

MANETTO HILL JEWISH CENTER

SHOFAR

Volume 43, Issue 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010 – Tevet/Shvat 5770



Tu B'shevat
January 29

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Rabbi Morris Bernstein

As we shift into the dead of winter, I start looking for meaning in the secular calendar, and particularly in Martin Luther King Day. Few people can be said to have truly changed the world, but Dr. King is such a one. He based his life's career on the example of Ghandi and perhaps also on Moses, leading his people into the Promised Land. Who could have predicted that as a result of the vision of Dr. King, we would have an African American President of the United States? For that matter, who could have predicted that, as a disciple of Dr. King's idealism, President Obama himself would embody the dreams of millions for a more just world. I wonder what Martin Luther King would think if he were alive today? In his time, he made common cause with anyone who shared his ideals—notably a large cross section of Jewish intelligencia and religious leadership. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a giant in our times, was Dr. King's constant companion. When anti-Semitism and its identical twin, anti-Zionism, reared its head in "progressive" Black circles, Dr. King was the first one to denounce it.

I wonder, then, what Dr. King's response would be were he alive to witness the phenom of "Kick a Jew Day" at the Naples, Florida middle school. For those who haven't heard, on November 19th a plan was set in motion by at least 10 middle schoolers to hold a "Kick a Jew Day." A number of Jewish students were indeed kicked and bullied. Apparently, the organizers were inspired by a South Park episode which organized a kick a Ginger (red head) day. Therefore, the middle school principal denied that the incident was a manifestation of religious intolerance. Oh really! How odd, then, that

the ones targeted are Jews and that Jews in America have the unique distinction as the religious group most targeted by bigots! Apparently, the answer of the school district was a one day in-school suspension and a 20 minute sensitivity talk. This allows the perpetrators to catch up on their homework while not causing their parents any inconvenience. In the meantime, a large number of Jewish pre-teens no longer feel safe or secure in school.

Just as painful is the tepid response of the Jewish community of Naples, and the national Jewish organizations which were constituted to foster Jewish survival and protection. What other ethnic group would be so meek in its own defense and in the defense of its children? I would only hope that were Dr. King alive today, he would remind us of our obligation to give no quarter to bigotry, and remind others that we hang together or hang separately.

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.

WAYS AND MEANS

Sharon Dashow

Plans are well underway for our Journal Luncheon to be held on May 2nd at North Shore Synagogue. We will be honoring Rabbi Bernstein for his many years of leadership as well as celebrating MHJC's 40th anniversary. Two wonderful reasons to attend what promises to be a very special event!

By the time you read this, you should have received the journal ad form. Please send in your ads as soon as possible.

Another date to mark on your calendar is March 20th. Please join us for a night of fun and laughter as Plaza Theatrical Productions, Inc. presents *Chapter Two*, a comedy written by Neil Simon.

As always, your input is welcome and encouraged. Please check your e-mails, MHJC's mailings and MHJC's web site for the next Ways & Means meeting.



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Larry Kurtzman

It's a New Year, But We Have the Same Need For Your Involvement

OK, you've heard this before, but it never hurts to say it again – we need your involvement in the synagogue. While not everyone can be there for everything, just about everyone can be there for some things. My sincere thanks go out to those of you who regularly participate, especially those of you who are “always” there. But we are in serious need of more of you to join us. Below are some examples of where you can make an impact.

Saturday Morning Services – An obvious core facet of a synagogue is providing a place to pray. Our Friday Night services are usually reasonably attended (although we could always use more people!!). However, we have a significant problem with attendance at Saturday Morning Services. There have been weeks where we literally do not have a minyan for the start of services at 9:30 AM. We are all busy with our lives, or our children's sports and other commitments, but please consider committing to attending services at least once every month or so. We provide a sign-up sheet at each Trustee meeting to try to ensure at least the minimum attendance at each week's services. Either join us at a Trustee meeting to sign up, call the synagogue office to let us know if there are specific weeks that you can commit to, or just show up.

Trustee Meetings – These monthly meetings are open to ALL congregants and are an ideal opportunity to hear for yourself what is going on in our shul and to make your voice heard. Each committee provides an update on their recent and upcoming activities. As an example, whether your interests lie in Youth, Ritual, Ways and Means, Financial, or the current state of our physical building, you can get an overview of where we are and where we are going. These meetings are also a great way to get to know your fellow congregants and see where the energies of our shul are being focused.

Join a Committee – Virtually every committee, with very few exceptions, are open to all congregants to attend meetings and join in the efforts of those helping to lead our synagogue. The list of available committees you can participate in is extensive and includes Education, Catering, and Ways and Means just to name a few. You can check the current calendar to see when the various committees meet, or join us at a Trustee meeting and find out the details.

Rabbi Search – As everyone is aware, Rabbi Bernstein is leaving the Manetto Hill Jewish Center at the end of July 2010. Our search for a new Rabbi is proceeding well and on schedule. As I announced at the start of our efforts, communicating with the congregation is one of the Search Committee's key responsibilities. We hold a monthly open meeting to provide

information, status, and to answer any questions. Knowing what an important strategic process this is to our congregation, it is surprising that these monthly meetings have not been better attended. Please join us at the upcoming meetings, currently scheduled for January 26 (Tue.), February 24 (Wed.), March 17 (Wed.), and April 29 (Thu.).

Journal Lunch on Sunday, May 2, 2010 at Noon – You've heard me say this before and you've seen it mentioned in prior Shofar articles and other mailings. This event is part of our efforts to recognize Rabbi Bernstein's long tenure as our Rabbi. It is also a Ways and Means event to support our shul. Every congregant who is able to should plan on joining us on May 2nd, as well as purchasing an ad in the accompanying Journal. Thanks to some creative planning by the Ways and Means committee, the prices for both the Lunch and the Journal ads are quite reasonable. Please put May 2nd on your calendar now and join us.

Ways and Means events in general – Some are well attended, others not so much. There are a variety of events coming up to choose from. There are Texas Hold 'Em nights every couple of months. We are bringing in a professional production of *Chapter Two* on Saturday night, March 20th (the same ones who put on *Golda's Balcony* last year). Join us.

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

RITUAL COMMITTEE

Sharon Dashow

We hope you will join us on Friday evening, January 29th, for our annual Tu B'Shevat Seder, followed by a Shabbat dinner. Tu B'Shevat, the New Year for trees, marks the beginning of the growing season for fruit trees in Israel. It is customary to plant trees in celebration of the holiday. If you would to plant a tree, please contact Sharon Waks or the synagogue office.

Once each month, Shabbat services will end by 11:30 am so that everyone can enjoy lunch, which will be sponsored by the Ritual Committee. While lunch is on us, we ask that you RSVP if you are going to join us so we will know how much food to order. The next Shabbat Luncheon will be February 13th—we hope to see you then!

As always, your comments and suggestions regarding High Holiday services are welcome throughout the year—please feel free to contact me with your thoughts.

SISTERHOOD

A healthy and happy 2010 to everyone! Since our Nov/Dec issue was not widely distributed, I'd like to reiterate some events from my article and give updates.

First, we'd like to welcome Patti Silver as a new trustee this year. Her name was inadvertently left off the list in the last article. She organized the Sisterhood Tea, which was held in a cold Succah, but with warm conversation and tea and cakes.

Our honey sale ended in September with us almost tripling the number sold from last year – 34 jars. Though it was not the 50 we hoped for, we thank those who bought. ORT was also good about getting honey out to those who did not receive delivery...with a note of apology.

Our joint BBQ with Men's Club saw about 25 people in attendance with well-done steaks, potato knishes (thanks to Sharon for the trip to Shop-Rite!), chicken and playing "Scene It"- testing our movie and TV knowledge. Thanks to Doug Leo and Ed Dicken for cooking and the Dickens for providing the entertainment!

On October 21, Sisterhood held its Paid-Up Membership event "Who Stole the Cookie?" It was an interactive dinner where everyone was assigned a character to dress up as. Given clues throughout the evening, the women had to guess who the "criminal" was. Our own Harriet Blatt won for best costume, dressed as Snow White. No one guessed who stole the

MEN'S CLUB

Ed Dicken & Doug Leo

As this issue of the Shofar goes to press, the Jets are preparing to take on the Indianapolis Colts for a second time this year. As a lifelong Jets fan, it has been a long time since I've celebrated my team's winning in the postseason. I hope to see you and the Jets on February 7th at our Superbowl Party.

On November 22nd, Men's Club had our card night. We always have a low key game and this was no different. I'm not a card player, but I always enjoy the games. It's not a cutthroat game and everyone helps the beginners.

Men's Club had another great turnout for the Annual Holiday Breakfast. Thank you to Doug Leo and Bob Goldman for cooking the eggs and picking up the food. Thank you to everyone else who helped make the breakfast such a success.

Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

February 7th is our Superbowl Party

March 21st is a Card Night

April 11th is our Paid Up Barbeque and Movie Night

Mindy Kurtzman

cookie (who knew we could guess two characters??), but we had great door prizes and a great time was had by all. Thanks to the committee: Laurel Konel, Jodi Hirsch, Mindy Kurtzman and Ruth Brachman.

Our big fundraiser was held on Sunday, November 1st which was the Fashion Show Brunch held with the Sisterhood of Congregation Beth-El of Massapequa. We had fashions donated for the morning by Omnibus Fashions of Babylon and a delicious brunch was delivered by Hunki's. We had vendors selling Tupperware, Avon, jewelry, pashminas, handbags and Pandora-inspired items. Raffle prizes were auctioned off with donations from Carlos Morales, Solomon's Jewelers, Uniques Judaica, as well as tickets to see Jose Limon dance troupe and season passes to the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas. We had gift certificates from dry cleaners, restaurants, massages, jewelry, clothing stores, facials, manicures and more. Our lovely models were: Felicia Schneberg, Lisa Sommer and Sharon Waks. Many thanks to the tireless fashion show committee, who did a fabulous job of organizing, getting raffle prizes, and running around the day of, who were: Sharon Dashow, Harriet Blatt, Laurel Konel, Debbie Eichen and Mindy Kurtzman. We ended up making about \$1300 for each Sisterhood. Ladies who contributed on the Beth-El end included: Alice Scharf, Jackie Kirschman, Edie Tishler, Rhoda Buchwald and Linda Abrams. It was a fun day (and a lot of work!), but worth the effort!

On November 18th, we had dinner and a movie at Harriet Blatt's house. We ordered in from Ben's and sat and watched a hilarious movie! Thanks to Harriet for the use of her "movie theatre" so we could watch in comfort!

On December 9th, Sisterhood hosted a meeting with the Catering and House committees in order to revamp the Bar/Bat Mitzvah booklet. A healthy discussion ensued and ended up with a fairer and more balanced structure as well as a less confusing layout. Be on the lookout for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah meeting, which will be held sometime this winter at a temple near you (MHJC, of course!).

Purim basket order forms have already gone out in a few mailings. Please get your orders in as Purim is February 28th this year. DEADLINE FOR ORDER FORMS IS FEBRUARY 1 !! (Yes, that's the first!!) Baskets are still \$10.00 each. If you have any questions, you can call the temple or Jodi Hirsch (694-8867), who chairs this committee. We will also need help collating the baskets on Sunday, February 21st, which is the Sunday at the end of the winter break. Please call the office, Jodi or Mindy Kurtzman (349-7041) if you'd like to help collate. If we have enough hands, we can get it done in 1/2 day! Bagels and coffee to all who come!

cont'd on next page

Sisterhood (cont'd)

January 13th was the Sisterhood Regifting exchange. One woman's castaway is another woman's treasure! We had coffee and cake and everyone went home with a gift! Thanks to Barbara Dicken for organizing this program.

Sisterhood is still selling Shop-Rite gift certificates as well as those to Bed, Bath and Beyond, Fairway, and other fine stores. Call Sue Halfen @ 921-2682 if you are interested in purchasing. We also have Sisterhood Cookbooks for sale @ \$12.00 each. Call Ronni Leo @ 822-1878 if you'd like to buy one.

As always, if you'd like to get more involved or want to join us (we're a friendly group who can use more helping hands!), please call or e-mail Mindy Kurtzman, President, @ 349-7041 or LKurtzman@att.net.

SAVE THE DATES:

Wednesday, February 10 Sisterhood Meeting
Wednesday, March 10 Sisterhood Meeting
 Executive and Trustee Board Only

Thursday, March 18 Women's Passover Seder

**Friday night, April 9 Sisterhood Shabbat-Theme
**change in date "Women of the Holocaust"

(Yom Hashoah is April 11)

Wednesday, April 14 Sisterhood Meeting
 Women's Tallesim making

Plus much, much more for May and June...look for another Men's Club/Sisterhood joint event in May (Wine and Cheese tasting) as well as a softball game in June.

RABBI SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Rabbi Search Committee has been very busy. Subcommittees have been formed – Guidelines, Interview, Correspondence, Marketing, Hospitality, Negotiation, Transition and Installation. The Subcommittees have been meeting regularly in order to meet the timeframe which we have set for ourselves.

We are told by the Rabbinical Assembly that we should start receiving resumes of experienced Rabbis by the end of December. The first stage in the process would be to conduct telephone interviews starting in early January in order to decide on which candidates we want to invite to MHJC for a midweek interview and a tour of Plainview and other nearby locales – Stage 2.

Additionally, during the last week of February, we will be interviewing those graduating rabbinical students who have expressed an interest in our congregation. That week has been set aside by the Rabbinical Assembly for all interested congregations to conduct those interviews.

Stage 3 would consist of inviting the 2 or 3 strongest candidates to each spend a weekend at MHJC. During the weekend, the candidate would lead Friday night services as well as Saturday morning services. Events would be planned for the weekend to introduce the candidate to MHJC as well as to our community.

We do have to consider, however, that MHJC is responsible to cover the costs of these visits including transportation, food and lodging. As you can imagine the costs will add up quickly, especially if the candidates are coming from other states or even other countries.

We thought an interesting and inexpensive way to defray some of the costs would be to invite you, our members, to donate your airline miles, your credit card miles, your hotel points, etc. This would be a win-win situation especially if those miles and points are about to expire and you do not have the opportunity to use them. Instead of losing them, why not donate them to a good cause? Of course, if you happen to win the lottery, monetary donations would always be welcomed!

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email us at MHJCRSC@gmail.com.

HHM ASSOCIATES, INC.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Candle Lighting 4:36pm	2
3 Youth	4 Hebrew School Classes Resume Membership/Family Life	5 Life Line All Day Use of Sanctuary & Kiddush Room	6	7 Executive Board Book Club 7:30pm	8 Candle Lighting 4:42pm	9
10 Men's Club Movie & Cocktail Night @ 8pm Youth	11 Education	12 House\Long Range Planning	13 Sisterhood Re-Gifting	14 Ritual	15 Candle Lighting 4:50pm	16
17 Trustee Youth	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day No Classes	19	20 Israeli Jewish Affairs	21 Financial Committee Meeting	22 Candle Lighting 4:58pm	23 Light Dinner @ 5pm Hebrew School Havdalah Service @ 6pm Texas Hold 'Em @ 8pm
24 Youth Trustee Youth 31	25 Ways & Means Hebrew School Tu B'Shevat Seder	26 Open Congregation Rabbi Search Committee	27 Hebrew School Closed	28 Defensive Driving 6:30-9:30pm Class 1 of 2	29 Candle Lighting 5:06pm Tu B'Shevat Tu B'Shevat Seder	30 Tu B'Shevat

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 am unless otherwise noted.

Yahrzeits

Tevet

Shalom Akavan, Ben Arlick, Rebecca Benson, Harry Berenson, Mamie Berenson, Sarah Bornstein, Arthur Bushman, Ethel Dashow, Hyman Dicken, Diane Elgart, Eli Fried, David Gordon, Ovadia Hallak, Rose Hollander, Esther Kingsberg, Morris Lenoff, Sarah Lenoff, Celia Mann, Samuel Mann, Milton Marx, Oscar Nitkin, Irving Osterweil, Melvyn Pinck, Claire Polansky, Julius Randall, Sonia Rosenblatt, Rose Rubin, Jean Scarr, Barney Silverberg, Harry Tarsky, Jack Terloff, Frank Turoff

Shevat

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

Simchas

January Anniversaries

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

January Birthdays

Jill Lipshie Abusch, Daniel Akavan, Michael Akavan, Jason Aron, Matthew Benjamin, Stewart Benjamin, Barry Benowitz, 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, Donna Linden, Brett Mendelsohn, Jessie Nizewitz, Benjamin Ozur, Andrew Pasetsky, Michael Pinck, Shelly Rokofsky, Arlene Ross, 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

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 Family Life Education	2	3	4 Defensive Driving 6:30-9:30pm Class 2 of 2 Executive Board	5 Candle Lighting 5:15pm	6
7 Annual Blood Drive @ 8:45am - 2:45pm Men's Club Super Bowl Party Youth	8 Ways & Means	9 House/Long Range Planning	10 Sisterhood	11 Ritual	12 Candle Lighting 5:23pm	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Candle Lighting 5:32pm	20
P.O.B. Schools Closed 2/15-2/19, Classes Resume 2/22						
21 Trustee Purim Baskets	22 Hebrew School Classes Resume Membership	23 Tobay Haddasah 6pm – 9:30pm	24 Open Congregation Rabbi Search Committee Israeli Jewish Affairs	25 Financial Committee Book Club @ 7:30pm	26 Candle Lighting 5:40pm	27 Purim
28 Purim						

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

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

Yahrzeits

Adar

Ida Abrahams, 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, Abraham Kistenberg, Ada Kistenberg, Sadye Kurtzman, Mel Kusinitz, Simon Labowitz, Harold Lipshie, Ray Mandel, Abe Miller, David Osdoby, Seymour Perzov, Norman Ross, David Sanderowitz, Harry Siegel, Eunice Siegelheim, Hyman Starr, Edith Steel, May Terloff, Irving Toporek, Craig Alan Wertheim, George Joseph Wertheim, Barbara Ziegler, Howard Ziegler

If you are celebrating a birthday or anniversary in January or February 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, the Internet and on TV, it is refreshing to learn about good news.

Simchas

February Anniversaries

Elliot and Rhonda Silverberg

February Birthdays

Justin Benjamin, Alan Bielik, Robert Brachman, Ruth Brachman, Allison Cantos, Renee Cantos, Charlotte DeMel, Rachel Mandie DeMel, Barbara Drossman, Alex Edelstein, Debbie Eichen, Susan Elgart, Brian Feder, Karen Feder, Marvin Fruchter, Rita Fruchter, Ken Hauptman, Griffin Hoffman, Adrienne Horowitz, Amy Katz, Jason Kitograd, Traci Krasilovsky, Larry Kurtzman, Shirley Kurtzman, Jodi LaManna, Jennifer Lesser, Richard Mendelsohn, Gail Messer, Dr. Elliot Morris, Vivian Negrin, Matthew Ozur, Marian Pasetzky, Dr. Hyman Ritter, Judie Rokofsky, Gail Ross, Theodore Scarr, Don Schechter, Susan Sheiman, Jason Simon, Richard Sonenklare, David Symons, Rosalie Tonkelowitz, Adam Jonathan Weiss, Ed Winiarz, Stephanie Roberta Zelkind

The entire congregation congratulates our Religious School principal, Helene Ainbinder, on her recent ordination into the Rabbinate!

Our Youth Groups are having a blast this year! Two GREAT events we would like to share! Rakevet 2009 fall Kinnus was a blast!

WOW: What a weekend!

On November 6-8th, 94 USYers from the Nassau/Suffolk area had such a wonderful time at our shul. There was plenty of ruach, davening, Shabbat meals together, and group discussions. Our favorite highlight of the event was the wonderful band, Pictures of Home. The kids (not to mention the staff too) were rocking all Saturday night long! The phone calls from parents were pouring in the following week just to let us know what a fabulous time the USYers had.

Special thanks to Rabbi Bernstein for leading classes during the weekend.

A lot of work goes into planning these weekends, not to mention the “behind the scenes” things to be done to make sure everything runs smoothly. A special thanks to Boumny, who worked diligently to ensure an organized, wonderful time!

A special thanks to Jodi & Mark Hirsch, Laurel and Michael Konel, Ilene & Mark Sudran, Sharon & Michael Dashow, Mindy & Larry Kurtzman. Your dedication to the youth group helped make it the success it was! It could not have been done without each and every one of you!

And last, but certainly not least, an extra special thank you to Brian Sudran, our youth advisor. Brian’s tireless devotion to help planning and organizing was the reason 94 USY’ers had to be one of the best Kinnus weekends this shul has ever seen! We can’t wait for the next one!

A big thanks also to our hosting families: the Dashows, the Edelsteins, the Friedmans, the Goldmans, the Kaufman/Salands, the Konels, the Kralsteins, the Kurtzmans, the Polofskys, the Redlers, the Schnebergs, the Strauss and the Sudrans.

MHJC Youth wants to thank all of you for opening your homes to our USY’ers from near and far.

Chanukah USY Inter-Chapter

On December 6th, MHJC Youth Groups hosted a great Chanukah Inter-Chapter. USY’ers from Midway JC and Plainview JC joined us for a night filled with latkes, jelly donuts and a great grab bag game!

Remember: it is NEVER too late to join MHJC Youth Groups!

USY—Grades 9-12

Kadima—Grades 7-8

Pre-Kadima—Grades 5-6

Contact Robyn Sutnick, Youth Director, for more information MHJCYouth@aol.com or 516-935-5454.

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

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PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

Helene Aimbinder, Principal

Our Religious School had a lot of ruach (spirit) during the month of Kislev (December). We started with the Rabbi's Gimmel Class leading a Friday evening Shabbat Service, and followed that amazing evening with the Hanukkah Event. The Hanukkah Event on Monday started with Mrs. Bienenfeld's Aleph Class singing the Alephbet and Hebrew words that they have been learning. Then our school had the famous puppeteer, Janice Bockner, perform with her unique puppets and audience participation. We had many new families from the community in attendance. All were treated to latkes and sufgoniyot (donuts), dreidels and gelt! Todah rabah to my wonderful VP of Education Barbara Dicken, Chairperson Ronni Leo, Committee members Laurel Konel and Ruth Brachman, and to the Sisterhood and Men's Club for all their donations and time in making this event a huge success! By the way, Janice and her puppets were on the Today Show the following morning.



Our school is truly blessed to have a gifted and talented staff of educators. The Wednesday of Hanukkah, Mr. Brian Sudran made real potato latkes with the children. Mrs. Polofsky, Mrs. Bienenfeld, Rabbi and I had stations of art projects setup, and we had the traditional "Rugrats Hanukkah Movie". The following Monday the children heard the story "When the Shark met the Fish", written by Gilad Shalit when he was 11

years old. The children wrote and drew their feelings about the struggles and challenges of the Israelis and Palestinian people. They also viewed a short film about Israel in order to better understand the country and the people of Israel.

Our School is embarking on a new journey for the 2010 year. We are going to be working on a grant as part of Ki Va Moed (The Time Is Now), which is a program building stronger connections between Israeli schools and synagogues and American Congregational schools and synagogues on Long Island. The program is funded through BJE/SAJES, UJA, TEVA, SPNI and Orarim. Our MHJC started with the English reading book drive. The Israeli delegation was in our synagogue meeting and visiting with our members and teachers, and they thanked us for the gifts of english books for their schools. Mrs. Polofsky and I will be working on an Environment Project with the Tali Beit Va Gan School in Jerusalem. Our Gimmel, Daled and Hay students, in one of their elective classes, will be tracing their roots. Green Mapping, spotting in our Plainview area where we can change and improve the environment, and a video conference with the Israeli teachers and children is being planned for a Sunday morning in April or May.

Another exciting program will be starting on Wednesday, January 6th, at 5:30 – 6PM for our 1st and 2nd grade children. There will be no charge for this introduction into Judaic studies. Next year, it is our hope and dream to start a full Shorashim (1st and 2nd grade) Class.

We will have our Havdallah service on Saturday night, January 23rd, and the whole school will be leading this moving and spiritual service using their hand-made beeswax candles! Please mark your calendars and attend.

On Friday night, January 29th, Rabbi and the Religious School students and families will be attending a Tu B'Shevat Seder. Every year we have a very enjoyable kabbalistic service, and enjoy a unique and delicious variety of foods from the TREES! Hope to see everyone there. Remember, double credit will be given for attendance at these programs. Aleph-Daled Classes need 15 Shabbat attendances, and Hay Students need 18 Shabbat attendances.

Purim is coming! Purim is coming! February 28th is the date, and we will celebrate with a huge Carnival on Monday, March 1st. Start making your costumes! Our school will be making various projects for all the festive holidays.

I am always available to hear your concerns, suggestions and a friendly "Shalom". Please stop by my office or give me a call, I am here for you and your families to make everyone's Judaic learning experience meaningful, exciting and, of course, colorful!

Renee & Conrad Yarmoff

On Sunday, December 13, 2009, the second day of Chanukah, Manetto Hill Jewish Center led the Jewish community of Plainview in a program of social action once again. This time, the program was designed to raise public awareness to the plight of Gilad Shalit. (Gilad Shalit is an Israeli soldier who was kidnapped more than three years ago and is still being held prisoner by Hamas terrorists.)

Manetto Hill Jewish Center hosted a breakfast at which a representative from the American Jewish Committee, and Yair Lootsteen, a retired colonel from the IDF who works as a reporter in Canada, discussed the issues concerning negotiations for the release of Israelis held captive and the price Israel has had to pay for their release. They referred to the current ongoing negotiations to release Gilad Shalit and the controversy that surrounds the issue of releasing large numbers of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for one Israeli soldier. Col. Lootsteen quoted Ben-Gurion, who said: "Every Hebrew mother must know she has delivered her son into the hands of worthy commanders" in support of his statement that... "a nation who sends its soldiers to fight and defend its borders in dangerous places must provide them and their families with the foreknowledge that anything and everything will be done to return them if they fall into harm's way" (*The Canadian Jewish News*, February 21, 2008)

Following the breakfast, the synagogue opened its doors to all who came to attend the rally planned to focus on the plight of Shalit. It was exciting just being a part of this group who came to raise their voices to secure Gilad Shalit's release. In addition to Col. Lootsteen, speakers at the rally included: Supervisor John Venditto, Councilwoman Rose Walker, Assemblyman Chuck Lavine and Legislator Judy Jacobs. Representatives from KiVaMoed from Israel were there; representatives from SAJES were there; members from the Jewish community were there and, of course, Rabbi Bernstein and members of Manetto Hill Jewish Center attended. There was a strong sense of unity of purpose. Before everyone left, materials were distributed to encourage everyone to continue to write letters and urge the release of those Israelis still held in captivity. It was a most appropriate way to spend the morning during the festival of Chanukah.

Our work, however, shouldn't end with the rally. Packages of materials are available to assist you with writing letters to United States politicians and to the United Nations Secretary General. For more information, call MHJC at 516-935-5454 or e-mail: MHJC@optonline.net. Help to bring Gilad Shalit home to his family.



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Laurel Konel



**Susan Halfen
Member of the Year
September 2009**

The M.H.J.C. Executive Board presented this year's Member of the Year award to Susan Halfen. The plaque was handed to Sue by Larry Kurtzman, president of M.H.J.C. He listed her considerable efforts as follows:

- Current Chairperson of our Membership Committee
 - Long term manager of our Alph Bet program (Adult Hebrew Literacy)
 - From the inception has been a key leader of our Caring for Caregivers program.
 - Conducts our Knit and Nosh program
 - Manages our Shoprite Certificates program
 - Came up with the idea and manages our Gift Cents program
 - Has been a long term trustee
 - Frequently assisted at both on-site and off-site fund raising events
- and
- Regularly volunteers to usher during the High Holidays.

Larry noted that Sue has repeatedly and consistently demonstrated a long term commitment that comes from both

the head and from the heart. He also commented that Sue is someone who is always ready to volunteer and to provide her thoughts towards the continued betterment of our synagogue.

Upon receiving the award, Sue thanked everyone, then explained how she first became involved as a volunteer at MHJC. Thirty three years ago Sue was disappointed with the way a program was being run. It was the Holiday Happenings program for 1st and 2nd graders. She didn't simply complain, but agreed to run the program and has been volunteering ever since. Sue believes that doing makes you feel part of the community, the family of Manetto Hill.

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(516) 822-7452 Office
(516) 721-5398 Cell

President:
Larry Kurtzman

Treasurer:
Robert Goldman

Hebrew School Principal:
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Gift Card

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**

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

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Irwin or Andrew of

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Plainview Jewish Center 516-938-1310**

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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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