

INSIDE THE TRUMPET

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Published by Mishkan Torah Synagogue, Greenbelt, Maryland

December 2009

WILL THAT BE PAPER OR E-MAIL?

by Steven Mirsky

Dear friends,

First, I'd like to give some special recognition to the following people:

- The Religious Committee for their outstanding work for the High Holidays. Given the added complexity of our first time open seating and the integration of new and old seats, a daunting job, well done!
- Nadine Wobus for identifying, checking out, and arranging for the delivery of our almost new Yamaha piano (ours for only the cost of delivery); Dave Charney for his expert piano tuning; and Sheila Lemus for arranging for the new wheels for the piano. You will notice the difference at our next musical event!
- Mark Loewenstein for our newly revitalized web page. Mark has improved on the content, readability, and timeliness of our site. See it for yourselves at www.mishkantorahsynagogue.org. There is also a direct link from our original site www.mishkantorah.org. Not only are the monthly *Trumpets* posted as before, but so are wonderful photographs and valuable information for both members and prospective members.
- Jordan Choper for having the foresight to secure the original website; to Josh Stern for developing the original site (his bar mitzvah project), and to Stephen Weiss for maintaining our original site all these years.

This brings me to the title of this article. Many organizations commonly send out their publications, newsletters, and other documents to their members electronically. We can now easily send the *Trumpet* out to our members electronically, saving printing and postage. The financial secretary has sent a request for members to agree to electronic transmittal of account statements (not tax statements) this month.

Financial Impact

Let's look at the environmental and financial impacts of electronic delivery of the *Trumpet* as compared to continued mailing. Mishkan Torah uses approximately 15,000 sheets of paper to print the 12 monthly *Trumpets* for mailing to our members. The annual cost for printing the *Trumpet* is about \$2,100. The postage for mailing is about \$900. Thus, it costs MT about \$3,000 per year to print and mail the *Trumpet*! The cost for e-mail delivery would be \$0!

Environmental Impact

What is the environmental cost for printing the *Trumpet* on paper rather than electronic delivery? The 15,000 sheets of paper, equivalent to 30 reams of paper, require the wood of two trees per year!

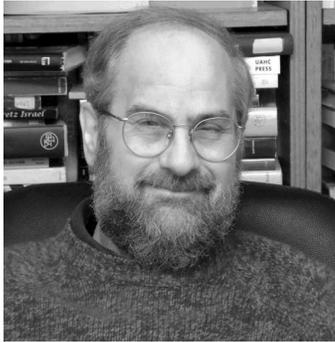
Continued on page 5

SAVE THE DATE

Founding members of Mishkan Torah, Sid and Irene Spector, will be honored at Shabbat morning services on May 15, 2010, as recipients of this year's Keter Shem Tov.

WHO IS A JEW IN BRITAIN? QUESTION COULD REST IN CIVIL COURT!

by Rabbi Jonathan Cohen



Perhaps it's because I am the parent of a Jewish day school student or because I am passionate about liberal Judaism, that my interest was piqued by an article that appeared

recently in the *New York Times*. The article is about a case that was decided in a British courtroom concerning a 12-year-old boy, an observant Jew whose father is a Jew by birth and whose mother is a convert to Judaism. The family sought to have their son admitted to a Jewish day school, JFS. Founded in 1732 as the Jews' Free School, it is a centerpiece of North London's Jewish community. It has around 1,900 students, but it gets far more applicants than it accepts.

Britain has nearly 7,000 publicly financed religious schools, representing Judaism as well as the Church of England, Catholicism and Islam, among others. Under a 2006 law, the schools are permitted to give preference to applicants from their own faiths, using criteria laid down by a designated religious authority. By many standards, the JFS applicant, identified in court papers as "M," is Jewish. But not in the eyes of the school, which defines Judaism under the Orthodox definition set out by Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth. Because M's mother converted in a *Masorti* (that is, Conservative) not an Orthodox, synagogue, the school said, she was not a Jew – nor was her son. Accordingly, it turned down his application. That would have been the end of it. But M's family sued, saying that the school had discriminated against him. They lost, but the ruling was overturned by the Court of Appeal this summer. JFS and the United Hebrew Congregations have announced that they will appeal to the Supreme Court.

As you can well imagine, the court's ruling has stirred up a veritable hornets' nest of controversy in the Anglo-Jewish community – some of it more informed than others. Thus, for example, Lauren Lesin-Davis, chairwoman of the board of governors at King David, a Jewish school in Liverpool, told the BBC that the ruling violated more than 5,000 years of Jewish tradition. Now, whatever you may think of the merits of recognizing patrilineal descent (that is, that you can be Jewish if only your father is Jewish) or whether you recognize the validity of non-Orthodox conversions, the good lady is wrong on her facts. As the Hebrew Bible attests, for much of Jewish history it was the father's identity that determined whether or not you were a Jew. The genealogies in *Genesis* and elsewhere take this for granted. So, too, do the various census lists in the *Book of Numbers*.

It was only in the violence and confusion that followed the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans, that the early Rabbis altered the situation to define as Jewish a person whose mother was Jewish. (This is a painful reminder of the large number of Jewish women who were raped by Roman soldiers.) Nonetheless, Rabbinic law preserves vestiges of the older tradition. For example, the status of Kohein or Levi is passed down through the father's line. Moreover, the most important parental duty – the responsibility to teach the child Torah – still rests with the father.

Although I feel that the court was justified in ordering the school to admit the boy, I disagree with the grounds on which it based its ruling. According to the story in the *Times*, the case rested on whether the school's test of Jewishness was based on religion, which would be legal, or on race or ethnicity, which would not. The court ruled that it was an ethnic test because it concerned the status of M's mother rather than whether he considered himself Jewish and practiced Judaism. "The requirement that if a pupil is to qualify for admission his mother must

continued on page 3

WHO MAY ATTEND A JEWISH DAY SCHOOL IN BRITAIN? ... from page 2

be Jewish, whether by descent or conversion, is a test of ethnicity which contravenes the Race Relations Act," the court said. It added that while it was fair that Jewish schools should give preference to Jewish children, the admissions criteria must depend not on family ties, but "on faith, however defined." The same reasoning, the court added, would apply to a Christian school that "refused to admit a child on the ground that, albeit practicing Christians, the child's family were of Jewish origin."

Reconstructionist Point of View?

Writing in the *Jerusalem Post*, Rabbi Shmuley Boteach points out the inapplicability of this comparison. We Jews, Boteach argues (sounding a lot like Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of Reconstructionism), are first and foremost a people and only secondarily a faith. We were the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob long before we received the Torah at Mount Sinai and began practicing Judaism's tenets. Peoplehood comes first, and is completely independent of any kind of religious affirmation. So little does observance matter, in fact, that eating a ham sandwich on the afternoon of Yom Kippur doesn't make you less Jewish than someone who spends the day fasting in synagogue. Jewishness can neither be lost nor renounced. In this sense Judaism is radically different from Christianity, which is a conscious act of affirmation. While there cannot be atheist Christians, there are plenty of atheist Jews.

For this reason, Boteach sees being Jewish as a kind of citizenship. In you live in Britain, he argues, you become a citizen automatically if your parents are British. Even if you don't behave in a particularly British manner, or hate the country of your birth, the UK cannot take away your passport. Similarly, if you're an American living abroad, your children automatically acquire American citizenship; even if you never celebrate the Fourth of July or have never heard of Abraham Lincoln, you and your children are as American as George Washington himself.

Unfortunately, Rabbi Boteach doesn't follow his insight through to its logical conclusion. One becomes eligible for British or American citizenship by complying with a set of conditions adopted by Parliament or Congress – and Parliament and Congress are elected by the entire citizenry. This cannot be said of Judaism – at least not of Orthodox Judaism, which represents far less than half of the world's Jews, and which would never consider allowing the entire Jewish people to vote on such a question. Even in Britain, where some 60% of the community belongs to synagogues affiliated with the United Hebrew Congregations, allowing the Orthodox rabbinate to define who is a Jew ignores the voices of some 40% of the Jewish community.

What's more, the question is not whether M – or his mother – should be granted *bimah* honours. That, clearly, would be a strictly religious issue that can – and should – be determined at the level of each individual synagogue. Rather JFS is a state-funded school which is supported by the taxes paid by everyone in the community whether they be Orthodox, liberal or unaffiliated. Under the circumstances, only three outcomes are possible to the crisis provoked by the court's ruling: either both Orthodox and liberal Jews will have to compromise on the issues of Jewish identity and conversion; or the school will have to stop receiving public money; or the Supreme Court will decide the matter. And calling on a non-Jewish court to adjudicate on such a sensitive intra-communal matter is in neither side's best interest.

LEARN HEBREW ON ONE FOOT

Love coming to services but can't read Hebrew? We are currently trying to form a one-day class that will have you reading the prayer book in Hebrew. We hope to have this class on a Sunday in January. If you are interested, please call Ronnie Scotkin at (301) 474-4223 or e-mail RonnieatMT@gmail.com and leave your name and contact information.

SISTERHOOD SAYS

by Irene Spector

The Rummage Sale was a big success thanks to Barbara Shansby and all the great volunteers who were there to help in so many ways. The scoreboard, made by Barbara, was a great idea for keeping track of everything. The bake sale was a successful venture as well. We had many contributions of home-baked goodies and kept the tradition going even though Paula Volk was unable to be there, but we look forward to having Paula back at her usual spot at next year's Rummage Sale/Bake Sale.

On Sunday, November 22, we hosted the Karp Family School book sale and from what I saw, the sale and the book discussions with the guest authors were quite well-received.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday December 5 - 7:30 p.m. Cafe

Tzedakah event - beneficiary of the evening will be the Dena Kohn Memorial Scholarship Fund. For more information, call Robert Goldberg-Strassler at 301-474-4223.

Saturday, December 12 – 6 p.m. -Special Chanukah event with the Karp Family School. It's a Latke Party with a performance by our choir, a Chanukah sing-along and lots more. Contact dianerubinstein@rocketmail.com for more information or see flyer inside.

Saturday, January 30 (snow date February 8) – Come to the Cabaret and be prepared for an exciting evening of fine food and wonderful music! Fill out the reservation form on page 11 and send it with your check to Mishkan Torah. Remember, there will be no walk-up tickets available. DON'T MISS IT !!

Sunday, February 21 – 11 a.m. – Laughter Yoga: a gentle yoga program for all ages and all ability levels.

Sunday, March 14 – 6 p.m. – Sisterhood Seder. Plan to be here because this promises to be a delicious evening, with Fran Hakim in charge!

Saturday, April 17 – 7:30 p.m. – Senior Theatre: *Groucho Marx One Man Show*. This is still tentative so keep watching for confirmation and more details.

Sunday, April 18 – 2 p.m. – Greenbelt Arts Center: Premiere of Nicole Burton's play *Fred and Frieda*.

Saturday, May 1 after Shabbat – Jewelry Sale set-up. Contact Eva Choper to offer your help.

Sunday, May 2 – Seventh Annual Vintage Jewelry Sale. Contact Eva to volunteer.

Thursday May 27 – 7 p.m. – Ice cream social and annual elections with a program TBA.

Sunday, June 13 – Donor Event. A very special program is being planned. More later.

SPECIAL REMINDERS

Mitzvah Cards: Call Becky Hirsch at 301-474-4223 for speedy, efficient service.

Catering: Alyce Strasser at 301-474-4223 will provide excellent assistance as you plan your special event. So call our MMM (Marvelous Meals Maven).

Gift Shop: Call Alyce Strasser (after 10:30 a.m. please) for help at the Gift Shop as you choose from a beautiful selection of jewelry, ceramics, glassware, and ritual objects for any occasion. New and special Chanukah items are now available.

RHYME TIME

So many activities zero time to meet and greet
 Check out our meetings - we also love to eat.
 We socialize, we plan and talk and meander all
 around
 Because we know that walking around keeps
 those horrible calories down.
 Use that calorie-time for our Seder - Fran
 Hakim, will show us the way,
 And remember, REMEMBER January 30 and
 COME TO THE CABARET! !

Irene

REMEMBER: JANUARY 30, 2010
SAVE THE DATE FOR THAT SUPER SPECIAL EVENT !!!

LET THE E-TRUMPET HERALD A NEW ERA AS WE KNOCK DOWN THE WALLS OF WASTE! from page 1

This, of course, doesn't include the materials used in the copier toner. If one wants to delve deeper, there is also an environmental cost involved in the transport of the trees to the paper factory, paper from the factory to the copy center, and postal service delivery to each member.

How can we collectively reduce the cost and impact of paper copy mail delivery of the Trumpet to our members? The solution is simple. An e-mail will be sent to each member with an e-mail address on record. This e-mail will notify the recipient of the availability of the newest *Trumpet* and provide a link to its location on our website. This process will begin for the February 2010 issue if the recipient **does not respond** by e-mail that he or she wishes to continue receiving the *Trumpet* in paper form by U.S. mail.

In other words, no response to this e-mail over a reasonable time period of at least two weeks will be considered an acknowledgement that you agree to receive all future issues electronically. Every member can still elect to receive a paper copy. Members with no e-mail address will continue to receive their paper copies by mail. After this time period for response is over, a list of e-mail addresses of all members that elected to receive electronic *Trumpets* will be used to notify them in real time as soon as the *Trumpet* is up on our website. Their e-mail notification will include a link

directly to the latest issue of the *Trumpet*.

There are several advantages to electronic delivery of the *Trumpet*. The visual quality of the *Trumpet* on our web site is superior to that of the black and white version mailed out to members. No longer will some members have any issue with delays in mail delivery or lost mail in which they never receive their copy. Knowing of an upcoming event on the first of the month rather than on the 6th or 7th can make a big difference in plans. More important, though, is that we will save money for MT and help the environment.

Decision Time Coming

Sometime in December, you will receive the e-mail requesting your action on electronic *Trumpet* delivery. Members who have no e-mail or respond that they wish to continue receiving the paper copy will see no change in *Trumpet* delivery. Members who opt for electronic delivery will receive notification e-mails as soon as the *Trumpet* is on the web site with their hyperlink to instantaneous access. This represents an important step in bringing MT into 21st century technology without sacrificing what we all are accustomed to as members. Please consider this request when you receive it. If, for some reason, MT does not have your e-mail address or it has changed, please notify us so that we can make sure to include you.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

To schedule an appointment,
call **301-474-4223** and leave a message
for Ron Brooks, or just walk in.

Sponsored by the Social Action Committee.



DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4	<i>Erev Shabbat Family Services</i>	7:30 p.m.
5	<i>Shabbat Vayishlach</i>	9:30 a.m.
5	CAFÉ TZEDAKAH IN MEMORY OF DENA KOHN	7:30 P.M.
11	<i>Erev Shabbat & First Night of Hanukkah Services</i>	8 p.m.
12	<i>Shabbat Vayeshev</i>	9:30 a.m.
12	KARP SCHOOL & SISTERHOOD HANUKKAH PROGRAM	6 P.M.
13	MEMBERSHIP MEETING	1 P.M.
18	<i>Erev Shabbat & Eighth Night of Hanukkah Services</i>	8 p.m.
19	<i>Shabbat Miketz</i>	9:30 a.m.
25	<i>Erev Shabbat Services</i>	8 p.m.
26	<i>Shabbat Vayigash</i>	9:30 a.m.
27	<i>Fast of the Tenth of Tevet</i>	



DECEMBER YAHRZEITS

December 4

Richard Feinberg
Eva Goldberg*
Jean Morris
Rhoda Schlesinger
Magdolna Fishkind
Eugene Dondes*
Warren Feingold

Norma Hofberg
Ethel Rosenzweig*

December 11

Anna Crupain*
Gilbert Gassner
Ross Korz
Florence Kornblum*
Melvin Adelson
Rose Finklestein*

William Rubin*

Frank Haber*

Louis Rothbard*

December 18

Marilyn Levine
Lottie Lee Mottzman

December 25

Sylvia Summer May-
Erie

Lydia Schabb

Irma Polk*

Rhoda Tzemach*

Emma Froehlich*

Matilda Searle

Estelle "Esther"

Gerson*

Paul Ginsburg*

Matthew H. Ahmann

JANUARY PREVIEW

1	<i>Erev Shabbat Family Services</i>	7:30 p.m.
2	<i>Shabbat Vayechi</i>	9:30 a.m.
8	<i>Erev Shabbat</i>	8 p.m.
9	<i>Shabbat Shemot</i>	9:30 a.m.
15	<i>Erev Shabbat Services</i>	8 p.m.
16	<i>Shabbat Va'era</i>	9:30 a.m.
22	<i>Erev Shabbat Services</i>	8 p.m.
23	<i>Shabbat Bo</i>	9:30 a.m.
29	<i>Erev Shabbat Services</i>	8 p.m.
30	<i>Shabbat B'Shalach/Tu B'Shevat</i>	9:30 a.m.
30	CABARET [DINNER & SHOW: RESERVATIONS REQUIRED]	7 P.M.



MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT MISHKAN TORAH

DECEMBER 13

1 P.M.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS

Yahrzeits

Joan & David Goldenberg for William Goldenberg
 Bret Goldstein for Minna Goldstein
 Sam Hofberg for Helen Hofberg
 Sonya Hunt for Dora & Charles Friedman
 Judith Karpen for Leanora Taubman Karpen
 Fay (Friedman) Messner for Dora & Charles Friedman
 Nancy Peckerar for Sol Druss
 Irene & Sid Spector for Nathan Spector
 Alyce & Arnold Strasser for Esther Cohen, Moe Epstein, & Golde Epstein
 Laura Lee Strasser for Esther Cohen
 Susan Stregack for Manuel Moldofsky

High Holiday President's Club

Janet Davis
 Lois & Sam Fields
 Steve & Janet Mirsky
 Nancy & Marty Peckerar
 Linda & David Spevack
 Susan & Stephen Ungar

High Holiday

Don & Sheila Anderson
 Yvette Boldt
 Ron & Rae Brooks

Sustaining Fund

Lois Darr in memory of Alice Pearlman
 Janet Davis in memory of Sylvia Hendel & Alice Pearlman
 Pearl Ellerin

In Memory of Tim Brooks

Janet Davis
 Laurie Siegel

SCRIP BENEFITS SYNAGOGUE

Scrip for Giant, Safeway, Greenbelt Co-op, Shalom, and Katz's may be purchased by contacting Ronnie Scotkin at (301) 474-4223 or at RonnieatMT@gmail.com. Remember, Mishkan Torah receives 3% to 5% back from each purchase.

CAFÉ TZEDAKAH TO HONOR MEMORY OF DENA KOHN

by Jackie Kling

On Saturday evening, December 5, 2009, the Mishkan Torah Social Action Committee and the Mishkan Torah Sisterhood will co-host a Cafe Tzedakah program at 7:30 p.m. The beneficiary of this event will be the Dena Kohn Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Theatre Lab.

Dena was very involved with this theatrical organization and her love for Mishkan Torah and the Mishkan Torah Sisterhood make it appropriate for us to honor her memory in this way. You can read more about the organization and the fund at the following e-mail address: <http://www.theatrelab.org/denakohnfund.asp>.

The evening's musical entertainment, both vocal and instrumental, will be provided by a line-up of very talented friends of Dena Kohn.

There is no set charge for the evening; however, donations will be accepted at the door. Feel free to bring the entire family and guests. We will also be collecting non-perishable food items on this night to be donated to Greenbelt Cares, a local food pantry that distributes food to the hungry, no questions asked.

Please save the date. If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute, you may send your donation to Mishkan Torah, c/o Robert Goldberg-Strassler, 10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

Please make checks payable to The Theatre Lab and make a note in the memo line indicating the contribution goes to the Dena Kohn Scholarship Fund.

SOCIAL ACTION IN ACTION

by Andrea Weiss

The Social Action Committee will host its fall blood drive on Sunday, December 6, from 12 noon to 4 p.m. To schedule an appointment in advance, call 301-474-4223 and leave a message for Ron Brooks or contact Phyllis Oresky. Appointments are, however, not necessary. You may simply drop in during the blood drive hours.

We are continuing to collect warm outerwear for the children of Spring Hill Lake Elementary School. There is a box in the coatroom designated for this purpose. You may donate gently used coats and gloves, but hats should be brand new to reduce the possibility of transmitting lice. Those who would prefer to donate money to the effort can send a check payable to Mishkan Torah with Social Action in the memo line.

Café Tzedakah Coming

Please come out for "A Night to Remember Dena Kohn," the Café Tzedakah December 5 at 7:30 p.m. The program, organized by Robert Goldberg-Strassler and cosponsored by Social Action and the Sisterhood, will feature entertainment by Dena's friends with proceeds going to the Dena Kohn Scholarship Memorial Fund. It should be a lovely evening.

As always, we encourage you to remember those in our community who are less fortunate. There is a basket in the coatroom for non-perishable food donations to be given to Greenbelt Cares, which distributes the food to the hungry, no questions asked. So bring an item or two with you to Café Tzedakah, and think about putting extra items in your cart when you do your weekly shopping.

December 25 Volunteers

We need a few more volunteers to provide a presence at the Greenbelt Community Church during the 24 hours beginning at 6 p.m. December 24, while the church is hosting the Safe Haven program for the homeless. Please contact Andrea Weiss at AndreaW111@aol.com if you are able to participate.

Social Action will next meet on Sunday, January 17 at 10:30 a.m.

All are welcome to attend.

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

Rabbi	Jonathan Cohen
Cantor	Phil Greenfield
Congregation President	Steven Mirsky
Executive Vice President	Mark Shroder
Programs Vice President	Irv Wartell
Financial Secretary	Arlene Gottlieb
Co-Financial Secretary	Diane Rubinstein
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Recording Secretary	Janet Davis
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Youth Programs Chair	Martha Tomecek
Co-chair	Darelynn Fung
Children's Education Chair	Bret Goldstein
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Social Action Committee Chair	Andrea Weiss
Ways & Means Committee Chair	Dan Lowery
Sisterhood President	Diane Tuckman
Gift Shop Manager	Alyce Strasser
Catering Coordinator	Alyce Strasser
<i>Trumpet</i> Editor	Arnold Bro dsky

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.

SOCIAL ACTION'S CALLS TO ACTION

The Social Action committee has established several opportunities to make a real difference for various segments of the community. In addition to the Red Cross Blood Drive advertised on another page, the following two coatroom drop off points for donations the children of Springhill Lake Elementary School and Greenbelt Cares, a local food bank. Please bring children's outer garments and non-perishable foods to Mishkan Torah so that these items can be delivered to those who need them.

SOCIAL ACTION CLOTHING DRIVE



Please donate new and gently used children's coats, scarves, & gloves as well as **NEW** hats.



Collection box in the coatroom!

Or send a donation check payable to Mishkan Torah with "Social Action" on the memo line, and we will purchase the clothing for you.



Donations will be given to the children of Spring Hill Lake Elementary School.

SOCIAL ACTION FOOD DRIVE

Please donate nonperishable foods such as cereal, beans, powdered milk, nuts and the like.

Collection basket in the coatroom!



Donations will be given to Greenbelt Cares which distributes food to all those who are hungry no questions asked.

A Musical Night to Remember

DENA KOHN

*Co-Hosted by Social Action & Sisterhood:
A Café Tzedakah Event*

Featuring music and entertainment by
Dena's Friends

Saturday, December 5, 2009

7:30 p.m.

Mishkan Torah

10 Ridge Road

Greenbelt, Maryland

Beneficiary of the evening:

Theatre Lab's

Dena Kohn Memorial Scholarship Fund

Please make checks payable to the Theatre Lab
with a note on the memo line that it is for the Fund

For further info contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler 301-474-4223

PLEASE BRING NONPERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AS WELL!

The Mishkan Torah Sisterhood

very proudly presents



Come to Our Cabaret
Dinner and Music Celebration
Saturday, January 30, 2010
(snow date February 6)

7 p.m.

10 Ridge Road
Greenbelt, Maryland

starring

Mark & Becky Silverstein



THEN and NOW



RESERVATION DEADLINE: **SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010**

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: NO WALK-INS ADMITTED

Make checks payable to Mishkan Torah Sisterhood

Mail to Mishkan Torah, 10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 Attention: CABARET

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

_____ Adults at \$36 each _____

_____ Children under 13 years at \$25 each _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM EXCURSION

JANUARY 17, 2010 – 1 P.M.

Snow Date: January 24, 2010
800 Key Highway, Baltimore



The American Visionary Art Museum showcases works by self-taught, outsider artists that have often been overlooked in the art world. Founded in 1995 by Rebecca Hoffberger, this unique arts attraction has a permanent collection and holds yearlong exhibits showcasing pieces centered on one theme such as faith, substance abuse and war and peace.

Mishkan Torah's Ways and Means Committee is planning a car pool excursion to the American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM) in Baltimore on Sunday January 17.

The AVAM is listed in the publication, *1000 Places To See Before You Die* and it received a "must go see" rating from the *Washington Post*, plus rave reviews from Rabbi Jonathan Cohen.

Rabbi Cohen will join us for this interesting trip and will be offering his comments. We have made arrangements for a docent to give us a tour of the museum, and then there will be time, after the guided tour, for individual touring of the exhibits.

The Children's Education Committee of Mishkan Torah is also interested in participating in this excursion. If we have enough students we will try to arrange for a separate docent for them.

We will be arranging car pools and we are looking for drivers.

We have been informed that parking is no problem near the museum. (Parking is metered.)

**RESERVATION WITH PAYMENT IS DUE BY JANUARY 10.
MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO MISHKAN TORAH AND SEND IT TO
MISHKAN TORAH, 10 RIDGE ROAD, GREENBELT, MD 20770.**



_____ students (K – 12) at \$5 each: _____

_____ adults at \$14 each: _____

_____ seniors (60+) at \$10 each: _____

_____ people in your party needing transportation: _____

Can You Be a Volunteer Driver? _____ If "Yes," how many extra passengers can you take? _____

Name _____ Phone # _____ Total amount remitted \$ _____



Chanukah Latke Party



Where: Mishkan Torah



When: December 12, 2009 at 6 p.m.

Cost: \$5 for adults/\$3 for children under 13

LATKES and more, including a short performance from our renowned choir, a Chanukah sing-along, a *tzedakah* activity, and the much-anticipated results of the *chanukiyah* contest among our Hebrew School students.



Bring your own *chanukiyah* as well!

RSVP if you can to dianerubinstein@rocketmail.com or Bretgoldstein@gmail.com, but if you don't have time to RSVP come on by anyway!

We're planning on having lots of fun!



BOOK FAIR UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS

by Bret Goldstein

On Sunday, November 22, the Karp Family School Book Fair was an unqualified success. Thanks to the efforts of Book Fair Chair Debbie Levenson, more than 300 titles were on hand and over \$600 was raised for the school. Shoppers were able to take a look at everything from cookbooks to Talmud commentary to the history of punk rock Jews, and everyone was impressed by the variety and quality of this year's selection.



The highlight of the fair was the panel (above) put together by Nicole Burton – six local authors came to talk about their books. L to R: N. Burton, S. Eggerz, F. Joseph, L. Dietzel, D. Strickman, and D. DaCosta discussing the theme of their books. Right, according to photographer Steven Mirsky, two nudges (Janet Mirsky & Linda Spevack) and a book.

- Dr. Lauries Dietzel spoke on her new book *Late, Lost, and Unprepared: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children with Executive Functioning*, where she and her co-author offer sound, practical advice on how to help kids who struggle with planning, organization, etc.
- Mishkan Torah member Dan Strickman entertained us with all things arthropod in his book *Prevention of Bug Bites, Stings, and Disease*, both extolling the virtues of ever-present insects and giving practical advice on how to minimize their negative impact.
- Frank Joseph read to us from *To Love Mercy*, the first book in his moving, humorous, and poignant trilogy involving the clash of white Jewish and black Christian culture in 1948 Chicago.
- All attendees were enraptured by the story of Solveig Eggerz's *Seal Woman*, where a woman tries to start life over in Iceland after losing her family in Germany in the Holocaust.
- Children's author Deborah DaCosta shared two books with us -- *Snow in Jerusalem*, a story about a Jewish boy and a Muslim boy joining forces to save a cat and her kittens in the Old City, and *Hanukkah Moon*, about a girl exposed to a Mexican Chanukah and its customs.

- Finally, of course, we were lucky once again to have Nicole Burton read to us from *Swimming Up the Sun*, her fantastic memoir of her adoption and search for her birth parents. What an educational, enlightening, and entertaining panel it was, and we really appreciate Nicole and all of the authors sharing their time with us.

Praise for Program Organizers

So many people worked so hard to make this a success, starting with Debbie Levenson, who oversaw the entire operation. Fran Hakim once again had things running smooth as silk on the checkout line; Yoni Charry provided the sound for the literary panel; Renna Komisar, Beth Williams, Richard Saviet, Marlo Castillo, and all of their kids helped to order, sort, and set up books.

Dan Lowery and the Coffee Klatch kept everyone well fed throughout the morning and Alyce Strasser graciously offered an array of gifts for anything that couldn't be found at the Book Fair. I'm sure I'm forgetting tons of people – consider yourselves thanked.

What a fantastic way to celebrate Jewish Book Month and the printed word!

RUMMAGE SALE REPORT AND THANKS

by Barbara Shansby & Debbie Brenner

Every year it seems like an impossible task—sorting out all the hundreds of donated items, pricing them, putting them out, and then selling them, not to mention cleaning up all the leftovers after the sale. Yet every year it all gets done, and the only explanation for this amazing process is the hours put in by so many volunteers. So thank you to everyone who helped the rummage sale by donating, purchasing and/or working.

Both Janet Davis and Nancy Gerstel worked more than five different days, helping with sorting, selling and cleaning. Irene and Sid Spector, Jackie Kling, Andrea Weiss, Rhoda Minda Sherman, Marla Goldberg and Judy Gallant, Becky Hirsch, and Leah and Eva Choper also provided many hours of support.

Further assistance was provided by our pre-sale crew: Harise Poland-Wright, Carol Juran, Eva Garin, Phyllis Oresky, Martha Tomecek, Michel and Katia Cavigelli, Marcie Lissauer, Harriet Ginsburg, Lois, Sam & Mimi Fields, Irv Wartell, Melanie Fishkind, Paula Volk, Gail Phillips, Carol Valoris, Stephanie Architzel, Annie Haber and Marc Manheimer.

Thanks also to everyone who helped out during the sale. In addition to those already mentioned, we thank Mary Kaigler-Schaffer, Lynn Title, Niki Kohn, Nadine Wobus, Jan Bloom, Marsha Salzberg, Ethel Harris and Joel Cohen.

JEWELRY SALE SET FOR MAY 2

by Eva Choper

Now that the Sisterhood's rummage sale is over, it is time to start collecting jewelry and scraps of gold and silver.

As things stand now, the pricing session will take place Sunday, April 11, from 10:30 a.m. until the job is done.

Volunteers will be needed for both April 11 and May 2. So please mark these dates on your calendars and call Eva to let her know you want to help.



Marla Goldberg, Barbara Shansby, Niki Kohn, and Debbie Brenner pause for a moment during the very successful Rummage Sale.

And finally, we have extra gratitude for those helping with clean up, including Eva and Leah, Janet, Robin, Andrea, Nancy, Melanie and Stephanie. Additional thanks go to Alyce, Irene and Linda Spevack, as well as many others who contributed to the bake sale. A special thanks to Ron Brooks for putting up the sign and dealing with chairs (twice!) along with Dan Lowery and Ed Hickey.

There are probably more people who helped—sorry if we've left you out; so it's quite an impressive effort for a very successful sale!

MISHKAN TORAH GETS 'NEW' PIANO

by Nadine Wobus

Margaret Galasso, a friend of the family of one of Nadine Wobus's clients, recently donated her slightly used Yamaha spinet to Mishkan Torah. Her generous gift will take the place of the upright we have had for many years.

Soon after it arrived, our own David Charney, who has been keeping the old piano going for many years, tuned the spinet. Thanks to Sheila Lemus, the piano is being outfitted with a dolly so it can be easily moved. Many thanks to Ms. Galasso, David, and Sheila for their great generosity and efforts.

CHANUKAH AT THE GIFT SHOP

Gift Shop will be open for your Chanukah shopping pleasure

Wednesdays, December 2 & 9: 5 to 7 p.m.

& Sunday, December 6: 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Our "SPIN THE DREIDEL" sale will be

Sunday, December 13: 12 noon until
after the Membership meeting.

If you can't make these dates, call for an appointment.

(Alyce, 301-441-1353 after 10:30 a.m. please)

Looking forward to seeing you.

Right: Alyce Strasser assists Yvette Boldt in making a purchase.



THEY SAY, "THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM"!!!

WELL, THIS IS THE THIRD TIME WE'RE TELLING YOU!!

WE HOPE THAT YOU'VE ALREADY MADE
YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR DINNER AND SHOW
BECAUSE WE CANNOT ADMIT WALK-INS!

JANUARY 30 IS THE DATE; 7 P.M. IS THE TIME.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

DON'T LET THIS OPPORTUNITY PASS YOU BY!

USE THE TEAR FORM ON PAGE 11.



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