

Evelyn Licht by Naomi F. Tepfer

The world of art and music, of learning and literature, have been basic for Evelyn Licht, Bldg. II, all her life.



Her paternal grandfather was a well-known scholar, head of an advanced Jewish academy (Yeshiva) in a town near Vilna, in Lithuania. Her late husband, Michel Licht, was the first of the avant-garde poets writing in the Yiddish language.

Evelyn spent her childhood in Bayonne, New Jersey; her formal adult training was at Hunter College, Rutgers University and N.Y.U. Already at age 18 she taught art in Teaneck, N.J. Before long she rose to supervisor in the school art program, charged with inaugurating and implementing a new syllabus for Junior High Schools in New York City.

At retirement in 1960 she was chairman of the Art Department at Kiernan Junior High, considered the Junior High of Music & Art.

Known as a painter and sculptress, Evelyn Licht has now perfected a new type of monoprint. The critic of New York Guide refers to her oils and monoprints as "outstanding in composition and originality, delicate and imaginative, with fine instinctive coloring." She is represented at many art galleries, private collections and museums, as close to home as St. John the Divine and the World Trade Center, and as far away as Japan, Australia, Israel and Zambia.

For the past twelve years Evelyn Licht has been exhibiting at the Glass Gallery on Central Park West, joined by such well-known artists as Benny Andrews and Chaim Gross. Twelve of her small oil and ink paintings are presently on display there.

She has participated in dozens of group shows throughout the U.S. and abroad; last year, together with three other outstanding women artists, she was selected to exhibit at the Gallery of the First Women's Bank in New York, and she has had seven one-man shows.

Evelyn has to her credit the establishing of the first Art Gallery in New York connected with a Labor Union; she directed 17 exhibits for talented teachers at the United Federation of Teachers headquarters. Countless charity exhibits and sales owe their success to her direction.

She created the illustrations and the cover designs for her late husband's books, as well as drawings of other contemporary writers, and book cover designs, most of which are housed at the YIVO Museum on 5th Avenue and 86th Street and in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library of Syracuse University. All of Michel Licht's books and a copy of one of his poems, illuminated by Evelyn, are in the Vatican Library.

After Michel's death in 1953, she determined to perfect her knowledge of the Yiddish language, the better to understand his writings and arrange for the republishing of all of his out-of-print books.

Special Talents and Skills Needed

The Elections Committee of Morningside Heights Housing Corp. has been assembling candidates and distributing petitions for the five positions on the Board of Directors and the three positions on the Elections Committee to be filled at the Annual Meeting on April 6. The Committee is pleased with the candidates who have so far agreed to stand for election in 1982.

Additional candidates are still needed, however. In order to maintain Morningside Gardens as the model cooperative it has always been, it is important to have candidates representative of the diverse backgrounds and points of view of Gardens residents. At the same time these candidates should possess the talents and skills which qualify them to manage the affairs of our Corporation. No person who has these qualities should be overlooked. Therefore, it is each cooperator's responsibility to make the Committee aware of anyone who qualifies for these important positions.

The Committee members are as follows:

- Veronica Cook, 666-4179 (Co-Chair)
- Mary Ida Gardner, 866-1873
- Godfrey L. Gregory, 666-8989
- Jamie Long, 749-7079 (Co-Chair)
- Valerie Luizer, 666-8988
- Sophia Mehrer, 663-4285

A Joyful Holiday Party

A packed Community Room vibrated with the joyous sounds of singing as the Morningside Community Chorus hosted its annual Christmas-Hanukka party.

Skinner Chávez-Melo, conductor of the Chorus, presided as master of ceremonies and introduced the program with charm and humor. The program was fresh and unhackneyed. The opening song was "En Natus est Emanuel," composed in the 16th century. Then came a group of carols with words and music written by contemporary composers. Finally, the Chorus performed several Hanukka songs which had the hall "jumping." Solos were sung by Dorothy Edmonds and Arthur Katz.

Sheets with texts of traditional carols were distributed to the audience and everyone joined in the singing. There was some shaky harmony, but the spirit was all there.

After the singing, everyone gathered around tastefully arranged tables and partook of cider, homemade cookies and brownies by candlelight.

It was a festive occasion, a gift from the members of the Morningside Community Chorus to their friends in the Gardens.

Though "slowing down" these days, she still takes her daily "constitutional" along the lower paths of the Gardens; sensitive to its beauty, she is grateful for life in our community.

Greatly envied is she by her many friends for her annual retreat of four to six months to a calm, colorful destination in Sorrento, Italy, where she paints to her heart's content. Returning to the States rejuvenated, she is reunited with her brother, Morton Perry, a jovial fellow, Professor of Comparative Religion at Mesa College, Grand Junction, Col., who "apartment sits" for her while she is away.

Be nice & contribute to you and others

Am also preparing the ledger from Luzky.

Dear David, thought this message of interest to you. Am sending check same as from you.