

Shalom!

90 years ago, a group of committed Brooklyn Jews came together to articulate a vision. They wanted to build a Jewish Center – a collective home to live their Jewish lives. It would be a uniquely American edifice; a place not only to pray, celebrate holidays, raise Jewish families, and explore the endless richness of Jewish text, history, and culture, but also a place to engage in social events and athletic activities, a place that reflected American values and culture and reached out to the greater community. In May of 1924, five families each pledged five dollars to the cause, and they began the work of building the East Midwood Jewish Center.

Today, 90 years later, we are saluting their work and the work of all who followed them, marking our current moment, and toasting our future. In the presence of our esteemed Rabbi Emeritus Dr. Alvin Kass, we review our history, laud the builders and maintainers, and remember the rabbis and cantors who came before. As we install our new Rabbi, Matt Carl, we take stock of where we are now and look optimistically to the future. It is our privilege and responsibility to continue the work of the visionary founders, to adapt to the changes that history has handed us while preserving the integrity of their dream.

We are delighted that you have joined us for today's celebration. Our beautiful house becomes a warm home because of the people who inhabit its walls.



<i>Oseh Shalom & Hallelu/Hodu</i>	EMJC Chorus Oseh Shalom ~ traditional Spanish-Portuguese Hallelu/Hodu ~ composed by Cantor Charles Osborne
<i>Welcome</i>	Cantor Sam Levine
<i>Looking Back</i>	Toby Sanchez, EMJC Co-President
<i>Glass Restoration</i>	Raymond Clagnan & Dolores McGuire Clagnan Stained Glass Studio
<i>The Music of Our House</i>	Cantor Sam Levine
<i>Ki Lekach Tov</i>	Cantor Levine and the EMJC Octet premiere of a new composition by Cantor Sam Levine arranged by Cantor Richard Nadel
<i>Reminiscences</i>	Phyllis Rothstein, Hannah Levine, Sanford Goldhaber
<i>Se'u She'arim</i>	Cantor Sam Levine and the EMJC Octet
<i>Reflections</i>	Rabbi Emeritus Dr. Alvin Kass
<i>Bless This House</i>	Cantor Sam Levine, featuring lyrics by Roz Pomerantz
<i>Installation</i>	Rabbi Carrie Carter, Park Slope Jewish Center
<i>At this Moment</i>	Rabbi Matt Carl
<i>To the Future</i>	Randall Grossman, EMJC Co-President
<i>Adon Olam</i>	EMJC Chorus composed by Salomon Sulzer

Nataliya Medvedovskaya is the accompanist for all music.

May–June 1924: First Steps

Several new residents of the Midwood neighborhood met together in early May, 1924 to discuss the need for “an edifice which shall provide for the spiritual, physical, and social needs” of the Jewish community. Their names were Louis Birnbak, Dr. I. Goldberg, Max Kapell, Julius Morris, and Dr. Jacob R. Schwartz. They elected temporary officers, pledged \$5 each to the cause, created a Real Estate Committee to purchase land, an Organizing Committee to attract more members, and a Ritual Committee to hold services in each other’s homes.

Their first choice was a property on Avenue L between East 26th and East 27th Street, but this property was felt to be inadequate and they looked for another site, eventually purchasing a large Ocean Avenue property, now called 1625 Ocean Avenue.

While the men were planning, so were their wives. On June 3, 1924, a small group of women met at the home of Dr. Jacob R. Schwartz and organized the Sisterhood of what the men had named the East Midwood Jewish Center.

In that same year, EMJC’s first board of trustees was nominated on July 15, the incorporation was filed on July 22, the trustees met together for the first time on July 24, and the first officers were officially installed at the first annual meeting on November 18. The new officers were:

Pincus Weinberg, President	Harry Volk, Financial Secretary.
Jacob R. Schwartz, 1 st Vice President	Harry Licht, Treasurer
Louis Greenfield, 2 nd Vice President	Louis P. Klausner, Recording Secretary

1925–1929: Building Construction, Membership Growth, and Fundraising

The Board of Trustees took ownership of the Ocean Avenue property in 1925, broke ground on July 13, 1925, and laid the cornerstone in 1926. Walls were enclosed for a first floor, but there was a delay in full-scale construction until 1928 while the Building Committee discarded the existing plans and worked on creating their own design (The Committee was composed of Louis Greenfield, Chair, Louis Adler, Louis Birnbak, Louis Katz, F.M. Katz, Solomon S. Leff, Louis Sheinart, Pincus Weinberg, and Joseph Stromwasser with Irving Warshaw as construction superintendent). The initial plans were most likely created by the prominent synagogue architect Louis Allen Abramson, who designed the Brooklyn Jewish Center, which EMJC resembles in almost every detail except for the front entrance. The committee members visited distinguished buildings, temples, and synagogues in New York City and out of town in order to develop a clear vision of their ideal center. The final specifications were drawn up by Maurice Courland, another active synagogue architect, but neither he nor Abramson is listed in the 1929 Dedication Journal, the wall plaques in the vestibule, or in the 50th Anniversary Journal.

While they were reevaluating the architectural plans, the Board of Trustees sold bonds, held a fundraising dinner at the Brooklyn Jewish Center (where \$30,000 was raised), and selected Reuben Kaufman as the rabbi. The trustees negotiated a bank loan of \$100,000 with the Irving Trust Company;

\$10,000 was raised during the *Kol Nidre* appeal and Sisterhood held a bazaar and carnival which raised \$20,000. The Talmud Torah and Sunday school began their classes in 1925 using people's homes.

Sisterhood created its constitution in 1925 and started holding luncheons, theatre parties, dances, and other events to attract members and raise funds. Its first Bridge Party was held at the Hotel Astor in 1926, by which time it had 300 members. At the groundbreaking in 1926, Sisterhood handed the trustees a check for \$30,000.

The Young Folks League, organized in 1926, soon grew to 200 members. Their activities included a dramatic society (which performed a play called "Disraeli" at the Brooklyn Academy of Music), forums, debates, a Dutch treat club, dances, and theatre parties.

What follows is a timeline of subsequent noteworthy events in the life of EMJC:

The Late 1920s: Our Infancy

1927: High Holidays services were held in the Main Synagogue for the first time and \$45,000 was pledged. During the same year a mortgage for \$350,000 was obtained from the Prudence Company. Sisterhood raised \$12,000 from its 3rd bazaar and carnival.

1928: Rabbi Reuben Kaufman resigned. High Holiday services were held in both the Main Synagogue and the auditorium, and \$50,000 was pledged.

1929: Rabbi Harry Halpern left the Jewish Communal Center of Flatbush to become the rabbi of EMJC. He took the pulpit on February 19.

In April, EMJC celebrated the official opening of the new building, constructed at a cost of one million dollars. The annual expenses, including mortgage payments, were \$55,000 per year. There was only one mortgage and the trustees said that the corporation was "financially sound."

In the Dedication Journal, prepared for the event, the founders wrote:

We can only pray in this hour that God may grant us life to be able to carry out the lofty program which we have set before us. That we may at all times help in the preservation of Jewish traditions, that we may disseminate a knowledge of the Torah and Jewish learning. That the community may find within our building the opportunity for inspiration and recreation in accordance with the highest ideals of life – such is the pious hope that we express on this day of Dedication.

1930s: Hard Times and Recovery

1930–33: Membership fell to 100. It was so difficult to pay the mortgage, the bills, and salaries that the trustees had to borrow money from members, sell pews, and furlough the Executive Secretary.

1931: Men's Club started.

1934: Membership rose to 300. EMJC offered classes to adults, sponsored by the Works Progress Administration, in such subjects as English as a second language, speech correction, public speaking, Hebrew, music, current events, and economics.

1935: EMJC's New Year's Eve Party featured "cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, hats, noisemakers, balloons, [and] a midnight supper catered by Dorensteins with a snappy 12 piece orchestra for \$6 per person."

1938: EMJC sponsored a Thanksgiving Dinner at \$3.00 per person, consisting of fresh fruit, filet of sole, chicken, braised sweetbreads, royal squab with wild rice stuffing, vegetables, ices with strawberries and figs, assorted *petits fours* and cookies, *demitasse*, after dinner mints, and soda at \$3 per person, plus an orchestra for dancing.

1939: 350 members

1940s–1950s: EMJC Flourishes in the Good Times

1940: Kaddish Club Started & Adult Institute started

1945: Mortgage and all loans finally paid off

1948-1951: Construction of the Day School

1949: 1150 members

1950: 1000 children in the Talmud Torah & Youth Activities

1950: Young People's Shabbat services began

1951: Day School opened with grades K to 3

1952: Cantor Joseph Eidelson arrived

1953: Golden Age Club for men and women began and grew to 150 members

1956: Henry R. Goldberg became principal of the Day School

1960s–1980s: EMJC Continues Strong While Other Congregations Struggle

1960-1990: Sisterhood, under the direction of Sylvia Aig, Hazel Plan, Beatrice Unger and then Belle Schlossberg, created a Braille Transcription program, which eventually transferred 4,000 books into Braille. The program was highly praised by the Library of Congress, the Jewish Braille Institute, and other organizations.

1969: EMJC had 1300 members and the EMJC *Bulletin* had 2140 paid subscribers. Dr. Aryeh Rohn became principal of the Day School. The cost of EMJC's Thanksgiving Buffet Dinner Dance with orchestra was \$4 per person.

1970s-1980s: The entire congregation was invited during every Sunday during Sukkot to the large wooden sukkah at the home of Dr. Bernard and Mrs. Irene Metrick, where there was plenty of food and drink. Rabbis Halpern, Kass and Pomerantz and their families attended. On school days, the children from the Day School visited the sukkah.

1974: 1500 members

1978: Rabbi Halpern retired and Rabbi Alvin Kass arrived.

1979: Merger with Shaare Torah brought new members plus Rabbi Aaron Pomerantz as Associate Rabbi to EMJC.

1980s: EMJC responded to the arrival of many Russian immigrants by organizing classes in English, Jewish customs, American life, model seders, etc. Fay Brenner, Rose Bartel, Sandy Goldhaber, Phyllis and Joe Rothstein, and Rabbi and Roz Pomerantz were very active in this work.

1980s: Younger Marrieds, organized in the 1980s, quickly involved many young couples with children under 13 and were an important part of EMJC life for two decades.

1986: Edith Maiman is hired as the assistant to Executive Director Bernard Panzer.

1990s Until Today: Two More Mergers, Changing Populations

1990: Merger with Progressive Shaare Zedek Congregation brought new members.

1991: 1000 members

1993: The Harry Halpern Day School became a separate corporation with its own board of directors and severed its formal relationship with EMJC.

1993–1996: The issue of egalitarianism (equal roles for women in religious services) occupied the board of trustees and the membership for three years. Egalitarian services on Shabbat began in 1993 with a once a month service in the Grand Ballroom. Rabbi Kass was supportive of egalitarianism from the beginning, but not all members agreed with the principle. Law suits were filed against the incumbent presidents seeking injunctions to stop egalitarian services. Gradually, the egalitarian service moved up into the Main Sanctuary while those favoring the traditional model held their own services in a separate room. The final vote for egalitarianism as the main mode of worship for Shabbat and all holidays received support from 90% of the members at the annual membership meeting, held in May, 1996, but a traditional, non egalitarian service continued to be available for those who wanted it.

1995: Anderson Waithe joined EMJC to work under Building Manager John Collins. Upon the death of Mr. Collins in 2001, Anderson became EMJC's Building Manager.

1995: 525 members

1996–97: Creation of the Interfaith Committee by Rabbi Alvin Kass and Father Andrew Struzzieri from Our Lady of Refuge Roman Catholic Church.

1998: Edith Maiman became Executive Director of EMJC.

1990s: Throughout most of this decade EMJC held its Simchat Torah celebration each year on Ocean Avenue, during which time the street was closed to traffic.

2000: First Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

2000: Merger with Jewish Communal Center of Flatbush.

2004: Cantor Samuel Levine becomes EMJC's cantor and started the EMJC Choir.

2006: EMJC wins placement on the *National Register of Historic Places* and the *New York State Register of Historic Places* because of the beauty and fine condition of its Italian Renaissance Revival Architecture with Moorish Embellishments, the beauty of its stained glass windows, and the important role it played in the evolution of urban Jewish ethnicity in New York City.

2007: Audrey Korelstein becomes Director of Youth & Family Education, creating programs which garner EMJC ongoing "Framework for Excellence" award from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism for providing Conservative Judaic content with innovative programming and teaching.

2009: Passing of Rabbi Aaron Pomerantz, who was greatly beloved.

2010–2013: Restoration and preservation of EMJC's stained glass windows and dome thanks to a large grant from the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation.

2014: Rabbi Alvin Kass retires after 36 years of service with a gala 90th anniversary party and is succeeded by Rabbi Matt Carl.

2014: Celebration of EMJC's 90th anniversary and installation of Rabbi Matt Carl as its 4th rabbi.

EMJC Clergy

Rabbis:

Rabbi Reuben Kaufman	1928 (Rabbi Kaufman was later a rabbi in Paterson, NJ, where Rabbi Kass grew up.)
Rabbi Harry Halpern	1929–1978
Rabbi Alvin Kass	1978–2014
Rabbi Aaron Pomerantz	1979–2009
Rabbi Matt Carl	2014–present

Associate Rabbis:

Rabbi Jack Riemer	
Rabbi Alan Blaine	1960–1969
Rev. Joseph Meyer	1969–1990

Cantors:

Abraham Schorr	
Abraham Hymn	
Joseph Eidelson	1952–1994
Adi Wyner	
Samuel Levine	2004–present

Associate Cantors:

Samuel E. Friedberg	1934–1969
Maurice Simckes	
Rev. Joseph Meyer	1969–1990
Isaac Cohen	

one of the many stunning windows in our building



EMJC Professional Staff

Music Directors and Choir Conductors:

Shalom Secunda
 Rubin Kazimirsky
 Irving H. Cohen
 Abraham Nadel

EMJC Educational Directors:

Henry R. Goldberg
 Dr. Aryeh Rohn

EMJC Talmud Torah Principals:

Stuart Razin
 Daniel Grossberg
 Doris Gilman
 Uzi Rivlin
 Robin Wahrsager

EMJC Hebrew High School Principal:

Jennie Brooks

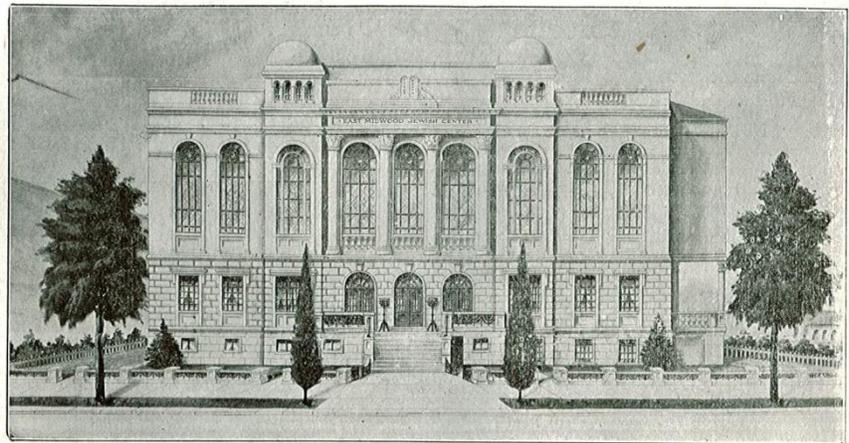
EMJC Director of Youth & Family Education:

Audrey Korelstein

Executive Directors:

Julius Nerow
 Bernard Panzer
 Harvey Marks
 Edith Maiman

architectural sketch of the original design for the building, 1926



The Presidents of EMJC

1924 -1926 Pincus Weinberg
 1926-1927 Bernard L. Brown
 1927-1930 Louis Adler
 1930-1931 Simon Lefcourt
 1931-1932 Louis Adler
 1932-1933 Solomon S. Leff
 1933-1938 Isaac Wurman
 1938-1944 Samuel Rothstein
 1944-1951 Harry L. Abrams
 1951-1956 Sidney L. Schiff
 1956-1961 Herman Levin
 1961-1966 Arthur Kliegman
 1966-1971 Joseph Reiss

1971-1974 Leo Wein
 1974 -1979 Dr. Jacob L. Bernstein
 1979-1984 Milton Krasne
 1984-1986 Sol Brochstein
 1986-1989 Dr. Bernard Metrick
 1989-1993 Morris Wertheim
 1994-1996 Dr. Gary Kippel
 1996- 1999 Marsha Schlefstein
 1999-2003 Dr. Howard Honigman
 2003-2005 Zevie B. Schizer
 2005-2009 Gail Hammerman
 2009-2013 Lawrence Isaacson & Michael Sucher
 2013-2014 Randall Grossman & Toby Sanchez

Sisterhood

Sisterhood came into existence in 1924, at the same time as the founding organizers of the East Midwood Jewish Center began working out the plans for the new synagogue/community center. From the very beginning, starting with its first president Anna Solomon, Sisterhood has been very successful in raising large sums of money for EMJC at every stage of its history. It has also engaged in fundraising activities for the Talmud Torah, the Sunday School, the Day School, the Jewish Theological Seminary, Israel Bonds, and numerous other organizations. For 30 years it trained its members to transcribe books into Braille; for its extraordinary efforts in transcribing as many as 4,000 books, Sisterhood received commendations from the Library of Congress, the Jewish Braille Institute, and other organizations. Sisterhood hosts book & author events, trips, card games, parties, an annual Loyalty Dinner, an annual Sisterhood Shabbat, and much else. It has been the backbone of EMJC for 90 years, and it has trained hundreds, if not thousands, of women in the art of organizing people to work for a common cause.

We are honored to present an alphabetical listing of Sisterhood's past and current presidents:

Adeline R. Ascher	Susan Lubowitz
Bertha Batkin	Mildred Meyer
Pearl Berkowsky	Amy Nitzsky (current Co-President)
Belle Bockstein	Bea Ostreich
Rochelle Eckstein (current Co-President)	Luna Poplausky
Molly Epstein	Sharon Resen
Marie Fersko	Lillian Rivlin
Mona Finks	Betty Rose
Frances Fischer	Harriet Rosenblum
Flora Freedman	Shereen Rosenthal (current Co-President)
Harriet Goldberg	Marsha Schlefstein
Syd R. Goldstein	Anna Solomon (first Sisterhood President)
Sylvia P. Gordon	Mary Shapiro
Ann Greenberg	Clara Spear
Jennie Greenfield	Agnes Speregen
Ruth Greenspan	Shirley N. Strauss
Jean Halpern	Diana Susseles
Tess Karper	Leah Weinsier
Evelyn R. Kaufman	Frances Wertheim
Sylvia Klein	Ruth Zafrin
Hannah M. Levine	

Reminiscences

As many of you know, my own and my family's affiliation with the East Midwood Jewish Center goes back many years – at least 50. A short time after we were married, my husband, Morty (of blessed memory) attended High Holiday services at the Young Israel of Flatbush, where my uncle was the Cantor for 30 years. When he returned, he said that we must find another synagogue, because he felt that Flatbush did not offer what he was looking for – a rabbi he could communicate with, who would make him feel comfortable when worshipping, strengthen his feelings as a Jew, and enjoy warmth and friendliness with the congregants of the shul. He soon found all these things with Rabbi Harry Halpern. Eureka! EMJC!!

We already knew some of the members, the Shrags, the Sholders, etc. and I had attended the Hebrew High School for several years. As a matter of fact, Dr. Aryeh Rohn gave me a prize at one of the graduations for having completed my course of study. We became active. My son and daughter were Bar and Bat Mitzvahed here. We bought a house two blocks from the shul and it became a second home to us. Even my mother began attending services on Shabbat, sitting next to the eastern wall.

Over 25 years ago I took over running the Adult Institute from Fay Brenner, who had been leading it successfully for many years. We always had classes in Hebrew, Torah and other subjects and arranged Rabbi Kass's annual series of lectures. Once or twice a year, we held a weekend Kallah, with outside speakers who were with us on Friday night, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

I conclude these brief memories with the fervent wish that the EMJC will continue for many, many more years in the Conservative tradition, so that more people will join its ranks and benefit from the wealth of good things the synagogue can give them and their families.

Anne Binder

I attended the Rabbi Harry Halpern Day School at the East Midwood Jewish Center from 1983 until graduation in 1986. I was very fortunate to receive a very solid education in both English and Hebrew studies, and I am happy that both my mother and father were committed to give me a Jewish education. I now see that it is now all the more crucial that we as parents provide our children with a Jewish education because of the current difficult times for the Jewish people.

Dr. Aryeh Rohn was a very firm and strict principal. I came to understand later how much he cared about our Jewish education and wanted us to learn as much as we could. I believe Dr. Rohn and the Rabbi Harry Halpern Day School succeeded. I felt all the students benefitted from a rigorous and comprehensive Hebrew and English education.

Mrs. Berger taught us "Prophets," and she pushed us to learn a lot. Mrs. Urist really opened us up to current events and social studies and articles from the New York Times. Mrs. Nagel taught us math, including the advanced math classes early in the morning and made it fun. Mrs. Silverman taught me how to write a term paper, and I still used her outline when I was in college. Mrs. Segall taught me Tanach and her illustrations brought the text to life. Rabbi Seruya taught us Talmud with passion and

love and helped us welcome Shabbat with beautiful prayers over grape juice. Mr. Ofir with his great knowledge and humility taught us Mishna.

I remember fondly the beautiful Junior Congregation Shabbat service that I attended frequently, where we not only were able to pray in a community with our classmates of our own age, but were taught how to do it. This was something that I looked forward to very much.

The Chanukah celebration was another important event. Our classmates dressed in white with Chanukah hats (which I still have to this day) and sang lively songs with our families in the audience. It was always a special day.

When I was in Israel in 1984 with my parents, we met Dr. Rohn with his own tour group on a Friday afternoon, going to the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, and we were able to spend Shabbat with him.

I will always be grateful to my teachers at the Rabbi Harry Halpern Day School at EMJC, because they challenged me to learn and they cared about me as a person. Thank you for the 90th year celebration.

Keven Friedman

From the age of eight I felt proud of the outside of the EMJC building, for it was the only synagogue I knew of that looked like a church! My family used to come here regularly on Sukkot because it had a big sukkah, and, of course, I looked forward to ample amounts of sponge cake and wine.

Riva Gilman

I have so many stories to share, but want to single out this special memory from 2002: EMJC was participating in a year of Torah restoration with a sofer, Neil Yerman. Congregants could make donations for ink, quills, letters, words, and spend time with the sofer, and help to re-write a letter in the Torah. At that time, Mike was in treatment for hepatitis C, and we decided to use this opportunity to get some extra prayers and wishes for his healing. We requested a sitting with the sofer, and when we arrived, Rabbi Pomerantz went over to the sofer and whispered something in his ear. When it was our turn, the sofer directed Mike and me to hold the pen, and placed his hand over ours and helped us to write over some of the letters in the opened Torah scroll. The sofer said some prayers in Hebrew and told us that this was a very special word that we were writing. It was a word that had special significance for people in need of healing. As we wrote this word, my eyes filled with tears. I looked at Mike, he, too, was crying. We looked over and saw Rabbi Pomerantz watching us. He smiled and nodded, and I felt the magic, the love, the care and the healing spirit from him and from the prayers. Rabbi Pomerantz said, "you'll be fine, Mikey!"

Sally Hipscher

And the word came down from above, "Create and organize an East Midwood Jewish Center Younger Marrieds Group, so that its participants could rise and become future leaders of the Center."

In the 1980's a group of EMJC members met with the then EMJC president, Sol Brochstein, to discuss forming a new group to be called The Younger Marrieds. Members had to be under the age of 46 or have a child under the age of 13. Membership dues were set at \$10 a year and a 50 per cent discount was given, for the first year, to join EMJC. The third Saturday night of the month was selected for meetings at the Center and Executive Board meetings and numerous parties were held at members' homes. Over the years many families joined and lasting friendships were established.

Under the leadership of successive YM presidents and their spouses, Bob Bresler (Irma), Michael Marcus (Janet), Tom Kraner (Madeline), Barbara Fromowitz (Bob), Bob Weinstein (Gloria), and Bob Hammer (Barbara), programming was paramount including a baby sitting service, holiday and pot luck dinners, mystery bus rides, theatre parties, visits to art galleries and jazz night clubs, dinner at Ratners, line and ballroom dancing, wine and cheese parties, bowling, renewal of marriage vows, under the chupah, with Rabbi Alvin Kass officiating. Two of the more important lectures, at the Rabbi's home, were "Role Reversal" and "Death and Dying."

Following services one Saturday morning, a senior citizen EMJC member said, "I hear your YM programming is superb." I replied, "You are welcome to join us." He said I don't meet the age requirements." I noted, "There are 613 Commandments in the Bible and the first one is, 'Be fruitful and multiply,' Then you'll be eligible!" Unfortunately he did not take my advice and never joined. Others who did included: Paul and Marcia Adler, Jerry and Pricilla Balch, Martin and Myrna Fasting, Bernard and Ellen Greenberg, Peter and Flo Handler, Arthur and Francine Katz, Gary and Ronnie Kippel, Joe and Eila Nacmias, Stephen and Sheryl Rashbaum, Joe and Lisa Rothman, David and Harriet Sayer, Abe and Arlene Schmutter, Sy and Beverly Sherin, Joseph and Ivy Sherman, Morton and Lois Turchin, Herb and Carol Walter, and Ira and Barbara Zapin.

Each year, at the EMJC Annual Dinner Dance, groups like Sisterhood were called up to the microphone and presented a generous check to the Center. I remember when it was the Younger Marrieds turn. I mentioned that we were a young group and didn't have a lot of money, but we did have many members who we hoped would become future leaders of EMJC. I said "That is our contribution!" We think that prophecy has come true!

Tom Kraner

In these past four years or so that my wife Moran and our daughters have been coming to EMJC, it has become a really important part of our lives. We have made friendships across the age spectrum and have benefited greatly from the activities at the shul, whether it be Shabbat-a-BimBom, Shabbat in the Round, Shabbat morning, Little Learners on Sunday morning, swimming, birthday parties, or other things. Our children love being at EMJC, because of their friendships, activities, and for the sweets. We have been at EMJC during only a fraction of its long history, yet it has become our community center and the place that we love.

Murray Lantner

Sisterhood came into being at the birth of the center. At the very beginning, we worked in conjunction with the PTA of the Talmud Torah and the Day School. The Talmud Torah had an annual festival of prizes. I remember being the Chairperson of that event. Because of the help that Sisterhood gave to the PTA, I became interested in joining Sisterhood.

We have always worked in conjunction with the Synagogue. It started with definite by-laws which instructed that there be definite leadership with its own officers, trustees, and Advisory Board.

At one time, the board met on the first Thursday of every month. Today, we are more flexible. Our aim is to develop sociability, hold interesting meetings, and financially help the Center.

Our events are informative, such as our annual art show where talent is displayed and items can be purchased. The Book and Author supperette is both enjoyable and profitable. Ellen Levitt spoke about the Lost Synagogues of Brooklyn. Elisa Strauss, granddaughter of Shirley Strauss, sold her wonderful cookbook and described the artwork that she puts into her cakes. We have had a nutritionist speak to us. Sisterhood cards for *simchas* and for sad occasions are for sale. We all look forward to Sisterhood Shabbat.

In May, we celebrate our success with a beautiful Loyalty Dinner. We print a journal to acknowledge those who are being honored and to place personal ads. I edited the Journal for many years.

We present our contribution to the Synagogue at the Annual Journal Dinner held at the end of the year.

We have three dedicated co-presidents. They are working hard to continue the tradition of Sisterhood. We look forward to being part of Sisterhood for many years to come.

Hannah Levine

I have been connected to the East Midwood Jewish Center since I was 7 years old, almost half the shul's lifetime. (And adding in my earlier years at Shaare Torah, that makes it more!) When you have as many memories as I have with this institution, it becomes difficult to sort through and find a few to write about in an anniversary tribute.

Many of my favorite EMJC memories are connected to Jewish holidays, *hagim*. And my most favorite holiday at EMJC might just be Purim. I always loved the Purim carnivals when I was a kid here at EMJC. When I was in elementary school and junior high, each class would run a booth in the carnival. We had booths galore in the gym, the school auditorium and the little gym (now known as the Little Tent room). The Talmud Torah had the gym and the Day School had the auditorium, and overflow was in the little gym.

As an adult, I still enjoy Purim very much at EMJC. A big part of this appreciation is watching how my two daughters, as well as their friends, react each year to the story and to the festivities. I recall one of the earliest times we dressed up Jessica for Purim, as Mickey Mouse. My father Ed Levitt was carrying her around proudly.

As my kids have grown older, their costume ideas have changed, but they still get a kick out of making noise and eating hamantaschen. In fact, this past Purim was particularly fun because I supervised a group of kids while we made hamantaschen in the shul kitchen. (I was also the test-taster.)

One of my yearly shticks for Purim at EMJC is to bring a pink attaché case with a variety of noise makers and instruments. I have expanded this to another bag or two, and kids (as well as some adults!) like to come by and borrow from my collection. But I always stress the importance of also listening to all the words of the *megillah* reading. The Main Sanctuary has lots of good echo, and the cacophony is great.

Purim and the other holidays (especially Sukkot and Simhat Torah, in my humble opinion) have been very special observances at EMJC, laced with many fond memories. May we create many more such memories in the years to come.

Ellen Levitt

When I was voted President of The East Midwood Jewish Center in 1986, I had already been a member for 32 years. Rabbi Harry Halpern was our brilliant and wise leader at the time. He was 5'5" tall and I was 5'4". He stood in front of me and said, "I'm glad you became President because now we can see eye to eye." His book "From Where I Stand," shows what a gifted & eloquent rabbi he was.

Our Cantor, Joseph Eidelson, had a clear and sharp operatic voice which saved him from death during the Holocaust. Also on our *bimah* was Rabbi Aaron Pomerantz who joined when the Shaare Torah congregation merged with us. He was a most beloved rabbi. We had close to 1200 members then, and Shabbat services in the main sanctuary were filled, as was part of the balcony.

Sam Merl was head of the usher staff and most of the ushers were members of the Kaddish Club. The Kaddish Club was started by a group of men that said Kaddish together with Rabbi Halpern, when he was saying Kaddish for his wife who passed away. They became so friendly during that year of prayer together, they wanted to continue the relationship. Members were elected only if they said Kaddish for a beloved member of their immediate family, as a consequence, they never had more than 99 members. Every year the Kaddish Club had a dinner dance and raffle to raise money for the benefit of the East Midwood Jewish Center.

In the early 1960's, Sisterhood was very active and included a Braille group that taught volunteers how to Braille for the blind. My wife, Irene, became active as a Braillist in both Hebrew and English. We bought a Braille printing machine so every day Irene could print books for the blind. One Shabbat, a member came over to Irene and said, "I just came back from visiting my blind aunt in California." "When I looked at the book she was reading, I was excited to see it was written by Irene Metrick, so I couldn't wait to tell you."

When Rabbi Halpern retired just one and a half years before his 50th year as Rabbi of our congregation, he was suffering with prostate cancer and could not continue. The board of trustees in searching for a new Rabbi came up with two candidates, Rabbi Kass and Rabb Reimer. Rabbi Kass was chosen after the. Board listened to his smooth flow of words about the Torah without any need of a crib sheet. He served as our distinguished, beloved and much admired rabbi for the next 36 years.

Today, East Midwood Jewish Center is still the bastion of Jewish Conservatism in Brooklyn.

Dr. Bernard Metrick

My friend, Lenore Silverbush, died unexpectedly at the hands of a drunk driver, in Massachusetts in 2005. Her family had at some point been members of EMJC and her three children had attended the Day School for a few years. Many people at East Midwood, including the Isaacsons and Shapiros, were also friends of the family.

As a pre-K supervisor for the UPK's in District 22, Lenore also visited the Day School and would meet with Rochelle Eckstein. She had been my close friend of over twenty five years, an incredible mom, wife, teacher, and beautiful soul who touched many people's lives.

We got the terrible news on a Friday night in July, just as we were about to go to dinner at Ellen Levitt's house. Along with Larry Isaacson, we immediately ran over to my friend's home in Brooklyn to be with her family.

The next morning was Shabbat and I didn't know what to do with myself. I felt lost and shocked and so sad. But I went to EMJC for services as I usually did. Somehow it was comforting to see familiar faces and pray for my friend and her family.

I must have looked upset and I remember Rose Adler came up to me saying, "I don't know what it is, but something must be terribly wrong, is there anything I can do?" It was this feeling of community I desperately needed. We asked Rabbi Kass to make an announcement about Lenore, which he did.

It struck me even then, that EMJC was a kind of haven for me, where I could find solace, meet friends, be part of a community and share my grief, sadness, joy, music, wonder and knowledge. There I have had the opportunity to learn, break bread, dance, sing, meditate, swim, make art, contribute time and effort for something beyond myself, or just schmooze.

As a child and even more as a young adult, I have often experienced difficulty enjoying going to synagogue and not felt that I belonged there. That is not the case with EMJC where there seems to be something for everyone. But it is especially the people and the activities, the liturgical music I had almost forgotten I enjoyed that make me look forward to Shabbat. We have something pretty special there, hard to define, but it is palpable and I look forward to feeling this even more in a new and vibrant atmosphere, led by Rabbi Carl and Cantor Levine for more meaningful years to come. Happy goth Anniversary, EMJC.

Emily Pariente

I am delighted to extend Happy Anniversary wishes to an institution that is dear to my heart and was such an important part of the life of my precious husband's **ע"ה**. My husband held two positions all his life and both were dreams come true. When he came to our beloved Shaare Torah, he was an "eligible bachelor" and every woman congregant had the "perfect girl for him." No one really knew that I had my eye on him already....and, thank G-d, (the master match-maker of them all) I got him! I'll fast-forward to the year we came to East Midwood....and I'll switch to poetry because our tenure here was "poetry in motion." (I've often wondered if I should consult a doctor about my poetry fixation and curb myself with a pill of some sort.) Here goes:

We came to East Midwood
With great trepidation,
After 25 wonderful years at Shaare Torah
We were starting anew in a new Congregation.

Would they like us? Would they accept us?
That was our fear...
And, all I could think was, "Oiy, vey iz mir."

Why did I worry? More hairs of gray!
Everyone truly everyone was welcoming
From that very first day!

Rabbi & Miryom Kass (I've said this before)
Though the rabbis were so different
Each treated the other with respect & friendship galore.

And our dear Cantor Eidelson?
My husband was delirious with joy...
He had fallen in love with Cantor Eidelson
When he heard him sing in Europe when he was a boy!

And Rev. Joseph Mayer was kind as could be
As well as Julius Nero & Bernie Panzer
Executive directors, extra-ordinary!

And my husband had the extreme pleasure
To share the bimah with a unique treasure
A young man with a ponytail & a voice #1
They came to love each other, like father & son.
If I were to list all the Officers and the Boards
And all the lovely memories that I have stored,
You might, dear friends, soon be bored.

So, a great big thank you will have to suffice
Everyone has been more than just nice!

I do want to mention a special love my husband had
It was for the men of the Bais HaMidrash
who came every day

For Schacharis, Mincha & Maariv
In rain & snow, they'd be there to pray.

He really adored them, they were precious indeed
And in each of the daveners, he planted a seed
And watched it grow and develop in every way
They had a morning ritual—
a "shnapps" to start off the day.
L'Chaim! And, to add to my husband's yearning
He had his wonderful classes, filled with Torah learning.
During the last year of his life, he did aspire
Once more to layn Torah was his heart's desire.
It wasn't bashert—it was Hashem's decree
To bring Rabbi Pomerantz up above, lovingly.

But, our love affair with East Midwood didn't end
One last marvelous project came from our friends:
To name the Bais HaMidrash in his name, oh my
Whenever I see his name on the door
I smile, with a tear in my eye.

What then, my friends, is there left to say?
About the future of East Midwood
May it continue to be a safe harbor
Of unity, of tranquility, of serenity
For our entire community.

Roz Pomerantz

Many years ago I was invited to celebrate the first night of Passover at my cousin Doris Picker's house. Her children were just a little older than my own, yet they conducted the whole seder by themselves. When I asked her where her children got their Jewish education, she told me that they attended the Talmud Torah at the East Midwood Jewish Center, and she suggested that my husband Herman and I become members. That was over 40 years ago, and I am so glad that I listened! Because of this decision, my daughter Sophie and my son Maurice got the best Hebrew education and learned what being a Jew is all about. It seems like only yesterday that my husband Herman and I were actually "interviewed" by the executive board to see if we "qualified to become members! Yes, that's right. In the past you could not become a member of the East Midwood Jewish Center without being scrutinized by the Board of Trustees first! My, how things have changed.

Since then, my family and I spent much time here. It wasn't long before I considered it my second home. For many years I was involved with the activities of the parents of the Talmud Torah. Helping out with Kiddush every Shabbat morning where over 30 children attended was only the beginning. Each and every year I volunteered to help organize and participate in the Book Fair, the Israel Day Parade, the Barton Chocolate Fundraiser, the Purim Carnival, and the Talmud Torah Mock Seder, all of which I can look back at now and remember fondly. Later, after my children graduated from the Talmud Torah, they went to the Talmud Torah High School, and I went on to be President of Sisterhood for seven consecutive years.

The East Midwood Jewish Center was where many of my family's personal milestones took place. I remember so clearly the Friday night that the late Rabbi Harry Halpern officiated at my daughter Sophie's bat mitzvah. Two years later, Rabbi Alvin Kass became the new rabbi, and he officiated at my son Maurice's bar mitzvah. Rabbi Kass also officiated both their weddings as well as the bar and bat mitzvahs of my grandchildren Luna, Aaron, Evan and Marc. Yes, it is no wonder why our beloved Rabbi Kass is so dear to my family and me. He has been such an integral part of both our celebrations and our sorrows, offering inspiring words of wisdom and comfort. My family and I consider ourselves truly blessed to have had him as our spiritual leader for so many years.

With so many meaningful memories, all stemming from this wonderful institution, I hope and pray that the East Midwood Jewish Center will continue to offer our congregation spiritual guidance and a strong sense of community to its members for many years to come.

Luna Poplausky

Probably the most memorable event of my not-so-many years at EMJC was the moment when I stepped out on the *bimah* during Sisterhood Shabbat ion May, 2007 to chant my portion of the *haftarah* of the week. There were sixteen of us in this B'nai Mitzvah service and for the most part we have remained friends. My family flew in from Texas and my closest friend came from Philadelphia to share my *simcha* with me.

Another special moment was the day I chanted my own *haftarah*. Cantor Sam Levine talked me into learning the *haftarah* and helped me prepare. But the moment belonged to me as my friends and family cheered me on.

Thank you for giving me the chance to relive these memories.

Sharon Resen

Time—that precious commodity. It's time to reflect... We have a treasury of memories— those of gratitude, contentment, rewarding and indeed quality. A personal tragedy can break one's spirit or can make one compensate by doing good deeds (Alan Rosenblum Fund). Our record of commitment to children and Synagogue is more than a belief—it has been our way of life.

Dienstag-Rosenblum is a three generation link. Arno Dienstag was Youth Activities Chairman and Trustee. Harriet attended Nursery School (on the roof) and knew many "East Midwoodites" – Harry Abrams, Sam Rothstein, Phil Lassar, Robert Gabbe, Dudley Portugal, Seymour Liebman, Frank Berman, Sidney Schiff, Herman Levin, Julius Nierow, Rabbi Halpern, Rabbi Pomerantz, Cantors Hyman,

Friedberg, Eidelson, Reverend Mayer, Educators Henry R. Goldberg and Dr. Aryeh Rohn. Harriet was a Day School Teacher for 28 years. Harriet & Warren were married at EMJC 56 years ago, Jon & Freda also 27 years ago- under our special sun-burst dome. Our trio graduated Talmud Torah. We served as Advisory Board members and Harriet was a Trustee and Center Secretary. Harriet started Evening Sisterhood and was President of both groups. She was chairperson on every Committee, Honoree, Journal, Talmud Torah President PTA; and a special Center Fund Raiser.

EMJC was our second home. Warren, Harriet, and son Jon received special Center Service Awards. Jon served as Center Shofar Blower, and has the special memory and honor of having blown the shofar at Rabbi Halpern's funeral. We hope EMJC continues to respect the past, and reaches out to all concerned.

So now we're together- EMJC's "go"- Hip! Hip! Hooray!
Let's enjoy the memories, and enjoy this special day.

Harriet & Warren Rosenblum

Joe and I made our first contact with the East Midwood Jewish Center in 1955, almost 60 years ago, when we registered our son Ed in the nursery of the Rabbi Harry Halpern Day School. At that time, all parents of the Day School were required to be members, since the school was an arm of the EMJC. In fact, Rabbi Halpern's office was in the Day School, so he could be involved with the children (usually pinching the little girls' cheeks)!

There was a large population of Talmud Torah children as well. The teenagers held a Young People's Service every Shabbat in the Bet Hamidrash, electing their own officers, and conducting the services themselves. This was the suggestion of Dr. Aryeh Rohn, the Educational Director at that time. He later became the principal of the Day School, during which time I taught first grade there for 11 years. The Talmud Torah and the Day School worked closely together for the benefit of EMJC, and the Jewish community at large. The children delivered packages on Passover to poor families, as well as *Mishloach Manot* on Purim. Dr. Rohn took the teenagers from both the Talmud Torah and Day School on trips to Israel, and was a very knowledgeable leader, having made aliyah there as a youngster from Europe. The Israel Parade was always a shared opportunity for the Day School, the Talmud Torah students, and the congregants to show support, building floats and marching together.

Many fundraising events were planned successfully, such as Art Auctions, Israel Bond Breakfasts, UJA dinners, and Jewish Theological Seminary breakfasts. There was a very active Adult Institute, where major speakers were Scholars-in Residence over a weekend of learning. Amongst the invited presenters were Roman Vishniac, and Frederic Brenner, both renowned photographers of Jewish life.

Fay Brenner, many of you may know was Marcia Sheiman's sister, under the auspices of the NYC Board of Education, initiated a program of English as a second language for the Russian community, and was ably assisted by one of the Day school teachers, Rose Bartel, also a member of the congregation. When the sponsorship of the program ended, a couple of years later, Joe participated in renewing an outreach to the Russian community to have them learn about American life and Jewish customs. There were over one hundred Russian participants every Sunday morning. With the help of Sandy Goldhaber, he made contact with Russian translators and teachers to assist. Sandy continues to this day to work diligently with the Russian community. At that time, on Passover we held model seders to introduce the Russian

community to Jewish Holidays. At first, Rabbi and Roz Pomerantz conducted this seder, with their great knowledge of Yiddish and a great sense of humor. Later on the Goldhabers and their grandchildren conducted the model seders. I helped conduct a cooking presentation for over ten Russian women each year, to show them how to make *charoses*, with the Russian women peeling the apples and chopping the nuts.

Another important development was the beginning of egalitarian services at EMJC. At first, there were alternate week Shabbat services held in the Grand Ballroom, until, with Rabbi Kass' support, it became a weekly fully egalitarian service in the Main Sanctuary. Girls could now fully participate on a Saturday morning, and read from the Torah. It was Roberta Wallach who fought for her twins, a boy and a girl, to have her daughter read from the Torah with her brother.

Receiving Landmark status was an important achievement. Joe put into motion the idea that grant money was available upon approval of Landmark status. It took several administrations to finally encourage this endeavor. Zevi Schizer and Joe recommended the final papers be given to Toby Sanchez, due to her expertise in obtaining grants. With her able assistance and knowledge, Landmark status was granted.

Without the help of the administration, the lay leadership, and all the members, these past accomplishments could never have been realized.

Over the years, we have developed many lasting friendships through our affiliation with the East Midwood Jewish Center. We currently can observe that new friendships are now being formed, that will form the basis for further growth and pleasure in connecting and being affiliated spiritually, intellectually, and socially with our esteemed EMJC. Keep up the good work!

Phyllis Rothstein

The East Midwood Jewish Center has been part of my family since 1990, but the following incidents are very special memories.

I had just joined EMJC in 1990, following the demise of Progressive Shaare Zedek, when my family lost our dear Soren Louis Sanchez at age 26 from a congenital heart condition. We had been expecting this for many years and were grateful then as we are now that he lived well beyond the standard life expectancy for his condition. He died on a Saturday and I called Rabbi Kass upon returning home from the hospital, asking him to conduct the funeral on the next day. I brought him some information about Soren's life, written by my husband and myself. At the funeral, after my daughter, Rachel, and Soren's friends spoke about him, Rabbi Kass tied it all up with a wonderful tribute, which sounded so full of feeling that one would have thought he had known Soren for years.

Shortly after this I attended Miryom Kass' beginner's Hebrew class for adults and learned to read Hebrew for the first time in my life. Miryom assured me that I would gradually pick up speed and move beyond the first grade level, which gradually happened.

In 2003, I decided to learn a *haftarah*, an event which would never have been possible for any girl in my childhood in the 1940s in St. Louis. I asked Judith Berman to teach me, and we worked together from May until the end of the year. Judy made it easy for me to remember the tropes by using colored pens

to mark them, which meant that I could chant the words, as if I were reading music. My Bat Mitzvah occurred on January 3, 2004, the day of my 70th birthday. When I began the introductory prayers for reading a *haftarah*, my eyes crossed for the first time in my life, and for a minute I stumbled. Rabbi Pomerantz stood beside me and waited patiently until I was able to proceed. From then on everything went well.

When it came time for Rabbi Kass to address me, the Bat Mitzvah girl, he called my husband, Ramon, to the *bimah*, not an odd occurrence except that he was not Jewish. I had never thought to discuss this with the Rabbi, but I am grateful for the way in which he honored Ramon as my life partner and the father of our children and instructed him in the *Shechehyanu* prayer.

In 2013 my daughter Rachel was in a very bad accident and thanks to the efforts of Avrom and Frances Fischer, seventeen different people faithfully drove me to and from the hospital and nursing home for the next three months, until she was able to return home. These are just some of the reasons why I love the East Midwood Jewish Center, and am honored to serve as its co-president.

Toby Sanchez

My family joined East Midwood Jewish Center after our beloved Congregation Shaare Torah closed its doors in September 1979, due to changes in the area. We were a special, caring family synagogue.

When we joined EMJC, we were happily welcomed by our beloved Rabbi Dr. Alvin Kass and our late Sisterhood President Mary Shapiro. After one week of retirement from Shaare Torah, the late Sylvia Gordon insisted I chair the Loyalty Luncheon. There was no saying no to Sylvia.

I brought in many projects from Shaare Torah: Sisterhood cards, wine projects, art shows, card parties, etc., and worked on all these activities until a few years ago.

My beloved late husband Dr. Carl and I were honored for the Seventy Third Annual Journal Dinner Dance. Carl kept the donations coming – for the Tree of Life, *Kol Nidre*, *Bedek Habayit* (Repair of the House of God), and Israel Bonds bought at the annual breakfast and donated to EMJC.

Shirley N. Strauss

Having been a member of EMJC since 1964, as soon as we moved to the neighborhood, I find it extremely difficult to pick out which special happenings to recall. Was it being President of the Talmud Torah PTA, when 450 children were participants and attended three of four days weekly and Sundays? Was it having the Bar and Bat Mitzvahs of my four children here or the weddings of two of my children? Or co-chairing an Israel Bonds Breakfast? Or running an annual week long pre-Pesach book Fair for 30 years? Or driving Rabbi Alvin and Miryom Kass and their personal belongs to Brooklyn on the day of their move from Astoria, Queens? Or was it attending every Israeli Day Parade and cheering as my children participated in dancing up Fifth Avenue?

Was it Bob (my late husband) as one of the proud “gymniks,” who played handball every Tuesday and Thursday evening and Sunday mornings? Or was it decorating the sukkah every year with Dr. Rohn holding my son Adam’s arm and telling him that the bees would not bite him? Was it Adam leading

YPS for years and years and knowing and contacting all 30 members weekly? Was it the honors I received from UJA-Federation for "Deeds of Tzedakah" or from the UPTA of Jewish School board of Jewish Education of Greater New York for the V.I.P. Award (very involved parent)? Was it my Elizabeth winning a Brooklyn-wide award in Bible Study an award of a beautiful Haggadah?

This list of memories does not even take into account all the friends I've made, some gone, and the many I still have. But, on reflection, perhaps the outstanding event occurred on September 10, 1977, when my youngest, twins Adam and Lorna, had a Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the main sanctuary on a Saturday morning. Lorna, who is now a cantor at Congregation B'nai Israel in Middleboro, New Jersey, was the first girl to read *haftarah* on the *bimah* on a Shabbat morning. This milestone came about with lots of discussion and the final backing of the then President Leo Wein and Rabbi Harry Halpern. She could not be called to the Torah (Adam did the blessings), and Lorna had to read Ashrei in English. Nevertheless, our commitment to EMJC and to Judaism has been strong and fruitful, and we are forever indebted to EMJC for all that we have received.

Roberta Wallach

The East Midwood Jewish Center has been a part of our family since it was founded in 1924. Rabbi Harry Halpern married my grandparents, my parents (Florence & Emanuel Klein), my mother's 2 sisters and 5 brothers, and Jay and myself. So many simchas of my family and friends were celebrated here! There are such fond memories of Saturday morning services in the Beit Hamidrash where the teens concurrently held their own Shabbat services. Then of course, there were the High Holy Days of yore, when every single room was utilized in hourly shifts by neighbors for Yizkor, with crowds milling around the shul from corner to corner, all day long. The walls of the main sanctuary have 18 plaques for our dear departed family members of blessed memory, starting from my Grandmother and Grandfather on both sides of my family.

It is so meaningful that Hadassah Brooklyn Region, of which I (Janet) am currently President, has our office in EMJC. We hold many events here, and are honored to have Cantor Sam Levine lead our Ivrit La Hadassah Shalev Bet class! Brooklyn Region has a wonderful tradition of collaborating with East Midwood especially for Hadassah's Annual Shabbat Zachor. We all look forward to this beautiful and educational joint celebration and many others.

It is an honor and a joy for us to be part of the East Midwood Jewish Center community filled with wonderful caring members, a great Sisterhood, and a legacy of extraordinary leadership continuing with Rabbi Matt Carl. We are very proud of the many services EMJC provides to the community including the grievance program, the Shabbat-a-BimBom, and Room J.

May EMJC and Rabbi Matt Carl go from strength to strength to continue our wonderful work for our members, neighborhood, and Israel. Todah Rabah!

Janet & Jacob Young

Bless This House Roz Pomerantz

Bless this House, dear G-d, we pray
Keep it safe by night and day
Ninety years, standing firm and tall
Keeping watch over one and all.

Times of joy and times of sad
What an impact this shul has had
If walls could talk, they'd surely say
Keep faith & always pray...

Bless the leaders for devotion rare
Bless the members whose hearts are here...
Bless the children, their souls so pure
Bless this building, that it may endure...

Hear our prayers as we turn to you
Fill our hearts with love anew....
Fill this house with love and peace
May hatred and bigotry truly cease.

And may East Midwood always be
A haven for this community.

The House I Live In Roz Pomerantz

(Intro)

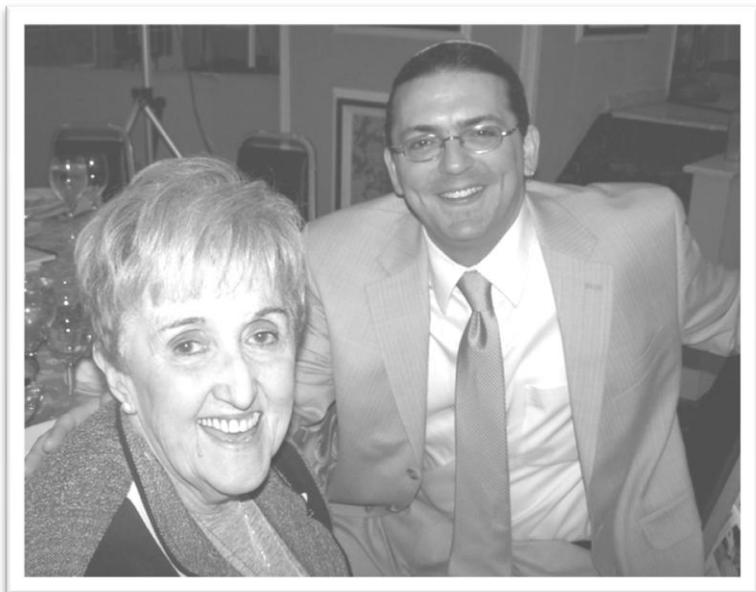
What does East Midwood mean to me? A home, a shul, a community
A haven, a hope, tranquility—that's what East Midwood gives to me!!

The shul we go to, its doors are open wide...
For people who are willing, and who want to step inside...
For people who have big hearts, who'll work devotedly...
We welcome you to our house, to our Center family,

The Shabbat & Yom Tov services, will fill your hearts in prayer
Our Sanctuary's magnificent, you'll revel in the atmosphere...
You'll soon forget your tzoers, let Hashem help you come thru
You'll feel His healing power, as His light comes shining thru...

Now, we have room for young ones and for the golden aged....
Our memory book is open, and we can add a page.
We can help each other, the Center needs us all...
We'll do the job—we'll work with heart—but, we have miles to go.

The shul we go to is not mere bricks & stone
We want to keep the banner high, but we cannot do it alone.
We want to leave a legacy that will last forevermore
And may the legacy we hope to leave be heaven blessed evermore!



*Roz Pomerantz and Cantor Sam Levine—
EMJC's favorite musical collaborators*

Thank you to the friends of EMJC who donated to our Chanukat HaBayit celebration.

Benefactors (above \$100)

Fischer Family:

Avrom & Frances Fischer
Rebecca Fischer & Murray Markowitz, Sarah & Rachel
Joshua & Mina Fischer

Avi Olitzky

Patrons (\$50-\$100)

Stephen & Madeleine Appell
David & Rochelle Eckstein
Stephen Finkelstein
Arthur & Susan Geen
Sanford & Miriam Goldhaber
Gail and Dr. David Hammerman
Michael & Sally Hipscher
Lawrence & Michele Isaacson

Cantor Robert & Gayna Kieval
Gary & Ronnie Kippel
David & Ann Kranis
David & Amy Liebov
Steven Litwin & Julia Davis
Marty Markowitz
Jay & Amy Nitzky
Toby Sanchez

Joseph & Lisa Sherman
Sherman's Chapel
Alan Silverman
Lenore Silverman
Eliot & Marsha Solomon
Michael & Aviva Sucher

Sponsors (\$10 - \$36)

Bob & Wendi Bender
Judith Berman
Warren & Iris Brahms
Richard & Judith Breyer
Raymond & Mardi Carl
Reva Friedman
Riva Gilman
Gloria Hochberg

Melvyn Klein
Marlene Krafchik & Joel Hochstein
Eugene & Leah Krakowski
Ephraim & Estelle Leibowitz
Hannah Levine
Roz Pomerantz
Luna Poplasky
Robert & Seema Rosenthal

Joseph & Phyllis Rothstein
Marjorie Sanua
Marcia Sheiman
Shirley N. Strauss
Herman Szpanderfer
Dr. Alexander Trakhtman &
Galina Zbarskaya

Please turn off all cell phones.
Restrooms are on the main floor, second floor, and fourth floor.

