

MANETTO HILL JEWISH CENTER

# SHOFAR

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009 - Heshvan/Kislev/Tevet 5770



*happy  
chanukah*

## FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

I thought I would take this time to reflect on the two holidays which fall during this time slot – Thanksgiving and Chanukah.

Thanksgiving has always been a favorite in our family. My mother, sister, and son all celebrated their birthdays together around the Thanksgiving table. Traditionally we looked forward to sharing those milestones together. Thanksgiving is also enjoyable for observant Jewish families because there are no restrictions or obligations. We don't have to rip apart our kitchens in order to celebrate a quintessential American holiday with Jewish roots. The Pilgrims were actually celebrating Sukkot – the Jewish harvest holiday, in which we give thanks to HaShem for the earth's bounty.

December, of course, brings the onslaught of gift-giving frenzy. Did you know that Chanukah is considered to be a minor festival? Not to our kids, of course! It's not even mentioned in the Torah. Anything involving presents is, of course, a child's paradise. Every year I make it my mission to

## RITUAL COMMITTEE

*Sharon Dashow*

On November 19th, we will have our annual High Holiday review meeting. We welcome your comments and ideas. In addition to a general review, we will be discussing possible changes to our ticket policy.

MHJC owes its thanks to Dan Akavan, Elliot Morris and Jackie Novatt for laning Torah; Harvey Cohen, Erica Dashow, Jordan Dashow, Ilana Konel, Leah Mandelbaum, and Steve Osdoby for reading the Haftorah; and Shelly Rokofsky for leading the Community Yiskor service. Thank you as well to Marilyn Morris and Larry Sommer for their heartfelt and moving Kol Nidre and Yiskor speeches. Special thanks go to Harriet Blatt, Harvey Cohen, Debbie Eichen, Jodi Hirsch, Mark Hirsch and Larry Kurtzman for their work on the High Holiday committee; and Dona Malter and Elliot Morris (plus Harvey Cohen again!) for their work on the Cantorial committee. These individuals started preparing for the High Holidays in May and put in countless hours of hard work. We simply could not have held High Holiday services without their contributions. MHJC is also indebted to all those who helped set up at the Y and who ushered during the High Holiday services.

Now that the holidays are over, we once again need your assistance in helping to make a minyan, both during the week and on Shabbat. We especially need people to attend services on Saturday mornings. Thank you in advance to all who attend services. You are truly performing a great mitzvah!

*Rabbi Morris Bernstein*

ask adults and children one important question: "What is the message, the main idea of Chanukah?" Inevitably kids will unabashedly tell me, "It's to get presents." Older kids and adults might mention candles or the pitcher of oil. Some people (adults and children) tell me about Peace on Earth, which of course is one of the main themes of Christmas.

Some people will speak of the miracle of Chanukah. I think that they are on the right track. The miracle of Chanukah was that a minority (our ancient ancestors – the Jews) held fast to their beliefs, customs, and life style in the face of an alluring and seductive majority culture which had swept across the ancient Middle East – the Greek Culture. It took great courage to resist the all-pervasive Greek Culture. That is truly the miracle of Chanukah. There are no more Greeks worshipping the ancient Greek gods. But we survived the millennia and the multitudes of persecutions and that is the greatest miracle of all.

Enjoy Thanksgiving and Chanukah with your families! Consider the roots of the holidays and your personal role in passing on our heritage.

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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# HUNKI'S

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**The following is an abridged and edited version of the speech that I gave on Rosh Hashanah.**

I'd like to start off by sharing several pieces of good news that have taken place over the past couple of months.

1. As you have all probably seen by now, the new parking lot and entry pavers were completed on schedule and look terrific. In fact, I have received positive comments from several of the other Temple Presidents who live in Plainview at a recent "Temple Presidents' Meeting". The new lighting in the parking lot and around the outside of the building makes a major impact. This project was the last of several major initiatives that have taken place over the past several years, starting with our sanctuary renovation and including the new bathrooms, new sign, and the hallway floors and walls. Thank you to our House and Long Range committees for making these projects a reality. I've personally gotten many favorable comments from members and prospective members regarding how fresh and appealing our building is looking.
2. Next, I would like to share an email that Harvey Cohen received from Magen David Adom that illustrates how this congregation's efforts make an impact on others. As most of you know, approximately two years ago our synagogue took the lead in raising money for an ambulance for Israel. Our original goal was to raise \$75,000 to purchase the van itself. Due to the efforts of the Cohens and many others, our shul drove the fundraising and in fact was the largest contributing organization. The final combined tally was \$117,000, which enabled Magen David Adom to get a jump start on equipping the vehicle with the necessary medical gear. The ambulance went into service on September 2, 2008. The email that Harvey received detailed the activities of "our" ambulance from that date until September 2, 2009. In the one year that it has been in service, the ambulance responded to an outstanding 596 calls (yes, that's well over one per day). While the majority of these calls were various medical emergencies, "our" ambulance addressed 22 child medical issues and helped 5 women in labor. Thank you to everyone who played any role in making this ambulance a reality.
3. On September 12th, about 45 – 50 of us attended our annual pre-Kol Nidre Comedy Night and Selichot services. What made this an extra-special night was that this was part of our ongoing efforts this year to honor and recognize Rabbi Bernstein for his 24 years as our spiritual leader, in addition to being a fundraiser for our syn-

agogue. Several of our members crafted a song for the Rabbi to the tune of "Sunrise, Sunset" and Dahlia did an amazing job of singing it to her father. A beautifully framed version of the lyrics was given to the Rabbi and we had a cake with candles. Then it was on to the comedians, who were as entertaining as usual. The evening wrapped up with Selichot services. Everyone there had a great time.

But I personally was a bit disappointed about one aspect of the evening. To illustrate why, let me summarize my previous comments with one word added: On September 12th, ONLY about 45 – 50 of us attended our annual pre-Kol Nidre Comedy Night . . . that was to honor and recognize Rabbi Bernstein, in addition to being a fundraiser for our synagogue.

In past years, we have had as many as 100 people attend Comedy Night. With the added factor of using this night as an opportunity to honor the Rabbi, I would have expected more attendees. We did cover our costs and make a few dollars. However, any additional attendees would have been basically pure benefit for our shul.

This led me to do a little thinking about an issue that has been concerning me for awhile, one that I would like to share with you. At the recent "Temple Presidents' Meeting", we were discussing what types of speeches we each give at our Rosh Hashanah speeches. Most of the Presidents at the meeting indicated that they use this opportunity to share concerns as well as passing on good news. Although we traditionally haven't done that, I want to try that because I think it is an important message to communicate.

Our Manetto Hill Jewish Center family can and has accomplished many wonderful things. The ambulance for Israel is a perfect example of this. Our extremely successful Torah Dedication a few months ago is another.

A big reason for this is that we have many members with a high level of dedication and commitment to our shul, and a strong desire to have what you feel is best for our synagogue. You are not timid about making your opinions and preferences known. You know who you are and I thank you for being that way.

Healthy debate is part of addressing major issues and reaching a consensus upon a course of action. This typically results in compromise between the various factions or ideas. This is certainly true with the current major issues that our synagogue is working through.

In my position, I hear feedback and opinions from many of you. Let me make this clear – please keep this coming. As I have said in the past and will continue to maintain, I always want to hear anyone's and everyone's opinions.

However, my concern is that over the past several months I have been aware of more than a few comments that are divisive and not beneficial to the common goals of our synagogue. Again, everyone is entitled and encouraged to have their opinions. But we should all be cognizant regarding how we vocalize those feelings. The true intent of our message can get lost in how we deliver the message.

This is more than just a “can’t we all just get along” desire. The Manetto Hill Jewish Center has been in existence since 1969 and, as some of you know, my family has been a part of it since its inception. I remember growing up hearing from my parents and seeing personally the way virtually the entire congregation worked together for the synagogue’s continued operations and growth. I want to see us get back to that level of common focus, away from the sometimes vitriolic divisiveness. And I think that most of you would like that as well.

So, in this season of self-examination and self-reflection, I ask that each of us think about how and what we say and do. Let’s ask ourselves whether we are honestly expressing our position on an issue (whatever issue that may be) effectively, or do we sometimes let our frustration that the “consensus course of action” is not exactly what we would prefer adversely color how we are expressing ourselves.

Also ask yourself what you can do to help bring our congregation as a whole more towards a united entity to ensure our continued growth in the future.

OK, enough of the “heavy” part of my article.

The Ways and Means committee tries hard to provide varied events at as reasonable a cost as possible. Obviously, everyone can’t come to every event. With the economy in the state that it is, many of us need to carefully budget what events we can attend. As someone currently “in transition”, I can definitely relate to that. And of course, many of our schedules are jammed packed this time of year.

There are several other events being planned for the upcoming months, including a show from the same company that did Golda’s Balcony at our synagogue last year. Please come to as many events as you reasonably can.

And extremely importantly: keep the following date and time in mind – Sunday, May 2nd, 2010 at 12:00 noon.

Let me say that again – Sunday, May 2nd, 2010 at 12:00 noon.

That is the date and time of our Journal Luncheon that will be the culminating event of our year-long efforts to honor Rabbi Bernstein. Let’s all plan to make this the biggest and best Journal event to date.

To answer a couple of obvious questions : why so late in the year and why a luncheon versus a dinner?

The Ways and Means committee, after discussing it with the Rabbi, made these decisions because

1. By having the event in May, as opposed to February when we usually do our Journal functions, means that our “snowbirds” should all be back from their winter hibernations in Florida and able to join us.
2. By having a luncheon as opposed to a dinner, the per person costs will be much lower. We don’t have the specific figures yet, but they are likely to be in the \$75 - \$80 range, versus around \$125 for a dinner.

These efforts will hopefully result in an increased level of attendance. But that is up to all of us.

So, in addition to what I asked you to do as part of your self-reflection earlier in this article, I ask each and every member of the congregation, and your families and/or friends, to do the following:

1. Come to the Journal Luncheon on Sunday, May 2nd, 2010 at noon. Put it on your calendar today. It’s a big room where we are having the event. Let’s fill that room.
2. Plan on purchasing an entry in the journal honoring the Rabbi. In addition to supporting the synagogue financially, it is a wonderful way to express your feelings and support towards the man who has been our spiritual leader for 24 years. Let’s jointly make that journal so heavy that he needs help carrying it home.

In conclusion:

- Don’t hesitate to continue to share with me your comments, opinions, suggestions, etc.
- Please do what you can to be a part of our “common focus”, by attending meetings, events, etc.

As I said earlier, we do wonderful things together when we want to. Let’s keep doing them for a long, long time.

## OPERATION ALEPH BET

**H**ave you forgotten how to read Hebrew well? Would you like to learn the prayers for the Saturday morning service. Have you had a Bar/Bat mitzvah. This is your opportunity to do all these things. This January we will be starting the second half of the Aleph Bet program, Ayn Keloheinu. Students will improve their reading skills, learn the Saturday morning prayers and have a Bar/Bat mitzvah. Do it with a friend and enjoy it even more.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Sue Halfen at (516) 921-2682.

## SISTERHOOD

I'd like to start off the article by adding a name to our trustee list that was inadvertently left off last month: Patti Silver. Many thanks to Patti for organizing the Sisterhood Tea on Oct. 8. Though it was a little cold, we braved the weather and had tea, cakes and cookies and a very nice time talking in the succah.

Sept. 26 was our joint BBQ with Men's Club. We had a great turnout of about 25 people... they came for steaks and got much more! Our own Bounmy helped out with a gorgeous vegetable platter and fruit salad. We had potato knishes, chicken, steak (thanks to Doug and Ed for cooking) as well as playing "Scene It"... we tested our movie and TV knowledge (thanks to the Dickens for providing the entertainment!). Everyone enjoyed the evening.

Our honey sale ended with us selling 34 jars of honey. Though it was not the 50 we wanted to sell, we want to thank the people who bought honey. ORT was also good about getting honey out to those who did not receive delivery...with a note of apology!

Our Mystery Paid-up event, "Who Stole the Cookie?" was in October. This was an interactive dinner, with clues given throughout the night as to who the "criminal" really was. Prizes were awarded for best costume and for guessing who the thief was. Thanks to the paid-up committee: Laurel Konel, Jodi Hirsch, Ruth Brachman and Mindy Kurtzman. It was a fun evening!

Our big fund-raiser was the Nov. 1 Fashion Show Brunch with the Sisterhood of Beth-El of Massapequa. Fashions were modeled by Omnibus of Babylon, with food by Hunki's. Our models were: Felicia Schenberg, Lisa Sommer and Sharon Waks. Vendors sold Tupperware, Avon, jewelry, pashminas, handbags, Pandora bracelets, crocheted items, etc. Raffle prizes included a watch from Carlos Morales, another watch from Solomon's Jewelers, a mezuzah from Unique Judaica, tickets to Jose Limon dance troupe and season passes to the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Americas. Other raffles included: gift certificates for dry cleaners, restaurants, massages, jewelry, clothing stores, facials, manicures, acupuncture, salon wash and blow dry, a Weber BBQ as well as gift baskets from Avon, Tupperware, Iavarone's, Lazar chocolates and bottles of wine, and much more!

Sisterhood is still selling Shop-Rite gift certificates as well as those to Bed, Bath and Beyond, Fairway and other fine stores. These make great Hanukkah presents... call Sue Halfen at 921-2682.

*Mindy Kurtzman*

We also still have Sisterhood Cookbooks for sale at \$12 each. They make great Hanukkah gifts for the cook in your family. Call Ronni Leo at 822-1878.

Save the DateS:

- Wed. November 18: Dinner and a movie night. Harriet Blatt has generously offered her house so we can see the movie in comfort!
- Wed., December 9: Sisterhood Meeting
- Wed., January 13: Sisterhood Meeting- Regifting
- Thurs., March 18: Women's Passover Seder
- Purim basket order forms will be going out after January 4, 2010. Keep an eye on your mailbox for this annual Sisterhood fundraiser.

If you would like to become active, it's never too late... call or e-mail Mindy Kurtzman, Sisterhood President, at 349-7041 or [LKurtzman@att.net](mailto:LKurtzman@att.net).

## MEN'S CLUB

*Ed Dicken & Doug Leo*

Now that the Holidays went by like a flash, we are all excited to have Fall here and hope for a mild winter. Football teams are looking pretty good and we always hope for a NY Super Bowl. Men's Club has had some great events recently, including a very successful Octoberfest where we watched the Giants play and sampled some home brews. 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. Our card night had double the normal number of people last time and will have one again this November 22nd at 8PM. Our annual Men's Club Holiday breakfast is on December 25th and that is always well attended. It is probably because we have lots of lox.

We plan to run our Super Bowl party as always and are beginning to plan monthly events for 2010. Your attendance and your input are both welcome and needed. As always, please contact Doug ([dsleo@hotmail.com](mailto:dsleo@hotmail.com)) for any ideas you have or Ed ([edicken@computersurgeon.com](mailto: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!!!

*Larry Sommer*

In recent weeks, different events have allowed the media to question the level of civility and decency in our society. I would respectfully submit that there are few, if any, things that could be more civilized and decent than the Yizkor service, where we all come together with one clear voice to say... We remember.

Today will be the first time I say Yizkor. My dad passed away this past December. I think about him every day and even more so lately, as this was, along with Passover, his favorite time of the year. When I think of him, it always seems to be something funny or insightful that comes to mind. He taught me well. I learned not to wait until I needed a shul to find out I needed a shul. And so Manetto Hill has been there for me. I have been able to say Kaddish almost every day thanks to the members who generously give of themselves to make a nightly minyan possible. It is impossible to express how much that has meant to me. I am forever grateful. Now, I am approaching Yizkor, not as an obligation, but as an opportunity to stay connected with Dad's wonderful spirit, to honor his memory, and to say thank you for the many gifts he bestowed upon our family.

I have so many thoughts today. I won't bore you with a bunch of stories that are only meaningful to me. I have my memories, you all have your own and that is why we're all here. But this is, after all, an appeal, so I will share one short story that I hope you will find relevant. My father started getting me my own seat at High Holiday services right after my Bar Mitzvah. This was a very big deal to him. I was less than enthused. Now that he was paying for a seat, he actually expected me to sit in it. Imagine! When I was 15 or 16, as the holidays approached; it was time for us to buy our tickets. For whatever reason, teenage idealism, trying to get out of going to shul, or most likely just to be a pain, I challenged him. "I don't like the idea of buying a ticket. I don't think you should have to pay to pray." I certainly got his attention. My dad had a special gift: the unique ability to express anger, annoyance and exasperation in one concise tirade, complete with hand signals! I can't really imitate it, but it was basically, "What kind of stupid thing is that? Don't be a jerk! No one is making anyone pay to pray, but if I want to have a place to pray, then I have to help support the shul. That's why I buy the tickets!"; a few mild expletives and that was the end of a very short conversation. It was also the last time the subject ever came up.

And it changed the way I thought about going to shul. As soon as I was able I started paying for my own seat at our shul in Brooklyn, a practice that continued even after I joined Manetto Hill. Unfortunately, this will be the first time in

40 years that I won't spend at least one day of the holidays with my dad. I would usually go there, and he would occasionally come to Manetto Hill. I would be lying if I said I enjoyed every minute of services, but am telling the absolute truth in saying I cherished every minute sitting beside my father. Those times wouldn't have been possible without "a place to pray".

I am sure we are all aware of some of the congregations that have consolidated or closed over the past few years. Farmingdale Jewish Center, Bethpage Community Center and too many others. I wonder, what about those former members who didn't or couldn't, for whatever reason, join another congregation? Where will they go for Yizkor, or to say Kaddish, or for a Yahrzeit? Or to celebrate a baby naming, or help send an ambulance to Israel, or participate in dedicating a new Torah? We did that together. We are so fortunate to have our "place to pray". A wonderful place that fulfills our needs and enriches our lives. We must not take it for granted.

In just a few moments, the Yizkor service will begin. It will be my honor, if not my pleasure to join you. I am proud to take part in my own seat in my own shul.

Part of the service is to give to charity, to make a donation. I know it is difficult to keep asking for help in these trying times, but I ask you to be as generous as you can. Not as an obligation, but as an opportunity.

An opportunity to honor the memory of those who gave us so much, taught us so much, who we loved so much. An opportunity to ensure that we always have a place to pray...together. An opportunity to ensure that place will always be The Manetto Hill Jewish Center.

On behalf of Lisa and my family, I would like to wish all of you and those you care about a new year blessed with good health, prosperity and peace.

## WAYS AND MEANS

*Sharon Dashow*

Our next Texas Hold'em is scheduled for November 14th. We are also in the process of planning the May 2nd luncheon in honor of Rabbi and Naomi Bernstein. In the meantime, we are exploring other ideas for fundraisers and social events. A number of people have indicated that they would like to have MHJC sponsor more events. We would love to do so and would like your input as to the types of events that interest you. Please join us at our next Ways & Means committee meeting on November 11th.

UJA-Federation of New York's  
**connect-to-care**  
*The Jewish community at work for you*



In this recession, many of us find ourselves in need of support. UJA-Federation of NY's Connect to Care provides access to:

- Employment and career transition services
- Financial and legal consulting
- Supportive counseling and Jewish spiritual care

The Jewish community is here for you.

Email: [Connect-to-care@sjcc.org](mailto:Connect-to-care@sjcc.org)

LinkedIn Group:  
 Nassau County UJA-Federation's  
 Connect to Care

Website: [sjcc.org](http://sjcc.org)

Phone: 516-484-1545, ext. 212

Dear Congregant,

The economic climate continues to be rough and these are times in which families, even middle-class families are in need of help. People in the Jewish community are being laid off from jobs, seeing investments and retirement savings disappear, and even losing their homes. Truly, no one is immune from this economic crisis.

If you and your family find yourselves among those affected by the current economic downturn, the Jewish community is here for you. UJA-Federation of New York, working with local synagogues and UJA-Federation's beneficiary agencies, has created a new initiative called Connect-to-Care that can help. The Mid-Island Y JCC's Adult services department can link you to the many services Connect-to-Care provides, which include the following:

- Employment and career counseling
- Supportive counseling and Jewish spiritual care
- Financial consultation, including debt and budget assistance
- Legal assistance to address debt collection, foreclosure, and bankruptcy issues
- Free educational/informational workshops

Upcoming workshops being held at the Mid-Island Y:

**November 17th, 7pm – LINKEDIN** – Learn how to set up your Linked In profile and make it work for you to facilitate a successful job search.

**December 16th, 7pm – CAREER SEMINAR FOR MID-CAREER PROFESSIONALS.** Learn job search strategies for Mature Professionals and what the market can offer you.

**WEEKLY NETWORKING SUPPORT GROUP – Wednesdays 10:30am-12pm.** Learn strategies to cope and discover what other people have learned through their journey.

If you have been hurt in this recession, there's no reason to suffer alone. For further information, to register for workshops, or to get help for you or a loved one contact: Christina Barlowe, Assistant Director Adult Services at 516-822-3535 ext. 328 or Audrey Dinstell, LCSW ext.383. You may also leave a confidential message on our hotline at extension 339.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Sisterhood Fashion Show  Youth Group	<b>2</b> Membership/Family Life	<b>3</b> <i>Election Day</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Executive Board	<b>6</b> Candle Lighting 4:27 pm Youth Group Kinnus 11/6 – 11/8	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Youth Group	<b>9</b> Ways & Means	<b>10</b> House/Long Range Planning	<b>11</b> <i>Veteran's Day</i>	<b>12</b> Book Club @ 7:30 p.m.	<b>13</b> Candle Lighting 4:20 pm	<b>14</b> Texas Hold 'Em @ 8 p.m.
<b>15</b> Trustee  Youth Group	<b>16</b> Education	<b>17</b> Israeli Jewish Affairs	<b>18</b> Sisterhood Chick Flick Night	<b>19</b> Post High Holiday Wrap Up Meeting	<b>20</b> Candle Lighting 4:15 pm	<b>21</b> Dalet Class Shabbat Service
<b>22</b> Men's Club Card Night @ 8 p.m.  Youth Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Rabbi Search Committee	<b>25</b> <b>No Classes</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Thanksgiving</i>  Office is closed	<b>27</b> Candle Lighting 4:11 pm  Office is closed	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Youth Group	<b>30</b>					

All Friday Evening Services are at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.  
All meetings are at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

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

## Yahrzeits

**Heshvan:** Sylvia Eill, Lillian Rubin, Natalie Greenberg, Leslie Grunwald, Elaine Caplan, Solomon Clarin, Emily Starr, Jeremy Hunter Greenberg, Rose Berenson, Abraham Pasetsky, Edward Rudich, Starla Perzov, Elena Reznik, Sylvia Nitkin, Frances Klein, Sylvia Spund, Kurt Dreyfuss, Rafael Sirota, Herbert Spindel, Steven Gilbert, Louis Hauptman, Herbert Hollander, Gussie Himmel, Rose Moskowitz, Harry Lampert, Florence Alpert, Morris Kirchenberg, Paul Levine, Irving Schutzer, Aaron Spund, Harry Konel, Nathaniel Rosen

### Kislev

Bernard David Aroesty, Nathan Bart, Bill Benson, Jessie Berkowitz, Audrey Bernstein, Irving Blatt, Helen Davis, Harry Gilbert, Sonia Gorelich, Jack Haimowitz, Joseph Klein, Samuel Kusnitz, Esther Lipshie, Faye Paikin, Leon Reznik, Mary Rokofsky, Jesse Rubenstein, Irving Schutzer, Leo Stein, Theodore Tetenbaum, Irene Weintraub, Joseph Yomner

## Simchas

### November Birthdays

Alan Abrams, Karen Akavan, Shirley Bart, Mona Benjamin, Eytan Bernstein, Richard Brachman, Morgan D'Argenio, Edward Dicken, Debbie Edelstein, Stuart Eisenberg, Adam Fuchs, Neil Galfunt, Adrienne Goldstein, Nina Goldstein, Brooke Greenstein, Elliot Hallak, Lori Hauptman, Mark Hirsch, Stephen Honigman, Dr. Julie Izen, Bradley Klein, Jason Krasilovsky, Ali Kusnitz, Michelle Labelle, Paul Labowitz, Brian Landisman, Andrew Levine, Bill Levine, Elizabeth Levner, Rebecca Lewton, Laurel Mandelbaum, Alexa Mendelsohn, Jamie Morris, Alan Osterweil, Stephanie Osterweil, Debra Perzov, Justin Perzov, Mario Reznik, Bruce Ross, Laura Schenkein, Samuel Sheehan, Cheryl Sheinwald, Ben Silver, Matthew Silver, Lauren Stifelman, Ilene Sudran, Matthew Tetenbaum

### November Anniversaries

Robert & Ellen Goldman, Richard & Anne Goldstein, Barry & Marilyn Katz, Emil & Andrea Levine, Bryan & Geri Rothenberg

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Executive Board	<b>4</b> Candle Lighting 4:09 pm Gimmel & Birthday Shabbat Service	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Youth Group	<b>7</b> Membership/Family Life	<b>8</b> House/Long Range Planning	<b>9</b> Sisterhood	<b>10</b> Ritual Israeli Jewish Affairs	<b>11</b> Candle Lighting 4:08 pm <b>Chanukah</b> Shabbat Dinner	<b>12</b> <b>Chanukah</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Chanukah</b> Rally for Gilad Shalit 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Youth Group Men's Club	<b>14</b> <b>Chanukah</b> Candle Lighting Hebrew School Dismissal @ 6 p.m. Ways & Means	<b>15</b> <b>Chanukah</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Chanukah</b> Rabbi Search Committee	<b>17</b> <b>Chanukah</b>	<b>18</b> Candle Lighting 4:10 pm <b>Chanukah</b>	<b>19</b> Junior Congregation
<b>20</b> Calendar Planning Mtg Trustee Youth	<b>21</b> Education	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> No Classes	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Candle Lighting 4:13 pm Men's Club Breakfast @ 10 a.m. Office is closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Youth	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

P.O.B. Schools Closed: 12/24-1/3, resume 1/4

All Friday Evening Services are at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.  
All meetings are at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

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

**SIMCHAS**

**December Birthdays**

Rabbi Morris Bernstein, Harriet Blatt, Randall Brachman, Charles Brandl, Sarah Cantos, Gerry Clarin, Andrea D'Argenio, Allison Dashow, Erica Dashow, Sydney Edelstein, Daniel Forchheimer, Scott Forchheimer, Edie Friedel, David Gorfinkel, Robyn Greenstein, Stuart Halfen, Deborah Hallak, Alexander Hoffman, Joshua Honigman, Simon Horowitz, Stephan Labelle, Brett Lamel, Pamela Leo, Scott Leo, Jonathan Levine, Kenneth Levine, Alex Linden, Len Mandelbaum, Andrew Marrell, Hedva Marrell, Barbara Nize-

witz, Jacklyn Novatt, Eric Roth, Eleanor Scarr, Paul Sheiman, Steven Sheinwald, Ken Silver, Benjamin Silverberg, Alexa Stein, Mitchell Sudran, Deborah Talkofsky, Charles Weinstein, Renee Yarmoff

**December Anniversaries**

Ivan & Rona Bielik, Harvey & Harriet Blatt, Joseph & Ivy Chasan, Michael & Sharon Dashow, Mark & Shelly Forchheimer, Mark & Sheila Hankin, Paul & Gail Kirchenberg, Debra & Perry Perzov, Shelly & Judie Rokofsky

**Yahrzeits**

**Tevet**

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

It has been nearly 3½ years since

**GILAD SHALIT**

was abducted in a cross-border raid  
by Palestinian terrorists.

Please show your support for him at a rally on  
**December 13th from 11 a.m. - noon**  
at **MHJC**, which will include a  
**Freedom Menorah lighting ceremony.**

*The following letter was written by Michael and Sharon Dashow's cousin, Burt Kroll, in February, 2009. While it references the war with Hamas that was taking place at the time, the sentiments contained in that letter are as relevant today as they were when it was written.*

**D**ear friends and relatives: on February 1, twenty-two Hadassah representatives from thirteen states and I returned from a five day Solidarity Mission to Israel. Traveling with us were the current national president, a past president and four National Board leaders from Hadassah. We visited three cities bordering Gaza, a military base, and the Erez Gate where supplies are sent over the border to Gaza.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all of you who have been closely following the war with Hamas and for your heartfelt support to the soldiers on the Israeli home front. Some of you live in communities and campuses where speaking up for Israel has become unpopular and even dangerous. The Israelis I spoke to value our courage and resilience, as Americans. They feel cheered by the photos of us standing in the cold in New York and London demonstrating on Israel's behalf. They hail those college students who refuse to be intimidated by foreign Arab students, for their loyalty to Israel on campus.

I'd like to address a few words to my family and friends who didn't come out to support Israel these past few weeks because of so-called moral reservations. Please reconsider your positions. I don't doubt your affection for Israel, nor do I think anyone has to automatically agree with every decision of its government. Far from it! With a sigh of exasperation, we assume Israel is obstinate and morally not correct. There must be something wrong, you say; if there have been so many wars.

As Americans, we haven't seen a foreign land fighting on our soil since the British blasted the coast in 1812. Before that, the infamous Benedict Arnold attacked New London in the Revolutionary War. We never experienced the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air of which we sing in our National Anthem. The paradox of growing up without warfare at our doorstep is that we feel qualified to preach to the Israelis as to how they should go about protecting themselves. After experiencing the horrors of September 11, we, as Americans should be able to identify with the feelings of retaliation and defenselessness that we can now share.

Many of us are old enough to remember the evening in October 1962, when America felt threatened. JFK appeared on TV to prepare the American people. Soviet missile launchers were built in our hemisphere, in Cuba. I was twenty-six years old and the father of three young children and shuttered at the possibilities. Faced with the threat of American military retaliation, the Soviets dismantled their launchers before the

first missile was fired.

If the Cubans had insisted that it was their right to arm themselves, would the United States have waited for thousands of missiles to pound Florida and other nearby states before reacting seriously? Israel has felt the blast of rockets from Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and in more recent days, from Gaza. They take all preventable measures and try to do everything possible before going to battle. They have no illusions about war being anything but blood, sweat and tears. The army that has sworn to protect Israel is made up of their own sons and daughters, who value life. The other side values death, both to themselves and their enemies.

In the current conflict, each Israeli personally knows soldiers risking their lives by seeking Hamas in the alleys of Gaza. Last week, while we were visiting Sderot, a border patrol jeep hit a land mine. One twenty year old was killed and three were wounded. One of the soldiers lost his leg. Our group was at the hospital in Beer Sheva while the surgery was in process. We also visited another young soldier and his family. He was still in intensive care and unconscious, with shrapnel in his brain.

There are 750,000 school youngsters who were responding to warning sirens, long before the missile attacks began. Instead of learning the curriculum, the younger ones have to watch videos teaching them how to run for cover. Suddenly these kids have gone from normal childhoods to becoming another generation of children in war zones.

We were saddened to see photos of injured children on the other side. The Israelis struggle with tough decisions about how to fight a war without losing their humanity. They sent warning notes and even phone calls to Gazans in the attack zone. They stopped fighting when supply trucks traveled through the Erez Gate.

Moral decisions are complicated. We met with a senior military figure who spoke about his decision not to fire from a helicopter at a terrorist because the terrorist's wife and kids were kept close to him. The following day, this same terrorist, sworn to Israel's destruction, engineered a bombing within Ashkelon, causing much destruction and injuries to four children and three adults in a playground, as they were running to a shelter. The correctness of the Israeli officer's decision was no longer clear. Despite the absurd claims in the media, to the contrary, children are never the targets of the Israeli forces.

I hear from my liberal friends and relatives; "Give peace a chance." In 2005, for the sake of peace, Israel sent their own army to remove Israeli citizens from their farms and dairies in the Gaza Strip. Back then, many Palestinian voices com-

plained that the farmers had taken the best land for their breadbasket. It didn't really make sense, but as a nation, Israel went along with their leader, Ariel Sharon, as he had extensive military experience and knowledge. They stood and watched as they made this painful concession for the peace that never came.

Many Palestinians had worked on these productive farms and could easily have turned out the same prize winning celery and vitamin rich milk and dairy products. Instead, they wrecked the farms, and then they went to the polls and overwhelmingly endorsed a party with a clear platform to use the enormous human resources of the Gaza Strip and the in-pouring of foreign money, to create a maze of terror.

Since 2005, Israel did not choose war and allowed their citizens to be targeted by 6500 missiles. The horror of life in Gaza under Hamas is no secret. Is there one Palestinian living in our communities here in America ready to move their family as new immigrants, to build a modern state in Gaza city or Khan Yunis? Hamas declared that even its semi commitment to a lower level of violence was off. This time Israel could not ignore the threat!

We were shown photos and videos taken by the Israeli camera crews of soldiers carefully walking into the areas of schools, hospitals and mosques which were booby trapped with explosives. These buildings were turned into ammunition storage rooms. The network of tunnels that carried the rockets and launchers were underneath these same buildings. Hamas terrorized the teachers, doctors and nurses and used these talented people to build bunkers underneath the heads of ailing patients and schoolchildren. We must remember that such behavior is consistent with the expression of Jihad. All must

We are pleased to report that we have received over 90 surveys, which translates into over 25% of our members. In addition to utilizing the surveys in our search, they also provided useful information that can be used in other ways. Needless to say, we will be addressing the comments and concerns raised to ensure that we are meeting the needs of the congregation.

The next open congregational search committee meeting will be held on November 24th. Right now, in addition to giving the congregation a progress report, the agenda for that meeting includes the formulation of sub-committees. Please note that this article is being written prior to the October meeting. It is possible that we will have begun the process of forming the sub-committees at that meeting. If you are interested in being on a sub-committee, please notify us in advance if possible. You can contact any member of the committee or call the synagogue office.

— Rabbi Search Committee

be sacrificed to destroy the Jewish State.

It is important to note that monies and supplies are given to the Palestinians in Gaza from Unisef, The Red Cross, Israel, United States and Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately these were shortstopped by Hamas and ultimately distributed as THEIR accomplishments.

Our group met personally with the Prime minister, the Prime Minister's spokesperson, IDF spokespeople, the Commander in chief of the Air Force, generals in the field, the mayors of Jerusalem, Sderot, Ashkelon and Beer Sheva, and the Head of Israel Censorship. There was definitely one message from all of the above:

*"Each and every rocket sent from Gaza to Israel will have an immediate response. We had to finally make a stand in Gaza and we are prepared to do it again."*

Despite our conflicting views, beliefs and values, we must all realize the underlying force that unifies us. Now more than ever, Israel needs our help, our solidarity. In standing together as a united body under a common cause, we can surely be effective in making great strides on behalf of Israel and the Jewish nation.

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Synagogue operating software	\$8,000	Office file cabinets	\$500
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Thank you for your support of Manetto Hill Jewish Center.

Have a very happy and healthy New Year!

**The Ritual Committee**

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## PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING

This year's Sukkot Event of "Pizza in the Hut" was a huge success due to the efforts of our Youth Director Robyn Sutnick, the Religious School's teachers and staff. Many parents also helped out with the various activities. MHJC had over 60 children, parents, congregants, and a few friends from the community. Hopefully everyone was able to dwell in the Sukkah, which was enhanced by the beautiful decorations made by our children. Hiddur Mitzvah ... to enhance doing a mitzvah, was done to with love and pride by our students, their siblings, parents and youth group members, which truly made the Sukkah come to life with the beauty of nature and ruach (spirit) from our next generation!

Some Religious School Happenings!

- Saturday, November 21 will be Daled Class Shabbat, please try to attend and enjoy our students leading some of the service.
- Friday, December 4 will be the Gimmel Class Shabbat and Birthday Shabbat, which is also a delight to behold.
- Monday, December 14 is our Candle Lighting Ceremony at 6:00PM.
- The month of Kislev is Hanukkah and the JCC will be hosting a week of "Meet Our Jewish Community" from December 6-11. The lobby of the JCC will have a tables set up with materials and posters from the area's institutions. Our synagogue will be highlighted on Monday, December 7 at 3:15PM. I will be there on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Friday the Candle Lighting ceremony will take place in the afternoon and most of the Rabbis and Education Directors of the community will be there. I hope to see many of the members of MHJC stopping in to visit, meet and greet future members from the surrounding areas during this week. I am aware that Friday, December 11 is the shortest day of the year and I know Shabbat starts at 4:11 PM, however timing is everything in Judaism and life.

*Helene Ainbinder, Principal*

We set aside sacred time for the Sabbath, Holidays and Festivals. We set aside time for work, family and play. How precious is our time, and it is what we do with time that counts. During the Hanukkah, "Festival of Lights", let us take a moment to remember the Maccabees. The Maccabees used their skills to make every shot of their arrows hit the marks. Their fighting techniques were based on timing and hiding in the forest. (By the way, a statue of Judah Maccabee is at West Point). They had a small group of men that fought a mighty army and they were victorious.

As you strike your match to light the Shamash, which kindles the Hanukiah, take time to enjoy the moment with your loved ones. Sing out loudly and with ruach the blessings and some songs. Enjoy your special time with the candles glowing. May the lights never go out!

Hag Orachim!

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

## HOUSE/LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

We, on the House & Long Range Planning Committees, hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful summer & High Holiday seasons. We, on the other hand, have been very busy.

When next you visit our Synagogue building, for a religious service &/or a social event, please note our new parking lot & walkway into the building, with their improved lighting,

*Larry Tetenbaum & Marty Eichen*

and the new floor in the hallways in the back of the building which were a long time coming .

Each project, large or small, adds to the comfort, safety, and beauty of our building. More upgrades and improvements are still needed. Please join us at our joint committee meetings. We want and welcome your input, ideas and energy.

**The Metropolitan New York (METNY) Region of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and Kosher.com** are proud to announce that they have joined forces in an effort to bring kosher food and the kosher experience straight to your home! Not only can you now have all of your grocery shopping delivered directly to your doorstep at fantastic prices, but you will also support METNY USCJ with each and every order you place!

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Kosher.com recently launched a brand new website, featuring a wide array of informative content and multimedia components, including cooking video tutorials hosted by industry experts and renowned chefs. With their meticulous focus on quality, service, selection and competitive pricing, you can feel secure when ordering from Kosher.com.

In addition to the many exclusive offers available to USCJ members throughout the year, including 20% off the 1st order and 5% off of all additional orders, Kosher.com will donate 5% of every order placed by USCJ members back to METNY USCJ.

Please follow these simple steps:

- 1** Visit [www.kosher.com](http://www.kosher.com).
- 2** When creating an account enter **KOSHERUSCJ** into the "Synagogue ID" box and 5% of every order will automatically be contributed to the USCJ.
- 3** Fill your shopping cart with all your desired items.
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## 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! Julianna 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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