

CENTER LIGHT

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VAN CORTLANDT JEWISH CENTER



www.vcjewishcenter.org

MARCH 2019

Adar I – Adar II 5779

RABBI'S WORTHINESS MESSAGE

We are human which means we frequently err, fall, fail or sin and need correction. The Torah understands this and addresses it with the commandment of Teshuva or repentance, which is addressed elsewhere. However, even after sincere prescribed repentance, despite our tradition that we are to consider it as effective and accepted by G-d, many people are still guilt ridden and discouraged. They feel, perhaps their sins or less than perfect repentance, renders them unworthy of G-d's mercy, love, compassion and Divine Presence in their lives.

On a recent Shabbos Torah reading, that included Divine Revelation and receiving the Ten Commandments, would it not have been appropriate for it to have a special name? It is without question, the most significant event of all time. So why not name it Moshe (Moses), after the greatest man to ever walk the face of the earth who actually brought the tablets down from Mt. Sinai? Not only didn't the Torah do that, but it was instead named Yisro (Jethro). True, Yisro was a righteous convert, and father-in-law of Moses, but he was formerly an idolater. Aren't we aware that whoever denies idolatry is considered as someone who acknowledges the entire Torah and paradoxically, whoever acknowledges idolatry is considered as if they deny the entire Torah?

Similarly, each year when I begin to lead the Passover Communal Seder, I mention an explanation of why some people use horseradish, aside from its bitterness, reminiscent of the bitterness our forefathers suffered in Egypt. I say, some explain we take horseradish which grows in the mud together with manure for fertilizer, and wash it off and place it on our Seder table which is compared to the holy altar. Therefore, each person, regardless of how low they feel they have fallen, or how alienated from their Father in Heaven, can certainly consider themselves worthy to come close and reconnect

(continued page 5)

PURIM SCHEDULE

Fast of Esther (Tanis Esther)

Wednesday, March 20

Morning service..... 6:45 am
 Evening service 6:45 pm
 Megillah reading 8:00 pm
 Purim Party following
 Megillah reading.....8:45 pm

Purim – Thursday, March 21

Morning service..... 6:30 am
 Megillah reading 7:15 am

2nd BREAKFAST LECTURE SERIES

SUNDAY, MARCH 17th

Speaker: Rabbi Avi Heller

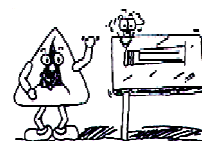
Rabbi Heller is the Regional Director of the Orthodox Union for synagogues in New Jersey and Rockland County

**Topic: If Esther Lived in the 21st Century,
How Would She Celebrate Purim?**

Light breakfast served at 10:30 am

Lecture begins at 11:00 am

The lecture is free, donations are gratefully accepted.



CANDLE LIGHTING SCHEDULE



Candle Lighting

Shabbos Ends

Fri. Mar. 1	5:29	6:33
Fri. Mar. 8	5:37	6:41
Fri. Mar. 15	6:44	7:48
Fri. Mar. 22	6:52	7:56
Fri. Mar. 29	6:59	8:03

Kindle the Sabbath Lights

VAN CORTLANDT VILLAGE NOTES – MARCH

REFUAH SHLEMAH

. . . Arnold Geismar, Neil Harrow, Elliot Kaufman, Saul Lieman, Howie Leventhal, Nathan Rosenkranz, Jules Rubinstein, Claire Silver, Mayer Sodden, Renee Stoller, Al Tenenbaum



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

SUNDAY, MARCH 10th

TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR

☆ SCHEDULE OF SERVICES ☆

Please Attend & Guarantee our Minyanim

Morning Services:

Saturday	8:45
Sunday	8:30
Monday & Thursday	6:50
Tues., Wed., & Friday	7:00
Thurs. Mar. 7 Rosh Chodesh Adar II	6:30
Friday Mar. 8 Rosh Chodesh Adar II	6:30
Wednesday, March 20 Fast of Esther	6:45
Thurs., March 21 Purim	6:30

Evening Services

Friday, Mar. 1	5:30
Saturday, Mar. 2	5:25
Friday, Mar. 8	5:40
Saturday, Mar. 9	5:30
Friday, Mar. 15	6:50
Saturday, Mar. 16	6:35
Wednesday, Mar. 20 (Erev Purim)	6:45
Friday, Mar. 22	6:55
Saturday, Mar. 23	6:45
Friday, Mar. 29	7:05
Saturday, March 30	7:05

THE CENTER LIGHT

VAN CORTLANDT JEWISH CENTER
Van Cortlandt Village
3880 Sedgwick Ave.
Bronx, NY 10463

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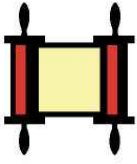
Fax (718) 884-6106

Website: www.VCJewishCenter.org

Email: vancortlandtj@aol.com

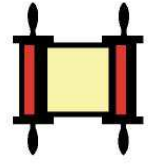
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Rabbi	Jacob Sodden לרא
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Secretary	Marc Friedman
Sisterhood President	Ceil Hartstein
Office Manager	Roberta Seidner
Office Assistant	Claire Haime



March 2019

24 Adar I - 24 Adar II 5779
HAPPY PURIM



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 24 ADAR I Morning .. 7:00 Evening .. 5:30 Candles 5:29 Shabbos Across America	2 25 ADAR I Vayakhel Shabbat Shekalim Morning .. 8:45 Evening .. 5:25 Shabbos ends 6:33
3 26 ADAR I Morning .. 8:30	4 27 ADAR I Morning .. 6:50	5 28 ADAR I Morning .. 7:00	6 29 ADAR I Morning .. 7:00	7 30 ADAR I Rosh Chodesh Adar II Day 1 Morning .. 6:30	8 1 ADAR II Rosh Chodesh Adar II Day 2 Morning .. 6:30 Evening .. 5:40 Candles 5:37	9 2 ADAR II Pekudei Morning .. 8:45 Evening .. 5:30 Shabbos ends 6:41
10 3 ADAR II Morning .. 8:30 Daylight Savings Time Begins	11 4 ADAR II Morning .. 6:50	12 5 ADAR II Morning .. 7:00 Board meeting 7 pm	13 6 ADAR II Morning .. 7:00	14 7 ADAR II Morning .. 6:50	15 8 ADAR II Morning .. 7:00 Evening .. 6:50 Candles 6:44	16 9 ADAR II Vayikra Shabbat Zachor Morning .. 8:45 Evening .. 6:35 Shabbos ends 7:48
17 10 ADAR II Morning .. 8:30 Purim Lecture Rabbi Avi Heller 11:00 am	18 11 ADAR II Morning .. 6:50	19 12 ADAR II Morning .. 7:00	20 13 ADAR II Fast of Esther Morning .. 6:45 Evening .. 6:45 Reading of the Megillah in the Evening ... 8:00	21 14 ADAR II Purim Morning .. 6:30 Megillah Reading .. 7:15	22 15 ADAR II Shushan Purim Morning .. 7:00 Evening .. 6:55 Candles 6:52	23 16 ADAR II Tzav Morning .. 8:45 Evening .. 6:45 Shabbos ends 7:56
24 17 ADAR II Morning .. 8:30 Sisterhood meeting 10:30 am	25 18 ADAR II Morning .. 6:50	26 19 ADAR II Morning .. 7:00	27 20 ADAR II Morning .. 7:00	28 21 ADAR II Morning .. 6:50	29 22 ADAR II Morning .. 7:00 Evening .. 7:05 Candles 6:59	30 23 ADAR II Shmini Shabbat Parah Morning .. 8:45 Evening .. 7:05 Shabbos ends 8:03
31 24 ADAR II Morning .. 8:30			Purim Party 8:45 pm after Megillah reading			

☆ *Yahrzeits* ☆

MARCH

ADAR I

1	Leah Steinhauer	24
2	Sigmund Spira	25
3	Harry Cohen	26
4	Barbara Fern Weinrauch	27
4	Caroline Pomeranz Mesh	27
4	William Harris	27
4	Tillie Kaplan	27
4	Rose Stien	27
4	Benjamin Kaminer	27
5	William Gendler	28
5	Rida Salant	28
5	Jerome Cohen	28
6	Helen Seecof	29
6	Samuel Rosenthal	29

ADAR II

8	Beatrice Fischer	1
9	Beckie Sugin	2
10	Selma Weeden	3
11	Rose Josephs	4
11	Isidore Heyman	4
13	Mildred Heit	6
15	Philip Schwartz	8
17	Jacob Kaufman	10
18	Elsie Plotkin	11
18	Rebbetzin Faye Katz	11
19	Morris Chast	12
20	Max Gillman	13
21	Frieda Spilka	14
23	David Martin	16
24	Irving Winkler	17
26	Malvina Nussenfeld	19
27	Harry Rosenfield	20
27	Annie Becher	20
28	Albert Leal	21
29	Tessie Kogan	22
30	Irving Weitzman	23
30	Rhoda Lewis	23

🕯 *Remember to light a Yahrzeit candle the night before*

BECOME A SPONSOR

Celebrating a special occasion, such as a significant birthday or anniversary, or a birth, wedding or graduation in the family? Or observing a yahrzeit? Or just want to honor a special person or event? Why not share it with the congregation by sponsoring a **Shalosh Seudos or mini-Kiddush?**

The **Shalosh Seudos** (third meal) is a light meal held every Shabbos afternoon between the mincha (afternoon) and maariv (evening) services. The menu can be customized but usually consists of sliced gefilte fish, tuna fish or egg salad, other light foods, fresh fruit, cookies or pastries, challah and crackers, and soda. The cost of sponsoring is approximately \$50 depending on the final menu. \$10 of this amount is a donation to the VCJC.

The **mini-Kiddush** is held every Shabbos morning in the Boyarsky Hall immediately following services. It consists of wine and grape juice for reciting the Kiddush, accompanied by a variety of pareve pastries and cookies. The cost to sponsor is a more modest \$25.

A **third option** is sponsoring one of the monthly lectures held between January and June. Preceding each lecture, we serve a light breakfast of bagels, cream cheese and lox along with coffee. Sponsorship costs \$50.

If you wish to be a **sponsor** for any of these events, simply contact the office to book the date, preferably at least two weeks in advance. The office staff will take care of making all the arrangements. We look forward to your participation in these programs.

🌸 SISTERHOOD NEWS 🌸

On Sunday, February 24th a meeting was scheduled, but there were only four women in attendance. I want to thank Batya Kleinfeld, Shirley Spira and Claire Sandorf for showing up. We met in the lobby and only stayed about a half hour. I really appreciate them coming out on a rainy and dreary day.

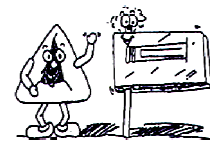
Sisterhood wishes Sonja Geismar and Marcy Harris a very speedy recovery. I spoke with Sonja and she is home and on the mend. We also want to wish Marc Friedman a speedy recovery as well. We send our regards to Laura Gillman and Claire Silver and hope to see them soon.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 24th at 10:30 am.

Sisterhood wishes everyone in the Van Cortlandt Synagogue and beyond a very Happy Purim!

Chag Sameach Purim!

Ceil Hartstein, President



RABBI'S MESSAGE – continued

to the Jewish family. Not only does this apply to disenfranchised Jews who return to the fold, often called Baalei Teshuvah, but even more so, to converts as Yisro. Furthermore, who other than Yisro is the one person, said to have worshipped every single deity in the world, before ultimately denying them? Idolatry is one of the three capital offenses, Murder, Immorality and Idolatry, that a Jew is obligated to forfeit his life before transgressing. Furthermore, Idolatry is considered the worst sin, equal to all the sins of the Torah combined. Clearly, though you have fallen, after repentance, G-d is waiting to take you back anew with open arms.

Rabbi Shmuel Silber of Suburban Orthodox Congregation in Baltimore, in an article (27 Shevat 5779), titled Salvational Servitude speaks about the two ways a Jew can become an Eved Ivri (Hebrew slave): either selling himself due to poverty or if he steals and is unable to pay back, the Jewish court may sell the thief to repay the victim. He then cites the Lubavitcher Rebbe's insight that the act of theft, to take something from someone else, is a trespass against my fellow, or to deprive someone of something they have worked for and is a blatant disregard for the dignity of the other or represents a moral failure. But theft is not only a crime against man, it is also a crime against G-d, because each of us is given a divinely ordained amount of material wealth, precisely what we need in order to accomplish our sacred mission in this world. When a person steals he is making a dramatic statement: "G-d hasn't given me enough so I will take that which belongs to the other, thereby enriching me." The act of theft is an indictment of G-d for having given something to someone else and not to me. Furthermore, the thief feels that he will retain that which he has stolen, even though the act was against the will of G-d. As such, the thief has transgressed against G-d and his fellow man.

So, what should we do with him? Logic would dictate that we cast him aside, brand him a pariah, and remove him from society. Yet we do just the opposite. We give him a job and a place to live. We say to this thief, "we will not give up on you. You have made some mistakes, but we still believe you can turn it around. It's not too late. Use this time to rebuild and rehabilitate. Use this time to introspect and reflect. Use this time to figure out what has gone so wrong and then find the courage to fix it."

The Lubavitcher Rebbe adds one more piece. The laws of the Hebrew slave are not just about the other. They are about us. Each of us messes up. We each make mistakes and sometimes those mistakes land us in significant trouble and life difficulty. We have stolen our potential and

(continued)

RABBI'S MESSAGE – continued

and squandered it in a variety of fruitless initiatives and bad choices. It is easy to give up. But then we remind ourselves that the thief is sold and rehabilitates himself- and we can do the same. It says in Exodus (21:2) if you are a slave, for six years you must work but, in the seventh you can go free. It can take a long time to turn ourselves and our lives around. It can take a long time to rehabilitate and rejuvenate. However, if we're willing to put in the work the seventh year will come. We can change, we can improve, we can become better. After the Ten Commandments, God chooses to place the law of Eved Ivri, (Jewish slave), first, for it creates the foundational understanding of how we view others and how we view ourselves. The laws of the Hebrew servant, teach us these two valuable lessons: "never stop believing in the other, never stop believing in yourself. No matter how badly another messes up he is never beyond salvation. No matter how severe our mistakes may be, if we work hard, we can rehabilitate and rejuvenate."

Shalom Rabbi David Borenstein

CPR TRAINING

Van Cortlandt Jewish Center
is excited to announce

**A free – CPR Training Course
given by the New York City
Fire Department**

Monday, April 1st at 6:30 pm

This training course is open to the
entire community
Take this class and you may save a life!

Note: This is a non-certified class.

Call the office 718 884-6105 or
drop by the office and leave your name and
phone number.

We need to know how many are coming.

Making a Donation Count for both VCJC and Yourself

If you have an IRA (or 401K) and you are over 70 ½ years of age, you are required to make distributions from it. This RMD (Required Minimum Distribution), depending on how the funds were put into the IRA, is generally fully taxable income. While you can make an independent charitable contribution (say to VCJC) that then gives you a tax deduction, you may be much better off making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD is a distribution directly from your IRA, by the financial institution, to a charitable organization, bypassing you. It is not reported as income to you and you do not pay income tax on it.

I have posted an article describing this on the VCJC website, linked from our Donations page (<https://vcjewishcenter.org/donations/>). If you do not have internet access, but would like to read it, let the office know and they will send you a copy.

Please be aware that neither I nor the author of the article are accountants or tax lawyers. Please consult with your professional advisor before taking any action.

Jack Kleinfeld, Chair, Board of Trustees

Do you know professionals or people in business?

One of the important ways that we raise money for VCJC is through advertising and business supporters. If you know anyone who might benefit from a print ad in the Center Light, a classified ad on our website, or a certificate and bragging rights as a VCJC Supporter, please solicit them as participants or let us know who to contact. Of course, we would also love to have them as Journal advertisers, so please keep that in mind, but the window of opportunity for that is more limited.

Have them email ads@vcjewishcenter.org for information. And, of course, when you patronize our advertisers, let them know that you saw their ad with us! Thanks!

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, APRIL 14th

**VCJC will host an afternoon of dining
and entertainment!**

**Event will be held at
Amalgamated's Vladeck Hall**

**Will include a Door Prize
Pick-Your-Prize Raffle
Buffet Chinese lunch with
Dessert & Wine**

**Entertainment by
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**Door will open at 11 am
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**Cost & reservation information
to follow**



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please let the office know and
we will put it on the calendar**

IMPORTANT!

For Shabbos & Holidays

Please leave cell phones
at home or in coat room

If needed for emergencies
please set to vibrate
before candle lighting

Rabbi David Borenstein



multiply the good

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. . . **Occasion Cards** "In Honor of", "For the Return to Good Health" and "In Memory of" available for \$5.00

. . . If you would like to sponsor a **Shalosh Seudos or Kiddush**, let the office know so we can reserve the date for you.

✓ REMINDER

LOOKING AHEAD TO SPRING!

- **Friday, March 1st
23rd Shabbat Across America**
- **Sunday, March 10th
Daylight Savings Time Begins**
- **Wednesday, March 20th
Fast of Esther - Reading of the
Megillah – Erev Purim**
- **Thursday, March 21st
Purim – Reading of the Megillah**

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<p>Van Cortlandt Jewish Center Van Cortlandt Village 3880 Sedgwick Ave. Bronx, NY 10463</p>	<p>TO:</p>
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