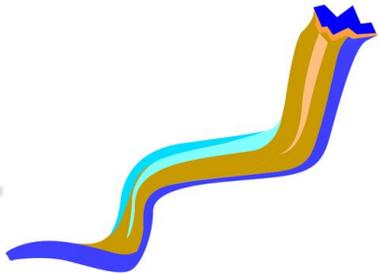


## INSIDE THE TRUMPET

RABBI'S COLUMN	pg 2
DUES PLANNING	pg 4
SISTERHOOD SAYS	pg 5
CALENDAR & YAHRZEITS	pg 6
DONATIONS	pg 7
CHOIR DIRECTOR ARTICLE	pg 8
SOCIAL ACTION	pg 9
YOUTH GROUP TRIP	pg 10

# Mishkan Torah Trumpet



Published by Mishkan Torah Synagogue, Greenbelt, Maryland

July 2010

## SUMMER MEMBERSHIP MEETING MEMOIR

About 30 congregants attended our summer membership meeting on June 20. Minutes from



the winter 2010 membership meeting were read by Janet Davis and approved without modification. Arlene Gottlieb presented a new budget for next year, which was also approved. Even with conservative estimates of income and realistic estimates of expenses, we are projecting a \$2887 deficit.

However, it is noteworthy to point out that the deficit projected last summer has turned out to be a small surplus, thanks to your contributions, the efforts of our Ways and Means Committee and careful attention paid to our expenses. (Participation in use of the e-Trumpet in lieu of mailed paper copies has resulted in a projected reduction of \$400 in postage). I look forward to a similar outcome next year!

Judy Gallant presented the special funds status, showing the receipts and the payments which had been made. The special funds most in need of donations are the Bima Improvement and the Landscape funds, so if you are considering helping a special fund, please consider these. [You can find a list of Mishkan Torah funds on page 7.]

Andrea Weiss and David Norken announced that the winners of the Second Annual Benton Parks Food Drive were the Friday Night Service Attendees. Stephen Feinberg accepted the gift certificate to the New Deal Cafe on their behalf.

### New Board Selected

Linda Spevack from the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers for the

by Steve Mirsky, President  
new Executive Board. The slate was approved unanimously and is as follows:

**President:** Steve Mirsky

**Co-Executive Vice-Presidents:** Jackie Kling and Dan Lowery

**Programs Vice-President:** Irv Wartell

**Financial Secretaries:** Arlene Gottlieb and Diane Rubinstein

**Treasurer:** Bill Schwartz

**Recording Secretary:** Janet Davis

**Adult Education:** Ronnie Scotkin

**Building Committee:** Stephen Feinberg and Wendy Garson, Synagogue and School; Mark Shroder, Rabbi's House; Becky Hirsch, Landscaping; Ed Hickey, Security; and Jordan Choper continues as Building Chair Emeritus

**Children's Education:** Bret Goldstein

**Membership:** Arden Bronstein

**Publicity:** Hal Rappaport

**Religious Committee:** Phil Williams

**Funeral Practices:** Robin Olsen

**Social Action:** Andrea Weiss

**Ways and Means:** Angie Carmel

**Youth:** Darelynn Fung and Martha Tomecek

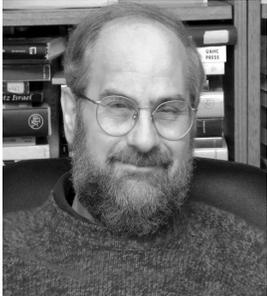
### Investment Guidelines Proposed

There was a lengthy discussion on the proposed Investment Policy for Mishkan Torah. This is a set of guidelines, written by Mark Shroder, after meetings and discussions of the Finance Committee and the Sisterhood Treasurer, to guide the synagogue in making financially sound decisions. Many of the policy points are merely documenting what we already do but which have never been put down on paper, and some aspects introduce conservative investment guidelines

Continued on page 4

## ROMEO AND JULIET PLAYS OUT IN HASIDIC WORLD

This week's *Forward* newspaper has an article about a movie that I want to see. It is a new version of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Now, this isn't your traditional interpretation of the classic tragedy of star-crossed lovers. To begin with, about 65% of the dialogue is in Yiddish. In this Yiddish retelling, the character of Friar Laurence is transformed into Rabbi Laurence. Instead of coming upon what he



assumes is a deceased Juliet in a tomb, Romeo lays eyes on her in a *tahara shtibl* – a location where bodies are ritually washed and dressed prior to a traditional Jewish burial. Some scenes were filmed in a warehouse in East New York, others on the streets of Williamsburg, where local Hasidim tried to interrupt the production. To smooth things over, the cast fibbed and told them that they were filming a music video for a Hasidic artist. The famous “Wherefore Art Thou?” soliloquy was filmed on a fire escape.

The film not only includes the well-known Shakespearean story line – altered so that Hasidic sects resembling Satmar and Lubavitch substitute for the warring Montague and Capulet clans – but it also tells Shakespeare's story within another story: A substantial portion of the plot mirrors the real-life misadventures of two of its stars, Lazar Weiss (who plays Romeo) and Mendel Zafir (who plays Benvolio) – a couple of young Satmar Hasidim who left their communities and found themselves on the wrong side of the law before they ended up in front of a camera. Juliet is played by Malky Weiss, another Satmar drop-out. None of the three had ever seen a movie before, let alone acted in one, before they left the Hasidic world.

At first, director Eve Annenberg, tried to work with a 1939 translation of the play, but ultimately decided to retranslate the entire work with the help of her newly recruited actors. “While we translated, she asked us stories about our lives; she was fascinated with where we

came from and our journey,” recalled Lazar Weiss. “When we finished translating the Shakespeare story, she came with a whole new script, which was the story of our lives.”

In the movie, Romeo and Benvolio live in a rented truck, just as Weiss and Zafir did in real life when they first left the Satmar community. Some of the boys' traveling in the original truck involved their smuggling marijuana into the U.S. Weiss and Zafir also admit to having committed credit card fraud and to swindling airlines by falsely claiming that their baggage had been stolen. Annenberg refers to their experience as “youthful high jinks.” She notes that it's not easy to walk out of your culture and leave your family at the age of 15 to live on the street in Brooklyn, unable to speak English.

Indeed, the picaresque story of these two newly minted actors should remind us that those who choose to leave ultra-Orthodoxy are ill-equipped to enter the modern world. The *haredi* (Hebrew for ultra-Orthodox) world consists of tight-knit communities where everything revolves around religion and whose members radically shield themselves from modern life. Television is frowned upon, as are non-religious music, telephones and the Internet. “Everyone can read and write, but math was over after simple multiplication,” one *haredi* dropout from Israel says. “When I left school, I didn't even know what New York was, and I had never even seen a dog because nobody kept any pets.”

According to Irit Paneth, this lack of education makes it almost impossible for those who lose their faith to break out of the inflexible corset of *haredi* communities. Paneth is a member of “Hillel – The Right To Choose,” an organization in Israel that helps those leaving the *haredi* world to start a normal life. (This organization is in no way related to the similarly named Hillel organizations that serve Jewish students at US and Canadian universities.) “We are not against the religion,” Paneth explains. “But ultra-Orthodoxy is more like a cult that intellectually cripples children in the name of religion.”

**Continued on page 3**

## HASIDISM IS A DIFFERENT WORLD . . . from page 2

For most young people who break away from the *haredi* life, she explains, it's like leaping off a cliff into the unknown. "They come without money, without education in the classical sense, without any chance of employment," Paneth explains. "They often do not know how to open a bank account, use the Internet, find work and rent an apartment, or how to operate socially in the secular world."

And they can face angry rejection from the community they leave behind. For example, seven years ago Ido Lev walked out of his home, cut off his *payess* in a public toilet and slept in a shopping mall for a week. Now a student of software engineering, Lev has a girlfriend (his previous marriage had been arranged by his family). "I've found out what love is. That makes it very complicated, but very joyful," he says. In the first few months after he left, he says he "felt like a drunk from all the freedom." He says that he has no regrets, but resents that his wife's family have stopped him from seeing his children, from fear he will try to persuade them to leave the community. Lev concedes that for some people there is value in the ultra-Orthodox lifestyle. "Maybe to people outside it looks like a cult, maybe a little primitive," he says, but he believes it can be "a happy community" and a "very beautiful place." "But if you don't have the faith inside, it's like a jail."

Another story is that of a woman named Mayan, who grew up in Beitar Illit, a *haredi* settlement on the West Bank. Mayan's childhood finished when she was seven, when her widowed mother remarried. From then on, she had to wear socks and long pants to bed under her nightgown – even in the summer – lest the bed cover slip off and expose her bare skin to her stepfather. And since her stepfather was not a blood relation, he was not allowed to touch her; in fact, he barely even spoke with her.

Mayan first began to doubt her lifestyle when she switched to a school in central Jerusalem. She saw fashionably dressed young people and noticed that the boys "from the other world" looked at her with interest. At 14, she hatched a

plan together with some other curious school friends. They told their mothers that there was a study-group meeting. But then the girls used the money they had earned babysitting to take the bus to Luna Park, an amusement park in Tel Aviv. Even today, Mayan beams when she talks about the lights and the music. "I felt like Cinderella," she says, "like I was in a dream."

Still, the second expedition Mayan organized with her girlfriends ended in disaster. They took a trip to the beach, but their fresh tans gave them away once they arrived home. The result – for Mayan, at least – was a three-year odyssey through various ultra-Orthodox reformatories and foster families. Her insubordination had to be driven out of her – if need be, by lies. "We were constantly told that the secular world was only waiting to turn us into prostitutes or slaves," Mayan explains, "that there was nothing but drug addiction waiting for us out in the modern world."

With help from Hillel, Mayan eventually managed to make the leap out of her religious life. The organization helped her financially so she could go to a boarding school and get her high school diploma. Mayan then completed the military service that all secular Israeli women must perform and, today, she is studying special education in college. She no longer has any contact with her family, and she suspects that her sisters will pay a high price for her defection. "When my sisters' marriages are arranged," Mayan says, "they won't get the men they deserve."

Irit Paneth stresses that Hillel does not persuade people to leave, but merely provides practical help and emotional support to those who decide for themselves to do so. "For years, most of them live in between worlds," she says. "They don't really belong to the secular world – they definitely don't belong any more to the ultra-Orthodox world." She believes the 2,000 or so people Hillel has helped in the past decade are "the tip of the iceberg," and that numbers are growing as the Internet makes the secular world more accessible.

## PRESIDENT REFLECTS ON MEMBERSHIP MEETING ... from page 1

for select Special Funds and other excess funds should they become available in the future.

A majority of the members who were present felt that this policy needed to be tabled, so that it could be sent by mail to the members of the congregation for review and voting upon in a future special meeting (in the fall, prior to the winter membership meeting). I commend Mark Shroder for his tireless efforts and patience in formulating this policy, engaging members of the Finance Committee and the rest of the Board, and having the foresight to document an important aspect of Mishkan Torah financial operations that has been lacking. I am confident that our Fall special membership meeting will result in adopting an appropriate investment policy for Mishkan Torah.

Ronnie Scotkin spoke to the members about the City of Greenbelt Emergency Relief Fund, which provides one-time support to individual citizens of Greenbelt who have fallen on hard times. Ronnie administers the allocation of funds

to the families by evaluating their specific requests. This fund was established by the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA), of which Rabbi Cohen is a member. Sadly, this fund is running very low and, after a unanimous vote by the members present, it was agreed that Mishkan Torah would make a one-time donation of \$500 to this fund, which would be enough to help one family. In addition, several members present took out their checkbooks and made their own donations! If you would like to follow suit, please contact Ronnie Scotkin.

In closing, I would like to thank each outgoing member of the Board for his or her fine efforts on behalf of Mishkan Torah. I am very grateful to the officers who have agreed to carry on for another year, whether in the same capacity or wearing another hat. And I would like to welcome all new members of the Board, and thank them for stepping up to the plate to work for our shul.

## NEW FISCAL YEAR BEGINS; DUES NOTICES COMING IN THE E-MAIL

by Arlene Gottlieb, financial secretary

### Member Alert:

Dues invoices are going out July 1. They are being sent by e-mail if we have your e-mail address.

If your e-mail address has changed, and you have not alerted us, you may not see your bill. If your e-mail is on file with us and you still do not see your bill, please check your spam folder; it may be residing there.

### Pay Early, Get a Discount

There are several ways to pay your dues. If you pay in full by September 1, you can take a 5% discount (unless you pay by credit card). You can choose to pay monthly, quarterly, or in one lump sum—by check or credit card.

You can set up a payment plan and we can charge your credit card monthly or quarterly. Keep your friendly Financial Secretary happy and pay what you can, when you can. As always, variances are available upon request.

Thanks.



Oh No! It's Dues time again! And even your friendly, stalwart financial secretary, Arlene Gottlieb, is shocked that a new fiscal year is about to begin.

## SISTERHOOD SAYS . . .

by Irene Spector

Well, in spite of the forecast of rain for June 13, we really lucked out. The weather stayed great for our donor event and the boat-ride and luncheon were lovely. The food was delicious, the entertainment was enjoyable, and everything went well, except for Annie Haber who fell and twisted her ankle and broke her foot at the very end.

Well Annie. you will just have to take it easy, allow yourself to be waited on and catch up on your paper work and reading – no tap-dancing and let those injuries heal. We all wish you a speedy recovery.

Sisterhood does not stop – on June 27 outgoing and incoming board members met at Debbie Brenner's home and began working on plans for the new Sisterhood year. There will be many opportunities to volunteer, so please be ready to step in and offer your help. We are always looking for new ideas and love and appreciate feedback from all.

### Incoming Sisterhood Officers

**President**, Debbie Brenner; **Past President**, Diane Tuckman; **Vice-Presidents**, Judy Gallant and Barbara Shansby; **Treasurer**, Leah Choper; **Financial Secretary**, Annie Haber; **Corresponding Secretary**, Janet Davis; **Recording Secretary**, Harise Poland; **Trumpet**, Irene Spector; **Catering**, Alyce Strasser; **Catering Callers**, Robin Olson and Marla Goldberg; **Donor**, Phyllis Oresky; **Gift Shop**, Alyce Strasser; **Mitzvah Cards**, Becky Hirsch; **Phone Tree**, Joan Goldenberg; **Publicity**, Jackie Kling; **Sunday School Liaison**, Diane Rubinstein; **Programs**, Eva Garin and Niki Kohn; **Advisory**, Fran Sanders.

On a personal note, Sid and I would again like to thank all who shared May 15 with us and made our *Keter Shem Tov* such a wonderful memory for our family and friends.

### Friendly Reminders

**Mitzvah Cards:** Call Becky Hirsch (301 345-4029) for her always speedy, efficient service.

**Catering:** Alyce Strasser, our catering maven, (201 441-1353) 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 choose from a beautiful selection of jewelry ceramics, glassware and ritual objects for any special occasion.

### RHYME TIME

*We're off and running - many things to do  
You know, as always, we will count on you.  
What a pleasure it will be to hear your voices  
So just pitch in and make your choices.*



Photo ops on the ship were numerous. Top left: Annie Haber, before her injuries and new Sisterhood president Debbie Brenner. Bottom: a few of the cruisers who enjoyed the great weather and wonderful luncheon.

## JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2 <i>Erev Shabbat</i> Family Services	7:30 p.m.
3 <i>Shabbat Pinchas</i>	9:30 a.m.
4 Independence Day	
9 <i>Erev Shabbat</i> Services	8 p.m.
10 <i>Shabbat Matot/Masei</i>	9:30 a.m.
16 <i>Erev Shabbat</i> Services	8 p.m.
17 <i>Shabbat Chazon: Parshat Devarim</i>	9:30 a.m.
<b>20 TISHA B'AV – FAST DAY</b>	
23 <i>Erev Shabbat</i> Services	8 p.m.
24 <i>Shabbat Nachamu: Parshat V'Etchanan: BAR MITZVAH OF CARLOS CASTILLO</i>	9:30 a.m.
30 <i>Erev Shabbat</i> Services	8 p.m.
31 <i>Shabbat Ekev</i>	9:30 a.m.

## JULY YAHRZEITS

<b>July 2</b> Roger Rubenstein Louis M. Morganstein* Harry Cohen* Dr Stanley Becker Frieda Mintz Rina Shmerl* Linda Fox* Irving Baker Harry Presky Joseph Cohen* Evelyn Schabb Lena Golub Arthur Singer Morris Goldstein* Henry W. Spiegel	Pearl Shaich Jerome Kromash Louis Wilson <b>July 9</b> Jeanne Axelrod* Elliott A. Bukzin* Leonard Davis Lewis B. Siegel Olga Sokal Max Spevack Zena Dalees* Benjamin Chasnoff* Thomas Teates Edward Mottzman Lena R. Cohen* Zipporah Weinberger	Zvi Weinberger William Kirschenbaum* <b>July 16</b> Marvin Lerner Isidore Choper Celia Shinderman* Margaret Peggy Markfield* Mamie Lieberman* Mae Gordon* Max Rubenstein* Charles Samuel Dondes* Rebecca Ruderman* Jacob Epstein Julius Stone Rose Rubin*	<b>July 23</b> Ian Mark Leon* Harry Rubenstein* Irving Gerring* <b>July 30</b> Emily Hakim Faye Schreyer Weiss* Leon Finder* Seymour Kritt* Carl Levine David Archer Stamler David Kramer Rudolph Mund* Israel I. Ruderman* Joseph Schwartz*
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## AUGUST PREVIEW

6 <i>Erev Shabbat</i> Family Services	7:30 p.m.
7 <i>Shabbat Re'eh</i>	9:30 a.m.
13 <i>Erev Shabbat</i> Services	8 p.m.
14 <i>Shabbat Shoftim</i>	9:30 a.m.
20 <i>Erev Shabbat</i> Services	8 p.m.
21 <i>Shabbat Ki Tetze</i>	9:30 a.m.
27 <i>Erev Shabbat</i> Services	8 p.m.
28 <i>Shabbat Ki Tavo</i>	9:30 a.m.

**SELICHOT, THE FIRST HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICE, FALLS ON SATURDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 4!**

## WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS

### Yahrzeits

Jerry & Yvonne Brodsky for  
Irving Brodsky  
Angie, Leah & Dana Carmel for  
Moshe Josef Carmel  
Gladys Chasnoff for Sarah  
Chasnoff & Jacob Kramer  
Jay Gordon for Harold Gordon  
Eileen Jackman for Herbert  
Axelrod  
Gary & Niki Kohn for Anne  
Gruen Kohn & Jules Cohan  
Alyce & Arnold Strasser for  
Rose Epstein, Ignatz Strasser,  
& Annie Fuchs  
Joseph & Marlene Stregack for  
Boris Martin Stregack

### High Holiday President's Club

David & Evey Herschler

### High Holiday Pledge

Howard & Deborah Chasanow  
Judy Gallant & Stan Stern

### Sustaining Fund

Janet Davis in memory of  
Nancy Hope Lowens  
Ira Kalfus for Shavuot Aliyah  
Mishkan Torah Sisterhood for  
Kiddush

### In Honor of Evey Silverstein's graduation & engagement

Janet Davis  
Arlene Gottlieb & Chaz Miller

### Karp Family School

Paula Clinedinst in memory of  
Sylvia Reisher

### Keter Shem Tov

### In Honor of Sid & Irene

### Spector

The Buttrick Family  
Mishkan Torah Sisterhood  
Frances Sanders

### Friends of the Choir

Debbie & Ed Brenner (Bass  
Level)

Angie Carmel (Bass Level)  
Jordan & Eva Choper (Bass  
Level)  
Jonathan Cohen & Mona  
Baumgarten (Bass Level)  
Janet Davis (Bass Level)  
Arlene Gottlieb & Chaz Miller  
(Alto Level)  
Mishkan Torah Sisterhood (Alto  
Level)  
Jeff & Sara Rosen (Heldentenor  
Level)  
Bill Schwartz & Chris Doyle  
(Tenor Level)  
Ronnie Scotkin & Ed Hickey  
(Bass Level)  
Rhoda Minda Sherman (Bass  
Level)  
Linda & David Spevack  
(Soprano Level)  
Alyce & Arnold Strasser (Bass  
Level)

## MISHKAN TORAH HAS MANY FUNDS YOU CAN SUPPORT

Thanks to a suggestion from Darelynn Fung, we are pleased to publish a list of funds to which individuals can donate. We will reprint this list from time to time—end of the year, tax time, etc.—along with any changes that may be added in the future. If you know of any omissions or errors, please let us know.

→ **Sustaining Fund: General Fund**

→ **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

→ **Sisterhood Funds:**

→ *Dora Friedman Fund*

→ *Rose Epstein Fund*

**Special Funds:**

→ **Berger Memorial:** For the stipend and expenses of visiting Rabbis.

→ **Bima Improvement:** Beautification.

→ **Capital Reserve/Replacement:** For capital projects and replacements.

→ **Emergency:** To provide short term loans to the synagogue to cover temporary financial shortfalls.

→ **Sylvia Hendel Family Education:** To provide education programs for Mishkan Torah families.

→ **Israel Bond Endowment:** To purchase Israel Bonds.

→ **Arthur Gallant Karp Family School:** For replacement and improvements in the Karp Family School.

→ **Sherry Hyde Jewish Artist in Residence:** To pay the stipend of an artist in residence at the Karp Family School.

→ **Prayer Book:** To purchase and repair prayer books and related material.

→ **Tillie Wetter Israel Quest:** To sponsor Mishkan Torah youth going to Israel as members of an organized group.

→ **Karp Family School:** For use in the Karp Family School as recommended by the Children's Education Committee.

→ **Diane Kritt Memorial Lecture:** To fund the stipend and expenses of the speaker at the annual lecture.

→ **Landscape:** To pay for landscaping and beautification of the lawns and gardens beyond that provided for in the synagogue's budget.

→ **Library:** To buy and maintain books and other reading material for the synagogue office.

→ **Marc Spevack Youth Activity:** For use to benefit Mishkan Torah youth as individuals and in groups.

→ **Mishkan Torah Scholarship:** To defray tuition and related expenses of Mishkan Torah members attending institutions of higher education in accordance with rules of the Scholarship Committee.

→ **Torah Repair:** To repair and otherwise maintain the Torah scrolls in proper condition.

## CHOIR DIRECTOR APPRECIATES HELPING HANDS

by Rachel White

My debut as the new choir director for the Mishkan Torah choir was an exciting event. The choir and I worked very hard to put the music together. Most of the pieces were based on melodies that I grew up on and enjoyed sharing a part of my life with the choir and audience.

This year was quite an adjustment that started off with Becky Silverstein handing over her conducting baton to me, literally. The choir has taken me under their wing at times and guided me through the transition. The choir made me feel like part of a family.

There are several people who helped me through this transition process. Arlene Gottlieb, Nadine Wobus, and Don Juran were extremely helpful in guiding me along this year. Arlene stayed right on top of letting me know what needed to be done and by when, which I really appreciated. Nadine and Don were right there with the music giving me advice on cuing and keeping me on pitch. Wendy Garson and Steve Feinberg also welcomed me into their family and shared their love of Korean food (my favorite).

There are a lot of thank yous that need to be said to those who helped out with the performance. Bret Goldstein did a fantastic job of being a vital part of the sing-a-long at the end of our program. So much so, in fact, that I have decided to keep the sing-a-long for future performances. Sheila Lemus did a great job accompanying on the piano and keeping up with my many demands of how things should be done. I would like to thank Yoni Charry and his little assistants, Nava and Avigayil, for setting up the sound system. Nava and Avigayil also loaned their voices and their mother, Yael Fischman, for rehearsals. Becky Silverstein even loaned her voice in the alto section at

rehearsals. She did intend on performing with the choir, but was sick that weekend.

I would also like to thank Dan Lowery for fielding ticket requests and setting up the room and Angie Carmel and Lois Fields for monitoring the table and selling last-minute tickets. Arlene took care of the flyers and programs, which is something I hate doing. Sue Weiss came to the rescue at literally the last minute by printing out the sing-a-long sheets that I had typed up. I would also like to thank Ways and Means Committee members Jordan and Eva Choper, Arlene Gottlieb, and Phyllis Oresky for taking care of the refreshments.



Additionally, I would also like to thank the audience for coming to the performance and joining the choir for the sing-a-long/Israeli dancing.

Finally, thank you, members of the choir, for supporting me, giving me advice, and helping to make the performance a success. It was really great of my mom and younger sister to drive out for the performance and see what I do at my wonderful *shul*.

If you are looking to become active in this fantastic choir, let me know. Our rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:30 till 9:00 p.m. We would love to have you! You can e-mail me at [ccflute1@yahoo.com](mailto:ccflute1@yahoo.com).

### SAVE THE DATE

The Diane Kritt Memorial Lecture is set for Saturday October 2. It's on the official Mishkan Torah calendar. We have a speaker and will present more details in future editions of the *Trumpet*.

## SOCIAL ACTION IN ACTION: FOOD DRIVE SURPASSES 2009 TOTAL

By David Norkin

The Benton Parks Memorial Food Drive has ended and was a bigger success than last year's. The final totals are as follows: Friday Night Services, 396 points; Ways and Means, 296 points; Yiddish Club, 155 points; Children's Education, 111 points; Sisterhood, 89 points; Choir 66, points; and Saturday Morning Services, 50 points. The grand total was 1163 points, surpassing last year's total of 946 points.

These totals were announced at the June 20 membership meeting. The winning group, Friday Night Services, received a \$50 gift certificate for a meal at the New Deal Cafe.

The collected food has been donated to St. Hughes which gives the food to the needy regardless of religion. The donated scrip will be given to Greenbelt Cares.

Many thanks to all who generously contributed food and scrip to make the food drive a success. Also, many thanks to members of the Social Action Committee who worked to make the drive possible. They include Committee Chair Andrea Weiss, Ronnie Scotkin, who sold the scrip and kept the count, and Ed Hickey, who brought the food to St. Hughes. I enjoyed writing periodic reports.

### SOCIAL ACTION SETS MEETING SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Please consider joining the Social Action Committee for its next planning meeting, which will take place July 25 at 11 a.m., immediately before the blood drive.

# RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**SUNDAY, JULY 25**  
**from 12 noon to 4 p.m.**

To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-Givelife,  
or Andrea, at 301-680-0526. Or simply walk in.



Sponsored by the Social Action Committee

## YOUTH GROUP TRAVELS TO PHILADELPHIA

by Darelynn Fung

The Mishkan Torah Youth Group traveled by train to Philadelphia on June 6. The first stop on our trip was a delicious meal at *Hamifgash*, a kosher deli.

After rest and nourishment, we were off to Mikveh Israel, a Sephardic synagogue founded in 1740, where we listened to a presentation on the history of the congregation and its customs. The students were able to show off their knowledge of both Jewish and American history; they represented us well.

### Group Tours Historic Sites

The next leg of the trip was a walking "J-Tour" of Philadelphia where we learned of contributions made by Jews in the forming of our nation. After visiting the Independence Hall Visitors' Center and grabbing some dinner, we were back on the train and heading home. Thanks to Melissa Nankin who did a wonderful job with our teens this year and chaperoned on the trip. Also, a big thank you to the Marc Spevack Youth Activities Fund for making this trip possible for our teens.



The MT Youth Group pauses for pictures in front of Hamifgash, a Kosher Deli, and in the lobby of Mikveh Israel, a Sephardic Synagogue, both in Philadelphia.



## CARLOS CASTILLO TO BECOME BAR MITZVAH

by Marlo Castillo

Carlos Castillo is an upcoming eighth grader at Newport Mill Middle School in Kensington, Maryland. As an only child, Carlos has found close sibling relationships in his cousins, Aaron, Sam, and Elta and has made the trek from Kensington to Greenbelt to join them at the Karp Family School under the guidance of his uncle, Bret Goldstein.

Carlos was born July 8, 1997, in Los Angeles, California. He enjoys traveling back to the place of his birth and is thrilled that his L.A. Lakers are repeat NBA champions once again!

Carlos has traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad to places including many states along the eastern seaboard, as well as to Arizona where he sang with the Maryland Boys Choir, to Jamaica, and to Milan and Naples, Italy. Carlos studied Italian in elementary school at Kensington Parkwood Arts Integration Model School in Kensington and now studies high school level Spanish at Newport; he is also picking up some Portuguese along the way!

### Music Is His First Language

Carlos's first language, however, is music. Surrounded by a family of musicians and music-lovers, Carlos began singing at an early age. In fourth grade, Carlos began learning the viola. The summer before fifth grade, Carlos picked up the electric bass. Upon starting middle school, he switched over from the viola to the double bass. Carlos now plays in his school orchestra, a couple of punk rock bands, and the Middle School Jazz Combo, *The Systems*, under the direction of Leonardo Lucini, that most recently performed at Café Tzedakah. Carlos is now revisiting his love for singing in the Musical Theater Camp *Encore* here in Greenbelt.



The Castillo Family  
cordially invites  
Mishkan Torah Congregation  
to share our joy  
as our son  
Carlos  
becomes Bar Mitzvah  
July 24, 2010  
at 9:30 in the morning.  
Please RSVP to Marlo Castillo  
at marloteri2@aol.com  
or call 301-520-2687

### Thank You Note from Susan and Steve Ungar

Susan and Steve Ungar would like to thank everyone for the kindness and support they showed after Susan's sister Nancy passed away. Susan came home from New York for just a few days so that she could be with her community at a *shiva minyan*. She had to return to New York for estate reasons.

So many came to the minyan there were lots of cards, calls, and hugs. They gave her the strength to do what needed to be done, and the comfort of having the support of her community was truly appreciated.

## SISTERHOOD CRUISES ALONG



The Mishkan Torah Sisterhood celebrated the end of another successful year with a cruise trip on the Potomac. In this picture, Nadine Wobus and her mom relax in the dining hall. More pictures on page 5.

### The Sisterhood Gift Shop has everything

you could possibly want

- ☆ To plan simchas,
- ☆ To prepare for holidays,
- ☆ To add to collections, and
- ☆ To set up a Jewish home.

Be sure to call Alyce Strasser  
(after 10:30 a.m., please)  
to set up an appointment  
so that you will meet your needs.

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[www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)

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FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO CONTACT ANY MEMBERS OF THE MISHKAN TORAH FAMILY,  
PLEASE PHONE THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE AT 301-474-4223

Please submit articles, pictures, suggestions, and flyers to Arnold Brodsky by the 20th

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