

CENTER LIGHT



VAN CORTLANDT JEWISH CENTER



www.vcjewishcenter.org

JUNE 2019

Iyar - Sivan 5779

Rabbi Borenstein's Farewell

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★ SHAVUOS SCHEDULE ★

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 – EREV SHAVUOT

Evening 8:05 pm
🕯 **Candles** 9:11 pm
or later

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 – SHAVUOT – 1st Day

Morning 8:45 am
Evening 8:10 pm
🕯 **Candles** 9:12 pm
or later

MONDAY, JUNE 10 – SHAVUOT – 2nd Day

Morning 8:45 am
Yizkorapprox..... 10:30 am
Evening 8:05 pm
Yom Tov ends 9:12 pm

Chag Sameach Shavuot!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2019

A General Membership Meeting was held on Sunday, May 19th. During this meeting the following Officers and Board of Trustees members were elected. Note that for the first time in many years, there are some changes in the elected officers:

President:	Robert Gillman
1st Vice President:	Stuart Harris
2nd Vice President:	<vacant>
Treasurer:	Phillip Friedman
Secretary:	Ceil Hartstein

Board Members for a 3-year term:

Stanley Krell
Merrill Pen
Howard Kamiel
Marc Friedman

The 2-year Board of Trustees position remains vacant.

Following the elections, it was reported that the **Committee for the Future of VCJC** had met and determined our continuing to operate in the current building is not economically feasible. Looking to sell the building and move to another location (or pursue other options) would be necessary. The Board of Trustees had approved the request of the committee to start looking at these options, with the details of any final sale required to be approved by the Board and the membership.

The membership was asked to also approve this request, so that the various options involved with such a sale could be investigated. After much discussion it was decided that a Special Membership meeting would be called, with appropriate financial information sent to the membership beforehand, so that they could make as informed a decision on this matter as the Board of Trustees had.

Marc Friedman - Secretary

CANDLE LIGHTING SCHEDULE



<u>Candle Lighting</u>		<u>Shabbos Ends</u>
Sat. June 1		9:06
Fri. June 7	8:07	
Sat. June 8	9:11 or later	
Sun. June 9	9:12 or later	
Fri. June 14	8:10	9:12
Fri. June 21	8:12	9:16
Fri. June 28	8:13	9:17

Kindle the Sabbath Lights

HAPPY FATHER'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
Tues. June 4 – Rosh Chodesh Sivan	6:30
Sun. & Mon June 9 & 10 – Shavuot	8:45

Evening Services

Saturday, June 1	8:00
Friday, June 7	7:00
Saturday, June 8	8:05
Sunday, June 9 Shavuot Day 1	8:10
Monday, June 10 Shavuot Day 2	8:05
Friday, June 14	7:00
Saturday, June 15	8:10
Friday, June 21	7:00
Saturday, June 22	8:10
Friday, June 28	7:00
Saturday, June 29	8:10

VAN CORTLANDT VILLAGE NOTES – JUNE

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

... to Caryl Rich Armand & Howard Rich & their families, on the loss of their mother, Thelma Rich Weinstein. Thelma was a member of the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center for many years.

... Cliff Stanton & family on the loss of his mother, Frieda Stanton. She was 97 years old.

MAZEL TOV

... Harriet Sassoon & Stephen Oppenheimer on their recent marriage.

... Phil Friedman on the marriage of his grandson, Sholmo Friedman to Peninah Feinberg. Mazel Tov to Shlomo's parents Elliott and Lorey Friedman and his five siblings, his grandmother Marilyn Axel, his Uncles Marvin and Marc Friedman and the entire Feinberg family.

THE CENTER LIGHT

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Affiliated with the Union of Orthodox Jewish
 Congregations of America

Rabbi	David Borenstein
Rabbi	Jacob Sodden ז"ר
President	Robert Gillman
Vice President	Stuart Harris
Treasurer	Phillip Friedman
Secretary	Ceil Hartstein
Sisterhood President	Ceil Hartstein
Office Manager	Roberta Seidner
Office Assistant	Claire Haime



June 2019

27 Iyar - 27 Sivan 5779



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 27 IYAR Bechukotai Morning . . 8:45 Evening . . 8:00 Shabbos ends 9:06
2 28 IYAR Yom Yerushalayim Morning . . 8:30	3 29 IYAR Morning . . 6:50	4 1 SIVAN Rosh Chodesh Sivan Morning . . 6:30	5 2 SIVAN Morning . . 7:00	6 3 SIVAN Morning . . 6:50	7 4 SIVAN Morning . . 7:00 Evening . . 7:00 Candles 8:07	8 5 SIVAN Bamidbar Morning . . 8:45 Evening . . 8:05 Erev Shavuot Candles 9:11 or later
9 6 SIVAN Shavuos - Day 1 Morning . . 8:45 Evening . . 8:10 Candles 9:12 or later	10 7 SIVAN Shavuos - Day 2 Morning . . 8:45 Yizkor 10:30 Evening . . 8:05 Yom Tov ends 9:12	11 8 SIVAN Morning . . 7:00 Board meeting 7 pm	12 9 SIVAN Morning . . 7:00	13 10 SIVAN Morning . . 6:50	14 11 SIVAN Morning . . 7:00 Evening . . 7:00 Candles 8:10 Flag Day	15 12 SIVAN Nasso Morning . . 8:45 Evening . . 8:10 Shabbos ends 9:12
16 13 SIVAN Morning . . 8:30 Father's Day	17 14 SIVAN Morning . . 6:50	18 15 SIVAN Morning . . 7:00	19 16 SIVAN Morning . . 7:00	20 17 SIVAN Morning . . 6:50 Administration and Finance Committee meeting .. 7 pm	21 18 SIVAN Morning . . 7:00 Evening . . 7:00 Candles 8:12 Summer Begins	22 19 SIVAN Beha' Alotecha Morning . . 8:45 Evening . . 8:10 Shabbos ends 9:16
23 20 SIVAN Morning . . 8:30	24 21 SIVAN Morning . . 6:50	25 22 SIVAN Morning . . 7:00	26 23 SIVAN Morning . . 7:00	27 24 SIVAN Morning . . 6:50	28 25 SIVAN Morning . . 7:00 Evening . . 7:00 Candles 8:13	29 26 SIVAN Sh'Lach Morning . . 8:45 Evening . . 8:10 Shabbos ends 9:17
30 27 SIVAN Morning . . 8:30 Annual Gala 12 Noon Hebrew Institute of Riverdale						

☆ *Yahrzeits* ☆

<u>JUNE</u>		<u>IYAR</u>
1	Ethel Asofsky	27
1	Paul Feltman	27
1	Rachel Bari B Yisrael	27
1	Betty Bloomberg	27
1	Solomon Benjamin Jussim	27
2	Flora Kligerman	28
2	Yetta Silverman	28
2	Milton Kwastel	28
2	Alexander Frey	28
3	Toby Rosen	29
		<u>SIVAN</u>
5	Tessie Glatter	2
5	Benjamin Lieman	2
6	Sadie Pockler	3
6	Pesach Herzal	3
7	Samuel Fader	4
7	Irving Satosky	4
7	Martin Shapiro	4
8	Hyman Dodell	5
8	Louis Kogan	5
9	Ida Schacter	6
11	Adele Schwell	8
11	Morris Mann	8
12	Max Chasan	9
12	Henrietta Rita Kestin	9
12	Clara Stoller	9
12	Elsie Levine	9
12	Herb Saffir	9
14	Joseph Sachwald	11
14	Morton Josephs	11
14	Ella Salant	11
14	Shirley Weinstein	12
15	Abraham Cohen	12
16	Marvin Penn	13
16	Gussie Halberg	13
16	Shirley Weinstein	13
16	Ruth Shapiro	13
16	Carrie Friedland	13
17	Harry Lieboff	14
17	Stuart Sides	14
17	Lillian Geibar Kozik	14
18	Emil Roth	15
18	Gaston Tenenbaum	15
18	Samuel Rudich	15
19	Louis Altfest	16
21	Florence Recht	18

☆ *Yahrzeits* ☆

<u>JUNE</u>		<u>SIVAN</u>
22	Charles Cohen	19
23	Lena Rothman	20
23	Bessie Glazer	20
24	Ida Emmer	21
25	Hyman Brawer	22
25	Barry Bravin	22
26	Irving Imas	23
27	Morris Kuperberg	24
28	Yetta Hornstein	25
28	David Rothman	25
29	Dessie Itkin	26
30	Surka Rivka Olk	27
30	Joseph Kaufman	27
30	Sidney Horn	27
30	Abraham Weiss	27



SHAVUOS
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** 🌸

On Sunday, May 19th the Sisterhood had its last meeting of the season. It was great seeing everyone especially since we have not had many meetings this year. We discussed our Mother's Day Flower Sale and how it was a successful endeavor. We sold about \$400 worth of flowers and our profit was \$177.00. I'd like to thank all the people who supported our sale by purchasing the beautiful plants and flowers supplied by Columbia Florist. I'd also like to thank Roberta & Claire for all that they do to make my job a little easier. In addition thanks to Ismael for setting and cleaning up. Finally, thanks to Jack Kleinfeld for his reminder Robo call and Jack Spiegel for putting an ad in the Co-op Weekly Bulletin.

Sharon Godlewicz gave a financial report and based on our bank balance we were able to make some decisions about upcoming donations to the Shul. It was decided that we will take a half page journal ad for \$200 in honor of Howard Kamiel. We will also be making a donation towards the Yizkor appeal on Shavuot.

This year I am the co-chairperson of our Journal Gala which is being held at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale on Sunday, June 30th. The caterer this year is 8th Day Caterers who will prepare and serve a delicious buffet style luncheon with something for everyone. I strongly encourage you to make a reservation to attend this wonderful event and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Sisterhood wishes all our friends and neighbors in the Van Cortlandt Synagogue and beyond a very Happy & Healthy Shavuot!

Wishing everyone a wonderful and peaceful summer!

Ceil Hartstein, President

RABBI'S GRATITUDE MESSAGE

This is my last official Rabbi's Message for the Center Light column, as many of you are aware, I will soon be going on Aliyah, to settle in Israel, due to family obligations. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to reflect on my tenure of close to a decade as the Rabbi and spiritual leader of the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center as well as to salute some of the people who are an integral part of our synagogue.

Gratitude is one of the most fundamental of Jewish traits. The very first word we say upon rising every morning is "modeh" meaning "I acknowledge", G-d for returning my soul to me each day. The Hebrew word for Jew is Yehudi, meaning thankfulness and has the 4 letters of G-d's name in it connoting that He alone is the source of everything that we have in life. In addition, we just celebrated Passover, and during the Seder we discussed the "Bikurim" or the first fruits that had to be brought to the Temple in Jerusalem, with a specific script articulating our thanks to Hashem. Finally, we are all familiar with the Seder song "Dayeinu" delineating so many things for which to be grateful to G-d. In the spirit of Dayeinu I will elaborate on my immense gratitude to Hashem.

I am grateful to Joel Garfinkel who repeatedly approached me asking that I consider applying for the position of Rabbi of the VCJC, and fortunately, finally wore me down. Also, Bonnie would give Hebrew classes and they were both active in the shul's NCSY program for years. May they have everything good in their relocation. From the very first time I met Bob Gillman, our shul's President for well over the past decade, it was readily apparent that he is a real Mensch, the highest compliment in my estimation. Bob did not seek his position, but as he was needed he agreed to continue. I could always call upon him and he would grant requests he felt were reasonable. May he and Laura have good health, nachas from their family and everything good.

I consider it a great privilege and distinct honor to share Torah thoughts even with a single individual and even one time. To be able to do so publicly, to teach, guide and inspire a Congregation, (particularly one over ninety years old, as prestigious as the VCJC), on an ongoing basis, multiplies that merit exponentially, and is beyond incredible. Whether instructing overviews of the Torah portion and Haftorah, a Shabbos or Holiday sermon, a Shabbos afternoon class, and teaching between Mincha and Maariv, and the monthly Rabbi's message in the Center Light, as well as the lecture series. The lecture series included speakers such as, Rabbi Pesach Krohn, Rabbi Jared Vidders, and Rabbi Manny Vinnis, as well as the Project Inspire trainings. For the last several years I also had the special merit of publicly reading the Torah on Shabbos and Festivals.

I very much enjoyed officiating at the shul's Pesach Seders, and Passover and Succos Meals, as well the State of Israel luncheons. There were many memorable interchanges at these occasions by participants. It was also meaningful speaking on Tisha B'Av by Kinos and then viewing together the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation movies. Song is also one of my great loves, and I enjoyed immensely leading the Carlebach style

Kabbalas Shabbos for Shabbat Across America and including the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach's heavenly tunes in the Friday night services. I also loved initiating the singing of Zemiros at Shalosh Seudos as well as leading the Grace after meals. In addition, initiating songs at the Simchas Beis Hashoeva on Succos, and at Shalosh Seudos for Tu B'Shvat accompanied by song sheets. It was also memorable having the lively dancing on Simchas Torah with Congregants inside the main Sanctuary and briefly outside.

I tried to make myself accessible for Halacha as well as other types of questions, and from time to time visit members in their homes or who were either in the hospital, rehab or nursing facilities and share regards and encouragement. There were Aufrufs, weddings and Bris' we celebrated together. Also, unfortunately, funerals we attended, including several Holocaust Survivors. These were followed by shiva calls and often paying tribute to the deceased by dedicating the Shabbos sermon and /or a monthly Center Light article in their memory. Also, speaking at unveilings and at Shalosh Seudos sponsored about the time of their relative's yahrzeit, i.e. anniversary of their passings.

Predating my becoming the shul's Rabbi, I served eighteen years as the Social Worker at Graenum Berger Bronx Jewish Federation Service Center on the Grand Concourse, beginning in 1992, and concurrently for 2009-2010. That year a particularly fond memory was of my calling in one morning to say I'd be delayed arriving at Graenum Berger. The reason was there were two brothers, Michael and Phil Baiser, who so desperately wanted to learn how to recite the mourner's Kaddish and Kaddish D'Rabbanon, (considered a public sanctification of G-d's name), to honor the memory of their just dearly departed parent, yet they didn't know how. I spent over an hour reviewing it with them until they mastered fluency. As a result, they almost never missed a minyan, not just during the first 11 months that Kaddish is recited, but even for years afterward, (including Mincha) insuring having a minyan countless times, we otherwise clearly would not have had. I have always felt that was one of my life's most productive hours.

Although I have attended minyans in many locales, it is readily apparent, here, at the VCJC, where we often face a challenge finding a minyan that every single person counts, not just figuratively but literally. This constantly reminds us of the importance of each and every person, word and action. Also, Howard E. Kamiel, this year's special Journal Gala Honoree, often comes to our daily Minyan to help ensure our ability to read the Torah and say the Kaddish. Similarly, our good friend and neighbor Yom Tov Cohen who runs Montefiore's Synagogue and Bikur Cholim for decades, and still makes time on Shabbos afternoons to assure that we have a minyan. Leo Schechter and Betzalel Kvetnoy come from a distance and brave the toughest elements to help complete our daily minyans. Any discussion about the minyans would be incomplete without mentioning the unenviable job of the Gabayim who call and reach out to try and ensure a minyan. These include most recently Michael Katz and prior, for a very long time, Mr. Neil Harrow. As Gabai, Neil would give out all the aliyahs, make all the prayers for those ill, and say Kaddish for all the yahrzeits as well as call and visit the sick. Neil

wore many other hats here as well, including Chairman of the Education Committee, which instituted the Pesach and Succos Meals and the Tu B'Shavat Shalosh Seudos. Also, something he seldom mentions, Chairman of the Board.

I was always extremely impressed by the large number of members that are officers and serve on the numerous committees the shul has. May they continue to do so for many years to come, and may G-d watch over them and bless them. We are all indebted to Daniela for allowing me to travel to NY for Shabbos, High Holidays and the three Pilgrim Festivals, and joining us every year for the Pesach Seders. Also, periodically, joining us for Shabbos, when she would purchase the ingredients and prepare delicious hot cholents for the Congregation's Kiddush. May Hashem always abundantly shower her and our entire family with every manner of blessing in this world and the next. Also, special thanks to Phil Friedman, our Vice President, for making it possible for me to continue at the shul, by accommodating my schedule. In addition, for allowing me much latitude with my articles in the Center Light, that he serves as editor. I am amazed by the countless Sunday mornings I'd see him, a CPA and former Budget Director of organizations, with his son Marc in the shul office, expertly maintaining the financial records, producing biannual statements of receipts and expenses and other vital programs to ensure the continuity of VCJC.

Howie Leventhal, who has just stepped down as our other Vice President, was in charge for years for placing the Shabbos and Holiday service page numbers on the board enabling everyone to follow it and the Torah reading. Howie also initiated Shabbat Across America and other programs at our Synagogue. May he and Jackie enjoy good health for many years to come. Also a special thank you to David Leventhal who helped me in editing the Rabbi's Message for an extensive period. More recently, thanks to Stu Trivax for editing. Also special thanks to Stu Trivax who with Michael Baiser would help build the Succah each year. Stu also donated in his Parents memory the bookcase in the daily Chapel, housing over 160 English Language Judaica, I put on loan to the VCJC, and will continue to be housed there for members use. Also, he always helps me carry my many Judaica before and after my classes before I can even ask, and others have already begun following his sterling example. Sabrina Heit has purchased Succah decorations and has been decorating the shul Succah for years. In addition to raising large amounts of money through Journal ads, she has resurrected the shul's Kristalnacht Observance that Arnold Geismar originally implemented.

Our primary speaker at the Kristalnacht gathering and Holocaust Remembrance is usually Larry Hartstein, an eloquent speaker who's talks are always informative, comprehensive and riveting. Larry, who unfortunately lost many relatives in the Holocaust, leads our Yizkor services. His wife, Ceil, is the new president of the Sisterhood. Matthew Hartstein calls up people to the Torah, and together with his father, Phil and Marc Friedman and Ben-Z Panush lead most of the Shabbos, Festival and daily prayers. Ben Z has a beautiful rendition of the Megilos, and assists as gabbai with miserberachs for the ill.

Stu Harris has been the shul's Treasurer and always following up on whatever needs

attention. Together with his wife Marcy, they shop for the sponsored Shalosh Seudos and Breakfasts for the Lecture series. Marcy is truly amazing preparing for the Annual Bazaar/Carnival and auctions, as well as variety shows. Also, dealing with the caterers for all the menus and orders for each event. Special thanks to Roberta and Claire our long time loyal office staff for all of their devoted and tireless work.

Rabbi Meyer Soddin lained (read the Torah) beautifully for many years, as well as reading the Megillah of Esther on Purim. He has a special gift when it comes to sounding the Shofar clear and loud. Also thanks to Moshe Nachman our Baal Mussaf on the High Holy days. Special thanks to Jack Kleinfeld, who as our new Chairman of the Board has already implemented valuable upgrades to the VCJC.

Ismael Bernard has been at VCJC twice as long as me. He puts up the walls and posters of the Succah, plows a path through the snow allowing us to have a minyan, sets up and cleans up after all the Kiddush's, Luncheons, Succos and Pesach Meals and Seders, besides serving. Also, usually setting up Shalosh Seudos. Perhaps most importantly his ready smile. May he be consoled upon the passing of his sister and parents and may his wife, Miriam be consoled on the recent loss of her father.

Many thanks to various Rabbis who have contributed to the VCJC including R. Goodman, R. Kivelevits, R. Simon, R. Vidders, Rabbi Ferber and Scott Smith. I have learned of numerous people who give freely of their, time, money and energy, to the shul, but I will respect their requests not to divulge their identities, A special thanks to Alan Paul Katz for recently placing a Torah on loan to VCJC so we can more easily do Hagbah or lift it for weekday services. May his parents and relatives souls be elevated. As we approach Israel Independence Day, we all owe a debt of gratitude to Daniel and Michelle Sullivan for their service to the IDF. I wholeheartedly apologize to anyone I may have inadvertently overlooked. As is obvious, for a shul to be successful, it needs the involvement of many people filling different roles. May the VCJC please G-d soon find, a Rabbi that is wise, warm, inspiring and personable to replace myself.

There is a teaching that when the Messiah comes, all the synagogues in the Diaspora will come to Israel. I look forward to being reunited with you all on that day. In the interim, anyone visiting Israel please feel free to contact me so that I can greet you. In addition, for those interested, I would be honored to be your emissary to recite holy prayers for your loved ones in the Holy land, (whether Kaddish, or special personal requests, or just to be in touch, please contact me by email [allow1013@gmail.com]). Towards the conclusion of the Seder we say, Next Year in Jerusalem, which can also be interpreted as this unfolding year. We will certainly miss you all very, very much. May Hashem watch over everyone and grant you all the desires of your hearts for good. Amein.

*Shalom,
Rabbi David Eliezer Borenstein and Family*

RABBI DAVID BORENSTEIN - HIS BIOGRAPHY

In September 2009, after a 2 ½ year search, Rabbi Borenstein was appointed the new rabbi of the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center, succeeding our beloved Rabbi Jacob Sodden, obm, who had served our synagogue for 60 years. Rabbi Borenstein came to the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center with no prior experience as a pulpit rabbi, but with his boundless energy and drive, he has taken our congregation to a new level of vitality.

Rabbi Borenstein spent his earliest years in Brooklyn, but when he was only 5 years old, his parents, Seymour and Rose Borenstein, moved the family to Far Rockaway, Queens, where the family resided for the next fifty years. In addition to Rabbi Borenstein, his parents had two sons and two daughters.

His father's parents were both born and raised in Poland and emigrated to the United States before World War II, during which his father served in the military. For a "small world" coincidence, Seymour Borenstein regularly attended the Alabama Avenue shul, where Rabbi Yitzchock Sodden, Rabbi Jacob Sodden's father, presided. Seymour Borenstein was initially a full charge bookkeeper, their office manager and Vice President of his textile firm, for 25 years. His mother's parents came from Russia and emigrated to this country. His mother was busy raising a family and was heavily involved in Jewish communal affairs in Far Rockaway. She and some aunts established a free loan society and began distribution of Shabbos packages for the needy, the predecessor of what is now called Yad Yeshaya.

Rabbi Borenstein credits his parents with being his primary inspiration and motivator in his following a life-long pursuit of Jewish learning and building a career in social work, culminating in his coming to the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center as our rabbi.

Rabbi Borenstein graduated from Yeshiva Derech Ayson (Yeshiva of Far Rockaway) in 1974 as the Judaic Studies Salutatorian. Subsequently, he attended Yeshiva Derech Chaim in Brooklyn, Mesifita Tifereth Jerusalem/Staten Island, and Yeshiva Torah Vodaath in Brooklyn, where he received his semicha (ordination).

He then attended Brooklyn College and received his undergraduate degree from Audrey Cohen College in 1990. Inspired to follow a career in social work, he went to Wurzweiler School of Social Work of Yeshiva University, where he graduated with a Master's in Social Work (MSW) three years later. He is also licensed as a Certified Social Worker (CSW).

(continued)

From 1986 to 1992, while he was going to college, he worked successfully as Director of the Brookdale Education Center of Agudath Israel, a caseworker/supervisor for Ohel Community Adult Residence and Day Manager of Community Residence for Pesach-Tikvah-Hope Development, all in Brooklyn. In 1992, he became a Social Worker/Coordinator for the Graenum Berger Jewish Federation Service Center in the Bronx, where he remained for 18 years until the Center closed in 2010.

At the Service Center, in addition to the regular case management services, Rabbi Borenstein was responsible for coordinating and supervising many important programs for the Bronx Jewish community. Those included the Telephone Reassurance Program, Passover Food Box, Seder Meals to the Home, cemetery visits before the High Holidays, and Holiday Food Box. He also personally conducted annual Passover Seders, including the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center. For about 15 years, he also coordinated Thanksgiving, Chanukah and Purim lunches for over 100 Bronx Jewish residents, including those at the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center

At the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center, Rabbi Borenstein originally was engaged as a "part time" rabbi (we can all smile at that). Within a short time after beginning as our rabbi, he showed his total commitment to our shul by moving from Far Rockaway, where he had resided for most of his life, to Van Cortlandt Village, and now lives in the Amalgamated Houses.

Each Shabbos and major holidays, he gives overviews of the day's Torah and Haftorah portion and delivers an inspiring sermon. On Shabbos, he also conducts an instructional class 45 minutes before the afternoon service. He organized an adult Torah lecture series, giving some of the lectures himself, writes a monthly column for the Center Light, leads festival seminars, Shalosh Seudos, Succah and holiday meals, officiates at High Holiday services, conducts marvelous Passover Seders, officiates at burials, unveilings and weddings and leads all the Kinus and Selichos services. When our regular Torah reader, Rabbi Mayer Sodden had to step down, Rabbi Borenstein took over and has been our regular reader for the past five years. In addition, he is heavily involved in all of the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center's special events, such as Shabbat Across America, Holocaust Memorial, and Israel Independence Day. Quite a load for a "part-time" rabbi!

In 2014, Rabbi Borenstein was chosen as the honoree of our Annual dinner. The dinner honoring Rabbi Borenstein
(continued page 10)

RABBI DAVID BORENSTEIN – continued

was only the second of two major events in his recent life. On April 29th, Rabbi Borenstein married Daniela Rochel Sullivan in Baltimore, MD. Although Rabbi Borenstein had the obvious option on having his aufruf in Far Rockaway, his life-long home, he chose to have it at the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center. We were greatly honored by this choice.

During the nine years he has been our spiritual leader, Rabbi Borenstein has become an inspiration to us all. He has provided a vitality not only to our weekly Shabbos and our various Holiday services, but also to our many special events. His leading of our singing and many inspirational messages have provided our new dimension to our events. He will be sorely missed and we wish him and his family only good health and happiness as they make aliyah to Israel.

REBBETZIN DANIELA BORENSTEIN

On April 29, 2014, Rabbi David Borenstein married Daniela Rochel Sullivan in Baltimore, MD, the bride's hometown. Daniela, has an international background, dividing her life into three almost equal segments in three different countries. She was born and raised in Paris, France. At the age of 16, her family made aliyah to Israel. Fifteen years later, Daniela emigrated to the United States, moving to Baltimore, where she lived for the past 15 years.

Her father, Joseph Bitty, was a very bright engineer who had graduated from the renowned Polytechnic School of Paris. He had a promising career as a Director of Marketing in a major Paris company, when he suffered a brain tumor. He moved to Israel where he realized his dream of learning in a Yeshiva in Jerusalem. Subsequently, he passed away in 1995. Daniela's mother, Dr. Livnat Bitty is a psychiatrist and currently lives in Jerusalem.

Daniela's brother, Yehuda lives with his wife, Tehilah, and their six children in Bet-El near Jerusalem. Her younger sister, Devorah is married to Eyal Chadad. They live in Moshav Tekomah in southern Israel with their two daughters.

Daniela has been married previously and has a number of children, five of whom currently live at home. Currently, she is a wig designer and instructor, training people in how to create and manufacture various types of wigs.

Since their marriage, Daniela has joined us on a number of Shabbosim. On many of these occasions, she has surprised us with two large portions of her delicious cholent, one with meat and the other meatless. She also has joined us each Passover for our community Seder, providing excellent brief talks each time. She has become an integral part of VCJC and will be sorely missed.

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.

Wishing Everyone a Chag Sameach Shavuot!

Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks,
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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**

Sunday, June 9 – **Shavuot 1st Day**
 Monday, June 10 – **Shavuot 2nd Day**

Friday, June 14 – **Flag Day**

Sunday, June 16 – **Father's Day**

Friday, June 21 – **Summer Begins**

Sunday, June 30 – **Gala Journal Honoring Howard E. Kamiel**
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