Aviva and Jeremy Stern have worked tirelessly for the past seven years to guide our community through a period of unprecedented growth. Aviva helped enhance family life as a chair of Mount Sinai Youth, co-coordinator of Meals for Moms, and kallah teacher to members of our community. She also edited the weekly bulletin for over four years and served as a member of the Ritual Committee and chair of the Membership Committee. Jeremy is currently serving his second term as President, which follows years of service as a Trustee, Gabbai, Treasurer, and member of the Membership, Nominating, Finance, Fundraising, Bulletin, and Rabbiic Liaison Committees. Outside of their shul commitments, they both also manage to find time for careers: Aviva is an 8th Grade Mechanach at Yeshiva Har Torah, and Jeremy is Executive Director of ORA, The Organization for the Resolution of Agunot. Their three adorable children, Ateret, Menachem, and Revital, are fixtures of our community. We are very pleased to honor Aviva and Jeremy as our Guests of Honor in recognition of their years of service before they and their children make aliya this summer.

Aliza and Yitzi have been active members of the shul for 4 and 7 years respectively and are regulars at Mount Sinai Events and Educational programs. Aliza currently serves as a Trustee and is a leader in social community building and fundraising. Only a few months after becoming a member, Aliza joined the Events committee, first leading individual events and the next year chairing the committee. As committee chair, she oversaw Panoply and Purim chagigot, as well as many other shul social and holiday events. Yitzi is a regular baal kriah and baal tefillah on Shabbat and organizes the leining rotation for Shabbat and Yom Tov. They also credit Mount Sinai for its role in facilitating their meeting and subsequent marriage, and are pleased to have played on the winning Panoply team this past year. Professionally, Aliza is an occupational therapist at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx and Yitzi is a data scientist at Chartbeat.

Yehudis has shown a tremendous commitment and dedication to Mount Sinai and its membership. Yehudis currently serves as Vice President. In her two years as Vice President, Yehudis has played a vital behind-the-scenes role in ensuring shul operations run smoothly by working closely with dozens of committees, the Rabbi, executive director, and office staff, and most importantly the members. She joined the board of trustees in 2010 and previously served on the Chessed, Education, Kiddush, Dinner, and Events committees. Yehudis has a long history of commitment to community service. Before moving to New York she co-founded a women’s theater group, Chicago Women Charity Players, to raise funds for local Jewish charities in her hometown of Chicago. She currently serves on the Young Executive Board of Strength to Strength, an organization helping victims of terrorism. She currently works as an Academic Administrator for Yeshiva University. We are exceptionally grateful to Mr. Herbert Harwitt, one of the foremost builders of our community, for honoring Yehudis, and us, by lending his name to this award.

Danny’s consistent devotion to our synagogue quickly distinguished him as a leader in the short time since he moved to Washington Heights three years ago. Danny immediately joined the Gabbaut committee and currently acts as Gabbai at the 7:30 daily morning minyan. Often the first one to davening in the morning, he also helps coordinate the shul’s leining rotation and was instrumental in helping to relocate the beit midrash upstairs during construction. Danny also utilizes his wit and wisdom to help enhance the shul community through social programming. For the past two years he has served on the trivia committee of Panoply, including one year as co-chair, and as a writer for the Purim spiel (including the well-received facebook skit). For Danny’s firm commitment to running Mount Sinai’s ritual affairs as well as his quiet, warm and witty demeanor, we are proud to honor him with an award named after Rabbi Hilewitz Z”L, who embodied many of the same traits.

For more information about the dinner, or to place an ad in the journal, please visit www.mtsinaishul.com/dinner