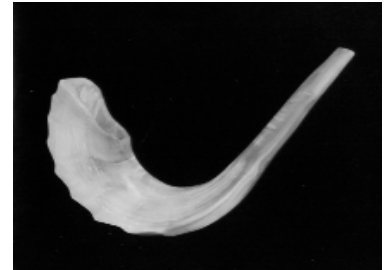




Heshofar



A PUBLICATION OF THE MANHATTAN BEACH JEWISH CENTER ○ DEC. 2008 KISLEV/TEVET 5769

MBJC DINNER HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2008

The 86th Annual Dinner of the Manhattan Beach Jewish Center took place on Saturday night, November 15, 2008. It was a most enjoyable and successful event, marked by an enthusiastic turnout of 200 people from the community in honor of our synagogue and our highly



esteemed honorees.



Congratulations to Harry Wanderer, our Guest of Honor; Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny, recipient of the Community Service Award; and Joseph and Sarah Feldman,

recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award. At the presentation ceremony, a special dedication of a new leaf for the Sisterhood plaque was presented to Helaine Green, daughter of the late Sandra Wanderer who was taken from us this year. A special Proclamation was read by Isabella Vais of the office of the Brooklyn Boro President, Marty Markowitz.



Cantor Pinchas Cohen opened the program with his melodic rendition of the American and Israeli national anthems. Greetings were extended by Rabbi

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CHANUKAH CELEBRATIONS AT MBJC

CHANUKAH in MANHATTAN BEACH JEWISH CENTER

With International illusionist / magician / mentalist
DAVID BLATT

Plus - a special performance by the MBBC Ballet school
Conducted by: Gila Stavnitser

Live music! Hot latkes and refreshments!
The show is both for adults and kids!

Sunday, December 21st, at 5:00 pm

(We will start by lighting the big Menorah outside the shul)

60 WEST END AVE, 3RD. FLOOR
(718) 891-8700, mbeachcenter@aol.com

December 21, 2008 is the first night of Chanukah. At 5:00 PM the first candle will be lit on the big Menorah outside the shul. The festivities will continued in the 3rd floor Regency Room with a gala Chanukah party for all ages featuring the internationally known illusionist/magician/mentalist David Blatt. In addition a special performance will be given by the MBBC Ballet School conducted by Gila Stavnitser. We will have live music, hot latkes and refreshments. There will also be arts and crafts for the youngsters.

Please pass the word around to all your friends and neighbors.

The fun continues on Friday evening, December 26th. There will be a gala Oneg Shabbat/Chanukah party at 7:45 PM at the home of Rabbi Yehoshua & Sarah Zelikovitz, 112 Amherst Street. Come and celebrate the specialness of Shabbos and Chanukah at this special event. Pass the word around.

Hashofar
VOLUME 68 NO.3

Yehoshua Zelikovitz Rabbi
Pinchas Cohen Cantor
Rubin Margules President
Jay Haies Chairman of the Board
Alfred Gollomp Treasurer
Ilene Keller Managerial Assistant

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(718) 891-8700 Fax (718) 891-8706

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

A number of weeks ago I had the privilege of being in Hevron on Parshas Chaye Sarah. It was a tremendously rewarding experience, personally, and for the many thousands upon thousands of people who came from around the world and Israel to be where it all began. That week we read in the Sedrah, in the Maarat HaMachpela itself, the account of the purchase of that very place by Avraham Avinu. To stand where he and the patriarchs and matriarchs of our faith lay buried is an emotional feeling that transcends time and place. It is the wellspring of our faith.



Rubin Margules

For a thousand years, Jews have prayed to be here, and were unable. After the Moslem conquest, Jews were only allowed to walk up to the 7th step on the outside of the huge edifice built by Herod that encompasses the actual Kever. No Jews could go inside. Now, the link with the generations has been re-established and you feel the pride and gratitude to Hashem for allowing us, to once again, join in prayer at this most holy place. You feel proud that you are one of the thousands upon thousands of proud Jews who make this pilgrimage to reconnect with our ancient roots, and when you do, there is no doubt to whom this land belongs to.

Regardless of the recent set-backs, led by a left wing political agenda (I am of course referring to the recent violent ouster of the residents of Beit Shalom in Hevron), the path of Jewish nationhood, with G-d's help, and the spirit and commitment displayed by thousands, the path of Eretz Shleima, the complete sovereignty over Eretz Yisrael, will continue.

Judaism has never been easy, Zionism and the redemption of the land has never been easy, yet Anu Caan, WE ARE HERE.

FROM THE RABBI

by Rabbi Yehoshua Zelikovitz

Dear Friends,

The harsh winter is upon us. The warm relaxing summer and the pleasant gentle fall are behind us. With anticipation/trepidation we greet the cold arduous season.



Rabbi Yehoshua Zelikovitz

The Mishna in Avot states, הילודים למות והמתים, לעל כרחק אתה חי, להחיות, ועל כרחק אתה מת "The newborn will die and the dead will live again, against your will you live, against your will you will die."

Our days are cycles – morning, afternoon, evening and night. Our years are cycles – winter, spring, summer and fall. And, of course, our lives are cyclical too.

We begin this world frail and weak. The majority depart this world frail and weak. In the interim, we mature and reach our physical climax at about half our years and then we start diminishing. Like a semi-circle, we rise in strength until we reach the apex of our lives and then we descend for the balance of our days.

Fortunately, our spiritual journey has a more upbeat outlook. We begin raw and undeveloped. We strive to improve ourselves to reach our pinnacle. Towards excellence we toil in a never ending upward direction. We hope every year on this earth we attain a higher spiritual plane that the preceding year's level. We pray that we exit this world on a high note. We believe our spiritual odyssey continues beyond our deaths when we eternally exist as נשמות, Jewish souls.

So our two worlds are diametrically opposed. While our physical world waxes and wanes and ultimately ends, our spiritual world grows and expands and never ceases.

Our task in this world is to recognize these inherent contradictions. We must understand the transitory and fleeting nature of our physical existence, while at the same time appreciate and foster our spirituality which is indestructible and everlasting.

Maybe the changing of the seasons can jolt us towards the right direction. Fall was here but now is gone. Winter is with us but soon will be gone. As we age we recognize that our youth was here but now is gone. Our middle years were here but they too are now gone.

May Hashem give us the wisdom and insight to stay focused on our true everlasting sojourn. If we plan and

SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Ida Kleinman

“Oh Chanukah Oh Chanukah come light the menorah. Let’s have a party. We’ll all dance the horah...”

“On the 25th of Kislev are the days of Chanukah, which are eight...these were appointed a Festival with Hallel (prayers of praise) and thanksgiving.”—Shabbat 21b, Babylonian Talmud

Chanukah, the festival of lights, commemorates the struggle and victory of the Jews against religious persecution. The victory of the Maccabeans against their Hellenistic enemies inspired generations of Jews to continue the fight for religious freedom. Chanukah, which means dedication is a celebration of the rededication of our Temple. Chanukah is a time for miracles.

Although we all know the story of Chanukah, there are some “Chanukah facts” that may not be common knowledge.

Did you know that :

—Chanukah is not mentioned in Jewish scripture? The story is told in the Book of Maccabees.

—the only religious observance on Chanukah is the lighting of the menorah?

—it is traditional to eat fried foods on Chanukah to symbolize the oil in the menorah?

—gift giving on Chanukah started in areas where Jews had significant contact with those of another faith (due to the proximity of a non-Jewish religious celebration to that of Chanukah)? The only customary gift on Chanukah is “gelt” (a token amount of money).

May the miracle of Chanukah always be with us. May the light of Yiddishkeit burn forever.

On behalf of the MBJC Sisterhood, I wish you a joyous Chanukah.

BELATED SHANA TOVA GREETINGS

When greeted with “Good Shabbos” we respond with “Good Year”. It is never too late to wish our loved ones a good year. So, please accept these belated L’Shanah Tovah Greetings. May we all have a good year.

Mildred Altman

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Feldman

Abe and Arline Harris

Mr. and Mrs. Allan and Bea Larkin

Lee and Murray Novick

Valerie Reiter

Roslyn Wolfson

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Condolences to Eleanor Katz upon the loss of her father, Ely Klepper

Condolences to Yefim Buberan upon the loss of his father

PRAYER BOOK

To *Eleanor Katz* on the loss of her father, Eli Klepper, from:

Pauline & Ira Bilus, Shirley Moss, Claire Adelson

To *Marcia Horowitz Cohen* on the loss of her mother, Estelle Horowitz, from:

Evelyn & Alfred Gollomp

To *Janet Ruston* on the loss of her mother, Rose Margules, from:

The Sisterhood, Lee & Murray Novick, Sarah & Joseph Feldman, Ida & Sidney Kleinman, Marjorie Halper, Pauline & Ira Bilus

To *Dr. Lenny Flug* on the loss of his father, Murray Flug, from:

The Sisterhood, Evelyn & Alfred Gollomp, Pauline & Ira Bilus, Ida & Sidney Kleinman, Ruth Kleinman, Mr & Mrs Izaak, Lee & Murray Novick, Vera Katz & Family, Arline Harris, Abe Harris, Fran & Arthur Solomon, Mark & Helen Orbach, Allen & Terri Litman, Harry Wanderer

To *Ruth Jaffe* on the loss of her brother, Julie, from: Lee & Murray Novick

To *Terri Mizrachi* and Family on the loss of her son, from:

Vivian Weinrib

To *Pearl Schnee* on the loss of her son, from: Ida & Sidney Kleinman, Ruth Kleinman

To *Gladys Follender* on the loss of her husband, Murray, from:

Vera Katz & Family

ONEG SHABBAT

Since the beginning of November when the clock was moved back to Eastern Standard Time, members of the Manhattan Beach Jewish Center have hosted a weekly Friday Night Oneg Shabbat. Thanks to the following people for opening their homes to us: Dr. David & Irina Korman, Jay & Joelle Lessler, Dr. Eliezer & Barbara Offenbacher, Mark & Helen Orbach, Ted & Evelyn Weinberger, and Rabbi Yehoshua & Sarah Zelikovitz.

JANUARY YARZEITS

THU	1	mother of Jean Maltz
WED	7	ZVI HERSH NEWMAN, father of Perry Newman JACOB ROSEN, father of Dr. Rena Samin
SAT	10	RACHEL SALEM, mother of Lee Novick
MON	12	MAX GOLDBERG, father of Linda Drucker
TUE	13	father of Dr. Svetlana Khandros
WED	14	LEO STAR, father of Claire Adelson & Shirley Moss
THU	15	PEARL BERGSTEIN, mother of Charlotte Wanderer MARCUS FINDER, father of Alissa Sorkin HELEN KURNIT, sister of Robert Oxhandler
SAT	17	FANNIE GREENE, mother of Bernice Fleischer
SUN	18	MORRIS HERSHKOVITS, husband of Susan Hershkovits
WED	21	ROBERT CHERNIN, husband of Marilyn Chernin BEREK OSDOBA, father of Sam Osdoba
THU	22	HARVEY H. SOBEL, father of Jon Sobel
TUE	27	JEANETTE BILLET, mother of Pauline Bilus
WED	28	NATHAN ORBACH, father of Joe Orbach, Mark Orbach and Sidney Orbach
FRI	30	RACHEL WANDERER, mother of Harry Wanderer
SAT	31	CHARLES SHERLING, brother of Helen Priceman

FEBRUARY YARZEITS

SUN	1	ISAK LIPPER, father of Henry Lipper
TUE	3	PHILLIP BILLET, father of Pauline Bilus
WED	4	RABBI SHALOM KLASS, husband of Irene Klass and father of Naomi Mauer and Hindy Greenwald
THU	5	MANFRED STUCKHARDT, father of Marc Stuckhardt and Richard Stuckhardt
FRI	6	MAX ROSENFELD, father of Helen Orbach
WED	11	CEIL FIEDEL, mother of Sheldon Fiedel
FRI	13	ROSE RUSTON, mother of Dr. Henry Ruston
TUE	17	ALTER PENN, father of Michael Penn
WED	18	JERRY PRICEMAN, husband of Helen Priceman
THU	19	PINCHAS ARYEH SCHWARTZ, father of Gady Schwartz
FRI	20	mother of Lika Bronshteyn MAX GROSSBERG, father of Marilyn Chernin
SAT	21	MOSHE GOLDING, father of Rabbi Shimon Golding
SUN	22	ANNA LANTER, mother of Shirley Krim
FRI	27	ROSE FELDMAN, mother of Joseph Feldman

Sponsoring a kiddush is a wonderful way to share a simcha or to commemorate a yarzeit with all of the Manhattan Beach Jewish Center. For available dates please call the synagogue office 718-891-8700



IN MEMORIAM - ALLEN KATZ

This past August the Manhattan Beach Jewish Center was saddened by the news that our long-time member, Allen Katz passed away suddenly. He and his family were legends here at the synagogue. Allen was a past president and actively engaged in all activities at MBJC. His father, Benne, was one of three primary founders of MBJC.

Allen and his wife Eleanor married in 1951 and are parents of Caren Epstein, Sylvie Standley and Jeffrey Katz and grandparents of Brandon Epstein and Brett Standley.

Needless to say that Allen will be sorely missed not only by the members of his family but by the whole Manhattan Beach Jewish Center Community.

IN MEMORIAM - ELY KLEPPER

Just about two months after the death of her beloved husband, Allen, Eleanor Katz sustained the loss of her father, Ely Klepper.

Ely Klepper personified the American dream. He arrived from Eastern Europe at a very young age and became a leading national manufacturer of girls coats.

He was the beloved husband of the late Rose, father of Eleanor Katz and Michael Klepper.

He was a brilliant businessman, an active community member, a leader of the Manhattan Beach Jewish Center, and a man of enormous generosity.

His family and the greater Manhattan Beach Jewish Center family mourn his passing.

**YOM TOV COOKERY
FROM THE SISTERHOOD**

by Ida Kleinman

Chanukah Crullers

Cream 2 tablespoons of butter with ½ cup of sugar, then beat in, on at a time, 2 whole eggs. Mix well and add ½ cup milk, 2 teaspoons of baking powder and 3 cups sifted flour (enough to make a soft dough). Stir in ½ teaspoon cinnamon. Roll out ½ inch thick and cut in strips 1 inch wide and 3 inches long. Fry in deep hot fat at 350 F until a delicate brown. Drain on absorbent paper and sprinkle with confectioner's sugar.

CHANUKAH

by Rabbi Daniel Finkelman

Did Chanukah happen years ago? Or is it happening now? Was there ever a time when it was not happening? The story of a little candle pushing away the monster of frightening darkness is ever-alive within each of us — and in the world outside of us.

You might call it the cosmic megadrama. Watch it happen at the dawn of each day and at every winter solstice, with every breath of life, every cry of a newborn child, every blade of grass that breaks out from under the soil, every flash of genius, every stroke of beauty, every decision to do good in the face of evil, to build where others destroy, to move humanity forward when others pull us toward chaos. All those and more are Chanukah.

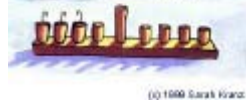
Well, they did manage somewhat — at first. The Jews tolerated Greek rule from the time of Alexander of Macedonia. Many Jews studied Hellenist philosophy and King Ptolemy had the Jewish Torah translated into Greek. But when King Antiochus attempted to force Hellenism down our throats, we rebelled.

Antiochus forbade ritual circumcision. Mothers openly circumcised their infant boys in defiance. Antiochus forbade the keeping of the Sabbath. Jews were forced to leave Jerusalem so they could keep the day of rest holy. Antiochus forbade the study of Torah as a sacred text. Jews found ways to teach classes of children and adults in secret. When the Greeks raised up idols in the cities and towns and demanded that the Jews worship them, all-out war ensued.

It was the first time in history that a people had fought not for their country or their lives, but for their beliefs and their right to religious freedoms.

Problem was, the Syrian-Greek army was the most powerful in the world. Their soldiers were almost invincible in those times. They had advanced weapons, were highly trained and even brought elephants to the battlefield. The Jewish resistance, on the other hand, began with a handful of brothers of the priestly class, calling themselves the Maccabees.

There were many acts of courage, but the Maccabees firmly believed that their victory came from Above. Eventually, they received a sign that it was so: When they took back Jerusalem and the Temple, they searched and found a single flask of undefiled olive oil — just what was needed to light the sacred menorah. Although the flask held only enough for a single day, the light of the menorah miraculously burned for eight com-



plete days, providing just enough time to prepare new oil. To the Jewish people, this was like a nod from Above, that, yes, He was with us all along.

Without miracles, we might come to believe that the laws of physics define reality. Once we witness the inexplicable, we see that there is a higher reality. And then we look back at physics and say, "This too is a miracle." The miracle of a small flask of oil burning for eight days was this sort of miracle.

Then there are those small miracles that occur every day. Those acts that we call 'coincidence' because, in them, G-d prefers to remain anonymous. But when we open our eyes and hearts, we see there is truly no place void of this wondrous, unlimited G-d. These were the sort of miracles the Maccabees saw in their battles against the mighty Greek army.

Chanukah was a victory of few over many. Each Maccabee was a hero, essential to the victory.

One could think that, in those days, when the population of the world was so much smaller, a single individual would have more power to change the world. In fact, just the opposite is true. Technology and information has put enormous power in the hands of whoever wants it.

Just over fifty years ago, one madman came to the verge of destroying the world. His failure to develop atomic weapons on time is still inexplicable — it can only be attributed to the great mercies of the One Above who takes care of His world and promised it would always stand. Today we have seen that not even an army is needed, nor warheads or missiles — but only an obsessive will to destroy.

Such is the power of darkness.

A thousand times over is the power of light, of any one of us to transform the entire world to good. A small child kissing the mezuzah on the door of her house, an act of kindness asking nothing in return, a sacrifice of convenience to benefit another—each of these things are as bursts of light in the nighttime sky. True, they make less noise. Rarely are they reported in the daily news. But while darkness passes as the shadows of clouds on a windy day, this light endures, accumulating until it leaves no room for evil to remain.

Today's Western society is built on the foundations of these two cultures: the Jewish and the Greek. Both treasured the human mind. The Greeks reached the pinnacle of intellect at their time. But the experience of Mount Sinai had taught the Jew that there is something greater than the human mind. There is a G-d, indescribable and inexplicable. And, therefore, a world could not be built on human reason alone.

The idea annoyed the Greeks to no end. While they appreciated the wisdom of the Torah, they demanded that the Jews abandon the notion that it was something

MBJC DINNER

Yehoshua Zelikovitz, Rabbi Daniel Finkelman and MBJC's President Rubin Margules. Pauline Bilus presented the award to Joe and Sara Feldman,



New Star Caterers. Our honorees were joined by their many friends, children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews



Ari Kagan to Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny, and Jay Haies to Harry Wanderer. In accepting their awards, all the honorees

- and of course our devoted MBJC members.

A beautiful painting was



donated to MBJC by Meir Ostrovsky, the son of the painter Yosef Ostrovsky, and an exhibition of the artist's work

emphasized the need for us to continue our efforts for *achdus* - unity in our great community. The program



created a lovely background to the event.

A great time was had by all - surely a night to remember!



concluded with the beautiful voice of Cantor Cohen singing Jerusalem of Gold - followed by our own impromptu MBJC chorus and the audience joining in spirited singing of Am Yisrael Chai



and Heveinu Shalom Aleichem.

Following the delectable buffet and the presentation of Awards, our guests joined together for lively dancing, socializing and a sumptuous gala dinner catered by own own



MBJC Hashofar - December - January /Kislev-Tevet 5769



CHANUKAH

by Rabbi Daniel Finkelman

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Divine.

Ethics, to an ancient Greek, meant that which is right in the eyes of society. To a Jew, it means that which is right in the eyes of G-d. The difference is crucial: Ethics built solely on the convenience of the time can produce a society where human beings are treated as numbers in a computer or where the central value is the accumulation of wealth. At its extreme, it can produce a Stalinist Russia or a Nazi Germany.

A healthy mind is one that recognizes that there will always be wonder, because G-d is beyond the human mind. And a healthy society is a balanced one, whose soil nurtures human accomplishment but whose bedrock is the ethical standard of an Eternal Being.

Some people are waiting for a final, apocalyptic war. But the final war is not fought on battlefields, nor at sea, nor in the skies above. Neither is it a war between leaders or nations. The final war is fought in the heart of each human being, with the armies of his or her deeds in this world. The final war is the battle of Chanukah and the miracle of light.

OMISSIONS FROM THE DINNER JOURNAL

The Manhattan Beach Jewish Center apologizes to the following people for the omission of their ads in the 86th Annual Dinner Journal:

1/2 page ad for Jerry & Hindy Greenwald saying: In Honor of our Dear Friend, Harry Wanderer who, after starting his life anew here in Manhattan Beach, has dedicated himself to supporting our Shul, our Community, and for making Jewish Education a priority.

In Recognition of a good friend, Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny

Mazel Tov to Joseph and Sarah Feldman for many years of commitment and service to our Shul, our Yeshiva, and the Community

1/4 page ad for Susan Hershkovits & family To My Longtime Friend, Harry Wanderer, Mazel Tov and best wishes

Listing from Barry & Eileen Montrose Congratulations & best wishes to our honorees on this special occasion

1/2 page from Murray & Lee Novick A Hearty Mazel Tov to Harry Wanderer Special Tribute to Sarah & Joe Feldman

BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM

By Matthew Isaccson

The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program of the Manhattan Beach Jewish Center has done it again! Nate Schmushkin had his bar mitzvah in our synagogue Parsha Chayei Sarah. As the grandson of Romeo Gendelman, a member of our shul who passed away many years earlier, and whose sons Ira and Robert became bar mitzvah here, it was a special occasion for all of us. His speech is still being commented on as one of the best heard in our center. A great time was had by our entire congregation as we danced and sang in celebration with the help of Rabbi Zelikovitz and Rabbi Finkelman, two natural singers and dancers. These two spiritual giants are happiest singing and dancing with our congregation, no question about it. Congratulations again to Polina and Simon, his parents, and may the family go from strength to strength.

Our newest program has five more students, including Iris Soroka, the sister of Michelle Soroka, one of our graduates. Michelle has been very helpful with our Sunday group, helping with the ritual washing, using the Flash Cards in Hebrew instruction and in so many other ways setting an outstanding example of enthusiasm for the new students, The other students are Daniel, Michael, Eytan and Jason. You will be hearing more about them of course.

THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

~ Invites You To Be Our Guests at a Special Chanukah Event ~

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2008 8 PM at the MANHATTAN BEACH JEWISH CENTER
60 West End Avenue Brooklyn, NY

Join us to View the Widely Acclaimed Film - Back by Popular Request!
"Hollywood and the Holocaust"

★ Candlelighting and Chanukah Refreshments, too!
Election of Officers 2008-2009 - Update: Holocaust Memorial Park

The Holocaust Memorial Committee
60 West End Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11235
tel:718.743.3636 fax:718.648.8143 HMCorg@aol.com www.thmc.org

FROM THE RABBI

Continued from page 2

prepare for our eternal existence while residing in this mundane world, we will be adequately energized and fortified to enjoy the spiritual bliss of the world to come.

Yes "against our will we are born" and "against our will we shall die". But according to our free choice, we determine the nature of our days.

Yehoshua Zelikovitz