
HAKOL

THE VOICE OF CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

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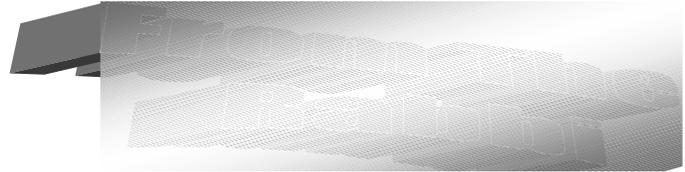
December 1999 – KISLEV

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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 Mark David Eligberg

REKINDLING THE INTERNAL LIGHT

Hanukkah is a wonderful holiday filled with light and with important lessons. From Hanukkah, we learn about heroism and about the right to be different, about faith and about miracles.

Today -- in a flurry of winter gift-giving -- Hanukkah has lost some of its spiritual glow. In order to rekindle its drama, each of us must think about what Hanukkah means and resolve to structure our lives so that our actions reflect the lessons we learn from this wondrous story.

The following guide -- candle by candle - may help you restore Hanukkah to its original luster, lighting up your own life at the same time.

1. As you light candles the first night, ask yourself the following question: Do I know any modern-day Maccabees?

Is there anyone -- in your home, your school, your workplace, or your congregation -- who works to actively defend not only his or her own rights, but those of other groups? Consider how the story of Hanukkah highlights the notions of freedom, identity and faith, and identify the ways in which your modern-day Maccabee demonstrates an appreciation of these three concepts.

Resolve not to be still in the face of injustice but to speak out -- whether at a public forum, in school, or through letters to legislators or local newspapers -- in defense of those groups or individuals suffering oppression or unfair treatment. Think about modern-day heroes or heroines. What would Judah Maccabee do if he were living today? Would you have done what he did? What are you doing in your own life to affirm your Jewish identity?

2. As you light candles the second night, ask yourself the following question: What does it mean to be part of a people? As a Jew, what special responsibilities do I have?

Very often, we fall into the habit of thinking only about ourselves and our own problems. We lose track of the fact that we are part of a proud people, with a distinguished heritage. We may also neglect our spiritual lives, assuming that others will preserve our religious teachings for us.

Get a book from your synagogue library or public library that contains the story

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORTS

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

SHABBAT OF THE CENTURY---"S2K"

Our calendar has quickly moved from 1 Tishrei 5760, our Jewish New Year to January 1, 2000, our secular New Year. In a few weeks we will complete. Sefer Beresheet (Genesis) and begin the Book of Exodus on December 31, 1999 - January 1, 2000 with Shabbat Shemot. Yes, it will be exciting as we turn into a new century. So enjoy and have fun, we have a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and bring in the new year with the Shabbat of the Century.

Y not enjoy Shabbat? Light
2 candles for your family & you. Then
Kick back, relax, and enjoy the day...
Because for us
It's Shabbat & not Y2K

Best wishes for a wonderful winter break and a peaceful and joyful millenium Shabbat.

SPECIAL SCHOOL EVENTS AND REMINDERS:

Sunday, December 5: The Religious School will sponsor a Chanukah musical concert by popular Jewish composer and performer, *Noah Budin*. Parents are welcome to join us for this special event. You may join us in the Sanctuary at any of these times: **9:10am-9:50am** (Grades K,1,2,3,4); **10:00am-10:40am**(grades 5,6,7) or **10:50am-11:30am** (Grades 2,3,4). Following the program, our children will snack on Chaunkah treats provided by the Synagogue's Activities and Programming Committee. We are very grateful for their thoughtfulness and generous support.

Friday, December 10, 7PM-8PM: A Special Family Shabbat and Chanukah Sing-A-Long (K-2).

Sunday, December 12, 10:40am-12:05pm: Chai School: Breakfast with the Rabbi.

Hei Class Tallit Making Workshop, **9:00am-1:00pm** (Please note time change).

Friday, December 17: The regularly scheduled PRIMARY SERVICE, 7:00PM-8:00PM.

Saturday, December 18, 9:15am: Hei Shabbat Service and Lunch.

Thursday, December 23- Sunday, January 2: NO SCHOOL, Winter break

Monday, January 3: School resumes, 4:00pm-6:00pm.

Sunday, January 9: Kindergarten PACT program: The Shema Pajama Party, 9:00am-10:25am.
Junior Congregation Pizza Party.

Sunday, January 16: NO SCHOOL Professional Growth Day

Monday, January 17: NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Day

NOTES FROM OUR STUDENTS TO ESTHER HAUTZIG

In honor of Jewish Book Month, we had the great pleasure of hosting author, Esther Hautzig. She delighted our students with stories about her childhood and experiences as an author. Her presentation was enjoyed by many of our classes, including Melanie Rodger's Hei class. Some of our seventh grade students wrote thank you letters to Ms. Hautzig. Here are just a few sample excerpts from their letters:

Seth Frumkin: Your presentation was interesting. Listening to your stories reminded me of my grandpa...Sometimes hearing and seeing things from a long time ago about my religion and heritage makes me feel special...All of the things you said were very interesting and now I'm going to buy your book. Thank you.

Molly Herman: I really liked your presentation about all of your books. I will always remember the story about you reading a poem in a contest and not having shoes. In one of our classes, we read one of your stories and it was so good I started to cry. Thank you for coming to talk about your books.

Alyssa Tannenbaum: Thank you so much for coming and teaching us about yourself and your books...Whenever I think about you...I will always remember your famous book covers and how you never gave up on writing for people.

Ken Smith: One thing that interested me the most was how you said you did your homework on newspapers...and how you wanted to become a journalist, author or anything that had to do with writing.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

By Jacqueline Master

Once upon a time in New York there was a boy named Daniel and a girl named Linda. Both Linda and Danny grew up in Queens. They met through friends just after high school and graduated together from Queens College. Danny earned his MBA from NYU. In 1981, they got married. In 1983, they settled in the Brunswick Acres section of South Brunswick after living in North Brunswick for 2 years. They gave birth to a son, and have lived there happily ever after...

Formerly doing project management in computers, Linda now works as a substitute teacher, and volunteers at their son's school. She also works as a facilitator for EPIC (Every Person Influences Children), a series of six workshops on parenting skills. An active member of the PTO, Linda chairs the Cultural Arts Committee that puts together school assembly programs organized for the different age groups. This is especially important since in two years there will be school testing on knowledge of the arts. She is especially proud of having written a request for and receiving a grant for a drug awareness program. For relaxation, Linda is taking a Tai Chi class right here at B'nai Tikvah through the YMCA.

Daniel works long hours as a management consultant but as soon as he gets home his time is devoted to 8 year old Joshua. On weekends, you might find them in the park setting off the model rockets they build together. That's when the family isn't taking trips to the Museum of Natural History in New York City or the Philadelphia Science Museum.

Joshua is one of the main reasons the Kohn's have joined the B'nai Tikvah community. He attended preschool here and through karate, sports, etc. he already knew a number of other children in the Hebrew School. Speaking of Karate, don't mess with Josh; he just earned his 1st degree black belt after 3 ½ years of lessons. A typical third grader, Josh plays soccer and basketball through the South Brunswick recreation program and is heavily into Pokemon. He also enjoys tennis and, of course, playing with his friends. You may have seen him Friday, November 5, during the Aleph class naming ceremony. He enjoys taking his Hebrew School classes with Mrs. Cohen and Mr. Grossman.

There are two things the whole family has in common. One is a love of reading. Novels, fiction, non-fiction, detective stories to biographies -- you name it, they read it. In fact Danny used his woodworking skills to recently complete some new bookcases to house their multiplying collection. The other is just about anything involving the outdoors. They enjoy camping, hiking, canoeing, and bicycling. Their last vacation was a two-week camping trip to Maine and New Hampshire. Camping also allows them to practice another hobby, photography. They even have a darkroom set up with some old equipment. Prior to Josh, the Kohn's took a number of adult education craft classes including stained glass panels and silver jewelry making.

We extend Daniel, Linda and Josh a warm welcome and are pleased that they've chosen to bring their many talents to our congregation.

Shabbat Lunch and Sing

A + B + C = NUSACH
COME AND FIND OUT WHAT THAT MEANS

Please join us on Saturday, December 11, 1999
as Cantor Sered-Lever
teaches us new tunes and explains
why we daven the way we do

Please RSVP to the synagogue office by December 6th so we can get an idea of how many people will be attending.

CHAI SCHOOL "CHAI" LIGHTS

Bend, squat, and pull on a Sunday morning. Is it an exercise class? Yes, but not only of the physical nature; for the Hebrew High School, November 7th was an exercise in doing mitzvot for those in need of food. Teenagers in "Chai" School, along with their teachers, Marshall Lesack and Avi Slivko and several wonderful, energetic parents, devoted their time and efforts at the Stony Brook Watershed Organic Farm in Pennington to accumulate several bags of broccoli, turnips and lettuce which amazingly weighed in at one thousand pounds! The New Jersey Farmers Against Hunger truck was there to whisk the half a ton of food to soup kitchens to feed the hungry. Students got down and dirty in the process, but equipped with rubber gloves and determination, the task was an exercise of satisfaction in knowing that those less fortunate would 'reap' the benefits of their gleaning!



Many thanks to the following parents who volunteered to drive our students to the fields: Carol Alpert, Amy Feiman-Behar, Miriam Gordon, Kerry Halpern, Maxine Kasdin, Ronnie and Jerry Levine and Mark Surks.

Our "Chai" School students, teachers and parents get ready to fulfill the mitzvah of "gleaning."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Are Shabbat Services Important?

To the Editor of the HaKol

It has been noticed that on Shabbat mornings a number of parents drop off their children and leave. They return to pick up their children at about 12 noon. The message they give to their child is chilling. **IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO ATTEND SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES.**

Herb Feldman

Friday Night Time Change Prevents Prayer

Dear Editor,

Until recently, I was attending Friday night services on a regular basis. I was introduced to this practice, while training at Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport Rhode Island, during the Vietnam War. I found these services to be an emotional oasis during what I perceived as dangerous times. The Jewish officer candidates cared about one another and were very supportive.

However, during this past August, I encountered difficulty in attending Friday night services at Congregation B'nai Tikvah. The time of services was changed from 8 p.m. to 7 p.m. Being a long distance commuter, I was effectively excluded from evening Shabbat prayer. But in this case, few seemed to care.

Myron Asnis

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.



Religious School Report continued from page 3

Ken Smith: One thing that interested me the most was how you said you did your homework on newspapers...and how you wanted to become a journalist, author or anything that had to do with writing.

Josh Baer: Your speech made me realize that the author has no say on what goes on the front cover....and that people do judge a book by its cover....I thank you for the time you spent with us.

KADIMA CONNECTION

December Kadima Events

December 2 - Hanukkah Luau with USY

December 4 - Regional Hanukkah Party in Bridgewater, bus leaves temple Beth El in Somerset at 7:00 returns there at midnight, cost is \$12.00, RSVP to Michele by sundown on Friday December 3.

December 19 - 2nd annual youth group bowl-a-thon, Carolier Lanes, 1-3 PM, \$5.00

Questions, please call Michele at 438-0083. Look for the Jan - March Kadima Calendars to be mailed mid December.

USY FALL SCHEDULE

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 ANNUAL B'NAI TIKVAH BOWLATHON

HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

WE'D LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW

Karen & Jeff Cohen and Joan & Arnie Gottfried

The membership committee would like to thank all those who came to the New Member Shabbat Service and the New Member Meeting in October. We really enjoyed meeting all of you and look forward to seeing you around! For those who could not attend, we missed you! Please call with any questions or comments: Jodi Marcou, Chairperson Membership (732) 422-6628

Everything you need to know for lighting your chanukiyah

Reprinted in part from The How To Handbook For Jewish Living by Kerry M. Olitzky and Ronald H. Isaacs published by KTAV Publishing House Inc., Hoboken NJ.

Place one new candle in the chanukiyah for each night of Chanukah, increasing one candle per night (plus the shamash). Candles should be placed from right to left. Say the following blessings first. Then light the shamash first and use it to light from left to right.

On each night:

ברוך אתה ד' אלהינו מלך העולם,
אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה.

*Baruch atah Adonai elohaynu melech ha'olam
ahser kidishanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu lehadlik
ner shel Chanukah.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has made us holy by mitzvot and instructed us to light the Chanukah candles.

On each night:

ברוך אתה ד' אלהינו מלך העולם,
שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

*Baruch atah Adonai elohaynu melech ha'olam
she'asah nisim lavotaynu bayamim hahaym
bazman hazeh.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors at this season in ancient days.

On the first night only:

ברוך אתה ד' אלהינו מלך העולם,
שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

*Baruch atah Adonai elohaynu melech ha'olam
she-hecheyanu vekimanu vehigiyanu lazman
hazeh.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has given us life, sustained us, and helped us to reach this day.

After you have lit the candles, read the following prayer called *Hanerot Hallalu*.

הנרות הללו אגחנו מדליקין על הנפלאות ועל
התשועות ועל המלחמות שעשית לאבותינו בימים ההם
בזמן הזה על ידי כהניך הקדושים וכל-שמונת ימי חנוכה
הנרות הללו קדש הם, ואין לנו רשות להשתמש בהם אלא
לראותם בלבד, כדי להודות ולהלל לשמך הגדול, על נסרך
ועל נפלאותיך ועל ישועתיך:

In order to recall the miracles and wonders that You performed for our ancestors through the agency of holy priests, we kindle these lights. We hold these flames sacred throughout the eight-day Chanukah period; we shall not make any profane use of them. Instead, we will simply look at them so that we may recall Your reputation as a God who makes miracles, does wonders, and delivers our people.

Remember:



Load from the right; light from the left.



Place your chanukiyah in the window nearest the street so all can see.



Candle holders in traditional chanukiyot are all on the same level, with a higher or separate shamash.



On Shabbat Chanukah (December 3rd and December 10th), light the Chanukah candles before you light the Shabbat candles. Candle lighting should be at 4:14 PM.



Light your candles after nightfall but early enough so that people can see them.



At the end of Shabbat Chanukah (December 4th), do Havdalah first and then light the Chanukah candles.



Don't use the lights of Chanukah for practical purposes, like reading.

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!
- ❖ 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.

NEW BEGINNINGS

"New Beginnings", a Jewish support group for parents of children in interfaith marriages & relationships, invites you to join us on Wednesday December 15th, at Temple B'nai Tikvah, Finnegans Lane North Brunswick at 7:30 p.m., for an informal discussion on interfaith marriage issues with Rabbi Irwin Fishbein.

Rabbi Fishbein is Rabbi of the Rabbinic Center Synagogue, and Director of the Rabbinic Center for Research & Counseling, and is a leading advocate of a positive rabbinic response to the needs of intermarrying couples. As a licensed marriage and family therapist, Rabbi Fishbein combines traditional rabbinic background with the skills of a trained psychotherapist, and has worked extensively with intermarried couples.

FREE! Come join us for this informative evening. Everyone is welcome. Membership is not required. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Jeanette at 732 246-1393 by December 10th (for adequate seating).

- ❖ Just a reminder to shop Gift shop - look for some great after Hanukkah sales!
- ❖ We had a wonderful Paid Up Membership dinner. The food was fantastic, the entertainment divine and most of all the company was fabulous! A great big Todah Rabah to Phyliss Safeer for organizing and all her volunteers that helped to make it a huge success.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday December 15

We are anxiously awaiting our December 15th meeting. Enjoy schmoozing, cheese and wine tasting as well as a Torah Fund Presentation that will be educational as well as enlightening. Join us! Please bring snack foods for the local food bank (e.g., cookies, pretzels, and chips).

January 9, 2000

Please join us for our January 9th movie review of Life is Beautiful. This movie is available at Blockbuster Video or join us for a group viewing at the following times and places.

Tuesday, January 4th, 2000 at the home of Lori Sookerman at 7:30pm. You can reach her to RSVP and for directions at 940-1196. Wednesday, January 5th, 2000 at the home of Caryl Greenberg at 7:30pm. For directions and to RSVP please call 297-3780.

Please check the B'nai Tikvah website for possible other group viewing times.

Please bring Parmalat milk and/or cereal for the local food bank.

February 12

Sisterhood Shabbat

50 + Group

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

- ❖ 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!

Adult Education News

Are you tired of struggling with Hebrew words that you don't understand, or that don't exactly translate into English?

Adult Education is offering a special Chanukah program with Dr. Daniel Harris where you will have the opportunity to discuss Jewish poetry that was written originally in English.

Yes, you will not have to struggle to capture the exact spirit of the words. You will be able to enjoy the poems in your own language.

Bring your family (including high school age children) and friends (they do not have to be members) and get into a discussion of:

THE PRESSURES OF ASSIMILATION, THE EFFORTS TO RESIST

Thursday, December 9th at 7:45 PM

The rededication of the Temple (and the person) has come to symbolize Jewish efforts to resist assimilation. In poetry of the English-speaking Diaspora, on both sides of the Atlantic, this effort has taken different forms and voices. Jewish poets have dramatized the difficulties as well as the successes in these efforts, and have thus helped to define the idea of a people. Of particular interest is the poetic attention to the Maccabean revolt as image of Jewish manhood, especially as envisaged by Jewish women poets. 19th and 20th century poetry by Grace Aguilar, Emma Lazarus, Amy Levy, David Plotkin, Karl Shapiro.

Call the synagogue office today to reserve your space
(732) 297-0696



The Hazzan's Voice

Where can you go to hear the music of composers of cantorial music like Lewandowski and Rossi? Where can you go to hear some doo-wop dreidel music at the same time? That's a good question! And I have the answer for you!

On Sunday December 5th, I will be participating in a cantorial concert at Temple Beth Shalom in Manalapan, NJ. The concert will begin at 4:00pm. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to attend this exciting musical event.

Since I am new to the New Jersey area, one might wonder how I so quickly became connected with a group of hazzanim who come together to perform. I would like to tell you about a vibrant organization with which I am affiliated.

I am a member of the Cantors Assembly, which is the organization of Conservative hazzanim throughout the world. Members of this group meet annually at the Cantors Assembly convention. Gathering more than once a year would be extremely difficult for an international group.

Fortunately, the different regions of the Cantors Assembly meet during the rest of the year. The New Jersey region of the Cantors Assembly is a very active one, and I have had the chance to get to know these talented colleagues. and has established the New Jersey Cantors Concert Ensemble. The Cantors Concert Ensemble welcomes hazzanim from the various movements within Judaism. It is a wonderful experience to make music with these cantors.

I encourage all of you to experience the music for yourselves. I hope to see you on December 5th!

B'shalom,

Gregory M. S. ...



From the Administrator's Desk

You may not be aware but we've hired a new Synagogue Administrator. Her name is Nitsat Hadas Elami (a.k.a. Hadas) and she started on November 15th. Some of you may recognize Hadas from our Nursery and Religious School office where she previously worked as an Administrative Assistant to both Fran Pearlson and Ann Kanarek. Hadas is excited about her new position and we are excited to have her. If you get a chance, stop by the Synagogue office and welcome her.

Israel Bonds Rates Increase!!! (This is good)

Zero Coupon Bond - 10 year maturity is now 7.90%
cost is \$2,805 and matures at \$6,000

Jubilee Bonds

5 year now 7.0%, \$25,000
10 year now 7.5%, \$25,000
Expires December 8, 1999

MAZEL TOV!



December B'nai Mitzvah

Evan Feinberg - December 4th
Michael Grodzinski - December 11th



All in the Mishpuchah

Congratulations to:

- ◆ Joe and Sue Saloman on the birth of their granddaughter, Victoria Lind Tucci; born 9/29/99; weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz; 20 3/4 inches long.

From the Rabbi continued from page 1

of Hanukkah and read it anew. Ask yourself why this story is important to the Jewish people. Consider ways in which you can help perpetuate Jewish traditions important to you.

3. As you light candles the third night, ask yourself the following question: Have I "proclaimed the miracle" helping someone understand the true meaning of this holiday?

It is important to realize that Hanukkah represents more than just a military victory. It also represents a spiritual triumph, combining a dramatic example of the Jews' faith in God and a concrete example of God's love for the Jewish people. You can use this opportunity to heighten your spiritual awareness and to share your new insights with others. When you display your menorah in a highly visible location, you not only demonstrate pride in your heritage but you also sensitize your family, your friends and neighbors to the spiritual aspects of the holiday.

Learn more about the symbolism of the Hannukiyah (menorah). If you have not done so already, design your own Hannukiyah -- whether with small tiles, glass tubes, ceramics, or any other fire-proof materials - and display it proudly when you light it. Even better...make a second menorah and give it to someone who does not have one.

4. As you light candles the fourth night, ask yourself the following question: Have I witnessed any miracles in my own lifetime? Miracles did not end with the parting of the Red Sea, nor with the oil that burned for eight days. Life itself is a miracle, as is the regular changing of the seasons, and the rebirth of the State of Israel.

Ask your friends to name some miracles in their own lives, and have them describe the kinds of miracles they would bring about if they could. Consult your Siddur Sim Shalom for the Berakhot to recite on special occasions, such as when you see a rainbow. Consider how God continues to play a role in our daily lives.

Continued on next page

From the Rabbi continued from previous page

5. As you light candles the fifth night, ask yourself the following question:
Have I given Tzedakah today?

Giving ts'dakah is not optional: It is an obligation. As we learn from the Torah, each of us must take an active role in providing for the welfare of those less fortunate than ourselves. Not only should we give money but wherever possible, we should give of ourselves, assisting worthwhile community organizations that rely on volunteers.

Request that family members donate to a charity of your choice rather than buying you a Hanukkah present. If gift-giving is your tradition, be sure to buy some extra presents to distribute at a homeless shelter, a facility for battered women, or an organization that serves the needs of underprivileged children.

6. As you light candles the sixth night, ask yourself the following question:
Have I done anything today to improve the world?

Our Rabbis teach that we must strive to complete those tasks left unfinished by God. We must involve ourselves in tikkun olam -- repairing the world. While projects falling this heading are virtually endless, you can select one particular area and consider ways in which you can make a meaningful contribution.

For example: If you select "improving the environment" as your goal, you can begin your efforts at home. Resolve that you will recycle paper products, plastic, glass, and aluminum tins, even where your community does not require it. You might also encourage your synagogue to recycle its waste products. Another area to consider is ethical behavior. Resolve to speak out against discrimination and harassment of all kinds - whether based on race, sex or age - and suggest to your congregation that forums be held to discuss these problems.

7. As you light candles the seventh night, ask yourself the following question: Have I brought happiness into someone's life today?

Loneliness is one of the most debilitating diseases in society today, yet it is easily "curable." Sometimes, a simple phone call is all it takes to bring someone joy. And don't forget, just as we appreciate a kind word or an expression of encouragement, so too do those around us. And it's so easy to give.

8. As you light candles the eighth night, ask yourself the following question:
What questions will I ask myself as I light the candles next year?

Learning and growing are very important parts of Judaism, and it is often more important to strive for the right questions than to memorize standard answers. Resolve to learn more about Judaism, so that next year, your Hanukah questions will reflect a higher level of Jewish awareness.

Congregational Meeting
at Congregation B'nai Tikvah
December 19, 1999, 8pm

THE FUTURE IS NOW!

Major Agenda Item: EXPANSION

At this meeting, Congregants in good standing
will vote on whether to proceed with fund raising for the expansion.

COME, HEAR THE FACTS, EXPRESS YOUR OPINION, VOTE!

Mark Kasdin, Chair, Expansion Committee

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS FOR SALE

Every book that you purchase entitles you to one entry into the **FREE B'NAI TIKVAH MEMBERSHIP GIVEAWAY***

If you ask ten people before December 24, 1999, if they'd like to purchase for \$30.00, an Entertainment Book, **YOU** will receive another entry into the **FREE MEMBERSHIP GIVEAWAY**.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS:

1. Write your name, address and phone number at the top of a sheet of paper.
2. Write down the name, address, and phone number of ten other people (a person need not be a synagogue member in order to buy a book).
3. Now call each person on your list.
4. Let us know whether they want to buy a book or not, or whether they have already bought one.
5. Return you list to the Synagogue office c/o "Fun" Raising.
6. While you are at it --- ask each person on your list if they'd also like to call ten other people. They will then get an entry into the **FREE MEMBERSHIP GIVEAWAY**.
YOU WILL THEN RECEIVE AN EXTRA ENTRY.

* For more details about this exciting program see the "Free Year's Membership" offer, hanging outside the synagogue office.

Hopefully optimistic,

Marc D. Binder, V.P. Ways and Means

BUSINESS CARD EXCHANGE SCHEDULED

Most of the time here at B'nai Tikvah, we call you and ask for your professional help so that we can benefit from what you do for living. This time we want you to benefit from a B'nai Tikvah network night. We are proposing a business card exchange, an evening where we can come together and try to find new clients, new patients, new customers, and maybe new friends.

I don't know about you, but I am more comfortable when my doctor or my lawyer or my accountant or my plumber is Jewish. During the small talk that usually takes place before the actual work starts we always find things in common or people that we know. I also like to keep my money in the "family." In our congregation we have all of the above. We have lawyers, plumbers, accountants, and doctors and almost any other profession or businessperson that you can think of.

All we have to do is to get together in one room and we will find that the temple can provide a big network of people who are looking for lawyers. And, at the same time are looking for lawyers who in turn need to fix their cars, or a stock broker who can use another client but needs life insurance. You never know what can happen when you give someone your business card.

So, here is the deal. On Tuesday, December 21, at 8:00 PM we will have a business card exchange in the social hall in the temple. We will provide the coffee and the cookies. You come with your business cards and any marketing techniques you have. Maybe I will be your next client.

For more information, call the temple office. Registration required.

This evening is open to members of B'nai Tikvah only.

Arie Behar

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

Yartzeits:

Gladys & Sidney Kalman in memory of Morris Mandel
Rose & Milton Kabakoff in memory of Marsha Epstein
Nancy & Barry Kivor in memory of Sam Kivor
The Salzinger Family and Bea Gerschbein in memory of
Abraham Gerschbein
Shirley & Meyer Ketofsky in memory Lena Wieseltier
Glida & Gerald Gitomer
Millicent & David Kutliroff in memory of Celia & Derauilne
Steinberg
Rachel, Michael, Aaron, Rebecca Silverstein in memory of
Muriel Gunsberg Feldman
Linda Bauman in memroy of Selig Yaches
Suzanne & Stanely Levine In memory of Morris Sozna
Phyllis & Gerald Edley in memory Bella Slosower &
Abrahman Slosower
Herbert & Florence Feldman in memory Sadie Feldman
Rose & Milton Kabakoff in memory David Kabakoff
Jeanette Shapiro in memory of Irving Shapiro
Irina & Solomon Dinkevich in memory of Etta Reise Hillel

Passport to Israel Fund:

Nancy & Elliott Danto in honor Allyson Silver Bat Mitzvah

Prayer Book Fund:

Eleanor & Joel Weisenberg in memory of Steven Fellner

Religious School Fund:

The Binder Family in honor of Bruce Rockman

Youth Fund:

Maxine & Mark Kasdin in honor of Our Outstanding Ritual
Committee Chairman: Bruce Rockman
Maxine & Mark Kasdin in memory of Bruce Grossman's
Father
Maxine & Mark Kasdin in memory of Adele Liboff
Barbara, Joe , Stacey & Brian Plotnick in memory Joseph
Mansfield;
Loving Husband, Father, Grand Father, Great Grand Father
Bea Goldstein & Paula Popick in honor of Bobbi Binder
receiving the
"Ashet Chayai Award" from Sisterhood
Carol & Michael Harkavy in honor of Allison Rachel
Harakavy's Birth
Carol & Michael Harkavy in memory of Dorothy Fienstein

Rabbi Discretionary Fund:

Evelyn & Irwin Behren in memory of Molly Just grandmother of
Martin Spigner
Shane Spigner in memory Grandma Cythia Spigner
Jeanette Shapiro in memory of Irving Shapiro

General Donation Fund:

Deborah & Steven Cohen In memory of Irving Levine
Claire Hirshman in honor of Amy Richman & James
Horowitz's Engagement 10/16/99

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: _____
Telephone: _____

Please send an acknowledgment to:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

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 _____

Cantorial Feedback Committee Formed

If you have any comments about our new Cantor, please direct them to the committee members. We can be reached at:

Bobbi Binder: 274-2797 (home) or argmonlady@aol.com
Steve Levin: 422-8590 or Slevin@UMDNJ.EDU
Bruce Rockman: 422-0963 or dovrock@aol.com
Neil Wyman: 329-2914

Joyce Fishelberg: 297-6290
Irwin Millinge:r 297-6477 or IMILLINGER@AOL.COM
Cantor Sered-Lever: 940-8363 or josered@jtsa.edu

Please call, write, or visit us to offer your feedback on any day of the week except Shabbat.

B'NAI TIKVAH'S YOUTH GROUPS NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Our youth are an extremely important component of B'nai Tikvah. They are the future of our Jewish Community. We are fortunate that B'nai Tikvah's youth groups, USY and Kadima, are so active and continue to grow. We want to ensure that all children will be able to participate in the chapters' programs. Therefore, we need your help.

On Sunday, December 19th B'nai Tikvah's USY and Kadima groups will conduct a bowlathon to raise money to support their programs. USYers and Kadimanicks will collect pledges, and bowl two games for this fundraiser. You can help keep B'nai Tikvah's youth groups thriving.

X Very soon the 6th - 12th graders will collect pledges from their family, friends and acquaintances based on the number of points they expect to bowl in two games. For example if you pledged \$.10/point and the USYer or Kadimanick you sponsored bowled a total of 100 points for both games you would then owe \$10. If you are not contacted directly by a USYer or Kadimanick please contact Michelle Kleinman, Kadima Advisor, at 438-0083 or Candace and Craig Botnick, USY Advisor at 940-8463.

We appreciate your support in helping keep our youth groups strong. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Kleinman, Kadima Advisor, at 438-0083 or Candace and Craig Botnick, USY Advisors at 940-8463.

PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 12TH

Count me in! I would like to support B'nai Tikvah's Youth Groups at the Second Annual Bowlathon on December 19th. I would like to support them in the following way:

Please check all that apply.

I would like to sponsor a USYer or Kadimanick during the Bowlathon.

Pledge per point bowled: _____

I do not want to sponsor a USYer or Kadimanick but, I would like to make a donation to the youth groups.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE NUMBER _____

SAVE A LIFE!

While bread is the staff of life; BLOOD is the *stuff* of life! Each time you donate a pint of blood, you give the gift of life to people in desperate need. Becoming a blood donor is a *mitzvah* that ought to become part of one's life in early adulthood, and continue through the senior years. And multiple donations each year are the ideal!

The demand for blood is constantly increasing, yet the pool of blood donors doesn't seem to grow in answer to the need. For whatever reasons, only 5% of all of us eligible donate blood. There's no substitute for human blood.

On January 16th 2000, we'll be holding the Synagogue Annual Blood Donor Drive, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Last January's drive collected 48-pints from fifty-eight people attending. We look forward to an even better response this drive. We hope to collect fifty or more pints, **with your help!**

Think about the following and make a commitment to join us as a donor.

WHAT GOOD IS A BLOOD DONOR? A BLOOD DONOR IS GOOD FOR:

- ◆ Somebody with leukemia.
- ◆ People being operated on.
- ◆ Hemophiliacs, so they'll be normal as possible.
- ◆ People undergoing dialysis, while awaiting a transplant.
- ◆ Burn victims
- ◆ New mothers in need of transfusion.
- ◆ Babies needing a complete change of blood supply.
- ◆ Cancer patients.
- ◆ The very tired with severe anemia.
- ◆ And people in a lot worse shape than most of the folks you know!

If you have any questions about donating, or would like to help with our drive, please call Marty Engel at 297-3198.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Holiday Happenings In The Nursery School

A sincere thank-you to all the congregants and nursery school families who participated in our Holiday Gift Bazaar and helped make our nursery school fund-raiser a success.

Yasher Koach-- to Jodi Woller, Tammy Zimmerman, Hope Peters, and Stacy Lewkowitz whose hard work and dedication were instrumental to our fund-raiser's success.

One of our fundraising goals is to purchase a new piece of outdoor equipment for our playground. Our next school fund-raiser is sure to please all who want to save money. It's *Kids Stuff* books. They contain hundreds of coupons to help you save hundreds of dollars on clothing, shoes, toys, books, sporting goods, and recreational, educational, and cultural activities. Stores include Zany Brainy, Kay Bee Toys, Kids R US, A.C. Moore, Wal-Mart, and many others not included in other coupon-discount books. The *Kids Stuff* book quickly pays for itself! Please stop by the nursery office to place your orders. It makes a wonderful holiday gift!

Our December highlights include our Kids' Gift Shop. Our children will have the opportunity to purchase special gifts for Mom, Dad, and "significant others." They will each have a personal shopper to help them with their selections and free gift-wrapping will be included.

Our next holiday adventure will be a trip to the Chanukah Wonderland in Edison. Our pre-k class will board a school bus to learn more about our holiday. Our three-year-old classes will be going on this trip accompanied by their parents. All classes will have the opportunity to press olives to make olive oil for the menorah, as we did long ago.

What's a holiday without a party? On Wednesday, December 8th, our nursery school children and parents will be invited to our school's Chanukah Celebration. Our children will be treated to a special magic show when Bruce Bray Master Magician performs. Of course, we will light our menorah and sing Chanukah songs. Parents and children will all gather around our festive tables to enjoy latkes with applesauce, donuts, and juice with the children.

And what is Chanukah without a treat? Our children will receive a dreidel filled with chocolate gelt and Chanukah kaleidoscopes, all decoratively wrapped in Chanukah gift bags.

Of course, our teachers have been very busy with the children, preparing special hand-crafted gifts for their parents, and each class is making their special and unique Chanukah menorahs.

We are also teaching children about tzedakah and the importance of giving to others. To honor this, our nursery school will be donating toys and books to Jewish Family Services to distribute to families in need.

As we approach the new millennium, I would like to wish everyone a *Happy Chanukah* and a *Happy New Year - 2000*. I am happy to say our nursery school is flourishing.

Announcement

New Program

Mom & Babes -- Starting January 2, 2000

For Ages 3-12 months

For the parent who wants to meet new friends and discuss parenting issues.

Guest speakers will be invited!

Call the nursery office at 297-0295 to register.