



EAST MIDWOOD
JEWISH CENTER
EMJC

EAST MIDWOOD JEWISH CENTER BULLETIN

THEY SHALL BUILD ME A SANCTUARY AND I SHALL DWELL AMONG THEM



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A Night of Israel at EMJC

BY WAYNE ROSENFELD

The East Midwood Jewish Center hosted Mr. Israel Nitzan last Thursday in its premiere event for the new Executive Director Series.

Mr. Nitzan is the Deputy Console General at the Israeli New York Consulate.

The New York Consulate is Israel's largest Mission in the world. Mr. Nitzan had dinner with present and past Board Members in a private dinner. He spoke to a large audience for an hour, talking about current events in Israel as well as Israeli/US relations. He then answered questions in a Q&A session.

Watch out for information on our next speaker, in our next bulletin..

YOU NEVER KNOW WHO YOU'RE GOING TO SEE @EMJC



Kevin Pollak and Caroline Aaron from Season Two: Episode Seven of "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"

A CONSERVATIVE EGALITARIAN SYNAGOGUE WITH A "FREE" MINYAN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Daily Morning Minyan Service:
Monday-Friday: 7:30 AM
Sundays and Legal Holidays:
8:00 AM

Daily Evening Minyan Service:
Sunday-Thursday: 7:30 PM
Friday: 4:30pm until further
notice

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Shabbat Katan (ages 0-6)
and **Katan Plus** (ages 7-12)
Saturdays 1/19, 2/2, 2/16

Shabbat-a-BimBom

1/4, 2/1

EVENING SERVICES

Sundays - Thursdays: 7:30 PM

Fridays: 4:30 PM

Sat 1/5: 4:34 PM

Sat 1/12: 4:41 PM

Sat 1/19: 4:49 PM

Sat 1/26: 4:57 PM

Sat 2/2: 5:06 PM

Sat 2/9: 5:14 PM

Sat 2/16: 5:23 PM

Sat 2/23: 5:31 PM



We are an inclusive,
Egalitarian community
affiliated with The
United Synagogue of
Conservative Judaism

Guiding Our Scroll

BY TOBY SANCHEZ AND
ED GUTERMAN

Toby Sanchez: EMJC is proud to be the owner of a Torah in the processional and exhibit "The Guiding Hand" being held at Temple Emanu-El (1 East 65th Street, New York, NY) from February 5 through May 30.

The torah was donated to us by the late Dr. Bernard Metrick (a past president of EMJC) and his late wife Irene. You have probably seen our Czech Torah in a glass case in the lobby, close to the Office. In the case is a map showing how the Torah traveled from the Czech Republic to London and then to Brooklyn. The map and the story were the gift of Marshall Levine.

Ed Guterman: I am proud to participate in this event. Thanks go to all who assisted in registering East Midwood, providing technical and required mechanical assistance. Once the decision was made to participate, the historic Torah had to be removed and transported to Temple Emanuel.

On Friday afternoon, Cantor, Joel Hochstein, and workers Michel and Bernard were on hand to solve the case of the locked case. There was no hinge, no locked door. After some deliberation and removal of fasteners, the case was lifted vertically off hidden brackets and was opened! Joel rolled the scroll, the mantle was placed over the Torah.

I transported the scroll to Temple Emanuel on Sunday in preparation for the event. Thanks to Warren Klein, Curator of the Emanuel museum for receiving the Torah and holding it until the event.

Temple Emanu-El's hall was filled with over 800 people anxious to see the scrolls and the adjunct



exhibit of Torah yadim. Placed on 2 long tables were over 70 Czech Torahs from New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, New Jersey, Washington and London. Each had a person assigned to carry their Torah. I was honored with carrying the East Midwood Czech scroll.

The procession moved through the crowd to the front of the room where all scrolls were on view. We chanted Shechianu, as this was the first event of its kind. There was an historic talk given by the curator of the Memorial Scrolls Trust in London. The Torahs were returned to the tables for viewing by the attendees. There was a kiddush to

follow. After all, what is an event without food! I returned the scroll to East Midwood that evening.

As a side note, I held another Czech scroll from a synagogue I attended in New Jersey. I carried that same Torah on Simchat Torah about 20 years ago. Carrying Torah at any time is a high honor. Thank you for entrusting me to carry this historic scroll, managing its care and displaying it for the world to see.



WEAR YOUR EMJC PRIDE

EMJC teeshirts are still available. Visit our Square store to order in White or Light Blue. Sizes Small, Medium, Large, and Extra Large are available for \$10 each. Pick up only.





*thoughts
from*

**EMJC PRESIDENT
MICHAEL F. SCHWARTZ**

Shalom,

I hope that all of you are staying warm and enduring our winter as best as you can. Don't despair. There is something for everyone at East Midwood Jewish Center to make you feel warm and fuzzy. Shabbat services, tot Shabbat and Bim-Bom for our children, learning programs, our sisterhood, our men's club, swimming, and gym usage, daily senior program, Ulpan classes, Yoga classes, and Hebrew School instruction. Our core value of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) is always evident and can be felt in our Synagogue by the many social action initiatives that we participate in.

We look forward to continuing to remove barriers to all by engaging our members and the unaffiliated in our greater community. Judaism is alive and it can prosper in many places, not simply within the walls of our building. Our engagement goals will continue to see us on that path and will keep our house of light burning bright wherever she is represented.

We have so much to look forward to. I ask that you join me and our other board members, committee chairs, committee members and volunteers. It is a joy to give back and be a part of our family. EMJC needs each and every one of you to assist us with a small donation, whenever possible, or participation in any of our myriad programs and events.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Schwartz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'z'.

Michael F. Schwartz



*thoughts
from*

RABBI MATT CARL

Dear Congregation,

Will the real Adar please stand up? This year, 5779, is a leap year. That means there are 13, rather than 12, months in the year to reconcile differences in our solar and lunar calendars. In a few days, when the month of Sh'vat ends, Adar 1 will begin and it, rather than Adar 2, is the extra month. In other words, it is the second, rather than the first Adar, that is the "regular Adar" (Adar stam). In still other words, in a leap year, we add an extra month at the beginning of Adar.

This is confusing not only because, as Americans, we're used to thinking of the extra day in a leap year being added to the end of February, rather than its beginning, but also because we're used to most extras in life coming after something, rather than before. But what a beautiful message the extra month in this Jewish year sends: that sometimes the extra comes first and what we're waiting for is the regular.

Regular isn't bad or even less good - in fact, Adar's holiday, Purim, comes in the second Adar in a leap year, since it's the "real Adar", reminding us that when we're waiting for a holy time, sometimes what we're waiting for is something normal.

What a blessing that this weird month of Adar, a month in which we celebrate things being tricky and upside-down, is made even weirder in a leap year like this one. And what further blessing that this weirdness, heaped on weirdness, teaches us the holiness of the regular, of the mundane. משנכנס אדר מרבין בשמחה - From the time we enter Adar, we increase our joy. So may it be every year, and this year doubly so!

Matt Carl
מטי מן

Rabbi Matt Carl



*thoughts
from*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WAYNE ROSENFELD**

Dear Members,

As I quickly approach my 1-year anniversary at EMJC, I can't help but to think of all the fun that we had together. We drank wine and painted together. We went to the Brooklyn Cyclones game and we went white water rafting. We went to the Brooklyn Nets game together. We also celebrated when Mrs. Maisel came back to not only film once but twice in two weeks at EMJC.

We went out into the community and made friendships with the Boro President and District Attorney. We met personally with BP Adams and were invited back for events. The DA invited EMJC to an historic meeting of only a select few where he announced his new Anti-Hate Crime Division and then had his annual Chanukah Celebration at EMJC. We partnered with the NYPD 70th and become their new home for Community Police Meetings. We had an all-Jewish Acapella singing group from Suny Binghamton come to entertain us and most recently we had a career Diplomat from Israel come to speak to us on current events in Israel and the status of their relationship with the US.

EMJC's Membership is on the rise. Our swimming pool opened for normal swim hours during the summer for the first time in a long time and the pool has never worked better. The weekly blasts explode with excitement every week and is filled with great articles and exciting events. We have our own Ann Landers and Dear Abby rolled into one with EMJC's "Pearls of Wisdom" column.

(continued)



*thoughts
from*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WAYNE ROSENFELD**

Also, EMJC will be marching in the Israeli Day Parade for the first time in a long time come this June. EMJC had its first Wedding in a long time this past summer as well as several Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and parties in our building. Our gym and pool have never been booked so much. Look out for an exciting Atlantic City trip this Spring and a Brooklyn Cyclones game in June.

Look at what we built together in just under a year. Imagine what we can do in year two and three and beyond. Let's work together towards EMJC's 100th Anniversary and together we can restore the East Midwood Jewish Center to its former glory.

Like always, my door is always open. Please stop in to say hello.

Wayne M. Rosenfeld

**Wayne Rosenfeld
Executive Director**

DECEMBER/JANUARY PHOTO CORNER



EMJC Night at Brooklyn Nets



Hanukkah Family Night Out 2018



Kasket A Cappella Concert



COMING UP IN FEBRUAR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 9:00 AM

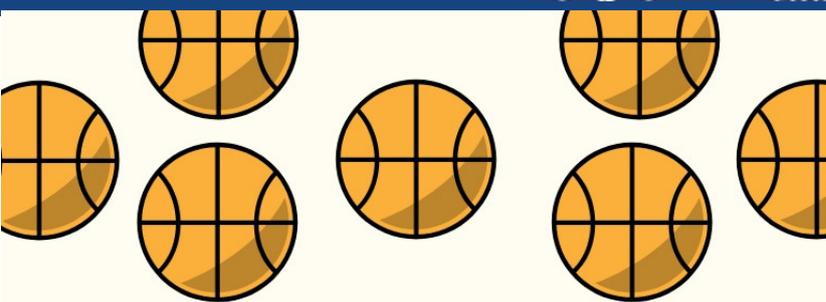
SHABBAT TEFILAH

Young families and kids will be leading parts of the Shabbat services.



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FREE

Open Basketball for EMJC Members

SUNDAYS

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM - WOMEN, 18+

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM - MEN, 18+

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM - FAMILIES

THURSDAYS

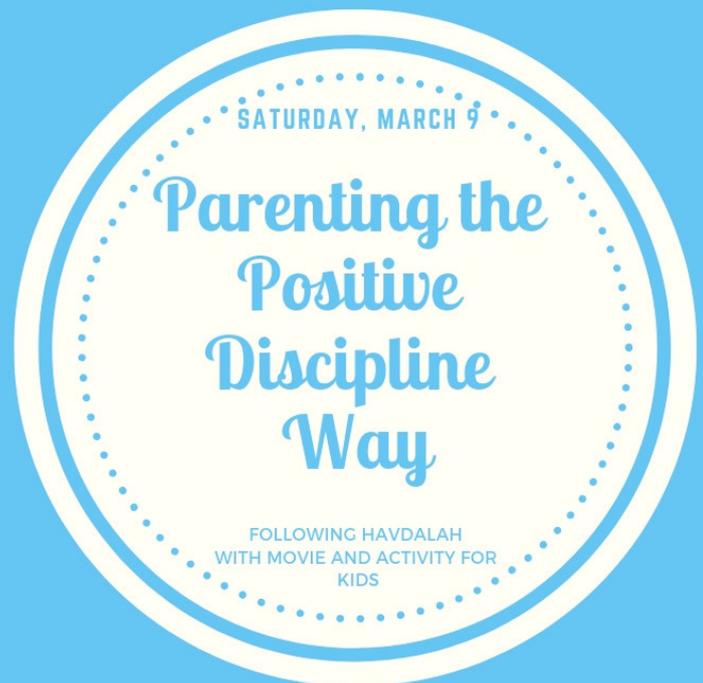
9:15 PM - 10:15 PM - WOMEN, 18+

10:15 PM - 11:15 PM - MEN, 18+



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SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Parenting the Positive Discipline Way

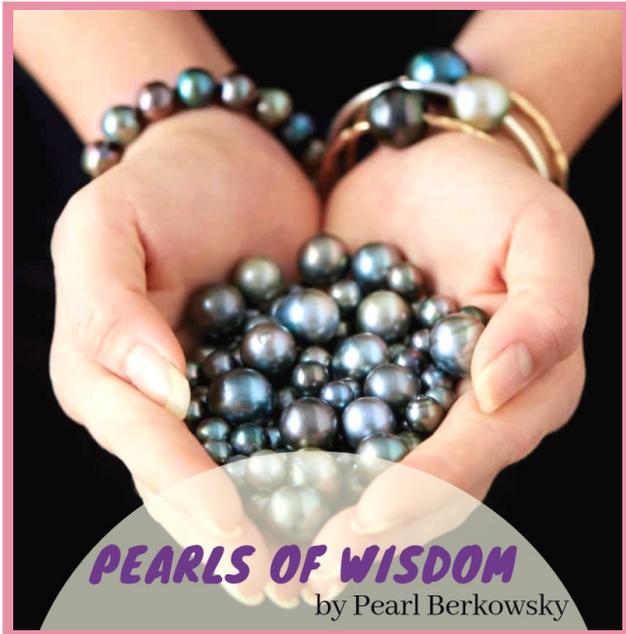
FOLLOWING HAVDALAH
WITH MOVIE AND ACTIVITY FOR
KIDS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9 - SHABBAT TEFILAH

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 - INTERFAITH COOKING CLASS

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 - PARENTING THE POSITIVE DISCIPLINE WAY

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON! WORTH THE WAIT!



Judaism and the Super Bowl

I met my husband Harvey during the summer of 1970. We were very compatible from the start. I was talkative and Harvey was quiet - a perfect match! We were not "dating" we were not "going out" we were "going steady". As we got to know each other I realized Harvey was quite interested in sports, every sport especially football. Not playing the game but watching sports at a stadium or on television. Me? I knew nothing about sports. In my household, the only sport activities I knew were bike riding, hopscotch, hit the penny and stoop ball. I never owned a "spaldene" ball or as I remember it a "spaldenie ball." It cost too much money.

I was a stay at home mom with two young daughters. So, where could I go during the long, cold, snowy winters? It was time for me to learn the basics of the American sport football. Sitting in front of a 19-inch color console Zenith TV, Harvey begins to explain: There are two teams. One team plays offense the other plays defense; alternating when the ball changes hands. The goal is to score a touchdown or a field goal. The offense is given four downs to get a touchdown. If this does not happen and the ball was moved down the field at least ten yards, the team is given another set of four downs.

If they do not gain at least ten yards, the ball is given to the other team. Did I understand? Not exactly. Baseball is so much easier! While watching the game if Harvey's team was losing badly, he would turn off the television set. He did not enjoy watching his team lose. Do the players leave the game when they are being defeated? No, they continue playing until the game has finished. Mmmm....this gave me food for thought.

At a football "game" there are two types of people. There are the "players" and the "fans." Fans can leave at anytime they choose, they are not part of the game. "Players" stay in it to win-it and play until the game has ended. How does this relate to Judaism? You can be a "fan" or you can be a "player." Why watch from the sidelines? It is more exciting and thrilling to be a "player" in the game of football and in the **game of life!**

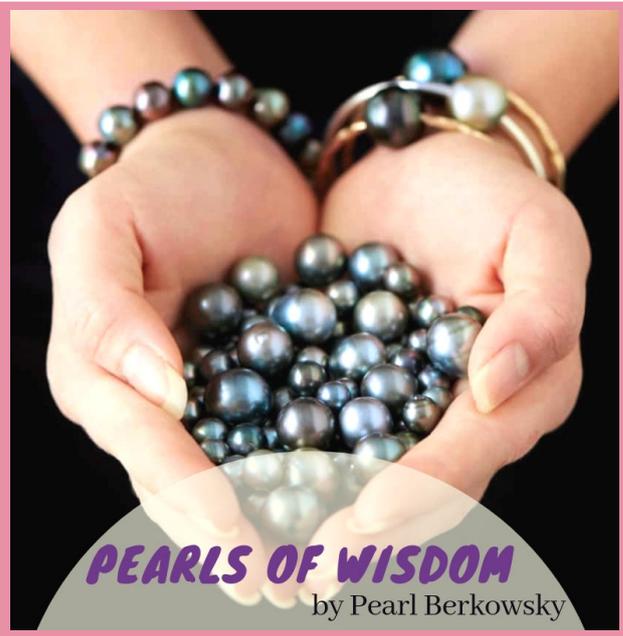
It is more fulfilling and inspiring to be a "player" in **Jewish life!** You become a "player" by participating and attending synagogue and the minyan. By keeping kosher, expressing your kindness and caring through mitzvot, following the ten commandments and simply by being a "**mensch.**"

Life as a Jewish person is filled with strict rules. Football is a game filled with strict rules. The rules in Judaism and football have a great deal of precision. Football begins with a ceremony of a coin toss and then kick off. In the Jewish religion, a baby's ceremonial celebration - a kick off to life - begins with a **brit milah** or a **simchat bat**. Candle lighting begins at an exact time. The football field is exactly $53 \frac{1}{3}$ yards wide, not 52 or 54 yards wide.

In Cantor Sam Levine's Torah class he taught about Joseph and his brothers. Joseph has a dream. At the start of football season, teams begin with their dream of winning the Super Bowl. In Joseph's dream his eleven brothers gather around him and bow down to him.

Similarly, eleven offensive team members and eleven defensive team members form a circle and huddle together. In the Torah, G-d makes the dreams come true. In football the coaches, assistant coaches, quarterbacks and the players make their dreams come true.

(continued)



Judaism and the Super Bowl

Football, Judaism and synagogue life is about progress. You have to keep moving by throwing the ball down the field in order to score points. We are here to make the world a better place and set a good example for our children and those who surround us. We must contribute to our society by taking care of others in a caring and understanding way. Also by looking out for the elderly and our neighbors.

"He who saves a life, it is as if he saved the entire world." (Talmud)

In life and in football we get tackled and there are interceptions.

Cantor Sam Levine explains: Joseph was thrown

into a pit and sold into slavery by his brothers. We discover further in Torah, Joseph makes the most miraculous recovery. We can say that Joseph was tackled and he was part of a larger interception. Our grandparents, great-grandparents and ancestors have been tackled and intercepted in the most hideous and cruel way during their lives. They suffered through torture and humiliation.

The Jewish people continued to have faith and kept the continuity for the future of the Jewish people. In our own personal lives, everyone is "thrown a ball out of bounds." We suffer the loss of a loved one, we endure the pain of illness in ourselves and the people we care for and love. There are financial problems, career disappointments and various personal problems. My belief is that football and synagogues are both "team" sports. If you have a great quarterback and he does not have a great team surrounding him, they will never make it to the Super Bowl.

The same is true for a synagogue. You can have a wonderful rabbi, cantor and president. However, if they do not have strong team players - supporting and working together - it will be difficult for the synagogue to prosper, grow and reach their goals.

There is a difference between football and Judaism. In a football game, there is always a winner and a loser. In Jewish life, if one person wins, we all win! We win as individuals but if we all stand together we become much stronger!

"A single twig breaks, but a bundle of twigs is strong!" - Aesop's Fables.

TEAM stands for: Teaching Everybody About Menschlichkeit (being a mensch).

Conclusion: Become a "player" we always need a new member for the TEAM!

Pearl Berkowsky 2/3/2019 28 Shevat 5779

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95th Annual Gala

Sunday June 23, 2019



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| 4 Dr. Edward Ezrick | 13 Mr. Joseph Pariente | 28 Mr. Jeremy Bogaisky |
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- | | | |
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| 11 Mr. Neil Greenberg | 24 Judge Michael Gerstein | 28 Mr. Michael Paris |
| 14 Mr. Jacob Gold | 24 Dr. Herbert Paley | 28 Mrs. Lisa Rothman |
| | | 28 Mrs. Aviva Sucher |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



- 3 Blake & Shoshana Zidell
26 Arthur & Ellen Susnow

- 4 Dr. Alexander Trakhtman & Mrs. Galina Zbarskaya
6 Michael & Roni Schwartz
16 Gus & Naomi Mantuano
26 Stephen & Linda Chang Horowitz

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



WE MOURN THE LOSS

BOB RESEN

Bob Resen, husband of Sharon Resen, father of Joanna Resen and brother of Ken Resen.

ANNE BRANDSTEIN

Anne Brandstein, beloved mother of Joan Berkowitz and Ira Brandstein, mother-in-law of Lenny Berkowitz and Chris Brandstein, cherished grandmother and great-grandmother.

IRA DUBLIER

Ida Dublier, former member of EMJC and a long time employee of the Senior Center of Flatbush that resides in our building.

MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE A BLESSING, AND MAY THEIR ENTIRE FAMILIES BE CONSOLED AMONG ALL THE MOURNERS OF ZION AND JERUSALEM.



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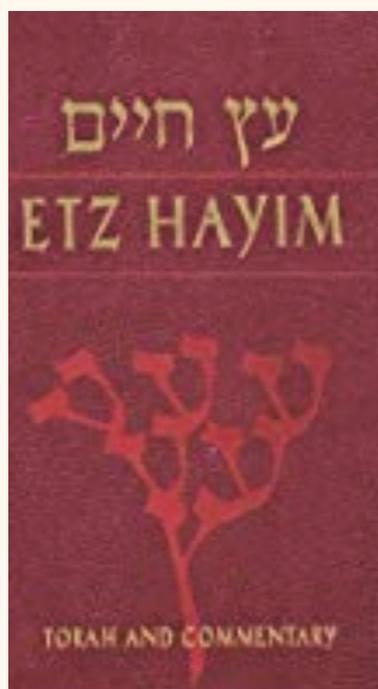
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hours (to be changed seasonally)

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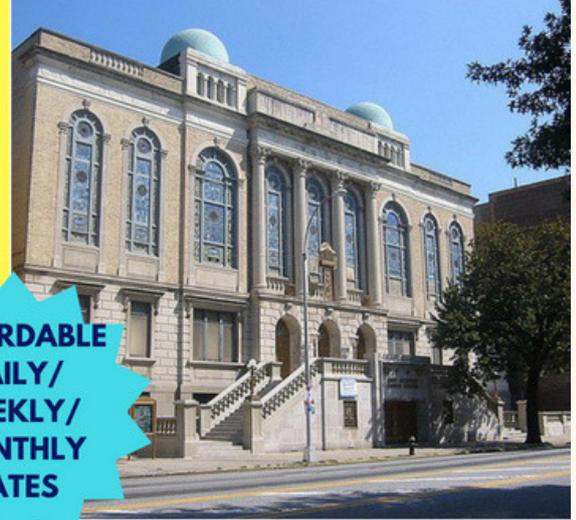
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Our MCAC meeting is being held **Monday, October 8th** at 4:00 PM
****** The Mirage Diner ******
 717 Kings Highway (on the corner of East 8th Street)
 There is a parking lot and a handicap entrance by the back door.
 Please call Sandy at 718-627-1804 by October 5th to reserve a seat as space is limited.

Our Speaker guest speaker will be:
Justin Blitz, Esq.
 - Personal Injury Attorney, Partner, at Schulman, Blitz -
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 about what information to get and what information not to give at an accident.
 This is information we should all know before something happens.

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