

INSIDE THE TRUMPET

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March 2010

"WEATHER" OR NOT TO CANCEL: THAT IS THE QUESTION

by Steven Mirsky

Dear Friends,

The record snowstorms during January and February strained the infrastructure of the Washington-Baltimore Area, causing disruptions in our everyday life from electricity to mail to trash pickup. Planned events, school systems, and even the federal government were affected. The questions that have been posed to me by several congregants after these storms are: What is the policy at Mishkan Torah for canceling events and services? Who makes the decisions? What are the decisions based on? How are the decisions communicated to the members?

No By-law Covers Cancellations

There is no written policy in our Bylaws regarding cancellation of planned events or religious services. Since there is no law, let us look at the *de facto* practice that has always been followed. This practice is that the responsibility for canceling events resides with the sponsoring organization leaders or their designees. Therefore, the decision for religious services would be made by Rabbi Cohen or his designee. An event planned by the Ways and Means Committee would be canceled by the Chair of that committee (or his or her designee). Similarly, a Men's Club event such as the Super Bowl Party would be canceled by the President of the Men's Club (or his designee). Sisterhood sponsored events, such as the Silverstein Gala, would be canceled by the President of the Sisterhood (or her designee). This *de facto* responsibility for canceling events was re-affirmed by vote of the Board during the February 2010 meeting.

What are the criteria for making the decision to cancel? Safety of attendees is paramount. Other important factors include: preparations for the event, suitable conditions in and around Mishkan Torah to conduct the event; the likelihood that significant numbers of attendees would be present, and the availability of dates for re-scheduling. Safety is a subject that I deal with every day as part of my career. Safety is not a single definitive absolute measure or numerical value. What is safe to one person may not be safe to another. Determining what is safe requires judgment, some metrics, and a measure of *sechel* (common sense).

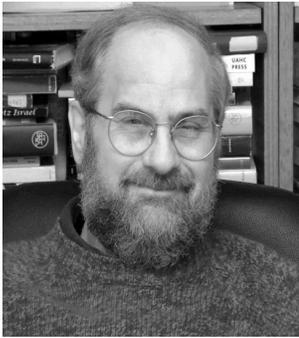
How Decisions Were Made

So how were recent decisions made? The Super Bowl party was canceled by the leadership of the Men's Club because of the large snowstorm predicted for that weekend, and the fact that no food or other preparations had been made in advance. Although many members may have been looking forward to this event, no financial commitments had been made by members or the Men's Club. Potential attendees could still watch the Super Bowl at home- albeit without the culinary and social experience special to the MT party. This event, obviously, could not be re-scheduled this year. This was an easy decision, given the magnitude of the forecast coupled with no prior preparations or financial commitments.

How was the decision made for Shabbat services on February 12-13, 2010 after the cleanup had commenced from the snowstorms?

Continued on page 10

RABBI CITES IMPACT OF A SINGLE BOOK ON WORLD VIEW



Every so often I read a book that changes the way that I look at the world. One such book is *The Natural History of the Bible* by Professor Daniel Hillel. Hillel is an environmental scientist at Columbia

University who specializes in finding ways of conserving soil moisture. Born in the United States, his family moved to Palestine during the years of the British mandate. He was a founding member of Kibbutz Sdeh Boqer, best known as the retirement home of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion. (Indeed, as a young man Hillel was Ben-Gurion's work supervisor on the kibbutz.) As was Ben-Gurion, Daniel Hillel is a passionate lover of the Hebrew Bible. And as befits an environmental scientist, he reads the Bible as the record of our people's physical and spiritual adaptation to life in the five different ecological domains of the ancient Near East. These first of these zones is that of the great river valleys: the Tigris-Euphrates from where Abraham is said to have come and the Nile from where Moses led the slaves to freedom. The second zone is the rain-fed highlands of the land of Israel; the third the semiarid pastoral domain where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob pastured their flocks; the fourth is the desert; and the fifth the sea coast, from which Israelite merchants in the time of King Solomon plied the high seas.

Professor Hillel argues that each of these environmental domains gave rise to a distinctive kind of human society – each one with its characteristic material culture, folklore and religious beliefs and rituals. What these different cultures had in common was that the people who lived there looked to the forces of nature that appeared to be most powerful and most fateful to their lives. They tended to personify and deify these forces and to worship them. Because those forces were bafflingly

unpredictable (as were, for example, the irregular occurrences of catastrophic floods and droughts), people imagined the natural world to be a stage on which capricious gods vied with one another for supremacy. And since those gods could be either benevolent or malevolent – depending, so it seemed, on whether they were pleased or angered – shamans or priests devised elaborate rituals to curry the gods' favor and avoid their wrath. Thus there developed the pagan, or polytheistic, religions of the ancient Near East. Because the physical environments differed from each other so, too, did their respective ruling gods. Moreover, the nature gods of any one domain exercised power only in their native habitat. The gods of Egypt held no sway in Canaan; desert gods were powerless at sea. Accordingly, when people moved from one location to another, they commonly adopted the gods of their new home and jettisoned those of the place they had left behind.

Israelites Synthesized Many Elements

One small tribe, the Israelites, experienced life in all five zones. Having traversed and sojourned in all the region's disparate ecological habitats, Hillel argues, the Israelites appreciated the limitations of the multiple variants of polytheism, each of which was believed to be applicable only in its particular domain. The existing religions of their neighbors no longer provided the Israelites with a plausible explanation for the larger reality that they had experienced in the different domains. So instead of adopting one of the already established religions, the Israelites were able to absorb elements from each of them. In so doing, they synthesized a new culture and a new faith, a faith that perceived the overarching unity of all creation. Their inclusive ecological experience thus conditioned them, mentally and spiritually, to combine the separate deified "forces of nature" into an overall "Force of Nature" and thus to coalesce the multiple gods of polytheism into a single God.

continued on page 3

LOSS OF TEMPLE, EXILE SOLIDIFIED MONOTHEISM . . . from page 2

Of course, this transformation did not occur overnight. It's not as if some extraordinary religious genius conceived of monotheism in a sudden flash of enlightenment.

And even if such a person did exist, he or she would never have been able to foist a new religion on a reluctant people. Indeed, the Bible records that for several centuries the people vacillated between monotheism and a belief in many contending gods, with a middle position that seems to have believed in a principal god, with other gods playing minor or subservient roles. There must have been many in ancient Israel who wondered whether the divine warrior who had brought them victory over the Amelekites and other desert tribes could also fertilize their crops and bring the rains in their due seasons.

Israelites Took God with Them

It took a traumatic event – the destruction of the First Temple and the exile from Jerusalem in the sixth century BCE – to make monotheism stick. The twin misfortunes of destruction and exile could easily have led our ancestors to the total abandonment of their faith in the God of Israel and therefore to the dissolution of Judaic culture and nationhood. This is exactly what had happened to the Israelites from the northern kingdom who had been expelled from Samaria by the Assyrians more than a century earlier. But rather than call for the adoption of the new local gods, prophets like Jeremiah and Ezekiel taught that the God of Israel was not confined to one domain or function, but present everywhere as the creator and ruler of the entire universe and the supervisor of all human affairs. The God whom they had worshipped in Jerusalem ruled in Babylon as well. Indeed, their very exile was part of God's overall plan to use Israel as an exemplar and messenger to all other nations. Thus was born the notion of particular monotheism, a God initially associated with one special nation, a nation chosen to serve as the harbinger to all humanity. In the future, Israel's prophets predicted, all the other nations of the

world would come to acknowledge and worship the same one-and-only true God.

Professor Hillel argues that the idea that a single God created the entire universe and continues to direct everything in it has had enormous implications for the development of humanity. Monotheism implies that all nature is continuous, integrated, and consistent. The insight that all the phenomena in nature are essentially interconnected and operate under a single guiding principle is also the fundamental tenet – indeed, the precondition – of modern science. Moreover, the religion of Israel taught that God created the universe at a particular moment, with an ultimate purpose toward which it is progressing. Physical time had a beginning, and it was given direction, just as an arrow is thrust from a bow and given a trajectory. This endowed the concept of history with a special meaning. Human history therefore has a clear aim: to move toward an eventual age of universal redemption for all nations. This concept, again, was in stark contrast with the pagan notion of directionless, endlessly repeating historical cycles.

Relevant to Pesach Preparation

Professor Hillel's book is especially relevant as we prepare for Pesach, the festival that marks our migration from the Nile river valley to the desert of Sinai and ultimately to the land of Israel. Paralleling this geographic movement, is our transition from slavery to freedom to peoplehood. May the celebration of the greatest event in our collective past inspire us to continue our efforts to perfect the world. And in so doing may we all have a sweet and fitting Pesach.

GETTING READY FOR PESACH?

Please check out the **Sisterhood Gift Shop!**

Call Alyce Strasser
(after 10:30 a.m., please) to arrange
for an appointment to see the wonderful
assortment of desirable Pesach items.

SISTERHOOD SAYS . . .

by Irene Spector

The show went on! The "Cabaret" performance played to a good size audience who braved the blizzard to cheer the stars - the Silverstein family. Those of us who were unable to get to Greenbelt vowed to get to the movie version whenever it is shown at Mishkan Torah. Please . . . we hated having to miss it . . . please consider this idea . . . it would make so many people happy. Our thoughts, prayers and well-wishes are with Mark and his supportive family and friends.

On February 21 we will have gone through our "Laughter Yoga" program and will have improved our muscles and our laughter-ability. We thank Eva Garin for all her work in putting this program together.

Sunday, March 14 at 4 p.m. – Sisterhood Seder.

Fran Hakim and many volunteers are already hard at work planning what will surely be a most delicious afternoon and evening. Many volunteers will be needed so call Fran and offer your help. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of what promises to be the very special program it has always been.

Saturday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. - Senior Theater

presents *Here's Julius - Groucho Marx, One Man Show*. Light refreshments will be served. Come and join us for what will surely be an interesting event.

Sunday, April 18 at 2 p.m. - Greenbelt Arts

Center: Premiere of Nicole Burton's play *Fred and Frieda*.

Saturday, May 1 - after Shabbat - Jewelry Sale

set-up. Call Eva Choper at 301 474-3766 to offer your assistance.

Sunday, May 2 - Seventh Annual Vintage

Jewelry Sale. Call Eva for details and to offer to help.

Thursday, May 27 at 7 p.m. - Ice Cream Social,

featuring healthy fresh fruit drinks. Elections will be held along with a program TBA.

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 later.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

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

Catering: Alyce Strasser, our catering maven, 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 choose from a beautiful selection of jewelry, ceramics, glassware, and ritual objects for any special occasion. Come and see the display of Passover items now in the showcases.

RHYME TIME

Our schedule was filled up
with things we could do;
Then along came the blizzards
and our plans went askew.
Father Winter, we have truly seen
your strong clout
Then the plow blocked our driveway
and we could not get out.
The snow was so sparkling,
pretty snowflakes and fluff.
But, please, Dear Mother Nature ,
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!!

SCRIP BENEFITS SYNAGOGUE

Scrip for Giant, Greenbelt Coop, Shalom, and Kosher Mart may be purchased by contacting Ronnie Scotkin by phone or by e-mail (See Directory)
Mishkan Torah receives 3% to 5% back from each purchase.

CHESAPEAKE JRF HONOREE NADINE WOBUS REFLECTS ON HER LIFE



I was born in Boston in 1952. I contracted Polio at age 3, and learned how to walk with braces and crutches at Boston Children's Hospital. My parents did PT with me daily and told me there was nothing I could not do. I went to regular public school, but went away to

summer camp for handicapped children. I was always singing, and started studying piano at age 7. I attended Hebrew school in our Conservative synagogue through confirmation and was active in junior congregation. When I was 15, we moved to New Jersey. I became active in BBG. I was very active in high school, too - singing in talent shows, choir, and musical theater and cheering in the pep squad. I tied for valedictorian - at graduation I gave a short speech and sang "You'll Never Walk Alone".

I started singing professionally while attending Hofstra University, majoring in English and Music. I was active in a group called PUSH - People United in Support of the Handicapped, "pushing" to make the university more accessible. I graduated with honors and sang "God Bless the Child" at the ceremony. While going to auditions in New York City and working part-time as a singer-pianist, I found that audiences loved me, but agents would not represent a female singer with a disability. I moved on to graduate studies in music therapy at the University of Miami, working part-time as a piano teacher and graduate assistant to the Jazz Vocal professor. I participated in the Chaver program at the Hillel, visiting an elderly woman living alone in Miami Beach. At the end of 1978, I became music therapist for 3 special education centers in the PG County Schools and

performed on weekends.

Searching for a synagogue, I stepped into Mishkan Torah on a Friday evening in August, 1979, and immediately felt at home. I began leading Friday night services with Diane Kritter. I joined the Sisterhood, and ended up serving on the board.

In 1982 I got married, and in 1983 we bought a house in Bowie. I left the school system and opened my private practice in 1984. I did contractual work as a music therapist in many different places and continued performing. My husband and I adopted an adorable red-headed girl named Nicki in 1988. I was Hebrew school music teacher, first at Temple Solel, then at Mishkan Torah when my daughter, Nicole, was enrolled.

Weakness due to Post-Polio forced me to cut back on my professional singing, but I found singing in the Mishkan Torah choir very therapeutic. I have been active on the social action committee as co-chair of the Chesed Committee. Last year I debuted my solo CD, "Positively" at Café Tzedakah at Mishkan Torah, raising money for Fidos for Freedom, an organization which trains service dogs for people with disabilities.

Personal Statement

I thank my dear friends at Mishkan Torah for nominating me for this honor. Mishkan Torah is like a big family. We support each other in times of crisis and celebrate enthusiastically all the milestones. If there is a job to do, big or small, we step up and do it - repairing the building, making it more accessible, putting on a show to raise funds, cooking for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, collecting food and clothing for someone in need. I am a "worker bee" and each bee is as important to the survival of the congregation as the "queen". So on behalf of my fellow "worker bees" I humbly accept this honor. I thank my family for all their love and support, especially my husband, Dick, who makes all things possible.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

5 Erev Shabbat Family Services		7:30 p.m.
6 Shabbat Parah: Parshat Ki Tisa		9:30 a.m.
12 Erev Shabbat		8 p.m.
13 Shabbat HaChodesh: Parshat Vayakhel-Pekude		9:30 a.m.
19 Erev Shabbat Services		8 p.m.
20 Shabbat Vayikra		9:30 a.m.
26 Erev Shabbat Services		8 p.m.
27 Shabbat HaGadol: Parshat Tzav		9:30 a.m.
29 First Pesach Seder		
30 First Day Pesach: Full Service (Second Seder)		9:30 a.m.
31 Second Day Pesach: Abbreviated Service		10 a.m.



MARCH YAHRZEITS

March 5

Richard M. Rosen*
 Samuel Pearlman
 Jacob P. Goldstein*
 Alfred Skolnik*
 Charles Shapiro*
 Louis Gurman*
 Larry Epstein*
 Sophie Wodak*
 Joseph Moses Juran
 Nathan Weiss
 Abe Kalfus
 Yale Williams
 Lillian Chernikoff*

Benjamin Rosenzweig*

Tillie Rubin
 Harry Goldberg
 Joseph Steinman*
 Lillian Shachat
 Benjamin Crupain*

March 12

Martha Shapiro*
 Herman Cohen
 Bernard Norvid*
 Milly Jenkin*
 Joseph Strassler
 Sylvia Penn*
 Julia Schmilchuk

Hilda Granite*

Golde B. Karp*
 Marcia Krasnick*
 Sidney Migdal
 Rubin L. Hirsch*
 Ethel Fisher
 Rebecca Gerson*
 Martin Wendell*
 Merle Kling

March 19

Richard Bruce Axelrod*
 Sylvia Schnek
 Raymond Brodsky
 Henry Cope

March 26

Rose Marcus Tuckman*
 Genia Froimovna
 Rabinovich
 Irving Weiss*
 Mollie Schlosser
 Irving Levine
 Elaine Braverman*
 Bessie Noon*
 Jacob Wodak*
 Benjamin Kline
 Gert Spevack
 Marcella Levine
 Claire Leven
 Helene T. Ponemon

APRIL PREVIEW

2 Erev Shabbat Family Services		7:30 p.m.
3 Shabbat Chol HaMoed Pesach		9:30 a.m.
5 Seventh Day Pesach: Abbreviated Service		10 a.m.
6 Eighth Day Pesach: Full Service; Yizkor Recited		9:30 a.m.
9 Erev Shabbat Services		8 p.m.
10 Shabbat Shemini		9:30 a.m.
11 Yom HaShoah		
16 Erev Shabbat Services		8 p.m.
17 Shabbat Tazria-Metzora		9:30 a.m.
18 Yom HaZikaron		
19 Yom HaAtzamaut		



WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS

Yahrzeits

Mona Baumgarten for Sarah Perkal Baumgarten

Susan Bregman for Ralph Bregman

Gladys Chasnoff for Mollie Kramer

Steven Davidson for Miriam Davidson

Sonia Garin for Robert Garin

Joel, Marsha, Brett, & Adam Goldberger for

David Goldberger

Alan, Marsha, Adam, Michael, & Leah Goldfine
for Hyman Goldfine

Ethel Harris & Joel Cohen for Aveve Cohen

Stuart & Marcie Kramer for Lena Kramer

Dan & Madeline Lowery for Paul Awrich

Seymour Oresky for Estelle Oresky & Samuel
Oresky

Suzie Parks for Benton Parks

Harriet B. Schwartz for Sam Brown

Steve & Linda Shevitz for Dorothy Bloom
Pollack

Stanley Stern & Judy Gallant for Sylvia Stern &
Martha Gallant

Joseph & Marlene Stregack for Ruth Stregack

Irv Wartell for Martin Wartell

Sustaining Fund

Fran Sanders in honor of Pearl Siegel's birthday
in memory of Pearl's mother and Fran's
friend, Bessie Gold

Torah Fund

Carl & Rebecca Hirsch in memory of Lorraine
Siegel

Marc Spevack Fund

Fran Sanders in honor of Linda Spevack's 70th
birthday

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Stuart & Marcie Kramer

Carl & Rebecca Hirsch imo Anna G. Hirsch

THANKS

I wish to thank everyone from Mishkan Torah for their expressions of sympathy and condolences to me with the recent passing of my father, Joseph Charney. It is always difficult to lose a loved one and so your cards and donations in my dad's memory have been a great source of comfort to me during this time. – *David Charney*

JEWELRY DONATIONS NEEDED

by Jordan & Eva Choper

As was mentioned in last month's issue of the Trumpet, we need donations of antique or costume jewelry.

Last year's sale was very successful and as a result our stock of jewelry items is comparatively small as compared to what he had at this time last year. So please look at your personal collection and see how you can 'gain more space' and donate the excess or some of the excess to our Annual Costume and Antique Jewelry Sale.

Remember, the following volunteer dates: **April 4, and May 1 and 2.**

Sunday, April 4 is Pricing Day. We would like to have a great majority of the donated items donated before April 4th. It takes time to study and examine each item in order to know what it is that we have to sell. Therefore it is imperative that your jewelry donations be donated to us before the April 4 pricing day.

Yes we will accept donations that come to us after April 4th. but that really puts pressure on our volunteers. Pricing Day is a team effort and it is fun to do. Time of Pricing Day activities will be announced in future publicity media.

Saturday evening, May 1, will be when we will meet to physically set up the sale. Again volunteers are needed to do this. The actual sale will be May 2nd. And again, volunteers are needed to help run the sale.

To donate jewelry or volunteer to work on Pricing Day (April 4) or set up night and sale day (May 1, May 2), please contact Mishkan Torah's office or Eva Choper by phone. Please check the new Directory for her number.

CABARET 2010 GOES ON

by Alyce Strasser

Negotiations for the production of "CABARET" began back in March of 2008. Becky Silverstein was both "flattered and intrigued" but unconvinced. She finally allowed me to "very lightly pencil in" two possible dates in 2010. All would be contingent on several things, among them "her ability to still sing in two years, and whether anyone would still want to hear her sing in two years. "

Becky being Becky began thinking about the repertoire that she would be interested in doing and started to learn and practice the material. Although she wasn't committing, she got Mark to think about and practice his part of the show.

Here we are -- it's 2010. As Becky promised, she and Mark performed a wide range of material. What a fantastic evening we experienced. The only down side was the snow that covered our area that day and night preventing some of the guests from arriving.

The Show Goes On

The decision to go on with the CABARET was made when we learned that our snow date, the following weekend, was going to be just that- a snowy date - the blizzard of 2010.

Helpers scheduled and unscheduled began appearing after Saturday morning services on January 30. The word was out that the show was on. We had five short hours to get the sanctuary and side rooms set up and all the food readied by 7 p.m. as scheduled.

Time passed very quickly. Each volunteer had their work cut out for them. The clock was in view for all to see. We were not aware of the weather until we were told that the walk and steps of the synagogue were being cleared by two unidentified people. It turned out that the shovel bearers were Marc Manheimer and daughter Ariela. Annie had sent them out to clear the way. There was a job to be done and the volunteers came to work.

Some people traveled from as far away as Buffalo; others came from close-in locations like DC, Baltimore, Silver Spring and Croom.

And What a Show It Was

As for the show, Becky and Mark were wonderful. Their musical selections were exceptional. When the people on stage appear to be enjoying themselves, it carries over to the audience. The applause, cheers, and standing ovations proved that.

As for the food, it was eaten with gusto commensurate with the hours of work it took to get it all ready-- starting three weeks before the date. Hurray for the kitchen volunteers!!

Many Thanks To Lots of Folks

Many deserve recognition for their hard work on the CABARET. Unfortunately, there are so many that I can only print the names of a few key people such as: Ron Brooks for leading in tearing down the seats in the sanctuary and setting up for the CABARET; Yoni Charry our sound expert; Dave Charney who performed miracles with the piano; Annie Haber for keeping track of reservations and checks and calmly greeting all attendees; Niki Kohn for designing the sign-in Board which Becky and Mark will have as a reminder of their triumphant evening; Robin Olson who got all the help we needed in the kitchen - 33 workers for 170.5 hours; Marla Goldberg who reminded the workers to show up; my husband, Arnold, for spending more than 25 hours shopping for food and equipment and hardly ever complaining; and finally Mary Kaigler-Schaffer who went from one job to the next without missing a beat - what would I do without Mary? She's worth every cent Sisterhood pays her.

As "Producer" of CABARET, I thank all those who worked on it. The success of the evening was theirs.

How About a Standing O?

AND NOW -- a standing ovation for the SILVERSTEINS Becky and Mark, Evey, and friend Eric (the cameraman and videographer), and Lowell who unfortunately got stuck in Baltimore. Last but not least, cheers for Irwin - our surprise performer. He was as feisty as when we first met him 32 years ago.

Mishkan Torah Sisterhood

Theater Group Opportunity

My Name is Asher Lev

A play by Aaron Posner

based on a Chaim Potok novel

at the Round House Theater

in Bethesda, Maryland

Saturday Night, April 10, 2010

8 p.m. curtain

Best Orchestra Adult ticket: \$55*

Seniors (over 65): \$45

Student price: \$30

**Limited seating in the center orchestra;*

also available: side orchestra: \$45

or special priced side balcony \$30 (limited seats)

RSVP: Call or e-mail Debbie Brenner (See Directory)

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES "SNOWMAGEDDON" . . . from page 1

A "drive-by" earlier on that Friday revealed that there was no on-street parking available. The closest available cleared parking was a 2-4 block walk from the Greenbelt Public Library or Roosevelt Center. It would have been dangerous to have members walk on the street in the dark on Friday evening with black ice and reduced visibility by cars. However, these same parking limitations would be different in the light of day Saturday morning. Therefore, the Rabbi made the decision to cancel Friday night services, but hold Saturday morning services with a delayed start time of 10:00am instead of the usual 9:30am. Although many members may not have been able to attend or decided that it was not safe to travel to MT, a minyan did arrive and Shabbat services were conducted. In this case, judgment about the safety of members was used to cancel one service and delay, but not cancel another.

Cabaret: A Tough Call

This now brings us to the case of the Gala Cabaret on January 30, 2010. This event was sponsored by the Sisterhood, who, as discussed earlier, had the responsibility to decide whether to cancel. A large number of people had registered and paid for this event in advance. Food had been purchased and the meals prepared many days before the event. A significant number of out-of-town guests and musicians had already arrived in the area. The forecast was for some inches of snow (not feet).

An assessment of conditions in and around Greenbelt by the Sisterhood indicated that the weather would not be a major factor in preventing attendance. The Sisterhood made the decision to hold the gala as planned based on these factors, and more than 50% of the registered attendees were present. Of course, the conditions in other areas where members live were not the same as in Greenbelt and many people feared that their safety would be in jeopardy if they attempted to attend. In retrospect, had the event been postponed and re-scheduled for the following

weekend, the "snowmageddon" would most certainly have caused cancellation. This was definitely a complicated decision to make. But, as in each case described, the call was made by the responsible organization based on their best judgment.

Passing the Word on Closings

Decisions on canceling events are communicated via email, the listserv, the www.mishkantorahsynagogue.org website and on the answering machine for MT (301-474-4223). Religious service cancellations are also announced on WTOP (1500AM) after Rabbi Cohen contacts them. The communication is not always perfect, it may not always be expressed in the most definitive terms, but it is disseminated prior to the event.

The record series of snowstorms that we have endured so far this winter presented daunting challenges for all of us. Mishkan Torah was no exception! There are lessons to learn and ways to improve in the future, but let's be thankful that Mishkan Torah persevered, survived and now we have many exciting events to look forward to this spring!

HAITIAN RELIEF DONATIONS SOUGHT

Social Action would like to support Rabbi Cohen's recommendation that members of the congregation consider offering help to reputable aid groups who are working to provide assistance to the people of Haiti.

He has recommended three options for giving, all of which can be done online:

- <http://jrf.org/Haiti-Earthquake-Relief> (the Reconstructionist movement) or
- www.uscj.org/donate/relief (the Conservative movement) or
- https://secure.ajws.org/site/Donation2?df_id=3460&3460.donation=form1 (the American Jewish World Service.)

SOCIAL ACTION IN ACTION

By Andrea Weiss

The Social Action Committee is sponsoring a spring Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, March 21, from 12 to 4 p.m. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 1-800-GIVELIFE or Andrea Weiss. However, walk-ins are also welcome.

The committee continues to encourage members to bring nonperishable food items and toiletries to the box in the coatroom to be distributed to the needy of Greenbelt.

Another way to contribute is to order scrip

from the local grocers through Ronnie Scotkin to be donated to Greenbelt Cares.

Clothing Still Needed

And, as demonstrated so well by the mounds of snow still outside, winter continues and with it the need for warm clothing for the children at Springhill Lake Elementary School. The children need gloves, coats, and hats (new or washed in hot water.) There is a box in the coatroom for these donations.

Recycle Life.



Bottles and magazines aren't the only things you can recycle. When you donate blood through the American Red Cross, it's like donating a part of yourself. Please make an appointment today.



**American
Red Cross**

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.

1-800-GIVE-LIFE | my-redcross.org



Mishkan Torah Blood Drive

Sunday, March 21st, 2010

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

10 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt MD

Please call the synagogue at 301-474-4223
to schedule your life-saving donation!

Hail to the Chiefs

A Celebration Honoring our Past Presidents

Ben Rosenzweig, Ben Goodman, Sam Bogan, Manny Mohl,
 Ben Herman, Elliott Bukzin, David Fisher, Abe Chasnoff,
 Nat Shinderman, Harry Weinberg, Morris Steinman, Sam Schwimer,
 Robert Garin, Herb Sachs, Zev Hendel, **Ralph Mollerick, David Stern,**
Stan Forster, Joe Stregack, **David Spevack, Arnold Strasser,**
 Murray Shapiro, Diane Krittr, **Mark Silverstein, David Herschler,**
Linda Spevack, Gary Kohn, Robert Goldberg-Strassler,
 Rachel Goldfarb, **Paul Architzel, Jordan Choper, Tony Krittr**

Join us at Mishkan Torah on April 25 at 5 p.m.

for a memorable evening featuring

Dinner, Music, Tributes & Respectful Humor

This premier 2010 Ways & Means event promises to exceed your high entertainment expectations with entertainment from our amazingly talented congregation.

*Presidents attending listed in **bold**

Names: _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Attending: _____ @ \$40 per person * \$ _____

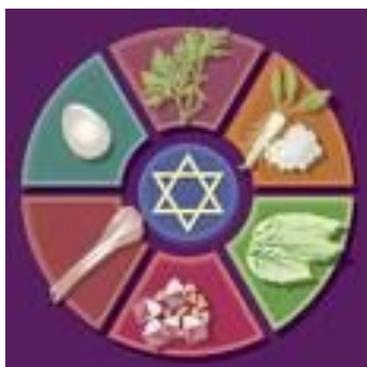
Meal Choices: _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian (Portabello Mushroom)

- I/we would like to make an additional donation in the presidents' honor
- I/we are unable to attend but would like to make a donation in their honor

Please check the appropriate category: \$18 (Patron) \$36 (Supporter)
 \$54 (Advisor) \$72 (Cabinet) \$100+ (Inner Circle) \$ _____

Total enclosed (checks made payable to Mishkan Torah) \$ _____

*Donations (including program book names) and \$20 of each admission are tax deductible.



Mishkan Torah Sisterhood
invites you to join us
for our 5th

פֶּסַח סֵדֶר

Sisterhood Seder 2010



Sunday, March 14, 2010 @ 4:00 PM

Back by popular demand - our Passover Seder
will be multi-traditional and music enhanced!

Taste a variety of *charoset*, place Miriam's cup next to
Elijah's cup, and enjoy wonderful *haimish* company!

RSVP required ~ Limited seating available ~ Strictly, no walk-ins

***** RESERVATION DEADLINE: Monday, March 1st *****

Send form below to Mishkan Torah or call Annie Haber (See Directory)

tear here

tear here



Name: _____	# of adults _____	By March 1st @ \$36 = _____	After March 1st @ \$45 = _____
-	# of teens _____	@ \$20 = _____	@ \$25 = _____
	(13 – 18 yrs)		
Main Course preference (specify number)	# of children _____	@ \$15 = _____	@ \$20 = _____
# vegetarian _____ # meat _____	(6 – 12 yrs)		
	# under 5 yrs _____	Free	Free
	TOTAL:	\$ _____	\$ _____

Make checks payable to Mishkan Torah Sisterhood, 10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Mailor drop the check to the MT office or give your check to Annie Haber.
For more information, call Debbie Brenner (See Directory)

WAYS & MEANS SETS PROMOTES "FUN" DRAISING

by Dan Lowery



March is a very busy month for us! Please see the flyer (on page 12) for the "Hail to the Chiefs" dinner in April. I think all will be amazed at the quality of this show! We're pulling out all stops for this one, folks.

In addition to sending in the reservation form from the flyer, you can go to the Mishkan Torah web site at www.mishkantorah.org and click the "Reserve Now" button. It will send an e-mail with your reservation. It is as safe as any e-mail function. And you can do it now. Then you can send your check (marked "Hail to the Chiefs") between now and April 25.

We're also selling Passover wine. If your order is in by March 19, it will be ready March 28 (the Sunday before Passover). If you miss this deadline, come by on the 28th anyway (we'll order some extras, but no promises on availability). See our flyer on page 15.

Our next Coffee Klatch is on March 21. Come enjoy a bagel before Passover!

DISTINGUISHED LINE-UP OF PAST-PRESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE

by Phyllis Oresky

So, what do Tony Kritt, Linda Spevack, Ralph Mollerick, Gary Kohn and David Herschler have in common? They are among the impressive list of Past Presidents of Mishkan Torah. Serving as President is a hugely difficult task, one that requires a great deal of patience, humor, willingness to serve others and fortitude.

One puts in tremendous hours to achieve the goal of trying to keep our beloved synagogue in working order, while leading the members of the Board for the betterment of Mishkan Torah.

Being president of a synagogue can be a thankless task. Here is our opportunity to thank these Presidents! Please join us on

Sunday, April 25 for a delicious dinner and marvelous program. The following Past Presidents will be able to join us on April 25:

Ralph Mollerick	David Stern
Stan Forster	David Spevack
Arnold Strasser	Mark Silverstein
David Herschler	Linda Spevack
Robert Goldberg-Strassler	Gary Kohn
Paul Architzel	Jordan Choper
Tony Kritt	

Please come out and support our Past-Presidents, and help us show them how much we have appreciated all of the time and effort they put in during their years in office to keep our synagogue vital.

PESACH SERVICES SCHEDULE

- ✧ First day of Pesach Tuesday, March 30: 9:30 a.m. -- full service
- ✧ Second day of Pesach Wednesday, March 31: 10:00 a.m. -- abbreviated service (no introductory services or musaf; Torah reading if there's a minyan)
- ✧ Erev Shabbat Friday April 2: 7:30 p.m. -- Friday evening family service led by Bret Goldstein (it's the first Friday in April)
- ✧ Shabbat morning April 3: 9:30 Shabbat services with additions for the festival
- ✧ Seventh day of Pesach Monday April 5: 10:00 a.m. -- abbreviated service (no introductory services or musaf; Torah reading if there's a minyan)
- ✧ Eighth day of Pesach Tuesday April 6: 9:30 a.m. -- full service with yizkor

KETER SHEM TOV TO RECOGNIZE IRENE & SID SPECTOR

by Janet Davis

Keter shem tov means the crown of a good name. Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai said: "There are three crowns: the crown of Torah, the crown of priesthood, and the crown of royalty, but the crown of a good name is above them all." (*Pirkei Avot* 4:13) Please join us on Saturday, May 15, 2010, as we honor Sid and Irene Spector with the *Keter Shem Tov* Award. It is fitting that we honor them with this special award because their good names are closely linked with Mishkan Torah.

Those of us lucky enough to know the Spectors in recent years have seen them helping with and attending many Sisterhood and Mishkan Torah events. We've also enjoyed reading Irene's monthly column in the Trumpet. But many of us may not know that the Spectors' connections and contributions to Mishkan Torah started many years ago--before there even was a Mishkan Torah.

"Love at First Sight"

Irene and Sid first met in January 1943, when one of Irene's wartime roommates in Washington suggested they go to dinner at a place with cheap food and "lots of nice Jewish young men." Sid and his roommate joined Irene's table and, as Irene puts it "that was it!" They were married that August, two days before Sid left for the West Coast and war. After World War II ended, Sid returned home and the Spectors moved to Greenbelt in January 1946. Greenbelt was a small town then, with about 3,000 residents. There was no synagogue, so Jewish services and all other events were held in the Center School. Irene still remembers a Purim costume party at Center School when Sid in devil costume won first prize and Irene in angel costume lost out to a belly dancer!

Mishkan Torah Gets a Home

There were good times at that location, but the growing Jewish families in Greenbelt felt that they needed a Jewish Community Center rather than just continuing to meet at the Center School. They decided to purchase a property that had become available and to begin work on



Keter Shem Tov Honorees Irene and Sid Spector flank Sisterhood president Diane Tuckman, a former honoree.

"our center," the J.C.C. of Prince George's County. By the time the building was actually started, Sid had been recalled to active duty (reserves) for the Korean War. Luckily, he was stationed in Southern Maryland. Whenever he could get home and had some free time, he spent it working on the building. This was a major undertaking for all involved. As Irene describes it, "fathers, bare to the waist, working on the roof and walls, the younger generation mixing cement and hauling cinder blocks and bricks, and the mothers bringing lemonade and coffee for the workers." The Spectors' very young daughter Ellen also contributed her share to the effort. And Irene's dad built the first lectern for the *bimah* and a matching stand for *yarmulkes* that is still in use in the Mishkan Torah lobby.

Irene and Sid moved from Greenbelt in 1955 and found a synagogue closer to their new home so their four children could go to Hebrew and Sunday school. But their hearts were always with the J.C.C. in Greenbelt (now called Mishkan Torah). After the Spector children grew up and left home, Irene and Sid longed for "the warmth and haimish feeling of belonging to something very special, something we had helped to build." So back they came in 1980, to their joy and ours.

Continued on page 16

SPECTORS TO RECEIVE KETER SHEM TOV HONORS . . . from page 15

In the years since then, both Sid and Irene have been visible and active presences at Mishkan Torah. They are stalwarts in the Mishkan Torah kitchen, logging over 300 hours. Sisterhood is a major force in Mishkan Torah life. And Irene and Sid have been a major force in Sisterhood. They actively support the myriad Sisterhood activities. If something is happening, if help is needed, the Sectors are there. (Personally, I'll never forget Sid and I trying to figure out what in the world some unusual rummage sale "donations" could possibly be.) Irene has been a fixture on the Sisterhood Board for many, many years. And her warm style and light poems in the Sisterhood column in the Trumpet inform and amuse us every month.

Most of all, Sid and Irene have brightened our world. We smile when they give us "I've hugged a clown today" stickers and love hearing about their experiences as clowns. We enjoy spending time with them, learning about their

family and lives. It is telling that, when I asked what they consider their proudest accomplishment, they responded "the lasting friendships made at Mishkan Torah."

Sectors Honor Mishkan Torah

It is not the place that honors the people, but the people that honor the place. Through their work and support, Irene and Sid Spector have honored and continue to honor Mishkan Torah. Let's show them how much they mean to us. The service will be beautiful. Sisterhood will provide delicious catering. (And, for once, the Sectors won't be in the kitchen!) Look for the flyer elsewhere in this Trumpet and make your reservations early. In addition, if you have a story about the Sectors you would like to share with us in the Program Book, please send it to Arlene Gottlieb at gotmil@starpower.net. May 15th will be truly special as we honor Sid and Irene Spector—founders of Mishkan Torah and a very special couple.

PESACH IS COMING! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

- ✧ Shop early for Pesach food; in some areas, the supply is more limited than in others.
- ✧ Clean your home as thoroughly as you feel is appropriate for your observance. And you thought that "spring Cleaning" was merely a secular task.
- ✧ Sell your *chametz* so that a non-Jew will own it during the course of the holiday. The rabbi will be happy to serve as your proxy. Simply complete the form below and return it by the date indicated.
- ✧ Search your home for *chametz* on March 28 and burn it the next morning.

SALE OF CHAMETZ FORM

I, _____, hereby authorize Rabbi Jonathan Cohen to act as my Shaliach (representative) and empower him, or any agent operating on his behalf, to sell all *chametz* owned by me, or in which I have a share, whether it is in my possession, being shipped to me, or stored elsewhere, as of 10 a.m. March 29, 2010.

To be valid, this contract must be received by 8 a.m. on Monday, March 29, 2010.

You may fax this form to (301) 474-7210.

Mishkan Torah Presents the
9th Annual Keter Shem Tov Day
honoring founding members



Sid & Irene Spector

Please Join Us On
Saturday, May 15, 2010

9:30 am

Hug 2 Clowns Today!



Luncheon Immediately Following Services

Please fill in this form and return with your Luncheon Reservation by May 1, 2010.

Names* _____ Phone# _____

Attending _____ adults @ \$25 _____ children under 13 @ \$12.50 \$ _____

I/We'd like to make an additional donation in their honor. \$ _____

I/We are unable to attend but would like to make a donation in their honor. \$ _____

Checks payable to Mishkan Torah TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

*List names the way you want them to appear in the Program Book on the Donors and/or Attendees Page.

RECONSTRUCTIONIST NEWS

CELEBRATION COMING

Every year area Reconstructionist groups choose people to honor who have given of themselves over the years. This year Mishkan Torah has picked Nadine Wobus to honor at the Chesapeake Region Jewish Reconstructionist Federation's Annual Celebration, to be held on Sunday, March 21 at 4 p.m. at Oseh Shalom Synagogue in Laurel.

Included in this year's celebration is a light dinner and entertainment by the *a cappella* choir from the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. This program is the one fundraiser JRF holds all year, in order to continue to plan excellent programs for and network with the local Reconstructionist congregations. Invitations recently went out for this program, but if you would like to register electronically, there is a link on the JRF website: www.jrf.org.

Nadine was asked to write a bio to be included in a booklet of the honorees, and you will find it on page 5.

TRAVELING SCHOLAR WEEKEND

On April 16-18, we will study Israel and the Environment at a minimum of three area synagogues. For information about *Aravah*, take a look at the website at www.aravah.org.

SAME WEEKEND FOR TEEN KALLAH

The North American No'ar Hadash Teen Kallah will be held April 16-18 in Washington, D. C. The cost of the weekend is \$300 for registrations posted by March 27. For more information & forms, visit www.noarhadash.org.

CAMP JRF REGISTRATION

Camp JRF, rated one of the top ten Jewish camps in the United States, is currently accepting registrations for the 2010 summer season, and is filling fast. This year camp is set to begin on June 30. Check out the camp at: www.campjrf.org.

CALIFORNIA CONVENTION

November 11-14 in Newport Beach, CA. For information, visit the website jrf.org/convention2010.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE NEWS

USY OFFERS TWO NEW SUMMER PROGRAMS

Your teen can explore some of North America's most spectacular natural wonders, from Mount Rainier in Washington State and Alberta's Banff and Lake Louise to the glaciers of Alaska. Capture the excitement of Seattle and the uniqueness of Vancouver in a four-week adventure on USY on Wheels, Pacific Northwest. Or spend five weeks getting an introduction to the land of Israel, living history in Jerusalem, traveling through Haifa, hiking the Galilee, snorkeling in Eilat, and exploring the Negev.

For more information, call 212-533-7800, ext. 1145 or go to www.usy.org/escape/.

USY LOVE CONNECTION

Project Reconnect is looking for couples who met in United Synagogue Youth. Send your stories to usyconvention@gmail.com. We'd love to know your names, the years you were in USY, your home region, and the story of how you met. Pictures would be great too!

HAZAK GOES TO CAMP

Hazak, our organization for senior adults, will hold Camp Hazak, its 7th annual summer retreat, at the Block and Hexter Vacation Center in Poyntelle, PA, from June 30 to July 7. The retreat will feature lecturers, exercise programs, swimming in the heated pool, lakefront activities, arts and crafts, and nightly entertainment.

Block and Hexter is set up for older people. All the buildings have ramps and are accessible to people using walkers or canes. All rooms are air-conditioned and have private bathrooms with showers. Amenities in all rooms include twin beds with full box springs and mattresses and daily housekeeping.

Space is limited, so please register early. If you have any questions about the facility or rooms, call the Block and Hexter office at 800-400-1924. For more information about the Hazak retreat, call Jo-Anne Tucker-Zemlak at 301-230-0801 or email her at zemlak@uscj.org

Come support fellow Sisterhood member Nicole Burton & join Mishkan Torah Sisterhood for a performance of her new play



Fred & Frieda

Sunday, April 18 (2 p.m.)
at the Greenbelt Arts Center,
123 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD.

Frieda insisted she was a refugee, not a survivor. After fifty years, she's finally ready to tell her son Michael what happened but realizes she can't remember. Haunted yet determined, Frieda calls on Fred to describe the day "Black Angels" liberated Ohrdruf concentration camp.

A fictional play that celebrates the transforming power
of memory and storytelling.

Fred & Frieda has been called "poignant" and "deeply moving."

A short discussion with Nicole Burton and Special Guests Ruth Horlick and Lotte Doloff, who escaped Nazi Germany as teenagers, will follow the performance.

Tickets: \$12 Students & Seniors

\$15 General Admission

Tickets can be reserved at 301-441-8770

Seniors Theatre presents

HERE'S JULIUS! A GROUCHO MARX STORY



Saturday, April 17 (7:30 p.m.)
At Mishkan Torah

For more than fifty years Groucho was a major force
in the entertainment business.
With and without his brothers he starred in vaudeville,
radio, movies and television.
This one-person play illuminates the private life
of this most public celebrity.

Approximate running time – 45 minutes to 1 hour
Q & A with actor following production
Light refreshments will be served

Please note...Tickets will be \$5

Send to Mishkan Torah Sisterhood, care of Annie Haber

Please RSVP to Niki Kohn (See Directory)

Mishkan Torah

Passover Wine Sale



Selections include:
Yarden Mount Hermon
LanZur Merlot
LanZur Chardonnay
Herzog Black Muscat
Herzog Vouvray
S'forno Pinot Grigio
Bartenura Moscato
and a zinfandel



Please support Mishkan Torah in making your Passover wine purchases!

Order by March 21, 2010
For more information and prices
phone or e-mail Dan Lowery.
(See Directory)



Orders may be picked up at Mishkan Torah
Sunday, March 28
10 a.m. – noon.

L'Chaim!!



LOOK FOR THESE ITEMS INSIDE:

- **MY NAME IS ASHER LEV – A SISTERHOOD THEATER GROUP OUTING – PAGE 9.**
- **MISHKAN TORAH BLOOD DRIVE – PAGE 11**
- **HAIL TO THE CHIEFS DINNER RESERVATION & PLEDGE FORM PAGE 12**
- **SISTERHOOD SEDER DINNER RESERVATION FORM – PAGE 13**
- **SALE OF CHAMETZ CONTRACT FORM – PAGE 16**
- **KETER SHEM TOV LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM – PAGE 17**
- **FRED & FRIEDA BY NICOLE BURTON AT THE GREENBELT ARTS CENTER – PAGE 19**
- **HERE'S JULIUS! A GROUCHO MARX STORY PRESENTATION BY SENIORS THEATRE – PAGE 20**
- **PESACH WINE SALE LIST & ORDERING INFORMATION – PAGE 21**

The *Trumpet* is published by
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301-474-4223
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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 of each month unless announced otherwise.

**MISHKAN TORAH SYNAGOGUE
10 RIDGE ROAD
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