

CENTER LIGHT



VAN CORTLANDT JEWISH CENTER



www.vcjewishcenter.org

M A Y 2019

Nisan - Iyar 5779

THE RABBI'S MESSAGE ABOUT SPEECH

We just celebrated Passover with the inspiring Seders, that as much as 95% of our fellow Jews in Israel participate in. The main thrust of the evening is retelling the story of our people's bondage and redemption. The vehicle we use is the Haggadah, which means to retell or speak. Similarly, the literal translation of Pesach, is "mouth speak", and Pharaoh means "evil mouth." Clearly, speech is indisputably of supreme importance on Passover, and actually every day. It is therefore worthwhile to learn more about speech.

Rabbi Yisroel Meir Kagan, known by the book about speech he authored, Chofetz Chaim, delineates 14 positive commandments one can fulfill and 17 negative commandments a person can transgress depending on how he uses his speech. Commentaries on the book of Leviticus, (Vayikra), point out a possible reason the Torah portion regarding punishments for speaking negatively of others immediately follows the portion of non-kosher foods. It is illustrated in Tales of the Tongue by Esther Ehrenreich. Some Chasidim, following their Rabbi's instructions went to visit a certain Jewish inn. Almost immediately they found themselves interrogating the innkeeper before they would even consider eating the meat he offered to serve them. An old man told them, "My dear friends, why are you so cautious about the ritual slaughterers' identity, how many times was the meat rinsed off after it was salted, and wish to know everything about the food that goes into your mouths, yet when it comes to speech, we do not give it a second thought, and do not stop to ask ourselves whether it is permitted or not?" Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis (ob"m) in her book, Torah for Your Table adds, speaking gossip and badly of others is equated to transgressing the three cardinal sins of idolatry, immorality and murder. Unfortunately, the worldwide media glorifies gossip, regardless of how it impacts and even destroys people's lives. She adds, speech is a Divine gift, given only

(continued page 5)

* OUR ANNUAL GALA AND JOURNAL *

On **Sunday, June 30, 2019**, the Van Cortlandt Jewish center will be celebrating our Annual Gala. This year our guest of honor will be **Howard E. Kamiel**. Howard has been a member of VCJC since 1980 and has served on our Board since 2002. For 15 years he headed the High Holidays Ticket Committee. Currently he is Chair of the important Administration and Finance Committee.

Howard is a native Bronxite. He was raised in the Highbridge section but in 1970, his family moved to the Amalgamated Houses, where he still resides. He graduated from William Howard Taft High School and continued his education initially at Manhattan Community College but transferred to, and graduated from, Lehman College in 1976 with a B. A. degree in Accounting. For 34 years, he was a carrier for the United States Postal Service until his retirement in 2008. Since he retired, Howard has been very active in VCJC and community organizations. Currently, he is President of Amalgamated Houses Corp and Secretary of the Herman Liebman Memorial Fund. He is past president of A.H. Consumers. He is also a Board member of the Bronx Jewish Community Council and of its affiliated Amalgamated-Park Reservoir NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community) program.

Recently you should have received a Journal ad form with a submission deadline of May 31st. The Journal is distributed to the attendees at the Gala, sent to our advertisers and is also posted on our website. If in the past you have not taken an ad, please consider taking one this year. If you have participated in a previous journal, please consider taking a larger ad this year or upgrading to a color ad, which is now available at a small additional fee. Payment can be made by check, by Pay Pal or by credit card (with a 3% service fee).

Please join us by participating in this gala event and by being represented in our Souvenir Journal.

CANDLE LIGHTING SCHEDULE



Candle Lighting

Shabbos Ends

Fri. May 3	7:36	8:40
Fri. May 10	7:43	8:47
Fri. May 17	7:50	8:54
Fri. May 24	7:56	9:00
Fri. May 31	8:02	

Kindle the Sabbath Lights

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

☆ 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
Mon. May 6 – Rosh Chodesh Iyar	6:30
Mon. May 27 – Memorial Day	8:30

Evening Services

Friday, May 3	7:00
Saturday, May 4	7:30
Friday, May 10	7:00
Saturday, May 11	7:40
Friday, May 17	7:00
Saturday, May 18	7:45
Friday, May 24	7:00
Saturday, May 25	7:55
Friday, May 31	7:00

VAN CORTLANDT VILLAGE NOTES – MAY

REFUAH SHLEMAH

... Mickey Axelbank, Arnold Geismar, Miriam Gollop, Marcy Harris, Neil Harrow, Sabrina Heit, Elliot Kaufman, Saul Lieman, Howie Leventhal, Nathan Rosenkranz, Jules Rubinstein, Mayer Sodden, Renee Stoller, Al Tenenbaum

SINCERE SYMPATHY

... Miriam Gollop on the loss of her son Scott Gollop and Sandra Gollop & family on the loss of her husband and father, Scott Gollop.

CONGRATULATIONS:

... The Penn family congratulates Elizabeth Penn for being admitted to Yeshiva University Athletic Hall of Fame

THANK YOU

... Alan Paul Katz & Lynn Schwarz for co sponsoring the Rabbi's lecture breakfast and Holocaust Memorial breakfast.

THE CENTER LIGHT

VAN CORTLANDT JEWISH CENTER
Van Cortlandt Village
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Fax (718) 884-6106

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Rabbi	Jacob Sodden זצ"ל
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	Howard Leventhal
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Sisterhood President	Ceil Hartstein
Office Manager	Roberta Seidner
Office Assistant	Claire Haime



May 2019

26 Nisan - 26 Iyar 5779



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 26 NISAN Morning . . . 7:00	2 27 NISAN Morning . . 6:50 ★ Yom Hashoah Holocaust Memorial Day 	3 28 NISAN Morning . . 7:00 Evening . . 7:00 Candles 7:36	4 29 NISAN Achrei Mot Morning . . 8:45 Evening . . 7:30 ★ Shabbos ends 8:40
5 30 NISAN ★ Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 1 Morning . . 8:30 Holocaust Memorial Program and Breakfast 9:30 am	6 1 IYAR ★ Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 2 Morning . . 6:30	7 2 IYAR Morning . . 7:00	8 3 IYAR Morning . . 7:00 ★ Israel Memorial Day	9 4 IYAR Morning . . 6:50 ★ Yom Ha'atzmaut Israel Independence Day 	10 5 IYAR Morning . . 7:00 Evening . . 7:00 Candles 7:43	11 6 IYAR Kedoshim Morning . . 8:45 Evening . . 7:40 ★ Shabbos ends 8:47
12 7 IYAR Morning . . 8:30 Mother's Day Sisterhood Flower Sale 9 am to noon	13 8 IYAR Morning . . 6:50	14 9 IYAR Morning . . 7:00 Board meeting 7:00 pm	15 10 IYAR Morning . . 7:00	16 11 IYAR Morning . . 6:50	17 12 IYAR Morning . . 7:00 Evening . . 7:00 Candles 7:50	18 13 IYAR Emor Morning . . 8:45 Evening . . 7:45 ★ Shabbos ends 8:54
19 14 IYAR Morning . . 8:30 Pesach Sheni General Membership Meeting 9:30 am Sisterhood meeting 11 am	20 15 IYAR Morning . . 6:50	21 16 IYAR Morning . . 7:00	22 17 IYAR Morning . . 7:00	23 18 IYAR Morning . . 6:50 ★ Lag Ba'Omer	24 19 IYAR Morning . . 7:00 Evening . . 7:00 Candles 7:56	25 20 IYAR Behar Morning . . 8:45 Evening . . 7:55 ★ Shabbos ends 9:00
26 21 IYAR Morning . . 8:30	27 22 IYAR Memorial Day Morning . . 8:30 Office Closed	28 23 IYAR Morning . . 7:00	29 24 IYAR Morning . . 7:00	30 25 IYAR Morning 6:50	31 26 IYAR Morning . . 7:00 Evening . . 7:00 Candles 8:02	

☆ *Yahrzeits* ☆

<u>MAY</u>		<u>NISAN</u>
1	Anna Genshaft	26
1	Frieda Feldman	26
2	Yaakov Goldfarb	27
2	Joseph Azar	27
2	Abraham Azar	27
2	Sheine Esther Weitzman	27
2	Boruch & Chava Weitzman	27
2	Samuel Hirsch Weitzman	27
2	Anna Blassman	27
3	Aliza Balkowski	28
5	Paul Sherman	30
5	Louis Cooper	30
		<u>IYAR</u>
6	Henry Winokur	1
7	Seymour Schwarz	2
7	Jennie Goldberg	2
8	Lisa Melter	3
8	Mazalto Eskenazi	3
8	Rivkah Begun	3
8	Molly Rosenthal	3
8	Ralph Spiro	3
9	Louis Szalavitz	4
9	Nathan Rosberg	4
9	Minnie Backelman	4
9	Anna Cooper	4
9	Gussie Heller	4
9	Beatrice Leventhal	4
10	Naomi R. Kaplan	5
10	Bertha Karowitz	5
11	Jacob Pakewitz	6
12	Anna Zegman	7
12	Shirley Esther Goldstein	7
12	Abraham Belsky	7
13	Lena F. Winokur	8
14	Ida Goldstein	9
14	Ilse Dreifus	9
14	Bessie Orenge	9
15	Joseph Gill	10
15	Hyman Louis Vozick	10
16	Rose Leiken	11
16	David Schnur	11
16	Michael Walzer	11
18	Moshe Nissim Eskenazi	13
18	Minnie Nathan	13
19	Florence Portnoy	14
19	David Rosenberg	14
19	Nat Slotopolsky	14
19	Sarah Sanders	14

☆ *Yahrzeits* ☆

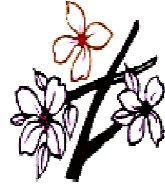
<u>MAY</u>		<u>IYAR</u>
20	Jean Baiser	15
20	Clara Carin	15
20	Jacob Cohen	15
20	Sol Rosenbloom	15
20	Rose Walzer	15
21	Irwin Wedeen	16
21	Max Axelrod	16
23	Berta Golyanova	18
23	Abraham Ghelberg	18
23	Louis Goldstein	18
23	Flora Rabinovitch	18
23	Hanka Singer	18
24	Sharon Cogan	19
24	Goldie Kleinfeld	19
24	Elka Lieman	19
26	Sheldon Weinstein	21
26	Ben Matuk Sassoon	21
26	Louis Pockler	21
27	Sally Tannenbaum Morris	22
28	David Reigot	23
28	Gabriel Markowitz	23
29	Bessie Kaplan	24
30	Esther Gassman	25
30	Max S. Birman	25
30	Sarah Heller	25
31	Hilda Brawer	26
31	Libbie Zarwanitzer	26
31	Leon Mitzner	26
31	Lillian Haber	26

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

PASSOVER
YIZKOR
APPEAL

Even if you can't attend **Yizkor** services, please consider a donation to VCJC in memory of a loved one. It will be much appreciated.

🌸 **SISTERHOOD NEWS** 🌸



May is here and that means that the Sisterhood will be holding its annual **Mother's Day Flower Sale** on **Sunday, May 12th from 9:00 am to noon** in the synagogue lobby.

By now you should have received the flyer detailing the flowers and plants that we will be selling this year. Flyers will also be available in the office. We hope that you will support the Sisterhood by placing your order on or before Wednesday, May 8th. Last year's sale was very successful and I hope that we can continue this trend. Please tell your friends and family about our sale and encourage them to order from us as well. I would like to thank Roberta and Claire for all their help in preparing and mailing the flyers. In addition I'd like to thank Jack Kleinfeld for putting the flyer on the VCJC website and Jack Spiegel for advertising in the Amalgamated weekly newsletter.

Our next meeting will be **Sunday, May 19th at 11:00 am**. At this meeting we will discuss an end of year event to be held in June as well as other important business.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Ceil Hartstein, President

RABBI'S MESSAGE - continued

to mankind. To abuse that gift is to betray that trust.

What is Loshon Hora, or improper speech, comparable to? A king was once searching for the finest royal chef. When a veteran world class chef prepared dishes, everyone was absolutely smitten by the heavenly aroma that wafted throughout the entire palace and was therefore, stunned when the king refused to even consider that candidate. The king explained, "though I too was enchanted by the aroma, I could never seriously consider his appointment, as the pots and pans the cook was using were absolutely filthy." Similarly, though G-d relishes our prayers, when they are contaminated by a mouth that relates spiritual poisons as gossip, the prayers are unable to reach the heights they otherwise might have.

In biblical times when a person spoke improper speech the Torah describes how he, his clothing and/or house would contract a skin disease known as Tzara'at, a spiritual ailment, with physical manifestations, not unlike leprosy. As a result, if pronounced "impure" by the priest, the "patient" could sometime be sent out of the Israel camp in the wilderness. This demonstrated the impact of even one word. The book, Parsha Pearls adds, "instead of feeling for his fellow as he feels towards himself, instead of respecting him and saying nice things about him, the sinner spoke negative, bad things, as if he was superior to the person against whom he spoke. He showed pride and haughtiness and separated from the person whom he slandered," (and possibly caused separation between friends or husbands and wives). Since he separated himself from his fellow Jew and caused division between others, he must, measure for measure, be sent away from the Jewish camp. Also, he is pronounced spiritually impure, implying, not only is he distanced from people; he is distanced from G-d as well. Hashem is saying, "If you haughtily place yourself above your fellow Jew and sever your closeness to him, you sever your closeness to me too!"

The book, Tell It From The Torah, explains on the verse Leviticus (14:9), "He shall shave off all his hair-his head, his beard, and his eyebrows, The three places the hair is shaved off, atone for the three reasons he receives tzara'at: Firstly, for haughtiness, feeling he's above the rest, his head is shaven. Secondly, for slander, as he uses his mouth to speak evil, the hair around his mouth is shaven. Thirdly, is the person's stinginess and inability to see any good in people. Therefore, his eyebrows are shaven. The Midrash Tanchuma says that bad speech hurts three people, the person spoken about by killing his reputation and the speaker and listener by evoking heavenly judgment upon

RABBI'S MESSAGE – continued

themselves. On the verse, "He will sit alone outside the camp" (Leviticus 13:46) some explain, a person with tzara'at is like someone who is dead, because he's on his own, away from all others, while craving companionship.

When someone mentions the attack of 9 11, everyone thinks about the cataclysmic and far reaching results. However, even on a micro view, there are significant and far reaching consequences as well in our everyday lives. In Purity of Speech the author tells of a girl who had just celebrated her engagement only to have the groom break it the very next morning. The mother in particular was inconsolable, and obsessed with finding the "culprit." She was beyond shocked when it finally came out years later that the groom overheard her innocently remark, "I hope he (the groom) can handle my daughter." Reflect on how one careless, flippant remark, by a loved one, no less, could have devastating consequences, preventing a union and generations that otherwise would have been born.

We commemorate during 33 of the 49 days between Passover and Shevuos the passing of 24,000 disciples of Rabbi Akiva, who died, "because they did not extend adequate honor to one another." Along the same lines, in the Torah, there are two birds used in the purification process. One, because of improper speech, the second, the Zohar explains, is to atone for withholding positive and encouraging speech when we are able. "The person who fails to express appreciation to a spouse, who has shown selflessness or devotion, will evoke an air of latent hostility in the home. Similarly, a parent or teacher who does not recognize the special efforts of a child or student will do damage equal to if not greater than those who indulge in the evil tongue." And what is meant by the expression that the students did not provide "adequate" honor? For example as Rabbi Frand explains, we see someone putting in extra special efforts on behalf of the community. Our compliments or heartfelt thanks are all it takes to make him want to continue his efforts. But most of us do not even notice his efforts, and if we do, we smugly decide that he must have some ulterior motives for investing those efforts. Sometime it is because of envy or jealousy.

Daily, as we come closer to the anniversary of receiving our holy Torah at Mount Sinai, may we come closer to one another and our Creator, by curtailing bad speech, while steadily increasing our positive and encouraging speech. By thereby replicating the unity at the encampment just prior to the Divine Revelation at Mount Sinai, may each of us continue to grow in character

(continued page 6)

RABBI'S MESSAGE – continued

development and spirituality and thereby merit receiving our portion of the holy Torah anew. Amen.

Shalom, Rabbi David Eliezer Borenstein

*** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING *** **SUNDAY, MAY 19th**

A General Membership meeting of the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center will be held in the Main Sanctuary on **Sunday, May 19th at 10:00 am**. Bagels and coffee will be served about a half hour before the meeting.

The agenda will be the election of all officers, four (4) Trustees to serve a three-year term expiring June 30, 2022, one (1) Trustee to serve a two-year term expiring June 30, 2021, and any other business that may lawfully be brought before the membership. **Please note that in order to be eligible to vote or be elected to the Board, you must have paid your membership dues for the 2018 - 2019 year.** In addition, in order to be elected to the Board, a member must either be present at the meeting or have sent in a written acceptance of a nomination.

The terms of the following Trustees expire on June 30, 2019, and they will either be re-elected or be replaced at this election.

Term Expires June 30, 2019

Ceil Hartstein, Howard Kamiel, Stanley Krell, Merrill Penn

Appointment Expires June 30, 2019

Phil Baiser, Marvin Kamiel

For your information, the terms of the following Trustees continue into 2020 and 2021 and do not require re-election:

Term Expires June 30, 2020

Glenn Fleischman, Charlotte Ganberg, Neil Harrow,
Sam Sussman

Term Expires June 30, 2021

Marcy Harris, Jack Kleinfeld, Jack Spiegel

Please make every effort to attend this important meeting and participate in the governance of your synagogue.

The by-laws require at least **twenty (20)** members for a valid meeting. Your attendance will help fulfill this requirement.

Marc Friedman, Secretary

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 \$100.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ISRAEL AT 71
SHABBOS LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, JUNE 1st

Following morning services
approx. noon

flyers will go out shortly

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If you wish to sponsor a Kiddush or Shalosh Seudos, 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



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✓ **REMINDER**

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

✓ **DATES TO REMEMBER**

May 2 – YOM HASHOAH
 Holocaust Memorial Day

May 5 – YOM HASHOAH MEMORIAL at VCJC

May 9 – YOM HA'ATZMAUT
 Israel Independence Day

May 12 – MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 19 – GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

May 27 – MEMORIAL DAY

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