

Out & About

... at the Manhattan Jewish Experience 10th Annual Dinner



MJE reaches out to unaffiliated Jews in their 20s and 30s and connects them with their Judaism, and each other — over 70 couples have met and married through MJE.



A crowd of some 400 supporters gathered on March 31 at the Museum for Jewish Heritage in Lower Manhattan to celebrate the Manhattan Jewish Experience (MJE) 10th anniversary. Founded in 1998 by Rabbi Mark Wildes, MJE is dedicated to reaching out to unaffiliated Jews in their 20s and 30s. Through cutting-edge programming, MJE has successfully reconnected thousands of Jewish men and women with Judaism and the Jewish

community. Over 70 couples have met and married through MJE and hundreds are now active members of the Jewish community.

The evening's Guest of Honor, Leon Wildes, father of Rabbi Wildes and Michael Wildes, mayor of Englewood, N.J., was given a special Founders Award in recognition of his help in establishing MJE. Leon Wildes, a prominent immigration attorney known for his successful representation of John Lennon, has been a longtime board member of Yeshiva University and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. At the award presentation Rabbi Wildes remarked how instrumental his father's guidance and support has been in both forming the organization and helping to grow it over the years.

Also honored were Tovah and Josh Marmer, Jackie and Jason Demby and Meredith Wolsh. After the Marmers accepted their award, Josh talked about how he and Tovah met through MJE and how the orga-



(Above, left): MJE Honorees Tovah and Josh Marmer with Rabbi Jonathan Feldman, associate/East Side director, MJE (right).

(Above): Leon Wildes (center) received the MJE Founders Award from his sons Rabbi Mark Wildes, founder and director, MJE (left), and Michael Wildes, mayor, Englewood, N.J. (right).

(Left): Rabbi Wildes, MJE Band drummer.

(Below): The crowd celebrates.

MJE IN THE BERKSHIRES

MJE is holding its Berkshire Mountains Spring Retreat 2009 at Club Getaway from June 11-14. Jews in their 20s and 30s will enjoy a meaningful Shabbat experience along with hiking, golf and tennis lessons, wine tastings and much more. The \$299 price includes all food, lodging and activities. Payment plans and scholarships available upon request. Call 212.787.9533 for details.

nization helped each of them grow as Jews and as a couple building a Jewish home.

Entertainment after the presentations was provided by the MJE Band, which includes: Rabbi Mark Wildes on drums; Rabbi Pinny Rosenthal, executive director, MJE, on electric guitar; Rachel Kraus, downtown director, MJE, on piano; and Eric Stern, MJE *chazzan*, on lead vocals. They rocked the house with three songs as a slideshow of

MJE participants and programming was shown in the background. It was a special evening celebrating an organization for the important work it does on behalf of the Jewish people.

For more information about MJE visit www.jewishexperience.org.



Karl Grossman, professor of journalism at SUNY College at Old Westbury

SIERRA CLUB DINNER AND SHOW

On Saturday evening, June 6, the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club will host its 2009 Awards Dinner and Art Show. The event is set to take place at the Inn at Great Neck, which is located one block from the LIRR at 30 Cuttermill Road, and will feature New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli as the keynote speaker. The

night's notable award winner is professor Karl Grossman, who will receive the Environmental Stewardship Award.

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is the oldest and largest grassroots organization in America. The club's mission is to "explore, enjoy and protect the planet," and its hundreds of thousands of members actively promote the responsible use of the earth's resources.

Grossman is a professor of journalism at SUNY College at Old Westbury and coordinator of the Media and Communications major at the school. He is an outspoken supporter of environmental and energy issues, hosting the nationally syndicated television



Israel Bonds President and CEO Joshua Matza (third from left) with Gabriela Shalev (second from right), Israeli ambassador to the U.N., and David Halpern (right), national chairman of Israel Bonds, welcome some of the eight Operation Gaza combat officers who arrived in the U.S. for Operation Maccabee.

program *Enviro Close-Up* in addition to several award-winning TV documentaries discussing his concerns with nuclear power.

Tickets for the program cost \$75 and checks are payable to the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club, PO Box 886, Syosset, NY 11791-0886. For

details, contact Frank Morris at 516.410.8461 or frankmorris@ecologicinvestor.com.

OPERATION MACCABEE

Eight IDF veterans of Israel's war against Hamas are now sharing their experiences during a 10-day visit to the U.S. called Operation Maccabee. The visit, sponsored by Israel Bonds, was launched May 11 at a luncheon in Manhattan's St. Regis hotel. The soldiers were addressed by Israel's U.N. ambassador, Gabriela Shalev, and Israel's consul-general in New York, Asaf Shariv. The eight officers will be appearing at speaking engagements in 20 cities nationwide.

"These soldiers will help refute falsehoods and distortions regarding the Israeli war against Hamas terrorism," said Israel Bonds President and CEO Joshua Matza.

AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD