

# CENTER LIGHT



## VAN CORTLANDT JEWISH CENTER



[www.vcjewishcenter.org](http://www.vcjewishcenter.org)

**J U L Y 2019**

**Sivan - Tammuz 5779**

### VCJC ANNUAL GALA HONORING HOWARD E. KAMIEL



On Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center held its 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Journal Gala honoring Howard E. Kaniel. This year's event was held in the ballroom of Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, and catered by 8<sup>th</sup> Day Caterers. Both the venue and caterer were new this year since the Riverdale K Grill House, which had been both the venue and caterer for the previous two years, had gone out of business. The event was co-chaired by Ceil Hartstein and Phil Friedman.

The event began with a cocktail hour, featuring hors d'oeuvres passed around by the serving staff. As had become traditional, the formal program was opened by our President, Bob Gillman, welcoming everybody to the event. Bob then introduced our State Assemblyman, Jeffrey Dinowitz, who spoke of his longstanding connection with VCJC. In a unique move, Mr. Dinowitz presented a proclamation to our honoree, but then took it back to correct an error in the proclamation, which had erroneously stated that Howard had been retired for four decades (he actually retired in 2008, only one decade ago).

The program was then turned over to the MC for the afternoon, Ceil Hartstein, co-chair of the Journal Gala committee. Ceil led in the singing of the Star-Spangled Banner. This was followed by Rabbi David Borenstein leading the singing of Hatikvah, which was most

(continued page 6)

### AN UPDATE TO THE COMMUNITY ON THE POSSIBLE SALE OF THE VCJC BUILDING

The June issue of the Center Light had a report on the May General Membership meeting. It cited a request made to the membership to approve the plan to sell the building because of economic reasons, which was not accepted at that meeting.

Instead, we were directed to develop written material outlining the situation and justifying the need for the sale. We were further directed to then hold a Special Membership meeting to discuss and seek approval.

It is the position of the officers and the Committee for the Future of the VCJC that we want that approval BEFORE investing a lot of time and effort, and possibly some money, in pursuing a sale that might ultimately be denied by the membership.

Having said that, the Center Light notice has generated a lot of concern and rumors in the neighborhood and community, as well as with our tenants. This article is meant to clarify the current situation, quell the rumors, and let you know what is and is not happening.

The Board of Trustees has had a regular meeting since the General Membership meeting and the Center Light article. It approved the following motion.

Whereas the VCJC is now in its fourth location, and whereas we do not wish to dissolve the congregation, and whereas our financial situation does not support our continuing to own the current building, the Board approves efforts to explore the options to sell the building and further approves, subject to final Board and membership approval of the details of any sales agreement, the sale of the building.

(continued page 5)

# CANDLE LIGHTING SCHEDULE



<u>Candle Lighting</u>		<u>Shabbos Ends</u>
Fri. July 5	8:12	
Sat. July 6		9:16
Fri. July 12	8:09	
Sat. July 13		9:13
Fri. July 19	8:05	
Sat. July 20		9:09
Fri. July 26	7:59	
Sat. July 27		9:03

*Kindle the Sabbath Lights*

# VAN CORTLANDT VILLAGE NOTES - JULY

## REFUAH SHLEMAH

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

## MAZEL TOV

. . . Marcia Panken Miller & Paul Miller on the birth of a grandson, Samuel Ethan Fox, born to their daughter and son in law, Sara Courtney Miller Fox & Neil Aaron Fox. Mazel Tov also to Renee Stoller on the birth of a great nephew.

## ☀ SUMMER HOURS ☀

Beginning July 8<sup>th</sup>

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

## ☆ 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
<b>Wed., July 3 -</b>	
<b>Rosh Chodesh Tammuz - Day 1</b>	<b>6:30</b>
<b>Thurs. July 4 - (Independence Day)</b>	
<b>Rosh Chodesh Tammuz - Day 2</b>	<b>8:30</b>

### Evening Services

Friday, July 5	7:00
Saturday, July 6	<b>8:10</b>
Friday, July 12	7:00
<b>Saturday, July 13</b>	<b>8:05</b>
Friday, July 19	7:00
<b>Saturday, July 20</b>	<b>8:00</b>
Friday, July 26	7:00
<b>Saturday, July 27</b>	<b>7:55</b>

**Sunday, July 21 is the Fast of Tammuz**

## THE CENTER LIGHT

**VAN CORTLANDT JEWISH CENTER**  
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Rabbi	Jacob Sodden זצ"ל
President	Robert Gillman
Vice President	Stuart Harris
Treasurer	Phillip Friedman
Secretary	Ceil Hartstein
Sisterhood President	Ceil Hartstein

Office Manager  
Office Assistant

Roberta Seidner  
Claire Haime



# July 2019

28 Sivan - 28 Tammuz 5779



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 28 SIVAN Morning .. 6:50	<b>2</b> 29 SIVAN Morning .. 7:00 ► <b>Finance and Administration Committee meeting 7 pm</b>	<b>3</b> 30 SIVAN ✧ <b>Rosh Chodesh Tammuz - Day 1</b> Morning .. 6:30	<b>4</b> 1 TAMMUZ ✧ <b>Rosh Chodesh Tammuz - Day 2</b> 🇺🇸 <b>Independence Day</b> Morning .. 8:30 (office closed)	<b>5</b> 2 TAMMUZ Morning .. 7:00 Evening .. 7:00 🕯️ <b>Candles 8:12</b>	<b>6</b> 3 TAMMUZ 🏠 <b>Korach</b> Morning .. 8:45 Evening .. 8:10 ✨ <b>Shabbos ends 9:16</b>
<b>7</b> 4 TAMMUZ Morning .. 8:30 ► <b>Ritual Committee meeting 10 am</b>	<b>8</b> 5 TAMMUZ Morning .. 6:50	<b>9</b> 6 TAMMUZ Morning .. 7:00 ► <b>Board meeting 7 pm</b>	<b>10</b> 7 TAMMUZ Morning .. 7:00	<b>11</b> 8 TAMMUZ Morning .. 6:50	<b>12</b> 9 TAMMUZ Morning .. 7:00 Evening .. 7:00 🕯️ <b>Candles 8:09</b>	<b>13</b> 10 TAMMUZ 🏠 <b>Chukat</b> Morning .. 8:45 Evening .. 8:05 ✨ <b>Shabbos ends 9:13</b>
<b>14</b> 11 TAMMUZ Morning .. 8:30	<b>15</b> 12 TAMMUZ Morning .. 6:50	<b>16</b> 13 TAMMUZ Morning .. 7:00	<b>17</b> 14 TAMMUZ Morning .. 7:00	<b>18</b> 15 TAMMUZ Morning .. 6:50	<b>19</b> 16 TAMMUZ Morning .. 7:00 Evening .. 7:00 🕯️ <b>Candles 8:05</b>	<b>20</b> 17 TAMMUZ 🏠 <b>Balak</b> Morning .. 8:45 Evening .. 8:00 ✨ <b>Shabbos ends 9:09</b>
<b>21</b> 18 TAMMUZ Morning .. 8:30 ✨ <b>Fast of Tammuz</b>	<b>22</b> 19 TAMMUZ Morning .. 6:50	<b>23</b> 20 TAMMUZ Morning .. 7:00	<b>24</b> 21 TAMMUZ Morning .. 7:00	<b>25</b> 22 TAMMUZ Morning .. 6:50	<b>26</b> 23 TAMMUZ Morning .. 7:00 Evening .. 7:00 🕯️ <b>Candles 7:59</b>	<b>27</b> 24 TAMMUZ 🏠 <b>Pinchas</b> Morning .. 8:45 Evening .. 7:55 ✨ <b>Shabbos ends 9:03</b>
<b>28</b> 25 TAMMUZ Morning .. 8:30	<b>29</b> 26 TAMMUZ Morning .. 6:50	<b>30</b> 27 TAMMUZ Morning .. 7:00	<b>31</b> 28 TAMMUZ Morning .. 7:00			

☆ *Yahrzeits* ☆

JULY

SIVAN

1	Sylvia Heilwell	28
1	Sol Heller	28
1	Sarah Ann Satine	28
2	Yetta Jablonka	29
2	Ernest Farrago	29
<u>TAMMUZ</u>		
4	Fannie Wilk	1
4	Claire Altfest	1
5	Fred Berger	2
5	Joseph Gurman	2
6	Rhena Kottick	3
6	Elsie Goldman	3
7	Rabbi Nathan Salant	4
7	Clara Strudler	4
7	Betty Ganbaum	4
8	Rebbetzin Jean Sodden	5
9	Samuel Friedman	6
10	Thelma Schneider	7
10	Henoch Antzis	7
11	Fredric Roy Saunders	8
11	Anne Ferenz	8
11	Yitzchak Rudich	8
12	Bonia Siegel	9
12	Arthur Silver	9
12	Yetta Spiro	9
12	Abraham Winevsky	9
14	Abraham Kaplan	11
14	Jonas Kardish	11
14	Annette Belsky	11
14	Isidore Alterowitz	11
15	Sarah Albert	12
15	Ruth Siegel	12
16	Charles Leventhal	13
16	Rebecca Leal	13
18	Jean Dwork	15
18	Sarah Dorfman	15
19	Edith Markowitz	16
19	Fay Grumet	16
19	Ben Rabinovitch	16
20	Mae Nankin	17
21	Phillip Mitzner	18
22	Dorothy Wessler	19
22	Tillie Garber	19
22	William Ross	19
23	Bernard Soboloff	20

☆ *Yahrzeits* ☆

JULY

TAMMUZ

25	Howard Harrison	22
25	Frank Gerber	22
26	Selig Ruddich	23
26	Arlene Santeler	23
26	Ida Migdal	23
28	Louis Silver	25
28	Henry Spivack	25
29	Mollie Unger	26
30	Ethel Walzer	27
31	Fanny Friedman	28

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



**SHAVUOS**  
**YIZKOR**  
**APPEAL**

If you could not attend **Yizkor** services, please consider a donation to VCJC in memory of a loved one.

It will be much appreciated.

🌸 **SISTERHOOD NEWS** 🌸

Sisterhood wishes Rabbi David Borenstein and his wife Daniela much happiness and good luck on their upcoming Aliyah to Israel. We wish them safe travels and many happy and healthy years in all their future endeavors.

On Shavuot the Sisterhood donated \$180.00 in their honor to the VCJC Yizkor Appeal. We appreciate all that they have done for our synagogue and it has been a pleasure knowing and working with them for the past 10 years.

Our Journal Gala was held on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale. The event was extremely successful with a lovely venue and delicious food. Our honoree, Howard Kamiel thanked everyone involved for all their efforts and his wife Tere spoke beautifully about her husband and what this day meant to them.

I'd like to thank Phil, Marc, Bob, Jack K, Jack S, Roberta, Claire and last but not least my right hand gal Marcy. Thanks so much for all your hard work and cooperation in making this Gala so special! Our shul may be small in size, but we achieve great things when we work together! Thanks to everyone who shared this beautiful day with us and to those who's donations and good wishes made this year's Journal outstanding!

Sisterhood wishes everyone a very happy and restful summer!

*Ceil Hartstein*  
*President*

## AN UPDATE ON THE VCJC BUILDING - continued

An identical motion will be brought before the Special Membership meeting.

As the motion makes clear, we are not dissolving the congregation. Instead, we are seeking to find another way to house it and relieve the costs and effort involved in maintaining our current building.

We will make every effort to treat our tenants, the JASA operated Senior Center and the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center pre-school program, fairly, and if we can, to provide a place for them. In addition, we have legal, contractual obligations to them to which we will adhere.

While we are planning to actively pursue sale of the building with the membership's approval, and are, in fact, already doing some preliminary explorations, we are not ignoring the possibility of being able to stay in the building if we can improve our finances.

While at this juncture it would be premature to post the financial information for the membership, it is probably clear to all concerned that our decreasing membership rolls have a significant direct impact on our finances.

When the building was built we had over 700 members. We now have less than 70. We are reaching out to the Jewish community at large, and have been having discussions for a few years, to look for ways to rebuild our membership rolls. If that is successful, and we hope it will be, then we will not necessarily need to sell the building. We don't need to get back to 700 members to be viable in this location, but we do need a significant increase.

Even within the bounds of a building sale, there is a wide range of possibilities of what could happen. These range from:

- an outright sale and our congregation moving to another facility, possibly through purchase or rental, to
- selling the building to a developer who would build a new structure in which we, and possibly our current tenants, would have a place, to
- selling the building and relocating to a renovated 67 Stevenson Place. This option might represent something as simple as reconfiguring the current Cantor's quarters to serve as the congregation's home and possibly the site of the senior center as well.

## AN UPDATE ON THE VCJC BUILDING - continued

At this point nothing is set in stone and we are looking at all possibilities.

We hope that this information clarifies our situation and actions. In summary:

- We feel that it is not financially viable for us to continue to be the owners of our current building.
- We have asked, and been directed to present a more detailed report to the membership, for membership approval of a sale in general principles.
- We are pursuing other avenues that would improve our financial situation and might eliminate the need to sell the building.

We don't anticipate that this process will move quickly and we assure you that we will keep everyone informed to the extent that we can as we proceed.

If you have ideas or suggestions or resources for us to consider, please share them. You can email us at [info@vcjewishcenter.org](mailto:info@vcjewishcenter.org), drop a note for us in the office, or mail a note to the office. Please do not try to do it verbally with the office staff.

*Jack Kleinfeld as Chair of, and on behalf of  
The Board of Trustees  
The Committee for the Future of VCJC*

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## VCJC ANNUAL GALA

appropriate since the Rabbi and his family will shortly be making Aliyah to Israel, and the Hatikvah will soon be his new national anthem.

Rabbi Borenstein then spoke about our honoree, recounting his recent history of service to the Van Cortlandt Village community. Rabbi Borenstein then spoke about his own nine-year history at VCJC, recounting how he was hired, and some of the highlights of his career, and thanking the many congregants who were helpful to, and supportive of him, during those years.

Each year, one of the highlights of our annual Gala is the family remarks. This year was no exception. Ceil introduced Howard's wife Tere Kamiel, who spoke of their close bond and many happy years together. Her remarks were then followed by an excellent buffet, featuring a variety of meat, fish, and pasta dishes.

Following the buffet, Phil Friedman, speaking as co-chair, thanked the many people responsible for the gala and accompanying journal. He singled out four people for special mention: his co-chair Ceil Hartstein, for the excellent job in identifying and working with the new venue and caterer; Marcy Harris, who, operating behind the scenes, was invaluable in the preparation of the menu, working on some of the journal ads, and preparing the seating for the event; Jack Kleinfeld, whose computer expertise was critical in enabling in-house preparation of the Journal, and our honoree, Howard Kamiel. Howard had established a self-imposed target of making this one of the most financially successful Journals and having a significant turnout for the event. He was successful on both counts.

Following this, Bob Gillman presented the traditional plaque to our honoree. Ceil Hartstein followed by presenting a special gift, a Fitbit, which had been picked out by Howard's wife, Tere.

It was then Howard's turn to respond. Before the speech, he had claimed it would only take 90 seconds. However, because his emotions took hold two or three times during the speech, it actually ran 4 minutes and 20 seconds, but every bit was enjoyed by the audience.

The Journal Gala Committee thanks all those who participated in the Journal and/or the Gala, and especially our honoree Howard E. Kamiel, for all the good he has done for the Van Cortlandt community and the VCJC!

## 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.



*The Van Cortlandt Jewish Center  
gratefully thanks those who  
made donations to the  
Journal & Gala*



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*Rabbi David Borenstein*



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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.



**Wishing Everyone a  
Most Wonderful and  
Relaxing Summer**



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