

From The Parnas:

By Mark I. Wolfson

Mikveh Israel needs YOU!

If you were around during Purim, you would have seen a table set up with sign-up sheets for all of the various committees we have at Mikveh Israel.

I should digress here for a paragraph to mention that the Purim event was awesome! I think it was the best one we've had that I can remember - then again, at my age... Kudos to Mrs. Caralyn Vessal and Mrs. Fran Levy for putting on a wonderful party. It started with a great Megillah "reading" for the kids by Mr. Eli Gabay. Eli encourages the kids to really get into it - not just make noise during the reading of the name of Haman, but laugh and scream and get involved in the whole story. Then

Mr. Michael Gordon read a beautiful Megillat Esther for the adults. Then we went into the social hall for a lovely party. There was pizza, tuna, egg salad, and of course, hamentashen galore! For the kids, there were more raffles than ever - really great stuff. For the adults, Mr. Gustavo Masri brought in beer and darts. And to top it all off, there was a table set up for - get this - ARM WRESTLING! Men against men, women against women, kids against kids - it was so much fun! Of course, yours truly was undefeated in 3 matches - hey, 9 year-old girls are no match for me!

Back to the serious work of running a synagogue...

The board of managers and the officers of the congregation have oversight over the affairs of the synagogue. They are responsible for the organization and making sure things are run properly and smoothly. The real work of the congregation and the functioning of Mikveh Israel, though, happens in the committees. These are the small teams that brainstorm, plan, organize and implement everything that happens at KKMI. The Board of Adjuntos and the officers of Mikveh Israel selflessly lend their expertise, skills, knowledge, concern, time, and love to these committees. The true force and strength behind the success of everything that happens at Mikveh Israel is really the membership. That means you and me and all of the members working together to solve problems, plan events, invite speakers, design classes, keep the building running, attract new members, welcome guests from around the country and the world, balance the budget and preserve our minhag.

Here are some of the committees that need your help:

- Membership
- Building
- Archives
- Finance
- Children's Programming
- Adult Learning
- Meals
- Website
- Cemeteries

In addition, we need people who can help with administration, marketing, public relations,

graphic design, meeting and greeting, selling, cooking and shopping. Pretty much anything you like to do, there is a need. There are opportunities to work from home, work out in the community, or in our building. You can work alone, in small groups, or larger teams.

I invite every member of Mikveh Israel to join at least one committee. We are a great congregation and an important Jewish institution in Philadelphia. Working together, and pooling our talents, skills, energy and love, we can become better and better.