



CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH  
JCC OF NORTH AND SOUTH BRUNSWICK

February 2004  
Sh'vat/Adar 5764  
Volume 25, Issue 6

**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.

# HAKOL

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## Dancing in the aisles to the Sons of Tikvah Band at Raise our Voices for Israel II

B'nai Tikvah's fabulous *Sons of Tikvah* Band rocking the house as participants dance in the center aisle, January 17<sup>th</sup> at Congregation Neve Shalom, in Metuchen. Over \$30,000 was raised to help victims of terrorism in Israel. Photo by Bobbi Binder. Article page 12.

Save the date!  
Buy your tickets now  
for the



March 13, 2004

Info page 13

USY Hagalil  
Convention



February 6-8  
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Winter 2004  
Adult  
Education  
Series

Wednesdays  
7:45 pm

Updated Schedule  
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## RABBI ELIGBERG LEADS

### Sacred Vessels

*"Adonai, the soul that you have planted within me is pure."* These words are part of a short prayer recited early in the morning. The prayer reminds us that each of us carries a spark of the Divine within us. The neshama, the soul, the aspect of ourselves that makes us unique is also what makes us sacred. The challenge is for us to see this in ourselves and in others. Our physical selves acquire sanctity by their proximity to the soul which is the source of holiness. Just as the garments of the Torah become invested with sanctity through their proximity to the sacred, so too our physical selves are permeated with holiness as the vessel of our souls. This sense of the sacred is the prism through which I perceive my encounters in the secular realm.

As many of you know, I serve on the South Brunswick Township Community Resource Team which is made up of representatives from the municipality, police department, schools, and clergy, which deals with issues and challenges that confront our citizenry. Discussions at two of our recent meetings, as well as several incidents involving young people in our community, have left me feeling that a great challenge lies ahead of us.

Let me share with you some of what I found so troubling. First was an increase in the incidents of "cutting" in the schools. Unlike when we were in school, "cutting" does not mean absencing oneself from class for one of a myriad of 'good' reasons; or at least reasons that were perfectly valid to us, even if our teachers did not seem to agree. Cutting now refers to acts of self-mutilation, of literally cutting one's own flesh.

Second was the topic of 'friends with privileges'. The term refers to engaging in casual sexual activity with a friend in the absence of a boyfriend or girlfriend relationship. Not reserved for television's *Friends* or the women of *Sex in the City*, this is happening on buses traveling to B'nai Mitzvah celebrations and a host of 'innocent' venues.

Lastly, the Community Resource Team reflected upon the untimely deaths of several young people from our township. The suicide of a high school student and the death of a college student which involved alcohol and drugs cannot help but give us pause: what could have been done that might have prevented the terrible loss of these young lives?

Ultimately, I believe there is a thread which connects all these behaviors and events. Despite all our best educational efforts, DARE programs, classes on human sexuality, and curricula designed to foster a strong sense of self, we find increasing numbers of students at risk and young people engaged in activities that highlight the failure of the aforementioned efforts. What has been missing in this process is

teaching our youth an essential message of Judaism: that we are created in the Divine image and that there exists within us a soul which is holy.

Awareness of this aspect of our existence should provide the beginnings of an antidote to the malaise that seems to be insinuating itself into our youth. Appreciating their own kedusha, holiness, should render it unthinkable for them to mutilate themselves physically and emotionally. Seeing in their physical selves a sacred vessel should make the idea of casual sex, rampant promiscuity, drugs and alcohol and physical harm an untenable choice in their lives. Instilling in our youth a sense of ultimate value and ultimate purpose should

**... We also need to empower [our youth] to help each other.**

**... They need to be strong enough to intervene in the lives of their friends and peers; to risk friendships in order to save friends; to know when it is appropriate to seek out the intervention of trusted adults.**

provide them with a bulwark against the temptation to experiment with self-destructive behaviors designed to fill a gnawing sense of emptiness and redress the palpable sense of ennui they feel.

In addition to inoculating our youth with this understanding of their sanctity, we also need to empower them to help each other. Each situation they confront will be unique and demand its

own appropriate response. They need to be strong enough to intervene in the lives of their friends and peers; to risk friendships in order to save friends; to know when it is appropriate to seek out the intervention of trusted adults.

While I was in college I found myself confronted with just such a situation. A friend was engaging in significantly out of character behavior that made me concerned for her well-being, and even her life. After much soul-searching (perhaps too much, in retrospect) I spoke with the Dean of Students. Later that evening, my friend burst through my door letting loose a string of vitriol that is not reproducible here. She yelled about betrayal and questioned both my loyalty and my friendship. I began to question the wisdom of my decision. I questioned it especially as my friend stormed out of my room. It was the last time we would speak for over three years. For a long time, my doubts lingered. When we finally spoke again I learned enough to lay those doubts to rest. I have to admit to having felt a great sense of relief. Even before that moment however, I had already come to the conclusion that what I had done was correct and necessary.

Taking care of our sacred vessels is a task for the entire community. Preparing our young people is perhaps a greater task than ever. Each of us has the ability and the responsibility to be significant in the lives of the young people we encounter, helping them to realize their worth and sanctity. Enabling them to see the kedusha, the holiness in themselves, their friends and their community will help them to meet life's challenges and transform the world around them.



## OUR HAZZAN'S VOICE

Cantor Bruce Rockman

### A Melody is like a Friend.

The most incredible feeling as a cantor is to hear the response of the congregation. More than positive reinforcement for me, it becomes a recognition that we are uniting to express ourselves to the heavens, and what a heavenly sound it is when I hear and experience you singing with me.

David Kutliroff, of blessed memory, was one who always sang with a full voice and spirit. Dave and Millie were regulars for years at our Kabbalat Shabbat services and Millie is still very active and she is our regular Kohane at our Thursday morning minyan. Each week, Dave would sit to my right. He was always kind and supportive to me and to my predecessors. I could always count on him to join the singing.

Every cantor wants to put their signature on the davening. A few years ago, I studied a new melody for *Magen Avot* (Shield of our Ancestors), which is a part of special repetition of the Friday night Amidah, the only night that there is a repetition. I love this new melody and practiced it until Stacey....well, she lost her patience with me. So I had to try it. But I was worried about Dave. Each week when I begin *Magen Avot* he and others would anticipate the regular melody and would begin before me. I tried for weeks before to take a pause, a breath, or raise my arm just prior to *Magen Avot*, anything to hold back the congregation, so I could begin the prayer in my time and musical key or introduce a new melody. Finally, I decided to just surprise the congregation with my new rendition. All day that Friday I wondered: What would they do tonight?

**During the past three years, our service has continued to evolve. We sing new melodies... and ...reintroduce classic melodies from our history.**

During the past three years, our service has continued to evolve. We sing new melodies; I rotate old tunes and attempt to reintroduce classic melodies from our history. So what happened that night? Dave started without me, singing the familiar melody. I paused, and told Dave I was going to try something new. Patiently the congregation listened as I sang my beautiful new nigun. No one joined me, how could they, they never heard it before. I was so sad. No one was singing, no one was praying, except me. Recognizing that my surprise was ineffective, I've developed better methods to introduce new melodies. But that night I goofed. Dave didn't criticize me, or the melodies, as a matter of fact, this wonderful, gracious teacher told he liked it...but that he liked the old one better. I miss Dave and everyone who used to sing *Magen Avot* in that familiar melody. Please consider joining us again any Friday night. Once again our spirits can soar to the heavens in joyful songs and praise. We can celebrate Shabbat and be thankful for all our gifts, especially friendship and the support of our friends, old and new.

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

*"For Adonai is good and his love is eternal and Adonai's faithfulness endures for all generations". Psalm 100*

*B'simcha, with Joy!  
Cantor Bruce Rockman .*



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### 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	7:00 AM Shahareet	7:30 PM	Mincha/Maariv
Friday		8:00 PM	Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday Maariv**	9:30 AM Shabbat	**PM*	Mincha/

\*As appropriate for the time of year

Babysitting available Shabbat morning 10:00—12:00\*\*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Arie Behar

### Quite often I am asked by members of our congregation what we do at our monthly Board of Trustees meetings.

For me as president, involved in the life of this congregation for quite some time, the question is surprising because I assume that like me everyone is aware of what's going on. After a few minutes of conversation I realize that not everyone is so involved, yet they do want to learn what is discussed at the Board meetings. I try to take the time to talk with the congregation and explain the nature of the Board business.

I was talking about this issue with some of the VP's and we decided that it's time for us to bring the Board business to the entire congregation. Some of you might never have given any thought to this, so here's a quick rundown:

The Board is in charge of everything that happens in the synagogue. We have a monthly meeting at which time we get reports from every VP, officer, and a few other representatives. We act upon every issue that comes up by accepting or denying motions. We get reports from our Treasurer so we can understand what money came in and what we paid out over the month.

After talking about the issue of communication at our last EC meeting we thought that it would be a good idea to publish our work to the entire congregation. We decided that from now on we will publish the reports that aren't confidential in nature in the HaKol. This issue of the HaKol will be the first to include a new section "Board Reports." where we are publishing a digest of Board of Trustee reports and business discussed the previous month.

At our January meeting, the board was divided into small groups. Each group came up with ideas to discuss at our next meetings. We will attempt to concern ourselves with some long term issues, and here are a few of the suggestions:

- ❖ Direction of Board and where are we going as a congregation
- ❖ Mentor future leadership
- ❖ Where are we going spiritually
- ❖ Programming for new building, full time/someone to program
- ❖ Creation of strategic planning committee, bring in outside consultant to get feed back from groups
- ❖ Membership
- ❖ Develop long term financial security of congregation, i.e. endowments for long term survival
- ❖ Education, parental involvement with children
- ❖ Organizational structure, personnel procedures, hiring firing, performance reviews

We will try to tackle some of these issues at our next meeting, in addition to our regular fiduciary responsibility that we have as Board members. This will allow the Board to establish a visionary direction for our future.

I hope that all of you will find this new direction as exciting and interesting as we do. We would love to include all of you in our monthly meetings, and would be very happy to get your input into our discussions.

## A MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Cindy Gittleman, V.P. Membership

### NEW MEMBERS:

Steven and Sally Sklar

Welcome to the B'nai Tikvah family!

**CHAVURAH GROUPS:** The Membership Committee is forming Chavurah Groups as another way of helping our members become more connected with one another. A Chavurah is a small group of "friends" that come together on a regular basis to enjoy activities promoting Jewish family life. If you are interested in becoming involved in a Chavurah group, please contact Cindy Gittleman.



**PROSPECT LIST:** If you know of neighbors, friends or relatives who have moved to the area or may be looking for a synagogue, please contact Cindy Gittleman. We are maintaining a very active list of families in the area who have shown interest in B'nai Tikvah and inviting them to events at the synagogue throughout the year. It is important that this list continue to grow.

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE PLANNING CHAI SHABBAT FOR 18 TO 22 YEAR MEMBERS:

All members who joined 18 to 22 years ago should have received a letter in January inviting them to help plan the next Chai Shabbat Celebration. Our second Chai Shabbat will be held later this year to honor families and individuals who've had an 18th anniversary of membership since the last Chai Shabbat in 2000. For more info call Mark Roller at 732 297-7055.



# HAKOL

The Newsletter of  
Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
JCC of North & South Brunswick

Submissions about Congregation events, issues, group activities, and other material relevant to the local Jewish community are welcomed.

**All Submissions for the  
MARCH HAKOL  
must be in by  
February 15**

#### SUBMISSION FORMATS:

**TEXT:** We suggest that editorial submissions be submitted in plain text format, with no formatting, tabs, columns or fonts. Just type an e-mail, or attach a file in one of the following formats: MSWord, Wordperfect, or MSPublisher, attached to an email. Graphics should be submitted separately. Do not submit graphics inside other files or documents.

No order forms, please. Contact the editors for info on distributing order forms with the HaKol mailing.

**IMAGES & GRAPHICS:** Digital images: Send high resolution (300 dpi) jpeg, bmp, or tiff files. Scannable Images: For good results, submit 300dpi (minimum) black and white graphics printed on glossy paper in hi-res or photo mode. For bad results: Print ink jet regular mode on copy paper.

**SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:** Hakol@bnaitikvah.org, or put them in the HaKol mailbox in the synagogue office. All submissions are subject to available space and editorial constraints. Please call Paul or Nancy Zankel at 732-254-6465 if you have any questions.

**ADVERTISING INFO:**  
Contact Tammy Zimmerman  
732-398-1420

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Adult Education Programs Winter 2004

Wednesdays from 7:45pm to 9:30pm



February 4	ISRAEL/ARAB CONFLICT (PART 3 OF 3)	Arie Behar
February 11 February 18 February 25	THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION	Azzan Yadin, Ph.D. Rutgers University
March 3 March 10	JEWISH GENEALOGY	Joel Gerbman
March 17 March 24	SPIRITUALITY & SENSUALITY IN "SONG OF SONGS": AN OLD LOVE SONG TURNED SACRED	Kerry Olitzky, Ph.D. Jewish Outreach Institute
March 31	ALCOHOL/DRUG USE & ABUSE A PARENT & CHILD PROGRAM	Adrienne Coleman Rutgers University
April 14	LIVING WILLS	Sheila Hordon, Esq. Rabbi David Eligberg
April 21 April 28 May 5	JEWISH SOCIETY & CULTURE: FROM ANCIENT TO MEDIEVAL TIMES	Azzan Yadin, Ph.D. Rutgers University
May 12 May 19	RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Ruth Anne Koenick Rutgers University
June 2	ADULT DAY CARE	Gwen Simon, RNC Debbie Kiel, RNC St. Peter's Adult Day Care at Monroe Township
June 9	LABOR LAW	John Wolf, Esq. Rutgers University

#### NO PROGRAMS ON APRIL 7 AND MAY 26

Programs are FREE and everyone is invited to attend. No prior knowledge is required. Light refreshments served. For additional information, contact the synagogue office at 732-297-0696.

## BOARD AND VP REPORTS

From January, 2004 Board of Trustees Meeting

### Administration VP Report

**Constitutional Amendments:** Due to lack of quorum at Constitutional Meeting, the proposed constitutional amendments were not presented or acted upon. We will reexamine our options for both these particular amendments as well as future governance issues and make appropriate recommendations at a later date.

**Renewal of Rabbi's Contract:** Negotiations are ongoing with Rabbi's representative for renewal of contract – we hope to have a contract in place by mid-January.

**Volunteer Day:** We are planning on scheduling something for 'volunteer day'. We are looking at dates in the spring.

### Activities VP Report

**Adult Education:** The committee has something planned for every Wednesday from now through the middle of June. The first two sessions in January are being presented by Jeff Schwartz on the topic of "How We Pray", a beginners guide to Shabbat Services.

**Website:** Pictures of the construction of our new expansion are posted and updated daily, except when the Webmaster is on vacation.

**Email:** New eGroups have been established for the "Sons of Tikvah" and "New Beginnings". Memberships of the B'nai Tikvah eGroup and the CBT Announcements Newsletter have both increased.

### Membership VP Report

**Prospect List:** We are maintaining a very active list of families in the area who have shown interest in B'nai Tikvah and inviting them to events at the synagogue throughout the year. It is important that this list continue to grow with new names. Please submit names of neighbors, friends and relatives who may have moved to the area, and may be looking for a synagogue.

**Chai Anniversary Shabbat:** There will be a Chai Anniversary Shabbat celebration for members who are celebrating 18-21 years of membership with B'nai Tikvah, scheduled for either May 15, 2004 or June 26, 2004. Please keep a look out for details in the Hakol.

**Chavurah Groups:** We are in the process of forming small Chavurah Groups in the synagogue as another way of helping our members become more connected with one another. A Chavurah is a group of "friends" that come together on a regular basis to enjoy activities promoting Jewish family life. If you are interested in becoming involved in a Chavurah group, please contact VP Membership, Cindy Gittleman. Membership@BnaiTikvah.org

**Thank You to Marc and Bobbi Binder** for running a very successful Family Shabbat program after the Chanukah celebration on the Dec. 19th. (This event was advertised in the



### EXPANSION UPDATE:

Anyone who has been to the Synagogue lately will see that all of the structural steel is now in place and the metal roof deck is almost all in place.

Just when we are really starting to move forward the weather has other ideas. The next part of the project is to begin the installation of the exterior block walls. Unfortunately, to do this easily the temperatures must be above freezing, so Mother Nature is dictating the pace of construction for the coming weeks. Warmer weather is coming! We will keep you updated as to our progress.

*Mitch Frumkin*

local papers). It was good enough to be filmed for children's television. We are very lucky to have such dedication. Non-members of the synagogue who attended have expressed an interest in joining. They will continue to receive invitations to synagogue events.

### School & Youth VP Report

**USY:** Upcoming events for January are "I Love the 80s Night" on January 8, a youth service on January 10, a SA/TO Dance on January 17, and a trip to see "Fiddler on the Roof" on Broadway on January 24.

Remember, our synagogue will be host to the Mid-Winter Convention on February 6 – 8. We will be counting on everyone to help out by housing the USYers from across the region who will be attending. If you haven't returned a housing form yet, you can find one on the synagogue website. This is now URGENT. If you haven't submitted your form yet, please do so immediately.

**Kadima** currently has 47 paid members. The December 7th Regional Kadima Games Day was canceled due to snow. It will be rescheduled for sometime in the spring. The Kadima board assisted the Hebrew school in driving the toy drive which was held.

The next two events for January are Sunday, January 11 Regional Kadima day in Deal, NJ. We have 17 enrolled, which may be the highest of any Kadima chapter. Thursday, January 22 we will have a Kadima Talent Show in the social

*(Continued on page 16)*



## ISRAEL TASKFORCE

Alan Kane, Chairperson

### Is there an Alternative to Arafat's Leadership?

*The following is the December 30 edition of the Jerusalem Issue Brief from the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs Institute for Contemporary Affairs. The briefing, written by Barry Rubin, Director of the Global Research in International Affairs (GLORIA) Center of the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) in Herzliya, Israel, can be found on the web at <http://www.jcpa.org/brief/brief3-13.htm>.*

#### Arafat: An Islamist Revolutionary

It is very difficult to understand Yasser Arafat, a man who has been on the world scene literally longer than anyone else. He has been a political activist for more than 55 years, the head of his own organization for 44 years, the leader of his people for 36 years, and the head of what amounts to a government for about 10 years. What does he have to show for this? In material terms he hasn't achieved a victory, he hasn't achieved a state, he hasn't bettered the material condition of his people -- in fact, arguably, he has worsened it. This is a record of failure unparalleled in the world.

Arafat's successes are the almost single-handed creation of a movement and of an ideological point of view called Palestinian nationalism. He has kept the movement together, kept it independent of Arab states and other states -- which is not easy -- and has been the director of the most successful, long-term, political public relations campaign in history.

The political worldview of Yasser Arafat is much misunderstood. It is very easy to see Arafat as a nationalist, but he is not. A nationalist is someone who believes that his people are better off in having a nation-state... They want a nation-state as the framework within which they can develop their culture, develop their economy and be able to live in peace independently from other countries. If this was Arafat's worldview, he could have had a state in 1968, in 1979, at several points in the 1980s, and certainly in the year 2000, but he continues to reject this.

One of the main reasons Yasser Arafat has not behaved in this manner is that he is an old-fashioned Islamist, influenced by his early connections with the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. He's the only Islamist in the PLO leadership, believing that victory is inevitable because God will bring him victory... He doesn't worry about how long the struggle will take or about its costs because he is sure he will win in the end, because his goal is God-given and just. He believes it would be a sin to compromise, that he has no right to give up anything between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. Arafat is also a romantic revolutionary, the Middle Eastern counterpart of Che Guevara. Arafat glories in struggle, revolution, battling against the odds. He has no desire to become a statesman, to wear a suit and tie, which to a romantic revolutionary would be proof that he has betrayed

(Continued on page 21)

## THE OFFICE VOICE

Nitsat Hadas Elami, Administrative Director

Shalom,

Even though I am not new to my position as the Synagogue's Administrator anymore, it is only recently that I was asked to write for the HaKol. I thought that the first articles in this series would be a great opportunity to introduce the office staff, the office job, and myself.

When people ask me "What is it that you do at the Synagogue?", my usual answer is "My job is to take the blame." I used to say it as a joke, but after giving it some thought, I think that there is more to it than it seems. As the Administrator, my work and that of the office staff is most often done behind the scenes.

However, people notice our role immediately when something goes wrong!

Every month I will try to explain a little bit about what we do here in the office, and why we do certain things in a certain way. But before I do that, I thought that it would be a good idea to tell you a little bit about who I am.

Most of you know I was born in Israel. Those who don't can hear it when speaking with me. I lived in Israel most of my life until coming to the United States about 7 years ago.

As most Israelis do, I served in the military. I was an instructor throughout my whole service and my last assignment was as a Unit commander at the central women's training base. Immediately following my military service, I went into the police force. I served the police in a variety of positions for over 5 years. I was a Personnel Officer of the Gaza region, a Traffic Unit Commander in Jerusalem and the Operation's Officer for the Jerusalem Police Region. The Operations Officer post was, in my opinion, the most interesting one, since I was involved in anything that went on in the city of Jerusalem from the point of view of the Israeli Police.

A whole different career for me started when I left the police and entered into my academic studies. I attended the Hebrew University in Jerusalem for my B.A. in Sociology, and an M.A. in Social Psychology. While I was a student, I worked as a security officer/supervisor for El-Al, the Israeli Airlines. Altogether I worked there for 8 years both at Ben-Gurion Airport and different locations around the world. Once I received my Masters degree, I began teaching Social Psychology at the Hebrew University and the Open University. These teaching positions were the last ones I held in Israel.

All these different jobs, which individually have nothing to do with synagogue administration, prepared me for my position here. I think that everything I did until I accepted the position here contributed something to my ability to handle the many different tasks I have to deal with on a daily basis. A little about what we actually do here at the office next month...

**"... the first articles in this series would be a great opportunity to introduce the office staff, the office job, and myself."**

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORTS

Ann Kanarek, Director

### Evaluating Our Kids and Ourselves

As we conclude the first half of the religious school year, parents have received written evaluations from teachers of grades Kindergarten through 7. Unlike the public school where testing is most often the criteria to judge how a child is doing, religious schools generally measure learning more subjectively.

Our aims in educating our students are to teach the moral and ethical values of our heritage, encourage active observance of mitzvot, transmit knowledge of Torah, and create strong identification with and concern for the Jewish people.

It is our responsibility to involve students in motivating experiences that teach Jewish values as well as Jewish facts, and to assess how they have learned. One of the best ways to do this is by observation in the classroom itself and elsewhere in the synagogue. Often we are able to tell, by watching your children and how they relate to their peers, teachers, and others in the building whether they are learning these values and living what they have learned.

We want your children to know more than Jewish facts - we want them to understand Jewish ideas. We want them to know more than the alef-bet---we want them to be comfortable in any synagogue, using any *siddur*. How can we tell

whether they are learning these things? Testing will give us some indication of what your child has learned, but far more important is observation — watching, and listening to your children. In this way, we have a good idea of whether the skills taught in the classroom are truly being internalized.

The reports parents receive are a combination of teachers' comments and check-list of listening and comprehension skills. Also included, are things such as readiness to learn (does your child come prepared for work?), willingness to participate, and behavior, as these play an important part in whether we are successful.

At the conclusion of each semester, we not only evaluate your child, we evaluate ourselves. Are we covering the curriculum? Do we have a sense that your children feel they've accomplished something positive each time they're in our classes?

What kind of relationship do we have with our students, with the parents, and with other teachers? It's important to take a look at us as well as your children, and assess what we're doing and how we're doing it.

I welcome your input.

### BARTON'S PASSOVER CANDY SALE

It's not too early to start thinking "Passover". Check our website and your children's book bag for a **Barton Passover Candy Sale form**. Our candy sale will begin on February 18.

All student entrepreneurs will be rewarded with an incentive prize. Our top prizes are very exciting. So, join the fun; sell to family and friends but our children's safety is important to us. **PLEASE do not solicit door-to-door.**

Your support of the candy sale will go to future extracurricular and school enrichment programs. The sale will end on March 3rd!!

If you have any questions regarding the candy, please call us at the School Office, 732-297-0295.



Many thanks for your support!!

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL EVENTS:

**Sunday, February 1:**

DALET CLASS: PACT:

*Bridges of Mitzvot County*, 10:00am-12:05pm

HEI CLASS C.A.F.E. program: Making your own special Mezzuzah (During school) with guest artist, *Inbar Bibring*

**Sunday, February 8:**

**NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL,**

B'nai Tikvah hosts USY Convention

**Sunday, February 15 and Monday, February 16th**

**NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL,** *President's Weekend*

**Sunday, February 22:**

GIMEL CLASS: PACT Program: *Tzedakah and the Giraffe Connection* 10:00am-12:05pm. (Reminder: Posters are due Tues., Feb. 10 or Wed., Feb. 11)

**Sunday, February 29:**

DALET CLASS: C.A.F.E. Program, *Yad Workshop* (during regular school hours) with artist, *Inbar Bibring*.

**Sunday, March 7:**

PURIM CARNIVAL, 12:05PM: ALL K,3,4,5 students will meet Late Sesion ,10:40 AM-12:05 PM The students will enjoy a special concert featuring *Sons of Tikvah Band* (11am). Parents are welcome.



# NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Fran Pearson, Director

## TU B'SHEVAT

With winter winds whirling all around us, it's reassuring to remind ourselves that in Israel it is the beginning of spring. Currently our students are in the midst of learning about hibernation and winter, while the children in Israel are enjoying the outdoors and planting new saplings. On Tu B'Shevat "The New Year of the Trees" our children will also enjoy planting seeds as we provide them with all the necessary tools to complete their plantings. The only difference is that we will do it in the warmth of our indoor classrooms. The children will celebrate the holiday by also having a tasting party. The children will have lots of fun sampling many of the fruits that are grown in Israel. They will sample orange slices, Hershey kisses, apricots, Fig Newton cookies, raisins, and wheat crackers. The children will also learn about the importance of trees and environmental issues. We all look forward to having Rabbi Eligberg and Cantor Rockman entertain our children with their Tu B'Shevat program.

### NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday,  
February 4  
9:30-11:00AM

## REGISTRATION

Registration is underway for the 2004-2005 school year. Temple members will receive priority registration and tuition discounts. Our programs offer our students a wide variety of afternoon selections allowing parents to choose the perfect program for their children.

## OPEN HOUSE

Please let your friends, relatives and neighbors know that our school will have an open house on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:00AM. Perspective families will be given a tour of our classrooms and light refreshments will be served.

## MOMMY & ME AND TODDLER FUN CLUB

Limited openings are still available for our Mommy & Me and Toddler Fun Club classes. If interested in enrolling your little ones you must reserve a space as soon as possible. Please come or call the nursery school office for a registration packet and/or tour.

## MAD SCIENCE: Dinosaur Dig Program

Our three year old students will have the chance to become paleontologists for the day. The children will learn all about dinosaurs including where they lived and what they ate. They will participate in an archeological dig for the fossil remains of a mystery dinosaur and make a dinosaur tooth to take home.

## FEBRUARY IS HEALTH & FITNESS MONTH

In 1930 an American surgeon and nutritionist, Dr. Harvey Kellogg, established the Kellogg Foundation. He was interested in nutrition and developed processes for manufacturing cereal foods.

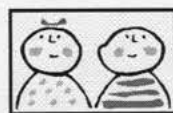
This month our children will be treated to a healthy "Good Morning Breakfast. They will be able to select the cereal of their choice and a fruit topping such as bananas. We will culminate our unit on the importance of eating healthy foods and taking care of our bodies with a special program. The children will learn about the food pyramid as they make yoga poses. Our fun in learning continues with this new yoga program. In addition, our children will have their weekly gymnastics class to help keep them fit.

## SCHOOL PICTURE DAY FOR OUR LITTLE ONES

Our two and a half year olds and our Toddler Fun Club children are practicing their smiles. Picture day is Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

## NURSERY SCHOOL CALENDAR FEBRUARY

February 2	Tu B'Shevat Program
February 4	Nursery School Open House
February 13	Yoga & Fitness Program
February 16	NO SCHOOL – President's Day
February 23	Dinosaur Dig Program – Three year old classes
February 26	Picture Day – Two and a half year old classes/Make-ups



## TOT SHABBAT Feb. 14 & 28

Did your children enjoy the torah for tots services during the high holidays? the fun does not need to end! please join us for tot shabbat from 11-12pm. As usual, it is free of charge but full of fun!

10 am—11 am Babysitting  
11 am—12 pm Tot Shabbat

# B'NAI TIKVAH YOUTH

## USY

usy@bnaitikvah.org

Steve Springer, Advisor  
AIM: tiberias77  
908-227-3750

Audra Lifson- Assistant Advisor  
AIM: blondy0131  
732-545-8314

For the past few months I have been recounting different memories people could make by joining and coming to USY. This month, I am going to talk about the USY events coming up, including the Convention and the basketball team, and what we have done as a chapter this year to try and earn "Chapter of the Year" for the region of Hagalil.

On January 24, we went into NYC to go ice skating and shopping. This great event was planned by Sari Kaufman our Membership and Programming VP. If you liked the event, or want to suggest a program our chapter should do, please email Sari at yank46@aol.com. If you know someone who may want to join USY, please email Sari.

### MID-WINTER CONVENTION:

February 6-8, our chapter will be hosting Mid-Winter convention. We will have over 300 teen-age USY members meeting for services and programs at the synagogue. That Saturday night, February 7, there will be a USY dance at John Adams Elementary School in North Brunswick from 8-11:30. Pizza will be served at 11:30. USYers please plan to come the first week of February to help with preparation for this convention.

**FEBRUARY 6-8**



**REGIONAL CONVENTION**

**USY BASKETBALL:** The first basketball game for North/South Brunswick for this year was against Teaneck on January 11. Our team won for the first time in our two-year history by a score of 20-19. We will be playing another game on January 25 that we also plan to win. In February, I hope everyone can come cheer us on at our games February 1 against East Brunswick, February 8 against Marlboro B, February 22 against Livingston, and February 29 against Metuchen. Hope to see everyone at our next USY event.

*B'ahava,  
Ilana Katronetsky  
Communications VP 03-04*

## KADIMA

Kadima@bnaitikvah.org

Adam Sackett, Advisor  
908-284-1741 \* adamds73@aol.com

Dear Future Kadimanacks:

For all of you who don't know what Kadima is, it is the best place to be and to meet new cool people. Kadima is a regional program for kids in grades 6th-8th. Kadima is a two tier program. The first tier being within our chapter and the second one being within our region. We have awesome events that you shouldn't miss out on!

So far, we have gone to Grand-Slam, had a movie night, ice cream, roller skating, Kadima day, and there will be a lot more fun events in the future! Kadima also joins USY for events. Twice a month we meet as a chapter and once a month we meet for regional events.

To join Kadima, you can contact our advisor, Adam Sackett, call the Synagogue office, and or contact any of our Kadima board which is Ben Ehrlich, Melissa Feldman, Benji Levin, Keren Brown, and Ellis Klein. We hope to see you soon at our events!!

Your Kadima presidents,

*Ben Ehrlich & Melissa Feldman*

### KADIMA CALENDAR

January 29th 7-9 pm  
Kadima Talent Show-Bnai Tikvah  
February 10th 7-9 pm  
Kindergarten Night- Bnai Tikvah  
February 22nd 1:15- 3:15 pm  
Ice Skating- Pro Skate, Monmouth Junction, NJ  
February 28th 8 -11 pm  
Regional Dance-Marlboro Jewish Center

### USY CALENDAR

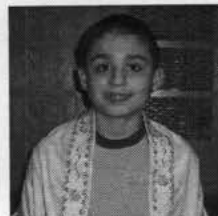
Feb 1-5: Set up for Convention!  
Feb 6-8: MID-WINTER CONVENTION  
Feb 17: Freshmen vs....  
March 4: Purim Carnival Prep  
March 6: Purim Ball





# B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

## FEBRUARY B'NAI MITZVAH



**Evan  
Kessler  
February 14**

Son of  
Bruce &  
Nan Kessler



**Keren Brown  
February 21**

Daughter of  
Mike &  
Nurit Brown



**Erica Cohen  
February 28**

Daughter of  
Andrew &  
Susan Cohen

## Scenes from a Community: USY Israel Summer Programs

A soccer team out for a celebratory dinner. A couple out on a date. Meeting friends in the coffee shop. Running into the store for some groceries. Greeting your friends and neighbors as they walk into synagogue for Shabbat services. These are scenes that could be from North/South Brunswick...but they're not. These are visions in my mind that I saw during my recent trip to Israel.

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003, I boarded a plane from Newark Airport to Tel Aviv with 17 other parents from across the United States. We did not know each other prior to our trip but our mission was clear. We all wanted to gain an understanding of the USY summer programs in Israel, the value it could provide to our children and, importantly, to gain comfort that our children would be safe and secure. For some of us (like myself), it was our first visit to Israel as a tourist. For others, they had been there multiple times before although many had not been there since the recent infitada.

First and foremost, life is continuing in Israel. Israelis are going to restaurants, coffee shops, on dates. They attend shul, meet friends and visit with neighbors. The streets are not barren but full of life. Yes, there are precautions being taken like security guards outside the restaurant. Yes, there are areas of the city you should not wander. However...walk into many buildings in New York and you will find security. There are streets in New Brunswick you are not comfortable walking down. You learn this (or are told this) and your visit can gain you all that you want.

*Imagine* finding a piece of clay on an archeological dig from the Maccabean times. Place this clay next to your Hanukiah and it can bring new meaning to the lighting of the Menorah. This is something that a visit to Israel can provide you and your child.

*Imagine* climbing the steps of the Southern Wall to the old city, just as our forefathers did at the time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tem-

ple. Hear the sounds in your mind of the liturgy we say today. A trip to Israel will bring new life and meaning to what can become "rote" in our daily lives.

*Imagine* turning to the East to say the Amidah and see the wall to the Old City in front of view. Praying at the synagogue in Yemen Moshe can provide this connection.

While at the Hall of Independence in Tel Aviv, the young Israeli guide asked the group, "why do you come to Israel"? While many noted they wanted to come to show their Israeli brethren we supported them and others said to visit family,

the guide noted that why we really are there is, "You come for you". As I reflect on that statement, there is nothing closer to the truth. A trip to Israel provides young and old a new connection with their inner

soul, their Jewish neshama. It is only in Israel that one can build some of the connections to all that we learn and do Jewishly and provide a whole new light for moving forward.

To those of you who have not yet been to Israel, I urge you to think about setting the date for your trip. For those of you who have not been there for a while, think about a "refresher".

If you have a teenager, think about a trip as the "next step" in their Jewish education. We, as parents, spend so much time worrying about their Jewish education "pre B'nai Mitzvah" but little about continuing that education. Sending your child on a summer experience to Israel could be perhaps the most important thing you can do for their education.

I saw first hand the security precautions taken to insure our children's safety. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me. USY has a number of summer programs in Israel to provide every child with an experience of a lifetime. Please let me tell you about them! I can be reached via e-mail at [Youth@bnaitikvah.org](mailto:Youth@bnaitikvah.org) or at (732) 422-0637.

*Adrienne Ross*

**USY has a number of summer programs in Israel to provide every child with an experience of a lifetime. For info online:**  
<http://www.usy.org/programs/ip/default0.asp>

# B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

## Raise Our Voices for Israel II: January 17, 2004



Frank Sinatra & Mel Torme ain't got nuthin' on our Cantor!



The Makhelah raising their voices for Israel.

**Wow! What a show!!** The show "started" when we had to let people in while the groups were still doing their sound checks. The last group to do their sound check was our very own Sons Of Tikvah Band. Cantor Rockman grabbed the opportunity and had the group do an impromptu jam session of music they weren't going to use that night. Needless to say that before the show had even started, people were up and dancing in the aisles.

The official program started with the new choral group of Middlesex County – Makhelat Hamercas - lead by Cantor Anna Ott West (formerly our Makhela leader) and Cantor Sheldon Levin. They started the evening off with a ruach laden version of Tzur Yisrael which had the 900+ people clapping their hands and stompin' their feet! Next we heard Cantor Faith Steinsnyder and Cantor David Perper along with the B'nai Shalom Choir. The Anshe Emeth Choir was great – they had the words on a large screen and we all could sing along. Hazzan Sheldon Levin did a wonderful solo of R'tzei. After a brief message of thanks from the President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, Cantor Rockman and the B'nai Tikvah Choir finished the first half with The Prayer for the State of Israel and proceeded to bring down the house with a sing -a- long medley that had the crowd dancing up and down the aisles, in & out the doors. The electricity in the room was truly amazing, and that was only the first half of the show.

After the intermission, Michael Landsberg, Executive Director of the North American Aliya Dept. of the Jewish Agency, spoke and reminded us why we were there. We raised over \$30,000 to be used solely for the Israeli Victims of Terrorism. That is about \$10,000 more than we raised last year! The second half continued with great music from the Temple Emanu -El Choir, Diane Uniman & The Sons of Tikvah band, The Neve Shalom Adult Choir doing their version

of *Tradition* from Fiddler. Rabbi Benjamin Levy of Congregation Etz Chaim - Monroe Twp. Jewish Center did a wonderful Jolson Medley and Cantor Levin did some shtick with Schlock Rock's *Broadway Medley*. For the finale, all the groups joined in for *God Bless America* – in Yiddish! The shoe ended with *Hatikvah*.

Not only was this a great show, not only did we raise over \$30,000 to aid our brothers and sisters in Israel, but we also joined together as a Jewish Community in one voice. This is the second year we've had this benefit and since the show has grown, selling out two years in a row...where should we turn next year for an even better show...put it on your calendar now...next year's show will be Feb 19th<sup>th</sup> .RAISE OUR VOICES FOR ISRAELIII.....at B'nai Tikvah!!!! See you all then,

*Elliott Danto*

### CONGREGATION TRIP TO ISRAEL

Plans are underway for our Congregational Trip to Israel. Over twenty members, both couples and singles, have already indicated strong interest.

We depart from Newark on Thursday, April 22 arriving in Israel in time to celebrate Shabbat, Yom Hazikaron (Israel's Memorial Day) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) with our host families in Ramla. Each day is planned with interesting and informative activities to make this trip a truly meaningful experience. We leave Israel Thursday, May 6 to arrive in Newark Friday morning. Itinerary details online: [www.bnaitikvah.org/itinerary.html](http://www.bnaitikvah.org/itinerary.html)

Estimated cost, including airfare, ground transportation, tour guides, home hospitality in Ramla and overnight excursions is under \$1800. For travelers who prefer to stay in hotels every night, estimated additional cost is approx. \$800.

For further info contact Rabbi Eligberg or Arie Behar.



# B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

## SISTERHOOD

**GET ORGANIZED: Feb. 22 - 10:00AM** - Does the clutter in your home overwhelm you? Is your kitchen counter piled with papers? Are you having trouble finding things you need? Come to our meeting and Lizette Leon of *Get Organized* will show you how to make the clutter disappear, yet still be able to find things when you need them. She will explain the steps to reduce clutter and set up systems that will help you find what you need. Suggestion: Bring a picture of the space you consider your greatest challenge. *Also bring the Social Action Committee sample-size shampoo and body lotion and/or your old eyeglasses.*

**SHALACH MANOT:** Order your Purim Shalach Manot boxes by Feb. 9. Order forms can be obtained on the website.

**JEWISH PRACTICE DISCUSSION: Mar. 21 - 10:00AM** - A moderator will lead a discussion on how our Jewish practice serves our daily lives.

**MOVIE NIGHT: Mar. 28 - 6:30PM** - It's movie night at B'nai Tikvah! Join us for a falafel dinner, and then, roll 'em! We will be viewing the 2001 Israeli film "Late Marriage."

**TENEMENT MUSEUM TRIP: May 16** - Save the date! Join us for a trip to the Tenement Museum on the East Side.

**CREATIVE HANDICRAFTS COMMITTEE** - Needed- a few creative hearts and hands. If you are creative and can do anything with a pattern in front of you, contact Ann Rosenzweig at 732-249-9141 or [anndyapt@aol.com](mailto:anndyapt@aol.com). Get together with her to create items for the synagogue, your home, or the new Sisterhood Gift Shop being built.

## MEN'S CLUB

invites you to join us on

**Sunday, March 14th at 10:00 AM**

**A VERY TIMELY PRESENTATION  
ON FINANCIAL PLANNING**

Presented by:

**Lisa K. Kent,**

**Vice President, Merrill Lynch Investment Services**

Discuss Investment Strategies and benefit from Ms. Kent's 20+ years of experience as a Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor & Certified Financial Planner.

As always, food and beverages will be provided.

**B'nai Tikvah's**  
**Caribbean**  
**Schmoole**  
**Cruise**

Sails on  
**March 13, 2004**  
**7:30pm - 11:30pm**  
**In the Synagogue Ballroom!**

**Featuring:**

- The "On-Board" Art Sale!**
- A Silent Auction!**  
 For a weekend getaway in the Poconos, lasik surgery, major league baseball memorabilia, sporting event tickets, and more!
- All-You-Can-Eat Buffet**  
 catered by  
**Classical Caterers!**
- Open Bar!**
- Dancing!**
- A Super 50/50 Raffle!**  
 (See the back cover of this issue of the Hakol)
- Fun Games, and more!**
- Tickets: \$55 per person.**
- "Cruise Wear" is encouraged.  
 Bring your Friends!**

To reserve your "berth" on board, send your check, payable to Congregation B'nai Tikvah, to the CBT office, attention: Cruise Tickets. For more info call Gary Warner: 732-422-9292

# B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

## **CBT SCHECTER FAMILIES SPONSOR FRIDAY EVENING SHABBAT FEB. 27th**

We are pleased to host Rabbi Scott Bolton, Head of School for Solomon Schechter Day School of Raritan Valley (SSDS) East Brunswick for Friday Evening Services on February 27th. Rabbi Bolton will present a D'var Torah on Friday evening to meet with us, and our SSDS students will participate in services. Kiddush sponsored by Solomon Schechter Families at B'nai Tikvah. Any questions about SSDS or this program, contact Larry Cohen.

## **BOWLING SUBS WELCOME**

Even though we are more than halfway through our 18<sup>th</sup> season, there's always room for more. We have 14 full teams (56 players) this year but, there are always a few couples each month that cannot make it.

Join us as a "sub". Even if you've never bowled before, you'll find bowling with B'nai Tikvah is lots of fun.

**Our next game is scheduled for Saturday, February 14 at 8pm.** Just give us a call and we'll squeeze you in. Tradition holds that scheduled players are obligated to pay whether they show up or not, which means that "subs bowl free". Gary Bergman, 732-246-7285 - [Bowling@Bnaitikvah.org](mailto:Bowling@Bnaitikvah.org)

## **SCRAPBOOKING WORKSHOPS**

Come to a B'nai Tikvah Scrapbooking Workshop and enjoy progressing (or starting) on your photo album projects. Newcomers and experienced scrapbookers welcome!

Reservations Required. To reserve a spot, please contact [jodimar-cou@comcast.net](mailto:jodimar-cou@comcast.net) or call 732/422-6628  
Upcoming Dates: Wednesday, February 11 starting at 7pm and Wednesday, March 10 starting at 7pm.

## **50plus**

### **MINI VACATION TO CAMP KISLAK BEING PLANNED**

**THINK SPRING!!** Warmer weather is around the corner! We are planning a mini-vacation at the end of May - beginning of June.

Our next meeting, on Tuesday, February 24 @ 1 p.m., will feature a presentation by the director of **Camp Kislak in Lake Como, Pennsylvania**. Our plans include door-to-door transportation from Congregation B'nai Tikvah. Bring your friends. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

## **DELICIOUS KOSHER MEALS FRIENDS GATHERED FOR A CLASSICAL CONCERT BAKING RUGALACH**

*Just a few of the things that make every day special at SomerBrook*



SomerBrook Assisted Living is unique to Central New Jersey offering incomparable services and amenities within a community committed to the Jewish traditions, values and celebrations familiar to our residents. SomerBrook is affiliated with, and adjacent to the Central New Jersey Jewish Home, a

long-term care facility with Medicare and Medicaid certification. Both communities are part of The Oscar and Ella Wilf Campus for Jewish Life. The not-for-profit sponsor's long history and strong commitment to excellence help to ensure security, comfort and peace of mind for every resident.

*Studios, one- and two-bedroom apartments and Jaffe Gate,  
a special neighborhood designed for those with memory impairment*

Visit SomerBrook today or call Toby Ehrlich at (732) 568-1155 for an appointment.  
350 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873 --- Reservations are now being accepted.

**OPEN HOUSE:  
Every Wednesday  
and Sunday, 11 to 3**

**SomerBrook**



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at The Oscar and Ella Wilf Campus for Jewish Life  
*Where Traditions Make a Difference*



# B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

### THANK YOU FAMILY SPONSORS

As you know, our synagogue sponsored 15 families for the holidays. Five of these families live in New Brunswick and attend the Redshaw School. The following are excerpts of a thank you note sent by the school social worker:

"The students and family members who received the holiday gifts are over-joyed and their hearts are filled with gratitude and warm wishes for all of you and your loved ones."

"Some of the children who received new clothes for the first time in their lives because they only had used donated clothing from the Salvation Army. Two of the families had difficulty creating a wish list because their needs are so great and they had never received gifts before. Two of the children who received coats as gifts didn't own a winter coat and were coming to school in layered clothing." "It is wonderful to see that you have not forgotten about the underprivileged and that you care enough to make a difference in their lives. It is also great to bridge a connection between different religions, cultures, and social economic backgrounds...." "We send all of you many good wishes for this holiday season and for the New Year."

### MITZVAH CRIB

Located in the synagogue lobby, the Mitzvah Crib is a place for you to drop off new baby items which will be donated to needy families in the area. This is an ongoing program. Suggested items: diapers, wipes, baby soap, powder, lotion, bottles, spill-proof cups, bibs, books, toys and clothes---anything new that a baby can use.

### FOOD OF THE MONTH

When you come to the synagogue, please bring one of the food "items of the month" to the office. All the food will be distributed to the local food banks and shelters. Your support is greatly appreciated. Please do not bring food items on Shabbat.

#### February

Juice boxes, Snacks for Lunches, and Canned Fruit

#### March:

Paper goods, toilet paper, paper towels, kleenex tissues

### UPCOMING:

#### PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE

We will begin our annual Passover food drive in late February through the month of March. This year we are hoping to get people to help put together the food baskets and/or distribute them. Its a great activity to do as a family! Please watch for addition information.

## From The Webmaster

### Look Deeper

If you find something on our website that attracts you, don't assume the link ends there. Example: On our front page there is a link to a recent picture of the work-in-progress of our new building. But, if you click on the picture itself, you'll find a whole library of pictures taken by our most prominent roving photographer. Many more of Bobbi Binder's photo albums can be found throughout the site.

### B'nai Tikvah Joins the Fight Against Spam

A common practice of spammers is to use automated harvesting software to collect published email addresses from legitimate web sites, such as ours. As a defensive measure, all the addresses on our website are coded in "Javascript", rendering them invisible to such processes. We also employ an offensive technique to entrap such programs with a link to many thousands of phony addresses. For more information, click the link at the bottom of our home page that indicates "Help The Fight Against Spam!"

[@bnaitikvah.org](mailto:@bnaitikvah.org)

### Cool links on our website:

Israeli news and commentaries from around the world:  
[www.bnaitikvah.org/israel.html](http://www.bnaitikvah.org/israel.html)

See and hear the kids in rehearsal:  
[www.bnaitikvah.org/koltikvah.html](http://www.bnaitikvah.org/koltikvah.html)

Bar/Bat Mitzvah schedules/photos, past and future  
[www.bnaitikvah.org/mitzvot.html](http://www.bnaitikvah.org/mitzvot.html)

*Rough Day? Stressed out?  
Need a peaceful change of scenery?*

**Come relax at  
MINYAN  
HAPPY (Half) HOUR!**

**Guaranteed to relieve stress and make the rest of  
your day go better, without drugs or alcohol.**

**Sunday -Thursday 7:30PM**

## BOARD AND VP REPORTS

Continued from page 6

hall at the Synagogue from 7-9 pm.

We are currently seeking an Assistant Kadima Advisor. Anyone interested in applying should call Toby Ehrlich.

**College Program:** The College Committee sent out 30 Chanukah packages to our college students. If your college student didn't receive one, you probably forgot to send in his or her address. Don't miss the next mailing. Send in the address by calling Marcy Finkelstein or by filling out the address form on the synagogue website.

**Nursery School:** January is the month for parent-teacher conferences. They have been scheduled by grade throughout the month. The pre-K Stellar Space Program will be on January 29. Registration for next year begins on Wednesday, January 28. Synagogue members receive priority registration and tuition discounts. The Nursery School Committee is exploring ways to have some sort of summer camp this summer.

**Religious School:** The Hei Class Shabbat service and luncheon will be on January 10. The Kindergarten PACT (Parents and Teachers Together) will be a pajama party on January 11. The Chai School will have a special program, Theater Ariel, on January 25. The same day, the Bet class will have a program of designing Siddur covers. The Dalet Class PACT: Bridges of Mitzvot County, will be on Sunday, February 1. Also on that date, the Hei class will have a program, Making Your Own Special Mezzuzah.

### Past President's Report

**Construction:** A construction meeting takes place every other Thursday afternoon at 2 pm. The meeting includes representatives of Cornerstone Architects, the Contractor, as well as representatives of the Construction Committee based upon their availability. The Committee is comprised of myself, Paul Zankel and Arie. Meeting minutes are prepared and issued by the Architect. If anyone would like to see these meeting minutes, I can make them available.

Current Status:

1) Schedule. Due to the previously outlined delays caused by discrepancies with the design drawings as well as the survey, the Contractor has requested and been approved for a 45 day delay in time. There is no cost impact of this change. As you will no doubt notice, the steel has been delivered with the main structural framework erected.

2) Change Orders: In addition to the change order described above for a time extension, two additional CO's have been submitted and approved for unforeseen condi-

tions, with a total increase in project cost of \$19,413.

3) Payments to date

• Total Contract Value	\$1,513,500
• Approved Change Orders	\$19,413.70
• Total Completed to Date	\$250,553.70
• <u>Retainage</u>	(\$ 23,114.00)
• Amount Paid to date	\$ 217,439.70

**Feedback Committee:** Due to scheduling conflicts, the Feedback Committee has not met since the last report. We are scheduled to meet with the Rabbi on January 8, 2004 and with the Cantor on January 19, 2004

**Adult Education Committee:** The final schedule for Adult Education has been published with classes starting on Wednesday January 7, 2004 and continuing every Wednesday until early June except when holidays occur.

### Ways and Means VP Report

**Supermarket Scrip & Retail Scrip:** We are seeing a slowing in demand in scrip sales but still very busy. The sisterhood has sold about \$3,000 worth of retail scrip year to date. The current scrip committee has done a fabulous job and we are looking forward to great effort for the upcoming year. We still need your support for working the desk on Sunday mornings.

**Event for next year:** The 50/50 sales are coming along slowly and I am expecting that the Board helps out to the best of their ability. The prizes will be 1<sup>st</sup> 25%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 15%, and 3<sup>rd</sup> 10%. Jeff Woller is chairing the 50/50. Please try to get myself or Jeff Woller tickets and money as soon as possible. The event committee has been working hard and is planning on sending out the invitations by January 10, 2004. We have already been receiving positive responses on the event.

**Entertainment Books:** Barry Safeer continues to work hard on selling books this year. We are a little behind last year's sales. The consensus is the quality of the books has not been as good the last several years. We believe that has had a negative impact on the sales.

**Printer Cartridges:** We will be collecting ink jet cartridges. There is a box in the office please just drop them off. We will be placing ads in the upcoming Hakol. CBT will re-

**PURIM is March 7th!**

**Get your Sisterhood Shalach  
Manot orders in now!**

**TIME for a NEW TALLIS  
or a JUDAICA GIFT?**

Call Amy Zelka in East Brunswick at:

**732-613-8018**

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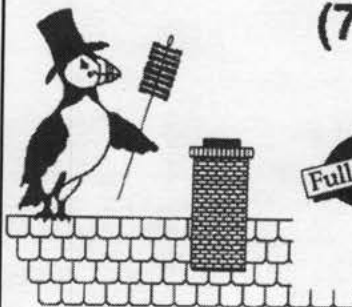
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## ISRAEL TASKFORCE

### Arafat, continued from page 7

his cause.

I have studied Yasser Arafat for more than 30 years, and the pattern of his life may be said to include four phases, in each of which he has made the same mistakes and ended up with a similar result. In each phase he ended up destroying his own position because of the belief that violence always benefits his cause, the belief that he doesn't have to implement his agreements and the use of extremist front groups to commit violence for which he can disclaim responsibility.

#### Arafat Will Not Make a Deal

The experience of the past decade has taught that no deal can be made with this man...He is currently pursuing an anti-state strategy: continuing the struggle, making Israel look bad, mobilizing international support, getting more and more concessions and not offering to give anything in return. This is his strategy and it has been remarkably successful in some respects.... Prime ministers meet him, reporters interview him and he is given chance after chance. But the bottom line is: Arafat will not make a deal. The only kind of deal he would make would be one that left matters open so that he could pursue total victory, and Israel is not going to make such a deal. Therefore, either an alternative to Arafat is found or we will have to out-wait him, in order to achieve peace.

#### Reading Palestinian Public Opinion

According to Palestinian public opinion polls, a majority say things like: "We want everything. The struggle should continue. We should continue attacks on Israel even if we have a state and a peace agreement." At the same time, the polls show another opinion held often by many of the same people: "We want this to be over. We just want our kids to go to school. We don't want to face all this violence. We want some kind of an agreement."

The problem is that when the Palestinian leadership only reinforces the hard-line viewpoint, it makes peace impossible and prevents the development of moderate forces. During the period 1994-2000, Arafat made only one speech to his people that preached conciliation. During most of this period, Arafat's main emphasis was on continued confrontation and militancy. This has to be challenged if there is going to be a basis of support for peace.

#### After Arafat

The attempt to replace Arafat has failed, but the struggle to succeed him has now begun. What will happen if Arafat dies or becomes disabled? Arafat's successor would probably be chosen by the Fatah Central Committee, and will be male, Muslim, a member of Fatah and a resident of the West Bank or Gaza Strip. Abu Ala is a reasonably likely candidate for this position, particularly because he is not strong. Those looking to succeed Arafat want someone who is not too strong so that they can try to become the real leader. The problem is not just that Arafat has not designated a successor. It is that he has blocked the development of anybody who could be a successor. Abu Mazen is another candidate. He is secretary-general of the PLO Executive Committee where he has been Fatah's representative for many years. But how his recent failed term as prime minister will affect this issue -- perhaps

destroying his chances -- is not clear yet.

If Arafat hangs on long enough, the succession will skip to a younger generation, with two major candidates being Mohammed Dahlan and Marwan Barghouti. Dahlan was the protégé of Abu Jihad, Arafat's favored person in the leadership. Dahlan almost became the adopted son of Arafat, then broke with him and was slapped in the face by Arafat. Dahlan's position on the peace process is basically: "Let's end this thing, let's make a deal." He's a tough guy, with a good base of support, good connections with security services and he comes from Gaza.

Marwan Barghouti (now in Israeli custody), on the other hand, in a sense is going in the other direction, with the expressed position: "I'm ready to make peace with Israel but we can only do so after we've militarily defeated Israel." So even though on paper his position looks more moderate, it's basically a position for armed struggle. Barghouti was the military architect of this intifada and Arafat was the political architect. Barghouti represents the line of continued struggle, and Dahlan represents taking another road.

#### Why Have the Palestinians Kept Arafat?

One reason is the fear that without Arafat there would be anarchy. Fear of civil war is a key factor why Feisal Hussein refused to go for the leadership himself, and why Abu Ala refuses to do anything effective to stop terrorism. Arafat may have created a situation in which no one can rule effectively after he's gone. That doesn't mean that there will be civil war, it means that there will be no real leadership. Even if a leader is chosen, he may not feel that he has enough power to make a deal...A Palestinian once told me, "Egyptian politics is like the pyramid. Mubarak is at the top and there's a very wide base. Syrian politics is like the Eiffel Tower, Assad is at the top and there are a few people on each level. Palestinian politics is the shape of Yasser Arafat. Yasser Arafat is Palestinian politics and that's all there is to it."

For Arafat, control of information is also very important. To this day, Palestinians have no idea what was offered at Camp David or in the Clinton Plan -- that President Clinton and Prime Minister Barak offered an independent Palestinian state in all of Gaza, the equivalent of all of the West Bank, most of east Jerusalem and sovereignty over the al-Aksa mosque.

One of the biggest changes in the last three years has been a total turnabout in the relationship between the PA or the Fatah leadership and Hamas. During the 1990s, Arafat sought to win over and co-opt Hamas, and to make it his junior partner -- a loyal opposition. Today, however, Arafat and Fatah are in complete alliance with Hamas.

It is not a question of "Can Arafat stop these extremists who are staging terrorist attacks?" These attacks are coordinated; there are regular meetings between Arafat's people and Hamas and Islamic Jihad... This alliance is extremely important and extremely dangerous. Those people who are most worried about it are in Fatah and the Palestinian left who don't want to see Hamas take over, and who think Arafat's strategy is a disaster. This has been an incentive for some of them to see a negotiated end of the conflict, or at least

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