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Mishkan Torah Trumpet



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June 2010

IT IS WHAT IT IS (OR IS IT?)

by Steve Mirsky

Dear Friends,

I have recently become aware of a new phrase that has entered our lexicon: "It is what it



is." When people say this, they are essentially saying that they have accepted a situation; they don't think they can change it, and they are declining to assume any responsibility for it. If this were true, Mishkan

Torah would not exist. "What it is" at Mishkan Torah is that we depend on volunteers. The underpinnings of our synagogue are built on us and what we achieve together.

New ideas are essential to our growth. Every committee we run looks for new ideas. But more important than good ideas are good people willing to put them into action. Our current Nominating Committee members, Linda Spevack, Liz Ahmann, and Ed Brenner, are looking for new ideas and new people for the Board. They will be presenting the new slate of officers at our Summer Membership Meeting on Sunday, June 20. Also at that meeting we will see our new budget, which does not include many paid staff. Our dues would have to increase by a factor greater than the national deficit if we had to pay people to maintain our building, cook our food, plan for religious holidays, maintain our landscaping, arrange publicity, etc.

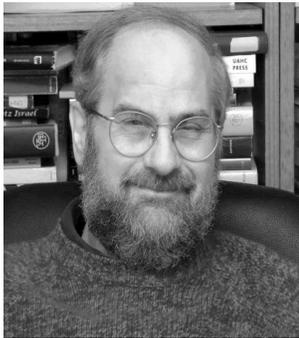
Mishkan Torah needs you to become or continue to be *involved*. If you can't chair a

committee, volunteer to be a member of the committee. If you can't be a full-time committee member, volunteer to pitch in for specific events (Labor Day is not that far away!). Try something different! Maybe you've always wanted to learn how to help raise funds, then attend a Ways and Means committee meeting. You're handy with tools and like to build or maintain things—Building Committee always needs helpers! You are interested in spreading the word or marketing Mishkan Torah to the community, especially for planned events, then come join the Publicity Committee. Volunteering is an opportunity to use your skills to help Mishkan Torah, learn new skills while helping Mishkan Torah, meet other members, and achieve the feeling of accomplishment—of a job well done—of making a difference!

We are all busy with many obligations, commitments, and other activities. Work, family, and home maintenance all take up our time. We are constantly being pulled in many directions with the time we have so we prioritize by what is most important or vital in our lives. Please put Mishkan Torah on your mental list of priorities. If each member were able to donate some time every month to volunteer, we would always have the *Volunteer Power* we need to keep Mishkan Torah a vibrant, active, and healthy part of our collective families. The membership meeting is on June 20, 2010, at 6 p.m. I look forward to seeing you there with the volunteer spirit of Mishkan Torah's Founders in your hearts! It is what we make it to be !

RABBI 'PREDICTS' FUTURE EVOLUTION OF ISLAM IN U.S.

Like everyone else I sometimes venture a fearless prediction about the future course of the world. Perhaps my most fearless one concerns the evolution of Islam in America. Before I share it with you let me make the obvious disclaimer: I do not pretend to be an expert on Islam. But I do know a thing or two



about both Jewish history and I know that America has transformed every culture that has taken root on these shores. In the case of Judaism, it is clear that the religion that we know and love has evolved considerably since the time of our great-grandparents. Could they, for example, have imagined a shul which counts women as full equals to men, or in which the rabbi functions more like a social worker or a teacher than as a lawyer or a judge?

More than two generations ago, Mordechai Kaplan coined the phrase “living in two civilizations” to describe the situation of American Jews. By this Kaplan meant that we have internalized many important aspects of modern Western culture: critical thinking and the scientific method come to mind, as do the values of democracy, cultural pluralism and gender equality. In America, Jews participate fully with adherents of other faiths in the political and cultural life of the general community while maintaining an organic connection to classical Jewish texts, rituals, and other traditions. And I think it likely that just as America has changed Judaism – and Christianity, for that matter – so too will it transform Islam—and every other religion – over the next several generations.

Of course, the tricky thing about fearless predictions is that most of us won't live long enough to find out whether our prophecies will come true. But in this case, at least, I do find some hopeful signs. A few months ago, I noticed a couple of articles in the *USA Today* newspaper. The first of these is about Sana

Rahim, a young lady who was born in the cowboy country of southeastern Wyoming, to Pakistani parents. She speaks Urdu with her family, but can't read or write the language. She also recites her prayers in Arabic, but doesn't know exactly what each word means. Now a 20-year-old junior at Northwestern University, she, like many other American-born Muslims, is most comfortable with sermons and lectures in English, although they can't always find U.S. mosques that offer them. “I don't really get the time to study Arabic,” Rahim said. “With all the different groups in America, English is a unifying thing that ties us together.”

Ms. Rahim's difficulty with Arabic reminds me that many American Jews have that same issue with respect to Hebrew. According to the newspaper article, U.S. Muslims are waging their own debate about how much English they can use inside mosques without violating Islamic law and abandoning their culture. The language of obligatory Friday prayers, called *juma*, is not part of the debate; those prayers must be in Arabic, the language of the Quran. The disagreement focuses on whether that requirement should extend to the sermon, or *khutba*, on Fridays, the Muslim day of congregational prayer, and other assemblies in the mosque. Imams and scholars who insist on using Arabic say it's mandatory because the Prophet Muhammad gave his sermons in the language. Others say that Muhammad used Arabic only because it was what he and his community spoke, and that Islam is a universal faith. “My worry is that younger people who do not find the mosque a satisfying experience, and women who find it a hostile environment, will drift away from the mosque,” said Abdullahi An-Na'im, a specialist in Islamic law at Emory University School of Law. “That means the mosque will become the exclusive domain of a very archaic understanding of Islam.”

The issue is part of a broader discussion within the Muslim community about young U.S. Muslims and their alienation from American mosques.

Continued on page 3

FUTURE EVOLUTION OF ISLAM . . . from page 2

Houses of worship founded by older immigrant Muslims often held fast to the culture and language of their native countries. For them, English in the mosque threatens Muslim identity. Their American-born children, however, can't relate. "This is a constant problem," said Shahed Amanullah, co-founder of salatomatic.com, which lists thousands of mosques and reviews from users. "It's not just about the Friday prayers. It's the response that mosques have to the cultural reality of growing up Muslim in America. If young people don't find what they need in the mosque, they'll find it on the Internet."

Amanullah, 41, said he found a particularly dramatic example of the problem in a predominantly South Asian mosque he visited one Friday in California. The prayer leader read a sermon written in Arabic, even though neither he nor the worshippers understood the language. "It was the blind leading the blind," Amanullah said. "Nobody in the room knew what the sermon was about. It could have been a recipe for baba ghanoush and no one would have been the wiser."

The second article in *USA Today* concerns the Polder Mosque in Amsterdam. This mosque is led by a 24 year old woman named Yasmine el Ksaihi, whose role is similar to that of a synagogue president. As administrator, El Ksaihi is in charge of finances and hires the imams who lead the prayers and deliver sermons. El Ksaihi doesn't see herself as a feminist rebel. She covers her head and wears modest clothing; she learned to read the Quran at age 5 and promotes traditional Muslim values. Yet there is something pioneering about her nonetheless. In a first for the Netherlands, men and women pray together in the Polder Mosque – albeit segregated, with the women praying in the back of the red-carpeted prayer hall. Sermons are in Dutch rather than Arabic. Non-Muslims are welcome.

Across Europe, according to the article in *USA Today*, Muslims are seeking a formula that lets them fit into their country while maintaining

loyalty to their faith, and el Ksaihi's mosque, which melds some Western secular values with deep attachment to Islam, is one solution toward resolving such tensions. El Ksaihi seeks to make Islam more accessible to young Muslims born in a secular nation and make Muslims more acceptable to their neighbors. She wants congregants to embrace the religion and culture while extracting it from the homeland of their immigrant parents. "We choose Dutch as the main language because we focus on the young people. Most of them can speak only Dutch," she said. "If non-Muslims enter the mosque, they will hear what we are discussing. There is nothing scary about what we do." The mosque is a cultural center as much as a house of worship. "This is a traditional model of Islam. It's not new," she said. "We are going back to the roots. There is only one Islam."

Apart from fighting entrenched discrimination against women, which she considers an affront to Islam, El Ksaihi says her mosque provides a platform for interfaith dialogue. A non-Muslim Dutch woman, Marloes Kuijer, is a member of the board of directors. "I am not religious," said Kuijer. "I feel at home here because it's a meeting place for everyone, young or old, Muslim or non-Muslims."

Significantly, the Polder Mosque refuses to accept foreign money. "That is one of our main pillars," El Ksaihi said. This last point, I think, is of crucial importance since many of the more radical mosques in America are funded by the Saudi government which propagates a radical and acutely violent strain of Islam called "Wahhabism."

Membership Meeting
June 20
6 p.m.

FUNERAL PRACTICES COMMITTEE SETS PROCEDURES

by Robin Olson

The Funeral Practices Committee is here to help members in various ways when they lose a loved one.

1. When a death occurs, please call the Rabbi. He starts the chain. Even if another Shul is handling the arrangements or if the funeral is out of town, the Rabbi will alert the committee.

2. The Rabbi calls me, Robin Olson, so that I can contact the family to offer a Shiva platter. (Tuna & bagels for after the funeral, an evening dessert tray for a Shiva minyan, or a fruit basket if out of town.)

3. The Rabbi forwards all pertinent information to Marc Manheimer (who sends the email to those on the shiva list), Jordan Choper who starts the phone tree), and Dan Lowery (who moderates the synagogue listserv). If you are not being notified, call one of these men to be added to their list.

4. The Rabbi works out a schedule with the chair of the Religious Committee to ensure that all minyans have leaders and that prayer books will be taken to the minyan.

5. If the funeral is to be held at the Shul, Ron Brooks will help with the logistics.

The committee is composed of the following people in accordance to the description and by-laws set forth in 1985:

1. Robin Olson, at-large member,
Chairperson: coordination of committee
2. Marc Manheimer, at-large member:
information dissemination
3. Dave Spevack, Men's Club Representative
4. Alyce Strasser, Sisterhood representative,
platter coordinator/fruit basket
5. Ron Brooks, at-large member: funerals in
the building
6. Religious Committee Chair: *Minyans* and
prayer books

We have put together a group of people from different geographical areas to help make and deliver platters, but **COULD ALWAYS USE MORE HELP.**

MINYAN ATTENDANCE A MITZVAH

If possible, please attend a Shiva Minyan, especially if it is in your neighborhood. It is our responsibility to ensure a minyan. You do not have to know the bereaved. It is a Mitzvah to make a Shiva call and it is incumbent upon each of us to help our congregants during this difficult time.

SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

June 20

6 p.m.

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road

Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

SISTERHOOD SAYS . . .

by Irene Spector

What a wonderful day it was for the Spector family! It was May 15, and the occasion was the Keter Shem Tov honoring Sid and me as one of the founding families and for the years following as we came back to Mishkan Torah. With our family members, extended family and our Mishkan Torah family all in attendance, we positively glowed and enjoyed every moment. Our thanks to all who made May 15th a very wonderful experience for us.

And now - back to the exciting reality of the rest of this year and prepare for a new and exciting group of programs and activities.

I was unable to attend the Vintage Jewelry Sale on May 2 due to a prior commitment, but sources tell me that it was as successful as it usually is.

We hope that Sonia Garin has been moving along rapidly on the road to recovery.

Sunday, June 13 - Debbie Brenner has arranged for a lovely luncheon as we also enjoy a sightseeing boat ride out of Baltimore. Watch for precise details and RSVP quickly as only 50 places have been reserved.

Rhyme Time

The year is almost over;
 We have enjoyed activities galore.
 To all who have worked so hard all year
 To bring us these programs by the score,
 We say, "Thank you all so very much,"
 And we look forward to a new year of many more.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

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

Catering: Alyce Strasser our catering maven at 301-441-1353 who is always ready to help as 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.

YIDDISH CLUB TO HOST MOVIE

The Yiddish Club will be viewing the video *Almonds and Raisins: A History of the Yiddish Cinema* on June 20 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. In this look at Yiddish filmmaking during the era of the early sound pictures (1930s), director Russ Karel uses archival film clips, still photos, old posters, and other mementos from this period.

Orson Welles narrates.

The movie is in English and all are welcome.

Please note: The previously scheduled Yiddish Club meeting for June 13 has been canceled.



JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4	Erev Shabbat Family Services	7:30 p.m.
5	Shabbat Shelach	9:30 a.m.
6	CHOIR CONCERT	7 P.M.
11	Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
12	Shabbat Korach	9:30 a.m.
18	Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
19	Shabbat Chukat	9:30 a.m.
20	Father's Day	
20	SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING	6 P.M.
25	Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
26	Shabbat Balak	9:30 a.m.
29	Fast of the Seventeenth of Tammuz	9:30 a.m.

JUNE YAHRZEITS

June 4

Anne Gruen Kohn
 Anna Smelo
 Estelle W. Ehrlich*
 Jules Cohan
 Ignatz Strasser*
 Boris Martin Stregack*

June 11

Harold Gordon*
 Herbert Axelrod*
 Warren Kline
 David Alster*

Gladys Noon Spellman
 Alice Herschler
 Irving Brodsky

June 18

Ephraim Goldberg
 William Levin
 Martin Nyrop Hoffman
 Edith Morris
 Anna Horlick
 Ida Lowen
 Shirley Rose Dondes*

Sebastian Herbstein
 Annie Fuchs

June 25

Solomon Schoenberg*
 Joseph Dalis*
 Ruth Wartell
 Kenneth E. Brooks
 Samuel L. Glick
 Hannah Shander
 Rose Levine
 Pauline Spector*
 Nathan Gerson*

JULY PREVIEW

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

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS

Yahrzeits

Marjorie Bergemann for Till Bergemann
 Angie, Leah, & Dana Carmel for Allen Searle & Sarah Fuchs
 Lois Darr for Lloyd Darr
 Karen Friedman for David Alster
 David S. Granite for Till Bergemann
 Annie Haber for Marilyn Haber
 Phyllis Herman for Ben Herman
 Becky & Carl Hirsch for Rubin Hirsch (to Rabbi's Discretionary Fund)
 Max & Ruth Horlick for Anna Horlick
 Janet, Steve & Rachel Mirsky for Sylvia Schoenberg
 Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Neveleff for Terry Neveleff
 Mr. & Mrs. Lester Singer for Pauline Singer
 Carol Valoris for Joseph Valoris

High Holiday President's Club

Jordan & Eva Choper
Marc Spevack Fund
 Sid & Irene Spector in memory of Harlan Stanley Sanders

Hail to the Chiefs In Honor of our Past Presidents

Arden Bronstein & Beverly Lowenstein
 Stan & Dena Foster
 Dan & Madeline Lowery
 Fran Sanders
 Becky & Mark Silverstein

Keter Shem Tov In Honor of Sid & Irene Spector

Angie Carmel
 Jordan & Eva Choper
 Janet Davis
 Joel & Evelyn Davis
 Sid & Ceil Feldman
 Alan B. Frankle
 Jackie & Arnold Kling
 Gary & Niki Kohn

Dan & Madeline Lowery
 Rose Marcus
 Mimi (Miriam) Parizer
 Frank Pearlman
 Ronnie Scotkin & Ed Hickey
 Pearl & Warren Siegal
 Lester & Christine Singer
 David, Carmen & Amanda Spector
 Sandy & Jack Ward

JEWELRY SALE A SUCCESS

by Eva Choper

The recent jewelry sale was quite successful. Thanks to all our volunteer workers and donators who made the undertaking of the sale run smoothly and efficiently. Everybody did a terrific job. Now, let us start collecting for the next sale.

The *Trumpet* is published by
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 10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
 301-474-4223
www.mishkantorah.org

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Ed Hickey	<ronnie_ed@verizon.net>	301-220-1966
Landscape: Becky Hirsch	<vmisem@earthlink.net>	301-345-4029
Building Emeritus: Jordan Choper	<jchoper@aol.com>	301-474-3766
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Ways & Means: Dan Lowery	<lowery3@comcast.net>	301-441-9342
Sisterhood Pres: Diane Tuckman	<dtuckman@gmail.com>	301-927-4866
Gift Shop: Alyce Strasser	<astrassera@yahoo.com>	301-441-1353
Trumpet Editor Arnold Brodsky	<arbro@comcast.net>	301-208-1934

**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 of each month unless announced otherwise.

A BIG NIGHT, A LONG NIGHT, A FAMILY NIGHT AT MISHKAN TORAH

This year's *Tikkun Leyl Shavuot* set a record for participants under age 30 in a long time. There were eight young people who slept, studied, and made it to the sunrise. Rabbi Cohen was the winner of the trivia contest for only the second time in 12 years. Study sessions presented were Saul Oresky's proposal for a *Talmud* study group at Mishkan Torah, Frank Pearlman's ecumenical midnight prayer readings, Rabbi Charry's discussion of history in the *Book of Exodus* and Rabbi Cohen's exploration of the idea of *Kiddush HaShem*.

The discussion was so involved that the sun came up before the group was able continue

by Darelynn Fung and Rae Brooks

with study sessions prepared by Raphe Panitz and Jeff Rosen.

An eyewitness account: "As I was sitting there in Saul's study session I looked around to see who else was there. The sweetest thing was how many parent and grown-up child couples were there: Jeffrey and Armin Rosen, Yoni and Rabbi Charry, Jonathan and Reuben Cohen, Rae and Raviv Brooks, Bret and Aaron Goldstein, and two others because I remember counting seven such pairs. Also, Ben Greenfield was there without his dad, which was also sweet because it means he thinks of Mishkan Torah as his *shul*, not just the place where his dad is the cantor."

HELP THE CITY OF GREENBELT

In 1992, the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Alliance, of which Rabbi Cohen is a member, established the Emergency Relief Fund to be administered by the City of Greenbelt. The fund is to help people who are residents of Greenbelt, in short-term emergency situations and may face eviction.

The criteria for receiving monies from the fund (usually \$300 to \$400) is that the recipient has to prove they have the rest of the month's rent or mortgage and that they will be able to make next month's payments. Checks are made out to the mortgage company or apartment management.

Because of the large number of requests in the recent past, the fund is now almost depleted. The City has sent out an appeal to all religious, civic and community organizations for contributions to help replenish this account.

Please consider making a donation to this worthy cause. Contributions can be made to City of Greenbelt Emergency Relief Fund and sent to Office of the City Manager, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD. 20770.

For additional information, please contact Ronnie Scotkin at her home phone (see synagogue directory) or at Greenbelt CARES (301)345-6660.

SOCIAL ACTION IN ACTION

By Andrea Weiss

The Social Action Committee is busy promoting our second annual Benton Parks Memorial Food Drive and contest. The drive, which honors the memory of longtime Social Action chairperson Benton Parks, began on May 1 and will run through June 20. June 20 is the date of the annual Membership Meeting, and it is at that time that we will award the contest winner (the committee or ad hoc group that donates the most) a \$50 gift certificate to the New Deal Restaurant. (Two new groups which have been formed are Friday night services attendees and Saturday morning service attendees.)

We are asking that members donate nonperishable food in unbreakable (no glass) containers which will go to the food pantry at St.

Hugh's Catholic Church, and grocery store scrip or gift cards, which will go to Greenbelt

Cares. The food can be dropped off at the synagogue in the coat room, marked with the name of the committee which will get credit for your donation; scrip can be ordered from Ronnie Scotkin. Please see our flyer on page 10 for a more complete description of the contest rules.

Because there are so many people out of work, because the food pantry is reporting record low inventory, and because summer vacation means a three-month suspension in free and reduced breakfasts and lunches for schoolchildren, the need for these donations is especially great at this time. We hope that everyone will not only get in touch with his or her competitive spirit, but will also dig a little deeper to make a donation.

See David Norken's update on this page.

2009 LEADERS LAG BEHIND

This is the latest update on the Benton Parks Food Drive: Ways and Means Committee, 74 points; Sisterhood, 20 points; Saturday morning services, 50 points; Friday night services, 20 points; Choir, Zero points; Children's Education Committee, Zero points: Total, as of May 27, 164 points.

Last year Choir and Children's Education were neck and neck throughout the food drive for first place. Now they are neck and neck for last place at zip points each. If they don't move soon, maybe they will not be able to catch Ways and Means.

Bring cans in, put your name and group on the bag, and place them in the coatroom. Buy scrip from Ronnie Scotkin at 301-220-1966. Each can is two points and each dollar of scrip counts one point.

We are pretty far behind the pace from last year, but there is still time to catch up if we enjoy a little competitive fun and keep in mind those we are helping. Come on, Choir and Children's Ed!

FROM THE PENS OF PRESIDENTS

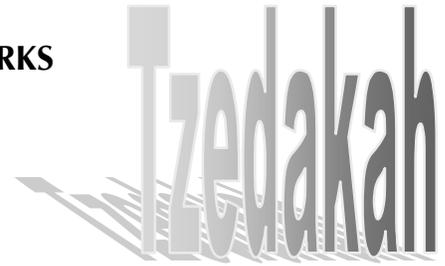
From time to time, space permitting, we will revisit some of the comments former Mishkan Torah presidents contributed to the "Hail to the Chiefs" program booklet. The following comes from Ralph Mollerick (1972-'73):

Mishkan Torah 1972: It was a tumultuous year. The "do-it-ourselves" congregation was facing a leaky roof, again; the kitchen, while kosher, needed a face lifting, again; and the air conditioning was sputtering along, again. The rabbi's contract was running out, and Rabbi Maurice Weisenberg would make his wants and needs known by the end of the year. . . At MT, someone was knocking at our door. Beth Torah was looking into a possible merger. We entered into negotiations - oh well, you already know that this was going nowhere!

In the spring, when the word came that the rabbi was leaving . . . Membership dropped and it became obvious that we were not in a position to interview the best candidates coming out of rabbinical school. The fiscal year ended in June 1973 with a deficit, which was covered by the Sisterhood. . . We were a congregation without a rabbi.



THE 2ND ANNUAL BENTON PARKS MEMORIAL FOOD DRIVE



**INDULGE YOUR COMPETITIVE SPIRIT.
HELP THE NEEDY.
HONOR BENTON PARKS'S MEMORY.
EAT OUT ON US.**

Mishkan Torah committees, clubs, and other groups will once again compete against each other for the honor of donating the most non-perishable food items and grocery store scrip dollars to the needy in Greenbelt.

This Food Drive is sponsored by the Synagogue's Social Action Committee. Last year's drive was a great success with approximately \$946 donated in food and scrip. Let's see if we can break \$1000 this year!

- WHEN:** The Food Drive and Competition will take place from May 1 through the date of the Annual Membership Meeting in June.
- TEAMS:** Teams will consist of various Mishkan Torah Committees, such as Children's Education, Religious, Finance, Choir, Men's Club, and Sisterhood. Those not in committees can create their own as long as they contain no fewer than five people and register with the Social Action Committee.
- HOW:** Teams will get two points for each can of food or non-perishable item donated and one point for each dollar of grocery store scrip donated. Mark bags of food with the name of your committee or team and place them in the Synagogue coat room outside the sanctuary. Purchase grocery store scrip through Ronnie Scotkin. The donations will be collected by the Social Action Committee and taken to the food pantry at St. Hugh's Catholic Church, which provides food to all comers, no questions or religious affiliation asked. Scrip will be donated to Greenbelt Cares.
- PLAYING:** The Social Action Committee will keep the Congregation posted at least weekly by email so that committees can assess the competition. We may also announce bonus points via email.
- CONTACT:** David Norken will coordinate the food drive. Contact him at 301-261-0685 and dnorken@comcast.net to register your group's participation and ask any questions. You may also contact Andrea Weiss at 301-680-0526 and andrew111@aol.com. Scrip donations will be handled by Ronnie Scotkin, who will take your orders by phone and keep track for us.
- THE PRIZE:** The winning group will be awarded a \$50 gift certificate to the New Deal Restaurant. The winner will be announced at the Annual Membership Meeting.

**Can Anyone Beat the Children's Education Committee?
Can Your Group Win?**



Spring Concert



Mishkan Torah Choir

Featuring
Choir Sing-a-long
With Bret Goldstein



Sunday June 6, 2010

7 p.m.



New Director
Rachel White

TICKETS

\$10 in advance
\$15 at the door

Children under 13
\$5 in advance
\$10 at the door



Join the choir
In a sing-a-long
Learn new songs



For information:

Mishkan Torah, 10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301/474-4223
For tickets contact Dan Lowery 301/441-9342 or lowery3@comcast.net

WAYS & MEANS SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

by Dan Lowery

This is my last entry as Ways and Means chair for this year. I expressed my thanks to the committee last month although I mistakenly left out a very important Ways & Means member, Irv Wartel (who also wears the hat of Programs Vice President). I also wanted to encourage you to join this very important committee.



When we have a program, Mishkan Torah volunteers come out of the woodwork to help. And while we appreciate that help, it would be even better if we had it during the event planning stages. It's not a difficult committee. And we could use your fresh ideas! It is a great way to meet people and become connected to the shul. Please come to our next meeting on July 11 at 10 a.m.

Finally, don't forget to check out the Spring Concert June 6. It will mark the first performance of the choir under the guidance of our new director, Rachel White. For more concert information and ticket ordering, see the fliers on pages 11 and 13.

CHANGES IN THE CHOIR

by Becky Silverstein

Life is full of changes and the Mishkan Torah Choir is no exception. The first change is in leadership. Rachel White took up the baton as the conductor last fall when I retired from the choir. She is a music teacher in Prince George's County who stepped in right when the choir was worried that they would not have a new conductor. She has worked long and hard to prepare the choir, inspire the choir, bring new music choices and a new vibrancy to the choir. They even got me to come back and sing in the alto section!

The second change is the cost is lower. This year the price is only \$10!! That's an incredible bargain for a great night of music. The songs that the choir has prepared are a mix of some familiar tunes and some wonderful new pieces. Sheila Lemus is accompanying them in her always professional and artistic manner. Also Cantor Yael Fischman has joined the soprano section to lend her beautiful voice to the soprano section.

Third, the audience will get to sing along! Rachel has prepared several "Ruach" songs for audience participation. The school principal Bret Goldstein will lead the audience and the choir in this portion of the show by accompanying the songs on the guitar.

Everyone will be able to sing along with the

choir to make glorious music together! You just can't ask for more than that.

But some things will stay the same. The concert will be held on Sunday, June 6 at 7 p.m. There still will be refreshments served when it is over. As always it will be great music for a great price.

New director! Lower price! Sing-a-long! Wow! This year's Mishkan Torah Choir Concert has it all!

Plan to attend the concert this year. Bring all your friends. Support the choir and enjoy a wonderful evening with your Mishkan Torah family.

**The Sisterhood Gift Shop
Has everything you could possibly want**

- ✧ To plan for simchas,
- ✧ To prepare for holidays,
- ✧ To add to collections, and
- ✧ To establish a Jewish home.

**Be sure to call Alyce Strasser
(after 10:30 a.m., please)
to set up an appointment
to see the wide assortment of gift items.**

Mishkan Torah Choir

Spring Concert



Sunday, June 6, 2010 7 p.m.

Ticket Reservations

Name: _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail _____

	# of Tickets		Cost
Adults: \$10 in advance \$15 at the door	_____	@ \$10	\$ _____
Children under 13: \$5 in advance \$10 at the door	_____	@ \$5	\$ _____
TICKETS TOTAL:			\$ _____

Friends of the Choir:

- Bass Level: \$18
- Tenor Level: \$36
- Alto Level: \$54
- Soprano Level: \$72+ \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Tickets plus Friends of the Choir) \$ _____



For Ticket Reservations Contact:

Dan Lowery 301/441-9342 or lowery3@comcast.net

Or mail to:
Mishkan Torah, 10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770



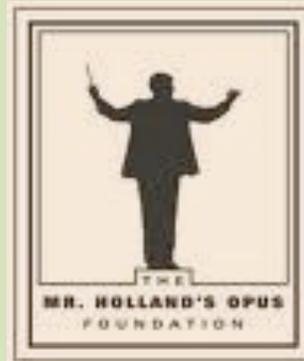
CAFÉ TZEDAKAH

Saturday, June 19

7:30 p.m.

Come listen to the Carlos Castillo Band

Support the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation



The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation donates new & refurbished instruments to school and after-school music programs that lack the resources to keep up with equipment losses resulting from attrition, depreciation and wear, and to accommodate students on waiting lists to receive instruments.

An infusion of instruments enables more students to participate in music programs and to experience a quality music education.

***For his Bar Mitzvah project, Carlos Castillo** has arranged for his band to perform for us in order to raise money for this worthy cause.*

*Please join us for an evening of music and good fun.
Light refreshments will be served.*

Admission price: one nonperishable (no glass, please) food item

Sponsored by Robert Goldberg-Strassler and the Social Action Committee

SID & IRENE SPECTOR HONORED WITH KETER SHEM TOV AWARD

by Arlene Gottlieb

May 15, 2010 was a glorious day. The sun shone brightly outside, and inside Mishkan Torah we celebrated with Sid and Irene Spector as they received our Keter Shem Tov award. The room was filled with family and friends. Family traveled from all over the United States to share in the occasion.

One of my favorite jobs for Keter Shem Tov is putting together the Program/Memory book. I get to read all the great things that are written about the honorees before anyone else. There is generally a common thread throughout the stories, but each memory brings a new piece to the puzzle of their lives. Or to say it differently, the memories shed a light on Sid & Irene's lives as we see through others' eyes. The memories and good wishes are a testament to why we chose them as our honorees this year. Irene & Sid have been at the heart of our Synagogue. But it is also clear they have been the heart of their family, too. And when I say family, I mean their extended family—everyone who has touched their lives. Sid and Irene are lifelong friends. They have changed and made a difference in our lives. They richly deserved Keter Shem Tov. If you missed being with us on the 15th and would like a copy of our memory book, please get in touch with me (gotmil@starpower.net) and I will try to get a copy to you.

There were many people who worked very hard to make this day special. Janet Davis wrote the *Trumpet* article and always helps with last minute proofing, editing, and collating. Phyllis Oresky also helped with proofing and lining up Torah readers for the Service. Lois Darr helped with collating. Alyce Strasser worked her usual magic with Sisterhood Catering to feed us the sumptuous meal. The gift came from the greatest gift shop around—our Sisterhood gift shop. But my biggest thank you goes to the honorees—Sid and Irene Spector. They have put so much of themselves into this Synagogue and Community, that it was a pleasure to honor them with Keter Shem Tov—the crown of a good name.



Recognize this young bridal couple? Not too hard, is it?

THANKS

Our sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to make the May 15th Keter Shem Tov so special to us.

We were excited and delighted to see so many friends, so many from the Founding Families Days. We feel truly blessed to have had our family to share our joy and are grateful for all of the donations in our honor to Mishkan Torah.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Fondly,

Sid and Irene Spector

CLOWNING AROUND ONLY ONE ASPECT OF SPECTORS' KETER SHEM TOV



Peppi entertains a young Rachel Oresky.



Sid and Irene as Spec and Peppi

For full coverage of the Keter Shem Tov Award morning, see page 15.

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