

MANETTO HILL JEWISH CENTER

SHOFAR

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AUGUST 2010 - Tammuz/Av/Elul 5770



*Welcome, Rabbi David
and Elissa Senter!*

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Our tradition teaches, Asey Lecha Rav, Ukney Lecha Chaver,” “Establish for yourself a Rabbi and acquire for yourself a friend” (Pirkei Avot, 1:6). Finding a new rabbi is not an easy undertaking. For months MHJC prepared for this process, asking questions, having meetings, sifting through resumes. I especially thank the Rabbi Search Committee and the various sub-



committees who continue to make our family feel right at home at MHJC. The committee members I met and worked with are an amazing cross section of the community. MHJC can be proud of the process employed in seeking and establishing new rabbinic leadership.

I am honored that MHJC has chosen me to serve as your new rabbi. We have begun the process of “Asey Lecha Rav – establish for yourself a Rabbi.” This is an ongoing process facilitated on an organizational level by our transition committee. On a personal level we are challenged “Kney Lecha

Chaver – acquire for yourself a friend.” I want to get to know each and every one of you. When I arrive in Plainview I plan on contacting every member. Please know, my door will always be open to you. Whether it is sharing in your joys and sorrows, a quick cup of coffee or a serious discussion, I am here for you.

I also thank Rabbi Bernstein for his many years of service to the MHJC family. From everything I have seen and experienced, Rabbi Bernstein has helped to create a healthy and vibrant synagogue.

Elissa and I look forward to many happy years as part of the MHJC family. We hope to build lifelong friendships within our new synagogue family.

With Torah Blessings and best wishes for a Shana Tova.

Rabbi David Ross Senter

WAYS AND MEANS

Sharon Dashow

The Ways & Means committee has been hard at work, planning events for the upcoming year. Come and join us at the Plainview Bowl on August 8th for two hours of bowling. Please RSVP as soon as possible. You should have received a flyer with more detailed information.

Our other Ways & Means event in August takes place on the 14th at 9PM. On that date, we will be hosting Texas Hold ‘Em. If you don’t know how to play, we can teach you.

Please reserve October 2nd for our annual comedy night. This popular event is always a great deal of fun. As in previous years, you are entitled to one free ticket if you redeem a Kol Nidre pledge of at least \$180 on or before that night.

We have many more enjoyable activities planned throughout the year. These include a mentalist in November, and a Night at the Races in January. Our biggest event of the year is our Casino Night, which will be held on March 19th.

The Casino Night, as well as our other events, takes a great deal of planning. We would appreciate your help in the planning as well as your input and ideas for other events. Please join us for our next Ways & means meeting on August 9th.



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

Larry Kurtzman

A New Chapter In Our MHJC Life

Our synagogue is not only entering its fifth decade, but also starting a new chapter from a rabbinical perspective. As you are reading this, preparations and arrangements are in high gear to welcome Rabbi David Senter as our new spiritual leader. The Transition and Marketing sub-committees of the Rabbi Search Committee are getting the word out and planning a variety of events to enable our congregants and potential future congregants to meet the Rabbi, his wife Elissa, and their teenage daughter Tracy. The Rabbi also has four adult children, and we hope to meet them in time as well. Among the activities being planned are the recent “meet and greet” weekend in July and various weekend events in August. Watch your mail, email, and our website for information as these plans take shape.

The search for our new Rabbi has been a complex, but extremely successful effort. Many individuals played key roles in this process. If I tried to thank each one, I’d almost certainly leave someone out. But you know who you are, and I want to personally thank each and every one of you.

I also want to thank our congregation in general. The attendance at the multitude of meetings, services led by visiting Rabbis, and other events was consistently impressive, particularly since several of these were with extremely short notice. Not only did this high level of participation impress our candidates, but it illustrated our combined commitment to MHJC’s successful future.

The process also served as a valuable catalyst to bring our congregation together. As I stated at the start of our search, and multiple times during our efforts, I wanted to hear everyone’s opinion and I promised that everyone would be heard. I think we accomplished that goal, as our sometimes very long meetings can attest to. But the end result was that as promised, every person was able to express their feelings.

I also had indicated that, most likely, not everybody would get exactly and everything that they preferred. But I strongly believe that we achieved a consensus result that truly represents the will of the group.

I believe that we should all be proud of our shul and the quantity and quality of the resumes we received. Any early concerns that we might not attract what we considered strong candidates were quickly shown to be unfounded. We received a multitude of resumes, engaged in many telephone interviews (including one video interview with a Rabbi in Israel), and brought five individuals in for onsite visits.

The end result of this is that Rabbi David Senter is our new Rabbi. Rabbi Senter has a proven track record of growing syn-

agogue membership and of bridging gaps between members. He will of course be a key component in our efforts to reinvigorate and grow our synagogue. I encourage anyone with ideas and a willingness to be part of these efforts to come to the next Trustee meetings (July 25th and August 15th), attend the events being planned, or email me with your thoughts.

Among our next steps are to prepare the Rabbi’s house and to integrate the Rabbi and his family into our MHJC and Plainview communities. This is helped by the fact that they have family in the area, most closely in Dix Hills, who are all thrilled to be in closer proximity to each other. Tracy will be attending 11th grade at POBJFK High School, and is very active in music and drama.

We are entering an exciting new chapter in MHJC’s life. I encourage all of you to be an active part of it. I hope to see you at some of the events in August and certainly at our High Holiday services (which start early this year – right after Labor Day – so get those forms in!!).

As always, if you want to offer comments directly to me, or if you have any other needs to speak with me directly, feel free to reach me through the synagogue office or email me at LarryKurtzman@optonline.net.



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MHJC SPOTLIGHT

Laurel Konel

Rabbi David Senter's background is somewhat unusual. He is a fourth generation rabbi, who is proud of his lineage. After studying in Shor Yoshuv Rabbinical College, his studies continued on a seminary level at Kol Yaakov Torah Center, where he received ordination in 1985.

In 1996, Rabbi Senter left the rabbinate and established the kosher concessions at Shea and Yankee stadiums. After 2 years in the business world, though, he decided to return to his true passion—the rabbinate.



So what type of Rabbi is he? Orthodox? Conservative? Reform? Reconstructionist? According to Rabbi Senter, he is a “paradox”, and notes that one of his colleagues once dubbed him a “Reconstructed,

Neo-Chasidic, Orthoxative, Reformed, Yeshiva boy.” Rabbi Senter has concluded that he is “a constantly evolving Under-constructionist Jew.”

As an Under-constructionist, the Rabbi understands that religion is a very personal matter, and the individual must find the level of observance he or she is comfortable with. Rabbi Senter goes on to note that “Judaism is like a buffet; I want to help you take as much or as little as you are ready for.”

In May of 2004, Rabbi Senter was married to Elissa, who he refers to as “the love of my life.” Elissa is trained professionally as a vocalist, musician, dancer and actress. She holds a B.S. in education, and has done extensive graduate work in education and pastoral care. Because Elissa is a partner in every facet of Rabbi Senter's life, she has chosen to be an active Rebbitzin, and the Rabbi says that her involvement, support, talents and partnership have truly enhanced his rabbinate—“she is one of the secrets of my success.”

The Rabbi and Elissa are enthusiastic about greeting our MHJC family at services personally.

EDUCATION

Barbara Dicken

The Manetto Hill Jewish Center Hebrew School is proud to announce the return of our Primary Class. We will be offering it on Sunday mornings, based on informal input from interested families. Tell your friends! The Primary Class will be open to children in Grades K, 1, and 2, along with a special membership incentive. Call the synagogue office for more details!

In addition, the MHJC Hebrew School will have new hours starting in September. All of our youngsters will attend school from 4 to 6:15, to accommodate scheduling problems expressed by our parents. You talk, we listen!

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Rabbi David Ross Senter
(516) 822-7452 Office

President:
Larry Kurtzman

Treasurer:
Robert Goldman

Hebrew School Principal:
Helene Ainbinder



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SHOP FOR MHJC!

You can shop and MHJC can make money. We are now selling gift cards for everything. Supermarkets (Shop-Rite; Fairway; etc.), department stores (Bloomingdale's; Macy's; Bed, Bath & Beyond; etc.), restaurants (Macaroni Grill; Wendy's; etc.), Motels (Best Western, etc.), & home improvement (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**

Thanks to the people who came to donate blood at our semi-annual Blood Drive, and to all those who helped out. Long Island Blood Services was able to collect dozens of pints of badly needed blood. Please donate as often as you are able, and we hope to see you at our Super Bowl Sunday Blood Drive on February 6th. Thanks also go out to everyone who has helped landscape the Rabbi's house over the past several weeks. There is still time to do more!! We also hope you enjoyed our annual MLB All-Star game bash last week. Everyone in attendance had a great time.

As far as what is in store for the coming year, Men's Club is on a serious roll. Ed had the brilliant idea to do a season-long planning meeting via e-mail and we got many responses and lots of participation. This means one of several things:

- 1) you were all inspired by the idea of participating in the planning of the events for 2010-11
- 2) not only will you shape the course of our club's direction, but you deeply care about your membership and your ability to influence the direction taken by great men (us)
- 3) you were tired of reading about the oil spill and needed to kill some time.

Whether it was any or all of these reasons, Ed and I want to thank everyone for collectively developing the following schedule:

August 1st: Paid Up Barbeque and Movie Night (Rabbi Senter's first official day—hope he can join and you can hang out with our new Rabbi and all of us)

September 26th: Hot Dogs, Beer and Football (Jets vs, Dolphins—as American as Apple Pie and John Wayne)

October 31st: World Series (Who will the Mets beat? Come find out)

November 21st: Hot Dogs, Beer and Football (Giants vs. Eagles—as American as Hot Dogs and Marilyn Monroe)

December 25th: Holiday Breakfast (we make pancakes and buy the rest—you eat)

January 16th: Beer Tasting (my favorite designated driver supplied—thanks Mike!!!)

February 6th: Super Bowl and Blood Drive (an unbeatable combination)

April 2nd: Wine Tasting with Sisterhood (last year I talked too much—this year less talk and more wine tasting!)

April 4th: March Madness (no, this is not when Treasurer Goldman looks at the budget numbers for 2011-12, it is college hoops time!!!)

May 22nd: Card and BYOB Night (the second "B" stands for booze, not baklava)

If everyone who helped make this schedule shows up, we will need to double or triple our food orders. We have a new person in charge to make sure we do not spend more than we bring in. That honor for the 2010-11 season goes to Alex Edelstein. Please come by one of our events so you can congratulate him on his incredible upset victory in becoming our new Men's Club treasurer!!! Hope to see you on August 1st!!! Shalom and enjoy your summer!!!

As always, please contact Doug (dsleo@hotmail.com) for any ideas you have or Ed (edicken@computersurgeon.com) for any complaints. Ed tries to tell you I should get the complaints, but it just isn't so. We look forward to welcoming you to your home for wayward Jewish Men each and every month! Shalom!!!

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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|---------------------|--|--|
| | | | | 1 Ritual | 2 Candle Lighting 8:11 pm Lifeline Screening | 3 |
| 4 Independence Day | 5 Independence Day Observed | 6 House / Long Range Planning | 7 Blood Drive at 3:00 pm Executive Board | 8 Ritual | 9 Candle Lighting 8:09 pm | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Ways & Means (Casino Night Planning) Financial Committee | 13 Knit & Nosh at 1:00 pm Men's Club All Star Game House | 14 Sisterhood | 15 Ritual | 16 Candle Lighting 8:06 pm Rabbi Senter Shabbat dinner & services | 17 Rabbi Senter Shabbat services |
| 18 9:30 Tefillin brkfst & Open House Sutnick Party | 19 Erev Tisha B'Av | 20 Tisha B'Av House | 21 Israeli and Jewish Affairs | 22 Ritual | 23 Candle Lighting 8:01 pm | 24 |
| 25 Trustee | 26 | 27 House | 28 | 29 Ritual | 30 Candle Lighting 7:54 pm | 31 |

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

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

Yahrzeits

Tammuz: Benjamin Bienstock, Sarah Chazanovitz, Herbert Drossman, Manek Feldman, Mary Gordon, Mary Grunwald, Sylvia Grunwald, Walter Halfen, Lore Kleeman, Louis Klein, Rose Klein, Bryna Krackow, Rodney Lamel, Max Leichman, Lawrence Levner, Paul Mandel, Rose Mann, Sadie Marin, Benjamin Minowitz, Sadie Minowitz, Mae Nataupsky, Murray Paikin, Hannah Pasetsky, Irving Rappaport, Sima Ritter, Esther Robins, Celia Sanoff, Florence Schneberg, Stanley Siegelheim, Sidney Storch, Rhoda Strassman, Evelyn Wertheim, Marcy Zelkind, Mitchell Zelkind, Jed Zuckerman

Av: Elaine Ainbinder, Arnold Bart, Herbert Berenson, Marshall Seymour Berkwits, Irving Bressler, Sam (Chick) Cantos, Julius Chait, Ruth Delin, Hannah Anne Deutch, Jean Endelson, Mildred Finkelstein, David Friedman, Morris Gerstein, Malka Goldberg, Harry Golden, Sam Gorelich, Sidney Greenberg, Anna Grossman, Elizabeth Heiman, Irving Horowitz, Blanche Ingber, Abe Josefsberg, Zelda Josephy, Libby Kamil, Abraham Kogel, Oscar Lauer, Jack Lefkowitz, Bernard Leichtling, Harry Levine, Samuel Lipshitz, Ida Mandelbaum, Jeffrey Markowitz, Doris Meinberg, Albert Minoff, Leo Nataupsky, Ida Pearl, Edward Pick, Mortimer Pilatsky, Lillian Pinck, Joseph Rosenberg, Samuel Rosenberg, Frances Hemmerdinger Rozman, Ruth Rubin, Rose Rutman, Bessie Salit, Saul Schleiderer, Anton Schne-

berg, Norman Sheinwald, Louis Siminoff, David Sprung, Sara Steiglitz, Hermione Storch, Loraine Talkofsky, Edith L. Troner, Hyman Weiner, Jay Young, Ida Zaibitt

Elul: Freda Arlick, David Bank, Evelyn S. Berman, Elsie Cohen, Frank Dashow, Louis Delin, Sol Drabkin, Milton Eichen, Tillie Essman, Annette Fischer, Joseph Glanzrock, Fannie Goldstein, Irma Gordon, Laura Greenbaum, Irving Harris, Harriet Hochman, Piroaska Isko, Abraham Issacs, Mindel Jacobson, Joseph Hayyim Kassorla, Frances Kay, Herbert Kingsberg, Max Klein, Rose Klein, Helen Konel, Harry Kurtzman, Barnett Levine, Gertrude Levine, Hyman Levine, Bernard Levy, William Madonick, Samuel Mandel, Louis Mann, Isidore Meinberg, Nathan Minkoff, Ronald Palmer, Henry Perlman, Gussie Popick, Aaron Port, Daniel Rabinowitz, Harry Reich, Myron Resnick, Nathan Ritter, Estelle Rudich, Henry Rutman, Mona Sands, Helen Schatten, Martin Schiff, Anna Shinman, Rebecca Silverman, Sylvia Silverberg, Rebecca Silverman, Dorothy Steil, Moritz Stern, Ida Uslan, Betty Werbel, Carl Yagoda

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.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| 1 Men's Club Paid Up BBQ & Movie Night at 6:00 pm | 2 Financial Committee | 3 House | 4 Ritual | 5 Executive Board | 6 Candle Lighting 7:47 pm | 7 Lunch after Services |
| 8 Bowling at 7:00 pm | 9 Ways and Means | 10 Financial Committee House | 11 Sisterhood | 12 Financial Committee Ritual | 13 Candle Lighting 7:38 pm | 14 Texas Hold 'Em at 9:00 pm |
| 15 Open House (wine and cheese) at 7:00 pm Trustee | 16 | 17 Knit & Nosh at 1:00 pm Open House at 7:00 pm House | 18 Israeli and Jewish Affairs Youth | 19 Ritual | 20 Candle Lighting 7:28 pm Family Service at 6:00 pm Dinner at 6:45 pm Services at 8:00 pm | 21 Lunch after Services |
| 22 | 23 Ritual | 24 House | 25 | 26 | 27 Candle Lighting 7:17 pm | 28 |
| 29 High Holiday Ticket Pickup at 7:00 pm Open House (Ice Cream) at 7:00 pm | 30 | 31 High Holiday Ticket Pickup at 7:00 pm Financial Committee | | | | |

All Friday Evening Services are at 8:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

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

All meetings are at 8:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

SIMCHAS

July Birthdays: Kimberly Hope Andron Libby, Harvey Blatt, Gary Bochner, Sari Bochner, Tracey Bochner, Michelle Carmen, Richard D'Argenio, Matthew Depierro, Ethan Dicken, Jacqueline Eill, Richard Elgart, Shelly Forchheimer, Jeremy Friedel, Dana Goldstein, Richard Goldstein, Robert Goldstein, Alyssa Gorfunkel, Jared Gorfunkel, Steven Greenblatt, Charon Heller, Ira Kallem, Paul Kirchenberg, Craig Kistenberg, Ian Kusinitz, Robin Lamel, Sarah Landisman, Lauren Malter, Shari Morris, Nicole Negrin, Judy Nitkin, Gregory Nizewitz, Mark Nizewitz, Samantha Osdoby, Ron Passick, Barry Pearl, Perry Perzov, Andrea Rerenson, Geri Rothenberg, Adam Sauer, Ellis Schneberg, Joshua Schutzer, Larry Sommer, Harlan Spund, Lawrence Stein, Jeffrey Symons, Erica Talkofsky, Martin Tonkelowitz, Tyler Tremblay, Melissa Weinick, Susan Winiarz

July Anniversaries: Ike & Renee Cantos, Mark & Freda Chesner, Edward & Barbara Dicken, Stuart and Sheryl Eisenberg, Robert & Adrienne Goldstein, Marc & Michelle Labelle, Myron & Sue Moskowitz, Ron & Monica Passick, Steven & Barbara Randall, Mario & Trudy Reznik, Don & Roberta Schechter, Ken & Linda Silver, Dick & Dale Sonenklare

August Birthdays: Russell Blatt, Melvin Brandl, Barry Buchberg, Jay Buchberg, Ike Cantos, Evan Carmen, Ronin Chasan, Keith Clarin, Sharon Dashow, Dara Drossman, Gary Dross-

man, Dawn Eichen, Benjamin Eill, Adam Forchheimer, Beverly Gilbert, Jennifer Greenspan, Mitchell Halfen, Sue Halfen, Jeremy Hankin, Meredith Hauptman, Robyn Hauptman, Jodi Hirsch, Stacey Kallem, Lisa Katz, Craig Kirchenberg, David Kitograd, Diane Krasilovsky, David Kusinitz, Iris Lesser, Nathan Levner, Michael Liese, Alison Linden, Jason Linden, Elissa Malter Schwartz, Eric Malter, Evan Malter, Phyllis Meinberg, Sharon Merlis, Matthew Minkoff, Sue Moskowitz, Chelsea Perzov, Jeremy Ritter, Liz Sauer, Jeffrey Schutzer, Noah Siber-Sanderowitz, Mathew Stifelman, Sar Stifelman, Mark Simon, Brian Sudran, Heather Symons, Jonathan Elliot Zelkind

August Anniversaries: Daniel & Karen Akavn, Robert & Michelle Carmen, Jerry & Phyllis Gordon, Larry & Mindy Kurtzman, Michael & Terry Kwartner, Bruce & Iris Lesser, Howard & Naomi Mann, Don & Stacey Marx, Kenneth and Marian Pasetky, Aaron & Nina Tremblay

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

**Mazel Tov to ANDREW MARRELL,
2010 Valedictorian at Bethpage High School.**

SISTERHOOD

Mindy Kurtzman

Sisterhood is hoppin' and rockin' this summer!! Stop by and see us on Thursday evenings at 7:00 (come at 6:50 to pay). Our instructor Joy Weiser makes us feel young again!! I'm, of course, talking about our Zumba classes that are continuing through the summer. Zumba is a total body workout with the hottest Latin rhythms and moves! By combining this with interval training techniques, Zumba is a workout you will stick with and enjoy! The classes are \$10 per class and it is still pay as you go. Come down and join us--wear comfortable clothing and bring a towel and a water bottle as you will need them! It's a great workout and you'll come out sweating!

Sisterhood's Board for 2010-2011 is officially installed. The Board Members for next year are:

President: Mindy Kurtzman

VP Programming: Barbara Dicken

VP Membership: Laurel Konel

VP Catering: Ellen Goldman

Corresponding Secretary: Ilene Sudran

Recording Secretary: Jodi Hirsch

Treasurer: Harriet Blatt

Financial Secretary: Sharon Dashow

Trustees: Debbie Eichen

Marilyn Katz

Cheryl Sheinwald

Ronni Leo

Patti Silver

Sue Halfen

Debbie Edelstein

Barbara Nizewitz

Marilyn Morris

We are pleased to welcome our new Rabbi, David Senter, his wife, Elissa and their daughter, Tracy. We are extremely excited to have a new Rebbetzin and hope that we can work hand in glove to bring Sisterhood to a new level of involvement and connection spiritually and within the community.

Our regular Sisterhood meetings are still the second Wednesday of the month, including the summer months. Please put July 14th and August 11th at 8:00 on your calendar. We have many events planned for next year and will need plenty of help to execute them. Some of them include: Sisterhood Tea in the Hut, Hanukkah Party, Mother/Child Fashion Show, Paid Up Event, Sisterhood Shabbat, Women's Passover Seder, Purim Baskets, as well as two events coordinated with Men's Club: one in December, and the Passover Wine Tasting. Some events are carried over from last year and some are new, but we will still need your help!! Please call Mindy Kurtzman at 349-7041 or e-mail mindyandlarry@optonline.net to get involved!

Have a safe and healthy rest of the summer and hope to see you at some of our Sisterhood meetings and/or events! Come Zumba with us!!

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Career Strategies

Job Search Essentials – July Schedule

Suzanne Feiner, F•E•G•S Employment & Career Services

Effective Job Search Techniques

Learn the best places to search for jobs, as well as discover how to access the hidden job market through networking.

◆ Thursday 7/8 10:00am-12:00pm

Mid-Island Y JCC, 45 Manetto Hill Rd, Plainview

LinkedIn II

This workshop will cover all basic aspects of using LinkedIn including invitations, inbox messages, profile searches, and editing and managing your profile. It will also go over a few unique features such as network updates, answers, groups, job search, and recommendations. You must have a profile or have attended LinkedIn I in order to attend. **Limited space, pre-registration required.**

◆ Friday 7/16 10:00am-12:00pm

Sid Jacobson JCC, 300 Forest Dr, East Hills

Winning Resumes

Learn to write a resume that highlights your accomplishments and markets you as a results-oriented professional.

◆ Wednesday 7/21 10:00am-12:00pm

Friedberg JCC, 15 Neil Court, Oceanside

Successful Interviewing

Don't let an unexpected interview question or a lack of preparation catch you off guard. Learn to navigate the interview process.

◆ Thursday 7/22 10:00am-12:00pm

Sid Jacobson JCC, 300 Forest Dr, East Hills

Keys to Effective Networking

Did you know that 80% of jobs are not advertised? Learn how to network to find hidden job opportunities and to build new relationships for your job search.

◆ Thursday 7/29 10:30am-12:30pm

Five Towns JCC, 207 Grove Avenue, Cedarhurst

FREE

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For more information or to register by phone, call Lori at Connect to Care, Nassau County Hub at Sid Jacobson JCC 516.484.1545, ext. 212

RITUAL COMMITTEE

Sharon Dashow

If you are not going away this August, please do a mitzvah and attend services. Please let us know if you would like to lead any part of the services, lane Torah or chant the Haftarah. We would especially appreciate your assistance for July services. We will be sponsoring light Shabbat lunches on August 7th and August 21st. Rabbi Senter will either be leading a discussion or giving a D'var Torah. Either way, it is a wonderful opportunity to meet Rabbi Senter and spend Shabbat with our MHJC family. There is no charge to attend but we would appreciate RSVPs so that we will know how much food to order. Check our e-mails and website for further information.

It seems quite strange to be talking about the High Holidays in July, but believe it or not, they are almost here. Rosh HaShanah is early this year, - it commences on the Wednesday night

after Labor Day. (Did you ever notice that Jewish holidays are either early or late? No one ever says they are on time!) Please help us by returning your completed High Holiday forms as soon as possible. Also, please mark Saturday night, September 4th on your calendar. We will be beginning that evening with a Havdallah service at 8:30PM, will be ending the evening with Slichot services and will be having an event sandwiched in between the two services. Details will follow as we are still in the planning stages for that evening.

We look forward to seeing those of you who are home, at services during August. To everyone, have a healthy and enjoyable summer. And, while we are speaking about the High Holidays, the Ritual Committee wishes you and your family a very happy and healthy New Year!

ISRAEL AND JEWISH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Judy Nitkin and Sue Moskowitz

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED!

We are excited to chair the Israeli & Jewish Affairs Committee and would appreciate any comments and suggestions you may have.

There are many topics that we will touch on in this, our inaugural article for the *Shofar*, and we will elaborate on them in the months to come.

We had the opportunity to travel to the Mediterranean region in May and visited synagogues and Jewish museums in Greece and Croatia, and felt such a wonderful sense of belonging and family when we did. We would like to hear from you if you have had similar experiences. Please share your thoughts with us and we will try to incorporate them in future articles.

Gilad Shalit has been imprisoned for nearly 4 years. You may think, so what does that have to do with me? Imagine if he was your son, brother, uncle, or cousin. We are all one people and we **MUST NOT FORGET HIM**. We must do everything possible to ensure his proper treatment and quick release.

We will REMEMBER him. As you pass MHJC, note our announcement board.

Forest fires (arson is suspected in many cases) are ravaging Israel as we write this, destroying over 300,000 trees and burning over 750 acres of forested and open areas. Estimates are that it will take nearly 50 years to restore the forests. Jewish National Fund has launched an emergency Forest Fire Relief Campaign to raise \$1 million in order to reclaim these forests by clearing the land and replanting trees. Why not consider planting a tree in Israel today in honor or in memory of a loved one? Please call Sharon Waks of Sisterhood who will take care of this for you. Her phone number is 799-1437.

These are just a few of the subjects that we hope to rally behind. Our committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month and we invite you to come down and join us. Remember, there is only so much we can do alone, but there is strength in numbers and we need your input and your help.

L'hitraot.

POINT OF VIEW

Sharon Dashow

We are our greatest asset. I have always felt that way from the minute I joined Manetto Hill Jewish Center. Recent events have only served to reinforce that viewpoint.

One year ago, we were beginning a journey together to find the next spiritual leader of MHJC. Having been successful in our search, we now have the privilege of welcoming Rabbi David Senter, along with Elissa and Tracy into our MHJC family.

I can only speak for myself when I say that this has been a learning, growing, and rewarding process. It's not just rewarding because we were successful in our search, but also because we have all witnessed the dedication and passion of our congregation.

When we sent our survey last summer, over 25% of our members answered. While that might not seem like a large number, it actually exceeds the percentage that one normally

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sees when sending out a survey. Most importantly, people answered from the heart, with a view toward how to improve and grow Manetto Hill Jewish Center. The Rabbi Search Committee was able to utilize the survey results to guide it in its search. The survey is also being used to determine what changes to implement and what programs, ideals and policies to continue.

Over one hundred people. A synagogue filled with energy. That was what took place each time we had a candidate come to visit. Yes, it is true that those candidates had much to do with the “buzz” in the room. Let’s not forget, however, that we, the members of Manetto Hill Jewish Center, played a large part in that as well.

For three weekends and two week nights our synagogue was filled with members. For three weekends and two week nights, we came together to meet potential candidates. For three weekends and two week nights, we came together as a synagogue as we joined each other at services, participated in Saturday evening and week night events and took advantage of the opportunity to express our personal views on the candidates.

Our meetings, long but necessary, to discuss the candidates, were also well attended. During those meetings, we heard everyone’s passion as they expressed their opinions about the candidates. Passion is wonderful and it is what we need more of at MHJC.

I certainly understand that we need to grow our synagogue. In fact, I daresay that I do not believe that there is any member who does not share in this belief. That being said, Rabbi Senter can only grow a synagogue if the congregation is willing to partner with him to effectuate change where needed, support ongoing programs and take a vested interest in the synagogue. If this process has proved anything, it was that we are ready, willing and able to do this.

We also learned something from this process. We learned about ourselves. We learned to take a look at ourselves from the outside in and evaluate what needs to be changed. We learned that while we may disagree at times, we are all a family (something I think we already knew but was just reinforced) and we are all just looking for what is best for our family.

I am proud that throughout this process, we remained steadfast in our determination to find the next rabbi who will help us grow and prosper as opposed to merely settling for any candidate. I am proud that we have shown our collective commitment in this process. I am proud that so many of us have shown a renewed commitment to get involved. It is now up to us to make sure that those who want to get involved have the means to do so.

Most of all, I am optimistic about our future. After all, we still have our greatest asset – US!

PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

Helene Ainbinder, Principal

During the month of Elul, the shofar is blown everyday except on Shabbat and the day before Rosh HaShanah. This is a wake up call! The shofar’s sound each day draws attention to how we should start to think of the year that is about to end, and how we can make the coming year an even better one.

Even though it is a very hot summer day, my thoughts are not only of enjoying the vacation, but of the beginning of the school year, and of the Jewish year as well. This year, the Yamim Noraim (High Holidays) are just two days after Labor Day. Erev Rosh HaShanah will be Wednesday, September 8th and the first day of the holiday will be on Thursday, September 9th. So why am I telling everyone these dates? I look forward to seeing all the families at Junior Congregation and hearing all the fun things you did during the summer. I’m also looking forward to warmly greeting everyone the following week to the first day of Religious School on Monday, September 13th. And yes, of course, we will have apples and honey to sweeten the new beginnings.

Rabbi Senter will be stopping in to wish one and all a Shanah Tovah (a Happy New Year) during Junior Congregation, and throughout the year he will be visiting our children during school hours. Our school is in the process of hiring a new teacher for the Gimmel class. The computers will be up and running and more family educational events will be happening throughout the coming year. Please let the office know your e-mail address so we can send you important information in a timely manner, and maybe lessen our paper flyers.

Our school will be continuing to work with the Tali Van Gan School in Jerusalem on the environment, pen pal and other topics. We will be planning to use Skype on a Sunday or two to actually see and speak to our friends in Israel. The Religious School will be starting a Sunday program for the kindergarten, first and second grades with creative ideas and programs for a truly meaningful learning experience of the holidays, Israel, Hebrew and Shabbat tefillot (prayers).

Please remember I am always open to hearing any suggestions, or just a friendly “Shalom”. Watch for our monthly “School Happenings” and calendar events, which will be posted near the front office and by my office. Thank you once again for everyone’s guidance and for volunteering to make our Religious School so Hameshdik!

“Whoever teaches his child, teaches not only his child, but his child’s child...and so on to the end of generations.” Talmud, Kiddushin 30a

Shanah Tovah u’metukah – a Happy and Sweet Year – to your entire family.

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

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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