

MANETTO HILL JEWISH CENTER

SHOFAR

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MARCH/APRIL 2010 – Adar/Nissan/Ayar 5770



Passover

March 29

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Purim and Passover (with a scant four weeks in between) are very memorable, visual, and delicious holidays, to say the least, each having its own unique customs and memories associated with the festivities. Going back over family albums, we chuckle over seeing the kids in varying Purim costumes. I even took a few pictures of the Pesach table amidst the tumultuous preparations.

Unfortunately, in the core of both of these stories lies an often repeated historical truth. Throughout our 3500 year history, it seems that there has often been someone out to subdue or annihilate us. Purim and Pesach have encapsulated this concept.

This past December, Naomi and I traveled to visit Dahlia and Aaron in Jerusalem. We took a brief side trip to see the pyramids in Cairo. That experience has given Pesach a whole new depth of meaning for me. You have no idea how large these ancient immutable structures are and how much power the ancient Pharaohs had over the lives of their people. We did not build the pyramids, but looking upon them made me realize the truth of the old adage, "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." We also looked at the famed "Mernepta Stella" in the Cairo Archaeological Museum which states, "The Tribes of Israel are utterly annihilated." So there we were, four Israelites looking at this monument. There are no Egyptians today who worship 'Ra,' but you, the person who is reading this article is, an "Israelite."

Rabbi Morris Bernstein

B'chol dor vador... in every generation there arises a heinous villain who is out to subdue or annihilate us. Our generation is no different. Yukiya Amano, the new head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, says that Ahmadinejad's Iran is developing the capacity to launch nuclear warheads. He has stated on innumerable occasions that the destruction of Israel is one of his primary goals. Ironically, the reason he gives for wanting to destroy Israel is—Israel's treatment of the Palestinian people. Any theoretical warheads aimed at Israel would of course destroy the Palestinians as well.

A careful reading of Megillat Esther reveals that the Divine name is not mentioned directly in the text. The assumption is that HaShem works through the actions of the righteous. May it be so in our generation as well.



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WAYS AND MEANS

Sharon Dashow

In commemoration of Yom HaShoah, Zvi Bienski will be speaking at the Mid Island Y on April 8th at 7:30 PM. His father and uncles fought the Nazis and saved more than 1,200 fellow Jews by hiding in the woods. Their story was portrayed in the recent movie, *Defiance*. MHJC is proud to be co-sponsoring this important event.

The scheduled performance of *Chapter Two* on March 20 has been canceled, as Plaza Playhouse Productions mistakenly double-booked that date.

Please save the date of May 2nd, as we honor Rabbi Bernstein for his many years of service as our spiritual leader and as we celebrate forty years of Manetto Hill Jewish Center. The luncheon will be held at North Shore Synagogue and the cost is \$50 per person. We hope you will support Manetto Hill Jewish Center, not only by attending the luncheon but also by placing an ad in the journal. While the deadline for ads has been extended, we ask that you please submit your ads as soon as possible. How wonderful it would be if we had one hundred percent attendance at this joyous event!



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

Let's Look Back While We Are Preparing For Our Future

As I am writing this, the Rabbi Search Committee is in high gear, interviewing rabbinical candidates and preparing for some of those candidates to visit our synagogue. By the time you are reading this, those two visits will have already taken place. The upcoming months will be exciting ones for MHJC, as we enter a new chapter in our history. But I want to take some time to look back on our past, particularly two aspects of it.

The Manetto Hill Jewish Center is forty years old this year. A few of the founding families from 1969 are still part of our family, though many are not. And of course, in a few cases like my own, we have second generation families active in our shul. When our synagogue opened, the property had a cape cod house and detached garage near Manetto Hill Road, with broken and decrepit greenhouses covering the rest of the property. Back then, services were held in the basement, and Hebrew school classes took place just about everywhere (i.e., the attic, the living room, the basement, the garage). High Holiday services took place at the Kings Grant Hotel on Sunnyside Boulevard, where the assisted living facility is now. We were young and growing.

In 1975, our “new” building opened and the growth continued. Bar and Bat Mitzvahs abounded. Eventually, the two original classrooms were expanded to the current five. After several years, we outgrew having High Holiday services in our building and started having them at the JCC, where they continue to take place today.

Our membership numbers have ebbed and flowed throughout the years, but one thing that has remained constant is the devotion of our members to the success of the synagogue. The hamish focus of our core values is a rare commodity and one we should always treasure. As always, we need your help and participation to keep that a reality.

One of the other constants of our synagogue is Rabbi Morris Bernstein. As I described in my first “President’s Installation” speech, Rabbi Liebenson was the Rabbi of my youth and Rabbi Bernstein is the Rabbi of my adulthood. Regardless of the level of your personal contact with the Rabbi, I think we can all agree that he has had a significant, long-term impact on each of us and the synagogue as a whole. In my case, he has been the common factor in just about every life cycle event in my adult life. Rabbi Bernstein officiated at Mindy’s and my wedding, Stephanie’s baby naming, and Michael and Stephanie’s B’nai Mitzvot. In recent years, when we lost several family members, it was Rabbi Bernstein who we asked to officiate at their funerals. I’m sure each of you has similar memories of the twenty-four years that Rabbi Bernstein has been leading MHJC.

As hopefully everyone knows by now, we are holding a Journal Lunch event on Sunday, May 2nd to honor Rabbi Bernstein and to celebrate our “40th Birthday Party”. I again urge everyone to plan on joining us.

There have been some people who have commented that this is just a fundraising event for the synagogue. Let me clear that up – it is simply not true. In fact, the price of the tickets does not even come close to covering the cost of the event. The total cost per person is approximately \$75. Due to a very generous donation, the event is being partially subsidized, giving us the ability to lower the ticket price to just \$50 per person.

So please join us in honoring the Rabbi and our synagogue by attending the Journal Lunch. And if you haven’t already submitted an ad for the journal, please do so. It will provide a wonderful testimonial recognizing Rabbi Bernstein and the past forty years of our shul.

As always, if you want to offer 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.



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SISTERHOOD

It's Purim night and we are about to change to go to services. Where are my pajamas? I hope everyone had a wonderful Purim and celebrated with great hamentashen and costumes!

Our Purim basket sale was again profitable. Many thanks to Jodi Hirsch, who coordinates this event every year (love those charts!). Thanks to the women who came down on Feb. 21 and helped collate the baskets: Jodi Hirsch, Debbie Eichen, Ellen Goldman, Harriet Blatt, Linda Benowitz, Sue Halfen, Felicia Schenberg, Marilyn Morris, and Ruth Turoff, as well as yours truly.

Sisterhood and Men's Club sponsored a Wine Tasting featuring Kosher for Passover wines. This was also a chance for the congregation to meet and greet one of our rabbi candidates, Rabbi Ben Shalva and his wife. Doug Leo announced the wines to be tasted, with a wide assortment. Wines are now available to be picked up at Cheers Wine and Liquor Store at the corner of Manetto Hill Rd. and Old Country Rd. in the Harmon Shopping Center. They very generously donated the wines for tasting and gave the temple a discount, so every bottle bought was money that went back to the temple. Thanks to Doug for arranging the tasting with the store manager—please patronize them (the only store in Plainview that would even consider donating wine to us) and tell them Manetto Hill Jewish Center sent you.

Our Women's Passover Seder was March 18th, under the able guidance of Marian Pasetky and Sharon Dashow. They patiently sit and make our Haggadah each year...it's a nice way to welcome the holiday. Kosher Emporium catered our meal and Bounny made a lovely fruit platter! Thanks to Jodi Hirsch,

HHM ASSOCIATES, INC.

Mindy Kurtzman

Harriet Blatt and Debbie Eichen for shopping at Costco and Shop-Rite (see you on aisle 3!) and to Ellen Goldman for getting prices and making arrangements with the caterer.

Our Sisterhood Shabbat was postponed from April 9th to May 21st, in anticipation of some rabbi candidates leading Shabbat services; please note that on your calendars. Our theme for the Shabbat is "Jewish Women Authors." We are in the process of contacting an author to speak during services; she would also be at the dinner, so we'd get a chance to speak informally as well. Dinner is at 6:30, the service at 8:00. Please contact either Sharon Dashow or me if you'd like to participate. Sign up deadline in the office for the dinner is May 14; your check is your reservation!

We are still considering a yoga night as well as another joint event with Men's Club...keep your eye out for e-mails from the temple.

Well, it's time to get changed into my costume...I hope that teddy bear is still upstairs in Stephanie's room....do I need my grogger?? Happy Purim!!

MEN'S CLUB

Ed Dicken & Doug Leo

As we finally put winter behind us and start to look forward to spring and baseball season, Men's Club is excited to continue with a myriad of events for its members. Along with Sisterhood, we planned a wine tasting in March, with 18 different Kosher for Passover wines on display. Thanks to Sisterhood and especially Mindy Kurtzman for all her work to provide food and decorations. We also had our annual Super Bowl party—much fun was had by all. Thanks to the 34 people who came to donate blood at the Super Bowl Sunday Blood Drive, and to all those who helped out; Long Island Blood Services collected 28 pints of badly needed whole blood. Please donate as often as you are able, and we hope to see you at our Summer Blood Drive in July.

Our next few events are going to be even more fun—the more of you who give it a try, the better time we have. Card Night is now on April 25th at 8PM where you can bring the beverage of your choice; novices are welcome. May 23rd is our Paid-up Barbeque and Movie Night at 6PM, which is always well-attended. It is probably because we upgraded to steak. June 13th is the Picnic and Softball game with Sisterhood. We hope all of you can make it so it eventually becomes an annual event.

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 away from home each and every month! Shalom!

SOLO SEDER PLUS ... Now in our 20th year!

This Passover, as you and your family and friends gather around the Seder table, *we ask you to remember three special groups of people.

SOLO SEDER - Our Jewish military personnel serve at United States military installations across the globe in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Korea, often isolated from the organized Jewish community. For more than 90 years, in times of peace and in times of war, JWB Jewish Chaplains Council has provided for the religious, educational, and morale needs of Jewish men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces, and your generosity helps fulfill that sacred commitment. Today with more military serving throughout the world and several war fronts, we reach out to you to become a sponsor so that every Jewish serviceman and service-woman in our armed forces will receive a Passover Package.



PANTRY FUND - In these hard economic times, with an increasing number of people, including Jews, out of work, more of our people depend on community food pantries to feed themselves and their families. With so many people out of work, the need is greater than ever. We reach out to you to help support these critical needs in the METNY community so that every Jewish family can celebrate Passover appropriately.

YOUTH FUND - Families are faced with tough choices today. While some may view youth activities like USY and Kadima as extras, we strongly believe that it's fundamental to the present and future vitality of the Jewish people and Conservative Movement. We ask you to contribute to the METNY USY Scholarship fund, so our youth will have opportunities to strengthen their Jewish identities.

To learn more about Solo Seder please return this form with your payment by **March 22, 2010**

Please make check(s) payable to METNY, United Synagogue, Attn: Solo Seder Plus, 820 Second Avenue, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10017

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Purim Carnival 4:15-6:15 Education	2	3	4 Executive Board	5 Candle Lighting 5:32 pm Shabbat Across America Shabbat Dinner	6
7 Youth	8 Ways & Means	9 House/Long Range Planning	10 Sisterhood-	11 Ritual	12 Candle Lighting 5:39 pm Birthday Shabbat Service	13
14 Daylight Savings Trustee Youth	15 Membership/Family Life	16	17 Open Congregation Rabbi Search Committee	18 Women's Passover Seder	19 Candle Lighting 6:46 pm	20 Junior Congregation
21 Youth	22	23	24 Israeli & Jewish Affairs	25	26 Candle Lighting 6:57 pm	27
28	29 No Classes	30 No Classes Services 9:30am	31 Services 9:30am			
Passover – 3/29 – 4/5 P.O.B. Schools Closed: 3/29 – 4/5, resume 4/6						

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

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, Joseph Kwartner, 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

Simchas

March Birthdays

Jason Bart, Rona Bielik, Judith Blatt Nichols, Ivy Chasan, Carole Clarin, Ruth DePierro, Sheryl Eisenberg, Gregory Friedel, Aviva Friedman, Fred Fruchter, Scott Fruchter, David Gaynes, Sandee Goldstein, Phyllis Gordon, Amy Green, Allison Greenspan, Lisa Halfen, Daniel Hallak, Stanley Horowitz, Gail Kirshenber, Brett Kitograd, Michele Kitograd, Scott Kitograd, Sheldon Leibman, Lisa Klein, Anne Labowitz, Meryl Lamel, Mark Landisman, Douglas Leo, Allison Levine, Murray Levine, Adriana Levner, Howard Mann, Seth Marx, Mark Meinberg, Melissa Osterweil, Dena Ozur, Ian Pasetzky, Amy Pinck, Linda Pinck, Marlene Pinck, Mindy Reznik, Doris Roth, Lori Saland-Kaufman, Alexandra Sauer, Debo-

rah Schenkein, Felicia Schneberg, Benjamin Sheiman, Shaina Sanderowitz, Rhonda Silverberg, Lisa Sommer, Howard Starr, Arthur Stein, Gary Talkofsky, Barbara Tetenbaum, Jacqueline Weinstein, Jonathan Weinstein, Lori Weinstein, Michael Zekind

March Anniversaries

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Candle Lighting 7:01 pm	3
Passover – 3/29 – 4/5 P.O.B. Schools Closed: 3/29 – 4/5, resume 4/6						
4	5 No Classes Services 9:30am	6 Yizkor Services 9:30am	7 Hebrew School Resumes Executive Board	8 Yom Hoshuah Program, Mid-Island JCC 7:30 pm	9 Candle Lighting 7:08 pm	10
11 <i>Yom HaShoah</i> Men's Club Paid Up BBQ & Movie Night Youth	12 Ways & Means Education	13 House/Long Range Planning	14 Sisterhood	15 Ritual	16 Candle Lighting 7:16 pm	17 Junior Congregation
18 Trustee Youth	19 Membership/Family Life	20	21 Israeli & Jewish Affairs	22 Financial Committee	23 Candle Lighting 7:23 pm Bet Class Service	24
25 Men's Club Card Night 8PM Youth	26	27	28	29	30 Candle Lighting 7:30 pm	

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

Nisan Yahrzeits

Frieda Bart, Sarah Cantos, Rose Clarin, Etta Drabkin, Anna Eichen, Charles Elgart, Max Elbaum, Irving Endelson, Alice Gaynes, Nat Gordon, Ann Greenberg, Etta Greenberg, Margaret Halfen, Olga Hallak, Mollie Krigsner, Rose Levine, Beatrice Malter, Philip Meinberg, Ralph Mestrano, Charlotte Osterweil, Gloria Perzov, Sarah Reich, Eli Rosenblatt, Jack Saltzer, Minna Sanderowitz, Jack Scarr, Abraham Schiffman, Molly Shniter, Gloria Spitzer, Alice Stein, Anna Stein, Marvin Stempel, Irving Strassman, Anne Snyder, June Trotta

Iyar Yahrzeits

Laura Bernstein, David Blatt, Hyman Borodinsky, Anne Brody, Nathan Eichen, Shirley Erdman, Louis Fischer, Rebecca Goldman, Ruth Gordon, Walter Grunwald, Freda Gutterman, Clara Klein, Leo Korman, Goldie Kwartner, Gussie Levine, Lillian Newman, Robert Nataupsky, Al Pinck, Bessie Reiter, Moe Rokofsky, Manny Ross, Anna Saltzman, Walter Schweitzer, Sylvia Spitz, Marvin Steinberg, Irving Stier, Irvin Talkofsky

Simchas

April Birthdays

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

April Anniversaries

Henry & Jacqueline Eill, Steve & Cheryl Fuchs, Mark & Jodi Hirsch, Steven & Meryl Lamel, Ken & Patti Silver

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

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.

Our youth groups started off 2010 with some very special events!

On January 24th, USY, Kadima and Pre-Kadima raised \$300 to donate to the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund to help support the victims of the Haiti earthquake. The \$300 was matched by a combined effort from Sisterhood and Men's Club for another \$300. Harriet and Harvey Blatt generously matched another \$300. The Konel Family generously matched another \$300, bringing our total donation to \$1200. Special thanks to Laurel Konel who helped coordinate it all!

We all enjoyed our Mystery Bus Ride on January 31st.

We all hopped on to a party limo bus and let the driver take us to our mystery destination. The limo bus ended up in Manhattan and we jumped off the bus to go see the *Gazillion Bubble Show*. Afterward we went back to the shul where we all shared a light dinner together. Many thanks to our youth advisor, Brian Sudran, who helped with most of the program's organization. Special thanks to Laurel and Michael Konel who happily joined us as extra staff.



Youth Member Spotlight

Jordan Dashow, our USY President, has been working diligently all year to make our chapter a huge success. As always, Jordan has succeeded. He was recently honored as an outstanding chapter president at a METNY Chapter Presidents Award Ceremony. I would like to share an e-mail received from METNY in honor of Jordan below. We all wish him a Yasher Koach and thank him for the wonderful job he has done!

METNY

Dear Larry, Robyn and Rabbi Bernstein,

This past week METNY USY held our Annual Mid-Winter Kallah with 317 USYers and Kadimaniks! At Kallah, they enjoyed a variety of religious and social workshops, a dance and a chance to enjoy Shabbat with their friends. On Sunday morning we were delighted to take part in the World Wide Wrap.

One of the weekend's highlights was when we honored our METNY USY's Chapter Presidents at a special awards presentation on Sunday. We are delighted to inform you that Jordan Dashow, the President of your USY chapter, was included in this award presentation. We want to wish the Manetto Hill Jewish Center a yasher koach on this honor! Please notify this honorable mention to your entire congregation so we all can take pride in our USYer's achievements.

The relationship between METNY USY and the Manetto Hill Jewish Center is a sacred one. The religious and social experience our youth receive has a positive effect in assuring the future of Conservative Judaism.

The leadership of METNY extends their congratulations to Jordan Dashow and your entire community. We look forward to partnering with your synagogue in servicing the over 100 affiliated USCJ synagogues and 25,000 Conservative families in our METNY region. Please be in touch with any questions. We can be reached at 212-533-0800 or metny@uscj.org. We look forward to seeing you soon.

B'Shalom,

Sharon Steinberg, METNY President

Rabbi Charles Savenor, METNY Executive Director

Dave Siegel, METNY Interim Director of Youth Activities



PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

Happiness can be found in the air. One just has to allow it to enter into the soul. Pirke Avot (Sayings of our forefathers): The sages tell us "When Adar enters, we increase joy." As I am writing this article it is a week or so before Purim. I know the children of our school and Youth Group will be creating booths for the Carnival on Monday, March 1st. There will be a giant obstacle course and other goodies to bring smiles to everyone's faces! A special Todah Rabah to Mr. Brian Sudran for obtaining the obstacle course. Another Todah Rabah to Mrs. Polofsky for making a very generous donation to the school in order for our children to have increased joy!

Our school will be embarking on a new adventure with the children of Israel. We already started the grant program of "Ki Va Moed" and the Environment project with TEVA and SPNI (Israel's 2 top Environment Agencies). Now the students receive letters from the Israeli students and write letters to them as part of a pen pal program which will also include a Sunday Video Conference. The Video Conference with Israel is coming in April or early May. Our Primary class is full of lovely children learning and having a fun time. I am proud to announce that this Fall our school will have a Wednesday one hour class from 5PM to 6PM. The Primary class will also continue to enjoy Shabbat with the Aleph and Bet classes. Start spreading the good news!

Mr. Sudran's Bet Class will have their time in the spotlight on Friday, April 23, when the whole class will be leading the service.

Helene Ainbinder, Principal

Pesach break will be Monday, March 29 to April 6th and ALL CLASSES WILL RESUME on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7th.

Saturday, April 17th is TOT and Jr. Congregation (the Service is family friendly) extra goodies for adding to the Drash!

Mrs. Bienenfeld's Aleph Class will have their Consecration on Friday, May 7th along with Birthday Shabbat.

Saturday, May 15th is Tot and Jr. Congregation.

Hay Graduation will be on Monday, May 17th

Awards and Teachers' Recognition will be Monday, May 24.

Try to attend as many of these wonderful events as you can. Remember we are in the month of Adar and we are commanded to increase our joy. What better way than to attend a Simcha! As always I look forward to seeing everyone.

Wishing everyone a Zezin Pesach!

RITUAL COMMITTEE

Sharon Dashow

On February 13th, instead of holding our traditional service, we inserted more English into the service and shortened services a bit so that we ended by 11:30. Everyone was then invited to join us for lunch, which was sponsored by the Ritual Committee. During lunch, we held a short but lively discussion in which we compared and contrasted the way the Olympic committee handled the death of Nodar Kumaritashvili, the Georgian luger, as opposed to the way in which the Olympic Committee handled the massacre of eleven Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics. We plan to hold a similar service followed by lunch and a discussion on the average of once a month. Please check our website to find out when these Shabbats are scheduled.

Passover begins on the evening of March 29th. Please check your mailings and our website for information about selling your chometz. The last day of Passover is April 6th. Yiskor is recited on that day.

Have a Zizen Pesach!

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ISRAEL IS THE GREATEST

On Jan. 15, the Israel Defense Forces' emergency aid team arrived in Haiti, consisting of a medical mission and search and rescue teams. The team has established a major field hospital adjacent to Port-au-Prince's soccer stadium, which is reported to be one of the largest medical facilities currently operating in Haiti with the capacity to treat up to 500 patients per day. The field hospital is equipped with:

- Operating rooms
- An intensive care ward
- A maternity ward
- Pediatrics ward
- Incubator units
- Pharmacy
- X-ray equipment
- 10 tons of medical equipment
- 90 beds, 66 intensive care beds and two delivery beds
- Approximately 250 personnel, including 40 doctors and specialists, 20 nurses and several paramedics.*

The IDF search and rescue teams include about 30 operators and dozens of operations personnel including logistics IT, communications and canine units. They rescued a 52-year old man from the ruins of a government office building Jan. 17 after he communicated his location by SMS. The Israeli team worked for six hours before finally freeing him. And on Sunday, (Jan. 17), a baby boy was delivered inside the Israeli field hospital. The mother of the child said she would call him Israel.

Israeli emergency response service (ZAKA) volunteers on the ground in Haiti rescued eight students from the rubble of a flattened university building in Port au-Prince, Haiti, on Saturday (Jan. 16). Deploying a six-man team, ZAKA worked for 38 hours with a Mexican military team to rescue the students.

The team is comprised of observant Jews who continued with their life-saving activities over the Jewish Sabbath because Jew-

ish law instructs that Sabbath can be broken to save a life. "With all the hell going on outside, even when things get bad, Judaism says we must take a deep breath and go on to save more people" said Commander of the ZAKA mission to Haiti Mati Goldstein in an interview with Israeli news outlet YnetNews.

Israeli and Jewish groups continue their efforts to provide relief to the people of Haiti. Israel in haiti updates of IDF Medical and Rescue Team in Haiti: @IDFinHaiti

The Israel Project offers its condolences to the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. There are many efforts in the US to aid victims of the terrible earthquake in Haiti. United Synagogue has a Disaster Relief Fund set up for those who wish to help earthquake victims. The URL for on-line donations is: www.uscj.org/donate/relief.

Rabbi Jonathan Ginsburg: Rabbi of the Ezra-Habonim, Niles Township Jewish Congregation in Skokie Il., he received his B.A. in religion from the University of Chicago and was the valedictory orator. He received his Masters and Rabbinic Ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary where he won the Award for outstanding student. He is a National Merit scholar and the 1974 USA National High School Debate Champion. He has been Adjunct faculty of St. Catherine College and Metropolitan University, teaching Judaism and Hebrew Bible He is one of the world's leading Jewish educators online, creating 8 websites, 20 blogs, and 550 educational videos with over 2.5 million views. He Created, Esynagogue, which offers online study programs for Conversion, Para rabbi training, and a children's Hebrew/Religious school. He also sends a daily Torah and event email to his Congregation. Email Rabbi@ehnt.org 847-331-3584. His synagogue is the 2009 awardee of USCJ's Gold Medal in Adult education.

ISRAEL AND JEWISH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Ababy named Israel. That says it all! There is a feeling of pride in knowing that Israel was the first country to set up a hospital in Haiti after the earthquake and to know that its actions were so appreciated, that a woman who gave birth in that hospital named her baby Israel. It also speaks volumes that it was not surprising that Israel reacted this way and so fast. Israel always seems to be at the forefront when it comes to aiding others.

While it is nice to see Israel get some positive press for a change, we must be ever vigilant about the bias in the media against Israel. It is up to all of us to speak out whenever untruths are reported in the media. A great organization to obtain information on this issue is CAMERA (Committee for

Renee & Conrad Yarmoff
Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America). Their website is camera.org.

As of the writing of this article negotiations for the release of Gilad Shalit are at a standstill. Gilad's father, Noam Shalit, has called upon Amnesty International to help release Gilad from Hamas captivity. Just as we wrote letters to politicians in support of Gilad, so too it would help to add our voices by writing letters to Amnesty International. As their headquarters is in London, the best way to contact them is via e-mail through their website, amnesty.org. Let's all do what we can to ensure that the next Passover celebrated by Gilad, will be one celebrated in freedom.

MHJC SPOTLIGHT

Laurel Konel

What better way to meet some of our new members than by introducing them in our spotlight column! Please help me in welcoming Jackie, Juliana and Max Redler to our MHJC family.

Jackie grew up in neighboring Jericho and moved into Plainview over 6 years ago. She is a physical education specialist (i.e. gym teacher!) with the New York City Department of Education working at an elementary/middle school in Jamaica.

About 4 years ago, Jackie decided that she wanted to adopt a child. She started working with the Ukraine but as that



country closed for adoptions, the agency she was working with sent a picture of the two most adorable children from Guatemala and Jackie could not resist the brother and sister team. Juliana and Max came home to Plainview with Jackie and her mom, Grandma Lorraine, in June 2007. They came here speaking no Eng-

lish; Jackie spoke very little Spanish. They had a good support system of native Spanish speakers to help them communicate. Juliana turned 6 a week after she arrived and Max turned 5 two months later.

In September, Julianna started first grade and Max started at the K-Center. Within 6 months of being in the U.S., they

were speaking English fairly well. Both assimilated very well given that they were very naive as early youngsters and here they were moving to a new country with their new mom and grandmother.

In November 2008, Jackie was introduced to Rabbi Bernstein as she was looking for a rabbi to do the Mikveh conversion of the kids. In May 2009 Rabbi Bernstein presided over their baby naming at MHJC. Julianna, who is named for Jackie's maternal grandmother and great-grandmother, was given the Hebrew name Shamira Nessa, which means "Beautiful Protector," as she had been her brother's source of guidance and protection for the 2 years they were in Guatemala waiting for Jackie to adopt them. Max is named for Jackie's father and his father, Matityahu Kalman.

The kids are happy and adjusted. They enjoy soccer, Brownies, Cub Scouts, karate, gymnastics and whatever else they can talk Jackie into doing! Juliana is in the Aleph class at MHJC and Max cannot wait to start! You should have heard him relating the story of Jonah and the fish to Mrs. Ainbinder at the children's services during the high holidays!

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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**

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

**Irwin Caterers at
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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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