

MANETTO HILL JEWISH CENTER

# SHOFAR

Volume 42, Issue 4

JULY/AUGUST 2009 - Tammuz/Av/Elul 5769



*Larry Kurtzman*

## The (Recent) Past, Present, and (Near) Future

First, the Past...

As you can see from the pictures throughout this issue of the *Shofar*, the recent Torah Dedication weekend was a huge success. The speaker on Friday night was extremely interesting. The dinner and band on Saturday night were a blast. And of course, the Torah Dedication itself on Sunday went off without a hitch. The weather cooperated, so the march from the Rabbi's house to the synagogue was well attended, and attracted attention and positive comments from local residents. The local politicians presented us with a number of citations recognizing this significant event. Then the sofer (a.k.a., scribe) spent several hours writing in the various letters, words, phrases, parashas, etc. that had been donated. We wrapped up the afternoon with a moving unveiling of the new mantel that was purchased for the Torah.

The weekend could not have taken place without the efforts of a host of people. Let me once again thank our Ways and Means Committee, the five primary sponsor families, and everyone who participated in any or all of the weekend's events. Due to the efforts of all of you, the weekend was a big success, both financially and emotionally.

Now to the present and near future...

Looking towards the coming year, we are entering a year of great change. A little over a year from now, in July 2010, after leading our synagogue for 24 years, Rabbi Bernstein will be retiring as our spiritual leader. By now, everyone should have received the letter from me that was mailed out in mid-June.

There are two major aspects to this – recognizing and celebrating the Rabbi's tenure at our synagogue and searching for a new Rabbi to lead us in the future.

A number of events will be taking place over the coming year to honor Rabbi Bernstein for his service to the Manetto Hill Jewish Center. To kick off this year-long recognition and appreciation effort, the Executive Board donated the Shema during the Torah Dedication in honor of the Rabbi.

I ask that everyone in the congregation please keep the following dates available in their calendars:

1. Saturday night, September 12th – This will be our annual Pre-Kol Nidre event and this year will be specifically framed to honor the Rabbi. It is always an enjoyable night. Additionally, the Rabbi's daughter Dahlia will be there to be part of this effort to honor the Rabbi before she goes to Israel.

2. Saturday night, February 6th, 2010 – This is the targeted date for our Journal Dinner Dance honoring the Rabbi. You're being given plenty of advance notice, so please plan accordingly! It will be a true testament to the Rabbi for this to be our biggest Journal Dinner Dance ever. I strongly encourage everyone to plan to attend.

Regarding our search for a new Rabbi... I want this to be as inclusive an effort as possible. Everyone is entitled, and in fact encouraged, to play a part in the process.

I am in the initial processes of forming a Rabbi Search Committee, which will consist of a central committee and a number of ancillary committees (i.e., survey, correspondence and communication, hospitality, etc.). Some of these sub-committees will be formed shortly (e.g., survey), while others may not be defined for several months until they are needed (e.g., hospitality).

If you are interested in working on any of the committees, please let me know as soon as possible. I can be reached either through the synagogue office or directly at [LarryKurtzman@optonline.net](mailto:LarryKurtzman@optonline.net). While I cannot guarantee that everyone who wants to serve on a particular committee will be able to, the committees' participants will be representative of our membership.

One of the first steps will be the creation of a survey that will be sent to all of our members. Please fill out and return this survey, since the bigger a response to the survey, the more it will facilitate in defining the criteria for our next Rabbi.

There are bound to be conflicting requests, preferences, opinions, etc. and as a result it is possible, maybe even likely, that not everyone will get exactly what they want. However, I promise that everyone's voice will be heard. As a simple, somewhat silly example – if twenty people want a left-handed Rabbi and twenty people want a right-handed Rabbi, then twenty people will be disappointed. But all forty people will be heard.

Of course, this survey will just be the first of several vehicles by which you can voice your opinion. We will hold regular committee and informational meetings that will be open to all congregants. Additionally, you can always reach out to me with your input, as indicated above, either through the synagogue office or directly at [LarryKurtzman@optonline.net](mailto:LarryKurtzman@optonline.net).

I hope we all have an enjoyable summer and I look forward to your feedback and participation as we work together on this next step in our synagogue's continued journey.

## TORAH DEDICATION CEREMONY

*Sharon Dashow*

**W**ith music playing and Rabbi Morris Bernstein blowing a shofar, members of Manetto Hill Jewish Center marched through the streets of Plainview on June 7th. The reason—the dedication of a Sefer Torah.

The dedication of a Torah is a momentous event in the life of any synagogue. So it was with our shul. Over one hundred people participated in the Torah dedication, fulfilling the commandment found in the Torah itself; as is written in Deuteronomy 31:19, “And now write you this song...”. Maimonides interpreted that verse to mean that it was “commanded that every person among us is to have a scroll of the Torah for himself. ...If he writes it with his own hand, Scripture considers it as if he had received it from Mount Sinai. If he cannot write it himself, he is obliged to purchase one, or to hire a scribe who will write it for him.”

The synagogue was abuzz with activity as there was entertainment to engage the children, a workshop on Torah writing for both children and adults and a giant barbeque. Each person who donated a letter, word, phrase or other portion in the Torah was able to stand by the scribe and watch as he went over the donated passage in the Torah with a special quill. Laminated certificates commemorating each donation were given out to those who made the donations.

Thank you Rabbi Bernstein, for conceiving of the idea of the Torah dedication and running both the workshop at the dedication plus an earlier workshop in April. Thanks also

go to Men’s Club for donating and cooking the food at the barbeque. You can cook for us anytime!

After the scribe was finished, a special ceremony was held wherein the Torah was placed in the ark. At the ceremony, our magnificent new Torah mantel (the Torah covering) was placed on the Torah.

While the Torah dedication ceremony was the highlight of our Torah dedication weekend, there were activities throughout the weekend. On Friday night, a representative for the Anti-Defamation League, addressed our congregation. She spoke about Islamic extremism in the United States. It was a message that we all needed to hear, especially in the wake of the foiled plot to bomb two synagogues in Riverdale, New York. For more information about this important topic, please visit ADL’s website at [www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org).

On Saturday evening, we served a light dinner, complete with bagels, lox, whitefish salad and more, and topped off with ice cream sundaes; all for only five dollars! Afterward, we were entertained by Pictures of Home, an Israeli rock band. They featured both Israeli and American rock. In between their sets, we finally unwrapped our clock. Congratulations to Renee and Conrad Yarmoff in winning our clock raffle and thank you to Jodi Hirsch for conceiving the idea of the raffle and for running the raffle. All in all, it was truly a special weekend.

Of course, a weekend like this cannot take place without a great deal of hard work. Thank you to Debbie Eichen, Marty Eichen, Mark Hirsch, Bruce Lesser, Iris Lesser, Marilyn Morris, Jaci Osdoby, Steve Osdoby, Larry Sommer and Lisa Sommer for their dedication and commitment to this project. Of course, we also owe our thanks to the five families who sponsored the Torah. A program like this is only successful if people support it. Thus, to all who donated the Torah or made a dedication therein, thank you for making the Torah dedication such a successful and moving event. The Sefer Torah does not only belong to Manetto Hill Jewish Center, but, also, all who participated can claim ownership of a part of that Torah. What a wonderful and unique way to help support our synagogue!

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





# JULY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Ritual	<b>2</b> Executive Board	<b>3</b> Candelighting @ 8:11 pm  Office is closed	<b>4</b> Independence Day
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Membership/Family Life	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Blood Drive @ 3 pm – 8:15 pm	<b>9</b> Ritual	<b>10</b> Candelighting @ 8:09 pm	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Trustee Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Knit & Nosh @ 1 – 3 pm Men's Club All-Star Game	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Book Club @ 7:30 pm	<b>17</b> Candelighting @ 8:05 pm Services Under The Stars	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> House/Long Range Planning	<b>22</b> Rabbi Search Committee	<b>23</b> Ritual	<b>24</b> Candelighting @ 8:00 pm	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Ritual	<b>31</b> Candelighting @ 7:53 pm	

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

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

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

## JULY AND AUGUST YAHRZEITS

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.

**Tammuz:** Sarah Chazanovitz, Herbert Drossman, Manek Feldman, Mary Gordon, Mary Grunwald, Sylvia Grunwald, Walter Halfen, Lore Kleeman, Louis Klein, Rose Klein, Bryna Krackow, Rodnay Lamel, Max Leichman, Lawrence Levner, Paul Mandel, Rose Mann, Benjamin Minowitz, Sadie Minowitz, Mae Nataupsky, Murray Paikin, Hannah Pasetsky, Irving Rappaport, Sima Ritter, Esther Robins, 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 Schneberg, 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, Milton Eichen, Tillie Essman, Annette Fischer, Joseph Glanzrock, Fannie Goldstein, Irma Gordon, Laura Greenbaum, Irving Harris, Harriet Hochman, Piroška 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 Ulsan, Betty Werbel, Carl Yagoda

# AUGUST 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Membership/Family Life	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Ritual	<b>6</b> Executive Board	<b>7</b> Candelighting @ 7:46 pm	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Ways & Means	<b>11</b> Knit & Nosh @ 1 pm – 3 pm House/Long Range Planning	<b>12</b> Open House Sisterhood	<b>13</b> Ritual	<b>14</b> Candelighting @ 7:37 pm	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Trustee Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Ritual	<b>20</b> Book Club @ 7:30 pm	<b>21</b> Candelighting @ 7:27 pm	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Rabbi Search Committee	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Ritual	<b>28</b> Candelighting @ 7:16 pm	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

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

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

## JULY AND AUGUST 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, Shelly Forchheimer, Jeremy Friedel, Jeremy Friedel, Ashley Friedman, Dana Goldstein, Richard Goldstein, Robert Goldstein, Alyssa Gorfinkel, Jared Gorfinkel, Steven Greenblatt, Charon Heller, Ira Kallem, Paul Kirchenberg, Ian Kusinitz, Robin Lamel, Sarah Landisman, Lauren Malter, Shari Morris, Nicole Negrin, Judy Nitkin, Gregory Nizewitz, Mark Nizewitz, Bruce Nuzie, Samantha Osdoby, Barry Pearl, Perry Perzov, Andrea Rerenson, Geri Rothenberg, Adam Sauer, Ellis Schneberg, Joshua Schutzer, Amir Shamir, Lee Sirota, Larry Sommer, Harlan Spund, Lawrence Stein, Lawrence Stein, Jeffrey Symons, Erica Talkofsky, Martin Tonkelowitz, Tyler Trembley, Melissa Weinick, Susan Winiarz. **A belated Mazel Tov to Courtney Friedman on her Bat Mitzvah, June 27th**

### July Anniversaries

Melvin & Goldie Brandl, Ike & Renee Cantos, Mark & Freda Chesner, Ed & Barbara Dicken, Stuart and Sheryl Eisenberg, Robert & Michelle Friedman, Robert & Adrienne Goldstein, Marc & Michelle Labelle, Myron & Sue Moskowitz, Steven & Barbara Randall, Mario & Trudy Reznik, Don & Roberta Schechter, Ken & Linda Silver, Richard & Dale Sonenklare

### August Birthdays

Russell Blatt, Melvin Brandl, Ellen Brown, Stuart Brown, Bari Buchberg, Jay Buchberg, Ike Cantos, Evan Carmen, Ronin Chasan, Keith Clarin, Sharon Dashow, Gary Drossman, Dawn Eichen, Benjamin Eill, Adam Forchheimer, Courtney Friedman, Beverly Gilbert, Jennifer Greenspan, Mitchell Halfen, Sue Halfen, Jeremy Hankin, Dara Hartman, 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, Eric Malter, Evan Malter, Phyllis Meinberg, Sharon Merlis, Matthew Minkoff, Sue Moskowitz, Chelsea Perzov, Jeremy Ritter, Liz Sauer, Jeffrey Schutzer, Elissa Schwartz, Noah Siber-Sanderowi, Jan Silverston, Matthew Stifelman, Sari Stifelman, Brian Sudran, Heather Symons, Sharon Weinberg, Jonathan Elliot Zekind

### August Anniversaries

Daniel & Karen Akavan, Morris & Naomi Bernstein, Robert & Michelle Carmen, Jerry & Phyllis Gordon, Joseph & Amy Hallak, Larry & Mindy Kurtzman, Michael & Terry Kwartner, Bruce & Iris Lesser, Howard & Naomi Mann, Don & Stacey Marx, Kenneth and Marian Pasetsky, Joseph & Eleanor Siegel, Jan & Cindy Silverston, Aaron & Nina Trembley




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

# MHJC Event Catering

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*Mr. Rich Austein of*  
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Ellen Goldman  
Catering/Kiddush Coordinator  
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