

Mount Sinai Jewish Center Annual Journal Dinner June 15th, 2014



Talia and Matthew Furleiter

GUESTS OF HONOR

Talia and Matt have felt a deep connection to the Mount Sinai Jewish Center community since joining the shul in 2009. Matthew has served as a Gabbai and worked with the Finance Committee, which he has chaired as Financial Secretary since July 2012. Matthew has worked on several administrative projects to support the professionalization of our shul's operations including developing comprehensive monthly financial reports for our board and quarterly reports for our membership, as well as supporting the Renovation Committee and identifying new fundraising opportunities. Matthew served on the contract committee in 2014 and also managed the purchase and initial construction of our lower level sukkah in 2010. He is a CPA and Certified Internal Auditor, and works as an accountant in the real estate finance industry. Talia prepares our weekly newsletter (aka the Keshet), is an active member of the shul's Eruv committee, and teaches a weekly women's Talmud shiur at Mount Sinai. She also serves as a kallah teacher for women in our neighborhood. Talia is a graduate of the Yeshiva University GPATS program from which she holds an MA, and has taught at Drisha and YU. Talia is currently a fellow in the second class of Nishmat's Miriam Glaubach Center's U.S. Yoatzot Halacha Fellowship. Talia is originally from Teaneck, NJ and Matthew hails from Brooklyn, NY. Their children Yehuda and Ezra are also frequent and popular shul attendees. Talia and Matthew can't imagine a better place to have started a family and thank all of you for making Washington Heights and Mount Sinai Jewish Center special.

Rachel and David Fryman

PILLARS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Rachel and David have been active Mount Sinai members for a combined 15 years. They met at a Shabbat meal in Washington Heights and regularly host guests and visiting lecturers in their home. Rachel has served on the Chesed committee and Events committee and also as Co-chair of the Family Life committee. She also helped plan and organize singles events through our shul's Scattergories program, as well as through YU Connects and Dine-and-Meet events. David served for three years on the Board of Trustees, as well as on the Education and Constitution Committees. David also served for two years on the Nominating Committee, including one year as its chairperson. We have called upon David's legal expertise to help draft the Board's "Standing Rules", anti-discrimination policy, a constitutional amendment regarding recalcitrant spouses, and interest-free loan documents to help obtain funding for our renovation project. Professionally, Rachel is a social worker at the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, working with young women and single parent families in the Orthodox Jewish community, and Adjunct Professor at Adelphi University School of Social Work. She is currently pursuing her PhD at Smith College School for Social Work. David works in commercial litigation.



Reina Potaznik

HERBERT HARWITT COMMUNITY BUILDER AWARD

Reina moved to Washington Heights in 2009 and has been a proud member of the Mount Sinai Jewish Center for the past five years. Early on, Reina was recruited to help run events for the shul and the greater Washington Heights community. Reina chaired MSJC's special events committee for two years, running and overseeing a variety of activities such as Scattergories, Panoply, Israel Day Parade participation, and Winter Saturday night programming, amongst others. Reina helped develop and implement Heights Shabbat Link, a social network that brings together young adults of the WaHI Jewish community. She also co-founded Flattening the Hills, an organization that strives to unite the various Jewish institutions in WaHI. For the last four years Reina has co-produced Ladies Got Talent, which gives women artists the opportunity to perform in front of an all female audience while raising awareness for specific organizations. Most recently Reina co-founded the WaHI Dance Collective which creates dance opportunities for Jewish women in the Heights and beyond. Reina takes great pride in all her community work whether in WaHI or elsewhere. She has been involved with ATARA: Arts and Torah Association for Religious Artists for the past five years. This organization facilitates community-building among female Torah-observant artists with the aim of providing resources and performance opportunities for them. Since 2011 Reina has judged the Yeshiva High School Rikudiah, an annual dance competition for Jewish Day Schools in the tri-state area. Presently, Reina is a JeWTA (Jewish Women's Talent Agency) fellow. She is a New York State certified dance educator for preK-12 and has taught in NYC public schools. Reina currently teaches dance at SAR Academy for grades 6-8. We are exceptionally grateful to Mr. Herbert Harwitt, one of the foremost builders of our community, for honoring Reina, and us, by lending his name to this award.



Mark and Sura Rozenberg

RABBI YEHUDA HILEWITZ MEMORIAL AWARD

After living a combined quarter of a century in Washington Heights, Mark and Sura have truly made Mount Sinai their home. Mark has been a member of several shul committees and is currently serving a second term on the Board of Trustees. An attorney, Mark works tirelessly behind the scenes and regularly provides advice on legal and shul governance issues as Mount Sinai meets the challenges that come with growth. Sura is very active on the Family Life Committee, where she coordinates Mount Sinai's Meals for Moms (and dads) as well as the Tot Shabbat and Minyan Katan children's groups. Sura is a school psychologist and guidance counselor at Yeshiva Ketana of Manhattan. Mark and Sura feel very fortunate to be a part of the Mount Sinai community, where they met each other and have formed many close friendships. Along with their boys, Gershon and Tzvi, they can often be found taking part in the many programs the shul has to offer. Like Rabbi Hilewitz Z"L, Mark and Sura are strong leaders who work quietly and behind the scenes. Mark and Sura feel honored to receive an award named for someone they knew and respected.

