

CENTER LIGHT



VAN CORTLANDT JEWISH CENTER



www.vcjewishcenter.org

AUGUST 2019

Tammuz - Av 5779

STATE OF THE SHUL

Our shul is going through many things as of the writing of this statement. First is the Special Membership meeting held on July 28th, to take up the matter of your Board of Trustees request for permission to explore a possible sale or other disposition of our building. It may change the location of our congregation, or make arrangements to remain in the building in a different capacity. The Board has discussed many options which were reported at the Special Membership meeting. The Board has been clear that we have no intention of dissolving the Congregation, but rather of finding a solution to the economic dilemma we find ourselves in. The resulting decision will have a major effect on our future. I am pleased that the membership has seen the financial problems for what they are, and has given the Board the leeway they need to make a more financially viable congregation.

The next big change is one that you have heard about already. Our Rabbi, David Borenstein, who has been with us for almost 10 years, and his family are making Aliyah to Israel by the end of August of this year. This is the second big problem facing our Board of Trustees. Our Rabbi has given great service to our congregation and will be both greatly missed and difficult to replace. We will be having a brunch on August 18th at 10:30 am to honor the Rabbi's service to the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center. You should have received a letter about the event in the mail near the end of July. There was a tear-off on the bottom to reserve a seat at the table for this event. Please send your payment of \$10 per person so that we will know how many will be attending to honor our departing Rabbi.

(continued page 5)

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD

JULY 28, 2019

A special membership meeting was held to consider the following resolution:

Whereas, the VCJC is now in its fourth location, and

Whereas VCJC does not wish to dissolve the congregation, and

Whereas our financial situation does not support our continuing to own the current building,

Now therefore be it resolved that the Membership of VCJC approves and authorizes the Board of Trustees of VCJC to explore the sale or other disposition of the building and further

Resolved that no sale or other disposition of the building shall be completed without the further approval of the Membership of VCJC.

The resolution had been considered and adopted unanimously by the Board of Trustees at its July meeting. The Board directed that it be presented to the membership for its approval. As a result, a special meeting was called in accordance with the VCJC by-laws, which require a ten day written notification of the meeting. This was provided to all members, along with an information packet on the background of our situation as it related to the need for the resolution. When convened, the meeting attendance by members exceeded the quorum requirements for a membership meeting.

The need for the resolution is driven by the financial situation of the VCJC and the foreseeable expenses of maintaining our current building. As presented to

(continued page 5)

CANDLE LIGHTING SCHEDULE



<u>Candle Lighting</u>		<u>Shabbos Ends</u>
Fri. Aug. 2	7:52	
Sat. Aug. 3		8:56
Fri. Aug. 9	7:44	
Sat. Aug. 10		8:48
Fri. Aug. 16	7:35	
Sat. Aug. 17		8:39
Fri. Aug. 23	7:24	
Sat. Aug. 24		8:28
Fri. Aug. 30	7:14	
Sat. Aug. 31		8:18

Kindle the Sabbath Lights

VAN CORTLANDT VILLAGE NOTES - AUGUST

REFUAH SHLEMAH

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

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER:

Steve Friedman

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY:

... Sharon Godlewicz on the loss of her father Ruben Morris
... Gedalia Rosenkrantz on the loss of his brother, Nathan Rosenkrantz. Even though Nathan lived in Riverdale, he often attended our services and, when his health permitted, led the congregation with a very special voice. His presence was always a special occasion.

☀ SUMMER OFFICE HOURS ☀

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
Fri, Aug. 2 Rosh Chodesh Av	6:30

Evening Services

Friday, Aug. 2	7:00
Saturday, Aug. 3	7:45
Friday, Aug. 9	7:00
Saturday, Aug. 10	7:35
Sunday, Aug. 11 Tisha B'Av	7:20
Friday, Aug. 16	7:00
Saturday, Aug. 17	7:25
Friday, Aug. 23	7:00
Saturday, Aug. 24	7:15
Friday, Aug. 30	7:00
Saturday, Aug. 31	7:05

THE CENTER LIGHT

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

Phone (718) 884-6105

Fax (718) 884-6106

Website: www.VCJewishCenter.org

Email: vancortlandtjc@aol.com

Affiliated with the Union of Orthodox Jewish
Congregations of America

Rabbi	David Borenstein
Rabbi	Jacob Sodden זצ"ל
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



August 2019

29 Tammuz - 30 Av 5779



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Enjoy the rest of the Summer!			1 29 TAMMUZ Morning .. 6:50	2 1 AV Rosh Chodesh Av Morning .. 6:30 Evening .. 7:00 Candles 7:52	3 2 AV Matot-Masei Morning .. 8:45 Evening .. 7:45 Shabbos ends 8:56
4 3 AV Morning .. 8:30 ▶ Blood Drive 9:30 am to 2:00 pm	5 4 AV Morning .. 6:50	6 5 AV Morning .. 7:00	7 6 AV Morning .. 7:00	8 7 AV Morning .. 6:50	9 8 AV Morning .. 7:00 Evening .. 7:00 Candles 7:44	10 9 AV Devarim Shabbat Chazon Morning .. 8:45 Evening .. 7:35 Erev Tisha B'Av Shabbos ends 8:48
11 10 AV Tisha B'Av Morning .. 8:30 Mincha .. 7:20 Fast of Av	12 11 AV Morning .. 6:50	13 12 AV Morning .. 7:00 ▶ Board meeting 7 pm	14 13 AV Morning .. 7:00	15 14 AV Morning .. 6:50	16 15 AV Morning .. 7:00 Evening .. 7:00 Candles 7:35	17 16 AV Vaetchanan Shabbat Nachamu Morning .. 8:45 Evening .. 7:25 Shabbos ends 8:39
18 17 AV Morning .. 8:30 ▶ Farewell to the Rabbi Brunch 10:30 am	19 18 AV Morning .. 6:50	20 19 AV Morning .. 7:00	21 20 AV Morning .. 7:00	22 21 AV Morning .. 6:50	23 22 AV Morning .. 7:00 Evening .. 7:00 Candles 7:24	24 23 AV Eikev Morning .. 8:45 Evening .. 7:15 Shabbos ends 8:28
25 24 AV Morning .. 8:30	26 25 AV Morning .. 6:50	27 26 AV Morning .. 7:00	28 27 AV Morning .. 7:00	29 28 AV Morning .. 6:50	30 29 AV Morning .. 7:00 Evening .. 7:00 Candles 7:14	31 30 AV Rosh Chodesh Elul - Day 1 Morning .. 8:45 Evening .. 7:05 Shabbos ends 8:18

☆ *Yahrzeits* ☆

<u>AUG.</u>		<u>AV</u>
2	Jack Reznitsky	1
3	Alan Wedeen	2
3	Bertha Goodman	2
3	Leon Slater	2
3	Morris Hecht	2
4	Jeffrey Kaminer	3
5	Seymour Gritz	4
5	Max Moskowitz	4
6	Saul Panken	5
8	Shalom Braun	7
9	Joseph Zborower	8
9	Ruth Hartstein	8
9	Jack Satosky	8
9	Herman Orloff	8
10	Alexander Golyanova	9
10	Hyman Seecof	9
10	Tillie Schnur	9
11	Dvora Zaslavskaya	10
12	Leon Barnestein	11
12	Daniel Seth Ruden	11
12	Alexander Bravin	11
13	David Glatter	12
13	Mark Wessler	12
15	Betty Suffian Schulberg	14
15	Fanny Milgrom	14
15	Lillian Waldman	14
16	Helen Braun	15
18	Howard Monheit	17
18	Emil Drucker	17
18	Anna Kaminer	17
18	Frances Millrod	17
18	Jack George Heinberg	17
19	Dora Cohen	18
19	Tillie Sholin	18
20	Gussie Gelbwahs	19
20	William Sandorf	19
21	Minnie Helshewitz	20
22	Sally Frey	21
22	Helen Bigler	21
23	Dr. Jacob Schulberg	22
23	Usher Tugendhaft	22
23	Bessie Cantor	22
24	Abraham Sherer	23
25	Leonard Stoller	24
26	Anna Brand	25
27	Anna Markowitz	26

☆ *Yahrzeits* ☆

<u>AUG.</u>		<u>AV</u>
29	Anna Farrago	28
29	Charles Bernstein	28
29	Sol Degenstein	28
30	Isidore Friedman	29
30	Ruth Wessler	29
31	Martin Nacman	30
31	Bertha Hirschfeld	30
31	Charles Seidner	30

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

We thank all those who make donations to VCJC throughout the year.

Your support is very much appreciated more so NOW than ever!



🌸 **SISTERHOOD NEWS** 🌸

I hope that everyone is having a relaxing and peaceful summer and that you are staying cool and enjoying the warm weather activities.

At our Journal Gala in June it was brought to my attention that Marilyn Newman was in a rehab facility in New Jersey. That evening I called her daughter Robin to ask how Marilyn was doing. Robin told me that Marilyn was residing in a facility close to her home and was waiting to have surgery. She also told me that Marilyn was not going to be living in the Amalgamated any longer. Marilyn made the decision to relocate to an assisted living facility called the Bristol located near Robin's home in New Jersey. Marilyn had her surgery and is recuperating and will soon be moving into her new apartment. I am glad to hear that she is doing well, but on the other hand saddened to know that she will no longer be an active member of our Sisterhood. She will be sorely missed. Sisterhood wishes Marilyn a very speedy and successful recuperation. I would like to plan a trip to visit with Marilyn in the Fall. I will speak to her about this and have more information about this in my next article. I will also be planning a visit to see Renee Stoller and Miriam Gollop. We hope that they are both well and will welcome our visit.

Later this month you will be receiving a letter asking for this year's dues. I'm hoping that everyone will continue their Sisterhood membership and ask any friends to consider joining as well. Our membership is dwindling, as people move away and it would be nice to have some new members joining our organization.

Our first meeting of the season will be Sunday, September 8th at 10:30 am in the game room. Looking forward to seeing everyone there and invite your friends as well! Bring yourself and your ideas for our next season! Refreshments will be served.

Ceil Hartstein, President

STATE OF THE SHUL - continued

.Both of the above issues are just part of what concerns the Board and officers of the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center. A new location, a new Rabbi and hopefully, new members. We are beginning a new program of trying to attract new members into our neighborhood. We discussed this program with Rabbi Avi Weiss of Riverdale who said that this was the right way to approach the issue. Shortly, we will have a meeting of our Membership Committee to discuss the implementation of this new initiative.

Finally, I would like to report to you that as of the Special Membership meeting we are down to 67 members from a high of over 700 decades ago. We have a shul with a friendly congregation in a great, safe neighborhood. Why can't we attract new people? I think it is because we don't try. This is no time to give up. I love this neighborhood. I am willing to fight for it. Are you?

Robert Gillman, President

TISHA B'AV

The Fast of the Ninth of Av, is a day of mourning to commemorate the many tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people, many of which have occurred on the ninth of Av.

Tisha B'Av primarily commemorates the destruction of the first and second Temples, both of which were destroyed on the ninth of Av. Also it is the culmination of a three week-period of increasing mourning beginning with the fast of the 17th of Tammuz.

In the synagogue, the book of Lamentations is read and mourning prayers are recited.



SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – continued

the membership by mail prior to the meeting and reviewed by me at the meeting, we are facing significantly larger building expenses than our cash flow or assets can support.

Our membership when the building was first opened was over 700, it is now under 70. That has a direct impact on our ability to stay in the black, even with most of our space rented to the MMCC pre-school program and the JASA-operated Senior Center.

While some efforts have already been made to identify possibilities for sale of the building, the Executive Committee and the Committee for the Future of the VCJC were not willing to proceed with their efforts unless the membership gave some assurance that they backed the efforts by passing the resolution.

Following the presentation of the highlights of our situation and discussion among the members, the resolution was passed by a vote of 29 to 5 in a roll call vote. As a result, the committees and the Board will continue their efforts.

To be clear, NYS law requires that a final disposition of the building will require approval of the NYS Attorney General's office as well as approval of the actual deal by the VCJC membership. The approved resolution gives those of us working on this some assurance that the membership will not reject a deal out of hand because they do not want to sell.

Additionally, to repeat what the resolution states: this is not agreement to dissolve the congregation or to cease operations. In fact, it is a necessary step to avoid dissolving it because of bankruptcy.

While not reported at the meeting, we have had some interesting possibilities presented to us in our discussions with the real estate world. These include, among others, the possibility that the building will be replaced with a multi-family residence in which there would be community space for the VCJC, possibly for the Senior Center, and even possibly for the MMCC pre-school. That is a description of what might happen. It is not a prediction, nor a promise. What we can assure you of is that we will make every effort to provide for the continuation of the VCJC, for a place for the Senior Center, and circumstances permitting, for the MMCC pre-school.

(continued page 6)

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - continued

In addition to pursuing the sale possibilities, we will also pursue efforts to increase our membership. These efforts involve making people in other areas aware of Van Cortlandt Village and the VCJC, their benefits and cost competitiveness. That is particularly aimed at people who are considering relocating and we hope identifies us to them as a possible new home. We will also be trying to reach out to current neighbors, whether previously members or not, and encourage them to become involved and members at VCJC.

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, please communicate them by email to info@vcjewishcenter.org, if possible, or in writing to the office at 3880 Sedgwick Ave., Bronx, NY 10463. We will be serious in considering all pertinent information.

*Jack Kleinfeld
Chair, Board of Trustees and of the
Committee for the Future of VCJC*

SAVE THE DATE

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH
at 11:00 AM**

**We welcome Senator Alessandra Biaggi
along with Assemblyman Jeffery Dinowitz
and Councilman Andrew Cohen**

Last November Alessandra Biaggi
was elected our new Senator
from this district (34th)

Van Cortlandt Jewish Center would like
to welcome her for a breakfast and a
get acquainted session.

We will have an audience question
and answer session following the breakfast
Bring your questions
Sponsors welcome

Flyers will go out with more information.

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.

REMINDER:

**This year Rosh Hashanah falls out on
Monday, September 30th**

Flyers will be going out shortly for:

- **High Holiday Tickets and Dues**
- **Book of Remembrance**
- **High Holiday Greetings**

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

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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.



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