

A LIVING MIRACLE?

- IT MEANS...

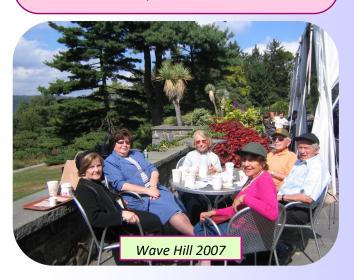






"The best part of my day is in the Y! It is a good relaxation and the programs are excellent. It's a miracle that Club Nissim was established to meet the needs of people who are in the same situation. I'm lucky to have so many friends here. I am very happy that I found this place!"

Clara Rosenberg, Hungary—member since 2008



... ENJOYING



"I look forward to coming to Club Nissim every day. The programs, activities, and learning bring lots of joy into my life! I enjoy making new friends at Club Nissim. It is a tremendous organization—it's part of our lives..."

Margit Rubin, Hungary—member since 2007

"We enjoy our time at Club Nissim, and we are lucky that we have such a beautiful program created especially for us!"

Toby Landau, Poland—member since 2002



LIFE ...



"What an appropriate name: 'Club Nissim'! Every time I come in, I have a warm feeling about the place. All of us, survivors of the Holocaust, find a haven in it. It can be a trip, a shiur, different entertainment, a pleasant inexpensive lunch, or just a gathering; it welcomes us. Thank you Club Nissim—Happy Anniversary!"

Ella Jakubowitz, Hungary—member since 2006









... CELEBRATING TOGETHER...



"Thank you for this great program with a most gracious, intelligent, talented, and fun-loving director. There are unforgettable trips to historical mansions, museums, and shuls; relaxing days in the parks and gardens; fun days on the boardwalk, shopping excursions and more. Every date on the calendar is checked for significant occasions, birthday parties, holidays, etc. Thank you again, Simonne! I wish you continued success in all your endeavors. Keep up your great spirit!"

Chaia Stern, Romania—member since 2002



To the members of Club Nissim:

The Boro Park community owes a debt to the Holocaust Survivors who came to the United States with no material possessions, but full of *emunah* and *bitachon*, striving to continue living as true Torah Jews in a foreign land. While working in factories, striving to build families, you also built yeshivas, shuls, and community service agencies for the poor, the hungry and the weak. You have taught *Klal Yisroel* the true meaning of what it means to survive.

We of the next generations acknowledge your greatness. Club Nissim, which is a project of UJA/Federation, the Claims Conference and the NYC Council Elie Wiesel Holocaust Survivor Initiative, is one way we have been able to repay our debt to you and treat you to some of what you lost in your youth. Your playfulness and joy which was denied you for so long is now what we hear from you in the classes, activities and events at Club Nissim. Despite the aches and pains of aging you have shown us what it means to age with dignity and enjoy life to the fullest. The Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration and this "Yearbook" are a showcase of your strength and perseverance to live life fully.

I thank the dedicated staff of Club Nissim, its Director Simonne Hirschhorn, who has been with the program almost from its inception and has created a program that is outstanding and a model for other programs for survivors; and Esther Grossman who makes sure that the program runs successfully. As a team they are formidable. I thank the Board of Directors who have given us the encouragement to fully develop the program.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Boro Park Y, I thank the members of Club Nissim for coming to the program and providing us all with a model for courage and fortitude.

Thank you for giving me the privilege of working with you!

Ellie Kastel

Executive Director, Boro Park Y

September 18, 2016



"The nice pink room at Club Nissim is very welcoming. We look forward to coming to that inviting place where we have a good time. All the parties are very nicely planned and decorated. Our staff is very talented — we all love them. I am always looking forward to the educational lectures and discussions. Thank you!"

Shaindel Sussman, Yugoslavia—member since 2009







... HAVING

"Nissim is a very accurate name for this club. The fact that we're alive and able to attend is a miracle in itself. It's so satisfying to have interactions with understanding people."

Chaya Presser, Poland—member since 2002



"Club Nissim is miraculous in that there are so many people here that are happy, excited, singing, and dancing. Club Nissim really changes your mood. It is my home away from home."

Eva Friedman, Hungary—member since 2010



"It is inspiring to be in the pink room at the Boro Park Y. I meet my friends, I listen to good speakers. There are always great programs. I love it!"

Frieda Langsam, Hungary—member since 2014







Sing-Along 2010





"Writing briefly about Club Nissim is a challenge, since this organization fills such an important purpose to many of us Holocaust survivors. We are offered a variety of activities. Exercise that is so important to keep our aged bodies in some shape. Spiritual lectures to thank Hashem we are alive after such a horrendous genocide and have brought up children and grandchildren from whom we see nachas B'H.

Also trips to parks, theaters, and other cultural places; birthday celebrations, lunches, socializing etc. This program is uplifting; it keeps us stimulated and eager to come to Club Nissim. It fills the monotonous loneliness for many of us, who would otherwise be cooped up in our homes. We are happy to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Club Nissim!"

Dolly Rabinovitch, Czechoslovakia—member since 2005





... GOING



"After my dear husband was niftar seven years ago, my friend persuaded me to join Club Nissim. Initially I was reluctant, but once I checked out Club Nissim's shiurim and other programs I was hooked. The schedule changes monthly, and it varies from day to day to prevent boredom. I particularly enjoy the exercise sessions such as T'ai Chi and Feldenkrais, plus the lectures regarding our health.

I love the outings we have to museums, gardens, and musicals. I meet new friends all the time, which fills the void in my life. Although I ka'h have a big family, Club Nissim gives me a life of my own. To sum it up, Club Nissim is really Nissim for survivors so they are able to get on with their lives."

Bernice Brecher, Hungary—member since 2009



PLACES ...









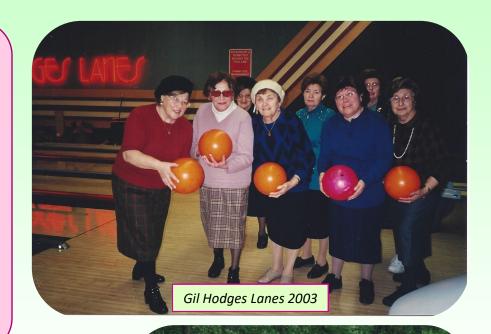


"Club Nissim has become a part of my life. I enjoy coming to a place with such a wonderful program. I really appreciate how much work the staff puts into making the program special.

Club Nissim has become like a family to me."

Roza Lieberman, Romania—member since 2013 "The whole concept of Club Nissim is miraculous and amazing. I've spent many years occupied by my job, but now that I'm not working, structure is so important. Club Nissim provides that structure, as well as a choice of so many different groups and activities. There's no time to dwell on the past; we only focus on the positive."

Fanny Kunstlinger, Germany member since 2006







... BEING



"Club Nissim is a matunah and a chesed from the Ribono Shel Olam and I am grateful to Him that I am able to participate in this program. The staff makes the program enjoyable and make us look forward to coming every day to see what is in store."

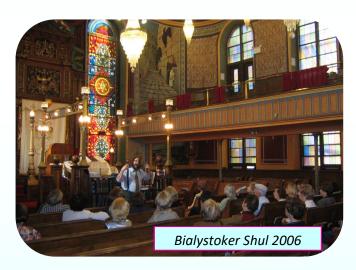
Fay Tusk, Poland—member since 2012







SPIRITUAL ...







"I feel privileged that I have the opportunity to join Club Nissim and I am looking forward to it on each and every occasion. I wish for the staff, especially the directors, long years of success."

Regina Friedman, Czechoslovakia—member since 2011





Vegetable Platters 2015



... BEING



"I am very grateful that I belong to Club Nissim where I spend nice times, thanks to our very capable and devoted staff. We should all be well and have lots of nachas!"

Frieda Brown, Poland—member since 2008





"There is nothing better than starting the day with a dance to pleasant music, saying tehillim in a group, exercising and communicating with people you know. Simonne brings out the creativity of her mature club members and they amaze me every time with their performances."

Helen Rubin, Poland—member since 2008

CREATIVE.



Making Collages 2006







...GOING TO PARTIES...





'1 get up every morning with a purpose and simcha, although I no longer go to work. Being part of Club Nissim boosts my every day. My favorite part of the program are the lectures—they're something special! Actually, I enjoy every minute of being part of Club Nissim!"

Eva Geller, France—member since 2015



CLUB NISSIM - IT'S A MIRACLE!

Time flies when you are having fun. It is astounding to realize that we have been having tremendous fun now for fifteen years! It is a long time – fifteen years in the life of a senior citizen can bring significant change, but it seems Club Nissim is something of a Shangri-La – our members remain eternally young, at least at heart.

More astounding still is the fact that Club Nissim is not slowing down – we are as busy now as we were a decade ago. New members and established veterans, innovative projects and old favorites; the "Savta Seminary", the self-massage, cooking groups, fitness for the feet, song and dance, wellness, trips – you name it, we are doing it! Torah lecturers, fitness instructors, rabbis, musicians, a doctor, a social worker, and a physical therapist are among the many consultants who serve our clients on a regular basis. There are days when our office feels as busy as the Grand Central Terminal, and it is a monthly struggle to fit every activity onto the limited space of a calendar sheet.

But most astounding of all are the Club Nissim members themselves. To be sure, our members carry pain in their hearts but even so, the all-pervasive atmosphere of our Club is one of positivity, curiosity, adventurousness and *simchas hachayim – joie de vivre* – the ability to find joy simply in being alive. That joy is what shines through on these pages, and I think it is the greatest, most inspiring message of this Club and this Yearbook. In this, our members are the greatest force of inspiration and the most uplifting role models available to our generation.

My work with Club Nissim these fifteen years has become much more than just work – it is a vocation; one that follows me through my days and nights, office hours and vacations alike. Ideas for activities, events to relate, anecdotes to tell, sights to show – almost everything I experience on a daily basis is filtered through my consciousness of how it could benefit the members of Club Nissim. And when my powers flag, my mood dips – it is from their example I gather strength and resolve.

As I prepare to celebrate this fifteenth anniversary, contemplating the past with gratification and the future with anticipation, I bestow and request the *brocho* that Club Nissim and I should be *zoche* to continue our joyous, astounding adventure together, in good health, for many happy, productive years to come!

Simonne B. Hirschhorn

Program Director, Club Nissim

September 2016

... BEING

"When my husband passed away sixteen years ago, I didn't want to be dependent on my children so I registered in the program. Club Nissim is the perfect name for this place! I look forward to coming every morning like an excited schoolgirl. It's my second home; my home away from home."

Tropical Week 2009

Esther Rubinstein, Hungary—member since 2002





UNCONVENTIONAL ...





... LOVING

NY Botanical Garden 2009

"I love everything about Club Nissim; its programs, the exercise classes, and the company. I can't narrow down what I really like best, the shiurim, the trips — I love it all. Club Nissim gives me a reason to get out of bed in the morning; even if I'm tired, or had a difficult night, I wouldn't want to miss even a day of it!"

Brooklyn Botanic Garden 2015

Mazal Cohen, Algiers—member since 2015







PLAYFUL

"I would like to say what Club Nissim means to me: Simonne comes up with such wonderful ideas for the program which brings a smile to everyone's face. It is so very pleasant to be a part of Club Nissim"

Rifka Ash, Poland — member since 2002



"Club Nissim gives me a reason to get out of bed, get dressed, and out of my house on a daily basis."

Going on the Slide 2011

Emma Wohlberg, Hungary — member since 2004



... BEING COMPETITIVE ...



"I feel that my day is filled with interesting and productive activities, especially the exercise classes. Otherwise, I would have an empty day with no productive or meaningful activities to fill it with. After you raise your children, you're left with an empty nest. Club Nissim gives me a purpose and a sense of belonging."

Gabriela Fogel, Czechoslovakia—member since 2002



The Olympic Salad-Making Team

At the age of 99, Mrs. Margit Berkowitz a"h, led the Bubbie Olympics Opening Day Parade... ...and lit the Olympic "Fire" — 2011



Nissim and You

Lipa Schmeltzer

MusiCare

Many open doors like a sea of seeds
Each woman sits and fits amazed
Nissim is a word not in our dictionary
For us it is the world
Where we store our miracles

Young women who once walked the unknown Now grown maturity and pride These women teach us mountains Tears could not sink

Their words diamonds
Their handshakes galaxies
Their moves spirituality
Their lives God's science

Nissim is our Jupiter Nissim is our spirit Nissim is our Google map We follow and embrace

When they show us love We see God When they exercise We get courage

Dear Nissim angels
We praise your poetics
With each stanza at Nissim
You represent continents

Nissim Is our Jupiter Nissim is our spirit Nissim is our Google map We follow and embrace

Copper silver golden garlic Must have had it all Looking back at everything A higher call we hear

Your voices plant millennia Wisdom thrive and drive Lead us to the ocean now To hope and peace and Nissim





In 2015 Club Nissim started "The Piyut Project"— a poetry -writing workshop in collaboration with artist and songwriter Lipa Schmeltzer, sponsored by AmeriCare.

Our members made a great impression on Lipa — read the poem he wrote about them...



... EXPLORING





"Club Nissim is an important part of my day. I always look forward to going, and have made many new friends. It's been educational. We learn new things all the time."

Lillian Feintuch, Hungary—member since 2008



TOPICS ...



"Club Nissim is something to look forward to. I enjoy the exercise classes and educational subjects like shiurim. I belong to a very special group; we socialize and get along very well. We solve the world's problems together—elections and such things."

Yitty Weill, Hungary—member since 2013

"Club Nissim gives me a reason to get up in the morning, get dressed, and get out!"

Margaret Schwartz, Czechoslovakia—member since 2002



... LAUGHING



"I come every day for the positive experience, the happy atmosphere, and the camaraderie. Club Nissim plans the most exciting activities, trips, and lovely events. Spending time here enhances my life in an incredible way. I get up at 6 am to come to Club Nissim, and although I may be tired when I arrive, I always leave rejuvenated. Whenever I meet survivors, the first thing I recommend is that they join this program!"

Rose Schrage, France—member since 2014



"I am very happy to come here. I enjoy it very much, and I hope to continue coming for a long time. Many thanks to all the staff!"

Gita Goldstein, Romania—member since 2007

A LOT ...





Decades before Emma Wohlberg (left) made friends with Fay Tusk, she was friendly with Fay's predecessor, her husbands first wife, Eva Tusk "I have been in Club Nissim for 15 years and it provides me with the social life that I need. I enjoy when I come in and I have friends to talk to, it brightens my day. Club Nissim is an important part of my life."

Chani Singer, Poland—member since 2008



... MAKING





Reunited—teacher Sara Seidman (sitting) and her former students from 1948-49 at Bais Yaakov in Paris: the three sisters (L-R) Fela Spitzer, Gita Landau, Sara Censor



Reunited—last time Agnes Lieberman (left) & Sylvia Weiss saw each other, 60 years ago, they were lying on stretchers in a Nuremberg infirmary. Each thought the other was dying...

"Club Nissim is miraculous; it has given us a new life after the Holocaust. It's miraculous to be able to learn what I couldn't learn as a child. Without Club Nissim we would be old and alone."

Agnes Lieberman, Hungary—member since 2008

AND REUNITING

WITH OLD ONES ...



"I've met so many people here at Club Nissim; I've made so many new friends. I love the exercise and shiurim."

Gitta Maryl, Romania—member since 2014



Reunited—(L-R) Frieda Langsam, Agnes Lieberman and Goldy Stein were room mates in the Agudah transit camp, Vienna 1949



... THIRSTING FOR TORAH ...

I just love the daily crowd at Club Nissim and the way we learn so much from the various shiurim. I hope next year we'll all be in Club Nissim in Yerushayalim!"

Bruria Jakabovics, Morocco—member since 2014



"Sometimes I feel like a school girl, especially when we get the monthly newsletter with a rich menu of educational programs to choose from. I only went to school up until sixth grade, and Club Nissim provides me with all those lost years of learning through their incredible program!"

Breindy Einhorn, Hungary—member since 2001





"Since my wife was already a longtime member of the organization, I decided to join also. There are no words to describe the good feeling of being part of Club Nissim! Hashem should continue to give them Hatzlocha Rabba in carrying out their great work for Holocaust Survivors."

Adam Goodman, Hungary—member since 2012

Chanukah Party 2010



... THERE ARE

"ANSHEI NISSIM" TOO ...



31

since 2011



. AND HONORING



"The women who survived—very few could get an education at that point. Many had to work manually in factories, sewing, in stores to help their husbands cover what they needed. All this on top of caring for their children with love. Now that our children are grown and we have retired from the workplace, just take a look at us! We spend our time in a respectful and friendly environment with women of similar backgrounds and similar dreams for our children. At the same time, we learn how to take care of ourselves physically, emotionally, and to get the education that we were deprived of as Holocaust Survivors. This is the place where we get what we missed for so long. This is Club Nissim!"

Sara Seidman, Romania—member since 2005





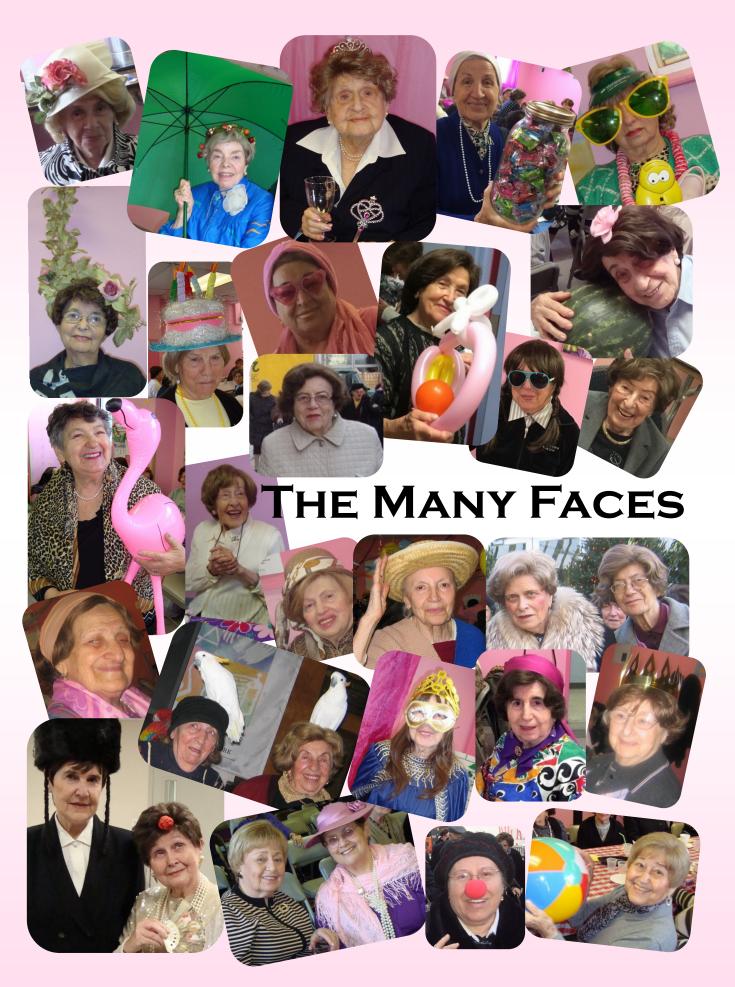


THE PAST ...

"Recently, we observed the Holocaust Remembrance; at Club Nissim we celebrate life. I live alone, and it can get kind of lonely. At Club Nissim you get to meet friends and always have whom to talk to about your past, present, and - hopefully - future."

Judy Zellermaier, Czechoslovakia—member since 2002









Back L-R: Wanda Almer, Hanna Nagelblatt.
Front L-R: Irene Friedman, Hermina Fischer,
Rachel Smilowitz.



Back L-R: Roza Moses, Malka Hendler.
Front L-R: Magda Korn, Miriam Marc,
Ethel Kleinman.

"Where do I begin...your praises to sing? Club Nissim has enhanced my life in many ways. Just thinking of the many wide ranging activities available make it worth my while to get up in the morning and run to the Y to participate in any of them. I am always afraid to miss out on some of the many amazing events. Swimming is one of my favorite activities but when I could not go swimming for health reasons I knew that I could attend one of the various lectures with phenomenal speakers. Or should I mention the interesting outings to the most wonderful places? I still chuckle when I remember the beautiful picnic spread Simonne prepared for us on the beach that was ruined by a torrential downpour. We were told to take whatever we could before running for cover! Club Nissim makes me feel young and alive. A place where I go to socialize, engage in all sorts of wonderful activities with Yiddishe flavor. I feel tremendous gratitude to the organizers, who never run out of ideas of how to entertain us and keep us busy. The English language is too poor to express our THANKS. What does Club Nissim mean to me? Everything I just expounded and much more. Wishing you many more successful years!"

Judith Snyder, Hungary - member since 2002



Back L-R: Bella Grunfeld, Aurelia Schwartz, Rose Frankel. Front L-R: Helen Kugelmas, Sylvia Hershkowitz, Ahuva Jakober.



Back L-R: Faigie Weinstock, Judith Snyder, Fejga Morejno. Front L-R: Rywka Schlafrig, Rachel Hochhauser, Chana Nudel, Surie Sternheim.



Back L-R: Sara Seidman, Sylvia Weiss, Editha Avishai, Eva Eisenberger. Front L-R: Rosalyn Schwartz, Shaindy Fernbach, Roza Lieberman, Faigie Berkowitz.



Back L-R: Rifka Ash, Ghizela Indig-Reich.
Front L-R: Judith Weinberg, Goldie Engel,
Rita Silverman.

"Club Nissim is a wonderful part of my life. When I know that I am going to the 'Y', my day begins on a different note. I wake up enthusiastic about meeting friends, enjoying well-prepared and exciting activities, shows, discussions, etc. The Club Nissim staff whole-heartedly devote their talents and energies towards the program. With genuine warmth and sincerity, we are greeted with a welcoming smile and they all take a personal interest in helping to bring more joy to our lives. It is important for our brains, it's vital for our spirit, and it is good for our heart that we remain happy about our day-to-day living; Club Nissim is that ray of sunshine in my life.

Thank you, Club Nissim for all that you do and for the wonderful way in which you do it!"

Mina Jaroslawicz, Poland—member since 2004



Back L-R: Miriam Fischman, Gita Jacobs, Anna Obstfeld. Front L-R: Eva Kaufman, Miriam Fischer, Goldie Obstfeld, Goldie Hager.



Back L-R: Margit Rubin, Gabriela Fogel, Regina Goodman, Chaia Stern. Front L-R: Helene Feintuch, Mina Jaroslawicz, Lilly Gross, Gitel Goldstein.



Back L-R: Hedy Rosner, Charlotte Cukier, Gitel Kaufman, Bruria Jakabovics. Front L-R: Leah Dembitzer, Chana Shapiro, Margaret Schwartz, Sara Freund.



Back L-R: Rivka Solomon, Fay Tusk, Justine Herbst, Goldy Stein. Front L-R: Bronia Brandman, Chavie Friedman, Vera Greenwald, Ella Reichman.

"Club Nissim is beyond being quantified. I am in thrall of it! There are so many activities offered it would take a long list to enumerate. It challenges our brains, physical stamina, and intelligence. It challenges us to rise to the occasion. It is renewal, growth, rejuvenation and hope!"

Bronia Brandman, Poland - member since 2002



Back L-R: Eva Geller, Mazal Cohen, Sima Rauchverger, Flora Ellenbogen. Front L-R: Frieda Brown, Toby Landau, Frieda Langsam, Regina Friedman.

"After I retired 7 years ago, I had the great pleasure of joining Club Nissim. I absolutely love the shiurim, and have recently enrolled in *Beis Binah*—

The Savta Seminary. I'm learning so much, it feels like I'm making up for all the learning opportunities I lost in my youth. I attend every day, and love the company and all the friends I've made. I'm always telling my grandchildren and great-grandchildren about the latest trips and activities on Club Nissim's awesome schedule. Whenever my husband decides to participate in a Club Nissim event or trip — we both enjoy it immensely. Thank you and much continued hatzlacha!"

Regina Goodman, Poland - member since 2008



Back L-R: Agnes Weill, Lillian Feintuch, Dolly Rabinovich, Eva Friedman. Front L-R: Helen Weinberger, Stella Herman, Clara Rosenberg, Gitta Maryl.





Back L-R: Yehudit Majer, Bernice Brecher, Malka Wassfeld, Feiga Lieberman. Front L-R: Fay Friedman, Emelie Stengel, Chana Boymelgryn.



Back L-R: Pessy Weiss, Katy Szanto, Rachel Horowitz, Esther Rubinstein, Viorica Lieberman. Front L-R: Agnes Lieberman, Fannie Kunstlinger, Frieda Schick, Chaya Presser.

I have no accurate words to describe what the Club means to me. Club Nissim is a miraculous lifesaver—I don't know what I would do without it!"

Charlotte Cukier, Czechoslovakia – member sine 2015



Back L-R: Alice Rosenberg, Breindy Einhorn-Rosenberg, Emma Wohlberg, Ili Markovitz.
Front L-R: Rose Schrage, Chani Singer, Bella
Friedman, Tzipora Karas.

"I start my morning greeting happy faces,
All coming together from different places.
Old friends, new friends, we meet and we schmooze,
We discuss old stories and trade personal news.
Various speeches, movies, and exercise So many activities; how the time flies!
Simonne and her team work with their whole heart
A great deal of effort and time, right from the start.
Our gratitude immeasurable, hard to express,
But we'd like with this poem on you to impress
The immense value of this program that you direct.
You deserve thanks, appreciation, and our utmost respect!"

Viorica Lieberman, Romania - member since 2013

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Sincere thanks to President of the Board Jacob Reichman; Chairman of the Board Chaim Israel; the entire Board of Directors of the Boro Park Y; and its Executive Director Ellie Kastel for their continued involvement in Club Nissim.

Furthermore, on a personal level, I am greatly indebted to Ellie Kastel for her encouragement, empowerment and support, which enables Club Nissim to continue to reach for the stars!

It is a pleasure to acknowledge and thank my Club Nissim staff — Esther Grossman, excellent, trusted and devoted Program Assistant, who in addition to her many other responsibilities also performed research for this volume; Bracha Gornish Rupp, former Social Worker *par excellence*, who worked tirelessly on media, research, rough-editing and other legwork, both for the Yearbook, and for the Anniversary Celebration itself, as well as former Social Worker Intern Chaya Feldman, who put in many hours of diligent typing for this book (good luck to you both in the future!); Assistant Bassy Heller for her dedication to our clients; and Luis Vega, Maintenance, for always keeping that smile on!

Warm thanks and appreciation to all our lecturers and consulting professionals for working with Club Nissim and helping to make the program great!

Most profound thanks of all — to the members of Club Nissim!

Simonne B. Hirschhorn



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