

March 11

March



CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH
JCC OF NORTH AND SOUTH BRUNSWICK

March 2004
Adar/Nissan 5764
Volume 25, Issue 7

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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B'nai Tikvah Hosts USY Regional Mid-Winter Convention!

**The Party
Of the Year!**



**March 13
Get your Tickets!**

Info page 15



**Megillah
Reading**

**Saturday
March 6**

Purim: page 2

**Sons
of Tikvah
Sing-A-Long!**

**Tuesday
March 2
7:30pm**

Details page 5

RABBI ELIGBERG LEADS

PURIM FESTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Tuesday
March 2nd:
SONS OF TIKVAH
SING-A-LONG
with The Makehla
and Kol Tikvah
@ 7:30PM

Saturday
March 6th:
MEGILLAH
READING:
Music and mayhem
begins at 7:15PM
with Havdallah fol-
lowed by Megillah
reading. Wear your
favorite costume and
bring your loudest
grogger!

Sunday
March 7th:
RELIGIOUS
SCHOOL
PURIM
FESTIVITIES
Both Early and Late
session will meet
10:00 AM-12:05 PM.
Megillah reading and
Purim shpiel followed
by a special concert
featuring *Sons of Tik-
vah Band*. Parents
are welcome.

PURIM
CARNIVAL:
The Purim Carnival
follows at noon on
Sunday.

Mordechai and Esther are in many ways perfect exemplars of the dichotomy of contemporary Jews. Mordechai is connected to and rooted to his past. In introducing him, the text places him in a historical context that established Mordechai as a descendant of those who were exiled to Babylonia during the period of the destruction of the first Temple. Awareness of this history is part of what defines and motivates Mordechai's actions. Even after centuries of living outside of Israel, Mordechai remains recognizable as being different, other. While Haman needs to be told what nation Mordechai is from, Mordechai's foreignness was abundantly clear to him. By the next generation, this is no longer true. Esther slips easily into the world of the Persian court. Unlike her uncle Mordechai, there is nothing that makes her identifiable as a Jew. Indeed, to conceal her roots, Esther needs only remain silent on the issue; only Esther herself can lift the veil on her identity.

In the defining moment of the story, Esther is forced to choose. Mordechai tasks Esther to go to the king, assert her Jewish identity, embrace her nationality and save her people. Mordechai warns Esther that her station as queen will not protect her from the unfolding situation; that salvation for the Jews will be achieved by other means if she does not act; and that by inaction she and her father's house will be lost. While the text implies lost physically, if we transpose Esther and Mordechai into contemporary Jews, then Mordechai's warning is addressed to each of us. By your choice of embracing or rejecting your Jewish identity, you are determining whether there will be a Jewish future for your family. Choosing not to identify means that your "father's house" will be lost in the swirling vortex of history and you will disappear and be lost to the Jewish community, depriving it of a vital asset in building the future.

Most of us are not in our lives confronted with such a striking moment of decision. The question of our Jewishness, of how we assert our Jewish identity, is not presented as a life or death issue personally, much less that on our choice rests the fate of the Jewish people. Since we are not pressed on the matter, many of us can be comfortably ambivalent on the subject. We flirt with our Jewishness, fearful of making an ultimate commitment. We are reluctant to leave the playing field, thinking that by our choice we limit what achievements are possible in life. In truth, all ultimate relationships and commitments do limit us. The blessings and rewards that those relationships and commitment bring into our lives more than offset the limitations. To be a son, a husband, a father is limiting. To be a son, a husband, a father is to be blessed beyond words.

The just released book *I Am Jewish - Personal Reflections Inspired by the Last Words of Daniel Pearl* brings the challenge Mordechai places before Esther into our own day and age. Confronted by the rabid anti-semitism of his brutal kidnappers and eventual killers, Daniel Pearl chose to assert his Jewish identity with his final words. "My father is Jewish, my mother is Jewish, I am Jewish." With those words Daniel Pearl insured the survival of his father's house and that of his own.

In the aforementioned book, The Right Honourable The Lord Woolf gives a sense of how this can apply in our own lives. He writes, "Throughout his life - at school, at work, and socially - a Jew is faced with situations where it can be convenient, more comfortable, and tempting to avoid identifying himself as a Jew. I have always hoped that when it mattered, I would not be tempted to take the convenient and comfortable course." Our task he continues, is "To say with pride and confidence, regardless of the consequences, I am Jewish." Ruth Wisse in her piece captures the essence of the challenge presented to Esther then and us today. "We may choose to live as Jews, visibly and vitally, or else slip anonymously into the gentile mainstream."

May we, in our lives, follow in the footsteps of Mordechai who was willing to live a life that made him easily recognizable as a Jew; of Esther in her day and Daniel Pearl in our day, asserting boldly our choice to live full and vibrant Jewish lives. May our lives reflect choices and commitments that will make us worthy of being remembered by generations of Jews who follow in our footsteps.

Jodi, Sarah and Yonatan join me in wishing you a joyous Purim.
With Blessings,

Rabbi David M. Eligberg

OUR HAZZAN'S VOICE

Cantor Bruce Rockman

When is Shabbat Shirah?

The Torah reading for Shabbat Shirah, (which was on February 7 this year) includes "*Shirat Hayam*," "*The Song of the Sea*." It recounts how God split the sea and saved the fleeing Israelites from their former Egyptian masters. Following the crossing of the sea, the prophetess Miriam led the Israelites in joyous singing, acclaiming God's majestic triumph. We include the song in our morning prayers (Sim Shalom, page 92) and from this song, we repeat and sing the verse *Me chamo-cha... Who is like You, Lord*, during our every evening service and additionally on Shabbat morning.

Three years ago **The Sons of Tikvah Band** was formed to honor and celebrate Shabbat Shirah. Our initial program, a sing-a-long, is now an annual B'nai Tikvah tradition. Next year, with our new addition we can expect the Shabbat Shirah Sing-a-long to fall on the appropriate date in January.

The music that the band plays is familiar to you now. We play Jewish music and secular music that inspires Jewish ideals. This is music that you know by heart and that is a part of our Jewish memories and evokes great pride. The Sons have taught you new songs and refreshed old memories of summer camp, our parents' and grandparents' homes, youth groups and shul. We sing our hearts out just as we did when we were younger. Some new melodies, written by contemporary composers such as Shlomo Carlebach, Debbie Friedman and Craig Taubman have found their way into our services. We play songs for the holidays, songs that you can sing at home; we play music to inspire you. Through music we express our love of God, Judaism, Israel and our Jewish community.

Our purpose is to be one of the instruments that raise the spiritual conscience of the congregation. The band has helped make many synagogue programs and events more dynamic and energetic and fun. We also have represented the synagogue at community functions, such as the enormously successful fund raising event, **Raise Our Voices for Israel**. As you may already know, B'nai Tikvah will host the third annual Raise our Voices next February.

Our work is far from complete, and as more people hear our group of talented musicians, led by our talented musical director, Marty Angstreich, the more our presence is requested. I am proud to announce our busy schedule for the upcoming months. Please join us for our upcoming programs, some that will also include *The Makehla* and *Kol Tikvah*, our growing youth chorus.

Please support The Sons of Tikvah Band and the growth of musical programming for the congregation with donations to our fund. It is our hope to present more concerts, plays and enriching musical programs for all ages. Look for our first synagogue talent show next year.

I can't wait to see you all real soon.

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

*B'simcha,
Cantor Bruce Rockman,*

UPCOMING *Sons of Tikvah* EVENTS:

Thanks to the tireless work of our dedicated musicians here are some fun events that are on the horizon.

1. Tuesday **March 2 @ 7:30PM** The Sons of Tikvah Band Sing-A-Long with The Makehla and Kol Tikvah
2. Sunday **March 7 @ 10AM**
Purim Megillah Reading and Purim Concert
3. Friday Night Plugged-in returns **April 16**
Special Service Time 6:45
4. Friday Night Plugged-in on **May 14**
Special Service Time 7:00
5. Friday Night Plugged-in on **June 18**
Special Service Time 7:30

Israel Programs

6. **Sunday April 25** Israel Independence Day Concert. Performances by all of our musical groups. Time to be determined.
7. **Sunday June 6** in the morning till noon. The Walk for Israel in Johnson Park, Highland Park. The Band will play an outdoor concert!

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**

Adult Education Programs

Winter/Spring 2004

Wednesdays from 7:45pm to 9:30pm



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.

HELP WANTED: MINYAN

No experience required. On-the-job training available.
Apply in person at any of the following times:

Sunday 9:00AM

Thursday 7:00AM

Sunday -Thursday 7:30PM

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:

Both women and men are counted in B'nai Tikvah's Minyan.

HAKOL

The Newsletter of
Congregation B'nai Tikvah
JCC of North & South Brunswick
1001 Finnegan's Lane
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
732-297-0696

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

**All Submissions for the
April/May HAKOL
must be in by
March 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 and inserts 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

The Third Annual

The Sons of Tikvah Band

Sing-a-Long

Celebrate

JEWISH MUSIC

Tuesday Evening, March 2, 7:30 PM

- Musical Maariv Service
- Get Ready for Purim
- Special guest appearances by
- *The Makehla*
- *Kol Tikvah*

Refreshments will be sold to benefit our musical programs



Congregation B'nai Tikvah

1001 Finnegans Lane North Brunswick, NJ

Admission is Free. For information Call 732-297-0696

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Arie Behar

If you were one of the viewers of Diane Sawyer's recent interview with Mel Gibson I am sure that you share with me feelings of disgust and frustration. I don't care if Mel is anti-Semitic, although it was obvious by his body language that he was uncomfortable addressing the issue. But in this country everyone has the right to think as he or she wishes. What I am upset about is that Mel created a monster. He resurrected an old evil that was sleeping for many years in this country. He brought back hatred of the Jewish people. He brought back the dark era of the middle ages when the Jews were the killers of Jesus and therefore to be despised.

Most Americans who go to see Gibson's movie, the *Passion of Christ*, will not bother doing a little research to discover the actual historical events. Unfortunately, most people will take Mel's version of the Jesus story as fact and believe this version to be the ultimate truth, especially since the actors are speaking an "authentic" language. But his version is contradicted by many historians and cannot be taken as the ultimate truth. Nobody knows the true story of Jesus.

We do know that Christianity started 50-60 years after the death of Jesus. In an era when life expectancy was 50 or so years, most people who witnessed the crucifixion were not present by the time the story was written. The only source of information we have is from the four Gospels, whose authors got information second or third hand. I am sure that they added their version of the events to the story. We also know that Jesus was a popular, faithful Jew who sometimes was called "King of the Jews." Pontius Pilate was the brutal and ruthless Roman Governor who held absolute power. The high priest in Jerusalem, a Jew, was a political appointee of

the Romans and served only as long as he kept the people calm and obeyed Pilate's orders. We know that Pilate ordered the crucifixion of hundreds of Jews without proper trial (Luke 13:1-4). The Gospels agree that Jesus' "crime" from the Roman perspective, was that of political sedition, punishable by crucifixion (Matthew 27:37) (Mark 15:326) (Luke 23:38) (John 19:19) Except for a few of the women, the bulk of Jesus' followers abandoned him at the time of

I don't care if Mel Gibson is anti-Semitic or not. I am only afraid and upset that he uses his money and fame to create a monster that will be difficult for us to deal with in the short and long term.

his death. Nor did his family seem to support him during his ministry. At one point (Mark 3:20-21), they think he is possessed.

I am not writing this as history class or to argue any of the movie's "facts." I am saying that Gibson's version is only

one of several interpretations of events and we should not consider it "the" version. Because in the next couple of months or even years after the movie, we, the Jewish community here and abroad will be under increased pressure, facing heightened anti-Semitism. People will always bring up the movie as undeniable fact, inspiring hatred of the Jewish community.

It is easy to be a Jew in the NY metropolitan area, here we are numerous and strong. But in the South or the middle of the country or in Europe or South America it is a different story. In these places the Jewish community is vulnerable and subject to daily abuse. We must assume the responsibility of helping them. If we do not help them today, "they" will get us tomorrow. The only way to defend ourselves and our brothers in America and abroad is to be united, to support each other and most of all to be knowledgeable.

It is possible that, 2000 years ago, a few Jewish leaders had some responsibility for the death of Jesus. That event has nothing to do with today's Jewish community. Do we condemn the Italian

people based on the actions of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate? How can we be responsible for what happened 2000 years ago? We are only responsible to those who use "historical events" as an excuse to hate us. If Mel Gibson is not one of them why he doesn't come out and say: "this is my version of the events surrounding the last 12 hours in the life of Jesus, BUT, we shouldn't hate the Jews because of events that happened 2000 years ago."

If Gibson wanted to help the Christian/Jewish relationship he should say the Jews suffered plenty in the inquisition, pogroms and the Holocaust. Instead he supports holocaust deniers such as his father. All Gibson has to do is to say that he accepts the "Nostra Aetate" the Declaration on the relationship of the church to non-Christian religions adopted by the Vatican Council on Oct 28, 1965. In it, the Church absolved the Jews from the responsibility of Jesus' death. Instead, he relies heavily and is inspired by the diaries of St Anne Emmerich (1774-1824) *The Dolorous Passion Of Our Lord Jesus Christ* a book that inflamed anti-Semitism for many years.

I don't care if Mel Gibson is anti-Semitic or not. I am only afraid and upset that he uses his money and fame to create a monster that will be difficult for us to deal with in the short and long term.

INTERESTED IN CHANTING THE HAFTARAH?

There are some available. Please contact Bernie Adler, ruber@worldnet.att.net

To learn the tropes or any other Haftarah assistance contact Cantor Rockman, cantor@bnaitikvah.org.

BOARD AND VP REPORTS

From February, 2004 Board of Trustees Meeting

Administration VP Report

Rabbi's Contract: There is a tentative agreement with Rabbi Eligberg to extend his contract – details will be presented at the Board meeting.

New Conference Table: Thank you to Ben Shapiro, who secured the donation of a conference table to replace the old one in the library (which needed telephone books to keep straight).

Comedy Café: The annual Comedy Café was a success – we had over 140 people and broke even for the event. Suggestions have been made to move this event back into the Kiddush room (better atmosphere for this type of show) – we would have to limit the number of people and raise the price. Feedback welcome.

Activities VP Report

Social Action: The Social Action Committee is collecting warm winter men's clothing for the Men's shelter.

Jackets, sweaters, pants, gloves, hats, sweatshirts, etc. Items for a child's birthday party such as party favors, birthday plates, cups, candles, etc.

Programming: Promotional material is being prepared for the return engagement of Bill & Sue Wills': "Presidents and their First Ladies".

Adult Education: Due to the high quality content of this year's Adult Education programs, attendance has been up.

Blood Drive: The turnout for the blood drive was down 20% from the previous year. This in spite of additional advertising by way of the Hakol, website, and postcard mailings. B'nai Tikvah, however, still draws a higher percentage than the national average, thanks to the efforts of Marty Engle.

Website/Communications: The website is in the process of being redesigned.

Recreation Committee: Steve Juro, chairman, will be scheduling a meeting thing this month.

Bikkur Cholim: This committee,

chaired by Sheryl Olitzky, now has about 7 members who have volunteered to visit congregants who are hospitalized, home ill, or are in nursing homes. Sheryl's committee is composed of all females and she is seeking male volunteers to contact other male congregants who are in need of visitations.

Hakol: Kudos to Paul & Nancy Zankel for elevating the Hakol to a first class publication.

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 or relatives who may have moved to the area, and may be looking for a synagogue.

Chai Anniversary Shabbat: There will be a Chai Anniversary Shab-

(Continued on page 20)

A MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Cindy Gittleman, V.P. Membership

B'NAI TIKVAH-WEAR:

The very first B'nai Tikvah tee shirt is being designed for our synagogue right now and will be on sale by Purim! We are excited to bring this new "sporty" way of showing synagogue spirit and unity to our B'nai Tikvah community. Look for a separate order form enclosed in the Hakol.

MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSES

Membership is holding a "Coffee Talk" meeting for Nursery School parents to learn more about the synagogue on March 31st. This informal get together will give prospective members an opportunity to meet the Rabbi, Ann Kanarek, Hadas & synagogue members.

Membership will also publicize open house events to be scheduled in May and June using the "Friday Night Plugged In" programs, a Electrifying Kabbalat Shabbat Service.

PROSPECT LIST

Thank you to those who have submitted names of neighbors, friends or relatives who may have moved to the area, and may be looking for a synagogue. The membership committee is spending time calling every name to follow-up. It is important that this list continue to grow with new names.

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, June 26, 2004 or Aug 2004. Please keep a look out for details in the Hakol. About 35 families will be honored.

CHAVURAH GROUPS

We are in the process of forming 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 please contact VP Membership, Cindy Gittleman.

ISRAEL TASKFORCE

Alan Kane, Chairperson

The International Court of Justice and Israel's Security Fence

The most important issue at stake in the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is how to bring about a two-state solution that offers peace and security to both parties. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has nothing to contribute to resolving this issue and actually subverts the prospects for peace by undermining direct negotiations, diverting attention from the Palestinians' failure to fulfill their road map obligation to stop the violence, and singling Israel out for opprobrium while ignoring the Palestinian terrorism that necessitated the construction of the security fence.

As Secretary of State Colin Powell observed, as long as the Palestinians believe they can win in the court of world opinion, they will have no incentive to pursue peace.

Counting the countries that did not vote, as well as those that voted against the Arab proposal, 101 member-states - a majority of UN members - did not support referring the fence issue to the court, and at least 30 countries, including the United States, Great Britain, Russia, and 15 members of the European Union submitting affidavits to the ICJ saying that the issue does not belong in the Court.

The UN General Assembly has already adopted a position on the matter and prejudged it. Moreover, the decision to submit the issue of the fence to the court ignores Article 36 of the Court's Statute which stipulates that contentious issues can only be brought before the Court with the consent of all sides. In this case, the issue is clearly contentious, Israel did not consent to arbitration before the court, and the parties already have mechanisms in place for resolving such issues.

The question put to the Court misleadingly refers to the barrier as a "wall" when, in fact, less than 3% of the anti-terrorist barrier is concrete and more than 97% consists of a chain-link system.

Israel only built this fence to defend its citizens after three years of unrelenting Palestinian violence that has taken the lives of nearly 1,000 Israelis. No outside court or international organization has the authority to determine how Israel should protect its citizens.

The United States shares this view and that is why it objects to the Court's involvement. After all, if the Court can tell Israel that it can't build a fence to defend itself from terrorists, why can't the justices tell the United States that it is illegal to build a barrier to keep Mexicans from entering the United States, or that its war in Iraq was not justified?

What is the basis for challenging the fence in the first place? Contrary to the language of the General Assembly resolution, the fence does not stand on "occupied Palestinian" land. The fence does not affect the final status of the territories. Israel has not annexed any territory around the fence; the land itself is a matter of dispute and, should a peace settlement be reached, the fence can be moved or torn down. Israel has

already said it would reroute the fence to minimize the impact on the Palestinians.

And why should the Court single out Israel's actions? Has it ever ruled on the dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir or the conflict between Greece and Turkey over Cyprus (in both cases similar fences have been built), or any of the dozens of other international border disputes?

The court may issue an advisory opinion on "the legal implications of building a wall," but its decisions do not have the force of law. The court is a political body and Israel has no representation on the court. The 15 judge panel does, however, include a Palestinian from Jordan and an Egyptian.

The politicization of the proceedings is clear from the Court's decision to allow 56 countries from the Organization of the Islamic Conference, along with the 22 members of the Arab League, to testify against Israel. While Palestinians may legitimately criticize the fence, none of these other parties are in any way affected by Israel's efforts to defend itself. Is it any wonder that Israelis expect the trial to resemble the Israeli-bashing forum that occurred in Durban and the one-sided debates in the General Assembly?

Israel is in a no-win situation. By virtue of being "taken to court," Israel is automatically put on the defensive. If Israel puts its case before the Court, it appears to legitimize the tribunal's authority; however, if it ignores the proceedings, Israel increases the probability that the testimony will be one-sided and that the Court will ultimately castigate Israel.

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**HOLD THIS
DATE!**



**Congregation B'nai Tikvah
Israel Bond Breakfast**

Honoring our very own!

Phyllis & Ed Rosen

Sunday, May 23rd 2004, 10:00AM
at B'nai Tikvah

THE OFFICE VOICE

Nitsat Hadas Elami, Administrative Director

Shalom,

Since billing questions are the most common ones I receive, I will try to explain a little bit about the way our billing system and Synagogue Management Software work.

All the actual statements are generated from my computer. Charges for Dues, Building Fund, and Religious School Tuition are set by the Congregation when they vote to approve the Budget. Most of the other items are members' pledges. Authority to change the amounts we bill is only given to specific Board members, according to their jurisdiction. Our Financial Secretary, Gary Tinkel, has the authority to make special arrangements for Membership Dues and the Building Fund. Our VP of School and Youth, Harold Schneider, has authority over bills for Tuition. There are no "special arrangements" for Tuition fees. All members whose children attend Religious School regularly pay full tuition.

Statements are sent 5 times a year. Our fiscal year begins August 1st which is the date of the first quarter's billing. The remaining 3 Quarterly statements are sent on November 1st, February 1st and May 1st. Members who have pledged to pay different items on other dates, i.e. Expansion Campaign pledges appear on statements at the next closest billing date. An additional statement is usually sent out in the middle of December as a reminder to members who would like to make end-of-year contributions for tax purposes.

When your checks come to the office they are applied to your account in the following order: Religious School tuition is paid first, and then payments are applied to remaining items from oldest to newest. Please, if you have any special requests regarding the application of your payments, let me know what they are. Your requests will be honored, or we will contact you if, for some reason we are unable to honor your request.

One of the issues with the software is that when an item is fully paid, it is removed from your statement, and there is no further indication of it being paid. When a check is entered that includes full payment for some items, and partial payment for others, the next statement will show only those open items that are partially paid, but not the items that were paid in full! I receive a lot of phone calls about this since people think we only received the partial payment portion. Hopefully this explanation helps to clear the mystery. There is no way to change the software to show items that are paid in full.

The software we use for Synagogue management is called Temple Soft. This software allows us to keep track of the membership, payments, yahrtzeits and more. It is software that is designed specifically for synagogue management. It has lots of advantages simplifying specific issues of Synagogue management, such as the sending of reminder yahrtzeit letters. At the same time, it has some flaws in the accounting aspects, like the one described above.

If you have any billing questions that are not answered here, please call me at the office, and I will be to happy answer them for you.



STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS

NEW Investment Item

Introducing

The

MAZEL TOV BOND

(replaces CHAI Bond)

Purchase price: Multiples of \$100

- * Matures: 5 years from issue date at \$120, representing an interest rate of 3.7% (This investment rate is effective through June 30, 2004.)
- * Owner receives an attractive certificate suitable for framing
- * Must be registered in the name of an individual (custodian for a minor) or jointly in the names of no more than two individuals
- * Non-transferable
- * Not eligible for early redemption

Questions? Need a Prospectus?

Bond Office 732-828-0200, or
Larry Cohen, 732-821-4376

<http://www.israelbonds.com>

This is not an offering, which can be made only by prospectus. Read it carefully before investing.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORTS **Ann Kanarek, Director**

JEWISH HISTORY: MOMENTS & METHODS

Events and people in Jewish history provide examples of how Jewish values have been applied over time. As we think about Purim, I'd like to share with you an "historical moment" and a complementary activity which can be used to stimulate a holiday family discussion.

DEATH OF MORDECHAI MEISEL: MARCH 13, 1601

Mordecai Meisel (1528-1601) was a Jewish financier who accumulated great wealth as a result of a special privilege granted him by Rudolph II of Bohemia. The monarch allowed him to loan money using property as collateral. Meisel was particularly generous with his wealth. He put it to work in the Jewish community of Prague to expand the cemetery, build a hospital, a Bet Midrash (house of study), a mikvah (ritual bath house) and to pave the streets of the Jewish quarter. He also financed the building of a synagogue in 1597 which was appropriately named the Meisel Synagogue. After his death on March 13, 1601, Meisel's wealth was confiscated on the pretext that it had been earned illegally. On his tombstone the following is inscribed:

NONE OF HIS CONTEMPORARIES WAS
TRULY EQUAL IN DEEDS OF CHARITY

TZEDAKAH: A FAMILY ACTIVITY

While Tzedakah is practiced all year long, we are reminded on Purim of a responsibility to those less fortunate. A key teaching of Judaism is *Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Bazei*, "Every Jew is responsible for every other Jew." This is in effect what Mordecai's plea was to Esther. In times of crisis, no Jew is free from the obligation to aid fellow Jews.

Each of our classes actively collect tzedakah weekly and will decide on recipients near the end of the school year in May. As a family, research possible destinations for the tzedakah money that you have raised or your child's class has collected.

Discuss the meaning of "sending gifts" or Shalach Manot, which has its origins in the Scroll of Esther. This mitzvah may be filled by sending at least two types of foods to at least two people. These gifts usually consist of special Purim delicacies such as homemade hamatashen, almonds, wine, grapes and sums of money should the recipients be in need.

CELEBRATE

Our school will celebrate the fun-filled holiday of Purim on Sunday, March 7. ***Class times are changed for the Purim celebration.*** See the Schedule in the Events Calendar on this page.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

SUNDAY, MARCH 7:

PURIM FESTIVITIES (10AM)

ALL K,1,2,3,4, students (both Early and Late session) will meet at 10:00 AM-12:05 PM. The students will enjoy traditional Megillah reading and Purim shpiel at 10 AM followed by a special concert featuring *Sons of Tikvah Band* (11 AM). Parents are welcome.

Gimel (5th graders) students (both early and late) are invited to join their teacher at 9:00 am for a special class session.

Dalet (6th graders) and Hei (7th graders) will have regular classes at 9:00 am which will be followed by all the holiday festivities.)

Chai School: Due to your participation in the Purim activities, there will be no regular class sessions.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14:

Bet Class: PACT Program:

G-d Talk, 9:00am-11:00am

Alef Class: C.A.F.E. Program

(during regular school hours): *Siddur Covers* with guest artist, *Inbar Bibring*

FRIDAY, MARCH 19:

Gimel Class Dinner 6:30pm) and Shabbat Service (8pm)

SUNDAY, MARCH 21:

Chai School special program with guest artist, *Avi Zuckerman*, 10am-12:05pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 28:

Dalet & Hei: *Sephardic Seder* with guest presenter, *Rahel Musleah*

SUNDAY, APRIL 4 -

TUESDAY, APRIL 13:

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL.

Passover Holiday & Spring Break
Religious School resumes Wednesday, April 14.



BARTONS PASSOVER CANDY SALE

is going on right now!! Check our website and your children's book bag for a **Barton Passover Candy Sale form**. If you have any questions regarding the candy, please call us at the School Office, 732-297-0295. The deadline is March 3rd, so please hurry. Join the fun; sell to family and friends but PLEASE do not solicit door-to-door. Our children's safety is important to us.

Your support of the candy sale will go to future extracurricular and school enrichment programs.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Fran Pearson, Director

NURSERY SCHOOL PURIM FESTIVITIES

Retelling the Purim Story...In our classrooms, our teachers will have the opportunity to use our hand puppets to retell the Purim story of Queen Esther, King Ashaverous and the ultimate bad guy Haman. Our children will be allowed to dress-up in any type of costume, but it's especially fun to see them dress-up as the characters in the Purim story. A special moment will occur when we invite parents to see the children parade around the school in their costumes and see the children shake and twirl their groggers at the mention of Haman's name. At the conclusion of the parade, the children will return to their classes where our teachers have planned festive parties.



Making...Baking...and Eating Hamantashen... Our children will be making colorful megillahs, groggers, Purim puppets and Mishloach Manot baskets and more - while the delicious smells of baking will fill our classrooms as our children's hands get white and sticky helping their teachers roll out the hamantashen dough. The next fun part is filling these triangular shaped cookies with cherry, apricot, poppy and other fillings. Once baked, the children will all enjoy munching on their hamantashen for a delicious Purim snack. The children will fill their Mishloach Manot baskets with hamantashen and ready to eat treats. They will learn about the mitzvah of sharing at least two food items with their friends and family.

Registration Continues for the 2004-2005 school year.

Please continue to refer friends, neighbors and family to our nursery school. Temple members receive priority placement and tuition discounts. In addition to our morning programs we offer afternoon enrichment programs. Early drop-off/ late-stay options are available for working parents.

Purim Carnival

Our sixth annual Purim carnival includes a moonwalk or "Persia Playground". The children will enjoy jumping and bouncing and having lots of fun. There will be parent volunteers creating works of art on our children's faces. This activity will be called Salon D'Esther. Other activities include Spin Art, Pin the Grogger on Haman, and beanbag toss. Our miniature basketball, miniature golf, and bowling activities will all be located in Shusan Sports Arena. Our carnival will culminate with each child receiving a Purim goody bag filled with a grogger, Purim stickers, treats and a special "winner" medal to wear for participating in our Purim games. We would like to thank our Special and Social Events Committee for planning and implementing a wonderful carnival for our children to enjoy!

MARCH NURSERY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Thursday, March 4th
Two's Purim Party and Parade

Friday, March 5th

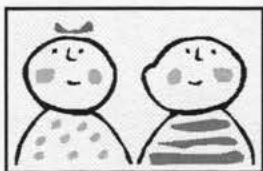
Pre-k and Three's Purim Party
and Parade

Monday, March 8th
Trip to State Theater to see
"Very Eric Carle"

Wednesday, March 10th

Purim Carnival

Tuesday, March 30th



TOT SHABBAT

March 13 & 27

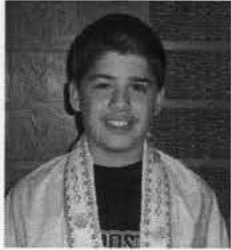
Did your children enjoy the torah for tots services during the high holidays? The fun does not need to end! please join us for tot shabbat from 11-12pm. As usual, it is free of charge but full of fun!

10 am—11 am Babysitting

11 am—12 pm Tot Shabbat

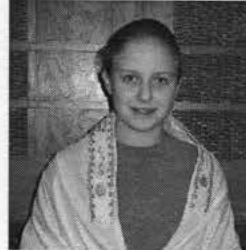
B'NAI TIKVAH YOUTH

MARCH B'NAI MITZVAH



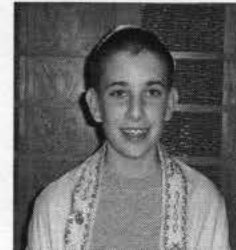
**Benjamin
Levin
March 6**

Son of
Steve & Renee
Levin



**Samantha
Alpert
March 13**

Daughter of
Michael & Carol
Alpert



**Steven
Marcou
March 27**

Son of
Dave & Jodi
Marcou

USY

usy@bnaitikvah.org

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

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

So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish

Over the last three years it has been my pleasure to work and meet many of you as your USY Advisor. Now, with Mid-Winter Convention come and gone, it is finally time for me to pass the baton to Audra Lifson, who will take the reigns and continue making N/S Brunswick USY the best Chapter in Hagalil.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents for entrusting your kids to me and believing that I had what was needed to make the right decisions when they were necessary. For my USYers, I have had a wonderful time working with you all, whether you came in as freshmen or upperclassmen- watching you grow and change and come into your own. I hope that you all continue and become active members in USY and in the Jewish Community both at B'nai Tikvah and whichever school you choose to attend. For those who go to Rutgers University, I hope you let me know as I am still involved around Campus and would love to see you. Also, always feel free to get in touch with me to talk or catch up.

Again, thanks to you all for a wonderful three years.
Sincerely,

Steve Springer
AIM: Tiberias77

Email: steve@twintowersweb.com

KADIMA

Kadima@bnaitikvah.org

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

Recent events were:

Kadima Talent Show on January 29th, which had 16 participants. We had 3 winners. Each winner received a Blockbuster gift card. The winners were Rebecca Safeer, Aaron Bierstein, and Marc Katranetsky.

We also had Kindergarten night on February 9th, which had 12 members attend. We had a great time Ice skating at Pro-Skate on February 28th in Marlboro.

Upcoming Events:

March 7th: Purim Carnival

March 14th: Swimming with West Windsor and Highland Park (details to be finalized).

March 27th: Bowling!

Current Kadima membership to date is 47, last year we had 37 registered with Fran.

TIME for a NEW TALLIS or a JUDAICA GIFT?

Call Amy Zelka in East Brunswick at:

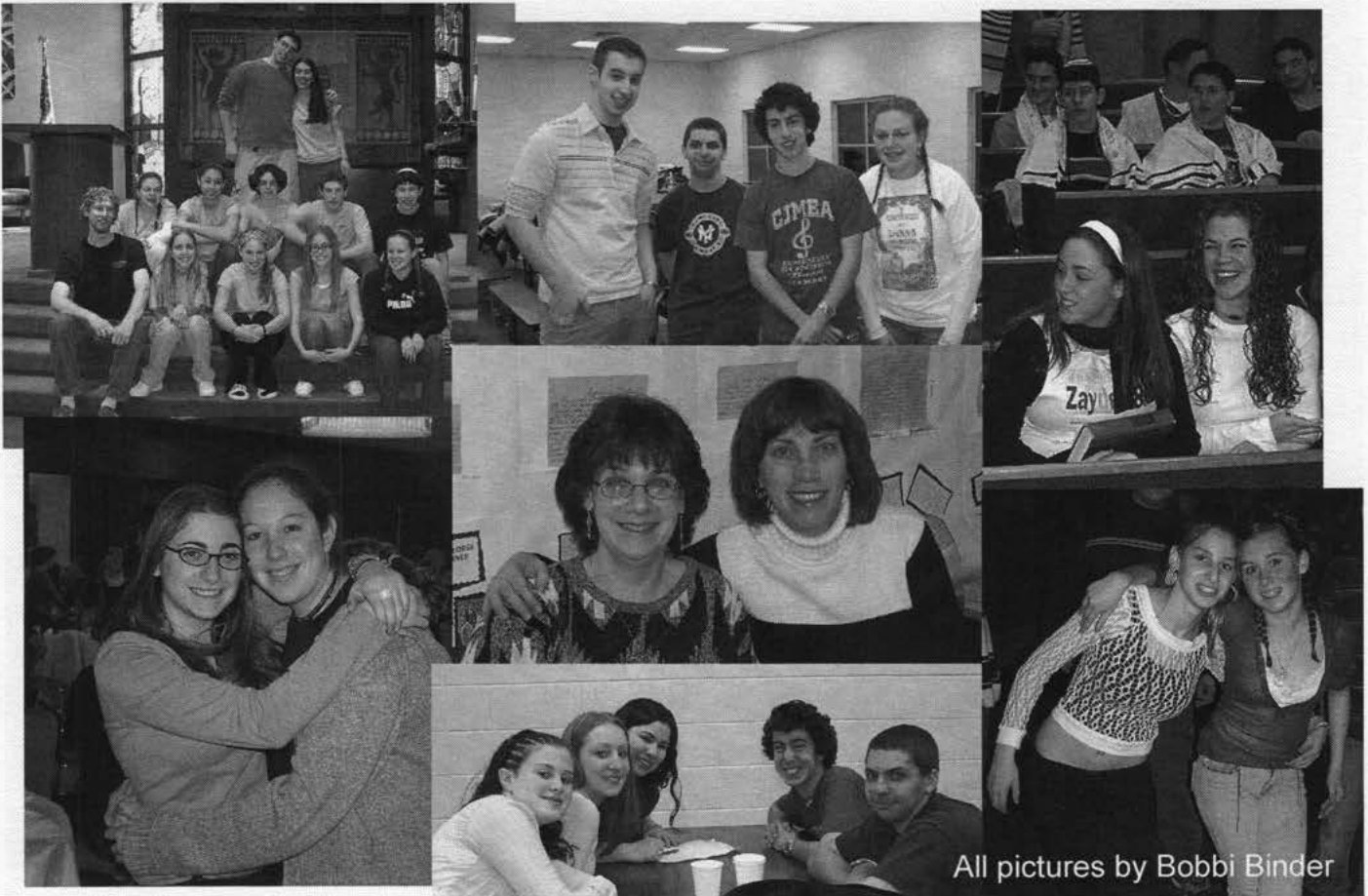
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B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY



All pictures by Bobbi Binder

Youth Light Up the Synagogue at USY Hagalil Region Convention

This year's celebration of Shabbat Shira at B'nai Tikvah had special meaning for the "Shabbat of Songs" as the voices of over 300 USYers rang throughout our sanctuary. As many in the congregation know, February 6-8th we were hosts to the Hagalil Region Mid-Winter convention for USY. We hosted 320 USYers so that they could join together in a weekend of fellowship, prayer and learning. The theme of their weekend was "Stand up"...and that they did! It was a pleasure to see their young faces lead us in services on Shabbat morning, hear their laughter during the Oneg on Friday night and watch as they put together "soup in a bag" on Sunday morning as their Tzedakah project for the weekend. Thanks to these youngsters, we delivered over 300 bags of soup to Elijah's Promise for their use.

The weekend was a success on all accounts but, importantly, it could not have happened without the B'nai Tikvah community that came together for the many tasks before us. To all of those that opened your homes to our USYers....we thank you! For those of you who helped serve them their

yummy meals (the best in a long time according to many)we thank you! To those who chaperoned the dance....we thank you!

A very special thank-you goes to Classical Caterers. Not only did they provide the food for the weekend, but also they helped us with set-up, tear down, and service. Evan and Jason went above and beyond the call of duty to help insure that the kids were well fed. They even took care of the volunteers!

And lastly, a special thank-you to Hadas who helped in all of the organization and details in and around the building to insure we had the space we needed, the rooms set as needed, ordered our paper goods, soda, etc and all around needs. We couldn't have had the weekend without her.

The Region thanks us for being their hosts and hope they can return to our community again in the near future. I know we would all welcome them!

Adrienne Ross, on behalf of the Youth Committee

B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

SISTERHOOD

March 21 10:00am:

Between Us - Sisterhood Members Talk.

A moderator will lead us in discussing how our Jewish practice serves our daily lives. Acknowledging that we all choose to practice our Judaism in our own ways, this discussion will be an opportunity to share with each other how we add meaning to our lives and cope with the hectic 21st century lifestyle. The social action committee requests we bring Pass-over candy and cookies to the meeting. Please join us!!

March 28 - 6:30pm: Movie Night.

Join us for a falafel dinner, and then, roll 'em! We will be viewing the 2001 Israeli film, "Late Marriage," a comedy and tragedy set among Israeli immigrants from the former Soviet Georgia. It is loud and confrontational and full of love and despair. Be sure to join us for dinner, popcorn and fun. The Social Action Committee is requesting Brownie or cake mixes and icing for the Food Bank.

SAVE THE DATE! May 16- 8:15am:

Trip to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum.

Our tour begins at 10:00am sharp. We'll lunch in the area and tour the historic district on foot. More information to follow.

PASSOVER WINE SALE- It's time to order your wine for Passover. Order forms can be obtained on-line or in this month's issue of the Hakol. Contact Lori Sookerman at 732-274-9599 or lorisookerman@comcast.net.

**Passover is just around the corner.
Order your Passover FLOWERS now!!**

\$25 -white or spring colors.
Contact Fern Katronetsky at 732-422-4321
or e-mail her at f.katronetsky@ieec.org
Place your orders by March 28!!!!



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MEN'S CLUB

LAKWOOD BLUE CLAWS BASEBALL TRIP: Plans are underway to attend a Lakewood Blue Claws (Phillies affiliate) baseball game in June. We've arranged for a kosher luncheon etc at the ballpark. Details will be finalized and publicized in April.

THANKS: Many thanks to Ed Birch, Steve Katz and Frank Waltzer for their efforts in putting together some dynamic programming over the last several months. Our attendance has increased dramatically and there is a high level of interest in the club. The January meeting was attended by 26 individuals. Gary Bergman gave an interesting presentation involving transferring digital photos from camera to computer and Mitch Frumkin gave the group a first hand update/look of the expansion project.

YELLOW CANDLE CONTRIBUTIONS: Discussion is underway in regards to allocating funds raised from "yellow candle" monetary contributions received over the last few years. Decisions will be made within the next several weeks. We are planning to purchase this year's yellow candles for distribution to the congregation very soon. We plan to combine resources with other synagogues in order to get a nice discount based on quantity purchases.

Mark Kasdin

THE 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

**The Party
of
The Year!**

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!

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.

B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

From The Webmaster

Sporting a New Look

Our webmaster applied a few tricks to give our website that new 3D look. In the process of redoing all the pages, many of the forms and descriptions were also simplified. If you have any comments (good or bad), email: webmaster@bnaitikvah.org

CBT Newsletter

The official CBT e-mail newsletter goes out every week, usually on Thursday, to announce what's happening for the upcoming Shabbat and the near future. It is also used for emergencies, death notices, and "calls for help".

The newsletter is NOT used for political commentaries, opinions, or messages from congregants. For those, we have the "Bnaitikvah eGroup". To sign-up for the newsletter and/or the eGroup, visit:

www.bnaitikvah.org/click.html

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Some Lanes May Be Open

With only three games left to the season, it's too late to become a league member, ...or is it?

Each month there are always a few couples on the bowling team that cannot make it due to other commitments. Our next game is scheduled for Saturday, March 20 at 8pm. Give us a call and we'll let you sub for another team, where possible.

No experience required, *(or so it seems)*.

Gary Bergman, 732-246-7285 - Bowling@Bnaitikvah.org

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.

PURIM
OPEN HOUSE:
Sunday, March 21st
11 to 1


SomerBrook
ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE
at The Oscar and Ella Wilf Campus for Jewish Life
Where Traditions Make a Difference

B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE – THROUGH MARCH 19th

(see ad on page 16)

This year, we are trying to help JFS pack the Passover Baskets as well as help distribute them. This is a great family mitzvah activity. Please contact Jennifer Shapiro at 732-940-9229 or e-mail at socialaction@bnaitikvah.org

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.

March:

Paper goods, toilet paper, paper towels, kleenex tissues

A FAMILY NEEDS OUR HELP!

Last week, there was a fire in the home of a South Brunswick family with two school aged children. Social Action is collecting money for food and shelter for this family. Please make donations to B'nai Tikvah-Family Relief and send to the synagogue office. Thanks so much for your help.

THANKS...

Over the past month, social action ran a men's clothing drive for a shelter as well as provided funds for diapers and men's undergarments. The following is an excerpt from a thank you note from the Middlesex Interfaith Partners with the Homeless: "Your generosity and extraordinary speed at fulfilling any request are marvelous.... Your swift responses are a wonderful vote of appreciation of our efforts on behalf of the homeless and poor in Middlesex County. This is great and we cannot thank you enough for all you do for us."

BUCKINGHAM PLACE

Social Action sponsored ten residents of Buckingham Place to attend the Sisterhood Children's Fashion Show. The ladies had a great time. Thanks to Sisterhood, Mae Rubinstein and Andrea Katz for making this happen.

50plus

MARCH 23:

LADIES OF THE JAZZ ERA:

Join us at our next meeting Tuesday, March 23 at 1pm. in the Social Hall of the Synagogue. We are pleased to present "Ladys of the Jazz Era" an entertaining program by our own talented Barbara and Richard Roth. Guests and prospective members are welcome. A dessert buffet will be served.

MARCH 31: TRIP TO SHOWBOAT:

All congregants are welcome to join us for an Atlantic City bus trip to SHOWBOAT

on Wednesday, March 31. Bus leaves B'nai Tikvah at 9 A.M. and will return at 7 P.M. The cost is \$20.00 with a return of \$15.00. Food is "on your own". Reservations must be made and paid for before March 12, by calling Annette at 732-297-3562 or Doris at 609-860-1498.

The National Touring Company

*Presidents and Their First Ladies,
dramatically speaking
presents*

Theodore and Edith Roosevelt

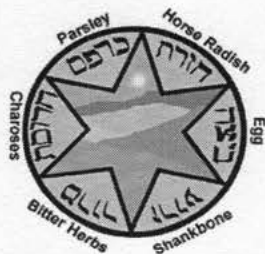


Thursday, April 15

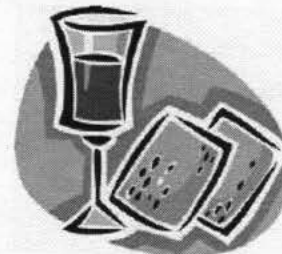
8 PM

A dramatic portrayal by William and Sue Wills
touring 27 states coast to coast

B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY



PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE



February 22 - March 19

**BRING YOUR DONATION TO THE SYNAGOGUE ANY DAY
(EXCEPT SHABBAT)**

Donations will be dropped off with JFS for sorting and distribution on Sunday, March 21.

Once again, we, as a community, will help Jewish Family Service with their Passover Holiday Food Basket program which enables needy Jewish families in our community to enjoy a traditional Passover. Collection containers will be located in the synagogue office and in the school wing to collect your donation.

Let's donate more this year than last year!

Last year, Congregation B'nai Tikvah collected enough *Kosher for Passover* food for over 10 families to enjoy a wonderful Passover Seder.

We are happy to be involved this year coordinating B'nai Tikvah's efforts on behalf of our community along with the Religious and Nursery Schools. Each class will be given a different list so as to gather a variety of items. We hope you and your family will participate in this project to help make this coming Passover a little brighter for Jewish families in need.

Below is a list of items needed by Jewish Family Service for each basket. *100 pounds of Matzoh is great but won't make a Seder! If you do not have an item from the list on hand, feel free to donate any Kosher for Passover item you can.*

Candies	Grape Juice	Matzoh Meal
Gefilte Fish	Horseradish	Oil
Canned Fruit	Instant Decaf Coffee (4 or 6oz only)	Potato/Latke or Kugel Mix
Canned Soup	Jelly	Soda
Canned Tuna/Sardines	Macaroons	Sugar
Canned Vegetables	Matzoh	Tea Bags

If you prefer to make a cash donation make your check payable to "Jewish Family Service" and mail to:
Jewish Family Services, 517 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
To contact them directly: 732-257-4100

Want to help with:

Basket Preparation on Tuesday March 21 at 4:30pm?

Basket delivery, Sunday March 28 at 9:00am?

Have Questions? Please contact:

Jennifer Shapiro: (732) 940-9229 or socialaction@bnaitikvah.org

B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

BUY SUPERMARKET SCRIP: HERE'S THE DEAL

Scrip are *gift certificates* that you can buy for others or use yourself for all your grocery shopping. Supermarket scrip is available for:

A&P

Acme

Pathmark

Shop Rite

Stop & Shop

Wild Oats

The Synagogue earns 5% of your scrip purchases from each of the above supermarkets. You can reduce your B'nai Tikvah dues, because this 5% that B'nai Tikvah earns from your purchases will be credited back to you, up to \$30 for single members, \$45 for senior citizens, and \$60 for family members. Beyond that amount each year, you will continue to be credited at the rate of 2% of gross purchases. (1% for scrip that is paid for by credit card). The scrip credit will appear on your final statement for the year (which is sent in May).

This is a win-win situation for both you and the synagogue. It's an opportunity to both reduce your dues and support the B'nai Tikvah. If all 400+ members and families bought only \$100.00 of supermarket scrip a month, the synagogue would gain over \$24,000/year. After all, you are going to buy those groceries anyway.

Three ways to participate:

Advance online order. Go to:

www.bnaitikvah.org/shopping.html#scrip

Then mail in the form with your check or credit card info and pick it up at the synagogue. We'll have it ready for you - no waiting!

Pick up at the synagogue - Sunday mornings (9 - 12), at most functions, or during normal office hours.

Home delivery - Call one the following authorized Scrip Representatives:

BrunswickAcres

Joyce Fishelberg, 732-297-6290

The Brunswicks, Milltown:

Bobby Bergman, 732-246-7285

Larry Cohen, 732-821-4376

Joyce Gerbman, 732-937-5114

Ann Rosenzweig, 732-249-9141

Barry Safeer, 732-422-8543

Dayton, Deans:

Sylvia Katz, 732-329-6862

Rachel Shaneson, 732-329-2189

Franklin Park, Somerset, Bell Meade, Kendall Park, Rocky Hill:

Phyllis Rosen, 732-297-5555

Monmouth Junction, Princeton, Kingston, Trenton:

Linda Feinstein, 732-329-3185

Cyndi Kleinbart, 609-688-0010

Bette Koffler, 732-329-6518

Rachel Shaneson, 732-329-2189

Monroe, Plainsboro, Cranbury, Windsors:

Sylvia & Erwin Lewis, 609-409-0299

Scrip Chairperson:

Barbara (Bobby) Bergman,

732 246-7285

Scrip@BnaiTikvah.org

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

DONATE TO THE SCHMOOZE CRUISE ART SALE

FRAMED ARTWORK in SALEABLE CONDITION

***Artwork will be sold at the
Caribbean Schmooze
Cruise March 13, 2004.***

Clean that "nice, but no longer needed" art out of your basement or attic. Donate artwork you don't have room for on your walls, art that "no longer matches your décor", or just make room on your walls "for something new". For whatever reason, this is a great way to clean house and raise funds for Bnai Tikvah.

For further info, or to arrange pick-up or drop-off, contact one of our local "Art Dealers" (CBT members). CALL RIGHT AWAY!

IRA HEISLER

732-329-8228

STACEY CADOFF

732-398-3769

NANCY ZANKEL

732-254-6465

BOARD AND VP REPORTS

From February, 2004 Board of Trustees Meeting, continued from page 7

bat celebration for members who are celebrating 18-21 years of membership with B'nai Tikvah, scheduled for either May 15, 2004, June 26, 2004 or Aug 2004. Please keep a look out for details in the Hakol. About 35 families will be honored.

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

B'nai Tikvah Wear: The very first B'nai Tikvah tee shirt is being designed for our synagogue right now and will hopefully be on sale by Purim. We are excited to bring this new way of show-

ing spirit and unity to our B'nai Tikvah community.

Membership Open Houses: Membership open house events will be scheduled in May and June using the Friday Night Plugged In programs.

Past President Report

Construction: As part of our agreement with Cornerstone Architects, a construction meeting takes place every other Thursday afternoon at 2 pm. The meeting includes representatives of Cornerstone, 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, please let me know and I can make them available.

Schedule: Due to the winter

weather the project is at a standstill. We have become concerned about the Contractor's submittals of shop drawings to order long lead time materials. A meeting took place with the Architect on January 22 to discuss this. A subsequent letter was sent to the Contractor requesting certain critical submittals by Monday February 2. As reported in last month's report, there have been a number of delays due to design drawing conflicts. Although there is no cost affect of the delays in regards to the Contractor, the Architect is providing us with an estimate for their time to oversee the project based upon this extended schedule. This will be discussed with the committee when received.

Change Orders: No additional Change Orders have been submitted other than the ones previously described.

(Continued on page 22)



SAVE THE DATE.....

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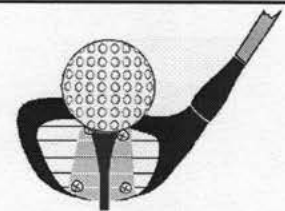
Golf Includes: Green fees, golf carts, caddy master, gifts, brunch, cocktails, dinner reception with an open bar and dessert.
Golfers: \$250 a person, **Tennis and Dinner:** \$150 a person, **Cocktail reception & dessert:** \$100 a person
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(908) 925-8725
mael@uscj.org

Marc Perlman, Co-chair
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BOARD AND VP REPORTS

From February, 2004 Board of Trustees Meeting, continued from page 20

Payments to date:

- Total Contract Value \$1,513,500.00
- Approved Change Orders
\$19,414.00
- Total Completed to Date
\$408,713.70
- Retainage (\$ 40,871.37)
- Amount Paid to date \$ 367,842.33

This is based upon five payment requisitions.

Feedback Committee: The Feedback Committee met with the Rabbi on January 8, 2004. The meeting with the Cantor scheduled for January 19 was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.

Adult Education Committee: Classes have started and take place every Wednesday night from 7:45 to 9:30. In addition, a special class has been scheduled for Friday night January 30, 2004 as part of Friday night services.

School & Youth VP Report

USY: The big February event for USY is the Mid-Winter Convention on February 6 – 8. We expect about 320 USYers from throughout the region. We would have more (there is a waiting list), but we have to have room in the Social Hall for everyone to eat their meals. Registration begins Friday at 2:00. The dance will be at John Adams School in North Brunswick on Saturday from 8:00-11:30, with convention attendees staying until 12:15. The kids will be leaving at 12:30 on Sunday.

The previously-scheduled trip to New York City to see Fiddler on the Roof had to be cancelled because discount tickets were unavailable.

Kadima: Current paid members to date is 47, last year for 2002-2003 there were 37. Last event was Kadima Day, which was a regional event on January

11th in Deal, NJ. We had 19 members attend which was among the highest of any chapters in the Region.

Upcoming and recent events:

- January 29th 7-9 pm Talent Show at B'nai Tikvah
- February 10th at 7-9 pm Kindergarten Night at B'nai Tikvah
- February 22nd at 1:15-3:15 pm Ice Skating at Pro Skate in Monmouth Junction
- February 28th at 8-11 pm Regional Dance at Marlboro Jewish Center.

Nursery School: Nursery School registration for 2004-2005 began on January 28. There is an open house on February 4. On February 2, we started an enrichment class, Rhymes and Rainbows, for 2-1/2 year-olds.

(Continued on page 23)

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BOARD AND VP REPORTS

From February, 2004 Board of Trustees Meeting

Religious School: There will be no Religious School on Sunday, February 8, due to the USY convention, and on Sunday and Monday, February 15-16, for Presidents' Weekend.

On Sunday, February 22, the Gimmel class will have its PACT program, *Tzedakah and the Giraffe Connection*. The following Sunday will be the Dalet class C.A.F.E. program, *Yad Workshop*, with guest artist Inbar Bibring.

The Purim Carnival will be on Sunday, March 7.

Passover Candy Sale: The Religious School's annual Passover Candy Sale will run from February 18 through March 3.

Chai School: Our Chai School will begin offering mini-electives on February 1. Each student will select two electives from topics ranging from Kosher Kitchen, Conversational Hebrew, and Israeli Adventures to How Do I De-

cide?? (on problems confronting young people) and others. Electives will run for 10 weeks.

Ways and Means VP Report

Supermarket Scrip & Retail Scrip: We have 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 script 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.

50/50 Raffle: The 50/50 sales are coming along very slowly and I am begging that the board helps out to the best of their ability. The prizes will be 1st 25%, 2nd 15%, and 3rd 10%. Jeff Woller is chairing the 50/50. Please try to get myself or Jeff Woller tickets and money as soon as possible.

Schmooze Cruise: 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.

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 negatively impacted 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 receive \$2.00 per cartridge.

Car Donation: We have set up a program to take donated cars. An ad has been placed in the upcoming Hakol. Detail to follow. We have had some interest so far. We have had three cars.

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January 16 through February 15, 2004

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Phyllis and Marvin Dantowitz, in memory of Becky Isaacson
Irving Verosloff, in memory of Mildred Verosloff
Ruth and Rubin Rakowitz, in memory of Sarah Samwick
Blanche Fruhling, in memory of Jerome Fruhling
Rose and Milton Kabakoff, in memory of Harry Epstein
Barbara and Arnold Tracy, in memory of David and
Frieda Tracy and Siegfried Marx

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Cantor's Discretionary Fund:

Jennifer and Ron Klein, in honor of Ellis' Bar Mitzvah
Phyllis and Albert Garten, in honor of Daniel Garten's
Bar Mitzvah

Expansion Fund:

Bobbi and Marc Binder, in memory of Jason Surks
Sally and Steven Hoffman, in memory of Jason Surks

Marilyn and Alvin Heller, in memory of Jason Surks
Mark, Susan, Brett and Harrie Cohen, in memory of
Jason Surks

Nancy and Paul Zankel in memory of Sidney Frank Fried
Nancy and Paul Zankel in memory of Freddie Cohen

Youth Fund:

Maxine and Mark Kasdin, in memory of Miriam Steck
Colleen Snow and Nitsat Hadas Elami, in honor of the
promotion of Adrienne Ross to a VP at Bristol Myers Squibb
Adrienne and Andy Ross, in appreciation of all the hosts and
volunteers for the USY Convention

Suse Rosenstock Memorial Fund:

Leon Bible Fund:

Passport to Israel Fund:

Ann Gold, in memory of Herbert Gold

Prayer Book Fund:

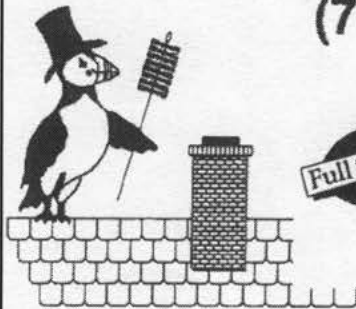
Carol and Marvin Eisenberg, in memory of William Eisenberg
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Son's of Tikvah Fund:

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Nursery School Fund:

Tammy and Keith Zimerman, in memory of Chester Gitlin

Ritual Fund:

The Warner family, in memory of Morris Rood

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Torah Restoration Fund:

Tzedakah Fund:

Social Action Fund:

General Fund:

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
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Cantor	Bruce Rockman	732-422-0963	Cantor@bnaitikvah.org
President	Arie Behar	732-422-1495	President@bnaitikvah.org
VP Activities	Gary Bergman	732-246-7285	Activities@bnaitikvah.org
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Asst. Treasurer	Naomi Jackenthal	732-821-2664	Naomi.Jackenthal@bnaitikvah.org
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	Keith Zimmerman	732-398-1420	Keith.Zimmerman@bnaitikvah.org
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	Lisa Seidman	732-297-6950	Lisa.Seidman@bnaitikvah.org
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Yahrzeit Plaques	Nitsat Hadas Elami	732-297-0696	Admin@bnaitikvah.org
Youth Committee	Adrienne Ross	732-422-0637	YouthActivities@bnaitikvah.org

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 Mark.Sherman@bnaitikvah.org
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MARCH 2004

8 Adar		MARCH 2004						9 Nisan	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		1 8 Adar	2 9 Adar	3 10 Adar	4 11 Adar	5 12 Adar	6 13 Adar		
	Board of Directors		Torah Lishma / Adult Ed	USY Meeting TA'ANIT ESTHER		Megillah Reading	Bar Mitzvah: Benjamin Levin		
7 14 Adar	8 15 Adar	9 16 Adar	10 17 Adar	11 18 Adar	12 19 Adar	13 20 Adar			
Megillah Reading Sons of Tikvah Band at Religious School USY Purim Carnival PURIM	SHUSHAN PURIM	50+ Board Meeting New Beginnings Cantor's Adult Ed Class	Nursery School Purim Carnival Torah Lishma / Adult Ed		Birthday Shabbat	Bat Mitzvah: Samantha Alpert Tot Shabbat Schmooze Cruise			
14 21 Adar	15 22 Adar	16 23 Adar	17 24 Adar	18 25 Adar	19 26 Adar	20 27 Adar			
Bet Class PACT Hei Class CAFE Men's Club	Sisterhood Board	Cantor's Adult Ed Class	Torah Lishma / Adult Ed	Sisterhood Program	Gimel Class Dinner and Service Family Shabbat Service	SSDS Shabbat Bowling League			
21 28 Adar	22 29 Adar	23 1 Nisan	24 2 Nisan	25 3 Nisan	26 4 Nisan	27 5 Nisan			
Sisterhood Meeting Chai School Program		50+ General Meeting Cantor's Adult Ed Class ROSH CHODESH	Torah Lishma / Adult Ed			Bar Mitzvah: Steven Marcou Tot Shabbat			
28 6 Nisan	29 7 Nisan	30 8 Nisan	31 9 Nisan		Candle Lighting 5 th 5:36 12 th 5:44 19 th 5:51 26 th 5:59	APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30			
School Pesach Program Sisterhood Evening	Executive Committee	Cantor's Adult Ed Class	Torah Lishma / Adult Ed						



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