

Mount Sinai Jewish Center Annual Journal Dinner June 7, 2015 at 6:00pm

Talia and Isaac Dayan

GUESTS OF HONOR



Talia and Isaac Dayan have both been active members of Mount Sinai since moving to Washington Heights in 2008.

Isaac served on the Board of Trustees for four terms, including one term as President. He previously served on the Finance, Membership, Kiddush, Annual Dinner, and Chanukat HaBayit Committees, and chaired the Fundraising Committee for three years. During his first years in Washington Heights, Isaac shared words of Torah each week after the Friday night Sephardic Minyan.

Talia served on the Membership Committee and helped run singles programs through our shul's Scattergories event, as well as YU Connects and Dine-and-Meet events. She is also an active participant in the Meals for Moms program.

Talia and Isaac enjoy meeting community members and visitors as contributing hosts for the shul's hospitality program. They credit Mount Sinai for its role in facilitating their courtship and subsequent marriage. Bonnie and Mitchell, their two adorable children, are popular shul attendees and enjoy participating in Tot Shabbat and other Family Life Committee programs.

Professionally, Isaac works as an investment analyst and Talia is pursuing a doctorate in school psychology at St. John's University. Talia and Isaac are honored to be Guests of Honor in recognition of their years of service to the shul and community.

Riva Dreil

HERBERT HARWITT COMMUNITY BUILDER AWARD

It all began with a Purim Shpiel and a digital short...little did Riva Dreil know at the time that it would be the beginning of her beautiful relationship with Mount Sinai Jewish Center. Shortly after that epic Purim, Riva was encouraged by friends to volunteer at other community events, and she helped organize the BBQ Bash singles event that year. Following that, Riva was hooked! She officially joined the Events Committee and helped run various programs, including the Friday Night Lights and Learn series, Paint Night, Ladies Got Talent, Panoply, and holiday related events. Furthermore, she joined the Board of Trustees in July 2014, and has enjoyed serving the community in that capacity as well. Additionally, she is involved with the Security Committee and the Kiddush Committee (when she can manage to wake up for Hashkama:) When she's not responding to MSJC emails, or visiting Oren and Kayla in the office, Riva is the owner and manager of Revitalize Physical Therapy, a women's health pelvic floor clinic in Washington Heights.

Riva strongly believes that she benefits more from her involvement than do the community members who attend events. She derives tremendous pleasure and satisfaction from creating opportunities for people to connect with each other and with God. She is a proud shul member who values the importance of creating a warm and welcoming environment, and she is grateful for the ability to participate in that goal. She appreciates inspirational community builders such as Herbert Harwitt, and hopes to influence others to become active participants in shaping the exciting future of our community.



Debbie Piner

RABBI YEHUDA HILEWITZ A"R MEMORIAL AWARD

Nothing brings a smile to Debbie's face as quickly as helping another in a time of need. She has shown consistent dedication and devotion to our shul and its members. For the past 2 years, Debbie has co-chaired the Chessed Committee providing opportunities for community members to help out, have fun, and make a difference! Some of the programs included a community-wide day of service, birthday phone calls to brighten a senior's day, packaging food in the local JCC food pantry, and fundraising programs such as "Sushi for Shabbos" & "Challah - Just Dough It!" Mount Sinai and the Chessed Committee are very appreciative of the JCC for all their hard work and collaboration in many of these activities.

Debbie is often willing and eager to help out with various other shul programs such as Shabbat and Yom Tov dinners, fundraisers for Israel, and singles events. She participated in a 4 mile "Run for Israel" with Mount Sinai last summer. In addition to organizing events, visiting those in need, and helping out with shul programs, Debbie works as an Occupational Therapist at a school for children who are blind and visually impaired.

She recently joined the Hospitality Committee and will continue to be a warm, welcoming, and friendly face in our community.

Debbie is very grateful for this award, and appreciative of the constant devotion and dedication Rabbi Hilewitz, Z"L, gave to our shul and the wonderful role model he was for the Washington Heights and broader Jewish communities. She looks forward to future opportunities to continue his legacy and inspire others to do the same.



Sara Shatz

KETER SHEM TOV AWARD

Sara Shatz joined Mount Sinai at an annual Saturday Night Sundaes membership drive over 6 years ago. Her involvement in the shul started when she got restless during davening one Shabbos and wandered into the social hall. She saw people setting up the shotglasses for the Shabbos Mevarchim Kiddush and offered to help. She continued helping each month, and shortly thereafter, was asked to help out earlier in the set up; she agreed, even though it meant waking up early to go to the Hashkama Minyan. That's when she found out the cookies don't platter themselves! She has set up nearly every kiddush since, running the Kiddush Committee for the last 3 years. Since Sara is in the kitchen so often, she knows her way around and often assists in other food-related events, including the Shmini Atzeret dinner and Friday Night Lights and Learn.

In addition to her food presentation skills, Sara also collects and organizes the siddurim and chumashim so there are enough on the bookshelves, in locations where people can find them. She served on the Board of Trustees July 2013 through June 2014.

Sara thanks you, in advance, for putting away your siddurim and throwing out your cholent bowls.

