



FROM CANTOR JACK MENDELSON

Every year around the *Yamim Noraim* I get a call from Jonathan Flaxer to go over his *Yom Tov* torah reading. When we opened up those readings for congregants way back when, Jonathan was among the first to subscribe. After all, his relative, Martha Novick (pronounced (MAATHAAA) is a *hazzan*. He is a fine torah reader, exemplifying All his other "*menchlach*" qualities.

I know Dottie Roer since day one in 1986. If a Cantor ever had a cheerleader, she would be it. In *shul*, there is no jumping up and down with pom poms, but, instead, when I walk around in the torah procession, and I pass Dottie, her smile is of such high wattage, that it propels me through the coming week.

I remember meeting with Gail Wiesenfeld in Gordon and Amy's home some years ago. The topic was the clergy, and what we do. Gail offered a critique that has served me well ever since. She noticed that during congregational singing moments, I would stop singing, and leave the congregation alone. After initial reticence, I thought it over and realized she was right. I now "sing through" all the melodies thus assuring that the congregant, who doesn't know the melody will have something to hang on to. Yes, thinking of others. A quality shared by all our honorees.

I salute Alta Eisenpress, who is blessed, and blesses us with a beautiful spirit. Always caring, always giving of her time and energy.

Torah, Avodah, Gemilut Hassadim: I present you with a quartet of exemplars.

Cantor Jack Mendelson