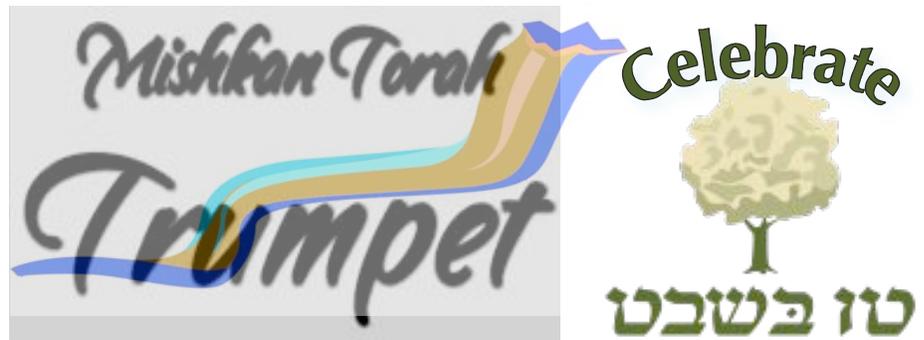


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Published by Mishkan Torah Synagogue, Greenbelt, Maryland

January 2011

PRESIDENT MIRSKY REVIEWS MEMBERSHIP MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

by Steven Mirsky, President

Dear Friends,

About 35 congregants attended our winter membership meeting December 19 while enjoying the breakfast cuisine of Mishkan Torah's own coffee klatch under the able management of Angie Carmel and Dan Lowery.

Minutes from the summer 2010 membership meeting were read by Janet Davis and approved without modification. Bill Schwartz and Arlene Gottlieb presented a budget update, which was also approved. Currently our income and expenses appear to be on target, assuming all



the dues and pledges are paid before next June, so that we are within reach of a balanced budget. Bill also presented our statement of assets that include the general fund, one mutual fund, Men's Club, Food certificates,

and the Sisterhood. Judy Gallant presented the Special Funds status, showing the receipts and the payments that had been made. Funds most in need of contribution are Scholarship, Berger, and Landscaping. The Ways and Means Committee has had two very successful fundraisers, the Chanukah Party and the Ben Greenfield Concert. A CD of Ben's performance will be available soon for conference attendees and those not fortunate enough to have experienced this musical masterpiece.

A new Nominating Committee was proposed and approved by the members. Yasher Koach to Martha Tomecek, Jeff Rosen and Rae Brooks for volunteering for this important responsibility. They will report to the membership with

proposed Board Members for voting at the Summer 2011 meeting.

Mishkan Torah's request for advance funding for part of our Homeland Security Grant has been approved and we expect to receive these funds by January or February. Soon after, you will be able to see the evidence of all these planned improvements to our windows, doors, alarms, lights, etc. Current plans are to complete all improvements in Calendar Year 2011. In response to questions, I described the process in selecting the windows and front door from bidders including their design details. Bids were obtained by and evaluated within the Safety and Security Committee that has been in existence for 2 years.

Matching Funds Challenge Still in Play

As discussed in the last issue of the *Trumpet*, the ongoing matching challenge donation program for additional safety and security funds and additional sanctuary chairs was presented. At the end of the meeting several members made generous donations that will be matched and used for these improvements.

Continued on page 14

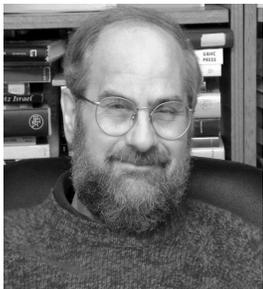
NOTE THESE DATES

YIDDISH CLUB MEETING	JAN 9
SHABBAT SHIRA SING-ALONG	JAN 15
TU B'SHEVAT SEDER	JAN 19
SUPER BOWL PARTY	Feb 6
YOUNG PERFORMERS 2	MAR 13
KETER SHEM TOV	MAY 7
JEWELRY SALE	TBD

RABBI'S COLUMN

You probably wouldn't belong to a synagogue if you didn't believe that spiritual and religious well-being can help improve the quality of your life. And your feelings are validated by research. According to the WebMD Internet site, there are scientific studies that show that spiritual or religious beliefs and practices create a positive mental attitude that can help both patients and their caregivers feel better by decreasing their anxiety, depression, anger, and discomfort.

But what of money? Can it improve the quality of our lives? Interestingly, research shows that it actually can, but only if we spend our money on certain things—and in certain ways. On one level, it's clear that money and the spending of it can play a role in bringing happiness: In America, wealthy people have better nutrition and medical care, more meaningful work, and extra free time. And



yet, says Elizabeth W. Dunn, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, the well-to-do aren't that much happier than those who have less. "Money is an opportunity for happiness," she explains, "but it is an opportunity that people routinely squander because the things they think will make them happy often don't."

Being a scientist, Dunn sought scientifically based advice on how we should spend our money—not in terms of making financial investments, but in order to boost life satisfaction. "I was surprised to find out there was actually very little research on that topic," she says. As she delved into the subject, she discovered that people often misjudge their purchases on three counts: "People mispredict what will make them happy, how happy it will make them, and how long that happiness will last."

So how can we spend our money to maximize our happiness?

According to Dr. Dunn, we might be better off if we enjoy many small, relatively inexpensive pleasures rather than foregoing them in favor of a few big-ticket items. She points to research that indicates that happiness is more closely aligned with the frequency of

pleasure, than with its intensity.

Dr. Dunn further suggests that we spend our money on experiences rather than things. In one recent study, researchers at Cornell University found that purchasing an experience tends to improve our emotional wellbeing. In part, this is because we are more prone to after-the-fact comparisons and to feeling buyer's remorse with material goods than we are with intangible experiences. Also, physical objects tend to deteriorate with time, but experiences can create lasting memories that become even richer with time. Moreover, there is a social aspect to experiences. If we share lessons or dinners or vacations with others, then the connections that we form can make us happier, too.

Feel Better – Spend on Others

A third suggestion is to spend money on others rather than on ourselves. A few years ago, Dr. Dunn conducted an experiment in which researchers fanned out across the University of British Columbia campus and handed students a \$5 or \$20 bill. The students were randomly assigned to spend the cash on themselves or on others by the end of the day. In the evening, those who had been told to spend on others reported feeling happier—even if they had spent only \$5—than those assigned to buy for themselves—even if they had spent four times as much.

The emotional rewards of spending on others can even be detected on MRI brain scans. In a University of Oregon study, people were given a chance to donate money to a food bank. Others were forced to give to the food bank through a tax-like transfer. Volunteering the money activated brain areas typically associated with receiving rewards, but so did the mandatory giving. As highly social creatures, much of our happiness hinges on the quality of our relationships, Dunn says:

Continued on page 3

RABBI'S COLUMN . . . from page 2

“Almost anything we do to improve our connections with others tends to improve our happiness as well, and that includes spending money.”

I find Dr. Dunn's research to be an interesting (albeit unexpected) affirmation of certain core Jewish values. Jewish morality is concerned primarily with the good of the community. Moreover, unlike many other religions, Judaism sees nothing inherently wrong with material possessions. The prophets of the Hebrew Bible did not denounce wealth as such, but only its unequal distribution. They called for social justice—not asceticism. For its part, the *Jerusalem Talmud* teaches that in the world to come we will be held accountable for every legitimate pleasure we could have enjoyed but refused.

Just as Judaism warns us against concentrating material things in too few hands, it also has developed a system of *brachot*—blessings—that are intended to help us keep from taking our material possessions for granted. Most of us are familiar with the *sh'hechi-yanu* blessing. We recite this *bracha* whenever we experience something for the first time: for example, when we wear a new article of clothing or eat a seasonal fruit for the first time in a given year. Making a *bracha* in such situations can help us appreciate the connection between material possessions and spiritual values.

One of these spiritual values is what I like to call the “discipline of gratitude.” As one writer has put it, gratitude is a decision, but it's more than a single decision. It's a discipline, in the sense that training for an athletic event is a discipline. It is a single-minded focus that governs many other decisions. You don't become a grateful person by accident. It's the result of hundreds of seemingly inconsequential decisions to choose thankfulness over griping, complaining, and bitterness. Gratitude gives birth to joy and to a spirit of generosity that builds relationships with others. And these

relationships, as we have seen, reinforce happiness.

Of course, many of the *brachot* serve to focus our attention on life's many free pleasures, pleasures that we often take for granted precisely because they don't cost us a penny. (It was Oscar Wilde who satirized people who know the price of everything but the value of nothing.) There is a *bracha* for seeing trees bloom for the first time each spring; there is another for seeing a beautiful creature and one for seeing an unusual creature. There is one for seeing a friend whom you have not seen for a long time (at least a year) and one for seeing a friend who has recovered from a serious illness. There is a *bracha* for seeing the ocean and one for the other various wonders of nature: lightning, shooting stars, vast deserts, high mountains, or a spectacular sunrise or sunset. Judaism teaches that if we can stop to smell the roses, so to speak, then perhaps we can enhance the pleasure we derive from the objects that money *can* buy.

SHABBAT SHIRAH: COME FOR THE MUSIC

Shabbat Shirah (“Sabbath of Song”) is the name we give to the Shabbat that includes the Parsha of the Torah reading containing the Song of the Sea (Exodus 15:1-18) sung by our ancestors after they had safely crossed the Red Sea. The haftarah includes the Song of Deborah. This year *Shabbat Shirah* falls on January 15.

Once again this year we will celebrate *Shabbat Shirah* at Mishkan Torah with a special pot-luck *kiddush*. (Remember: dairy and pareve food only, and nothing enters the kitchen. Given that Tu b'Shevat will be only a few days later, it would be a great idea to bring fruit as well as other foods typical of the land of Israel.)

Then we will gather with songbooks, musical instruments and YOU!! Please join us even if you don't sing very well and just like to listen. Kids, adults, fun for everyone!! And since it's free, we have no problem guaranteeing you will have a good time – or your money back!

BEN GREENFIELD CONCERT THRILLS FULL HOUSE

by Jeffrey Rosen

Tenor Ben Greenfield triumphed in a bravura display of virtuoso vocalism at the inaugural concert of the Young Performers Series at Mishkan Torah on December 11. Ben mesmerized the full house by performing a challenging and passionate program of arias, art songs, and Broadway favorites. Although the music was not specifically Jewish, Ben chose a program of works with a Jewish connection. The concert marked the first of the Young Performers Series which the Ways and Means Committee is presenting as the capstone of this year's theme, From Generation to Generation.

Even before Ben sang a note, the generation to generation theme was manifested when Rabbi Carl Choper, who grew up at Mishkan Torah as the son of Mishkan Torah pillars, Jordan and Eva Choper, and Saul Oresky, who has taught Mishkan Torah b'nai mitzvah and classroom students for over thirty years, led *Havdallah*. Ben then came out with his accompanist, Annapolis area pianist Ken Kimble to begin the program.

Ben commenced the concert by presenting two arias celebrating Jewish figures by baroque composer George Frederic Handel, best known for his oratorios. Ben opened with the King's aria "O Beauteous Queen" from *Esther*, which Ben remarked was appropriate because "at Mishkan Torah, it is always Purim." He followed that number with the stirring "Sound an Alarm" from *Judas Maccabeus*, a perfect choice for the just-concluded Hanukkah season.

Ben followed the Handel arias by performing an entire song cycle in the original German, *Dichterliebe* by Robert Schumann. The cycle consists of sixteen highly emotional songs, expressing a range of human passion, such as unrequited love, which epitomize the "*sturm und drang*" ("storm and stress") movement of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century Romanticism. Ben explained that the cycle was based on poems by German-Jewish poet Heinrich Heine. The audience's understanding and appreciation of the songs was enhanced by the simultaneous projection of translations of the text by Yoni Charry, assisted by Rachel White.

After a brief hiatus, Ben followed the *Dichterliebe* by presenting something even more emotionally gripping, if possible. Ben performed the great scene for the lead tenor, Eleazer, from Jacques Halevy's 1835 grand opera *La Juive*, The Jewess, in the original French. There, the

imprisoned Eleazer struggles with whether he should save the life of Rachel, whom he has raised as his daughter, by telling the villainous Cardinal Brogni that Rachel is in fact the daughter whom the Cardinal believed he lost before he joined the Church. Ben sang both the recitative and the aria, *Rachel, quand du Seigneur* where Eleazer struggles with his conflict. Ultimately, the father and daughter determine to die as Jews. Ben's performance captured the anguish and passion of one of the most wrenching scenes in the operatic repertoire.

Ben's final work on the program was of a different genre, but it contained its own high emotional content. Ben performed the famous "Soliloquy" from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*, in which a young ne'er do well contemplates the just-received news that his wife is expecting their first child. This selection not only featured the work of Richard Rodgers, a great Jewish Broadway composer, but also fit right into the theme, From Generation to Generation. Ben perfectly captured the gamut of emotions of the young man contemplating what having a child would mean to his life, and the life-changing event of impending fatherhood.

The audience rose, and called Ben back for an encore. Ben obliged by performing "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" by Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel, who are also Jewish, thus continuing the Jewish connection theme. After performing such a challenging program all evening, it was difficult to imagine Ben would want to sing anything else. However, after being reminded that events at Mishkan Torah typically end with *Adon Olam*, Ben obliged by singing *Adon Olam* to the music of "O, Holy Night."

More Concert Series News on page 9

SISTERHOOD SAYS

by Irene Spector

Sid and I were unable to attend Ben Greenfield's concert on December 11, but we heard it was a huge full-house success. We look forward to buying a CD as soon as it's available for purchase.

As we move into 2011 we can anticipate the following interesting events:

Sunday, January 9: 10:30 a.m. Tour of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center in Baltimore with our own Linda Shevitz, Director. See below for information.

Sunday, February 27: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Book Discussion led by our own librarian Barbara Shansby. The book will be *Where I Leave You* by Jonathan Troper. Call Barbara (301 622-4653) for more information.

Sunday: March 27: 12 noon - 2 p.m.: Exercise and "Energy Work" Class - call Eva Garin for information.

Saturday, April 2: 6 p.m.: Havdallah Dinner. Please call Eva Garin (301-474-6400) to participate in the service or in the preparations.

One Saturday Night in May: After Shabbat. Setting up for the Jewelry Sale. Call Eva Choper at 301 474- 3766 for details.

One Sunday in May: 5th Annual Vintage Jewelry Sale. Call Eva Choper for more information.

Thursday: May 26: Ice Cream Social, Elections and Tzedakah Activity—Linus Blankets. Call Niki or Eva for more information

Sunday: June 5: Donor Event—TBD. Call Phyllis Oresky at 301 622-2928 for information.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Mitzvah Cards: Call Becky Hirsch at 301 345-4029 for her always speedy, efficient service. Cards are now available in packages of 3 for only \$10. Remember that you get donor credit for all cards bought or sent.

Catering: Call Alyce Strasser, our very knowledgeable catering maven, at 301 441-1353 (after 10:30 a.m. please). She is always ready to help you plan your *simcha*.

Gift Shop: Call Alyce Strasser (after 10:30 a.m. please) to arrange an appointment for you to shop for jewelry, ceramics, glassware, and ritual objects for any special occasion or just for a "feel good" occasion. Watch the display windows as Purim and Pesach items appear. You will find it difficult to resist these gifts.

RHYME TIME

As I sit here and watch the falling snow
Knowing of coming events warms me and sad
thoughts go.

The work of Eva & Niki and new things to share,
It's pleasant to anticipate the plans of this pair.
Being with friends at events is always good fun;
So consider this your invitation and join us,
EVERYONE!



Sisterhood Outing

'Adding Her Story to History to Our Story'

Tour of the Women's Heritage Center in Baltimore
39 W. Lexington Street

Sisterhood member Linda Shevitz, director of the museum, will be our guide.

Followed by lunch at Attman's Deli on the famous Corned Beef Row

Please R.S.V.P. to Niki (nikiekohn13@verizon.net) or Eva (egarin@bowiestate.edu) by January 5

Indicate if you will be joining us for the tour / lunch / both.
Carpooling is encouraged, so grab your friends and join us.



JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1	<i>Shabbat Va'era</i>	9:30 a.m.
7	<i>Erev Shabbat Family Services</i>	7:30 p.m.
8	<i>Shabbat Bo</i>	9:30 a.m.
9	Yiddish Club Meeting	10:30 a.m.
14	<i>Erev Shabbat Services</i>	8 p.m.
15	<i>Shabbat BeShallah: Shabbat Shira Sing-Along</i>	9:30 a.m.
17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observed	
19	<i>Tu B'Shevat Seder</i>	6 p.m.
21	<i>Erev Shabbat Services</i>	8 p.m.
22	<i>Shabbat Yitro</i>	9:30 a.m.
28	<i>Erev Shabbat Services</i>	8 p.m.
29	<i>Shabbat Mishpatim</i>	9:30 a.m.

JANUARY YAHRZEITS

January 7

Beth Kaufman
Raymond Oster*
Harold Gottlieb
Saul Weidenfeld
Rabbi David H. Panitz
Marian Kramer*
Isadore Goldberg*
Gertrude Alster*
Scott Krasnick

January 14

Miriam Davidson*
Bryn Schultz*
Alice Boldt Shifman

Clara Weidberg*

Rose Oresky
Tillie Wetter*

January 21

Judith Goldenberg
Morris Fisher*
Albert Nissenfeld*
Martha Gallant
Leonore Rosen*
Mac Rosen*
Shirley Rothbard Levine*
Paul Awrich

January 28

Cyril Schultz

David Goldberger

Sylvia Stern
Robert Garin
Julius Froehlich*
Lillian Parks
Jennie Goldstein*
Aveve Cohen
Ralph Bregman*
Dorothy Bloom Pollack
Stanley Saviet
Mollie Kramer*
Howard Merl*
David Dondes

FEBRUARY PREVIEW

4	<i>Erev Shabbat Family Services</i>	7:30 p.m.
5	<i>Shabbat Terumah</i>	9:30 a.m.
11	<i>Erev Shabbat Services</i>	8 p.m.
12	<i>Shabbat Tetzaveh</i>	9:30 a.m.
18	<i>Purim Katan</i> (Little Purim)	
18	<i>Erev Shabbat Services</i>	8 p.m.
19	<i>Shabbat Ki Tissa</i>	9:30 a.m.
21	Presidents' Weekend Observed	
25	<i>Erev Shabbat Services</i>	8 p.m.
26	<i>Shabbat Va Yakhel</i>	9:30 a.m.

PURIM WILL BE CELEBRATED ON MARCH 20!

MISHKAN TORAH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS

Yahrzeits

Lois & Stan Cohen for Estelle
 "Esther" Gerson
 Lois Darr for Lois Davis
 Karen Friedman for Phillip
 Friedman
 Sanders Gerson for Estelle "Esther"
 Gerson
 Annie Haber for Frank Haber
 Max & Ruth Horlick for Harry
 Horlick
 Stuart Kramer for Lena Kramer
 Marcie Lissauer for Rosetta
 Lissauer
 Susette, Raphael & Billy Panitz for
 Lottie Lee Mottzman
 Harise Poland & Shane Doyle for
 Ross Korz
 Marie Selleh for Anne Winter
 Laurie Siegel for Lorraine Siegel &
 Marilyn Levine
 Harold & Robert Silverman for Ida
 Silverman
 Nadine Wobus for Melvin Adelson

HIGH HOLIDAY PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Debbie & Ed Brenner
 Dave & Evey Herschler
 Steven & Janet Mirsky
 Marty & Nancy Peckerar
 Jeffrey & Sara Rosen
 Susan & Stephen Ungar

HIGH HOLIDAY PLEDGE

Bret Goldstein & Darelynn Fung
 Judith Karpen
 Stuart & Marcie Kramer
 Irwin & Lora Neveleff

Yizkor

Debbie & Ed Brenner
 Melanie Fishkind

Sustaining Fund

Debbie & Ed Brenner in memory
 of Cecile Spiegel
 David & June Charney in memory
 of Joseph & Ray Charney
 Daniel Stern in memory of Diane
 Kritt and Alice Pearlman
 Jeffrey & Sara Rosen made
 donations in honor of the Ways
 & Means Committee,
 Chairperson Angie Carmel, and

the Young Performers Series;
 Mark & Becky Silverstein with
 hope for a speedy recovery to
 Becky; the Choir and Director
 Rachel White; Rabbi Jonathan
 and the Saturday Morning
 Discussions; Cantor Phil, the
 Master singer of Greenbelt; Ben
 Greenfield and the great lead off
 he gave to the Young Performers
 Series; Saul and Phyllis Oresky
 on the occasion of the first
 anniversary of our trip to Israel;
 all Torah & Haftorah readers;
 Yoni Charry for providing
 "sound" for all events; David
 Charney for tuning the piano for
 all events; and in loving memory
 of Alice Pearlman. A
 contribution was also made to
 the kiddush fund.

IN HONOR OF JORDAN CHOPER'S 75TH BIRTHDAY

Debbie & Ed Brenner
 Lois Darr
 Arlene Gottlieb & Chaz Miller

MATCHING FUND/HOMELAND

SECURITY

Janet Davis
 Karen Friedman & the kids
 Judy Gallant & Stan Stern
 Wendy Garson & Steve Feinberg
 Joe Gurman
 Ed Hickey & Ronnie Scotkin
 Harold & Robert Silverman
 Linda & Dave Spevack

MATCHING FUND/CHAIRS

Debbie & Ed Brenner
 Wendy Garson & Steve Feinberg
 Arlene Gottlieb & Chaz Miller in
 memory of Roslyn Blum
 Hal Rappaport

IN MEMORY OF ROSLYN BLUM (DEBBIE BRENNER'S MOM)

Janet Davis
 David Granite & Marylou Oster-
 Granite

KARP FAMILY SCHOOL FUND

Neil Goldstein

MARC SPEVACK FUND

Neil Goldstein
 Jeffrey & Sara Rosen in honor of
 David & Linda Spevack

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jackie & Arnold Kling
 Jeffrey & Sara Rosen

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Debbie & Ed Brenner

YOUNG PERFORMERS CONCERT SERIES

Impresario

Julie Black, Robert Shepard, &
 Emily Shepard
 Phil Greenfield & Carolyn Sonnen
 Jeffrey, Sara, Armin, Louie, &
 Joshua Rosen

Patron

Arlene Gottlieb & Chaz Miller
 Steven & Janet Mirsky
 Dave & Linda Spevack

Benefactor

Marilyn Greenfield
 Gary & Niki Kohn
 Frank Pearlman

Contributor

Yvette Boldt
 Rae & Ron Brooks
 Angie Carmel
 Jordan & Eva Choper
 Janet Davis
 Lois, Sam & Mimi Fields
 Carlos & Doris Fraker
 Jackie & Arnold Kling
 Kathryn Miguez
 Irv Wartell

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Please make sure that your
 calendars are marked for the
 Chesapeake Annual
 Celebration, which will be held
 on Sunday, April 3, 2011 at 4
 p.m. at Oseh Shalom in Laurel,
 Maryland. Join with others from
 your congregations and the
 region to honor members of our
 Reconstructionist community.

WAYS & MEANS ANNOUNCES REMAINING CONCERTS

By Jeffrey Rosen

The Ways and Means Committee is delighted to announce that it will follow Ben Greenfield's triumphant concert with two additional concerts in the Young Performers Series this coming spring. Mishkan Torah violin favorite and college music student Sarah Saviet will present a matinee concert on Sunday, March 13, 2011 at two in the afternoon.

The third concert in the series will be presented at 7:30 in the evening on Saturday, May 14, and will feature Joshua Rosen, also a college music major, playing works for French horn.

Sarah's concert promises to be a thrilling afternoon of virtuoso violin artistry, as we continue the theme, From Generation to Generation. The Committee expects to follow the gala concert with light refreshments and a social hour. Keep your eyes open for the next edition of *The Trumpet*, which will have further information about Sarah's forthcoming concert, including details for ordering your tickets. Additionally, the Committee expects to distribute flyers with ticket ordering information as soon as possible.

Don't miss either big event!

SOCIAL ACTION IN ACTION

by Andrea Weiss

Social Action would like to recognize the synagogue members who came out on a very cold December day to give blood at the Red Cross Blood Drive. Including community donors, we had 30 people pass through the doors and the Red Cross collected 13 usable pints of blood. We would also like to thank those synagogue members (and visitors) who have volunteered their time on a day (and night) of rest to help provide a stabilizing presence at the homeless shelters at the Greenbelt Community Church in Greenbelt and St.

Matthews Church in Bowie on Christmas Eve and day. Thanks to Dan Lowery, Hal Rappaport, Jordan Choper, Kimberly Ann Wright, David Norken, Annie Haber and Carol Levy for their generosity and compassion.

Social Action continues to collect warm weather clothing for the children of Spring Hill Lake Elementary School. Please check your closets or your pocketbooks to see what you can contribute. There are some great buys on children's outerwear at the local discount stores and department stores.

SOCIAL ACTION CHILDREN'S WINTER OUTERWEAR DRIVE

**Please donate new and gently used children's coats, hats, scarves and gloves
Collection box in the coat room
Or send a donation check payable to Mishkan Torah with "Social Action" in the memo line and we will purchase the clothing for you.**

Donations will go to the children of Spring Hill Lake Elementary School



Mishkan Torah

Proudly presents the SECOND of our L'Dor V'Dor (Generations) Showcases

AND

YOUNG PERFORMERS CONCERT SERIES

Sarah Saviet



**March 13,
2 p.m.**

**at Mishkan Torah
Greenbelt, MD**

**\$15 R.S.V.P. Admission
\$18 at the door**

R.S.V.P. by March 9 for discount.

Be a supporter of our Young Performers Concert Series. It is an ideal way to be included in this wonderful program – whether or not you can attend! All donations will be listed in the Program Book if received by March 6, 2011. We have the following level choices:

- Contributor/\$18
- Benefactor/\$36
- Patron/\$54
- Impresario/\$72+

I would like to reserve _____ tickets @ \$15/ticket \$ _____

I would like to make a donation (see the levels above) \$ _____

Names to be listed in the Program Book _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

For more info and R.S.V.P. www.mishkantorahsynagogue.org/ypcs

The Mishkan Torah office (301) 474-4223

WAYS & MEANS

by Angie Carmel

Happy New Year to everyone. December was an excellent month for Mishkan Torah, beginning with the Hanukkah Party on December 4. It was fun and the confirmation class did an excellent job. Thank you to Phil Williams and his crew for the delicious latkes, Eva Choper and Lois Darr for the wonderful salad, and Sisterhood for donating the donut holes.

Thank you also to the many people, some of whom I did not know, who cleaned off the tables and put away the tables and chairs. In addition, thank you must go to Eva and Jordan Choper and Dan Lowery who cleaned the kitchen that night and over the next few days.

Our premier Young Performers™ Showcase starring Ben Greenfield was a huge success, and Ben deservedly received numerous standing ovations from the packed house which included Becky and Mark Silverstein.

We welcomed Becky and Mark back to the fold, where they belong. See Jeff's articles in this Trumpet for more eloquent tributes and information about our next concerts.

Thank you to Eva Choper and Irv Wartell for shopping for the refreshments and to Eva, Jordan, Lois, and Irv for cleaning up with me.

If I have missed anyone, I apologize. If you will let me know, I will acknowledge your help in the next *Trumpet*.

Please stay tuned for more information on our next showcases.

Our next meeting will take place on January 2, 2011 at 10:00 am (providing the weather cooperates).



The following acknowledgements are reprinted from the Young Performers Concert program:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked so diligently on this wonderful premier to our first Young Performers Series.

First of all, thank you to Ben and his accompanist, Ken Kimble, for agreeing to start the series off with a bang. I know we will all enjoy every minute of the evening. Thank you to Rabbi Carl Choper and Saul Oresky for leading us in Havdallah together.

Our Ways and Means Committee is very hard working and I am proud to be a member. I would be remiss if I didn't name everyone individually.

Jeff Rosen, who took the reigns and worked with Ben throughout the arrangements, and also wrote his very creative articles for the Trumpet. **Arlene Gottlieb**, who has given her usual tireless dedication to the preparation of this Program Book (not to mention strong advice to me). **Dan Lowery**, who is always willing to give me the

benefit of the experience of his past years as chairman, and more recently, his computer expertise. He also designed the beautiful flyer. **Eva and Jordan Choper**, who have always been my go-to people for sound opinions on everything. Jordan also handled advertising for the Greenbelt News Review. **Hal Rappaport**, for handling the advertising, despite his other duties for Mishkan Torah. **Yoni Charry**, who provides the sound system and set up and single handedly recorded the performance. **David Charney**, who graciously tuned the piano. Refreshments wouldn't have happened without **Eva Choper and Irv Wartell's** expert shopping. Also, the other tireless members of the committee: **Phyllis Oresky, Frank Pearlman, Linda Spevack, Ronnie Scotkin, Lois Fields, and Lois Darr.**

Thank you everyone--you are all very important. Let's continue what we have started.

--Angie Carmel

CONFIRMATION CLASS PERFORMS AT HANUKKAH PARTY



The Confirmation Class presented a "History of Jewish Music" for the enjoyment of Hanukkah party participants who also delighted in the latkes and other refreshments.



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MISHKAN TORAH CONTINUES TO EXPAND INTERNET PRESENCE

by Mark Loewenstein

The Executive Board has decided to form an Internet Committee. Not having enough to otherwise keep me busy, I have agreed to be the chair, armed with the knowledge that there now are great tools available for free that make this job manageable for someone who is not an expert. As its name suggests, this new committee is responsible for overseeing the congregation's use of the internet. The two major areas of focus are the website and the use of e-mail.

An effective website can provide many useful functions. It is a way of telling folks in the community about our synagogue. If I were looking for a shul today, I would start by checking out websites on the internet. I would wager that many others would do the same thing. We want a website that provides a good sense of what our synagogue is like and that provides up to date information about all of our activities. Appearances matter. The website should look nice, but should not be glitzy - that's not who we are.

Just as important as helping us tell others about Mishkan Torah, the website can facilitate communication within the synagogue. Many are now taking advantage of the fact that the Trumpet is posted on the website at the beginning of each month. The website is also an easy way to check on upcoming events. Information can be posted on the website at a moment's notice - so it is a good place to provide information about changes in plans, to place corrections for erroneous information provided elsewhere, or to let folks know about last minute cancellations.

Reservations, Study Material Online

The website can make members' lives easier. Reservations for the High Holidays and for various events can now be made online. Folks can now pay online using PayPal or a credit card. And the rabbi's material for the Tuesday and the newly formed Wednesday Study Group can be downloaded from the website. If you have not yet done so, please check out the Mishkan Torah website.

Over the past few years, e-mail has been steadily displacing regular mail because it is so cheap and convenient. The synagogue too is making greater and more effective use of e-mail. High Holiday Honors are now sent out by e-mail. Reservations are often made by e-mail.

And discussions with the financial secretary about dues are at times carried out via e-mail. Much synagogue business is done using a variety of e-mail accounts, many of which are private. In order to do this in a little more orderly and professional looking way, we have now set up special e-mail accounts for synagogue business.

The new e-mail addresses are in the following form: President@mishkantorah.org, Finance@mishkantorah.org, etc., and can be found on the website and in the *Trumpet* as they are in the new masthead on page 13.

I might note that we do plan to continue to use the Mishkan Torah listserv at Yahoo groups. The listserv provides a convenient way of sending out timely announcements to the Mishkan Torah community. The more individuals who sign up, the more effective is this method of communication. Individuals can sign up by sending an e-mail to MishkanTorah-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

If you have suggestions for the website or additional ways that we can utilize the internet, please let the internet committee know. We are open to any ideas that you might have.

For example, Beth Williams has set up a nice [Mishkan Torah Facebook](#) page with the hope that this might help bring us to the attention of the younger crowd, something an old fogey like me would not have thought of on my own. A link to the Mishkan Torah Facebook page can be found on the Mishkan Torah website.

You can also help simply by letting us know about upcoming events that should be posted. The Internet Committee can be reached by e-mail at Internet@MishkanTorah.org. Anyone wishing to serve on the Internet Committee should get in touch with me - all that is needed are access to the internet and a willingness to learn.

IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT JEWELRY SALE

Now that Sisterhood's annual rummage sale is over, along with the Hanukkah Latkes Party and the first L'dor v'dor concert featuring Ben Greenfield are over, it is time to turn our attention to the Sisterhood's Annual Costume and Antique Jewelry Sale.

Though the date of the sale is in the future, the preparation for the sale begins now. The sale has always been successful because we acquire new stock each year.

The stock comes from donations of Jewelry that our friends and members no longer want, or acquired from those who have passed away and left their lifetime collection to others to dispose of. Please keep the Jewelry sale in mind as the months go by.

You can donate items at any time. Thank you for remembering the Sisterhood's Annual Jewelry Sale. For more information contact Eva Choper.

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FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO CONTACT ANY MEMBERS OF THE MISHKAN TORAH FAMILY BY PHONE,
PLEASE CONSULT THE SYNAGOGUE DIRECTORY.

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

PRESIDENT SUMMARIZES WINTER MEETING . . . from page 1

The anonymous member who will match safety and security donations has informed me that the offer will be extended until March 30, 2011. So please consider making a donation to either fund or both funds and, if only one, be sure to designate which one.

The new IT Committee reported that they are setting up generic email addresses for all Board members so that congregants can email the position without having to know the personal email of the Board member when there are periodic changes. In addition, the IT committee has successfully instituted our new capability to receive PayPal payments for specific events like the recent concert. This has added another level of flexibility and convenience for members (Please Note: PayPal can not be used for

annual dues or High Holiday Pledges).

Finally, as a follow-up to last summer's Membership Meeting, a motion was made to include a line item in the 2011 budget for MT contribution to GILA, the Greenbelt assistance fund that helps residents who need a temporary cash infusion to avoid becoming homeless. This motion was unanimously approved. It doesn't obligate us to make a contribution each year, only to put this contribution in the budget as a line item for proposing an annual donation to the membership. Everyone agreed that, being in Greenbelt, Mishkan Torah should give back to the community here to help those who are less fortunate. This was another of many moments that made me proud to be a member of our unique shul!

WHEN DO PIGS FLY AT MISHKAN TORAH?

AT THE MEN'S CLUB SUPER BOWL PARTY!



**Come support your favorite team, whoever it turns out to be
and have some fun at**

**SUPER BOWL XLV
(That's 45 in case you're wondering!)**

**Sunday February 6, 2011
Admission: \$10**

**Doors open 5:30 p.m.
Game starts 6 p.m.**

BIG SCREEN TV WITH GREAT SOUND SYSTEM

**Hot Dogs – Chili – Chips
Soft Drinks & more!**



Bring your family! Have a good time Mishkan Torah style!

MT YOUTH TO APPEAR IN ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PRODUCTION OF *I NEVER SAW ANOTHER BUTTERFLY*

by Dan Lowery

Don't miss this Eleanor Roosevelt High School production of *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* on January 11, 12, and 13 at 7:30 p.m. This play is based on the lives of children at the Theresienstadt concentration camp.

Over 100,000 adults perished there as well as all but 100 of the 15,000 children who were imprisoned there during the *Shoah*. This moving production just finished a run at American University and featured young performers from the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School.

Interesting, but perhaps you need more reasons to venture out in the January cold weather to see a high school play. The cast has four young Mishkan Torah members. Moses Gurman (senior) plays Pavel; Andrea Anderson (junior), and Emily Anderson (freshman) play children at Terezin; and Marissa Lowery (junior) plays Aunt Vera.

The venue is small and tickets are limited. For more information and tickets, contact Dan Lowery by phone or at TerpsDan@gmail.com. Tickets will go quickly so don't delay.



Tu B'Shvat Seder



sponsored by the Children's Education Committee



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 6 p.m.

The entire congregation is invited to join our celebration of first fruits, four cups, and the wonder of trees – replete with presentations, song, and delightful friends.

Please bring a dairy or *pareve* dish to pass*

(*reminder – anything commercially prepared *MUST* have a *hechsher*)

R.S.V.P. by FRIDAY, JANUARY 13 to:

mishkanfamily@gmail.com or 301- 441-2347

VARIETY OF HANUKKIOT LIGHT UP MISHKAN TORAH PARTY!



**MISHKAN TORAH SYNAGOGUE
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GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770**

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