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THINGS TO DO

B'nai Tikvah Gift Shop Bazaar

Sunday, December 2 & 9

Community Hanukkah Party

Thursday, December 6

Emotional Intelligence & Authentic Happiness

Monday, December 10

Family Hanukkah Candle Lighting Party

Tuesday, December 11, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

The DaVinci Code: A Jewish Perspective

Wednesday, December 19

Family Shabbat Dinner & Service

Friday, December 21, 6:30 pm

Sisterhood Jewelry Making

Wednesday, January 9

Passover Poker

Saturday, January 12

Rabbi's Classes & Lectures

See page 9 for complete listing

See Inside for Details On These and Many More Events

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THEY ROCKED THE SHUL !

A Night to Remember

11/11/07 L'Dor Vador

When I was asked by the Cantor a few months ago to coordinate the L'dor Vador Concert with Neshama Carlebach I jumped at the opportunity. I've been a huge fan of Shlomo Carlebach and his music for many years and the opportunity to work with Neshama was not one I could pass up. My many thanks to the Cantor for allowing me to have this privilege and to all those on and off the committee who worked so hard in the short time we had to put it together. To those of you that were there...over 300... I don't have to tell you, the place rocked like it never rocked before. For those of you that weren't there let me share some of the bits of e-mails I received from those that were – with their permission.....



"...we all had a great time, it was a great night"

..." I'm glad I came to see Neshama, she was wonderful - so was the gospel choir!! "

"...do you know sometimes there are songs and when you try to sing them and you can't because you get so filled up with emotion... that's they way I felt last night listening to the choir and to Neshama. You do, you truly get moved, by their emotion, their words, their soul".

" Good Lord ell- it was one of the best concerts I have ever been to! It was just incredible! How on earth do we top it?? "

"Last night I came over to the concert after working many 12 hour days ... Although I was only able to stay an hour, it was one of the best hours of my year! The combination of the Baptist Choir with Neshama was so incredible and electrifying. I truly understood Neshama's retelling of her father's belief that one plus one plus one = one. I really felt we were all one last night! "

" It was beyond enjoyable!!!! Who are we getting next and when??"

"... the concert last night was

continued on page 11



WORDS OF THE RABBI Rabbi Robert Wolkoff

How Easy It All Seems

One of my favorite baseball stories is the one about Willie Mays' famous over-the-shoulder catch. A relief pitcher, Don Liddle, had been brought in to pitch against Vic Wertz. Wertz drilled the ball, but thanks to Mays' unbelievable effort, the game was saved. Liddle came off the mound, gave the ball to incoming reliever Marv Grissom, and calmly declared, "Well, I got my man."

How easy it all seems after the deed is done!

We hear a little of the same from today's revisionist historians when they talk about the State of Israel's "easy" military victories. As if they were so easy. One example: At one point during Israel's War of Independence—in the mind of the revisionists a cakewalk—the Arab armies had conquered a third of the miniscule territory allotted to the nascent Jewish state, and had reached the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Calling that an easy victory is like calling Gettysburg a walk in the park because, after all, we won.

There is a clear human tendency to make the *eventual* outcome the *inevitable* outcome, and in so doing to forget how miraculous and divine some outcomes can be. That is why, in describing the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian Greeks, our rabbis made a point of emphasizing that this victory was one in which G-d delivered the "powerful into the hands of the weak, and the many into the hands of the few," (as stated in the *Al Hanisim* prayer for Chanukah).

There was nothing inevitable about it.

In fact, if we study the military history of the Maccabean conflict, we discover an interesting fact. In the beginning, the opposition to the Syrian-Greeks was limited in the extreme—perhaps as few as a hundred people. Eventually, though, the hundred were able to recruit a few hundred more. And by a combination of military genius, profound faith, unbelievable courage, and divine guidance (or, as is often the case in war, plain dumb luck), the five hundred decisively won its first battle.

And the five hundred became a thousand.

And a thousand eventually became five thousand.

And the five thousand eventually became a force that the Syrian-Greeks realized could not be defeated.

Easy victory? Not by a long shot. The fact is that the entire future of Judaism was in the hands of a mere handful of people. And look at the results!

Although at Bnai Tikvah we are not facing the same military challenge our ancestors did, much the same can be said for us. In one area after another, amazing things, miraculous things, are happening here. Stimulating adult education (see elsewhere in this month's Hakol for details); exciting, joyous, and uplifting services; family shabbat evenings bursting at the seams; great events like the Crafts Fair; and, needless to say, the L'Dor va'Dor concert with Neshama Carlebach that brought the house down. So much is being done, but by so few. Just like the Maccabees of old—we need you. Just imagine what we could do with 500, instead of a hundred; and a thousand, instead of 500; and...

With wishes for a wonderful Chanukah, filled with *orah v'simchah*, with light and joy,

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff



SCHEDULE OF DAILY SERVICES

Sunday	9:00 AM Shahareet	7:30 PM	Mincha/Maariv
Monday		7:30 PM	Mincha/Maariv
Tuesday		7:30 PM	Mincha/Maariv
Wednesday		7:30 PM	Mincha/Maariv
Thursday	7:30 AM Shahareet	7:30 PM	Mincha/Maariv
Friday		8:00 PM	Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday	9:30 AM Shabbat	TBD	Mincha/Maariv

Babysitting available Shabbat morning 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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What Is It ?

Chanukah candles, Shabbat candles

On the 24th of Kislev, December 4th we will light the first Chanukah candle. Why are the candles lighted from left to right?

Over the centuries various candle lighting practices have evolved. The practice generally accepted today follows the tradition of giving equal importance to the right and left side of the Chanukiah, indicating G-d's presence is everywhere. The candles are therefore inserted from right to left (the newest addition to be on the left), but they are kindled from left to right (the newest addition to be kindled first).

Speaking of lights....why do we light Shabbat candles on Friday night?

In early Talmudic times candles were kindled in every household every night of the week for the purpose of illuminating the home. An average dwelling consisted of two rooms, and usually one lighted candle would be carried from room to room to provide light as needed. On Friday night two candles were used, one for each room, as carrying candles from room to room was prohibited.

Until the eighth century a blessing was not recited. Afterwards, in order to combat the hostility of the Jewish Karaite community, which forbade the use of all light on Shabbat, it became mandatory to light candles and recite the blessing.

Another explanation is that the lighting of two candles represents the two important references to Shabbat in the Torah: "Remember the Sabbath" (Exodus 20:8) and "Observe the Sabbath" (Deuteronomy 5:12).

Excerpted from The Jewish Book of Why by Alfred J. Kolatch

** Karaite Judaism is a movement which relies strictly on scripture, Tanach- Torah, Prophets and Holy Writings, as legally binding, and rejects Oral Law (rabbinic Judaism) – the Mishnah and Talmud.*

The What Is It column is written by the B'nai Tikvah Ritual Committee. If you have a subject that you would like addressed in this column please send your question to;

HaKol.CBT@gmail.com

and list What Is It in the subject line

OUR HAZZAN'S VOICE Cantor Bruce Rockman

“B'nai Tikvah, My Field of Dreams”

If you live in our area, you have to feel good about being Jewish. I just left a meeting at which a person said that she was sorry that she missed the Neshama Carlebach concert. She didn't attend because of a conflict; there was a really excellent Israeli performer at Rutgers. At the same time, the Jewish film festival was running at the Regal Movie Theatre and Alan Dershowitz was speaking at East Brunswick Jewish Center, via closed circuit television from the 92nd Street Y in New York City. My guess is that on Sunday November 11, 2007, around 2000 people were engaged in these local Jewish cultural activities in the Brunswicks. Wow! So I'm biased, I think we had the best program, but no matter your interest, there were exceptional opportunities for all of to experience Jewish culture in own back yards.

With Hanukkah just weeks away and Thanksgiving barely in our rear view mirrors, I can't stop thinking about the two great events that we presented in November. First the L'dor Va'dor concert, then the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. In each case a justifiable sense of joy and pride exuded from those who attended. We were all so proud to be part of this community that celebrates diversity while demonstrating our love of Judaism.

Reverend Fred Schott of the local Lutheran church in his message to the South Brunswick Clergy Association wrote "...thank you for an inspiring and ground-breaking "inter-faith" concert."

I'm making the assumption that if you are reading this article that you know about these events. To explain briefly, for two Sunday nights in a row three to four hundred people gathered here, clapped their hands, sang and danced with an inspirational Jewish singer, Neshama Carlebach, a Baptist Choir, the Makehla, the Sons of Tikvah Band, an African Evangel Praise Choir, and various youth choirs. The warm feelings among the audience allow me to believe that B'nai Tikvah is indeed special and a light leading our neighbor.

The purpose of the L'dor Vador series is that it celebrates our gratitude to our parents who inspire us to encourage our children to embrace our legacy, L'dor vador, from generation to generation is a *Source of Pride and Enlightenment*. These can be empty words if we do not follow through on our mission. But at B'nai Tikvah we do follow through. There is so much passion here to

do acts of kindness. Not that I doubted you, I know that the people of B'nai Tikvah are beyond special. We are able to accomplish any goal we dream of. We demonstrate this daily. Can we do better? Oh yea, we can and we will!

At the end of the magical movie, *Field of Dreams*, Marc, the brother-in law, banker played by Timothy Busfield, is not a believer, until he experiences a miracle. He sees his niece's life saved by a ghost, at which point he experiences the field of dreams.

Well this is not a movie and I don't really think we performed a miracle, but I think a lot of people who enter B'nai Tikvah are experiencing their "field of dreams".

The momentum, positive energy at B'nai Tikvah is overpowering. We are truly blessed to be engaged in a holy mission of personal and spiritual growth. With the help of God, together, you and I will be a *Source of Pride and Enlightenment*.

Happy Hanukkah, may all your days be meaningful.

***Worship the Lord in gladness;
come before God with joyous song.***

Cantor Bruce Rockman

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HAKOL

The Newsletter of
 Congregation B'nai Tikvah
 JCC of North & South Brunswick
 1001 Finnegan's Lane
 North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Published monthly except for July and August. Submissions are welcomed about Congregation events, group activities, and other material relevant to the Jewish community.

All Submissions for **HAKOL** are due by the 15th of the preceding month

We recommend sending submissions and correspondence via e-mail to:
Hakol@bnaitikvah.org

All e-mail submissions are acknowledged via e-mail. You may also put submissions in the HaKol mailbox in the synagogue office. All submissions are subject to available space and editorial constraints. Please call Phil Welsher at 908-874-0959 if you have any questions.

SUBMISSION FORMATS:

TEXT:

Editorial submissions should be in MS-Word, AppleWorks, plain text, rich text format or typed directly into the body of an e-mail. No special fonts will be used without prior arrangement. Graphics embedded in a text file will not be used.

Graphics and photos must be submitted separately, rather than inside other files or documents.

GRAPHICS & IMAGES:

Advertisements should be submitted in one of the following formats; Quark 6.0 or earlier, Indesign CS1, PDF, EPS or TIFF. BMP or JPEG files may also be used, but may print as lower quality. All text should be converted to black and white. All images should be converted to grey scale. All images submitted for scanning must be photo or photo quality images.

ORDER FORMS & FLYERS:

Submit order forms and inserts to be sent with the **HAKOL** mailing to the editors by the 15th of the preceding month. Inserts must be submitted in hard copy to the office or as print ready files, PDF preferred.

FOR ADVERTISING INFO:

www.bnaitikvah.org/hakol.html
 HaKol@bnaitikvah.org
 or 732-238-6893

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Ruth Anne Koenick

As many of you know, our Administrative Director, Nitsat Hadas Elami, recently resigned to take another position at a synagogue in northern New Jersey. Hadas has served our congregation for many years and did so with skill and a love for her work. When she came to my office to tell me she was resigning, she said the new synagogue is where she works, but she considers B'nai Tikvah her home and I hope to welcome her as a new member in the coming weeks.

I put together a small group to search for a new administrative director. I expect this group to review job descriptions, develop a posting, schedule interviews and make a recommendation to the board. Many of you have called and emailed me with suggestions and opinions and I thank you for doing that. The committee is being chaired by Sharon Weinreb and includes Marc Dillman, Gary Warner, Beth Schurman and Renee Juro. They will work in consultation with the Rabbi and Cantor, as well as Gary Bergman our Administrative VP, myself and other staff who have direct contact with the administrator. I asked Sharon to chair this committee because she is the Marketing Director and a Staffing Specialist for Medical Staffing Services, Inc. which means that a part of her job is to search for and hire staff at various levels. She and her family have been members at B'nai Tikvah for about 9 years.

In the interim, several people have volunteered to take over certain parts of the job responsibilities. Beth Schurman will be coordinating the calendar and Larry Cohen will make sure all is set up for Shabbat. I truly appreciate their willingness to help out and also the additional help that Roz Fishman is providing and the help of Sherrie Valan who volunteers in the office and is handling many of the building rentals. While we search for a new administrator, I ask for your patience as we work to make sure the priorities are handled while some other things that don't have a sense of urgency are put on hold.

I also recently appointed a marketing committee. Cindy Gittleman agreed to facilitate this group and to get it going. On the committee are Stu Allen, Marla Cukor, Danny Greenberg, Alan Brown, Bette Koffler, David Spivak and Phil Welsher. The purpose of this committee is to develop a marketing plan so that we send a clear and consistent message about CBT and that we actively promote our congregation and the multitude of activities and good things that happen here. If anyone is interested in being on this committee, please let me know.

And finally, I appointed the Feedback Committee. This group is chaired by past president Gary Tinkel and includes Aaron Rosloff, Phyllis Safeer, and Howard Waksman. Gary will be providing more information to you but the purpose of this committee is to provide a regular venue to discuss ongoing and timely issues regarding how we can work together. Congregants, the Board and the Clergy can build a strong bond and make our community flourish by working together and this committee will provide a place for people to share their thoughts and comments about how the congregation, in particular the clergy, can continue to enhance our community.

B'Shalom,

Ruth Anne Koenick, President

From The Webmaster

The Calendar is back online

All of B'nai Tikvah's calendar events are now online... Jewish holidays & celebrations, nursery & religious school programs, school & office closings, committee meetings, and outside groups holding events in our new facility.

To view, go to bnaitikvah.org and click the English date in the center blue box.

(Clicking the Hebrew date brings up a Jewish Interactive Calendar)

The calendar is fully interactive and can be viewed various ways. The "list" view reveals additional details, such as the specific meeting room if applicable.

The entries were imported directly from the official synagogue calendar. If you notice anything wrong or inconsistent, please notify the webmaster at your earliest convenience.

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ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW

Coming Soon *By Aaron Rosloff*

In the New York Times of June 23, 2007, I read in the business section a story about a company that bought Barney's. Barney's is a high, high, high end men's clothing store, that sell shmatterated blue jeans for four hundred bucks a pair. Oy!

As a boy of ten or so, growing up in a Yiddish speaking family, I was exposed every Sunday morning to the Jewish radio programs on station WEVD, which was the primary station for Yiddish programs, known as the Jewish Hour. On that station you could hear everything from heart breaking stories. There was one sponsored by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company about a man who died suddenly and left his family penniless. But in going through his papers, his wife found a life insurance policy for a thousand dollars. Imagine the rising background music as the agent comes to deliver the check for \$1000, the cavalry coming over the hill?

Then there was this female entertainer whose professional name was the "Yiddisher Shicksa", who was a welcome radio guest in our home on Sunday mornings. She sang Yiddish, European and American songs from the shtetl, to show tunes from the 2nd Avenue Theater, on the Jewish Hour. I don't really know if she was or wasn't Jewish, but among her sponsors were enterprises like Barney's Men's Store. I also remember a pair of Jewish comics called Berel and Shmerel.

Those were the days when you could buy a suit for twelve dollars and get a penny change. The very idea that you can buy a pair of jeans for four hundred bucks today is mind boggling when I remember that you could buy Barney's whole inventory for four hundred dollars. And if you think that's a wonder, listen to this!

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By Appointment

A MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Allison Nagelberg, VP Membership

Condolences to:

The family of Jack Mailman

Linda Surks on the passing of her mother Sherry Blaustien

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members:

The Siegler Family
Shannon, Steven and their children

The Rosenthal Family
Gary, Stacy and their children

The Miller Family
Susan and Arnold

Mazal Tov to:

Ron and Jennifer Klein
On the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Simone

Howard and Marla Resnick
On the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Jennifer

New On the Horizon

On December 16, 2007, we will officially welcome all of our "newer" members at an informal get-together at the home of Shelly and Ken Wistreich. If you are a new member – within the last year of so – you will be getting an invitation in the mail. If you are not quite so new but would like to participate, we would be happy to have you join us. Please contact me for details.

Beginning in 2008, we are planning to hold a few events outside of our synagogue – lectures, presentations, activities for children, and possibly a bookfair at Barnes and Noble in North Brunswick, etc. We hope to spread the word about our wonderful community beyond our own building. Please be on the lookout for more details.

Did you attend our unbelievable concert with Neshama Carlebach and the Green Pastures Baptist Church Choir? Yes, the "joint was jumping"! We plan to keep that excitement going by taking a trip to the Green Pastures Church on a Sunday in 2008. More details to follow!

Any questions – contact me at:
Membership@BnaiTikvah.org

Allison Nagelberg
Membership VP

B'NAI MITZVAH



Brooke Altman, Dec. 1
Richard & Kellie Altman

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2007-2008 HAKOL ADVERTISING RATES

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Full Page:	8" x 10.5"	\$675	\$100
Half Page:	3.75" x 10.5" 8" x 5"	\$525	\$80
Quarter Page:	3.75" x 5"	\$400	\$60
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CONGREGATION EVENTS & INFORMATION

Shabbat Luncheon's are here!

If you've been to Shabbat services lately you might have noticed a slight change. When there is no B'nai Mitzvah we have a congregational lunch.

The lunch is a fairly simple menu - Tuna/Egg salad, Ceasar salad and some fruit. It is prepared by Classical Caterer's during the week. We do our own set-up's and we all help clean up when we're done.

It's a nice way to spend a couple of hours of Shabbat together. After we eat and bench, there is Mincha service in the Beit Midrash for those that wish to participate.

If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon please call me to discuss the details. The following are open dates for luncheons;

1/5, 1/19, 2/2, 2/23, 3/8, 4/19 + 26th- Pesach, All of July & August, 9/27, 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25 and 12/27.

See you on Shabbos.

Elliott
iamell@comcast.net
732-297-6175

CARLEBACH CD's

In case you missed the opportunity the night of the Neshama Carlebach concert, we still have the follow CD's available for sale at \$20 each:

Carlebach - Ha Neshama Shel Shlomo
Neshama Carlebach - Journey
Neshama Carlebach - Soul
Neshama Carlebach - Ani Shelach
Shlomo Carlebach - Days Are Coming"

To hear samples of these CD's, visit;
www.neshamacarlebach.com

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CONGREGATION EVENTS & INFORMATION

Rabbi's Courses and Lectures 2007-2008

Courses:

Biblical Ecology 8 PM, Wednesday
 December 5 January 9 February 6
 March 5 April 2 May 7

Bible Interpretation 8 PM, Wednesday
 December 13 (Note: Thursday!)
 January 16 February 20 March 26
 April 16 May 14

Prayer 11 AM, Sunday
 December 16 January 6 February 17
 March 16 April 6 May 4

Jewish Parenting 9 AM, Wednesday
(or: How to make your kid a mensch)
 December 12 January 23 February 13
 March 12 April 9 May 14

Lectures:

- December 19:** The Da Vinci Code, A Jewish Perspective
- January 24:** Barnes and Noble book review
- February 24:** Barnes and Noble book review
- March 8:** Sex in the Zohar or Biblical Ecology *(note: held at Beth Ohr, Old Bridge)*
- March 13:** Barnes and Noble book review
- April 9:** Presentation of Passover Seder Commentaries
- May TBA:** Judaism A-Z at congregants' home
- June 8:** Tikkun Lel Shavuot

In addition, watch for special shabbat lectures and discussions.

The first will be held on Friday night, December 15.
 Topic: *Is America a Christian Country?*

Coming Soon

Continued from page 6

The store was founded by a Jewish guy named Barney Pressman, 84 years ago. He had to hock his wife's engagement ring to raise the few dollars to start his business. It was an off price men's store whose customers were largely Jews who were not much better off than Barney was. I remember part of a Yiddish jingle (that I won't try to transliterate) that Barney's used on the radio to bring in customers.

Well, the world turns, and who are the rich buyers of Barney's Men's Stores (there are a chain of them today) but an outfit called Isthmar from Dubai! An Arab company buying a store in America founded by a poor Jew 84 years ago.

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CONGREGATION EVENTS & INFORMATION

CARLEBACH CONCERT

continued from page 1

fabulous and I talked about it in class today ... I talked about the concept of one plus one is one..."

"... the concert was a smashing success! We had a great time."

"...What a night for everyone who attended and for B'nai Tikvah. I don't ever remember so many people being so happy in the synagogue... Both performances were wonderful separately, but truly magical when they joined together....An unbelievable combination of soulful spirituality and foot stomping, raise the roof gospel music. Kudos to all. Can't wait to see what The L'Dor Vador Endowment for the Arts has in store for us next. "



I've been asked if the concert was a success.

If having a full house with everyone on their feet clapping and singing along, and even dancing in the aisles are signs of a successful show, then we had one heckuva successful show. Thank you to the Teicher and Roller Families for being the first benefactors of this program and thank you to Cantor Bruce for having the vision to bring us all together.

Elliott Danto



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORTS Ann Kanarek, Director

CHANUKAH BEGINS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4th

The first candle of Chanukah, our joyous Festival of Lights, is lit on Tuesday evening, December 4. Each night we light another candle to celebrate the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian-Greek army of the tyrant Antiochus. However, Chanukah is more than a holiday commemorating a military victory. Though technically a minor holiday (Chanukah is not mentioned anywhere in the Bible), today it is a major family celebration.

As we exchange gifts, join in playing dreidel, lighting candles, and eating latkes, we remember that the Maccabees' struggle of long ago is still our struggle today: How to remain loyal to our traditions and dreams of our people while participating in the best that the secular world has to offer. Theirs was also a battle for religious freedom, a battle that we continue to fight today, as well.

We have planned many exciting programs for the month of December to help us celebrate Chanukah as a congregational family and we hope that you will join us.

FACTOIDS FOR KISLEV

Since the miracle of Chanukah took place in Israel, the dreidel has a פ for פו (here) instead of the ש for שם (there) that we in North America have on our dreidel. Israeli children say: A great miracle happened here!

נס גדול היה פו

The Maccabiah Games are the quadrennial Jewish Olympics. Jewish athletes from all over the world come to Israel to compete in sports like swimming, track and field, basketball, wrestling and gymnastics. The Maccabiah Games was named for the Maccabees who were strong and confident, like champion athletes. The next Maccabiah will be in July, 2009.

The word Chanukah means "dedication." Other famous dedications in our history include: The dedication of the Tent which Moses and the Children built in the desert. The dedication of King Solomon's Temple more than 3000 years ago. The dedication of the Second Temple almost 500 years later. So.... What do we dedicate today? When we put up a mezzuzah in a new home or other building, it is called hanukkat habayit or 'dedication of the house.'

According to the ancient story, Judith saved her town

from the Syrian general Holfernes and his army. In honor of Judith, women are not supposed to work while the Chanukah candles are burning.

Wishing you and your family a Chag Sameach!

May you all enjoy good health, happiness and blessings during Chanukah and always.

And, I hope all our moms take at least a half an hour each night of Chanukah to rest and relax!

Have fun!

CHANUKAH CONTEST

What do the 25th of Kislev and the 25th Hebrew word in the Torah have in common? Look it up or ask the Rabbi or Cantor who, I know, will be happy to tell you.

Bring the answer to the Religious School Office and receive a special prize!! Good luck.

SUPPORT OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Put your name on a flame, put your handle on a candle. Look for the **WALL OF FLAME**, our Religious School Menorah with your name in lights. For only a dollar each, you can buy paper flames for every member of your family. Or, for 18 big ones, you can buy a whole paper candle for your group. Anyway you choose, you are warming up to a great a cause — your RELIGIOUS SCHOOL. For more information check the flyer in this bulletin or on the web. On behalf of the Religious School staff and children we thank you for your support.

TODAH RABAH to our Jewish Book Fair Chairperson—Gina Giuffre and her committee of volunteers. Thanks to all their help and hard work, the book fair will surely be very successful. The proceeds of the book fair benefit the Religious School's enrichment program.

MANY THANKS to Deborah Spigner for coordinating our BOX TOPS campaign. We appreciate the efforts of all our families and friends who help support our school by clipping General Mills Box Tops for Education coupons. Just as a reminder: our aim for the end of year is to reach a goal of \$500.00.

CHAI SCHOOL "CHAI" LIGHTS

THANKS FOR GIVING . . .

On Mitzvah Day--Sunday, October 28, the teenagers in the Chai School and students in the Hei class along with their teachers: Dina Adams, Kayla Garfinkle, Michal Gordon, Arielle Prince, Keren

continued on page 14

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS PHYLLIS DENENBERG, DIRECTOR

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

The Nursery Classes celebrated Thanksgiving in their own special way. The 3's and pre-k prepared a yummy feast that was shared with their families in the social hall. Residents from Buckingham Palace joined us in the celebration. The yiladeem made costumes, sang songs and everyone consumed the goodies that were prepared by the children. The 2 ½ year olds celebrated Thanksgiving with their own feast in their classroom.



The Nursery library has officially opened for the year. Our students have library cards and take out a book every two weeks. They must bring it back to the library in order to take out another one. It teaches them responsibility! Thank you to Rachel Tanner and her library committee.

Our Scholastic Book Fair took place the last week of November and it was a resounding success.

The Enrichment we are highlighting this month is **"Jump Wiggle Twirl and Giggle"**.

Mrs. Horn is the teacher with Mrs. Lesko assisting. The children "jump" into learning with fun-filled creative movement activities. Throughout the year they explore themes and topics, including seasonal changes, community workers, animals, poetry, folktales and more. Activities will help to develop physical coordination, agility and flexibility as well as explore rhythm, space and self expression. Last month the children were at "the farm". This month, the circus is coming to town! Children will be going under the Big Top where they will

use movements to learn to do exciting animal, clown and juggling tricks. They will also perform balancing acts!

All classes have been making special projects for Chanukah. Many are learning the Brachot for the Menorah.

December 3rd & 4th we will hold our annual Kiddie Holiday Boutique where the children pick out and purchase Chanukah gifts for their loved ones.

The first night of Chanukah is Tuesday the 4th!

December 7th will be picture Day for the 3's & pre-K.

On Wednesday, December 12th we will be having our annual Chanukah Party. Residents from Buckingham Place will be our guests. After being entertained by our talented children, Uncle John's Puppets will entertain us.

On Thursday, the Pre-K class will be going to the Regency Heritage Nursing Home (formerly known as the NJ Home for the Aged), to sing for the residents. The children will also draw pictures for the residents to hang up in their rooms.

What Mitzvah Children we have here! We are so proud of them!!

In conjunction with their unit on Community Helpers, the 3's and pre-k will have many activities. On Monday December 17th (with a rain date of Friday December 21st), the Township of North Brunswick will again be sending over vehicles that help the community. There will be a fire truck, a garbage truck, a street sweeper, a police car and more! ***Please come and join us at 9:30 AM!***

The pre-K will be going on a field trip to Magyar bank on Route 27 on December 20th. We intend on bringing all our tzedakah to be put into the coin counting machine to see how much tzedakah has been raised. Every Friday, in honor of Shabbat, tzedakah is collected.

Reminder: School will be closed for Winter Break from Monday December 24th through Tuesday, January 1st. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 2nd.

We wish you and your family a Happy Chanukah!

See you in 2008!.... *Phyllis*

CONGREGATION EVENTS & INFORMATION

THANKS FOR GIVING . . . *continued from page 12*

Kapoano and Rona Gershon and parent volunteers: Linda Kohn, Rose Berger, Steve Katz and Matt Katz participated in activities which included: rolling plastic serving utensils, packing toiletries into Blizzard Bags, serving lemonade and clearing the Holocaust garden. All for good causes!

Our students and parent volunteers were engaged in the concept of "Lilmod V'la'asot — Learning and Doing Torah" which is a study of key Jewish values. While doing good deeds and acts of loving-kindness they embraced several organizations and groups like Alex's Lemonade Stand (Foundation for Childhood Cancer), American Red Cross, Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen and the B'nai Tikvah Holocaust Garden. It was a true privilege, "z'chut" for us to donate supplies, give of our time and hard work in support of the sick, hungry and poor of our community. We also thank the presenters and representatives from Alex's Lemonade Stand: Sandy and Sami Gray, Elijah's Promise: Pam Johnson, and American Red Cross: Gopal Narsimhamurthy.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

Sun., Dec. 2: 9 am - 12:05 pm

Jewish Book Month

storyteller artist, Karen Ostrove

Sun., Dec. 2 - Dec. 9:

Jewish Book Fair

Sun., Dec. 23 - Tues., Jan. 1:

NO SCHOOL, Winter break

(School resumes Wednesday, January 2)

Thurs. Jan. 3:

USY & Chai School special program:

College Life 101

Sun., Jan. 6:

Dalet class: C.A.F.E.: Yad workshop

Hei Class C.A.F.E.: Mezzuzah workshop

JET (Jewish Experiences Together)

for parents of Kindergarten & 1st graders. 7:45 pm

Sun., Jan. 13:

Alef class: C.A.F.E.: Siddur covers

Gimel class C.A.F.E: Chamsa workshop

Sun., Jan. 20:

NO SCHOOL Professional Growth Day

Mon., Jan. 21:

NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Day

The JCC Of North & South Brunswick



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thru
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or visit our website for more details**

B'NAI TIKVAH YOUTH

KADIMA

Kadima had a great November month. The Regional Opening program was the Swim & Gym and we had a total of 14 members attend! Let's keep the high attendance going at all events! We shine to all other Chapters with attendance!

Dec 8 – Regional Dance

in West Orange at B'nai Shalom from 7:30-10:30pm for those members not attending the Shabbaton. The cost is \$6 & bring extra money for raffles & candy. RSVP by 11/30.

Dec 10 – Chanukah Party

in the Youth Lounge. Bring an appetite! We will have a grab bag (for those who would like), please spend between \$10-15; please make sure the gifts are for either a boy or girl!



U.S.Y.

USY had our annual Jackpot BINGO event, which was a great success! Thanks for the families who helped to donate items! We raised \$220.50 for SATO. Thanks to all the USY members & other Hagalil friends who attended.



Dec 13 – Israeli Night

in the Youth Lounge from 7:30-9pm. Please RSVP by 12/6.

Dec 15 – Regional Membership Dance

in Fort Lee at Geshar Shalom/JCC of Fort Lee from 8-11:30pm

Attire: Black & White. Dress (appropriately) to impress! The cost is \$7 (exact money) & bring extra money for raffles & candy.

Please RSVP by 12/9 to reserve a spot on the bus.

Jan 4 – USY evening service.

See Cory Nagelberg sugg22@aol.com for a part in the service.

Contact me with questions or concerns throughout the year! If you haven't turned in your application yet, please send into the B'nai Tikvah office. Applications are available on <http://bnaitikvah.com/youth.html>.

Jordana Andersen (732) 422-7457
Jorde1174@aol.com

Scouting Chanukah Party

Sponsored by Central New Jersey Council
Jewish Committee on Scouting

When: Sunday, December 2, from 1 – 2:30 pm

Where: Central New Jersey Council, BSA
4315 US Highway 1 South
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

Cost: \$6

(\$5 is for the cost of the event...and \$1 goes towards camperships for Jewish Scouts)

A religious workshop will be held immediately after the party to work on Aleph, Maccabee, Ner Tamid and Etz Chaim awards.

This will be from 2:30 – 4:00 pm.

Questions?

Contact Hollie Ceramé at sltcbear@aol.com or Paul Harmelin at pharmeli@bsaemail.org.

Paul Harmelin

District Executive, Joyce Kilmer District
Central New Jersey Council, BSA
4315 US Highway 1 South
Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852
609-419-1600 ext. 28

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B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY



COMING ATTRACTIONS

- December 2 & 9; Gift Shop Bazaar
 December 10; Emotional Intelligence & Authentic Happiness
 January 9, 2008; Jewelry Making
 January 12; "Passover" Poker

SOCIAL ACTION Keep someone warm this winter. Make a donation of hats, gloves and scarves to the Clothesline Bus. Please bring items to the December 10th meeting. Thank you, in advance, for your donations!

MITZVAH BASKETS Having a B'nai Mitzvah or other simcha? Let Sisterhood decorate the bima with two non-perishable food baskets that match your color scheme! We also deliver to other synagogues! For more info or to order your bima baskets, please contact Andrea at (732) 329-0687.

MONEY LAUNDERING Turn your dirty laundry into money for Sisterhood. *Gallery Cleaners*, 2015 Route 27, Somerset, will give 10% of your bill back to Sisterhood. Just have your yellow receipt signed by owner Harvey Makofsky or one of his employees and turn it into Sisterhood anytime during the year! Please leave your receipt in the Sisterhood mailbox in the synagogue office or return to Gale Dillman at 39 Quince Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE & AUTHENTIC HAPPINESS Join us Sunday, December 10 at 10 AM when Emotional Intelligence & Authentic Happiness coach Bronya Zeitlin, CEC, will teach you how to take your life to the next level by mastering your emotions. In this interactive workshop you will learn strategies and tools on how to live the same life you are living including the same circumstances, but with joy, happiness and satisfaction. You will create peace with your past, hope for your future and gratitude in the present. Breakfast will be available.

JEWELRY MAKING Want to razzle, dazzle 'em? Brenda Sherman will teach us how to make lovely beaded earrings at the Wednesday, January 9th meeting. You'll be able to take your skills with you

to make other beautiful pieces. This workshop is FREE, including refreshments, and you'll get to keep the pair of earrings that you design and make. Please RSVP by January 4th to Bonnie at beedirect@aol.com or (732) 422-7276 so that we will have enough supplies on hand.

"PASSOVER" POKER You don't need to know how to play poker to play "Passover" Poker, which is an easy fast-paced trump game in which you play each hand against a different pair of players. Don't miss out on the fun. Join us Saturday, January 12 at 7:30 pm sharp. See the flyer insert for more information about the event and don't forget to RSVP by January 2!

Also, we are still seeking donations for our silent auction and tricky tray including:

- Gift certificates for kosher restaurants
- Sports tickets
- Theater tickets and tickets for other events
- Guest memberships at health clubs, museums, Salon/spa gift certificates
- Camp scholarships
- Retail gift cards
- Hotel or vacation home donations
- Prizes - electronics - CDs - DVDs - etc

If you or anyone you know is in a position to donate prizes for silent auction and/or tricky tray, please let the committee know. We are also seeking committee members to solicit local and corporate businesses for prizes. A sample donation letter will be provided. If you are interested in making a valuable contribution of your time, contact Linda Fellen-Gottesman at (732) 651-7953, Phyllis Safeer at (732) 432-9622 or Andrea Katz at (732) 329-0687. Individuals, businesses and professionals such as doctors, dentists, attorneys, and accountants can also sponsor a table at the event for \$36. If you are interested in a sponsorship opportunity, please contact Linda, Phyllis or Andrea.

MAH JONGG CARDS Ladies, you just memorized your 2007 card, and it's already time to order your card for 2008! Beat the rush by ordering yours today. Use the order form in this month's Hakol to order for your group. Please note the DEADLINE CHANGE is JANUARY 31. Also, check out the Judaica Gift Shop for new Mah Jongg items!

B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

SOCIAL ACTION

IT'S ALREADY THAT TIME... HELP A NEEDY FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Who are these families? These families are all in need. They are referred by various sources including Jewish Family Services, local welfare directors, school social workers and senior centers.

How does this program work? Each family will fill out a wish list of their needs. The wish lists typically include items like towels, sheets, blankets, clothing, shoes, coats and children's toys.

How can you help?

1. Become a family coordinator for one family's wish list. This might involve getting your family, friends, co-workers, and merchants to donate the needed items to fulfill the family's wish list.
2. Volunteer to obtain one or more of the items on a family's wish list.
3. Donate money that will be specifically used to purchase items on a family's wish list. Checks should be made payable to Congregation B'nai Tikvah Holiday Program.

To participate in this worthwhile program, send in the form included in this issue of Hakol, or e-mail Janice Baer at;

Jbbd11@comcast.net

or call Janice at 732-940-0268

PLEASE RESPOND BY DECEMBER 7th

THE CLOTHES LINE

Winter has arrived, and there are those in our area who do not have clothing to keep them sufficiently warm in the harsh weather.

Our shul will once again be working with *The Clothes Line* to collect, sort and distribute clothing to the needy in the month of February.

Please set aside clothing for all ages, particularly coats, gloves, boots, work boots for men, jeans, hooded sweatshirts and blankets. Bag them neatly and place them outside the office beginning Sunday February 3rd.

Volunteers are needed to bring the bags home for two weeks or so until they will be sorted at Bnai Tikvah.

See the January Hakol for more information about the Clothes Line ,our February commitment to them, and to those in need.

Contact Laura Waksman at *laurawaksman@gmail.com* to volunteer.

COME GROW WITH US... Add your name to our TREE OF LIFE

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dietmom27@aol.com
732-297-4240

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B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

ADULT ED

**Next Meeting:
Tuesday, December 19, 7:30 PM**

The Adult Education Committee is sponsoring our next program on Wednesday, December 19, entitled *"The DaVinci Code: A Jewish Perspective"* by Rabbi Robert Wolkoff.

The DaVinci Code is not just a great read. It also discusses some of the most provocative aspects of religious belief. What is the role of sexuality in religion? How much of our religion is known to everyone, and how much is held secret, known only by an elite? And is the book *The DaVinci Code* itself a code, containing a secret meaning known only by a select few (the answer is yes!).

Bring a friend and come and learn at Rabbi Wolkoff's presentation, *The DaVinci Code: A Jewish Perspective*, December 19 at 7:30 PM immediately after minyan.

50plus

**Next Meeting:
Tuesday, December 11, 12:00 PM**

The Fifty Plus Group will meet on Tuesday, December 11, at noon in the Social Hall of the Synagogue to celebrate Hanukkah with a traditional light lunch.

A \$ 2.00 donation will allow you to select from our fabulous grab bag. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon. All members, friends, and prospective members are welcome.

Please call: *Doris at 609-860-1498 or Annette at 732-297-3562*

before December 4 to tell us you are coming so that we may have sufficient refreshments and surprises.



Judaica Gift Shop

For last minute Hanukkah shopping, we've got what you need!

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B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS

GOODBYE 2007...HELLO 2008

Can't believe another year has slipped by us so fast, but it's true. While it hasn't been such a great year for the economy (gasoline almost \$3 per gallon!) or the New York baseball teams, it has not been a total bust either. Personally, our family has grown by one beautiful new grandniece. Other families in Congregation B'nai Tikvah (CBT) have had their share of mitzvahs, too. As we look back on 2007, let's take stock of our blessings and pray that 2008 will be a year of continued happiness.

Before saying goodbye to 2007 we need to work through December. There are some important dates to remember for this month. They are:

Tuesday, December 4: the first candle will be lit for Chanukah/Hanukkah. No matter how it is spelled, it is earlier this year. Ah, what a great holiday for us. It may be considered minor compared to Rosh Hashanah and others, but it is such a nice time. Families gather to light menorahs, eat potato latkes (other latke flavors, too), spin the dreidels, etc. Don't forget to stock up on candles, potatoes, onions, sour cream, apple sauce, etc. for an enjoyable holiday.

Monday, December 31: New Year's Eve; the night to celebrate the closing of another secular year and to greet the next one. Activities range from the rabble rousing parties to quiet dinners at home. On this evening we eat, drink and wonder what the New Year will bring. For some the New Year will start with a hang over, for others it will be football games, Rose Bowl parades, open houses, or just sleeping till whenever. In some instances, it will be both.

All other dates between these two could consist of working, shopping, partying, traveling, etc. Whatever December has in store for you and yours remember that you still need to eat. That is the adage we, on the **Supermarket Gift Card (SGC)** committee, constantly remind our fellow CBT congregants. We have been and will continue to be available to you with SGCs for your favorite supermarkets such as **A&P, Acme, Pathmark, Shop Rite and Stop & Shop**. Purchase these cards for



self use and/or for gifts. They come in handy for the college student living away from home with these stores in their area. These cards can also be given to friends and relatives as holiday gifts. Also, use these cards for party goods during this month of holiday parties. Each of the above listed stores carries a great line of party items that will help make your festivities more enjoyable.

The SGC committee offers various ways to purchase your cards. They are:

Visit the SGC table during Sunday religious school hours;

Visit CBT during regular business hours;

Order on-line at bnaitikvah.org (order form on line);

Contact one of these committee members:

Rachel Shaneson - (732) 329-2189

Jay Scheuer - (732) 940-8473

Ann Rosenzweig - (732) 249-9141

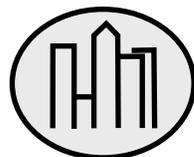
If you cannot get to CBT to purchase your SGCs, the committee members offer **FREE** delivery directly to your doorstep. Ask Rachel how this works.

This month's tip: The best and only tip I have for December is this, **IF YOU DRINK, DON'T DRIVE!** Planning to party hearty? Make sure you either have a designated driver or walk. We want you around in 2008. The local and state police will be out there looking for the drunken drivers. So, don't drink and drive, drive within speed limits and have a healthy and happy 2008!

From the Feinsein Family to yours,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Linda Feinsein



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B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY



Interfaith Service Another Crowd Pleaser at B'nai Tikvah

November 18th's interfaith service, held at Congregation B'nai Tikvah had a record turnout of over 300 people.



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DARFUR NOW

A documentary entitled *Darfur Now* was recently released and screened in Millburn. AJC National was instrumental in the production of this documentary and to widen the circle of viewers, the Metro Chapter rented out the theatre and gave tickets away to coalition members, students, members and communal leaders. It is an extremely well done documentary and we urge you to see it. The film is still playing in Millburn at the Clearview Theatre for a very limited run. Try and get to see it as soon as possible and let friends and colleagues know. Call for times 973-376-0800.

Darfur Now is scheduled to open in Princeton at the Garden Theatre on Nassau Street on Friday, December 7. Call 609-683-7595 as the date approaches for screening times.

The film will be probably be shown for just one week so please plan to see it and let others know.

Ferne Hassan
 American Jewish Committee

Visit our **ONLINE Auction Website NOW** to preview
www.ssdsvr.cmarket.com



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 of Raritan Valley



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DONATIONS October 15th through November 14th

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Martin Spigner,
in memory of Cynthia Spigner

Joseph and Helen Feldman

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in memory of Louis Cohen

Fred and Gloria Landsman,
in memory of George Coon

Fred and Gloria Landsman,
in memory of Ida Coon

Fred and Gloria Landsman,
in memory of Molly Landsman

Piekarski family, in memory
of Carol and Sheldon Piekarski

Abby and Bernard Lorber, in memory
of Charles Lorber & Sam Kahn

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in memory of Elaine Cohn

Joyce and Joel Gerbman,
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Abschutz family,
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Mae Rubinstein,
in memory of Sidney Rubinstein

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Sylvia Lewis's recovery from surgery

Helene & Gary Tinkel,
in memory of Harold Reimer

Capital Improvement Fund:

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in memory of Jack Mailman

Cantor's Discretionary Fund:

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The Spigner family,
in memory of Irving Spigner

The Spigner family,
in memory of Cynthia Spigner

Allen and Ilene Karp,
in memory of Pauline Karp

Martha Rotter, in honor
of Barney Cohn's 90th birthday

Joyce & Leonard Mandelblatt,
in memory of Bernard Bitterman

Joyce & Leonard Mandelblatt,
in memory of David I. Mandelblatt

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Brenda, Mark, Josh, Arielle &
Hannah Sherman, in honor of
Amanda Zimmerman's Bat Mitzvah

Brenda, Mark, Josh, Arielle &
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Brenda, Mark, Josh, Arielle &
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of Cheryl Goldstein's grandfather

The Novek, Weinfeldt and Preston
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Bonnie Kudwitt's mother

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of Barney Cohn's 90th birthday

Brenda, Mark, Joshua, Arielle &
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Library Fund:

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Beth & Matthew Schurman, in honor
of Barney Cohn's 90th birthday

Aaron Rosloff, in honor
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Anne Brown Rev. Trust, in honor
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Shabbat Luncheon Fund:
Nancy & Elliott Danto, in honor
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Nancy & Elliott Danto,
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Nancy & Elliott Danto,
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Sandy & Yitzhak Sharon, in honor
of Barney Cohn's 90th birthday

Adrienne & Andy Ross, in memory
of Myron Wolkoff, (Rabbi's father)

Linda Portnoy, in honor
of Barney Cohn's 90th birthday

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Sylvia & Erwin Lewis, in honor
of Barney Cohn's 90th birthday

Nadine & Allen Weg in honor
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Israel Youth Exchange Fund:

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Walter Rosenstock, in honor
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of her Bat Mitzvah

Sylvia & Erwin Lewis, in honor of
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of Pauline Karp (Allen Karp's mother)

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Renee & Joe Grodman, in honor
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The Binder family, in honor
of Amanda Zimmerman's Bat Mitzvah

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Cindy, Jonathan, and Sarah Zins,
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- Yartzeit
- General Fund
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