

EAST MIDWOOD JEWISH CENTER BULLETIN

November/December 2014

Volume LXXIV, Issue 7

THEY SHALL BUILD ME A SANCTUARY AND I SHALL DWELL AMONG THEM

Heshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5775

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Randy Grossman's thoughts on the New Year commencing spiritual nourishment any day of the week. Being a house with a Rosh HaShanna prayer:

"May God who blessed our ancestors bless this entire congregation, together with all holy congregations: Them, their sons and daughters, their families, and all that is There's a rhythm to our days here. Our daily cycle of serand Havdalah, bread to the wayfarer and charity to the community, these Shabbat morning services honor the poor, and all who devotedly involve themselves with the Sabbath with grace and meaning. needs of this community and the Land of Israel."

service. Toby spoke about the state of our building, our dedicated work of the Ritual Committee chaired by Steve recent upgrades: the modernization of the elevator, the Appell, the work of the ushers, chaired by Arthur Geen, the remaining challenges. words in reference to the prayer we just recited.

One of the most significant things we do is this very I also want to note the significance of welcoming nearly thing we are doing right now: we join together as 100 people who come to pray and bear witness to our a kehilah -- a sacred community of Jews. Today, on this beautifully-crafted services each Saturday morning. That most holy day, we pray together and we atone together, you are here, matters. You are the kehilah. This weekly together we remember the loved ones we have lost, and rhythm partners with a monthly rhythm. together we seek a new year of health, peace, and fulfillment.

So much of traditional Jewish practice relies on being part of a kehilah. In this building, you have the chance to be part of a kehilah every day of the year. We are fiercely proud that we are the only conservative egalitarian synagogue in Brooklyn to hold morning and evening services every day. Not just today, on Yom Kippur. Every day. musicians, and everyone there leaves with a unique feeling We're here on the hottest days of summer and the coldest of the Shabbat having descended upon them. days of winter. We're here on any random Monday, on Thanksgiving, on Super Bowl Sunday, on the 25th of Kis- For a rousing version of how to welcome in Shabbat, nothlev and, not surprisingly, the 25th of December.

surprised to hear this. They say: "You're conservative or other guest. Leading everyone is again, the Cantor, over at East Midwood. How can you sustain a commitment who, playfully guides and teaches the meaning of Shabbat to daily services?" In truth, it's not always easy, but we through prayers you might expect and some songs you take it as a fundamental given that we want to support any- might not. [Continued on page 4] one who comes to say kaddish, and anyone in search of

of worship is one of the central declarations of East Midwood's mission, and our unwavering commitment to daily services illustrates our mission in action.

theirs; along with those who unite to establish synagogues vices are highlighted by moving Shabbat services every for prayer, and those who enter them to pray, and those Saturday morning. Anchored by Rabbi Carl and Cantor who give funds for heat and light, and wine for Kiddush Levine, with significant contributions from so many in our

To name all who have contributed to the past year's 52 Many of you heard Toby speak at last night's Kol Nidre Shabbatot would take too long, but I want to thank the remodeling of the Regency Room, and a new filtration essential assistance of the volunteer gaba-eem and the system for the pool, accomplishments, and some of our voices of all the members who have chanted from the To-I'm going to speak about what rah, sung haftarot, read or sung prayers, lifted or dressed goes on in the building and I ask you to think about my the Torah, opened and closed the Ark, and composed and shared words of Torah.

One of the most wonderful things about our monthly Shabbat celebrations is that they have been opportunities to introduce new forms of honoring Shabbat. At our Shabbatin-the-Rounds, Cantor Levine leads a Kabbalat Shabbat service that's intimate, musical, and participatory. It takes place in the Ballroom, we all sit in a circle, there's always a guitar, occasionally there are other instruments and guest

ing beats our monthly Shabbat-a-BimBoms. Imagine lots of kids barely contained in their seats, surrounded by par-I've met so many Jews from other congregations who are ents, grandparents, and the occasional aunt, uncle, cousin,

SERVICES at EMJC

MORNING SERVICES

Sundays & Legal Holidays 8:00am Mondays – Fridays 7:30am

Saturdays 7:30am & 9:00am

EVENING SERVICES

Sundays – Thursdays 7:30pm Friday

Nov 7 4:30pm Nov 14 4:30pm Nov 21 4:30pm Nov 28 4:30pm Dec 5 4:30pm Dec 12 4:30pm Dec 19 4:30pm Dec 26 4:30pm

Saturday

Nov 1 5:45pm Nov 8 4:45pm Nov 15 4:30pm Nov 22 4:30pm Nov 29 4:30pm Dec 6 4:30pm Dec 13 4:30pm Dec 20 4:30pm Dec 27 4:30pm

Candle Lighting	Shabbat Ends		
Nov 7 4:27pm	Nov 8 6:42pm		
Nov 14 4:21pm	Nov 15 5:29pm		
Nov 21 4:15pm	Nov 22 5:25pm		
Nov 28 4:12pm	Nov 29 5:22pm		
Dec 5 4:11pm	Dec 6 5:22pm		
Dec 12 4:11pm	Dec 13 5:22pm		
Dec 19 4:13pm	Dec 20 5:25pm		
Dec 26 4:17pm	Dec 27 5:28pm		

CALENDAR

Saturday Nov. 1,11:15am-12n.....Shabbat Katan
Sunday, Nov. 2, 3pm.....Concert by
Russian/American Soprano Bella
Udler, Grand Ballroom
Friday, Nov. 6, 6:15pm....Shabbat
in the Round

Thursday, Nov. 13, 6pm,......Sisterhood Book & Author Dinner with Sonia Taitz, author of "The Watchmaker's Daughter" Saturday Nov. 15,11:15am-12n.....Shabbat Katan

Friday, Nov. 21, 6:30pm.Shabbat-a-Bim-Bom

Sunday, Nov. 23, 4pmInterfaith
Thanksgiving Service at Our Lady of
Refuge, Ocean and Foster Avenues

Saturday Dec. 6, 11:15am-12n.....Shabbat Katan

Sunday Dec 7......KMC: Dr. Norman Friedman, speaker

Sunday, Dec. 14, 11am-1pm,..... Chanukah party

Sunday, Dec.14, 4pm......Installation of Rabbi Matt Carl and celebration of EMJC'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Tuesday, Dec. 16.....first night of Chanukah

Friday, Dec. 19, 6:30pm.....Shabbat-a-Bim-Bom

Saturday Dec. 20, 11:15am-12n.....Shabbat Katan

Sunday Dec 21.....KMC: Gil Kulik, Speaker



THOUGHTS FROM RABBI MATT CARL



In the next few days, we will enter the month of מרחשהון (Marheshvan). In truth, the month is really called Heshvan, but there is a strong tradition to refer to it by the longer name. This tradition is so strong that when the month is announced in synagogue, as it was last Shabbat, one must call it out to the whole community by its "full" name rather than the shorter, but purer, name Heshvan. Likewise, the Talmud and Halakha require that certain legal documents, when dated, use the longer name.

My two most frequent associations with the short word מושר (Mar), which becomes something like a prefix in this calendrical quirk are in the Passover Seder, where it is referred to as the basis for Maror; and in the Hebrew folk song Al Kol Eileh, where it is the counterbalance to pane (Matok), sweetness. In both cases, the word means bitter, as in taste. Our tradition ascribes feelings to things like the moon, Hanukkah candles and the Kiddush wine... in each case, creating traditions to sympathize with them, to reduce their pain or embarrassment. How can it be that here Jewish tradition does the opposite, going out of its way to refer to a month as 'bitter'? The answer usually given is that we are sad that the High Holidays (including Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simhat Torah) are over. Indeed, this is the only month in the entire Jewish calendar without a single holiday in it. When I first learned this explanation, I thought it was a joke. I don't know about you, but a break from all those holidays doesn't sound so bad to me!

In my short time at East Midwood Jewish Center, though, I have come to see things differently. Ours is a community where the holidays are filled with joy and even the sad parts are full of singing, of spirit and of seeing people we haven't seen in a while. September and October were particularly interesting for me because I got to see people I met in the Spring but who had been out of town for all or most of the Summer. Writing drashot and preparing for unusual services over and over (and over!) again the last few weeks has been difficult and tiring, to be sure, but getting to experience so much of our community in such a short time has also been a blessing.

But we don't need special holidays to get us in the door. Our community offers so much on a regular basis that it's hard to see Heshvan as a bitter month. Rather, it can remind us, perhaps more than any other month, that there is something special in the everyday. The classes we offer, the services we provide, the daily minyanim that offer people a jolt of spirituality after waking and before bed (and provide people the opportunity to say Kaddish), our Shabbat worship... these are all reasons, as powerful as any holiday, to celebrate. Of course they touch our tongues differently than the sweetness of Rosh HaShana's honey or the salty tears we may cry on Yom Kippur or Shemini Atzeret, but it is a beautiful taste nevertheless. It is a taste that will hopefully remind us of how special every day can be. If this is a message we can ingest every day, perhaps it needs to come from something bitter after all -- coffee! May it enliven our every day. Hodesh Toy!

President's Message continued from page 1

L'Dor v'Dor. One generation transmitting our Jewish practice and values to the next generation in a joyous atmosphere of fun. Another aspect of BimBom is a feeling of "hominess." The BimBom service is held in Ohel Katan, a room of sofas and rugs. Dinner is served across the hall in Room J, another informal room that can feel like someone's large basement. The delicious child friendly meals are dairy, and home cooked in EMJC by Audrey Korelstein our Children and Family Educational Director and some helpers. We look forward to seeing Rabbi Carl enter the monthly BimBom party when we launch later this month. I like the casualness of this space, and how families laugh and linger well after dinner. This is why I enjoy BimBom: There's a unique, multigenerational energy. This, too, is an EMJC kehilah

So far I've discussed how EMJC services sustain our souls and spirits. You probably won't be surprised to learn that there are lot of meetings here, and in some of those with staff or committee members, we talk about how EMJC aims to nourish not just the soul, but the mind and body as well.

To accomplish that, we again turn to our mission: That EMJC is a place for Judaic discovery and action, and a haven for learners, seekers, and questioners. We interpret that very widely. So we offer classes for learning Hebrew. And learning how to read Torah. And classes for learning how to make the downward dog pose in yoga. And lectures. And lunch and learns. And provocative programs covering all sorts of topics. We do this with the help of more volunteers – Sisterhood, the Kaddish and Men's Club, organizations that we share this building with, and with a committed staff that is constantly creating programming to meet the needs of the different people here.

One of the common features of Jewish prayer is the alphabetical acrostic.

And on this day of prayer and reflection, I'd like to offer you our own alphabetical acrostic of what happens here at the East Midwood Jewish Center.

Advanced life saving/Blood drives/CPR/Drivers education/Exercise classes/First aid instruction/Gym activities/Holiday parties/Interfaith events/Jewish learning/Kaddish and Mens Club, Karate classes/Lunch 'n' Learns/Music concerts/Nationally- known guest speakers/Opportunities for volunteering/PJ Library/Quilting/Relevant discussions/Sisterhood,scuba, snorkeling, and soccer/Tasty dinners/Ulpan/Volleyball/Water classes and parties/Xceptional friendships/Youth events/Zestful appetites!

All of these things and more happen here within our doors. They are compelling. They are rewarding. They are invigorating. But better than asking is serving. Doing all of this with and for all of you, our progressive Brooklyn community, takes a lot of work, a lot of hands, and a lot of shekels. Last night many of you made a commitment to supporting the Kol Nidre appeal and we thank you for your generosity. For those of you who weren't here last night, donation envelopes are along the back wall. For those of you who want to contribute in other ways, then let's take a cue from one of the elevator campaign posters: **Ask what EMJC can do for you, but also ask what you can do for EMJC.**

So our kehilah is you. It's us here in this room. On this, the 90th anniversary of EMJC, we look forward.

You can be part of our next chapter. You CAN make a difference.

INSTALLATION OF RABBI MATT CARL

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY DECEMBER 14

CLERGY AND HELPERS MADE THE HOLIDAYS A HUGE SUCCESS

It took the efforts of many people, working for many hours in advance to prepare East Midwood's beautiful and inspiring Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur Services. Each person listed below played a vital role, and we are grateful to every one of them.

Rabbi Matt Carl: for his enlightening sermons

Cantor Sam Levine and Assistant Cantor Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen: for chanting the prayers with great spirituality and musicianship, assisted by the splendid voices and harmonizing of the East Midwood Octet, which is composed of Nina Bickell, David Firestone, Rachelle Grossman, Michael Hipscher, Dr. Howard Honigman, Clair John, Ellen Levitt, Emily Pariente, Marjorie Sanua, and Richard Towber

The Torah & Haftorah Readers: Cantor Sam Levine, Nina Bickell, Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, Miriam Goldhaber, Larry Isaacson, Leah Krakowski, , Harvey Lubowitz

The Gabbaim: Carolyn Baskin, Dr. Nina Bickell, David Firestone, Arthur Geen, Minda Arrow Greenberg, Leah Krakowski, Marsha Solomon

The Hagba Participants: Eric Arrow, Arthur Geen, Melvin Girshek, Scott Girshek, Sally Hipscher, Jacob Honigman, Murray Lantner

The Glila Participants (Tying and covering the Torah): Susan Geen, Rebecca Grossman, Cora Isaacson, Molly Isaacson, Janet Marcus, Sharon Resen, Joyce Towber.

The Shofar Blowers: Joseph Pariente and Bradley Appell

The Ritual Committee: headed by Stephen Appell, who was assisted in the High Holiday planning by Arthur Geen & Stephen Finkelstein. Together they prepared the schedule of the services and the list of honors (the people called to recite the blessings over the Torah, carry the Torah in the procession, lift the Torah, open and close the Ark)

The Usher Team: consisting of Arthur Geen(Chair), Stephen Finkelstein, Joel Hochstein, Marlene Krafchik, and Harvey Lubowitz

The High Holiday Ticket Committee: which spent many hours in the office handling ticket sales and complying as best as possible with people's wishes for a particular seat in a particular row: Debbie Schechtman(Chair), faithfully assisted by Rochelle Eckstein, Barbara Hopard, Leah Krakowski, Marilyn Pearce

The Posters and Flyers: created by Audrey Korelstein

Bima Flowers: Susan and Arthur Geen

The Lobby Greeters: Norman Abes, Diane & Gary Abrams, Richard Breyer, Zvi Engel, Michael Gerstein, Gail Hammerman, Sally Hipscher, Larry Isaacson, Lois Jackson, Alyssa Katz, Miryom Kass, Leah Krakowski, Susan Lubowitz, Luna Poplausky, Shereen Rosenthal, Shirley Strauss, Aviva & Michael Sucher.

The Days of Awe Barrier Free Service: created by Audrey Korelstein, Cantor Sam Levine and Rabbi Matt Carl with advice from Shira Felberbaum, our social worker from the Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services. Audrey Korelstein cre ated the flier and the program booklet. The American Sign Language interpreters were Jessica Ames and Leana Jelen; the drummer was Jamie Van Korff; the vocalists were Cantor Levine and Rachelle Grossman; Randy Grossman blew a shofar made from an antelope horn; Alyssa Katz, Stephanie Luxenberg, Toby Sanchez, and Courtney Walsh publicized the event; Gail Hammerman provided the refreshments. Many types of special help were provided by Sharon Resen, Reva Friedman, Galina Zabarskaya, Dr. Lois Jackson and Julia Sanua. Audrey Korelstein also thanks the Leadership Institute for Congregational School Educators.

The Russian Language Service: held in the Crystal Ballroom organized by Sandy Goldhaber and Dr. Alex Trakhtman, with Dr. Howard Honigman and Dan Mosenkis as cantors and teachers; Miriam Goldhaber as Torah Reader, Dr. Herbert Paley as Shofar Blower and Dr. Alex Trakhtman as translator.

The Children's Services: led by Audrey Korelstein, Director of Youth & Family Education, Joanne Riehl and Rebecca Phil lips and Dan Wilchins

Break the Fast: organized by Frances Fischer

The Sukkah: EMJC's Sukkah was erected by Anderson Waithe and his staff with the aid of George Rodriguez from the East Midwood Hebrew Day School. It was decorated by Audrey Korelstein, Sally Hipscher, Moran Ben-Shaul and the children from Little Learners class.

All the building preparations for services were coordinated by Edith Maiman, EMJC's Executive Director, and Anderson Waithe, Building Manager, and the building was cleaned from top to bottom by Jacques Almanor, Bernard Jenkins, Grantley Rudolph, and Tommy Stevens.

Thanks to all for your service

LOOKING BACK

MUSICAL MEMORIES at EMJC

by Ellen Levitt

Music is an integral part of Jewish life, with many religious and cultural uses. Take a cursory look at the Psalms, for example, which have many references to musical instruments. "Harp and pipe" are the first musical instruments mentioned in the Torah (in Chapter 4 of *Beresheit*) and certainly not the last. Prayer is overtly musical, and a great many musicians, singers and composers over the centuries have been Jewish.

And certainly music has been of great importance to the East Midwood Jewish Center throughout its nine decades. I would venture to state that the biggest portion of music at EMJC has been vocal—singing during services by congregants and hazzanim, children learning songs and prayers in the Talmud Torah and Day School, and the like. We have pianos scattered about the buildings (I think three or four in the Main Building, and likely three in the school building), although instrumental music has generally been for instruction or for special performances.

I have sung as part of the octet (at this point it's a ten-person octet) since Cantor Sam Levine instituted it, and it has been one of the highlights of my adult years at EMJC. I admit that before I began singing for the Yom Tovim, for Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur, these holidays were becoming rote exercises for me. I was spending much of the time chasing after my daughters (when they were very young) and not feeling too spiritual.

During my Hebrew School years at EMJC, Mrs. Doris Gilman was the music teacher (prior to becoming the principal) and she taught the students a lot of songs, both traditional and contemporary, in the Jewish canon. She was an expressive pianist when we had weekly music class in the Music Room in the school building. But she and another teacher or two also (inadvertently) revealed to me a controversial issue around Jewish singing. One teacher had scolded Mrs. Gilman about having students singing "Adonai" in certain songs, and wanted us to substitute "HaShem" which is much more typical, especially in recent years. Overhearing their not-so-hushed debate, when I was in 6th or 7th grade, made an interesting impression on me.

Singing as a member of the synagogue Choir and Octet has helped me learn a great deal more about liturgical music, phrasing, scriptural sources of music, and much more. During the most recent Yom Tovim celebrations, I cast my gaze upward...to the old choir loft. Most members of EMJC do not even realize that we have a choir loft above the sanctuary stage! I do not recall the last time it was in use, but it is up there. Actually, a few years ago a window must have been open up there and a white curtain was flapping in the breeze. It looked ghostly, and a few of us got a laugh from this.

But I do recall a time when I went up with a group of teens, and we sang in the choir loft. I think I was in 9th grade, and we had a holiday service in the Bet Midrash (probably for Sukkot). There may have been 20 of us, and I don't remember the full route we took but we climbed steep stairs behind the Bimah, and ended up in this empty room. At a certain point in the service we sang. It was fun, and more than a bit weird. Later we came downstairs and people told us they enjoyed our singing, but a few admitted that it was eerie. It threw people for a loop. I guess there is something to be said for shaking up the typical deportment of religious services! This year, as we celebrate this milestone anniversary of EMJC, let us take time to listen appreciatively and join in.

EARLY DAYS at EMJC

by Toby Sanchez

As we prepare to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the creation of EMJC and the installation of our new Rabbi, Matt Carl, we have been looking through our archives for the founding documents and reading old EMJC bulletins to glean information about the early years. How fortunate we are that Ellen Levitt, who grew up within EMJC, writes about some of her memories (see her article page in this issue and her many previously published articles). We welcome any other memory articles (long or short), which anyone else would like to contribute.

Recently we were visited by Barbara Wynn Salwen and her husband David Salwen, both of whom grew up in this neighborhood and at EMJC. She and David moved into 1680 Ocean Avenue when they married and stayed there until 1955. They came in to see once again our beautiful sanctuary and to show it to their niece, Monette Meredith, daughter of David's brother, Ernest Salwen, who was visiting from California.

Barbara began her reminiscences by saying, "I loved it here." She grew up in a house on 3371 Bedford Avenue and David lived at 1246 East 21st Street. David's family (Father Moe Salwen and Mother Ethel) joined EMJC in1926. Moe gave out the aliyhot on Saturdays and on Yom Kippur and he read the story of Jonah each year. He said, "My father practically lived here. He would come home after work, eat supper and then walk over to the shule." Barbara's parents (Irvin Wynn and Jennie Friedlander) joined the congregation in 1930.

David and his friends played basketball regularly in the gym and called themselves "The Mideens." He said, "To this day we still meet a few times a year to reminisce."

Both Barbara and David spoke fondly of their Hebrew School experiences at EMJC. Barbara attended what was then called "Sunday School" 5 days a week, where she was taught Hebrew (unlike other Sunday schools in those days where girls were not so fortunate). David attended Hebrew school 3 days a week. Barbara remembered well Jack Cohen, who later became a rabbi and head of the Reconstructionists, Scholem Segunda as the choir leader. Both lauded the late Rabbi Harry Halpern, EMJC's rabbi from 1929 until 1978, as "very learned, very understanding, and someone who cherished children, even when they were being naughty." On one occasion one of Barbara's children was misbehaving loudly in shule, so Barbara hustled him out, so as not to disturb the service. Later Rabbi Halpern admonished her never to do that again as the sound of children was always "music to his ears." On occasion the Rabbi would drop into the Salwen's home for a visit. David Salwen blew the Shofar daily in the minyan during the month of Elul.

We ended our conversation by walking to the back of the sanctuary to look at the memorial plaques, where we found the plaques for both of their parents and other relatives. They recognized many of the names on the plaques, the names of EMJC members killed in World War II, the names of past presidents on the stained glass windows and the names of the founding members of EMJC and of Sisterhood listed on large plaques in the building's entrance. The more we talked, the more they remembered, and the greater their delight in recalling the old days. It was a very enjoyable step into the past and we promised to send them our bulletin and information about our upcoming celebration of the Rabbi Matt Carl's installation and the celebration of the 90th anniversary.

DON'T FORGET TO RESPOND TO OUR KOL NIDRE APPEAL

BOOK REVIEW: AMERICAN JUDAISM

The book "American Judaism" by Jonathan D. Sarna, won the 2004 National Jewish Book Award and it is well deserved. This easily read book of 374 pages plus Glossary, Notes, Bibliography and Index tells the story and history of how the Jews made their way in in this country. Did you know where our ancestors emigrated from besides Europe? What did they call themselves once they got here? Who was welcoming and who not? What caused them to change from small village thinking to expanded American dreams? What influenced them in their approach to religious and community service? Who were the brilliant rabbis who guided the religious aspect of our ancestors' journey and who were the insightful men and women who helped form supportive communities for the poor and growing populations? I could give you the answers but I am sure you will enjoy finding this out by yourself when you read this very informative book.

To our East Midwood Family,

We have been members of the East Midwood Jewish Center for over 40 years with Alice's family being members for years before that. But now it is time to leave our life long Brooklyn home and join the children in Florida. It was a difficult decision to make, and we will miss our home and the friends and relationships we have made, but in a few months we will leave to join our family.

Fondly,

Alice and Herb Brezak.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joselyn Gross Hagai and Jinah Park Kamil Ilia and Tea Khaduri

MAZEL TOV TO

Amy & David Liebov on the marriage of their daughter

Jessica to Chip LaFrance.

THANK YOU TO OUR EMJC SPONSORS

- August 2, Congregational Kiddush sponsored by **Judith Berman** in honor of her father's Yahrzeit
- August 9, Congregational Luncheon sponsored by Aviva and Michael Sucher in honor of Michael's 60th Birthday
- August 23, Congregational Luncheon sponsored by **Joanne and Dr. Honigman** in honor of the Auf Ruf of Amy and Mitchell Simon
- August 30, Congregational Luncheon sponsored by **Goldie and Eric Arrow** in honor of the Auf Ruf of Sara and Daniel Greenberg
- September 6, Congregational Luncheon sponsored by **Michele and Larry Isaacson** in honor of the Auf Ruf of Mollie and Eric Sumberg

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER MENCHENables

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE COUPLES CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

November

Dr. Joseph & Dr. Lisa Rothman Nathaniel & Alba Mosery Isaac & Beatrice Jacobowitz Steven & Sherryl Eluto Irving & Barbara Wiener Leonid & Tziona Royzman David & Rochelle Eckstein Jon & Beth Jacobs Dr. Philip Klein & Joan Greenberg Michael & Aviva Sucher Stephen & Madeleine Appell Stephen & Janet Friedland

December

Morris & Carole Berman Dr. Harry & Annette Berkowitz Robert & Seema Rosenthal Dr. David & Gail Hammerman Ephraim & Estelle Leibowitz Syras & Sandy Green Murray & Moran Lantner Jacob & Janet Young Morton Naess & Debbie Nathan

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO

Isaac Jacobowitz Howard Feldsher Janet Gurvitch Howard Dankowitz Flora Bloom Janet Marcus Shirley Strauss Miriam Goldhaber Morton Naess Janet Young Roslyn Pomerantz Paula Engel Stephen Finkelstein Joseph Sherman Pearl Berkowsky Jacob Young Blanche Finkelstein Al Berger Hannah Levine Laura Berlinerblau Aaron Berman Jay Berman Stephen Appell Susan Serota Gary Abrams Allan Klein Suzanne Fried Ora Goldman Ann Kranis Max Gurvitch

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY TO

Rochelle Eckstein Melvin Girshek Joseph Rothstein Arthur Susnow Irving Wiener Sandra Jacobowitz Sherry Spergel Leah Krakowski Henry Traktman Michael Marcus Dr. Gary Kippel Eugene Krakowski Mitchell Schechtman Phyllis Silverstein-Silbert

Susan Girshek Dr. David Hammerman Leonard Nurkin David Pavlick Amy Liebov Phyllis Nurkin Benjamin Lapidus Nathaniel Mosery Norman Abes Rabbi Alvin Kass Martin Shelton Carole Bloomfield

NEW YEAR IN FULL SWING AT

EAST MIDWOOD HEBREW DAY SCHOOL



Mr. Somers reading to students

East Midwood Hebrew Day School is extremely excited about all of our positive advancements that we are making this year. We have been able to reduce our class sizes to provide a tremendous amount of support for all of our students. We are extremely happy with our new Hebrew language program for grades 6, 7, and 8, which provides small group instruction. This helps to meet the individual needs of our students. Our computer teacher is being currently trained in a new robotics program that will be implemented very shortly. Our brand new music teacher will be auditioning students for an after school show. All community members will be invited to attend. It will be an original play that is being performed in both English and Hebrew. We are looking forward to Cantor Levine's visit with our youngest students, which will foster enthusiasm for the upcoming holidays. We are thrilled that our students are sharing our celebrations with East Midwood Jewish Center. Chag Same'ah!

Henry R. Somers, Head of School Shirley Weichselbaum, Assistant Principal Avraham Epstein, Rabbi

PRE-SUKKOT HAPPENINGS

Many interesting events took place leading up to and around Sukkot this year. We had our community decorating of the courtyard sukkah, ably choreographed by Audrey Korelstein. Did you know we had a sukkah on our front porch for the community to use?

Our Shirah for the Sukkah Party was moved inside due to inclement weather, and was well attended by more than sixty people who sang along with Cantor Sam Levine, and rejoiced in Israeli folk dancing. On Sunday October 12 we hosted our 2nd annual Sukkot Bereavement Workshop facilitated by Rabbi Matt Carl, Cantor Sam Levine, Audrey Korelstein, and Shira Felberbaum which attracted a kehilah of friendly participants.

Young Judaea hosted a Sukkah program with over twenty kids from around Brooklyn. They learned about the do's and don'ts of sukkah making, and then made edible sukkot to put into practice what they learned. There were games, dancing, and pizza. Fun was had by all!



Cantor Sam Levine(L), Rabbi Matt Carl(R)

INTERFAITH WALK THROUGH MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS

Once again Columbus Day, Monday, Oct 13, 2014 dawned bright and beautiful as we prepared to spend the day touring some of the great religious/educational institutions of New York City. Twenty-nine people from Our Lady of Refuge Roman Catholic Church and East Midwood Jewish Center visited Union Theological Seminary (UTS), Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS-alma mater of Rabbi Matt Carl and Cantor Sam Levine) and Corpus Christi Church.

Kevin McGee, Director of Special Events at UTS, did a superb job conducting the tour of the UTS campus. He was enthusiastic and knowledgeable, not only about UTS, but about upper Manhattan as well. Those of us who watch television shows filmed in NYC might recognize some of the locations we visited.

JTS was not only a fascinating campus, but, the JTS sukkah was a delightful place for us to have lunch and get to know each other. Our guide, a JTS student was knowledgeable and interesting. For Rabbi Carl, this visit was a reunion, as he was stopped every few feet by a hug or a handshake from faculty and colleagues. After hours of walking around the first two sites, we were happy to be seated for the next hour in the pews of the beautiful Corpus Christi Catholic Church and listen to Father Dan O'Reilly talk about famous people, such as Thomas Murton, who had connections with the church. Sister Celia Deutsch, from OLR, considered this church her personal sanctuary, coming regularly to pray, during her 30 year tenure as Comparatives Religions professor at Barnard College. The trip committee: Rosa Waldron of OLR, Sandy Goldhaber and chairperson Sharon Resen of EMJC assisted by clergy members Rev. Kimbelee Auletta, pastor of Church of the Nativity, our own Rabbi Matt Carl, and Interfaith Committee co-chairs Sr. Celia Deutsch of OLR and Sally Hipscher of EMJC created a most wonderful, educational, informative, and important experience. All of us who attended agreed that this was a truly special day.



CLIMATE MARCH



BARRIER-FREE SERVICE EMJC

INTERFAITH WALK IN MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS OCTOBER 13

ISRAEL BOND BREAKFAST



- family swimming
- classes for adults
- co-ed swimming
- classes for children
- separate swimming

contact swim@emjc.org

Pool usage is FREE for EMJC members

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REMEMBERING FRANK ROSENBLUM, 1916 – 2014

Our beloved member, Frank Rosenblum, was eulogized by Rabbi Emeritus Alvin Kass at a funeral attended by his children and grandchildren, his friends and colleagues from the New York City Police Department and by many members of the East Midwood Jewish Center.

Rabbi Kass told us that Frank was one of the brightest stars in the NYPD, who rose from patrolman to being captain of the 7th Precinct in the Lower East Side and in the 112th Precinct in Forest Hills. He was loved and respected by residents of both communities, who could be counted on to be effective and courageous in handling tense situations. Yet during his 40 years on the police force, he never once pulled his gun, because as he said, "If you pull your gun, you must be prepared to shoot to kill" He believed that the only time a police officer should pull a gun is when he is threatened by a gun. His motto was, "Proper use of a nightstick beats a knife every time."

Frank grew up in Crown Heights and lived for several decades on Ocean Avenue, a few doors down from East Midwood. He was in one of the very first of the Brooklyn College graduation classes, where he majored in mathematics and was captain of the varsity basketball team. He was a good enough player to be selected by the U.S. State Department as a part of a special team which barnstormed South America. He regarded this experience as one of the highpoints of his life and it made him forever grateful for the opportunities that had come to him, a boy from a poor family, in America.

Frank remained an excellent athlete well until his later years. At an advanced age he was still jogging to and from Avenue M in the morning to bring home bagels for his beloved wife, Esther, to whom he was married for 73 years. Rabbi Kass said Frank was a terrific handball player and played twice a week in the EMJC gym for several decades. As he became bent and frail in his later years, he did not like being thought of as an "old man" Even when he had to use a walker and a cane, he was insulted when people did things for him. He never lost his essential nature nor his mental capacities. He was, Rabbi Kass said, "perennially young, a human being who deserved recognition and won our hearts and minds."

Rabbi Kass said that by nature Frank was an educator, who took great pleasure in working with the younger generations. He was overjoyed when young men from East Midwood jointed the NYPD, and he spent a lot of time with Steve Litwin and the late Danny Farkas. He was also active in the Shomrim Society.

East Midwood was a very important part of his life, especially his friendship with Rabbi Kass and the late Rabbi Aaron Pomerantz. And with the encouragement and aid of Rabbi Pomerantz, Frank became a mainstay of the morning and evening minyan and a regular leader of the service. Rabbi Pomerantz's widow, Roz, said that they were "very close, just like brothers." (See Roz's tribute on page 14). Up until he became too frail, Frank attended the minyan twice a day, without fail, every day of the year.

Frank's last visit to EMJC was for the auf ruf of Molly Isaacson and Eric Sumberg. Nothing could have kept him away from that happy occasion.

One of the things Frank took with him to New Jersey when he left his home was his collection of EMJC Bulletins and a picture of the building.

Frank will be remembered with much love and affection. Those who saw him daily have many kind things to say about him. Steve Finkelstein, EMJC's Assistant Treasurer and a minyan regular said, "Frank was an outstanding person, kind to everyone." Anderson Waithe, EMJC's Building Manager, agreed, saying, "He was a noble and fair person, who treated everyone with dignity," and Executive Director Edith Maiman agreed, adding that "he was never pretentious, despite his many accomplishments."

As Rabbi Kass said, "Our lives were exalted by the friendship of Frank Rosenblum."

We Offer Condolences to

Michele Isaacson on the loss of her beloved mother, Charlene Schwartz

We Offer Condolences to

The family of esteemed member *Irene Metrick*

We Offer Condolences to

The family of long time member Captain Frank Rosenblum, retired

SISTERHOOD

By Amy Nitzky

Sisterhood fall activities are in full swing. Our planning meeting in September was very successful and well attended. Thank you to everyone who was able to participate and have been supportive of our goals. Just a reminder - if you have not yet submitted your membership dues please do so as soon as possible.

We kicked off our fall season with a movie in October and everyone who attended our screening of the movie *Fill the Void* enjoyed it very much. Pairing the Israeli movie with Middle Eastern snacks was a wonderful combination!

November is Book and Author month. We are excited to welcome Sonia Taitz, author of "**The Watchmaker's Daughter**" and "**Down Under**" to our synagogue on November 13th at 6 PM for a lively reading and discussion of her work. This event is open to everyone who wishes to attend, **Advance Reservations Required**. We look forward to seeing you there. Please remember to RSVP by November 6th with East Midwood Jewish Center. We are happy to accept your reservation by check or credit card. Her books will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

For those of you who might not know us here is some information about the new Sisterhood Presidium:

Rochelle Eckstein has been a member of EMJC for about 25 years. When her daughters Gail and Rebecca were in the EMJC day school, Rochelle was a longtime Kiddush Mother in the junior congregation. Rochelle is a trustee and has worked on the High Holiday Ticket Committee for many years. Rochelle just retired after 29 years of teaching early childhood classes at the Day School.

Amy Nitzky has been a member of EMJC for about 13 years. She is married to Jay and her daughter Allison attended what was then called the Talmud Torah program. Amy is a trustee and has worked on various committees including Talmud Torah, Dinner Dance, Interfaith and Sisterhood. Amy has worked for the Rockefeller Group for the last 33 years in the tax department.

Shereen Rosenthal has been a member of EMJC for the past 15 years, joining after moving to Midwood and wanting to find community for herself and her family. Her daughters attended the Talmud Torah and Hebrew High School, where Shereen was an active parent. Shereen was on the EMJC Board of Trustees for 10 years. She also helped to coordinate and participate in the yearly Holocaust commemorations. She is a member of the Interfaith Committee. Shereen is employed by the DOE as a school social worker in District 15.

Stay tuned for news of our FUTURE activities!

TRIBUTE to Frank Rosenblum

By Roz Pomerantz

I'm writing in the name Of my husband, so dear Who I know greeted his friend Frank Upon his arrival Up There!

In heaven they're reunited In that special camaraderie That they shared here on earth At the E.M.J.C.

When Frank came to Shul Kaddish for his loved one to say He was quiet and reserved Unsure of the prayers to pray.

My husband assured him quickly That before long he'd know Every prayer in the Siddur And, wouldn't you know?????

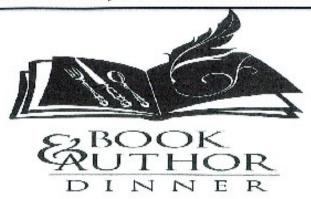
Frank took to it with heart and soul He "rose in the ranks" right away Until he was LEADING services in shul Practically every other day.

My husband was SO proud Of our dear Frank Rosenblum He admired him dearly As does everyone in this room.

What a man was Frank!
One of New York's very finest
May his memory be for us all a blessing
As he's laid to his final rest.

With deep affection, Roz Pomerantz

East Midwood Jewish Center Sisterhood Event



Introducing Sonia Taitz

Acclaimed author of The Watchmaker's Daughter

And the newly published, Down Under

Sonia will be reading excerpts from her books which will be available for purchase



Thursday, November 13th, at 6pm

\$36 admission includes Kosher Deli dinner East Midwood Jewish Center 1625 Ocean Ave, Brooklyn New York, 11230

Reservations accepted no later than 11/6. Checks payable to Sisterhood of E	MJC
Credit cards accepted call office at (718) 338-3800.	

Name:			
Prefer to sit with:			
Number of people of attending	x \$36/ticket	Total	

2

PLEASE REMEMBER EMJC IN YOUR WILL.

The end of the year is coming. Please consider a gift of appreciated stock from your IRA or SEP. The process is simple and the benefits to EMJC are great.

Thank you.

Kaddish and Men's Club History

The KMC was formed in the early 1940's when several men, who were active in the Congregation and were saying Kaddish, realized that they enjoyed each others company and wanted to formalize that friendship. Because its origin was based on the friendship of men saying Kaddish together the name Kaddish Club was adopted. While today the KMC is the "Men"s Club" of the East Midwood Jewish Center, it retains the word "Kaddish" out of respect for the memory of its deceased Kaddish Club members whose names appear on numerous memorial panels throughout the Synagogue labeled "Kaddish Club". Financial concerns should not deter any man from becoming a member. Special arrangements by the KMC President and Secretary can ensure that all male Center members are able to join our group! In the last 20 years no male member of the Center who wanted to join has been denied our camaraderie.

Not only does the KMC support the center by regularly purchasing ads in both the Dinner Dance Journal and the Sister-hood Loyalty Journal, it also supplements the salaries of the members of the maintenance staff by substantial gifts twice a year.

Over the years members of the KMC have also provided an immediately available pool of members who could be readily identified and quickly counted upon in a matter of a few hours. When one of the officers of the KMC learned that the electric piano that Cantor Levine had used had to be returned because he had only taken it on approval since the Center did not have the money to pay for it, that officer was able, within a matter of minutes, to arrange for ten members to put up the money for the purchase of the electric piano now used. Similar situations have also occurred. When the ball room airconditioning system failed on the Friday before a major Saturday affair and a flywheel had to be purchased, the members of the KMC raised the money that very afternoon.

Rabbi Matt Carl has asked the members of the KMC, the Board of Trustees, and Sisterhood to participate in a Minyan Support Program. The KMC has undertaken to provide the infrastructure for the program. To bolster attendance at the Sunday night Minyan, Rabbi Carl has suggested a Sunday night NFL program with a keg of beer, pizza and wide screen television in the renovated Regency Room following the Minyan. The KMC has undertaken to sponsor this program.

Approximately once a month the KMC on a Sunday morning either has a breakfast meeting with a guest speaker or takes a trip to a place of Jewish or historic interest. Among the speakers have been: Rabbi Mayer Rabinowitz, Secretary of the Committee on Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly; Rabbi Neil Gilman, Professor of Theology at JTS; Sister Celia Deutsch, one of the national leaders of the American Sisters movement; J. J. Goldberg, former Managing Editor of the "Forward"; Mike Wise, the sports columnist for the "Washington Post"; Dr. Louis Levine, Curator Emeritus, Museum of Jewish Heritage; Larry Cohler-Esses, Deputy Managing Editor of the "Forward"; Stuart Ain of the "Jewish Week"; Eleanor Richter, Professor of Art at Hunter College; Ron Schweiger, the official historian of Brooklyn; Ambassador Richard Murphy, former Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs and Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and to Syria has spoken several times at the Karl Shabry Memorial Breakfasts sponsored by the Kaddish and Men's Club.

Among the places KMC has traveled to are: Hyde Park; Sagamore Hill; the Museum of the City of New York; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art to view, in a guided tour, how Jews are portrayed in paintings in the Met's collection. The trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage had special personal meaning for members of the KMC. In an exhibit devoted to Jewish Veterans in World War II, there was a display relating to its member Norman Abe's service in the engine room of a tanker in sub-infested waters in the South Pacific. Since Norman Abe's station was in the engine room way below deck, a single torpedo hit would have meant certain death. The experience of another member, Dr. Bernie Metrick, in the war was the subject of a special film exhibit. Dr. Metrick was in the very first group of Americans who liberated Langenstein-

Zwieberge, a subcamp of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp. He received the Chevalier du Honeur for combat in World War II. It is the highest award France gives to Americans. The members were also delighted to see a picture of East Midwood member Joe Rothstein in his uniform.

If there is no sit-down Congregational Kiddush, the KMC holds a kiddush for its members after the completion of the congregational kiddush. The primary attraction is not food, but rather the warm and friendly atmosphere. The atmosphere at the KMC kiddush reinforces the attendance of KMC members at Shabbat service.

KADDISH and MENS' CLUB

BREAKFAST SUNDAY 9:30AM /program to follow

Sun., Dec. 7, Dr. Norman Friedman will speak on Strategic Implications of the Middle East Crisis for Israel and the U.S.

Sun., Dec. 21, Gil Kulik will speak on The Response of the American Jewish Community to a Two State Solution in Israel.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO OUR MEETINGS Fee of \$10 for non-members of KMC

The highlight of the year for the KMC is KMC Shabbat when our members run the entire services. The one constant in the KMC since its formation until today is service to this Congregation.

The East Midwood Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Generous Contributions

Goldie & Eric Arrow

Building Fund In honor of Stephen Appell

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and the whole EMJC family for making our Auf Ruf so special Larry & Michele Isaacson Leah & Eugene Krakowski

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for the beautiful family service presented on Sunday, Sept. 28

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Frank Rosenblum

Frank Rosenblum

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1 Tishcoff

Hazel Tishcoff

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