

# REGO PARK JEWISH CENTER BULLETIN

*"And let them make for me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them."*  
EXODUS 25:8

VOLUME 79 NO. 4

KISLEV / TEVET 5779

DECEMBER 2018

## CONCERT CELEBRATING CHANUKAH

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT  
& LATKE PARTY

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018**

at 2:00 P.M.



*Presenting*

**AVRAM PENGAS**

Guitarist and Bouzouki Virtuoso

*featuring*

**"THE MAGIC MUSIC OF THE  
MEDITERRANEAN RHYTHMS"**

Israeli - Arabic - Persian - Turkish -  
Yiddish Folk Songs

Bring Family & Friends to  
a Concert You Will Long Remember!

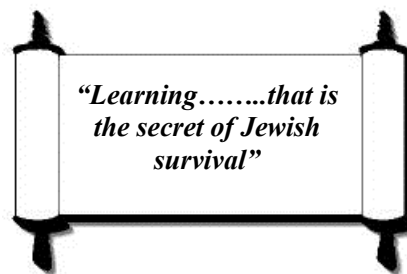
Delicious Latkes Served!!

**Rego Park Jewish Center Members**

**\$15**

**Non-Members**

**\$20**



## TORAH BRUNCH

On behalf of  
Jewish Theological Seminary

**SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 16, 2018  
10:00 A.M.**

***Crystal Ballroom***

***In Honor of  
Susan Goldschmidt***



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## REGO PARK JEWISH CENTER

97-30 Queens Boulevard, Rego Park, NY 11374  
Telephone: (718) 459-1000 Fax: (718) 459-0431  
Website: www.rpjc.org

Rabbi Romiel Daniel.....Rabbi

### **Sisterhood President**

Ruth Loewenstein

Josiah Derby, M.A\*.....Rabbi Emeritus

Ruth Loewenstein.....Chairman of the Board  
of Trustees

### **Sunday Breakfast Club & Learn-In President**

Rabbi Romiel Daniel

Rabbi Romiel Daniel.....President

### **Special Events Group**

Lee Lobel-Zwang

### **Yiddish Vinkel**

Pnina Lanxner

\* deceased

## **FACEBOOK**



Did you know that Rego Park Jewish Center has a Facebook page? Find us on Facebook and click LIKE on the cover photo at the top of the page.

Go to:

[www.facebook.com/RegoParkJewishCenter](http://www.facebook.com/RegoParkJewishCenter)

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**The Rego Park Jewish Center Bulletin is published 9 times/year (Sept. - June)**

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# FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

## TEVET

Tevet is the 10th month on the Jewish calendar, counting from Nissan. Its name, which is mentioned in the book of Esther, was acquired in Babylonia, and shares a root with the Hebrew word tov, meaning “good.” This month begins with the last days of Chanukah. By internalizing the message of the ever increasing lights of the menorah—reminding us of the power of good over evil—we are able to reveal the good that is hidden in our lives and in the world around us. The 10th of Tevet is a fast day, commemorating the start of the siege of Jerusalem in the year 3336 (425 BCE), which led to the destruction of the first Beit Hamikdash (Holy Temple) two-and-a half years later on the ninth of Av.

What is the message for us today? In Jewish consciousness, a fast day is a time of reckoning, a time to correct a previous mistake. What happened on the Tenth of Tevet that we have to correct? On the Tenth of Tevet, 2,500 years ago, Nebuchadnezzar began his siege of Jerusalem. Actually, there was little damage on that first day and no Jews were killed. So why is this day so tragic? Because the siege was a message, to get the Jewish people to wake up and fix their problems. They failed, and the siege led to the destruction of King Solomon's Temple. The Tenth of Tevet is one of the four fast days that commemorate dark times in Jewish history. The others are Tisha B'Av (the day of the destruction of both Temples in Jerusalem), the 17th of Tammuz (the day of the breaching of the defensive wall of Jerusalem by Titus and the Roman legions in 70 CE), and the third of Tishrei (the day that marks the assassination of the Babylonian-appointed Jewish governor of Judah, Gedaliah ben Achikam. He was actually killed on Rosh Hashanah but the fast day was advanced to the day after Rosh Hashanah because of the holiday).

The Tenth of Tevet is viewed as such a severe and important fast day that it is observed even if it falls on a Friday (erev Shabbat), while our other fast days are so arranged by calendar adjustments as to never fall on a Friday, so as not to interfere with Shabbat preparations. The chief rabbinate of Israel chose to observe the Tenth of Tevet as a general kaddish day” (yom hakaddish ha'klalli) to allow the relatives of victims of the Holocaust, and whose yahrzeits is unknown, to observe the traditional yahrzeit practices for the deceased, including lighting a memorial candle, learning mishnayot and reciting the kaddish. According to the policy of the chief rabbinate in Israel, the memorial prayer is also recited in synagogues, after the reading of the Torah at the morning services.

### Holidays in Tevet

**25 Kislev – 2 Tevet** – Hanukkah (or 3 Tevet if Kislev is short)

**10 Tevet** – Tenth of Tevet (Asara beTevet), a fast day

*Continued on page 4*

**Tevet in Jewish history and tradition**

- 1 Tevet** (circa 479 BCE) – Esther was taken to King Achashverosh's palace, leading to her becoming queen (Book of Esther 2:16-17).
- 10 Tevet** (588 BCE) – Nebuchadnezzar II's armies besiege Jerusalem; now commemorated as a fast day.
- 10 Tevet** (479 BCE) – Esther appears before Achashverosh for the first time and is chosen by him to be the queen.
- 11 Tevet** (1668) – Jews were expelled from Austria
- 17 Tevet** (1728) – Shearith Israel, the first New York synagogue, erects its first building in Lower Manhattan.
- 20 Tevet** (1483) – The first volume of the Babylonian Talmud, the tractate Berachot, is printed in Soncino, Italy.
- 22 Tevet** (1496) – Expulsion of Jews from Portugal, four years after the expulsion from Spain.
- 24 Tevet** (3rd century BCE) – Jewish elders procure the translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek (Septuagint) for Ptolemy II Philadelphus.
- 28 Tevet** (81 BCE) – Shimon ben Shetach ejects the Sadducees from the Sanhedrin, replacing them with his Pharisaic disciples loyal to the mishnah.

*Rabbi Romiel Daniel*

***SPENDING THE WINTER  
IN FLORIDA?***



***PLEASE NOTIFY  
THE CENTER OFFICE***

**SPONSOR OR CO-SPONSOR  
A KIDDUSH**

Consider sponsoring or co-sponsoring a Shabbat kiddush! This is a wonderful opportunity to mark the observance of important events such as a yahrzeit or a simcha. Note: It does not have to be one person only. It could be two or three people getting together to sponsor a kiddush. The cost is very reasonable and we provide enough food for everyone to enjoy. But most importantly, we get together, we take the time to create new friendships and to enjoy existing ones.

Please contact the Center office for more information.



# FOCUS ON SISTERHOOD



*“V’Shinantam L’Vanekha,” “Teach them to your children,”*

*“In Torah lies our strength, in the study of Torah lies our wisdom and our future”*

The burning candles of the Chanukah menorah are a reminder of Judah Maccabee’s fight for religious freedom and Jewish survival. The Maccabean struggle was more than a military victory, it was an uplifting of the Jewish spirit and it was a rededication.

This is the season to rededicate ourselves. In Hebrew, the same root is in the words “dedication” and “education.” And thus our dedication to education, HINUK, comes naturally. In these so very troubled times, we must rededicate ourselves to reaffirm our confidence in the future. As we launch our Torah Fund Campaign on behalf of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, the Schechter Institute in Yerushalayim, the Frankel School in Germany and the Seminario in Argentina, we are proud that our “Woman of Achievement” Susan Goldschmidt is a lady who had dedicated herself to her family, to mankind and to K’lal Israel. It is critical that we sustain these important institutions of higher learning - this is where we educate our future rabbis, cantors, teachers and lay persons for the education of your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Without our support there is no ATID - and then there will be no future for us, for our children, for their children or for the Conservative/Masorti movement.

Through her involvement with family, synagogue, the community and mankind, Susan Goldschmidt uses ATID the future like a true Sabra - Yesh Atid - there is a future. So let us fulfill our obligations to the future of the Conservative/Masorti movement and show our dedication to our honoree Susan by attending our splendid Torah Brunch on Sunday morning, December 16, 2018. Make it truly an occasion of a wonderful ATID - future.

At our Sisterhood meeting on Monday, Dec. 10th at 12:15 P.M. we shall tell you about the five myths of Chanukah. Do you know why the Jews’ victory in the Chanukah story halted assimilation? What is the miracle of the oil and was there really a

miracle?

Other topics will be “Modern observances of Chanukah”, customs and rituals, reflection on Chanukah; and seven ways Chanukah is celebrated around the world - this includes Eastern Europe, India, Yemen, Israel, Turkey, Morocco and Italy. Do you know about the strong connection between Chanukah and the festival of Sukkot?

Then we shall ask all of you to share your fond memories of Chanukah with us. I’m sure we all have many and all are very different and unique. I know I do. We may even play a little of three dreidel games - so bring your dreidels and lots of pennies. Of course we shall serve latkes and applesauce. Bring a dairy sandwich or yogurt and your friends. Don’t miss this happy meeting!

We do want to thank all the Sisterhood ladies, Lynne, Elizabeth & Elliott Zakoff, and Aaron & Jacob Zucker, for helping at our fabulous Shabbat dinner and kiddush. Todah rabbah to Lynne Goldwasser for her expertise and advise - and our gratitude to Robin Basdeo who singlehandedly put the dinner together.

Todah Rabbah to Mollie Alkana for the interesting and excellent discussion of Ilana Kurshan’s book, “If All the Seas Were Ink.” It was fascinating.

May the lights of Chanukah illuminate our homes and may they be a reminder of the principles and values of freedom and peace for which the Maccabees fought and which are so essential today for us, our brethren in Israel and the whole world.

Shalom V’L’Hitra’ot  
Ruth Loewenstein

## SPECIAL EVENTS GROUP NEWS - REVIEWS

Lee Lobel-Zwang, Coordinator

### ***TIME TO STUDY TORAH***

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>  
at 12:30 P.M.**

**PARASHAT VAYIGASH 44.18 - 47.27**

**HAFTARAT EZEKIEL 37.15 - 37.28**

### **TORAH'S MOST EMOTIONAL DRAMA**

Joseph, no longer able to restrain himself, revealed his true identity to his brothers. They embraced and reconciled. Joseph sent for his father and Jacob's whole household, seventy in number, came down to Egypt & settled in the land of Goshen. Wagons were taken from Egypt for the children and wives as Pharaoh commanded - as he sent his brothers on the way. "Do not be quarrelsome on the way" - they went back to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan and told him, "Joseph is alive. He is ruler of all the land." When he saw all the objects Joseph had sent them, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. "I must see him before I die." They came with their livestock. They were breeders of livestock. They came to the region of Goshen. For all shepherds are abhorrent to Egyptians.

**HAFTARAT EZEKIEL 37.15 - 37.28**

I am going to take the Israelite people from among the nations they have gone to - make them a single nation in the land. One king shall be king of them all. I will be their G-d.

Presenters: Rabbi Romiel Daniel & Charles Lehat

### ***THE KNITTING CIRCLE***

invites you, your friends & neighbors  
for a pleasurable afternoon

### **KNITTING & CROCHETING**

with

**Pnina Lanxner, Chairperson**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>  
1:00 P.M.**

Come, meet new people, feel at home in our friendly group. Together we will make beautiful items for all seasons. Bring your needles and materials. Everyone welcome. \$2.00 - includes refreshments.

*Note: Please call 718-459-1000 the morning of December 20th to confirm that the Knitting Circle will be meeting.*

## **HAPPY CHANUKAH**



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## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Malka Gross  
Sol Leibowitz  
Frieda Mirzoeff  
Ken Sasmor  
Arthur Schwartz  
Ruthe Unger



## **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Claire & Daniel Begalman



## **REFUAH SHELEIMAH**

Kathy Godfried  
Mark Hochberg  
Hilda Kalfus  
Allan Morrin

**MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING**  
**FOR SPONSORING A**  
**CONGREGATIONAL KIDDUSH**  
**OR "TIME TO STUDY TORAH"**  
**LUNCHEON**

Carol Stoller & Stuart Hess, for sponsoring the "Time to Study Torah" luncheon on November 17th.

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## ***SUNDAY BREAKFAST CLUB & LEARN-IN WITH THE RABBI***

The ongoing review of the Book of Daniel has revealed to us a very complex man. Never called a prophet, he served as interpreter of dreams for many kings, including those of Persia and Greece, and visionary of Jewish history.

Daniel's practice of praying three times a day, asking for mercy and forgiveness for his people, was the basis of our current prayer practices.

The angels Gabriel and Michael promised Daniel that the Messianic era would be announced on Tisha B'av by the prophet Elijah, making this solemn day a happy holiday.

On October 21, Rabbi Donald Weinberg told us of his "evolved" viewpoint on the Binding of Isaac - that being, Abraham was being tested. The killing would not happen. Once Abraham set aside his objections and obeyed G-d, the angel stopped the slaughter. Thank you Rabbi for your commentary.

Sunday morning is the time to learn and broaden your understanding of Judaism. Please join us.

Elaine Spodick

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## ***YIDDISH VINKEL***

Revive your Yiddish. Our Yiddish Vinkel meets **most** Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 P.M. We speak Yiddish, read Yiddish stories and poems and sing Yiddish songs. Coffee and delicious danish are served. So come, enjoy warm friendship and have "fargeneegen."

**Please note: depending on weather conditions, Yiddish Vinkel may not be meeting each and every Wednesday afternoon. Please phone the Center office on Wednesday mornings after 10:00 A.M. to confirm if Yiddish Vinkel will be meeting that day.**

Pnina Lanxner  
Yiddish Vinkel President

# December 2018

## KISLEV / TEVET 5779

Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

Sun		Mon		Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat	
<b>B.B. = BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS</b> <b>B.C.L.I. = BREAKFAST CLUB &amp; LEARN IN</b> <b>C.L. = CANDLE LIGHTING</b> <b>E.S. = EVENING SERVICE</b> <b>M.S. = MORNING SERVICE</b> <b>N.E.S. = NO EVENING SERVICE</b>						<b>N.M.S. = NO MORNING SERVICE</b> <b>R.C. = RABBI'S CLASS</b> <b>S.D. = SINGLES DANCE</b> <b>SIST. = SISTERHOOD</b> <b>S.E. = SHABBAT ENDS</b> <b>T.S. = TIME TO STUDY TORAH</b> <b>Y.V. = YIDDISH VINKEL</b>						<b>1</b> 23 KISLEV  M.S. 9:00 A.M. B.B. E.S. 4:15 P.M. S.E. 5:14 P.M.  "VAYESHEV"	
<b>2</b> 24 KISLEV		<b>3</b> 25 KISLEV		<b>4</b> 26 KISLEV		<b>5</b> 27 KISLEV		<b>6</b> 28 KISLEV		<b>7</b> 29 KISLEV		<b>8</b> 30 KISLEV	
M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. N.E.S.		M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.		N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.		N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M. R.C. 6:30 P.M.		M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.		N.M.S. E.S. 4:30 P.M. C.L. 4:10 P.M.		M.S. 9:00 A.M. E.S. 4:15 P.M. S.E. 5:13 P.M. 7 <sup>TH</sup> CHANUKAH CANDLE "MIKETZ" ROSH CHODESH	
1 <sup>ST</sup> CHANUKAH CANDLE		2 <sup>ND</sup> CHANUKAH CANDLE		3 <sup>RD</sup> CHANUKAH CANDLE		4 <sup>TH</sup> CHANUKAH CANDLE		5 <sup>TH</sup> CHANUKAH CANDLE		6 <sup>TH</sup> CHANUKAH CANDLE			
<b>9</b> 1 TEVET		<b>10</b> 2 TEVET		<b>11</b> 3 TEVET		<b>12</b> 4 TEVET		<b>13</b> 5 TEVET		<b>14</b> 6 TEVET		<b>15</b> 7 TEVET	
M.S. 8:45 A.M. CONCERT - 2 PM N.E.S.		M.S. 7:00 A.M. SIST. 12:15 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.		N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.		N.M.S. Y.V. 1:00 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M. R.C. 6:30 P.M.		M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.		N.M.S. E.S. 4:30 P.M. C.L. 4:11 P.M.		M.S. 9:00 A.M. T.S. 12:30 P.M. E.S. 4:15 P.M. S.E. 5:15 P.M.  "VAYIGASH"	
8 <sup>TH</sup> CHANUKAH CANDLE													
<b>16</b> 8 TEVET		<b>17</b> 9 TEVET		<b>18</b> 10 TEVET		<b>19</b> 11 TEVET		<b>20</b> 12 TEVET		<b>21</b> 13 TEVET		<b>22</b> 14 TEVET	
M.S. 8:45 A.M. SIST. TORAH BRUNCH N.E.S.		M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.		N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.		N.M.S. Y.V. 1:00 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M. R.C. 6:30 P.M.		M.S. 7:00 A.M. KNITTING 1:00 PM E.S. 6:15 P.M.		N.M.S. E.S. 4:30 P.M. C.L. 4:13 P.M.		M.S. 9:00 A.M. E.S. 4:15 P.M. S.E. 5:18 P.M.  "VAYECHI"	
<b>23</b> 15 TEVET		<b>24</b> 16 TEVET		<b>25</b> 17 TEVET		<b>26</b> 18 TEVET		<b>27</b> 19 TEVET		<b>28</b> 20 TEVET		<b>29</b> 21 TEVET	
M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. N.E.S.		M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.		N.M.S. E.S. 6:15 P.M.		N.M.S. Y.V. 1:00 P.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M. R.C. 6:30 P.M.		M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.		N.M.S. E.S. 4:30 P.M. C.L. 4:18 P.M.		M.S. 9:00 A.M. E.S. 4:15 P.M. S.E. 5:22 P.M.  "SHEMOT"	
<b>30</b> 22 TEVET		<b>31</b> 23 TEVET											
M.S. 8:45 A.M. B.C.L.I. 9:30 A.M. S.D. 2:00 P.M. N.E.S.		M.S. 7:00 A.M. E.S. 6:15 P.M.											



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **GENERAL DONATIONS**

Shirley Decker, in honor of reading prayer on Shabbat.  
Susan Goldschmidt, in honor of reading prayer on Shabbat.  
Pnina Lanxner, in honor of closing the ark on Shabbat.  
Charles Lehat

## **REFUAH SHELEIMAH**

Joyce Fefferman, for the recovery of Hilda Kalfus.  
Sidney Rubin, for the recovery of Mark Hochberg.

## **MEMORIAL FUND**

Shari, Daniel, Evelyn & Michael Sternbach, in memory of Rena & Philip Sternbach.

## **HIGH HOLIDAY & SUKKOT DONATIONS**

Robin Gordon  
Marleen Gutterman  
David Heller  
Roslyn & Ira Hochman  
Lisa Katz  
Rebecca Katz  
William Katz  
Cheryl Krimko  
Andrea Levine  
Cheri Mondschein  
Francine & Arthur Patsiner  
Mr. & Mrs. Yevgeniy Pikus  
Diane Singer  
Michal Sonnenthal  
Joan Steele  
Lynne & Joel Zakoff

## **Yahrzeit Fund**

Claire & Daniel Begalman, in memory of son Douglas Scott Begalman.  
Shirley Decker, in memory of sister Jeanne.  
Eugene Grozinger, in memory of sister Rose.  
Ruth Kaplan, in memory of brother Icheskel.  
Johanna Katz, in memory of mother Rifka.  
Johanna Katz, in memory of father Moishe.  
Charles Lehat, in memory of mother Sheila Lehat.  
Abe Miller, in memory of father Chaim Miller.  
Hedy Rothschild, in memory of brother Theo.  
Sidney Rubin, in memory of wife Lorraine Rubin.  
Ed Starer, in memory of grandfather Shmuel.  
Stanley Sternin, in memory of brother Lester Sternin.  
Ruthe Unger, in memory of mother Pauline.  
Ava Wand, in memory of father Leon Rich.  
Jacqueline Weiss, in memory of father Morris Weiss.  
Jacqueline Weiss, in memory of grandfather Isaac Weiss.  
Ira Werner, in memory of grandfather Isidore Werner.

### **A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

Donations received by the Center office after November 15th will be listed in the January/February Bulletin.



## In Memoriam



The members listed below will observe Yahrzeit as indicated.

Yahrzeit candles should be lit the night before.

Schedule of service elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Please help ensure a Minyan by attending services

Please note: there are no morning services on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, unless it is Rosh Chodesh, a special holiday or - if there is a yahrzeit. If you have a yahrzeit which falls on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday morning, you should inform Rabbi Daniel if you would like to have services.

### **Sunday, December 2nd**

Jacqueline Weiss - Father

### **Tuesday, December 4th**

Eugene Grozinger - Wife

Ken Sasmor - Father

### **Sunday, December 9th**

Allan Morrin - Uncle

### **Tuesday, December 11th**

Sid Rubin - Father

### **Thursday, December 13th**

Shirley Decker - Brother

### **Saturday, December 15th**

Hedy Rothschild - Mother

### **Monday, December 17th**

George Godfried - Brother

Claire Begalman - Mother

### **Tuesday, December 18th**

Shirley Decker - Husband

### **Wednesday, December 19th**

Rochelle Wasserman - Mother

### **Thursday, December 20th**

Bernice Mandell - Mother

### **Saturday, December 22nd**

Kathy Godfried - Father

### **Sunday, December 23rd**

Allan Morrin - Mother

### **Monday, December 24th**

Lee Lobel-Zwang - Father

### **Tuesday, December 25th**

Florence Cohen - Mother

Pnina Lanxner - Father

### **Thursday, December 27th**

Rachel Kacenenbogen - Aunt

### **Friday, December 28th**

Agnes Posner - Brother

Agnes Posner - Father

### **Monday, December 31st**

Ken Sasmor - Mother

## ATTEND SERVICES



**Rego Park Jewish Center**  
website: [www.rpjc.org](http://www.rpjc.org)

## **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



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[instagram.com/regoparkjc](https://instagram.com/regoparkjc)



### **PARKSIDE MEMORIAL CHAPEL**

has been the Funeral Director for the Rego Park Jewish Center for 50 years. We are both your neighbor and family and very proud of our long standing relationship.

We can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 98-60 Queens Boulevard in Rego Park.

**(718) 896-9000**

Stop by sometime to discuss pre-arranging a funeral or to get a Yahrzeit Calendar or to answer any question you might have.

**OUR JEWISH FAMILY IS HERE TO HELP YOUR FAMILY**

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Rego Park Jewish Center  
97-30 Queens Blvd  
Rego Park, NY 11374



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