully yours,

Howard Tiegel
President
htiegel@merrickjc.org

Michelle Goldenberg
Executive Vice President
mgoldenberg@merrickjc.org

Howie Segal
Vice President
hsegal518@gmail.com

Michael Schwartz
Vice President
mschwartz@mgocpa.com

Mitch Simon
Vice President
and Co-Chair Hineni Appeal
mitchsimon1@gmail.com

Randye Cohen
Treasurer
drsz@aol.com

Joan Land
Recording Secretary
jland12471@gmail.com

Dr. Barry Silverman
Financial Secretary
and Co-Chair Hineni Appeal
dr.b.silverman@gmail.com

Rena Cohen Kozin
Member of Executive Board
and Co-Chair Hineni Appeal
rena@merrickjc.org

Paul Gellman
Co-Chair Hineni Appeal
paul@teegeepen.com

Hineni הנני Appeal Donations

Leo & Marilyn Abramowitz
Barbara & Howard Ader
Tammy & Adam Adler
Alan & Faye Adler
Greg Adwar
Andrew Ageloff
Jody Sacks & Simon Alexander
Robert Altman
David Altman
Lewis & Linda Altman
Shara & Aaron Andrews
Keith & Linda Annapolen
Henry & Laura Arkin
Dan & Linda Azmon
Steven & Karen Bachmann
Karen & Paul Baer
Irene & Jerome Barth
Michael & Gail Barth
Eric & Marlene Barth
Herb Bass
Stanley Becker
Sandra & Leslie Bennett
Gayle & Ameer Benno
Rena & Steven Berger
Lee & Richard Berman
Eileen & Steve Bernstein
Ira & Carol Bernstein
Robert & Janet Bertner
Lenore & Robert Birnbaum
Karen & Roger Blane
Ira & Tina Blankstein
Darren & Marissa Bleier
Stanley & Susan Bloomfield
Susan Blumberg
Norma & Mark Borten
Jeannemarie Bradensten
Sean Brenner & Gina Flores
Wendy Brickman
Rhoda & William Brief
Lisa & Joel Brodman
Valerie & Barry Broner
Alan & Norma Bronstein
Debra and Charles Brown
Danielle & Wade Brozik
Carol & Robert Bruckner
Judith Burkhoff
Jill & James Burns
Frederick Burns
Lawrence Carlton
Mark Chaskes
Phyllis Chaskes
Leslie & Alan Chibnik
Julius & Carol Cohen
Martin Cohen
Polina Shats & Eli Cohen
Cindee Cohen
Jacqueline & Gerald Cohen
Jeffrey & Anita Cohen
David & Randye Cohen
Rose & Raymond Cohen
Gloria Cooper
Philip & Elaina Corwin
Edward Cushman
Fred & Sheri Daniels
Jill Davis
Mitchell & Beth Davis
Andrea & Steven Davis
Laurie & Robert Delitsky
Kristin & Greg Desideri
Lori & Freddy Desideri
Kristen & Michael Desideri
Lauren & Eric Diamant
Joshua & Melanie Diamond
Shari & David Domb
Elissa & Wayne Domnitz
Helen Drogin
Bradley & Sara Eckstein
Steven & Sandy Edelman
Marv Edelstein
Gara & Robert Edelstein
Helena Eilenberg
Judy & Fred Elfenbein
Hillary & Joel Estrin
Melvin & Teddi Febesh
Julie & Michael Fegan
Lawrence & Linda Feinberg
Naomi & Benjamin Feld
George Feld
Joan Feldman
Harriet Feldman
Eileen Feldman
Lynne Ferraro
Harvey & Janet Fine
Elise & Richard Finkel
David & Meris First
Mindy & Evan Fischer
Jill & Jonathan Fisher
Adam & Haylee Fisher
Melanie & Jay Flatow
Gabrielle & Matthew Fox
Felise & Jeffrey Fox
Cordell & Robin Freimann
Teri & Michael Fried
Lenore Friedman
Jocelyn & Glenn Friedman
Steven Friedman & Lana Kalickstein
Tova & Larry Friedman
Andrea & David Friedman
Joan & Michael Frieman
Barry & Beth Garfield
Brenda & Dan Geier
James & Andrea Gelb
Paul & Jennifer Gellman
Barri & Allen Gershlak
Joan Gewurz
Rae & Bennett Gewurz
Gloria Gimbel
Deborah Gindi
Jodi & Michael Goldberg
Phyllis Goldberg
Starr & Stan Goldberg
Mark & Abby Goldberg
C.S. Goldenberg
Michelle & Jonathan Goldenberg
June Goldhamer
Lance & Vicki Goldman
Philip & Gloria Goldstein
Lori Goldstein & Rob Capilupi
Deborah & Michael Goldstein
Mindy & Edward Goldstein
Blanche Goodman
Gloria Greenbaum
Leesa & Joel Greenberg
Iris & Allan Greenberg
Andrea & Todd Greenberg
Judith Greenberger
Daniel & Ivy Greenburg
Mary & Steven Greenfield
Eileen Greenspan
Karen & Scott Gross
Faye & David Gross
Bennett & Wendy Grossman
Lauren & Todd Haiken
Stacey & James Haller
Joanne & Marc Hamroff
Tara & Adam Harris
Gail Hernandez
Gary & Lorie Hershkin
David & Jill Hirsch
Marilyn & Robert Hochhauser

Hineni הנני Appeal Donations

Janet & Leo Hoffman
Joseph & Diana Hoffman
Michael & Susan Hornig
Elliot & Ina Hymes
Lee & Barbara Hymowitz
Roberta & Neil Ir
Susan and Theodore Jurman
Elana & David Kahan
Richard & Rona Kahn
Jeffrey & Jill Kaiserman
Jacki Kaplan
Nancy & Leonard Kaplan
Eric Kaplan
Ruth Katz
Dee Dee & Ricky Katz
Susan & Brian Katz
Roberta & Jay Katzeff
Leonard & Lois Kaufman
Steven & Susan Kayne
Todd & Lauren Keller
Caryn & Scott Kesler
Richard & Diane Kessel
Sheryl & Gary Kissin
Charles & Betty Klein
Robin & Mark Knoll
Richard & Dana Knox
Deborah & Marcelo Kohan
Raina & Jamey Kohn
Jill & Jonathan Koota
Martin & Rochelle Kopelowitz
Marilyn & Alan Kornfeld
Irma Koton
Steven & Nelly Koton
Steven & Rena Kozin
Stephen & Ellen Kramer
Joi & Stephan Kravitz
Marvin & Alice Kreutzberger
Bob & Irene Kroll
Diane Solasz & Matthew Kudish
Anna & Douglas Kugal
Albert & Sandra Kula
Sarah Kulchinksy
Sheryl & Gary Kushner
Barbara Kushnick
Sharyn & Steven Kussin
Carol & Darin Laby
Ilene Lambert
Linda & Eddie Lampert
Blaine & Joan Land
Harriet & Barry Lasky
David & Eleanor Leiner
Scott & Amy Leist
Stephen & Helene Lepselter
Carole & Sidney Lerman
Jonathan Lerner
Dolly Levi
Leonard & Karen Levin
Irene Levinbook
Hannah Levine
Howard & Linda Levine
Eli Levine
Ronald & Deborah Levine
Dari Rosalina Levine
Joseph Levy & Leslie Feinberg-Levy
David & Tammy Lewis
Terri & Steven Lieberman
Jan & Ethel Liebeskind
Beth & Brian Limmer
Nathan & Susan Litman
Bruce Logue
Steven & Joan Lomasky
Mitchell & Robin Lubow
Jeffrey & Marla Maidenbaum
Craig & Marcia Maltz
Irwin & Mara Maltz
Norman & Terry Manko
Nancy & Alan Marder
Barbara & Jeffrey Margolis
Loren & Michael Maroof
Linda & Arnold Marshal
Amy Rood-Matza & Jack Matza
Marcia & Douglas Melzer
Paulette & Gary Mendelsohn
Amanda & Mark Mendelsohn
Lisa & Ivan Menschel
Theresa Mermelstein
Sara & Corey Meyer
Larry & Stefanie Meyers
Sadie Migden
Scott Mittleberg
MJC Endowment Committee
Sarita Mlawer
Allan & Debra Mohr
Tina & Larry Moskowitz
Leonard & Geraldine Moskowitz
Ellen & Corey Multer
Judy & Mitchell Mund
Rhonda & Jeffrey Mutterperl
Michele & Jack Natter
Bruce & Alyson Neiger
Herb & Raye Newman
Fara & Steven Noghrey
Sidney & Deborah Nudelman
Abby Ofsink
Brian & Alison Okun
Arleen Orbuch
Mindy & Glen Orenstein
Kevin & Galit Ostroff
Tammy & Martin Pasternak
Judith & Ira Pastor
Harriet Pechter
Mark & Alison Peskin
Sandra Pinkus
Mitchell & Brenda Pitkoff
Debra & Lawrence Pollack
Bernard Pollock
Gary & Wendy Pupa
Robin Rait
Lenore Rait
Jeffrey & Lauren Rait
Brad Rappaport
Leslie Rappaport
Sheila & Samuel Rappaport
Michelle & Glenn Reisender
Steven & Paula Rice
Stanley & Ricki Ring
Susan & Howard Rockwin
Allen Rolnick
Linda & Ronald Rosen
Lauren & Eric Rosenberg
Jeffrey & Caren Rosenberg
Frieda & Alexander Rosenberg
Jill & Ken Rosenberg
Shelley Rosenblum
Martin & Judith Rosenthal
Sara & Andrew Rotjan
Howard & Melinda Rubin
Nathan & Paula Rum
Shlomo & Ellen Saad
Miranda Salomon
Gary & Karen Sanders
Renee Sandler
Lois & Edward Saturn
Judith Schaffel
Carolyn & Matthew Schechner
Irene Schechter
Jennifer Schleider
Randy & Stuart Schoenfeld
Andrew & Lisa Schutzman
Myrna & Everett Schuval
Richard & Sherry Schwartz

Hineni הנני Appeal Donations

Alyssa & Jonathan Schwartz
Jeffrey & Elizabeth Schwartz
Paul & Barbara Schwartz
Ann Schwartz
Michael & Michelle Schwartz
Susan & Arthur Schweitzer
Roberta & Steven Scoll
Howard & Ilene Segal
Laney & Eugene Seid
Julie & Brian Seidler
Sheila & Arthur Sekuler
Sabrina & Jared Selvin
Stephen & Robyn Shear
Joseph & Laurie Siegel
Steven & Susan Siegel
Donald & Helene Siegel
Lindsay Sigal
Shanna & Steven Silva
Mark & Laura Silver
Louella Silverberg
Ruth & Barry Silverman
Marci & Steven Silverman
Geri & Barry Silverman
Eileen & Irwin Silversmith
Shari & Mitchell Simon
Keith & Cathy Simon
Susan & Elliot Sims
Pamela Skop
Joanne & Charles Skop
Emily & Jordan Slutsky
Shani Silverman & Larry Smith
Dennis Smith
Bradley Snider
Sandra & Joel Sparber
Albert & Ruth Stam
Helen & Michael Steckman
Alvin & Debbie Stein
Lois & Jay Stein
Donna & Kenneth Stein
Richard & Shari Stern
Howard & Beth Stern
Joseph & Barbara Sternberg
Rita & Joel Stoller
David & Holly Sugarman
Catherine & Frank Supovitz
Jessica Sussman
Ellen & Alan Sussman
Lee & Allison Sussman
Laraine Sweberg
Charles & Betsy Swersky
Steven & Sandra Tannenbaum
Rachel & Bernard Taub
Sharon & Elias Teller
Wendy & Alan Tepper
Howard & Paula Tiegel
Marjorie & Michael Toback
Stanley Treiman
Jeffrey & Barbara Trompeter
Steven & Amy Uffner
Lorraine Ullian
Cheryl Uram
Robert & Helen Wagner
Jay & Miriam Wanderman
Jeffrey & Amy Wechsler
David & Terry Wechsler
Sandra Wegman
Stanley & Marcia Weinstein
Sheila Weintraub
Beth & Mark Weiss
Anita Weiss
Laurence & Ilene Wekselblatt
Wendy & Frank Wetchler
Eric & Lauren Wexler
Donna & Lenny Wexler
Sarah Wexler
Barry & Judith Wilansky
Erika & Ken Witover
Robert Wolf
Robert & Marci Wolfson
Barbara Wolfson
Chad Yegelwel
Phyllis & Murray Yenis
Naomi & David Zajic
Audra Zane
Madeline & Arthur Zeitlin
Seth & Elise Zeitlin
Elliot & Shelley Zimmerman
Richard Zinn
Barbara & Barry Zolot
Linda & Howard Zryb

Men's Club

COVID-19 has caused all organizations to adapt. The Men's Club of Merrick Jewish Centre is no exception. To this end, we have held our meetings and programs on Zoom. The Men's Club's exciting tentative calendar of upcoming events is listed below. We have included one tentative in-person program as we go further into 2021 that will only be held if circumstances change and subject to any necessary approvals and guidelines. Safety of our members, congregants and friends is our predominant concern. We hope that you can join us in these programs.

The concept of Tikkun Olam is a Hebrew phrase that has been translated as "repairing the world" and according to Levi Cooper in The Assimilation of 'Tikkun Olam,' "more recently it has become a banner for almost any laudable value." In addition to many of our programs in our tentative calendar being based around this crucial concept, Men's Club will be further following this value by making donations to charities that help people have better lives and care for the sick.

The Men's Club wishes the MJC community a Happy Hanukkah and a healthy and safe New Year.

Glenn Friedman, Co-President

TENTATIVE MEN'S CLUB CALENDAR: JANUARY 2021 - JUNE 2021

JANUARY 2021 - Virtual Defensive Driving Class - certificates will be provided to all who participate
FEBRUARY 2021 - Virtual World Wide Wrap in conjunction with the MJC Hebrew School
APRIL 2021 - Virtual Health Class
JUNE 2021 - Mets Game (subject to any necessary approvals and guidelines)
Additionally, we hope to continue to offer Virtual Trivia Nights - Dates to be determined

Sisterhood

Sisterhood has been meeting virtually during the pandemic.

On October 21st we had a zoom exercise class led by exercise instructor Susan Sachs. Thanks to Lisa Schutzman and Jen Gellman for organizing this event.

We had our Paid Up Membership Party on November 11th. Although we couldn't eat together, some of our members ordered dinner from Wing Wan which gave our zoom a more festive feeling. We broke up into groups and played "Scattegories" and "Jewish Jeopardy." We had a grand prize raffle and gift certificates as prizes for "Jewish Jeopardy." We had over 40 women participating and it was a nice opportunity to catch up. Special thanks to Elaina Corwin, Ellen Multer, Joanne Skop, Mary Greenfield, Robyn Shear and Harriet Feldman for making this event a success.

Last week, Sisterhood and Lifelong Learning co-sponsored virtual Torah Yoga with instructor Genia Taub. It was a wonderful evening with an emphasis on light in honor of Hanukkah. Genia also shared an updated healthier latke recipe. Thanks to Joanne Skop and Lifelong Learning for organizing.

We have a virtual book club scheduled for Wednesday, December 30th at 7:30. Robyn Shear will facilitate a discussion on the book The Pearl that Broke its Shell by Nadia Hashimi. Copies of the book will be available at the Merrick Library.

We look forward to an evening of learning with Rabbi Dermer on Wednesday, January 13th in our #Ritual series. We will be discussing Rosh Chodesh on an actual Rosh Chodesh. Please watch your emails for further details.

Wishing you all a Happy Hanukkah.

Anita Cohen, President

MERRICK JEWISH CENTRE
CONGREGATION OHR TORAH
Men's Club
June 14
$60 per ticket
Join with Men's Club when we honor Charlie Skop for his years of dedicated service to MJC.
Mets vs. Chicago Cubs
Field Level Seating behind third base and visiting dugout.
On the field Spirt ceremony honoring Charlie prior to the game.
This event is open to all members of Merrick Jewish Centre & their friends
ceremony at 6:45pm
game starts 7:10pm
Questions? friendsclub@merrickjc.org or call the MJC office
Clip and return with your payment to the MJC office
Enclosed please find a check in the amount of ($60/ ticket) $_____ for #_____
tickets. Deadline for ordering isMay 1, 2021. Tickets subject to availability
Name_____ phone_____email_____

Lifelong Learning

While we are all hunkered down for the winter, Lifelong Learning will be presenting many opportunities to engage your mind and spirit. Here are some of the highlights coming in January through March:

- Innovative Israeli films and discussion
- "Eve on Trial" - watch an entertaining video of Eve tried for crimes against humanity - Alan Dershowitz for the defense
- Kids Cooking with Dads
- Improve Your Writing with Steve Kussin
- Meditation to start the week
- Rich Knox's continuing series on Hollywood legends
- Improving Your Hebrew with Sharyn Kussin
- Spanish language class
- Rabbi Dermer's Wednesday Morning class plus occasional special classes

Watch your email feed for details for dates and times.

From The Chesed Committee

A Special Thanks from Chesed

In what's been a long and dark year for all of us, we have to thank the congregants of Merrick Jewish Centre for supporting our efforts to help others in neighboring communities. In September you made Project Isaiah a huge success and allowed the allotment of over $4000 in supermarket gift cards to help so many enjoy the High Holidays. Your overwhelming response continued in December with your generous support to "Share Some Gelt" which helped us provide holiday gifts to children and families at South Shore Child Guidance Center in Freeport. Over $5000 was raised which sends such a beautiful and heartfelt message.

We are together this holiday this year and united we can make a difference! Happy Chanukah to all and thank you everyone for shining the brightest of lights and sending the best of your love! We are a wonderful and caring congregation!!

The Bulletin Board

Merrick Jewish Centre has been pursuing the purchase of cemetery property for our congregation for a number of years. Last year an opportunity was presented to us for property at Wellwood Cemetery in Farmingdale. The purchase was delayed due to the result of Covid 19. We have begun the sale of burial plots to those who had expressed interest during the past year.

At this time, we have a limited number of plots still available for purchase. Plots are available to members in good standing of the Merrick Jewish Centre.

Plots at the Merrick Jewish Centre grounds at Wellwood are currently priced well below market rate at an introductory price of $1800 per grave.

If your family is interested in purchase information, please contact the MJC Cemetery Committee by email at:
cemeterycommittee@merrickjc.org

Merrick Jewish Centre Cemetery Committee

Do you know that the Merrick Jewish Centre now has its own YouTube Channel?

You can find sermons, classes, and recordings of special events all on the Merrick Jewish Centre YouTube Channel.

You can go to our website (www.merrickjc.org) and click on the link for the YouTube Channel, and there you will find a long and growing list of videos available.

We invite you to visit the
Merrick Jewish Centre website
www.merrickjc.org
Check out our CALENDAR for upcoming events
Visit our PHOTO GALLERY
Check out our BULLETIN BOARD

We want to hear from YOU!

Do you have something to contribute?
Is there something you would like to see in future issues of the MJC Bulletin?

Contact Howard Zryb at
hzryb@aol.com
with your ideas and suggestions.

Clothing Donation?

Drop off your bags in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters bin located in the back of our parking lot, and the office will provide you with a tax receipt. Too many bags to carry? Call the office and a volunteer will be happy to schedule a home pickup.
Thank you!

MJC Helpline

We're here to listen and offer support during this crisis.

Please call 516-379-8650

We have assembled a team of wonderfully capable mental health professionals to offer phone counseling to our members who feel the need to speak with a caring therapist. Your Rabbis are also available. Please leave a message and a team member will return your call.

Virtual Minyan Services

Morning Servies:
Monday & Thursday 6:30 am
Friday at 6:45 am Saturday 9:30 am, Sunday at 8:30 am

Evening Services
Sunday through Thursday at 8 pm
Friday Shabbat at 6:15 pm

Zoom meeting ID: **649-098-3015**
Password: **Mitzvah613**

Zoom call in phone number: **1-929-205-6099**
ID: **649-098-3015**
Password: **6489824613**

We're having a party!

Yes, New Year's Eve will be different -

but that's NOT stopping us.

You're invited to a virtual "Zoom" get-together.

You supply the food...

...We'll supply the entertainment.

8:30 pm – 8:50 pm = sign-in & schmoozing

8:50 pm – 12:15 am = "Let's party!"

Our own *Richard Knox* is preparing over three hours

of 50's, and 60's doo-wop music along with some classic ballads.

Dedications will be accepted via the chat box.

Sit back in the comfort of your home and join us.

***The price is right!* $ -- 0 --**

However, pre-registration is a *MUST*...

...since Zoom limits the number of participants.

First come, first served!

For more information, contact:

June Goldhamer or Steve Kussin

RSVP to Steve at sk3015@aol.com

Deadline: Friday, December 18th

Hope you will join us!

Guide to Re-entering the MJC

as of July 1, 2020

Our community and our world are slowly emerging from a crisis that none of us could have imagined or prepared for. No aspect of our lives has been untouched by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our physical health, psychosocial, financial and spiritual well-being have been put to the test. There are many stories of great tragedy but there are as many stories of great heroism, acts of kindness and wonderful innovation as families have prevailed through months of self-quarantine.

The Merrick Jewish Centre, under the loving support and guidance of our Rabbis and lay leadership have continued to reach out and provide Shabbat, minyan, and Yom Tov services, numerous classes, and personal touchpoints to our congregants and friends. We have all learned how to ZOOM and YouTube. Now, under New York State and Nassau County phased re-opening plans the Merrick Jewish Centre is ready to re-emerge as strong and vibrant as ever. We will need to start slowly at first and re-adjust plans as needed. This document covers the first phase of reentry anticipated to occur during Summer 2020.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR HEALTH

Your health and safety and that of our clergy and staff is paramount. While many of us are eager to return to the MJC building, others are more hesitant and cautious. As there is no right answer, each individual and family must do what is right for themselves. We are taking many steps to ensure the healthfulness of the building and to prevent the spread of the virus as best as we can. However, we cannot do it without your help. We need to be partners in keeping each other safe. This means following the guidance of our Health & Safety and Security teams. Please understand that these guidelines were not determined easily or haphazardly, rather the thoughtful collaboration of many professional, clergy and lay leaders based upon most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New York State Department of Health (NY DOH) guidance and recommendations.

Even with us all following these important guidelines and implementing best practices to prevent the spread of the virus, the Merrick Jewish Centre cannot guarantee that there will be no exposure to COVID-19 or any other communicable diseases as we make our gradual re-entry to the MJC building.

ATTENDING SERVICES AT THE MJC

The procedures below apply to attendance at all services and may change at any time in response to guidelines and advisories issued by the CDC and the NYS-DOH, Governor Cuomo, Nassau County and the Town of Hempstead. Anyone who enters the MJC building, including the premises adjacent to the building, such as the parking lot, sidewalks, staircases and landings, and grassy areas, agrees to fully adhere to this Guide. There will be no exceptions to this Guide t o Re-Entering the MJC. Failure to follow guidelines places other congregants and staff at risk and cannot be tolerated and anyone in violation will be asked to leave the building.

Capacity Controls

Although we would love nothing more than having a Sanctuary filled with our congregation, current physical distancing requirements significantly limit the number of members who can be safely accommodated for services. We ask for your patience and understanding, and help to protect the health and safety of all of our members and guests, by reviewing and adhering to the guidelines below: At this time, pre-registration is required for all services taking place inside the MJC building. Without a confirmed registration, you will not be admitted into the building.

Social distancing as outlined below must be strictly adhered to. Pre-registration is required for services when a simcha will be celebrated such as B'nai Mitzvah or Aufruf. Celebrating families will be permitted to have a limited number of guests. Guest lists are required no less than one week prior to the event. In order to enable comfortable seating while ensuring social distancing, we ask that guests lists be prepared to indicate family units so that members of a single household can be safely seated together.

Outdoor minyanim do not require pre-registration, but strict adherence to face covering and social distancing rules is required. Bring your own chair if you will wish to sit during outdoor services. Please also follow the health restrictions as listed below.

Health Restrictions

For the protection of all congregants and guests, it is of paramount importance that you do not attend services if you, or any member of your family, are experiencing symptoms of illness, including but not limited to a cough, sore throat, or fever, even if you have pre-registered to attend.

Guide to Re-entering the MJC

CDC-acknowledged symptoms of COVID-19 include:
- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

For more information, visit CDC website: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)

If you had or think you may have had COVID-19 please do not attend until at least 14 days after symptoms have resolved and you have been fever-free (i.e., under 99.5) for at least 14 days. If you have recently traveled from another state with significant community spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to Florida, you are required to self-quarantine for 14 days once returning to New York and will not be permitted into the MJC building.

For a current listing of restricted states visit: https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory

Are You at High Risk?

Attending services in-person for individuals who are in COVID-19 high risk health groups is strongly discouraged at this time. For your reference, the CDC has defined high risk groups for COVID-19 as follows:

- People 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:
- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- People who have serious heart conditions
- People who are immunocompromised

Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.

- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with diabetes
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
- People with liver disease

If you are in a high health risk group, we implore you to worship with us from home, by electronic means. We will continue to livestream services to accommodate those who do not wish to, or are unable to, attend services in person. Please refer to MJC emails for information on accessing our livestreamed services.

Parking

The capacity of the parking lot for most services will be limited to 50%. Please leave an empty parking space on each side of your car.

Entering and Exiting the Building

If an effort to reduce the number of casual contacts between congregants, we are establishing one-way routes throughout the synagogue. Until the Parking Lot Entrance becomes accessible, only the Henry Street doors will be used to enter the building. When exiting, you must use the Fox Boulevard doors only.

Entrance Checkpoint Procedure

Our Security Team will remain vigilant to protect our congregation from a wide range of potential safety threats, including but not limited to COVID-19. Our focus on your safety and security remains undiminished during the current health crisis. Please comply with the instructions of the Security Team if you are asked to open all bags and purses, or if you are asked to remove items for closer inspection. No member of the team will touch your personal belongings.

A member of the Checkpoint Team will check your temperature with a contactless thermometer to ensure it is below the recommended safety threshold of 99.5° F. Anyone with a temperature at or greater than the threshold will not be permitted to enter and must leave the area immediately. You will also be asked a few questions about any recent signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or recent travel.

The Checkpoint Team will maintain strict capacity controls by monitoring the number of people entering the building. For services with additional guests, the reservation list will be strictly adhered to. Only those who have pre-registered or are on guest list will be permitted to enter the MJC building.

Guide to Re-entering the MJC

Non-Sanctuary Areas are Restricted
The Sanctuary and restrooms are the only areas currently accessible by the congregation. All other areas in the building are restricted from access at this time. If you wish to take a break during services, please do not wait in the lobbies. Except for rest room visits, you must immediately depart the building after leaving the Sanctuary.

Physical Distancing Requirements
Please maintain a minimum distance from other congregants and guests of six feet or more when waiting at the entrance checkpoint, inside the synagogue, and while departing. Congregating within the building will not be permitted. We realize everyone is looking forward to seeing friends and neighbors, however, under the circumstances, you will be asked to return to your seat or leave the building.

Everyone must wear a facemask or cloth face covering before entering the Merrick Jewish Centre grounds, including the parking lot and sidewalks outside the building. You must keep the face covering on when approaching the entrance checkpoint, and at all times while inside the building even while davening. Congregants or guests who do not wear a facemask will be asked to leave the premises at once. At this time, children below Bar/Bat Mitzvah age should not attend in-person services. The reasons for this include:

- Children tend to not be tolerant of wearing face covers for a significant amount of time
- We are still learning about how COVID-19 affects children and Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome
- There are no other areas of the building open at this time for play or distraction

Hand Sanitizers
We encourage you to bring sanitizing wipes or a container of hand sanitizer with you into the Merrick Jewish Centre. There will also be hand sanitizer stations in the lobbies and wastebaskets in which to dispose of wipes. Gloves are not recommended by CDC or NYSDOH and are strongly discouraged. Frequent effective hand hygiene using hand sanitizer or washing with soap and water for 20 seconds is strongly encouraged.

Restrooms
Restrooms will be cleaned frequently during and between services and are limited to a minimum number of people so as to practice social distancing. Disinfecting wipes will be available and we ask that you wipe down high touch surfaces you have touched such as doorknobs and faucets.

Coat Check Room
The coat check room in the parking lot lobby is closed. You must bring your jackets, umbrellas, and other personal items with you into the Sanctuary and place them on the unoccupied seat immediately beside you.

Kippot and Tallaisim
Please bring your own kippot, tallaisim and head coverings to services. If you do not own a tallis, you will be issued one, and then will be responsible to take care of it and then have it dry cleaned and returned to the MJC after the pandemic is over.

Ritual and Customs
Mezzuzot - Please DO NOT kiss any mezzuzot upon entering or anywhere inside the Merrick Jewish Centre.
Aliyot - There will be no bima aliyot during Torah reading and no ark openings; nor will there be any Torah processions around the Sanctuary. Plexiglass partitions have been installed on the bimah to safely partition the Rabbis, Cantor and Torah reader in order to prevent droplets due to singing or public speaking to reach the congregation.

Prayer Books
Please bring your own Siddur or Chumash if you have them. Siddurim and Chumashim will be available and we will be rotating them every 2-3 weeks to ensure you receive a clean one for use during services.

Cleaning
The Sanctuary, lobbies, restrooms, doors, bimah, and other surfaces will be sanitized after each service following CDC guidelines as to cleaning products and methods.

Exiting Merrick Jewish Centre
The Fox Boulevard doors will be used for exiting the building. Once out of the building, please move away from the steps and the sidewalk outside the building. Do not congregate at the exits and please do not socialize in the parking lot after the conclusion of services. Please wear your facemask until you have entered your car. Discard facemasks or personal protective equipment properly, and do not leave them on the sidewalks, parking lot, or on the property of our neighbors.

Thank you for your adherence to these protocols which are designed to protect all of us!

Respectfully,
Health & Safety Committee:
Michelle Goldenberg, RN, co-chair
Andrew Rotjan, Nurse Practitioner, co-chair
Eric Barth, MD
Anita Cohen, DDS
Josh Diamond
Jonathan Schwartz

From Partisan to Maccabee

Rokhl's Golden City: Literary lessons about the Jewish child survivors of the Holocaust

December 10, 2020 | by Rokhl Kafrissen

How does a child partisan become a Maccabee? It takes a small-scale act of national imagination. And like the Hanukkah (or Khanike, in Yiddish) narrative, it's a complicated story of military conflict, straining at the boundaries of what we think of as children's literature.

In the period immediately after WWII, the small number of Jewish child survivors in Poland became the subject of intense interest to Jewish community leaders. Thousands of these children ended up in a network of children's homes and other institutions for child survivors. There was intense competition between Zionist homes, which prepared them for immigration to Palestine, and those that believed there was still a future for Jews in communist Poland. The devastation of the war meant that these children were, quite literally, the future. The lives of child survivors consequently became an important topic in the Jewish community. Child survivors were depicted as tough, resourceful, and psychologically resilient enough to work through the horrors of yesterday and become the leaders of tomorrow.

The 1948 Yiddish movie Undzere Kinder (Our Children) is a good example of the discourse around child survivors. It was co-written by Rokhl Oyerbakh, a pioneer in collecting survivor testimony, and filmed in Poland in 1946-47. Undzere Kinder was shot in a semi-verité style using real child survivors. Its visual style reads at times as downright Hitchcockian and its imagery, whether intentional or not, veers toward the Freudian. By night, two visitors creep about a home for Jewish child survivors. Unseen, they observe the intimate conversations of the residents of the home, adults as well as children, as they reveal the dark stories that cannot be spoken in the daylight.

In contrast, Menashe Unger's Yiddish short story "Der kleyner makabi (1950) also deals with child survivors, but its scenes are alive with color, and the story reads something like a modern-day fable. Despite its ripped-from-the-headlines characters and plot, the story makes explicit its appeal to Jewish mythology.

Dovidl is a 13-year-old Warsaw Ghetto escapee who spent two years living in the forest with a partisan unit. Though he's now happily established at a kibbutz near Tel Aviv, his sense of self is fractured. In just a few pages, Der kleyner makabi employs transhistorical dreamwork, the dramatic stage, as well as the field of combat, to completely shatter Dovidl's psyche and put him back together as a Zionist whole.

The story appears in Unger's collection of stories and plays for children called Gut Yom-Tov Kinder (Happy Holidays, Children). Though it was written and published in the United States, Unger was a Poyle Tsiyen (Labor Zionist) activist, and he played a role in the now forgotten chapter of Yiddish language postwar Zionism.

From Partisan to Maccabee

Der kleyner makabi takes place at a kibbutz at Hanukkah time. Hanukkah, a once minor festival, was rehabilitated by the Zionist movement to serve as a narrative of national liberation of the land. Zionists shifted the focus of the Hasmonean story from the physical redemption of the Temple to the human triumph of the Maccabees, encouraging those settling in Palestine to think of themselves as Maccabees, too. When Dovidl arrived at the kibbutz the year before, he was given the nickname Dovidl Partizan, on account of his eagerness to share tales of his time with Jewish partisans in the forest. Dovidl assisted in their heroic work, searching out Nazi hiding spots. Disguised as a Polish boy, he slipped into nearby towns to gather information on Nazi soldiers. To avoid revealing his Jewishness, he pretended to be deaf and incapable of speech.

When the children of Dovidl's kibbutz are told of an imminent Arab attack, they are given orders to evacuate to Tel Aviv. Dovidl protests. He had fought alongside partisans and gone on life-threatening missions. How could he abandon his new home? No, he would find a way to stay and fight.

As the truck carrying his class slowly rumbles away, Dovidl hops off unnoticed, returning to the kibbutz. But where to hide? He heads to the empty theater, to hide among the costumes and decorations. Still on the stage are props from a play they performed about the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Dovidl had played the role of Mordecai Anielewicz. Anielewicz was a member of Hashomer Hatzair and in the Warsaw Ghetto, he led the Jewish Fighting Organization (known by its Polish initials, ZOB) in a heroic battle against the Nazis. As Dovidl settles in for the night, he is reminded of his performance as Anielewicz: Don't give up! Let us die with dignity!

Falling asleep, he dreams first that he is Anielewicz, leading the ghetto fighters. Then he imagines he is Berl, the partisan leader, planning an attack on a Nazi munitions train. Then he is Yehude Makabi, fighting the Greeks. But it is not just Greeks he is fighting, but Nazis, Arabs, the English–all have joined together to attack the kibbutz. And it is Dovidl who is there to drive them away.

He is woken by an alarm. Haganah fighters have arrived to defend the kibbutz against attack on three sides. But how to help? Dovidl looks around at the discarded props, a Ghetto Uprising paper cannon among them. He remembers how the partisans would use a mock cannon to draw Nazi fire. The kibbutz paper cannon, painted brown, would look real enough from far away. He drags it outside, to an undefended spot, among the cactuses. Miraculously, his plan works, and the attackers rain precious ammunition on the paper cannon, much to the confusion of the Haganah. The kibbutz is saved!

After the battle, Dovidl is found with a bullet wound in his leg and taken to the hospital, in a room with other wounded Haganah fighters. The Haganah commander finds him there, feverishly shouting: ™Death to the Nazis! Drive out Antiochus! Drive the Greeks from the Temple! The commander beams with pride. No longer shall you be known as The Little Partisan, he says. From now on you will be known as The Little Makabi. The other kibbutz children, on their way to the Hanukkah celebration, pass by his hospital window exclaiming, ™There he is, the Little Yehude Makabi!

It's quite a story. Part of Dovidl remained in Poland, in the forests and towns where he took on roles normally considered too dangerous for a child. Partizan wasn't just part of his identity, it was his very name. In order to truly belong on the kibbutz, he has to travel back and forth in time. He performs the role of ZOB leader Anielewicz, which leads directly to his decision to use the prop cannon to fight a real battle. In his dream, too, identity is flexible. His wartime exploit as an undercover spy reinforces the point. The past holds trauma, but it also offers endless individual mutability, and redemption.

It's interesting that when Dovidl arrives at the kibbutz, he is open with his wartime story, so much so that it becomes his kibbutz persona. But in real life, the propriety of having child survivors tell their stories was up for debate. And the children themselves were often reluctant to talk. Historian Boaz Cohen notes that some teachers in the DP camps objected to soliciting testimonies from their students on the grounds thatʃ it would interrupt the healing of old wounds.

As Cohen writes in The Children's Voice: Postwar Collection of Testimonies from Child Survivors of the Holocaust. Benjamin Tenenbaum was a Hashomair Hatzair activist who took on the mission of collecting and publishing the stories of children, stories which he felt showed the wartime experience more honestly than those of adults, free of apologetics.

Tenenbaum took to this work with a single-minded determination, describing it as a dybbukʃ that had

From Partisan to Maccabee

A group of Jewish partisans in the Rudniki forest, near Vilna, between 1942 and 1944 (photo: US Holocaust Memorial Museum)

entered him. Thirteen-year-old Shmuel Krol was just one of the autobiographies∫ he collected. As quoted by Cohen, Krol wrote: From far away shines the sun of Eretz Yisrael. There I'll be a faithful son to my homeland and if need be, I'll die for her. Defending himself against charges that the children were merely repeating propaganda, Tenenbaum believed ideological inculcation was itself therapeutic. Zionist education gave children hope for the future, which facilitated their rehabilitation.

When Rokhl Oyerbakh handed over the first cache of Oyneg Shabes documents in 1942, she included a note conveying the rawest anger: I want to stay alive. REVENGE REVENGE remember. After the war, she channeled that anger into her collection work, part of which was used to try Adolf Eichmann.

The carefully selected child testimonies Tenenbaum published, however, lacked hate or passion for revenge. He explained that bringing the children into the Zionist project had channeled that potentially destructive energy into one redemptive channel: dreams of building and creativity.

As I was thinking about this story, an Israeli friend mentioned an interesting connection between Der kleyner makabi and Israeli children's literature of the same time: 1950 was also the year the first of Yigal Mossinson's Hasamba adventure series books appeared. In it, a group of Jewish boys and girls take part in various battles against Israel's enemies, as spies and combatants. Two of them even die in service to the new state.

I know that Tenenbaum truly believed he and his colleagues were giving child survivors a dream of building and creativity. They were, after all, providing a new life for young people who had nothing, and had seen their families and homes consumed in fire. But the fiction of the time was more honest about the reality into which these children were entering, one in which child soldiers were held up as an ideal, both in Hebrew and Yiddish literature. As Der kleyner makabi∫ shows, the survival of the Jewish people meant that one enemy had merely been exchanged for another.

Though Unger writes a sparkling, candlelit nighttime scene for Dovidl's happy ending, he betrays himself by its construction. The injured Dovidl is confined to his room, forced to observe the activities through a window, separated from the life around him. His Hanukkah victory comes at a high price, too high, perhaps, for a child to ever fully comprehend. If Hanukkah often feels impossibly complex to explain to children (just what the hell is a Seleucid again?), Dovidl's story succeeds in reflecting that perplexing truth.

Re-printed from Tablet Magazine

Rokhl Kafrissen is a New York-based cultural critic and playwright.

Jews and Chess

Jews have long shaped the game of chess

Dec 5, 2020 | by Dr. Yvette Alt Miller

The Queen's Gambit, Netflix's wildly popular miniseries, is focusing many people's attention on the timeless game of chess. Chess has long been a popular game in the Jewish world, and Jewish players have helped shape the game since its beginnings. Here are seven little known facts about Jews and chess.

Early Chess in the Talmud?

The game of chess originated in India in the 6th Century CE, growing out of several other popular board games that were popular at the time. The most likely precursor to chess is the Indian game chaturanga – the Sanskrit name means "four armies" and recreates an epic battle described in the Indian epic poem the Mahabharata. From India, the game travelled north to Persia, where the name of the king piece was changed from the Sanskrit name Rajah to the Persian Shah. Board games were already popular across the Middle East at the time, but this new version had some distinctive features we associate with modern chess: the pieces each had different powers and abilities, and victory depended on the survival of one piece, the King.

The Talmud mentions a game called Naradshir (Ketubot 59a). The Medieval Jewish sage Rashi, who lived in France, translated Naradshir as Ishkakish, an old French name for Chess. (We get the chess term "check" from the same French word, echec, meaning failure.) Yet later historians have concluded that Naradshir was more likely a board game played with dice, perhaps one of the popular games that soon would help inform and influence the emerging game of chess as it developed in the Middle East.

Anya Taylor-Joy as Beth Harmon in "The Queen's Gambit"

Chess Spreading Far and Wide

Early forms of chess became widely popular and spread throughout the Medieval world from Persia. Traders along the Silk Road brought chess to China, where it developed into Xiangqi, also called "Chinese chess". This game is played with carved disks on a board that is marked by intersecting lines instead of a checkerboard pattern.

Chess made its way west through the Byzantine Empire and into Europe, spreading like wildfire. Soon, chess was being played in India and Iceland, as far west as Spain and across the eastern expanses of Russia. A perfectly preserved chess set from the 1100s – known as the "Lewis Chessmen" – was even found in the remote Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland.

In Hebrew, chess is called *shechmet*, which sounds like the Persian terms shah or sheikh (king) and the Persian (and Hebrew) words for death, met.

During the Middle Ages, many of the chess terms we use today developed, often from Persian terms. For instance, "Rook" sounds like the Persian word for chariot. In ancient Persia, war chariots were built like mini fortresses, surrounded by stone walls and turrets, much like today's rooks on the chess board. While the English word chess comes from the French echec, other languages have different names for the game. In Hebrew, chess is called shechmet, which sounds like the Persian terms shah or sheikh (king) and the Persian (and Hebrew) words for death, met. (In German, a checkmate is known by the same term: Schachmatt.)

Jews and Chess

Rabbi Yehudah Halevi: Chess and Spirituality

In 1140 in Spain, the great Jewish poet-philosopher Rabbi Yehudah Halevi wrote The Kuzari, a series of letters to the king of the Khazars in which Rabbi Halevi discussed the human condition and beautifully explained Jewish belief. Chess was becoming popular with royalty throughout Europe and was beginning to be called "The Game of Kings." This royal and challenging board game provided Rabbi Halevi with a beautiful metaphor for explaining free will.

"Man finds within his soul the ability to do evil or to forsake it, using those measures that are within his grasp," Rabbi Halevi explained. A wise person exercises this ability, working hard to fulfill their God-given potential: any seeming obstacles that get in our way are trials meant to strengthen and refine us.

The mental energy required is like that required to excel in chess: "For this reason, the weak-minded person is unable to beat the strong-minded person in the game of chess. One cannot argue that good or bad luck are factors in the war of chess, as we could say in a real war between two kinds. This is because all the causes (for a victory) in chess are within the individual. The wise player will therefore win by constantly exercising these causes…" In life, as in chess, it's crucial to wisely choose our course of action. (Kuzari 5:20,52)

Legend of a Jewish Pope

For years, Jewish storytellers relayed a fantastic legend about a Jewish pope who rediscovered his father over a game of chess. While almost certainly fictional, the tale does have a (very small) element of a tragic true event.

Rabbi Shimon ben Elchanan HaGadol was a prominent rabbi living in the German town of Mainz in the 10th Century. His son Elchanan was kidnapped by Christians, baptized against his family's wishes, and was raised by his kidnappers in the Catholic faith. Rabbi Shimon was overwhelmed with grief and never stopped looking for his son. He wrote a beautiful prayer that is still recited to this day on Rosh Hashanah – and which contains a prayer within a prayer. In a little-notice detail, the first letter of each of the lines in Rabbi Shimon's Rosh Hashanah prayer spells out a plea to God for "my son, Elchanan."

Over time, the fictional legend sprang up that a great rabbi from Mainz's son was kidnapped, renamed Andreas, and raised as a Christian. In the legend, Andreas grew up to become a great scholar and eventually was elected Pope. In some versions of the tale, Pope Andreas longed to find his father, so he issued an order expelling all the Jews from Mainz: the community's leading rabbi requested an audience with Pope Andreas, not realizing he was his son, in order to plead for mercy. In other versions, it was the great rabbi who sought out Pope Andreas for help, either in locating his son, or alleviating anti-Jewish decrees. Once the two men were together, the story goes, they played a game of chess. While chatting over the pieces, it became obvious that Pope Andreas was the rabbi's son. This Jewish story illuminates the dire status of Jews in Medieval Europe – and also the central role that the game of chess in Jews' leisure time.

Jewish Chess Poems

One of the most vivid and colorful of the Medieval Jewish sages was Rabbi Avraham ibn Ezra. Born in 1089 in Tudela, Spain, he died in the mid-12th century, most likely in France. During his long life, ibn Ezra wrote penetrating Biblical commentaries, and also penned books on mathematics and astronomy, wrote at least one novella, and authored many beautiful poems.

Ibn Ezra travelled extensively throughout Europe and was an early enthusiast of chess. Three of his surviving poems are Hebrew paeons to the game. In one, he describes the opposing chess armies as Kushim (Ethiopians) and Edomim (Europeans):

> The kings stand with their camps
> To fight, and there is space between them.
> Their faces are set for war,
> And they sally forth and camp continuously.
> But they draw no swords in this war
> For this war is the work of thoughts…
> The Kushim stretch out their hand in battle
> Adomim next after them.
> (Translated by Nina Davis Salaman)

Interestingly, there are some key differences between the chess that ibn Ezra played in the Middle Ages and the contemporary game. In ibn Ezra's telling, pawns are called ragli and move first. The queen in ibn Ezra's poems is a male piece and can only advance four squares in any direction. A bishop is called a pil, or elephant, and "stands on the side to ambush", and the king "walks along the sides, in all directions, and helps his servants."

World Champion

Chess gained in popularity, but it was only in the 1800s that the concept of having a world chess title as we know it was born, thanks to an amazing Jewish player named Wilhelm Steinitz (1836-1900).

Jews and Chess

Steinitz grew up in a religiously observant family in Prague and initially planned to become a rabbi. As a child, he was too poor to afford a chess set, so he carved his own out of kindling wood, and painted a piece of rag to use as a board. Within a few years, he'd distinguished himself as the leading chess player in all of Prague.

Wilhelm Steinitz

After studying mathematics at college, Steinitz travelled to London, which at the time was considered the center of world chess, to participate in an international chess tournament. Steinitz came in 6th in the world in the first tournament he participated in, in 1862; by 1866 he'd improved to become the world's number one player. It was a title he defended for 28 years.

Steinitz remained in London for most of the rest of his life and helped shape the modern game. He invented the Steinitz Gambit (a powerful opening move), edited a chess journal, and contributed to the chess standard dictionary. His game was less flamboyant than some previous players, and Steinitz set the fashion – which still exists – for chess masters to play careful, deliberate games and secure a series of slight advantages instead of pursuing more flamboyant moves. Steinitz was also the first chess player to stipulate rules under which he'd play to defend his title. His match against Joann Zukertort in 1886 was the first official "World Championship" for chess, a title that Steinitz insisted upon.

Over half of the reigning world chess champions have been Jewish.

Steinitz lost his mantle as the reigning chess champion in 1894 to Emanuel Lasker, another Jewish chess protege.

Half of Chess Champions are Jewish

Since Steinitz, over half of the reigning world chess champions – fully 54% – have been Jewish (or with some Jewish ancestry) including Wilhelm Steinitz, who held the title from 1886-1894; Emanuel Lasker (1894-1921); Mikhail Botvinnik (1948-1957, 1958-1960, 1961-1963); Vasily Smyslov (1957-1958); Mikhail Tal (1960-1961); Bobby Fischer (1972-1975); and Garry Kasparov (1985-1993).

Given the dominance of chess by Jewish players, it's no surprise that Israel today is one of the world's great chess nations. According to the International Chess Federation, Israel ranks 15th in the global rankings, despite its much smaller size compared to other great chess countries such as Russia and India and is home to 212 chess Grand Masters and International Masters. The Israeli city of Beersheva has a higher percentage of chess Grand Masters than any other place in the world: one Grand Master for every 22,875 residents.

Garry Kasparov

In Israel, kids start learning chess from a very young age. In 2020, it's estimated that over 10,000 Israeli kindergarteners and first graders play the game. With the current popularity of The Queen's Gambit, it's possible that even more kids – and adults – the world over will discover this classic game, and the ranks of chess aficionados through the ages.

About the Author

Dr. Yvette Alt Miller lives with her family in Chicago and has lectured internationally on Jewish topics. Her book Angels at the table: A Practical Guide to Celebrating Shabbat takes readers through the rituals of Shabbat and more, explaining the full beautiful spectrum of Jewish traditions with warmth and humor. It has been praised as "life-changing", a modern classic, and used in classes and discussion groups around the world.

In The Temple Family

BAR/BAT MITZVHAS
Matthew Stone son of Heather & Mark Stone
Aleigha Juliano daughter of Lauren Juliano
Jack Messinger son of Jon & Heidi Messinger
Ari Salama son of Ricki & Leon Salama
Daniel Daitch son of Tammy & Jeff Daitch
Zachary Ostroff son of Galit & Kevin Ostroff
Sophia Benno daughter of Gayle & Ameer Benno
Eidan Wexler son of Lauren & Eric Wexler
Joshua Schwartz son of Jenna & Adam Schwartz
Ben Schwed son of Lauren & David Schwed
Ethan Laby son of Carol & Darin Laby
Rachel Watson daughter of Jacqueline & Robert Watson
Keith Silverstein son of Lauren & Jeffrey Silverstein
Matthew Katsman son of Ellen & Boris Katsman
Whitney Gomberg daughter of Lynn & Lawrence Gomberg
Zara Selvin daughter of Sabrina & Jared Selvin
Jack Levitt son of Julie Levitt
Julie Lehrfeld daughter of Andrea & David Lehrfeld
Sophie Reese daughter of Kerri & Mark Reese
Adam Rosman son of Gina & Lyle Rosman
Logan Cohen son of Erika & Russell Cohen

BIRTHS
Helene & Donald Siegel and Michelle & Glenn Reisender on the birth of their grandson
Skyler Maddox son of Stephanie & Mark Siegel
Tova Friedman on the birth of her granddaughter Dylan Ivy daughter of Jason & Malorie Friedman
Charlie & Joanne Skop on the birth of their grandson Seth Noah Lehrer son of Helaina & Jason Lehrer

CONDOLENCES
Michelle Goldenberg on the loss of her father Herbert Feldman
Liz Schwartz on the loss of her mother Frances Cushman
Bennett Gewurz on the loss of his mother Ruth Gewurz
The Maltz family on the loss of their mother Bernice Maltz
The Kemper family on the loss of Nancy Kemper
Terry Wechsler on the loss of her father Gerald Bandel
Ileene Adler on the loss of her brother Ted Feinman
Stuart Flum on the loss of his mother Eileen Flum
Carol Klar on the loss of her husband Michael Klar
Alan Aaron on the loss of his wife Marilyn Aaron
Jay Wanderman on the loss of his sister Sharon Lieberman
Marjorie Toback on the loss of her father William Brief
Alan Tepper on the loss of his father Stanley Tepper
Deborah Kohan on the loss of her father Allan Feingertz
Brenda Geier on the loss of her father Harold Gross

MARRIAGES
Herb & Edith Margulis on the marriage of their grandson Isaac Margulis to Josie
Amy & Scott Leist on the marriage of their daughter Ariel to David Ackerman

Donations

BLANCHE BATNICK FUND
In honor of
Sophia Benno's Bat Mitzvah from Joan & Blaine Land
Sharyn Kussin for her dedication and support from Joan Land

In memory of
Frances Cushman mother of Liz Schwartz from Joan & Blaine Land
Michelle Goldenberg's father Herbert Feldman from Joan & Blaine Land

CHESED FUND
For the speedy recovery of
Sarita Mlawer from Steven & Sharyn Kussin
Joel Antin from Mindy & Ed Goldstein
Len Kaufman for a Refuah Shelemah from Linda & Ron Rosen

In appreciation of
Josh Diamond for helping the day of Eidan Wexler's Bar Mitzvah from Sarah Wexler

In honor of
the marriage of Isaac Margulis to Josie grandson of Herb & Edith Margulis from Alan & Ellen Sussman
the Bar Mitzvah of Eidan Wexler grandson of Sarah Wexler from Steven & Sharyn Kussin
the Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Watson from Steven & Sharyn Kussin
Iris & Allan Greenberg on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter from Steven & Sharyn Kussin
Jeff & Lisa Fox on the birth of their granddaughter from Howard & Linda Zryb
Joanne & Charlie Skop on the birth of grandson Seth Noah from Ilene Lambert
the Bat Mitzvah of Iris & Allan Greenberg's granddaughter from Joel & Gail Antin
Sarah Wexler on the Bar Mitzvah of grandson Eidan from Mindy & Ed Goldstein
the Bar Mitzvah of Eidan Wexler grandson of Sarah Wexler from Phyllis Goldberg
the birth of Graham Benjamin Eilenberg the grandson of Helena & Steven Eilenberg from Richard & Dana Knox
Leslie Feinberg for being named "Woman of Distinction" from Richard & Dana Knox
the birth of Isabelle Rihannon granddaughter of Anita & Jeff Cohen from Richard & Dana Knox
the Bar Mitzvah of Eidan Wexler grandson of Sarah Wexler and son of Eric & Lauren Wexler from Richard & Dana Knox
Dylan Claire granddaughter of Joan & Blaine Land from Ronald & Linda Rosen
Sarah Wexler's grandson Eidan's Bar Mitzvah from Ronald & Linda Rosen
the birth of Gianna Mia Goldstein granddaughter of Phil & Gloria Goldstein from Ronald & Linda Rosen
Jordyn Rose granddaughter of Felise & Jeff Fox from Ronald & Linda Rosen
Gavriel Davis grandson of Andrea & Steve Davis from Ronald & Linda Rosen
Cheryl Uram on the birth of her grandson Benjamin from Shelley Rosenblum
Sarah Wexler on the Bar Mitzvah her grandson Eidan Wexler from Shelley Rosenblum
Joanne and Charlie Skop on the birth of their new grandson from Shelley Rosenblum
Alicia Stone on the engagement of her daughter from Shelley Rosenblum
Benjamin Allan Sadovnik grandson of Cheryl Uram from Steven & Andrea Davis
the Bar Mitzvah of Jack Levitt from Steven & Andrea Davis
the birth of Seth Noah Lehrer grandson of Joanne & Charlie Skop from Steven & Andrea Davis

In memory of
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Alan & Leslie Chibnik
Michael Klar from Alan & Leslie Chibnik
William Brief father of Marjorie Toback from Alan & Nancy Marder
Nancy Kemper from Alan & Nancy Marder
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg. from Barbara and Joe Sternberg
Gerald Bandel from David & Randye Cohen
Bernice Maltz mother of Eric Maltz from Allan & Debra Mohr
mother of Randy Altman from Allan & Debra Mohr

Donations

mother of Paul Rosenblit from Allan & Debra Mohr
Ruth Gewurz mother of Bennett Gewurz from Steven & Sharyn Kussin
Michael Klar from Steven & Sharyn Kussin
Sharon Lieberman sister of Jay Lieberman from Steven & Sharyn Kussin
Michael Klar from Eileen and Irwin Silversmith
Mae Zimmerman from Ellen Saad
Herbert Feldman from Gara and Bob Edelstein
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Harriet R. Feldman
Sharon Lieberman sister of Jay Wanderman from Howard & Linda Zryb
Nancy Kemper from Howard & Paula Tiegel
Bernice Maltz from Ilene Lambert
Frances Cushman from Ira & Tina Blankstein
Herbert Feldman from Ivy and Dan Greenburg
Mike Klar from Ivy and dan Greenburg
Ruth Gewurz mother of Bennett Gewurz from Joel & Gail Antin
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Joel & Gail Antin
Frances Cushman mother of Liz Schwartz from Joel & Gail Antin
Jerry Davis from Mitchell Davis
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Shari and Mitch Simon
Allan Feingertz father of Deborah Kohan from Mindy & Ed Goldstein
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Mindy & Ed Goldstein
Deborah Kohan's father from Phyllis Goldberg
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Raymond & Rose Cohen
Herb Feldman Father of Michelle Goldenberg from Richard & Dana Knox
Roy Siegel from Roger & Karen Blane
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Ronald & Linda Rosen
Stanley Harris Tepper from Sara & Brad Eckstein
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Sarah Wexler
Nancy Kemper from Sarah Wexler
Ruth Gewurz mother of Bennett Gewurz from Shari and Mitch Simon
Allan Feingertz father of Deborah Kohan from Shelley Rosenblum
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Shelley Rosenblum
Frances Cushman mother of Liz Schwartz from Susan Blumberg
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Susan Blumberg
Herbert Feldman from Tina and Ira Blankstein
Nancy Kemper from Tina and Ira Blankstein

DR. ALAN KLEIN FUND
In appreciation of
Rabbi Klein from Marlene & Eric Barth

ENDOWMENT FUND
In memory of
Michael Klar from Lewis & Linda Altman
Deborah Kohan's father from Lewis & Linda Altman
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Lewis & Linda Altman
Liz Schwartz mother Frances Cushman from Mary Greenfield
Herbert Feldman from Paula and Howard Tiegel
Frances Cushman mother of Liz Schwartz from Phyllis Goldberg
Michael Klar from Phyllis Goldberg
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Phyllis Goldberg

Donations

Brenda Geier's father from Steve and Mary Greenfield
Ruth Gewurz from The Tiegel Family
Sharon Lieberman sister of Jay Wanderman from Phyllis Goldberg

In honor of
the Bar Mitzvah of Jack Levitt from Lewis & Linda Altman

GENERAL FUND
In memory of
Michael N. Klar from Ali Mann Stevens
Michael Klar from Barbara Brody
Michael Klar from Diane Staehle
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Steven & Roberta Scoll
Mildred Mund from Gary R. Mund
Walter Mund from Gary R. Mund
Irving Kistreff father of Barbara Ruderman from Henry & Laura Arkin
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Ilene & Howard Segal
Brenda Geier's father Harold from Ilene & Howard Segal
Allan Feingertz father of Deborah Kohan from Ilene & Howard Segal
Terry Wechsler's father Gerald from Ilene & Howard Segal
Ruth Gewurz mother of Bennett Gewurz from Ilene & Howard Segal
Michael Klar from Joe & Laurie Siegel
Sharon Lieberman from Mark & Amanda Mendelsohn
Allan Feingertz from Paula and Howard Tiegel
Michael Klar from Sharon & Peter Markovics
Mother of Liz Schwartz and mother in law of Jeffrey Schwartz from Stephen B Meyerson
In memory of Michael Klar from Sue Nathanson
In memory of Michael Klar from Tina & Jeff Polsky
Ruth Gewurz mother of Bennett Gewurz from Sherri Candel

HOWARD CHASKES FUND
In honor of
the Bar Mitzvah of Nathaniel grandson of Arlene Rubin from Phyllis Chaskes
Charlie Skop for his honor from Phyllis Chaskes
Rabbi & Mrs. Jack Dermer on being honored from Phyllis Chaskes
Andy Ageloff on the birth of his great grandson from Phyllis Chaskes
the marriage of the granddaughter of Linda & Larry Feinberg from Sandra Pinkus
the birth of Andy Ageloff's great grandson from Stanley Becker
Joanne & Charlie Skop on the birth of their grandson from Stanley Becker

In memory of
Bernice Maltz from Phyllis Chaskes
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Phyllis Chaskes
Marilyn Aaron wife of Alan Aaron from Phyllis Chaskes
Michael Klar from Phyllis Chaskes
Bernice Maltz from Sandra Pinkus
Michael Klar from Sandra Pinkus
Michelle Goldenberg's father from Stanley Becker

IRVING LIPFIELD
In appreciation of
Happy Thanksgiving from Mom & Dad, Nana & Papa Gershlak to the Pulewitz Family & the Eisenberg Family from Allen & Barri Gershlak

Donations

In memory of
Michael Klar from Allen & Barri Gershlak

KOZIN FUND
In honor of
the birth of Benjamin Allan Sadovnik from Rena, Steven, Eli, and Alix Kozin
the birth of Seth Noah Lehrer from Rena, Steven, Eli, and Alix Kozin

In memory of
Frances Cushman mother of Liz Schwartz from Rena and Steven Kozin and Family
Ruth Gewurz mother of Bennett Gewurz from Rena and Steven Kozin and Family
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Rena and Steven Kozin and Family
Allan Feingertz father of Deborah Kohan from Rena and Steven Kozin and Family
Michael Klar from Rena and Steven Kozin

MARTIN & DORIS KLEIN FUND
In appreciation of
our daughter Jaclyn's marriage to Brandon Cohen from Marlene & Eric Barth

PAUL STONE YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND (MEN'S CLUB)
In honor of
Joanne & Charlie Skop on the birth of grandson from Mindy & Ed Goldstein
the Bar Mitzvah of Rachel Watson from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser
the Bar Mitzvah of Keith Silverstein from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser

In memory of
Frances Cushman mother of Liz Schwartz from Alan & Nancy Marder
Allan Feingertz father of Deborah Kohan from Henry & Laura Arkin
Frances Cushman mother of Liz Schwartz from Nancy and Alan Marder
Frances Cushman mother of Liz Schwartz from Steven & Andrea Davis
Allan Feingertz father of Deborah Kohan from Steven & Andrea Davis
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Steven & Andrea Davis

PJ LIBRARY
In honor of
Jack Levitt and family on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah from Mindy & Ed Goldstein
Cheryl Uram on the birth of her grandson from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser
Billie Rose Wexler granddaughter of Sarah Wexler from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser
Joanne & Charlie Skop on the birth of their grandson from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser
Felise & Jeffery Fox on the birth of their granddaughter from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser

In memory of
Lisa Chinsky sister of Barbie Erlich from Michael & Michelle Schwartz
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Michael & Michelle Schwartz
Sarita Perelmuter mother of Claudia Josebachvili from Michelle & Michael Schwartz

PRAYER BOOK FUND
In appreciation of
Cantor Benjamin Warschawski from Harold and Beth Stern and Jonathan Cohen

In memory of
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Allan & Iris Greenberg
Michael Klar from Chesed Committee
Herbert Feldman from Chesed Committee
Israel Lawrence Diamond from Chesed Committee
Paul Stone from Chesed Committee

Donations

Ruth Gewurz mother of Bennett Gewurz from Jeffrey Perry
Harold Gross from Sam and Sheila Rappaport

PROJECT ISAIAH
In memory of
Frances Cushman from Amy Rood and Jack Matza
Herbert Feldman from Amy Rood and Jack Matza

PULPIT FUND RABBI DERMER
In appreciation of
Jack Dermer from Harold-Beth Stern and Jonathan Cohen
Rabbi Dermer from Marlene & Eric Barth

In honor of
Rabbi Dermer & Kayley's honor from Sarah Wexler

In memory of
Rita Paznik from Marcia Kornbluth
Rosalie Elkin from Marcia Kornbluth

PULPIT FUND RABBI KLEIN
In appreciation of
Rabbi Klein from Harold and Beth Stern and Jonathan Cohen
the live-streaming services from Jody Berman
our daughter Jaclyn's marriage to Brandon Cohen from Marlene & Eric Barth
Rabbi Klein from Robert Capilupi
Rabbi Klein from Sarah Wexler

In honor of
Rabbi Klein for his kindness from Joel & Gail Antin
the Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Watson from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser
the Bar Mitzvah of Eidan Wexler, grandson of Sarah Wexler from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser
Mr. & Mrs. Rudich on their 50th wedding anniversary from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser

In memory of
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Albert & Ruth Stam
Allan Feingertz father of Deborah Kohan from Bruce, Aly, and Zach Neiger
Ted Feinman brother of Ileene Adler from Dee Dee Katz
Davida Bye mother of Helen Wagner from Dee Dee Katz
Michael Klar from George Feld
Herbert Feldman, father of Michelle Goldenberg from Jack & Michele Natter
Michael Klar from Joyce Bloom, Josette Buchman, Susan Pfeff, Lynda Perelmuter, Marcey Wagner
Allan Feingertz from Laraine Sweberg
Michael Klar husband of Carol Klar from Melvin & Theda Febesh
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Melvin & Theda Febesh
Stanley Harris Tepper father of Alan Tepper from Meryl Ben-Levy
Michael Klar from Rena & Len Kramer
Allan Feingertz father of Deborah Kohan from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser
Bernice Maltz mother of Craig Maltz from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser
Bernice Maltz mother of Glen Maltz from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser
Bernice Maltz mother of Irwin Maltz from Robert & Marilyn Hochhauser

Donations

Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Stanley & Susan Bloomfield
Michael Klar from Warren & Barbara Klein

SYNAGOGUE FUND
In honor of
naming of Dylan Ivy from Dr. Larry & Tova Friedman
Charlie Skop as Chatan Torah and all his hard work for MJC during Covid from Phyllis Goldberg

In memory of
Michael Klar from Eugene & Carol Solomon
Herbert Feldman from Harriet Pechter
Michael Klar from J. Robert & Barrie Blumenthal
Michael Klar from Joel & Sheila Simon
Michael Klar from Marcia Lilling
Michael Klar from Rich & Karen Irlando
Michael Klar from Sheldon & Joan Ratner
Michael Klar from William & Barbara Ross
Michael Klar from William & Nancy Chernack

THE ALVIN PERLMUTTER-MEYER SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Michelle Goldenberg on the loss of her father Herbert Feldman
Liz Schwartz on the loss of her mother Frances Cushman
Bennett Gewurz on the loss of his mother Ruth Gewurz
The Maltz family on the loss of their mother Bernice Maltz
The Kemper family on the loss of Nancy Kemper
Terry Wechsler on the loss of her father Gerald Bandel
Ileene Adler on the loss of her brother Ted Feinman
Stuart Flum on the loss of his mother Eileen Flum
Carol Klar on the loss of her husband Michael Klar
Alan Aaron on the loss of his wife Marilyn Aaron
Jay Wanderman on the loss of his sister Sharon Lieberman
Marjorie Toback on the loss of her father William Brief
Alan Tepper on the loss of his father Stanley Tepper
Deborah Kohan on the loss of her father Allan Feingertz
Brenda Geier on the loss of her father Harold Gross

TIKVAH (HOPE) FUND
In honor of
the Bar Mitzvah of Jack Levitt from Alan & Ellen Sussman
the Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Watson from Alan & Ellen Sussman

In memory of
Michael N. Klar from Alan & Ellen Sussman
Herbert Feldman father of Michelle Goldenberg from Alan & Ellen Sussman
Frances Cushman mother of Liz Schwartz from Alan & Ellen Sussman
Ruth Gewurz mother of Bennett Gewurz from Alan & Ellen Sussman

Yahrzeits

In memory of
Leatrice Hartstein from Alan & Leslie Chibnik
Mother Kate Weinreb from Alan & Norma Bronstein
Father Sylvin Weinreb from Alan & Norma Bronstein
mother Mildred Bronstein from Alan & Norma Bronstein
Mother Rose Teitel from Albert & Sandra Kula
mother Annette Kula from Albert & Sandra Kula
Father Jack Kula from Albert & Sandra Kula
Leonard Bader from Allan & Fran Bader
Mother Evelyn Blachman from Anita Weiss
husband Arthur Schwartz from Ann Pittel Schwartz
Sister Miriam Kroll from Arthur & Isabel Sidorsky
mother Lena Blank from Barbara Wolfson
mother Lena Blank from Barbara Wolfson
mother Carol Grossman from Barry & Linda Berman
father Ernest Kirsh from Barry & Lynne Schosid
mother Rose Maltz from Bernice Maltz
husband Bernard Maltz from Bernice Maltz
father Charles Mausner from Bernice Mausner
son Dr. Mark Mausner from Bernice Mausner
mother Rose Koonin from Bernice Mausner
father Leonard Land from Blaine & Joan Land
mother Hannah Land from Blaine & Joan Land
father Saul Miller from Bruce Miller
father Meyer Gottlieb from Carl Gottlieb
mother Ellen Kleinman from Carol Kotz
Seymour Mines from Charles & Debra Brown
mother Pearl Skop from Charles & Joanne Skop
brother Arnold Karr from Charles & Joanne Skop
father Norman Karr from Charles & Joanne Skop
Bernard Uram from Cheryl Uram
father Bernard Maltz from Craig & Marcia Maltz
aunt Hadassah Fein from Daniel & Ivy Greenburg
mother Rose Hirsh from David & Gale Hirsh
mother Eva Eisenberg from Deborah Gindi
mother Doris Schechner from Dennis & Anna Kaplan
father Ted Kaplan from Dennis & Anna Kaplan
sister Sandra Leon from Dennis & Anna Kaplan
Seymour Brenner from Donald Brenner
Belle Cohen from Donald Brenner
Shalom Shaouli from Dorit Bugoff
Yetta Seligman from Andrew Ageloff
Marvin Ozner from Barry & Geri Silverman
Leonard Silverman from Barry & Geri Silverman
Lillian Silverman from Barry & Geri Silverman
mother Sylvia Doninger from Dan & Karen Yarosh
brother Jeffrey Doninger from Dan & Karen Yarosh
mother Julie Klein from David & Judy Klein
father Arnold Bick from David & Judy Klein
Morris Klein from David & Judy Klein
father Samuel Silversmith from Irwin & Eileen Silversmith

Yahrzeits

Jerome Feinberg from Jeffrey & Felise Fox
father Erwin Friedman from Larry & Tova Friedman
mother Nyra Horowitz from Mark & Robin Knoll
mother Irene Ida Metrick from Steven & Roberta Scoll
Joseph Scoll from Steven & Roberta Scoll
mother Julia Scoll from Steven & Roberta Scoll
mother Helen Schlachter from Eddie & Linda Lampert
father Robert Goldstein from Edward & Mindy Goldstein
Edward Feldman from Elaine Feldman
mother-in-law Mollie Vogel from Elaine Vogel
father Sam Vogel from Elaine Vogel
brother in law Leonard Luckman from Eli Levine
sister Leah Chertowsky from Eli Levine
Meyer Zimmerman from Elliot & Shelley Zimmerman
father Jack Mermelstein from Elliot & Shelley Zimmerman
brother Albert Harris Abramoff from Elliot & Susan Sims
husband Jerry C. Zisner from Evelyn Zisner
mother Tillie Distenfeld from Evelyn Zisner
Max Zisner from Evelyn Zisner
father Herman Gutterson from Francine Goodman
father Henry Holzer from Frank & Catherine Supovitz
father David V. Blatt from Gary & Jerilyn Weil
Jerome Blane from Gary & Marion Blane
mother Lila Kissin from Gary & Sheryl Kissin
father Burton Mersand from Gary & Sheryl Kushner
brother Douglas Sheinberg from Gary & Wendy Pupa
mother Mildred Reisender from Glenn & Michelle Reisender
Lena Yabroff from Gloria Cooper
Stanley Cooper from Gloria Cooper
father Irving Cohen from Gloria Greenbaum
aunt Mary Koback from Howard & Barbara Ader
father Isak Segal from Howard & Ilene Segal
mother Bluma Segal from Howard & Ilene Segal
mother Geraldine Goldberg from Howard & Linda Zryb
husband Sheldon Koton from Irma Koton
Meyer Koton father-in-law from Irma Koton
father Bernard Maltz from Irwin & Mara Maltz
father Melvin Balkan from Irwin & Mara Maltz
Michael Klar from J. Robert & Barrie Blumenthal
mother Sylvia Grossman from Jan & Bonni Axelrod
father Ben Wanderman from Jay & Miriam Wanderman
mother Minnie Trompeter from Jeffrey & Barbara Trompeter
father Jonas Trompeter from Jeffrey & Barbara Trompeter
father Meyer Rubin from Jeffrey & Jill Kaiserman
Ruth Rosman from Jerald & Lyle Cogen
father Aaron Slabodsky from Joe & Dawn Azrak
father Sam Krauss from Joel & Gail Antin
Sadie Hershfeld from Joel & Jill Wexler
Eva Hershfeld from Joel & Jill Wexler
Leo Abrams from Joel & Jill Wexler

Yahrzeits

father Daniel Stoller from Joel & Rita Stoller
father Herbert Feinberg from Joseph Levy & Leslie Feinberg-Levy
Grandmother Etta Karson from Larry & Wendy Shilling
mother Pearl Feinberg from Lawrence & Linda Feinberg
mother Eleanor Halperin from Lawrence & Linda Feinberg
father Murry Friedman from Lenore Friedman
father in law Murry Reichman from Lenore Friedman
mother Gussie Friedman from Lenore Friedman
father Alvin Feit from Leonard & Lois Kaufman
grandmother Ruth Gross from Lewis & Eileen Kasman
mother Hilda Weiner from Lewis & Linda Altman
Charles Federman from Linda Sable
husband Paul Silberberg from Louella Silberberg
aunt Ida Podolsky from Louella Silberberg
sister Eileen Singer from Louella Silberberg
Claire Blume from Marc & Joanne Hamroff
mother Sylvia Swartz from Mark & Beth Weiss
husband Jeffrey Doninger from Martin & Joan Sommers
mother Frances Siminerio from Martin & Joan Sommers
Norma Shore from Marvin Feller
mother Beth Endlich from Matthew & Zina Endlich
father Morris Silverberg from Melvin Parker
mother Elsie Silverman from Melvin Parker
mother Shirley Silverberg from Melvin Parker
mother Susan Robin from Michael & Audrey Robin
father Saul Seltzer from Mitchel & Karen Bleistern
father Ezra Levine from Mitchell & Brenda Pitkoff
brother Farrel Levine from Mitchell & Brenda Pitkoff
father Walter Mund from Mitchell & Judy Mund
Milton Rum from Nathan & Paula Rum
Moses Adler from Ned & Judith Sachs
mother Rita Sweet from Neil Baumgarten
father Morris Faust from Paul & Karen Baer
mother Sylvia Jeshion from Paula Cohen
husband Howard Chaskes from Phyllis Chaskes
father Morris Burg from Phyllis Goldberg
mother Ruth Feldman from Richard & Dana Knox
father Leon Schwartz from Richard & Elyse Finkel
Geraldine Finkelstein from Richard & Shari Stern
mother Ruth Getz from Robert & Elissa Stein
father Raymond Gorin from Robert & Janet Bertner
mother Sarah Bertner from Robert & Janet Bertner
Bernard Jitomir from Robert & Lenore Birnbaum
father Dewey Samson Gottlieb from Roberta Cogen
father Reynold Katzanek from Robin & Robin Katzanek
aunt Celia from Robin Rait
father Louis Rait from Robin Rait
cousin Janice Strow from Robin Rait
grandparents Perry & Anna Strow from Robin Rait
Barry Flashner from Rochelle Flashner
Brian Flashner from Rochelle Flashner
Jerome Blane father of Roger Blane from Roger & Karen Blane

Yahrzeits

husband Sheldon Goldsmith from Roslyn Goldsmith
father Jerry Rosenberg from Samuel & Arleen Rosenberg
husband Harvey Pinkus from Sandra Pinkus
Boruc Lieblick from Sarah Wexler
husband Boris Mlawer from Sarita Mlawer
son Ronald Weintraub from Sheila Weintraub
father Morton Ruck from Shelley Rosenblum
son Edward Mark Tilchen from Shirley Tilchen
mother Mollie Bloomfield from Stanley & Susan Bloomfield
mother Miriam Kramer from Stephen & Ellen Kramer
father Gerson Mandel from Steven & Amy Uffner
father Norton Friedman from Steven & Cheryl Haber
father Sheldon Koton from Steven & Nelly Koton
mother Gloria Berger from Steven & Rena Berger
mother Selma Helfgott from Steven & Sandy Edelman
father Sol Gillman from Steven & Terri Gillman
father Howard Weber from Steven Fishkin & Susan Weber-Fishkin
Fay Goldstein from Steven Goldstein & Fani Gellman
Harry Bronstein from Steven Goldstein & Fani Gellman
mother Rhoda Forster from Sue Forster
husband Jack Mermelstein from Theresa Mermelstein
mother Ida Feinman from Tina Reiner
father Sol Deutsch from Zelda Kaslow

YIZKOR
In memory of
Michael Neal Klar from Bahram Razy, Ezabel (Arezoo) Razy, Josh Razy, Tiffany Razy
Robert Zaldo from Barbara Zaldo
Allen Cohen from Cindee Cohen
Ruth and Victor Freinberg from Debbie Sorrentino
Seymour Zryb from Howard & Linda Zryb and family
Betty & Isidore Altman from Lewis & Linda Altman
Hilda & Hyman Weiner from Lewis & Linda Altman
Owen Zimmerman from Zimmerman Family
Leon Schwartz from Michael and Michelle Schwartz
Milton Cohen from Michael and Michelle Schwartz

OVER 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

Gutterman's

FUNERAL DIRECTORS SINCE 1892 INC

One of The Largest Family Owned & Operated Jewish Funeral Homes Serving Long Island, New York & Florida

Directors:

*** STEWART GUTTERMAN • PHILIP GUTTERMAN**
STEVEN KANOWITZ • *HOWARD C. KOTKIN
*** ROBERT SHERMAN • *ELLIOTT H. WOLFE**

Chapels In:

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, L.I.: 175 N. Long Beach Rd. • **516-764-9400**
WOODBURY, L.I.: 8000 Jericho Turnpike • **516-921-5757**
BROOKLYN: 1895 Flatbush Avenue • **718-284-1500**

In Florida:

GUTTERMAN-WARHEIT MEMORIAL CHAPEL
1-800-992-9262
SERVING MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, PALM BEACH & MARTIN COUNTIES

Arrangements for Out-of-State Burials

** Of Blessed Memory*

MONUMENTS BY GUTTERMAN'S

www.guttermansinc.com

Silverman & Associates

2592 Merrick Road
Bellmore, NY 11710
(516) 781-9700

43-07 214th Place
Bayside, NY 11361
(718) 225-0515

www.DrSilvermanAssociates.com

Silverman & Associates
UNIVERSITY DENTAL
FAMILY DENTISTRY

- Adult & Pediatric Dentistry
- Braces
- Invisalign
- Periodontal Therapy
- Root Canal
- Implants
- Dentures
- Tooth Colored Fillings
- Metal Free Crowns
- Porcelain Veneers
- Nitrous Oxide Anesthesia
- Laser Dentistry
- Velscope Vx (Oral Cancer Exams)
- Intra-Oral Camera
- Evening & Saturday Appointments
- 24 Hour Emergency Services

"like" us on facebook

PEOPLE LOVE US ON yelp
www.yelp.com

CRESTWOOD
pure joy!
Camp • School

GIVE US *22 MINUTES
WE'LL GIVE YOU A WHOLE NEW WORLD!
*On our air-conditioned express buses from Bellmore/Merrick

- Long Island's premier day camp is closer than you think!
- Over 15 acres of tree-lined rolling hills, grass fields, 7 pools and more for a real "country" feel
- All mature staff—no CIT's or high school-age counselors
- Crestwood offers summer programs for children ages 18 months—15 years old

Crestwood Country Day Camp ~ 313 Round Swamp Road ~ Melville, NY 11747
P 631-692-6361 ~ F 631-692-6987 ~ www.crestwoodcountryday.com

Let's Talk... CAMP

POINTING YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
Camp Connection
YOUR SUMMER CAMP MATCHMAKERS

FREE Advisory Service
Receive Personal Guidance Brochures & Videos on:
Teen Tours | Sleep Away Camps | Pre - College Programs |
Community Service Programs | Sports & Specialty Camps

Laurel and Norm Barrie, & Melissa Barrie Cohen
Email: camp4u@thecampconnection.com • www.thecampconnection.com • 800.834.2267

Over 30 Years of Experience! Over 600 Programs Represented! ~ Our Focus Is Your Child's Needs

TEAMELLIMAN

When you want a Realtor who cares
call CHERYL today at 516.852.1604

DON'T TAKE CHANCES
WITH YOUR LARGEST ASSET

LET THE EXPERIENCE OF
AN AWARD WINNING
TOP PRODUCER WORK FOR YOU

CALL FOR A **FREE**
MARKET ANALYSIS TODAY

See what client's are saying about Cheryl:

www.elliman.com/cheryluram

CHERYL URAM
Multi Million Dollar Producer
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
c: 516.852.1604
d: 516.327.6252

ASKELLIMAN.COM

DouglasElliman REAL ESTATE

Printed and distributed by All Island Media Inc., *TOWN CRIER & PENNYSAVER* (631) 698-8400 or (516) 942-8400

BUSINESS FORMATIONS
ACQUISITIONS
DISPOSITIONS
MERGERS
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS
LOAN TRANSACTIONS
REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS
PURCHASES & SALES
COMMERCIAL LEASING
MORTGAGE TRANSACTIONS

CHARLES SKOP
Member, Corporate and Real Estate Law Groups
516.741.6565 | cskop@msek.com
Member, Board of Directors of the Merrick Jewish Centre

MEYER SUOZZI
Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C. | 990 Stewart Avenue | Garden City | New York 11530
GARDEN CITY | NEW YORK CITY | WASHINGTON, D.C. | www.msek.com

STEP IN...
TO THE CENTRE

MERRICK
JEWISH
CENTRE

Creative Expressions
In photography
by appointment
Cell: (516) 448-3121
Phone: (516) 378-1854
hanka7@verizon.net
Hank Arkin
Creative photography with a personal touch!
special events and occasions, children, portraits,
corporate meetings, pets, photography on location

N.Y.S. Certified Backflow Testers
BOB PHILLIPS
DAVE MARLOWE
PLUMBING & HEATING
Lic. & Ins.
516-766-4583
CELL-- TEXT
516-840-9432
50 Years Of Prompt Reliable Service

Minuteman Press. of Merrick
The First & Last Step In Printing.
John J. Jutt
255 Sunrise Highway
Merrick, NY 11566
Tel. 516.546.2312
Fax 516.623.0870
www.mmpmk.com
JJUTT@mmpmk.com

A Simcha is such a wonderful thing!

Would you like to share a Simcha with members of our congregation?

Sponsor a Shabbos luncheon?

For all reservations and questions please contact the office!

Tell them you read it in the Bulletin!

LUXAIRE
H.V.A.C. Services Inc.
(516) 377-8189
030A Atlantic Ave
Baldwin, NY 11510
Air Conditioning and Heating Specialists
www.LuxaireHVACServices.com
If you want superior performance from your HVAC system, **Luxaire HVAC Services, Inc.** is here to help. We are the leading experts on energy efficiency and performance for large commercial HVAC systems. Our factory trained technicians are certified on all makes and models of HVAC equipment. ***Call or email us today!***
INFO@LUXAIREHVACSERVICES.COM

It's Time to Make a Statement
At the entrance to MJC

Are you represented on our Family walkway? Do you have a special simcha to celebrate?
Take a Look, there's plenty of room for new additions!

Our Family walkway contains bricks, with personalized inscriptions.
Bricks are priced at ***$180/brick or 3 bricks for $500****.*
We invite you to take this opportunity to celebrate a family simcha
(wedding, birth, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, graduation, special birthday)
or to memorialize a loved one.

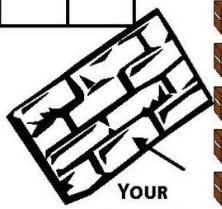
Each brick can be imprinted with three lines of up to 15 characters or spaces per line.
Please print your inscription in capital letters.

Brick One

Brick Two

Brick Three

*Name*_____
*Address*_____
*Phone Number*_____
E-mail: _____
*Signature*_____



Your Family's Name Can be placed on our Bricks

_____*I/We enclose our check for $*_____.
(Please mail your check & completed, signed form to the MJC office).

Any Questions, please contact:
Linda Altman at: leba328@optonline.net