

The Shofar

January, 2026 - April 2026 /

Tevet - Shevat, 5786 - Nissan - Iyar, 5786



A New Chapter Begins...

We're excited to share that the Shofar is back — refreshed, renewed, and ready to grow with our community.

This isn't just a return; it's a whole new vibe.

Here's a sneak peek at what's coming up:

- *Cool updates about our new leadership and community projects*
- *Programs and events for everyone*
- *More spiritual, cultural, and educational opportunities*
- *A fresh plan to boost Jewish life in the Moriches and beyond*
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Stay tuned — there's lots of inspiring stuff on the way, and we can't wait to share it with you. Welcome to the new era of the Jewish Center of the Moriches. Stronger together. Brighter than ever.

New beginnings

"The world is new to us every morning—and every man should believe he is reborn each day."

— Baal Shem Tov

JCM Spiritual Leader
Cantor Star Wahnou

President: *Jeff Pribut*
Vice President: *Doug Sherter*
Treasurer: *Farra Isaacson*
Recording Secretary: *Randi Mott*
Corresponding Secretary: *Judy Hean*

Trustees
Marty Robinson
Elaine Bernstein
Lance Rosza

Shofar: *Randi Mott/Farra Isaacson*

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A Message From Cantor Star

Dear Congregants,

As this is the reemergence of the Shofar newsletter, I wanted to share an article I wrote for the Women Cantors' Network newsletter last year. May I also say that I am honored to be a part of the JCM. Under the leadership of Jeff Pribut and the support of the board and congregation, I see this as an opportunity to expand and grow the synagogue. Word of mouth is the best publicity we have. Take every opening and occasion to talk up the "Little Temple that Could"!

"It's clear to me that one can't be Jewish without Israel. Religious or non-religious, Zionist or non-Zionist, Ashkenazi or Sephardic - all these will not exist without Israel."

- Elie Wiesel

When I was a child, I never understood why the adults in my family always spoke about Eretz Yisrael. "You must go to Israel! You must support Israel!" There was always talk about "the wall." What was so special about this wall? I was to find out years later, as I eventually made my way there.

When I turned 18, my mom wanted me to go on Birthright, a free, 10-day educational heritage tour of Israel designed for Jewish young adults which aims to strengthen Jewish identity and connection to Israel. However, I wanted my freedom for a year before I headed off to college. My older sister went and she ended up staying there for 13 months. My little sister attempted it but was denied after our cousin, who she was going with, admitted that he tried marijuana. Lol. (This was of course the 70s!)

As life went on, I continued to observe and feel the never-ending anti-Semitism and Jew hatred. Sure, it could be subtle like "Why don't you have a Christmas tree? Everybody does. It's more like an American holiday" or antisemitic tropes like "Jewish lightning", "Jew him down", etc. It baffled me because I had always been an advocate for the civil rights of all people. I marched, protested, and was never afraid to confront those who used racial, homophobic, or any kind of slur against humanity. So, where were those defended when they spewed hate against my people?

Finally, I evolved and began to realize the importance for the state Israel. It was a place our people could return to if the world turned against us as history has proven. I began studying Israel's history prior to its inception in 1948 as well as what has transpired over the last 78 years, which is something that many antisemites and anti-Israel proponents don't know. Too many of them are brainwashed by forming their opinions based on TikTok reels and Instagram.

A few years back, I came up with my own analogy of Israel. Israel is like a pitbull (which, by the way, I do own.) They are the most loving animals who have such a verve for life. They are energetic, happy and just want to be loved and accepted. They rarely bite unprovoked. However, when they do bite, they receive so much media attention because they have the potential to cause major damage. And, if you only listen to the media and don't do factual research, you have a very narrow and slanted view.

I will until my last breath, support Israel's right to defend herself. It is essential now more than ever that we teach our children to be proud Jews. It doesn't matter what side of politics you are on. We are all Jews. If we don't support the Jewish state, who will? As Rabbi Hillel said:

"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

עם אהבה (With love,)

Cantor Star



Sophia Kolsin Bat Mitzvah

Hebrew Name: Bracha Shoshana

Sophia celebrated her Bat Mitzvah
on February 14, 2026.

We are all incredibly proud of her;
she did an amazing job! For her Bat
Mitzvah project, Sophia organized a
blood drive, which saw a wonderful
turnout in support.

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- Sophia is an active member of the Youth Advisory Council meetings for the Town of Southampton, engaging in various activities, fundraisers, and service projects. As a “Buddy” with Special Players, (a group of special needs students who love to act, sing, and dance), she collaborates with them to produce a show in June. Additionally, she takes weekly voice lessons and has participated in HMEA, SCMEA, and NYSSMA.
 - She played a key role in organizing and running a blood drive, successfully exceeding her goal of 25 donations by achieving 30 participants.
 - Her family hosted a small gathering to celebrate, and is planning a summer trip, although the destination is still undecided.
 - Her family includes a cat named Peeki and some fish.
 - Family Members:
 - Mom: Barri
 - Dad: Tracy
 - Brother: Jordan
 - Sophia sends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making this day special.



A little something about Preston

Preston Mott Bar Mitzvah

Preston will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on April 11, 2026.

Hebrew Name:
Peritz ben Paysach Chuni

He will pay tribute to his family during the Torah service. His mother, Randi, father, Michael, and brothers, Devin and Brandon, are incredibly proud of Preston on this special day.

- Preston, an active Boy Scout, also participates in many other activities. He is a member of the National Junior Honor Society, the Art Club, the Coding Club, and is also part of two singing groups.
- Preston organized a very successful pet food drive on March 21, 2026. This initiative supported the OCAT catch and release program as well as the Brookhaven Animal Shelter.
- He has three pets- Lucy, Munchie, and Pumpkin
- Family Members:
 - Mom: Randi
 - Dad: Michael
 - Brother: Devin
 - Brother: Brandon



Eleanor Butcher Bat Mitzvah

Eleanor Sara Butcher
will celebrate her Bar Mitzvah on
May 2, 2026.

Hebrew Name:
Pel Sara

“Thank you to my parents, siblings,
and extended family for supporting
me during my B’nei mitzvah
journey!”

A little something about Eleanor

- Eleanor's Involvements:
 - Member of the Southampton Youth Advisory Committee
 - Holds a black belt in Taekwondo
 - An accomplished double black diamond skier
 - Active participant in the chess club
 - Member of HMEA and SCMEA choruses
 - Part of the Southampton Youth Police Academy
- Eleanor's mitzvah project involved launching a bracelet business called “Ellie’s Bracelets” to fundraise for JCM’s proposed shed purchase.
- Her family's aspiration is to visit Israel someday.
- Her pet is a Cavapoo named Willow.
- She would also like to express her heartfelt gratitude to her Hebrew teachers, Cantor Star and Amelia, as well as the entire JCM family. It truly takes a village!

Chanukah Dinner



JCM Hosts Another Successful Annual Chanukah Dinner

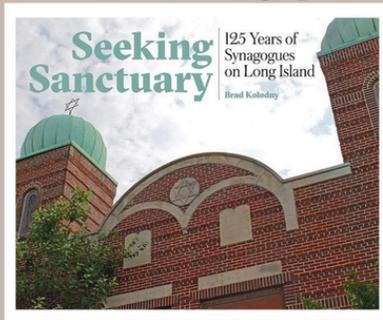
Our recent Chanukah dinner was a tremendous success! Before the meal, members of the William Floyd High School String Ensemble entertained us with a delightful performance. Following this, everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner along with some fun games and a white elephant gift exchange. A wonderful time was had by all!

Past Events

Join us for a book presentation and discussion with

Brad Kolodny

Author and Photographer



"...the most comprehensive study of Long Island Jewry ever published"
-Myjewishbooks.com

This is a free presentation. Please RSVP by February 5th, 2026 via email or voicemail with the contact info provided below (sorry no walk-ins).



**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8
2:00PM**

Sponsored By:



**JEWISH CENTER OF THE MORICHES
227 MAIN STREET
CENTER MORICHES
631-878-0388**



Email: jewishcenterofthemoriches@gmail.com

Books available for purchase and signing following the presentation.

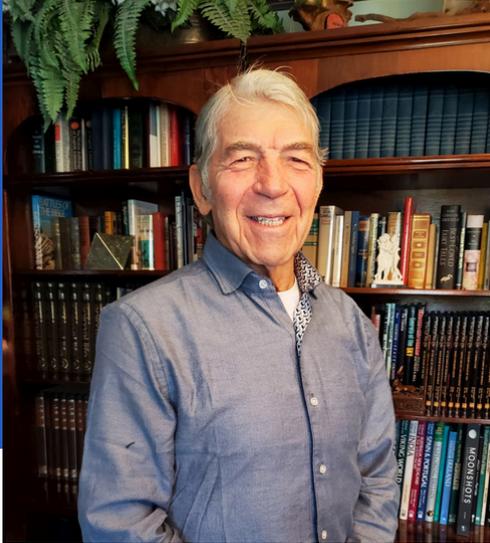
We were proud to host Brad Kolodny, President of the Jewish Historical Society of Long Island, as he discussed his book, Seeking Sanctuary: 125 Years of Synagogues on Long Island. Despite the snowy weather, the event attracted a large turnout, making it a truly memorable occasion.

- The Jewish Center has reintroduced Tot Shabbat! We had a large group of children who thoroughly enjoyed singing songs and exploring their Jewish faith. We are eagerly looking forward to the next Tot Shabbat and welcoming more future JCM members!

All are welcome! Please RSVP via voicemail at 631-878-0388 or email to jewishcenterofthemoriches@gmail.com by 1/28/26 to be added to the entry list **RSVP required in advance to save a spot.**



Upcoming Events



Yom Hashoah- Holocaust Remembrance Day

Program Details

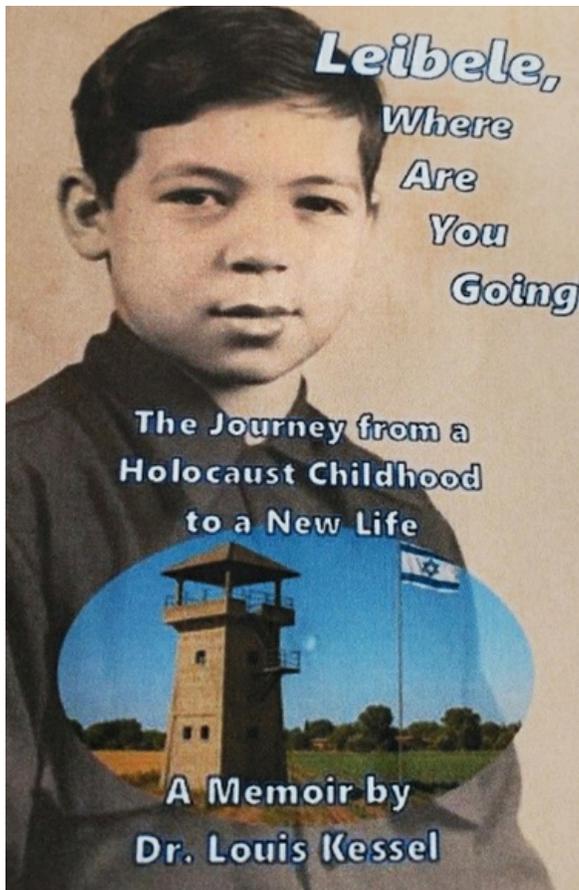
Join us on April 19th at 3:00pm at the Jewish Center of the Moriches for an insightful Yom Hashoah program.

Featured Speaker

Doctor Louis Kessel, a resident of Westhampton Beach, will share his experiences and insights from his memoir titled Leibele, Where Are You Going?

Books will be available on a future date for purchase.

We will also have musical selections led by Cantor Star and joined by congregants Larry Goldfarb (guitar, percussion), Judy Hean (piano), and Farra Isaacson (clarinet)



Thank You For the Donation

- David James in memory of David and Yetta Zion
- Judith Minkin in memory of her grandmother
- Gwen & Morton Stark in memory of Joan Bernstein
- Marty & Lorraine Robinson in memory of Grandfather Sam Silfen, Mother Juliette Robinson
- Mark & Joyce Schweibish General Donation
- Rick Foster General Donation
- Judy Steinberg in memory of Bruce Steinberg
- Stephen & Sherry Schwartz in memory of Uncle Joseph Loeb
- Larry & Barbara Kiss General Donation
- Bernice Hoffman in memory of Joan Bernstein
- Elaine Bernstein in memory of Harry Bernstein
- Judy Hean in honor of Brad Kolodny
- Judy Hean in memory of Grandfather Harry Bernstein
- Margie and Raymond Cella in honor of Sophia Kolsin Bat Mitzvah
- David James in memory of Helene James
- Stuart & Janet Bossert in honor of Brad Kolodny
- Stephen & Sherry Schwartz in memory of Edward Loeb
- Larry & Barbara Kiss in memory of Mother Selma

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 at 631-909-8821.

Your generous donations ensure that JCM is here for all of us.

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Address corrections requested