

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

counselor for thousands of children who have grown to become men and women living and serving in communities across America.

CJ has always stressed education and being a "Student Athlete" over just being an athlete. He continues to work at the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club as the Athletic Director and Head / Director of the Mount Vernon "Elite" AAU Basketball program.

Calvin Jones is being honored by the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation for his decades of good work for and among the youth of Mount Vernon. His motto, relevant to all of us, is that we should listen to our children because they have a lot to say and need to be heard.

I am proud to join with the Foundation in honoring CJ for his work in inculcating wise counsel into our young boys and girls, the fruit of which is growing and thriving across the country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,671,916,356,611.36. We've added \$5,045,039,307,693.28 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORCHARDS CHILDREN'S SERVICES

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th Anniversary of Orchards Children's Services of Southfield, Michigan. For five decades, Orchards has been providing critical support services to families and youth in need across Southeast Michigan.

It was 1958 when the founding women of Orchards, all members of the National Council of Jewish Women, gathered to address a growing dilemma in communities across the region: inadequate resources available for families of at-risk youth. All too often, at-risk youth would end up being removed from their families and moved to facilities outside of Michigan. This led to the separation of many families and to moments of crisis for them. It was just four years later that Orchards was born—first as a single residence serving just seven young boys, then later with additional homes serving adolescent boys and girls.

After officially launching as an independent child care agency in 1987, Orchards has grown and expanded its programs to meet the changing needs of at-risk youth in a community uniquely challenged by long-term economic uncertainty. However, in spite of these obstacles, Orchards has endured and its thou-

sands of clients have achieved a brighter future. Today, Orchards' programs include foster care and adoption services, a complete array of services for strengthening family cohesiveness and a set of programs geared toward providing at-risk youth with the opportunities necessary to ensure a well-rounded development.

The importance of Orchards' services, in a time of unprecedented pressure and financial crisis for families across Southeast Michigan, cannot be overstated. Each year, Orchards serves over four thousand children and families, two thousand of them with its family preservation services, and all of them are at-risk. And even more telling, the average age of the youth Orchards supports is eight, which underscores the existing need for these critical services at an early age. In just one measure of its success, 96 percent of the youth in the Detroit School System that are served by Orchards complete their high school education and graduate—a figure almost three times the current rate system wide.

Mr. Speaker, for half of a century, Orchards Children's Services has been an orchard for its clients; a place where they can grow and prosper. Many times, Orchards' employees and supporters have been there during seminal moments of crisis to support at-risk youth and their families with critical social services. There is no doubt that Orchards' work has strengthened the core of Michigan's communities, its families, and our greatest asset, our children. I am so pleased to recognize Orchards on achieving this significant milestone, and I wish its CEO Michael Williams, its Board Chairperson Carol Klein and its employees, supporters and clients many decades of success to come.

IN HONOR OF DEACON MIRIAM LOPEZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Miriam Lopez is a retired New York City police officer who worked jointly with federal agencies because of her expertise in laws that governed firearms and explosives. She was in charge of the inspection of fire arm dealers in New York City and the tri-state area and the renewal or removal of the dealers' licenses.

After retiring from the Police Department, Deacon Lopez became more involved in the church and with youth. She had mentored teenagers for years through the Police Athletic League program, and now she is a member of the Generation X Ministry in Kingdom Baptist Church, serves as a Deacon for the congregation, and is the office and bookstore manager. Her passion for youth and the community has led her to pursue mission work, which is her next endeavor. Deacon Lopez is mother, grandmother, sister and daughter as well as a pillar of strength to the community she serves.

Deacon Miriam Lopez is being honored by the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation and I join with the Foundation in congratulating her for her years of working with our youth.

HONORING MAURICE AND SOPHIE CONTI

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and selflessness of Maurice and Sophie Conti of Muir Beach, California. On October 13, 2008, the Contis, along with their young children Massimo and Annabelle, led the rescue of three sailors stranded by the sinking of their yacht some 60 miles from Fiji. The Contis have been recognized internationally for putting their own lives at risk in the service of others, and their example is a true credit to the sailing community and the people of Marin County.

On the night of October 12, 2008, the Australian and New Zealand crew of the Timella issued a distress call after running aground on the Takau Lakaleka reef in Fijian waters. After contacting the Australian and New Zealand High Commissions, the Contis quickly realized that no other vessel was in a position to assist the Timella. In the darkness, they set out on the two-and-a-half hour voyage to meet the stranded sailors, whose ship and life raft had both already sunk by the time of their arrival.

While Sophie Conti handled the Contis' catamaran in swells measuring 10 to 15 feet, Maurice Conti carefully navigated the reef to reach the crew of the Timella by dinghy. Coordinating with rescue teams based in New Zealand, the Contis then brought the stranded sailors safely to Fiji.

The Contis were awarded the International Maritime Organization Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea in 2009, and Cruising Club of America has awarded them the 2009 Rod Stephens Trophy for Outstanding Seamanship. This month, Maurice and Sophie Conti are also receiving New Zealand Bravery Medals from the government of New Zealand.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking the Conti family for their courage. They represent the best of the maritime tradition, and they are exemplary ambassadors for the civic-minded spirit of our community.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS STROKE AWARENESS MONTH AND HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of May as Stroke Awareness Month and High Blood Pressure Awareness Month. I encourage Americans to fight against stroke and high blood pressure and support individuals and their families who suffer from these devastating and debilitating afflictions.

In the United States, stroke is the third leading cause of death and the leading cause of long-term disability. In fact, one in four deaths in California is related to heart disease and stroke. While all ages, races and classes are at risk, African Americans are disproportionately at risk of experiencing high blood pressure and are almost twice as likely as other groups to experience a stroke.