



November 2019

CENTRAL BOARD 2016-2019

We would like to thank the entire community for their overwhelming support and confidence in the past three years of this Central Board. The Central Board worked tirelessly together to maintain and promote unity in the community and expand our religious, social and community related programs while understanding the different and ever-changing needs of our community members.

During the last three years many individuals have dedicated their valuable time to the community. As our term is coming to an end we would like to thank our dear Rabbanim, all of the past boards, current board members, committee members and hardworking individual community volunteers and employees for working together to allow the following community accomplishments to come to fruition during this term.

RELIGION & MINHAGIM:

- **Religious Leadership for All of Our Minyanims:**

- Based on a comprehensive vision and agreement, working closely with the Synagogue Boards, arranged that each of our minyanim in all of our kanissas has a Rabbi to lead the congregants and to emphasize on our Mashadi traditions and values
- Given the importance of our Gym Minyan that caters to ages 13-18, hired Rabbi Eli Livian to further enhance the experience and increase the attendance, work closely with the leadership team, and to prepare the youth before they head off to college
- Under this new arrangement, our list of Rabbis, under the leadership of our Chief Halachic Rabbi Eliyahu Ben-Haim, is as follows (in alphabetical order):
 - Rabbi Moshe Aziz (Ohr Esther, Early Minyan), Rabbi Yosef Bitton (Shaare Rachamim), Rabbi Moti Kohanim (Shaare Shalom, Main Minyan), Rabbi Eli Livian (Shaare Shalom, Gym Minyan), Rabbi Joshua Maroof (Ohr Esther, Main Minyan), Rabbi Adam Sabzevari (Ohr Esther, Young Adults Minyan), Rabbi Simon Basalely (Sephardic Beit Midrash) and Mr. Oren Bezalely (Ohr Esther, Pre Bnei Mitzvah Minyan)

- **Documentation of Our Religious Heritage and Publication of New Mashadi Siddurim**

- A book by Rabbi Ben-Haim that documents our religious heritage, Sephardic halacha and Mashadi minhagim
- A new Mashadi siddur, "Kol Avoteinu", published for weekdays, Shabbats and holidays that standardizes our prayer books according to Mashadi minhagim
- A new Mashadi Yom Kippur Machzor (as well as Selichot book), with English translation, that enables to have a more meaningful Yom Kippur in accordance with Mashadi customs
- The standardization of our prayer books and documentation of our religious heritage bring about a more cohesive and united Community, and ensures the continuation of our traditions for generations to come

JEWISH EDUCATION:

- Dramatically increased Jewish Education budget and programs for our youth.
- Added a new learned-it-up program for High School age students.
- Expansion of our Jewish Education program for post bar mitzvah age boys.
- Added a new pre-Bnei Mitzvah minyan for boys and girls at Ohr Esther.
- Initiated a new Young Professional Minyan
- Initiated new Rabbis and teachers for Sephardic Beit Midrash

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES:

- **Discounted Wedding Packages to Help with the High Cost of Marriages**

- A wedding package has been arranged by the Marriage Committee which allows new couples to have a full sit-down wedding for a highly discounted price. To date, several new couples have taken advantage of this opportunity.

- **Expansion of Services for Community Members and Our Seniors**

- Expanded programming, including Jewish Education programs, Camp MJC, and countering BDS movements on college campuses
- Programming Committee was centralized under the UMJCA Central Board and added new programs with local schools
- Expanded our security team with new systems and training for our staff and worked with the Nassau County Police Commissioner to add Nassau County Police presence to our Centers.
- Expansion of the Medical Advisory committee to centralize all of our already established support programs and social services.
- Drug and Alcohol prevention courses with Rabbi Barak Levy
- Initiated a new anti-vaping campaign by our Community doctors

- Added Rabbis to conduct Levaya Services which was much requested in our community
- Promoted Allahdadi programs to educate our youth on our heritage
- Job recruitment fair and events / Collaboration with Northwell Health
- Updated Community calendar rules to allow easier wedding planning and scheduling

FINANCES & ASSETS:

- **Renovation and Beautification of our Synagogues**

- Fully renovated and modernized all of our three Synagogues, through three successful Chinese Auction fundraisings
- Shaare Shalom – Fully renovated the main sanctuary with new refinishing, carpets and upholstery, fully renovated social hall, updated look and new mechitza for the Main and Gym minyan
- Ohr Esther – beautiful new heichal, stained glass windows, Hebrew proverbs on the walls, elevated women seating and expanded seating in main Synagogue
- Shaare Rachamim - cosmetic updates and leased an extra piece of property for security and events from the Village

- **Real Estate Transactions to Facilitate the Growth and Needs of the Community**

- **Sale of Shaare Tova of Queens** – with an overwhelming approval by the Community, Shaare Tova of Queens is under contract to be sold to another Orthodox Community to ensure the continuity of the Synagogue.
- **New Cemetery Plots** – added over 500 new cemetery plots for the Community in same place of our 2 existing (Plot #3 New Montefiore).
- **Purchased Land at 189-195 Steamboat Road** – Purchased a 2 acre of land in a central location for a facility that will house the new Shaare Tova of Great Neck. Once in a lifetime full variance approval have been received in a record-setting short few months with minimal cost. The envisioned multi-purpose facility is expected to cater to ALL Community members for generations to come, and to accommodate for the community's growth, values and unity.
- **Search for Affordable Housing** – a search is underway for affordable housing for young couples and seniors to make sure our children and our parents can continue living in Great Neck despite the rising cost of housing.
- **Seniors of our Community** - Worked with local rehab centers to give priority and better accommodations to our seniors and directed seniors to find better sources of government funding through new programs

- **Successful Fundraising and Fiscally Responsible Budgeting**

- Strong annual fundraising, coupled with fiscally responsible budget management, helped pay down the one million dollars in loan for the purchase of a cemetery plot in 2016
- Three successful Chinese Auction fundraising that fully covered the cost of our synagogue renovations

- Successful Angel Fund and Mikveh Moshe fundraisings; renovation of Mikveh Moshe is under way.
- Established a new Mashadi Soldiers of IDF Fund, and helped donate facilities to Shaare Tzedek Hospital and Cohen's Children Hospital

ORGANIZATION & AFFAIRS:

- **Approved New By-Laws for Shaare Rachamim**
 - Passed the new Shaare Rachamim By-Laws Committee that also added the Mikveh Committee as a Standing Committee of the UMJCA Central Board.
- **Record Voting by Community Members in Local Elections**
 - Expanded our public affairs efforts, leading to new and greater relationships with various levels of local government officials.
 - Promoted Community wide voter registration which led to a record number of turnout by our Community members in local elections.
- **Established New Committees**
 - Real Estate Committee – to explore new properties and study potential new facilities, as listed above, to accommodate the community's growth and needs for generations to come
 - Takana Committee – to ensure we preserve our Jewish identity in a challenging environment
 - Initiated a new e-directory sub-committee of Long-Term Planning Committee to establish and modernize our community directory to be used for our different programming and statistical needs.

We pray that our Community will continue to be blessed and always remain united as one family. We hope that our religious and traditional Mashadi values will be preserved for generations to come and that our children will continue to promote Zionism and the support for the State of Israel.

Finally, we would like to congratulate all the newly elected Central Board members and wish them much success in the coming term.

UMJCA Central Board

President:

Allen Hakim

Treasurer:

Mika Hakimi

Board Members:

Haleh Benilevi

Benny Hematian

Assistant Treasurer:

Marty Bassaly

Hertzl Cohanpour

Babak Kamali

Vice President:

Jonathan Hazghiyani
(Hezghia)

Executive Secretary:

Hooman Yaghoutiel

Farzad Dilmanian

Dani Namdar

Nasi Gorjian

Igal Namdar

Omid Hakimi

Yoni Nitzani