

SHOFAR



Volume 42, Issue 3

MAY/JUNE 2009 – Iyar/Sivan 5769

Torah
Dedication
Weekend
June 5-7

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

I am writing this having just shlepped the last of the Pesach pots and pans to their various and sundry nooks and crannies. We rolled up the vinyl counter covers for another year. Every chipped plate and wine-stained Haggadah triggers a pleasant memory, conjuring up a family anecdote, and a smile.

The next two months are memory makers as well. Mother's Day and Father's Day bring to mind multiple generations coalescing around the kitchen table. Many of us have living rooms, dining rooms, dens, and some of us even have "media centers." Why is it that we all migrate to the kitchen? My theory is that it has to do with the wonderful aromas – my Mom's special spaghetti sauce, one of Naomi's hearty soups, Dahlia's rich cholent.

Speaking nostalgically of Dahlia, this spring will be a special one for our family, full of wonderful memories. Dahlia will be getting married in June. We are hosting the congregation to a dairy dessert reception on the first night of Shavuot, Thursday, May 28th at 8:00 pm to honor Dahlia and Aaron's upcoming marriage. We will have our traditional Leil Tikkun Shavuot. Mark your calendars. You're all invited. (Please give Sol a call in the office if you can come.)

Rabbi Morris Bernstein

Dahlia was named for her maternal grandfather and was very close to her other grandparents. Sadly, none of them lived to share this nachas. Aaron has one grandmother who is not well enough to attend.

People say that as I mature, a polite word for age, I resemble my Dad more and more. I take this as a great compliment. He was a good looking gentleman.

I took a few pictures of Dahlia in her wedding gown when she went for a fitting and Naomi framed one for the coffee table. I often hold it, thinking of my parents and wishing they could see her through my eyes.

This spring will be a time of graduations for many families in our congregation, whether it's middle school, high school, college, or graduate school. All of these milestones are very important. My advice: be as inclusive as possible and take lots of photographs.

I just discovered a couple of orphaned brisket platters and brought them to the one carton that had a modicum of room in the garage. The intoxicating perfume from the magnolia tree wafted through the air. I inhaled deeply—life is good!

RITUAL COMMITTEE

“If I ever survive, I'll make sure I'm around Jewish children.” That was the vow that Zelda Polofsky made when she was a child during the Holocaust as her family hid from the Nazis for over three years. Clearly, it is a vow that she has kept.

Just as our children have had the privilege of learning from Mrs. Polofsky in her position as one of our Hebrew School teachers, so too, those who attended MHJC's Yom Hashoah program were privileged to hear her speak of her experiences during the Holocaust. While at times it was difficult both for Mrs. Polofsky to relate the atrocities that she witnessed and for us to hear those accounts, her story is one that needs to be told. Her moving account of her experiences as one of the hidden children touched us all.

We all have an obligation to bear witness and to remember the six million Jews who perished at the hands of the Nazis and to proclaim that we will never forget nor will we let the world forget what happened during the *Shoah*. It is only by commemorating this terrible period in our history that we can ensure that we are never subjected to another holocaust.

While we have a responsibility to remember somber occasions such as Yom Hashoah, we also have a duty to celebrate

more joyous holidays. One such holiday is Shavuot, which celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Shavuot begins on Thursday night, May 28th. On the 30th, the second day of Shavuot, we will be reading the book of Ruth. Ruth was a Moabite princess who married the son of Naomi. After Ruth's husband died, she followed Naomi to Israel and converted to Judaism. King David is one of her descendants. Yizkor will also be recited on the 30th.

As always, we need people to attend services on those weekends when there are no Bar/Bat Mitzvahs as well as attending our daily minyans. Please help us by supporting the main function of our, or any, synagogue. We hope to see you there.

Sharon Dashow



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Give what you can, whatever you feel is right for you to give

The weekend of June 5th through 7th will be an important one for our synagogue. We will be dedicating a Torah. This is one of the most significant mitzvahs that someone can perform. I urge everyone to participate at whatever level you can. Join us on Friday and / or Saturday night. Walk with us from the Rabbi's house carrying the Torah on Sunday morning. Be there on Sunday to watch the sofer (a.k.a., the scribe) writing in the Torah. And of course, consider purchasing a letter, word, phrase, parasha, etc. It would be a fantastic statement of congregational unity if we could reach 100% participation (or as close as possible to it).

I want to express my gratitude in advance to several individuals without whom this event would not be taking place. First, our Ways and Means committee, headed by Sharon Dashow, has worked tirelessly to address the myriad of details involved. In addition to working with the Rabbi to determine the list of words, phrases, etc. for purchase (and at what prices), there have been a host of minor and major issues to be addressed. This has included arranging the entertainment for Saturday night, brainstorming which politicians to invite to speak, and figuring out the route that we will march on Sunday morning so that we can get the appropriate permits from the town.

And secondly, for those of you who don't know, a Torah dedication does not take place without a set of primary sponsor families who provide the monies to donate the Torah itself. My thanks to the Cohen, Eichen, Morris, Osdoby, and Zelkind families who have once again demonstrated their consistent devotion to our shul by each donating a substantial amount of money to ensure we reach the necessary funding level. And I want to extend special additional thanks to the Zelkinds, who stepped up with a double donation to ensure that the Torah dedication would take place and that we have a great head start towards the purchase of phrases, etc.

The primary funding is in place and the final details of the weekend's events are being nailed down. So, what is left? The answer is simple: **WE NEED YOUR INVOLVEMENT.**

One of our past Torah dedications brought in, depending on who you speak with, over \$40,000 to the synagogue. With the economy the way it is, I don't expect us to reach that figure this time (although I won't complain if we do!). However, if every family (or almost every family) were to participate at some level, we would still raise a noteworthy amount of money for our shul.

Let me provide some reasons why you should participate by purchasing and dedicating a letter, word, phrase, etc. of the Torah. Hopefully, one or more will resonate with you.

It's one of the most important mitzvahs that everyone should do in their life. The Rabbi has said, "According to Jewish tradition, all Jews should write or commission a scroll of the Torah at some point in their lives."

Help raise money for our synagogue. We have the lowest membership dues in the area and we strive to keep it that way. However, it does mean that our budget is extremely tight at all times. This is our major fundraiser for the year and every dollar that we can bring in helps us to keep a lid on dues, fees, etc.

It's a perfect example of "many small efforts can make a big impact." While we have several families that have or are planning to make large donations towards this cause, there are a multitude of opportunities for more modest donations. A single letter is only \$18 and a word is only \$36. Particularly with so many people currently "in transition" (a fancy euphemism for "unemployed"), purchasing your family's first names, or even the first letters of their names, is certainly a more affordable option.

It is a beautiful and memorable way to honor or memorialize loved ones. Whether it is by purchasing your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah parasha or the name of a family member who has passed, you will always know that there is a permanent recognition of them in your heart. In fact, one of our primary donor families has designated their donation in honor of their parents and children, and two of the other primary donor families have designated their donation in memory of loved ones who are no longer with us.

Make a statement about the community attitude of the Manetto Hill Jewish Center. If we can truly achieve a 100% participation rate, or close to it, it sends a powerful message about the spirit of our shul.

So please go on our website to view the list of donatable items, or stop by the synagogue office for a hard copy of the document. Then fill out and turn in your form as soon as possible. As I said in a Kol Nidre appeal a few years ago (2005 to be exact): **"Give what you can, whatever you feel is right for you to give."**

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

Editor's Note: During High Holidays 2008, Burt Lipshie delivered an extremely moving Yizkor Appeal. I think it is appropriate to include his speech here. Burt spoke about continuity, from generation to generation. In June, we are dedicating a Torah—one of the strongest symbols of continuity in the history of Judaism. Of course, during Shavuot we observe Yizkor once again. If you are moved by the words that follow, or by memories of your own, please take a moment, write a check, buy a letter or a word or a phrase in the new Torah, and ensure that MHJC can continue the Jewish traditions that have sustained us for so many generations, and will continue to sustain us for so many generations to come.

The last time I was given the honor of giving the Yizkor address was about seven years ago. And I remember ending it by talking about how lucky I was. That when I finished speaking, I would join those who walked out of the sanctuary for Yizkor. Because there, sitting in the fourth row, were both my parents. And I remember saying how wonderful it was that every year, at kiddush on Erev Rosh Hashanah, just as at the first seder, my father and I would look around the table, while singing shehecheyanu, then smile at each other, and raise our cups just a bit, because everyone we loved was there.

Much has happened since then. We lost my dad four years ago. And these are the first High Holidays without my mom. The first Yom Kippur Yizkor without her sitting there. And as my grandson Solly told me last week, although the house was full, it seemed empty without grandma.

Those wonderful ancient poets who wrote our liturgy had a number of different ways of expressing the concept of forever. My favorite has always been "l'dor v'dor"—from generation unto generation. The thought of forever as being an unending chain of human lives. From ancestor to descen-

dant, over and over again.

And the phrase always reminds me of the Yizkor service. For we are here for this part of the service today, as we are three other times during the year, to remember – zachor – our place in this chain. To remember those who came before us and gave us life. To think about our own lives and mortality. To look at the young faces around us, and think about the future. From generation unto generation.

An incident this year drove home to me so dramatically this sense of place on the long chain leading from the distant past to the distant future. We were going through the awful process of emptying my parents' house. They had lived there for over 50 years, and they didn't throw out much. The ache was so great at going through their things. And the need to talk to them sometimes was overwhelming. "Ma, why exactly did you stick these priceless family photos in the middle of your underwear drawer?"

One of the things that always bothered me was that I had never, all my life, seen any pictures of my mother as a youngster. We had hundreds of pictures of my parents as a couple. As newlyweds, and later on family vacations. Some of each before they met. We had a few childhood pictures of my dad—and as those of you who knew him would expect, they showed him with mischief on his face—but the earliest pictures we had of my mother were from her mid-20s.

One day, when we were tackling the basement, we discovered, tucked away deep in a chest of drawers that had not been opened in maybe forty years, a folder with a piece of family treasure. My grandfather's—my mother's father's—Russian passport. They had come to America in 1910, arriving when my bubby was four months pregnant with my mother (that must have been a heck of a journey for her). And here was a wonderful piece of family history. As I was putting it back in its



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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**

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folder, a small picture fell out. It was old. It was a formal pose. A young boy, about ten or eleven, and a young girl, maybe five or six. They are dressed uncomfortably in what must have been their finest clothes. They look solemn. In fact, the girl particularly looks a little scared. The photographer must have just ducked behind his little screen, and set off the powder.

As I studied the picture, I recognized the boy. Because, in his long life, his face never really changed. It was my uncle. My mother's older brother. And then it hit me like a thunder clap. The girl was my mother. I was looking at a picture of my mother as a young child. And then another, even bigger, thunder clap. Her face. Her face as a child. It was an exact duplicate—feature by feature—of my six-year old granddaughter Rena. Those features had skipped over two generations. But there they were, completely reproduced, in the third. Now I always get a smile from Rena when I call her “little Esther.” And, who knows from which ancestor my mother got those exact features. And from whom, even further back, that ancestor got them. From generation unto generation.

Just like families, synagogues are also a link in a long chain. One of our ancient sayings is that G-d creates the cure before he creates the disease. That is particularly true of the institution of the synagogue. In the time of the Kings of Judah and Israel, there were no synagogues. Worship was done at the temple in Jerusalem, or at local—unauthorized—altars. And the sanctioned worship was in the form of sacrifices, not the reading of the liturgy. But after the Babylonian destruction of the First Temple, the Jews remaining in Judah, or in captivity in Babylon, or in other beginnings of the Diaspora, had no temple for the making of sacrifices. Had no altars on the high places. Instead, they began to gather together in smaller buildings for the study of Torah, using that study, and the beginnings of formalized prayer services, as a substitute for the sacrifices. And, so, the synagogue was born.

And, when that short exile was over, the synagogue remained a local institution throughout Israel all during the time of the Second Temple. And, so, it was already in place when the Romans destroyed the Second Temple, and the 2,000 years of dispersion began. Without the synagogue, as a place to gather, to learn, to pray, to keep communities together, we could never have survived. The synagogue, from generation unto generation, has kept the Jewish people alive.

And, in our own time, in our own lives, it has often been a focal point of our family memories. My earliest synagogue memories are of sitting in my grandfather's shul on the High Holidays, wedged between my father and grandfather (the three Lipshie boys!), And doing what I'll bet all of you remember doing at the same age—playing with the fringes of my grandfather's tallis. And you know, just last week, I sat here while my granddaughter Ilana sat beside me, playing with the fringes of my tallis. A tallis, by the way, that my late father-in-law bought for me before Sheila's and my wedding.

For my family, the most meaningful synagogue memories involve this congregation. As I look around the room, I see many others of you who have been part of this family for as long, or even longer, than we have. And I also see newer faces; those who are in the process, or who will soon, make their own memories here. We joined MHJC in 1972. When my daughters were young, they did not play house, or store, with their friends. They played “temple meeting.” Because that's what their parents were always doing. Both Ann and Jill went to our Hebrew school. Both became bat mitzvah from our bimah. Years later – well, not so many years later – my son-in-law Steven had his *aufbruch* at our shul. My granddaughter Aviva was named there. Rabbi Bernstein wasn't yet with us for their bat mitzvahs, but he married my daughters, named my granddaughter, and buried my parents.

The sense of being a link in a long chain of generations, and the sense of having important family connections and history with a synagogue, really come together in the Yizkor Service. We are all drawn here, to this place, to do our remembering. Just as our parents were, and as their parents were. And as our more remote ancestors were, back over the millenia.

And there is also another connection when we say the prayers, and remember our loved ones. So many ancient societies had forms of ancestor-worship. And often they resulted in rituals that we would think of as grotesque. Our ancient rabbis taught us not to worship ancestors, but to honor them. And they thought about which act should be part of our remembrance. What should we do in memory of our loved ones. Charity. The giving of *tzeddakah*, in the memory of those we loved while they walked the earth, was the act that the sages believed would keep them alive in this world. And so, as we sit together, in this congregation, we pledge to give charity in their memory.

I suggest to you that what ties all of this together is that at Yizkor, in memory of our departed, we should give charity to the institution that gives us the place, and the opportunity, to remember, and to honor the memories of those other links in the chain of generation unto generation. Financial support of synagogues is a critical task for us. After all these generations, we cannot allow the light to go out on our watch.

As I finish, and as we turn to the Yizkor service, my children and grandchildren—except for Sandy, who lost his father too young—will walk out. As I did for so many years. But the day will come when they stay. When they will be remembering me during this service. And I pray that when they do, and when, in G-d's good time their children stay for them, they will not just carry with them family physical resemblances, but that they will also share the love of a synagogue, and that they will also do all they can to help preserve and maintain it. From generation unto generation.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Candelighting @ 5:32 pm	2
3 Youth In Building	4	5	6	7 Executive Board	8 Candelighting @ 7:31 pm Aleph Consecration Dinner @ 6:30 p.m. Service @ 8 pm	9
10	11 Hebrew School Lag B'Omer Celebration	12 Knit & Nosh: 1 – 3 pm Lag B'Omer	13 Last Day of school for Hay Class Sisterhood	14	15 Candelighting @ 7:39 pm	16 Bat Mitzvah: Erica Talkofsky
17 Youth In Building	18 Hay Class Graduation House & Long Range Planning	19	20 Last Day of School for Aleph – Dalet Classes @ 6 pm Ways & Means	21 Ritual	22 Candelighting @ 7:52 pm	23
24 Bat Mitzvah: Amanda DeMel	25 Memorial Day: Office is closed	26 Israeli Jewish Affairs	27 Education Book Club	28 Erev Shavuot Services @ 8 pm	29 Shavuot Services @ 9:30 am & 8 pm Candelighting @ 7:58 pm Office Closed	30 Shavuot Services @ 9:30 am Yizkor
31 Israeli Day Parade Board of Directors Congregation Mtg and Vote: Budget, Officers/Trustees Sisterhood/Men's Club Softball Game						

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

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.

Iyar: Sylvia Spitz, Laura Bernstein, David Blatt, Hyman Borodinsky, Nathan Eichen, Shirley Erdman, Bessie Reiter,

Freda Gutterman, Clara Klein, Anna Saltzman, Ruth Gordon, Marvin Steinberg, Ann Brody, Arlene Marin, Rebecca Goldman, Al Pinck, Irving Stier, Robert Nataupsky, Moe Rokofsky, Louis Fischer, Walter Schweitzer, Jack Silverston, Irving Talkofsky, Walter Grunwald

Simchas

May Birthdays

Jeffrey Akavan, Todd Nevin Andron, Linda Benowitz, Naomi Bernstein, Goldie Brandl, Susan Buchberg, Jordan Edward Dashow, Cassie Edelstein, Henry Eill, Jonathan Engel, Robert Friedman, Jaci Fuchs, Lee Gaynes, Adam Goldstein, Zachary Gorfinkel, Jerri Greenspan, Jonathan Greenspan, Lauren Greenstein, Jaime Gutterman, Jody Gutterman, Mark Gutterman, Shelia Hankin, Samantha Hirsch, Laurel Konel, Rachel Konel, Stephanie Kurtzman, Kevin Labelle, Marc Labelle, Philip Levner, Burt Lipshie, Daniel Mann, Steven Messer, Eric Minkoff, Marilyn Morris, Ian Nuzie, Jennifer O'Brien, Jaci Osdoby, Steven Osdoby, Jeffrey Ozur, Kenneth Pa-

setsky, Edwyn Pinck, Barbara Randall, Seth Reznik, Steven Schenkein, Alyssa Schneyman, Nicole Schneyman, Charles Sheehan, Eugene Sheiman, Ashley Silverston, Cindy Silverston, Scott Sommer, Brian Spund, Norma Spund, Matthew Sudran, Nina Trembley, Sandi Vanderpool, Marvin Waks, Sharon Waks, Justin Winiarz, Ann Lipshie Zisser

May Anniversaries

Gerry & Carole Clarin, Mark & Jody Gutterman, Scott & Michele Kitograd, Mark & Nirit Landisman, Douglas and Ronni Leo, Howard & Rebecca Lewton, Charles & Barbara Sheehan, Mark & Ilene Sudran

JUNE 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Ritual	4 Executive Board	5 Candelighting @ 8:03 pm TORAH DEDICATION WEEKEND	6 Bar Mitzvah: Brett Mendelsohn TORAH DEDICATION WEEKEND
7 TORAH DEDICATION WEEKEND	8 Ways & Means	9	10 Sisterhood	11 Ritual	12 Candelighting @ 8:07 pm	13 Bar Mitzvah: Aaron Benowitz
14 Men's Club Activity Youth BBQ Board of Directors	15 House & Long Range Planning	16 Knit n Nosh: 1 – 3 p.m. Israeli Jewish Affairs	17 Education	18 Ritual	19 Candelighting @ 8:10 pm Installation Dinner	20
21	22 Membership Family Life	23	24	25 Ritual	26 Candelighting @ 8:11 pm	27
28	29	30				

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

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

Yahrzeits

Sivan: Adam Abrahams, Iris Barish, Julius Bernstein, Irving Cohen, Hy Edelman, Saul Gaynes, Annette Glazer, Howard Goldstein, Helga Kahn, Hugo Kahn, Pearl Kleinman, Sol Mandelbaum, Nathan Margolis, Sadie Marin, Anna Meinberg, Eugene Moskowitz, Nathan Kitkin, Bernard Silver, Shirley Spatt, Aaron Sugarman, Irving Uslan, Sarah Waks, Carl Weintraub

Tammuz: Sarah Chazanovitz, Herbert Drossman, Manek Feldman, Mary Gordon, Mary Grunwald, Sylvia Grun-

wald, 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 Pasetky, Irving Rappaport, Sima Ritter, Esther Robins, Florence Schenberg, Stanley Siegelheim, Sidney Storch, Rhoda Strassman, Evelyn Wertheim, Marcy Zelkind, Mitchell Zelkind, Jed Zuckerman

Simchas

June Birthdays

Aaron Benowitz, Amanda Benowitz, Roni Benson, Michael Bielik, Justin Brown, Jennifer Carmen, Benjamin Chasan, Taylor D'Argenio, Erica Drossman, Danielle Feder, Michelle Friedman, Cheryl Fuchs, Heather Galfunt, Bonnie Goldenberg, Melissa Goldman, David Greenblatt, Dawn Hoffman, Andrew Kallem, Ellen Kallem, Allan Klein, Ilana Konel, Brett Krasilovsky, Neil Krasilovsky, Sherrie Kusnitz, Cliff Kwartner, Michael Kwartner, David Labowitz, Matthew Leo, Randy Liebman, Dona Malter, Don Marx, Matthew Marx, Michelle Meinberg, Myron Moskowitz, Sharon Pearl, Jayme Ritter, Elijah Sauer, Lee Schenkein, Aharon Schwarzbard, Lea Schwarzbard, Barbara Sheehan, Arielle Sheinwald, Lori Simon, Matthew Teichner, Aaron Trembley, David Vanderpool, Bari Weinberg

June Anniversaries

Harvey & Roberta Cohen, Paul & Lee Gaynes, Robert & Sandee Goldstein, Cary & Ilyse Greenberg, Barry & Jerri Greenspan, Frank & Sue Halfen, Neil & Diane Krasilovsky, Nathan & Adriana Levner, Burt & Shelia Lipshie, Wendy & Jeffrey Marin, Richard & Sharon Mendelsohn, Dr. Michael and Sharon Merlis, Elliot & Marilyn Morris, Stu & Judy Nitkin, Mark & Barbara Nizewitz, Alan & Dena Ozur, Ed & Linda Pinck, Hyman & Bobbie Ritter, Bruce & Judy Ross, Theodore & Eleanor Scarr, William & Alice Schweitzer, Harlan & Norma Spund, David & Sandi Vanderpool, Marvin & Sharon Waks

Shalom and Happy Spring to everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful Passover, celebrating with family and friends!

Sisterhood has been very busy celebrating as well! Our Purim basket sale was a rousing success, with Sisterhood making almost \$1800 in profits! Thanks to Jodi Hirsch who chairs this event every year. She puts in much time and effort to make sure that the baskets look fresh and beautiful. Thanks to the volunteers who came to the temple on March 1 to collate the baskets: Linda Benowitz, Leora Friedman, Ivy Chasen, Ben Chasen, Sharon Dashow, Jodi Hirsch, Sue Halfen, Debbie Eichen, Harriet Blatt, Cheryl Sheinwald, Marilyn Katz, and Rhonda Silverberg. Your efforts helped us get the baskets ready in record time! Thanks to congregants who bought the baskets as well as our vendors who donated items for the baskets: Greenfield's Shop-Rite, AC Moore and The Dollar Store. Please patronize these generous merchants and tell them why you do!

Sisterhood held its third annual Women's Passover Seder with 27 women in attendance. We had a lovely dinner catered by Plainview Jewish Center. Thanks to Marian Pasetky and Sharon Dashow for putting together the beautiful Haggadah and Ellen Goldman for coordinating the catering. We took turns reading from the Haggadah and had a very nice candle lighting ceremony. We had an orange on the seder plate and a Miriam's Cup as well. It was fun and meaningful—everyone really enjoyed themselves!!

Rosh Hashanah may be in the distant future, but we are currently starting our ORT Honey Sale. The advantage to this is that we don't have to pay shipping costs because it's all in bulk: orders can be sent anywhere in the US, free of charge. The honey costs \$10 per jar, and a portion of the proceeds go directly to Sisterhood. It is beautifully labeled with a gift card stating who sent the honey and that the gift benefits our Sisterhood. We have customized order forms that should be enclosed with this issue of the *Shofar*. You can also go online to the MHJC website (www.mh-jc.org) where there is a direct link to the ORT honey website. Orders need to be done online by **July 24th**. If you wish to order by order form, they must be in by **July 15th**, so we can process the orders to ORT on time. Checks may be made payable to Manetto Hill Jewish Center Sisterhood. ORT also keeps a record of who you sent honey to last year, so if you'd like to know that information, please contact Mindy Kurtzman at 349-7041, though it is probably online when you reorder. Please think about your relatives or college students who will be far away at the High Holidays this year. ORT would like us to sell at least 50 jars, so we'd appreciate any help in that effort!!

We'd like to recognize one of our members, Harriet Blatt, who was honored on April 30th at a dinner given by the

Mindy Kurtzman, President

Mid-Island Y JCC. Harriet was recognized for all her volunteer efforts for the POB NORCS (Naturally Occuring Retirement Communities). Yasher Koach to Harriet!

We continue to sell our Sisterhood cookbooks at \$12.00/book—if you need a Mother's Day present please keep that in mind! Contact Ronni Leo at 822-1878 or e-mail her at rlleo@aol.com or contact the temple office. Sue Halfen still sells Shop-Rite and other gift certificates. Again, for Mother's Day or Father's Day, they make great gifts and benefit the Sisterhood and the temple at the same time. Sue's number is 921-2682.

Please keep an eye and ear out for mention of future Sisterhood events by e-mail, flyer and phone messages. We are planning a softball game and BBQ with the Men's Club for May 31. We are also in the planning stages of a joint fashion show with the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El of Massapequa for the fall. We also may steal Men's Club's idea of dinner and a movie for a weeknight in May or June, so please look for that information. If you have any questions or have ideas for future programs or want to volunteer for something coming up, please contact Sisterhood President Mindy Kurtzman at (516) 349-7041 or e-mail at LKurtzman@att.net.



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Sharon Dashow

On June 7, 1967, Israel liberated the Temple Mount and the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site. How fitting it is that on the anniversary of that liberation, we celebrate the dedication of our Torah! Just as the shofar was blown at the Western Wall, so too, we will blow shofar at Manetto Hill Jewish Center as we mark this extraordinary occasion at our synagogue. We are so grateful to the Cohens, Eichens, Morrises, Osdobys and Zelkinds for donating the Torah. The entire weekend will be a celebration of this wonderful event. We are planning to have a guest speaker on Friday night, June 5th. More details will follow shortly.

On Saturday we will be serving a light dinner (commonly referred to as the Shabbat "Third Meal") at 7:30 PM. Then at 9:30 PM the rock band, Pictures of Home, will be performing. Pictures of Home has given concerts in Israel as well as New York. They will be performing a mixture of Israeli rock, classic rock and original songs. The cost is \$10 per person for the entire evening or \$5 if you are not coming to the dinner. Reservations for dinner MUST be made by June 2nd.

We will be opening the box containing our clock and thus announcing the winner of our clock raffle during the entertainment. Minutes can be purchased up until the time that the box is opened.

Of course, the highlight of the weekend is the dedication itself. Please join us at 10:00AM as we assemble in front of Rabbi Bernstein's house (38 Gilbert Lane) to parade the Torah through the streets of Plainview. As we carry the Torah under a chuppah (wedding canopy), we will be accompanied by

music. The Cohens, who are dedicating the Torah in loving memory of Abraham Schiffman; the Eichens; the Morrises, who are dedicating the Torah in loving memory of Frank Tur-off; the Osdobys, who are dedicating the Torah in honor of their children and parents; and the Zelkinds will take turns carrying the Torah. Indeed, we would like to give everyone who participates in the parade a chance to carry the Torah.

After a short ceremony at 11:00 at MHJC, everyone will have an opportunity to participate in the mitzvah of the Torah dedication by purchasing letters, names, or parshas, etc. If you so desire, you can do so in memory or in honor of a loved one. Each person who participates will watch as the scribe makes the appropriate inscription in the Torah and will receive a personalized laminated certificate. Not only will you be partaking in a rare and special event, your purchases will help support Manetto Hill Jewish Center.

The day promises to be a most moving one as well as one that is fun for the entire family. Men's Club will be sponsoring a barbeque and there will be plenty of activities to partake in while waiting a turn with the scribe including, but not limited to, karaoke and crafts. Rabbi Bernstein will also be conducting a Torah workshop where we will use an instrument similar to the one used by the scribe as we learn how to write letters in the Torah. The winner of a separate raffle for a pendant valued at \$500 will be announced. Thank you to Solomons Jewelers for generously donating the pendant.

The Torah booklet, which sets forth the *parshas*, is available in the synagogue office or on our website at MH-JC.org. If there is a particular passage that has special meaning to you but is not listed in the booklet, just let us know.

As it is said in the *Siddur*, the Torah "is a tree of life for those who grasp it". Let us each "grasp" a part of the Torah by participating in the dedication, thereby adding to the life of Manetto Hill Jewish Center.

FAMILY LIFE

Barbara Dicken

Family Life hopes that all of our synagogue families had a happy, healthy Pesach. On Saturday, April 11 we held our annual "Passover Bingo." We are happy to report that between 30 and 40 people attended, and a fun time was had by all. We had a Passover nosh, and won yummy chocolate bars! Thank you to all who came out for this enjoyable event.

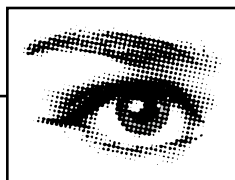
Family Life is interested in your ideas! If you have any suggestions for fun family events, please contact Barbara Dicken at barbara@computersurgeon.com or come down to our family life meetings. All are welcome!

Larry P. Berstein, M.D. F.A.A.O.

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PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

The school year was very packed with students and various activities. Some of the events were for social action in the community and others were opened to the congregation such as the Holocaust and Tolerance Museum trip on April 26.

I would like to wish a Mazal Tov to the Aleph class on their Consecration. I would like to wish a Mazal Tov to the Hay class on their graduation. I see new beginnings in both. One is the start of a Jewish child's learning, and the other is finishing a strong foundation of Jewish learning. The SH'MA program is the continuing regional high school of Judaic knowledge that 7 Conservative Synagogues partake in. MHJC is one of them, and I am hoping many of our Hay students will join.

Shavuot is the time of receiving the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai, and I feel it is so appropriate to give the Awards of Learning, Graduation and Recognition to Teachers and Students at this time of the Jewish calendar. I would also like

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. Invite them to attend our Open House on Sunday, June 7, starting at 11 am during our Torah Dedication celebration.

Helene Aimbinder, Principal

to thank my VP of Education Barbara Dicken, and Chair Ronni Leo for all their help. Also, Liz Sauer for helping us with the Purim carnival. And last, but not least, my wonderful staff, Sol and custodians for always being there for the schoolchildren and me. Todah rabah! So, please join the Religious School's special events.

At the end of the year a trip to Israel is being offered to one and all. It will be December 23, 2009 through January 2, 2010. This is a joint venture with the East Northport Jewish Center and Manetto Hill Jewish Center, since both synagogues are part of the Ki Va Moed Grant program. This program helps to strengthen our bonds with our brethren in Israel. It will be a multi-generational family planned trip. Please contact me if you are interested in joining me and other congregants. Have a peaceful and restful summer vacation!

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SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MHJC FAMILY

Laurel Konel

One good deed deserves another . . .

For those of you who may not know it, the man behind all the beautiful woodworking around the synagogue is the talented Sid Kaldor. The Konel family recently learned how very talented Sid is – and very generous too – as he made the beautiful wooden portion of the centerpieces for Rachel's bat mitzvah and would not take even a penny for them – not even the cost of the materials.



Rachel wanted to do something nice for Sid so she decided to take the money she had left over from her charity jewelry sales and donate it in his honor. She purchased the beautiful new mezzuzah which is hanging at the entrance to the Kiddush room, for all who enter the synagogue to see, and she donated it in Sid's honor at a small ceremony we had at the synagogue. We are so blessed to have such caring and unselfish people like Sid and Rachel within our MHJC family.

We are pleased to announce this new section to the *Shofar*, "Spotlight On Our MHJC Family." It will be the forum in which you can spotlight an individual or group from the MHJC family who has been "in the news" or has performed a special mitzvah or has celebrated a special occasion or has done anything else that would make for an interesting and special story which should be shared with us all.

Submissions should be sent by email to Sol at MHJC@optonline.net. Pictures are always welcomed and should be emailed as well. We ask that you be mindful of space and note that submissions may be edited to fit in available space. If you do not have a story now, you can always send them as they come up. We will make our best efforts to print the story as soon as possible but this will of course depend on the number of submissions at any given time.

MEN'S CLUB

Ed Dicken & Doug Leo

Now that Passover has come and gone we are all excited to have Spring in the air. Baseball is back and the Mets are poised to win it all (according to *Sports Illustrated* and me) while the Yankees go about failing with the highest-paid, most overrated team in baseball. Luckily, Men's Club is filled with passionate Met and Yankee fans, allowing for a healthy debate and an even healthier bit of fun! We have had several successful events in a row, including the Torah workshop and Men's Club Tefillin Breakfast where we had about 40 people! Our movie night had double the normal number of people and to celebrate that, we saw a double feature of current movie hits. Yankee fans Glen Stifleman and Ken Krinsky were in attendance, but there were no fisticuffs. Thanks to Bernie who supplied the movies! We also had our annual paid-up BBQ where Doug manned the grill and we ate like real men!

We plan to BBQ again at the upcoming Torah dedication. June brings the planned Sisterhood vs. Men's Club 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.

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

MHJC Event Catering

Manetto Hill Jewish Center is pleased to announce our expert panel of caterers.

They handle all catered parties held on our premises including Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, extended Kiddushes, Baby Namings, Bris, and more.

Please be aware that the kitchen is
Meat/Pareve only.
No Dairy products are allowed.

Dairy substitutes, such as non-dairy creamer and non-dairy (tofu) cream cheese are acceptable.

Please reserve your event date with Ellen Goldman before contacting any of the following caterers:

Mr. Bob Kanowitz of
Del Mir Caterers 516-802-5492

Mr. Brian Yarmeisch at
Commack Kosher Caterers 631-543-2300

Mr. Rich Austein of
Ackerstein Caterers 516-538-6655

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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