

DECEMBER, 2021 KISLEV - TEVET, 5782

The Shofar



The Jewish Center of the Moriches TEMPLE BOARD AND SPIRITUAL LEADER

The Rabbi and Officers invite members of the congregation to contact them with ideas, opinions, questions, concerns, and offers of help. Please join us at the monthly board meetings—we'd love your input! Currently, board meetings are being held via Zoom.

President:

Michael Leselrod / mleselrod@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Sam Schneider / sam.m.schneider@gmail.com

2nd Vice President:

Tracy Kolsin / tracykolsin@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Farra Isaacson / mfisaac@optonline.net

Recording Secretary:

Cara Sultan / carasultan@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Donna Ash / 631-395-3346 / desj1975@hotmail.com

TRUSTEES

Sherry Schwartz / ss12@optonline.net

Doug Sherter / shardou@optonline.net

Randi Mott

Rabbi Jack Shlachter / 505-500-2668 / physicsrabbi@gmail.com

SHOFAR NEWSLETTER TEAM

Randi Mott, graphic design; Beverly Post, contributing writer; Stuart Bossert, printing and mailing

Jewish Center (answered daily) : (631) 878-0388

Website: www.jewishcenterofthemoriches.com

Email: jewishcenterofthemoriches@gmail.com

Physical Address: 227 Main St, Center Moriches, NY 11934, USA

Mailing Address: PO Box 127, Center Moriches, NY 11934

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/jewishcenterofthemoriches>



D'Var HaRav ***(The Rabbi's Message)***

Feeding the hungry

I can almost smell the latkes frying in the fry pan as we approach Chanukkah. Those hunger pangs from Yom Kippur seem like they occurred ages ago, but I hope many of the messages of the High Holiday liturgy have remained with us. I find one of those messages to be particularly powerful. One explanation for fasting on Yom Kippur is to remind ourselves that while it is a conscious decision on our part to refrain from eating, some people do not get that choice and go hungry from necessity.

For Yom Kippur, as part of the morning Torah service, the Rabbis of the Talmudic era over a thousand years ago selected a passage from Isaiah Chapter 57 to serve as the Haftarah, the reading which expounds on a theme of the day, in this case on the meaning of atonement. When we look in our High Holiday prayer books on page 285 (and if you're able to look at that book at home, you probably need to return your book to the shul!!), we read (Isaiah 57:4-7), "Your fasting today is not such as to make your voice heard on high...the fast I desire [says G_d] is to share your bread with the hungry and take the wretched poor into your home." Sadly, hunger is not just a serious problem worldwide - it is a significant problem out here on eastern Long Island as well.

I was truly impressed by the generosity of the Jewish Center of the Moriches in rising to the challenge of our food drive. This generosity was demonstrated by the overflowing boxes of non-perishable food which we collected over the holidays. This food drive was somewhat of a last-minute enterprise, but collectively we accumulated 277 pounds of food for Long Island Cares, the food bank serving our area. Traditional Jewish texts (Tosefta Gittin3:13) are explicit about our obligation to help out those who are hungry, whether or not they are Jewish - "...provide support for the poor of the gentiles along with the poor of Israel..."

The Kislev/December holidays in the United States allow us to express our Jewish identities while immersed as a minority in a dominant gentile culture. Our obligations to our non-Jewish neighbors stem from our understanding of the dignity of all humans, best expressed in the Talmud (B. Sanh 37a) where we are told that "God stamped all people with the seal of Adam the first person...therefore each and every person is obligated to say: The world was created for me." Let's continue to help fight hunger not just by gobbling latkes but also by embracing the message that the world was created for our neighbors as well as for ourselves.

B'shalom,
Rabbi Jack



Member Spotlight

Janet and Stuart Bossert

Janet and Stuart Bossert are two of the longest-standing, continually active members of the Jewish Center of the Moriches. The Bosserts moved to a then-brand-new house in Mastic with their two young children in 1977. They had some cousins who were JCM members, and that JCM connection made it compelling to join our congregation rather than one of the others in the area.

Stuart was soon asked to be part of the synagogue's Ritual Committee. "Most of the original members from the late '40s and early '50s were still in the congregation, so I got to work with original members. I got to see people that really, really cared about the congregation because they were the founders. I was very lucky to have worked with them and known them." He later joined the JCM board, in roles as trustee, vice president, and president.

Janet has been part of the Sanctuary Committee for many years; she's now the Chair of that committee and also currently serves as co-president of Familyhood. Their daughter Sandra and son Ken had their b'nai mitzvahs at JCM, and years later their granddaughters—now ages 21 and 19—had baby naming ceremonies at JCM as well.

Stuart had two careers. He was a salesman and owned a business in Mastic. After he sold the business, he took the New York State pharmacy technician exam, and spent the next 18 years working for the state at Stonybrook.

Janet began her career as a first grade teacher, then segued to being a Head Start teacher and a day care director. After she retired, she worked part time at Mastic Moriches public library. She continued working at the library, in the children's department, until very recently.

About half a dozen years ago, the Bosserts moved from their Mastic home to an age 55+ community in Moriches. "We met more Jewish people in 'the Waterways' than we ever did in Mastic," says Janet.

If you participate in any JCM activities--from Familyhood outings, to book club, to Shabbat or holiday services--you are likely to meet one of the Bosserts. "I don't think we've missed 20 Friday night services since joining in 1977," said Stuart.



We Remember Michael Schondorf

In early October, Michael Schondorf passed away at age 90 after a brief illness.

Mike was born along the Czech-Hungary border, and after surviving the Holocaust and a living in a DP (Displaced Persons) camp, he moved to Israel, where he began learning the trade of electrician. In the mid 1950s, he came to the United States, where he married. Mike started his life over, and became a successful electrical contractor, running his own business for over 50 years. He and his wife raised their two children in Seaford (Nassau County).

Michael moved to Manorville in 2019, and became a member of the Jewish Center of the Moriches in time for High Holidays. We had the pleasure of hearing him leyn Torah during the holidays. In December 2019, Mike flew to Puerto Rico for the winter...and got stuck there due to the pandemic. Although he was physically far from JCM, Mike joined JCM via Zoom for holiday and occasional Shabbat services.

Mike spoke eight languages, including Hebrew and Spanish. He was a loving father and grandfather, a caring employer, a generous friend, and an upbeat and appreciative member of the JCM community. Mike was buried Oct 6th at Pinelawn Cemetery in Farmingdale. Rabbi Jack and Beverly attended the funeral, and offered condolences on behalf of the JCM community. May Mike's memory be for a blessing.



January, 2022

The following are names of individuals whose yahrzeits are memorialized by plaques in the sanctuary and the dates of the Friday evening services on which their yahrzeits will be observed and Kaddish recited in their memory:

January 7	Sam Silfen
January 7	Bruce Matthew Steinberg
January 7	William Goldstein
January 7	Herman Isadore Heller
January 7	Fanny Taub
January 7	Louis Taub
January 7	Jacob Rudnetsky
January 7	Frank Weissman
January 7	Harry Stark
January 7	Juliette Renee Robinson
January 14	Eva Kaplan
January 14	Louis Rose
January 14	Martin Yellin
January 21	Theresa Anna Hartstein
January 21	David Bley
January 21	Yetta Weinstein
January 28	Rachelle Nooger Ellis
January 28	Beckie Fingaroot
January 28	Joseph Foster

Worshippers who are observing a yahrzeit and who would like any additional name mentioned at the time of Kaddish are asked to present that name in writing to the Cantor prior to the service.

“The memory of the righteous is a Blessing”



February, 2022

The following are names of individuals whose yahrzeits are memorialized by plaques in the sanctuary and the dates of the Friday evening services on which their yahrzeits will be observed and Kaddish recited in their memory:

February 4	Harry Bernstein
February 11	Clara Nooger
February 11	Joseph Loeb
February 11	Benjamin Witt
February 11	Victor Berkowitz
February 18	Jack Eskill
February 18	Max Stekelman
February 18	Rose Weissman
February 18	Philip Kuhl
February 25	Adelaide B. Bodow
February 25	Irma Seides
February 25	Paul Hegeman

Worshippers who are observing a yahrzeit and who would like any additional name mentioned at the time of Kaddish are asked to present that name in writing to the Cantor prior to the service.

“The memory of the righteous is a Blessing”



March, 2022

The following are names of individuals whose yahrzeits are memorialized by plaques in the sanctuary and the dates of the Friday evening services on which their yahrzeits will be observed and Kaddish recited in their memory:

March 4	Joel Bergmann
March 4	Rosette Mark
March 4	Hattie Simon
March 11	Maybelle Michaels
March 18	Regina Heller

Worshippers who are observing a yahrzeit and who would like any additional name mentioned at the time of Kaddish are asked to present that name in writing to the Cantor prior to the service.

“The memory of the righteous is a Blessing”



Upcoming Events

- On Friday, December 24, 2021 at 11am, please join us at JCM to assemble snack bags for local first responders as a thank you for keeping our community safe. After bags are assembled, we will deliver to local fire, police, and ambulance stations.
- We are still planning a meet up at Gr8 Skates in Shirley for some roller skating fun on Sunday January 30, 2022 at 12:00pm. Details to follow, but both skaters and spectators will be welcome. We will sell tickets in advance.

BOOK CLUB

Our next Book Club meeting is February 13, 2022 at 10am at JCM. The book selection is **Day After Night** by Anita Diamant. Any questions, please email Mara Zonderman at mzonderman@gmail.com. Our next Familyhood planning meeting will follow Book Club at 11am.

FAMILYHOOD NEWS

Greetings from The Familyhood!

Here is a shout out to our Oneg volunteers! THANK YOU for pitching in. We are looking to continue filling the volunteer schedule. Please check your calendars and let me know if you can help out with Oneg set up and clean up at a Friday Shabbat service.

On October 17th, JCM members met up at Kaler's Pond for a Bring Your Own Lunch event. This spot seems to be a favorite with just the right combination of playground, playing field, and picnic tables. It also helped that the weather was beautiful! It was great to get to know some of our new families and reconnect with others.

As 2021 comes to an end, The Familyhood is preparing to make its annual donation to the Temple. If you are so inclined, it is not too late to make a donation to The Familyhood. If you missed the Rummage Sale, or forgot to send in your High Holiday Greetings, or didn't get around to sending in your Familyhood membership (\$25 for individual/\$50 for family), there is no time like the present. All donations can be mailed to Attention: Sherry Schwartz, 12 Mallard Drive, Center Moriches, NY 11934. Checks should be made payable to: "The Familyhood of the Jewish Center of the Moriches".

Sponsor an Oneg!

Want a nice way to celebrate a special birthday, an anniversary, or a graduation? Would you like to memorialize a loved one around the time of their Yahrzeit? Consider sponsoring an erev Shabbat Friday night oneg. Challah, wine, grape juice and basic snacks are provided by the Jewish Center. You can add additional "special treats" (certified kosher, please), or flowers if you like. Leave a message at the general temple phone number, and Sherry Schwartz or another Familyhood member will get back to you.

BLAST FROM THE PAST



When a group of us from the JCM attended Rabbi Jack's Kever Avot service in Mount Pleasant Cemetery on the morning of September 12th, we met a couple who had dropped by on their way from Nassau County out to the Hamptons. Spencer and Rhonda had come to the cemetery that day to pay respects at an old family plot where Rhonda's mother had been buried. We chatted with them both, and Rhonda told us about a family mystery involving the grave of Esther Gutterson.

Nobody in Rhonda's family knew who Esther had been and, in fact, Rhonda said that this had especially troubled her father for many years. No one in our JCM group knew anything about Esther, either, but several ideas were offered for Esther having found her way into the Tannenbaum family plot, one of these being that perhaps Esther had been buried in a charity grave due to not having had any living relatives to otherwise see her properly buried. This didn't seem likely that someone might have decided to bury an unknown person in the Tannenbaum family plot, and Rhonda was still deeply curious to know more about Esther. As for Rhonda's other relations, she was able to tell us that her "step-grandmother" had been Belle Bell (widowed in 1959 when her husband Saul passed away, and who later became a close friend of Rhonda's grandfather, Morris Tannenbaum). Rhonda's memories of Belle had been fond ones, recalling Belle's kindness and generosity in having given Rhonda a little blue wallet that she treasured as a child.

With these clues in mind, I later did some research and eventually came across Esther's obituary, which had been published in the December 5, 1974 issue of The Long Island Advance:

ESTHER GUTTERSON, 65, of Kew Gardens, died suddenly on Nov. 28. Mrs. Gutterson was born in New York City on Feb. 28, 1909. She is survived by two brothers, Al Spector of Patchogue, and Moe Spector of Florida; two sisters Mrs. Belle Belle Lurie of Center Moriches and Mrs. Jean Cardon of Florida.

Funeral services were held Dec. 1, at Sinnicksons Moriches Funeral Home, Center Moriches, with Rabbi Golshevsky officiating. Interment took place in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, East Moriches.

Mystery solved! Esther had been a sister of Belle Bell, whose married name at the time of Esther's death was Lurie. Belle had married Louis Lurie (a self-employed physician) in October of 1963, following the death of Morris Tannenbaum several months earlier that year. Credit for further mystery solving goes to Mort and Gwen Stark, who told me that this "also answers our question of Al Spector carrying the Torah for the Jewish Center dedication ceremony in 1965." (If you get a chance, have a look at the old black and white photo that has been enlarged and can be seen in the JCM's Board Room.)

Many people already knew that it was Saul and Belle Bell who had purchased that Torah for the JCM, but Gwen Stark told me that it was Esther's obituary with its revelation that Belle's maiden name was Spector, which finally explained who Al Spector of Mastic Beach (Belle's brother) was in the photo that depicts him having the honor of carrying the Torah in that dedication ceremony.

~ Submitted by Nan Peel

JCM CONGREGATION GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



JCM received the following letter in appreciation of our High Holiday food drive:

Long Island Cares, Inc., The Harry Chapin Food Bank gratefully acknowledges receipt of a total of 277 pounds of food donated by the Jewish Center of the Moriches on October 1, 2021.

Thank you for joining us in our mission to ensure that more Long Island children, families, and pets do not go hungry through our COVID-19 relief efforts. In addition to distributing more than 17 million pounds of food to nearly 600 member agencies in the first 10 months of the pandemic, Long Island Cares seeks to heighten public awareness about hunger and provides skills training to foster self-sufficiency among the population that benefits from our services.

Many times hunger and poverty are hard to see. By outward appearances, we may not know a family is struggling or that a school age child does not have enough food at home. People needing help are often filled with shame when they seek assistance and no matter how kind the food pantry worker may be, the worried parent keeps thinking, "I can't feed my kids."

On behalf of all of the children and families served by Long Island Cares, we are truly grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

William E. Gonyou, M.S. and Liliane Leonardo

"To know is to care. To care is to act. To act is to make a difference."

- Harry Chapin, Founder, Long Island Cares



GREAT JOB, EVERYONE on the food drive! Almost 300 pounds...what a wonderful first year's collection, and a wonderful way to start new year 5782. Next year, we'll collect even more!

Thank You Donors!

- Elaine Bernstein in memory of Belle Bernstein, Fannie H. Cohn, Mae Laube, Annie Bernstein, Louis Cohn, Richard Bernstein, Sam Bernstein
- Anne Kirsch in memory of Husband Charles Kirsch, Mother-in-law Ida Kirsch, Father-in-law Joseph Kirsch, Mother Freda Schwartz
- Judy & Andrew Lempert, Kol Nidre Donation
- Ethan Moskovic, General donation
- Jeri Berger Hertzman, General donation
- Bill & Barbara Jacobowitz, General donation
- Bill Paness, General donation
- Stuart & Janet Bossert, Kol nidre donation
- Elaine Bernstein in memory of Uncle Ben Laube, Aunt Ann Foster, Uncle Murray Bernstein, Cousin & Best Friend Karen Foster
- Harold & Elaine Isaacson, General Donation
- Marty Robinson, Kol nidre
- Mark Wolff, Kol nidre
- Maddy & Steve Alter In Memory of parents Minnie & David Cohen, Irene & Paul Alter
- Rabbi Jack and Beverly Post Shlachter in Honor of Shofar blowers Aaron Isaacson and Brandon Mott
- Gershon Bergwerk, Kol nidre
- Batsheva Margolis in memory of Mother Rivka Malka
- Ina Ferrara, Kol nidre donation
- Jeffrey Pribut in memory of Parents Jeffrey & Annette Pribut
- Gwen and Morton Stark, Kol nidre
- Alan Powers, Kol nidre
- Gwen and Morton Stark in honor of Rabbi Jack
- Jill Bastable, Kol nidre
- David James, general donation
- The Stark Family, Jeff Pribut, & The Robinson Family, plaque in memory of Shirley Bergman
- Donna Ash, plaque in memory of Harriet Matysko
- Alan Covey, Kol nidre
- Cohen, Kol nidre
- Sherry & Stephen Schwartz in memory of Mother Ellen Jane Schwartz, Father Alfred Schwartz
- Judy Hean, Kol nidre
- Armand & Rita Karyo in honor of Rabbi and Board
- Gertrude Moscovitz in memory of Husband Leo
- Gwen & Morton Stark in memory of Grandmother Ray Levine Schulman, Mother Lillian Levine
- Marty Robinson, general donation
- Donna Ash, Kol nidre
- Kim Thomas, Kol nidre
- Rabbi Jack & Beverly Post Shlachter in memory of Michael Schondorf
- David James in memory of Aunt Lillian Rudnetsky
- Anne Kirsch in memory of Herbert N Schwartz and Kol Nidre donation
- Dorothy Rose, Kol Nidre
- Judith Minkin in memory of Grandmother
- Martin & Pamela Edel in memory of Father
- Judy Hean in memory of Cousin Karen Foster
- David & Stacey Butcher, Kol nidre

Want to see your name on the donor list?

JCM has many opportunities for you to honor or memorialize that special person or pet:

**Tree of Life Joyous Events Plaque; Yizkor Memorial Plaque; Pet Memorial Plaque; Plant a Tree in Israel. Contact Janet Bossert for details, 631-909-8821
Your generous donations ensure that JCM is here for all of us.**

Goodbye....hello

Rabbi Jack and Beverly are moving back to New Mexico. Rabbi Jack's "day job" as a physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory is ending at the end of the calendar year. The JCM board is currently conducting a search for our congregation's next spiritual leader. Stay tuned for details about bidding farewell to Rabbi Jack and Beverly, and for welcoming our new clergy member.

Life is good

We love good news! Please share your good news (births, promotions, graduations, special birthdays, and other happy tidings) with the JCM community.

**Contact the Jewish Center
general phone number, the rabbi, or a board member.**

We Care

We're sad when you're sad! If you have a death or illness in the family, please contact Rabbi Jack at 505-500-2668. We can't extend our sympathies or add a name to the mi sheberach (healing prayer) list if we don't know what's happening. Your community is here for you! Please help us in helping give you support during a difficult time.



**FREE Jewish books
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Do you know about PJ Library? PJ (as in, “pajamas”) is a FREE monthly program of Jewish children’s books mailed to kids ages 6 months – 12 years old, sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and local Jewish organizations. Books are mailed to families around the world; more than 230,000 books are mailed monthly to families in the US and Canada. Recently, JCM became a partner program of PJ Library New York. If your child or grandchild is not yet enrolled in the program, you can sign them up directly on the PJ Library website: www.pjlibrary.org Or contact the temple for additional information. Thanks to Cara Sultan for coordinating JCM’s participation in this program.



Hebrew School Happenings

At Hebrew School, the students had a chance to look at the Torah with Rabbi Jack. They learned how to roll and dress the Torah. Rabbi Jack taught the students about the Torah portion that day.



Volunteer Opportunities at JCM

Our community thrives when we all pitch in to help!

*An * means that JCM is currently looking for volunteers to help with these tasks.*

***Hebrew School**

Coordinate with teachers and parents to make sure Hebrew School runs smoothly.

***Cemetery Committee**

The JCM owns cemetery plots in Mt Pleasant Cemetery. These plots are for sale and occasionally someone contacts us to sell back their plot. Selling back plots involves the owner mailing the deed back, and coordinating with JCM's treasurer to send a check to the plot seller. Buying or selling back plots are fairly rare occurrences; usually this comes up once a year.

***Newsletter Team**

Create the "Shofar Newsletter", email it to the printer, pick it up from the printer, mail it. Newsletter format mostly stays the same with each issue. JCM is currently producing four newsletters per year, with one person acting as "editor" (collecting and/or writing newsletter content), another person doing graphic design, and a third person picking up the printed newsletter from the photocopy shop and mailing the newsletters.

***Membership Liaison**

Talk to prospective members when they contact the Jewish Center with questions: explain our programs, services, Hebrew School, and member pricing. This person is the "welcoming contact" that interacts with prospective members.

***Ritual Committee**

Works with the Spiritual Leader to integrate traditional Jewish practices, guidelines, and prayers into Shabbat and festival services, life cycle events, and other JCM activities. Endeavors to make JCM's religious atmosphere welcoming, inclusive, and accessible.

Sunshine Committee

Contacts sick/hospitalized members and sends condolences on behalf of the JCM community.

***Phone "Keep in Touch" Committee**

JCM is looking for a few additional people to join Judy Hean and Rabbi Jack in making "keep in touch" phone calls to community members. Each committee member will be given a list of people to contact on an occasional basis.

Volunteer Opportunities at JCM

Our community thrives when we all pitch in to help!

*An * means that JCM is currently looking for a volunteer for this volunteer role.*

***Building and Ground Committee**

When there is an issue at the JCM that needs fixing, such as the heat or electric, the Building and Ground committee arranges the repair.

***Sanctuary Committee**

The sanctuary committee deal with any issues that are in the actual sanctuary, such as upkeep, renovations, new chairs, etc.

***Correspondence Committee**

Responds to mail, sends thank you cards for donations.

***Website**

Manages the JCM website.

***General Board Members**

Attend monthly board meetings (currently being held via Zoom); participate in guiding policy and making decisions about synagogue operations.

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YOUR AD HERE!

The Jewish Center is once again offering the opportunity to place an advertisement in the Shofar, our quarterly newsletter. Ads can be run for a single issue, or for the year; advertisers need not be connected with JCM...if you know a business who might be interested in placing an ad, please share this information with them. The Shofar is printed and mailed to members and non-member families, and is also posted on the JCM website.

Prices for 4 quarterly issues:

Full page: \$300
Half page: \$150
Quarter page: \$75

Prices for single issue:

Full page: \$100
Half page: \$50
Quarter page: \$25

You may submit your own ad, or we can help create an ad for you. Payment can be made via the JCM website, or by mailing a check. Ads can be emailed. Need more information? Contact the temple at jewishcenterofthemoriches@gmail.com or leave a message at 631-878-0388. Mailing address: PO Box 127, Center Moriches, NY 11934.

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The Jewish Center of the Moriches
227 E. Main Street
P.O. Box 127
Center Moriches, NY 11934-0127

Address corrections requested