

AT HOME

FOR RESIDENTS OF THE JEWISH HOME OF SAN FRANCISCO

DECEMBER 2013 / JANUARY 2014



Get into the swing of 2014 with Eric & The In Crowd

Countdown to New Year's party

Tues., Dec. 31, 2:00 p.m., Goodman Bldg. lobby

AT HOME

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AT HOME contents are for the benefit of residents of the Jewish Home. At Home is based on the tradition of free expression; submissions made by residents should be viewed as not necessarily representing the opinion, position or policies of the Home.

EDITING without approval of the author is a reserved right, due to space and time constraints. Only content written or submitted by those connected with the Home will be accepted.

SUBMIT TO AT HOME!

E-mail submissions by the 15th:
Ilana Glaun: iglaun@jewishseniorlivinggroup.org

HANDWRITTEN SUBMISSIONS to staff or switchboard by the 15th, or ask recreation staff for assistance.

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RESIDENTS

WRITE



Rudy Hooremans

SINTERKLAAS AVOND

ADAPTED FROM MEMORIES

By Rudy Hooremans

In the Netherlands, on the 6th of December, the birth of Saint Nicholas is celebrated. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of children.

Saint Nicholas or "Sinterklaas" (or, as the smallest children often say, "Sinnieklaas") 'arrives' from Spain, supposedly his homeland, on a steamboat on December 5. He is accompanied by his white stallion and his trusted Moorish servant called Zwarte Pieter or Black Peter, who carries a large bag over his shoulder, filled with the presents for all the children who have been good during the year. He also has a bunch of switches destined for those who have not behaved. (Of course never actually used!)

In the evening, Sinterklaas rides through the sky. He comes down the chimneys and picks up the little bits of hay or the carrots that the children leave in a shoe for the horse before they go to bed. This is the basis for this little song:

*Zie ginds komt de stoomboot uit Spanje weer aan
Het brengt ons Sint Nikolaas, ik zie hem al staan
Hoe huppelt zijn paardje al op en al neer
En daar is Zwart Pieter, die staat naast zijn heer*
See there comes the steam ship from Spain
It brings us Saint Nicholas, I see him standing there
How does his horse jump up and down
And there is Black Peter, who stands next to his master

Sometimes a parent (more often a father) will dress up in the appropriate bishops' clothes – white lace-trimmed cassock, red or white gold-trimmed mantle and miter, and carrying a gold staff – and will pay an actual visit to a home or very often to a children's community center.

When I was about 5 years old and on the verge of no longer believing in Sinterklaas, my parents and I were sitting in the living room. Moeder was sewing, Vader reading and smoking his pipe, and I probably coloring, when Vader said, "I think I heard the doorbell." He got up, went out and returned a few moments later, telling us to go to the parlor.

There in the corner sat Sinterklaas, magnificently attired. Vader pushed me a little way into the room, saying, "*Rudy, zeg goeden avond, Sinterklaas.*" ("Rudy, say good evening, Sinterklaas.")

In a small, hesitant voice I obeyed, but there was no reaction from Sinterklaas. Vader nudged me in a little further. "Say it again, Rudy. He's old and a little deaf, you know."

I repeated the greeting, a little louder this time, but again there was no reaction. Then Moeder said, "Oh, look, there's a package on the floor right in front of him. He must have dropped it. Why don't you be a nice boy and go pick it up for him?"

Tentatively I walked over, picked up the package and found it tied to a string under the cassock of this beautiful doll my parents had made! It was with much merriment that we then took all the packages from under the doll's skirt and opened

them. Besides presents for me, Moeder had hidden presents for Vader, just as he had done for her.

The next year, Moeder and Vader again used their wonderful imaginations. Once more they invited me into the parlor and there, next to the heavy velvet draw curtains that hung in front of the sliding doors connecting living room and parlor, lay a gaily wrapped package.

Vader said, "Go pick it up."

I walked over, bent down, but as I reached for it, it flew upwards. Vader had rigged it so that he could pull it up. After a few more tries we had a lot of fun with the other packages, all suspended from the ceiling. Each one was numbered and had to be found in order.

For one Sinterklaas Avond thereafter, Vader bought a large tea crate that we filled with shredded paper. Moeder and Vader bought several presents for our close family friend, Anna Riemens, as well as for her mother, Anna's two brothers and her sister. We hid the brightly wrapped presents in the paper and, as was the custom, included several fake presents, such as a piece of coal or an old shoe, all voluminously wrapped, with the others.

Then, on Sinterklaas Avond, we set the crate on two of our bicycles and walked the half hour over to where Anna and her family lived on the second and third floors of No. 6 Wolmarans Straat. We set the crate on the sidewalk in front of the door. Moeder and Vader walked to the corner, where I, after ringing Anna's bell, ran to join them. It was

dark at that time, so we could watch without being observed. Anna looked out the window, saw the box, but nobody else. She walked downstairs, opened the door and tried to pull in the box, but it was too big to fit. She called her brother, Gilles, to help, but to no avail, so they wound up having to unload the box right there.

Among the presents Moeder had included for Anna was a box of what appeared to be brightly wrapped bon-bons. When Anna's older brother, Arie, saw it, he asked if he could have one of those good-looking candies. She goodheartedly gave him one. He tore off the paper and popped it into his mouth. A moment later he let out a yelp. "Soap!" he cried, spitting it out as quickly as he could. Naturally, everyone laughed heartily. That Sunday morning, when Anna got together with the girls after church service, she offered the bon-bons to them, of course causing much merriment.

And so, every December 6, all over Holland, families have a wonderfully merry time.

RESIDENTS

WRITE



Bernice Hunold Photo by Ray Hunold

PEPELEA'S PEG

Bernice Hunold's adaptation of a Rumanian folktale

Has anyone ever heard of Pepelea's peg? No, I didn't think so. I've asked dozens and dozens of people and no one seems to have heard of it. So I'm going to tell you the story right now.

Pepelea was a clever, handsome lad. His peg was an ordinary wooden peg in the wall of his house. Pepelea inherited the house from his parents. And he sold the house to a man.

This is how it happened. The man had a lovely daughter and Pepelea fell in love with her at first sight. He wanted to marry her. She wouldn't have minded that a bit. But her father? Uh!

"I want to marry your daughter," Pepelea said to the father.

"Well, you can just want, my lad," the father answered.

"You mean you won't consent?"

"Bright lad! How did you ever guess?"

"In that case," said Pepelea, "I'll sell my house and set out to seek my fortune."

"I'll buy your house," said the father.

"Very well. I'll sell you all of it, every beam and plank

of it, all except one little bit – the peg on the east wall. You will keep that peg for me."

"Why? What for?" asked the father.

"As a keepsake from my parents," said Pepelea. "Now bring out your money and let's get the agreement written down."

The agreement was written down, the money paid, and the man moved into Pepelea's house with his lovely daughter.

The man was very comfortable there, in the nice big rooms in the house, with a beautiful meadow all around and fine out-buildings. He became very fond of Pepelea's house, and Pepelea became even more fond of the wooden peg on the east wall of the house.

The day after he had sold it, Pepelea went a-knock-knock-knocking on the door of the house. The man opened it. "Pepelea! What do you want?"

"I want to hang my cap on my peg."

"Hang your cap on your peg? Oh, no!"

"Oh, yes," replied Pepelea.

The man couldn't stop Pepelea because it was all written into the agreement.

The day after that, Pepelea came a-knock-knock-knocking again.

"Pepelea! What is it now?"

"I want to take my cap off my peg."

"You don't."

"I do."

The man couldn't stop Pepelea; it was all written into the agreement.

And so it went. Every day Pepelea had something to hang on that wooden peg on the east wall of the house or something to take off it. And the girl was very careful that the peg shouldn't somehow drop out of the wall and get lost.

Every morning the man would get up and go downstairs to the kitchen, when his daughter would serve him pancakes and sausages for breakfast. And every morning, just as he raised his fork to his mouth, there would come a knock at the door. It was Pepelea. Every evening, when the man sat down to supper, there was the dreaded knock. Pepelea.

The constant knocking was wearing the man down, just as a rock is worn down by the dripping of water. But the worst knock of all for the man was the one his daughter answered when he was at work in the fields and she was alone in the house.

So that was how things were, but they didn't stay that way for long. One day I heard that Pepelea had married the girl and had moved back into the house he had sold.

I went to see the father, who was now back in his original house. "Tell me," I said to him, "what made you marry off your daughter to Pepelea? You swore you wouldn't hear of it."

"What made me do it?" cried the father. "What made me do it? It was that wretched peg of Pepelea's!"

Do you see?

SNAPSHOTS

By Bernice Hunold

I.

Wherever it took us
We were at home
In our camper
Snug in sleeping bags
Listening to the chorus
Of coyotes outside

II.

Trailer park in Mexico
Good company to share your food
And lick your hand

III.

Lot full of Christmas trees
Pick me! Pick me!

IV.

One daisy
One black-eyed Susan
Sun and moon

IN MEMORY

RACHEL ALHADEFF

December 12, 1938 to November 17, 2013

ZLATA SALKOVSKAYA

March 25, 1925 to November 25, 2013

EMMA VELINA

April 28, 1919 to November 5, 2013



Ella Shavlak's fine handiwork makes hands and nails look beautiful.

LOOK GOOD, FEEL BETTER, SMILE A WHILE

By Bernice Hunold

We are so lucky to have beauticians Frieda Saenz and Ella Shavlak. They are warm and affectionate, and they make us look better – which means we feel better, too!

I recently got a manicure in the beauty shop, and while I was there, Ella told me a delightful little tale/ joke, which I hope will make you smile as well:

Grace was having her birthday. A friend asked her, "How old are you?"

"Forty" Grace replied.

"But you were forty last year," said the friend.

"Oh, this year I was sick. I couldn't do a thing. That's not living."

"So?"

"Since I didn't live for a year I'm still forty."



Frieda Saenz has been on the job (and in our hearts) for over 41 years.



In a career that spanned five decades, singer Kate Smith recorded almost 3,000 songs.

A SONG TO STIR THE SPIRIT

Submitted by Edie Sadewitz, courtesy of her friend Lainey Rappaport

Do you remember Kate Smith?

Frank Sinatra considered Kate Smith the best singer of her time, and said when he and a million other guys first heard her sing *God Bless America* on the radio they all pretended to have dust in their eyes as they wiped away a tear or two.

The time was 1940. America was still in a terrible economic depression. Hitler was taking over Europe, and Americans were afraid we'd have to go to war. It was a time of hardship and worry for most.

This was the era just before TV, when radio shows were huge and American families sat around their radios in the evenings, listening to their favorite entertainers. And no entertainer of that era was bigger than Kate Smith. She might not have made it big in the age of TV, but with her voice coming over the radio, she was the biggest star of her time.



Edie Sadewitz

Kate was also physically large – plus size, as we now say – and the popular phrase still used today, “It ain’t over till the fat lady sings” is in deference to her.

She was also patriotic. It hurt her to see Americans so depressed and afraid of what the next day would bring. She had hope for America and faith in her fellow Americans. She wanted to do something to cheer them up, so she went to the famous American songwriter, Irving Berlin, and asked him to write a song that would make Americans feel good again about their country.

When she described what she was looking for, Berlin said he had just the song for her. He went to his files and found a song he had written, but never published, 22 years before. He gave it to Kate and she worked on it with her studio orchestra.

She and Irving Berlin were not sure how the song would be received by the public, but both agreed they would not take any profits from *God Bless America*. Any profits would go to the Boy and Girl Scouts of America. Over the years, they have received millions of dollars in royalties from this song.

To this day, *God Bless America* stirs our patriotic feelings and pride in our country. Back in 1940, when Kate Smith went looking for a song to raise the spirits, it is doubtful she realized just how successful the results would be for her fellow Americans during those years of hardship and worry, and for many generations of Americans to follow.



Francine Hament

THE KINDNESS OF RACHEL

By Francine Hament



Rachel Alhadeff (of blessed memory) and thoughtfulness went hand-in-hand.

A special person on F1 did an outstanding and thoughtful thing: Whenever there was a card needed for any occasion – birthday, get well, sympathy – Rachel Alhadeff [of blessed memory] was there with an appropriate card and pen in hand for whoever wanted to sign it and be remembered by another resident. We all think about it, but Rachel did it.

This little piece is a thank you to Rachel for her thoughtfulness and for never forgetting others; she and her actions were so appreciated.

BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

- 1 Nelly Zbarskaya
- 2 Marian Blechman
- 2 Sarah Sukhov
- 5 William Lansberg
- 6 Shulamis Peysakhovich
- 7 Hanna Packer
- 8 Phyllis Wolf
- 12 Mary Bourdon
- 13 Yazep Alexander
- 15 Catherine Beasley
- 15 Dulce Martinez
- 16 Yelena Vaksman
- 19 Tsilya Bogdanova
- 20 Fanya Sirkis
- 22 Lyudmila Goldshteyn
- 22 Feiga Raiter
- 22 Robert Selvidge
- 24 Manuel Baldonado
- 25 Bella Kaganovich

- 26 Alicia Cobos
- 27 Arlene Lind
- 30 Germina Gurevich

JANUARY

- 1 Nina Postolova
- 1 Raisa Shenderovich
- 1 Sonia Shpindel
- 1 Sura Yadlina
- 2 Tatyana Balter
- 3 Semyon Berenshteyn
- 3 Elsie Bogdan
- 3 Mira Bonfeld
- 5 Yefim Ivensky
- 5 Marion Levenberg
- 5 Mary Neumann
- 6 Edna Lachar
- 6 Ester Pevzner
- 9 Molly Grossman

- 9 Shirley Palanker
- 10 Asya Shkopp
- 11 Layeh Bock
- 12 Sally Eisenberg
- 15 Carmen Sheehan
- 20 Fannie Biderman
- 20 Eteliya Pliuss
- 21 Astrid Stange
- 21 Lubov Vayntrub
- 22 Nonna Shapiro
- 23 Ricarda Griffin
- 23 Ernest Ratner
- 24 Jadie Sullivan
- 25 Yakov Shroyer
- 27 Frida Tovbina
- 27 Berta Zauber
- 28 Richard Bloom
- 28 Doris Sperber
- 30 Yefim Fishkin



Yakov Zigelman and Maryana Kleyn shared turning 93 in November and happily shared in the cutting of the cake at the month's birthday luncheon. We shared in spreading the mazel tovs to all our November celebrants.

CUT HERE



BRAVO! EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH NOMINATION FORM

I, _____,

nominate _____

for the Bravo! Employee of the Month Award for the month of _____

- Performs "beyond the call of duty" to improve service to the residents, or the quality of the Jewish Home's image.
- Exemplifies professionalism and dedication to excellent service by putting forth the extra effort.
- Makes outstanding contributions of significance to the Jewish Home to fulfill its mission/vision.

I feel he/she should receive the award because:

BRAVO!

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH DECEMBER

WHAT YOU WROTE IN YOUR NOMINATIONS:

FRIEDA SAENZ, BEAUTICIAN



Frieda makes every resident who comes into the beauty shop feel like a queen. She always has a smile on her face and is so very sweet to everybody. She always finds a way to make the residents smile and everyone who sees her feels the kindness she exudes.

RHONA TANG, CNA



Rhona does her job – and more – to ensure that the residents feel validated and are treated in a dignified manner, and that they look and feel good. She also has the ability to keep calm in stressful situations.

SUBMIT THIS FORM to your recreation coordinator by the 1st of the month for the following month's award consideration. Or you can place it in the nomination box located at the self-service area in the H.R. department, 1st floor, B-building, or hand-deliver it to the H.R. department, or e-mail it to mdeguzman@jhsf.org.

*Bravo! is generously underwritten
by Jewish Home supporters
Dana Corvin and Harris Weinberg.*

COUNCIL OF RESIDENTS

November 14, 2013 meeting minutes

President Edie Shaffer was unable to attend. In her absence, Anna Stepp, Council secretary, conducted the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 2:20 p.m. and Anna introduced the officers in attendance.

Council secretary Anna Stepp read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved as read.

Anna read the names of residents who had passed away within the last month.

Anna read the names of new residents who were admitted to the Home within the last month.

Treasurer Claire Shor gave the financial report. There was \$9 in deposits and \$50 in withdrawals, leaving the balance at \$151.31 in the checking account and \$10 in petty cash.

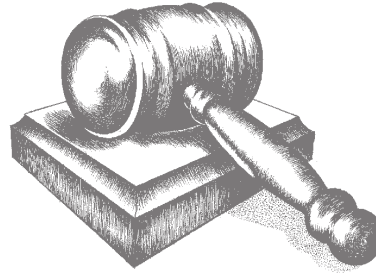
Anna reminded the membership that copies of the Residents' Bill of Rights as well as the Theft and Loss Prevention Procedures are always available to residents, and that copies are on hand at all Council meetings. Residents were reminded that their social worker will follow up with them on the status of all missing item reports. Residents should also feel free to contact their social worker for follow-up issues.

FOOD FORUM

Food Forum minutes were distributed.

OLD BUSINESS

Residents are concerned that adult briefs are no longer going to be available. Mark Friedlander and Edwin Cabigao immediately addressed this concern and confirmed that this is not the case. Briefs are available; anything heard to the contrary is indeed a rumor.



F1 residents are concerned with staff bringing residents into the dining room areas who appear to have colds. Edwin will address this issue with the nursing staff and remind them of the Home's infection control protocols.

Francine Hament suggested reinstating the book club. Mediatrix Valera addressed this, providing an update regarding the plan to implement a book club by partnering with the San Francisco Library. Mediatrix will follow up with a launch date within the next few weeks.

Residents note that the Koret building elevator doors are not staying open long enough for them to get in. Anna will report this to Plant Operations for correction.

Mark and Edwin spent a portion of the meeting addressing residents' concerns regarding the continued changes through the Home.

Mark announced the intent to schedule the Chanukah concert for Sunday, December 1.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was proposed and voted on regarding making a donation to the typhoon relief efforts in the Philippines in the amount of \$50. The motion was approved by the Council of Residents and the residents in attendance.

Mark Friedlander spent the remaining part of the meeting providing updates and information on the following items:

Mock survey process throughout the Home in preparation for our annual state survey

The Home's participation in and coordination of the Philippine's typhoon relief effort

Update on the Chanukah concert venue change from the Frank Family Lounge to the synagogue

Channel changes to include two new channels for Spanish- and Chinese-language patients

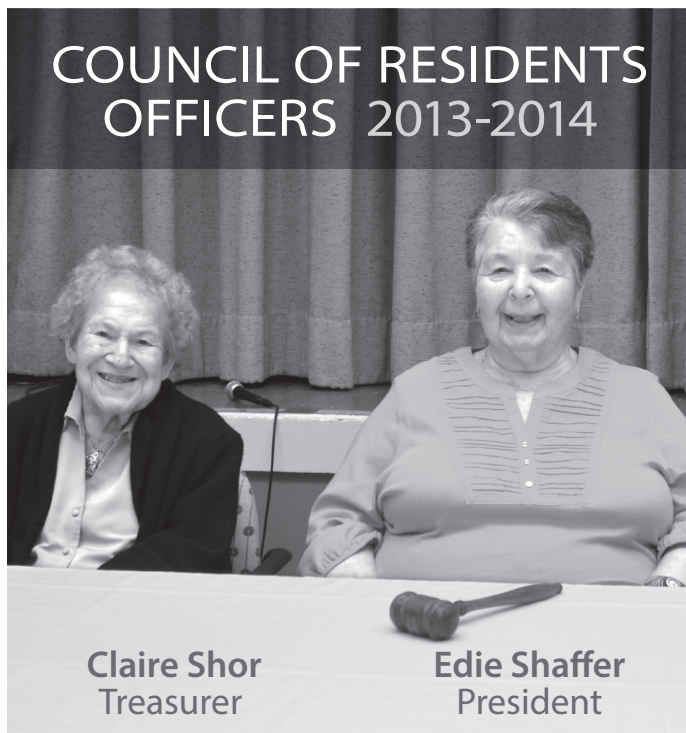
Council of Residents is in the process of appointing a new vice president to finish the current term

RAFFLE WINNER

Edward Ben-Eliezer was the lucky winner of this month's raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45p.m.

*Recorded by Anna Stepp
Resident Services Coordinator*



DOGS OF THE JEWISH HOME

Cute as a button (just look at that little black nose and quirky grin), springier than a trampoline (his jumps can almost reach his owner's shoulder – no mean feat; his human is 6ft. 4 in.), and sweeter than dollops of dulce de leche, Hudson tail-wagged his way into senior development and gift planning officer Daniel Hoebeke's heart. Hudson then got to work on winning over the rest of us. He succeeded.



HAPPINESS SPRINGS ETERNAL

Extracted from a column by the late Art Buchwald, humorist and Pulitzer Prize-winning author

A lot of people want to know: What is happiness?

Obviously, what makes one person happy doesn't necessarily make another person happy. It is my opinion that age plays an important part. I'm in the senior citizen bracket, so my happiness quotient of "feeling good" is different from that of my children and grandchildren.

This is what makes me happy:

- ◆ When my doctor says I passed all my medical tests with flying colors.
- ◆ When the dentist tells me I have no cavities.



- ◆ Sitting in my lounge chair in front of the TV set.
- ◆ Someone making me popcorn and hot chocolate in front of a log fire, but I don't have to bring in the logs.
- ◆ An evening in bed with a good book. (My book.)
- ◆ A Visa card bill informing me they made a mistake in my favor.
- ◆ Any ailment I have that is covered by Medicare.
- ◆ A parking place.
- ◆ Enough money in my pension account to let me spend four months in Florida.

- ◆ Not having to go to a cocktail party for someone I don't know (or a wedding, bar mitzvah or any occasion where I have to travel outside of the city).
- ◆ Playing poker and winning the pot by bluffing – one of my big highs.
- ◆ A new electronic toy (digital camera, iPod or a computer that's immune to viruses).
- ◆ Any music-free restaurant.

As you can see, it doesn't take much to make me happy. I'm extremely happy when I get a phone call from my son or daughters.

- ◆ Happiness is somebody else cutting my lawn.
- ◆ In the winter, it's a fur hat, earmuffs and a heavy jacket. (And not losing a glove.)
- ◆ A good night's sleep.
- ◆ Remembering where I put my house keys.
- ◆ Someone calling me back when I've left a "call me" message.
- ◆ A grandson who offers to clean the snow off my driveway and also fix my computer.

And the list goes on:

- ◆ A dream of being one of the richest people in the world, and giving my money to Bill Gates.
- ◆ Loving my neighbor as much as I love myself – provided he doesn't have a barking dog.
- ◆ Telling war stories (true or not true) at the local bar with someone else buying the drinks.
- ◆ I am happiest when not shaving, if I don't have to go out.
- ◆ It gives me great pleasure to send e-mails to the president, Congress and TV talking heads, telling them what dummies I think they are.

◆ Winning an argument with a friend.

What makes me really happy? Things that remind me of my youth: comfort food, such as chicken soup with matzo balls, meat loaf, spaghetti with tomato sauce, bread pudding, tapioca, cream soda and anything I can buy at a delicatessen. I'm happy just writing about these things.



REACHING OUT & TOUCHING HEARTS

This meaningful message comes from Mediatrix Valera, recreational programs director:

"I was in Manila with my family when the super typhoon happened. Thank God we only had scattered rain showers, but it was heartbreaking to see and hear reports of the devastation on the other islands.

I am so touched by the generous gesture of the Jewish Home in launching the Typhoon Relief Effort. It speaks of the same deep concern and compassion that we provide to those under our care and the people we work with. I couldn't help my tears when I heard the Residents Council's decision to donate from their fund. Really, the need is so great that any form of assistance means so much."



The 21st Annual Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™ – Jewish comedy over Christmas in a Chinese restaurant (where else?) – takes place December 24 through December 26, two shows a day, at New Asia Restaurant, 772 Pacific Ave., San Francisco's Chinatown.

Kung Pao answers the age-old question, "What are Jews supposed to do on Christmas?" and features four Jewish comedians:

- ◆ Gary Gulman (Last Comic Standing, Tonight Show, Letterman, Comedy Central)
- ◆ Adrienne Tolsch (has opened for Jay Leno, Pointer Sisters; Florida condo circuit maven)
- ◆ Samson Koletkar (Bay Area-based Jewish-Indian comic; born in Mumbai)
- ◆ Lisa Geduldig (Kung Pao creator, producer, hostess)

**6:00 p.m. Dinner show
(7-course banquet): \$64**

**9:30 p.m. Cocktail show
(vegetarian dim sum): \$44**

10 people to a table. Reserve an entire table or sit with friendly strangers.

Partial proceeds from this year's comedy shows benefit the Jewish Home's Esther Weintraub Comedy Clinic.

For tickets/information, go online to KosherComedy.com. Tickets may also be purchased over the phone Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 925.855.1986. (No phone sales the Thursday and Friday of Thanksgiving.)

HAPPENINGS AT HOME

HONORING OUR VETERANS ON VETERANS DAY



Appreciating the patriotic music provided by John Capobianco on brass and Maria on the piano are, left to right, Arthur Gauss, Elsie Bogdan and Margaret Rex.



Veterans Argan Vinokurov (left) and Mikhail Yukhtman, impressively medal-bedecked.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

– Extract from Laurence Binyon's *For the Fallen*

