
HAKOL

THE VOICE OF CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

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Our Mission

To foster a vibrant egalitarian Jewish community founded in the religious customs and traditions of Conservative Judaism; offering excellent Jewish education and community activities for all ages with commitment to Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world.



By Rabbi David Mark Eligberg

Many years ago, Bill Cosby performed a wonderful comic trilogy about Noah. In these routines we see that Noah's reaction to the Divine call was a bit more skeptical than the biblical account might suggest.

"Noah!"

"Somebody call?"

"It's the Lord, Noah."

"Right." (Pause) "What do You want? I've been good."

"I want you to build an ark."

"Right." (Pause) "Who is this really?"

"It's the Lord, Noah. After you build the ark, I want you to go out into the world and collect all the animals by twos, male and female."

"Right. (Pause) Am I on Candid Camera? Why do you want me to do all these weird things?"

"I'm going to destroy the world."

"Right. (Pause) Is that you Larry?"

In this version, Noah finds it hard to believe that the Divine message is addressed to him. One wonders if he will answer the call to build the ark. What would have happened had Noah decided not to prepare for the flood? He could easily have pointed out to God, that the Lord, being compassionate, has been known to change his mind about punishing people; that this could be a lot of work for no real purpose. In fact, later in Cosby's routine, we hear Noah, his patience gone, complaining to God.

"Noah."

"What?!"

"You need to take one of those hippos out and bring in another one. You've got two females there and you need to bring in a male."

"I'm not bringing nothing in! You change one of them."

"Come on. You know I don't work like that."

"I'm serious. I've had enough of this. I've been working on for days and days. All the neighbors are out there laughing at me. Do you know I'm the only guy in this neighborhood with an ark? You send me out there to collect all the animals by twos. Two mosquitoes - male or female? You let me go out there and bring in a pregnant elephant; give no manual for delivery. There's good old Noah, waiting underneath the elephant.

Continued on page 14

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORTS

-----by Ann Kanarek-----

TEFILAH TIME

Learning about and participating in tefilah (prayer) is a significant part of our religious school program. Our students pray together in class, in Junior Congregation and as members of our synagogue community. By studying key prayer words and phrases and chanting the prayers our students know how to actively participate in the Jewish prayer experience. In addition to regular practice, they are taught about the history and meaning of prayer.

As a school we set aside tefilah time in each class. Students learn the prayers quickly and effortlessly when the prayers are sung each time the class meets. Alone or in pairs, students take turns leading different tefilot. They act responsibly and with confidence as they take on a leadership role. Being in that position, they fulfill the obligation of serving as a Shaliach Tzibbur, "a representative of the community" and the congregation's spokesperson.

Yasher Koach, "great job" to our students who diligently study and learn their prayers. May they "go from strength to strength!"

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Judaism, we have always made a **NAMING** a religious ceremony. It is fitting that when our children begin their formal Hebrew studies they announce their Hebrew names publicly at a religious service. On **Friday evening, November 5, 8:00pm** as part of a special Shabbat Service, the Alef class will take part in an innovative ceremony in which they will introduce themselves, explain their Hebrew names and receive a special blessing. We hope that you join us to share this special event with our third graders.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS: On Friday, November 5 we are beginning a new tradition at B'nai Tikvah, Birthday Blessings. All students (13 and under) with a September, October and November birthday will be called up to the bimah to receive a special birthday blessing. As a special bonus, our children will get a unique gift coupon sticker that they will be able to redeem for a prize during religious school hours. Looking forward to seeing all of you at services for a wonderful celebration!!

MAZEL TOV TO ALIYAH WEINSTEIN from Mrs. Carol Winter's Bet class. She was the first to guess the "missing tribe" to get a prize. Way to go Aliyah!! Honorable mentions to **Jodi Eisenberg** and **Rebecca Spigner** who also knew the "missing tribe". Keep up the good work!!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5: Alef Naming Service (8:00pm) followed by Dinner (6:30pm)
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7: Chai School Gleaning Trip, 9:00am-12:05pm
First Grade PACT program: MY SYNAGOGUE, 9:00am
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14: NO SCHOOL, NJEA Convention
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21: Storyteller, Rebecca Kelly visits our K-2 classes.
Chai School Breakfast with the Rabbi
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28: NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving holiday
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5: CHANUKAH CONCERT with composer, NOAH BUDIN

SUPPORT OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Put your name on a flame. Put your handle on a candle. Look for the Wall of Flame, our Religious School Menorah with your name in lights. For only a dollar each, you can buy paper flames for every member of your family. Or, for 18 big ones, you can buy a whole paper candle for your group. Anyway you choose, you are warming up to a great cause--your Religious School. For more information, check the flyer in this bulletin or in your child's bag. On behalf of the Religious School staff and children, we thank you for your support.

For your convenience, you can shop at **LEARNING EXPRESS** in **Franklin Park** at the Edward's Supermarket Shopping Center, 3391 Route 27. LEARNING EXPRESS has a nice selection of general children's books and books of Jewish interest. As a bonus, during the **week of November 7-11, LEARNING EXPRESS will donate 20%** of your purchases to the Religious School. Purchase anything from books to games, music and toys and identify yourself as a B'nai Tikvah member. Learning Express will donate 20% of the sale back to the School. This is a fund-raiser and the proceeds will benefit our school and enhance the quality of programming for our children. Bring a friend, enjoy the shopping experience, buy your Chanukah presents and take advantage of this special opportunity. Thank you for your support.

Religious School Report continued on page 6

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

By Jacqueline Master

Getting to know you is a new column in which we will highlight different new members each month.

What do you get when you cross a garment center girl from Flushing, New York with a pediatrician from Hillside, New Jersey? The Speesler family. Barbara and Matthew Speesler of South Brunswick and their 8-½ year old daughter Dana have recently joined B'Nai Tikvah.

Settling in Brunswick Acres 15 years ago when Matt completed his residency at Robert Wood Johnson and St Peter's hospitals, the Speeslers are very active in the community.

Matt is a pediatrician in Somerset. He is also the school physician for the Spotswood school system and a current member of the South Brunswick Board of Education. In his spare time this Rutgers alumni teaches an adult education class in computers, one of his hobbies. Ask him about his collection of Lionel trains.

After working on the other side of the fashion industry in the New York garment center Barbara, a University of Maryland graduate, is a sportswear buyer for Reynolds, which helps her indulge her passion for shopping with work. She gets to shop all the other stores to check out the competition. An active PTO member at Dana's school, Barbara served as chairperson for their new playground. She enjoys reading and when she's not ferrying Dana to various activities she enjoys walking around the neighborhood with her friends.

An active 8 1/2-year-old, Dana is in Aleph class in our hebrew school. A collector of American Girls dolls, Dana plays basketball and enjoys play dates and Nintendo. She loves attending day camp in the summer.

The Speeslers consider themselves lucky to have a conservative temple so close to them. Joining B'Nai Tikvah is yet another way of supporting their community. We welcome them to the B'Nai Tikvah Community



TORAH FUND

We have 5 new 'benefactor' members pledged in the month of October to donate \$150.00 to the Torah Fund of the Jewish Theological Seminary and they are: Gail Dillman, Melissa Fisch, Ruth Anne Koenick, Ann Rosenzweig, and Janet Weiss.

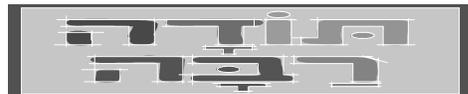
These donations do not have to be paid all at once but can be made in installments. There will be a Torah study day, on November 7th sponsored by the Womens League for Conservative Judaism. Please contact Sandra Levine at 940-8744 if you wish to attend.

ESHET CHAYIL Women of Valor

Last month we told you the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation honored **Bobbi Binder** as our Eshet Chayil from Sisterhood. What we didn't know at the time was another synagogue member, **Arlene Frumkin**, was honored by the National Council of Jewish Women as their Eshet Chayil. Both women have shown dedication and tireless devotion in all they do for their respective organizations. We, as a community are honored, to count them among our own. Congratulations ladies!

LOST can you help?

One of our congregants, Allen Weg, has not been able to locate his tallit since late summer. The tallit was the traditional black and white kind, and was kept in a small blue velvet tallit bag, which had his name in Hebrew, "Avraham Zvi Veg" stitched with silver colored thread onto the front. He usually kept it in one of the bins in the coatroom, but it has not been found. Please advise the office if you see it. Thank you.



- The Babysitting Committee thanks all of the people who volunteered their time during the High Holy Days.
- Thanks to all the parents on the Jewish Book Fair Committee for running a wonderful Jewish Book Sale for the Religious School. We thank everyone who supported the Book Fair. Our proceeds will benefit the school's enrichment program.
- The Religious School thanks Teresa Samtur and Deborah Spigner for coordinating a wonderful Judaica Shop for our Chanukah buying needs and pleasure...and especially for displaying the wares during shopping times in the Religious School.

CHAI SHABBAT

Lately when I come to temple and look around, I wonder how it was before we had this building, how was it before we had the school wing. And even more important who are the people who created B'nai Tikvah, who are the people we can thank for their dedication, sweat, and hard work. Today we enjoy a beautiful building, which houses a flourishing congregation. When I come to temple I, and I think many others, take everything for granted. We assume things have always been this way. In the past, I never gave much thought to what actually happened some twenty years ago, when B'nai Tikvah began.

At a Membership Committee meeting, the idea arose of honoring our founders. And from that moment on, this simple idea took on a life of its own. We invited some of the founders to sit around and tell us what really happened back then, before we had this building. And the stories were so amazing. We were excited to hear of the humorous and heart-warming early days, and we decided to share them with the entire congregation.

So this is the plan that the committee formulated: every year in May, at the anniversary of the merger of the three temples, we will honor with a special Sabbath any congregants who have been members of our congregation for eighteen years. Those members and their families will be honored at a special Shabbat, followed by a luncheon.

The first Chai Shabbat (this one we are calling Chai plus) will take place in October 2000. At the first Chai plus Shabbat we will honor anyone who was there "at the beginning" – involved with one of the three merged congregations more than 18 years ago. At each year following, we will honor those who have been members of B'nai Tikvah for 18 years. We hope to create a very meaningful tradition for those who envisioned and built a community at B'nai Tikvah.

Be on the lookout for further information concerning the Chai Shabbat. If you have any ideas, suggestions, etc to share with the committee, please contact Arie Behar. In the meantime, look in your records and find out when you became a member of B'nai Tikvah, then add 18 years. We hope to see you then!

Arie Behar

Continued from Religious School Report Page 3

MEET COMPOSER & SINGER NOAH BUDIN

Noah Budin is a singer, songwriter, guitarist, actor, storyteller and Jewish educator. For many years, he was a member of the Chicago-based acapella music and comedy group, "Four Guys Standing Around and Singing." Striking out on his own, Noah released his first album "Hallelujah Land," in 1998. The album has received rave reviews across North America for its freshness, sincerity and beauty. Mr. Budin will be our "Chanukah Chootenany" guest entertainer and sing from his highly acclaimed recording as well as new compositions. Join us on Sunday, December 5 at 9:30am or 10:45am in the sanctuary for a fun holiday concert.



A special thanks to the families who donate to the religious school education fund on an ongoing basis and to all of you who will support our Chanukah flames project that will help to sponsor this program.

B'NAI TIKVAH BOOK CLUB

COME ONE! COME ALL!

Our December book will be "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant. Our meeting is in the Synagogue Library at 8:00 PM on Tuesday, December 14. Nina Wolf will be our Discussion Facilitator. (This book is an oversize paperback, costing \$11.20 (plus postage) through the B'nai Tikvah website via Barnes & Noble.

Mark your calendars for the following Book Discussion Group Dates:

- ❖ Tuesday, February 8, 2000
- ❖ Tuesday, April 4, 2000 and
- ❖ Tuesday, June 6, 2000.

All meetings are at 8:00 PM.



KADIMA CONNECTION

Congratulations to the 1999-2000 Kadima Board!

President - Hannah Ehrlich
 Vice Pres. - Josh Baer
 Historian - Julie Gordon
 Recording Sec. - Gary Marx
 Corresponding Sec. - Sari Kaufman

COME and enjoy Shabbat services with your friends from Kadima. Bring your family on Friday night, November 19th. This is a great way to welcome in Shabbat, earn junior congregation credit, visit with your friends, and become familiar with services. (We will be hosting a Shabbat dinner and leading services in February). SEE YOU ALL THERE.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

Regional Dance: Sat. November 5th (after the shabbaton) in Springfield leave temple at 7:00 and return at midnight, \$11.00. RSVP to Michele by sundown on Nov. 4th

- ◆ **PIZZA AND A MOVIE:** Monday, Nov. 8, 7:00-9:00 at the temple
- ◆ **ROLLER SKATING:** Sunday, Nov. 21, Kendall Park Roller Rink, 1:30-3:30
- ◆ **HANUKKAH PARTY w/ USY:** Thursday, Dec. 2, 7:30-9:00 at the temple

USY FALL SCHEDULE

| | |
|--|---|
| Thursday, November 4 th 7:15pm - 8:45pm | Come play BILLIARDS with USY at Paradise Billiards in North Brunswick. Cost is \$5.00. |
| Friday, November 5 th and Saturday, November 6 th | USY SHABBAT at B'nai Tikvah. Come share Friday night services and/or Shabbat morning services with your fellow USYers. |
| Thursday, November 18 th 7:15pm - 8:45pm | Win great prizes at USY's second annual CHINESE AUCTION . All proceeds go to Tikun Olum. |
| <i>Friday, November 19th through Sunday, November 21st</i> | REGIONAL FALL CONVENTION |
| Thursday, December 2 nd 7:15pm - 8:45pm | Come spend Chanukah in Hawaii at the USY/Kadima CHANUKAH LUAU at B'nai Tikvah. |
| Friday, December 3 rd and Saturday, December 4 th | YOUTH GROUP SHABBAT at B'nai Tikvah. Come share Friday night services and/or Shabbat morning services with your fellow USYers. |
| Thursday, December 16 th 7:15pm - 8:45pm | Who knows who you could meet at USY's SINGLED OUT NIGHT . This will be a zonal event with USYers from other chapters. At B'nai Tikvah. |
| Sunday, December 19 th 1:00pm - 3:30pm | SECOND ANNUL B'NAI TIKVAH BOWLATHON |

sisterhood sizzles

Notes & Stuff

- ❖ You already go to the cleaners. Why not go to one that pays off for the Sisterhood? Use Gallery Cleaners (in Hidden Lake) or Absolutely Cleaners (Liberty Square Shopping Center in Dayton). Save your receipts and Sisterhood collects 5 - 10 % of the total! Send Gallery Cleaners receipts to Shelly Talmud (5 Patriot Court, East Brunswick 08816) and Absolutely Cleaners to Bobby Binder (94 Hazel Court, Dayton 08810). Get your clothes cleaned and help your Sisterhood stay solvent!

To date, Gallery Cleaners has donated almost \$900 and cleaned over one hundred talitot for free.

- ❖ Why go out to Hallmark when you can call Sandra and she can send a torah fund card. Please give her a call at 940-8744 and for \$3.50, a card can be sent for any occasion or just to let someone know that you are thinking of him or her.
- ❖ Take advantage of our new Leagram discounts: buy 6 (for only \$18) and get one free! Send these personalized telegrams to celebrate or commemorate any occasion. Contact Toby Ehrlich at 329-1082 or tgehr@aol.com.
- ❖ The monthly children's service is held the third Friday night of each month at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in sponsoring the Oneg Shabbat following this service can call Lisa Seidman at 297-6950.
- ❖ The sisterhood was also busy with a perspective new member tea. We thank all that attended and look forward to seeing you during this coming year!

- ❖ It's a New Year and a sweet time to visit the Sisterhood Gift Shop. The shopping was fantastic at the local gift fairs so come in and look around. The showcase will be updated as new and exciting gift items arrive. Check out our latest Bar and Bat Mitzvah gift section. Read the latest Mark I Shaloman Comics. We have gifts for most occasions. The Gift Shop will be open each Sunday in September (holiday permitting) and October. Please call Deborah Spigner at 545-8457 or Theresa Samtur at 821-8163.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 17th

The annual Sisterhood Paid-up Membership Dinner will be held on November 17 at 6:30 PM at B'nai Tikvah. Dinner and entertainment provided for all sisterhood paid up members (Dues \$25, seniors \$20) Dinner will be our very own Classical Caterers and entertainment will be Naomi Miller, an International Cabaret and Performing Artist.

You must RSVP to Phyllis Safeer no later than November 7 to reserve your place. We're looking forward to seeing you there! You can reach Phyllis at (732) 422-8543.

Wednesday December 15

Kosher wine and cheese tasting, schmoozing, and a Torah Fund Presentation.

January 9, 2000

Join us for our Movie review. The movie will be announced at a later date.

February 12

Sisterhood Shabbat

ATTENTION ALL HAGALIL USY ALUMNI

The New Jersey/Hagalil region of USY invites all of its Alumni to attend a brunch on Sunday November 28, 1999 from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM at Temple Beth Or/Beth Torah, 111 Valley Road, Clark. The cost for the brunch is \$18 per person.

This brunch is open to all USY alumni. For further information or to RSVP, contact Michelle Rich at the Regional Office (908) 925-7USY (7879).

NEW BEGINNINGS

Please advertise the next meeting of "New Beginnings", scheduled for Wednesday, November 17th at 7:30 p.m. entitled "Continuing our Jewish Heritage". Our guest will be Rabbi Shana Margolin of the Jewish Community Center of Belle Mead.

Please join us for this informal discussion on teaching Judaic traditions to family members. Refreshments will be served.

Adult Education News

In the year 5760 make Jewish Education a priority on your agenda. Most of us take our children's education very seriously, but children learn from their parents. In order to sustain their interest in Judaism you must take an interest also. The Adult Education committee is working hard to offer a variety of classes. Please show your support and interest by registering on time. Your interest will determine the future of adult education in Congregation B'nai Tikvah. Your feedback is also welcome. Please feel free to leave notes in the Adult Education box in the synagogue office, or call any of the Adult Education committee members: Arthur Biderman, Nurit Brown, Elliott and Nancy Danto, Joel Gerbman, Miriam Gordon, Janet Weiss, Barbara Wyman. You may also comment via email to Nurit Brown at fig99a@aol.com

The following are upcoming classes and their registration deadlines. Please call the synagogue office at (732) 297-0696 to register for the classes. Make checks payable to Congregation B'nai Tikvah and mention Adult Education on the check.

hebrew Literacy: Levels I & II

Instructor: TBA

Dates: November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Time: 7:45 PM

Cost: \$18.00

Prerequisite: Familiarity with the Hebrew Alphabet and vowels is required for Level II.

Register By: October 19 (space may still be available. Check with the synagogue office).

Learning to read Hebrew will help you participate in the services. The knowledge of Hebrew reading can open endless opportunity to learn more about Judaism.



The Hazzan's Voice

As I begin a new column in HaKol, I would first like to thank everyone at B'nai Tikvah for welcoming my husband, Aaron Lever, and me into the community. I am fortunate to be the hazzan of such a vibrant congregation. I look forward to getting to know all of you, and I am eager for us to worship and learn together.

The excitement of the Jewish holiday season is now behind us, but the programmatic year for B'nai Tikvah is now in full swing. One arm of the congregation with which I am involved is the choir, or in Hebrew, the Makelah. In Psalm 27 it is written: "In God's tabernacle I will bring offerings of jubilation, with chanting and joyous singing." Music is very much a part of synagogue life. We identify very strongly with melodies used in the synagogue service. Here at B'nai Tikvah, we have congregation filled with people who like to participate actively in services by singing along. We make beautiful Jewish music together.

I would like to invite all of you who enjoy singing along to have another opportunity to make beautiful Jewish music. Join the Makelah! The group has a lot of fun, but it would be even better if you were there. You do not need to know how to read music to participate. You just need to bring your enthusiasm and your love for Jewish music.

The Makelah will be participating at the community-wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Sunday November 21st here at B'nai Tikvah. I encourage each of you to add your voice to our chorus.

The Makelah rehearses in the Nursery School on Tuesday evenings after the 7:30 minyan. You are most welcome to drop by anytime. We will also be having a Makelah Open House on Tuesday November 9th in the Nursery School after minyan. I do hope you will be able to join us!

B'shalom,

Cantor Jodi M. Sered-Lever.

FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE CELEBRATES 5 YEARS

By Bobbi Binder

Back in 1994 my family attended a family services held at B'nai Tikvah. It was great. The Rabbi told a story during services geared for the children and they listened, sat still, and loved it. Of course, that was the only time that any of the children sat still. The rest of the service they spent running around the lobby or us asking them to be quiet.

It didn't take a genius to figure out that we had the right idea here, just the wrong time of night. Marc and I got together with a friend, came up with a service, and met with the Rabbi who made some changes. Then we stood at the copy machine for hours, cutting, and pasting pages together to form our prayer book.

On the third Friday night of October 1994, we held our first family Shabbat service. We were in the Bet Midrash, in the school wing. We had just enough families for a minyan, all of them being friends of ours who, by word of mouth we invited to attend our debut. My youngest, Rebecca, who was just two at the time, spent the entire service under the podium (it took about a year of attending for her to come out and join us for the service).

Over the past five years, our service has evolved. We had to move to the Kiddush room when one Friday night we had too many people to fit in the Bet Midrash. From there, we moved to the Social Hall. We've invited the nursery school and the primary grades from the Religious school to join us. When Rabbi Eligberg joined the synagogue, he introduced us to Moshe Moose, his puppet, who has since gone on to get married and have a baby moose. We've had a moose wedding and baby naming.

There have been many constants in our service and I think this is why people continue to attend. The children are encouraged to sit on the floor while we lead the service. When they can't take it any more and get up and run around, it's okay. The children look forward to singing "minny met", a song that allows them to scream at the top of their lungs and see if they can finish before me. They look forward to our guests, either the Rabbi or the Cantor, who not only entertain them, but teach them as well.

People who attend our service can say Mourner's Kaddish at the end of the service since we are a "real" service. One of the more poignant memories I have is of a young girl whose father had just passed away suddenly. She was only 7 or 8 years old. Children under the age of 13 are not required to say mourner's Kaddish, but the Rabbi and I thought it would make her feel good to do so, especially in a setting with not a lot of people. My mother had passed away only a few months before, so I was still saying Kaddish. It was one of the more difficult recitations of Mourner's Kaddish that I have done, but it was a wonderful feeling to stand with this young girl. I was glad for the opportunity to have a service available where she could say it also.

Five years have gone by quickly. Children, who had attended when we started, unless they have younger brothers or sisters, no longer attend. It's always sad for me when the familiar faces no longer show up at the service, but it makes me feel great when a 2 year-old starts to attend and, within a few months, dances with the rest of the children.

Family Shabbat Services are held on the third Friday night of every month. The service is geared for children ages 2 to 7. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, guardians, etc. must stay in the room for the service. They don't mind - near the beginning of the service they get a chance to bless their children. We include the Shema in sign language, a felt storyboard, and a few opportunities to get up and move around. The service lasts about 45 minutes and is followed by an oneg with cookies and juice.

Families sponsor families the onegs in honor or birthdays, half birthdays, potty training, etc. The cost is \$36. If you are interested, please call Lisa Seidman at 297-6950. The Sisterhood subsidizes the cost when we have no sponsor. Many people, who are not members of our synagogue, attend. Everyone is welcome.

Please join us on November 19th as we celebrate 5 years!

Programming Events – Mark your calendar

Our synagogue is a center of Jewish culture, entertainment, and identity as well as of religion. So . . . join us and enjoy!

Thursday, November 18 What's "Hot" in Israel?

What will be a "hot button" issue for Israel this November? Come to the synagogue the evening of November 18 and find out. Will it be the peace process? Israeli-Diaspora relations? Foreign policy? Religious pluralism? Whichever the subject, you'll hear it explained by an expert from Consulate General of Israel in New York. Then, you'll be able to ask questions.

Participate in the minyan at 7:30 p.m. and the program at 8:00 p.m. Sponsored by the congregation.

Also, look for our future events:

Sunday, January 16 – A Year in the House with Congressman Rush Holt



From the Administrator's Desk by Marv Eisenstein

Last month was my initial foray into the publishing world of HaKol. This month's will be my last.

We have almost finished redoing the temple kitchen. Tile is on the walls, the electrical outlets are secure, the ceiling is painted, and the floor tiles have been installed. Aside from some little touchups, all that remains to be done is to manufacture an additional set of counter tops. The kitchen is set up for pareve or dairy. When we work with meat (such as Kim's delicious chili), we have to cover the existing counter tops with something else in order to maintain kashrut. The existing "extra" set of counter tops are too cumbersome to be readily handled. We have been searching for someone who can fabricate plastic. Essentially, we think that if we make a set of tops out of 3/8" plastic, with a back-splash, and with a cutout for the meat sink, we can achieve the objective. If you have any leads or any other ideas, please contact the office.

I enjoyed meeting and working with many of you. Please treat the incoming Administrator as nicely as you did me. It will make his/her job much, much easier.

Thanks and Best of Luck to All of You.

50 + Group

We'd like to welcome Mark and Judy Roller to our group. This marks the first time that we have a two-generation membership.

The Fifty Plus group meets on the last Tuesday of each month at the Synagogue.

- ❖ Join us on Tuesday, November 30th for our paid-up membership and Chanukah celebration at 1:00 PM. Cantor Sered Lever will provide the program. We will be serving potato latkes and more!
- ❖ Join us December 28th to celebrate the New Year with a catered dinner provided by Classical Caterers. A gala afternoon is planned. More details and costs to follow.

Plans for future programs and trips are in the works. Check your dates and join us!

From the Rabbi continued from page 1

Splatt! Right on top of good old Noah. I've done all this and you haven't done nothing. (Start to hear thunder and rain in the background) I'm going to let these animals out, tear down this ark and move to Florida or somewhere because you haven't done nothing (Pause) Except it's raining (Pause) OK, Lord. Me and You right. 'Cause I knew all along...."

Over the past months, we have heard a whole host of expert predictions about what will happen when the clock strikes midnight on December 31. As we take a step forward into a new year it seems many of our computers are going to take a leap back to a century ago. From the Chicken Little school of thought come dire warnings that the sky is falling and disaster will overtake us. From the Ostrich contingent comes the assurance that everything looks fine from our perspective. Perhaps the most honest statement I've heard is "We simply are not sure what will happen. Disruptions will take place we just don't know where they will happen or on what scale."

The story of Noah is a reminder about the value of being prepared. Below, you will find suggestions put out by Aleph: The Alliance for Jewish Renewal that can help guide your preparations.

Also, I remind everyone of what I called attention to on the High Holy Days and on the first Shabbat of 1999. December 31st is Erev Shabbat. You are all invited to join in Shabbat dinner and Shabbat services on Friday evening at B'nai Tikvah. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

With blessings,

Rabbi David M. Eligberg

Y2K CHECKLIST

Health

- ✓ Buy a first-aid kit and a practical book on first-aid.
- ✓ Make a list of all prescriptions for your family. If doing without any would run a health risk, ask your doctor what to do.
- ✓ Build up a home supply of common over-the-counter medical items.

Home

- ✓ Determine type of energy used by all appliances (e.g., gas, electric, oil, etc.)
- ✓ Locate gas meters, shut-off valves (gas and water), circuit breakers and/or fuse box.
- ✓ Buy battery powered radios, one that can also be plugged in.
- ✓ Buy flashlights for each room of your house.
- ✓ Buy enough batteries for two complete changes of above items.
- ✓ Replace battery back-ups in smoke alarms/carbon monoxide detectors.
- ✓ Have at least one phone that doesn't need a power outlet. (Portable phones that you carry around the house require power).
- ✓ If you have a mobile phone or a notebook computer, get a car power adapter for it so that you can recharge it even if your house doesn't have power.
- ✓ Backup all your important computer files: documents, spreadsheets, e-mail, and so on.

Continued on page 20

ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

By Aaron Rosloff

One of the main themes of the past weeks has been that of forgiveness, both giving and receiving. Since my Bar Mitzvah, sixty-five years ago, I have heard the martyrology read many, many times and cannot count the beats on the breasts of the prayerful that I have seen on Yom Kippur. But it seems to me that the pledges to forgive hardly last until the closing sound of the Shofar.

We read the many pleas of contrition, but its as though they are meant for someone else (Mir maint men nisht). This doesn't apply to me. Why do I see people hold onto a mad like a precious possession for years on end. Why do some of us refuse to accept forgiveness with the argument that "I haven't done anything to be forgiven for?"

Are we really such a stiff-necked people that we cannot give or accept forgiveness lest we appear to be the loser? If so, aren't we wasting our time beating our breasts and asking GOD for forgiveness if we can't even deal with it ourselves? Or is it that GOD is more forgiving than we are? And if we are made in HIS image, shouldn't we also emulate HIS desire to forgive?

613

I've always "known" there were 613 mitzvot. Doesn't that number seem familiar to you, too?

Finally curious enough to find out what each of them is, I decided to read—and ponder—all 613 during the new year of 5760. Rabbi Eligberg gladly gave me the material; please let me share it with you. Follow along in each issue of HaKol. It will be a learning experience—and a mitzvah—for both of us.

Two Surprises

My expectation was that each mitzvah would be explained in, at least, a paragraph (if not a mini-essay). Wrong. The commandments are words or phrases within sentences, under separate headings. Easy reading, but definitely orders.

We no longer have to/can fulfill all 613. Many commandments should be respected as historically important but not feasible these thousands of years later. Relief, however, is short-lived. The ones we should obey will take a lifetime of conscious effort.

Mandatory Commandments

God.

"The Jew is required to (1) believe that God exists and to (2) acknowledge His unity; to (3) love, (4) fear [hold in awe], and (5) serve Him. He is commanded to (6) cleave to him (by associating with and imitating the

Background

According to our tradition across the centuries, the rabbis of the Talmud believed 613 precepts were revealed to Moses at Sinai; 248 were positive and 365 were prohibitions.

Source

Taryag: the Hebrew "shorthand" for pronouncing the number 613
Maimonides: his is the generally accepted method of listing these mitzvot/commandments
Azhavot: ancient forms of the lists; still in the festival prayer book

Continued on page 21

We would like to Acknowledge the Following Contributions to Our B'nai Tikvah Funds:

Yartzeits:

Carol & Ted Marks in memory Ruth Hochberg, Nathan Hochberg and Alvin Marks
 Seymour & Sandra Levine in memory of Sadie Levine
 Joyce & Gerald Fishelberg in memory of Sid Gurtov
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Ellen & Bill Greenberg in honor of Irina & Bradley Kline, on the birth of their son Michael Benjamin
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Jeanette Berkowitz good health to Ted Marks
 Pyllis & Jacob Green
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Contributions:

If you are interested in making a contribution to B'nai Tikvah, please fill out the form below and mail it to us at: Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnigans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

In honor of: _____
 In memory of: _____
 On the occasion of: _____

Amount of Donation:
 \$18 \$36 \$54 \$72 \$ 118 Other \$ _____

This donation is being made by:

Name: _____

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Please Allocate Donation to:

- Building / Capital Improvements Fund Yartzeit
- Cantor's Special Fund Passport to Israel Fund
- General Fund Library Fund Youth Fund
- Religious School Torah Restoration Fund
- Makelah Fund Tzedakah Fund Rabbi Discretionary
- Prayerbook Fund Social Action Fund Other _____

CHAI SCHOOL UPDATE

Things are off to a great start!! We began on Sunday, October 10 with an introduction to this year's Y2K theme, Year to Kavod. This is reflected in the Chai School by a series of units entitled MECHABAYD ZEH ET ZEH: Honoring One Another and OHEV ZEH ET ZEH: Loving One Another. Our emphasis will be on doing deeds of loving-kindness, teaching tolerance and appreciating the uniqueness of others.

In addition to the formal aspect of our Chai school program we will have guest speakers, special activities, interesting workshops and school trips. Our first special event of the year will be our annual "gleanings" trip scheduled for Sunday, November 7th, 9:00am-12:05pm. To help the hungry of our community we will team up with New Jersey State Farmers Against Hunger and pick edible but unharvested vegetables at a local farm. Anyone wishing to join our teens at the Stony Brook Organic Farm in Pennington, please call the School Office, 297-0295.

**SISTERHOOD CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH brings you...
FRESH FLORIDA CITRUS and HANUKKAH GIFT BASKETS
HANUKKAH GIFTS, BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY GIFTS, AND THANK YOU/HOSTESS GIFTS**

| All prices include shipping | All Oranges * | All Grapefruit | Mixed * |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1/4 Bushel | Gift # A1 / \$26 10-15 ORANGES | Gift # A2 / \$26 6-7 GRAPEFRUIT | Gift # A3 / \$26 6-7 OR / 3-4 GR |
| 1/2 Bushel | Gift # B1 / \$34 20-30 ORANGES | Gift # B2 / \$34 12-14 GRAPEFRUIT | Gift # B3 / \$34 12-14 OR / 6-8 GR |
| 3/4 Bushel | Gift # C1 / \$40 30-45 ORANGES | Gift # C2 / \$40 18-21 GRAPEFRUIT | Gift # C3 / \$40 18-21 OR / 9-12 GR |
| 1 Bushel (Great Value!) | Gift # D1 / \$48 40-60 ORANGES | Gift # D2 / \$48 24-28 GRAPEFRUIT | Gift # D3 / \$48 24-28 OR / 12-16 GR |
| 3 - 1/4 Bushels VALUE! | Gift # 3N / \$75 | Gift # 3G / \$75 | Gift # 3M / \$75 |
| 3 - 1/2 Bushels VALUE! | Gift # 3N2 / \$97 | Gift # 3G2 / \$97 | Gift # 3M2 / \$97 |
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| 3 - Full Bushels VALUE! | Gift # 3N4 / \$137 | Gift # 3G4 / \$137 | Gift # 3M4 / \$137 |

* Add \$2.00 additional for Tangelo and Temple orders

NAVELS

An all-time favorite eating orange. This large, seedless, juicy and easy to peel orange is a Florida favorite and a must add to your holiday list.

* **TANGELO "HONEYBELLS"** (\$2.00 additional for orders)

It's a bell shaped Florida hybrid combining the juicy sweetness of the tangerine and the refreshing grapefruit. A distinct flavor unsurpassed by others and one of Florida's hidden treasures.

PINK SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT

No other grapefruit can compare to the sweet, thin-skinned, seedless and juicy delicious flavor of the Florida "Ruby Reds."

* **TEMPLES** (\$2.00 additional for orders)

Known as the "zipper skinned" orange...medium sized, easy to peel and enjoy, it's a lunch box favorite!

TANGERINE

Always a special sweet treat, the Tangerines are easy to peel and bursting with juice!

VALENCIA

Juice, juice, juice! An eating orange, thin-skinned and seedless, but also makes a fabulous tasting juice. The final variety which brings us to spring, which also makes these a fruit salad favorite.

Available November - January

Available January - February

Available October - May

Available January - February

Available November - March

Available March - May

HANUKKAH GIFT BASKETS...GREAT FOR OUT-OF-TOWN RELATIVES, COLLEGE STUDENTS AND HANUKKAH PARTIES!

3/4 Bushel Hanukkah Greetings

Item # C5

Two trays of ripe and juicy Florida oranges plus one tray of Florida grapefruit with a kosher chocolate Menorah and jars of kosher Florida marmalade. Net weight: approx. 35 lbs. \$49.98

Hanukkah Mini Grove

Item # H3j

A special holiday treat filled with Florida oranges and grapefruit. Topped with 1/2 pound of homemade fudge and 1/2 pound of Pistachios. Net weight: approx. 15 lbs. \$34.98

Happy Hanukkah Basket

Item # H3i

An assortment of Florida oranges and grapefruit in a beautiful basket. This basket also holds Jelly Belly Hanukkah mix, a chocolate Dreidel, Krums box of assorted milk and dark chocolate, one pound of homemade fudge, Hanukkah chocolate covered pretzels, and Happy Hanukkah Menorah. Net weight: approx. 30 lbs. \$99.98

(The Grove reserves the right to substitute with equal or greater value products to ensure kashrut)

To order, please contact Phyllis Safer at 422-8543 (before 9 PM please).

Y2K Checklist continued from page 14

Home (continued)

- ✓ Have a bike in good condition
- ✓ If you fear your water service is about to be in trouble, fill everything in your house that you can with tap water (remember Hurricane Floyd?)
- ✓ Fill old soda bottles 80% fill w/ water and freeze. In case of power outage, that will keep freezer and/or refrigerator cold.

Money

- ✓ Make a list of all your assets, debts, and obligations.
- ✓ For you and each family member, build a file with key identity documents: birth certificates, Social Security card, immunization record, passport, voter registration card, photocopy of driver's license, appropriate legal documents (e.g., wills, power of attorney)

Look for more checklist items in the December issue of *o visit v* HaKol.

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| | | |
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All phone numbers are area code 732 unless otherwise indicated

The next HaKol deadline is November 15. I look forward to hearing from you. It will be distributed December 1. You can leave articles in the HaKol mailbox in the synagogue office or e-mail them to Hakol@aol.com.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

| | |
|-------------|--|
| November 5 | Alef naming service & USY Shabbat |
| November 8 | Kadima Meeting |
| November 9 | Makelah Open house |
| November 14 | Men's Club Meeting |
| November 15 | Nursery School Home Shopping Night |
| November 17 | Sisterhood Paid-up Membership Dinner |
| | New Beginnings Meeting |
| November 18 | What's Hot in Israel Program |
| | USY Chinese Auction |
| November 19 | Family Shabbat – Anniversary Celebration |
| | Kadima Shabbat |
| November 21 | Interfaith Service at B'nai Tikvah |
| | Kadima Meeting |
| November 30 | 50+ Chanukah Celebration |