

MANETTO HILL JEWISH CENTER

SHOFAR

Volume 42, Issue 2

MARCH/APRIL 2009 – Adar/Nissan 5769

A glass of red wine and a bowl of matzah. The glass is on the left, filled with dark red wine. The bowl is on the right, containing several pieces of white, perforated matzah. The background is a solid, warm red color.

Passover
April 8th – 16th

From Valentine's Day Through Pesach

Now that I have a source of authoritative information on Christian tradition, I knew that finally I would find a satisfactory explanation at the Interfaith Clergy Meeting about what Valentine's Day is all about. Guess what—they told me that my guess is as good as theirs. St. Valentine was apparently martyred by the Roman Emperor Claudius, who was generally a serious and congenial successor in the line of Augustus, except, apparently, when it came to his intolerance of anything new and revolutionary like early Christianity.

So what's "romantic" about any of this? Apparently nothing whatsoever. **It's made up!!!** We could just as easily celebrate St. Achashuerosh's day as the patron saint of drunkenness, irreverence and fertility—but wait—that's exactly what we do on Purim. So Valentine's Day is Purim for Gentiles, including the memories of historical tsores and the giving of sweets. Incidentally, the Purim Megillah will be read on Monday, March 9th at 7:00 P.M. The Megillah reading will wrap up an afternoon of Purim Carnival games at which time the kinder will have an opportunity to stone their beloved rebbi, as Haman, with wet sponges. A fun time is always had by all. We also feed the kids so that the carnival shifts seamlessly into the Megillah reading at 7:00 PM.

The Megillah is an improbable story! Who would ever believe that a prime minister in an ancient kingdom which occupied modern day Iran would be taken over by a wicked prime minister who would seek to 'destroy all the Jews' within his reach without the benefit of modern weapons, rockets and horrific nuclear devices. The whole scope of such evil planning boggles the imagination! Yet that was the plan of Haman, who had at his disposal ignorant masses easily led, willing to carry out mass murder up close and personal—the old fashioned way! It also happens to be the plan of a modern day Haman by the name of Ahmadinejad, who finances and influences untold ignorant masses beyond Iran/Persia—who relish killing up close and personal—the old fashioned way. Of course, Achmadinijad has at HIS disposal modern missiles and an ongoing nuclear program being developed enthusiastically with the Jewish People in mind. This modern day Haman is also providing money, weapons, and missiles to Hisbollah, Hamas and a whole variety of Muslims bitterly divided from Iran in every single matter except their hatred of Israel and western success. Is it any wonder, then, that the Passover Haagadah reminds us that 'b'chol dor vador'?

In every single generation, there arises an evil power who seeks to destroy us, but the "Holy One Baruch Hu" saves us from their hand. It's not quite enough to say—as I get by Email every year—"They tried to kill us. They failed. Now let's eat!!" The stakes are just too high, and while the Holy One saves us from their hand, we have to do OUR part and not simply rely on miracles.

Having said that, the following is the schedule of events leading up to Passover:

Sun, Mar 22—Kick off for our Torah dedication which will take place the weekend of June 5, 6, 7

9:30 a.m. Talis tefillin minyan sponsored by Men's Club

10:00 a.m. Breakfast

11:00 a.m. Family workshop featuring Torah calligraphy (with quill and ink), traditions related to assembling the Torah, mezuzah and tefillin. The mystical search of the sacred Hebrew alef bet using letter-number equivalents to learn truths buried in the Torah Text, and the modern Bible Code which uses mathematic algorithms and computers to delve even deeper into the mystic reading of the scriptures.

Sun, Mar 22 - Wed, Apr 8 Sale of Chametz Leaven which has been stored away out of sight may be sold to the Rabbi (along with the closet cabinet, etc. it is stored in). The Rabbi will then sell leaven from the entire community to a Gentile. It is typical to make an \$18 donation; this way the chametz stored away is not yours. The Rabbi will be available Monday - Thursday evenings to transact the Sale of Chametz in person. You can fill out the form for Sale for Chametz & bring it to the synagogue or mail it in to the synagogue office.

6:30 a.m. Conclusion of the Fast of the First Born. Following the service, we recite Bircat Ha Chamah—a blessing that we only do once in 28 years; kind of the Halley's Comet of Jewish blessings. It marks the anniversary of the fourth day of Creation on Erev Pesach, when the sun was placed in its natural position on a Wednesday (ie the 4th day of the week). Every 28 years, according to intricate Rabbinic calculations, the sun is in position on a Wednesday—Erev Pesach—with everything else in order. Who knows who of us will be able to recite the blessing next time around!

Pesach Services:

Apr 8th /9th 6:30 p.m. Seder eve evening services at MHJC. Please help us make a minyan

Thur, Apr 9, 9:30 a.m. Festival Service

Fri, Apr 10, 9:30 a.m. Festival Service

Fri/Sat, Apr 10/11 Shabbat Services

Tues/Wed, Apr 14/15, 8:00 p.m. Festival Evening Services

Wed/Thur, Apr 15/16 9:30 a.m. Festival Services

Thur, Apr 16, 8:00 p.m. Concluding Evening Service

9:00 p.m. Rabbi Buys Back Chometz for the Community

Fri, Apr 17, 6:30 p.m. Shabbat dinner, celebrating the return to Chometz. Sephardic Jews from North Africa celebrate this time as a special event called *Mimouna*.

Larry Kurtzman

A Mixed Bag as the Seasons Change

As you are reading this, winter is coming to a close and spring is about to start. The weather is varying day-to-day – cold and blustery one day and warm and sunny the next. Taking that as an inspiration, this month’s column is a bit of a mixed bag as well, containing several important topics:

Golda’s Balcony. This was the one-woman show that occurred on Saturday night, February 28th. Since I am writing this in mid-February, I can’t give a review of how the night went (although people who have seen the show in other places have stated it is phenomenal). However, I can state confidently that it was well attended. We needed to have around sixty attendees to break even and with 2½ weeks to go there are almost eighty signed up. Based on that, I’m assuming that we had over one hundred people attend, allowing it to be a significant money-maker for our synagogue. Thank to all who attended and I hope we all had a great time!

Torah Dedication. This is the major fundraiser for this year and we are making it a weekend event. Please keep the weekend of June 5th through 7th open. Let’s build on the momentum of *Golda’s Balcony* and other events to make this a huge success. The Rabbi and the Ways and Means committee spent a lot of time working on the list of words, phrases, portions, etc. that can be purchased. These will be at a variety of different price levels. While I would, of course, encourage all of us to contribute at as high a level as each of us can afford to help support the shul, I would love to see us have a 100% participation level or as close as possible. Please consider being part of this unique mitzvah and use this opportunity to honor family members or others.

Please sign up in advance for dinners. I understand from our Catering Committee and Sisterhood that we have a chronic problem with this. I have seen this in the past and it

was a significant problem at a recent event. Early in February, we had the Sisterhood Shabbat with its dinner preceding services. We had a big crowd of around sixty people, which was great. However, less than fifty had actually signed up (and paid) in advance. This caused several problems, most notably a lack of space (we had to cram an additional table into the Kiddush room) and the risk of running out of food. We love having huge crowds for these dinners. The more, the merrier. But please sign up in advance. That way we can ensure we set up enough tables, opening the portable wall if needed. Also, the food order goes to the caterer by mid-week, so calling on Friday morning or just showing up Friday night is not fair to the people who do “follow the rules”.

Our improvements are being noticed. At a meeting I attended recently (not a MHJC meeting), two people who live in the area commented on how good the sign at the front of our property looked. We’ve also gotten many positive comments from both existing and potential members regarding our website (www.mh-jc.org). And of course, the new paint job and molding in our main hallways is noticeable to everyone who walks in our door.

So keep those requests, suggestions, and feedback coming. You can always reach me through the synagogue office. Check out the calendar in the *Shofar* and on our website for committee and Board of Directors (a.k.a. Trustee) meetings. All these meetings are open to all members who wish to attend. Hint: the next Board of Directors meetings are Sunday, March 15th and Sunday, April 19th.

And don’t forget about our March 9th Purim Carnival at 5:00 PM, followed by the Megillah reading at 7:00 PM. (Unless of course you are reading this after March 9th, in which case I hope I saw you there!)



Gift Card

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You can shop and MHJC can make money. We are now selling gift cards for everything. Supermarkets; Shop-Rite, Fairway, etc., to department stores (Bloomingdale’s, Macy’s, etc.), Restaurants (Macaroni Grill, Wendy’s, etc.), Motels; Best Western, etc., & home improvements; Home Depot, Lowe’s, Best Buy, etc., & more.

This costs you nothing. If you want a \$100 gift card for Bed, Bath and Beyond, send a check for \$100 made out to MHJC to the synagogue. The first Monday of each month an order will be placed for the gift cards and within a week you will have your gift cards. Use them to shop or give as gifts. The more who buy, the more we make. Our profit is from 2% to 12% depending on the store. This will add up.

For More Information call **Sue Halfen (516) 921-2682** or **MHJC (516) 935-5454**

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Letter to Gaza Citizen: I Am the Soldier Who Slept in Your Home

by IsraelNN Staff (*IsraelNN.com*)

Hello,

While the world watches the ruins in Gaza, you return to your home which remains standing. However, I am sure that it is clear to you that someone was in your home while you were away.

I am that someone.

I spent long hours imagining how you would react when you walked into your home. How you would feel when you understood that IDF soldiers had slept on your mattresses and used your blankets to keep warm.

I knew that it would make you angry and sad and that you would feel this violation of the most intimate areas of your life by those defined as your enemies, with stinging humiliation. I am convinced that you hate me with unbridled hatred, and you do not have even the tiniest desire to hear what I have to say. At the same time, it is important for me to say the following in the hope that there is even the minutest chance that you will hear me.

I spent many days in your home. You and your family's presence was felt in every corner. I saw your family portraits on the wall, and I thought of my family. I saw your wife's perfume bottles on the bureau, and I thought of my wife. I saw your children's toys and their English language schoolbooks. I saw your personal computer and how you set up the modem and wireless phone next to the screen, just as I do.

I wanted you to know that despite the immense disorder you found in your house that was created during a search for explosives and tunnels (which were indeed found in other homes), we did our best to treat your possessions with respect. When I moved the computer table, I disconnected the cables and lay them down neatly on the floor, as I would do with my own computer. I even covered the computer from dust with a piece of cloth. I tried to put back the clothes that fell when we moved the closet although not the same as you would have done, but at least in such a way that nothing would get lost.

I know that the devastation, the bullet holes in your walls and the destruction of those homes near you place my descriptions in a ridiculous light. Still, I need you to understand me, us, and hope that you will channel your anger and criticism to the right places.

I decided to write you this letter specifically because I stayed in your home.

I can surmise that you are intelligent and educated and there

are those in your household that are university students. Your children learn English, and you are connected to the Internet. You are not ignorant; you know what is going on around you.

Therefore, I am sure you know that Kassam rockets were launched from your neighborhood into Israeli towns and cities.

How could you see these weekly launches and not think that one day we would say "enough"?! Did you ever consider that it is perhaps wrong to launch rockets at innocent civilians trying to lead a normal life, much like you? How long did you think we would sit back without reacting?

I can hear you saying "it's not me, it's Hamas". My intuition tells me you are not their most avid supporter. If you look closely at the sad reality in which your people live, and you do not try to deceive yourself or make excuses about "occupation", you must certainly reach the conclusion that the Hamas is your real enemy.

The reality is so simple, even a seven-year-old can understand: Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip, removing military bases and its citizens from Gush Katif. Nonetheless, we continued to provide you with electricity, water, and goods (and this I know very well as during my reserve duty I guarded the border crossings more than once, and witnessed hundreds of trucks full of goods entering a blockade-free Gaza every day).

Despite all this, for reasons that cannot be understood and with a lack of any rational logic, Hamas launched missiles on Israeli towns. For three years we clenched our teeth and restrained ourselves. In the end, we could not take it anymore and entered the Gaza Strip, into your neighborhood, in order to remove those who want to kill us. A reality that is painful but very easy to explain.

As soon as you agree with me that Hamas is your enemy and because of them, your people are miserable, you will also understand that the change must come from within. I am acutely aware of the fact that what I say is easier to write than to do, but I do not see any other way. You, who are connected to the world and concerned about your children's education, must lead, together with your friends, a civil uprising against Hamas.

I swear to you, that if the citizens of Gaza were busy paving roads, building schools, opening factories and cultural institutions instead of dwelling in self-pity, arms smuggling and nurturing a hatred to your Israeli neighbors, your homes would not be in ruins right now. If your leaders were not corrupt and motivated by hatred, your home would not have been harmed. If someone would have stood up and shouted

that there is no point in launching missiles on innocent civilians, I would not have to stand in your kitchen as a soldier.

You don't have money, you tell me? You have more than you can imagine.

Even before Hamas took control of Gaza, during the time of Yasser Arafat, millions if not billions of dollars donated by the world community to the Palestinians was used for purchasing arms or taken directly to your leaders' bank accounts. Gulf States, the Emirates - your brothers, your flesh and blood, are some of the richest nations in the world. If there was even a small feeling of solidarity between Arab nations, if these nations had but the smallest interest in reconstructing the Palestinian people - your situation would be very different.

You must be familiar with Singapore. The land mass there is not much larger than the Gaza Strip and it is considered to be the second most populated country in the world. Yet, Singapore is a successful, prospering, and well-managed country. Why not the same for you?

My friend, I would like to call you by name, but I will not do so publicly. I want you to know that I am 100% at peace with what my country did, what my army did, and what I did. However, I feel your pain. I am sorry for the destruction you are finding in your neighborhood at this moment. On a personal level, I did what I could to minimize the damage to your home as much as possible.

In my opinion, we have a lot more in common than you might imagine. I am a civilian, not a soldier, and in my private life I have nothing to do with the military. However, I have an obligation to leave my home, put on a uniform, and protect my family every time we are attacked. I have no desire to be in your home wearing a uniform again and I would be more than happy to sit with you as a guest on your beautiful balcony, drinking sweet tea seasoned with the sage growing in your garden.

The only person who could make that dream a reality is you. Take responsibility for yourself, your family, your people, and start to take control of your destiny. How? I do not know. Maybe there is something to be learned from the Jewish people who rose up from the most destructive human tragedy of the 20th century, and instead of sinking into self-pity, built a flourishing and prospering country. It is possible, and it is in your hands. I am ready to be there to provide a shoulder of support and help to you.

But only you can move the wheels of history.

Regards, Yishai (Reserve Soldier)

The above was a letter that was originally published in the Hebrew-language daily newspaper Ma'ariv, and translated into English by the Independent Media Review and Analysis (IMRA).

METNY

The Metropolitan New York (METNY) Region of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism invites you to join our Institute of Continuing Jewish Studies. The topic for this semester is "Acquiring Skills of Analysis for Independent Torah Study." These dynamic sessions will be taught by Dr. Walter Herzberg. This five part series will begin on Wednesday, March 4, and continue each Wednesday until April 1. Refreshments will be served beginning at 4:15 PM and the class will take place from 4:30 to 6:30.

Dr. Herzberg, a professor of Bible at the Jewish Theological Seminary, takes pride in teaching students, "what they cannot teach themselves." He has taught in a variety of settings including Jerusalem's Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, the American Jewish University in Los Angeles, Hebrew University, Hebrew Union College, and at New York University's Institute of Hebrew Culture and Education.

Dr. Herzberg will conduct a Torah study workshop focused on the study of a different biblical text each week. The class involves a close reading of the text, integrating a modern literary approach with the study of traditional commentaries, including Rashi, Ramban, and more. The class is methodologically oriented, focusing on helping students read, and analyze independently as they acquire skills of close reading.

Learners on any level are welcome and will grow from this master teacher. Texts and commentaries will be provided in both Hebrew and English. The classes will take place at the METNY offices, 330 West 38th Street, Suite 205. The cost for the Institute is \$150. If you would like to register for the class, please contact Rabbi Paulette Posner, METNY Educational Director, at metnyed@uscj.org or phone (212) 533-0800. We look forward to studying with you!

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MARCH 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Youth Meeting Youth In Building	2 Membership Family Life	3	4	5 Executive Board	6 Candle Lighting @ 5:32 p.m.	7 Bat Mitzvah: Rachel Konel
8 Nominating Committee Meeting	9 Purim Carnival @ 5:00 p.m. Megillah Reading @ 7:00 p.m.	10 Purim	11 Sisterhood Meeting: Knitting Hats for Israeli Soldiers	12 Ritual	13 Candle Lighting @ 6:40 p.m. Youth Shabbat & Dinner	14
15 Youth In Building Board of Directors	16 Ways & Means	17	18 Education	19 House & Long Range Planning	20 Candle Lighting @ 6:47 p.m.	21
22 Torah Workshop @ 9:30 a.m.	23	24 Israeli Jewish Affairs	25 Sisterhood Passover Seder Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.	26 Book Club @ 7:30 p.m.	27 Candle Lighting @ 6:55 p.m.	28 Gimmel & Dalet Class Shabbat Service @ 9:30 a.m.
29 Youth In Building Men's Club Movie Night @ 6:30 p.m.	30	31				

All Friday Evening Services are at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.
All meetings are at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

All Saturday Morning Services are at 9:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

Yahrzeits (Adar/Nissan/Iyar)

If you do not see a Yahrzeit listed, please notify the office with the necessary information so that it can be added to the Synagogue's computer system.

Adar

Ida Abrahams, David Bayowitz, David Berkowitz, Sidney Bernstein, Eleanor Brachman, Renee Cantos, Stanley Clarin, Joseph Cooper, Shirley Cooper, William Eli Deutch, Samuel Eill, Sam Feldman, Manfred Finger, Alberta Fleissler, Frank Fuchs, Helen Glasser, Theresa Glasser, Meyer Goldblatt, Sam Goldman, Alfred Gordon, Mitchell Greenberg, Martin Isko, Abraham Kistenberg, Ada Kistenberg, Sadye Kurtzman, Simon Labowitz, Harold Lipshie, Ray Mandel, Abe Miller, David Osdoby, Seymour Perzov, Harriet Polansky, Irving Polansky, Norman Ross, Norman Rubenstein, David Sanderowitz, Harry Siegel, Eunice Siegelheim, Gertrude Silverston, Harry Spitz, Hyman Starr, Edith Steel, May Terloff, Irving Toporek, Craig Alan Wertheim, George Joseph Wertheim, Barbara Ziegler, Howard Ziegler

Nisan

Frieda Bart, Sarah Cantos, Rose Clarin, Etta Drabkin, Anna Eichen, Charles Elgart, Irving Endelson, Alice Gaynes, Nat Gordon, Ann Greenberg, Etta Greenberg, Margaret Halfen,

Olga Hallak, Regine Kolber, Rose Levine, Beatrice Malter, Philip Meinberg, Gloria Perzov, Sara Reich, Eli Rosenblatt, Jack Saltzer, Minna Sanderowitz, Jack Scarr, Abraham Schiffman, Gloria Spitzer, Anna Stein, Martin Stempel, Irving Strassman, June Trotta.

Iyar

Laura Bernstein, David Blatt, Hyman Borodinsky, Ann Brody, Nathan Eichen, Shirley Erdman, Louis Fischer, Rebecca Goldman, Ruth Gordon, Walter Grunwald, Freda Gutterman, Clara Klein, Arlene Marin, Robert Nataupsky, Al Pinck, Bessie Reiter, Moe Rokofsky, Anna Saltzman, Walter Schweitzer, Jack Silverston, Sylvia Spitz, Marvin Steinberg, Irving Stier, Irving Talkofsky.

If you are celebrating a birthday or anniversary in March or April and it is not listed, please notify the office so that we can update our records.

In addition to birthdays and anniversaries we would like to publish other simchas such as engagements, marriages and births, etc. In this day and age where we are bombarded with bad news in the newspapers, on TV it is refreshing to learn about good news.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Sisterhood Meeting	2 Executive Board	3 Candle Lighting @ 7:02 p.m.	4
5 Youth Chocolate Seder	6	7	8 Erev Pesach 1st Seder No Hebrew School	9 1st Day of Pesach 2nd Seder	10 Candle Lighting @ 7:09 p.m.	11 Family Life Bingo
12	13 No Hebrew School	14	15 7th Day of Pesach No Hebrew School	16 8th Day of Pesach Yizkor	17 Candle Lighting @ 7:14 p.m. Mimvnah Shabbat Chumatz Dinner	18
19 Board of Directors	20 Ways & Means Hebrew School Classes Resume	21 Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance Day	22 Education	23 Ritual	24 Candle Lighting @ 7:17 p.m.	25 Bat Mitzvah: Bari Buchberg
26 Men's Club at 6 pm Youth Meeting Youth In Building	27 Membership Family Life	28 Israeli Jewish Affairs	29	30 Israel Independence Day House & Long Range Planning		

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All meetings are at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

All Saturday Morning Services are at 9:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

SIMCHAS

March Birthdays

Steven Abusch, Jason Bart, Rona Bielik, Judith Blatt Nichols, Ivy Chasan, Carole Clarin, Lauren Nicole DeMel, Ruth Depierro, Sheryl Eisenberg, Gregory Friedel, Aviva Friedman, Fred Fruchter, Scott Fruchter, David Gaynes, Sandee Goldstein, Phyllis Gordon, Amy Green, Allison Greenspan, Lisa Halfen, Daniel Scott Hallak, Stanley Horowitz, Gail Kirchenberg, Brett Kitograd, Michele Kitograd, Scott and Michele Kitograd, Lisa Klein, Anne Labowitz Klee, Meryl Lamel, Mark Landisman, Nirit Landisman, Douglas Leo, Allison Levine, Murray Levine, Adriana Levner, Sheldon Liebman, Howard Mann, Wendy Marin, Seth Marx, Mark Meinberg, Jamie Merlis, Erica Nuzie, Melissa Osterweil, F Dena Ozur, Ian Pasetsky, Linda Pinck, Marlene Pinck, Mindy Reznik, Doris Roth, Lori Saland, Alexandra Sauer, Deborah Schenkein, Felicia Schneberg, Benjamin Sheiman, Shaina Siber-Sanderow, Rhonda Silverberg, Lisa Sommer, Alice Stein, Arthur Stein, Gary Talkofsky, Barbara Tetenbaum, Jacqueline Weinstein, Jonathan Weinstein, Lori Weinstein, Eric Winiarz, Michael Zelkind.

March Anniversaries

Richard & Andrea D'Argenio, Gary & Barbara Drossman, David & Audrey Engel, Paul & Marjorie Labowitz, Eric & Dona Malter, Len & Leah Mandelbaum, Jeffrey & Judith Schutzer, Lawrence & Barbara Tetenbaum.

April Birthdays

David Benson, Samuel Brandl, Wendy Chesner, Michael Dashow, Stephanie Derienzes, Hayley Dicken, Martin Eichen, Jeremy Eill, Samuel Friedman, Joshua Gilbert, Jeremy Gorfinkel, Cary Greenberg, Rachel Greenblatt, Keith Greenstein, Tracey Gutterman, Frank Halfen, Marissa Hankin, Mark Hankin, Rachel Heller, Richard Heller, Gladys Honigman, Sidney Kaldor, Matthew Kaufman, Emil Levine, Evan Merlis, Arlene Minkoff, Ira Minkoff, Stu Nitkin, Adam Nuzie, Steven Randall, Sonny Robins, Judy Ross, Elliot Sanderowitz, Marisa Schneberg, Eileen Schneyman, Judith Schutzer, Maxine Silver, Elliot Silverberg, Jacklyn Simon, Suzanne Stein, Howard Teichner, Sandy Zisser.

April Anniversaries

Scott & Charlotte DeMel, Henry & Jacqueline Eill, Steve & Cheryl Fuchs, Mark & Jodi Hirsch, Steven & Meryl Lamel, Randy & Sheldon Liebman, Ken & Patti Silver.

Sisterhood celebrated the Modern Jewish Woman at our annual Sisterhood Shabbat on Feb. 6, 2009. Over 50 people joined us for dinner and services to honor our own two modern Jewish women, Marilyn Katz and Cheryl Sheinwald. Both their husbands, Barry and Steve, got up to say a few well chosen words about their wives.

On to services, where the following women either read Hebrew or English parts: Jodi Hirsch, Mindy Kurtzman, Sharon Dashow, Ilene Sudran, Sharon Waks, Lauren Stifelman, Marian Pasetky, Goldie Brandl, Barbara Dicken, Ronni Leo, Edie Friedel, Felicia Schneberg, Barbara Tetenbaum, Leora Friedman, Jaci Osdoby, Iris Lesser, Ellen Goldman, Marilyn Katz, Cheryl Sheinwald and Naomi Bernstein. We also were honored to include Barry Katz and Steve Sheinwald who read *A Woman of Valor*. We included readings about modern Jewish women from all walks of life—Chava Weissler from education, Ruth Bader Ginsberg from law, Dianne Feinstein from politics, Rosalyn Yalow from medicine, Wendy Wasserstein and Tovah Feldshuh from the arts and Sarah Hughes from sports. Letters of appreciation were presented to Cheryl and Marilyn from Sisterhood President Mindy Kurtzman. We learned and were inspired by those women as well as our own Marilyn and Cheryl. Thank you to all who participated. Thank you to Sharon Dashow, who organized the service as well as Barbara Dicken and Renee Cantos for their ideas and inspiration.

Purim is almost upon us...I hope you have all ordered your Mishloach Manot baskets. The collation of the baskets will be on March 1 at the Temple starting in the morning, probably around 10:00. If you'd like to help, please call Jodi Hirsch at 694-8867. Pick-up is at the temple, starting on March 8.

Hats for Israeli Soldiers!!!

Sue Halfen has graciously offered to loan us her services as the Knit N' Nosh teacher to teach Sisterhood members to knit on Wednesday, March 11. "Chicks with Sticks" is a group of people who are knitting winter hats for Israeli soldiers of the IDF. Started by Channah Koppel, the idea has spread worldwide. Several hundred hats have been distributed so far to soldiers in the Golan Heights and Mt. Hermon. Please RSVP to the temple office if you are interested in attending this meeting so that we have an idea of how much wool to buy. If needles are needed, we'll let you know, but we are going to try and get as much donated as possible.

Passover is coming up immediately after Purim, when it'll be time for the Women's Passover Seder. It is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at 6:30. Please keep that in mind and call the temple to RSVP ASAP!! It is usually a very nice evening for women where we put oranges on the seder plate and read inspirational devotions to women everywhere. We have a great meal and light candles as well. If you are interested in participating, you can call Sharon Dashow or the Temple office.

Sisterhood Cookbooks are still available for \$12.00 each; they contain many recipes for Passover. Call the Temple office or Ronni Leo at 822-1878.

We will be having a joint event with the Men's Club again, this time a softball game in May/June. If anyone has any ideas for programs or is interested in participating in any of the above, please call Mindy Kurtzman at 349-7041 or you can e-mail LKurtzman@att.net.

Sisterhood Presents: "Not Just Your Mother's Recipes"



Sisterhood has collected the best recipes from Manetto Hill Jewish Center members, family and friends and compiled them into an attractive keep-sake cookbook.

Not Just Your Mother's Recipes contains 100s of our best recipes for appetizers, main dishes, desserts and many others.

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call the synagogue office to pick up your cookbook today.

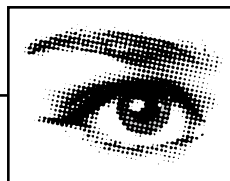
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WAYS AND MEANS

We are gearing up for our biggest fundraiser of the year – our Torah Dedication. We will be hosting a number of events preceding the Torah dedication. The first event will be on March 22nd. Please join us for morning services, where Rabbi Bernstein will teach us how to put on tefillin (we will have several sets available for those who do not have Tefillin) breakfast and our Torah workshop. Not only will we learn how the letters in the Torah are written and how tefillin and mezuzot are written and made, everyone will have an opportunity to do some letter writing with a real quill and ink. We will also learn about some of the mystical aspects of the Torah; the traditional arrangement (according to Kabbalah) of Torah columns in which the first letter of each column in some sections spells special words, the gematria (science of the letter number equivalents that reveal underlying truths in Torah), and the Bible Code that has been used to learn secrets and even predict the future.

The weekend of June 5th through June 7th promises to be very special. As of the date this article is being written (early February), we are planning to have a speaker at Friday night services on June 5th, dinner followed by entertainment on Saturday night and then, of course, the culmination of our weekend—the actual Torah dedication on June 7th. After celebrating with us throughout the weekend, we hope you will join us as we march through the streets of Plainview with our Torah. Once we arrive at Manetto Hill Jewish Center, the Sofer will go to work; inscribing the letters, names and parshas that each one of us purchases. Each participant will receive a personalized laminated certificate. What a beautiful and meaningful way to support MHJC!

Please check our website, MHJC.org for more information about the Torah dedication. The website lists the prices of the various letters, words, sentences, paragraphs, etc. that you can purchase.

RITUAL COMMITTEE

Whoever welcomes Adar, increases joy. That is because one of our most joyful holidays, Purim, is in Adar. Megillah reading will begin at 7:00PM on Monday, March 9th. So, bring your children, your costumes, and your appetite for hamantashen and get ready to make some noise as we stomp out Haman's name and remember the miracle of Purim.

Passover begins on Wednesday evening, April 8th. Check your mailings and our website for information about selling your chometz. The last day of Passover is Thursday, April 16th. Yiskor is recited on that day.

Join us for Shabbat dinner on April 17th. Since it is the day

Sharon Dashow

Buy your time before time runs out! That's right, our clock raffle is in full swing. If there is a particular minute you want (commemorating a birthday, time of birth, anniversary, etc.), now is the time to make your purchase, before someone else claims it. Minutes cost \$5 each. The clock will be opened on the Saturday of our Torah dedication weekend. The person who bought the time closest to the time showing on the clock will win forty percent of the pot.

Ways & Means is the fundraising arm of the synagogue. We need your ideas and your assistance. If you are interested in joining the committee, please attend our next meeting on March 16th.

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- **In-home Social Service Assessments**

**For more information, please contact Harriet Blatt,
Volunteer Coordinator, (516) 822-3535, x345.**

Sharon Dashow

after Passover, we will be sure to have lots of chometz for you to eat!!

This year we will be commemorating Yom Hashoah by hearing the story of one of the hidden child of the Holocaust. This promises to be a most moving event. Lets honor the memories of those who died in the Holocaust by pleading never to forget what took place.

Once a month, usually on the first Friday of the month, a discussion about Israel is held during Friday night services. If there is a topic that you would like to see discussed, please let us know. We hope to see you at these discussions as well as at our Shabbat and weekday minyans.

Helene Aimbinder, Principal

The weather outside is freezing and gloomy, however inside MHJC it is always warm and glowing. If you were one of the over 20 Religious school families and congregational members that attended the Havdallah service you know exactly what I mean. What a moving way to separate the holy from the secular space of time in our lives. The children took their handmade candles and besamin (spices), and prayer sheets in order to continue this spiritual service in their homes. Our next holiday celebration was Tu B'Shevat, which has a Kabbalistic type seder using various species from the Torah and items that grow from trees.

This March 9th, our school, along with the Youth group, will be having our carnival, which will then lead into our reading and the Mitzvah of Listening to the Megillat Esther. All children that are in costume and stay for the Megillah will receive double credit! On March 28th we will have the Kitot Gimmel and Daled lead our Shabbat service, which is always a delightful experience. The last Friday in March and April we will have a 5 - 5:30pm Tot Shabbat experience, so please tell your neighbors and bring your little ones!

The usual Peasach sederai will be held in April, and the students will be bringing home a handmade plaque! Do not fear: it will bring a little fun at the seder table for all ages to enjoy! We will also be sending cards to Sderot, Israeli children along with handmade fabric hearts to show that we care about them.

Most of us have experienced the economic crunch, however there are some that are really having a bad time. Now we can do something as a community to reach out to these individuals. On Sunday, April 5th, the H.O.P. E. Event will be held at the Galaid Warehouse, 125 Eileen Way in Syosset. This program provides Passover food for families across Long Island. Packing the food starts at 9am. If you need more information, please contact me at my office in the synagogue. This is a wonderful family community service program.

As I promised last year, a trip is planned to The Holocaust and Tolerance Museum in Glen Cove. "A Walk To Remember" will be held Sunday, April 26th from 10am - 2pm. This is an opportunity to walk with a child Holocaust survivor in a friendly environment. Please be aware that our youngsters will be the last generation to actually meet someone from this sad era of Jewish history. The museum will be having volunteers from the visitors that wish to help in planting bulbs and flowers throughout their gardens to remember the one million children that perished.

Those that wish to make a donation of \$10.00 for a butterfly that will later be placed on a Memory Wall can do so. There will be a light lunch served and a musical program by children choirs from Long Island. There will be booklets coming to the MHJC office shortly with further information. You

do not have to have a child in the Religious school to attend this event or the other community event!

If we are going to be planting flowers, Spring must be coming around the corner. So, too, our Aleph Class Consecration on Friday, May 8th, and our Hay Class Graduation on Monday, May 18th at 7pm. Last day of school and Teachers' Recognition and Awards night will be held on Wednesday, May 20th. More details on all these happenings coming soon.

A quote from *Pirke Avot* by Rabbi Hillel:

"If I am not for myself, who is for me?
And when I am for myself, what am I?
And if not now, when?"

With all that is happening at Manetto Hill Jewish Center, you should feel very proud that you and your family made a good choice to belong. Now is the time to take advantage of what your membership offers. Opportunities abound to expand your minds, bodies and souls through the various programs, which are both spiritual and secular, for the home and the community, synagogue and Israel.

BLOOD DRIVE

On Sunday Feb. 1st we held our annual Super Bowl Blood Drive, and it was a success as the New York Blood Center collected 32 pints of much needed blood at this time of severe shortage. Our thanks to all our donors, plus Gerry Clarin, Ed Dicken, Larry Kurtzman, Bill Schweitzer, Elliot and Rhonda Silverberg and Sol Soto for making phone calls, putting up posters and staffing the welcome desk.

For all of you who could not donate at our drive, please visit the Melville Donor Center at 905 Walt Whitman Rd (Route 110), next to Harmon.

Join us at our kick-off event for our TORAH DEDICATION SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND

9:30 - 10:00 Shacharit services – learn how to put on tefillin

10:00 - 11:00 Breakfast

11:00 Torah workshop—learn about the mystical aspects of the Torah and participate in writing Torah letters with a quill and ink

See the Ways & Means article for more details

MEN'S CLUB

Winter is not my favorite season. I am no fan of the cold weather. When March rolls around I am ready for spring. It's not just the warmer weather that makes me look forward to the spring. This time of year we start getting the first buds on the trees. The crocuses start coming up. It's also Passover time, a time to get together with family and friends.

The Men's Beer Tasting was on January 18th. We got to sample different lagers and ales. It was interesting how we all preferred a different beer.

On Sunday Feb.1st we held our annual Super Bowl Blood Drive, and it was a success as the New York Blood Center collected 32 pints of much needed blood at this time of severe shortage. Also on Super Bowl Sunday we had our annual Super Bowl Party. It was an exciting game with many score changes in the last five minutes. Congratulations to Steve Osdoby on winning the final score box pool.

Men's Club Movie Night has been changed to March 29th at 6:30 PM. It is a "bring your favorite drink" night, too.

March 22nd at 10:00 AM we are hosting a Tefillin Breakfast. Please bring your Tefillin. The Rabbi will be on hand to help the beginners and anyone else who needs assistance.

April 26th at 6:00 PM is the Men's Club Paid-up Barbecue. This is a free event for all Men's Club Members who have paid their dues. Mark your calendars.

Ed Dicken & Doug Leo

We have a lot of fun events coming up in May and June. Men's Club will be barbecuing for the Torah Dedication and have a co-sponsored softball game with Sisterhood. Watch your mail for more details. We hope to see you all there.

Come to a meeting or event and let us know what you enjoy doing: we're always looking for fresh ideas of events to sponsor. If you want to be notified of upcoming events and meetings please email Ed at edicken@computersurgeon.com or Doug at dsleo@hotmail.com

BOOK CLUB

THANK YOU to the members of our Book Club for their generous donation to Manetto Hill Jewish Center. It is greatly appreciated!

The Book Club meets once a month at MHJC. For more information, call the synagogue office or Barbara Nizewitz. Thanks to Barbara for creating and heading the club—what a great idea!

FAMILY LIFE

Barbara Dicken

April appears to be tzedukah month for Family Life. We have a couple of wonderful programs planned, and hope that you can find time in your busy schedules to join us.

On Sunday, April 5th, in conjunction with Education, we are planning to help Project HOPE, a program that helps the less fortunate for the holidays, package food for Passover; we hope to see you at 9 AM at Galil Importing in Syosset. Please call the synagogue office for more information. Education is also planning a trip to the Holocaust museum on Sunday, April 26th. It's a great opportunity for families to spend the day together doing another tzedukah project; we will be planting bulbs to help beautify the museum. In addition to this, we are planning our annual "Passover Bingo" for Saturday night, April 11th. It is always a fun thing to do during the Passover break and Passover snacks will be served. Please bring your friends to this enjoyable event.

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MHJC Event Catering

Manetto Hill Jewish Center is pleased to announce our expert panel of caterers.

They handle all catered parties held on our premises including Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, extended Kiddushes, Baby Namings, Bris, and more.

Please be aware that the kitchen is
Meat/Pareve only.
No Dairy products are allowed.

Dairy substitutes, such as non-dairy creamer and non-dairy (tofu) cream cheese are acceptable.

Please reserve your event date with Ellen Goldman before contacting any of the following caterers:

Mr. Bob Kanowitz of
Del Mir Caterers 516-802-5492

Mr. Brian Yarmeisch at
Commack Kosher Caterers 631-543-2300

Mr. Rich Austein of
Ackerstein Caterers 516-538-6655

Irwin or Andrew of
Irwin Caterers at
Plainview Jewish Center 516-938-1310

Their catering expertise and the high quality of their food are sure to make your event very successful.

An Extended Kiddush requires a room reservation and fee of \$300 for members, \$400 for non-members.

Please reserve your date early by calling the telephone number below. Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Ellen Goldman
Catering/Kiddush Coordinator
(516) 933-6361

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