



YOUR DECEMBER STICKY NOTE....

by Jackie Kling, President

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I'm sitting at my dining room table (AKA my desk) surrounded, as usual, by scraps of paper with notes of things I must remember to do. I'm pretty old fashioned and I like my scraps of paper. Be that as it may, I have been instructed by those who are near and dear to me to put Sticky Notes on my computer. I don't embrace technology easily but this actually seemed like a good idea. So,



whether you use scraps of paper or computer sticky notes, here are a few things I would like you to put on your 'to do' list to be completed by

Monday, December 12. You can read more about each of these in this issue of the Trumpet and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

1. Contact Arlene Gottlieb with any updates to your personal information as we prepare to print another membership directory.
2. Contact Dan Lowery to get on the Mishkan Torah listserv (if you are not already).
3. Contact Dan Lowery if you have a code to the alarm system or a key to the building.
4. Put the December 18 Winter Membership meeting and Coffee Klatch on your calendar.

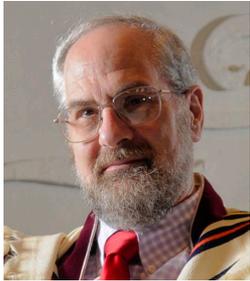
On my personal 'to do' list is to attend the weekly vigils for Alan Gross. Alan Gross, a Potomac, MD resident, was arrested in Cuba in December 2009 while working with the small Jewish community there to improve their access to the internet and to set up an intranet. Alan and his supporters have rejected all accusations that he did anything, or intended to do anything, to harm the Cuban government.

He was given a 15-year sentence by a Cuban court for committing "actions against the integrity of the State." President Obama, senior administration officials, members of Congress, national leaders and newspaper editorials have all called for his immediate release on humanitarian grounds. Immediate members of his family are very ill and Alan also suffers serious medical problems. A petition circulated by the Jewish Community Relations Council states in part:

We, the undersigned, urge the immediate release of Alan P. Gross from a Cuban jail on humanitarian grounds. We understand that Alan's actions may have offended the Cuban government. But we believe that after nearly two years in prison, Alan and his family have paid an enormous price . . . Continued on page 5

ISRAEL MARRIAGES MUST CONFORM TO ORTHODOX DOGMA

Seldom does a day go by that I am not thankful that I married Mona. And almost every day I am thankful that we did not get married in the State of Israel. This is because a marriage in Israel can only be performed under the auspices of the religious community to which the couple belongs. There is no option in



Israel for civil marriage. This means that Jews may be married only by rabbis – and the only rabbis authorized to do so are those under the authority of the Chief Rabbinate.

In the early days of the State, the chief rabbis sought to embrace every Jew and bring him or her closer to tradition. But recently, the Chief Rabbinate has been becoming increasingly intransigent, buoyed by a dramatic increase in the ultra-Orthodox – *haredi*, in Hebrew – population and the ability of *haredi* political parties to leverage their votes in the Knesset, Israel's parliament. Under *haredi* influence, the Chief Rabbinate has become increasingly supportive of the strictest interpretations of Jewish law: Conversions performed by non-*haredi* rabbinical courts are not recognized; women seeking divorces encounter reluctant rabbinical divorce courts; kosher supervisors are unwilling to find solutions in Jewish law for Jewish farmers during the sabbatical year. And because the Chief Rabbinate is a state-funded body, it suffers from all the ills that can afflict a big government agency at its worst: mind-numbing bureaucracy; advancement based on seniority, not merit; and a total lack of a service ethos. All of this has driven hundreds of thousands of Israelis away from the beauty of our tradition.

Jerrin Zumberg, a secular Jew and free-lance journalist who made *aliyah* from the United States two years ago, writes that tying the knot in the Holy Land required far more than a brief trip to city hall with only a driver's license in hand. Rather, it involved navigating

the Byzantine bureaucracy of the Chief Rabbinate, whose officials often treat secular Israelis like suspects being interrogated by the police. The process included her attending classes on marital relations, divulging intimate details of her sexual history, and proving that she went to a *mikvah* in the days leading to the wedding.

Zumberg and her fiancé were lucky – they were able to jump through all of the rabbinate's hoops. But hundreds of thousands of Israeli citizens from the former Soviet Union who are not Jewish by Orthodox standards or whose Jewish ancestry is in doubt are unable to marry at all inside Israel. (And the chief rabbinate refuses to allow them to convert to Judaism conveniently and with integrity.) Similarly, the rabbinate won't allow the marriage of a *Kohain* to a convert or a divorcée.

But there is a loophole: Although civil marriage is impossible within Israel itself, the Ministry of the Interior will register any valid foreign marriage – even if it is the result of a civil ceremony. According to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics some 12 percent of Israelis marry abroad. (The *Masorti* Movement – the Israeli wing of Conservative Judaism – estimates that the figure is closer to 20 percent.) One frequent venue is Cyprus – there are even travel agencies that specialize in civil wedding packages to Cyprus which is only an hour and a quarter by air from Tel Aviv.

As you might expect, many objections have been raised by secular and other non-Orthodox Israelis regarding the Chief Rabbinate's monopoly over Jewish weddings. What is more surprising, is that many Orthodox Jews in Israel also object, although they do not call for the institution of civil marriage as a possible solution.

One such group is an organization called *Tzohar*. The name comes from the Torah's account of God's commanding Noah to build a special window

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SEEKING TO LIBERALIZE MARRIAGE RULES . . . from page 2

– in Hebrew a “*tzohar*” – to provide light for those inside the ark. *Tzohar* describes its mission as that of opening a window in the wall that separates the religiously observant and secular communities in Israel. Since *Tzohar* was founded in 1995, its rabbis have sought to find lenient solutions to problems of marriage, divorce and conversion while remaining within the boundaries of Orthodoxy. In particular, they have conducted some 3,000 weddings each year for secular couples in ceremonies that circumvent many of the hassles involved in going through the municipal rabbis whose authority derives from the Chief Rabbinate. Ori Lenkinski, who made *aliyah* from Philadelphia, was married by a *Tzohar* rabbi. She writes:

“Neither the *Tzohar* staff nor anyone associated with them ever made us feel, not even for one second, that we were an unobservant couple. They never implied that we were doing anything wrong by living secularly. The overall feeling was acceptance. They even had a department especially for secular couples, where they offered advice on finding ways to make the experience feel right for us. It may seem mushy to say this, but during the sensitive time before one of the bigger steps I’ve taken in my life, that warmth was well-appreciated. *Tzohar* were also incredibly efficient. Their entire system is digital with all important documents and reminders sent via email. At *Tzohar*, when you scheduled a meeting, they saw you exactly at the planned time. At *Tzohar*, everyone was friendly and helpful. They called me numerous times in the months before the wedding to see if everything was moving along and to offer helpful tips about what *mikvah* to go to and which bridal counselor would understand me the best. It wasn’t that we didn’t have to complete the list of tasks laid out by the Rabbinate, but rather that the people involved seemed genuinely invested in making it a positive and enjoyable process.”

Three thousand weddings each year represents about one-fifth of the weddings performed in Israel – and, what’s more, *Tzohar* rabbis were willing to officiate without necessarily charging a fee. The municipal rabbis appointed by the Chief Rabbinate were

disgruntled by the fact that *Tzohar* was encroaching on a major source of their income. So at the beginning of November the Rabbinate shut down the *Tzohar* marriage service.

What will happen now is anyone’s guess. On the one hand, many Israelis have traveled abroad and been exposed to more liberal forms of Jewish expression. Others have been influenced by Israel’s transition in recent decades from centrally planned socialism to a free market economy that encourages individual choice. On the other hand, not all non-Orthodox Israelis oppose the established conventions. Even with the enormous lifestyle gap between the secular and Orthodox in Israel, the secular often hold onto the notion that “Jewish” means keeping with the most traditional customs, even if they themselves do not keep them. Even Zamira Segev, executive director of the Council for Freedom of Religion in Israel agrees that following the Orthodox tradition is a “matter of preservation of Judaism.” Indeed, it is important to remember that open as *Tzohar* is to secular Israelis, it in no way contests the notion that all marriages in Israel must conform with Orthodox practice.

With elections for new chief rabbis scheduled in about a year and a half (only the members of an electoral college of 150 rabbinic and public leaders have votes), *Tzohar* is said to be considering promoting a candidate. For its part, a couple of years ago the *Masorti* Movement launched a nationwide promotional campaign making marrying Conservative the hip option for young Israelis, complete with radio advertisements, a telephone hotline, and an interactive website where visitors can build a mock virtual wedding while learning about a Conservative wedding ceremony. The campaign’s key slogan is “Go for a Conservative *chuppah*, that’s how Israelis get married.”

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED HANUKKAH WEEKEND

by Phyllis Oresky

Come celebrate all December birthdays on Saturday, December 26 (*Shabbat Hanukkah*) with your Mishkan Torah community.

RUSTY MASON & AUGUSTA SWING ENSEMBLE TO PRESENT SPECIAL CONCERT

By Chana Mason

The Ways and Means Committee is delighted to announce that the Committee will end the year by presenting a spectacular concert of classic 1930's and 1940's swing music featuring the legendary musicians Rusty Mason and the Augusta Swing Ensemble at three o'clock in the afternoon of Sunday December 11, 2011. We all felt that we had to end the secular year with a flair, so what better way than with a concert/swing dance? As always, we like to feature the best, and this group is no exception! Rusty Mason, (husband of Mishkan Torah member Chana Mason) and the Augusta Swing Ensemble is sure to produce a sound reminiscent of the 30's and 40's, yet still fresh and original. This is a "blowing group," meaning that the music is spontaneous and unwritten, but always first class. You will hear and dance to "straight ahead jazz," the real jazz, music that is never played the same way twice, never scripted. Each member speaks the language of jazz and each is inherently aware of the subtle cues from one another, which direct the next phrase played. Each member is a consummate professional.

Rusty began "playing out" in the 30's at age 13, listening to and learning from the records of the day, from his music teachers in the public school, but mostly from hearing the intriguing harmonies and melodies that he quite intuitively produced on the piano and horns. He was fortunate enough to live in the small, unique city of Winchester, VA, where he could be one of the bigger fish in a small pond. Ever fascinated with the entertainment industry, he spent Saturday's in the movie theater watching the westerns, as did many kids of the day. He graduated to carrying a heavy, four-sided placard, the walking advertisement for the current feature film. Later, he would erect billboards, clean the theater, and keep the coal furnace stoked. Never able to pass a piano without putting his hands on it, his musical talents became quite

obvious, and was invited to join the band providing accompaniment for the Saturday "Amateur Shows," playing both piano and trumpet. (Country music legend Patsy Cline was one of those featured at these shows in her hometown of Winchester.) He then joined



local bands, breaking the color line, as he played with both black and white musicians, traveling the northeast corridor. He became part of the "second echelon" players, musicians who would accompany nationally-known talent as they performed in Winchester, such as

Lionel Hampton, Betty Carter, and Bud Powell, to name a few. He was part of the Lucky Millender and Tiny Bradshaw groups, touring with them extensively. Today, his first love is the tenor sax, which allows him to express an emotional tone, which has taken a lifetime to develop.

Robert Redd, who began as a trumpet player at age 12, took up the piano at age 23, yet one would swear he's been playing since birth. Both sweet and melodic, his fingers on the keys can move one in many ways. His family was very involved in the jazz scene, befriending many a talented musician, with whom they'd become close, including Dizzy Gillespie, a regular dinner guest when in town for a gig! Robert plays with many local groups, including brother Chuck Redd (vibes, drums) in the Redd Brothers who have become the "house band" at Blues Alley, (one of the few remaining original jazz and blues venues in D.C.), the Smithsonian Jazzworks Orchestra, the Brooks Tegner Band, was part of Keter Betts group, works with the Wolf Trap educational programs, and has played at the White house for the Obamas.

Continued on page 5

CONCERT EXPECTED TO BRING BACK MEMORIES . . . from page 4

On bass we have John Previti, who started his musical studies with the oboe while in grade school, later becoming smitten with the bass. You can hear him at many a venue in the tri-state area, as well as on numerous recordings with a variety of artists. John is a winner of a Wammie award, one of the most prestigious honors in the musical arena. He has played with Emmylou Harris, Doc Cheatham, Danny Gatton, Paul Simon, Charlie Byrd, Herb Ellis, Les Paul, Rick Whitehead, and countless others. He also leads a Mingus tribute band at a weekly gig in Arlington, VA. Strong, yet at times understated, he provides a sound foundation for the entire band, anchoring the rhythm section. If all of that wasn't enough, John is an all-around good guy.

Our special guest will be John Jensen, a very talented trombone player who will round out the group. A skilled arranger, interpreter and recording artist, John has recently been the music director for the Washington production of Oklahoma. He has played at the Corcoran, the Kennedy Center, the White House and countless other venues with such greats as singers Joe Williams and Dianne Schurr, and instrumentalists Dizzy Gillespie, Milt Hinton, and Urbie Green. He is one of the gifted musicians to have been part of the Navy jazz ensemble, the Commodores.

These four musicians teach at the Augusta Heritage Festival's "Swing Week" in Elkins, West Virginia, which affords the attendees to experience them both individually and collectively. The interplay between them is truly magical. Come and hear and dance to the sound of this straight ahead jazz ensemble, a sound that is so much bigger than the sum of its parts.

Check out the flier on page 6 of this *Trumpet* for all the details about making your reservations. Or you can go online at www.mishkantorah.org and there will be a link to make your purchase easy. Tickets are \$18 in advance or \$20 at the door.

If you can't make it but want to be a part of the day, become a "Friend of the Ensemble" by making a donation. Even better, buy a ticket AND be a "Friend". All the artists will have CDs that you can purchase at Intermission—just in time for holiday gifts.

This is going to be a once in a lifetime occasion—not to be missed. We haven't given you much time to think about it, so just go online and make your reservation right now. You'll be glad you did.

JACKIE'S POST IT NOTE . . . from page 1

for Alan's work in helping the Cuban Jewish community improve its access to the internet. As Alan, himself, has stated, he never intended any harm to the Cuban government or the Cuban people, and he would never involve himself in the domestic politics of a foreign country in which he was a guest.

Vigils for the release of Alan Gross on humanitarian grounds are being held every Monday at noon at 2630 16th Street, Washington, DC. Feel free to contact me if you wish to join me at one or more of these vigils.

The following are just a few websites with more information:

<<http://www.jcouncil.org/site/PageServer?pagename=WeeklyGrossVigilsPressRelease>>

<<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/20/AR2010052005234.html>>

<http://www.jcouncil.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Alan_Gross_Petition>

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LR23IbLFIP0&feature=youtu.be>>

I wish each of you a happy Hanukkah -- a festival of miracles and freedom.

Mishkan Torah proudly presents

RUSTY MASON and the AUGUSTA SWING ENSEMBLE

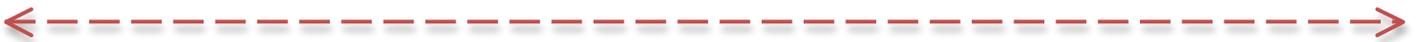
Jazz concert and dance



December 11, 2011
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

\$18 - RSVP
\$20 - at the door

Mishkan Torah
Greenbelt, MD



I/We would like to reserve _____ tickets @ \$18/ticket. \$_____

I/We would like to make a donation—in multiples of \$18 (chai) \$_____

All donors will be listed in the Program if donation is received by December 8. It is the ideal way to be included in this wonderful event - whether or not you can attend!

Total enclosed: \$_____

Names for Reservation and/or the Program _____

Make checks payable to Mishkan Torah and send the reservation to the office.
(Mishkan Torah, 10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt MD, 20770)

For more information about the band, audio clips and online RSVP,
visit our web site at <www.mishkantorah.org/masonjazz>

SOCIAL ACTION IN ACTION

by Andrea Weiss

Those who came to Mishkan Torah on November 20 to hear Lore Rosenthal speak on Judaism and the Environment were not disappointed. Lore Rosenthal, Greenbelt resident and co-founder of Simplicity Matters Earth Institute, gave a wonderful presentation on the relationship of Jewish values to sustaining our Earth. She also presented us with a long list of suggestions for reducing our carbon footprint and with an extensive list of local and national organizations that are helping people to take more care of our environment. Space limitations prevent my listing them here, but those who are interested in learning more about how to "clean up their own back yards" can check out the following website: <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/guides/gw/suggested_lifestyle_changes_reduce_carbon.pdf>. Those who would like to get involved on a larger scale, or would like more information can contact Lore directly, at <lore@simplicity-matters.org>.

On Sunday, December 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 4, Social Action will be hosting its fall Red Cross blood drive. Please consider giving. It is

best to schedule your appointment directly with the Red Cross, by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE. If you are unsure whether you are eligible to donate, please go to <www.redcross.org/donations> and read up on eligibility.

Please remember, as always, that there are many needy people in our community. Social Action is continuing to collect warm outerwear for the children of Springhill Lake Elementary School and food for the Greenbelt Food Pantry.

SEEKING CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS

We are also recruiting volunteers to assist with Safehaven, the homeless shelter for men in our community that is hosted during Christmas week at the Greenbelt Community Church. The church is seeking volunteers from 6 p.m. on Saturday December 24 until 4 or 5 p.m. on Sunday, December 25. Normally those who volunteer do so in 6 hour time blocks. Please contact me by email if you are interested in volunteering.

Our Committee is looking for new members. The next meeting is on Sunday, December 4 at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4
11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To schedule an appointment,
call 1-800 GIVELIFE,
or Andrea (See Directory).
Or simply walk in.



Sponsored by
the Social Action Committee.

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2	<i>Erev Shabbat</i> Family Services	7:30 p.m.
3	<i>Shabbat Vayetze</i>	9:30 a.m.
4	Red Cross Blood Drive	11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
9	<i>Erev Shabbat</i> Services	8 p.m.
10	<i>Shabbat Vayishlach</i>	9:30 p.m.
11	Yiddish Club	10 a.m.
11	Rusty Mason and the Augusta Swing Ensemble Concert & Dance	3 – 5 p.m.
16	<i>Erev Shabbat</i> Services	8 p.m.
17	<i>Shabbat Vayeshev</i>	9:30 p.m.
18	Membership Meeting	11 a.m.
20	<i>Erev Hanukkah</i> – Light one candle	
21	Karp School Hanukkah Program	6 p.m.
23	<i>Erev Shabbat</i> Services	8 p.m.
24	<i>Shabbat Hanukkah</i> – <i>Parshat Miketz</i> – December Birthdays Honored	9:30 a.m.
27	Last Night of <i>Hanukkah</i> – Light eight candles	
30	<i>Erev Shabbat</i> Services	8 p.m.
31	<i>Shabbat Vayigash</i>	9:30 a.m.

DECEMBER YAHRZEITS

December 2

Charlotte Broughton*
 William B. Karp*
 Anna Ellerin*
 Bessie Pomerantz*
 M. Solomon Kalkstein
 Caecilie Traub*
 Miriam Braverman*
 Eric Leven
 Irving Peckerar*
 Marc J. Spevack*
 Elka Bialostocka de Singer*
 Sarah Rosenthal*
 Max Phillips*
 Goldie Ellerin*
 Jennie Pearlman
 Rudy Rubin

Arthur Butler
 Dorothy Berkowitz

December 9

Rose Haber
 Max Fuchs
 David Skolnik*
 Richard Feinberg

December 16

Eva Goldberg*
 Jean Morris
 Rhoda Schlesinger
 Magdolna Fishkind
 Helen Brenner*
 Eugene Dondes*
 Warran Feingold
 Sam Hofberg

Ethel Rosenzweig*
 Anna L. Crupain*
 Gilbert Gassner
 Ross Korz

December 23

Melvin Adelson
 Rose Finkelstein*
 William Rubin*
 Frank Haber*
 Louis Rothbard*
 Roslyn Blum

December 30

Marilyn Levine
 Lottie Lee Mottzman
 Irma Polk*
 Sylvia Summer May-Erie
 Lydia Schabb

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

1	New Year's Day	
2	New Year's Holiday Observed	
6	<i>Erev Shabbat</i> Family Services	7:30 p.m.
7	<i>Shabbat Vayechi</i>	9:30 a.m.

Mishkan Torah Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

Yahrzeits

Joan & David Goldenberg for William Goldenberg
Marsha, Alan, Adam, Michael, Leah Goldfine for Hyman Berkowitz
Bret Goldstein for Minna Goldstein
Glenda Goodman for Raymond R. Haber
Sam Hofberg for Helen Hofberg
Max & Ruth Horlick for Florence Eisenberg & Leo D. Rosenstock
Marcie Lissauer for Leslie Lissauer
Frank Pearlman for Alice Pearlman & Bernice "Bernie" Pearlman
Nancy & Marty Peckerar for Sol Druss
Becky Silverstein for Ruth M. Meese
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Singer for Nathan Singer
Alyce & Arnold Strasser for Moe Epstein & Esther Cohen
Ms. Laura Lee Strasser for Esther Cohen

High Holiday Pledge

President's Club

Janet Davis
Marsha & Irving Salzberg
Dan & Linda Strickman

High Holiday Pledge

Joel Cohen & Ethel Harris
Bret Goldstein & Darelynn Fung
Diane Rubinstein
Robert Silverman
Rena & Arnold Sodie

In Honor of

The New Klezmer Quintet

Jordan & Eva Choper & Leah Choper
Lois & Sam Fields
Melanie Fishkind
Arlene Gottlieb & Chaz Miller
Jackie & Arnold Kling
Dan & Madeline Lowery
Frank Pearlman
Monica Poelchau
Barbara Stein
Martha Tomecek & Michel Cavigelli
Andrea Weiss & John Green

In Memory of . . .

Alice Pearlman & Sylvia Hendel by Janet Davis

In Honor of

Irene Spector's 90th Birthday

Fred & Betsy Firnbacher
Alan B. Frankle
Fran Sanders
Alyce & Arnold Strasser

Sustaining Fund

Yvette Boldt
Harriet Ginsburg
Pauline Levin

Prayerbook Donation

Janet Davis in memory of her parents

SOCIAL ACTION CLOTHING DRIVE

Please donate new and gently used children's coats, hats, scarves and gloves.



Collection box can be found in the coat room. You may also send a donation check payable to Mishkan Torah with "Social Action" on the memo line, and we will purchase the clothing for you.

Donations go to the children of Spring Hill Lake Elementary School

SISTERHOOD SAYS . . .

by Irene Spector

WOW! Thanks to Barbara Shansby and all of her helpers, the Rummage Sale was very successful. Barbara will have more to say about this elsewhere in the Trumpet. This is the first one that Sid and I have missed in many years but we were hosting a family get-together.

But, thanks to Eva Garin and Niki Kohn, there will be many more times to enjoy the programs planned for the rest of the year. Remember - there are many other exciting programs that go on at Mishkan Torah to which we encourage all to attend. Come and join the action. Remember also, that your input is always welcome so don't be shy - come and talk to us.

Here are the Sisterhood plans for the rest of the year:

Sunday, December 11. Craft/tzedakah program. Call Niki for information.

Sunday, Jan. 22, 12 noon. Book discussion led by our own librarian Barbara Shansby - *Day After Night* by Anita Diamant, with special guest Sonia Garin.

Sunday, February 12, 12 noon. Wellness Afternoon with rotating sessions. Call Eva Garin for program details.

Sunday, March 18, 12 noon. Pesach cooking. Call Niki for the menu and other information.

Sunday, April 15, 1 - 3 p.m. Field trip to the Radio and T.V. Museum in Bowie, MD. Call Niki for information.

Sunday, April 29 (set up Saturday evening before). Sixth Annual Vintage Jewelry Sale. Just in time for Mother's Day. Call Eva Choper for more information.

Thursday evening, May 24. Rosh Chodesh Program, Ice Cream Social and Elections. Call Niki or Eva for more details.

Sunday, June 3 or 10. Donor Event TBD. Call Phyllis Oresky or Chana Mason to get the latest news.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Mitzvah Cards - sympathy, mazel tov, get well, etc. \$3.00 per card and that included postage. Also, this helps build up your donor points. Call Becky Hirsch for speedy efficient service.

Catering: Special Simcha? Call Alyce Strasser (after 10:30 am please) for our maven's help in planning.

Gift Shop: Look at the beautiful gifts on display. There is still time to do your Chanukah purchasing. Remember, 20% of your purchase price goes toward your donor.

Rhyme Time

What a variety of programs
Are planned for this year
There are some for everyone
to enjoy - never fear.
So get ready to share all the plans
that should not be missed.
You will be pleasantly surprised
by all the activities on the list.



GIFT SHOP SPIN the DREIDEL SALE



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, FROM 10 A.M. UNTIL 1 P.M.

Come Spin the Dreidel and receive a discount of 15 to 30 percent on your total purchase. If you don't see what you want, ask for it, and we will find it and you can spin the Dreidel to set its cost. (Sorry, books are not on sale.)

For those items that are hidden away, we may have to make an appointment for pick up and Spin the Dreidel at that time.

We have a large selection, but most items are in limited quantities.
So come early and get what you want.

WAYS & MEANS PLANS INCLUDE MORE CONCERTS

by Angie Carmel

The Ways & Means Committee reminds everyone to please donate canned and packaged nonperishable foods for the Greenbelt Food Bank.

COMING THIS MONTH

December 11, 3-5 p.m. **RUSTY MASON & THE AUGUSTA SWING ENSEMBLE:** This promises to be another sell-out event. As anyone who has attended one of Rusty's performances will tell you, he is a brilliant jazz and swing



musician who began his professional career at the age of 13. You will have the opportunity to dance to the music and

have a wonderful time. There will be light refreshments afterwards, as well as CD's of the musicians available for sale.

Check out the article on page four and the flier on page six for information about how to make reservations.

December 18. **COFFEE KLATCH** – Beginning at 10 a.m. prior to the Winter Membership Meeting.

FUTURE (2012) EVENTS

March 3, 7:30 p.m. - notice date change - **A PURIM SHPIEL.** This is a highly hilarious musical play based on the story of Purim (obviously) and is a revival of the 1987 successful event. See Jeff Rosen's article in this *Trumpet*.

April 21. **KETER SHEM TOV.** Shabbat morning. More information will be provided in the near future.

May 13. 2 p.m. - **"GENERATIONS UNITED."** This is another big concert starring young performers (and some not so young, too).

Also, watch for other surprise events during the course of the year.

Remember, your suggestions and other input are always welcome. Call Angie to become a member of this committee.

DON JURAN TO PRESENT ORIGINAL WORK AT SHALSHELET PROGRAM

By Jeffrey Rosen

Mishkan Torah's own resident composer and long time mainstay of the Choir Don Juran will present an original work at a concert to be sponsored by *Shalsholet* (The Foundation for New Jewish Liturgical Music) on Sunday, December 11, at four in the afternoon. The concert, "No Rock Like You: Songs for the Jewish Soul" will showcase works by Washington area composers. It will feature music for both liturgical and concert use in diverse styles including pop, folk, and classical.

Don's work is a setting of the text *Rise Up, My Love* from *The Song of Songs*. Don wrote the work for three male voices in 2009 as a fortieth anniversary present to his wife, Carol. Don will sing one of the parts. The other two parts will be taken by Mishkan Torah favorites Cantor Phil and Ben Greenfield. Cantor Ramon Tasat, who has also performed at Mishkan

Torah and is well known to Mishkan Torah audiences, will also perform elsewhere in the program.

Shalshalet, which is Hebrew for "chain" and the name of one of the rarest and longest signs for the cantillation of sacred texts, is committed to fostering Jewish sacred composition and providing performance opportunities. *Rise Up, My Love* was selected for performance at the Fourth International Shalsholet Festival in New York in 2010. The concert will be presented at four PM at Tifereth Israel Congregation, 7701 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

For tickets in advance or further information, please visit the website <www.Shalsholet.org> or call 240-715-4249.

LEARN ABOUT PRAYER AND PRAYING

by Rabbi Jonathan Cohen

Prayer is about our deepest relationships, and relationships are probably the hardest things that we do in life. But prayer doesn't have to be harder than is absolutely necessary. Many people have asked me to help them interpret the prayers in the *siddur* in order to make them more meaningful and to show them how to use the *siddur* to deepen their spiritual lives.

So we have decided to devote the Tuesday evening study group to this topic. We will be exploring the history and meaning of the prayers that make up the Shabbat, weekday and holiday services. Just about any question related to this broad topic is fair game. For example: What makes a prayer book a *siddur*? Why did the rabbis arrange the prayers in a particular order? Do we have to believe literally

everything that we say in prayer? And what meaning do these old traditional prayers have for us today?

The study group meets every Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. It is open to anyone who has an interest in the topic. Individuals with **any** prior background are welcome. The only prerequisites are a willingness to learn and to have a good time.

Before our meetings, I will be providing materials and making them available on line. Just download the handouts and bring them with you. You do not need to read the handouts ahead of time. It would also be a good idea to bring a *siddur*. Any edition from any movement will do (in fact, the more the merrier – we can compare them). You can also borrow *Sim Shalom* from the sanctuary.

It's a Long Time Between Hanukkah and Tu B'Shvat,
But at Mishkan Torah We Have a New Tradition To Chase Away
Those Winter Blues

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

Sunday, February 5

Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.

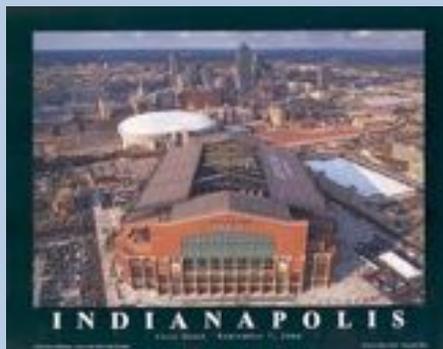
THE SAME GREAT MENU...

THE SAME GREAT VENUE...

NO LIKELIHOOD OF ENNUI...

JUST BRING A SPOUSE OR BUDDY!

SUPER BOWL XLVI



ADMISSION STILL ONLY \$10 PP (OR FREE IF YOUR RENEW YOUR MEN'S CLUB MEMBERSHIP!)

BITS AND PIECES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S POST IT NOTE PAD

NEW DIRECTORY COMING SOON

Every two years Mishkan Torah reissues a membership directory. We are currently working on the 2012 edition. Each member unit listing will include name, address, phone number and email address. Please take a moment to look at your listing in the 2010 edition and send any changes to Arlene Gottlieb at Finance@MishkanTorah.org or call the office at 301-474-4223 by Monday, December 12.

LOOKING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ALARM CODE OR BUILDING KEY

Under the superb guidance of Steve Mirsky, Mishkan Torah continues to make security improvements to ensure a safe environment for our members and guests. In conjunction with this effort, we have developed a document that outlines the procedures for locking and unlocking the building. We are ready to distribute this document and now need to develop a list of all individuals that have a code to the alarm system and/or a key to the building.

Please contact Dan Lowery at ExecVP@MishkanTorah.org or call the office at 301-474-4223 by Monday, December 12 to add your name to the list. Please indicate if you have a code, a key, or both.

JOIN THE MISHKAN TORAH LISTSERV

In an effort to improve communication, we are urging all of our members with internet access to join the listserv. People are often hesitant to join these groups for fear of being inundated with emails. It is the intention of Mishkan Torah to use the listserv conservatively. We wish to keep our members informed about our events, communicate important information, alert members to emergencies or cancellations, and occasionally let you know of other community programs that might be of interest. The listserv is not to

be used to market a business or to distribute articles that promote a political agenda or opinion. If you are not currently on the listserv please contact Dan Lowery at ExecVP@MishkanTorah.org by Monday, December 12 to join the group. It is very easy to subscribe and you always have the option to unsubscribe.

WINTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

December 18, at 11 a.m.
Coffee Klatch begins at 10 a.m.

The *Trumpet* is published by Mishkan Torah Synagogue
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TO CONTACT INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE MISHKAN TORAH FAMILY BY PHONE OR E-MAIL,

PLEASE CONSULT THE LATEST SYNAGOGUE DIRECTORY.

Please submit articles, pictures, suggestions, and flyers to Trumpet@MishkanTorah.org by the twentieth of each month unless announced otherwise.

KARP SCHOOL AGAIN PARTICIPATING IN GIANT A+ BONUS PROGRAM

By Mark Loewenstein

I have once again enrolled the Karp Family School in the Giant A+ Bonus Program. Giant will make contributions to designated schools based on the value of purchases made by those who name the school as recipient.

To designate the school, you need two pieces of information, the school's designation code and your 12-digit Bonus Card number. The **school's designation code is 00555**. If you don't know your Bonus Card Number, you can call 1-877- ASK- APLUS (1-877- 275-27587).

If you know your Bonus Card Number, you can designate the school simply by following the instructions at http://www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/designate_school?execution=e1s1.

Alternatively, you can complete a Designation Card at a Giant Customer Service Desk.

NO CARRYOVER FROM LAST YEAR

Registration does not carry over from the previous year. If you registered last year, it is necessary to register again this year if you would like to again make contributions to the Hebrew School through Giant's A+ Bonus program.



Your bonus card contributions add up. For example, in the past we have used the money to purchase new PCs for the Hebrew School.

PURIM SPIEL REVIVAL PLANNED; AUDITIONS IN JANUARY

By Jeffrey Rosen

At Mishkan Torah, where it is always Purim, the Ways and Means Committee will celebrate the 2012 Purim Season by presenting a revival of the 1987 hit "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Purim or The Villain Punished." The show will be presented on Saturday evening, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. The show is a musical retelling of the Purim story, featuring a score which is taken from Broadway, opera, Gilbert and Sullivan, and good old rock 'n' roll. The show features such hits as "We Jews Don't Bow!" and "We're Going to the Gallows and We're Going to Hang Haman!" The 1987 script has been revised, and several new musical numbers have been added.

Real life fiancés Ben Greenfield and Rachel White will star as the royal couple King Ahasuerus and King Esther. Evil villainy will come in the detestable shape of that despicable perfect picture of a potentate prime minister, Haman, the man you love to hate. The other Purim characters such as the noble Mordechai and harridan Queen Vashti will be

there, along with assorted Royal Chamberlains, doo-whopping plotters, Miss Upper Lower Turkestan, and Lady Debita, the Lord High Royal Auditor, among others.

David Herschler, who directed the original 1987 production, will direct. Other than the royal couple, casting is open for any age for all parts. Dave will be announcing a schedule for auditions. Auditions are expected to be held in mid-January, with rehearsals through the month of February. Anyone who would like to audition please advise Assistant Director Jeffrey Rosen at 240-393-2601 or by email at boysies.rosen@verizon.net. Come try out and lend your talent to the joyful Purim season!

NOTE FROM EDITOR

This article was mistakenly omitted from the original posting of the December *Trumpet*. I am sorry for the error.

In addition, I would like to solicit pictures from the original version of this Purim spiel to include in coming publicity stories.