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**NEW BOARD LISTED  
IN MASTHEAD  
ON PAGE 8**

**Mishkan Torah Synagogue, Greenbelt, Maryland**

**July 2011**

## **BIENNIAL REFLECTIONS OF OUTGOING PRESIDENT**

by Steven Mirsky

### **With apologies to Herman Melville. . .**

*Call me Zelig. Some two years ago—never mind how long precisely—having little or no time for outside activities, and nothing particular to interest me beyond 116 Periwinkle Court and my career, I thought I would become the President of Mishkan Torah a little and see the 10 Ridge Road part of the world . . . Whenever I find myself growing grim about the mouth; whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my soul; whenever I find myself involuntarily pausing before coffee klatches; and especially whenever my sense of humor gets such an upper hand of me, that it requires a strong moral principle to prevent me from deliberately stepping into the street, and methodically spewing bad puns--- then, I account it high time to get to shul as soon as I can...*



It's hard to believe that my two years as Mishkan Torah President have ended. Two years



of Trumpet articles, Board meetings, Membership meetings, High Holiday Appeals, phone calls, emails, and decisions. As I look back on this time, I am proud of all that has been accomplished and I give much of the credit to the Board

and all of our volunteer members.

During these last two years, my biggest accomplishment was winning the Homeland Security Grant, which has since been supplemented by generous member donations. I successfully negotiated an advance of half of the grant resulting in the new front door and windows. We also have a defibrillator, 20 CPR-AED-trained congregants, and large new first aid kits. Future improvements will include other doors, outside lights, closed circuit TV cameras, signs, fences, an improved mail receptacle, and enhanced alarm system.

Other changes that occurred from 2009-2011 include: open High Holiday seating; revised and expanded web site; introduction of the e-Trumpet; Facebook; payment by PayPal for events; new office phone and computer system. Board, Committee, and Congregation members were responsible for re-vitalizing the Diane Kritter Lecture in 2010; creating the Hail to the Chiefs event; inventing the widely acclaimed L'Dor V'Dor Young Performer's Music Series; bringing in two new pianos; and maintaining the highest possible standards for Keter Shem Tov.

So was it worth it? The elation? The camaraderie? The tsouris? The feelings when everyone works together and when everything falls apart? Positive feedback and support? Negative feedback and criticism? Agreeing on important decisions while arguing incessantly over minutiae? The answer is: **Yes!**

I especially treasure the opportunity to get to know many congregants better during these last two years.

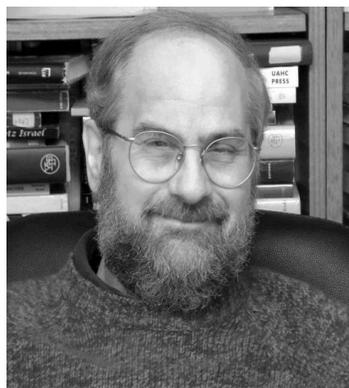
I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the one person who has always supported me and is responsible for my successes. My understanding wife Janet has helped me as my organizer, supporter, confidant, and counselor.

**Continued on page 4**

## RABBI "VISITS" POTBELLY HILL

Ever since my Uncle Horace gave me a subscription as a bar mitzvah gift, one of my favourite magazines has been the *National Geographic*. As an inveterate shutterbug, I am drawn to the extraordinary photographs that appear in every issue. And as a rabbi, I find that many of the articles throw a fascinating light on what it means to be human. One such article has just appeared in the June edition of the magazine.

The article is about an archeological site in southeastern Turkey called Göbekli Tepe, (which is Turkish for "Potbelly Hill" – so named because of its soft, round contour). To the north are forested mountains. East of the hill lies the



biblical plain of Harran, where – according to the Torah – Terah, Abraham and Sarah settled while in route to Canaan. To the south is the Syrian border, visible 20 miles away, pointing toward the ancient

lands of Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent, the region that gave rise to human civilization.

Some archaeologists view Göbekli Tepe as one of the most important sites in the world. Because it consists of a series of some 20 monolithic pillars linked by coarsely built walls to form circular or oval structures, it is vaguely reminiscent of England's Stonehenge. Four such buildings have been uncovered, with diameters of between 33 to 98 feet each. Geophysical surveys indicate the existence of 16 additional structures. But Göbekli Tepe was built thousands of years before Stonehenge. And, unlike the roughly hewn blocks of Stonehenge, the pillars at Göbekli Tepe are cleanly carved and polished.

Moreover, these giant pillars are decorated with graceful, naturalistic bas-reliefs depicting a veritable menagerie of animals: gazelles, lions, cattle, wild asses, herons, ducks, ants, spiders, snakes, foxes, scorpions, and ferocious wild boars. The floor is of burnt



lime, reminiscent of Roman terrazzo floors, and there is a low double bench running along the whole of the exterior wall. At one time the whole assemblage probably had a roof.

Göbekli Tepe is the oldest human-made place of worship yet discovered. (I can't help wondering whether the roof leaked!) It was built some 11,600 years ago, seven millennia before the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. At the time of Göbekli Tepe's construction, the human race lived in small nomadic bands that survived by foraging for plants and hunting wild animals. Construction of the site would have required more people coming together in one place than had likely ever occurred before. Indeed, Göbekli Tepe may well be the first structure human beings put together that was bigger and more complicated than a hut. The world of Göbekli Tepe knew neither writing, nor metal, nor



pottery. Amazingly, its builders were able to cut and shape 10-ton blocks of limestone, using only flint tools, and to transport them hundreds of feet despite having no wheels or beasts of burden. And all of the animal carvings were also done using only stone tools.

### CONVENTIONAL WISDOM CHALLENGED

The excavation of Göbekli Tepe has led to a thorough rethinking of how we imagine the origins of civilization. For generations, historians, archeologists, and anthropologists

Continued on page 3

## RABBI'S COLUMN . . . from page 2

have argued that agriculture created civilization, including art and religion. The conventional view of human prehistory could be summed up like this: Homo sapiens burst onto the scene about 200,000 years ago. For most of the millennia that followed, the species changed remarkably little, with humans living as small bands of wandering foragers. Then in a lightning bolt of inspiration, one part of humankind turned its back on foraging and embraced agriculture. The adoption of farming brought with it further transformations. To tend their fields, people had to stop wandering and move into permanent villages, where they developed new tools and created pottery. Rather than having to comb through the landscape for food, people could now grow as much as they needed and where they needed it, so they could live together in larger groups. Population soared. In these suddenly more populous societies, ideas could be more readily exchanged, and rates of technological and social innovation soared. Religion and art – the hallmarks of civilization – flourished.

But Göbekli Tepe suggests that perhaps it



was the other way around. Perhaps the extensive, coordinated effort to build the temple literally laid the groundwork for the development of complex societies. Klaus Schmidt (above), the German archeologist who has been working here more than a decade, argues that the monuments could not have been built by ragged bands of hunter-gatherers. To carve, erect, and bury rings of stone pillars

would have required hundreds of workers, all needing to be fed and housed. Indeed, archeologists have unearthed large numbers of bones of local game such as deer, gazelle, pigs, and geese. These bones show signs of having been butchered and cooked. This has led archeologists to speculate that the bones are the refuse derived from hunting and preparing food to feed the workers and worshippers who thronged there. On the other hand, no traces have been found at the site of domesticated plants or animals.

“This shows social and cultural changes come first, agriculture comes later,” says Stanford University archaeologist Ian Hodder. In other words, perhaps it was the urge to worship that brought humankind together in the very first urban conglomerations. The need to build and maintain this temple, Schmidt says, drove the builders to seek stable food sources, like grains and animals that could be domesticated, and then to settle down to guard their new way of life. Perhaps the temple begat the city.

### No Written Records Found

Of course, we'll never know for certain since the builders of Göbekli Tepe could not write or leave other explanations of why they did their work. But we do know from other archeological sites that the concept of religion and worshipping a higher power seem to have existed well before the rise of any civilization. We have unearthed Neanderthal burial sites in which the bodies were covered with ochre and buried with flowers, both of which suggest that some type of burial ceremony may have occurred. The cave paintings in Spain and France prove that humans were thinking about more than just hunting. Lines pointing to the spring equinox have been found in the hills where the cave paintings are located in France. And we should not forget the so-called Venus figurines from the Stone Age that have been found all over Europe and the Middle East. (I have seen several of them in the collection of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.)

Continued on page 10

## MIRSKY ENDS PRESIDENCY WITH LESSONS LEARNED. . . from page 1

And, on top of that, she remains a *de facto* member of the Men's Club by her participation in our events. She is one amazing person and I am one very lucky man!

As we welcome our new President, I feel it is my duty, no my responsibility, to pass on what I have learned these last 24 months.

### Lessons Learned

- **There is a cadre of selfless, motivated, thoughtful, and giving individuals who form the backbone of our volunteer army on the Board, Committees and for activities and events. They will always be there for you!**
- **Don't be afraid to delegate! People with good ideas should be encouraged to follow through and take the lead. They may become future Presidents!**
- **Communicate often, frequently, incessantly even if you believe that the message got out. The awkwardness of repetition doesn't hold a Shabbat Candle to the embarrassment of miscommunication or misunderstood plans.**
- **No matter what decision you make, even if it appears obvious to you that the entire Board and Congregation and the population of the United States should give you a standing ovation and 1000% support...Some members will oppose or disagree with your decision. Don't take it personally!**
- **Seek out all the professional expertise available from our Congregants when it is needed, such as lawyers, accountants, doctors, judges, social workers, and Rabbi Cohen.**
- **At meetings, give everyone a chance to speak and express his/her opinion, always be inclusive, but keep control of time by removing soap boxes and insisting on relevance and brevity.**
- **Always remember that your responsibility, first and foremost, is to Mishkan Torah; both our congregation and our physical infrastructure!**

I do not plan to end my volunteering for Mishkan Torah; rather I will re-direct it towards completing the Security Grant improvements

and Men's Club activities while supporting our new President and Board. Speaking of presidents, Harry S. Truman is widely known by the plaque on his desk, "The Buck Stops Here." But his favorite quote is one that I ascribe to and recommend to our new President:

**"Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest!" Mark Twain**

## PUBLICITY CHAIR LOOKS AHEAD

by Jeffrey Rosen

Mishkan Torah's Ministry of Public Information, aka the Publicity Committee, under newly-appointed Chairman Jeffrey Rosen, stands ready, willing and able to publicize any and all Mishkan Torah events for the 2011-2012 season.

The Committee will operate under the twin mottos "Keep on telling 'em what's happening!" and "Suppose they gave an event and nobody came?" The Committee stands ready to work with the media, write articles, prepare and distribute posters and flyers, and do all those things necessary to make certain everyone is well aware that a Mishkan Torah event is coming.

Persons wanting to utilize the services of the Committee should contact Jeffrey Rosen at boysies.rosen@verizon.net or 240-393-2601. Persons interested in doing the work of the Committee to publicize events should also contact Jeff. People are needed to write releases, interact with the media, design flyers and posters, construct websites and to distribute posters and flyers.

The Publicity Committee's first assignment will be to work with the Ways and Means Committee to promote the Bret Goldstein/Darelynn Fund Young Leadership Award service and luncheon described elsewhere in "The Trumpet." Come join the Publicity Committee and unleash your inner Madison Avenue man or woman struggling to get out!

# WAYS & MEANS

by Angie Carmel

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

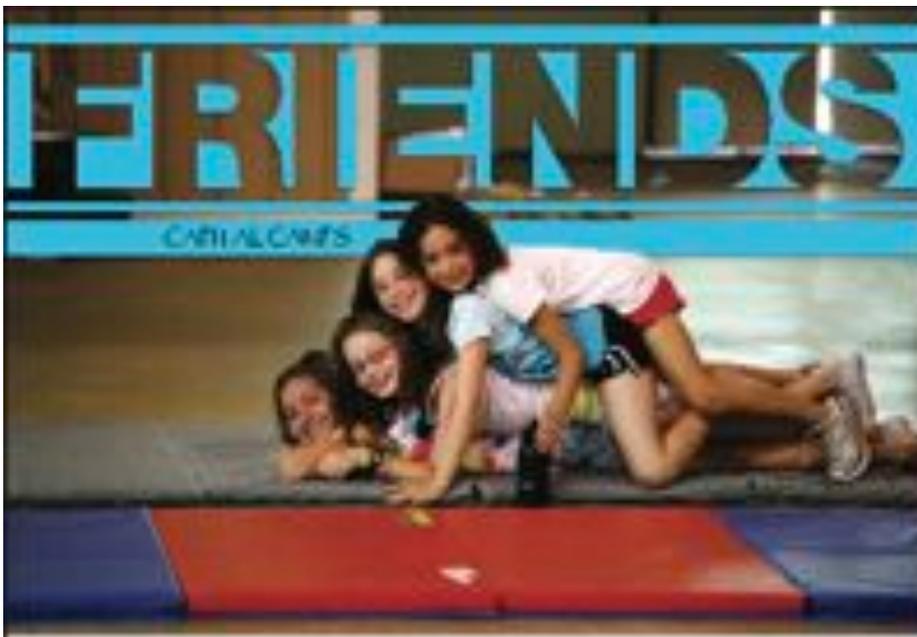
Ways & Means has now completed a highly successful year and has begun planning for the 2011-12 year. For several months, I have been asking you to save September 17. I am pleased to let you know that plans are underway to honor Bret Goldstein and Darelynn Fung on that date with our first Young Leaders Award for their work with the school and youth. See the article by Jeff Rosen elsewhere in this Trumpet. Further details will be provided during the coming weeks.

### Future Events

Those of you who enjoyed the Young Performers' Showcases, don't think you have seen the last of our talented young people. We are discussing other concerts which will follow our Generations to Generations theme, and which we're hoping will include artists of all ages.



Our next meeting is on July 24 at 10:00 AM at Mishkan Torah . If you would like to join us or help us at any of these events, please give me a call or, as always, simply come to the meeting.



## CAPITAL CAMPS

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- Wednesday, July 6
- Sunday, July 10
- Tuesday, July 12
- Sunday, July 31
- Tuesday August 7
- Wednesday, August 10

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## JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1	Erev Shabbat Family Services	7:30 p.m.
2	Shabbat Parshat Chukat	9:30 a.m.
4	Independence Day	
8	Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
9	Shabbat Parshat Balak	9:30 a.m.
15	Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
16	Shabbat Parshat Pinchas	9:30 a.m.
19	Fast of the 17th of Tammuz	
22	Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
23	Shabbat Parshat Matot	9:30 a.m.
29	Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
30	Shabbat Parshat Masai	9:30 a.m.

### JULY YAHRZEITS

#### July 1

Harold Gordon\*  
Herbert Axelrod\*  
Warren Kline  
David Alster\*  
Alice Herschler  
Irving Brodsky

#### July 8

Ephraim Goldberg  
William Levin  
Edith Morris\*  
Anna Horlick  
Ida Lowens  
Shirley Rose Dondes\*  
Sebastian Herbstein  
Annie Fuchs  
Jennie Mund\*

#### July 15

Solomon Schoenberg\*

Joseph Dalis\*  
Ruth Wartell  
Samuel L. Glick  
Hannah Shander  
Rose Levine  
Pauline Spector\*  
Nathan Gerson\*

#### July 22

Louis M. Morganstein\*  
Harry Cohen\*  
Dr. Stanley Becker  
Rina Shmerl\*  
Linda Fox\*  
Irving Baker  
Harry Presky  
Joseph Cohen\*  
Evelyn Schabb  
Arthur Singer

Morris Goldstein\*  
Pearl Shaich  
Jerome Kromash  
Louis Wilson

#### July 29

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\*

### AUGUST PREVIEW

5	Erev Shabbat Family Services	7:30 p.m.
6	Shabbat Chazon: Parshat Devarim	9:30 a.m.
7	Blood Drive sponsored by Social Action	12 – 4:30 p.m.
9	Tisha B'Av: Fast Day	
12	Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
13	Shabbat Nachamu: Parshat V'Etchanan	9:30 a.m.
19	Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
20	Shabbat Parshat Ekev	9:30 a.m.
26	Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
27	Shabbat Parshat Re'eh	9:30 a.m.

## GOLDSTEIN, FUNG TO RECEIVE FIRST-EVER YOUNG LEADERSHIP AWARD

by Jeffrey Rosen

The Ways and Means Committee is proud to announce that Bret Goldstein and Darleynn Fung have been selected as the very first recipients of Mishkan Torah's Young Leadership Award. The Award will be officially presented to Bret and Darelynn at the conclusion of a special morning Shabbat service on Saturday, September 17, 2011, due to commence at nine-thirty am. The Award is intended to honor younger members of Mishkan Torah for outstanding effort and making unique and special contributions to the life of the Synagogue. The establishment of the Award and the selection of the first honorees continue the Ways and Means Committee's year-long theme of From Generation to Generation.

Bret and Darelynn are the perfect initial recipients of the Award. They have been properly described as the Pied Pipers of Mishkan Torah. They have devoted boundless energy, enthusiasm, and creativity in revivifying, strengthening, and administering Mishkan Torah's education and youth programs to reach the vibrant point the programs have attained today. Bret, a teacher by profession, has been supervising Children's Education at Mishkan Torah since 2004, first as Education Director (2004-2007) and subsequently as Chair of Children's Education Committee (2007-present). Darelynn, his wife and partner in youth activities, is Co-Chair of the Youth Programs Committee. Their three children have attended the Karp Family School throughout.

The Ways and Means Committee is planning a gala occasion for Saturday, September 17 to honor Bret and Darelynn and present the Award. Plans include an entertainment program by students from the Karp Family School, a ceremonial presentation of the Award, and a luncheon. These events will occur after the conclusion of the Torah Service, Mourners' Kaddish, and Aleinu at the Saturday Service in lieu of Musaf. Consequently, any persons desiring to say Kaddish should be present at the end of the Torah Service.

The Ways and Means Committee will be releasing details in the next few weeks regarding the cost for the gala, and the mechanism for taking reservations and making donations in honor of Bret and Darelynn. Please mark your calendars now to save the big day before you start your summer activities, and keep your eyes and ears out for further details. You will not want to miss what should be a joyous occasion honoring two people who have been so special to us, and especially to our children.

## SOCIAL ACTION IN ACTION

by Andrea Weiss

The Social Action Committee will be sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive on Sunday, August 7 from 12-4:30. Please consider donating blood at this time—the blood banks get low in the summer, when so many donors are on vacation. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-GIVELIFE or contact me directly. The first hour of the drive will be reserved for our synagogue members, but of course any time is a good time. Those who plan to donate might want to peruse the Red Cross website, to review the dos and don'ts that increase the probability of having sufficient iron and the right body temperature.

We encourage everyone to continue to donate nonperishable food for the food pantry at St. Hugh's. We will maintain our collection basket in the coatroom. Or, if you prefer, send a check to Ronnie Scotkin, care of Adult Education, made out to Mishkan Torah, with Greenbelt Cares in the memo line. The money will be used to purchase Giant gift cards.

### THE SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

We have everything you want for all your gift-giving needs. Call Alyce Strasser (after 10:30 a.m.) to arrange an appointment to see our wares.

## MISHKAN TORAH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS

### Yahrzeits

Karen Friedman for David Alster  
 Angie, Leah & Dana Carmel for Moshe Josef Carmel & Allan Searle  
 Jay & Sandy Gordon for Harold Gordon  
 David Granite for Till Bergemann  
 Gladys Chasnoff for Jacob Kramer & Sarah Chasnoff  
 Milton Greenbaum for Lillian Greenbaum  
 Phyllis Herman for Ben Herman  
 Max & Ruth Horlick for Anna Horlick  
 Selma Klein for Elihu Klein  
 Niki & Gary Kohn for Anne Gruen Kohn & Jules Cohan  
 Janet, Steve & Rachel Mirsky for Sylvia Schoenberg  
 Frank Pearlman for Jennie Migdal  
 Marsha Salzberg for Joseph Schlosser  
 Ina Shapiro for Murray Shapiro  
 Carole & Norm Silverman for Sarah Kirschenbaum  
 Robert & Harold Silverman for Arnold Edwin Silverman  
 Mr. & Mrs. Lester Singer for Pauline Singer  
 Marjorie Bergemann Snyder for Till Bergemann  
 Alyce & Arnold Strasser for Rose Epstein & Ignatz Strasser  
 Ms. Laura Lee Strasser for Ignatz Strasser  
 Joseph Stregack for Boris Martin Stregack  
 Diane Tuckman for Isaac Yedid

### High Holiday Pledge President's Club

Richard Cember  
**High Holiday Pledge**  
 Elizabeth Ahmann & Richard Saviet  
 Stephen Feinberg & Wendy Garson  
 Irv Wartell

### Keter Shem Tov in Honor of Richard Rosenzweig

Dr. & Mrs. Frederic & Iren Weinfeld

### In Honor of ...

Linda & David Spevack's new home in Gambrills, Maryland by Janet Davis

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](mailto:Trumpet@MishkanTorah.org)

by the twentieth of each month unless announced otherwise.

## SISTERHOOD SISTERHOOD SAYS . . .

by Irene Spector

Thank you Debbie for getting the column into last month's *Trumpet*, that was a great help!

Being in the hospital for a new hip and then at the Hebrew Home for 2 weeks for re-hab made me miss so many interesting Sisterhood programs but I'll try to get to all events in the future.

My best wishes to Rae Brooks - I understand that knee surgery is a more difficult recovery than hip surgery. Get well wishes also to Reuben Cohen and to Becky Silverstein.

A large crowd (46 I heard) enjoyed the Capitol Steps. What a wonderful donor event!

I had looked forward to being part of the "Project Linus" (see photo spread below) but it was not possible. Oh well - next time.

Beginning on August 2, Sisterhood will start planning the programs for the new year, if they haven't already begun. If you have any ideas, Eva Garin and Niki Kohn would welcome your input.

The best way to enjoy Sisterhood is to become an active participating member. Come and join us as we socialize and share the programs.

### Friendly reminders

Mitzvah Cards – Call Becky Hirsch for her speedy, efficient service.

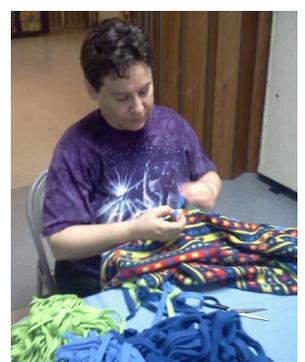
Catering – Special Simcha? Call Alyce Strasser (Not before 10:30 a.m. please) our catering maven. She will help with plans.

Gift Shop – Keep watching the windows for the displays of wonderful gifts for all occasions. Call Alyce (after 10:30 a.m. please) for an appointment to meet and shop at your leisure.

### Rhyme time

It's good to be back in action, I have missed the events and friends  
I look forward to another busy year sharing activities with no ends  
We are all invited to share the fun, so be a part of Sisterhood -  
WE WELCOME EVERYONE !

## SOME OF OUR PROJECT LINUS BLANKET MAKERS



Clockwise from above: Debbie Brenner, Niki Kohn, Eva Garin, Leah Choper, Becky Hirsch, and Phyllis Oresky working on or displaying their blankets.

## Göbekli TEPE . . . from page 3

Schmidt speculates that nomadic bands from hundreds of miles in every direction gathered at Göbekli Tepe for rituals, feasting, and initiation rites before the first stones were cut. The religious purpose of the site is implicit in its size and location. "You don't move 10-ton stones for no reason," Schmidt observes. "Temples like to be on high sites," he adds, waving an arm over the stony, round hilltop. "Sanctuaries like to be away from the mundane world." Many of the biggest pillars are carved with arms, including shoulders, elbows, and jointed fingers. The T shapes appear to be towering humanoids but have no faces, hinting at the worship of ancestors or human-like deities. "In the Bible it talks about how God created man in his image," says Johns Hopkins archeologist Glenn Schwartz. Göbekli Tepe "is the first time you can see humans with that idea, that they resemble gods."

## THANKS TO NOMINATING COMMITTEE

By Jackie Kling

During the spring Membership Meeting, held on June 26, Rae Brooks presented the Nominating Committee's slate of officers to those in attendance. Phyllis Oresky was nominated from the floor to co-chair the Membership Committee and accepted the nomination.

The membership voted to accept the slate and Mishkan Torah now has its new officers for the 2011 - 2012 year. Congratulations to everyone who has generously agreed to give their time and effort to ensure that Mishkan Torah continues to serve the needs of its members.

And, a special thank you to Rae Brooks, Jeff Rosen, and Martha Tomecek for serving on the nominating committee. Mishkan Torah continues to be in good hands because of your efforts.

## SPECTORS SAY, "THANKS"

Thank you so much for all the get-well cards and phone calls. They really do help and are so much appreciated. How nice to have such a wonderful extended family.

Irene and Sid Spector

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