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HAKOL

OCTOBER - A MONTH OF OPPORTUNITIES

Inside this issue:

The Rabbi Speaks	2
Activities At A Glance	3
Hazzan's Voice	4
Schedule of Daily Services	4
President's Message	5
Membership Minute	6
Congregation Events / Info	6
June-August B'nai Mitzvah	7
The Office Voice	9
Religious School	10
Nursery School	11
B'nai Tikvah Youth	12
BT Community	15
Congregational Corner	21
Contributions	24
Synagogue Directory	27
Calendar	28



**FOR CELEBRATION • HOPE • REMEMBRANCE
• LEARNING • INVOLVEMENT • COMMUNITY**
PLEASE SEE INSIDE FOR WAYS TO BE INSPIRED BY AND
THAT YOU MIGHT BRING INSPIRATION TO B'NAI TIKVAH

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE, WWW.BNAITIKVAH.ORG FOR EVENT & SCHEDULE UPDATES

WISDOM OF OUR
MEMBERS
PAGES 21 thru 24

JUDAICA SHOP
open Tues. 4-6 pm,
Sun. 9 til noon
and by appointment

SUNDAES IN THE
SUKKAH
Oct. 9 thru 12

FAMILY SHABBAT
October 20
See Flyer in HaKol

THE RABBI SPEAKS Rabbi Michael Goldstein

I Promise

We are coming to the conclusion of the Holyday cycle that marks the Hebrew month of Tishri. At the beginning of October, we celebrate Sukkot (October 6 - 14) and finish with Simchat Torah (October 14-15). In the organized Jewish world, it is almost a joke that nothing really gets done during these three weeks. The standard reply when someone is asked when a meeting will be, when a project will begin, when a class will start, is always "after the holidays." "After the holidays" starts on Monday, October 16th. Therefore, it is time to move forward into the new year.

***"After the holidays"
starts on
Monday,
October 16th . . .***

We were privileged to be together for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. We prayed together. We shared space and updated one another on our families and lives. We also made promises. Some of these were promises that we made to God as part of our prayers. We expressed sorrow and regret at past actions and asked for a chance to do better. Some were promises to others or at least to ourselves about our relationships with others and about our behaviors. Finally, some of these were to ourselves. Although I cannot know what each one promised himself, I hope it included things that will make us healthier, that will bring us to spend time with those we love, that will deepen and enrich our lives. On Kol Nidre, I spoke about the promises that we make and the challenge to see them through.

Now Yom Kippur has passed. The routine of the year has resumed. For some of us, we may not return to synagogue for any number of months. Where do our promises stand? Will we have the resolve to keep them? Will we be determined enough and motivated enough to do what we

said we want to do?

Although it may seem that not following through will disappoint others (our loved ones, our synagogue, God), in fact it is ourselves that we shortchange. Judaism places the responsibility squarely in our hands. We have the free will to do what we wish. It is up to us to use our free will. I refer us to the famous 1970's book, "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance". The main idea is that in order to truly experience or accomplish something, we must be one with it. We must be willing to get our hands dirty, perhaps to be a bit inconvenienced. For it is only in this way that we can bring change to our lives. Start by joining us for the joy of Sukkot on Shabbat, October 7th.

It is trite to say that before us is a journey. Nonetheless, as we stand at the beginning of any year, we are embarking on a journey. To some extent, we choose our fellow travelers. No matter what, we all understand that each day brings us a certain distance, carries us along willingly or not. I hope and pray that we will be together at Rosh Hashanah 2007, looking back

***We must be willing to get
our hands dirty. . . We can
bring change to our lives . . .***

with a sense of success for all that we accomplished. We made our synagogue a more vibrant and welcoming place. We made time for the people we love. We made time for ourselves. Finally, that the experience of keeping our promises inspires us to do it all again.

*Shanah Tovah,
Rabbi Michael Goldstein*

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Every night (but Wednesday) is . . .



SUNDAE in the SUKKAH

Join us any night, from October 9th through October 12th for dessert in the Sukkah at Congregation B'nai Tikvah.

What better way to fulfill the Mitzvah of eating in a Sukkah than by having dessert!!

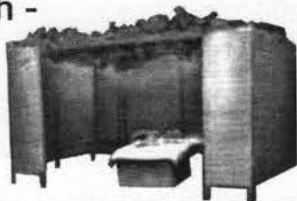
Dessert begins at 7pm,

Thank you to our sponsors for each of these nights:

Monday, October 9th - Sisterhood

Tuesday, October 10th - New Beginnings

Thursday, October 12th - Men's Club



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- Every Tuesday**
8-10 PM Open Court Men's Basketball
- Every Thursday**
5:30 PM Weight Watchers Meetings
7- 8:00 PM Adult Yoga Class
- Sunday, Oct. 1st**
Sukkah Raising - Contact Men's Club if you can help put up the Sukkah
No Religious School
6:15 PM Kol Nidre
- Monday, Oct. 2nd**
9:00 AM Yom Kippur
4:45 PM Mincha-Neilah/Ma'ariv
- Tuesday, Oct. 3rd**
6-7 PM Cooking Craze w/ the Cantorina Class
- Wednesday, Oct. 4th**
Kadima Meeting
- Thursday, Oct. 5th**
USY Meeting
- Friday, Oct. 6th**
6:30 PM Erev Sukkot Service
- Saturday, Oct. 7th**
9:30 AM Sukkot Shabbat Service
6:00 PM Sukkot Service
- Sunday, Oct. 8th**
No Religious School - Sukkot
- Monday, Oct. 9th**
7:00 PM Sundae in the Sukkah Program sponsored by Sisterhood
- Tues. Oct. 10th**
6-7:00 PM Cooking Craze w/ the Cantorina Class
7:00 PM Sundae in the Sukkah Program sponsored by New Beginnings
7:30 PM Society of Israel Philatelists Central NJ Chapter at B'nai Tikvah meeting (stamp club) New members welcome
- Wednesday, Oct. 11th**
6- 7:30 PM Kadima meeting in the Sukkah
- Thursday, Oct. 12th**
7:00 PM Sundae in the Sukkah Program sponsored by Men's Club
- Friday, Oct. 13th**
6:30 PM Sh'mini Atzeret Shabbat Service
- Saturday, Oct. 14th**
Tot Shabbat Service
6:00 PM Mincha & Se'udah Sh'lishit
7:00 PM Simchat Torah Service
- Sunday, Oct. 15th**
9:00 AM Simchat Torah Service
- Monday, Oct. 16th**
Kadima/USY Meeting
- Tuesday, Oct. 17th**
6-7:00 PM Cooking Craze w/ the Cantorina Class
- Wednesday, Oct. 18th**
7:30 PM Sisterhood Meeting
- Friday, Oct. 20th**
6:00 PM Family Shabbat Dinner & Services
8:00 PM Birthday Shabbat
- Monday, Oct. 23rd**
7:30 PM Religious Activities Meeting (RAC)
- Tuesday, Oct. 24th**
50+ General Meeting
6 - 7:00 PM Cooking Craze w/ the Cantorina Class

OUR HAZZAN'S VOICE Cantor Bruce Rockman

Judaism . . . Comprises All Of Life

And now, having done the "hard work" you can appreciate all of your effort since last year. You were there when children were bombed and displaced in Israel. You were there when the floods swallowed New Orleans. You were there when the cupboards of the food bank were bare. You were there when your friend was ill. You were there to lend a shoulder when your neighbor grieved. You were there when the orphan had no home. You were there. Were you there in Darfur?

In writing about Derech Eretz (literally the way of the land), Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch wrote "Judaism is not a mere adjunct to life: it comprises all of life. To be a Jew is not a mere part, it is the sum total of our task in life. To be a Jew in the synagogue and the kitchen, in the field and the warehouse, in the office and the pulpit ... with the needle and the graving-tool, with the pen and the chisel — that is what it means to be a Jew.

Help me overcome every obstacle; cover all our faults with Your veil of love.....Accept my prayer as though I were supremely qualified for the task..., For You mercifully hear the prayers of Your people Israel; Praised are You who hears prayer. (from the high holiday liturgy).

We cannot try hard enough, we cannot do enough, learn enough in a lifetime to make this a perfect world. We cannot stop trying, but you can and do make a difference as we help God create a better world.

This is where I left off last month in discussing our personal connection with God.

Now, as we near the conclusion of our holiday season, we can look at the past year with a fresh perspective. Life in general and the holidays specifically, can be very challenging and on so many levels. Preparation is overwhelming, whether preparing your home for guests or preparing to be in the proper state of mind to accept the holiday's challenges. Emotionally, it is a time to assess one's self, which can be discomfoting. Everyday we are challenged. Although we may expect a pat on the back, we must remember just how blessed we are and to take to heart all of our shared blessings.

In a recent conversation prior to Rosh Hashanah, I advised an individual to use the high holiday service as a backdrop or even background music to get into the proper state of mind. What is the

proper state of mind? I told him that the service is an opportunity to assess yourself, your deeds, your accomplishments and experiences. This time is a special opportunity to examine your relationships with your family and fellow man and the world at large. It is also an opportunity to explore your relationship with God. The holidays are an opportunity to start fresh, with a clean slate, to vow improvement. I asked him, which sins do you think God forgives; the ones between individuals or the ones between you and God? I didn't wait for his answer. God forgives all sins as long as you sincerely seek forgiveness from those who you may have wronged.

One of the great attributes of Judaism is that the world will be a better place if we try, just try to live by the Torah way, by doing as many mitzvot as possible. God knows, there are so many opportunities.

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

And for a peaceful New Year

Cantor Bruce Rockman



The JCC of North & South Brunswick

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, Oct. 7 th & Oct. 14 th	9:30 AM Shabbat	6:00 PM	Mincha/Maariv
Saturday, Oct. 21 st & Oct. 28 th	9:30 AM Shabbat	5:45 PM	Mincha/Maariv

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

HAKOL

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

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

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

We recommend sending submissions and correspondence via e-mail to:

Hakol@bnaitikvah.org

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

SUBMISSION FORMATS:

Text:

Editorial submissions should be in MS-Word, AppleWorks, plain text, rich text format or typed directly into the body of an e-mail. No special fonts or graphics embedded in the text file will be guaranteed. Graphics and photos should be submitted separately, rather than inside other files or documents

Graphics & Images:

Advertisements should be submitted in one of the following formats; Quark 5.0 or earlier, Indesign CS1, PDF, EPS or TIFF, BMP or JPEG files may also be used. All text should be converted to black and white. All images should be converted to grey scale. All images submitted for scanning must be photo or photo quality images.

ORDER FORMS & FLYERS:

Submit order forms and inserts to be sent with the HaKol mailing to the editors by the 15th of the preceding month

FOR ADVERTISING INFO:

www.bnaitikvah.org/hakol.html
 HaKolAds@bnaitikvah.org
 or 732-846-8692

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Dan Greenberg

Here's an "oldie but a goodie:"

Yeshiva University decided to field a crew team. Unfortunately, they lost race after race. No matter how much they practiced – and they practiced for hours every day – they never managed to come in any better than dead last.

So, the Rosh Yeshiva finally decided to send Yankel to spy on the Harvard team. Off shleps Yankel to Cambridge where he hides in the bullrushes off the Charles River, from where he carefully watched the Harvard team as they practiced.

Yankel finally returned to Yeshiva. "I have figured out their secret," he announced.

"They have eight guys rowing and only one guy shouting."

This is one of those classic Jewish jokes that has been around forever. And if it's a classic it means like any good Jewish joke, there's some truth to it. So, let's own up to what we all know -- we Jews are indeed a vocal people. This joke suggests that we may even have acquired this attribute from our great tradition of Jewish yeshiva learning. If you walk into a yeshiva you will hear hundreds if not thousands of study partners seemingly yelling at each other. But they aren't angry. They are simply passionately pursuing the truth. And when we Jews believe in the truth of our own viewpoints, then we are going to let you know what's on our minds. Even if the truth revolves around the best way to row a boat.

Here at B'nai Tikvah we keep alive the tradition of Jews being a vocal people, and we are that much the better for it. Individuals have opinions about everything, and we wouldn't have it any other way. So if you've been a little shy about expressing yourself, it's time for you to change. Make your opinions heard by talking to any board member or officer – we absolutely want to hear them. Of course, we'd also love it if you helped row the boat, so please think about serving on a committee and help put your words into actions.

B'shalom,

Danny Greenberg

Enjoy Se'udah Sh'lishi Saturday October 14

- Daven the mincha service at 6:00 pm
- Join us for a traditional dairy light supper for Shabbat afternoon between Mincha and Ma'ariv
- Rejoice at Simchat Torah services following the meal

RSVP by Tuesday, October 10 (so we can order enough food for all attending) to;

Marci.Oslick@bnaitikvah.org

Sponsorships available for the Se'udah

Please mail your sponsorship check for \$36.00, made out to Congregation B'nai Tikvah, to the synagogue office, attention: Ritual Committee.

A MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Ruth Anne Koenick, VP Membership

Mazel Tov to:

- Bruce and Victoria Feldman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Sarah
- Ellen and Jerry Platz on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Alyssa
- Amy and Jack Tunison on the bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Ellie
- Deborah Weinstein and Robyn and Bruce Weinstein on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Matthew
- Arlene and Arthur Cederbaum on the birth and brit milah of their grandson, Roie
- Sheryl and Rabbi Kerry Olitzky on the engagement of their son Jesse.

Heartfelt condolences to the Simon family on the loss of Phil Simon

Please welcome new members, Carol and Sy Kramer:

Carol is a retired administrator who worked for the North Brunswick School District, and is currently a consultant for the Rutgers Graduate School of Education. Sy is a retired jeweler and while he designed jewelry, Carol was involved with drama at the high school and in staff development for the district. Both Sy and Carol have a strong interest in the fine and performing arts, dancing and traveling. Sy is an ardent gardener.

The Kramers joined B'nai Tikvah to "return to our roots", and it seemed the perfect fit. They spend the winter months at the Fountains Country Club in Palm Beach County. Their children live in Manhattan.

We are very happy to welcome the Kramers to our B'nai Tikvah family and look forward getting them involved in a range of activities.

Remember, the first Bikkur Cholim organizing meeting is scheduled for October 19th at 7:30. Join us to learn more about the wonderful mitzvah of visiting the sick. Get involved in something that truly makes a difference.

Contact Ruth Anne at
732.828.8141 (no voice mail)
or
membership@bnaitikvah.org
for more information.

CONGREGATION EVENTS

Members and non-members are invited to register for two great programs.

Cooking Craze with the Cantorina

Tuesday, Oct. 3rd, Cooking Craze with the Cantorina classes begin. This class is a 4 week session taught by our very own Cantorina, StaceyRockman. The class is open to 3rd- 6th graders with a parent/grandparent. Learn how to prepare tasty dishes for Shabbat, Simchat Torah and other holidays.

Yoga

For adults, try Yoga. The next 8 week- session begins Thursday, October 5th. Bring a mat and friend. Relax, de-stress, stretch out and gain a sense of well being.

Basketball

As always, men are invited to join the B'nai Tikvah Open Men's Basketball which takes place on Tuesdays from 8-10PM. Bring a friend. Non-members pay \$7 per night.

Weight Watchers

Weight Watcher meetings are now in the evening. Every Thursday at 5:30 PM is weigh-in with a meeting to follow at 6:00 PM. Now is the time to make a change for the better! Discover a new way of eating and a new life-style while receiving the support to succeed! Meetings will be held in the Beit Midrash.

For further information on these programs and other happenings, check out our website: www.bnaitikvah.org and click on Programs.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Lisa Mason, Programming Director at:
Proramming@bnaitikvah.org
or please call the office.

Dave Liebmann



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CONGREGATION EVENTS AND INFO

You Are Invited

Rabbi Michael and Annette Goldstein invite you and your family to join them at their Open Sukkah on Saturday, October 7th from 4:00 - 6:00 PM in the sukkah of Bnai Tikvah. It would be our pleasure to welcome you and your family. Of course, we will have refreshments to enjoy within the sukkah.

We look forward to seeing you there. RSVP greatly appreciated but not required
(Office@bnaitikvah.org)

Chag Sukkot Sameach - Happy Sukkot

Become Hebrew Literate in 10 Easy Steps

Are you interested in (re)learning to read Hebrew? We may offer a ten session class for adults beginning in November. Time to be determined. Let us know that you want to take part.

No previous background needed. All are welcome!

For more information contact the Office or

Rabbi Goldstein (rabbi@bnaitikvah.org)

B'NAI TIKVAH JUDAICA SHOP



open Tuesdays 4-6 pm,
Sundays 9 til noon and by
appointment (call synagogue
office for appts).

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items!



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B'nai Mitzvah



Melissa Katz
October 21
Steven & Andrea Katz



Jason Haberman
October 28
Barry & Helene Haberman

ADVERTISING IN HAKOL

Each issue of HaKol reaches over 400 Jewish households. HaKol advertising is one of the most cost-effective way to reach your local Jewish community. HaKol advertisers get free hyperlinks to their websites at www.bnaitikvah.org. HaKol is published 10 times a year, monthly except for July & August.

2006-2007 HAKOL ADVERTISING RATES

Size	Art Dimensions (w x h)	Annual Contract: 10 Issues	Single Issue
Full Page:	8" x 10.5"	\$675	\$100
Half Page:	3.75" x 10.5" 8" x 5"	\$525	\$80
Quarter Page:	3.75" x 5"	\$400	\$60
Business Card	2" x 3.5"	\$300	\$45

Contact Beth Schurman or Stephanie Welscher at:
HakolAds@bnaitikvah.org

CONGREGATION EVENTS AND INFO

From The Webmaster

INSIDE OUT

The difficulty in writing/designing user-friendly websites is that the author sees it from an "inside" view, composing page names, descriptions, and links that appear logical to the designer's way of thinking. The designer already knows where everything is, and it's easy to assume that things should be just as obvious to others.

Good websites are often those that evolve over a period of time where the design team (or webmaster) gets continuous feedback from their audience. I often try to look at our website with "fresh eyes", but the truth is I'm too close to see it from an "outside" point of view.

Our website has over 300 individual web pages, some with multiple segments. For example, the "Youth.html" page contains information about Kadima, USY, the College Committee, and the youth lounge.

If you have trouble finding what you're looking for, don't hesitate to write me. It would be most helpful for me to know what you instinctively tried from your "outside" point of view so I could apply it "inside".

Regards,

Gary Bergman
Webmaster@BnaiTikvah.org

Easy-open instructions inside box!

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, November 10th

Congregation B'nai Tikvah's first
"Theme Shabbat Dinner"

Dinner will be followed by Friday night services.

Details, including the theme, to be announced in the November HaKol.

The Chairs @ Bnaitikvah

Several years ago, I created a Yahoo email group called "CBTchairs" (alias Chairs@bnaitikvah.org) with the intention of it being used by all committee heads for the intercommunication of various plans and activities. My thinking, at the time, was to help the various arms of the synagogue avoid the problem of scheduling duplicate or conflicting events, and it was effectively used for this purpose when we were in the planning stages of the opening celebration of the new wing.

However, as with most of my ideas, it has evolved into something quite different.

It has now become a useful tool for reaching out to the "active" members of our community to meet the needs of specific committees. For example, it is now the primary vehicle for the Calendar committee to send reminders of upcoming deadlines.

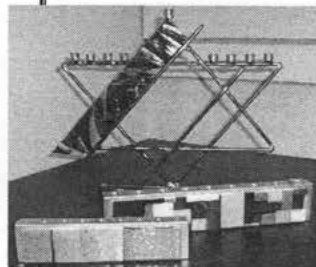
If you would like an entrée to becoming a more active participant of our community, I'd be happy to include you on this mailing list.

Regards,

Gary Bergman

I keep my sense of humor by not knowing what's going on.

B'NAI TIKVAH JUDAICA SHOP



INVITED TO
SOMEONE'S
SUKKAH?

Don't forget to select a
host gift from
B'nai Tikvah's
Judaica Shop.



THE OFFICE VOICE Nitsat Hadas Elami – Administrative Director

Although Rosh Hashanah and possibly even Yom Kippur will be behind us by the time you read this article, I would like to take this opportunity and thank all the members who made it possible.

When you arrived for services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, what you saw was the wrapping on the package. What you didn't see were all the preparations and time that went into the package to make everything look festive and for everything to run smoothly.

This year especially when our budget was limited and the amount of paid office help was reduced, we more than ever needed the help of the volunteers. In order to be ready on time, we started our preparations at the time when most of you had just started your summer vacations.

We began with all the items that are not time sensitive such as copying and cutting the tickets, preparing the High Holidays pledge cards, preparing the mailing for the Memorial Book and any other forms that can be prepared and copied in advance.

Our next step was to mail out different forms to the members of the Congregation. For example, some of these forms were the order forms for the Memorial Plaques and the Memorial Books. As the Memorial Plaque orders are received, they are faxed to the company that does the engraving. It takes 6-8 weeks for the engraving company to prepare the Memorial Plaques. For them to be ready by the High Holidays, we must fax them by a specific deadline. The Memorial Books are prepared mostly in-house. There is a lot of work involved in putting all the information together, editing it properly and proofing it.

The next stage in the preparations is setting deadlines and preparing lists for the distribution of the tickets. Envelopes were stuffed with the correct number of tickets for each family.

About 4-5 weeks prior to the Holidays we started working on the physical preparations of the building and the arrangements for the services. We contacted the North and South Brunswick Police departments regarding traffic arrangements, a personnel company regarding the people we hire to check the tickets, and ordered the special white Kippot we use on the High Holidays. I am sure that there were a few more items I forgot to mention here.

As the Holidays got closer, there was less to prepare. At this point, we made sure that everything and everyone would arrive on time, resolved unexpected problems and primarily answered a lot

of phone calls from congregants with questions regarding their tickets, guest tickets and any other issues that may arise. Since the attendance at services during the High Holidays is so high, there are many more questions than usual.

About two weeks prior to Rosh Hashanah we had a volunteer who picked up the silver adorning the Sifrei Torah to polish it. On the Sunday before Rosh Hashanah, we had volunteers coming in to clean the Ark and the Bimah and volunteers dressed up the Sifrei Torah and the Sanctuary in white.

On the Wednesday before Rosh Hashanah, we started actually setting up the chairs, stacking the High Holiday Siddurim and setting up the Baby Sitting Classrooms. We also performed the last minute system checks to ensure that everything was working properly.

We at the office couldn't possibly have had all of this ready for the Holidays without the help of numerous volunteers. We are thankful to anybody and everybody who helped!! Those who stuffed envelopes, those who cut cards, and those who helped us mail the HaKol out in the middle of all this. This year we added the task of making phone calls to invite people to the Birthday Shabbat service to the list of volunteer tasks as well.

There are also those volunteers who were here on Wednesday evening before Rosh Hashanah to set up the chairs and the books and those who were here on Sunday morning to clean the Ark, change the Torah mantles and polish the Silver. There are far too many to mention them all here by name and I am sure I would not be able to do it without slighting some folks by omitting one or two people. We at the office know who you are and appreciate your help more than you think!

Without those volunteers we couldn't have done it and we need them and others to help us with different aspects of our activities all year round. Special programs and activities such as the Craft Fair in November or even making phone calls to invite people to participate in different activities at B'nai Tikvah will not be possible without the volunteers' help.

So the next time you attend and take part in the High Holidays services, please don't take it all for granted. Please think about all that is involved in preparing for this special time and give silent thanks to the many volunteers who worked to make the High Holidays services so special for all of us.

Nitsat Hadas Elami

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORTS

Ann Kanarek, Director

Riddle: What begins at the end and ends at the beginning?

SIMCHAT TORAH

The Hebrew word Simcha means "joy". We use it throughout the Jewish life cycle â€” a Brit, Baby-naming, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, Wedding. Simchat Torah means "the joy of the Torah". The holiday reminds us that study is a privilege and a joy.

The Pharisees included the Oral Torah, or laws and customs, into the Talmud, and called it Torah. The Greeks, unfortunately, translated Torah as "law". A better translation of Torah would be "instruction, or learning". For us, Torah means all of Judaism.

Torah is more than a literary word. We look to Torah to lead us in our search for truth and meaning in life. We help expand that heritage as we innovate and add to our traditions in each generation. And we seek to do just that at B'nai Tikvah.

Simchat Torah is a relatively modern Jewish holiday. The yearly cycle of Torah reading was adopted in about the 9th century. Simchat Torah marks both an end and a beginning. During services, we finish reading from the last chapter of Deuteronomy and then immediately begin Genesis. After the Torah is read, we march in Hakafot around the Sanctuary.

Our ancestors instituted the cycle of Torah reading so that our attention would be riveted from week to week upon the moral and religious wisdom contained in the Torah and so today we have sermons. While each generation has its differing moods and demands, the appeal of Torah is that its ancient insights are for all time. Our historic responsibility to this incomparable heritage is to re-study its message, re-analyze its contents, and review its relevance and significance for our modern times. Judaism declares that the past can always teach us about the present and how to face the future.

Simchat Torah renews our connection to an ancient story that unrolls before us again and again, challenging us to live lives with honor, acts of nobility, and shared concern for every human being.

With very best wishes from my family to yours, for a healthy, happy and sweet New Year!

L'Shanah Tovah Tikateyvu,

Ann

WE HAD A GREAT BEGINNING!!

With a special excitement, our students eagerly started classes, met their teachers, received their books and settle into a new year of learning. Welcome back everyone and very best wishes for a successful academic year.

Many of our new and returning families attended the annual Parent Reception and classroom orientation. The teachers appreciated meeting you and thank you for your support and encouragement.

SHALOM UV'RACHA....

Greetings and Blessings to our New Students:

Bradley Allen, Tatum Altman, Jenna Cohen, Marley Cohen, Alexandra Cospito, Jacob Field, Shaina Field, Ariel Gluck, Gabi Gluck, Ari Goldstein, Sara Hudes, Samuel Jiorle, Elaina Koenigsberg, Adam Nass, Nicole Osofsky, Aaron Ostroff, Joshua Rosenberg, Zachary Segalewitz, Devin Tanner.

NEW TEACHERS

This Fall, we are delighted to welcome four new teachers to our staff:

Gabe Homa, Ariele Parness, Danielle Rosenzweig, Barak Routhenstein, and new school assistant, Terez Slim.

We are also happy to welcome back all of our other fine staff members: Caren Abschutz, Perelle Bernstein, Melissa Burnett, Phyllis Edley, Gina Giuffre, Marlo Hirshon, Keren Kapoano, Linda Katz, Sara Lewis, Michele Sherman, Carol Winter.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

Sunday, October 8:

No Religious School, Sukkot

Sunday, October 15:

No Religious School, Simchat Torah
Special Services

Sunday, October 31:

No Religious School, Staff Development Day.

Sunday, November 5 - Sunday, November 12:

No Religious School, NJEA Convention

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NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

PHYLLIS DENENBERG, DIRECTOR

I would like to introduce my staff for the 2006-2007 school year. They all wear many hats at school and I would like to thank them for a great new beginning.... Below are their primary positions:

Rosalind Fischman		Secretary
Ina Horn	Pre-K	Head Teacher
Maria Lesko	Pre -K	Assistant
Stacy Lewkowitz	Pre -K	Assistant
Carol Winter	3A	Head Teacher
Brenda Sherman	3A	Assistant
Heather Gable	3A	Assistant
Natalie Einhorn	Pre-k, 3A	Assistant
Lori Noah	3B& 2's	Teacher
Allison Schecter	3B	Assistant
Amy Cohen	2's	Assistant
Amy Smith	Toddler Fun club	Teacher
Brenda Osofsky	Toddler Fun Club	Assistant
Amy Smith	Mom & Tots	Teacher
Amy Smith	Mom & Tykes	Teacher
Sara Alter	Dance	Teacher

What a wonderful first month! We have such an amazing group of yiladeem (children in Hebrew) this year. Everyone acclimated almost immediately. We have over 60 children enrolled! We still have openings in our Mommy & Me programs including Yoga.

We would like to thank the staff of Cedar Grove Dental of Somerset for coming in to start off our Teeth Brushing Program. We learned the proper way to brush and boy did we brush!!! We then saw a video. We would also like to thank them for their "goody bags".

Kudos to the Seidman Family for their donation of games.

Our first PAC (Parent Action Committee) took place on September 20th. Jill Glassman and Marla Radice have again graciously took on the chair positions. Fundraising has already begun. We have dairy mini pastries to taste and order. We are also selling Kidstuff books.

Starting in October, we are having Gymnastics by Fun 'N Fitness once a month. This is in addition to our already successful programs of Israeli dance, Yoga and Soccer.

The 3's and pre-k went on a trip to Terhune Farms in Princeton. We took an hour tour teaching us all about apples. We then went apple picking. The yiladeem took the apples home to be able to dip the apple in the honey to have a Sweet New Year! We also dipped apples in honey in school.

On behalf of myself and my staff, we would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

Phyllis G. Denenberg, Director

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dmasoncrc@hotmail.com

BOXTOPS4EDUCATION! EVERY ONE CAN HELP!

OUR SCHOOL'S GOAL FOR THIS YEAR IS \$500. EVERY BOX TOP YOU SEND IN ADDS TO YOUR CHILD'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. DEADLINE FOR FALL BOX TOPS IS OCTOBER 22. MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Check the website: www.boxtops4education.com for interesting details, news and \$\$ off coupons.

Companies and Products you too can collect easily to help the school are; General Mills cereals, Pillsbury and Yoplait products, Betty Crocker and Old El Paso, Fruit Roll-Ups, Ziploc, Viva, Scott and Cottonelle.

CLIP THOSE BOX TOP COUPONS
AND DROP THEM OFF IN
THE SCHOOL OFFICE OR THE MAIN OFFICE.

Contact Ann Kanarek or Deborah Spigner.

B'NAI TIKVAH YOUTH

KADIMA

Hey Kadimanicks!!

We had an AWESOME kick-off event, the enthusiasm is incredible!! Let's keep that enthusiasm going for October!

October's events will be:

Pizza in the Hut

Wednesday, October 11th
6-7:30pm @ B'nai Tikvah's Sukkah

Free for members, \$5 for non-members.
Rain or shine.

Come make your own personal pizza, bob for apples, and do the mitzvah of eating in the Sukkah!!

RSVP to Rachel, kadima@bnaitikvah.org or 973-886-2813 by 10/7.

KADIMA OPENING EVENT

SWIM and GYM

Sunday October 29th
2:00 -5:00 At the Edison JCC \$10

Meet at 1:30, at B'nai Tikvah, to take a bus ride to the event, we'll return around 5:30.

***You MUST have a permission slip filled out to attend this program.

You MUST be a paid member to attend.***

RSVP to Rachel, kadima@bnaitikvah.org or 973-886-2813 by 10/23.

We will be doing a really interesting and meaningful Tzedakah project on Wednesday, November 1st from 6 to 9pm, with the "Feed the Children" organization in New Brunswick. Parents will be invited to join us, so please tell our parents to keep the date available.

If you have any program ideas, friends that would like to be involved or concerns, please share them with me.

Shana tovah!!

Rachel Sakofs, Kadima Advisor
kadima@bnaitikvah.org

Cub Scout Pack 18

Looking for New Members

We need Cubs and Adult Leaders!

E-mail Steve Katz at

steve.katz@bnaitikvah.org

Learn more at <http://www.joincubscouting.org/>

U.S.Y.

Hey Guys!

Our year got kicked off to a great start on Sunday, September 10th when we got together for an Ice Cream Social. There were a lot of new faces and returning ones as well. We continued with the fun when we went to Stop & Shop to collect food for SA/TO.

Coming up, you will all get a chance to win some awesome prizes on Jackpot Bingo Night, October 26th. Maybe you'll see some of your friends from other chapters!

We are looking for new faces to join a new committee. Its time to rewrite the N/S Brunswick USY Constitution. To help out and be a part of this chapters future email Audra at usy@bnaitikvah.org by the end of the month.

Also, we are looking to print new chapter t-shirts and we need your ideas. If you have a creative slogan email Audra at usy@bnaitikvah.org by October 24th. The slogans will be voted on by the chapter at the October 26th meeting.

Jodi Eisenberg
Communications VP

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B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Adult Education Schedule

Mark your calendars
with these important dates . . .

October 25: Wednesday, 8:00pm

"West of Hester Street" film tells the story of the turn-of-the-century immigrant relocation to Texas. By coincidence, the Rabbi's family was one of those sent to Galveston, and he will speak about that experience and its impact on later generations

October 29: Sunday, 8:00am

Trip to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. This guided-tour is limited to only 25 members, and a new flyer/sign-up sheet was sent out. Should more sign up than can be accommodated, a second trip can be arranged. Each person who wishes to go will be contacted by phone with further details.

For more information contact
Mae Rubenstein - (732) 398-0099 or
Jerry Shulman - (732) 297-3319.

November 15: Wednesday, 8:00pm

A prominent guest speaker will address the "Declining Jewish Population" and its implications for future generations.

December 5: Tuesday, 8:00pm

Discussion on "Coping with Christmas." This discussion will be coordinated with the New Beginnings Group.

December 20: Wednesday, 8:00pm

Expert Lou Mitchell will discuss new drug developments and the "Future of Health Care."

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50plus

Meeting; October 24th, 1 PM

The Fifty Plus Group will meet on Tuesday, October 24, at 1p.m. in the Social Hall of the Synagogue. Due to the cancellation of our September meeting, we are pleased to offer the presentation by our member, Gerald Gitlitz, an artist in stained glass work..

As usual, all are invited to join us for the program and refreshments. Membership is open to all Congregation members over the age of 50, as well as their Jewish friends who are not B'nai Tikvah members. Dues are still only \$15.00 per year.

Please consider your support of our group as an important part of our Congregation.

For further information please call;

Doris at 609-860-1498 or
Annette at 732-297-3562.

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B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

SISTERHOOD

SISTERHOOD UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, October 9 – (after 7:30 minyon)
Sisterhood Board meeting.

Tuesday, October 10 – 7:30 pm Panel Discussion on Breast Cancer. Guest panelists include physicians, attorney and cancer survivor. This program is co-sponsored by Sisterhood with National Council of Jewish Women.

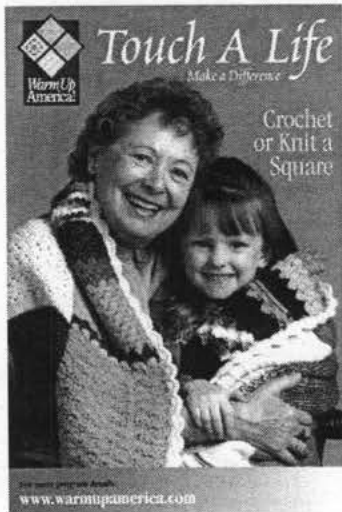
See the NCJW flyer in this issue of HaKol.

Wednesday, October 18 (after 7:30 minyon)
Join Sisterhood for our general monthly Sisterhood meeting for Jewish Life Cycle Greeting Card Making. Indulge your creative side with this craft evening. Assemble Jewish life cycle greeting cards (such as new baby, B'nai Mitzvah, birthday, etc.) with guest artist Melissa Fisch.

There is no fee, supplies provided. However, please RSVP via email to Phyllis Safer (Phyllis.Safer@Bnaitikvah.org) by October 10th to ensure we have enough supplies and refreshments for all who wish to attend.

Social Action Focus Item for October 18: New underwear or socks for men, women or children to be donated to the Clothesline Bus. Additionally, we will have some extra greeting cards available so you can write a personal note to an Israeli soldier as part of our ongoing social action activities.

Wednesday, November 1 (after 7:30 minyon)
Warm Up America. Assemble afghans for local charities. Obtain free afghan kits to knit or crochet a 9-inch square. Bring 9-inch squares to the event on November 1. Those who do not knit or crochet can sew together squares as part of Warm-Up America.



Contact Bobbi Binder or Deb Spigner (Judaica Shop) for kits.

Social Action Focus Item:
Kosher for Thanksgiving food items.

SISTERHOOD SOCIAL ACTION

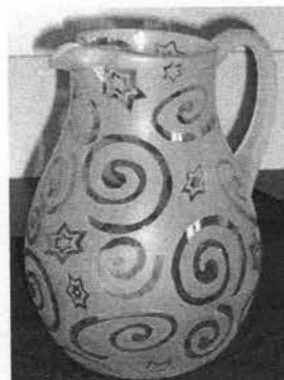
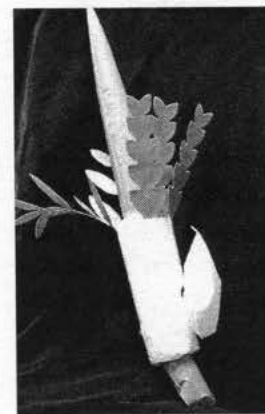
Sisterhood is proud to inform that it has helped to provide Israeli Soldiers with snack foods to keep their spirits up. We also sent greeting cards with messages of support and encouragement to the Israeli Soldiers.

B'NAI TIKVAH JUDAICA SHOP

open Tuesdays 4-6 pm, Sundays 9 til noon
and by appointment
(call synagogue office for appts).



"Blow Up" Lulav and Etrog sets on sale in the Judaica shop ONLY \$7.25.
Absolutely adorable!
Tots can learn about the wonderful holiday of Sukkot while having fun with this lovely toy



**Come see
this year's
newest items!**

B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

MEN'S CLUB

SUKKOT AND ICE CREAM
 MEN'S CLUB WILL BE SPONSORING A
 DESSERT IN THE SUKKAH PROGRAM
 Thursday evening – October 12, 2006 7:00 The
 entire family is invited The minyan that evening
 is at 7:30 The sukkah will also be available after
 minyan. No charge.....a quick and easy way for
 families to get together..

Among the flavors that we are considering are:

Wailing Walnut	Moishmellow
Mazel Toffee	Chazalnut
Oy Ge-mait	Mi Ka-Mocha
Soda and Gamorra	Bernard Malamint
Berry P'ri Hagafan	Choc-Eilat Cup
And...Simchas T'Oreo	

All of these flavors will be served in a Cohen
 (Thanks to FMJC's Eric Weiss for coming up
 with this list of flavors.....)

See you on the 12th.....
 Ed Birch & Steve Katz



The Rabbi received his B'nai Tikvah t-shirt



September 10, 2006 was the "Meet the New Rabbi" meeting, sponsored by the Men's Club.

Mens Club Softball 2006

We recently completed our 3rd season and are having a wonderful time. We are one of twenty one teams playing in the Greater Middlesex Jewish Federation Softball League.

The league has three divisions. A (Six Teams. Very Competitive), B (Seven Teams, Competitive), C (Eight Teams, Not as Competitive). The top two teams move up a division and the bottom two teams move down a division at the end of the 14 game season to keep parity in the league.

We have the league limit of 20 players on our team, all are members of B'nai Tikvah Mens Club. Being in the C league, though we'd like to win all the games, we focus more on having fun. Everyone fields, everyone hits. We've developed a nice system where all 20 people will play as often as they like and can play whichever positions they like. We also move the batting order around so people have the same average number of at bats. We finished this past season just missing the playoffs. Last season we finished in 3rd place. If you would like to see some game pictures, please go to

<http://www.bnaitikvah.org/softball.html>

Mark Kirsch



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B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

SOCIAL ACTION

Ongoing Social Action Activities

Food of the Month:

Canned goods. With the beginning of the holiday season upon us, the area food banks will be in urgent need of donations. Please contribute frequently.

Among our annual seasonal projects are the Needy Family Program for the Holidays and the Passover Food Drive. These are excellent opportunities for families to share in doing a mitzvah together.

We also will continue our visits to nursing homes and senior living centers where we entertain and interact with the residents. Adults and children at least 8 years old are invited to join us.

We are looking forward to a productive year by helping one another within the synagogue family and also reaching out to the rest of the community. With everyone's cooperation and support, we will have a successful year.

If you have any questions or suggestions, or if you would like to be part of the committee, please contact any of the following members: Janice Baer, Andrea Katz, Linda Kohn, Ellyn Schneider, Jenni Shapiro, or Amy Smith.

Mitzvah Projects

Melissa Katz will be collecting the pull tabs from soda and juice cans. They will be given to the Ronald McDonald House charities.

To help please place the tabs in Ronald McDonald House "Houses" placed around the Synagogue and the Hebrew School.

Cell phones with chargers are now being collected by Adam Dickert as his mitzvah project.

Mitzvah Crib:

The Mitzvah crib has had used items, items for older children, and simply inappropriate items in it in recent months. It is for new infant items only, such as diapers, wipes, bottles, toys and clothing. Please consider those less fortunate on your next supermarket trip and pick up a baby item on sale. These items will be distributed to needy families in the area.

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

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

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

How can you help?


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

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

Janice.Baer @Bnaitikvah.org or
call Janice at 732-940-0268

PLEASE RESPOND BY NOVEMBER 5th

Social Action Committee



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So many people say,
**"I wish I knew you needed help...
 let me know next time, I would love to lend a hand!"**

LEND A HAND, DECORATE FOR A HOLIDAY, GREET AT AN EVENT,
 HELP STUFF THE HAKOL, SHOP FOR A PROGRAM, HELP CLEAN-UP,
 ATTEND A SHIVA MINYAN, PARTNER WITH A NEW FAMILY...

Are all actions you can take to help at B'nai Tikvah.

Be a

MITZVAH

M. E. N. T. S. C. H.
 Member Enthusiastically Nurturing The Synagogue Community Here
 AT B'NAI TIKVAH

Keep a look out for e-mails and announcements and your
 "Call to Action" Card on the High Holidays asking for your help.
 Fill it out and Respond!

- Perfect for Teenagers who need Community Service Hours.
 - Best way to do something meaningful as a family together!
 - Great for B'nai Mitzvah Projects.

It's easy. Do what you can, when you can.

Questions? E-mail Activities@Bnaitikvah.org

CRAFTS FAIR/VENDORS MARKET

at B'nai Tikvah, Sunday, November 19th 9am - 3pm

Raffles - Food - FREE Admission

CRAFTERS AND VENDORS: beaded and silver jewelry, handbags, pet items, skin care, personalized gifts, handknitted scarves and shawls, ceramics and pottery, kids crafts, handmade belts, bookmarks, tapestry bags, artwork, costume jewelry, gourmet foods, and MORE

Sponsored by Michael's Craft Store of North Brunswick
 coming with give-aways and a "Make and Take" for Kids!

E-mail Activities@BnaiTikvah.org

Room for more vendors!



PASS IT ON!



B'NAI TIKVAH COMMUNITY

Supermarket Scrip Committee

'Fall' for Supermarket Scrip!

Yes, it is fall, autumn, October which means frost on the pumpkins, chill in the air, leaves changing colors. What other visions come to mind when you hear October? For me, it's time to pack away my summer wardrobe and haul out the sweaters and warmer clothes. (Not my favorite things to wear!) Baseball season winds down to the World Series, hopefully with my favorite team. (I'm a Jersey girl who loves pin stripes...hint, hint) Football games dominate television, radio and the sports pages. (Go R.U.!)



Food is often associated with autumn activities; such as, but not limited to hot cocoa (with marshmallows or whipped cream), pizza, pretzels, chips, hot dogs, soda, cider, Pepto Bismol (oh boy!). Where could you or do you purchase these food and non-food related items? How about A&P, Acme, Pathmark, Shop Rite and Stop & Shop? Next, how will you pay for your order? Will it be by cash, check, credit card or supermarket scrip? The smarter shopper in you should say: "I'm no dummy; supermarket scrip, of course!" If you'd prefer one of the other 3 payment methods, then you are in luck. The supermarket scrip committee will gladly accept your cash, check and/or credit card (please check which specific ones first). When you buy supermarket scrip, Congregation B'nai Tikvah (CBT) benefits with retaining 5% of the sale. So next time you want to fill your shopping cart at one of the above listed stores, bring along sufficient amount of scrip to pay for your purchase.

Finally, how can you purchase supermarket scrip? One of the following four ways is best:

1. Visit the supermarket scrip table during Sunday religious school hours,
2. Contact CBT's office during business hours,
3. Shop on-line at bnaitikvah.org, or
4. Telephone one of the following three people:

Bobby Bergman: (732) 246-7285
for Monroe residents

Ann Rosenzweig: (732) 249-9141
for North and East Brunswick residents

Rachel Shaneson: (732) 329-2189
for South Brunswick, Princeton or other area residents

(NOTE: update to September Hakol article - the supermarket scrip committee wishes to apologize for misleading our fellow congregants regarding the year end total of scrip sales. It was reported that from August 2005 - July 2006 that \$171,000 worth of scrip was sold. We made a slight miscalculation. Instead of the published figure, it should have read \$174,000! This translates to \$8700 for CBT. For this upcoming fiscal year (August 2006 - July 2007) can anyone say \$200,000? Bring in Jerry Lewis!

Have a warm and delightful month.

Linda Feinstein

RETAIL SCRIP

AVAILABLE IN JUDAICA SHOP!



We have •Home Depot, •Barnes & Noble, •CVS, •Bed Bath & Beyond, •Old Navy, •Gap, and a few more (most \$25 denominations)!

Home Depot is great for any Fall work you'd like to do around the house,

Old Navy and Gap will thrill your children,

Bed Bath shopping is a must for most of us at

least once a month and

Barnes & Noble (\$10 and \$25 cards) makes a great gift to have on hand for any time of the year – you can also use the card to buy a latte!

Think ahead, buy retail scrip and make your life a little easier!

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

A wise man once said;

"If you don't like the way something is, you can either complain about it or put your effort into changing it".

No, it wasn't Rambam, or Rashi, it was Joseph Giuffre, my father.

Our synagogue is certainly going through some big changes now. But change does not have to be bad or scary. Change can be positive, and productive. Change brings hope, and with hope and some hard work we can prepare for a better future.

Over the past eight years of my membership I've noticed that we seem be divided and separated from one and other. Each focus group seems to work independently. We are not cohesive or as successful as we can be. But now is the time for this to change. We need each other more than ever now.

It's time for us to realize that no matter where we put our energy; Sisterhood, Men's Club, Hebrew School, Scrip Committee, etc., we all have the same goal. We are one community, one synagogue, one people.

I joined the Youth Advisory Committee (which assists our Kadima and USY chapters). With the guidance of

Mike Brown, Dot Cohen, and of course Hadas, I helped to run our first fund raiser, Israeli honey. I must extend a tremendous "todah rabah" to Phil Welsher, Gary Bergman for their expertise, to Debra Spigner of the Sisterhood for agreeing to carry the honey products all year round, and to Ann Kanarek, for allowing us to sell the products during her Open House for Hebrew School.

I was touched by their eagerness to support our cause. It was beautiful. This is the way it should be. We have to be able to rely on each other in order for a better future to be realized. We have some very dedicated members who desparately try to make a difference. Please help them. Help each other.

Now is the time, and B'nai Tikvah is the place.

B'shalom,

Gina Giuffre Gerstein

Please send comments and reactions to these articles to

HaKol@bnaitikvah.org

Please put the word "Comment" in the subject line.

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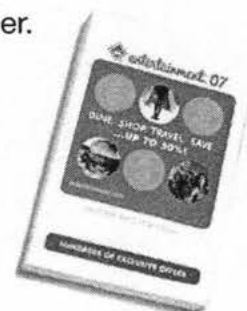
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Buy an Out-of Town Book For Your Next Vacation.



CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

The following article was submitted to HaKol by Bette Koffler and is reprinted here with the permission of Lili Fabilli Osborne.

Do you remember Eric Hoffer?

He was a longshoreman who turned into a philosopher, wrote columns for newspapers and some books. Eric Hoffer was a non-Jewish American social philosopher. He was born in 1902 and died in 1983, after writing nine books and winning the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His first book, *The True Believer*, published in 1951, was widely recognized as a classic.

This is one of his articles from 1968 (38 years ago).

ISRAEL'S PECULIAR POSITION

by Eric Hoffer (*LA Times* 5/26/68)

The Jews are a peculiar people: Things permitted to other nations are forbidden to the Jews. Other nations drive out thousands, even millions of people and there is no refugee problem. Russia did it, Poland and Czechoslovakia did it, Turkey threw out a million Greeks, and Algeria a million Frenchman. Indonesia threw out heaven knows how many Chinese—and no one says a word about refugees.

But in the case of Israel the displaced Arabs have become eternal refugees. Everyone insists that Israel must take back every single Arab. Arnold Toynbee calls the displacement of the Arabs an atrocity greater than any committed by the Nazis. Other nations when victorious on the battlefield dictate peace terms. But when Israel is victorious it must sue for peace. Everyone expects the Jews to be the only real Christians in this world. Other nations when they are defeated survive and recover but should Israel be defeated it would be destroyed. Had Nasser triumphed last June [1967] he would have wiped Israel off the map, and no one would have lifted a finger to save the Jews. No commitment to the Jews by any government, including our own, is worth the paper it is written on.

There is a cry of outrage all over the world when people die in Vietnam or when two Blacks are executed in Rhodesia. But when Hitler slaughtered Jews no one remonstrated with him. The Swedes, who are ready to break off diplomatic relations with America because of what we do in Vietnam, did not let out a peep when Hitler was slaughtering Jews. They sent Hitler choice iron ore, and ball bearings, and serviced his troop trains to Norway. The Jews are alone in the world. If Israel survives, it will be solely because of Jewish efforts and Jewish resources. Yet at this moment Israel is our only reliable and unconditional ally. We can rely more on Israel than Israel can rely on us. And one has only to imagine what would have happened last summer [1967] had the Arabs and their Russian backers won the war to realize how vital the survival of Israel is to America and the West in general. I have a premonition that will not leave me; as it goes with Israel so will it go with all of us.

Should Israel perish the holocaust will be upon us.

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"This article was submitted to HaKol by Elliot Danto, originally appeared in the NJ Jewish News, and appears here with its permission."

Where's the love?

Jews 'do' justice, holiness, forgiveness.

So how about the most basic of human emotions?

by Vanessa L. Ochs

*Ida and Nathan Kolodiz Director of Jewish Studies
at the University of Virginia.*

Special to NJ Jewish News

It was Bishop Krister Stendal who illuminated the blessings of interfaith conversations with the concept of "Holy Envy." The idea was to articulate what we admired about other faiths.

Here is what I envy: the feeling I get when I go to church.

I go to church more often than most observant Jews. In part, I'm there because I teach students to be ethnographers of religious experience. Obviously, to write about how people live out their faiths, you have to do fieldwork.

However genuine the explanation, it's really just a cover story. I'm there because the experience I have in church never happens to me in synagogue. In church — and it's usually the African-American Pentecostal Holiness church I go to, but sometimes it's the First Baptist by the train station — I sit among people who believe that God really loves them. Not love like an abstract concept. Not love like a complicated kabalistic formulation. Love, like your mother hugging you, not because you were righteous, upstanding, and perfect, but simply because. Maybe you deserved a pat on the tuches, too, but bottom line, God noticed you and cared.

I may smirk when my Christian friends thank God for helping them find a parking space, thinking that a too-frite request for divine intervention. I may shake my head when I hear that my football-playing student gets down on his knees, in the middle of the field, and points upward, thanking God for the touchdown. But I am also envious, too: How come they get to believe that their God cares so much about what they need and do? This is a post-Holocaust sentiment, and hardly mine alone, but the last time I imagined God heard my entreaties and believed God could make radical interventions, I was a child.

I go back to church, again and again. At my two favorite churches the mature ladies, dressed to the nines and wearing big hats, have tissues tucked into their sleeves. On hot Virginia Sundays, they carry those cardboard fans that look like ping-pong paddles. This is good, because I get all weepy at church. I understate here: In truth, I tremble and cry, like it's catharsis time in the ancient Greek theater in Epidaurus — and the ladies are quick to pass me tissues or fan me down. By this time, people are standing on their feet and they are singing and clapping and dancing with their arms, and letting loose. (No, if you're wondering, I don't sing along.)

At synagogue, if you shukl a lot (unless it's one of those shuls where shukln is de rigueur) or if you get excited by your prayers (unless you're in Renewal-land), your enthusiasm would put people off. To cope, they'd pretend you weren't there.

Excepting weddings, funerals, and a healing service I once went to led by Debbie Friedman, I am never moved to cry in synagogue. I am so busy saying all the words of the prayers and noticing all the

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

Where's the love? continued from previous page . . .

people I care about that it never strikes me that I have blown an opportunity to feel I am loved by God.

But it's not my absorption in praying and caring alone that keeps me from feeling that God cares about me. As Jews, we tend to be obsessed with upholding lofty standards. It doesn't dawn on us that in our natural state, we could be worthy of God's love. This could explain why we are so self-critical and ambitious — useful traits to have if you're going to be a brilliant artist or scientist. Maybe it keeps us edgy and resilient, propelling us to do the next mitzva and to repair the world.

God's love is in our prayer book: "Ahavat olam bet Yisrael, amcha ahavta — With everlasting love, you love the House of Israel," and we call God, "Ohave amo Yisrael — the one who loves your people Israel." But this is corporate love: God loves our whole team and cheers us on. Looking between the words, I suppose I could discern God's loving me, but I don't feel it in my bones.

At the end of church, when I am plotting how I can get out quickly and avoid the coffee reception, lest I give the impression that I can be recruited, I am also thinking about which of my Jewish friends from synagogue might want to come to church with me next time. There is so much for us to learn. Beyond experiencing the love feeling — and wouldn't that for many replace the need for therapy? — there is the feeling of being noticed. If you are new, you are asked to stand up and say your name. Right then and there, one of the church elders walks up to you and gives you a packet with information about the church and the names of people you can call for just about anything. You get a tape of a spirited sermon, or maybe it's some church music you can play if you're homebound. (At church, they care about the people who can't be there — if you're sick or too old or incarcerated, the whole service is videotaped and played on local cable TV.) All the attention for newcomers at church can make a person shy, but isn't it preferable to going to synagogue as a visitor and being ignored?

When I take Jewish friends on a "church date" and go out for coffee after for a "postmortem," we decide that there is one part of our Jewish service that does enliven strong feeling. It's when the ark is open, the Torah is taken out, and we rise. I know I jump out of my seat and stand at attention. My body remembers being small enough to be held aloft in my grandfather's arms so that I can plant a good kiss-pat-kiss on the passing Torah. He'd tell me this was how Jews showed respect, but being a theologically astute toddler, I knew he was signaling that God's presence, in the scroll, was most emphatic. On days I read from Torah, my voice gets trembly because of the weightiness of the deed and the honor. As I descend back to my seat, my shul-mates bless me. They kiss and touch me like I was an after-tracing of the Torah scroll procession, as if the strength and honor I had accrued might rub off on them.

This is surely feeling, but alas, it's still not love, the personal kind. It's a feeling of love of tradition, amazement in its endurance; delight in being a vessel for its continuance.

As I dash out of church, I always pause to look back and register a feeling that Jews do well, and in a snap: call it *naches*, call it *kvelling*. We may have forgotten how to feel God's love, but it was out of our Jewish midst — our God, our holy text, our sacred practices — that the aspects of Christian worship I admire arose. Evoking Merle Feld's poem, "Standing Again at Sinai," if we once knew the feeling and could risk its intensity, maybe we could discover it again.

This article submitted to HaKol by Alan Kane and was printed with permission from the Jewish Virtual Library

Israeli Gains in the Hezbollah War

Both Israel and Hezbollah declared victory following the war in July-August 2006. It is too early to assess the full impact of the war, however, as the outcome will depend on what happens in the coming months as we see whether, for example, UN Security Council Resolution 1701 is fully implemented, whether Hezbollah is able to rearm, and whether the Lebanese people ultimately embrace Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah as a hero or a villain.

The conventional first impression was that Hezbollah won the war by surviving and demonstrating that it had the will and the capability to fight Israel to a standoff. But the emerging "big picture" suggests Hezbollah was seriously damaged both physically and politically and that while Israel did not achieve the decisive victory many expected, it did improve its strategic position.

While initially making bold claims about Hizballah's achievements, the postwar reality forced Nasrallah to publicly admit that kidnapping the Israeli soldiers and provoking a war was an error in judgment. He said that he would not have authorized the operation if he had known the extent of the catastrophe that it would cause.

Although Israel could not prevent the launching of missiles, it did severely degrade Hezbollah capabilities. The majority of the long-range missiles and a partial stock of Hizballah's Katyusha rockets were destroyed.

Hezbollah no longer controls southern Lebanon and it is the Lebanese army that now patrols the frontier. Though obligated to do this under UN Security Council Resolution 1559, the Lebanese government had shown neither the will nor the ability to deploy its forces prior to the war.

The new international military force being deployed to assist the Lebanese army represents a dramatic upgrade of UNIFIL forces, which previously had neither the capability nor the mandate to monitor the border and enforce UN resolutions. Though it remains to be seen if the international force will use its authority to prevent Hezbollah from rearming or resuming attacks, the participating countries have indicated a willingness to do so.

Now that Israel no longer faces a hostile terrorist army on its border, its citizens in the north are safer.

Another positive outcome of the war was to further weaken Syrian influence in the country, which was partly exercised through Hezbollah. It also reduced Syria's ability to threaten Israel indirectly through its Lebanese proxy.

To the extent Hezbollah is viewed as having lost the war, it also represents a defeat for Iran, which armed, financed and trained its terrorist army.

Many in the Lebanese Parliament and government are requesting an investigation into the circumstances that led to the war, which they are pursuing because of their anger over Hizballah's actions and the widespread perception the war was a disaster for Lebanon

Hezbollah has also suffered a serious setback in its principal goal of establishing an Iranian-style radical Islamic theocracy in Lebanon. Opposition to the radical Shiites has strengthened the

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

Hezbollah War continued from previous page . . .

commitment of other communities to support democracy.

Though unlikely in the short-term, the reduction of Syrian and radical Islamic influence in Lebanon creates a possibility that otherwise did not exist for peace between the governments of Israel and Lebanon .

Hizballah's actions were openly criticized by several Arab states and were supported only by the Palestinians, Syrians and Iranians. Hezbollah also received unprecedented criticism from the Arab press. For example, Saudi columnist Muhammad Al-Seif wrote in the Saudi daily Al-Iqtisadiyya: "The war currently being waged in Lebanon has shown that many of our Arab intellectuals have a serious problem [in defining] the criteria for victory and defeat. Some of them are still convinced that Hezbollah, despite its losses, has brought a humiliating defeat upon Israel and has shattered the myth of Israel as an invincible state. The problem repeats itself, in the exact same form, in every war fought by the Arabs. The criterion for victory is [as follows]: As long as the emblem, or the heroic commander, still lives, [the outcome is pronounced to be] a victory – regardless of the consequences of the war for the peoples [in terms of damage to] property and loss of lives and capabilities....I do not think that Hezbollah gained any victory at all."

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8 16 Tishrei Sukkot No Religious School	9 17 Tishrei Sundae in the Sukkah Sponsor: Sisterhood	10 18 Tishrei Sundae in the Sukkah Sponsor: New Beginnings Cooking Craze Israel Philatelists Men's Basketball	11 19 Tishrei Kadima Meeting	12 20 Tishrei Sundae in the Sukkah Sponsor: Men's Club	13 21 Tishrei Hoshanah Rabah	14 22 Tishrei Shmini Atzeret Yizkor
15 23 Tishrei Simchat Torah	16 24 Tishrei Kadima/USY Meeting	17 25 Tishrei Men's Basketball Cooking Craze	18 26 Tishrei Sisterhood Meeting	19 27 Tishrei Weight Watchers Yoga	20 28 Tishrei Family Shabbat Dinner & Services Birthday Shabbat	21 29 Tishrei Beresheet
22 30 Tishrei	23 1 Cheshvan RAC Meeting	24 2 Cheshvan Men's Basketball 50+ General Meeting Cooking Craze	25 3 Cheshvan Adult Ed West of Hester Street Program	26 4 Cheshvan Weight Watchers Yoga B'nei Mitzvah Class Mtg USY Meeting	27 5 Cheshvan	28 6 Cheshvan Noach
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