

HaKol

The Voice of Congregation B'nai Tikvah
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.

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ISRAEL NOW AND FOREVER

Written in part and contributed by Rabbi David Eligberg

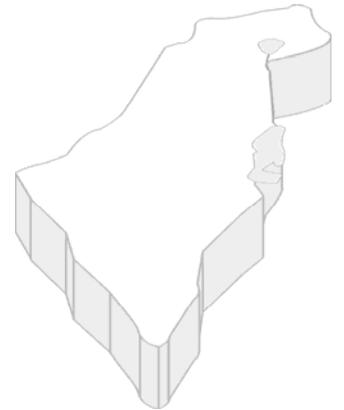
Smadar Steiner lives in Yehud, near Tel Aviv. One recent Monday she decided to take the day off. It undoubtedly saved her life. Smadar's car was one of the two blown apart by terrorist bombs. "I thank God that I was not in the car, because it's around the time I would normally be driving to studies or taking the children to school," she said. "It seems that terrorist attacks were always far away from us . . . Now it's right here."

In Yehud, as in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and communities across Israel, the resilience and tenacity of the Israeli people is being

tested and so is the strength of our unity with them.

Calling Israel "a worldwide Jewish project," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has called for global solidarity among the Jewish people. He said, "The solidarity of the Jewish people must be seen." The Prime Minister also called on Jews throughout the world to continue to unite and defend Israel against the distortions of Arab propaganda. Moreover, he said, "It is time for tens of thousands of Jews to visit Israel."

In response, the leader-



ship of United Jewish Communities (UJC), representing 189 Federations and 400 small communities in North America and in cooperation with the synagogue and Rabbinic organizations, has launched *Israel Now and Forever*. This is a bold initiative of commitment

Rockman Appointed B'nai Tikvah Cantor

By Bette Koffler

Rockman Appointed B'nai Tikvah Cantor

North Brunswick resident Bruce Rockman joins the professional staff of Congregation B'nai Tikvah as its full-time Cantor.

Rabbi David M. Eligberg is pleased with the appointment, "In a few short years, Bruce Rockman has become an integral part of our synagogue family. As Cantor, Bruce adds another di-

mension to the many positive contributions he has already made at B'nai Tikvah. We are pleased that he has agreed to become our Cantor."

(Continued on page 2, CANTOR)

IT WOULD BE NICE

By Hazzan Bruce Rockman

B'nai Tikvah is our house of prayer, a warm and welcoming home for all of us. The synagogue is a place where we look for peace of mind, a place to collect our thoughts, a place where we feel closer to Adonai, a place to pray.

One problem is that we often do not have the time we would like to come pray in synagogue. Our busy lives keep us away. It is certainly understandable. We all have so many commitments; though, *it would be nice if we had the time.*

As I prepare for the awesome re-

sponsibility of becoming the new Hazzan of our congregation, I wonder as I pray to Adonai, what can I do to make our synagogue experience more spiritually rewarding? Will I be able to become a true Shalich Tzeebor, the messenger of the congregation, helping the kahal connect with Adonai through their prayers? Will I? I don't know. I pray that our words will be heard and that our prayers will be answered. I will work hard and pray with all my heart and soul. *It would be nice.*

So I keep thinking, we have a very

special building, which is becoming more beautiful by the day. You can feel Adonai's presence. There is so much activity here. So many dedicated volunteers, doing mitzvot, a wonderful expression of our love for Adonai. The nice thing about volunteering and doing mitzvot is that often we can do them at our convenience. Sure you have donated your free time, but we know that what we are doing is worthwhile and enjoyable.

The difficulty arises when these commitments and mitzvot have to be done at a prescribed time, a pre-

CANTOR

(Continued from page 1)

Cantor Rockman considers this appointment as a dream-come-true. From Bruce's earliest years, he has been involved in Judaic studies and synagogue life. Bruce says, "It seems as though I've been preparing for this position most of my life." He attended a yeshiva school as a young boy and the Jewish Theological Seminary program while in high school. During Bruce's college days at Rutgers University, he inspired and was inspired by the students he prepared for their B'nai Mitzvot. He most recently held the position of Assistant Director of Religious Education at Temple Beth Shalom in Somerset, NJ. He also continues to prepare students for their B'nai Mitzvot at Congregation B'nai Tikvah.

As the former chair of B'nai Tikvah's Ritual Committee, Bruce frequently led daily minyan and substituted as Cantor when needed. To further strengthen his Cantorial skills, Bruce now studies with Chazzan Leon Lissek, a retired Cantor from a large St. Louis congregation. Advice and support also come from Bruce's father, Royal Rockman who retired after serving as the Cantor for 36 years at Temple Ohev Shalom in Colonia, New Jersey. For Bruce, being the Cantor is an awe-inspiring calling, "As Cantor, I see myself more as a coach whose task it is to encourage people through song and prayer to move closer

to God. When we accept God into our lives and relationships, everything flows – everything gets easier."

Cantor Rockman cordially invites everyone to join him at services on Fridays at 8pm and Saturdays at 9:30am.

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Nursery School News

By Fran Pearlson



As the Fall season approaches, our Nursery School gets ready for the 2001-2002 school year. Our theme this year is "Welcome to a Magical Year" at the JCC.

Our classrooms are well-equipped with developmentally appropriate, creative, and diversified centers. We're most excited about our newly donated computers for our classrooms. The children will benefit from the use of this learning tool (especially in this technological era) and will enjoy using it as well. On behalf of the Nursery School, we would like to thank Gary Bergman for so generously donating his time and computer

talents in setting- up our classroom and office computers.

Our teachers this year will help our students explore the magic of learning. Our children will take part in many hands-on activities, special programs, and exciting trips have been arranged to compliment these activities.

During the month of September, our returning and new students will meet their new teachers, greet new and old friends, and establish new school routines. The children will learn about the Fall holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Busy hands will be making delicious holiday treats and memorable crafts.

The holiday highlight will be when Rabbi Eligberg entertains the children with his Rosh Hashanah puppet show.

You're Invited! Become an active participant and supporter of our nursery school. We encourage all families to join our Parent's Advisory Committee. Your help is a vital ingredient to a successful school year. Volunteer to work on one of our committees, help out with a fundraising event or volunteer to be a

On behalf of our Nursery School, we wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year!
L'SHANA TOVAH!

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

Thursday, September 6th @ 6:45pm

Parent Orientation Night

Parents will learn about our school philosophy and upcoming events for the year. Parents will meet their child's teachers. Refreshments will be served.

Monday, September 10th @ 9:00am

First Day of School

WISH LIST- We are in need of children's software for our new computers. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

Bowl With B'nai Tikvah

This year we are bowling on the 2nd Saturday night of each month, September through May, except November. The season starts September 8 and we have openings for 4 more couples.

If you can make most of these Saturday night dates, we'd love to have you join us.



No experience necessary (or so it seems).

Gary Bergman, 246-7285 - Bowling@Bnaitikvah.org

Israel Now and Forever continued from page 1

and solidarity to energize and mobilize the synagogue and federation communities with a comprehensive program of education, advocacy and financial support.

Synagogues and synagogue members are critical to the success of the Solidarity effort. By now you have all received a letter from B'nai Tikvah containing blue and white ribbons. Hopefully, you have tied them to a tree or some other visible location on the front of your home. These ribbons are a statement of our connection to Israel and our support for her. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to participate in this *You Are Not Alone Israel* campaign. In addition, please send a picture of your home with the blue and white ribbon visible to Gary Bergman, our webmaster, so that we can add them to those from around the world and send them to Israel to express our ongoing support and connection to our homeland.

Synagogues across the continent will receive a special leaflet being prepared by UJC in cooperation with all of the major religious movements that will provide information about solidarity programs and activities as well as facts about the situation in Israel. Synagogue

members are being urged to take personal action to express their support for Israel and to include Israel in their prayers.

"It is time for tens of thousands of Jews to visit Israel." Prime Minister Ariel Sharon

A special Solidarity Shabbat and inter-denominational effort on September 22-23 will promote unity with Israel in synagogues and churches coast-to-coast.

On September 23, the month of solidarity events will climax in New York City with a major "Solidarity Sunday" rally at noon, with prominent Israeli officials and supporters of Israel from across the continent. "The rally will unite the energies of the entire North American Jewish community and send a strong, visible message of our solidarity with Israel around the world," said Joel Tauber, Chairman of the UJC Executive Committee.

Everyone is being encouraged to show their solidarity by participating either in the New York rally or a local event. (For rally updates, log onto www.ujc.org). Details of B'nai Tikvah's participation will be announced at High Holy Services and posted on our website www.bnaitikvah.org.

An essential element of the solidarity effort is a broad outreach to encourage people to visit Israel. Monthly *Israel NOW* Missions traveled to Israel on July 21-26 and August 5-10. Upcoming trips will depart on September 9-14, a Capital to Capital Mission (Washington, D.C. to Jerusalem) November 13 - 18, and December 2-7. The objective, said UJC Chairman Charles R. Bronfman, "Is for us to be in Israel on a constant basis." (Contact the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, 732-432-7711 to find out about how you can participate in a mission).

Along with our solidarity, it is clear that we must also help meet the enormous financial burden facing the Israeli people as the government shifts spending from social services to critical internal and external security needs. *Israel NOW* fundraising component will support victims of terror, traumatized children and seniors, new immigrants and vulnerable communities alike, ensuring the continued support of social and humanitarian programs.

Through education, advocacy, our presence in Israel, and our financial support, we will let Smadar Steiner and all our brothers and sisters know we are with them now and forever.

CLICKS OR BRICKS

How do you prefer to shop; a personal visit to your favorite "brick and mortar" shopping mall or browsing online with your mouse and modem? Either way, you can support B'nai Tikvah in the process. If you have the time for a personal visit, why not take a little ex-

tra and stop by the synagogue? You can pick up some RETAIL SCRIP for over 50 participating retail outlets. In a hurry? You can shop online at the BT Shopping Mall where we have almost 500 "e-tail" merchants willing to pay B'nai Tikvah a small percent-

age of your purchases. Either way, you pay nothing extra to benefit B'nai Tikvah whether you're shopping via clicks or bricks.



EXPANSION NEWS

As most congregants know, North Brunswick township officials approved our expansion plans this past Spring. This was an important milestone and allowed us to move forward in our planning process.

We have since formed a sub-committee to approach the financial institution that holds our synagogue mortgage. Necessary applications relevant to the proposed expansion were reviewed and they held meetings with the lender.

We feel confident that the lender will work with us on the appropriate construction financing once we receive the go ahead.

Another group of committee members is working with our architect, Cornerstone Associates, in development of mechanical, electrical and structural construction drawings that will be the basis of our bid package. We are disappointed that

The unanticipated heavy schedules of the professionals needed to interface with the architect on the electrical and mechanical aspects of the blue prints have heavily influenced this timeframe.

this aspect of the project is taking much longer than we anticipated. In our original thought process, we believed that the drawing package would be ready in early July and that a general contractor would be chosen by the end of August. Allowing for appropriate Township approval of the final plan, we anticipated breaking ground in early October 2001.

It now looks as though the final drawings won't be ready until much later in the summer. The unanticipated heavy schedules of the professionals needed to interface with the architect on the electrical and mechanical aspects of the blue prints have heavily influenced this timeframe. Once the architect submits drawings to the committee, they must be reviewed internally before we compile our RFQ (request for quotation) package. We are of course taking the initia-

tive to request Cornerstone to deliver drawings for our review as soon as each one is completed, rather than wait for the entire series to be done.

It is also important to note that the "soils and foundation" investigation has been completed by Melick-Tully and Associates, P.C. The information has been forwarded to our architect. Once the bid package quotation is underway, we'll be able to report to the congregation in regards to the timetable of events that are on this expansion project "critical path."

Thanks for your patience and understanding. Please do not hesitate to contact the committee for any additional information or to suggest methods to expedite this process.

Mark B. Kasdin
Expansion Committee Chair

Local Boy Wins Election

Jesse Olitzky, son of Rabbi Kerry and Sheryl Olitzky of Dayton, NJ, was elected President of the Hagalil Region of United Synagogue Youth during the Spring 2001 USY Convention, which met at the Nevele Hotel in New York State. Jesse, a senior at Solomon Schechter High School in West Orange, presides over thirty-four chapters throughout Central and Northern New Jersey.

Jesse was president of the North/

South Brunswick USY (2000-2001) and has previously served as Freshman Representative, Youth Group representative on several synagogue-wide Committees, and chair of several chapter events. Jesse has also taken an active leadership role in various international and regional USY events, committees, and activities.

The North/South Brunswick USY, winner of several prestigious re-

gional awards, meets at the synagogue. For information about the chapter and meeting dates, contact the synagogue office at 732-297-0696 or our website at www.BnaiTikvah.org.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORTS

By Ann Kanarek

CAJE

Each summer I am part of a group of approximately 2200 Jewish educators from all parts of the world and from all movements and types of religious schools. We come together to study, to learn from each other, and to share the latest in materials for Jewish education. Over the years, I have brought back ideas for programming, curriculum and resources for the education of children and adults. This year was no exception. The Coalition for Advancement in Jewish Education (CAJE) sponsors this annual conference which always recharges my "educational batteries." Throughout the year, teachers and students will benefit from my involvement.

This year the CAJE conference was at Colorado State University in Fort

Collins, Colorado. The base of the Rocky Mountains was a beautiful setting to combine learning, reflection and sharing. I thank the Congregation for giving me the opportunity to participate in this exciting five-day re"jew"vinating experience.

CHANGES

There are a number of new faces on the faculty of our religious school and during the next few months, you will be introduced to them through the HaKol. Please welcome them to our school. They are joining a caring, creative, able, and dedicated staff of teachers. Along with new teachers, we have a variety of new programs and curricula. Check out our new and exciting events in the Religious School Parent Handbook/Calendar, which you have already received as part of

your parent packet.

PARENT RECEPTION

All are welcome, especially new families, to come together for an orientation to our Religious School program and faculty Parent reception and orientation for our Kindergarten, Alef, Bet, Gimel, Dalet and Hei families will be held on Sunday, September 9. Meet in the Sanctuary, Sunday, September 9, at 9:00 AM or 10:40 AM for a brief reception, slide show and curriculum fair. Parent reception and orientation for our First and Second grade families will be held on either Tuesday, September 11 or Wednesday, September 12 at 4:10-4:30. Please, meet us in your child's classroom.

TZEDAKAH YEAR 'ROUND

Rambam teaches that a holiday celebration, which is not preceded by attending to the needs of the less fortunate, is not a legitimate holiday celebration. While occasional unconnected tzedakah efforts are certainly beneficial, a year-long series of mitzvah projects connected to themes of the Jewish holidays, the Jewish life cycle or the class curriculum have much greater impact on students and families. These integrated efforts reinforce BOTH the theme of tzedakah AND the theme of the holiday or curriculum. This year we will begin a new program at B'nai Tikvah in which items will be collected monthly to help the needy, the hungry and the less privileged. More information on each tzedakah project will be

forthcoming. Our schedule will look like this:

SUKKOT: (October) We will use the theme of temporary shelter and collect food, toiletries, stationary, hotel samples, etc for the homeless of battered women's shelter.

JEWISH BOOK MONTH: (November) Our goal will be to collect money for The Jewish Braille Institute (JBI) which provides tapes, large print and Braille Jewish books free of charge.

CHANUKAH: (December) Using the theme of "The Miracle of Oil," we will collect bottles of cooking oil, salad oil or dressing for shelters and food banks.

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IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES

Parent Reception Day and First Day of Religious School for grades K,3,4,5,6,7
SEPTEMBER 9

Parent Reception Day and First Day of Religious School for grades 1 and 2
SEPTEMBER 11 or SEPTEMBER 12

First day of Chai School
SEPTEMBER 16

Bikur Cholim – the Power of Relationship

Why is it important to visit those who are hospitalized? Torah teaches that one who practices bikur cholim imitates God, whose presence visited Abraham after his circumcision. The sources teach that each of us is visited by God's presence when we are ill, which we may interpret as feeling a sense of hope, care, and protection. This is exactly what a caring visitor can inspire.

Bikur Cholim also demonstrates the healing power of relationship. The Talmud contains many stories about famous healer Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai. When Rabbi ben Zakkai heard of another rabbi who was sick, he would visit

and speak with the sick rabbi about his suffering. After speaking, Yohanan ben Zakkai would hold out his hand and the ill rabbi would rise. One day Rabbi ben Zakkai fell ill. He was visited by Rabbi Hanina, who held out his hand after speaking with the stricken sage. Rabbi ben Zakkai stood up. "Why couldn't Rabbi ben Zakkai raise himself up?" asked the disciples, who knew the Rabbi to be a great healer. The answer: "Because the prisoner cannot free himself from prison." Here we learn that even the greatest of Jewish healers needs another person to help free himself from the prison of fear, hopelessness, and isolation.

At a time of illness, bikur

cholim offers the comfort of human connection and a sense of community. The mitzvah of bikur cholim helps us fulfill the obligation to "love our neighbor as yourself" that is required of every Jew (Maimonides).

To participate in the mitzvah of Bikur Cholim, contact Gale Dillman (821- 7392) for information.

This article, based on the work of Nancy Flam and published in Reform Judaism, is one in a series of articles from the Bikur Cholim group. Rabbi David M. Eligberg provided material and guidance in the preparation of this series.

Tzedakah

(Continued from page 8)

TU B'SHEVAT: In (January) we celebrate our Jewish Ecoliday and study the importance of protecting nature and our environment. We will sell Kosher Rainforest Crunch Candies.

SHABBAT SHIRAH and JEWISH MUSIC MONTH: (end of January - February) We will contribute towards the purchase of hearing aids

to allow the Jewish hearing-impaired to enjoy the sound of music.

PURIM (end of February - March): We will deliver Shalach Manot baskets to Jewish group homes, old age centers or to people on the bikur holim list of our synagogue.

YOM HAZIKARON (April): We will hold a candy/snack sale and donate the proceeds to Friends of Israel

Disabled War Veterans or to Friends of IDF (Israel Defense Forces).

LIFE CYCLE: (May): It is traditional to allow tzedakah collection at a Jewish wedding. As part of our annual mock wedding ceremony we will collect money for a bridal dowry fund to assist Israeli orphans through Girls Town Jerusalem.

Fifty Plus Group

There will not be a regular meeting in September; however, plan for regular meetings throughout the rest of the year. We will continue to provide programs of interest as well as trips for members of B'nai Tikvah and their Jewish friends, fifty years and older.

A theatre party on Sunday, Septem-

ber 9 is sold out. Join us at our next meeting on October 23 at 1:00 PM in the social hall of the congregation. For further information, call Madeline 732-297-4240.

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 Fern and Allan Katronetsky, in memory of Constance Cohen
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 Sidney and Gladys Kalman, in memory of Mary Kalman
 Meyer Barrack, in memory of Benjamin Barrack
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 Dr. Leon and Phyllis Horlick, in memory of Anna Horlick
 Joan and Morris Shames, in memory of Aaron Risman
 Fred and Gloria Landsman, in memory of George Coon
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 Sylvia Shore-Katz and Terry L. Katz, in memory of Adele Mogul Shore
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 Bill and Eleanor Greenberg, in memory of Joseph Krause
 Abbey and Bernard Lorber, in memory of Louise Kahn
 Meyer and Shirley Ketofsky, in memory of Fanny Ketofsky
 Myra and Howard Dickert, in memory of Abraham Brody
 Steven Mark, in memory of Arthur Mark
 Dr. Leon and Phyllis Horlick, in

memory of Lazarus Evebchick

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Marcia and Jeff Schwartz, in honor of their children, Amy and Ian
 Marcia and Jeff Schwartz, in loving memory of Abraham and Anne Gkazer
 Miriam Zweig, in loving memory of Teddy Zweig
 Martin and Eileen Zweig, in loving memory of Teddy Zweig
 Ed Birch, in memory of his mother, Julia Birch
 Andrea and Steven Katz, in appreciation of Rabbi David Eligberg's kindness and guidance on Matthew's Bar Mitzvah

Cantor's Discretionary Fund:

Andrea and Steven Katz, in appreciation of Cantor Bruce Rockman's patience, kindness and guidance on Matthew's Bar Mitzvah

Expansion Fund:

Keith and Tammy Zimmerman, in honor of Mark and Maxine Kasdin being honored by Israeli Bond
 Carol Marks, in honor of her son Neil's engagement to Sherri Strauss
 Andrea Katz, in honor of Rabbi David Eligberg, thanking him for his get well and healing services
 Andrea Katz, in honor of Cantor Jodi Sered-Lever, thanking her for her get well and healing services

General Donation:

Fred and Evelyn Seidman, in honor of the aufruf of their daughter Robin and her fiancé Todd Harry, Dorothy, Tedd and Shelly Rosenfeld, in memory of Alan Rosenstock
 Adele and Morth Leader, in honor of Sylvia Lewis' recovery and good health
 Joella and Mark Jiorle, in appreciation of Aaron Rosloff's taking part

in their son's Pidyon Haben
 Aaron and Mildred Rosloff, in honor of the birth of Samuel Jiorle, son of Joella and Mark

Youth Fund:

Marcia, Jeff Amy and Ian Schwartz, in honor of Julie Stevens' Bat Mitzvah
 Marcia, Jeff Amy and Ian Schwartz, in honor of Brian Binder's Bar Mitzvah
 Marcia, Jeff and Amy Schwartz, in honor of Ian Schwartz's co-presidency of USY and co-chairing of encampment 2001
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stuckhardt, in memory of Julia Birch
 Susan and Harry Rosenzweig, in memory of Robert Zieselman
 Sue and Seth Levinson, in honor of Abigail Levinson's Bat Mitzvah
 Fred and Gloria Landsman, in honor of Rabbi David and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim

Passport to Israel Fund:

The Rekant family in honor of Mark and Maxine Kasdin being honored by Israeli Bond Breakfast
 Nancy and Elliott Danto, in memory of Sue Levine
 Nancy and Elliott Danto, in memory of Nurit Brown's mother

Prayer Book Fund:

Fran Schneider and Helfer family, in honor of Rebecca Helfer's Bat Mitzvah
 Fran Schneider and Helfer family, in honor of Jared Helfer's graduation
 Fran Schneider and Helfer family, in honor of Stacy Kasdin's graduation
 Fran Schneider and Helfer family, in honor of Bruce Rockman's engagement to Stacey

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(Continued from page 10)

Fran Schneider and Helfer family,
in honor of Cantor Jodi Serd-Lever
and Rabbi Aaron Lever

Fran Schneider and Helfer family,
in honor of Rabbi David and Jodi
Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan
Efraim

The Haller family, in memory of
Gladys Kaminsky

The Haller family, in memory of
Paul Short

Andrea and Steven Katz, in mem-
ory of Julia Birch

Vicki and Burt Bauman, in memory
of Blanch Bauman

The Dworkin Family, in memory of
Herbert Dworkin

Helene and Gary Tinkel, in honor
of their daughter Brenna's College
graduation

Gloria Garcia, in memory of Suz-
anne Levine

Fred and Rachel Green, in memory
of Jacob Green

Chumashim Fund:

Cantor Bruce Rockman, in memory
of his mother, Berenice Rockman
Cantor Bruce Rockman, in honor of

his father, Cantor Royal Rockman
Cantor Bruce Rockman, in honor of
his nephew Chanan Weissman's
Highschool graduation

Cantor Bruce Rockman, in honor of
the Bat Mitzvah of his niece, Elana
Rockman

Makhela Fund:

Andrea and Steven Katz, in honor
of Cantor Jodi Sered-Lever, for her
patience, kindness and guidness on
Matthew's Bar Mitzvah

School Fund:

Ellen and Edward Birch, in memory
of Helen Wolkowitz

Ellen and Edward Birch, in memory
of Charles Wolkowitz

Ellen and Edward Birch, in memory
of Salomon Birch

The Hudson family, in memory of
Julia Birch

Ann Kanarek and the staff of the
Religious School, in honor of Gary
Bergman's hard work and computer
expertise, which made a huge dif-
ference for the Religious School
Andrea and Steven Katz, in appre-
ciation of Larry Cohen's help with

services on Matthew's Bar Mitzvah

Library Fund:

Charlotte and Harry Winograd, in
honor of Abigail Levinson's Bat
Mitzvah

Joyce and Len Mandelblatt, in
memory of Suzanne Levine
Jonathan Sichel, in memory of
Jacob Green

Blanch Fruhling, in memory of
Suzanne Levine

Tzedakah Fund:

Harvey and Roberta Bilker, in
memory of Rose Bilker
Helene and Gary Tinkel, in honor
of Amanda Dillman's Solomon
Schechter graduation

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 Finnegan's Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

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[] Makelah Fund [] Tzedakah Fund [] Rabbi Discre-
tionary
[] Prayer book Fund [] Social Action Fund []

Another Viewpoint

By Aaron Rosloff

A WOMAN OF VALOR

Joy Indik, the daughter of Barry Indik, for whom the Indik award was named, died suddenly last week. As the recent recipient of the Indik award, I was personally touched. Barry Indik had been a friend, and I had been a long time observer from afar of Joy for most of her life.

When I first met Joy over forty years ago, she was a little girl in a wheel chair who attracted attention because of her disabilities. Her parents wisely discouraged shows of concern by strangers and encouraged her to be as independent as possible. Joy had endured more operations than the CIA, but she never lost her spunk or the desire to be a part of the life around her.

It Would Be Nice

(Continued from page 2)

cise time, such as our daily prayer services. ***It would be nice if we all had the time to pray*** as a kahal at 7:30 every evening. Can you imagine the feeling of 1000 Jews praying together every night? ***That would be nice!*** Very unrealistic, but very nice. For a moment though, just imagine what it would be like for us and for Adonai to hear one another at the same time . . . I'm smiling as I think of this. Unrealistic? I suppose. Yet, think of this. We don't all have the time to come to the synagogue every night at 7:30, but we can all be one voice every night at 7:30. Pray at home, if you are working late, take 10 minutes, you've earned a prayer break . . . and ***it would be nice when you have the time***, to join us in the synagogue.

She was a bright student, had many friends and with her unsteady gait and hearing aid, still did volunteer work and in the long run gave more help to others than she received or wanted.

My most telling encounter with Joy, occurred at the Grand Opening of the CIL facility. Citizens for Independent Living is an organization of parents and other interested parties who provide living facilities for young people with disabilities, who need only minimum oversight. This particular facility is the end result of years of intense effort by these people, and among them were members of Joy's family who invested countless hours of pro bono legal

I could end my thoughts here, but still, I don't think I have given you enough of a solution to our community prayer dilemma. We advocate prayer in any place, the words of our Holy Torah say and we specify daily in the Sh'ma "You shall recite them at home and away." To suggest to people that we need a minyan each day "only" so those in mourning can recite the Kaddish, wouldn't be a solution. Though ***it would be nice and greatly appreciated*** if we had enough people volunteering their time nightly, so we would not have to search for a minyan.

Simply stated ***it would be nice if we had the desire*** to come to the synagogue for prayer. I

work, fund raising and lobbying, for over a decade.

As a guest at the opening celebration, I was invited to inspect the grounds and Apartments. There I saw Joy sitting on a bench in front of the entrance, and assuming that she was going to live there, I said, "Well Joy, you must be looking forward to living here and having a place of your own." She looked up at me with that face of many stitches and said, "Oh no, Mr. Rosloff, that would be taking unfair advantage."

Knowing Joy, and knowing the Indiks, I should have known that would be her reply.

There is yet hope for the race.

would like to help you find your voice to help you find this yearning, so you can better communicate with Adonai. I would like to help you find your Holy place in this Holy Place.

I look forward to seeing, speaking and praying with you soon.

Your Shalich,
Hazzan Bruce Rockman

JOSEPH D. GRODMAN



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EYE EXAMS BY APPOINTMENT

There's a New Sheriff In Town

By Marc Binder

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as next year's Ritual Chairperson. This position is not all too unfamiliar to me as I've been the chair once before. I accepted the challenge again for a few reasons:

- ❖ The more likely nominees that could have taken the chair, Bruce Rockman and Elliott Danto, each have taken on other responsibilities at B'nai Tikvah.
- ❖ Participating in the ritual aspects of Judaism is something that I'm comfortable with.
- ❖ A part of me needed to be in-

involved in community (I believe we all need that in order to maintain a balance in our lives).

New leadership sometimes means new ways of doing things. This year, I've scheduled monthly ritual meetings. I believe the more we interact and communicate as a community, the more we can accomplish. The ritual committee, one of the largest committees at B'nai Tikvah, has a lot it can do. Its members will decide how much gets done. We'll need chairpersons for the following subcommittees (you don't have to be really

"religious" to join, you just have to be willing to be observant):

1. Daily Minyon Committee – We need to make sure that each night's 7:30 evening service has a minyon leader. Also, one of the big challenges for this committee chair will be to organize a campaign to increase participation.

2. Shabbat Committee – Assigning honors during services and making sure ushers are present at the entrance to the sanctuary is the main focus of this committee. Pos-

(Continued on page 15)

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

5762 (2001)

S'Lichot

Saturday Night, September 8th Program 9:00 PM Service Midnight

Rosh Hashanah Eve

Monday Evening Sept. 17th 6:30 PM

Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday Morning, September 18th 9:00 AM

Tashlich- Tuesday Evening, September 18th 5:45 PM

Tuesday Evening, September 18th 6:30 PM

Wednesday Morning, September 19th 9:00 AM

Wednesday Evening, September 19th 6:30 PM

Kol Nidre

Wednesday Evening, September 26th 6:00 PM

Yom Kippur

Thursday Morning, September 27th 9:30 AM

Mincha-Neilah 4:15 PM

Final Shofar (Ending Fast) 7:29 PM



a normal combination in your household? Do you shop at any of these supermarkets: Foodtown, Pathmark, McCaffrey's, Shop Rite, Stop & Shop and/or Wild Oats? If you did, why not bring scrip (i.e., gift certificates) with you next time? You have nothing to lose. Congregation B'nai Tikvah has much to gain. It's easy to purchase:

- Contact a scrip committee member (list follows)
- Stop at the synagogue office during business hours
- Leave a message on the synagogue voice mail (no Shabbats, please)
- Use e-mail: www.bnaitikvah.org
- Visit the scrip table on Sunday mornings during Religious School hours

That you know where to buy and use supermarket scrip, what will you be wearing during the parade (a/k/a Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur)? You want to look fashionable and "wow"? Do you shop at Macy's, JC Penney's, Old Navy, or The Gap? This is a very condensed list of the stores that participate in our retail scrip program. Just like the supermarket scrip, retail scrip costs nothing extra and our synagogue benefits. So, you're going shopping, why not support your synagogue and become an active "scripper?" For retail scrip, contact the office at (732) 422-0637.

Month's helpful hints:

For our mature friends (i.e., 60 years plus): Wild Oats offers a 5% discount every day except on Tuesday (when it is 10%). McCaffrey's offers you a 5% discount on Tuesday.

Do you know a hungry college student? If one of the above grocery stores is located near a college, provide them with supermarket scrip to help them with their snacking. It's safer than giving them cash that may be squandered on non-food purchases.

SCRIP COMMITTEE

Rachel Shaneson, Chairperson 329-2189

Rachel, Bette Koffler - 329-6518, Linda Feinstein - 329-3185

Dayton, Monmouth Jct, Princeton, Kingston, Trenton

via Lewis (609) 409-0299
 Bryn Mawr, Monroe, Plainsboro, the Windsors

Jay Scheuer 940-
 Franklin Park, Somerset, Belle Mead

Debra Gerbman 937-5114 &
 David Rosenzweig 249-9141
 North & New Brunswick

Phyllis Rosen 297-
 Kendall Park & Rocky Hill

President's Podium

By Mitchell Frumkin



My Fellow Congregants,

It is hard for me to believe that a year has already gone by since I sat down to write a High Holiday letter to our Congregational family. Last year at this time the Jewish topic in the news was a Jew as one of the nominees from the Democratic Party for Vice President. Although, this year, I could have made the theme of this letter some of the things which have happened in our local Jewish community, the current reality is that a

“...a day doesn't go by when we do not read about some type of violence taking place in the middle east between Israel and the Palestinians.”

day doesn't go by when we do not read about some type of violence taking place in the middle east between Israel and the Palestinians.

The question that we all should think about as we sit safely in our homes in North and South Brunswick, is what does this mean to us in the context of our everyday lives as we enter the new year.

While I, like many of you had always viewed Israel as just a place which we read about in the newspa-

per and pray about in the Synagogue, my view of the meaning of the Jewish state has been influenced by a number of things over the past few years. This realization of the importance of Israel first took place when I had the opportunity to go on a Federation mission to Israel and learn about its history and how it has grown during only 50 years of existence. Another has been this past year with the exchange program between B'nai Tikvah and Ramla with its 15 High School students who came to visit us for two weeks and showed us how they are just a bunch of High School kids

(Continued on page 21)

Ritual

(Continued from page 13)

sibly heading a subcommittee to recommend different ways in which we run our services would be in order.

3. High Holidays Committee – (Larry Cohen, Chairperson) Planning, organizing, and implementing the ritual aspects of observing and celebrating Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot.
4. Other Holidays Committee– Planning, organizing, and implementing the ritual aspects of observing and celebrating TuB'Shvat, Purim, Pesach, Shavuot, to name a few. This subcommittee has been set up separate from #3 due to the fact that the time involved in running the High Holiday subcommittee

is in large part equal to that of this committee.

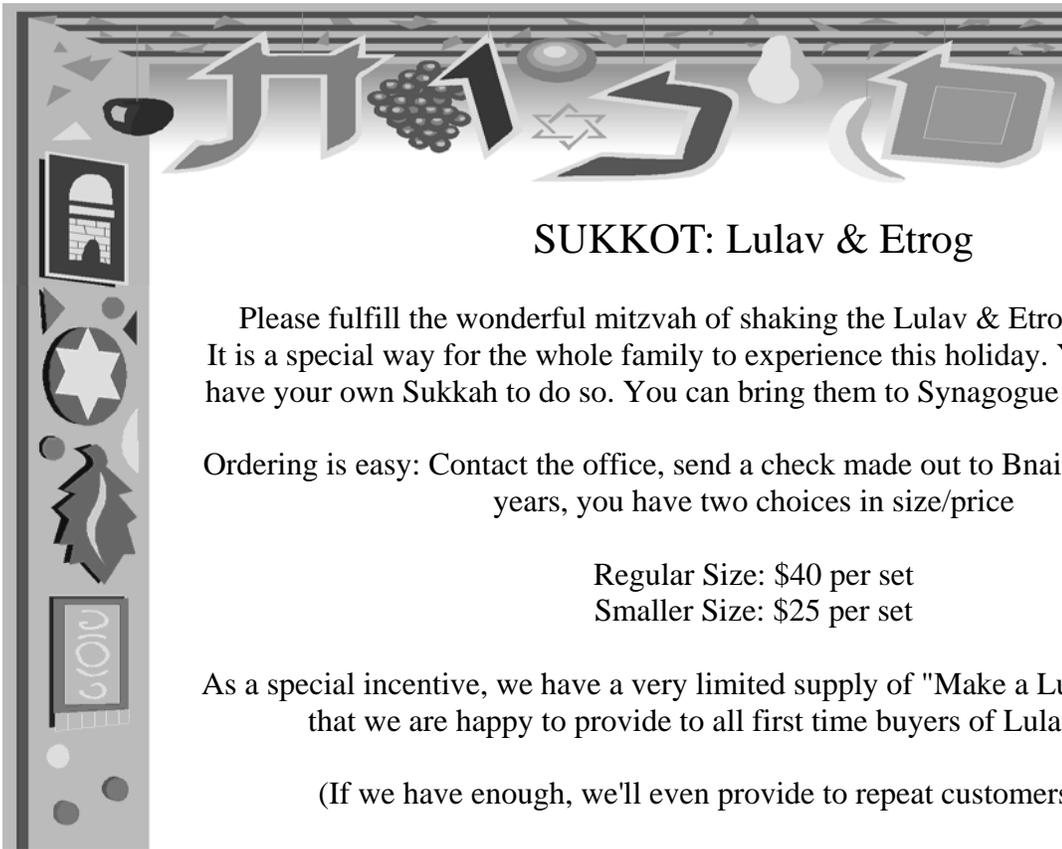
5. Policy Committee – We need to set in writing B'nai Tikvah's ritual policy which the Ritual Committee, in conjunction with the Rabbi and Cantor, have agreed upon. Examples would be that all men should be wearing a kippah in the synagogue, a tallit should be worn by men and women if they are to carry the Torah, etc.
6. Torah Readers Committee (Steve Levin, Chairperson)– This committee is responsible for assigning qualified persons to read/chant Torah for each Shabbat and other times when needed.

7. Haftarah Chanters Committee– (Bernie Adler, Chairperson) This committee is responsible for assigning qualified persons to chant haftarah for each Shabbat and other times when needed.

8. Gabbaim Committee – I'd like to have this committee responsible for assigning the persons who take care of the Torah service each Shabbat. I'd like this committee to also organize a gabbaim class whose “graduates” would qualify for the honor of being a gabbai.

9. Bar/Bat Mitzvah Honors and Ushers Committee – This committee chair would be responsible for getting the honors list filled out by the bar/bat mitzvah

(Continued on page 16)



SUKKOT: Lulav & Etrog

Please fulfill the wonderful mitzvah of shaking the Lulav & Etrog during Sukkot. It is a special way for the whole family to experience this holiday. You do not need to have your own Sukkah to do so. You can bring them to Synagogue on Sukkot as well.

Ordering is easy: Contact the office, send a check made out to Bnai Tikvah: As in past years, you have two choices in size/price

Regular Size: \$40 per set

Smaller Size: \$25 per set

As a special incentive, we have a very limited supply of "Make a Lulav Shake" t-shirts that we are happy to provide to all first time buyers of Lulav & Etrog!

(If we have enough, we'll even provide to repeat customers as well!)

Ritual

(Continued from page 15)

family and to get it approved by the Rabbi. Also included would be the instructing and assigning of ushers for each Shabbat and holiday.

10. Torah and Other Valuables Committee – This committee would be responsible for maintaining an inventory and safeguarding all our Torahs, havdalah sets, lavers, etc. and to work in conjunction with B'nai Tikvah's Insurance Committee.

11. Expansion Committee – This committee would be the Ritual liaison to the synagogues appropriate expansion subcommittee, with specific emphasis relating to the new Beit Midrash.

12. Transliteration Committee –

This committee would be responsible for having a Friday night and Saturday morning booklet available containing transliteration of all the commonly sung Hebrew songs and verses for those of us wishing to participate in Hebrew but have not yet learned all there is to reading Hebrew.

13. Communications Committee – This committee would be responsible for submitting monthly articles in Hakol about some ritual aspect of Judaism, sending out meeting announcements and general correspondence.

If one of the above committees seems interesting, let me know. For those of you who can't place the face with the name, please ask someone to point me out at a ser-

vice or other synagogue event and come introduce yourself. Let me know you'd like to help out on a committee.

I'd like to get to know everyone and ask what each of your needs and wants are regarding the ritual aspects of our community. I can only be successful as Ritual Chair to the extent that I fulfill everyone's needs and wants. So, let me know

Ritually speaking,

Marc D. Binder, Ritual Chairperson

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and: American Israel Public Affairs Committee; American ORT; Central Conference of American Rabbis; Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America; Hillel; The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life; JCC Association of North America; Jewish Labor Committee; Jewish Reconstructionist Federation; National Committee for Labor Israel; National Council of Jewish Women; National Council of Young Israel; Rabbinical Assembly; Rabbinical Council of America; Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association; State of Israel Bonds; Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism; World ORT. *List in formation.*

For more information visit www.ujc.org or call (212) 983.4800 x160

Signing Available

B'nai Tikvah Classifieds

Activities Chairperson: M/F – equal opportunity employer – If you are an energetic self starter looking for a challenge, then this is the position for you. Opportunity to work with a diversified group. Set your own hours! Salary NOT an issue. Call 297-6175 for more info.

Adult Education Chairperson: M/F – equal opportunity employer –If you are an energetic self starter looking for a challenge, then this is the position for you. Opportunity to work with exceptionally bright people. Low hours, even lower pay. Call 297-6175 for more info.

Committee Members: M/F – equal opportunity employer. If you work well with others and would like to see things “ happen” at B'nai Tikvah, then this is where you want to be. Don't be left out. Call before all the committee spots are taken. If you call now you can have your choice of committee. Right now there are STILL openings (hard to believe!) in Activities (get to work with Dan Greenberg!!!), Programming, Fund Raising (My Favorite!) and still space left on the Adult Ed committee. Don't be left out – participate – this is your chance to become involved. Pick & choose what you'd like to do. Call Now!! Don't Delay – Don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today!
-297-6175

Programming: Last spot open for committee chair. First come first served. A dollar saved is a penny earned. Be a part of the programming that you so desperately want. If you want to make a difference –here's your opportunity. Call for info – 297-6175

BROTHER CAN YOU SPARE A KIPAH

The synagogue's in need of more black kipah. If you have



some at home, and don't need them, can you please drop them by the synagogue office.

Thanks for your help with this.

Aaron's Back (Are you leaving?)



Phyllis Rosen

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PhyllisRosen1@aol.com

B'NAI TIKVAH'S RETAIL SCRIP PROGRAM

Attention shoppers-frequent your favorite vendors & earn money for our synagogue!

Over 50 well-known nationwide retailers participate in this program.

On the reverse side of this flier, you will find an order form which lists participating vendors and the percentage discount (profit) that B'nai Tikvah receives from each. These gift certificates or cards look like the same ones issued by the stores! Use yourself or give as gifts!

Some excellent uses for scrip:

- You've been invited to a bar/bat mitzvah. Buy some retail scrip at old navy or gap (teenagers love it!).
- A friend or relative just had a baby. Buy some retail scrip at toys r us or at kb toys.
- A friend or relative is getting married. Buy some retail scrip at pottery barn.
- You want to reward or motivate your excellent employees? Buy some retail scrip at Barnes and Noble or Borders.

It's "back to school" time! Whether your child is in nursery school, college, or anything in between, you need to get clothes for him or her. You have to do it, so why not help the synagogue at the same time?

As you can see, everyone needs to buy a gift for someone, regardless of the time of the year. Why not show some originality in your gift giving, and help the synagogue at the same time! The discount rate is the profit that the synagogue makes on every purchase.

This is the easiest, most painless way to help our synagogue thrive. By participating you play an important role in maintaining the facilities, programs, activities and schools - not to mention keeping dues down!

We have the following retail scrip currently in stock:

- 1. Gap/gapkids/babygap-\$25 denominations**
- 2. Old navy-\$25**
- 3. Barnes and noble-\$10**
- 4. Bath and body works-\$10**
- 5. Home depot-\$25**
- 6. Macy's-\$25**
- 7. JC Penney/Eckerd drugs-\$10/\$25**

Don't delay - place your order today!

Complete form on the reverse side (darkened spaces indicate unavailable denominations. White spaces indicate available denominations).

✂

FILL OUT SUMMARY AS FOLLOWS:

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ORDERED _____

WRITE A CHECK FOR THE FULL AMOUNT DUE PAYABLE TO "B'NAI TIKVAH"

MAIL FORM & CHECK TO:
 RETAIL SCRIP, CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH, 1001 FINNEGAN'S LANE, NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ 08902
 (ATTN: ANDY ROSS)

If you have any questions or are looking to volunteer to help, please call Andy at 732/422-0637 or e-mail him at: adr-cpa@aol.com

RETAIL SCRIP ORDER FORM
 UPDATED 08/05/01

RETAILER	Discount (PROFIT)	AVAILABLE \$10	\$25	\$100	OTHER	OTHER AMTS AVAIL.
AMERICAN AIRLINES	18%					\$50
AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS	8%					
AT&T 60 MIN. PREPAID CARD	20%					
AUGUST MAX WOMAN	19%					
B. DALTON BOOKSTORES	9%					
BANANA REPUBLIC	9%					
BARNES & NOBLE	10%					
BATH & BODY WORKS	13%					
BEST BUY	2%					\$50
BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO	7%					
BORDERS/WALDENBOOKS	8%					
CASUAL CORNER	19%					
CIRCUIT CITY	3%					\$50
CVS PHARMACY	2%					
DICK'S SPORTING GOODS	8%					
EDDIE BAUER	9%					
EXPRESS	13%					
FOOTLOCKER	9%					
GAP/GAPKIDS/BABYGAP	9%					
HOLD EVERYTHING	13%					\$20
HOLLYWOOD VIDEO	18%					\$1
HOME DEPOT	3%					
HYATT HOTELS	9%					
JC PENNEY/ECKERD	5%					
JO-ANN FABRICS	9%					
K MART	3%					\$50
KB TOYS	9%					
LILLIAN VERNON	14%					\$20
LIMITED	9%					
LOEWS CINEPLEX	13%					\$5
LOWE'S	3%					
MACY'S	9%					
MARRIOTT HOTELS	12%					
MARSHALL'S/TJ MAXX	8%					
OFFICE MAX	4%					
OLD NAVY	9%					
PAYLESS SHOES	13%					\$20
PETITE SOPHISTICATE	19%					
PIER ONE IMPORTS	9%					
POTTERY BARN/WILLIAMS-SONOMA	13%					\$20
SAM GOODY	9%					
SEARS	2%					\$250
SHARPER IMAGE	12%					\$50
SPIEGEL	9%					
STRUCTURE	13%					
SUNCOAST VIDEO	9%					
TOYS-R-US	3%					\$20
VALUE CITY	9%					
WARNERS BROS. STUDIO STORE	13%					
BP GAS	3.5%					
CITGO GAS	3%					
EXXON	3%					
SHELL OIL	2%					

President

(Continued from page 15)

just like those in our country. Since they have left, I have had the opportunity to communicate by e-mail with one of their group leaders as well as the Mayor of Ramla and am constantly amazed at their fearless acceptance of the situation around them.

As we as a community look forward to the New Year, there are a number of ways which we can show our support for Israel. Obviously, the most important are either by being part of a mission to Israel or by making a financial commitment through the purchase of Israeli Bonds, but another, no cost, visible program can be seen when you enter the Synagogue parking lot. Through the recently introduce "You are Not Alone" Israel program, it is asked that we all hang blue and

white ribbons from a tree in front of our homes and Synagogue as a sign of our support. Let us show that we, as just a small part of the worldwide Jewish community are making not only a financial commitment but also a visible statement by hanging these ribbons throughout our community!!

Wishing you and your family and happy and healthy New Year,
Mitch Frumkin,
President

S'LIHOT SERVICES & PROGRAM

September 8th, 2001 Saturday evening, 9:00 PM at the Synagogue, 12:00 Midnight Services

Meal, Program and Study with Rabbi Eligberg & Cantor Rockman as we prepare for Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur S'lihot are penitential prayers that we offer in the days before Rosh Hashanah

Please RSVP to the office so we can plan for the appropriate sized group.

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Not to be combined with any other offers.

Meet The New Sisterhood President

By Ruth Anne Koenick

Let me introduce myself. I am Ruth Anne Koenick and I am the new Sisterhood president. My guess is that many of the people who received the sisterhood slate wondered who I might be. After all, I've only been a member here for less than three years and on the sisterhood board for only one year. In fact, there are new board members who I don't know. So I thought I would write about what brought me to this point, why B'nai Tikvah and why Sisterhood, and what I hope for the coming year.

My parents, may they rest in peace, raised me in a warm, nurturing environment in Chevy Chase, Maryland. My father and his five siblings all lived within walking distance of each other, not unlike the shtetl where they were born. My mother, a daughter of Russian immigrants was born, and raised in Watertown, South Dakota and came to Washington DC to work for the new deal as a government secretary. Until her wedding, she lived in a boarding house for Jewish women but after her marriage, six of her 12 siblings followed her east, living in our home, some having their weddings there, and all lived close by.

Like many of you, I grew up with cousins club meetings, large holiday celebrations and observances, a large extended family and was active in USY and BBG. Our synagogue, Montgomery County Jewish Community Center, later to be known as Ohr Kodesh, was three blocks from our home and an integral part of our lives. My parents were active, my mother through sisterhood and Seaboard Branch and my father through the daily minyan and as the baal tekiah.

They taught me that that I could be anything I wanted to be but no matter what, my life needed, demanded, that I be grounded firmly in family, community and Judaism.

So, it was with a mixture of anger, and disbelief that I felt when I moved to New Jersey 21 years ago and went to join a conservative synagogue close to my home, and was told that I and my young son were not eligible nor welcome to join because I am married to someone who is not Jewish. I had never experienced even imagined that this could happen within the conservative movement. I had been excluded as a group before as there were neighborhoods near my home where Jews could not buy; country clubs we could not join, and beaches we could not visit. But never had I felt so betrayed and excluded as a person nor as a Jewish woman. The consequence was a long search for a place where I was welcome, truly welcome.

I tried a lot of different synagogues that represented different parts of Judaism but always knew something was missing both for me personally and for the education my children received and the modeling they watched. When I could stand it no longer I was encour-

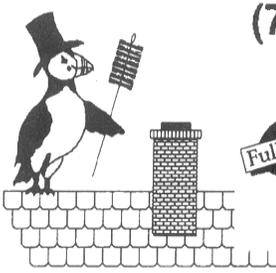
aged by a student of mine who taught in the B'nai Tikvah Religious School, Rachel Leventhal, who the rabbi refers to as my other daughter, to contact B'nai Tikvah, to try this synagogue.

After a long conversation with Ann Kanarek, Molly and I came to Shabbat morning services. I remember peering in the window of the sanctuary doors looking to see if any other women wore hats and Molly peering in the window looking, most likely to make sure no one was looking. Our seats were not yet warm when Elliott Danto asked us to accept the honor of opening the ark. Nancy Danto and Judy Roller came right over after services to welcome us and others

(Continued on page 24)

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B'nai Tikvah is proud to announce

Jr. Congregation is now

Jr. Congregation Family Service

Starting September 8

The Jr. Congregation service has been “expanded” to include everyone who wants to attend a Shabbat service but may not feel comfortable in the main sanctuary. A facilitator explains the components of the service and encourages participants to lead prayers.

Children ages 5-7 needed to be accompanied by an adult. Child care for tots under 5.
(Child care available in room 7 of school wing)

Saturdays 10:30 – 12:00

Junior Congregation Family Service for two days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will be from 11:00 until 1:00
(check synagogue calendar for other exceptions)

Separate kiddush (snack) follows Jr. Congregation Family Service

To *kick-off* our expansion, there will be a **BREAKFAST** on Saturday, September 15 10:00–10:30 am in the school wing.



Making the New Year Sweet

(Or – Rosh Hashanah Is More Than Just Apples and Honey)

Submitted by Rabbi David Eligberg

Every Rosh Hashanah, we gather around the holiday table and dip apples in honey, asking God to “renew this year for us, that it may be a good and sweet year.” The ceremony itself is sweet (and delicious). But apples and honey alone cannot ensure that the New Year will be appreciably better, or sweeter, than the one before. It is up to each one of us to do that for ourselves.

What can we do? We can identify those aspects of our lives that need improvement or that presently do not fulfill our spiritual needs; we

can reorder our priorities, putting the really important things first; and we can make a conscious decision to act upon what we’ve found.

The following may help focus our attention on the kinds of issues we need to address:

Performing rituals is not simply for children.

In some homes, holiday celebrations become a forum for children to demonstrate what they have learned in afternoon or day school—as the adults sit back and

watch. While it is very important to sustain our children’s enthusiasm and give them positive feedback, if we don’t demonstrate our own involvement as well, their participation may well take on the nature of a performance, rather than a “sharing” in the religious life of the family. This approach brings an added bonus: Performing a ritual is not just role-modeling, it’s fun!

This year, let’s recite the berakhah over the apples and honey together. After tasting the apple dipped in honey, recite “Y’hi ratzon...”:

(Continued on page 34)

Sisterhood President

(Continued from page 22)

followed suit. A reassuring talk with the Rabbi and a try in the religious school for Molly, and I thought I was in the right place. What followed were a few incidents that I want to mention and note because of the extraordinary kindness and sense of community that I benefited from and because they exemplify the type of community spirit that I want sisterhood to convey to each and every woman in this congregation and beyond and because they convinced me that I had finally come home.

First, Bonnie Stevens took me under her wing, giving up sitting with Toby to sit with me on the wrong side of the sanctuary so Molly and I wouldn’t have to sit alone. Soon, Deborah and Martin joined us. And when Molly asked

me to crochet kippot after watching Libbie Marx crochet hers, all roads led to Deborah Spigner for lessons and instructions. One late December morning, just 3 ½ short months before Molly’s bat mitzvah, Deborah who I barely knew, Bonnie and someone I didn’t even know, Lynn Biderman came to my home to schmooze, eat and crochet. I had no idea how I would make 120 kippot when the newness of this craft made the process so slow. I didn’t even imagine that when these three women who were almost strangers to me, would leave my home, they would each take skeins of yarn and over the next three months crochet a large portion of

the kippot. We don’t live within walking distance of each other, but it sure felt that way.

A short time later, Bruce Rockman asked me to join the ritual committee and although I initially thought there was little I could add,

he reassured me that all voices were important. And the cantor, who I will miss terribly, lovingly mentored me encouraging me to learn and grow in my knowledge and my

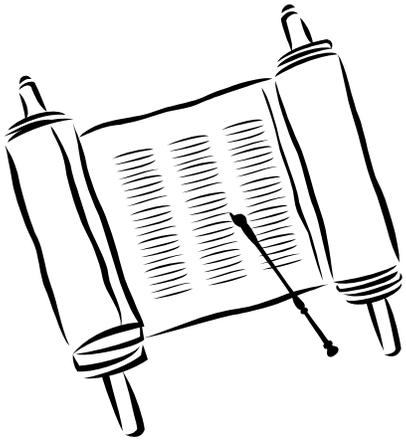
(Continued on page 27)

“this is Ruth Anne Koenick, third row center.”

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The Club's goal is to learn Torah "trope" – the melodies used for chanting the Torah. Students who have learned trope will continue to work independently under the instructor's direction. Several times during the year, interested club members can read from the Torah at a Shabbat afternoon Mincha service or during our Jr. Congregation Family Service.

Members are required to know the *Aleph-bet* and have basic Hebrew reading ability. **Questions? Call Larry Cohen 732-821-4376.**

!AA AA AA

Torah Readers' Club Member Application

I wish to join B'nai Tikvah's **Torah Readers' Club**:

Member Name: _____ Grade _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address (optional): _____

Send application with \$5 (check made out to B'nai Tikvah) to cover materials to: Torah Readers Club @ B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnegan's Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

Sisterhood President

(Continued from page 24)

passion for Judaism. No question was too stupid, no singing or chanting too painful to listen to. But I knew I had arrived when Nancy Danto and I were at jury duty together and we ran into another B'nai Tikvah member and Nancy introduced me as..."this is Ruth Anne Koenick, third row center."

When I sent my first dues check I included one to join sisterhood for to me, they went hand in hand. To be a woman and a member of a conservative synagogue also meant being an active sisterhood member. I also knew that sisterhood would provide that safety net, a way to belong in a new place where I didn't know anyone. And it has been sisterhood and sisterhood members that have given me the opportunity to find a place of my own. And for that I will always be grateful.

Sisterhood is about women in leadership dedicating themselves to enhancing the community in which we live. The Women's League web site says that we are "dedicated to the perpetuation of traditional Judaism in the home, synagogue and the community, that we wish to serve the cause of Judaism by strengthening the bond of unity among Jewish women."

How does sisterhood do that here? By providing leadership on issues that are important to all of us and serving as a central focus for women in the congregation. In preparation for this, I asked several people what they thought and felt about sisterhood. The responses ranged from "joining sisterhood really scared me because I didn't think I would be accepted" to "sisterhood has helped me get over being shy" and "sisterhood is about bringing women together...the

work is secondary."

For me, sisterhood is a way to give a part of myself and to give something to a place that has given me so much. Sisterhood is an integral part of this congregation not because we provide interesting and creative programs, run a terrific gift shop, or because we provide other services such as Shabbat dinners or holiday flowers or new years cards, to the membership. I see our importance because as women we work together for something much larger than ourselves. As sisterhood members we make a difference. As women we are powerful.

Just a few months ago, Melissa Fisch called me and popped the big question, Would I become part of the slate of officers as president. I think I was flip in my response and asked her how many people had already turned her down. Quick on her feet, maybe even without answering my question, she reassured me that the nominating committee was behind me. I told her I would consider it and would let her know. The next morning, I had a quick conversation with my daughter, as I knew she would, without hesitation, tell me what she thought. She quickly said "Mom you'll be awesome." Then I called Joyce who reassured me that being president is easy with a good board and especially a good administrative VP and I clearly have both. From the moment I called Melissa back, there have been days that life has been overwhelming, that I wonder how I am going to get everything done at work, at home, for my other volunteer organizations, and yes occasionally for me, but never, not for one moment have I regretted saying yes to being president of sisterhood.

Now you might say, give her time. She's been officially president for about 2 months. But the truth is, I know this is not going to be easy and that my family will, in the way they always have, tolerate and sometimes celebrate my absences. I know I will make mistakes, annoy people, do things that are just stupid, and forget things I am supposed to do. We are all human. But at the same time I am so excited about the coming year that I can barely stand it.

I'm going to mention just a couple of things I want to have happen during the coming year.

1. My hope for sisterhood is that more women will join, not just as members but as active participants. As the board members begin to develop goals and objectives for the coming year I hope to reach out to the membership and seek input for ways to get more people involved. Although I know that we can't be all things to all people we will work to be inclusive in thought and action and to attracting more women to join.
2. A second thought about the more women joining part, most of us are members of several different organizations and make charitable contributions to several institutions and agencies. For those women who belong to Hadassah, to ORT for NCJW, or other Jewish women's groups, you too can join sisterhood if for no other reason than to show your support of the work

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Sisterhood President

(Continued from page 27)

we accomplish and the value of our existence. If you are asked to do something and you don't want to or can't, say no...it is really ok, I say it all the time and we are all adults here.

3. I want us to co-sponsor programs in addition to the ones we have at our general meetings. I know that Lynn, following in Melissa's footsteps, will do a fabulous job, but we need to be involved in more collaborative activities. In the last few weeks several people within our congregation have approached me about working together. For example, Elliott, Bruce and I have talked about working together to sponsor a Trope class.

The Rabbi and I have discussed working together on a Rosh Chodesh project. Sometimes we may have to put a little money in and sometimes it is just our name and our work. Whatever we have to do, sisterhood's name must be highly visible and a part of the daily activities at B'nai Tikvah.

4. I want to see more sisterhood women actively participating in the religious rituals of this congregation. Women who are comfortable in this role, should have the opportunity to lead minyan, usher, carry the Torah, read Torah and Haftarah. As a group, we

need to facilitate these mitzvahs for those that want that type of participation and not only on sisterhood shabbat. And for those that aren't comfortable, we need to offer ways to explore the many possibilities available. And I want to see sisterhood represented on the bimah during shabbat and holiday services.

5. We need to develop different types of programming. Bobbi and I discussed what I think is a terrific idea of hers. In addition to the regular large programming, we can have some "mini" programs, perhaps held at someone's house. For example, I'll use Deborah Spigner's example ... maybe she would be interested in having a few short sessions to teach people how to crochet kippot. She could work with Ann and Lynn in setting up that project.
6. And finally, this thought came to me as I was driving home from the grocery store this afternoon. I think about our mothers and daughters, those who have multi-generations, and I think how blessed they are to be able to be together at shul. I started to think about my own mother and remember her as so old when she was

president of sisterhood. She always seemed so old to me and I quickly did the math and realized that she was my age, 51, when she had her installation. There are so many women here of multi generations that span our congregation that I would really like sisterhood to do something that both explores and honors that bond. I don't know what and it is clearly not well thought out, but there is a program in there someplace.

The list could go on and on, but thankfully I won't. I end by thanking the members of sisterhood for this honor and for their belief, their support, and their kindness. I have a lot to learn but this is really a group process and I truly look forward to entering that process with you.

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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.

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Lots of wonderful new items available -- come in and browse. Open most Sundays from 9 – Noon, or contact Deborah Spigner (545-8457) and Teresa Samtur (821-8163) for all your Judaica needs

LEAGRAM DISCOUNTS

Leagrams are cards sent in honor of, in memory of, in celebration of etc. Leagrams are 15\$ for 6 if paid for in advance, or \$3 if paid for separately. Just contact Terry Woller at 732-422-1770 with all the information, its easy.

FAMILY SHABBAT

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. Interested in helping lead the service? It's fun and sets a great example for your kids. Contact Jackie Master at 545-8021.

PLANNING A WEDDING OR B'NAI MITZVAH?

Order the B'nai Mitzvah computer program to help you keep everything organized and at your fingertips. See the order form in this issue of HaKol or visit the Sisterhood Gift Shop.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, Sept. 23 at 10:00AM- Join us for our first meeting of the year. Guest speaker Ruth Marcus Patt's topic will be "Wish You Were Here: A Study in Jewish Vacations."

NOVEMBER 15 - PAID-UP MEMBERSHIP DINNER!!!!!!

MAZEL TOV!

September B'nai Mitzvah



Nicole Van Hessen - September 1
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Ezra Zankel - September 15
Steven Cohen - September 29



Tashlikh: Casting Our Sins Away

Submitted by Rabbi David Eligberg

Tashlikh is a remarkable ceremony – symbolic and concrete all at the same time. Through this ritual, we express not only our desire to be free from sin but our continuing hope that we will be forgiven for past misdeeds. On the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah – or on the second day, if the first day is a Shabbat – it is customary to go to a flowing body of water and to recite prayers while “casting” our sins (represented by bread crumbs) into the water. As we read in Micah:

“You will cast (tashlikh) all your sins into the depths of the sea” (7:19).

By performing tashlikh, we signify our hope that God will overlook our failings during the past year and grant us favor in the year to come.

The preferred “order” for the bodies of water is (1) the sea, (2) a river, (3) a lake, spring or fountain. If there is no such water within walking distance; in the case of inclem-

ent weather; or if one did not perform the ceremony on Rosh Hashanah for any reason, then tashlikh may be performed at any time up to Yom Kippur.

According to some customs, the body of water we visit should have fish in it. It has been suggested that this helps to remind us of our precarious existence and thus puts us in the mood to repent. It has also

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COLLEGE YOUTH CONNECTION

For many years, we have been sending Holiday packages to our children at college. They have always been well received and are a vital link between our Synagogue and the college youth.

We send three packages a year, for Chanukah, Purim, and Pesach. If you have a child in college, and would like him/her to receive these packages, please fill out the form below (PRINT), and send it to:

**College Youth Connection
Congregation B'nai Tikvah
1001 Finnegan's Lane
North Brunswick, NJ 08902**

Student's Name: _____

Full Address: _____

Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Parent's Name and Address: _____

REMINDER TO PARENTS: This form MUST be filled out with the start of the new school year, as we do not keep lists from previous years. PLEASE NOTIFY COLLEGE CONNECTION IF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS CHANGES DURING THE YEAR.

Tashlikh

(Continued from page 30)

been suggested that we may be compared to fish caught in the net of divine judgement.

While it is traditional to shake out the hems of one's clothing to ensure that all "sins" have been disposed of, tashlikh ceremonies differ all over the world. The Jews of Kurdistan had a custom to recite the tashlikh prayer near a river and then to jump into the water and swim around, instead of only shaking out the hems of their clothing.

On Repentance

"Do not say that repentance is not necessary except for serious transgressions such as illicit sexual relations, robbery and theft. Just as a person must repent of acts such as these, he is required to examine his bad traits and turn away from such negative characteristics as anger, hostility, jealousy, the tendency to ridicule, pursuit of material possessions and honor, and gluttony. A person must repent of each of these. These offenses are more difficult to deal with than the other ones because such traits affect our actions at all times, and it is difficult for a person to refrain from such habitual behavior."

Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, Laws of Repentance, 7.3

Suggested prayers and readings:

Out of the depths I call to You;

Be attentive to my prayers, to my sigh of supplication.

Who could endure, Lord, if You kept count of every sin?

But forgiveness is Yours: therefore we revere You.

I wait for the Lord; my soul yearns.

Hopefully I await His word.

I wait for the Lord more eagerly than watchmen wait for dawn.

Put your hope in the Lord, for the Lord is generous with mercy.

Abundant is His power to redeem; May he redeem the people Israel from all sin.

Psalm 130

"Who is a God like You, forgiving iniquity and pardoning the transgression of the remnant of Your people? You do not maintain anger forever but You delight in loving kindness. You will again have compassion upon us, subduing our sins, casting all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and enduring love to Abraham, as You promised our fathers from days of old."

Micah 7:18-20

"None shall hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the love of the Lord shall find the earth as the waters fill the sea."

Isaiah 11:9

A Tashlikh Prayer

Let us cast away the sin of deception, so that we will mislead no one in word or deed, nor pretend to be what we are not.

Let us cast away the sin of vain ambition, which prompts us to strive for goals, which bring neither true fulfillment nor genuine contentment.

Let us cast away the sin of stubbornness, so that we will neither persist in foolish habits nor fail to acknowledge our will to change.

Let us cast away the sin of envy, so that we will neither be consumed by desire for what we lack nor grow unmindful of the blessings, which are already ours.

Let us cast away the sin of selfishness, which keeps us from enriching our lives through wider concerns, and greater sharing, and from reaching out in love to other human beings.

Let us cast away the sin of indifference, so that we may be sensitive to the sufferings of others and responsive to the needs of our people everywhere.

Let us cast away the sins of pride and arrogance, so that we may worship God and serve His purposes in humility and in truth.

B'nai Tikvah's Tashlich Service takes place on the first day of Rosh Hashannah, Tuesday, September 18th at 5:45 pm. It is held on the small bridge opposite the Brunswick Acre Elementary School off of Cory Road in Kendall Park.

Kim's Kitchen

By Kim Riemann

It's been a while since I wrote one of these columns but with the holidays fast approaching my mind leaps to our family's Rosh Hashanah meal. Now, something you have to understand about me (as if most of you didn't already know), I love dessert. I love it so much, a friend once bought me a shirt that said, "Life's short. Eat dessert first." A sentiment I couldn't agree with more but please, don't tell my kids.

Of course, my love of desserts first extended to the eating of them, not necessarily the cooking of them. It was a while before I felt comfortable in the baking department. Who knew you could bake if the mix didn't come from a box?



But since the early days, of the yellow cake that tasted more like cornbread, and the apple pie that leaked all over the oven, I've baked my share of from scratch desserts. I make a mean chocolate torte for Passover and just this summer made a lemon curd and strawberry tart that was divine.

As I said though, it's Rosh Hashanah. That means I'm not just baking dessert for my immediate family or friends. It means grandma's coming over. My mom always says before I make a meal for my grandma, "Remember, make sure there's a dessert Grandma can eat." That means, no nuts, no seeds, no chocolate—well you get the picture. Grandma has stomach trouble and you don't want to do anything that

will lead grandma to complain about her stomach.

With that in mind, years ago, I delved into an old Sisterhood Cookbook (to give you an idea how old, it says Shari Shalom on the cover). That's where I discovered Linda Lee Baker's Easy Apple Cake recipe. Don't let the "Easy" fool you though. This is a delicious cake that even Grandma can eat. One last thing though, please don't show this column to her—or I'll never hear the end of it. Thanks, and I hope you enjoy.

Easy Apple Cake

3 cups apple, peeled and sliced
3 cups sifted flour
2 teaspoon cinnamon
5 teaspoon sugar

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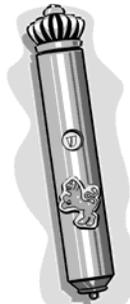


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Apple Cake

(Continued from page 33)

3 teaspoon baking powder
2 cups sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
1/4 cup orange juice
1 cup vegetable oil
4 eggs
1 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350

1. Mix apples w/ cinnamon & 5 teaspoons sugar; set aside.
2. Sift together sugar, flour, baking powder into a bowl.
3. Make a well in flour mixture; put remaining ingredients in well.
4. Mix through w/ wooden spoon.
5. Spoon 1/3 of batter into a tube pan (greased).
6. Put 1/2 apples on top (make sure none touch the sides of pan).
7. Repeat, ending w/ batter to cover apples.
8. Bake at 350 for 1 hour.

NEWYEAR

(Continued from page 24)

Barukh atah adonai eloheinu melekh ha'olam boray pri ha'etz.

Y'hi ratzon milfanekha adonai eloheinu v'elohai avoteinu sh't'hadesh aleinu shanah tovah u'm'tukah.

A New Beginning

As we light the candles on both nights of Rosh Hashanah, we recite the *Shehehenu* prayer. There is an excitement inherent in newness and in beginnings, and what better day

to acknowledge this than on the birthday of the world! Some people make the second night as “new” as the first by eating a new fruit at the holiday meal or by wearing a new item of clothing. Another way to enhance this experience even more might be to create special blessings for one another, customizing each one to reflect a special wish for a family member or friend. For example, we may say to the young man or woman who is just beginning college: May this year be one of growth-of mind, body, and spirit. May you take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities presented to you as you enter this new stage in your life, and may you continue to be guided by the values you have learned throughout your life.

A Time to Build Relationships

Each year, our lives seem to grow increasingly hectic. We juggle jobs, families, and community activities. Some of us must also deal with additional problems, such as illness. In the face of this “craziness,” one of the first things to suffer is extended family relations. We lose touch with aunts, uncles, cousins, and even parents and grandparents. Rosh Hashanah is a time to consciously reverse that trend, planning holiday meals that will serve as many as possible; sending cards (or e-mail messages or making phone calls) to all those with whom we have lost touch; spending time in the synagogue reflecting on the

importance of family relationships; and modeling for our own children and grandchildren the kind of caring behavior we hope they will demonstrate in their own lives. One idea is to send a “family letter” to those you will be unable to see during the holiday. You might also make a videotape in advance of the holiday sending greetings from your family or capturing a joyous holiday activity, such as cooking or singing holiday songs.

Having fun, learning lessons

Besides apples and honey, there are other foods we may want to have at our holiday table. Other special foods (mentioned in the Talmud, Shulhan Arukh and other sources) include leeks or cabbage, beets, fenugreek or carrots, dates, gourds, pomegranates, fish, and the head of a sheep or fish. In many cases, the names of the foods (in Hebrew, of course) are used in some kind of word play or metaphor. For example, in eating a pomegranate, we pray that our merits will increase as (the seeds of) a pomegranate. It might be fun to select special foods for your holiday table and create “lessons” based on the Hebrew or English words used to name them. If we choose dates, for example, we can commit ourselves to choosing a specific date on which to visit a sick relative,

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HAKOL DEADLINE

The next HaKol deadline is **September 16**. I look forward to hearing from you. It will be distributed by **October 1**. You can leave articles in the HaKol mailbox in the synagogue office or e-mail them to Hakol@aol.com.

Mice In The Schul

Three Rabbis were talking over a regular Sunday morning breakfast get-together. Rabbi Ginsberg says, "We have such a problem with mice at our shul. "The shammos sets all kinds of baited traps but they keep coming back. Do either of you learned men know how I can get rid of these vermin?"

The second Rabbi Cohen replied, "We have the same problem at our synagogue, we've spent all kinds of gelt on exterminators but the problem still persists. Any suggestions?"

The third Rabbi, Rabbi Slosberg, looked at Rabbi Ginsberg and Rabbi Cohen and told the following story:

"Rabbis, we had the same problem with mice at our synagogue; we tried traps, exterminators, even prayers; but nothing worked. Then one Shabbos, I went to the synagogue about an hour before services started. I brought a big wheel of yellow cheese and placed it in the center of the bima. Well soon hundreds of mice appeared on the bima and headed for the cheese. While they were feasting on the cheese, I barmitzvahed all of them. I've never seen any of them in schul again."



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