



The Executive Committee
of the Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle
cordially invites you to attend a

GALA DINNER REUNION

celebrating the 90th anniversary of the building dedication of the

BROOKLYN JEWISH CENTER

and the

BJC HEBREW ACADEMY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2011

Brooklyn Jewish Center Ballroom
667 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY



**BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER**
September 25, 2011



BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
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REUNION DINNER PROGRAM

DINNER CHAIRMAN

Robert Steingut

HAMOITZEE – OPENING BENEDICTION

Dr. Don Lewittes

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Rabbi Nosson Blumes

Coordinator, Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle

Director of Development, Educational Institute Oholei Torah

A MOMENT OF SILENCE

A memorial tribute to the departed leaders and
members of the Brooklyn Jewish Center

EVENING'S HONOREES AND TRIBUTES

Rabbi Benjamin Zvi Kreitman • Rabbi Emeritus and Trustee, BJC

Executive Vice President Emeritus of United Synagogue

Presented by

Rabbi Joseph Potasnik

GUESTS OF HONOR

Jeffrey and Brondi Borer

Professor and Chairman, Department of Medicine

SUNY Downstate Medical Center and College of Medicine

Presented by

Charles Brunie and Betsy McCaughey

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Mendel Kugel

7th Grade student, 11 years old

Educational Institute Oholei Torah

A CULTURAL TRIBUTE TO
Mark Rothko
(Marcus Rothkowitz)
Fine Arts Teacher in the Center Academy
Presented by
Kate Rothko-Prizel

GREETINGS
The Honorable Marty Markowitz
Brooklyn Borough President

A VIDEO TRIBUTE TO
Rabbi Dr. Israel H. Levinthal
Founding Rabbi and Spiritual Leader, Brooklyn Jewish Center

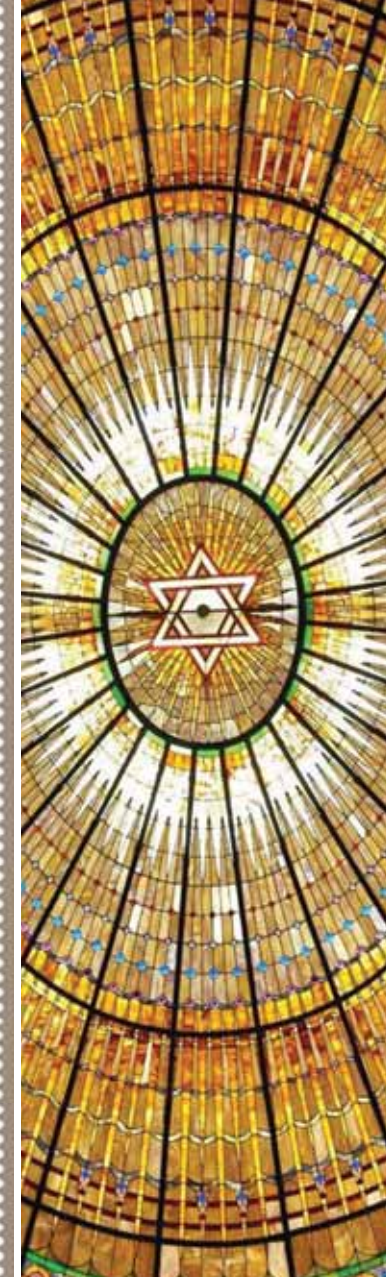
DINNER SERVED

TRIBUTE TO
Richard (Rubin) Tucker
Former Cantor of the BJC
Presented by
Barry Tucker

CANTORIAL INTERLUDE
Cantor Gideon Zelermyer
Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, Westmount, Canada

BIRKAS HAMAZON
GRACE AFTER THE MEAL
Rabbi Paul Kushner

Gifts are awaiting you in the foyer



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ANNE LEVINTHAL

Ninety years ago, my grandfather, Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal, of blessed memory, wrote in the first issue of the Brooklyn Jewish Center Bulletin in December, 1922, on the joyous occasion of the Center's opening:

"The value of the Center will lie not in its physical structure, beautiful though it be, but in the message that will go forth from this building into our hearts and minds. Its usefulness will be measured not by the material appurtenances with which it is outfitted, but by the type of character that shall here be developed. Its glory to Israel shall not lie in its external beauty, but in the spiritual beauty that from today on be manifest upon the countenances of the men and women aligned with this institution.

"God grant that the holy vision which inspired the men and women to undertake the erection of the Center shall never be dimmed; may peace and good will ever abide within its sacred portals. And let the pleasantness of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us --- yea, the work of our hands, establish Thou it. Amen!"

That first year, the membership consisted of 500 people. Within a few years, membership had increased five-fold to 2,500, making it the largest Conservative or Orthodox congregation in the entire country. Throughout Rabbi Levinthal's long association with the Center, until her untimely death in 1966, he had at his side, his beloved Rebbitzin, May B. Levinthal, of blessed memory.

On September 25, 2011, exactly 90 years to the day after the dedication of the Sanctuary, many of the descendants of those optimistic and far-seeing planners of the Brooklyn Jewish Center will gather to celebrate what became a model of a Jewish community center-- the shul with the pool-- and a world-renowned Jewish center of learning. This miracle was achieved by our families in the years immediately following World War I.

This year, on September 25, we shall gather in what is now the Educational Institute Oholei Torah, the successor in the physical building of the original Brooklyn Jewish Center. But

Oholei Torah is more than the successor-in-interest to a valuable piece of Brooklyn real estate.

It is an educational institute that my grandfather, as well as Rabbi Benjamin Kreitman, the spiritual leader of the Center from 1954 to 1968, Benjamin Markowe, Dr. Milton Schiff, Benjamin Moskowitz, Emanuel Cohen, Julius Kushner and other members of the last Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Jewish Center unanimously agreed would be a fitting institution to carry the torch of Jewish education and scholarship into the future within the Brooklyn Jewish Center's sacred walls.

This extraordinary group of men rose above the divisions that afflict even our own great religion, and understood in the late 1970s that the Lubavitchers -- who had been the Center's tenants since 1972 -- would devote the building to purposes entirely compatible with the original objectives of the founders.

As the once-great membership dwindled, Rabbi Levinthal felt each resignation of a member as a personal failure. To give but one example, a few months before his 90th birthday in 1978, he learned that a lifetime member had tendered his resignation. So, at the age of 90, he composed a two-page, single-spaced letter expressing his deep disappointment in the former member's decision. In his letter, he cited a law from Exodus 23:5: "If you see the mule of your enemy staggering under the heavy burden which it is carrying, would you hesitate to help him?"

He then added his own unmistakable interpretation to his former congregant: "Mind you, the verse speaks of the case where the burden is carried by an animal of an enemy of yours. How much more so if this heavy burden is carried by your friends and brothers in faith! You surely would help them! This text needs no further elaboration."

A year later, on Rabbi Levinthal's 91st birthday, the 60th year since the laying of the cornerstone of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, in 1979, he was already keenly aware -- as how could he not be? -- that the Center's glory days lay in the past. In the talk he delivered on his 91st birthday, he said, "I am a realist. I appreciate that we

cannot do everything that we did in the early days of the Center's existence. But, I plead with you, dear men and women, try to preserve and cherish these beautiful memories of the years that made history for American Jewry. Above all, dedicate yourselves to the sacred task of maintaining and fostering the Brooklyn Jewish Center, not only as a historic landmark but also as a vital force which can still be a source of inspiration to all American Jews to work for the glory of our faith and our people for years and years to come!"

Three years later, on April 18, 1982, the Brooklyn Jewish Center sold its real estate holdings for \$600,000 to the Educational Institute Oholei Torah. Rabbi Levinthal, Rabbi Kreitman and the Board of Trustees rejected an offer of \$6 million from a church in favor of an offer of one-tenth that sum from the Lubavitchers.

As the Center's then president, the late Benjamin Markowe, of blessed memory, wrote to the surviving members of the Center, five years later, "Our relationship [with Oholei Torah] ...has been most harmonious! I call upon each and every member of our beloved and prestigious Center to cooperate and act as you have so nobly done in the past." At Rosh Hashanah five years later, the then-president of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, Benjamin Moskowitz, wrote to the members, "By now, the doubts and hesitations of the skeptics have been totally dissipated. All of our traditional services, functions and activities have been carried out in their customary manner."

Nine years later, the last High Holiday services were held in the Brooklyn Jewish Center's Israel H. Levinthal Sanctuary, and in 1997, after 77 consecutive years of service, the Brooklyn Jewish Center ceased to be the entity our grandparents and families created.

My grandfather died the same year the Center was sold to Oholei Torah. I don't think that was a coincidence. He had spent years of anxious worry over the future of the Brooklyn Jewish Center. I believe that he died in 1982 not only because, at 94, he had many physical infirmities. After the sale of the Center, the Rabbi allowed himself, at long last, to release his tenacious grip on his earthly life, knowing that his beloved Brooklyn Jewish Center, to which he had given his heart, his soul and his life, had safely been transferred into the devoted and caring hands of the Chabad.

He understood that the essence of the Brooklyn Jewish Center as a place for the study of the Jewish religion was, at last, ensured, if not of eternal life, then at least a long, healthy and continued life. He could foresee that under the new ownership, it had a new lease on life. He was thus finally able to die at peace in the knowledge that this great, vibrant center of Jewish life and learning would continue, uninterrupted,

through the devotion of the members of the Lubavitcher movement.

This past summer, I received a message from Rabbi Nosson Blumes of Oholei Torah, asking me to call him. Although I did not know him or the name, Oholei Torah, he also mentioned the words "Brooklyn Jewish Center," in his voicemail. Of course, I called him immediately. This led to an email correspondence with a truly exceptional, highly motivated, and dedicated 43-year-old Rabbi. Thus began not only a friendship but also my own education about what had become of the Brooklyn Jewish Center since my grandfather's death.

Now, after almost 30 years of tireless service to the Jewish community in Crown Heights, and having built additional buildings to ensure the education of every child who seeks an education here, the Chabad is, understandably, turning to us as a potential source of support. And why not? To paraphrase Rabbi Hillel, if not to us, then to whom? And if we are not for the Brooklyn Jewish Center, who will be?

Yes, these are difficult economic times, and not every plea for funds can be met. But this is nothing new. In February 1946, two years before the founding of the modern State of Israel, Rabbi Levinthal addressed his congregants, some of whom had evidently *kvetched* to him about the many fund drives to which they were asked to contribute.

He wrote to them, "Let us stop complaining at the demands that are made upon us. Let us rather begin to understand that as much as we are asked to do, it is not half as much as ought to be done."

It is my hope and prayer that in loving and grateful memory of our families who gave us the love of Torah, of the Jewish approach to life, and of the traditions of Judaism, we will hearken to the call of those who nurtured us.

May we give all we can to enable the Chabad members, who live simply and act generously, to repair the crumbling building and continue their devotion to the principles that guided our families nine decades ago.

As my grandfather wrote of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, "Its usefulness will be measured not by the material appurtenances with which it is outfitted, but by the type of character that shall here be developed."

Our support can thus help the Chabad nurture, please G-d, the future Dr. Jeffrey S. Borers, the future Richard Tuckers, the future Rabbi Benjamin Kreitmans, the future Helen Levinthal Lyons, and yes, the future Israel H. Levinthals, within its sacred portals.

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SUNY
Downstate
Medical Center
University Hospital of Brooklyn

University Hospital of Brooklyn
College of Medicine
School of Graduate Studies
College of Nursing
College of Health Related Professions

Jeffrey S. Borer, MD
Professor and Chairman, Department of Medicine
Chief, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine
Director, The Howard Gilman Institute for Heart Valve Disease
Director, Cardiovascular Translational Research Institute

March 12, 2011

Dear Friends,

I am writing now to ask for your support for a worthy undertaking about which you may be unaware – and for an institution, the Brooklyn Jewish Center, with which you have not been associated for many years.

It is unlikely that any of you know or remember me. Nonetheless, we share a common background that may make this letter not unwelcome. Like many of you, your children or your parents or grandparents, I was associated with the Brooklyn Jewish Center throughout my formative years. Indeed, my association is particularly strong: my grandfather and several of his brothers-in-law – my mother's uncles – were founding members of the Center in 1919. My parents were married there in 1944, at the last wedding at which the great tenor, Richard Tucker, then the cantor, participated. I celebrated my Bar Mitzvah at the Center, went to Hebrew School there, attended Sabbath and High Holy Day services there, used the gym and the swimming pool and the four-wall handball courts regularly, and went to dances on Saturday nights to meet girls when I was in high school.

However, like many of the congregants, my family left the neighborhood, moving to Manhattan in the 1960s, while I was away in college. In fact, by 1982, so few members remained that the services and amenities that were an important part of the cement that kept our community together, as well as the magnificent building, no longer could be maintained. The remaining Board of Directors was faced with three choices: sell the land to a developer, accept the offer of \$6,000,000 from a local church, or accept the offer of the Lubavitcher community, our neighbors since 1940, to take over the facility. The Lubavitchers had only \$400,000 to offer. Nonetheless, the Board, in keeping with the principles set forth by the Center's founding rabbi, Israel H. Levinthal, who foresaw the inevitability of change, sold to the Lubavitchers to maintain a use consistent with the beliefs of the founders.

Under the leadership of the late Rebbe Menachem Schneerson, the Chabad Lubavitch community began the expensive and painstaking (and painstakingly slow, given the dearth of money) process of stabilizing the building and gradually adapting it to uses that, while not different from the original, involved a reorganization of resources. Chabad determined that the Center should become the primary location of its yeshiva, Oholei Torah, which was enlarging and which, in 1972, received a charter from New York State to grant college degrees (and now serves 1600 students from pre-school onward). The community raised money (including a donation of \$100,000.00 from the Brooklyn Jewish Center to dedicate a classroom in memory of Emanuel Cohen, a past president) to add a building for this purpose in what had been the playground that was adjacent to the Center, but which subsequently had become a parking lot. Oholei Torah utilized the original Hebrew School classrooms on the upper floors of the Center, as well. To provide amenities for the entire Crown Heights community, the Lubavitchers gradually restored the swimming pool and gym; to serve the students during their long days in school, as well as to serve for their own assemblies and celebrations, they restored the beautiful first floor ballroom, the mezzanine floor dining room, and the twin kitchens (dairy and non-dairy). What had been the Junior Congregation on the third floor was maintained as a synagogue. However, after 20 years, in 2002, the magnificent main sanctuary, the esthetic equal of which, unfortunately, never will be seen again, was removed in order to provide more space for the educational mission. Parts were sold to other synagogues then being built. In fact, of course, this sanctuary was not needed by the Lubavitcher community, which long had had its own synagogue just one and a half blocks down Eastern Parkway, at 770. When I toured the facility and saw the loss of the main sanctuary, I was shocked and saddened. However, I soon realized that the importance of this beautiful facility was greatest to its builders – our ancestors, most of whom had escaped pogroms in Eastern Europe only 15 years earlier.



They had succeeded in forging new lives in New York and succeeded sufficiently to found the first Jewish community center in the US, to build the sanctuary, and to create new traditions by reserving an area in the sanctuary where men and women could sit together, with other areas remaining gender specific. They thus established “conservative” Judaism, as compared with orthodox and reform. For the children of these founders, the importance of that statement of success was less important, and for their grandchildren, like me, it was all taken for granted. Now, with the sanctuary no longer serving its intended purpose, it seems most fitting that it should be employed in a parallel good – the education of succeeding generations of children who should not forget our heritage and whose ethical and intellectual grounding should be strong.

Clearly, Oholei Torah has expended extraordinary resources of effort and money, money of which there is relatively little available to them, to enable the Center to survive. More importantly, I believe it was the steadfastness of these people that preserved Crown Heights and prevented it from descending into the chaos of the South Bronx during the tense times of the late 1980s and early 1990s (now best remembered for a murder rather than for all the earlier, wonderful things that we can recall). The Lubavitchers reached out and joined with their non-Jewish neighbors, who also reached out, to relieve the tensions, to make the streets safe, and to enable the area to prosper once again.

Now the Center needs an additional infusion of cash – and the need is sufficiently urgent that it is beyond the means of the community through its traditional fund-raising strategies. The façade of the Center needs to be repointed to prevent deterioration beyond reclamation and, with it, further deterioration of the steel superstructure that had been damaged by years of neglect before 1982. As some of you may know, limestone is a “living” substance, which absorbs water, expands and contracts with the weather, and crumbles if not maintained. Deterioration of the building carries potentially disastrous consequences for the educational mission. However, the façade has an additional, symbolic, importance, as well as an intrinsic esthetic value. The slow restoration and adaptive reuse of the Brooklyn Jewish Center during the past quarter century is a metaphor for the restoration of the surrounding community and of the deathlessness of our traditions and of the values of our forebears. To allow the building to crumble would be a tragedy for the school but, also, a tragedy for us.

In this spirit, I ask you to consider support for the façade restoration project. I know that the economy is in difficult times and many have lost jobs and money. Nonetheless, human need and important projects continue. If generosity is possible, now is a good time to provide it.

Some of you may wonder how I, personally, came to be associated with this effort. I am neither a Lubavitcher nor am I orthodox. Over the years, I had given some modest donations to Oholei Torah because I believe I owe a debt to the people who saved the Center. However, 3 years ago, in a formal attempt to reconnect with the Center community, the director of development for Oholei Torah, Rabbi Nosson Blumes, sent me a letter. While working in the building, he had come across a cache of old siddurim. They were embossed with the names of the donors. As you may recall, a few prayer books were donated by the celebrants when weddings and Bar Mitzvahs occurred at the Center. In fact, I still have my original copy, given to me by the Sisterhood at my Bar Mitzvah in 1958. However, Rabbi Blumes had found one of the copies donated to the Center, and wrote to ask if I wanted it. A worthwhile cause clearly would be subserved, so I sent a small donation and received the book. When the current further restoration of the Center was needed, Rabbi Blumes reached out to me again (he now had my home address!). By the time of this second interaction, I was about to move my professional activities from Weill Cornell Medical College, my workplace for the preceding 30 years, to State University of New York Downstate Medical Center – at the junction of Crown Heights and East Flatbush, and across the street from my high school, George W. Wingate. Since the department that I direct is rather large and is intended to provide health care for the community, as well as to teach medical students and to create new knowledge through research, it seemed that a symbiotic relation might develop here. I responded to Rabbi Blumes, who arranged a tour of the Center for my wife and me – followed by a surprise visit, arranged by the rabbi, to the house at 1439 President Street, bought by my grandfather in 1922, in which I, and my father before me, had grown up but which I hadn’t entered in 45 years. It is now occupied by a rabbi and his wife and children who are members of the Lubavitcher community. From my tour, the needs of the Center, and the extraordinary value of the educational and community services provided in the facility, became clear. When help was needed for the façade restoration project, I was happy to be a part of the effort.

I hope you will want to participate, too, if you can.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey S. Borer, M.D.



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RABBI SCHNEIERSOHN COMES TO AMERICA

Scion of the most distinguished family in Israel, Rabbi Joseph Isaac Schneiersohn, the Libowitcher rabbi, who has just arrived in New York, has demonstrated in his own life that is a worthy successor of his great grandfather, the noted Rabbi Schneor Zalman Ladier, founder of the Chassidic sect known as Ha Ba D.

Early in life Rabbi Schneirsohn came under the influence of the Chassidic movement. The struggle between Chassidim and the Misnagdim, the anti-Chassidim in Lithuania and in White Russia was a very bitter one. The Lithuanian Jews under the influence of Rabbi Elilza Gaon, had placed an interdict on the new religious movement and as a result R. Schneor Zalman was denounced by the Russian government as a dangerous agitator and teacher of heresy. R. Schneor Zalman was arrested and led in chains to St. Petersburg, now Leningrad, and imprisoned for a considerable time.

In a similar manner the grandson of R. Schneor Zalman, the renowned R. Menahen Mendel Libawitcher, generally known for his most noted work as the Zemach Zedek, was in 1835 accused of disseminating traitorous opinions against the regent government among his Chassidic followers. He, however, was more fortunate than his grandfather. After lengthy litigation he was to prove his innocence.

The present Libowitcher rabbi grandson of R. Menahem Mendel, outdid his his ancestors in his escape from a very serious difficulty. In 1927 he was sentenced to be shot by the Bolsheviks for his religious leadership, but through the intervention of the late Senator Borah he was reprieved and sent into exile. An even greater danger threatened him lately in Warsaw during the Nazi bombardment of that city. In an almost miraculous manner he was saved and was able to arrive safely in this country.

Whether we accept the tenets of Chassidim, with its emphasis on the study of Kabbalah and the worship of the "Zaddik" or "Miracle Working" Rabbi, or whether we are enlightened "Mithnagid, we express our welcome to the Lubawitcher Rabbi. He has, on more than one occasion, shown himself to be devoted Jew, a brave and learned son of Israel.



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In loving memory

to these outstanding members of the Brooklyn Jewish Center
who made it their mission that the Center should remain a viable and
active part of the Jewish Community

EMANUEL COHEN
JULIUS KUSHNER
BEN MARKOWE
BEN MOSCOWITZ
DR. MILTON SCHIFF

As members of the Brooklyn Jewish Center at the time of its transition to Educational Institute Oholei Torah they followed its growth and development with a keen outlook and deep admiration. Long-time residents of Crown Heights, who witnessed the community in its golden heights, and its most challenging times, these men had a sense of deep appreciation for Oholei Torah's ongoing presence and its beacon of light and hope to the community, the city of New York, and beyond.

May the merit of their many good deeds and acts of charity be a source of
blessing and comfort to their families.

*Our apologies if we did not mention others — for there were so many dear friends,
please let our office know so that it may be corrected for the future*

ROBERT STEINGUT
344 WEST 77TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10023



September 25th, 2011

Dear fellow friends of the Brooklyn Jewish Center,

As you celebrate tonight the rich history and glory of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, I join you in friendship and community.

My family goes back three generations with the Center. My grandfather, Irwin Steingut, and my father, Stanley Steingut, were both proud members, and I myself am a graduate of the Center and have warm memories of growing up across the street, living in 706 Eastern Parkway along with Sandy Lindenbaum, and his wonderful parents, obm. I also grew up with and remained best of friends with David Forsted and his wife, Lenore Horowitz.

I am particularly pleased that the lay leadership of the Center had the foresight to place our treasured building in the Lubavitch community. They have proven themselves by having nurtured and cared for the building, even above their capabilities, thus keeping it a viable part of the Jewish community; and they have shown us, fellow members, the greatest respect and friendship.

We celebrate tonight several primary goals, one by the continuation of the Jewish Center through Oholei Torah, and the other being here tonight re-affirming all our commitment and love for the Brooklyn Jewish Center and all it stands for.

I want to congratulate Rabbi Nosson Blumes for the incredible energy and commitment that he has shown in being the architect of this project, and bringing it to fruition, and my fellow members of the committee deserve our appreciation for their diligent efforts to make sure this gathering is success it is.

I wish all of you assembled here tonight, and my dear Rabbi Benjamin Zvi Kreitman in particular, a most enjoyable evening and a happy and healthy New Year.

Robert Steingut
Dinner Chairman



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“The enthusiasm of those members who joined the Sunday morning Mishnah class served as an inspiration to our many students, as living examples of self-sacrifice for ideals and Torah studies.”

Rabbi Joseph Rosenfeld

*Executive Director,
Educational Institute Oholei Torah*

Dear Honorees, Guests and Friends,

I stand tonight in awe and gratitude as I witness the dedication of so many former members of the Brooklyn Jewish Center and their families who have gathered tonight, and who have shown support and taken a keen interest in these recent months.

I recall with great pride the friendship and partnership that began almost 40 years ago, in 1972, when Oholei Torah began renting classrooms in the Jewish Center Building. I met with an active board who had determination and conviction to do whatever was humanly possible to keep the Jewish Center a viable institution. As time went on, Oholei Torah purchased the building in 1982, yet the partnership continued, and services were held by the members for more than 15 years after, until Purim of 1997. Many members joined in Oholei Torah events and functions, taking pride in our achievements and growth, as the famous Brooklyn Jewish Center building became the anchor building of our expanded Eastern Parkway Campus.

The enthusiasm of those members who joined the Sunday morning Mishnah class served as an inspiration to our many students, as living examples of self-sacrifice for ideals and Torah studies.

In 1998 a group from the Center dedicated a classroom in memory of Emanuel Cohen, and wished us well in the future. I am so glad that tonight we have the opportunity to share with you the progress of Oholei Torah, as you celebrate the history of the Jewish Center. Your forefathers have the great merit that this great building and institute is still, until today, such an important place of Jewish learning and life.

I personally greet all of tonight's honorees and guests who joined in this celebration, a celebration of history and family, of the past and of the future, and a celebration that warms the heart and nurtures the soul, for Am Yisrael Chai, the Jewish nation lives on, flourishes and grows.

K'siva V'chasima Tovah, a Shana Tovah U'mesukah!

Rabbi Joseph Rosenfeld

Executive Director, Educational Institute Oholei Torah

Rabbi Nosson Blumes
Coordinator, Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle
Director of Development, Oholei Torah

To My Many Dear Friends,

As we sit tonight in this glorious grand ballroom, my heart fills with emotion. For in this very room so many of you and your family members celebrated milestones and simchas. And tonight we celebrate the culmination of the efforts of so many, as we gather to pay tribute to the past and celebrate the bright future of this great edifice.

As Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal so eloquently wrote at the opening celebrations of the Building dedication in 1922,

“The value of the Center will not lie in its physical structure, beautiful though it be, but in the message that will go forth from this building into our hearts and minds.”

The message that was carried forth from the Brooklyn Jewish Center was so strong, so pertinent, that today many have joined us after so many years, showing that it is a message that transcends time, place and views.

I have said so often that we need to look at what unites us, not what divides us, and tonight’s celebration is a testament to that. People of diverse backgrounds gathering and uniting around the history that we share, the history of the BJC.

I would need many pages to thank all those who helped in achieving tonight’s event, yet I fear I would miss someone, for there are so many. I invite you to continue in our growth, as we celebrate the great use and inspiration of the building, and join us in our attainments as Oholei Torah reaches even higher heights. For you have played such a pivotal role, and I look forward to joining in many future celebrations and years of friendship.

I thank the efforts of our committee members, and tonight’s honorees: Jeffrey and Brondi Borer; the Kreitman family, as they honor Rabbi Benjamin Zvi Kreitman; the Rothko and Tucker families, as they pay tribute to their fathers and all of the committee members.

This is without doubt one of my greatest achievements, and I say this with great pride and nachas. Thank you for helping me to reach this great goal and aspiration.

Best wishes for a most happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Rabbi Nosson Blumes
Coordinator of the BJC Circle



“I have said so often that we need to look at what unites us, not what divides us, and tonight’s celebration is a testament to that. People of diverse backgrounds gathering and uniting around the history that we share, the history of the BJC.”



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DR. MICHAEL B. OREN

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

“I wish you continued success and a fruitful partnership with Educational Institute Oholei Torah that so nobly serves the Crown Heights community in the building originally opened as the Brooklyn Jewish Center ninety years ago”

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.



שגרירות ישראל
ושינגטון

September 25, 2011

Rabbi Nossom Blumes, Coordinator
Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle and
Educational Institute Oholei Torah
667 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, New York 11213

Dear Friends,

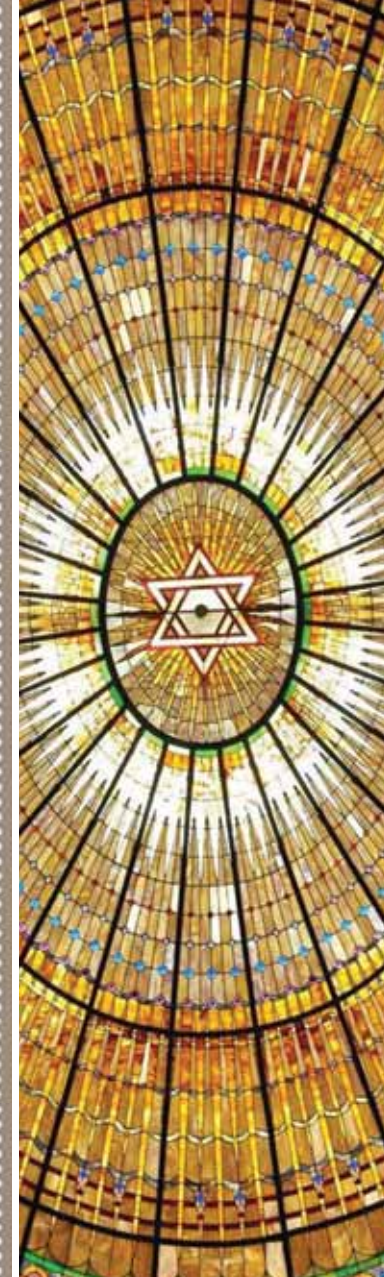
On behalf of the State of Israel, I wish to congratulate the Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle on the joyous occasion of the 90th anniversary of this historic synagogue and Jewish Community center. Its creation pioneered an original concept within American Jewish life that continues to benefit Jewish communities throughout the US – strengthening Jewish identity.

To Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal, of blessed memory, to Rabbi Benjamin Zvi Kreitman, Jeffrey S. Borer, M.D. and Brondi Borer, Esq., and all the honorees and descendants of the visionary founders of this extraordinary beacon of Jewish religious and cultural life in the US, the State of Israel sends its deepest appreciation.

I wish you continued success and a fruitful partnership with the Educational Institute Oholei Torah that so nobly serves the Crown Heights community in the building originally opened as the Brooklyn Jewish Center ninety years ago.

Best wishes,

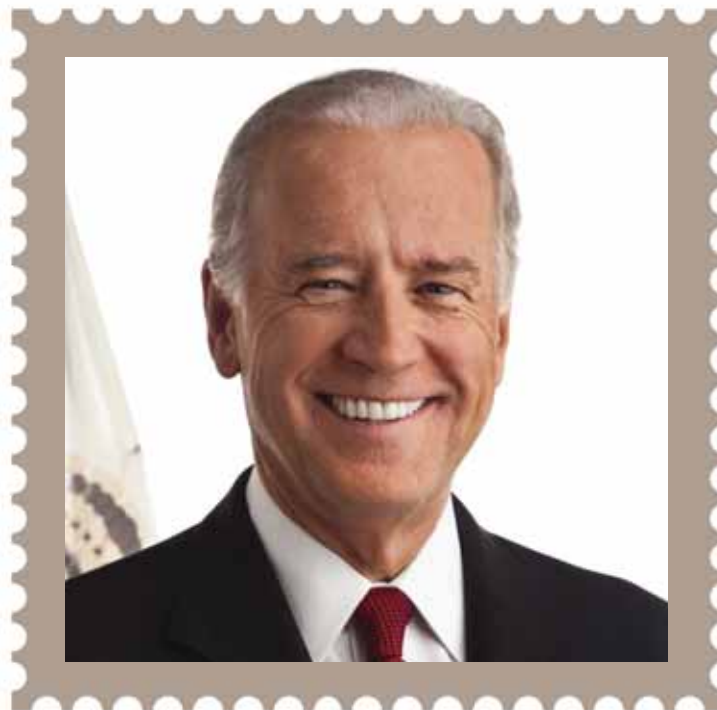
Dr. Michael B. Oren
Ambassador of Israel to the United States



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JOSEPH R. BIDEN

VICE PRESIDENT, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

“Even as our world faces enormous challenges, I am encouraged by your hopeful spirit and dedication to providing valuable assistance to the Crown Heights community.”



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

September 25, 2011

Brooklyn Jewish Center
667 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11213

Dear Friends:

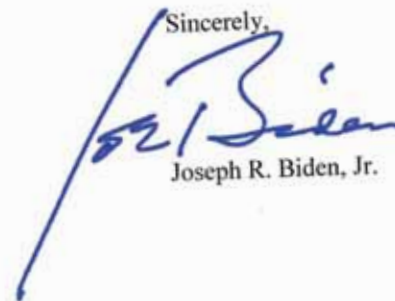
It is a privilege to recognize the Brooklyn Jewish Center as you celebrate your 90th Anniversary and honor your diverse and devoted congregation.

Even as our world faces enormous challenges, I am encouraged by your hopeful spirit and dedication to providing valuable assistance to the Crown Heights community. I truly believe your efforts to promote volunteer work and provide religious, cultural, and social activities for families in the community will lead to a better and brighter tomorrow.

I would like to offer my personal congratulations to this year's honored guests: Jeffrey and Brondi Borer, Rabbi Dr. Benjamin Z. Kreitman, Richard Tucker, Mark Rothko and Robert Steingut. You should be proud – your leadership exemplifies the altruistic dedication that makes the Center what it is today.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to all who support the Brooklyn Jewish Center and whose hard work made this celebration possible. I wish you much success and happiness in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



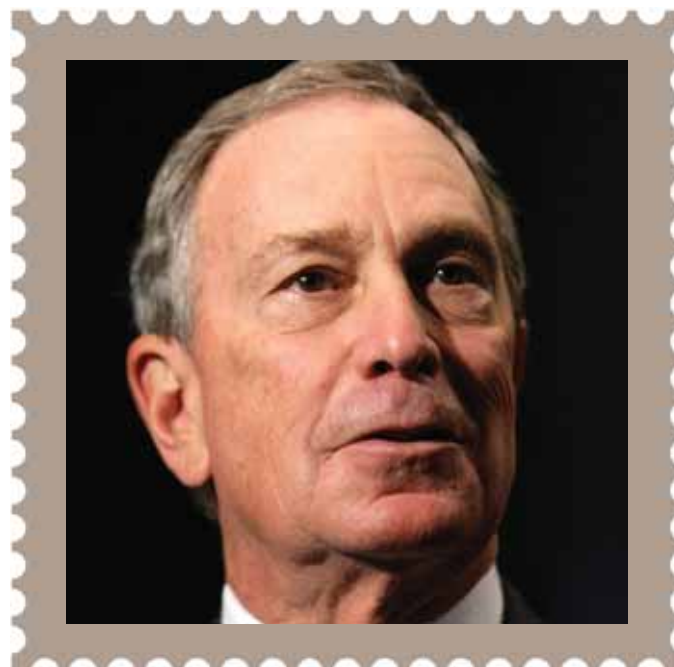
Joseph R. Biden, Jr.



BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER
September 25, 2011



BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER
September 25, 2011



MAYOR MICHAEL BLOOMBERG
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

“The Brooklyn Jewish Center has an especially rich history, as it has been both the artistic home of luminaries such as Richard Tucker and Mark Rothko and the heart of the Jewish social life and education in Brooklyn... On behalf of New York City, I join you in applauding tonight’s honorees – Jeffrey and Brondi Borer and the Kreitman Family. Please accept my very best wishes for a wonderful evening and continued success.”



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

September 25, 2011

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to tonight's Gala Reunion Dinner, hosted by the Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle.

New York continues to be a city of promise and opportunity for people of every background and belief. No place has opened its doors more widely to the world than New York, and as the center of the Jewish diaspora, our City continues to enjoy a special relationship with Jewish communities across the country and around the world. The Brooklyn Jewish Center has an especially rich history, as it has been both the artistic home of luminaries such as Richard Tucker and Mark Rothko and the heart of Jewish social life and education in Brooklyn. That is why we are proud to join Educational Institute Oholei Torah in celebrating this venerable institution and the 90th anniversary of the building dedication of BJC and its Hebrew Academy. Together, we look forward to what the people gathered here tonight will do to help build a better world in the years ahead.

On behalf of New York City, I join you in applauding tonight's honorees—Jeffrey and Brondi Borer and the Kreitman Family. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful evening and continued success.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor



BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER
September 25, 2011



BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER
September 25, 2011



**MARTY MARKOWITZ,
BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT**

“Brooklyn has a time-honored tradition to recognize those organizations that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to the preservation of Jewish history, that increases public awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the Jewish heritage and culture.”



OFFICE OF THE BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

September 25, 2011

Rabbi Nosson Blumes, Coordinator
Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle
667 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11213

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to Chairman Dr. Jeffrey S. Borer, Coordinator Rabbi Nosson Blumes, Dinner Chairman Robert Steingut, the board of trustees, and the friends and supporters of the Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle as you gather to host your Gala Dinner Reunion, celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the building dedication of the Brooklyn Jewish Center and the BJC Hebrew Academy.

Brooklyn has a time-honored tradition to recognize those organizations that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to the preservation of Jewish history, that increase public awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the Jewish heritage and culture, and that put forth their resources and energies to advance Jewish causes. Since its founding in 1920, The Brooklyn Jewish Center served as the most influential and vibrant cultural nexus of the Jewish community of Crown Heights and all of Brooklyn for many decades, providing for the spiritual, religious, educational and wellness needs of countless Jewish luminaries of America during their most formative years through excellent schooling and through wonderful bar mitzvahs and weddings, as well as leaving behind a rich and memorable legacy of nationally celebrated spiritual leaders, among whom were eminent Rabbis Israel H. Levinthal and Benjamin Z. Kreitman. The Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle is an organization dedicated to gathering together alumni who share many fond memories of the Center in order to recognize the Center's storied past, and to raise funds for a preservation campaign now that the facilities form the distinguished Educational Institute Oholei Torah's reception hall for all sorts of Jewish celebrations and *simchas*, in association with the Lubavitch movement of Jewish cultural enrichment. Tonight all of Brooklyn joins as the Gala Dinner Reunion recognizes Guests of Honor: Jeffrey and Brondi Borer, in memory of the Borer, Feldt and Stark families, and the Kreitman Family, dedicating an educational institute in honor of Benjamin Z. Kreitman, Rabbi Emeritus and Trustee of the BJC. Tonight we will also be honoring Richard Tucker, Former Cantor of the BJC, and Mark Rothko, Fine Arts Teacher of the Center Hebrew Academy.

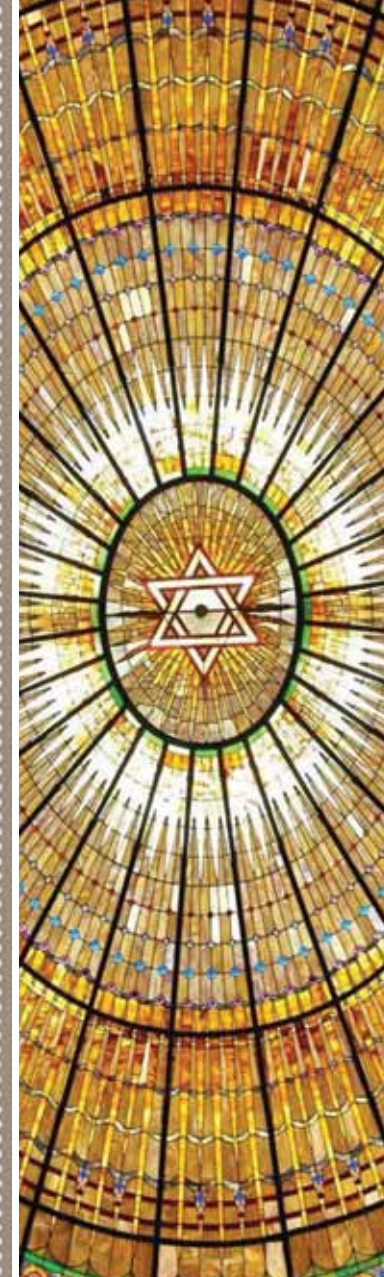
On behalf of all 2.6 million Brooklynites, I salute and commend the Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle for their important contributions to Brooklyn, and by preserving the BJC we ensure that Brooklyn remains the proud Yiddishkeit capital of America. I congratulate tonight's honorees as they are most justifiably paid tribute for their commitment, steadfast leadership and unwavering support to the Brooklyn Jewish Center throughout the years. Finally, I thank everyone present for making Brooklyn a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Marty Markowitz

MM/gdm

Brooklyn Borough Hall • 209 Joralemon Street • Brooklyn, New York 11201 • 718/802-3700 • Fax 718/802-3959



BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER
September 25, 2011



BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER
September 25, 2011



CHARLES E. SCHUMER
NEW YORK

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
BANKING
FINANCE
JOINT ECONOMIC
JUDICIARY
RULES

September 25, 2011

Dear Friends:

Mazel Tov!

Please accept my warmest greetings and congratulations as you gather to celebrate the Brooklyn Jewish Center's Gala Reunion Dinner. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the fine work of the Brooklyn Jewish Center and tonight's honorees on this wonderful occasion.

Since 1920, the Brooklyn Jewish Center has been an influential force in Brooklyn's vibrant Jewish community. By collaborating with many dedicated members of the community through the Synagogue's resources and programs, the Jewish Center continues to transform their members' lives, through its compassion and commitment to the Jewish community. I applaud the hard work of the leaders and the congregants, both past and present, of this wonderful synagogue.

Further, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge tonight's honorees: Jeffrey and Brondi Borer; the Kreitman family, in tribute to Rabbi Dr. Benjamin Z. Kreitman; Richard Tucker; Mark Rothko and Robert Steingut, Dinner Chairperson. Tonight's awardees represent some of the exceptional people in the Brooklyn Jewish community, who have all worked to further the mission of the Jewish Center with dedication and hard work. It is my pleasure to commend these outstanding individuals for their tireless devotion to the Jewish community in Brooklyn. Their commitment to this endeavor is an inspiration to us all.

Again, thank you for your hard work and dedication to the entire New York community. I know that the Brooklyn Jewish Center will continue their efforts for many years to come. Best wishes for a wonderful evening.

Sincerely,

Charles Schumer
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

“By collaborating with many dedicated members of the community, through the Synagogues resources and program, the Jewish Center continue's, to transform their members lives, through its compassion and commitment to Jewish community”



“Your reunion dinner offers a unique opportunity to re-connect and pass on the legacy and great devotion of the founding members to their descendants. Everyone associated with the Brooklyn Jewish Center can be proud of their efforts to the preservation of American Jewish life and a source of Jewish pride.”



NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

September 25, 2011

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to extend my sincerest greetings as you gather for the Brooklyn Jewish Center's Gala Reunion Dinner.

The Brooklyn Jewish Center was founded in 1920 with the vision of being an all inclusive Synagogue Center with a sanctuary, wedding ballroom, day school, swimming pool and a health club, full-service kosher restaurant and an extensive adult education program. In 1972 the Center Hebrew Academy partnered with the flagship school of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, Educational Institute Oholei Torah. The Brooklyn Jewish Center was eventually sold to Oholei Torah, keeping the great building as part of the Jewish Community. The friendship and partnership continues, and today, in show of Oholei Torah's appreciation to the members of the former Brooklyn Jewish Center, a committee has been established to continue this friendly relationship. Your reunion dinner offers a unique opportunity to re-connect and pass on the legacy and great devotion of the founding members to their descendants. Everyone associated with the Brooklyn Jewish Center can be proud of their efforts to the preservation of American Jewish life and a source of Jewish pride.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Jeffrey & Brondi Borer; The Kreitman family, in tribute to Rabbi Dr. Benjamin Z. Kreitman; Richard Tucker, former Cantor; Mark Rothko, former fine art teacher; and Robert Steingut, dinner chairperson, as you pay them tribute.

Again, congratulations to today's honorees, and best wishes to the Brooklyn Jewish Center for a successful reunion dinner gala.

Sincerely,


SHELDON SILVER
Speaker



BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER
September 25, 2011



BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER
September 25, 2011



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER
110 STATE STREET

September 25, 2011

Rabbi Nosson Blumes, Coordinator
Brooklyn Jewish Center
667 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11213

Dear Friends:

Greetings to all those gathered this evening for the Gala Dinner Reunion hosted by the Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the opening of the BJC building. Dedicated in 1921, the Brooklyn Jewish Center building served as a vital center of Jewish life for over 70 years, and it is now enjoying a renaissance as the home of the Educational Institute Oholei Torah, the flagship school of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement.

Special congratulations are due to this year's honorees: **Jeffrey & Brondi Borer**, *Guests of Honor*, cherishing the memory of the **Borer, Feldt and Stark families**; and the **Kreitman Family**, dedicating a new facility in honor of **Rabbi Benjamin Z. Kreitman**. Their outstanding leadership and service, as well as the many contributions of their families and ancestors, are truly worthy of your recognition.

The Brooklyn Jewish Center was established to promote the religious, social, recreational and educational well-being of the Jewish community in Crown Heights and surrounding areas. Featuring a wedding hall, gym, sauna, swimming pool and Hebrew Academy, the Center thrived under the leadership of Rabbi Dr. Israel Levinthal, and inspired devoted support from its members for generations. Determined that the historic building should remain part of the Jewish community, the BJC Trustees arranged its sale to the Educational Institute Oholei Torah, and it now serves as the anchor building of the Oholei Torah campus, serving 1600 students who go on to spread Jewish ideals around the globe. The dedicated officers and members of the Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle are honoring an inspiring history and preserving a proud legacy for future generations.

Best wishes for a joyful celebration and continued success.

Sincerely,


Thomas P. DiNapoli
State Comptroller



“Determined that the historic building should remain part of the Jewish community, the BJC Trustees arranged its sale to the Educational Institute Oholei Torah, and it now serves as the anchor building of the Oholei Torah campus, serving 1600 students who go on to spread Jewish ideals around the globe. The dedicated officers and members of the BJC Circle are honoring an inspiring history and preserving a proud legacy for future generations.”

“Through its sale to the Educational Institute Oholei Torah, the center has continued to expand and flourish. At present the great edifice is the primary building and focal point of the Oholei Torah Campus. Thanks to the commitment of leadership and members, the campus boasts a thriving school, Talmudical College and Community Center.”



GARY L. ACKERMAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 25, 2011

Dear Friends

Warmest greetings to all gathered at the Brooklyn Jewish Center's Gala Reunion Dinner.

Since its founding in 1920, the Brooklyn Jewish Center has built a community that is dedicated to enhancing all aspects of Jewish life for all who walk through its doors. The Center's members and Board of Trustees have shown a wonderful devotion to education, community and faith that is second to none.

Through its sale to the Educational Institute Oholei Torah, the Center has continued to expand and flourish. At present the great edifice is the primary building and focal point of the Oholei Torah Campus. Thanks to the commitment of leadership and members, the campus boasts a thriving school, Talmudical College and Community Center.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful gala and much continued success. I wish you all a hearty Yasher Koach!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary L. Ackerman".

Gary L. Ackerman
Member of Congress



BROOKLYN JEWISH
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September 25, 2011



BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER
September 25, 2011



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
YVETTE D. CLARKE
11TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

September 25, 2011

Greetings,

On behalf of New York's 11th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate and extend my warmest regards to the members of the Brooklyn Jewish Center on yet another year of success.

For ninety years, this organization has been a great example of how individuals can come together and make a difference. Through your hard work and dedication, you have created a centralized location for recreation and education. The community that you have built within the Brooklyn Jewish Center has enabled the preservation of this dynamic culture, enriching the diversity that makes New York a great place to live and work.

I would also like to recognize Jeffrey and Brondi Borer, The Kreitman family in tribute to Rabbi Dr. Benjamin Z. Kreitman, Richard Tucker, Mark Rothko, and Robert Steingut, for their unwavering support and dedication to this organization.

I wish the Brooklyn Jewish Center many years of success.

Sincerely,

*Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress*

“Through your hard work and dedication, you have created a centralized location for recreation and education. The community you have built within the Brooklyn Jewish Center has enabled the preservation of this dynamic culture, enriching the diversity that makes New York a great place to live and work.”

“For decades the Brooklyn Jewish Center has been an integral part of the community. and today the great edifice is the anchor building of the Oholei Torah Campus and is thriving as a school, Talmudical College and Community Center.”



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SCOTT M. STRINGER
BOROUGH PRESIDENT



September 25, 2011

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to all those gathered for the Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle's 90th anniversary of the building dedication of the Brooklyn Jewish Center and the BJC Hebrew Academy Gala Reunion Dinner.

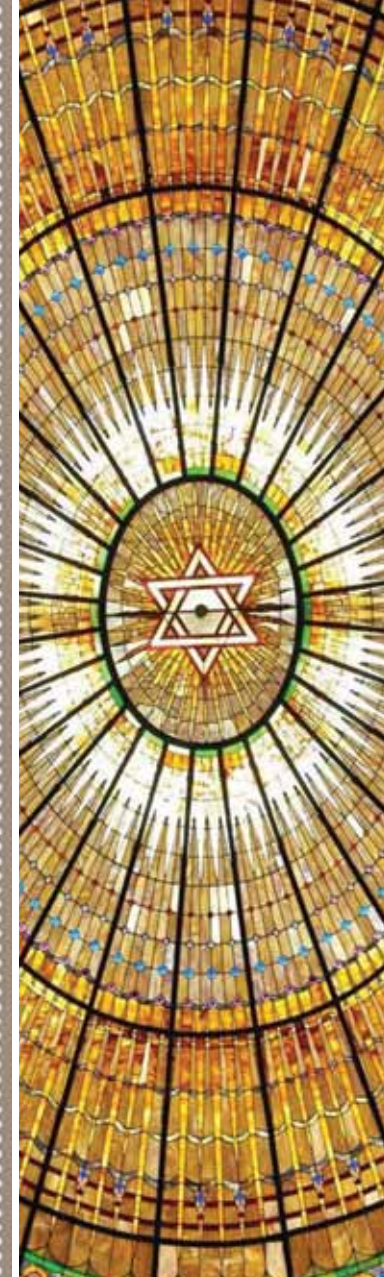
For decades the Brooklyn Jewish Center has been an integral part of the community and today the great edifice is the anchor building of the Oholei Torah Campus and is thriving as a school, Talmudical College, and Community Center.

Once again, congratulations to all tonight's honorees and on the 90 years of service the Brooklyn Jewish Center has provided to the community.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Stringer

MUNICIPAL BUILDING ♦ 1 CENTRE STREET ♦ NEW YORK, NY 10007
PHONE (212) 669-8300 FAX (212) 669-4305
www.mbp.org bp@manhattanbp.org



BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER
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BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER
September 25, 2011



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Chair of the Board
Alisa R. Doctoroff*

Executive Vice President & CEO
John S. Ruskay

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Chief Compliance Officer
& Secretary
Ellen R. Zimmerman

Executive Vice Presidents Emeriti
Ernest W. Michel
Stephens D. Solender

UJA Federation
of New York

130 East 59th Street
New York, NY 10022
Tel: 1.212.980.1000
Fax: 1.212.888.7538
www.ujafedny.org

August 29, 2011

Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle
Brooklyn Jewish Center
667 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11213
Attn: Rabbi Nosson Blumes, Coordinator

Dear Friends:

Ninety years—what an auspicious moment for the Circle of the historic Brooklyn Jewish Center to be celebrating! UJA-Federation of New York is pleased to honor you on this occasion.

The founders of the Brooklyn Jewish Center were pioneers not only in galvanizing the emerging Jewish presence on Eastern Parkway, but also in establishing a new kind of synagogue in America. The history of 20th century American Judaism cannot be told without including the names of Rabbis Levinthal and Kreitman and their dream for what a synagogue could be, a true center of Jewish learning, worship and living in all its facets. The many "Jewish Centers" that have followed in your footsteps in the New York area and beyond have taken your model as a pattern for their own and in the process engaged generations of Jews far beyond even your own substantial membership in a vibrant, holistic Jewish life.

Among your members across the decades were luminaries in many fields from politics and academia to the arts, business, and the professions. Many were as well builders and supporters of the United Jewish Appeal and of the Federation of Jewish Agencies of New York. Their generosity, commitment and foresight enabled New York to develop one of the strongest Jewish communities in the world. For this, on behalf of all those whose lives they continue to touch, we are grateful.

On behalf of all of us at UJA-Federation of New York, I send greetings and congratulations on your anniversary.

With warm regards,

Dru Greenwood
Executive Director

SYNERGY: UJA-Federation of New York and Synagogues Together

Honorary Officers: Meshulam Riklis • Laurence A. Tisch** Life Trustees: Robert H. Arnow • Lawrence B. Butterwieser • William Kahn • Irving Schneider • Stephen Shalom • Daniel S. Shapiro
Samuel J. Silbermann** • Sanford Solender** • Wilma S. Tisch • James L. Weinberg • Elaine K. Wink Life Benefactors: The Beller, Ruben & Saltz Families • Jack & Zella B. Butler Foundation • The Fisher Family
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Jack & Lewis** Rudin • Family of S.H. & Helen R. Scheuer • Helen** & Irving Schneider • Joseph & Marcy Strudnick** • The Tisch Family • Wachtel, Lipton, Rosen & Katz • The Waller Aronow Family • The Harry &
Jeanette Weinberg Foundation Past Chairs, Board of Directors: Morton A. Komreich** • Joseph Gurwar** • Irwin Hochberg • Larry A. Silverstein • Judith Stern Peck • Larry Zicklin • Morris W. Offit • Susan R. Stern
Past Presidents: Peggy Tishman** • David G. Sacks** • Alan S. Jaffe • Louise B. Greitshimer • James S. Tisch • Larry Zicklin • Morris W. Offit • John M. Shapiro **Executive Committee Member **Deceased

“Among your members across the decades were luminaries in many fields from politics and academia to the arts, business and the professions. Many were as well builders and supporters of the United Jewish Appeal and to the federation of Jewish Agencies of New York. Their generosity, commitment and foresight enabled New York to develop one of the strongest Jewish communities in the world. For this, on behalf of all those whose lives they continue to touch, we are grateful.”

“The Museum is proud to exhibit an architectural model of the Brooklyn Jewish Center in our core exhibition...The Brooklyn Jewish Center was a center of Jewish religious and recreational life and continues today as an important center of Jewish communal life on Eastern Parkway. The fond memories you have of the Center are certainly worthy of celebration.”

MICHAEL ROSENZWEIG
President and CEO



July 11, 2011

Rabbi Nosson Blumes
Co-Ordinator
Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle
667 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn New York 11213

Dear friends and former congregants of the Brooklyn Jewish Center:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff of the National Museum of American Jewish History, I extend our congratulations on the occasion of your reunion.

As you may know, the Museum opened its new, 100,000-square-foot building on Independence Mall in Philadelphia in November 2010. Our core exhibition highlights the more than 350 years of Jewish life in America using artifacts, images, films, personal stories, and interactive technologies.

The Museum is proud to exhibit an architectural model of the Brooklyn Jewish Center in our core exhibition.

As is noted in the core exhibition:

“Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan’s West Side Jewish Center in Manhattan influenced Brooklyn Jews to build a similar synagogue-center. The Brooklyn Jewish Center illustrated that “one might be a Jew and enjoy life at the same time.”

The Brooklyn Jewish Center was a center of Jewish religious and recreational life and continues today as an important center of Jewish communal life on Eastern Parkway. The fond memories you have of the Center are certainly worthy of celebration.

Best wishes for what I am sure will be a memorable event, in an historic building in American Judaism.

We look forward to welcoming you to the National Museum of American Jewish History should you visit Philadelphia.

Sincerely,

Michael Rosenzweig

101 South Independence Mall East
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2517

Tel 215 923 3811
Fax 215 923 0763
www.nmajh.org



BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER
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BROOKLYN JEWISH
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BROOKLYN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Brooklyn Historical Society, repository
for the Brooklyn Jewish History Initiative,
congratulates Brooklyn Jewish Center
on its 90th Anniversary. Thank you for
your longstanding role in honoring the
history of Brooklyn's Jewish community.



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

September 25, 2011

Brooklyn Jewish Center
667 Eastern Parkway
Brooklyn, NY 11213

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for the Gala Dinner Reunion of the Brooklyn Jewish Center.

Since the building dedication 90 years ago, the Brooklyn Jewish Center, including the BJC Hebrew Academy and the Educational Institute Oholei Torah, has been a welcoming sanctuary for those who share an abiding respect for Torah study, practices, and teachings. I am certain that this diverse, vibrant community will continue its tradition of changing lives through fellowship and service to others. Your benevolent work has made a difference for friends and neighbors as well as for people in the far corners of the world.

Tonight, you pay tribute to remarkable individuals, and I am pleased to join in congratulating this year's Guests of Honor – Jeffrey & Brondi Borer, the Kreitman Family, Richard Tucker, and Mark Rothko. Their dedication and meaningful contributions have truly benefited this distinguished center and are to be commended.

With warmest regards, and best wishes for an enjoyable evening.

Sincerely,

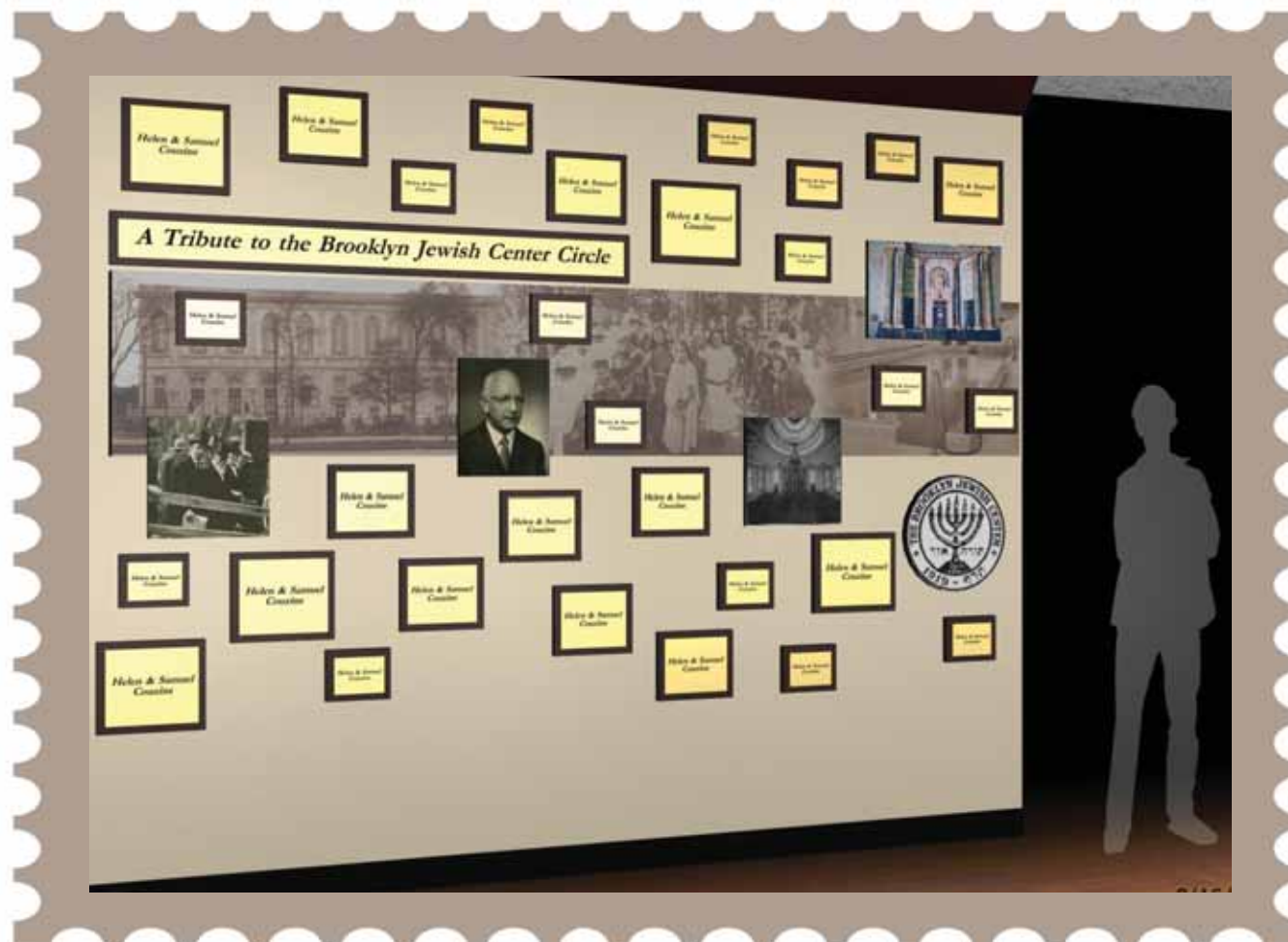
ANDREW M. CUOMO



BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER
September 25, 2011



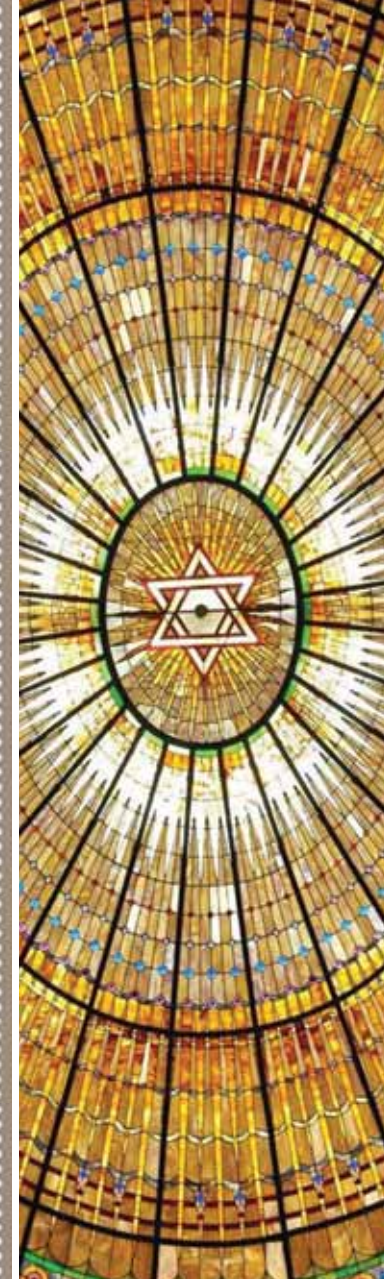
BROOKLYN JEWISH
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A WALL OF TRIBUTE AND CELEBRATION

A rendering of the planned tribute wall, which will perpetuate the names of the families associated with the Brooklyn Jewish Center for future generations. This tribute, is in the very same building where they dedicated so much of their time, effort and love for Judaism and community, will serve not only as a celebration of the past, but also as a testimony for the future.

For more information, please call Rabbi Nosson Blumes at 718-483-9000



BROOKLYN JEWISH
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BROOKLYN JEWISH
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REUNION DINNER
September 25, 2011



Guests of Honor

JEFFREY AND BRONDI BORER

In memory of the Feldt, Stark and Borer families

Dr. Jeffrey and Brondi Borer are tonight's guests of honor. The Borers were chosen as the guests of honor due to the close friendship that has developed between them and Oholei Torah, and their sincerity toward the goals and aspirations of the Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle. Having visited the school, spent much time in collaborative meetings, and sent literally hundreds of e-mails in correspondence regarding the institution, the Borers, as you see this evening, have watched the BJC Circle develop into the success that it is. Since Dr. Borer accepted to be the Chairman of the BJC Circle, with the complete support and partnership of his wife, Brondi, they have seen it grow from the beginning, and all the way through. Initially, it was just an abstract idea, a dream, and now it's turned into a viable and a most sought-after organization that bonds and connects communities and generations. And tonight, we are all celebrating the Brooklyn Jewish Center's history and its future, as entrusted to Educational Institute Oholei Torah over 30 years ago.



Dr. Jeffrey Borer is a man with conviction and keen insight, who looks straight at the core. Although he is a most prestigious and world-renowned doctor, Dr. Borer has no diplomas hanging on his wall. As he once said jokingly, "Once a patient steps foot in my office, he is not looking for the diplomas!"

The doctor's walls are instead adorned with prints and photographs, each carrying the essence of his make-up and the many journeys that brought him to where he is today. Each picture carries with it a message, a deeper meaning of Borer's history, travels, and some accomplishments.



Dr. Borer brings these character traits to the Chairmanship of the prestigious Brooklyn Jewish Circle, along with a strong bond with the Center from his family's founding members going back two generations, and from his own upbringing and childhood memories. He had the insight and understanding of how important such an organization will be, and he saw the influence and significance it would hold to so many.



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BROOKLYN JEWISH
CENTER CIRCLE
REUNION DINNER
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Recently, Dr. Borer wrote the following to someone connected with the Center: “As I walked through the Center with Rabbi Blumes (and gave an impromptu little talk to students still in class at 6 pm), so many nice memories immediately returned. It was something of a shock to see that the magnificent main sanctuary had been removed to make more room for the school—my work has brought me to Prague, Budapest, Florence, Rome, Venice, Toledo, Jerusalem, etc., where great and famous synagogues still exist—but none could match the Center's main sanctuary esthetically, and the loss was saddening. Nonetheless, I quickly realized that, main sanctuary notwithstanding, the Center, in fact, is still being used for exactly the same fundamental Jewish purposes as those for which it was built: education, community participation, and worship (albeit the latter only in the old junior congregation sanctuary). That change was envisioned by Rabbi Levinthal, and this kind of change is something to be celebrated rather than be-moaned. Indeed, as I certainly realize, if not for the Lubavitchers and Chabad, Crown Heights would have become the South Bronx. The stabilization of the community itself is reason for celebration.”

Dr. Jeffrey Borer was born to Dr. Lee and Rita Borer, and his family also has links to the extended Borer, Feldt and Stark families, all of whom were members of the Center. Dr. Borer's maternal grandfather was among the founding members, as were many of his mother's maternal uncles. Growing up on President Street in Crown Heights, his younger years revolved around the Center. His parents were married at the Center in 1944, and his Bar Mitzvah was there just 14 years later. As a young child he attended the Sunday school and then later on graduated from the Hebrew School.





Whether it was the school, the services in the sanctuary, the programs for children—and later on for young adults—or the recreation facilities, the Center was home to Dr. Borer and made a substantial impact on his life till today, and will continue to do so for many more years.

It is interesting to note that BJC Cantor Richard Tucker officiated at his parents' wedding, which was his last official ceremony as the BJC cantor before he moved on to the Metropolitan Opera. Tonight, the children of these great contributors to the Jewish Center sit together at the dais, celebrating, over 65 years later.

Dr. Borer's Bar Mitzvah in 1958 was officially conducted by Rabbi Benjamin Z. Kreitman. Also in attendance was Rabbi Israel Levinthal, who came out of respect and deep friendship with the Dr. Borer's grandparents and extended relatives, the Feldt and Stark families.

Dr. Borer's involvement with the Center, along with his personal story, is just one of thousands of others shared by those who went through the Center as children and young adults. The Center was for them a prime source of Jewish life, of recreation, of community, and most importantly, a center that molded them into Jews who are so genuinely proud of their Jewish identities and heritage.

After graduating from Wingate High School, located on Kingston Avenue and Rutland Road in Crown Heights, Dr. Borer entered Harvard College in 1961 and, while he was a student there, moved with his family to Manhattan in 1963. Although his family had moved out of the neighborhood, the memories of his childhood and youth forever kept his heart in Crown Heights.



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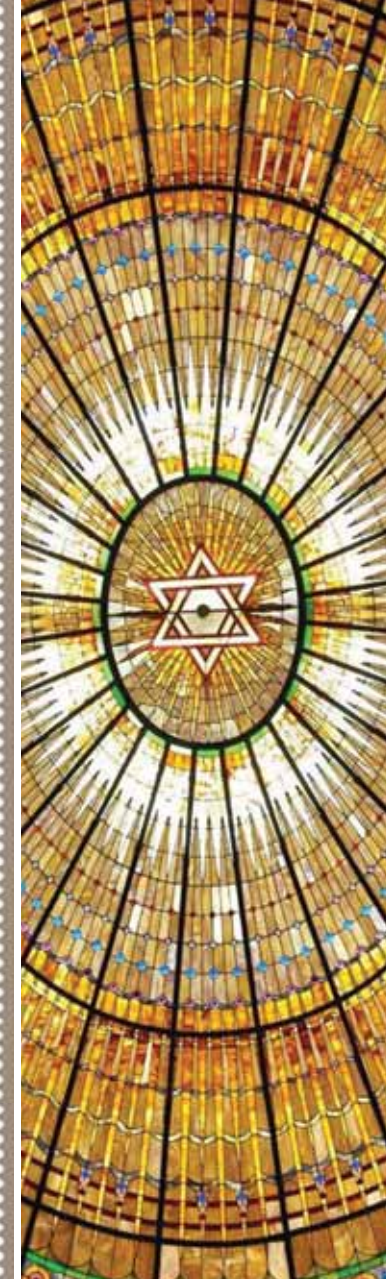
Dr. Borer married his wife, Brondi, in 1978. Brondi is an attorney who is a most accomplished advocate for civil rights and family law, and has involved herself with the needs and care of those who cannot, or are not able to, fend for themselves. She received her undergraduate degree at George Washington University and her law degree from Cardozo, the law school of Yeshiva University, and currently serves pro bono on the boards of several organizations focused on her areas of interest. Brondi is especially supportive of the BJC project, for she, too, sees its importance and how dear it is to her husband and family. Jeffrey and Brondi are proud parents to Justine, an attorney and also a Harvard graduate, and Jon, now in his second year at NYU Stern School of Business after graduating from Cornell, and who has recently become engaged to Rachele Dennis.

Dr. Borer's profession (see bio at the end of this article) has brought him back to Brooklyn, where he is now Professor and Chairman of the Department of Medicine and Chief of Cardiovascular Medicine at SUNY Downstate Medical Center and College of Medicine, just blocks away from the Crown Heights neighborhood where he grew up.

It is almost as if he is bringing his family full circle. Just as his parents and grandparents planted the seed for the founding years of the BJC, Dr. Borer is now the Chairman of the Brooklyn Jewish Center Circle, a group that is re-connecting the glorious past of the Center to its bright future, as the Educational Institute Oholei Torah flourishes in the building. The school is constantly expanding and growing in the very same building and community in which he was raised.

It is without a doubt one of the Chairman's greatest achievements and source of deep pride: re-connecting with his past and being part of this bridge connecting the Lubavitch community and the Brooklyn Jewish Center.

Dr. Borer is Professor of Medicine, Cell Biology, Radiology and Surgery at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. He is Chairman, Department of Medicine, and Chief, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, as well as Director of SUNY's Howard Gilman Institute for Heart Valve Disease and Cardiovascular Translational Research Institute. After graduating from Harvard College and Cornell Medical College, Dr. Borer trained at the Massachusetts General Hospital, spent 7 years in the Cardiology Branch of the NHLBI/NIH, and a year at Guy's Hospital in London as a Senior Fullbright Hays Scholar and Glorney-Raisbeck Fellow in the Medical Sciences, where he completed the first clinical demonstration of the utility of nitroglycerin in acute myocardial infarction (heart attack). Upon returning to NIH, he developed stress radionuclide cineangiography, allowing non-invasive assessment of cardiac function with exercise and fundamentally altering the evaluation of patients with heart diseases. He then returned to Cornell for 30 years, where he was Gladys and Roland Harriman Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Pathophysiology before moving to Downstate. He has been an Advisor to the USFDA for 34 years, chairing the CardioRenal Advisory Committee for 3 terms and the Cardiovascular Devices Advisory Panel for one. He was Advisor to NASA for 24 years, and he has served as officer or trustee of multiple national professional cardiological societies. Currently, he is President of the Heart Valve Society of America. Dr. Borer has published more than 400 scientific papers and 4 books, is editor-in-chief of the peer-reviewed journal, *Cardiology*, and has received several major recognitions, among them the Public Service Medal of NASA, the Hans-Peter Krayenbuehl Memorial Award of The International Academy of Cardiology, and the FDA Service Award.



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A Tribute to
RABBI BENJAMIN Z. AND JOYCE KREITMAN

Dedicated by the Kreitman Family

Rabbi Benjamin Zvi Kreitman, may he be well, has dedicated his entire life to serving the Jewish community and assisting its growth. He is a sincere and kind individual who always has an uplifting word to say and who constantly encourages others to get involved in community affairs. Above all, Rabbi Kreitman is an example to many with his dedication to Torah tradition and his love for others.

Born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1919 to Jacob and Anna Kreitman, young Benjamin was exposed to traditional Judaism in its richest and purest sense. Kreitman's father, a rabbi and a shochet, came from a long line of distinguished and learned rabbis. Most Notable among them the illustrious Rabbi Yosef Lipman, the son of Nosson HaLevi Heller, who was born in Cracow, Poland, in 1578 and passed away in 1654. Rabbi Heller was a Bohemian rabbi and Talmudist, best known for writing a commentary on the Mishna (the first compilation of the Oral Books expounding on the teachings of the Torah) called the Tosafot Yom-Tov. He was one of the major Talmudic scholars in Prague and in Poland during the "Golden Age."

Rabbi Kreitman's leadership at the Brooklyn Jewish Center was quite pivotal, especially with his founding of a Mishna Class, with the teachings of his great ancestor as the base of the class. This class grew into a full-fledged institution in and of itself, and has continued as such for well over 40 years from its founding. With Rabbi Kreitman's encouragement it flourished for many years, even after he left the pulpit at the Jewish Center.



Upon arriving in the United States in 1924, the Kreitmans settled in Louisville, Kentucky, where that special "Southern hospitality"—or as we say in Hebrew, "Hachnasat Orchim"—permeated his very being.

Rabbi Kreitman studied in the famous Yeshiva Torah VoDa'as and continued his education at Yeshiva University. Following his graduation from college in 1942, he attended the Jewish Theological Seminary, where he received his M.H.L. and Ordination, and later, his D.H.L. in Talmud. He received an Honorary Doctorate from Hebrew College of Boston for his contributions to the institution and prominence of Conservative Judaism worldwide.



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His lifelong career of community service began with the U.S. Armed Forces as a Naval Chaplain in 1943-1946, and then shifted to pulpit rabbi and community leader at Kehillath Israel in Brookline, MA. The next stage of his career consisted of a position at the Beth E-l Synagogue in New London, CT, where he took a strong initiative, not only as rabbi, but also in adult education and programs.

In 1952, Rabbi Kreitman took up the position of associate rabbi and then was anointed the title rabbi at the prestigious Brooklyn Jewish Center for over 15 years.

At the Center, he worked alongside Rabbi Dr. Israel H. Levinthal, who has recognized Rabbi Kreitman for his activities in all aspects of the Center, primarily for working in adult education and with the Young Folks League. Rabbi Kreitman was also elected as a Trustee member of the Center, and was most influential in the Board's decision to sell the Center's building to Educational Institute Oholei Torah, the primary school of the Crown Heights Lubavitch Community. With the purchase of the building, it was guaranteed that the Center should continue to be a vibrant and active part of the Jewish community.

In 1956, Rabbi Kreitman married Ms. Joyce Krimsky, who immediately took an active role in the Center as well. She edited the "Sisterhood News" section in the Brooklyn Center Review and was active in many other aspects of the Center.

Rabbi Kreitman then continued his position as pulpit rabbi in Sha'arei Torah Jewish Center in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, where he remains involved to this day.





The many dear and close relationships between the congregants of the Brooklyn Jewish Center and Rabbi Kreitman have lasted for many years following his time at the Center. Many call upon him for counsel, wisdom, and to officiate at various lifecycle tradition events. The friendships developed at the Center between Rabbi Kreitman and the congregants have always been positive and have brought productive and tangible results for the betterment of the Jewish community both in the greater New York area and in Israel. This is testimony to Rabbi Kreitman's dedication and his life's mission of keeping the flame of Judaism alive, bright and burning, not only for today, but for eternity.

In addition to his devotion to the congregants of the synagogues where he has served, Rabbi Kreitman has held many esteemed positions in the greater Jewish community, such as Executive Vice President of the United Synagogue of Conservative/Masorti Judaism, Visiting Professor of Codes, Jewish Theological Seminary, Visiting Professor of Judaic Studies, Brooklyn College, member of the NYC Board of Health (in fact, the only non-medical member); and Founding President of the American Friends of Neve Hanna in Kiryat Gat, Israel, just to name a few.

Rabbi Kreitman is the proud father of two daughters who carry the Kreitman name: Jamie, married to Jason Rosenfeld, and Jill, married to Corey Goldstein. Rabbi Kreitman is also a proud grandfather to three grandchildren: Jared, Sydney and Talia.

Rabbi Kreitman's extensive knowledge, keen wisdom, honesty and lifelong understanding of the struggles and achievements of American Jewry make him an honorary historian and an expert on the various paths of Jewish practice. It is for this reason that Rabbi Kreitman has chosen to support the Educational Institute Oholei Torah for its teaching of educational values. As Rabbi Kreitman has so eloquently remarked, "I see the survival of the Jew right here, more than in many other places. It remains a symbol of survival, commitment and love."

Today the many members of the Brooklyn Jewish Center come together in honoring Rabbi Kreitman. Typical of his humility, the rabbi requested that the honors be passed on to the members of the Brooklyn Jewish Center Mishna Class, of which he was the founding rabbi.



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A Tribute to
MARK ROTHKO
(Marcus Rothkowitz)

Fine Arts Teacher, Center Hebrew Academy

Dedicated by the Rothko Family

Mark Rothko

Many of America's most legendary Jews who excelled in the arts came through the doors of the Brooklyn Jewish Center. Whether in the capacity of a position in one of its four Hebrew schools, in its religious services, or as part of its adult education, the Brooklyn Jewish Center was, without a doubt, a feeding ground for great minds who went on to greatly impact the world.

Sholom Secunda, Richard Tucker, Moss Hart, and William Durant are just few of this unique group connected with the Center. And of course Marcus Rothkowitz, known as Mark Rothko, as he played his part as the teacher of fine arts in the Hebrew Academy.

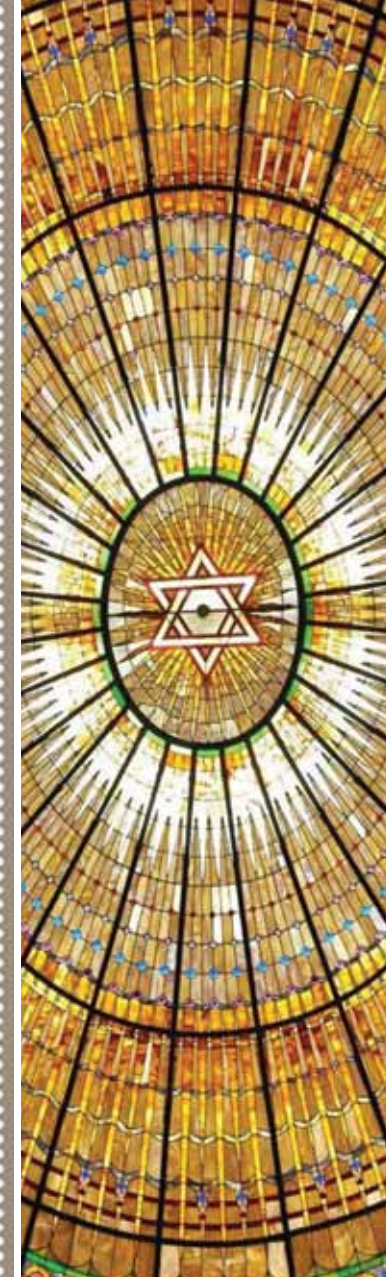
Mr. Rothko was unique in his student instruction. Coming from a background of highly skilled creativity, he brought a certain flair to the Academy's art department. "The function of the instructor," Mr. Rothko claimed, is not to impart technique but "to stimulate and maintain" the "emotional excitement" of the children, "to inspire self-confidence on their part...always, however, taking the utmost care not to impose laws which might induce imaginative stagnation and repetition."

Howard Adelson, a student of Mr. Rothko's, reflected upon his art instructor's impact on the students. "He made you feel that you were really producing something important, something good," he said.



In the classroom Mr. Rothko cultivated young talent. In the greater population, outside the Hebrew Academy family, Mr. Rothko inspired many with his breathtaking strokes of color upon canvas.

The Russian-born American painter is classified as an abstract expressionist. He was raised in Czarist Russia, in the city of Dvinsk. While most other cities were plagued with violent pogroms, Dvinsk was mostly spared from the anti-Semitic attacks. But even Dvinsk was an environment in which Jews were blamed for the difficulties that Russia endured during that time. For this reason, Mr. Rothko's childhood was racked with fear and uncertainty.



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Despite his family's modest means, its members were highly educated. While his older siblings had attended public school, little Marcus's father chose to send him to cheder at the age of five. There, he began to study the Talmud.

Fearing that their young men would be drafted into the Czarist army, the Rothkowitz men emigrated from Russia to the United States, following the path of many other Jews who left in the wake of the pogroms. But Marcus remained in Russia with his mother and older sister Sonia. They later joined their father and brothers in Portland, Oregon, arriving at Ellis Island in the winter of 1913 after 12 days at sea. Sadly, a few months later, his father died, leaving the family without economic support. But they managed somehow. His mother operated a cash register, one of his aunts performed unskilled labor, and Marcus worked in one of his uncle's warehouses, selling newspapers to employees.

Mr. Rothko was quite successful in his studies, especially considering that English was his fourth language, and graduated from his Portland high school with honors in 1921 at the age of 17. He soon became an active member of the local Jewish center, where he proved adept at political discussions. Mr. Rothko was passionate about such issues as women's and workers' rights.

Mr. Rothko attended Yale University with a first-year scholarship. While visiting a friend in a New York art school one day, he saw the students sketching, and this sparked the beginning of his life as an artist.

After a brief stint with a theater group, he returned to New York and enrolled in art school. One of his professors, Max Weber, a fellow Russian Jew, greatly influenced Mr. Rothko to see art as a tool of emotional and religious expression. Mr. Rothko's paintings from that era reveal a Weberian influence.

In the 1950s and '60s Mr. Rothko came to be recognized as one of the leading American Abstract Expressionist painters. It takes a sensitive eye to appreciate artful creations. For, as the artist puts it, "A picture lives by companionship, expanding and quickening in the eyes of the sensitive observer."



In tribute to Mr. Rothko and his dedication to refining the eyes and brush strokes of his many Hebrew Academy students, his children Kate and Christopher continue to support the center where Mr. Rothko devoted himself.

Many artists make their mark on the world through their creative means, and their artwork outlives them. However, even more awe-inspiring than the most valuable pieces of art are the invaluable lives that Mr. Rothko has imbued with the expression and love for art that is being passed down from generation to generation through his students and his children.

His daughter Kate Rothko Prizel is a physician. While studying medicine and during her earlier years in practice, she was responsible for managing her father's estate and his works of art. She has recently retired from her pathology and teaching careers, her three children are grown, and she and her husband spend their time in New Hampshire and New York.

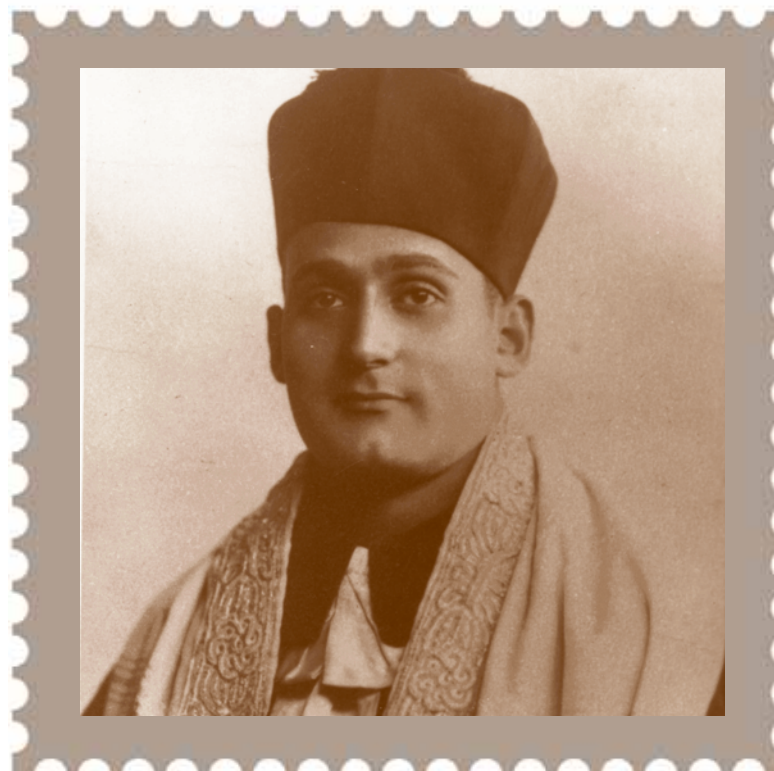
Mr. Rothko's son Christopher Rothko is a clinical psychologist who currently spends most of his time overseeing the Rothko estate. He and his wife have three children and live in New York City.



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A Tribute to
RICHARD (RUBIN) TUCKER

Former Cantor, Brooklyn Jewish Center

Dedicated by Barry Tucker

Richard Tucker was born Reuven Shmuel (Sam) Ticker, and his mother Fanya-Tsipa (Fanny) Ticker had already adopted the surname “Tucker” by the time their son entered first grade. His musical aptitude was discovered early, and was nurtured under the tutelage of Samuel Weisser and the Tifereth Israel Synagogue in lower Manhattan. As a teenager, Tucker’s interests alternated between athletics, at which he excelled during his high-school years, and singing for weddings and bar mitzvahs as a cantorial student. Eventually, he progressed from a part-time cantor at Temple Emanuel in Passaic, New Jersey, to full-time cantors at Temple Adath Israel in the Bronx and, in June 1943, at the large and prestigious Brooklyn Jewish Center. Until then, Tucker’s income derived mainly from his weekly commissions as a salesman for the Reliable Silk Company in Manhattan’s garment district.



Tucker was introduced to the conductor and arranger Zavel Zilberts, who coached Tucker until he came to the attention of Paul Althouse, a notable tenor whose operatic career had begun during the last years of Enrico Caruso’s long reign at the Met. Althouse became Tucker’s only teacher. Tucker entered the Metropolitan Opera “Auditions of the Air” in 1941, but did not win. When Met, general manager Edward Johnson came unannounced to the Brooklyn Jewish Center to hear Tucker sing, however, Johnson offered the tenor another audition and soon awarded him a contract. On January 25, 1945, Tucker made his debut as Enzo in “La Gioconda.” The debut, one of the most successful in the annals of the Met, foretold Tucker’s 30-year career as the leading American tenor of the postwar era.

Two years after his Metropolitan debut, Tucker was invited to reprise his success in La Gioconda at the cavernous amphitheater in Verona, Italy, singing opposite a then unknown Greek-American soprano named Maria Callas. Two years later, in 1949, Tucker’s rapidly ascending career was confirmed when Arturo Toscanini, the most celebrated conductor of the twentieth century, engaged Tucker to sing the role of Rademes for the NBC simulcast of a complete performance of “Aida”. This was the first full opera performance ever broadcast on national television.



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In the ensuing years, Tucker's ample lyric voice evolved into a lirico-spinto voice of near-dramatic proportions. The distinctive timbre of his ringing voice, his unfailingly secure technique, impeccable diction, and native-sounding pronunciation were universally acclaimed in every role he undertook. During an era in which profusion of legendary tenors including Jussi Bjorling, Giuseppe Di Stefano, and Mario del Monaco came and went during the years in which Sir Rudolf Bing led the Metropolitan, Tucker remained a dominant tenor and steadily took on a new challenges. Tucker made a strong dramatic impression with veteran critics when he reconceived the role of Canio in "Pagliacci" under the direction of Franco Zeffirelli in January 1970. The tenor was nearly 60 years old at the time.

Through his opera career, Tucker also officiated as a cantor on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and other sacred events in the Jewish liturgical calendar. A devoted patriarch, Tucker oversaw the religious development of his three sons: Barry, David and Henry.

Tucker had a long-running contract with Columbia Records, and eventually recorded for RCA Victor as well. But measured against the sheer length of his career, Tucker's commercial recordings are proportionately sparse and inadequately convey the power and roundness of his voice. Many of his commercial recordings, as well as private recordings of his concerts and broadcast performances, have been digitally remastered and are available on CD and online downloadable formats. A number of his national television appearances on The Voice of Firestone, The Bell Telephone Hour and The Ed Sullivan Show have been reissued in DVD format.





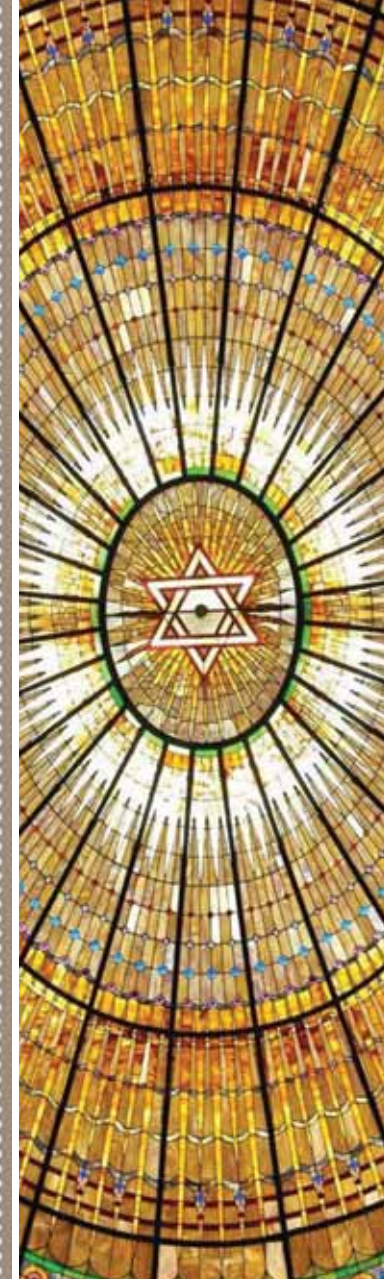
Although Tucker's well-crafted public image was that of a competitive, self-confident performer, his offstage demeanor was that of an inherently private but unfailing considerate man, especially where fans and colleagues were concerned. Never prone to looking back upon his career, Tucker always lived in the moment and maintained a boyish outlook on life. He also displayed a propensity for playing pranks on some of his fellow singers, often provoking smiles at some inappropriate moment in the performance.

Tucker was touring with Robert Merrill in a national series of joint concerts when, on January 8, 1975, he died of a heart attack while resting before an evening performance in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He is the only person whose funeral has been held on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera. In tribute to his legacy at the Met, the city of New York designated the park adjacent to Lincoln Center as Richard Tucker Square.

Although he moved on to the world of opera, Richard Tucker remained a very close friend of Rabbi Israel H. Levinthal, the founding Rabbi and spiritual leader of the Jewish Center. Mr. Tucker considered Rabbi Levinthal as his spiritual mentor, and in return Rabbi Levinthal insisted that at major events at the center Richard Tucker should perform.

It is most interesting to note that the very last performance of Richard Tucker in America was at the very pulpit where his career earned him worldwide claim, at the pulpit in the Brooklyn Jewish Center Sanctuary.

Shortly after his death, the Richard Tucker Music Foundation was established by his widow, sons, colleagues, and friends "to perpetuate the memory of America's greatest tenor through projects in aid of gifted young singers."



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Cantorial Performance
CANTOR GIDEON ZELERMYER
*Cantor, Congregation Shaar Hashomayim
Westmount, Canada*

Cantor Gideon Yechiel Zelermyer has earned himself a reputation as a Chazan with a glorious lyric tenor voice, impeccable musical taste and a cantorial style that blends the best of the traditional with the modern. He owes these attributes to the two passions that have been constants throughout his life: synagogue and singing.

Cantor Zelermyer is a graduate of the Tel Aviv Cantorial Institute, where he studied with Naftali Herstik, Chief Chazan of the Jerusalem Great Synagogue and Raymond Goldstein, composer-in-residence at the Jerusalem Great Synagogue. Prior to studies in Israel, he completed his undergraduate degree at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where he performed a number of oratorios in the presence of President and Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Cantor Zelermyer has officiated on numerous occasions at Shabbat and Festival services at the Jerusalem Great Synagogue, and has made frequent appearances as soloist with the Jerusalem Great Synagogue Choir under the baton of Elli Jaffe.

He has appeared with Boris Brott and the McGill Chamber Orchestra, was honored to sing in the presence of many of Canada's leading political figures at the ceremony dedicating the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, and has made two appearances in London, England, at the invitation of the Jewish Music Institute.

In 2006, Cantor Zelermyer and Director of Music Stephen Glass took the Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue Choir on tour for the first time, performing throughout Southern Florida. They also inaugurated a series of recordings of the repertoire of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim with the sampler, "A Taste of Heaven." In November 2006, Cantor Zelermyer was the featured soloist in the Congregation's 160th Anniversary Concert, with full Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and again for the Congregation's Israel @ 60 Celebration in May 2008. Cantor Zelermyer has been the Chazan of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim since 2004.

Gideon's considerable knowledge of opera and his close connection with the Tucker family led to the spectacular multi-media event, "A Concert in Tribute to Richard Tucker" in 2010, and tonight's performance at the Brooklyn Jewish Center Reunion Dinner in Brooklyn, NY.



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Musical Performance
Mendel Kugel
7th Grade Student
Educational Institute Oholei Torah

Mendel Kugel is an 11 year old student in Oholei Torah. Mendel is the sixth in his family of seven children, and began learning to play the violin at the age of 5. He studies classical music and also enjoys playing traditional Jewish music by ear.

In keeping with the spirit of Chabad teachings, Mendel shares his talents for the good of others. Mendel visits and performs for the elderly at nursing homes, for the sick in hospitals, and for those with special needs. Mendel tries to find a way to connect with others and bring warmth and pleasant memories to those he performs for by learning the melodies he thinks they would recognize and enjoy. Mendel also uses his talents in assisting with local charitable institutions to raise funds for the needy.

Most recently Mendel won the Chessed Award from the International Tzivos Hashem "Jewish Kids Got Talent" contest held at BAM. Tonight, Mendel will be accompanied by his mother, Esty, who was the President of the Oholei Torah PTA for many years.

Educational Institute Oholei Torah is most proud of Mendel, but even more so, of how he uses his talents to bring goodness and kindness to others.



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As we gather tonight and celebrate
we wish to thank the following individuals
who have become members of the

BROOKLYN JEWISH CENTER CIRCLE

Your leadership, wisdom, compassion, and above all,
your true concern and friendship, are a true source of inspiration to all.

In the merit of your partnership,
may you and yours be blessed with a
most happy, healthy and prosperous
new year, together with K'lal Yisroel.

DR. JEFFREY S. BORER

Chairman

RABBI NOSSON BLUMES

Coordinator

HONORARY COMMITTEE

THE KREITMAN FAMILY

honoring

Rabbi Benjamin Z. Kreitman
Rabbi Emeritus and Trustee, BJC

HIRSH CHITRIK

RABBI HAROLD KUSHNER

RABBI PAUL KUSHNER

in memory of

JULIUS AND SARAH KUSHNER
Executive Members, BJC

DON LEWITTES

in memory of

Rabbi Mordechai Lewittes
Associate Rabbi, BJC
Hebrew Principal, Hebrew Center Academy

SAMUEL H. (SANDY) LINDENBAUM

in memory of

Abraham M. (Bunny) Lindenbaum
President, Mishna Class, BJC

MARTY MARKOWITZ

Brooklyn Borough President

ROBERT STEINGUT

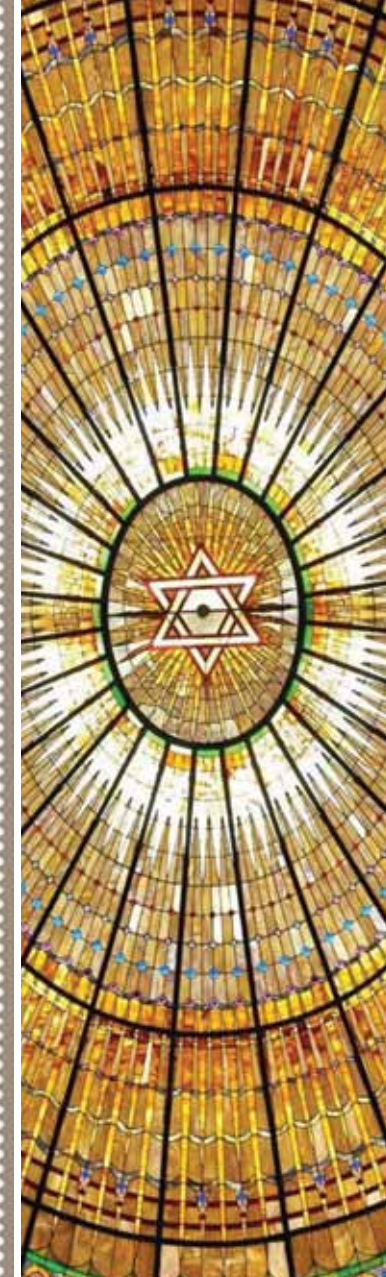
in memory of

Stanley Steingut and Irwin Steingut
Executive Member, BJC

BARRY TUCKER

in memory of

Richard Tucker
Cantor, BJC



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