

# M'Yad L'Yad

Enhancing lives through uniquely personal  
yet anonymous giving



JANUARY, 2011

M'YAD L'YAD NEWSLETTER

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## BENEFIT CONCERT FEATURES SIXGUN

*Rabbi Ian Jacknis and Dr. Eugene Antenucci To Be Honored*

M'Yad L'Yad's Spring Benefit Concert will take place on Sunday, April 10, 2010 at 6:00pm at The Hamlet in Commack, featuring SixGun, the tri-state area's premier Country/Rock band. Featuring music by such artists as the Doobie Brothers, Neil Diamond, George Strait, and Jimmy Buffet, the event promises to be entertaining and rousing. We are excited to announce that our event honorees will be Rabbi Ian Jacknis and Dr. Eugene Antenucci.

Rabbi Jacknis has been the rabbi at South Huntington Jewish Center since 1993, where he is known for being welcoming, responsive, insightful and compassionate. Besides being a long-time member of our Board of Directors, Rabbi Jacknis is also a past president of the

Suffolk Council of Jewish Organizations and the Rabbinical Assembly of Nassau-Suffolk.

Dr. Antenucci maintains a full-time private practice at Huntington Bay Dental. He also serves as a Clinical Associate Instructor at the NYU College of Dentistry, and he lectures internationally on a variety of topics to other dentists. He is committed to community service, participating in and sponsoring numerous community service events annually, and has been a M'Yad L'Yad benefactor and supporter for three years.

Invitations will be mailed in early March. We encourage you to attend this wonderful evening of music, hors d'oeuvres, desserts and raffles.

## SHIUR, AN EVENING OF LEARNING

*Rabbi Rafi Rank Speaks About Sholom Aleichem*

On December 8, 2010, many of us enjoyed an evening with Rabbi Rafi Rank (of Midway Jewish Center in Syosset) at Temple Beth-El in Huntington. M'Yad L'Yad Sponsors and benefactors were invited to attend this informational, entertaining Shiur about Sholem Aleichem, famed Jewish author/humorist, as a way to say "thank you" from our Board of Directors.

We learned that Sholem Aleichem was born in Russia (1859-1916), his real name was Solomon Naumovich Rabinovich, and he was known as the Yiddish "Mark Twain" because of similar writing styles and use of pseudonyms. He wrote many books and plays about the miseries and joys of Eastern European Jewish life, incorporating history and social/political issues into his stories...always

with a touch of humor and pathos.

Rabbi Rank read aloud in a dramatic, authentic manner excerpts from Sholem Aleichem's *Tevye the Dairyman*, whose main character, Tevya the milkman, and his everyday activities inspired *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Susan Lustig, one of the attendees, asked, "How is it that a Jewish play like *Fiddler* is so popular in countries all over the world ...like Japan?" Rabbi rank responded, "The struggle to maintain traditions in the face of changing social values and mores is universal." How true!

We were all so inspired by Rabbi Rank's energetic, enlightening presentation that many of us are eager to read more of Sholem Aleichem on our own. We look forward to the next SHIUR...join us!



Rabbi Rank reads from Sholom Aleichem's "Tevye the Dairyman"

*"I believe that every human mind feels pleasure in doing good to another"*

Thomas Jefferson

# Reflections From The President



Dear Friends,

The number of families in need is still great and growing. In spite of recent reports of the economy turning upward, our phones are constantly ringing with calls from families in dire straits. Those of us who receive a regular paycheck are fortunate. We can keep our homes warm. We have enough food to feed our families. Can we look away and ignore the plight of those who have so much less?

You say there are food banks to help the hungry. Do you know some people have no means of transportation to get to the food bank? In addition, we hear and read that food banks themselves are having a hard time. They are running very lean, almost empty.

If a family owns a car, getting to work often means deciding on whether to pay for the gasoline or buying food. With the onset of the

cold weather, outfitting a family of growing children with basic warm clothing is a daunting challenge. Every aspect of our Recipients' lives is a challenge to juggle their meager means to feed, clothe and house their families.

If you are one of the fortunate ones who does not have these everyday challenges, this is your opportunity to help ease the constant worry by becoming a Sponsor. It is so simple. By sharing a little of what you have, you can bring some sunshine into the life of a less fortunate family. You don't have to do this alone. Join forces with a friend or cousin. You cannot believe what hope and comfort you bring to others with so little effort.

This is a note I received from my Recipient.

*Thank you so much for what you sent us. The sweater set fits Madeline perfectly. John and Mike*

*are so happy with the sweaters and socks they received. Mike had no socks without holes in them. He is growing so quickly. Of course, my husband and I are so very grateful for the grocery gift cards. Now we can eat more healthfully until our next food stamps come in.*

*I want you to know how much we appreciate all you do. Not having any family nearby, you make us feel we do have family and are not alone in this world. G-d Bless You.*

*Best regards to your family.  
-Ruth*

So, please join us as a Sponsor. Without Sponsors, M'Yad L'Yad-Helping Hands can't help those who need us the most. Every little bit helps.

*Gloria Safran*

## UNINVITATION APPEAL PROVIDES THANKSGIVING SUPPORT

The annual M'Yad L'Yad Uninvitation appeal saw an almost 20% increase in the number of donors to this campaign, raising a record amount of money to support our Recipient families at Thanksgiving time. Gift cards were sent to every one of our Recipient families to enhance their Thanksgiving celebration. An



e-mail from one of our Recipients, Marilyn, reflects the feelings of all who benefited from this drive: *Thanks to all the wonderful donors that made it possible for you to help out with gift cards for Thanksgiving. I give thanks to all of you who have made my life a little easier and I have no words to express my appreciation.*

### M'YAD L'YAD SYNAGOGUE PARTNERS

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

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

### M'YAD L'YAD - HELPING HANDS

#### Mission Statement

M'Yad L'Yad-Helping Hands is dedicated to enhancing the lives of the needy on Long Island based upon the highest ideals of Judaism. Through anonymous pairing of volunteer Sponsors with Recipients, we extend a helping hand to provide not only material assistance, but also ongoing relationships, friendship and dignity.

#### 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, 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) 486-6636 or e-mail us at [hands@myadlyad.org](mailto:hands@myadlyad.org).

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR SOCIAL WORKER

*When I was young I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people.*

-Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

One of our long-time Recipients passed away in May. Sylvia and her husband Harold had been Recipients since 2001. Sylvia had a host of serious medical issues. She was bedridden for years. Sylvia was someone who was extremely unhappy and let everyone know it. When I called Sylvia for the first time, she let me have it. She spoke at length about how terrible her aide was, how she fought with her husband, how no one understood her, and how all of her doctors were worthless. She also let me know in no uncertain terms that she was sure that I didn't know what I was doing. There were only four people in the world that Sylvia cared about; her husband, her son, and her Sponsors, Helen and Peter,

a couple that were generous, caring, sensitive to her needs, and unrelenting in their kindness towards her.

When Sylvia was younger, she was very critical of people and some might say that she rarely had a good word to say about anyone. As her physical ailments wore her down, and she became more dependent on others, she became more mellow. Rather than judging people harshly, she became more appreciative of kindness.

Over time, Sylvia and I developed a warm relationship, and her anger softened. When we spoke she would describe her physical pain and also her psychological pain. She would tell me about the old days, how she met and was courted by Harold, and about their good and bad times together. She was very sad to be estranged from her grandchildren. She felt lonely. But then she would tell me about a

package that came from her Sponsors. She just couldn't believe how Helen and Peter knew exactly what she needed. It wasn't just the amazing generosity, but the care with which her Sponsors picked out the items to send to her. Once, when Sylvia was hospitalized, she received a package with some candies. You would have thought they were made of gold. Those candies came at a time when she was frightened and alone, and they sustained her. She knew she was cared for.

Sylvia's Sponsors performed a great mitzvah for her for many years. But their kindness towards her and her husband near the end of her life nurtured her beyond words. Helen and Peter continue to act as Sponsors for Harold; their kindness continues.

*Janet Zimmerman*



### SPOTLIGHT ON ... *Hinda Ritigstein*

Many of our members became involved with M'Yad L'Yad through friends, co-workers or family members. Such was the case with Hinda Ritigstein, on whom today's Spotlight brightly shines. Hinda was introduced to M'Yad L'Yad by a long time close friend, our treasurer Renay Weisberg. Hinda was immediately taken by the warm welcome she received while attending her first meeting at Renay's suggestion. "I was impressed with the friendliness of the bright, caring people who filled the room," she said. "As a social worker interested in helping individuals and communities, I found the M'Yad L'Yad mission harmonious with mine." Providing material items to those in need plus giving anonymously really appealed to Hinda's sense of charity.

Hinda is a former Executive Board member, currently a Board member, and assists with the preparation of our spring fundrais-

er and with other responsibilities as they come up. She spoke warmly of her Recipient, who is a bright, lovely woman who has been sharing life experiences with Hinda through letters for the past six years. Hinda states that "Although we have, of course, never met, and only know each other by first names, we have a warm relationship in which I receive as much as I give."

Hinda was born and raised in Riverhead with her two older brothers. Her parents were prominent members in the community, and were the founding members of Temple Israel of Riverhead in 1947. Being involved with the many charitable activities of the Riverhead community was an important part of her family life.

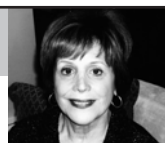
Hinda received a BA in Sociology from Russell Sage College, an MS in teaching from LIU, and an MSW in social work from Adelphi. She taught for a few

years, raised a family and later became a social worker in the East Islip School District from which she recently retired.

Hinda has been married 43 years to Jerry, a semi-retired psychologist with a successful private practice. Together they have two sons, both lawyers, two daughters-in-law, both lawyers, and three young grandchildren, not lawyers, yet.

Hinda is a very busy lady. In addition to her work with M'Yad L'Yad, she is a member of a professional women's group, an investment and book club, plays canasta, bridge and mah jongg, enjoys walking and bike riding, travels extensively and spends time with her many friends and family. Hinda is yet another example of the bright, active, educated, socially sensitive men and women who help make M'Yad L'Yad the unique organization that it is.

*Kaye Pine*



# B'YACHAD: TOGETHER

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

### **Oceanside Jewish Center Religious School**

M'Yad L'Yad was pleased to be represented at the Oceanside Jewish Center Religious School Tzedakah Fair in October. We were one of six non-profit organizations invited to meet with the students and explain the work we are doing. Students went in small groups from table to table, asking questions, taking literature, and filling out a questionnaire which was prepared by their teachers, to enhance their understanding of the organizations and the meaning of Tzedakah. Students were then given \$100 each (play money!) to distribute to the organizations in any way they chose. What a wonderful way to teach young people about the value of tzedakah and the importance of becoming educated as to how to make charitable giving decisions. We thank Fran Pearlman, Director of Congregational Education and Jewish Living, for inviting us to participate in this wonderful project.

### **Dix Hills Jewish Center**

Under the leadership of Debbie Biederman and the Social Action Committee, members of the Dix Hills Jewish Center once again collected toys, games and other items to support many of our families as part of their "Chanukkah Second Night Out" celebration. Synagogue families demonstrated great generosity as packages were sent to fifty six M'Yad L'Yad children. 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.

### **Tiphonie's Gifts**

Tiphonie's Gifts, located at the Mid-Island Y JCC at 45 Manetto Hill Road, continues to offer a rebate to M'Yad L'Yad. Just mention us when making a purchase, and Tiphonie's will donate 20% of your purchase price to our organization (sale items and gift cards excluded).

### **Huntington Jewish Center**

The Huntington Jewish Center partnered with us for the second time under the leadership of Robin Laban to help M'Yad L'Yad Recipient children at Chanukkah time through their "Light One Candle" project. Candles representing thirty eight 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. Every single candle was snatched up by the generous members of the HJC, thus lighting up the Chanukkah celebration for many of our families.

### **The Hamlet Golf and Country Club**

For the second year, the Hamlet Golf and Country Club in Commack donated eight frozen turkeys to M'Yad L'Yad Recipients for Thanksgiving. We thank manager Barry Weisberg for his generous support of our families.

### **Meadowbrook Women's Initiative**

The Meadowbrook Women's Initiative, in conjunction with the Levittown School district, provided beautifully gift-wrapped Chanukkah presents for eight of our Recipient children. We are happy to once again partner with these generous donors, and thank Gerri Fox-Wilson for reaching out to M'Yad L'Yad and benefiting our children at Chanukkah time.

### **Temple Sinai Hebrew High School**

The high school students at Temple Sinai in Roslyn continue to show their commitment to the Jewish value of tzedakah, charitable giving, by collecting a huge quantity of toys, books, and games for M'Yad L'Yad children, enhancing their celebration of Chanukkah and Christmas. Executive director Mark Zimmerman was pleased to be able to speak with the Hebrew High School students about M'Yad L'Yad and the families we serve, and to collect the boxes of toys which they collected. We thank Rabbi Benjamin David and the teens for their support, and we look forward to working with Temple Sinai in the future.

### **Suffolk Y JCC**

The Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center again partnered with M'Yad L'Yad for their holiday toy collection. JCC families filled a huge bin with toys which were distributed to ten M'Yad L'Yad families, bringing added joy to their holiday celebrations. We thank Eileen Schneyman for coordinating this wonderful project.

### **Half Hollow Hills High School East**

Once again, the student government of Half Hollow Hills High School East, under the leadership of Rachel Gerber and Student Government advisor Glen Cochrane, joined with us to support families during the holiday season. Students, faculty, and staff raised funds to benefit three M'Yad L'Yad Recipient families. After a highly successful campaign, students used the funds raised and shopped at Wal-Mart, 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**

The Sisterhood of South Huntington Jewish Center once again undertook their annual Pick-A-Dreidel Project to support M'Yad L'Yad Recipient children at Chanukkah time, under the leadership of Gayle Charlack. Twenty five 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.

### Our Benefactors Circle

M'Yad L'Yad greatly appreciates the generosity of our Benefactors. Thanks to the support of the individuals, organizations, 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.

#### Gold

Fairway Market The Slomo and Cindy Silvian Foundation, Inc.  
 Herman Goldman Foundation

#### Silver

Anonymous (2)	Barbara & Lewis Meltzer	Nina Sandler
Goldstein, Rubinton, Goldstein & DiFazio P.C.	Cantors Sandra Sherry & Richard Pilatsky	Michele Balizer & Stephen Scheck
Barbara Safran & Ken Greenberg	Lesly & Nathaniel Reichek	Sterling Floor Designs, Ltd.
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#### Bronze

Anonymous	Robin & Douglas Horn	Supervisor Frank Petrone	Diane & Gerald Thurer
Meryl & Stewart Ain	Huntington Bay Dental	Helen & Harvey Rock	Touro Law Center
Terry & Wayne Barnstone	JVKellyGroup, Inc.	Rosenberg, Fortuna & Laitman, LLP	Triangle Equities
Bartlett, McDonough, Bastone & Monaghan, LLP	Gail & Gerald Jospa	Shirley & Seymour Rubin	U. S. Luggage
Dix Hills Jewish Center, Rabbi Howard Buechler	Knockout Pest Control, Inc.	Gloria Safran	Myra & Harry Wagner
Beth & Alex Finger	Linda & Peter Kramer	Roslyn & Jeffrey Sherman	Weber Law Group
Terry & Irwin Fishberg	Elizabeth Krulik	South Huntington Jewish Center, Rabbi Ian S. Jacknis	Robyn & Michael Weiner
Myrna & Stephen Green	Marilyn & Martin Leibowitz	Renée & Stephen Steinig	Eden Fisher & Michael Weisberg
Ellen & Stephen Greenberg	Lewis Johs Avallone Aviles, LLP	Temple Beth Torah (Westbury), Rabbi Michael Katz	Weisberg/Epstein Families
H2M Group	Susan & Lenny Lustig		Erika & Kenneth Witover
	Rabbi Susie Heneson Moskowitz		Judy Weiss & Jack Zucker

## M'YAD L'YAD DONATION/INFORMATION FORM

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

Name: _____	Telephone: _____
Company: _____	e-mail: _____
Address: _____	
<i>I would like: (please check)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional information about M'Yad L'Yad	Please make my donation... In Honor of: _____ In Memory of: _____ Acknowledgment to: Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Message: _____ _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> To volunteer to sponsor a M'Yad L'Yad Recipient	
<input type="checkbox"/> To join the M'Yad L'Yad Benefactors Circle	
Bronze level (minimum \$500) .....\$ _____	
Silver level (minimum \$1000) .....\$ _____	
Gold level (minimum \$5000) .....\$ _____	
Platinum level (minimum \$10,000) .....\$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> To make a donation to M'Yad L'Yad .....\$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> To make a donation to the Murray Safran Fund ..\$ _____ <i>(to assist Recipients with emergency needs)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> To buy Tribute cards: _____ cards @ \$5 .....\$ _____	

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Mark D. Zimmerman Talks About Liechtenstein*



The funniest thing I regularly read is *The Onion*. If you're not familiar with it, it's a satirical weekly newspaper, offering the quirkiest take on politics, culture, sports, and even the weather.

It seems that there isn't a subject they haven't covered, including charity. A few years ago the paper had a short article entitled, *'Hands Across Liechtenstein' Raises \$30 For Liechtenstein Charities*. According to the article, "Citizens of the tiny European principality of Liechtenstein turned out in full force Saturday to participate in 'Hands Across Liechtenstein,' a special fund-raising event that raised more than \$30 for Liechtenstein charities. Nearly 150 citizens joined hands in a line that stretched from one end of the country to the other, forming a human chain one-and-a-half football fields long. 'This is a great achievement and an inspiring tribute to the great spirit of our people,' Liechtenstein's Prince Hans Adam II said. 'I can barely see the end of the line from where I stand.'"

If you think this is funny, then we share the same sense of humor.

I was reminded of this story as I was preparing this newsletter. As 2010 has just ended, I reflect on the many people who have worked together with us over the last year – contributors, sponsors, committee and board members, and everyone who helped us to fulfill our mission of anonymous charitable assistance to Long Islanders. The list of people in those categories is huge – far more than the 150 citizens of Liechtenstein who supported "Hands Across Liechtenstein." If I had to make a guess, I'd probably argue that our supporters could join hands across dozens of Liechtensteins! And of course, the image of our supporters forming a "Hands Across Dozens of Liechtensteins" line seems particularly fitting—after all, we are M'Yad L'Yad, literally From Hand to Hand. All of us—you, me, and the thousands of other volunteers and supporters—all working together to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need on Long Island. Until such time as the need no longer exists, may we all continue to join hands, not literally across Liechtenstein, but figuratively across Long Island to envelope all those who benefit so greatly from our help.



**M'Yad L'Yad – Helping Hands**

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Helping Hands

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**Rabbi Rank speaks at our Shiur,  
An Evening of Learning  
• See story on Page 1 •**