

McHenry County Jewish Congregation MCJC CONNECTIONS



January/February 2023

Tevet/Shevat/Adar

Volume 5783

Message from Rabbi Donni: Taking Care of Yourself in the New Year



Jews learn early in life that their Jewish heritage includes a strong focus on helping others. The Torah has multiple laws that require us to take care of the poor (e.g., Leviticus 19:9-10; Deuteronomy 15:7-15), and the Rabbis expanded on that to require that every Jewish community establish a soup kitchen to feed the poor, and a charity

fund to supply them with clothing and shelter (Tosefta, Pe'ah 4:9). Deuteronomy, the fifth book of the Torah, depicts G-d as caring for the widow, orphan, and stranger (10:18), and it bids us in several places to do so likewise (14:29; 16:11, 14; 24:19-21; 26:12-13; 27:19). The Prophets therefore regularly chastise the Jewish community of their time for failing to provide for the poor, the orphan, and the widow (e.g., Isaiah 1:17, 23; 3:14-15; Jeremiah 7:6; 22:3; Zekhariah 7:10; etc.)

The Rabbis (Tosefta, Gittin 3:18; B. Gittin 61a) insisted that we help the non-Jewish poor and sick as well as Jews; this is truly remarkable because the non-Jews the rabbis were talking about were the Romans of that time, who were definitely not worrying about Jews who were poor or ill. The rabbinic term for these acts of helping others is *gemillut hasadim*, acts of kindness. A deservedly famous Mishnah (Avot 1:2) that many of us sing says that Torah (learning it and fulfilling its precepts), worship, and acts of kindness are the three pillars on which the world stands. The contemporary term that Jews often use for the same kinds of activity is *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, and although that is not the entirety of Judaism, it is a core value and focus of our tradition. Sometimes the way that I describe this aspect of the Jewish tradition is to say that "Judaism spells responsibility with a capital R."

Aside from parties on New Year's Eve and parades and football games on the Day itself, the one thing that characterizes the marking of the New Year in the American tradition is New Year's resolutions. The Jewish New Year celebration of Rosh Hashanah calls our attention to our relationships to other people and to G-d, and bids us to evaluate how we have fared in those relationships, how we can make up for what we have done wrong, and how we can do better in the year to come. New Year's resolutions in the American setting, in contrast, focus on what we can and want to do for ourselves. This year I will lose weight, or I will spend more time with my family, or at least on Shabbat I will liberate myself from my electronics. Some even tie a string around their finger to remind them of their resolutions.

This does not violate the substance or spirit of Judaism in the least bit. In fact, the Talmud (B. Bava Metzi'a 62a) asserts that in dire circumstances, one must save oneself first, and only then seek to save others. (This is very much like what you are told on airplanes: "First put the mask on yourself, and then help others.") In monetary matters as well, the Talmud (Bava Metzi'a 71a; B. Nedarim 80b) describes concentric circles: the first one must support oneself, then one's immediate family, then one's extended family, then one's local Jewish community, then the larger Jewish community, and then the non-Jewish community.

Of course, as Jews we must also care for others, and Jews of all forms of affiliation are right in seeing that as a core Jewish value. You cannot help others, though, unless you yourself are in a position and condition to do so (a very important lesson for caregivers of sick or disabled people to learn). So in looking after our own welfare as we make New Year's resolutions, we are carrying out an important Jewish value. Now may we only fulfill our resolutions!

Do You Want to Learn How to Read and/or Chant Torah?

Does reading Hebrew without the vowels scare you? Have no fear! Learn how you can easily perform this *mitzvah*. Join Rabbi Donni on Sunday, February 5 at 12:15 pm. We will learn and have lunch together! Please reply to ravdonni@gmail.com by Wednesday, February 1. Hope to see you there!



A Reminder from Our Treasurer

In early January 2023, you should receive a letter thanking you for your year's contribution(s) in 2022. Also in that letter will be a request to participate in the \$10K matching fundraiser challenge. One of our congregants has magnanimously offered the \$10K match, and we hope that this challenge can be met - with *your help*.

Religious School News by Davina Kelly



In October, our religious school joined up with Congregation Kneseth Israel's school in Elgin for a fun, educational morning celebrating Sukkot and Simchat Torah. We waved the lulav and etrog, planted some seeds, and sang songs for the end of Sukkot. For Simchat Torah, we had a Torah parade with songs, read from the end and beginning of the Torah, and together unwound - and re-wound - an entire Torah. It was wonderful celebrating together, and we hope to host CKI early next year for Tu B'Shevat.

During the rest of Fall, all our students continued to practice their Hebrew during class and during tutoring. They also learned about Jewish artist Max Weber, who brought Cubism, along with other modern techniques, back to America in the early 1900s. Then they drew Chanukah pictures in the style of Cubism.

Our 7th graders continued to learn and discuss the Jewish view on various moral and ethical situations. They had a special guest teacher in a December class. Meanwhile, our first through fifth graders learned about Jews in America during the 1700s, and their role in the Revolutionary War. Furthermore, they began listening to stories about the Jewish prophets. So far, we have discussed Moses, Jonah, and the judge, Deborah.

We looked forward to celebrating Chanukah in December with the congregation. There was music, a craft, new games, cookie decorating, candle lighting, and latkes of course!



CROP Hunger Walk

MCJC participated alongside seven other McHenry County faith congregations in the 2022 McHenry County CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday October 16. The 2022 MCJC members who walked on October 16 were Scott/Rachel/Layla/Olivia Schwartz, Jonah Markowitz, and Davina Kelly.

The entire 2022 McHenry County CROP Hunger Walk raised a total of \$19,406. Twenty-five percent of the money raised went to local food pantries. Seventy-five percent of the money raised went to CWS CROP and will be used to help empower people in third world countries to meet their own food needs. This will be done by establishing local agricultural training programs, by providing seeds/livestock/farm tools, and by helping to build wells and irrigation systems.

The MCJC CROP Hunger Walk Team raised \$357. Donations in support of the 2022 MCJC Crop Hunger Walk Team were received from the following MCJC members: Kelly & Robb Tadelman, Lou Dolmon, Maralee Gordon, Ellen & Dale Morton, Linda & Jerry Trachsler, Howard & Gail Frank, Bruce Weiss, Lorraine Weisz, Ilene Kaye, Rita Janowitz, Joel and Ellen Levy, and Davina Kelly. The 2022 MCJC team greatly appreciated their financial support.



Let's Have Fun: "West Side Story"

Charles Troy came to MCJC on Sunday, October 23 as part of the MCJC "Let's Have Fun Together" series of shows. Charles Troy researches and presents multimedia programs to dramatize the stories behind the American Musical Theater. Charles performed his highly entertaining and brilliantly-crafted show, "The Creation of West Side Story." Nine musical numbers from "West Side Story" were presented during the show, and Carol Lawrence's and Larry King's rendition of the song, "Tonight" was "entertainment heaven," according to MCJC member Jerry Trachsler. The show was a non-ticketed program, and the donations during the dessert social raised \$215 for MCJC. Special thanks to Lou Dolmon for coordinating the audio-visual for the show,

to Dale Morton for moving the *bimah*, and to the following MCJC members for bringing food and setting up the after-show social: Muriel Pick, Ilene Kaye, Linda & Jerry Trachsler, Sunshine Roth, Ellen Morton, and Bruce Weiss.



Yom Kippur Yizkor Message, Revisited

Before I talk about our grief for our loved ones for our Yizkor service, I have a quick story that summarizes everything I've been trying to say on these High Holy Days. I'm sitting with a couple that is having problems. The man shouts, in frustration, "I love you more!" The woman says quietly, "I love you better." Let me translate in my own words. The woman was saying, with real insight, and I think, incredible brilliance, "If you mean that you use and need more words, that you display and need more affection, and that you are more intense about everything, then you're right; you love me more than I love you. But I understand us better; I understand what it's going to take for us to make it. I understand that we're in this love together, and we're in this life together. And you're right if you think that I don't present to you what you present to me. I'm made differently. But I will always be here. And after you've calmed down, and we've gotten through this crisis, I'll still be here."

For me, she was quietly waving the flag in the midst of all of the bombs bursting in air, showing the flag was still there in the midst of all the noise of their argument. Those of us who love America don't need to love America more, we need to love it better, and build a center. We don't need to love the Jewish people more; we need to love it better, and love those whose views are different from ours. We need to love Israel better, recognizing that it has its own dangers and crises with which to contend, that it lives in a very rough neighborhood, and that it is not made like we are.

It's a big world. The ocean is big and our boat is small. We need to be together so we can survive the storms and the waves. So that brilliant woman said it all. We need to love better.

Now I want to talk about how we need to love ourselves better by thinking with more perspective about our loved ones who have passed away. So let me tell you a science fiction story that most of you will recognize.

While visiting the Earth at night, a group of alien botanists is discovered by an approaching human task force. They fly away in haste. One of them is left behind, and this little alien finds himself all alone on a very strange planet. Fortunately, the alien soon finds a friend and emotional companion in 10 year-old Elliot, a lonely boy whose parents have separated; his father is absent and his mother is overwhelmed and overly busy. The extra-terrestrial, who Elliot names E.T., wants to go home, and after learning to communicate with his new friend, starts building an improvised device to send a message home for his people to come and pick him up. Elliot realizes that E.T. will die if he can't return to his people, but he doesn't want him to go. He says: "We could grow up together. I wouldn't let anyone hurt you." But Elliot can't stop what is happening to E.T.; before long, E.T. gets

seriously sick, and stops breathing. Because of their special connection, the young boy suffers, too. But in this modern version of Peter Pan where Tinkerbell seems to be dying, E.T. comes back to life because his friends are coming back for him. The spaceship returns to pick him up.

So now we're at the last scene. We're at a clearing in the forest. E.T. is about to walk into the spaceship. It's heart-wrenching. They have to say goodbye. E.T. had given Elliot back what he had lost when his father left. And now E.T. was leaving, too. E.T. says, "Come." Elliot says, "Stay." But he knows E.T. cannot stay. Elliot knows E.T. has got to go home. And he knows that he can't go with him. E.T. says, in real pain, "Ouch." And Elliot says, in real pain, "Ouch." E.T. takes his long, reptilian finger that lights up and touches Elliot's forehead and says, "I'll be right here." And E.T. walks into the spaceship, and it flies away.

As most of you know, I just reviewed the plot and the last scene of the movie *E.T.*, released in 1982. That's the end of the movie. And there's no *E.T. 2* or *3*; no sequel or prequel.

I went on YouTube and watched the last scene again to make sure I had it all right. And below the screen, people wrote their opinions about the end of the movie. One wrote: "If you didn't cry at the end of *E.T.*, you need to check your pulse, because you're clearly neither human, nor alive." Someone else wrote: "It didn't make me cry. It made me smile." But the comment I responded to best was this ungrammatical statement: "I cried both happiness and sadness. I was happy that E.T. found his spaceship and was able to get home, but at the same time, I was crying because it seems like E.T. was the closest friend Elliott got and was leaving and was never going to see each other again."

When doctors showed this movie to children with asthma, and measured their physiological responses to this last scene, they saw a destabilization in nervous system functioning, an emotional upheaval. The researchers attributed these findings to mixed and conflicted emotions.

This sweet and sentimental scene is powerful and unsettling. I think about it all the time. Over the years, I've talked to hundreds, probably thousands of people now, whose loved ones have died. There are always mixed and conflicting thoughts and feelings. Grief is both intellectual and emotional. The intellectual part, in most cases, is the part that most people find easier. We rationally can get to a point where we can think, at least in most cases these days, that life was no longer life for our loved one, that he or she could not go on, that it was enough pain, too much pain, and enough suffering, too much suffering, and so the passing was for the best.

(Continued from Page 3)

Of course, I don't need to say that there are other times when our loved ones, and we, were robbed of the life they should have had. In those cases, no amount of reason and intellectualizing can help. We only can come to terms that it happened, and try to go on. But these days, most of our loved ones pass away after a long, full life. We know this is the human situation, that we are mortal, and that our loved ones had a pretty good run. In most cases, the intellectual part is okay, but we still have to deal with the emotional part, and that's the part that we can't control with our minds. It's the part when tears well up in our eyes and we don't even remember feeling sad. It's the part when we get irritated and even angry with the people who are with us because they have the gall and the nerve to be alive when the other ones are dead. It's when we wake up from a dream of our loved ones, we try desperately to fall back asleep and get back into the dream just so we can keep seeing them. Then when we can't get the dream back, we just lie there depressed, because they're not here. We don't know how to deal with this part because we can't control what is really inside us. We can't manage the deep feelings that are the true us.

Nobody dies in *E.T.* The spark of the story was not about death. The concept was based on an imaginary friend Steven Spielberg created after his parents' divorce. This is what we do. We try to fill the empty spaces.

On Rosh Hashanah, we read about the birth of the first Jewish baby, Isaac, and about what happens to him as a boy. But his life did not stop there, and he grew into a fine young man. He grieved when his beloved mother, Sarah, died. Shortly after that, his father, Abraham, sends his servant to the old country of Mesopotamia to find a suitable bride for a son, so that he can have a life within the love of a family again. And Rebekah comes hundreds of miles by camel. When she sees Isaac, the Torah says that she fell off the camel, which was the first time in history that anyone ever fell in love. The Torah says, "Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother, and he took Rebekah as his wife. Isaac loved her, and thus found comfort after his mother's death."

Now you could ask, "How does the love of a spouse fill in for the love of a mother?" I think the answer is instructive. Obviously, the love of a parent is different from the love of a spouse. But the only healing and the only comfort that we will ever find when loved ones pass on is being loved and feeling love.

I look out at the people in this room, and I see so many who have found love that has sustained them when they have grieved, who have found companionship to fight the loneliness. No one should ever question or judge how others do this.

There's a book that I've learned from called *Ambiguous Loss* by Dr. Pauline Boss, a famous family therapist.

She uses the phrase "ambiguous loss" to describe the two sides of loss - the parts that we can resolve and the parts that we can't. She mentions that last scene in *E.T.* and describes how different cultures are better than ours in helping people in their grief. The Ojibway and the Canadian Cree tell lots of stories to children about children whose parents have died. In these stories, the absence of a parent is not as devastating as it might be because the grandparents and aunts and uncles adopt the children when the parents are gone. Maybe from the very beginning, we have to be more open and flexible about family roles, who the family is, and how we "family." As difficult as this is, maybe we have to be trained to be emotionally stronger, so that we are not so completely unprepared for the things that will inevitably happen. When those things happen, we have to focus not so much on who is gone, but on who is still very much with us. I'm thinking about people who were raised by grandparents or uncles and aunts. I'm thinking about twin boys whose mother died when they were two years-old and their father went running for the hills, never to be seen again. When they were seven years-old, they were brought to the Jewish Home for Children. With my cinematic imagination, I pictured the two boys as Oliver Twist, asking for another crust of bread. But they said, "Not at all! We had a great childhood! Our grandfather would pick us up on Sundays and we would spend the day with our grandparents and uncles and aunts. We were raised with ninety other kids around, and we had a lot of friends whom we still have to this day."

Things used to be tougher. We forget how far medical science has brought us. We forget that it was just a couple of generations ago when death in childbirth and from illness at a young age were common. I was talking to a woman the other day who was one of seven children, but only four survived childhood. People kept going because they had no choice.

Today, thank G-d, we don't know from any of this. But in a way, we're just not ready for any sadness or sickness of any kind. So when something terrible happens, we don't know which end is up. We live in a dream world where nothing bad can happen. I know people, sitting here today, who live without necessary kinds of insurance, as if nothing can ever hit them. We have to remember that there are different kinds of love. We will never have another mother or father, but there are people who can give us some of the things they gave us. That's what the Torah is saying when it tells us that Isaac's love for Rebekah brought him comfort after the death of his mother Sarah. In case you missed it, notice that the name Elliot begins with an "E" and ends with a "T." *E.T.* This is not a coincidence. Just like the letters E and T are part of the name Elliot, *E.T.* would always be part of who Elliot was and would become.

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4)

That’s what we have to do; keep them with us, all the time. In this way, we will love ourselves better, and go on with our lives the best we can.

When my father passed away, I blanched when people would say, as nicely as they meant it, “Sorry for your loss.” And I remember speaking on Yom Kippur after he died that I had not “lost” him. But, I was partly right and partly wrong. The part that I was wrong about was that he is no longer here, here in front of me, here on the phone, here listening to my stories, and telling me how I should interpret them; guiding me, advising me, kvelling from my kids and grandchildren - his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Of course, I’ve lost that.

But I was partly right, and I stick by it. I have worked very hard to make sure that he is always with me. I wear a tallis that I had given him when he had a second Bar Mitzvah ceremony at 83 years-old - 70 + 13. He never wore it, but I do. In front of me on my lectern is his Rabbi’s manual that I use all the time, with his notes and changes. So I say again: Sure there are losses, but we don’t have to lose our loved ones. Like E.T. said, they can be right here.

Last year I watched Mary Poppins with my mom, my kids, and my husband. Three generations in one place.

Do you ever lie
Awake at night?
Just between the dark
And the morning light.
Searching for the things
You used to know.
Looking for the place
Where the lost things go?
Do you ever dream
Or reminisce?
Wondering where to find

What you truly miss.
Well maybe all those things
That you love so,
Are waiting in the place
Where the lost things go.
Memories you’ve shared,
Gone for good you feared.
They’re all around you still,
Though they’ve disappeared.
Nothing’s really left
Or lost without a trace.

Nothing’s gone forever,
Only out of place.
Time to close your eyes
So sleep can come around.
For when you dream you’ll find
All that’s lost is found.
Maybe on the moon,
Or maybe somewhere new.
Maybe all you’re missing
Lives inside of you.

Isn’t this what E.T. said to Elliot? I’ll be right here. In a way, I’ll be in outer space. But in another way, I’ll be in all your inner spaces. Yizkor means “remembering.” We never stop remembering. But at these services, we stand here together, comforted by each other, knowing that we’re in this life together, and that we have to learn not how to love more, but to love better.

Reprinted from Rabbi Eddie’s Sermons

MCJC Book Club Sets its Reading List

With winter settling in, what better time to curl up with a good book? MCJC’s Book Club, under the facilitation of the wonderfully knowledgeable Rachel Kamin has some great books from which to choose. The club (which ANYONE can join at any time), has made its selections through Spring. All gatherings will be held virtually for the foreseeable future, and a Zoom link will be made available via the MCJC Calendar and other communications.

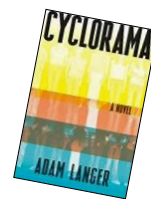
The next book up for discussion is *From Miniskirt to Hijab: A Girl in Revolutionary Iran* by Jacqueline Saper. The zoom discussion is planned for Jan. 23 at 7 pm. A coming-of-age story of a half-Iranian and half-English Jewish girl paints a remarkable picture of the paradoxes of life in Iran before, during, and after the Islamic Revolution. In addition, Rachel Kamin has arranged for an interview with the author on January 19 at 8 pm, which will be both in person at NSS Beth El in Highland Park and live-streamed. MCJC’s book group is invited to participate with a link to this discussion forthcoming.

Here is our calendar through the Spring:

March 16 - *The Latecomer* by Jean Hanff Korelitz
When her triplets, who have no strong familial bond and cannot wait to go their separate ways leave for college, Johanna, faced with being alone for the first time, decides to have a fourth child. She wonders what role the "latecomer" will play in her already fractured family.

May 11 - *Cyclorama* by Adam Langer
The deeply moving, propulsive story is about ten teenagers in Evanston, brought together by a high school production of The Diary of Anne Frank, that will shape and influence the rest of their lives.

If you’re interested in participating in a discussion and want to be on the Book Club email list, please contact Ellen Morton at ellen.r.morton@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE: Saturday night, February 11, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Program: Havdalah Service, Pizza/Salad/Dessert, Paula Eskoz's fun-filled Jewish Bingo
Each bingo game will have a child winner and an adult winner. Prizes will be age-appropriate gift certificates for local businesses. This is a non-ticketed program. Donations will be collected during the dinner to help pay for the pizza, and to raise a little money for MCJC.



SAVE THE DATE: Sunday afternoon, April 16, 2023 from 1:30 pm to 3:00 p.m. **for a Holocaust presentation by survivor Steen Metz titled, "A Danish Boy in Theresienstadt"**

Steen Metz and his family were arrested on October 2, 1943 and deported from their home in Odense, Denmark and taken to the Theresienstadt Concentration Work Camp in Czechoslovakia. Mr. Metz provides a first-hand account of his experience during the Holocaust as a young, Danish boy. Mr. Metz and his mother were liberated on April 15, 1945. A dessert social will take place immediately following the non-ticketed program, and donations will be collected for a Holocaust remembrance organization of Mr. Metz's choice.

Habitat for Humanity by Howard Frank



It's been a very busy year for McHenry County Habitat for Humanity. The office and warehouse have been consolidated into their new facility in McHenry, next door to the ReStore on Route 31.

By the time you read this, all three homes in Marengo will be completed and owner-occupied.

Many groups participated in these builds, allowing us to complete these homes in near record time!

Also, our third duplex in Wonder Lake is moving along as well, with completion planned for Spring. Volunteer days are Fridays and Saturdays, and more information is available on the website: <https://www.volunteerhabitatmchenry.org> or <https://www.chicagolandhabitat.org>

On a sad note, there was a flood in the Woodstock ReStore, costing over \$100k in damages. A reopening date has not been announced yet. Donations from the public will help to get this store back in operation.

Build locations for next year have not been finalized, but I expect that rehabs of homes in need of major work will be announced soon after the new year. If you want more information, please contact me at howard.gail.frank@gmail.com.

Drive-through Food Pantry

The MCJC drive-thru food pantry team helped out on the October and November drive-through food pantry distribution days. MCJC members Muriel Pick, Linda Trachsler, Jonah Markowitz, Ellen and Dale Morton, and Tricia Atwater helped out on October 10, and MCJC members Muriel Pick, Linda Trachsler, Lizz & John Dewey, and Bruce Weiss helped out on November 7. The MCJC volunteers worked alongside volunteers from St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Grace Lutheran Church, and Resurrection Catholic Church. One hundred thirty-five families received boxes of food on October 10, and one hundred fifty-seven families received boxes of food on November 7.

The Woodstock drive-through food pantry is a joint venture between the McHenry County Faith Leaders Food Collaborative and the Northern Illinois Food Bank. It is located in the parking lot across the street from Woodstock High School at 501 W. South Street in Woodstock, and is open every other Monday between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm. If you would like to participate in this important community service project, please contact MCJC Social Action Community Service chairperson Bruce Weiss at 815-338-2721 or woodstock-bruce@hotmail.com.



Cold weather couldn't keep this team of dedicated MCJCers from handing out food to those in need.

Honorable Menschen



Rabbi Maralee Gordon and Leo Schlosberg have a new grandson, Mantanya Yehuda born October 6 to Jacob and Michal Gesher in Katzrin, Israel. Mazel Tov again!



Mazel Tov to our own **Robb Tadelman**, who was elected to the job of Sheriff of McHenry County! Robb, who is a member of the MCJC Board, was sworn in on December 1, surrounded by his proud family. *Toddah Rabbah* for your past, present, and future efforts to protect all citizens of McHenry County.

Mazel Tov to **Jerry Trachsler**, who retired after 49 years in the electronic contract manufacturing and engineering industry. Enjoy this new chapter in your life, Jerry!



MCJC Connections is Going Electronic

View it as a sign of the times ... or as a way to help save money and the Earth. The MCJC newsletter you're holding in your hands is the last edition that will be printed and mailed in hard copy. Starting with the March/April issue, the *MCJC Connections* newsletter will be emailed to all on our weekly e-nouncements list, and also posted on the MCJC website at mcjconline.org. Are you on our e-nouncements list? For reference, they are currently issued on Sundays at 5 pm, so check your in-boxes. If not, and if you'd like to receive the e-nouncements and/or newsletter from MCJC, **please send your request and email address** to office @mcjconline.org.

In the meantime, let's give proper thanks and recognition to all those who contributed to the production of the newsletter over the last several years. And what a grand and finely tuned crew they have been! First and foremost, thanks to **David & Sheri Drizner**, who have maintained and generated the newsletter mailing list and bulk mail labels and handled the printing for many years. Their kindness, generosity, consistency, and professionalism sets the gold standard in terms of volunteerism. Next comes **Linda & John Puzzo**, whose singular task has been to collate, fold, and tab each newsletter; they have been unfailingly dedicated in that role. **Ellen Levy** has played a recurring role in this process, serving as an editor reviewing copy as it is submitted, and again once it is laid out. She was joined by **Al Gimpel** and **Elaine Steinberg** as editors/proofers, and they take their roles very seriously.

G-d forbid you misspell Chanukah...or is it Hanukkah? They like to trade jokes and memes on typographical mishaps they find particularly annoying. Ellen Levy returns to the process as the person who also labels, stamps, and mails the newsletters ... and she has made great friends with Post Office bulk mail personnel over the years!

We have the kind, capable, and (thankfully) adaptable **Judy Lewis** who taught herself Publisher so she could lay out each issue of the newsletter. We are grateful that Judy is staying on in her layout role, so continue to submit newsletter items to her at jalewis29@gmail.com. For old-time's sake, **Ellen Morton** typically gives a final blessing to the copy before it goes to the printer, which gives Judy Lewis peace of mind.

Both Ellen Morton and Judy Lewis will stay on in their respective roles, and they will be joined by **Gail Frank** and **Scott Schwartz** as new proof-ers. With the move away from the print version comes the signing off of the Drizners and Puzzos, and proof-ers Ellen Levy, Al Gimpel, and Elaine Steinberg. Hopefully none will become strangers to their friends at MCJC.

All hail the remarkable production team behind the MCJC newsletter. Who knew it took so many cooks to create 12 or so pages of copy every other month? Of course it's not the paper but the content that serves to create and inform a community. So stay tuned, continue to contribute your news, and feel free to reach out to the many creators of the MCJC newsletter over the years to thank them for a job well done.

JANUARY 2023

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Ritual Meeting	5	6 <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Kabbalat Shabbat	7
	<i>Tillie Green</i>				<i>Gerrude Cheney</i>	<i>Barbara Mayber</i>	
	8 <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Building Maintenance <u>9:45 a.m.</u> Religious School	9 <u>3:00 p.m.</u> Woodstock Drive-Thru Food Pantry	10	11	12	13	14 <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Shabbat Morning Service
		<i>Rose Silver</i>			<i>Bernie Roth</i>		
	15 <u>9:00 a.m.</u> MCJC Board Meeting	16	17	18	19	20 <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Kabbalat Shabbat	21
	<i>Ronald Ligocki</i>					<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i>	
	22 <u>9:45 a.m.</u> Religious School	23 <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Book Club <i>From Miniskirt to Hajib</i>	24	25	26	27	28 <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Shabbat Morning Service
			<i>Jacob Greenfield</i>			<i>Joe Shartiag</i>	<i>Alice Gimpel Ann Louise Welsler</i>
29	30	31					
		<i>Irving Kessler Hava Gelitzky Lichetenholz</i>					

*Names at the bottom of the dates denote Yahrzeits.

FEBRUARY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Ritual Meeting	2 <i>Louis Levy</i> <i>Roberta Levitt</i> <i>Jean Roth</i>	3 <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Kabbalat Shabbat	4
5 <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Building Maintenance <u>9:45 a.m.</u> Religious School <u>12:15 p.m.</u> Adult Torah Class with Rabbi Donni	6 <u>3:00 p.m.</u> Woodstock Drive-Thru Food Pantry <i>Harry Beekil</i>	7 <i>Arthur Perbolmer</i>	8	9	10	11 <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Shabbat Morning Service <u>5:30 p.m.</u> Jewish Bingo/ Pizza Dinner
12 <u>9:00 a.m.</u> MCJC Board Meeting	13 <i>Steven Frank</i>	14	15	16 <i>Rannie Greenfield</i>	17 <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Kabbalat Shabbat <i>Solomon Goldberg</i>	18
19 <u>9:45 a.m.</u> Religious School <i>Suzanne Greenfield</i> <i>Edward Webster</i>	20 <i>Rose Rochell</i>	21	22	23	24 <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Kabbalat Shabbat	25
26	27	28 <i>Melissa Mayber</i>				

*Names at the bottom of the dates denote Yahrzeits.

Happy Anniversary!

Jerry & Linda Trachsler	February	14
Sara & Charles Mages	February	15



MCJC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

Donations in Memory of Joseph Roth
 Frances and Arnold Haskell
 Jonah Markowitz
 Iza Celecwiz
 Larry and Elaine Steinberg
 Andrew Russ
 Linda Trachsler

Paula and Norm Eskoz in memory of
 Steven Kaye's mother, Phyllis Sherman

Other Donations

Kay and Jack Grossman
 Howard and Gail Frank for the Gift Shop
 Davina and James Kelly for the Book Club
 Jaci and Craig Krandel for additional
 High Holy Days expenses
 Marion Michaels for Break-the-Fast

Yahrzeits

Tillie Green	8 Tevet	January 1
Gertrude Cheney	12 Tevet	January 5
Barbara Mayber	13 Tevet	January 6
Rose Silver	16 Tevet	January 9
Bernie Roth	19 Tevet	January 12
Ronald Ligocki	22 Tevet	January 15
Jacob Greenfield	2 Shevat	January 24
Joe Shartiag	5 Shevat	January 27
Alice Gimpel	6 Shevat	January 28
Ann Louise Welser	6 Shevat	January 28
Victoria Green	6 Shevat	January 28
Hava Gelitzky Lichtenholz	9 Shevat	January 31
Irving Kessler	9 Shevat	January 31
Jean Roth	11 Shevat	February 2
Roberta Levitt	11 Shevat	February 2
Louis Levy	11 Shevat	February 2
Harry Beekil	15 Shevat	February 6
Arthur Perbohner	16 Shevat	February 7
Steven Frank	22 Shevat	February 13
Frannie Greenfield	25 Shevat	February 16
Solomon Goldberg	26 Shevat	February 17
Suzanne Greenfield	28 Shevat	February 19
Edward Webster	28 Shevat	February 19
Rose Rochell	29 Shevat	February 20
Melissa Mayber	7 Adar	February 28

To place a yearly ad
 please contact MCJC
 at office@mcjconline.org.
 The cost for one year is
 \$125.



815-338-7161
 301 E. Calhoun St. • Woodstock, IL
copytalk@copyexpressyes.com
www.copyexpressyes.com

Fox Valley Animal Hospital Ltd.

6115 Northwest Highway • Crystal Lake, IL 60014

OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT
 M - F 8:00 - 6:00
 Saturday 8:00 - 2:00

(815) 459-0317

Jeffrey Chemelewski, D.V.M.
 Christine Sherden, D.V.M.
 Laura McCormick, D.V.M.
 Jessica Bertulis, D.V.M.

"Serving Nationwide Since 1967"



another Warchol Investment

R.M. 'RIC' WARCHOL

3450 Commercial Ave. (847) 564-1232
 Northbrook, IL 60062-1909 FAX (847) 564-3008

Tupperware 4 U

Kerri Klingensmith

Elgin, IL
 847-987-4142
Kklingtupperware@gmail.com

<http://kkling.my.tupperware.com>

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/202138923655214>

Tupperware



FOOD • FRIENDS • FUN



The Best
 Outdoor Dining
 in the Area!

Innovative Menu
 Friday Fish Fry
 Party Rooms for 50
 Video Gaming
 CATERING

Live Music!
 EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT

To Plan Your Event call
Sandy Lindow
 OUR Ambassador of Fun
 815-568-2895
 Special Event Parties
 Great for Business
 FUNctions



16 Bowling Lanes Parties
Cosmic Bowling Arcade
Leagues

101 Franks Road - Marengo
 815-568-2895 • globowlfuncenter.com

FISHMAN MILLER PC

JACK B. FISHMAN, ESQ.
 Managing Partner
jbfishman@fishmanpc.com

1301 Pyott Rd., Suite 203
 Lake in the Hills, IL 60156
 Office: 847-957-4927
 Fax: 847-807-3721
 Cell: 815-715-1381

Satellite Office
 3520 Lakeview Dr.
 Algonquin, IL 60102
 Office: 847-458-8107
 Fax: 847-458-8107



Connections...to our heritage,
to each other, to the future

**McHenry County Jewish
Congregation**

8617 Ridgefield Road, Crystal Lake, IL 60012
Phone: 815-455-1810
E-mail: office@mcjconline.org

Visit our website: www.mcjconline.org

MCJC Connections...

...is a bi-monthly publication of the McHenry County Jewish Congregation (MCJC) which was established in February 1979. MCJC is a community synagogue that serves Jews of all backgrounds. MCJC is located at 8617 Ridgefield Road, Crystal Lake, IL 60012; phone 815-455-1810, email: office@mcjconline.org. If you have any story ideas you would like to see mentioned in the newsletter, please phone MCJC or e-mail Judy Lewis at jalewis29@gmail.com. **All copy must be received by the 1st of the month prior to publication for consideration in the next newsletter.**

Thanks to All Those Who Serve MCJC

Rabbi Donni Aaron ravdonni@gmail.com <i>Rabbi</i>	<u>Members-at-Large</u> Howard Frank Ilene Kaye Muriel Pick	<u>Subcommittee Chairs</u> Ellen Morton ellen.r.morton@gmail.com <i>Communications</i>
Rabbi Maralee Gordon maraleegordon@gmail.com <i>Rabbi Emerita</i>	Sunshine Roth Robb Tadelman	Paula Eskoz laurensmom824@comcast.net <i>Education</i>
Lea Grover Lea.r.grover@gmail.com <i>Administrative Director</i>	<u>Committee Chairs</u> Dale Morton building@mcjconline.org <i>Building & Grounds</i>	Iza Celewicz izac@comcast.net <i>Finance</i>
<u>Officers</u> Jonah Markowitz President@mcjconline.org <i>President</i>	Sunshine Roth blessedrecord@att.net <i>Membership</i>	Steve Boress sobore@yahoo.com <i>Operations</i>
Linda Trachsler <i>Vice-president</i>	Bruce Weiss socialaction@mcjconline.org <i>Social Action</i>	
Iza Celewicz treasurer@mcjconline.org <i>Treasurer</i>	Ilene Kaye	
Dale Morton <i>Secretary</i>	leensteven@att.net <i>Ritual</i>	



Candle Lighting Times

Jan. 6	4:18 p.m.
Jan. 13	4:26 p.m.
Jan. 20	4:34 p.m.
Jan. 27	4:43 p.m.
Feb. 3	4:52 p.m.
Feb. 10	5:01 p.m.
Feb. 17	5:10 p.m.
Feb. 24	5:19 p.m.