

SHOFAR



Jewish Center of The Moriches

May 2020, Iyar-Sivan 5780



The Jewish Center of the Moriches Temple Board and Spiritual Leader

The Rabbi and Officers invite members of the Congregation to contact any of them with ideas, opinions, questions, complaints (hopefully accompanied by a helpful suggestion!), and offers of support or just to talk of your concerns. Members of the Congregation are always welcome to attend the monthly Board meetings and participate in discussions. E-mail addresses and phone numbers are listed for those who also like to correspond directly with the Rabbi or Board members.

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D'Var HaRav (The Rabbi's Message) May 2020

The Omer: Linking Passover to Shavuot

Dear JCM Friends,

Beginning on the second night of Passover and for seven complete weeks, Jews have an evening tradition of reciting a blessing and counting the days. This practice possesses agricultural, historic, and spiritual dimensions. It's called counting the *omer*, where an *omer* refers to a measure of grain. Agriculturally, Passover is linked to the barley harvest (hence the eating of matzah??), and seven weeks later the wheat has ripened and is ready to be harvested. As a city boy, I had no idea that these grains really came from fields – I thought they came pre-processed in bags at the supermarket.

Historically, we associate Passover with the exodus from Egypt. This freed the Israelites from the Pharaoh's rules but left us in an anarchic state, and seven weeks later we experienced the Revelation at Mount Sinai where we received G_d's rules (think Cecil B. DeMille). At the spiritual level, the *omer* period is one of self-reflection and self-improvement, and this year it's also been one of self-confinement. Perhaps surprisingly, the *omer* period has also been linked to a plague which occurred almost two thousand years ago in Israel.

The holiday of Shavuot marks the end of the *omer* and the re-living of the Mount Sinai event, and it can be thought of as the anniversary of the marriage between the people of Israel and the Divine, with the Torah serving as the wedding document.

Please join us as we celebrate Shavuot and Shabbat on Friday night, May 29. We'll be Zooming the service as usual, and if you need any assistance with the technology, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at physicsrabbi@gmail.com or (505) 500-2668...just don't ask me how to make blintzes! Let's continue to practice good hygiene and stay healthy.

B'shalom,
Rabbi Jack



A message from the Familyhood

Just because we can't meet in person...doesn't mean that we can't have book club!

The book we had originally chosen isn't available for online borrowing from the Suffolk County libraries, so we're going to skip that one for now and jump to the book we had selected for September, ***The World that We Knew* by Alice Hoffman**. OverDrive/Libby has many copies of that book available. A Familyhood volunteer can help you download the app.

If you can join us on **Sunday, June 7 at 10:30am** (same time as Hebrew School), please contact Mara Zonderman at mzonderman@gmail.com. Mara will send the meeting information and Zoom link a day or so beforehand.

From Your Familyhood Co-Presidents,

Jennifer Heitman, (516) 818-8280, jng616@hotmail.com & Janet Bossert, (631) 909-8821, janboss23@verizon.net



JCM's most recent Bar-Mitzvah

From Rabbi Jack: The terms "Bar Mitzvah" and "Bat Mitzvah" refer to Jewish individuals who have reached the age of majority. No, this doesn't mean they get to vote or run for public office - it means that the **mitzvot** (commandments) are now incumbent on them, and we hold them responsible for their own actions.

Concomitantly these individuals are given certain privileges that we reserve for adults such as calling us to worship or reciting the blessings before and after the Torah is chanted. So technically, a person *becomes* a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, they don't *have* a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. I stress this point because any Jew who reaches early teenage years is automatically welcomed into the adult community, whether or not there was a celebration. Of course, it's always wonderful if someone celebrates the event with the community.

Please help me welcome Max Heitman into our world-wide Jewish adult community. Max reached his 13th birthday on the Jewish calendar in April, but despite working hard to prepare for a major role in a public worship service, the pandemic postponed a ceremony and celebration. We'll look forward to joining with Max as soon as possible; in the meantime, I hope you'll enjoy learning more about this fine young man. But Max, don't start asking for the car keys yet!

Member Spotlight: Max Heitman



Max Heitman, son of Jennifer and Joel, and big brother to Darren, reached the age of Bar-Mitzvah in April. Proud grandparents are Kum and Sue Ng (who live down the street), and Larry and Marilyn Heitman.

Max is a seventh-grader at William Floyd Middle school. He enjoys most of his subjects, especially math and science, and participates in many extra-curricular activities at school, including Science Quiz Bowl club, Robotics club, and woodworking. Max loves reading, especially fantasy and science fiction; he recently read the Hunger Game series, and Ready Player One. Playing baseball is a favorite sport. In summers past, he's enjoyed going to Camp Yawgoog with the Boy Scouts, where he participated in a week-long overnight camping trip. Max is also a musician, playing the flute and sings in chorus. Max's two favorite Jewish holidays are Purim (because he gets to make a lot of noise), and Passover (because there's matzoh and butter).

Asked how he feels about the postponement of his bar-mitzvah celebration, Max said, "I feel it will be worth it once I get lifted up in the chair." And his advice for dealing with younger siblings? "Don't ignore them, otherwise they'll start beating you up."

Member Spotlight: Anne Kirsch



Long-time JCM member **Anne Kirsch** was raised in Westhampton, when there were only a handful of Jewish families in town. "Growing up was difficult," says Anne, "it was definitely anti-semitic." But by the time she and her late husband Charlie raised their four children, Anne says that Westhampton was a great place to raise kids, and they had good friends in town.

Anne did her undergraduate work at Cornell in political science. She and Charlie met on a blind date, while she was attending Columbia University as a graduate student. For decades, Anne worked as a medical research librarian, at both Central Suffolk (now Peconic Bay) Hospital and Southampton Hospital. She and Charlie had a rental business in Vermont, which she continued to run by herself for many years after Charlie's death.

Anne has been connected to JCM for over 40 years now; she and Charlie donated the Israeli flag at JCM when their son Ned became bar-mitzvah at the temple. Anne and Charlie were both involved in the

community at large, as well as in JCM. Charlie served as JCM board president, and worked with Stu Bossert to maintain the temple grounds. Anne was a founding board member of the Westhampton Historic Society. She's been involved in Westhampton Rotary, Scouts, the Friends of the Westhampton Library, and she continues to volunteer with the Performing Arts Center.

Two years ago, Anne's close family suffered several devastating losses: two of her sons and a daughter-in-law died from health issues. Luckily, joy continues via Anne's seven grandchildren, most of whom are now young adults, and her daughter in Pennsylvania and surviving son in Connecticut.

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת

The Jewish Center of the Moriches offers many opportunities to memorialize or honor friends and loved ones!

Tree of Life Joyous Events Plaque

Mark a joyous event such as Bar/Bat Mitzvah, wedding, anniversary, birthday, birth, graduation, retirement, or any special honor with a plaque on our tree of life, located in the JCM lobby.



Members \$150, Non-members \$250

Contact Janet Bossert with any questions at 631-909-8821



Contributions in any amount to The Jewish Center of the Moriches are greatly appreciated!

We pride ourselves on keeping our dues low, and it's all thanks to the generous donations of our members. Give a general donation, whether in honor/memory of someone or not. Every dollar helps!

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת

Yizkor Memorial Plaque

Keep a loved one's memory alive with a plaque on our sanctuary's memorial wall.

Members \$175, Non-members \$350

Contact Janet Bossert for details at 631-909-8821,
janboss23@verizon.net



Plant a tree in Israel

Honor or remember someone while helping Israel blossom. A certificate will be issued for your generosity. Checks made to Familyhood.

\$18 for both Members and Non-members

Contact Stuart Bossert for details at 631-848-7192



Pet Memorial Plaque

Looking for a way to honor your beloved pet's memory? Outside our sanctuary, we now have a plaque to remember pets. From cats to dogs, birds to fish, snakes to bugs, remember them with a plaque on our Pet Wall.

Members \$36, Non-members \$54

Contact Janet Bossert for details at 631-909-8821,
janboss23@verizon.net



Don't wait until things open up to see JCM friends

Since the mid-March stay-at-home orders, JCM has been operating remotely. Friday night Shabbat services as well as adult education classes, Hebrew school, and other events are being conducted electronically via Zoom meetings. This means that you can "visit" with the community from the comfort of your home...even if you're far from New York! Most JCM events are recorded and posted on the website afterwards. You can also call in to the events, even from a land-line phone!

Do we have your phone number and email address?

JCM volunteers and Rabbi Jack have been making check-in calls to our community...but we can't call you if we don't have your current phone number on file! Perhaps you're still in Florida, but we only have your local land-line number. Do we have your current and correct email address? If you're not receiving emails or the automated "RoboCalls" about Jewish Center events, we don't know how to reach you! Contact Beverly Shlachter at 917-957-7254 or beverlymiriam@hotmail.com to update your contact info.



The community needs JCM; JCM needs the community

Dear Friends,

This note is being written during a period of angst and uncertainty not only in the New York area, but around the country, and indeed world-wide.

Covid-19 has affected all of us to one degree or another. Some in our JCM family have had to deal with unexpected issues on the health front. Some in our congregational family are experiencing financial fluctuations, job loss, or business challenges. All of us are wondering when—or perhaps if—we'll return to “normal life.”

The Rabbi and board members have been keeping up with news in the Jewish sector; congregations around the country are planning for High Holidays—just a few months away—that will not be “business as usual.” Many congregational leaders are bracing for a decline in High Holiday ticket sales or annual donations.

For over 50 years, the Jewish Center of the Moriches has been part of Jewish life on the eastern south shore. In partnership with YOU, our temple members and congregational friends, JCM continues to support the Jewish community from the Moriches, Shirley, Manorville, Westhampton, Ridge, and beyond. Because of YOU:

- When someone is marking a yahrzeit, JCM is here for them.
- When a child is ready for Hebrew school, JCM is here
- When someone needs to consult with clergy, JCM is here for them
- When a family rejoices with a new baby, a bar or bat-mitzvah, or another simcha, JCM is here
- When a family experiences a death or other loss, JCM is here for them
- When adults are curious and want to learn more about our heritage, JCM is here

Unlike some larger congregations, JCM does not have an endowment or trust fund. The JCM board is fiscally conservative, and our congregation has been fortunate to have put away “rainy day” savings from monthly income generated from our rental unit. As you may have seen in the news, rental income AROUND THE COUNTRY has been severely impacted by the current economic climate.

If your household is not officially on the JCM membership rolls, I ask that you consider joining us as a Jewish Center member. Annual membership dues are only \$645 per family, or \$450 for an individual, a real bargain by Jewish temple standards (and as the Rabbi recently joked, if you join now, we'll throw in a free roll of toilet paper). High Holiday tickets and Hebrew school are included in membership dues; most importantly, it gives the Jewish Center—and our Jewish community—a stability that we all need.

If you are already a JCM member, see if you can make an additional donation to the temple this year. Do you usually make a \$36 annual donation...how about upping it to \$72, or even \$180? Of course, your donations in any amount are always welcome. From \$5 to \$5,000, I'm asking all of us to stretch—to the ability that we can—so that JCM can continue to be here in Center Moriches to serve you and your family, and the other Jews in our communities.

Thank you for all you have done, and all you continue to do, for Jewish life on the Island.

Sincerely,

Michael Leselrod and Sam Schneider, on behalf of the JCM Board of Directors

Do not separate yourself from the community.

- Hillel, in Pirke Avot 2:4

Checks can be sent to JCM, PO Box 127, Center Moriches, NY 11934. See website for membership application.



Have an announcement for the Shofar Newsletter?

Get your happy occasion listed in the Shofar! Send an e-mail to jewishcenterofthemoriches@gmail.com or use the website contact form, www.jewishcenterofthemoriches.com.

Let us know: happy news, sad news, address changes

Please send announcements of births, deaths, change of address or other **imperative information** to Jewish Center Board Secretary **Donna Ash**, at 631-395-3346, e-mail desj1975@hotmail.com. Donna will forward the information to the appropriate person.

Getting your mailed newsletter late?

Get JCM news in digital format right away by making sure we have your email address! Or check the JCM website; newsletters are posted on the website under the "News/Events" tab.



East End Jewish Community Council

East End Jewish Community Council was formed to unite Jewish people, synagogues and organizations on the East End of L.I. for their mutual benefit & to promote Jewish cultural & religious identity.

eejcc.com



May, 2020

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:

May 1	Ida Kirsch
May 1	Edith Weiss
May 1	Tillie Scharf
May 1	Selma Kiss
May 1	Hyman S. Goldstein
May 1	Meyer Reiss
May 8	Abraham Levine
May 8	Charles Kirsch
May 15	Ida Michaels
May 15	Elsa Bonvillain
May 15	Morris Weissman
May 15	Solomon Levine
May 15	Loyal Witt
May 15	Thelma Loeb
May 22	Herbert Kronman
May 22	Ben Kiss
May 22	Florence Pearlman
May 29	Raye Glaser

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 Rabbi prior to the service.

“The memory of the righteous is a Blessing”



June, 2020

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:

June 12	Murray Stark
June 12	Gerson Helfant
June 12	Lillian Goldstein
June 19	Ike Kaplan
June 19	Albert Nooger
June 26	Belle Bernstein
June 26	Freda Schwartz

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 Rabbi prior to the service.

“The memory of the righteous is a Blessing”

INSIDE THIS ISSUE.....

- Member Spotlight: Max Heitman
- Member Spotlight: Anne Kirsch
- Special note from the board
- The link between Passover & Shavuot
- Connect with JCM via Zoom

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Address corrections requested –
contact Editor (see inside cover)