

## INSIDE THE TRUMPET

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*Mishkan Torah*  
**Trumpet**

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July 2009

## A PRESIDENTIAL INTRODUCTION! NEW BOARD TAKES OVER

Dear friends,

Let me introduce myself! For those of you who do not know me, I have been a resident of Greenbelt and a member of Mishkan Torah for 20 years. I have been chair of several committees in the past, active in Men's Club (remember, Labor Day is not that far away!) and the executive VP for the last two years. As your president, I look forward to working with the Board, Rabbi Cohen, and with you. I will strive to fill some very large shoes from my predecessors. Your input and assistance are always welcome. Please feel free to contact me at my work email, mirskys@saic.com or at home

The Congregational Spring meeting, held on June 14, was well attended and included several important presentations by the Board and votes by the membership. Treasurer Bill Schwartz and Financial Secretary Arlene Gottlieb presented next year's budget to the membership along with a comparison to the current year's budget. Using our best estimates on income and expenses, next year's budget shows a projected deficit of about \$4,700 compared to a surplus of \$13,400 for the current year. This difference is due to an estimated drop in income next year from membership dues, general donations and High Holiday pledges. Given the current economic situation, this estimate was deemed to be fiscally conservative and appropriate. Bill Schwartz explained that prior experience has shown that the actual income is usually greater than estimated. The membership voted to approve the budget after some discussion. Other presentations were made by Judy Gallant on the Special Funds, Bret Goldstein for Children's

Education, Dan Lowery for Ways and Means, and me for the Safety and Security Committee.

President Linda Spevack discussed the recent visits by representatives from both the Conservative and Reconstructionist movements to Mishkan Torah. She reported that the Board recommendation was to continue dual affiliation since both movements offered services to us, but obtaining these services will require greater efforts on the part of Mishkan Torah to identify them and communicate our needs. There would be no financial incentive to end our affiliation with either movement because both have always agreed to essentially accept half of their affiliation dues which are almost identical. After some discussion, the membership voted to continue our dual affiliation.

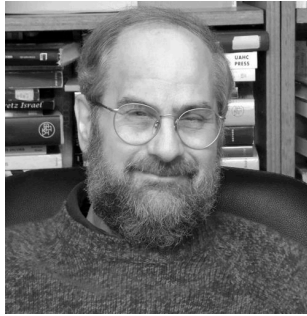
The next order of business was to announce the nominating committee's recommended slate of officers for the new board. All the proposed officers, which included some veterans and some "newbies", were approved by the members. The new Board includes the following:

- Steven Mirsky (President);
- Mark Shroder (Executive VP);
- Irv Wartell (Programs VP);
- Arlene Gottlieb & Diane Rubinstein (Financial Secretary);
- Bill Schwartz (Treasurer);
- Janet Davis (Recording Secretary);
- Ronnie Scotkin (Adult Programs);
- Martha Tomecek & Darelynn Fung (Youth Programs);
- Bret Goldstein (Children's Ed);
- Jackie Kling & Hal Rappaport (Publicity);

**Continued on page 8**

## RABBI DISCUSSES CONVERTING THE SINNER

by Jonathan Cohen



Can someone be too evil to convert to Judaism? That's one question raised by the reported conversion of former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor, who is currently awaiting trial in The Hague on

charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Taylor's wife, Victoria, told the BBC that the accused war criminal is "now a Jew. He's practicing Judaism." Now Charles Taylor is not your average, run of the mill, former dictator. He is accused of creating an army of child soldiers who went on murderous rampages in both Liberia and neighboring Sierra Leone during a ten year period during which they killed some 250,000 people. Joseph "Zigzag" Marzah, a senior commander in Taylor's militia, has testified to a war crimes trial that the former Liberian president ordered his fighters to eat their enemies, including UN peacekeepers, as a means of terrorizing the population. Marzah also testified that Taylor oversaw horrific crimes such as cutting the babies out of pregnant women, and that the former president told his men that their enemies "are no longer human beings."

Fortunately, the authenticity of Taylor's conversion is doubtful, to say the least. There is no evidence that he has been studying with a rabbi or that his conversion is anything but self-proclaimed. Victoria Taylor also told the BBC interviewer that her husband still believes in Christ's divinity, so the former warlord seems to be as unclear on the basic tenets of Judaism as he is on the principles of international human rights (and apparently of *kashrut* as well).

But what if Taylor sincerely wanted to become Jewish? Would any rabbi take him on as a student? Should any rabbi do so? The answer is not as simple as it might first appear. On the one hand, although repentance and forgiveness are important concepts in Judaism,

occasionally a person commits acts so heinous as to disqualify him or her forever from conversion. So argues Rabbi Robert Levine of Congregation Rodeph Sholom, one of the largest Reform synagogues in New York City. "You would not permit a Hitler or a Haman or a Charles Taylor to say, 'Hey, I want to change my ways [and convert],' when they've shown themselves to be a monster," Levine said. "Judaism is an interlocking system of rituals and ethics. ... There is a small group of people whose total lack of ethics and morality would dismiss them at the outset."

### Nero Became a Jew?

On the other hand, the *Talmud* records a legend according to which the Roman Emperor Nero, well known in antiquity for his tyranny and debauchery, fled Rome and converted to Judaism. What's more, the story goes on to allege that Rabbi Meir, one of the leading Sages of the *Mishnah*, was Nero's descendent!

Although historians scoff at this legend – apparently Nero committed suicide after the Roman Senate ordered his execution – modern America offers a story no less amazing than the *Talmud's*. In 1991 Rabbi Michael Weisser had just assumed the spiritual leadership of B'nai Jeshurun, a Reform synagogue in Lincoln, Nebraska. He began to receive threatening and harassing telephone calls from Larry Trapp, Grand Dragon of the Nebraska Ku Klux Klan, who had a long history of terrorizing black, Asian and Jewish families in the area.

Weisser's first step was to call the police, and to have the telephone company put a tap on his telephone line. But even though he was angry and afraid, Weisser also decided to confront Trapp. With the encouragement of his wife, Julie, Weisser began to call Trapp's racist hot line and leave messages. One of the messages reminded Trapp, who was nearly blind and had lost his two legs to diabetes, that "the very first laws that the Nazis passed were against people like yourself, who have physical

continued on page 3

disabilities, and you would have been among those to die under the Nazis. Why do you love the Nazis so much?" Then he left another message: "Larry, you'd better think about all this hatred you're doing, that you are involved in, because you're going to have to deal with God one day, and it's not going to be easy." A third message asked, "Larry, there's a lot of love out there. You're not getting any of it. Don't you want some?" Weisser made these calls once a week.

Remarkably, the calls touched Trapp. "When Michael started calling my racist hotline, I could sense something in his voice that I hadn't heard before ... something I hadn't experienced. It was love," he later described tearfully. Eventually, Trapp called the Weissers. He said, "I want to get out of what I'm doing and I don't know how." The Weissers jumped on the opportunity to visit Trapp at his apartment and brought over dinner. Before she ran out the door, Julie went to her jewelry box and found a silver ring she had given to Michael years before; she decided to give it to Trapp as a goodwill gesture. Before leaving, Michael called a friend and told him, "If we are not back in a while, call the police." This was a wise precaution because unknown to the Weissers, Trapp kept an arsenal of loaded weapons in his small, dingy apartment.

The police never needed to intervene. Upon their arrival, Trapp took hold of Michael's hand, burst into tears, took off his two swastika rings,

and gave them to the Weissers. "These rings are symbols of hatred and evil and I don't want them in my life anymore," he said. Now crying themselves, the Weissers gave Larry the ring Julie had thought to bring. Four hours later, the Weissers left with all of Larry's white supremacist paraphernalia. He told the Weissers he no longer wanted them and promised to renounce his past. Over the coming months Larry went through such a complete transformation that the Ku Klux Klan turned to threatening him. He made apologies to those whom he had threatened, joined the NAACP, spoke in public schools, and was even interviewed in *Time* magazine with Michael Weisser.

### Trapp Converts on Deathbed

As Trapp's illness progressed, he moved into the Weisser home and became known to the Weissers' three teenage children as "Uncle Larry." As his heart and kidneys began to fail, Julie quit her nursing job to take care of him. Perhaps the most remarkable part of his transformation was his conversion to Judaism in the synagogue he had once threatened to bomb. Three months later, he passed away in the Weissers' home, surrounded by his adopted family. His last words were: "Thank you for changing a dragon to a butterfly."

Of course, most rabbis don't have to worry about an international war criminal or a Klan leader showing up for a conversion class. But what about everyday criminals, sinners and just-plain-bad people who might want to join the tribe? To be honest, my first reaction is that we have enough natural-born Jewish good-for-nothings that we don't have to import any from the outside. But on the other hand, Rabbi Avi Shafran, director of public affairs for *Agudath Israel of America*, an ultra-Orthodox umbrella organization, points out that the whole idea of conversion is that one is changing radically. "An intelligent *beit din* would have to see some evidence of him wanting to change his ways," Shafran argues, "but crime in and of itself is not a bar to conversion." For once I find myself agreeing with the *Agudah*.

### SISTERHOOD REMINDERS

#### MITZVAH CARDS

Call Becky Hirsch  
at

grandmab3@gmail.com. Her speedy and efficient service will please you.

#### CATERING & GIFT SHOP

Our doubly-talented Alyce Strasser is available (after 10:30 a.m., please!) at 301-441-1353 for consultation regarding your special catering event planning or that special purchase from the Gift Shop.

## SISTERHOOD SAYS

by Irene Spector

But first, a few words from our new President, Diane Tuckman:

*I am so proud to have been elected President and hope this will be a busy year. I am aware that active participation by all members is very important for the success of any group and each playing a pivotal role will help to make this a memorable year.*

### And Now, Sisterhood Says

The Choir Concert on June 7 was a bittersweet event. The music was wonderful. The choir outdid itself and presented a beautiful musical farewell to Becky and Mark who will be moving to Florida.

On Sunday June 21 we celebrated our final activity of this year, our donor event, at the Olney Theater where we were treated to a presentation of *The Millionairess*. About 53 of us attended and had really great seats thanks to Robin Olson. We will tell you all about it in next month's *Trumpet*, but it was sure great to share an afternoon out with everyone. I am sure that after the show many treated Dad to dinner at one of the fine restaurants in Olney, and, thanks to the Entertainment book, were able to do so without breaking the budget.

We are looking for interesting ideas for summer programs. Call Eva Garin or Niki Kohn at with your suggestions. They will be happy to activate your plans and provide Sisterhood with some exciting summer activities.

Sisterhood will soon begin planning and working on all the New Year and High Holiday activities so get your volunteerism ready – we will welcome your help. The Program Committee (Eva and Niki) have already lined up some activities, but your ideas are always welcome so don't be shy – call them.

### Rhyme Time by Irene

Enjoying your vacation?

We hope so - here's why:

There are many good programs  
we want you to try.

Physical or intellectual

there's something for everyone;

So shape up all muscles and join us for the fun.

### CO-PRESIDENTS BID FAREWELL

Now that we have been Sisterhood Co-Presidents for the past two years we think we are finally getting the hang of it! Nevertheless, it is time to turn over the leadership to the newly elected President, Diane Tuckman. Diane has been a stalwart member of the Sisterhood and Mishkan Torah for many years. She knows the landscape as well as anyone, she has a lot of ideas, and she is always enthusiastic. With the support of the new Sisterhood Board and the entire membership we know we are leaving the Sisterhood in good hands. We wish Diane much success in this undertaking.

We also wish to take this time to thank those people who served so ably on our Boards over the past two years. Until we became so involved, we never realized how hard the Board members work and how truly dedicated they are. Mishkan Torah is fortunate to have members who have continued to serve over time and will continue to help lead the Sisterhood in all of its endeavors. Thank you for your support. We could not have done it without you.

It has also been our pleasure to get to know so many vibrant, interesting, and talented women – both on the Board and among the general membership. We look forward to continuing to be active players and participants in the coming years.

So, let us close by saying, "The more the merrier." We look forward to enjoying all that Sisterhood has to offer in the coming year and hope that you do to.

Melanie Fishkind & Jackie Kling

## SOCIAL ACTION IN ACTION

Those who subscribe to the list serve or attended the June 14 membership meeting are already aware of the results of the Benton Parks Memorial Food Drive sponsored by Social Action and overseen by David Norken. We are delighted with the participation of Mishkan Torah members, who together donated 206 nonperishable food items and \$740 in grocery store scrip in Benton's memory. The food and scrip have been donated to St. Hugh's Catholic Church in Greenbelt, which runs a no-questions-asked food pantry for the community.



Some synagogue committees were especially eager donors, as they pursued the motivating prize of \$50 to spend at Pita Plus in College Park. In the end it came down to a very close race between the Choir and Children's Education, with Children's Ed ultimately winning by 24 points. Social Action is so pleased with our success that we are considering making this Food Drive an annual event. Stay tuned.

On Friday, June 12, we were treated to a very interesting talk by David Norken, an EEOC judge. After a potluck supper, attended by about 15 people, and

following services, David spoke to us about what the law says about religious discrimination in employment. One point that Judge Norken made was the requirement for businesses with fifteen or more employees to make accommodations for workers' religious customs even if those accommodations might inconvenience the business!

by Andrea Weiss

From the lively discussion, it was clear that this topic could be visited again at a later date.

Our next committee meeting will be on Sunday, September 13 at 10:30. We are working on planning a fall blood drive and possibly a gleaning activity in Beltsville, tentatively set for Sunday, August 30. Please join us and share your ideas.

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**WE ARE ALWAYS SEEKING DIGITAL PICTURES OF ANY EVENT OR ACTIVITY TO ENLIVEN THE *TRUMPET*.**

**IF YOU HAVE SOME, SEND THEM TO [arbro@comcast.net](mailto:arbro@comcast.net)**

Please submit articles, pictures, suggestions, and flyers to Arnold at [arbro@comcast.net](mailto:arbro@comcast.net) by the 20th of each month unless announced otherwise.

## JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3	Erev Shabbat Family Services	7:30 p.m.
4	Shabbat Balak	9:30 a.m.
4	Independence Day	
10	Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
11	Shabbat Pinchas	9:30 a.m.
17	Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
18	Shabbat Pinchas	9:30 a.m.
24	Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
25	Shabbat Chazon – Parshat Devarim	9:30 a.m.
30	Tisha B'Av – Fast Day ( <i>Book of Lamentations</i> is read.)	

## JULY YAHRZEITS

### July 3

Jennie Mund\*  
Solomon Schoenberg\*  
Joseph Dalis\*  
Ruth Wartell  
Samuel L. Glick  
Hannah Shander  
Rose Levine

### July 10

Pauline Spector\*  
Nathan Gerson\*  
Hugh Jascourt  
Roger Rubenstein  
Louis M. Morganstein\*  
Dr. Stanley Becker  
Frieda Mintz  
Linda Fox\*  
Harry Presky

Joseph Cohen\*  
Evelyn Schabb  
Rina Shmerl\*  
Lena Golub  
Arthur Singer  
Morris Goldstein\*  
Henry W. Spiegel

### July 17

Pearl Shaich  
Jerome Kromash  
Louis Wilson  
Jeanne Axelrod\*  
Leonard Davis  
Lewis B. Siegel  
Olga Sokal  
Zena Dalees\*  
Max Spevack

Benjamin Chasnoff\*  
Thomas Teates  
Edward A. Mottzman  
Lena R. Cohen\*

### July 24

William Kirschenbaum\*  
Zipporah Weinberger  
Zvi Weinberger  
Marvin Lerner  
Isidor Choper  
Celia Shinderman\*  
Margaret "Peggy" Markfield\*  
Mamie Lieberman\*  
Mae Gordon\*  
Max Rubenstein\*  
Charles Samuel Dondes\*  
Rebecca Ruderman\*  
Jacob Epstein

## AUGUST PREVIEW

1	Shabbat Nachamu – Parshat Va'etchanan	9:30 a.m.
7	Erev Shabbat Family Services	7:30 p.m.
8	Shabbat Ekev	9:30 a.m.
14	Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
15	Shabbat Mevarchim – Parshat Re'eh	9:30 a.m.
20	Rosh Hodesh Elul	
21	Rosh Hodesh Elul – Erev Shabbat Services	8 p.m.
25	Shabbat Shofetim	9:30 a.m.

**Rosh Hashanah begins Friday evening, September 18.**

## MISHKAN TORAH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS

### Yahrzeits

Angie, Leah & Dana Carmel  
for Moshe Josef Carmel &  
Allan Searle  
Gladys Chasnoff for Jacob  
Kramer & Sarah Chasnoff  
Cary Finder for Reva Finder  
Karen Friedman for David  
Alster  
Jay Gordon & Sandra Strokoff  
for Harold Gordon  
Raymond Krasnick for Esther  
Krasnick  
Janet, Steve & Rachel Mirsky  
for Solomon Schoenberg  
Martha Pomerantz for David  
Stoler & Bessie Pomerantz  
Claire Rogal for Murray  
Daniel Shapiro, Seymour  
Rogal, Charles & Martha  
Shapiro & Dorothy Rogal  
Harriet Schwartz for Sam  
Brown  
Alyce & Arnold Strasser for  
Rose Epstein & Ignatz  
Strasser  
Joseph Stregack for Boris  
Martin Stregack

### High Holiday President's Club

David & Evey Herschler  
Beth & Phillip Williams

### High Holiday Builders

Don & Carol Juran

### In Honor of

#### Murray Ryss's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

Fran Sanders  
Harry & Jeanette Zubkoff (to  
the Kiddush Fund)

### In Memory of Rae Algaze

June & David Charney

### In Memory of Estelle Oresky

Michelle & Sid Kandel

### In Honor of the Choir

Angie Carmel  
Rabbi Marim & Paula Charry  
Jordan & Eva Choper  
Janet Davis  
Melanie Fishkind  
Arlene Gottlieb & Chaz  
Miller  
Arnold & Jackie Kling  
Niki & Gary Kohn  
Dan & Madeline Lowery  
Chana & Rusty Mason  
Mishkan Torah Mah Jongg  
Maniacs  
Raphael & Susette Panitz  
Frank Pearlman  
Ellen & Richard Rubin  
Ronnie Scotkin & Ed Hickey  
Rhoda Minda Sherman  
Mark & Becky Silverstein  
Mishkan Torah Sisterhood  
Sid & Irene Spector  
Alyce & Arnold Strasser  
Diane & Mort Tuckman

### Sustaining Fund

Janet Davis in honor of Ariela  
Haber's college graduation  
Janet Davis in honor of Evan  
Olson's high school  
graduation  
Stephen Greenberg  
Mishkan Torah Sisterhood  
Harriet & David Ginsburg  
in honor of . . .  
their 48th wedding  
anniversary on June 18  
Harriet's July birthday  
Marla Goldberg's birthday  
in June  
Dan Lowery's volunteering  
the b'nai mitzvah class—  
mazel tov  
aliyot on Shabbat

### RECONSTRUCTION NEWS

by Jackie Land

Summer is here! I wish you a relaxing and productive summer. Please save the date for an Education Day that will be held on **Sunday, August 30, at Oseh Shalom**. This day will have two tracks, one for educators and one for leaders and members of our congregations. The theme will be ***The Changing Face of the Contemporary Jewish Community***. The program will focus on inclusion, and there will be workshops and speakers on making our communities inclusive for our current members and new potential participants. Workshops will be led by our rabbis and educators. We welcome congregants to lead workshops as well. If you would like to lead a workshop, please let me know.

We are also looking forward to regional events, including the *Harmoniyah* conference, a Traveling Scholar weekend, pulpit swaps by our rabbis, shared synagogue programs, networks of like roles and more. Watch this newsletter for updates on all future programs.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Weekend of **October 29**  
National Harmoniyah Conference  
at Adat Shalom.  
For details, see the JRF website.

**Sunday, March 21, 2010**  
Chesapeake Day of Celebration

## PRESIDENTIAL INTRODUCTION: EXPECTING GREAT THINGS (FROM PAGE 1)

- Joe Gurman and Yoni Charry (Religious Committee)
- Robin Olson (Funeral Practices)
- Ed Hickey and Ron Brooks (Building)
- Becky Hirsch (Landscape)
- Jordan Choper (Building Emeritus)
- Arden Bronstein (Membership)
- Andrea Weiss (Social Action)
- Dan Lowery (Ways and Means).

This is an outstanding team with experience, energy, commitment, and devotion.

Other new business that was presented at the meeting included the open High Holiday seating for this coming year, the ongoing review of several different new Machzorim that will be evaluated for possible purchase and use next year, and the report from Janet Mirsky on progress made by the Kitchen Kashrut Committee.

Finally, President Linda Spevack announced the recipient of the President's Award to the well-deserving Richard Rosenzweig. He epitomizes all the best volunteer and individual initiative qualities that make Mishkan Torah what it is!

I expect this coming year to offer challenges as we grapple with the continuing economic downturn, worry about anti-Semitic hate crimes in our nation (one of which was too close to home for comfort!), and monitor developments that affect Israel as well as events in Iran and North Korea. I am also looking forward to the joy of sharing the High Holidays, Sukkot, Simchat Torah and many simchas together with you in the New Year. I know that, with your support and with our Board, which is "second to none," Mishkan Torah will thrive and continue to be a beacon in our lives!

Steven Mirsky

## THANKS EXPRESSED FOR SUPPORT AND HONORS

. . . from **BECKY SILVERSTEIN**

I want to send my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in or attended the Mishkan Torah Choir's Spring Concert on June 7. It certainly exceeded my expectations. The *Mizrach* wall hanging and the fabulous Memory book which the choir gave me after the concert will be treasured forever. I was incredibly touched. Although we will get together as a group later in the summer in order to perform at the High Holidays this fall, it certainly was a sobering thought to realize that my time before this wonderful choir is nearly at an end. It has been a good run and once again, I send everyone a sincere thank you from me for a job well done.

. . . from **MARK & BECKY SILVERSTEIN**

We want to thank Mishkan Torah for honoring us at the *Keter Shem Tov* on May 2. The Shabbat was a memorable experience in that we saw friends and family we had not spent synagogue time with for many years. Being included among the past honorees of the *Keter Shem Tov* is a humbling experience. We thank all of those who contributed to the memory book. We spent the entire day reliving the event through those memories. Thanks to Arlene Gottlieb, Janet Davis, Alyce Strasser, and all those who worked to make this day happen.

. . . from **SAUL ORESKY**

Thank you so much for your donations to the Scholarship Fund, which were again used this year to help pay my RRC tuition. I am greatly appreciative of all that you have done to help me pursue my dream over the years and count myself lucky to be part of such a generous and caring community. It has been a particularly trying couple of years for my family, but my Mishkan Torah family has provided care and support when we needed it most. *Today rabah!*

## SAVIET BAR MITZVAH PROJECT AIMS TO HELP SDEROT CHILDREN

by Alex Saviet

I am working on a project for my Bar Mitzvah. It is to raise money to support an indoor playground in a town in Israel where the children cannot play outside because of frequent missile strikes. It is a JNF project, and the town is Sderot. Here is a link to more information: <http://www.jnf.org/work-we-do/our-projects/security/sderot-indoor-playground.html>

My goal is to raise \$500, and I am already half way there. I am raising money in many ways for this project: 1) making and selling scarves, 2) car washes, 3) a bike-a-thon, and 4) a swim-a-thon. At recent Sisterhood and membership events, I signed up a number of people for a chance to buy a scarf (minimum donation \$7), sign up for a car wash (held at my house in Cheverly on Sundays July 26, August 2 and 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for \$12 per car), or make pledges for my swim-a-thon and bike-a-thon. I also displayed a poster with information about the project so you could see what any donations will go to. I hope you will consider helping support my project for the indoor playground in Sderot.



Children of Sderot know only too well the "Duck and cover drill," only in their case it isn't a drill.



Then candidate Barack Obama joins Sderot Mayor Eli Moyal in displaying an I love Sderot T-shirt.

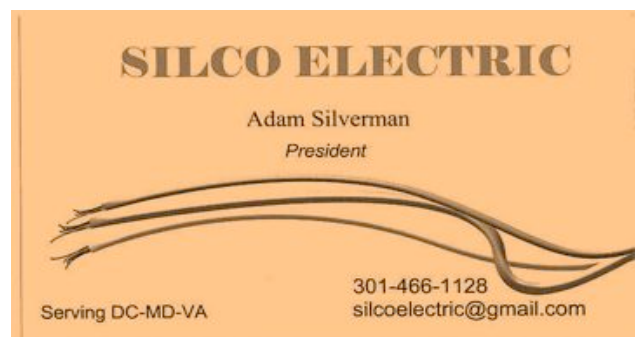
## MEN'S CLUB WORKING ON EXPANDING USE OF OUR HD LCD TV

by Steve Mirsky

The Men's Club is proceeding with plans to expand the capabilities of our new large screen LCD TV that was first used for the Super Bowl Party. A beautiful fabric cover for the TV was designed and sewn by Chris Doyle. It blends in perfectly with the wall to make the TV less obtrusive. Thank you, Chris, for your time and expertise!

Last month, licensed electrician Adam Silverman, son of member Robert Silverman and nephew of member Harold Silverman installed a new electrical outlet in the closet gratis or as he put it, "just for the mitzvah of it." The Men's Club thanks Adam and recommends him for our members' electrical needs. A custom shelf will be installed in the closet behind the TV that will house the HD Antenna, VCR and DVD players.

Over the summer, we plan to install the shelving unit, acquire the VCR and DVD players and look into adding external speakers. Several members have volunteered to donate a VCR player. We would welcome a similar donation of a DVD player. With these additions, we will be able to have movie nights and use the TV for educational purposes.



## Religious Committee Moving Forward

from Religious Committee Minutes

The Religious Committee and Rabbi Cohen have begun to take steps toward updating the *Yizkor* service and revising the High Holiday supplement. Each supplement will be reviewed and revised by Rabbi Cohen and presented to the committee as it is ready with the *Yizkor* service set for committee perusal at its next meeting. The *Yizkor* service will be a four-page booklet with 200 copies printed for use this coming year. Printing the new Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur supplementary booklets will likely not be funded this year.

The committee continues to examine proposed replacement *mahzorim* with much of

the analysis being done by Richard Cember. The purchase of the selected volume, yet to be determined, will also be deferred.

Also in the works is an examination and revision of the B'nai Mitzvah Handbook.

Finally, the Honors Committee has begun working on gathering lists of volunteers from various committees and assigning honors. The committee is looking for someone to take on the job of sending out the letters to the honorees.

The next Religious Committee meeting is set for Thursday, July 2.

The next Mishnah group meeting will be August 30!

### GIFT SHOP HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

Call Alyce after 10:30 a.m. please, to arrange a time to review our tremendous stock & select items for others or yourself.