



Shofar

December 2015
Kislev – Tevet, 5776
Jewish Center
of the Moriches



Happy Chanukah

We have almost arrived at the month of December which means that the Holidays are on their way once again. Really, as for the Jewish Holidays, there is just one of them coming our way. But it is a long one, eight days and eight bright nights. Of course, the occasion I am referring to is Hanukah, our joyous festival of lights.

For us, Hanukah is our next Holiday season. We may enjoy the lights and positive sentiment in our midst as Christmas approaches, and certainly most of us celebrate January 1st as a day on which to embrace the New Year, but our main focus is on the observance of Hanukah itself.

To some degree, though, there is a difference of opinion among Jews ourselves as to the level of importance of Hanukah. Some Jews do not, for various reasons, observe a great many of the traditions of their heritage. They may not celebrate Shabbat, they may not go to Synagogue for Holiday services, and they may not even fast on Yom Kippur. Many of these Jews do, however, light the candles of the Hanukah Menorah at least at some point during the Holiday. It has been suggested by sociologists of the Jewish people that the two most common things done by Jews of all backgrounds throughout the world are to have a Passover Seder of some sort and to celebrate Hanukah. What these two rituals have in common is that they are performed in the home and that they are usually associated with getting together with family. They are generally considered to be fun and they also involve eating delicious foods. With all this in mind it is perfectly logical, even appropriate, that they are the most widespread of Jewish customs. To many of these Jews Hanukah may be considered the most important and meaningful Holiday of the entire year.

There is another group of Jews who are far more involved in observing Judaism throughout the year. They probably go to Synagogue almost every Shabbat, celebrate all of the Jewish Holidays, and contemplate the significance of their heritage of Judaism on a daily basis. These Jews may realize that although Hanukah is a long and beautiful Holiday it is actually considered to be a relatively modern Holiday which the Rabbis do not hold in nearly as high esteem as the High Holidays or the three pilgrimage Festivals of Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot. They understand that we are permitted to work during Hanukah and that Hanukah does not carry with it the same commandments, both positive and negative, which apply to the most revered of Jewish days. These Jews certainly enjoy the celebration of Hanukah, but they do not necessarily consider it to be the most sacred of Jewish occasions.

There is yet one more category of Jews in respect to our regard for Hanukah. There is a small group of Kabbalists, spiritual Jewish mystics, who most definitely do observe all of the Jewish Holidays and rituals, yet who feel that Hanukah, along with Purim, may actually be the most holy of all Jewish Holidays. Despite the fact that Hanukah has often been looked upon by traditional Jews throughout history as less important or central than other Jewish Holidays, these Kabbalists come to our festival of lights from an altogether different angle and perspective. To them Hanukah possesses great spiritual power. In a mysterious way they connect Hanukah and its symbolism of light triumphing over darkness, good over evil, with the central Jewish concept of Tikkun Olam, fixing the world. The warm radiant lights of Hanukah, for them, are a deep and constant reminder of what our place in this World is all about: making a difference, creating a tangible spiritual change in our reality which will allow people to live with true, penetrating joy. The burning candles of the Hanukah Menorah are the ultimate symbol of this vision. To the Jewish mystics, the Kabbalists, there is nothing more crucial than this in all of Judaism.

So, you may want to ask yourself the question, how do I relate to Hanukah? Please come join us for our annual Hanukah/ Shabbat dinner and service on Dec. 11th.

Perhaps we can share with each other our feelings for what this Holiday means to each of us.
Happy Hanukah!

Contributions to the Jewish Center of the Moriches Memorial Donation

Donations	
Erica Ash	In memory of Joseph Ash
Elaine Bernstein	In memory of Charlotte Bossert
Madelon & Steven Alter	In memory of David Cohen
Stuart & Hope Ring	In memory of Wiliam Ringe
Harriet Matysko	In memory of Charlotte Bossert
Judy Hean	In memory of Uncle Sam Bernstein
Gwen & Morton Stark	In memory of Charlotte Bossert
Donna Ash	In memory of Charlotte Bossert
Jeffrey Pribut	In memory of father Howard Pribut, and mother Annette Pribut Smith
Steve & Sherry Schwartz	In memory of Charlotte Bossert
Marlene (Kuares) Bieler	In memory of Mother Frances Kuares, Father Reuben Kuares, and Sister Rohna (Kuares) McKenna
Janet Bossert	In honor of Cantor Zach
Donna Ash	In memory of Janet Bossert's brother, Fred Schneider
Harriet Matysko	In memory of Janet Bossert's brother, Fred Schneider
Lynne Quinn	In honor of new granddaughter, Pearl
Lynne Quinn	In memory of parents Lillian & Lawrence Goldstein, brother Lester Gerard
Madelon & Steve Alter	In memory of Father Paul Alter
Martin & Pam Edel	In memory of Father, Sidney Edel
Sherry & Steve Schwartz	In memory of Father, Alfred Schwartz, Mother Ellen Jane Freund Schwartz
Anne Kirsch	In memory of Joseph & Ida Kirsch, Charlotte Bossert
Helene James	In memory of sister Lillian Rudnelsky

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 Leonard & Karen Schnall
 Ron Honig
 Millie Slifstein
 William Paness

DONATIONS AND HOW TO DO SO-

Donations have always been welcomed and are greatly appreciated. Other than membership dues your donations have also helped in the continual financial welfare of the Jewish Center of the Moriches. To properly designate your donation please write on your check or attach a note to where you might want the fund deposited, such as Kol Nidre, Memorial, Sanctuary, General or specific fund raising accounts and so on. By doing this it will enable Farra, our treasurer to correctly distribute all monies.

Thank-you all for such tremendous donations and contributions that help benefit the future of our Jewish Center

Sisterhood News

Dear Members & Friends;

Happy birthday to all our Nov & Dec celebrants.

If you are one of our snowbirds, I wish you a safe & healthy winter . Hope to see you again in the spring. Please watch this space for exciting upcoming events.

Yours in Sisterhood,
Marilyn Zoilo

Proposed New Board For 2016

The following slate has been proposed for the new board and will be voted on at the annual board meeting on Jan 10, 2016 at 10AM

President: **Michael Leselrod**

Vice President: **Doug Sherter**

2nd Vice President: **Melvin Lobb**

Treasurer: **Farra Isaacson**

Recording Secretary: **Randi Mott**

Corresponding Secretary: **Donna Ash**

Trustees: **Sherry Schwartz, Arthur Miller, Larry Kiss, Marilyn Zoilo**

All are invited to participate in the Annual January Board Meeting on Jan 10 at 10AM. There will be refreshments.



Chanukah Dinner and Party



December 11th, 2015

Our Annual Chanukah Dinner at the Jewish Center of the Moriches will be held Friday, December 11th at 5:30pm. Call Mike @ 631-786-0763 for other information or email jewishcenterofthemoriches@gmail.com

Reservations must be made by December 5th by sending your check made out to the Jewish Center of the Moriches to:
Farra Isaacson, PO Box 127, Center Moriches NY 11934.

Reservation Form:

Name _____

Phone # _____

Adults \$18.00 _____ Children up to age 13 \$12 _____

Non Member Adult \$25.00 _____ Non Member Children \$14.00 _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

December 25th Early Services & Winter **Hot Dog BBQ** @ 6:30

Have nothing to do December 25th?

You can't go out to dinner so come to our Hot Dog BBQ and Friday night Shabbat Service.

To RSVP call Mike @ 631-786-0763 or email jewishcenterofthemoriches@gmail.com



HEBREW SCHOOL NEWS

It has been a very busy season at the Jewish Center Hebrew School. We began the year studying the fall holidays of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkoth. And now, believe it or not, we are already deeply into our study of Hanukah, as our students prepare to lead the congregation in our candle lighting ceremony on Friday night, December 11th.

Our Hebrew School has grown quite a bit this year. We have several new families and a new Hebrew School teacher as well. Our total enrollment is now approximately **15** students, the largest our school has been in many years. It is a very exciting and encouraging time.

Please attend our Hanukah celebration as well as our next shabbat morning service on December 19th so that you can see our students in action. Happy Hanukah to one and all!



Member News September/October



November Member News: Marilyn Zoilo, Nov. 10; Doug & Shari Sherter Anniv. Nov. 15; Elaine Bernstein & Bruce Phillips, Anniv. Nov. 22; Arthur & Gail Miller Anniv. Nov. 28.

December Member News: Rebecca Kornreich Dec. 4; Jason Hean Dec. 4; Joyce Schweibish Dec. 6; Mark Schweibish Dec. 9; Melvin Lobb Dec. 20; Phyllis Konigsberg Dec. 2; Donna Ash Dec. 29.

As always, if you wish to see your happy occasion listed in our Shofar, e-mail to Michael Leselrod, mleselrod@yahoo.com or send a message through our website www.jewishcenterofthemoriches.com. Also, **we need your e-mail address!** This will enable us to send you important Temple updates, cancellations, new and spontaneous activities placed in our calendar, etc., etc. So, please e-mail these to Mike as well. THANK YOU !!

Reminder to anyone who might make any purchases from the **Deborah Sisterhood**, please remember to make your check payable to the "Deborah Sisterhood". Thank you for your donations.

Friday Night Shabbat Services. In an effort to keep the services from ending too late at night, and thus to make attending services more attractive to families with children, we will be starting services **promptly at 7:45 pm**. The building will be open from about 7:30 onwards to allow socializing before the services. Please make every effort to arrive promptly. Thank you for your cooperation. Steve Schwartz, for the ritual committee

Almost every Friday night people attend services specifically to say Kaddish. In order to recite the Kaddish, a Minyan (minimum of ten adults) is required. Unfortunately there are times when fewer than ten people attend services. This is very upsetting to those who are denied the opportunity to say Kaddish. Friday night services only last about an hour and a half. Please try to attend as often as possible so we have a Minyan.

If there is anyone interested in coming to Friday night service or a function at the Temple and you **need transportation** then please call Cantor Konigsberg 917-696-0749 and leave a message with your name, phone number and the date you are looking to attend. Cantor will return your call with the member's name that will be more than willing to assist you. Please send all birth announcements, deaths, change of address or all other **imperative information** for the Jewish Center to **Donna Ash**, our Corresponding Secretary at 395-3346 or e-mail desj1975@hotmail.com. This will allow all information to be distributed to the right board member or committee.

Interested in sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat through the Deborah Sisterhood? Call :Sherry Schwartz @ 878-4880



Tree of Life or Memorial Plaques

Engrave a joyous memory such as an anniversary, birth, wedding or Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The cost for a leaf on the Tree of Life is \$150.00.

Preserve an everlasting name in the Sanctuary with a Memorial plaque for \$175.00 or \$350.00 for non-members.

For further information, please contact Janet Bossert 848-7192.

Plant a tree in Israel

Anyone who would like to plant a tree in Israel in honor or memory of someone, please call Stuart Bossert at 848-7192.

The person should have the name of the person that they want honored, and the person's name and address that you want the certificate for the tree sent to.

The donation for this honorarium is \$18.00 and the check made out to sisterhood. Please mail your check to Stuart Bossert at PO Box 12, Moriches, NY 11955.



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

As members of the Jewish Center know, we welcome participation of members of the Congregation and guests to participate in the service to the extent of their capabilities and desires. We are fortunate to have several members of the Congregation who contribute by leading the singing of some of our most familiar prayers. Others contribute by reading the Haftarah. Another contributes by blowing the Shofar. Many contribute by leading English readings or by opening the Ark. Still others help by greeting Congregants and guests and by assisting with the proceedings on the Bimah. But we can always benefit from more participation.

Perhaps there is a role you would like to play and are just waiting to be invited. We invite you to let us know what you would like to do and we will make every effort to accommodate you. Please contact Steve Schwartz, chair of the Ritual Committee (ss12@optonline.net; 631-878-4880) or Cantor Zach (cantorzkonigsberg@gmail.com; 917-696-0749) and let us know how you would like to participate.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Services.

Steve Schwartz



November, 2015

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:

November 6	Isidore Hirschenfang
November 13	Ilene Ellis
November 13	Sidney Edel
November 13	Lillian Rudnetsky
November 13	Leo Moscovitz
November 20	Celia Pick Juskowitz
November 20	Lynda Zelda Boker
November 20	Dr. Philip Willner
November 27	Isidore Scharf
November 27	Ray Levine Schulman

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”



December, 2015

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:

December 4	Lillian Levine
December 4	Murray Bernstein
December 11	Roza B. Erdos
December 11	Gussie Steiner Abeloff
December 11	Gusta Lipsman
December 11	Rueben M. Kvares
December 18	Joan Gottlieb
December 18	Alex M. Safier
December 18	Ellen Jane Freund Schwartz
December 18	Eugene Ash
December 25	Yetta Zion
December 25	Katie Stark
December 25	Belle Weissman
December 25	Sigmond Lantz
December 25	David Zion
December 25	Emilie Sheren

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”

~ November 2015 ~						
◀ October						December ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Hebrew School	2	3	4	5	6	7 Shabbat Morning Service
8 Hebrew School	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Hebrew School	16	17	18	19	20 Special Family Service 6:30pm	21
22 Hebrew School	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 NO Hebrew School	30	Happy Thanks Giving See you at our early Family Service on 11/20				

December 2015						
◀ November						January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Hebrew School	7	8	9	10	11 Chanukah Service & Dinner @5:30	12
13 Hebrew School	14	15	16	17	18	19 Shabbat Morning 9:30AM ServiceP
20 Hebrew School	21	22	23	24	25 Hot Dog BBQ Early Shabbat Service @6:30PM	26
27 NO Hebrew School	28	29	30	31	Notes: Come to our Hot Dog BBQ and Shabbat Service on 12/25! Don't forget the Chanukah Dinner!	

Annual Board Meeting January 10th at 10AM

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- Chanukah Dinner & Service
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Address corrections requested –
contact Editor (see inside cover)