

# M'Yad L'Yad

Enhancing lives through uniquely personal  
yet anonymous giving



FEBRUARY, 2010

M'YAD L'YAD NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 16

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## BENEFIT CONCERT FEATURES THE JEREMY SISKIND TRIO

*Robyn & Michael Weiner To Be Honored*

M'Yad L'Yad's Spring Benefit Concert and Dessert Reception will take place on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 6:30pm at The Hamlet in Commack. The jazz concert will feature the Jeremy Siskind Trio. We invite you to join us as this talented combo entertains, followed by a magnificent dessert reception and Chinese auction.

The evening is in honor of our long-standing supporters, Robyn and Dr. Michael Weiner. Robyn and Michael have been instrumental in encouraging the involvement of many teenagers,



Pianist Jeremy Siskind

including their children Alyson and David, in our program of charitable assistance. Michael is a board member and former secretary of the Board. We thank them for their support and are pleased to honor them for their selfless efforts.

Jeremy Siskind has been performing since he was a child, and in 2008 he earned a double-major in jazz performance and music theory at the renowned Eastman School of Music. He has appeared as a featured guest on *Marian McPartland's Piano*

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## M'YAD L'YAD RECEIVES HONORS

*Organization, President Recognized For Helping Others*

M'Yad L'Yad was recently honored by the Nassau Region of Hadassah. Along with Long Island Cares and UJA's Connect-to-Care program, M'Yad L'Yad was recognized for our efforts to help

those Long Islanders who are struggling. Hadassah members filled the room at the Central Synagogue in Rockville Centre and listened as M'Yad L'Yad past president Ellen Greenberg described the work we are doing and thanked the attendees for their support. Hadassah members brought toys, clothing, and household items to the event, and many M'Yad L'Yad fami-



Gloria Safran and Supervisor Frank Petrone

lies benefited from their generosity.

Our current president, Gloria Safran, was honored as Woman of the Year by the Town of Huntington at their eighth annual Women's Networking Day.

Hundreds of Long Islanders attended the event at the Melville Marriott, where M'Yad L'Yad and other Long Island charitable organizations presented information about their work. Town of Huntington Supervisor Frank Petrone introduced Gloria and spoke of her passion for helping others in a quiet and unassuming manner.

*"True meaning is found in the little acts of kindness  
that spring from the heart*

**Anonymous**

## Reflections From The President



The year 2010 is here. I look back at 2009 with pride at our many accomplishments and I look forward with great anticipation to the opportunities that await us at M'Yad L'Yad-Helping Hands.

We've grown the number of families served by 20%. More community agencies are partnering with us to help those in need. Our donor base has expanded, albeit with smaller donations. Every one of our families had a Thanksgiving dinner due to our sponsors and the hearts of the people in this community

I have been touched by what we do. During this last month, a time of caring and giving, our recipient families have received much support through gift cards and boxes filled with toys, some clothes and much more.

However, along with the new year come the cold, dreary months of January and February. Now is the time to remember our families who probably don't have what most of us take for granted ....a safe home, warm clothes, healthful, plentiful food and a steady income. For so many of our recipients life is not as "happy" as it should be. Send a note expressing your concern and caring. This correspondence is critical for some because poverty can be so isolating. A gift card provides the means to purchase fresh food, warm gloves and tissues for kids' runny noses. Not everyone in need has the ability or the means to go to a food pantry.

In spite of all we do, more people keep coming forward every day asking for help. How can we refuse

helping? We can't! Your support of M'Yad L'Yad -Helping Hands has enabled us to make a critical difference in assisting so many on Long Island to survive and thrive. Your continued generosity proves to me that our sponsors and donors are very special people who care about our community and accept the responsibility to try to make it whole. I frequently say, "Every little bit counts. Put it all together and we have one big happy whole."

As we face the year of 2010, the M'Yad L'Yad-Helping Hands Board and Staff join me in thanking all our generous friends and wishing you a very healthy, joyous year filled with peace in the world.

*Gloria Safran*

## A RECIPIENT'S STORY

### *Muriel and Jacob*

Muriel and her son Jacob have been recipients in our program for ten years. Muriel is 57 years old and Jacob is 22. Muriel was widowed when Jacob was just 5 years old. Since that time she has struggled to raise her son, of whom she is very proud. He was always a wonderful student, and he is currently taking pre-med classes, hoping to enter medical school in the near future. Muriel has struggled with her health for many years. She suffers from diabetes, lupus, fibromyalgia, herniated discs and hypertension. In the past few years she has been hospitalized a number

of times for a variety of reasons, including a broken knee, broken ribs, and other problems.

Muriel and Jacob are fortunate to have a very generous sponsor who offers support which helps Jacob purchase much-needed school books and supplies to enable him to reach his dream of becoming a doctor. Muriel often tells me that when she feels anxious about how she can help Jacob continue his studies, that frequently is the time when a gift card will come from her sponsor, enabling him to buy one more needed book, or enabling Muriel to buy food to

cook Jacob a nutritious meal which will allow him to focus on his studies.

Despite their financial struggles, health issues and worries about the future, Muriel and Jacob stay optimistic, waiting for the day that Jacob will become a doctor. They always show their appreciation to their sponsor with beautiful, heartfelt cards. They are very grateful to M'Yad L'Yad for matching them with a caring sponsor who lets them know that they are not alone.

*Janet Zimmerman*

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

"Because of you and the M'Yad L'Yad family, we did have a nice Thanksgiving. And now Chanukah will be just as nice.. (those candles are beautiful!)"

*-M'Yad L'Yad Recipient*

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking a volunteer to assist with our website. General text editing and layout skills required. Knowledge of html not necessary. Interested? Call (631) 742-7194 or e-mail [hands@myadlyad.org](mailto:hands@myadlyad.org)

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR SOCIAL WORKER



## Optimism and Hope

*Nothing in the world is more grievous than poverty, the most terrible of all sufferings....For one who is crushed by poverty is like one to whom all the troubles of the world cling and upon whom all the curses of Deuteronomy (28:15-68) have descended.*

*Our Rabbis said: If all the sufferings and pain in the world were gathered (on one side of a scale) and poverty was on the other side, poverty would outweigh them all.*

*-Exodus Rabbah  
31:12 and 31:14*

Recently a new sponsor asked me how often a recipient "graduates" from our program. I had explained that her recipient had recently lost her job. "Will she be able to move on once she finds a new job?" the sponsor asked. This is a good question without a good answer.

All of our recipients suffer from chronic financial distress. The causes of this distress are disparate. Some recipients are single parents

who cannot survive on one income. Many find themselves in situations in which the ex-spouse does not pay child support, despite court mandates. Some of our recipients suffer from illnesses or disabilities which have left them unable to work, with benefits which are not sufficient. Some are elderly with small, fixed incomes. Some are widows or widowers without family and with no resources.

Judaism teaches us to be optimistic about the future. Our holidays take us from the soul-searching and repentance of Yom Kippur to the joy and light of Chanukah. We are taught to be grateful for our beautiful world. Most of us are able to appreciate what we have, the love of our family and friends, comfortable homes, and a feeling of security that for the most part, despite the ups and downs of life, we will be okay. We have hope in the future for ourselves and our children.

Therefore, it can be disconcerting when confronted with the reality of the lives of our recipients. We want things to improve for them; we give help with an expectation that things will get better. We ask questions about how they are doing with a hope that we will hear something positive. However, in many cases things are actually worse. Therefore, it behooves us to offer more support, more help, more encouragement.

We do occasionally rejoice with a recipient who no longer needs our help, due to securing a new job or other improvements in their situations. However, for the most part, especially in our current economy, most of our recipients will continue to need our support. When they feel despair we can offer hope; when they are discouraged we can help them feel optimistic that their futures will improve.

*Janet Zimmerman*

## BENEFIT CONCERT

*Continued from Page 1*

Jazz, was a finalist for the American Pianists Association's Cole Porter Fellowship, and won the ASCAP Young Jazz Composer's Award. For a preview, visit Jeremy's website at [www.jeremysiskind.com](http://www.jeremysiskind.com).

On behalf of honorary chairs Frank Petrone (Huntington Town Supervisor) and Ilene and Jerry Herz (M'Yad L'Yad board members and last year's honorees), we encourage you to attend this wonderful evening of music and

desserts. Invitations will be mailed shortly, and we look forward to seeing you on April 18. For more information, please contact our office.

## M'YAD L'YAD SYNAGOGUE PARTNERS

CHAVURAT EMET .....	SMITHTOWN	PLAINVIEW JEWISH CENTER .....	PLAINVIEW
COMMACK JEWISH CENTER .....	COMMACK	SOUTH HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER .....	MELVILLE
DIX HILLS JEWISH CENTER .....	DIX HILLS	TEMPLE BETH DAVID.....	COMMACK
EAST NORTHPORT JEWISH CENTER .....	EAST NORTHPORT	TEMPLE BETH EL .....	HUNTINGTON
HUNTINGTON JEWISH CENTER .....	HUNTINGTON	TEMPLE BETH EL OF PATCHOGUE .....	PATCHOGUE
KEHILLAT CHOVEVEI TZION .....	EAST SETAUKET	TEMPLE BETH TORAH .....	MELVILLE
JEWISH CENTRE OF BAY SHORE .....	BAY SHORE	TEMPLE CHAVERIM .....	PLAINVIEW
JEWISH CONGREGATION OF BROOKVILLE .....	JERICHO	TEMPLE ISRAEL OF SOUTH MERRICK .....	MERRICK
KINGS PARK JEWISH CENTER.....	KINGS PARK	TEMPLE OR ELOHIM .....	JERICHO
MIDWAY JEWISH CENTER.....	SYOSSET	TEMPLE SINAI .....	ROSLYN HEIGHTS
NORTH SHORE JEWISH CENTER .....	PT. JEFFERSON STATION	THE COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE .....	PORT WASHINGTON

M'Yad L'Yad works together with Long Island synagogues to address the problem of poverty in our local communities. For information on how to join our Synagogue Partners, please contact our office.

# B'YACHAD: TOGETHER

*M'Yad L'Yad Works TOGETHER With The Community*

## **Stony Brook Hillel**

The students of the Hillel Foundation at Stony Brook University have once again partnered with M'Yad L'Yad to support one of our recipient families. Students collected clothing, non-perishable food and other items to enhance the lives of our recipients during the Chanukkah holiday. We thank Rabbi David Delman and all of the Hillel students for their efforts.

## **Huntington Jewish Center "Light-A-Candle"**

The Huntington Jewish Center partnered with us for the first time to help M'Yad L'Yad recipient children at Chanukkah time. Candles representing M'Yad L'Yad children and their Chanukkah wishes were posted on a bulletin board, and synagogue members selected which "gift wish" they wanted to fill. 37 children had their Chanukkah celebration enhanced by the members of Huntington Jewish Center. We appreciate the amazing efforts of Robin Laban, who spearheaded this meaningful HJC community undertaking.



*Huntington Jewish Center Light-A-Candle*

## **Dix Hills Jewish Center Mitzvah Day**

The Jewish people are often referred to as the "People of the Book." The Dix Hills Jewish Center Social Action Committee sponsored a Mitzvah Day in November, and lived up to that name. Books were collected and sent to children in four of our families. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the DHJC members.

## **Levittown ELVES**

The Levittown ELVES ("Enlightening Little ones Via Education & Surprises") coordinate a program every year in the Levittown School district wherein families raise funds and purchase toys for needy children on Long Island. Because of the amazing generosity of Levittown families, we were able to send huge boxes of beautifully gift-wrapped presents to seven of our M'Yad L'Yad children. We are happy to once again partner with the Levittown School District, and thank Gerri Fox-Wilson for reaching out to M'Yad L'Yad and benefiting our children at Chanukkah time.



*Toys Collected by Temple Sinai Teens*

## **Suffolk Y JCC**

For the second year in a row, the Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center partnered with M'Yad L'Yad for their holiday toy collection. The children in 11 M'Yad L'Yad families had their holiday celebration brightened through the generosity of the JCC members. We thank Eileen Schneyman for coordinating this wonderful project.

## **Half Hollow Hills East Operation Holiday**

Once again, the student government of Half Hollow Hills High School East, under the leadership of Spencer Fogel and Michael Weiner, joined with us to support families during the holiday season. Students, faculty, and staff raised funds to benefit four M'Yad L'Yad recipient families. After a highly successful campaign, students used the funds raised and shopped at Target, purchasing clothing, toys, and household goods to benefit our families. We thank everyone at High School East, and look forward to partnering on future projects.

## **South Huntington Jewish Center Dreidel Project**

The Sisterhood of South Huntington Jewish Center continued an annual tradition of supporting M'Yad L'Yad recipient children at Chanukkah time. Dreidels representing the Chanukkah wishes of M'Yad L'Yad recipient children were chosen by synagogue members, who purchased gift cards or other requested items. Nineteen children had their Chanukkah celebration enhanced by the members of South Huntington Jewish Center. We appreciate the amazing efforts of Gayle Charlack and the Sisterhood members who coordinated this worthwhile program.

## **Dix Hills Jewish Center Chanukkah Extravaganza**

Under the leadership of Karyn Likerman, Debbie Biederman and the Social Action Committee, members of the Dix Hills Jewish Center collected toys, games and other items to support many of our recipient families during the Chanukkah season. Synagogue families demonstrated great generosity as packages were sent to thirty seven M'Yad L'Yad families. The Dix Hills Jewish Center Social Action Committee continually demonstrates their commitment to tikkun olam, the repair of the world, through their efforts to help M'Yad L'Yad families.

## **Temple Sinai Hebrew High School**

M'Yad L'Yad executive director Mark Zimmerman was pleased to be able to meet once again with the Hebrew High School students at Temple Sinai in Roslyn just before Chanukkah. Zimmerman spoke with the students about M'Yad L'Yad and the families we serve, and then collected the huge bags of toys that were collected by the Temple Sinai students and families. We thank Rabbi Benjamin David and the teens for their support, and we look forward to working with Temple Sinai in the future.

# M'Yad L'Yad - Helping Hands



## Mission Statement

M'Yad L'Yad-Helping Hands is dedicated to enhancing the lives of the needy in our community. The anonymous pairing of volunteer sponsors with recipients encourages ongoing relationships and provides friendship and dignity, as well as material support.

## Our Program

M'Yad L'Yad-Helping Hands makes it possible to give in a way that is personal, yet always anonymous. We match volunteer sponsors with needy recipients, asking sponsors to send packages to their recipients four times per year in order to enhance their lives. Sponsors might send toys, clothing, gift cards, school supplies, or other items that are best suited to their recipient's individual needs. We are a local organization, supporting families on Long Island. To join with us, please call (631) 742-7194 or e-mail us at [hands@myadlyad.org](mailto:hands@myadlyad.org).

## Our Benefactors Circle

M'Yad L'Yad greatly appreciates the generosity of our benefactors. Thanks to the support of the individuals and corporations listed below, we are able to expand our reach to make a positive impact on the lives of Long Islanders. To add your name to our Benefactors Circle, please see the donation form below.

### Benefactors

Anonymous (2)	Rabbi Ian Jacknis, South Huntington Jewish Center
Meryl & Stewart Ain	Gail & Gerald Jospa
Terry Schimek & Wayne Barnstone	Linda & Peter Kramer
Cheryl & Rod Brayman	Elizabeth Krulik
Karen & David Eisner	Marilyn & Marty Leibowitz
Beth & Alex Finger	Faith & Les Lerner
Terry & Irwin Fishberg	Susan & Leonard Lustig
Barbara Safran & Ken Greenberg	Barbara & Lewis Meltzer
Ellen & Stephen Greenberg	Rabbi Susie Heneson Moskowitz
Ilene & Jerry Herz	Cantors Sandra Sherry & Richard Pilatsky
Robin & Douglas Horn	Lesly & Nathaniel Reichel

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Rosenthal
Betty & Sam Roth
Erika & Richard Safran
Gloria Safran
Nina Sandler
Michele & Stephen Scheck
Roslyn & Jeffrey Sherman
Renee & Stephen Steinig
Diane & Gerald Thurer
Myra & Harry Wagner
Robyn & Michael Weiner
Weisberg/Epstein Family
Judy Weiss & Jack Zucker

### Corporate Benefactors

The Benjamin Companies	Lewis Johs Avallone Aviles, LLP
Café Buenos Aires	Merrill Lynch
Citi Smith Barney	PT Squared Physical Therapy
Dentists For A Better Huntington	Rosenberg & Fortuna, LLP
Fairway	Salesmaster
Goldstein, Rubinton, Goldstein & DiFazio P.C.	Sterling Floor Design
Herman Goldman Foundation	Touro Law Center
Huntington Bay Dental	U. S. Luggage
Knockout Pest Control	Wachovia Securities

## M'YAD L'YAD DONATION FORM

NOTE: Donations Can now be made online at [www.myadlyad.org](http://www.myadlyad.org)

Name/Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like: (please check)

- Additional information about M'Yad L'Yad
- To volunteer to sponsor a M'Yad L'Yad family
- To join M'Yad L'Yad as a Benefactor/Corporate Benefactor  
(minimum donation of \$500).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- To make a donation to M'Yad L'Yad .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- To make a donation to the Murray Safran Fund ..\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(to assist recipients with emergency needs)
- To buy Tribute cards: \_\_\_\_ cards @ \$5 .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make my donation ...

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgment to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Message: \_\_\_\_\_

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Mark D. Zimmerman Talks About Hidden Problems*



I recently returned from New Orleans, my home town. I visit frequently to see family and enjoy the food, the music, and the warm weather. For the last 4 years, I've also used these trips to stay up-to-date on the city, following the disastrous flooding after Hurricane Katrina. There has been significant rebuilding and improvement throughout the city, and I saw more tourists in town this past month than I've seen in years. But I'm saddened by how much has not been restored, by how many people (including members of my own family) have not been able to return, by how many neighborhoods are still nowhere close to normal. Visitors who go to the French Quarter, the Garden District, and other famous sites can spend days in New Orleans and never see a reminder of the devastation. The poor, the homeless, and the unemployed remain unknown, unseen, unhelped. When I return from New Orleans, I want to show everyone I know pictures of the neighborhoods that are still largely uninhabited, of the houses that are still boarded up, of the empty lots where families once lived and children once played. But those pictures remain on my computer, and I usually just describe the great dinner and concerts I enjoyed.

Sometimes I feel that those in need on Long Island suffer the same fate. We Long Islanders go to the beautiful parks, the East End, the beaches, and so many other wonderful areas in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. But we don't see the other reality, that there are many families struggling on a daily basis to put food on the table, stay warm in the winter, and provide for their children. I have visited the homes of some M'Yad L'Yad recipients who have little furniture, and I've visited others where there is hardly an inch of floor space visible, as they have consolidated their lives in a tiny apartment after losing the large house they once lived in. I've been in neighborhoods that, prior to working for M'Yad L'Yad, I never went anywhere near. Sometimes I feel that I should print pictures in the M'Yad L'Yad newsletter, or include addresses so you can see for yourself how other Long Islanders are living.

But of course, our central tenet of anonymity precludes me from doing this. The privacy and dignity of our recipients outweighs any argument for exposing them. And therefore, I urge you to remember that just because poverty on Long Island is often hidden, it is no less insidious. I hope that you will join with the hundreds of others of M'Yad L'Yad supporters, your friends and neighbors who have offered their assistance, by sponsoring a family, making a donation of money, clothing, toys or other needed items, by serving on a M'Yad L'Yad committee, or by simply spreading the word to others in your family, your workplace, your synagogue, church or other organization. Don't let the anonymity of those we are helping enable you to forget that we are helping hundreds of real Long Islanders in need of a helping hand.



**M'Yad L'Yad – Helping Hands**

74 Hauppauge Road  
Commack, NY 11725

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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**Robyn & Michael Weiner to be  
honored by M'Yad L'Yad  
• See story on Page 1 •**