It is a Tree of Life to Those Who Hold It – Our new Chumash.

See story on page 6

Barbara Etelson and Jeffrey Elliot, honorees at Jewish Life Night in December

Men’s Club Back to School BBQ.

Cantor Freedman...

Youth group trip to the castle

Montebello Jewish Center

VOL. 8, NO. 1     JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013
Montebello Jewish Center - Ruach Yisrael
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Montebello Jewish Center is a Conservative Egalitarian Synagogue established to provide its members with religious, educational and social programs as well as a holy place to pray, study, celebrate, and grow together as a sacred community.

Rabbi Morris Zimbalist
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Mon - Wed   10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thurs     9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Friday    9:00 a.m. - noon

Rabbi’s Appointment Hours
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Tuesday Rabbi’s Day Off
Wednesday  3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Our Daily Minyanim and Regular Services
Morning Minyan: Weekdays at 7:30 a.m.
Sundays/Secular Holidays at 9:00 a.m.
Rosh Chodesh Weekdays at 7:30 a.m.
Shabbat Evening Services/Oneg at 7:00 p.m.
Shabbat Morning Services/Kiddush at 9:00 a.m.

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A cornerstone of our tradition is deeply rooted in the familiar words of Pirkei Avot – The Ethics of our Fathers, which states (1:2), “Al sheloshah devarim ha’olam omeid – The world stands on three things: Al ha’Torah, v’al ha’avodah, v’al gemilut chasadim – On Torah, on service to G-d, and on deeds of kindness.” Over the past few months, Montebello Jewish Center has exemplified the best of this teaching as we have experienced unprecedented change and loss, volunteerism and generosity.

Al ha’Torah – Over the past few weeks, Montebello Jewish Center has embraced the idea of changing our Shabbat and holiday chumashim from the Stone chumash to the Etz Hayim chumash. The process started a few years ago when our Ritual Committee decided to purchase a number of Etz Hayim chumashim for use in our daily Minyan room. That transition went very well, and our conversation and thoughtful discussion continued with the hope of bringing the Etz Hayim chumash to the sanctuary.

In consultation with me and with our President, Alan Apfelbaum, our Ritual co-Chairs Jeff Elliot and Joe Schachner facilitated a candid discussion with our Ritual Committee about the transition. We held three educational transition Shabbatot in which I highlighted different ways that the Etz Hayim chumash helps us to deepen our connection to G-d and mitzvot as members of the Conservative Movement, and how it helps us along our personal and communal sacred paths in new, exciting and different ways.

And through the generosity of Alan Apfelbaum and his daughter Emily, in a formal, meaningful and dignified transition ceremony on January 12th, we made our official transition to the Etz Hayim chumashim, which are dedicated in loving memory of Harris Apfelbaum, z”l. With festive singing led by Cantor Freedman and the participation of our Religious School students, we physically, emotionally and spiritually experienced the familiar words of our Torah service which are at the heart of the name of our new chumash: Etz hayim he l’machazikim bah v’tomchehah m’ushar – It is a tree of life for those who grasp it, and all of its supporters are happy. And in what brought this sacred moment together, we sang the word “shalom” over and over again, drawing on three different meanings to the word shalom – “good-bye” to our old chumash, “hello” to our new chumash, and may “peace” be upon our beloved Harris, for whom all of these chumashim are dedicated.

Al ha’Avodah – In a traditional context, “avodah” refers to the work that was done in the great Temple. But with the great Temple no longer standing, modern Jews typically understand the word “avodah” to be synonymous with prayer, something that we at Montebello Jewish Center are deeply committed to during the week, on Shabbat and on all holy days. But I think that “avodah” also refers to our volunteerism, and like our ancestors from long ago, our desire to ensure that our Temple is vibrant and active. We have so many wonderful things going on at MJC, and we need everyone not only to partici-
Message from the Rabbi (continued)

I am also so grateful to Jack and Sandy Berg and Joe and Sybil Weingast, who continuously give unwavering and unconditional love and support to me and my family. And to all who made donations - from the contributions to MJC to the visits at my home, and all of the cookies, candy, donuts, beer, fruit, and hand cream in between - each and every act of kindness and every phone call and e-mail was so appreciated. I cannot thank Alison, Zachary, Evelyn and my parents enough for their unending love, patience and support. But I also credit much of the speed and quality of my recovery to the incredible MJC community that has been my community for the past ten years.

Ten years is a long time. It has been a time of personal and communal growth, and a sacred time in which we have loved, laughed, celebrated, comforted and mourned with each other. As I shared with the congregation in November, after much careful thought and with great emotion, I have decided to end my service to our congregation in June and expand my rabbinic leadership. I have been overwhelmed by emotional, tearful yet understanding support of so many people. You have touched my life in many ways, and it has been my honor to be your rabbi. I have assured Alan Apfelbaum, the Board of Trustees and our Rabbi Search Committee that I am always here and available to help to ensure a smooth transition of rabbinic leadership. I am looking forward to the months ahead as a time of celebration as we bring to a close a wonderful chapter in the history of Montebello Jewish Center, and look to the future with great excitement and enthusiasm.

Shalom,
Rabbi Morris Zimbalist

Building the Sukkah

These unsung heroes brandished hammer and drill, not to mention lots of muscle power, to construct the MJC sukkah.
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Message from the President

What a year it was. Welcome 2013 and I hope and wish everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year.

As we begin the new year our congregation has started a new chapter with the introduction of the Etz Hayim Chumash and the new weekday Siddur Sim Shalom. Both of these books are the newest publications of both United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and The Rabbinical Assembly. I thank our Ritual Committee and all of the people for their dedication to make this possible.

Our Hebrew School, Nursery Program and Adult Ed. are all running smoothly and I must thank our Board of Ed, Jackie Iaria, Kathy Nelson and Pearl Schachner for all their hard work planning for all of us and our children. Rabbi Zimbalist and Cantor Freedman are hard at work planning this year’s Shabbaton which will take place on February 9th. I would hope to see all of you there and take part in all of the events of that day. There will be something for everyone to enjoy young and old with plenty of food.

Sisterhood and Mens Club have wonderful programming for all of us. Lets get involved and support the Superbowl Pool and party, for Purim their Mishloach Manot fundraiser and Shpiel, and sign up to play golf and or sponsor a hole at the Golf outing in the Spring. They are all fun events that all of us will enjoy.

Andrea has a full slate of events planned for all of us also. The 50/50 Raffle is underway so call to get your box because you must be in it to win it. We will be having our Goods And Services Auction on March 2nd and this is a fun night for all who attend, so get your babysitter now, bring your friends and let’s all have a fun night. Our Journal Dinner Dance will be held on Sunday, May 19th, and our Honorees will be Bruce Liviene and Ann Norden “Congregants of the Year,” Ross and Gretchen Graber “Young Couple of the Year,” and Stan and Ruth Leshen “MJC Lifetime Achievement”. These congregants are all well deserving members and I would hope that everyone will support this major fundraiser of the year. Speaking of food, don’t forget to use Script when you shop.

As I said during this year’s appeal, we need everyone’s help and support. Please get involved and call Andrea, come out to the events and support our congregation. We need everyone’s help and support. Thank you again.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rabbi Zimbalist, Cantor Freedman and the entire Montebello Jewish Center Family for all of your support after the tragic death of my son Harris. Emily and I could not have made it through these very hard days without all of your support at his funeral and every morning and night at the daily minyanim. We will never forget Harris and we will never forget the support of this congregation.

Alan Apfelbaum
President
February 2013 Yahrzeits (continued)

Charles Mintz  Grandfather of Charles Mintz  2/23/2013  Adar 13
Elias Stempler  Father of Susan Bloom  2/23/2013  Adar 13
Herman Kanner  Father of Vicki Blatt  2/24/2013  Adar 14
Joseph Recant  Father of Will Recant  2/24/2013  Adar 14
Albert Wasserman  Father of Jeanne Fefferman  2/24/2013  Adar 14
Jay Zwerling  Brother of Mark Zwerling  2/25/2013  Adar 15
Lee Abraham  Sister in law of Lila Abraham  2/26/2013  Adar 16
Samuel Berns  Father in law of Linda Berns  2/27/2013  Adar 17
Joseph Jacobs  Brother of Nancy Recant  2/27/2013  Adar 17
Irina Kroll  Mother of Richard Kroll  2/27/2013  Adar 17
Dora Lieberman  Mother of Rita Lieberman  2/27/2013  Adar 17
Barbara Abramson  Mother of Sharon Hendler  2/28/2013  Adar 18
Max Gelfer  Grandfather of Emanuel Topal  2/28/2013  Adar 18
Philip Orkofsky  Father of Frances Halfond  2/28/2013  Adar 18
Francis Samuels  Brother of Elinore Goodman  2/28/2013  Adar 18

New Etz Hayim Chumash

It is a Tree of Life to Those Who Hold It – Our new Chumash.

On Shabbat morning, January 12th, the congregation of Montebello Jewish Center inaugurated use of the Etz Hayim chumash at MJC. Our president Alan Apfelbaum and his daughter Emily have generously donated these new chumashim, which are dedicated to his son Harris of blessed memory.

The Etz Hayim chumash is authored by David L. Lieber, Jules Harlow, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Rabbinical Assembly. It is the chumash for our times, by and for our movement. It replaces the Stone Chumash, which has been used at MJC for many years.

Rabbi Search Committee Update

Since posting the MJC application on the website of the Joint Placement Commission of the Rabbinical Assembly, we have received approximately 15 resumes for our consideration. We have had telephone interviews with several candidates. While some candidates have been eliminated from further consideration, we are continuing with additional telephone interviews with others. We expect to continue to receive interest from additional applicants during the coming weeks. In addition, we have also registered to interview members of the upcoming graduating class from the rabbinical school of the Jewish Theological Seminary. These interviews will take place February 11-12 at the offices of the Rabbinical Assembly in New York City. We will continue to keep you posted as we advance through the process.

Alan Apfelbaum and Jeff Elliot, Co-Chairs of the Rabbi Search Committee
February 2013 Yahrzeits

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<th>Relationship</th>
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<td>2/7/2013</td>
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<td>2/14/2013</td>
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<td>2/23/2013</td>
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Cantor’s Message

Religious School Buzz

The hallway of MJC continues to buzz with the sound of children learning Hebrew, about the holidays and the history of our people, studying Torah, chanting Tefillot and Cantillation, singing Chanukah songs, and much more! This year, we have been privileged to have Rotem, the Shalichah (a representative of Israel) from the JCC, teach our 3rd-7th graders on a monthly basis. Our Tefillah and Shirah (music) have been filled with much enthusiasm and ruach (spirit) thanks to our students, teachers and volunteer aides. Our students have particularly enjoyed Shirah this year, because of the addition of the piano accompaniment of Michele Verhoeff.

In November, the sixth and seventh graders, along with members of our Kadima youth group volunteered at the Jewish Family Service’s Rhoda Bloom Food Pantry at the JCC. This was the first of many upcoming G’milut Hasidim field trips they will participate in during the year. As per MJC tradition, we held our annual Book Fair. The biggest seller this year was the Hanukkah Mad Libs...we sold a dozen copies!

I would like to thank the following parents who helped with everything from the set up and packing up of the books, to the selling of the books: Lori Bregman, Darlene Mollov, Stacey Yore, Andrea Steinhardt, Melissa Siegelman and Marsha Gerson. We are so fortunate to have so many of our parents assist in making our Religious School programs a success!!!

(continued on page 8)
Religious School Buzz (continued)

preparing the songs for their Chanukah celebration performance. Again, this year, all the students from Kindergarten through seventh grade, seemed to especially love singing their favorite Chanukah song: Five Little Latkes!!! Also in December, our sixth and seventh graders learned all about Tefillin during a fun and informative workshop with Rabbi Zimbalist.

Our Religious School Chanukah celebration was a blast! Our party began with the candle lighting with Rabbi Zimbalist and a student performance of Chanukah songs, accompanied by the musical talents of Jacob Sandler (who was back from college for an encore performance!). Mazal Tov to our winners: Audra Bassin, Kara and Erica Freedman, Harrison Gerson and Ethan Holand.

I would like to thank the following people for their generous help preparing for, and during our Chanukah celebration: Lori Bregman, Bruce and Stacey Yore, Steve Caloras and Joey Kantrowitz. I would also like to thank Alan Apfelbaum and Bruce Yore who fried up enough latkes to feed the entire crowd. Not only did the winners of the contest receive fun prizes, but our parents got into the action as well! For the first time in MJC history, the Men’s Club sponsored a Menorah making contest. Thank you to Bruce Yore for coordinating the contest and purchasing the awesome prizes. Mazal Tov to: Audra Bassin, Kara and Erica Freedman, Harrison Gerson and Ethan Holand.

Thank you to everyone who brought in groceries for the Rhoda Bloom Food Pantry on Kol Nidre. Your mitzvah started you off with a good year by helping those that are hungry. Thank you, Evan and Anat Kuperman and Rockland Toyota for once again bringing the food to the Rhoda Bloom Food Pantry at the JCC Rockland.

Barbara and Marty Kleinberg
Donations

In Memory of Raquel Seidner, beloved mother of Shirley Panitz
Shirley, David, Raquel, Erika and Aaron Panitz
The Panitz Family

In Memory of Burton N. Panitz, beloved father of David Panitz
Shirley, David, Raquel, Erika and Aaron Panitz
The Panitz Family

In Memory of Norman Chaimowitz, beloved father of Ilene Smith
Ilene and Stephen Smith and Family

In Memory of Norman Chaimowitz, beloved father of Susan

In Memory of Harris Apfelbaum, beloved son of Alan and brother of Joseph

In Memory of Joseph Gichner, husband of Sonya, father of Judy Kauffman
Judy and Michael Tamaroff

In Gratitude of Mr. & Mrs. Grossberger’s Gracious Hospitality
Rita Levin, Bev Fishel and Gael

In Memory of Harris Apfelbaum, beloved son of Alan and brother of Emily
Elinor and Bill Silver
Jackie Iaria and Family

In Memory of Rebecca Rotjan, beloved mother of Serge Rotjan
Judy and Michael Tamaroff

In Memory of Richard Salt, beloved husband/father of Susan, Jonathan and Zachary
Judy and Michael Tamaroff

In Memory of Norman Chaimowitz, beloved father of Ilene Smith
Jackie, Melissa and the Iaria Family

Yahrzeits
Andrea and Steven Caloros
Stephanie and Ira Birnbaum
Barbara and Jeffrey Gold
Rita Levin and Bev Fishel
Tammy and Joey Kantrowitz
Sybil and Joseph Weingast
Penny and Stanley Kilman
Ruth Kaplan
Fran Haldond
Irving Schrom
Brenda and Leonard Greenberg
Anna Altscher
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Eileen and Walter Schwartz
Vicki and Andrew Blatt
Marjorie and Walter Lipson
David Stern
Marjorie and Lyle Schwartz
Stanley Sprung
Lila Abraham
Karen and Mark Lefkowitz
Regina Flur
Claire Doskal
Janet and Alvin Russell
Sandra and Jack Berg
Harriet and Harold Spevack
Susan and Richie Orlando
Eileen and Walter Schwartz
Susan and Arnold Kronick
Anne and Stephen Math
Karen and Mark Lefkowitz
Toby and Stu Fishberg
Marjorie and Walter Lipson
Alan Apfelbaum
Regina Flur
Letty and Charles Mintz
Mona and Ira Litwak
Anita Marmar
Barbara and Martin Kleinberg
Florence and Jeffrey Manoff
Judith and Michael Tamaroff
Sybil and Joseph Weingast
Rose Schiller
Elaine and Richard Allinson
Susan and Arnold Kronick
Penny and Stanley Kilman
Tammy and Joseph Kantrowitz
Lillian and Richard Weinberger
Trudy Album

Religious School 2013 Calendar

January 2013
Sunday, 1/6, 10:00 AM - B’nei Mitzvah Parent’s Meeting
Saturday, 1/12 - Shabbat School
Sunday, 1/13 - NO Religious School
Sunday, 1/20 - NO Religious School (Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend)

February
Friday, 2/1 - Tot Shabbat
Saturday, 2/2 - 6th grade service
Sunday, 2/3 - Mitzvah Fair
Friday, 2/8 - Family Service followed by a dinner
Saturday, 2/9 - Shabbat School and SHABBATON
Sunday, 2/10 - NO Religious School
Sunday, 2/17 - NO Religious School- Presidents’ Day Break
Friday, 2/22 - 4th/5th grade service
Saturday, 2/23 - Purim Celebration (with Ice cream social & Costume Parade)
Sunday, 2/24 - Purim Carnival; Pre-K class

March
Sunday, 3/3 - K-2 Family workshop; 3rd Grade mini-workshop

Friday, 3/8 - K-2 Service
Saturday, 3/9 - Shabbat School and 3rd Grade Siddur Presentation
Sunday, 3/10 - NO Religious School
Sunday, 3/17 - Chocolate Seder (for Nursery through K-2)
Thursday, 3/21 - Pesach Program (for Grades 3-7)
Friday, 3/22 - School Family Service followed by a dinner
Saturday, 3/23 - No Religious School-Pesach Break
Thursday, 3/28 - No Religious School-Pesach Break
Sunday, 3/31 - No Religious School-Pesach Break

Finally, I want to share my appreciation to our students and the entire Montebello Jewish Center community. With everyone’s efforts, we collected supplies for the victims of Hurricane Sandy. The hard work of our students and the generosity of the entire community will help many who are still suffering in the aftermath of the Hurricane, to continue to clean up their homes and get their lives back to normal. Thank you to all who participated in this important act of loving kindness!
Shalom, I would like to introduce myself; I am Bruce Yore the new Co-President of the Men’s Club. When I joined MJC (over 10 years ago), I paid my dues to the Men’s Club and left it at that. The Men’s Club did what they do and that was enough for me. About 4 years ago I came to help build the sukkah, with the pushing from my wife, and found a place where I can actually help MJC. I was able to volunteer my time and knowledge to the Men’s Club to help plan and run events.

So far this year we have had the welcome BBQ for the religious school, High Holiday services, built the sukkah, Cigar & Scotch tasting in the sukkah, Political breakfast and hosted the monthly meeting of the Hudson Valley Regional Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs (HVR FJMC). In addition we recently prepared over 80 pounds of potatoes for Lakefeast and Menorah Madness. The winners of “Menorah Madness” were; Ethan Holland, Audra Bassin, Harrison Gerson, and Kara & Erica Freedman. These events were a complete success and I want to thank everyone who help plan, run and participate in these events.

It is now time to jog you memory a bit. During the High Holiday services last year, in the Rabbi’s sermon, he mentioned Moshe Glickman. Everybody knew Moshe’s deeds and accomplishments, but nobody knew WHO he was. This is how I felt about the Men’s Club prior to me getting involved. The Men’s Club did what they do and that was enough for me. About 4 years ago I came to help build the sukkah, with the pushing from my wife, and found a place where I can actually help MJC. I was able to volunteer my time and knowledge to the Men’s Club to help plan and run events.

Another of the points in the Rabbi’s High Holiday sermon was what can YOU do for Israel, Conservative Judaism and yourself? This is the time to take that one step further; what can YOU do for the Men’s Club?

Some of you are thinking “What is Men’s Club?” The Men’s Club is a group of men of all ages who give service to MJC, in a socially enjoyable setting with others. We are affiliated with the Hudson Valley Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs. Our activities include:

- Learning from educational speakers while enjoying a breakfast with fellow congregants
- Sponsoring social gatherings
- Providing gifts to b’nai mitzvah students
- Welcome BBQ for the religious school
- Working with others to set up chairs, books and ushering for the High Holiday services
- Building the sukkah
- Fundraising activities
- Monthly business and planning meeting — ALL OF THE ABOVE WHILE HAVING FUN AND GETTING OTHERS INVOLVED!

We ask that you join us and participate in our activities because they are enjoyable on their own and because you are helping others. If you have enjoyed MJC activities and find you have a bit of time available, you will find that your enjoyment is multiplied many times by volunteering to help out, with suggesting or deciding of new events, running an event, assisting someone else in running an event or even organizing any events.

(continued on page 9)
IN MEMORY OF HELEN ADLER, beloved mother of Flo Greenberg and Mel Adler
Rabbi Morris and Alison Zimbalist
Alan Apfelbaum
Cantor Michelle Freedman
MJC Sisterhood
Your MJC Family
Trudy Album
Stan Sprung
Linda and David Tanenbaum
Phylis and Dan Furman
Harriet and Harold Spevack
Marilyn Klein
Lillian and Elliot Blatt
Margot Sommer
Susan and Richard Kroll
Estelle and Benjamin Strumeyer
Elinor and Bill Silver
Barbara and Martin Kleinberg
Monia and Ira Litwak
Natalie and Mel Harbinger
Sharon and Howie Rosenthal
Linda and David Tanenbaum
Cantor Michelle Freedman
Andrea and Steve Caloras
Natalie and Mel Harbinger
Stan Sprung
Linda and David Tanenbaum
Kathy and Adam Nelson
Lillian and Richard Weinberger & Family
The Rahmi Family
Sandra and David Haas
Mindy and Jay Friedman
Margot Sommer
Monia and Ira Litwak
Susan and Richard Kroll
Elinor and Bill Silver

IN MEMORY OF NORMAN CHAIMOWITZ, beloved father of Ilene Smith
Rabbi Morris and Alison Zimbalist
Alan Apfelbaum
Cantor Michelle Freedman
Your MJC Family
Andrea and Steve Caloras
Natalie and Mel Harbinger
Stan Sprung
Linda and David Tanenbaum
Kathy and Adam Nelson
Lillian and Richard Weinberger & Family
The Rahmi Family
Sandra and David Haas
Mindy and Jay Friedman
Margot Sommer
Monia and Ira Litwak
Susan and Richard Kroll
Elinor and Bill Silver

HYMIE ADLER TORAH FUND
IN LOVING MEMORY OF HELEN ADLER
Sandra and David Haas
Judy and Paul Galan
The Plumer Family

IN MEMORY OF HARRIS APFELBAUM, beloved son of Alan and brother of Emily
Debbie and Daniel Kamen
Elana Kamen and David Master
Marsha Krohnengold-Gerson and Andrew Gerson
Michele and Ray Verhoef
Dorothy and Peter Zelmanow

IN MEMORY OF ROSALIND ALEXANDER, beloved mother of Flo Greenberg and Mel Adler
Greenberg and Mel Adler

IN MEMORY OF LILLIAN SUSSMAN, beloved mother of Elaine Allinson
Stanley, Sheila Solomon and Family

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
GET WELL WISHES, REBUH SHALOM TO RABBI MORRIS ZIMBALIST
Sandra and David Haas
Nancy and Mark Forman

IN MEMORIAM OF HELEN ADLER, beloved mother of Flo Greenberg and Mel Adler
Meryl and Richard Wolff

IN MEMORIAM OF BARBARA TOMBROS
Meryl and Richard Wolff

CHAI FUND
IN HONOR OF JOE SCHACHNER
Stan Sprung

IN HONOR OF JEFF ELLIOT
Stan Sprung

GET WELL WISHES, REBUH SHALOM TO RABBI MZMBALIST
Anita Marmer

IN MEMORY OF HARRY APFELBAUM, beloved son of Alan and brother of Emily
Debbie and Daniel Kamen
Elana Kamen and David Master
Marsha Krohnengold-Gerson and Andrew Gerson
Michele and Ray Verhoef
Dorothy and Peter Zelmanow

IN MEMORY OF HELEN ADLER, beloved mother of Flo Greenberg and Mel Adler
Greenberg and Mel Adler

IN MEMORY OF BARBARA TOMBROS
Meryl and Richard Wolff

Donations

We started off our year by learning how to enhance our holiday table with new salads. Thank you, Michele Verhoef, for letting us in on your secrets and showing us how easy it can be!

Our Craft project is off to a good start. We came with our plasticized bags and scissors, and Robin Graber showed us how to start the project. What a busy and fun night! We took our projects home and will continue working, cutting and folding. Robin and Sonia gave more instructions on the next meetings in November and December.

I hope our Shop at Lord and Taylor Day was a big success to all. This is a good fundraiser, and what other time can you get make-up and perfume at 15% off? I hope everyone took advantage of this day. Thank you, once again, to Karen Stein for all your hard work.

It’s been some time since our last publication — a number of Sisterhood events were held and enjoyed by all:

On October 22nd, our annual paid-up membership Chinese Auction and Dinner. Sisterhood members bid on unidentified wrapped gifts and had a fun night.

Our popular and successful Dine-Around had to be canceled due to Hurricane Sandy. We hope to have this program next year.

December 17th was Book Club night. Yael Holand led the discussion of Unorthodox by Debra Feldman. It was a lively discussion, and we had three men attend, which was nice. Thank you, Yael, for a great job!

January 21st - Sisterhood will hold its first Tu B’Shevat Seder. The seder connects us to springtime in Israel, borrowing some of the traditional Pesach seder symbols and customs. Our four cups of wine will change in shade from white to pink to purple – the same colors as the blooms of the flowers in Israel. We will enjoy the fruits, many of which grow in abundance in Israel.

Thank you, Alison Zimbalist, for creating the Haggadah and leading the seder!

February 11th - Sisterhood Board will be going out to dinner— everyone is invited. We all will pay for our own dinners.

February 20th - Sisterhood will be filing the Mishloach Manot Purim bags. Anyone that would like to fulfill the mitzvah of delivering these packages, please contact us thru the office at MJC.

March 10th - Sunday Brunch; featuring a project called CREATE FOR A CURE, designed by renowned sculptor Gary Rosenthal, with part of the profits donated to BREAST CANCER research.

March 11th - Book Club night; the book we will be reading is Once We Were Brothers, by Ronald H. Balson. Sandy Berg will be leading the discussion.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THESE DATES, AND JOIN US!

Barbara Kleinberg
Sisterhood President
Young Couples Club

Happy New Year from the Young Couples Club!

Before Chanukah, we split into girl’s and guy’s night. Elisa Bruckner arranged for the girls to paint pottery at Jill’s Ceramics while Ross (and Gretchen) Graber hosted Poker Night for the guys. Thank you all for making this night fun.

After everyone returned from the holidays, the club sponsored a family bowling event at Pearl River Lanes. The kids outscored the adults (lucky lane rails) as expected and all had a good time. Melissa organized this entertaining event.

We look forward to seeing you at the Shabbaton on February 9th. The Young Couples Club will again be sponsoring the craft that we’ll all make during Havdalah. Also, on March 2nd (before Pesach) we will be hosting a Kosher for Passover Wine tasting which will be held before the Goods and Services Auction.

If you would like to join us at our future events (or organize one), please contact Darlene Mollov or Melissa Siegelman.

Darlene and Melissa

Donations

Mazel Tov to Jackie Forman on the Bat Mitzvah of her daughter, Evonna Coreas
Rabbi Morris and Alison Zimbalist
Alan Apfelbaum
Cantor Michelle Freedman
Board of Education
Your MJC Family

Mazel Tov to Ilene and Stephen Smith on Natalie’s Bat Mitzvah
The Rahimi Family

Mazel Tov to Abbey and Lenny Siegel on Sarah’s Bat Mitzvah
Rabbi Morris and Alison Zimbalist
Alan Apfelbaum
Cantor Michelle Freedman
Board of Education
Your MJC Family

Mazel Tov to Jeff Elliot and Barbara Etelson on being honored at Jewish Heritage Night for making a significant contribution to the Jewish Community in the Town of Ramapo
Lillian and Richard Weinberger

Mazel Tov to Karen Stein on being honored by Israel Bonds
Trudy Album

Mazel Tov to Susan and Ira Bernstein on the birth of their son, Derek Ford Bernstein
Rabbi Morris and Alison Zimbalist
Alan Apfelbaum
Cantor Michelle Freedman
Your MJC Family
The Caloras Family
MJC Young Couple’s Club

Get Well Wishes, Refuah Shelaymah to Rabbi Morris Zimbalist
Marilyn Klein
Trudy Album
Irene Greenstein
Marilyn and Elliot Blatt
Barbara and Gary Feldman
Margot Sommer

Welcome to the MJC Family!
The Schlanger Family
Leah Moses-Brown & Jason Brown
Louis Moses and Lauren Ekhaus
The Barron Family
The Ostrowitz Family

MEN’S CLUB - continued

We hope that you recognize and support the Men’s Club. We also ask that you consider volunteering some of your time to the Men’s Club. If you do not have time to volunteer, we ask that you consider attending events that are offered throughout the year.

Bruce Yore
Co-President • Email: mensclub@montebellojc.org

IN MEMORY OF HARRIS APFELBAUM, BELIEVED SON OF ALAN AND BROTHER OF EMILY
The Rahimi Family
The Graber Family
The Hess Family
Phyllis and Ed Graybow
Harriet and Harold Spevack

IN MEMORY OF HAROLD LAROFF, BELIEVED FATHER OF SHARI SENTLOWITZ
The Graber Family

IN MEMORY OF LILLIAN SUSSMAN, BELIEVED MOTHER OF ELAINE ALLISON
Phyllis and Dan Furman

IN MEMORY OF BEATRICE SMITH, BELIEVED MOTHER OF PATRICIA LEFKOWITZ
Phyllis and Arthur Tuttle

IN MEMORY OF THE BELIEVED MOTHER OF MATT STOLL
Deborah and Alan Plumer

IN MEMORY OF THE BELIEVED FATHER OF KAREN HOSHIA
Meryl and Richard Wolff

IN MEMORY OF BEV FISHEL, BELIEVED SISTER OF RITA LEVIN
Rabbi Morris and Alison Zimbalist
Alan Apfelbaum
Cantor Michelle Freedman
Your MJC Family
Mindy and Jay Friedman
Sandra and David Haas
Linda and David Tanenbaum
In Memory of Harris Apfelbaum, beloved son of Alan and brother of Emily
Sharman and Mark Kamen
Sandra and David Hass
Marilyn and Elliot Blatt
Marilyn and Norman Mauser
Sandee Rosen and Family
Michele and Jimmy Wolfson & Family
Susan and Richard Kroll
Lynnea and Jeff Elliot
Judy and Paul Galan
Lois and Lenny Applebaum
The Feinman Family
Jill Pryor
Perla, Rima & Mark, Florence & Sheldon
Karen Young
Lillian and Richard Weinberger & Family
Natalie and Mel Harbinger

In Loving Memory of Harris Apfelbaum, beloved son of Alan and brother of Emily
Andrea & Steve Caloras and Family
Mona and Ira Litwak

CHUMASH
In Memory of Jules Kurtz, beloved father of June Vutrano
Harriet and Robert Dank

In Memory of Burton Panitz, beloved father of David Panitz
Ilene and Stephen Smith

In Memory of Carol Edelman, beloved wife of Robert Edelman
Judy and Michael Tamaroff

In Memory of Marcel Fralick, beloved daughter of Frances Northrop
Judy and Michael Tamaroff

In Memory of Harris Apfelbaum, beloved son of Alan and brother of Emily
Vicki and Andy Blatt
Cara Tanenbaum

Donations
Linda and David Tanenbaum
Barbara and Jeff Gold
Sandy and Jack Berg
Mindy and Jay Friedman
Joey Friedman

In Memory of Jerry Friedman, beloved husband of Mimi Friedman
Sydney and Steven Ratnow

Yahrzeits
Sydney and Steven Ratnow
Barbara and Martin Kleinberg
Anna Attscher
Brenda and Leonard Greenberg
Irene Greenstein
Letty and Charles Mintz
Janis Nasar
Stephanie and Ira Birnbaum
Jacalyn and Steven Walzer
Martin Becker and Rita Lieberman
Sydney and Steven Walzer
Barbara and Martin Kleinberg
Rose Schiller
Sandra and Jack Berg
Marjorie and Walter Lipson
Lillian and Richard Weinberger
Meryl and Richard Wolff
Karen and Mark Lefkowitz
Brenda and Leonard Greenberg
Marge Tielhaber
Stephanie and Ira Birnbaum
Judy and Allan Berkun
Netta and Benjamin Riba
Sybil and Joe Weingast
Barbara and Gary Feldman

Additional Yahrzeit Donations
Frances Halfond
Stanley Sprung
Barbara and Jeffrey Gold
Michele and Cory Berwanger
Kurt Goldschmidt
Vicki and Andrew Blatt
Brenda and Leonard Greenberg

What Has Been Happening in Adult Education at MJC?

The Adult Education Program has been very busy since we the fall holidays. We have had excellent programs, some of which are still in session and can be joined at any time. Most Mondays Rabbi Zimbalist leads a lively discussion on Jewish current events over lunch. Rabbi Zimbalist also teaches a talmud class every Friday morning. We have also met several times with Rabbi Zimbalist to learn about a new decision by the JTS about the use of electronic devices on Shabbat. Rabbi Zimbalist also leads a monthly Torah wrap up after Shabbat Services discussing the week’s Torah portion. Bruce Levine is teaching a great class about the history of Zionism. It continues with 2 more sessions on Thursday, February 7 and 14th. You can still join this class to learn about Zionism from 1948 to the present.

Sue Ecker has been teaching Haftorah and Torah trope, and Stacey Yore has been teaching beginning Hebrew reading to a few brave students all participants in Read Hebrew America. In January, Len Greenberg will be introducing a DVD course, “The Holy Land Revealed,” taught by Dr. Jodi Magness, Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. We will meet for 4 weeks on Wednesday evening starting January 9th. Many thanks to all the volunteers teaching these classes.

Our group has also ventured into NYC twice so far this season. In November we laughed our heads off at the off-Broadway show “Old Jews Telling Jokes.” Some of us enjoyed dinner at Ben’s Kosher deli right after. In December we had a terrific tour of a Greek Synagogue on the Lower East Side, Kehila Kedosha Janina, which was built in 1927 by Jews from Greece. We heard their personal stories and enjoyed a Greek dairy lunch. The recently renovated synagogue was filled with original artifacts from this still functioning shul. I was amazed at how the people who came from Greece in the late 1800’s looked so different when photographed before coming to America, but looked just like my own family from Galicia a few years later in America.

Finally, we just watched a documentary movie called “Reemerging: The Jews of Nigeria” on Saturday night, January 5th. It was about a group of about 3,000 people in Nigeria who have had Jewish customs for generations and are living there as Jews. All they want to do is be Jewish and increase their knowledge of Judaism.

Upcoming events include a breakfast, in concert with Men’s Club, featuring speaker Avi Schranz, who will talk about American-Israeli relationship on Sunday, January 20th. We will also be showing another movie, Crossing Delancy, on Saturday night, February 16th. Please watch your email or the bulletin board in the lobby for updates.

If you have a question about a class or program, please call me at 368-2863 or email at PearlSch@verizon.net.

Pearl Schachner
Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE FOR MJC'S 2nd ANNUAL SHABBATON!
February 8-9, 2013

Join us for an educational and entertaining Shabbat with opportunities to connect with fellow congregants in a relaxed and informal environment.

Guest speakers:

William Recant, Assistant Executive Vice President, JDC
Rotem Nahum, Sh’lichah (Representative to JCC from Israel)

Programming for adults and youth of all ages includes:

Games, study sessions, yoga for kids and adults, guest speakers, sing-off, cookie decorating, Seudat Sh’lishi (the 3rd meal), Havdalah craft, and much more!

Friday, February 8th:
Family service followed by a congregational dinner (RSVP for the dinner is required).

Saturday, February 9th:
Breakfast, followed by regular and Family Shabbat morning services...A congregational lunch, followed by an afternoon of programs for children and adults of all ages.

*****All programs and meals on Saturday are FREE and open to the public*****

For information, please email Cantor Freedman at cantormich@yahoo.com, or Call 845-357-2430.

Donations (continued)

In Memory of Burton Panitz, beloved father of David Panitz
Rabbi and Alison Zimbalist
Alan Apfelbaum
Your MJC Family
Andrea and Steve Caloras
Deborah and Alan Plumer
Mona and Ira Litwak
Jeanne Fefferman

In Memory of Harris Apfelbaum, beloved son of Alan and brother of Emily
Rabbi Morris and Alison Zimbalist
Cantor Michelle Freedman
Board of Trustees
Your MJC Family
Andrea and Steve Caloras & Family
Phyllis and Dan Furman
Jeanne Fefferman
Darlene and David Mollov
Rita Levin
Karen and Mark Lefkowitz
Stan Sprung
Susan and Amie Kronick
Natalie and Mel Harbinger
Barbara & Arnold Etelson
Barbara and Martin Kleinberg
Margot Sommer
Irene Greenstein
MJC Young Couple’s Club
Frances Halfond
Marilyn and Richard Wolff
Trudy Album
Sydney and Steven Ratnow

In Memory of Rebecca Rotjan, beloved mother of Serge & Lois
Meryl and Richard Wolff

In Memory of Rebecca Rotjan, beloved mother of Serge & Lois
Meryl and Richard Wolff

In Memory of Lillian Sussman, beloved mother of Elaine Allinson
Rabbi Morris and Alison Zimbalist
Alan Apfelbaum
Your MJC Family
Sharman and Mark Kamen
Mona and Ira Litwak
Margot Sommer

Get Well Wishes, Refuah Shelahmah to Lenny Jackson
Lillian and Richard Weinberger & Family

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In Memory of Harris Apfelbaum, beloved son of Alan and brother of Emily
Anita Marmer
Meryl and Richard Wolff

In Memory of Harold Laroff, beloved father of Shari Sentlowitz
Rabbi Morris and Alison Zimbalist
Alan Apfelbaum
Your MJC Family
Andrea and Steve Caloras & Family
Lillian and Richard Weinberger & Family
Barbara and Arnold Etelson
Tammy and Joey Kantrowitz

CHAI FUND
In Memory of Harris Apfelbaum, beloved son of Alan and brother of Emily
Trudy Album
Sydney and Steven Ratnow

GENERAL FUND
Mazel Tov to Ilene and Stephen Smith on Natalie’s Bat Mitzvah
Natalie and Mel Harbinger

In Honor of my brother, Ronnie Gross, saying prayers for my friends
Joan Herzog

In Honor of my brother, Ronnie Gross, saying prayers for my friends
Joan Herzog
The Fundraising committee has been very busy over the past few months! Our Friday Night Dinners have been very well attended and a wonderful way to kick-off Shabbat! Thank you to everyone who joins us for services and dinner, and especially thank you to my loyal helpers! Look out for more information on our next dinner, Feb. 9th!

Our 2nd Clothing Drive was a success as well! With your help, we collected 1,821 pounds of clothing and other items for donation, enabling us to earn over $364 for our synagogue!

Please save these dates for upcoming events:

- Feb. 9th – Family Friday Night Dinner
- March 2nd – Goods and Services Auction/Winner of Super 50/50 Raffle will be announced!
- March 18th – Eternal Flame Dinner
- May 19th – JOURNAL DINNER DANCE

SCRIP is available in the office and check out magfundraising.com for renewal/subscription purchases! We earn 40% for every order!

Feel free to join our committee anytime!!! Thank you for your support and generosity!

Andrea Caloras
In November, our kadimanics and USY’ers had a great trip to Dave and Buster. They all came home with awesome prizes. Later in the month, many of our members volunteered at the Food Pantry at the JCC. This was the first of many upcoming G’milut Chasidim activities planned for the year.

In December, 18 Kadimanicks had an awesome Chanukah party during which they played on the Wii, played Taboo, magic cups, ping pong and many other games. They also enjoyed decorating and eating cookies, as well noshing on latkes and sufganiyot. Finally, all who were present contributed to a Chanukah grab. Everyone left with a fun new gift. Thank you to Bruce and Stacey Yore for setting up many of the games with which the kids played!

Our Youth Groups are open to Jewish students in grades 5-12. For more information, please contact me at cantormich@yahoo.com or 845-357-2430 x103.

Upcoming events (for MJC chapters of Kadima and USY):
Wednesday January 16  5:45PM - Pizza followed by Bounce
Saturday, February 2 - Movie night at Montebello Jewish Center
Wednesday, March 13 - event TBA
Sunday, May 5 - “Matilda” on Broadway
Sunday, May 19 - The Castle

G’milut Chasidim Activities
February 24th, 9:30 AM - Helping at the Purim carnival

Wow! Our 2nd Cantorial Concert was a HUGE success! Seven Cantors, plus our own wonderful Choir and a Choir made up of many of our talented Religious school students sang a variety of musical selections! Sweet sounds are still echoing in the MJC halls! Afterwards we all gathered in our Social Hall for a delicious dessert reception to top off our evening!

Thank you to Cantor Freedman for organizing this musical evening for us. Putting the program together is no small task, but it all worked out wonderfully!

Thank you to Judy Berkun and Peter Schwartz for creating & printing our programs. Thank you Jeffrey & Lynnea Elliott for manning the Welcome Table and greeting our guests. Thank you Juan Roman for his expertise setting up and breaking down the rooms.

Thank you to our choir for all the hours spent rehearsing and to our Religious school students and their families for their participation as well.

Thank you to Rabbi Zimbalist and Alan Apfelbaum for your constant support. And a special THANK YOU to all of you, all our dear congregants, your family and friends for supporting this wonderful evening!

Looking forward to “BIMA TO BROADWAY 3”!!

Andrea Caloras

Here’s how it works:
$100.00 = 1 ticket toward the drawing!
$236.00 = 3 tickets toward the drawing!
$360.00 = 5 tickets toward the drawing!

Once you have purchased your ticket(s) your name will be entered in a “box” on our special 50/50 board displayed in our lobby accordingly:

HANUKKAH SPECIAL: Purchase your box now thru Dec. 16th and we will bump you up one level – ie. if you purchase a White Box, we will give you a Silver Box and 3 tickets, if you purchase a Silver Box, we will give you a Gold and 5 tickets, if you purchase a Gold box, we will give you a Sapphire box and 10 tickets!

Winning ticketholder could receive a minimum of $5,000.00!

Drawing will take place March 2, 2013  at our Goods & Services Auction!

Contact Andrea Caloras -845-368-0180/acalora8@aol.com to purchase your ticket(s)!

We appreciate your generosity in this exciting fundraiser!
MJC Sisterhood invites you to a Women's Tu B'Shevat Seder Monday, January 21st at 7 p.m. Join us at this unique, delicious and meaningful celebration of the Jewish "birthday of trees" and springtime in Israel, through the lens of women in the Torah and modern times. RSVP by Thursday, January 16th to Barbara Kleinberg (845-354-3917 or MBKMIL@aol.com) or to Karen Stein (845-357-3534 or kestein@optonline.net) so that we can ensure the right amount of food and drink.

MJC Journal Dinner Dance
Celebrating our 13th year in 2013!!

Save the date for the grand celebration! Sunday, May 19th, 6 PM Rockleigh Country Club

Honorees include:
Bruce Levine & Ann Nordon  
"Congregants of the Year"
Ross & Gretchen Graber  
"Young Couple of the Year"
Stan & Ruth Leshen  
"MJC Lifetime Achievement"

Three Generations of Membership & Leadership
Mazel Tov!

Shabbaton 2013

We are kicking off our Shabbaton 2013 with:

Family Friday Night at MJC!
Friday, February 8th
Please join us for Family Services – 6:30 PM and stay for a tasty Shabbat Dinner too!
Cost is $18.00 per person
Children under age 13 are free
$55 family maximum per household
RSVP to Andrea Caloras
NO LATER THAN February 1st:
845-368-0180/acalor8@aol.com
ALL WELCOME!

MJC Sisterhood invites you to a Women’s Tu B’Shevat Seder Monday, January 21st at 7 p.m. Join us at this unique, delicious and meaningful celebration of the Jewish “birthday of trees” and springtime in Israel, through the lens of women in the Torah and modern times.

Mazel Tov to Frances Halfond on the engagement of her granddaughter Amanda to Reece

Mazel Tov to Nancy and Steven Greene on the birth of their grandson

Mazel Tov to Michele and Ray Verhoeff on the wedding of their daughter Sarah to Jeremy

Mazel Tov to Susan and Ira Bernstein on the birth of their son Derek Ford

Mazel Tov to Alison and Matthew Ostrowitz on the birth of the son Dylan Tyler

Mazel Tov to Nancy and Steven Greene on the birth of their grandson

Mazel Tov to Michelle and Ray Verhoeff on the wedding of their daughter Sarah to Jeremy

Mazel Tov to Susan and Ira Bernstein on the birth of their son Derek Ford

Mazel Tov to Alison and Matthew Ostrowitz on the birth of the son Dylan Tyler

Mazel Tov to Bruce Levine & Ann Nordon “Congregants of the Year”

Mazel Tov to Ross & Gretchen Graber “Young Couple of the Year”

Mazel Tov to Stan & Ruth Leshen “MJC Lifetime Achievement”

Three Generations of Membership & Leadership
Mazel Tov!
### Calendar

**February 2013**

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<td>6:30 PM FAMILY SERVICE / SHABBATON DINNER</td>
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<td>ADULT ED KIDDUSH</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
<td>7:30 AM LUNCH &amp; LEARN</td>
<td>7:30 PM ADULT ED ZIONISM</td>
<td>7:30 PM RITUAL MTG</td>
<td>7:30 ADULT ED KIDDUSH LUNCH</td>
<td>7:30 ADULT ED MOVIE - CROSSING DELANCEY</td>
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<td>CHOIR 7:30 PM</td>
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<td>PRE-K CLASS</td>
<td>PURIM CARNIVAL</td>
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<td>5:20PM</td>
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**Date:** 21 Shevat - 18 Adar 5773

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You can participate in fundraising for MJC by buying leaves on the beautiful Tree of Life in the front lobby of the synagogue or honoring those who have passed with a Memorial Plaque.

- Cost of a Leaf $180
- Memorial Plaques - $360

Please contact Karyn in the MJC office for more information.