

MANETTO HILL JEWISH CENTER

# SHOFAR

Volume 42, Issue 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009 – Tevet/Shevat 5769



Tu B'shevat  
February 9

*Rabbi Morris Bernstein*

## GREED VERSUS EVIL

It seems like we are confronted by extremes of both GREED AND EVIL at the same time. My grandmother would have added 'NEBACH' --wouldn't you know. There is enough of both in the world but we Jews have been blessed with king-sized helpings. People like Bernie Madoff have eviscerated Jewish philanthropy and, therefore, also many worthy Jewish charitable institutions by stealing on an unimaginable scale. Nearly every major Jewish institution we might think of will be hurt directly or indirectly by Madoff and his ilk. Much worse, if that's conceivable, is the desecration of the good name of the Jewish people and the Torah principles we live by. Madoff is a walking 'chillul ha Shem' or 'desecration of the Divine Name'. Even King Solomon would be hard pressed to know what punishment could possibly fit his crimes. I've heard him called a white collar criminal. He can't be merely called a white collar criminal! White collar criminals can't steal years of life, education, food and medical care for the poor, Jewish continuity and survival or for that matter raise the ire and attention of antisemites. Even so, Bernie is one of ours—we own him and ought to own up for him—and only then can we denounce him.

Still, we have to ask ourselves—is Bernie Madoff evil? Are the bankers—mostly not Jews—who wrecked the economies of the country and much of the world evil? If they are evil, then what shall we call Hamas, Hizbolla and Al Qaida, who are actively seeking to murder all of us or, for that matter, the NeoNazis and latent anti-Semites who would like to destroy us. There must be a difference!

As we approach Purim and Pesach, we can't help but be reminded of the difference between the two. Madoff may be a thief on an unprecedented scale, but he is not evil like Hitler, Stalin, Pol-

Pot, Tourqemada (of Spanish Inquisition Fame), Pharoah, Haman and Agag (the ancestor of Haman and the archetype of wickedness). Now we can add more names to the list—with Hamas at the top of the list. Not all enemies are evil. We are not so righteous as a people that all opposition to us can be called evil. That is the sour logic of the worst evil-doers in history. Therefore, we are forced to ask—what is evil about Hamas and fellow travelers which is not evil in other Arabs who are not our dearest friends (or for that matter, in great thieves like Bernie Madoff)?

Consider as evil:

1. Placing ideology above all considerations of life;
2. Placing more importance on killing your enemy than saving your own people;
3. Teaching children to hate;
4. Using helpless women and children as human shields while waging war behind them. Subjecting them to attack and death to protect leaders and fighters, and to create propaganda imagery with the blood of innocents;
5. Attacking the weak and the innocent as targets of opportunity and terror (just as the Amalekites attacked the weak and elderly of Israel in the

wilderness when we left slavery in Egypt);

6. Strapping explosives and shrapnel on your young people and teaching them that there is virtue in mass murder and suicide;
7. Locking your own people in an inescapable prison of misery rather than helping them build a future.

You can certainly add to the list. There is no limit to human creativity when it comes to evil. Ours is the task to recognize it when we see it and know the difference in order to preserve both our own lives AND our own souls!

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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**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### New Year, New Changes . . .

Welcome to a new year, one that is bringing changes on many fronts. The country has a new president, and while we unfortunately still have the same economic "issues," hopefully the coming year will see improvements there as well.

The Manetto Hill Jewish Center has some new changes and other changes that are coming soon. Among the recent ones are:

**Our new and improved website.** If you haven't checked out [www.mh-jc.org](http://www.mh-jc.org) in awhile, then it is definitely worth your time to do so. Thanks to the efforts of Sol, with behind the scenes suggestions from others, it is looking better every day. I have gotten feedback from both members and non-members that they love the new look and ease of use.

**Our newly painted hallway.** This is the perfect example of how a simple solution and only a few dollars can make a huge impact. A few months ago, the suggestion was made to put up some chair molding in the main hallways, stain it to match the new bathrooms, and then two-tone paint the hallway. Dave undertook this effort during the end of December and beginning of January, and the resulting change to the appearance of the hallway is impressive. All for the cost of some molding, stain, and paint.

Other changes that are about to happen include:

**Signs around town pointing to our synagogue.** We've all seen the signs pointing to the various houses of worship around town, such as the four signs on the exit ramp of the Northern State Parkway eastbound at Manetto Hill Road. We ordered several signs (in both left and right pointing arrows). They've actually been in the synagogue office for some time. Unfortunately, each time that our house committee and Dave scheduled a day to go out and install the signs, the weather did not cooperate. By the time you are reading this, we hope to have them in place.

**Parking lot.** No, we haven't forgotten this badly needed improvement. First, there were scheduling issues. Then, the price of oil caused the price of asphalt to skyrocket. By the time the prices started falling, the cold weather was upon us. Plus, the contractor suggested waiting until spring because asphalt prices were expected to fall even further. I would anticipate the parking lot will be addressed this coming spring.

And for the most significant change of all: **we will be dedicating a Torah to join our existing scrolls.** This is not only a meaningful event from a Ritual perspective, but a major fund-raiser as well. The last time we dedicated a Torah, we netted well into the five digit range for the synagogue. To make this possible, we needed at least five families to agree to be "major sponsors". We recently achieve that goal: *thank you very much to those families.* It is not too late

Larry Kurtzman

to join their ranks if you have the financial ability to do so. But there will be plenty of more moderately priced opportunities for all of our members to be a part of this wonderful event. More information will be coming in the next few months, so please reserve the weekend of June 5th through 7th to join us.

None of the above can happen without the input, suggestions, feedback, and (yes) financial efforts of our membership. We rely on all of our membership to do what they can.

But just as importantly, make your voice heard. Join us at Board of Directors' meetings. The next ones are January 25th and February 22nd. As we continue to grow and change (more on that in future columns), it is my goal to hear from everyone and anyone who wants to be heard.

Please join us at Ways and Means events (*Golda's Balcony* on 2/28/09, only \$15 per ticket if purchased in advance!).

I hope everyone has a happy and healthy 2009.

If you know of a Jewish family that is new to your neighborhood, call Sue Halfen at (516) 921-2682, or the office at (516) 935-5454 so that we can welcome them to Plainview and introduce them to MHJC.



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As this article is being written, the fighting is ongoing in Gaza. With this newest crisis, Israel needs our support more than ever. The best way that we can help Israel is by urging our elected officials to stand by Israel and by gaining enough knowledge about the situation so that we each can defend Israel's position and combat the untruths that are being circulated.

The article below is reprinted from the HonestReporting website. It is a primer on the situation in Gaza. Additionally, please visit our website at [www.MH-JC.org](http://www.MH-JC.org) to send e-mails to President Bush, Senator Clinton, Senator Schumer and President-elect Obama. Of course, feel free to edit the e-mails as you see fit. (Don't forget to sign your name.)

### Defending Israeli citizens from terrorist fire

- A quarter of a million Israeli citizens have been living under incessant terror attacks from the Gaza Strip with thousands of missiles fired over the past eight years.
- These missiles have been described as "home made" by the media. They are, in fact, deadly. Hamas has in its possession longer range Katyushas and Grad-type missiles which can cause devastation such as that on Monday 29 December as one Israeli was killed and 14 injured in a Grad attack on Ashkelon.
- Israel left Gaza in 2005, giving Palestinians the chance to run their own lives. Despite this, more than 6300 rockets and mortars have been fired into Israel since then.
- During the past year alone, more than 3000 rockets and mortars have been launched into Israel.
- Since the end of a formal ceasefire (during which terror attacks continued) with Hamas came to an end on Dec. 19, more than 170 rockets and mortars have been fired at Israeli civilians including a barrage of some 80 missiles on Dec. 24 alone.
- As US President-elect Obama stated during a visit to Sderot five months ago, "If somebody was sending rockets into my house where my two daughters sleep at night, I would do everything to stop that, and would expect Israel to do the same thing."
- No other country in the world would have exercised the amount of restraint that Israel has shown for the past several years without responding.

### Hamas bears responsibility

- The deterioration in the situation is the direct result of Hamas policy. It violated the calm, is firing against and attacking Israeli citizens, and is investing all its resources in arming itself and gathering power.
- If Hamas would renounce the path of terror, there would be no need for the Israeli action. Quiet will be answered with quiet, but terror will elicit a response.
- "We strongly condemn the repeated rocket and mortar attacks against Israel and hold Hamas responsible for breaking the ceasefire and for the renewal of violence there." – US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice
- "We talked to them [Hamas] and we told them 'please, we ask you, do not end the truce. Let the truce continue and not stop' so that we could have avoided what happened." – Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas
- "For quite some time, Egypt has been warning. Whoever tried to confuse the understand of [ignore] this warning, must bear the responsibility. The Prime Minister of Israel warned the Hamas and said: "You must stop, otherwise we will take measures in response." In response to what? To not renewing the calm, to the rocket fire. Just before the arrival of [Israeli Foreign Minister] Livni to Egypt, 60 rockets were fired from Gaza!" – Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit

### Israel targets Hamas and the terrorist infrastructure

- The goal of the Israeli military action is to strike the growing infrastructure of terror and ability of Hamas and its allied organizations to launch missiles and mortars at Israeli citizens and carry out terror attacks.
- Hamas has used the ceasefire to massively arm itself with increasingly sophisticated weapons to expand the range of the threat against Israeli civilians.
- Hamas has demonstrated its increased threat as the Ashdod area was hit by rockets, marking the northernmost point where Hamas rockets have reached, more than 40km north of Gaza.

### Israel does not target Palestinian civilians

- The terrorist organizations work out of the Palestinian population centers and cynically exploit them, so the responsibility for Palestinian civilians getting hurt rests on their shoulders. Israel, for its part directs its activity at terrorist elements and does its utmost to refrain from harming the innocent.
- Those homes and buildings which are used for storing weapons caches and manufacturing weaponry are legitimate military targets.
- The high casualty figures being fed to the media from (unreliable) Palestinian medical sources do not differentiate between terrorists and civilians. The vast majority of those killed in IDF actions have been terrorists. Hamas terrorists do not always wear uniforms to distinguish themselves from the general population.
- As The Times of London reports: "Radio stations ordered all members of the security forces, who have borne the brunt of the attack, to slip into civilian clothes, stay away from their bases and avoid congregating in groups to escape death from above."

- At the time of writing, even the United Nations is citing some 50 civilian deaths out of more than 300 Palestinian casualties.
- Hamas TV has acknowledged this morning that the vast majority of those killed are from the Hamas military. A news ticker running repeatedly from 10:00 AM announced:

“More than 180 Palestinian policemen were killed including the [Police] Commander, General Tawfik Jaber.”

In the background Hamas TV is repeatedly broadcasting the same scenes of dozens of bodies of the uniformed Hamas soldiers who were killed in Israel’s first attack Saturday when Israel hit a Hamas officer’s course graduation ceremony. (Source: *Palestinian Media Watch*)

In stark contrast to Israel, Hamas actively celebrates targeting Israeli civilians. A video on Hamas TV Sunday morning blended pictures of Hamas fighters shooting at Israel with pictures of injured Israelis and medical evacuation scenes. In addition, the visuals include pictures of skulls dripping with blood, captioned: “Let them taste violent death”. Other narrations and texts include:

“Send them to Hell! Tear them to pieces!”

“Send them to Hell, Qassam missile!”  
(Source: *Palestinian Media Watch*)

Israel has collected intelligence on specific targets for the past year and has not indiscriminately attacked the Gaza Strip. For example, during the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007, Hamas took control over many facilities in Gaza, including this building and the “Palestinian Prisoner Tower” located in southern Gaza City. The facility was being used as a central operational facility for Hamas security operations and as a weapons arsenal. Hamas offices were also located inside this building and additionally, large amounts of weapons are also stored inside. The building was used only by Hamas and was not a residential building by any means.

**Preventing a humanitarian crisis**

- Israel has continued to allow humanitarian aid to pass through Gaza’s border crossings despite Hamas’s rocket and mortar attacks, including upon the crossings themselves.
- 23 trucks bearing medical supplies, basic food commodities and other humanitarian goods passed through the Kerem Shalom crossing into Gaza beginning at 10:30am on Sunday morning (28 Dec).

- “As the prime minister said yesterday, we are not at war with the Palestinian people, but with the Hamas terrorists, and therefore we are bringing in the goods for the Palestinian people,” said IDF Major Peter Lerner, Defense Ministry Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories.
- Three humanitarian aid agencies are sending goods into the Gaza Strip: UNWRA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency), WFA (World Food Agency) and the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross). All three agencies were notified Saturday evening that they would be allowed to send as many truckloads of supplies into the region as they could muster. “We didn’t place any limit on the number of trucks,” Lerner said. “There are only 30 truckloads because that was what they were able to get ready for today.”

Israel also plans to allow some Palestinians wounded in Saturday’s offensive on Hamas to enter Israel to receive medical treatment. Meanwhile, Hamas is preventing wounded Palestinians from crossing into Egypt to receive treatment.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> New Year's Day Office is closed	<b>2</b> Candelighting @ 4:19 p.m.	<b>3</b> Bar Mitzvah: Ben Ozur
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Hebrew School Resumes	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Youth Interchapter  Executive Board	<b>8</b> Book Club @ 7:30 p.m. <i>Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak	<b>9</b> Candelighting @ 4:26 p.m.	<b>10</b> Bat Mitzvah: Allison Dashow
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Israeli-Jewish Affairs	<b>14</b> Knit & Nosh 1-3 p.m. Sisterhood Re-Gifting Exchange @ 8 p.m.	<b>15</b> House & Long Range Planning	<b>16</b> Candelighting @ 4:34 p.m.	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Men's Club Beer Tasting @ 6:00 p.m.	<b>19</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day  No Hebrew School	<b>20</b> Ways & Means	<b>21</b> Education	<b>22</b> Ritual	<b>23</b> Candelighting @ 4:42 p.m.	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Trustee	<b>26</b> Membership	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Parent-Teacher Conferences 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. No Hebrew School	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Candelighting @ 4:50 p.m.	<b>31</b> Religious School Havdallah Service @ 4:30 p.m.

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 (Tevet/Shevat/Adar)**

In this the January/February issue, the Hebrew month of Shevat begins January 26th and Adar begins February 25th: thus, we list the Yahrzeits observed during these months. 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.

**Tevet:** Ethel Dashow, Harry Goldenberg, Harriet Goldenberg, Barney Silverberg, Arthur Bushman. Esther Kingsberg, Julius Randall, Shalom Akavan, Sonia Rosenblatt, Rebecca Benson, Frank Turoff, Melvyn Pinck, Rose Rubin, Sarah Lenoff, Oladia Hallack, Rose Hollander, Harry Tarsky, Ben Arlick, Claire Polansky, Jean Scarr, Milton Marx, Hyman Dicken, Diane Elgart, Sarah Bornstein, Morris Lenoff, Samuel Mann, Joseph Sandberg, Sylvia Tully, Harry Berenson, Mamie Berenson, Celia Mann, David Gordon,

Irving Osterweil, Oscar Nitkin, Jack Terloff

**Shevat:** Bernard Abrams, Ida Bank, Rav Yisrael Zvi Ben Levi, Irving Eisenberg, Zachary Frank, Sheldon Galfunt, Arnold Ginsberg, Bernice Haimowitz, Arthur Karsh, Lillian Labowitz, Annette Leichman, Sidney Mann, William Robins, Irene Saltzer, Norman Sanders, Lydia Silver, Florence Spindel, Rebecca Tuffiash, Magdolna Vago, Sol Waks, Jonathan Weiss, Walter Werbel, Trudy Yomner, Mimi Zelkind

**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

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
<b>1</b> Blood Drive: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Men's Club Super Bowl Party @ 5:30 p.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Executive Board	<b>6</b> Candelighting @ 4:59 p.m. Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Youth	<b>9</b> Tu B'Shevat  Ways & Means	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Sisterhood	<b>12</b> Ritual	<b>13</b> Candelighting @ 5:07 p.m. Tu B'Shevat Seder @ 6 p.m.	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Presidents' Day  No Hebrew School	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  No Hebrew School	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Candelighting @ 5:16 p.m.	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Board of Directors	<b>23</b>  Hebrew School Classes Resume	<b>24</b> Israeli Jewish Affairs	<b>25</b> Education	<b>26</b> House & Long Range Planning	<b>27</b> Candelighting @ 5:24 p.m.	<b>28</b> <i>Golda's Balcony @ 8 p.m.</i>

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.

**SIMCHAS**

**January Anniversaries**

Richard and Ruth Brachman, Al & Ruth Depierro, Marty & Debbie Eichen, Ken & Robyn Hauptman

**January Birthdays**

Jill Lipshie Abusch, Daniel Akavan, Michael Akavan, Jason Aron, Matthew Benjamin, Stewart Benjamin, Barry Benowitz, Max Bochner, Dillon Buchberg, Roberta Cohen, Al Depierro, Corey Eisenberg, Randi Eisenberg, Allison Elgart, David Elgart, Richard Elgart, Gabe Feder, Mark Forchheimer, David Friedel, Iris Galfunt, Paul Gaynes, Susan Beth Gerard, Ellen Goldman, Jerry Gordon, Lynda Greenblatt, Amy Hallak, Jason Heller, Olivia Hoffman, Marilyn Katz, Michael Konel, Mindy Kurtzman, Steven Lamel, Howard Lewton, Donna Linden, Brett Mendelsohn, Jonathan and Penny Morris, Jessie Nizewitz, Benjamin Ozur, Andrew Pasetsky, Michael Pinck, Shelly Rokofsky, Bernard

Roth, Joel Rothenberg, Linda Silver, Dale Sonenklare, Alison Spund, Cantor Alan Stein, Mark Sudran, Rachel Sudran, Marc Talkofsky, Abby Weiss, Conrad Yarmoff, Sharon Zelkind

**February Anniversaries:**

Elliot & Rhonda Silverberg

**February Birthdays:**

Justin Benjamin, Alan Bielik, Robert Brachman, Ruth Brachman, Allison Cantos, Renee Cantos, Freda Chesner, Mark Chesner, Charlotte DeMel, Rachel Mandie DeMel, Barbara Drossman, Alex Edelstein, Debbie Eichen, Susan Elgart, Brian Feder, Karen Feder, Marvin Fruchter, Rita Fruchter, Sondra Goldstein-Ribowsky, Sarah Greenberg, Ken Hauptman, Griffin Hoffman, Adrienne Horowitz, Amy Katz, Jason Kitograd, Traci Krasilovsky, Larry Kurtzman, Shirley Kurtzman, Jodi LaManna, Jennifer Lesser, Arielle Marin, Lindsay Marin, Richard Mendelsohn, Gail

Messer, Dr. Elliot Morris, Vivian Negrin, Matthew Ozur, Marian Pasetsky, Dr. Hyman Ritter, Judie Rokofsky, Gail Ross, Theodore Scarr, Don Schechter, Susan Sheiman, Eleanor Siegel, Joseph Siegel, Jason Silverston, Jason Simon, Richard Sonenklare, David Symons, Rosalie Tonkelowitz, Adam Jonathan Weiss, Alison Werbel, Ed Winiarz, Stephanie Roberta Zelkind

**Mazel Tov to Rachel DeMel on your acceptance to Cornell!**

*—Your Family*

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

## SISTERHOOD

Happy 2009 to everyone...Sisterhood celebrated the publication of "Not Just Your Mother's Recipes" with the Kick-off Brunch on a cold Sunday in December. Twenty women brought warmth and enjoyed French toast, eggs, hashed browns, blintzes from Hunky's and bagels from Bagel Boss. We played Cookbook Bingo—thanks to Jodi Hirsch for calling the numbers. Congratulations to Linda Benowitz and Harriet Blatt for being our top raffle prize winners! Everyone had a great time!! Many thanks to Ronni Leo for coordinating the efforts to publish the cookbook as well as helping to plan and execute the brunch! Cookbooks are still on sale for \$12.00...contact Ronni at 822-1878 or call the temple office.

January 14 we had our Re-gifting Exchange program. We found gifts around the house we received but didn't want and put it in a gift bag. One woman's castaway is another's treasure! Everyone went home with a gift with a good time had by all. Thanks to Barbara Dicken for coordinating this event!

Friday, February 6 will be the Sisterhood Shabbat. This year we will be honoring two dedicated women, Cheryl Sheinwald and Marilyn Katz, for all their hard work on the Sisterhood Showcase. To that end, this year's theme will be "Modern Jewish Women". Come join us for dinner at 6:30 and services at 8:00 to help celebrate the tireless efforts of two modern Jewish women on be-

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Two steel sheds have been purchased. One will hold outdoor equipment and the other will hold catering chairs and tables as well as desks and other items. We will dispose of the container outside the kitchen which has leaked and has outlived its usefulness.

half of their temple. Thanks to Sharon Dashow for coordinating the readings.

Purim is not too far around the corner....in this issue of the Shofar as well as the last mailing, you will have received the order form for Mishloach Manot baskets. The price of the baskets is unchanged from last year: \$10.00 per order. This was a huge fundraiser for Sisterhood last year and we are looking forward to topping that number. If you would like to help collate the baskets or help with shopping, you can call Jodi Hirsch at 694-8867 or the temple office. Orders will be accepted until February 15, as Purim is March 10. Don't forget to send to friends, family, the Rabbi, your child's Hebrew school teacher and principal. You may select "reciprocity" on the form in order to send to those who sent to you. Baskets will be picked up at the temple. Send in your order form today—don't be left out!!

Coming up in March is our annual Women's Passover Seder. This annual event has become a nice way to welcome the spring season and come together as Jewish women. Put Wednesday, March 25th on your calendar—it is always a good time with friends.

We are in the midst of planning another event with the Men's Club—a softball game, sometime in the spring, so please keep that in mind.

Remember, we still have Shop-Rite certificates on sale; you can use them to buy other gift certificates sold at Shop-

*Mindy Kurtzman, President*

Rite. Call Sue Halfen at 921-2682 or the temple office to order.

Now is the time to pre-order your Mah Jongg card. Make checks payable to MHJC—cards are \$7.00 for standard print and \$8.00 for large print. If you would like to be more active, have ideas for programs, and/or be with a group of supportive, haimish women, please call Mindy Kurtzman at 349-7041 or the temple office. We are just like you.... busy, mothers, grandmothers, wives, (single women welcome too!), career women, stay-at-home moms and all dedicated to Judaism and the temple. Please join us!!

## RITUAL COMMITTEE

*Sharon Dashow*

Get ready to celebrate the beginning of spring on February 13th. How can we talk about spring with respect to one of the coldest months of the year? Easily. February 9th is Tu B'Shvat which, in addition to being the new year for trees, also marks the beginning of spring in Israel. We will be celebrating Tu B'Shvat on Friday, February 13th by hosting our annual Tu B'Shvat seder. It is also customary to plant trees in celebration of the holiday. If you would like to plant a tree, please call Sharon Waks.

We will be having a Tot Shabbat Experience at the end of March and April. This is a great way to introduce our young children to Shabbat. Please refer to the Education column of this Shofar for more information.

If you would like to lead a part of Shabbat services, Lain Torah or chant a HafTorah, please see Rabbi Bernstein. We would love to have you do so! As always, we need your help for minyan. Services begin at 8:00 PM on weeknights and at 9:30 AM on Saturdays.

## WAYS AND MEANS

Sharon Dashow

We are now selling tickets to Plaza Theatrical Production's presentation of *Golda's Balcony*. This hit Broadway show will be performed at Manetto Hill Jewish Center on Saturday, February 28, at 8:00 PM. *Golda's Balcony* is a fascinating insight into Golda Meir, focusing on the Yom Kippur War. Learn how close Israel came to losing the war and how close Israel came to using nuclear weapons. Many of the issues Prime Minister Meir faced, including the "court of public opinion," are the same issues faced by Israel today. Given the current situation in Gaza, this is especially relevant today. Seating is limited so buy your tickets now. The adult price is \$15 per person in advance and \$20 at the door; students (18 and younger) are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Anyone under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

**Tick, tock, tick, tock...** Our clock raffle is in full swing. As you know, each

MHJC family was given four minutes, selected at random, which were reserved for that family if they were purchased by January 16th. Any minutes that have not been purchased are now available for anyone to buy. So you can buy the minutes which reflect your birthday, anniversary, etc. At five dollars a minute with a chance to win forty percent of the pot, this is a fun affordable way to support MHJC. Call the synagogue office to see which minutes are still available. Minutes will be available for purchase until the clock is opened on June 6th.

Speaking of June 6th, please reserve that date and that entire weekend for a very special event—our Torah dedication. Our thanks to the Cohens, Eichens, Osdobys and Zelkinds for purchasing the Torah to be dedicated on June 7th. If anyone else would like to contribute to the purchase, please contact the synagogue office. The cost is \$3,600 per family.

In the coming weeks, you will hear more about our plans for the Torah dedication weekend as well as receive information as to the cost of buying a word, line, paragraph or more of the Torah. We hope that everyone will participate in this momentous occasion. Of course, if you would like to work on the Torah dedication committee, we would love to have you! Just call the synagogue office or Sharon Dashow.

### SHOFAR Reunites Families!

The office received an e-mail from a cousin of Harriet Blatt—they hadn't been in touch with each other since 1986. Her cousin in California googled Harriet and the entry that came up was Harriet's birthday and anniversary, which were listed in the last edition of the *Shofar* on the web. They have now corresponded with each other!

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS! TELL THEM YOU SAW THEIR AD IN THE SHOFAR.

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We will make a donation to Manetto Hill Jewish Center for every policy we receive from MHJC members, family or colleagues.

Our Religious School had a wonderful musical interlude for Hanukkah performed by Aaron Benewitz, Cassie Edelstein, and Elizabeth Levner.

Then our students from the 5 Senses elective made puppets from environment friendly objects and performed "A Hanukkah Play" for the school and visitors from the community. Standing Room only!!! Rav Kavod!!! A special Todah Rabah to Mrs. Bienenfeld for her work on the puppets and Mrs. Polofsky for finding a unique Hanukkah Play for children of all ages. TODAH Rabah to Rabbi Bernstein for supplying musical instruments for the youngsters in the crowd. A special thank you to Barbara Dicken and Ronni Leo for supplying Latkahs, gelt, dreidels and Sufganyout!

Don't forget it's **Meet The Teachers Conference** on **Wednesday, January 28** during school hours—NO CLASSES ARE IN SESSION.

The upcoming events are sure to be enlightening starting with our Religious School led Havdalah service on January 31 starting at 4:30PM. The students will have their hand woven Havdalah candles. If you attended last year's evening, please tell your friends to join this very moving and spiritual service. As always a light se'udah (banquet) will be served, and double credit will be given and recorded. Please call the office in advance.

Next special event is the Tu B' Shevat Seder, which will be held on Friday evening, February 13th. Rabbi Bernstein and I will be planning a fun, hands on and family friendly experience. Last year almost the entire school and families attended.

This PURIM will be a traditional Carnival with the Youth Group joining in the festivities. Make your own Mishlo'ach manot (gifts), Hamantashen and games galore. Dress in costume and do the

*Helene Ainbinder, Principal*

MITZVAH of LISTENING to the Megillat Esther read, and receive double credit! Remember each student needs to have 15 Shabbat attendance and 18 for the Hay class.

After I attended the Mid Island JCC Principals of the Plainview area meeting, I have interesting community programs to share with everyone.

First is the B'nai Brith Sunday, April 5th, 2009 Food and Delivery Community of Long Island Event @ Galaid Warehouse, 125 Eileen Way, Syosset, beginning at 9 am. Fran Haskal is in charge of this event. It is a wonderful Tzedach family time.

Then another April Happening will be taking place on Sunday, April 26, 2009 at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. "National Day of Community Service" is the topic, and all that attend will plant bulbs, etc in memory of the 1 million children that perished. All people that attend will receive a paper butterfly, walk with a survivor or guide and then place the butterfly on a wall of remembrance. This ties nicely into our theme with Israel on the Environment. It will be geared for the entire family. More information to follow.

Lastly, our TOT Experience for ages 4-8 year olds on the last Friday of March and April. March 27th will be a Shabbat and Pesach 5pm-5:30 pm fun learning time. April 24th will be a Shabbat and Israel 5pm- 5:30pm fun and art program. Once again I kindly urge everyone to tell a neighbor or friends about our MHJC programs.

At this time, watch the news of Israel and the Gaza and pray for a speedy end to the violence and a lasting peace. "Avinu She-bashamayim, Rock and Redeemer of the people Israel: Bless the State of Israel, with the promise of redemption. Shield it with Your love; spread over it the shelter of Your peace..." (Torah Service).

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

## MEN'S CLUB

Here's hoping that 2009 ends up being a much better year than 2008 was for a lot of us. Men's Club is helping to contribute towards a better year by providing some fun events for your attending pleasure.

Our first ever Beer Tasting Event was a blast!! Our annual Super Bowl Event on February 1st is always well-received. Come watch with us on our plasma TV and maybe pick out a lucky box in our box pool.

On March 22nd, we will be having a Bowling Night, where the fun always far outweighs the number of gutter balls thrown. Come down and enjoy!

On April 26th, Men's Club will be hosting its annual paid-up BBQ and Movie Night at 6:30PM. Members new and old please come down for an event or two. We always have a good time and there are no chores to do or kids to care for!!!

*Ed Dicken & Doug Leo*

We are also hoping to plan another event along with Sisterhood, such as a Spring Softball game. Your attendance and your input are both welcome and needed.

As always, please contact Doug (dsleo@hotmail.com) for any ideas you have or Ed (edicken@computersurgeon.com) for any complaints.

## HOUSE COMMITTEE

*Marty Eichen*

The long overdue painting of the hallway has commenced. The walls will be two toned to have a modern look. The two colors on the walls will be separated by a stained wood molding. Lighting canisters in the lobby have been replaced to improve lighting in the lobby. Fluorescent lights were installed in the hallway of the Hebrew School greatly improving the lighting for our students.

## FAMILY LIFE

*Barbara Dicken*

Family Life is happy to report that the "Chanukah Happenings" show, in conjunction with Education, was a smashing success. The hebrew school students made lovely puppets in their "Five Senses" electives, and many of the students participated in a puppet show which told the story of Chanukah. We held our annual candlelighting indoors due to icy conditions outside, and the Rabbi finished the program by lighting the hanukiah he built with the Dalet students. We had many guests come to see our performance, and a good time was had by all!

Coming in the spring is a "Purim Happening" program. Join us at our next Family Life meeting to learn more, and to offer any input and suggestions. Please contact me at Barbara@Computersurgeon.com with any questions or comments.

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## MHJC Event Catering

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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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