



Message



MARCH 2017

Our 86th

ADAR/NISAN 5777

Madison Jewish Center

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR MARCH 2017

Friday March 3

Candle Lighting 5:32 pm

SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA

DINNER at 6:15 pm

[RESERVATIONS are a **MUST**]

MADISON YOUTH CHORUS

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY SHABBAT

SERVICES @ 7:30 pm

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

SUNDAY 3/12/2017 @ 2am

(CLOCKS AHEAD)

Friday March 17

Candle Lighting 6:47 pm

Family Service 7:30 pm

Saturday March 4

Services 9:00 am

Jr. Congregation 10:30 am

RABBI'S STUDY SESSION

Weekly Portion: T'RUMAH

Exodus 25:1-40

HAFTARAH: I Kings 5:26-6:13

Saturday March 18

Services 9:00 am

Jr. Congregation 10:30am

ASK THE RABBI

SHABBAT PARAH

2 SIFREI TORAH, SPECIAL HAFTARAH

Weekly Portion: KI TISSA

Exodus 30:11 - 31:17

MAFTIR: Numbers 19:1-22

HAFTARAH Ezekiel 36:16-38

Friday March 10

Candle Lighting 5:39 pm

Family Service 7:30 pm

Saturday March 11

Services 9:00 am

Jr. Congregation 10:30am

RABBI'S SERMON

SHABBAT ZACHOR

2 SIFREI TORAH,

SPECIAL HAFTARAH

Weekly Portion: T'TZAVEH

Exodus 27:20 - 28:30

MAFTIR: Deut. 25:17-19

HAFTARAH: I Samuel 15:2-34

SATURDAY EVENING @ 6:30pm

M'GILLAH READING AND CARNIVAL

Friday March 24

Candle Lighting 6:54 pm

Family Service 7:30 pm

Saturday March 25

Services 9:00 am

Jr. Congregation 10:30 am

ASK THE RABBI

SHABBAT HaHODESH

2 SIFREI TORAH, SPECIAL HAFTARAH,

BIRKAT HAHODESH

Weekly Portion: Vayakheil-P'kudei

Exodus 35:1 - 37:16

MAFTIR: Exodus 12:1-20

HAFTARAH Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

Friday March 31

Candle Lighting **7:02 pm**
Family Service **7:30 pm**

Saturday April 1

Services **9:00 am**
Jr. Congregation **10:30 am**
BAR MITZVAH OF SHANE GREEN
Weekly Portion: Vayikra
Leviticus 1:1 - 2:16
HAFTARAH Isaiah 43:21-44:23

MESSAGE ARTICLE – MARCH 2017**Rabbi Shae J. Kane D.D.**

Purim is one of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar. It commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination. The story of Purim is told in the biblical *Book of Esther*. The heroes of the story are Esther, a beautiful young Jewish woman living in Persia, and her cousin Mordecai, who raised her as if she were his daughter. Esther was taken to the house of Ahasuerus, King of Persia, to become part of his harem, and he loved her more than his other women and made her queen. But the king did not know that Esther was a Jew, because Mordecai told her not to reveal her nationality.

The villain of the story is hmn, an arrogant, egotistical advisor to the king. hmn hated Mordecai because Mordecai refused to bow down to hmn, so hmn plotted to destroy the Jewish people. In a speech that is all too familiar to Jews, hmn told the king, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from those of every people; neither keep they the king's laws; therefore it does not profit the king to suffer them." Esther 3:8. The king gave the fate of the Jewish people to hmn, to do as he pleased to them. hmn planned to exterminate all of the Jews.

Mordecai persuaded Esther to speak to the king on behalf of the Jewish people. This was a dangerous thing for Esther to do, because anyone who came into the king's presence without being summoned could be put to death, and she had not been summoned. Esther fasted for three days to prepare herself, then went into the king. He welcomed her. Later, she told him of hmn's plot against her people. The Jewish people were saved, and hmn was hanged on the gallows that had been prepared for Mordecai.

The book of Esther is unusual in that it is the only book of the bible that does not contain the name of God. In fact, it includes virtually no reference to God. Mordecai makes a vague reference to the fact that the Jews will be saved by someone else, if not by Esther, but that is the closest the book comes to mentioning God. Thus, one important message that can be gained from the story is that God often works in ways that are not apparent, in ways that appear to be chance, coincidence or ordinary good luck.

Purim is celebrated on the 14th day of Adar, which is usually in March. The 14th of Adar is the day that hmn chose for the extermination of the Jews. In leap years, when there are two months of Adar, Purim is celebrated in the second month of Adar, so it is always one month before Passover. In cities that were walled in the time of Joshua, Purim is celebrated on the 15th of the month, because the *Book of Esther* says that in Shushan (a walled city), deliverance from the massacre was not complete until the next day. The word “Purim” means “lots” and refers to the lottery that hmn used to choose the date for the massacre. The Purim holiday is preceded by a minor fast, the Fast of Esther, which commemorates Esther’s three days of fasting in preparation for her meeting with the king.

The primary mitzvah related to Purim is to hear the reading of the *Book of Esther*. The *Book of Esther* is commonly known as the Megillah, which means scroll. Although there are five books of Jewish scripture that are properly referred to as megillot (*Esther, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Lamentations*), this is the one people usually mean when they speak of The Megillah. It is customary to boo, hiss, stamp feet and rattle groggers (noisemakers) whenever the name of hmn is mentioned in the service. The purpose of this custom is to “blot out the name of hmn.”

We are also commanded to eat, drink and be merry. According to the Talmud, a person is required to drink until he cannot tell the difference between “cursed be hmn” and “blessed be Mordecai,” though opinions differ as to exactly how drunk that is. In addition, we are commanded to send out gifts of food or drink, and to make gifts to charity. The sending of gifts of food and drink is referred to as *shalah manot* (sending out portions). Among Ashkenazic Jews, a common treat at this time of year is hamentaschen (hmn pockets). There are many explanations as to why we eat these tri-cornered pastries on Purim, including that they are meant to represent hmn hat, or ears. Nobody knows for sure how these sweets became so heavily associated with Purim, but we do know that similar cookies known as Mohntaschen were popular in 18th century Europe, and they were adopted around this time as a Purim treat by European Jewish families. It is speculated that these cookies became a traditional Purim food because the word “Mohn,” of Mohntaschen, sounds similar to the name hmn. This association caught on, and soon the cookies were simply known as hamentaschen. During the 19th century the cookies spread to America and the rest of the world, and have remained a Purim staple ever since.

It is customary to hold carnival-like celebrations on Purim, to perform plays and parodies, and to hold beauty contests. The usual prohibitions against cross-dressing are lifted during this holiday. Americans sometimes refer to Purim as the Jewish Mardi Gras.



President's Message March 2017

Greetings everyone. Now that it's March it's time to come out of hibernation and come to one or several of Madison Jewish Center's events. Members were thrilled to watch the amazing Patriots' comeback win at our Super Bowl party. We all enjoyed our annual Tu B'Shevat seder and we all listened intently to Reverend Lashley's sermon at our Friday night Sisterhood/Brotherhood Shabbat. A week later Rabbi Kane delivered a fascinating sermon at the Kings Highway United Methodist Church. Sisterhood's Health Nite was a huge success.

This month we begin with a Shabbat Across America dinner on Friday evening, March 3rd. There are still a few openings; call the office for reservations. Everyone is invited to Sisterhood's Torah Fund Brunch on Sunday, March 5th at 10. The Megillah reading this year will be Saturday night, March 11th, followed by a carnival for the children, and music and dancing with a DJ for the adults. Come to shul to see the kids and adults in their wonderful costumes. Our Hebrew School students are starting to think about Pesach. You can join the fun in learning all about matzah baking during classes on Monday, March 27th at 4 PM. Sad to say, our Monday morning minyan has been regularly falling short by one or two people. If you are retired and would like to make a difference, this would be a wonderful opportunity. The service begins at 6:45 AM and is always followed by bagels and coffee.

This month's "spotlight" falls on longtime members Beverly and Seymour Hoffnung. Beverly grew up in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx. She graduated from James Monroe High School. Seymour grew up in Brooklyn and became a Bar Mitzvah at Nachlat Zion Jewish Center on Neck Road and East 23rd Street. He graduated from Boys and Girls High. The day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Seymour enlisted in the Army. Being only 17 he had to get permission from his parents. He was hoping to go to Europe to fight the Nazis but was sent to the Philippines instead where he became a medic and served with Douglas MacArthur. When he saw that the Japanese were targeting the medics he removed his medic patch, grabbed a rifle and started shooting. He was exposed to all sorts of tropical diseases which plague him to this day. After WW II Seymour went to Germany to help round up Nazi war criminals. He then fought in Korea. As a young adult Beverly was very active in B'nai Brith. The Jewish Welfare Board set up a USO (United Service Organization) program in Temple Emanuel, N.Y.C. It was there that Beverly met Seymour in March of 1956. It was during this time that Beverly did clerical work for Saks Fifth Avenue and, later, for Barney's New York. After a whirlwind romance they were married in June, just three months later. With Seymour still in the Service they lived in Italy. When JFK was assassinated in 1963 Seymour felt they should come back to the States. They bought the house in 1965 where Beverly still lives. Because of his various wartime ailments, Seymour now resides in the New York State Veterans Home in St. Albans Queens. After buying their house they looked around for a shul and settled on Madison Jewish Center. At that time there were 300 members; Friday night saw a full house in the main sanctuary. Stanley Siegel was one of several people who were especially welcoming to the Hoffnungs and they have been members ever since.

Beverly and Seymour raised three children. Daughter Ruth has a daughter Melissa who is married to an Air Force Sergeant. They live in South Carolina and have one daughter; that makes Beverly and Seymour great grandparents. The Hoffnungs also have two sons, Eliot and Joseph, both living in Brooklyn. Those of us who are long time members of MJC remember the Hoffnungs' presence at almost every function. Beverly still attends events as often as she can. She was active in PA and Sisterhood. She was always glad to help but never wanted a leadership position.

Shalom.

Roy

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Shelli and Ron Feldman

**Annual Kiddush Sponsors are needed for this year.
Please be one of our sponsors.**

If you would like to be a sponsor, contact:
Norman Green (917) 545-4442 • email: emg522@aol.com

All contributions to the MJC Message need to be in
by the 15th of the month in order to be placed
in the following month's Message.

THE LATEST FROM SISTERHOOD

MARCH 2017

Last month's Super Bowl Game Party on February 5th was an enjoyable and fun event. The Sisterhood members who attended also had a chance to play various games such as Mah Jongg.

The guest speaker from NAMI (National Association for Mental Illness) was informative and presented an important topic to Sisterhood on February 27th.

Our annual Torah Fund Brunch will be held on Sunday, March 5th. Our guest speaker is Lisa Kogen, an author and a board member of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. The cost is \$20 with all proceeds going to the Torah Fund. Look for the flyer for the event. RSVP to Marlene Podell.

Flyer forthcoming for Sisterhood's Craft Night Event with Babs Monday evening, March 20th. We will be creating Passover goblets. RSVP to Babs.

A Fashion Show meeting will be held on Monday, April 24th. Details will follow. An April 30th Sisterhood trip in conjunction with Social Club is being planned. Details to follow.

Save the date, Thursday, May 18th for our annual Fashion Show!!!!

Our Annual Sisterhood End Year Dinner is on Thursday, June 8th. Flyer upcoming.

The "Tree of Life" Growing at Madison Jewish Center is an ongoing project for this year. We appreciate the support we have received for this event. Thank you Judy, Arlene K and Babs for all your work on this project. Please call Judy (917) 748-4980 or Babs (917) 733-7349 if you have any questions.

Please check the MJC website for listings of our events. Hope to see you at our events.

Harriett Cohen and Shelli Feldman
Sisterhood Co-Presidents



MJC SOCIAL CLUB HAPPENINGS ----- MARCH 2017

The Super Bowl party was on Sunday, February 5th. It was well attended and everyone had a great time. The game was exciting. Mah Jongg was fun. The food was delicious. Check the website for pictures.

Purim is almost here. The annual party is on Saturday evening, March 11th. Start to get your costumes ready. Please make your reservations soon. Sponsors are needed to defray our expenses as we are not charging for this event. Contact Norman if you wish to be a sponsor.

The Social Club in conjunction with the Sisterhood is planning a trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage on April 30th. There will be a tour of the three floors of the permanent exhibit. Each floor is dedicated to a different time in Jewish history (before, during, and after the Holocaust). More information will be coming soon.

The annual trip to Atlantic City is scheduled for Sunday, May 7th. The cost is only \$36. The Social Club Shabbat is on Saturday, May 13th. The end of the year party is on June 4th. This year the honorees are Diane and Greg Posniack.

Every member of MJC is also a member of the Social Club. Please take advantage of the many opportunities to spend time with friends. Let's keep MJC as the center of Egalitarian Conservative Judaism in this part of Brooklyn.

Check our website (madisonjc.org), watch for flyers, and check the Message for further information. Reservations for all activities can be made through our email address (info@madisonjc.org).

Ilene Karpas



Mark your calendars, because Purim is here! The Megillah reading will take place on Saturday evening, March 11th. We will also be having our annual P.A. Purim carnival that night immediately following services. It is going to be a fun night, and we hope to see you all there!

On March 27th, we will be having Tzivos Hashem come to our Hebrew school. They will be bringing the Matzah workshop with them. The students will all have a chance to make their own Matzah, and they will all also get Matzah to take home. If any parents are interested in stopping by, the Matzah workshop will begin at 4:00 P.M.

Our annual Passover Miss Chocolate candy sale is still going on and will end on March 8th. This year, we are pleased to offer Barton's Kosher for Passover candy and a second (non-Passover) catalog featuring Timeless Treasures for your kitchen and Home. All are perfect for your own holiday table or as gifts. If you are interested in purchasing, please fill out the order form and either bring it to the office or mail it back. Please make your check payable to Madison Jewish Center. Thank you for your continued support! We wish you all a happy and Healthy Purim.

Melanie Green

The Parents' Association

SAVE THE DATE

Social Club

Saturday, March 11	6:30pm	Megillah reading and Purim party
Sunday, April 30		Trip to Museum of Jewish Heritage
Sunday, May 7	9:00am	Atlantic City Trip

Sisterhood

Sunday, March 5	10:00am	Torah Fund Brunch
Monday, March 20	7:30pm	Craft Night
Sunday, April 30		Trip to Museum of Jewish Heritage
Thursday, May 18	7:00pm	Fashion Show

Parents' Association

Wednesday March 8		Candy Sale ends
Saturday, March 11	6:30pm	Megillah reading and Purim Carnival
Monday, March 27	4:00pm	Matzah Factory Workshop

Congregation

Friday March 3	6:15pm	Shabbat Across America Dinner and Services (reservation required) Birthday/Anniversary Shabbat
Saturday, March 11	6:30pm	Megillah reading and Purim Carnival and party
Friday, March 17	7:30pm	Speaker: Seymour Kaplan, Dachau Concentration Camp Liberator
Sunday, June 11		Journal celebration honoring woman of the year Ilene Karpas and Sheila Goodman on her retirement

MARCH 2017**Birthday List**

1 Cantor Leslie Rimer	15 Helen Leibowitz
2 Shelli Feldman	16 Meryl Fox
3 Norman Green	16 Rachel Streich
3 Helene Master	17 Steven Lampert
4 George Cassius	20 Terri Harary
4 Gail Resnick	20 Roberta Kaufman
5 Jay Streich	28 Howard Cohen
6 Norman Sapoznik	28 Curtis Packer
15 Bruce Herman	29 Francine Benjamin

Anniversary List

18 Harriett & Stephen Cohen

20 Beth & Anthony Rocco

25 Roberta & Mitchell Kaufman

28 Zina & Leo Lewin

If we have misspelled a name, left something out, or have failed in any way to properly acknowledge anyone who should have been acknowledged, please forgive us. Please note that some names may not have not been included.

R'FUAH SH'LEIMAH PRAYER

DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR SPEEDY RECOVERY PRAYERS

For: Irma Lifschitz
By: Ellen & Norman Green
Ruth Rosenberg
Linda & Steve Bell
Monique & Richard Ander
Irma & Roy Alexander
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Bunny & Brian Bender
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Judy Posniack
Ilene Karpas
Harriett & Stephen Cohen
Shelli & Ronald Feldman
Hannah Dreifus & Family
Marilyn & Howard Madans

For: Yolanda Lopez Willard
By: Arlene, David & Jonathan Abels

For: Ronnie Falkowitz
By: Marlene & Paul Podell

For: Harvey Malakoff
By: Marlene & Paul Podell

For: Cynthia Beltzer
By: Marilyn & Howard Madans
Mona & Glen Ayers

Marlene & Paul Podell
For: Dr.Sheldon Stachel
By: Marlene & Paul Podell
Ellen & Norman Green
Monique & Richard Ander
Irma & Roy Alexander
Ruth Rosenberg
Linda & Steve Bell
Bunny & Brian Bender
Sheila & Bert Goodman
Judy Posniack
Diane & Greg Posniack
Ruth Richards & Andrew Menkes
Barbara & Barry Stein

For: Ruth Siegel
By: Marlene & Paul Podell
Ellen & Norman Green
Ruth Rosenberg
Linda & Steve Bell
Sheila & Bert Goodman
Bunny & Brian Bender
Irma & Roy Alexander
Monique & Richard Ander
Diane & Greg Posniack
Judy Posniack
Ilene Karpas
Arlene, David & Jonathan Abels
Hannah Dreifus & Family

MEMORIAL FUND

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS HAVE BEEN SENT

To: Bella Benders

A donation has been made in memory of
your beloved mother Tatyana Mazepa

By: Shelli & Ronald Feldman

Harriett & Stephen Cohen

Diane & Greg Posniack

Ilene Karpas

Toby Rubinowitz

Ellen & Max Hamou

Cecile Kops

To: Alan Cohn, Roberta Kaufman,

Carol Safran & Family

A donation has been made in memory of
your beloved mother & grandmother

Ethel Cohn

By: Ruth Siegel

To: Ruth Richards

A donation has been made in memory of
your beloved mother

Caroline O. Richards

By: Marlene & Paul Podell

Ellen & Norman Green

Monique & Richard Ander

Irma & Roy Alexander

Judy Posniack

Diane & Greg Posniack

Ilene Karpas

Barbara & Barry Stein

Ruth Rosenberg

Linda & Steve Bell

Bunny & Brian Bender



To: Teresa & Mario Gottesmann

A donation has been made in honor of your 40th wedding anniversary

By: Harriett & Stephen Cohen

Honor Fund-Mazal Tov & Best Wishes

To: Mady Kiner

A donation has been made in honor of your retirement

By: Ellen & Norman Green

Marlene & Paul Podell

Sheila & Bert Goodman

Ruth Rosenberg

Linda & Steve Bell

Bunny & Brian Bender

Irma & Roy Alexander

Monique & Richard Ander

Judy Posniack

Ilene Karpas

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Diane & Greg Posniack

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Barbara & Barry Stein

To: Teresa & Mario Gottesmann

A donation has been made in honor of your 40th Wedding Anniversary

By: Ellen & Norman Green

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Judy Posniack

Diane & Greg Posniack

Andrew Menkes & Ruth Richards

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Shelli & Ronald Feldman

Harriett & Stephen Cohen



PERSONALS

A tree for Israel was purchased by Marvin Pereira in memory of Burt Siegel's mother

THANK YOU

Thank you to all my MJC friends for your support, visits, thoughts & donations in memory of my beloved mother Tatyana Mazepa. It meant a lot to me and my family.

Bella Benders & Family

I want to thank all my Madison friends for your good wishes in honor of my retirement and my grandson Russell Strachan's Bar Mitzvah. I now have more time to devote to the shul...just ask!

Mady Kiner

Yahrzeit – Donations for March 2017 have been made by:

Cynthia Beltzer	Shirley Hopchick	Warren Schwartzberg
Bella Benders	Judith Korcz	Ilene Shapiro
Jeffrey Bernstein	Evan Lander	Anne Shapiro
Howard Cohen	Fran Levine	Ruth Siegel
Marilyn Cohen	Abraham Lurie	Steven Silverman
Selma Dolgov	Stanley Moldovan	Sheldon Simon
Hannah Dreifus	Carolyn Nagourney	Barry Stein
Shelli Feldman	Lee Rhodes	Robin Sutherland
Adrienne Fishman	Ron Rosenberg	Marianna Wachter
Steven Fox	Elaine Roth	Myrna Weinberg
Fran Futterman	Eileen Sadof	Fran Weiss
Ruth Greenspun	Dolores Sagerman	
Patricia Grutman	Suellen Schussel	

THE MESSAGE

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 Roy Alexander.....*President*

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MJC Social Club President
 Norman Green
P.A. President: Steven Green

Message Layout
 Bruce Herman

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Ellen Green	Ilene Karpas
Roy Alexander	Bruce Herman
	Marlene Podell

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Friday Evening & Erev Yom Tov.....7:30 PM
 Saturday Morning & Yom Tov Morning.....9:00 AM
 Weekday Minyanim (Mon. & Thurs.).....6:45 AM
 Sunday Morning & Legal Holidays.....8:30 AM

*If you need a Minyan at any other time, please
 call the office and we will attempt to assemble
 one.*

TEMPLE OFFICE HOURS

The Synagogue office will be open Monday
 through Thursday from 9:00am to 4:00pm,
 Friday from 9:00am -12 noon
 We are closed on all Jewish and legal holidays.

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MARCH 2017

ADAR/NISAN 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Adar 3	2 Adar 4	3 Adar 5 Candle Lighting 5:32 pm Shabbat Across America Dinner 6:15pm Services 7:30pm Birthday Anniversary Shabbat	4 Adar 6 Services 9am Jr. Congregation 10:30am
5 Adar 7 Torah Fund Brunch	6 Adar 8	7 Adar 9	8 Adar 10 Candy Sale Ends	9 Adar 11	10 Adar 12 Candle Lighting 5:39 pm Services 7:30pm	11 Adar 13 Services 9am Jr. Congregation 10:30am Megillah Reading 6:30pm Purim Carnival & Party
12 Adar 14	13 Adar 15 Exec. Bd. Meeting 7:30pm	14 Adar 16 Cong. Bd. Meeting 8:00pm	15 Adar 17	16 Adar 18	17 Adar 19 Candle Lighting 6:47 pm Services 7:30pm Speaker: Seymour Kaplan, Dachau Concentration Camp Liberator	18 Adar 20 Services 9am Jr. Congregation 10:30am
19 Adar 21	20 Adar 22 Sisterhood Board Meeting 7pm Craft Night 7:30pm	21 Adar 23	22 Adar 24	23 Adar 25	24 Adar 26 Candle Lighting 6:54pm Services 7:30pm	25 Adar 27 Services 9am Jr. Congregation 10:30am .
26 Adar 28	27 Adar 29 Matzah Factory Workshop 4pm	28 Nisan 1 Social Club Meeting 7:30	29 Nisan 2	30 Nisan 3	31 Nisan 4 Candle Lighting 7:02pm Services 7:30pm	

Sisterhood Tree of Life

Marlene & Paul
Podell

Beverly & Seymour
Hoffnung
Ruth, Eliot, Joseph

Amy & Josh
Shari & James
Nicole & Chris
Dara & Eric

Amanda & Justin
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Shannon
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Harriett & Stephen
Cohen
Lauren, Brian,
Marc, Sue
Sophia & Jenna

Monique & Richard
Ander
Douglas, Karen,
Ilana, Marissa,
Jared, Sam
Jessica, Martin

Dina & Victor
Kops

Betsy Kaylie
Pauline Friedland
Jack Streich
Sammy Streich

Bunny & Brian
Bender
& Family

Judy Posniack
Joseph, Ingrid
Susan, Rob
Daniel, Andrew
& Christian

Ronnie Mendelson
Jennifer, Amanda
Rebecca, Ethan, Erik
Jamie, Emily
Lauren & Jake

Diane & Gregory
Posniack
Shantil, Glenn
Austin, Joseph,
Debbie, Benjamin, Zachary
Jacob, Mikayla, Elisa, Lee
Aaron, Shira, Seth



Sisterhood Tree of Life

