

Nichele is Corporation Council for the City of Mount Vernon but it is her work with our young people and their families as a counselor and mentor that led to her being honored tonight by the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation. Her husband, Brother Arthur Muhammad can usually be found on streets where troubled youth congregate, there and in the classrooms of Mount Vernon High School where he engages with some of our city's most troubled youth.

Nichele was raised to embrace her multicultural heritage, to appreciate the power of prayer, and to contribute to society. This manifests itself through her counseling, her giving our food at soup kitchens, to gathering clothing for the needy.

Brother Arthur combines a soft-spoken demeanor with, when necessary, the firmness of one who knows what he is talking about. The respect he has earned often leads to his being called on as a mediator for all age groups.

The Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation is honoring Nichele and Brother Arthur who have worked to help all in need, no matter what the need. I am proud to join with the Foundation in praising the work of Nichele Johnson and Brother Arthur Muhammad for what they have done so much to make Mount Vernon a better place to live.

HONORING JUNE BURKART

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a dedicated wife, proud supporter of our military and veterans, and most importantly, a great Alaskan. On April 26, 2012, Alaska lost one of its hardest working and most dedicated daughters, Mrs. June Burkart.

Mrs. Burkhart was a loving wife and mother whose life was defined by service to her family and community. For decades she served on the boards of countless organizations that supported Alaskans, most recently raising significant funds for the Wounded Warriors Program. As an avid outdoor lover, she worked to ensure that any wounded warrior who wished to hunt or fish had the opportunity to do so through the Safari Club International Alaska Chapter.

For days, I can continue praising her many accomplishments and the many ways that she improved my life and the lives of anyone who knew her. Her memory will continue to live on in our hearts and souls. I hope that June's family, and especially her husband Roy, can take comfort in the bond they had with June as it will be with them always. I hope the precious memories the family has of her will bring them comfort, and that they will come to find, in the lovely words of Hugh Robert Orr:

"They are not dead who live in lives they leave behind. In those whom they have blessed, they live a life again, and shall live through the years eternal life, and shall grow each day more beautiful, as time declares their good, forgets the rest, and proves their immortality."

IN HONOR OF CANTOR ERIK CONTZIUS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Cantor fills a special role within the Jewish community; leading worship, officiating at lifecycle events, teaching adults and children, conducting synagogue music programs, and offering pastoral care.

Ten years ago Cantor Erik Contzius brought his talent, his commitment to Reform Judaism and unique personality to Temple Israel of New Rochelle. All the congregants have been touched by him, from the training of children to become B'nai Mitzvahs, to making the High Holidays alive with sound, to entertaining us with song. He holds a special place at Temple Israel of New Rochelle.

Cantor Contzius founded Kol Simkha, the Temple's youth choir, as soon as he arrived in New Rochelle. A decade and hundreds of students later, Kol Simkha is going strong, singing the beloved prayers at Family Services. Cantor Contzius has cultivated many young voices in the congregation, giving them a chance to be heard during special services and on his own album, *Teach My Lips a Blessing*.

Cantor Contzius has given many distinguished solo presentations, most recently with the Westchester Chorale, singing the Darius Milhaud Service Sacré. Within the synagogue, he performed with its own jazz band, Yidlock, as part of the annual Follies show, and with the Chordsmen, a barbershop quartet.

In November of 2010, the Cantor's original composition, "Ma Ashiv Ladonai," was premiered at the Vatican—a true honor.

He was raised in Parsippany, N.J., received his B.A. in Psychology from Rutgers College and went on to study abroad at the University of York, England. He received his Master of Sacred Music degree from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, School of Sacred Music, studying in Israel and New York.

Before becoming a part of the Temple Israel family, along with his wife Monica and son Jacob, he served as Cantor at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel of Elkins Park, PA, and Temple Israel of Omaha.

I enthusiastically join with Temple Israel of New Rochelle in honoring Cantor Erik Contzius for the joy, guidance and leadership he has provided over the past decade and wish him many more years among us.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H. Res. 242, Recognizing May As National Foster Care Month, I rise to recognize this month dedicated to celebrating selfless foster families who open their hearts and their homes for children in need as well as rededicate myself to ensuring that every child has an opportunity for a brighter future.

I am honored to be a charter member of the Congressional Caucus for Foster Youth, a caucus that allows Members to gain a better understanding of the current state of foster care throughout the nation and identify potential federal policy modifications that could improve outcomes for the children in our country's foster care systems. On February 24, 2012, in an effort to address many of the ongoing issues foster youth face, members of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth launched a national listening tour which began in my district.

Mr. Speaker, currently there are over 463,000 children living in foster care. These children have been placed in homes on the account of the physical, sexual and emotional abuse they have endured with their biological caretaker. My state of California currently has the largest foster care population with the number of youths in foster care tripling since 1981.

Sixty-five percent of children who are not placed in a permanent home emancipate themselves from the system often left unemployed, without a place to live and resorting to homeless shelters. Less than 3 percent go on to college and emancipated females end up four times more likely to receive public assistance compared to the overall population of the United States.

Almost 30,000 children who are victims of abuse and neglect are entrusted to the care of the Los Angeles County Juvenile Dependency Court system. The court's primary mission is to ensure that these youth are safe, happy and secure. As a result, Los Angeles established the country's first courthouse especially designed for children and families.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we provide more programs, events, activities, and funding that will educate Americans about the success of children placed in permanent homes, debunk myths about the process and acknowledge the thousands of children who could potentially become a part of these statistics. Through these efforts we can increase the rate of adoption, decrease the rate of homelessness among the youths in this group and help develop future leaders and innovative thinkers of tomorrow.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the families who have opened their hearts and homes to foster children. Foster parents play a critical role in the lives of some of the most vulnerable youth in California and across the country. They help hold our nation's social fabric together by ensuring that thousands of young people in this country stay on track towards successful futures.

In addition, I would like to commend SHIELDS for Families, an internationally recognized organization in my district that transforms the lives of parents by providing them with resources to prevent children from going into the foster care system. This month, we celebrate these unsung heroes and their efforts to change the lives of these children.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor H.R. 2012, Foster Care Mentoring Act, focused on connecting foster youth with responsible and caring adults and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact legislation that addresses the very real and persisting needs of young people in our foster care system.

During this month, we recognize all those who are helping to improve the lives of children in foster care but it also serves as a reminder that more must be done. These children deserve to grow up in a loving home that is safe, happy, and most importantly one they can call their own.

IN HONOR OF ELEAZER AND SARI
KLEIN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Eleazer and Sari Klein are admirably refreshing in that despite their impressive accomplishments, they remain a sincerely caring, responsive and unassuming couple. Both have much to be proud of. They come from families who have created worlds of good in diverse arenas. They use their talents to run successful businesses and support organizations of Torah and chesed. And for all this, it is clear that they take most pride in raising children who are a credit to their families.

Eleazer's father, Rabbi Dr. Bernard Klein, z"l, originally from Munkatch, survived the Holocaust, and went on to receive Smicha from Torah Vodaath, attend Columbia University and become a practicing Rav and Chairman of the Department of History, Philosophy and Political Science at the City University of New York. Mrs. Shirley Klein, amu"sh, granddaughter of Rav Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld zt"l, was a teacher and educator with a Masters in Education. Together, they infused their children with the primary goals of commitment to family, education and placing Torah values above all.

Sari's family, the esteemed Gotlib/Fink Family, remains one of the most respected families in Belgium. Her role models, Sari's parents and grandparents, realized success in business, but always kept at the top of their priorities raising a refined Torah family as well as doing their utmost to be Osek B'Tzarchei Tzibur. In a heart-warming gesture of generational bonding, Sari took their son, Michael, to Antwerp, to provide him the privilege of hearing his great-grandfather, Chazzan Fink, lead the tefillos this past Yom Kippur.

Catching a glimpse of Eleazer's modest demeanor walking into shul, ready to lain any kria, always with a sefer in his hand, one would be hard pressed to believe his imposing bio—Senior Partner in Schulte Roth & Zabel's corporate law department, rated one of NY's top attorneys by Super Lawyers, Senior Editor of the Yale Law Journal, noted legal speaker and author. And yet, he helped found the Agudah of Madison in Flatbush, is the first to deliver mishloach monos every Purim to his Rosh Yeshiva of Torah Vodaath, Rav Yisroel Reisman, Shlit"a, and makes himself available to dispense clarifying advice to anyone in need. With Smicha from Rav Pam zt"l, Eleazer maintains a very strong relationship with his Rabbeim, exemplifying what they taught: impeccable integrity, unflagging menschlichkeit.

A graduate of Michlala and Stern, Sari, too is not complacent with past accomplishments. Juggling many roles—owner and manager of Virgo Business Centers which offers turnkey

business offices, steadfast, sensitive confidante to friends on both sides of the ocean, organized chesed supporter—she takes overwhelming joy in being emotionally in tune with her husband and children. Truly, it is the Klein children who personify all that their parents and grandparents stand for—quietly strong, well mannered, articulate. Calling their children the Klein's "masterpieces", Rabbi Chaim Pechter, Menahel, comments, "You cannot impose such things on children. Their behavior testifies to generations of midos tovos and hanhagos tovos in a home of Torah, Kedusha and Tahara."

As Sari says, "It's all about appreciating what you have and instilling the correct values into your children." It is our heartfelt brocha that all these extraordinary attributes, exemplifying "Mah Tov Ohalecha" continue in their doros, ad bli dai.

May I have the honor of joining in congratulating Eleazer and Sari Klein as Guests of honor at the 13th Anniversary Dinner of Yeshiva Ohavei Torah.

HONORING ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S
RESEARCH HOSPITAL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a beacon of light in Tennessee. Built five decades ago on the belief that "no child should die in the dawn of life," St. Jude is a place where children afflicted with disease, and parents burdened by lost hope, can find healing and the promise of tomorrow.

In its first ten years, the hard working medical team of St. Jude brought to 50 percent the survival rate for the most common form of childhood cancer. Building on that hard work and success, the research team of St. Jude continued to break through childhood disease barriers. Serving 7,800 active patients a year, the medical and professional staffs, along with volunteers around the country, serve the most vulnerable among us regardless of their ability to pay.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a glimmer of hope to the families of children faced with medical lost causes. I am thankful for the noble work of all those who are a part of the St. Jude community and look forward to the next 50 years of healing and hope. I rise today in support of St. Jude and ask my colleagues to join with me as we celebrate half a century of service to our children.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE STOUGHTON AREA
SENIOR CENTER

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of the Stoughton Area Senior Center and to recognize its outstanding commitment and contribution to our community.

The Stoughton Area Senior Center began operating out of the basement of Our Saviors Lutheran Church as a social gathering place for local seniors in 1972 and eventually relocated to the First Federal Bank building in 1994. Situated along the banks of the Yahara River, the Senior Center's distinctive Norwegian-style building not only provides essential support and programming, but also greets all of Stoughton's residents and visitors as they drive down Main Street and into town. Over the years both my staff and I have had the privilege of holding public meetings at the Senior Center.

The Senior Center is committed to the enrichment of the lives of seniors and their families through a wide array of programs. However, this building is a hub for much more than a few games of bingo or euchre. The vision and dedication of staff and volunteers has led to the development of innovative programs like Zumba and Tai Chi, classes on health insurance and economics, and support groups for families. A team of Case Managers strive to help seniors remain independent by providing information and guidance about local services. Additionally, the Senior Center prides itself on its nutritional program, which is funded through the Older Americans Act and directed by the staff nutritionist. Last year, the Senior Center served 4,531 meals in-house and delivered 15,140 more meals directly to homes.

From these vital services to community partnerships to annual pool tournaments, the Senior Center could not operate without the devotion and hard work of volunteers. Throughout the years, countless volunteers of all ages have contributed to and supported the Senior Center. In 2011, a total of 177 volunteers contributed a staggering 11,111 hours of service.

The Stoughton Area Senior Center believes that, "Aging brings changes. You make life choices. We provide options." For the past 40 years, the Stoughton Area Senior Center has provided options, invaluable services, and programming for our seniors and community. I offer hearty congratulations to the staff, volunteers, community partners, and the City of Stoughton for remaining committed to providing the highest level of service to our seniors. I wish the Stoughton Area Senior Center the very best and many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF CALVIN JONES

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Calvin Jones, called CJ, has been involved with the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club, and counseling the youth of Mt. Vernon for more than 40 years. CJ first came to the Mt. Vernon Boy's Club at the age of 12 after he and another boy were seen fighting by then Director Dick Cuputo who stopped the fight and asked them to instead join the Club.

He would ask CJ, now a member, to help with odd jobs around the Boys Club and through his efforts and merit CJ was made a "Lifetime Member" of the Boys Club. In 1972 CJ was recruited by his brother James, who was Athletic Director and a basketball coach at the North Side unit of the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club, to become a basketball coach. Since then CJ has been a mentor and