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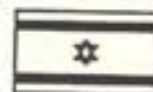
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the word

JANUARY 1991
Volume 12 Number 3

TEVET-SHEVAT
5751

Congregation B'nai Tikvah



5751
The Year of Mitzvot

Affiliated with the United Synagogue



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President's Message

As we enter the new year of 5751, we can look back over the past year and be proud of our accomplishments as a congregation. The transformation of B'nai Tikvah into an active Jewish Community Center, as well as a synagogue, is taking root and we can see the fruits of our labors. There is activity in our building all hours of the day and night from Hebrew school to Seniors' programs to Young couples clubs to youth groups to members studying the Torah. The new school wing that was added only two years ago is already too small for our students and the seating in our sanctuary is too small to accommodate our Shabbat services.

And as we look outside our community, we see the same activity and transformation worldwide. With the new found religious freedom in Europe and the exodus of Jews to Israel, there is an ever increasing demand being placed on Synagogues.

Here at B'nai Tikvah, we have met the challenges placed before us in providing a focal point for Jewish tradition, learning and family values. These are the cornerstones of Judaism and are needed today more than ever.

This year, we try to continue that growth as a Jewish Community Center. And that that can only be done with your help. In that way, we can enrich the lives of all our members, as well as ourselves.

Gary Tinkel, President

Religious School

During the month of February we have many important school events taking place. We hope you will participate in all the events for your child's class as well as those that are school wide.

On Friday, February 22, we will have our school-wide Shabbat. Each student will bring home Shabbat candles during the week before February 22. We hope that each and every family will take this opportunity to light the Shabbat candles and eat a Shabbat meal together. After dinner, please join us for services in our synagogue.

During this service, we will honor our dedicated teaching staff who not only teach your children during class time, but also give much of their personal time by coming in early and staying later than the time required; preparing classroom work at home; gathering materials; consulting with each other and myself; calling parents when necessary; attending workshops; discussing concerns over students or materials and giving their all to make our school excellent.

Teaching in our Religious School is more than just a job to our staff. Jewish education and our students' development is of utmost importance to each and every one of our teachers. They are dedicated, caring, professionals who deserve to be honored by us.

Please show your support and appreciation for our school and staff by attending our school-wide Shabbat and Teacher Recognition Service on February 22.

We look forward to honoring our teachers together with you.

Shalom.

Randy E. Solomon, Educational Director

Catering Committee Report

To avoid any misunderstandings that may have arisen based upon our contract with the caterer, the following is a brief synopsis of temple members' rights under the contract.

If you are having a brit, baby naming ceremony, kiddish, oneg, or similar simcha at the temple and want to cater the simcha by yourself with a light fare, other than coffee and cake, you must first contact the temple office and ascertain if the date is available, then you must contact the caterer and tell him the number of people you are having and the type of food you will be serving which gives the caterer an opportunity to meet your price. (This does not give you the privilege of using an outside caterer.) If the caterer doesn't want to cater the affair for your price, you may bring in your own food, provided it meets the Rabbi's kashruth requirements. The food cannot be on prepared platters. The food must be brought in in bulk and can then be put on plates in the temple; however, you have the opportunity to hire help for serving the food. Unless yours is a temple wide simcha, you cannot use the caterer's tables or chairs but must use the temple's two long tables and folding chairs and must

place the runners under the tables. You must also pay a \$75.00 clean up fee and are responsible for any damage done by you or your guests.

If you have any questions, please call Irwin Millinger at 297-6477.

Sponsor an Oneg or Kiddush

Have a simcha coming up? Maybe, God has been good to you. How about celebrating your family's health and prosperity with the congregation by sponsoring an Oneg or a Kiddish for one hundred dollars.

Call Barbara or Neil Wyman at 821-5729 for details.

Services

Friday Evening 8:00 P.M.
Saturday 9:30 A.M.
Junior Congregation..... 10:30 A.M.
Thursday..... 7:00 A.M.

Friday Candle Lighting Times (NYC)

February 1 4:53
February 8 5:02
February 15 5:10
February 22 5:19

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Fifty Plus

For our February 26 meeting we will enjoy a Mini Lunch at Noon and a Chinese Auction. Bring in any gift item you would like to donate to this fun auction; we will need as many donations as possible to make this a success. Remember the last Fun Auction we all enjoyed? Well, this will be equally enjoyable.

Two tickets for Sparky and the Fitz for Thursday, February 14, matinee at 11:00 A.M. are available. Eli Wallach and Anne Jackson star in this delightful play.

Our program for March 26 at 1:00 P.M. will be on "Medicare Peer Review." This program is vitally important when one is in the hospital and patient questions arise.

Sisterhood

Tired of Winter? Spring ahead and join us for our second annual Fashion Show, catered by Classical Caterers, at the synagogue on Wed., May 15 at 6:30 P.M. Last year's, attended by one hundred women, was a great success.

Look for more information in next month's Hakol. If you have any questions, call Lisa Seidman at 297-6950.

Hard Times

The current recession has hit some members of our congregation very hard. Many members are out of work and are unable to stay current in dues and school payments.

While this situation is, God willing, only a temporary one, we are still left in a financial bind. You would do a great service to the congregation if you would prepay your dues obligations for the remaining two quarters of the year.

The Rebbe's Tish

Is a Tzedaka Project of Congregation B'nai Tikvah to collect Kosher food for Jews and all in need.

One can or box per family per month.

Bring it in the first week of the month.

About Us

Israel How about this startling headline: "Jewish Wasps in Space"? Investigation discloses that this is not about converts on high. The story is about Project ISIAH (Israel Space Agency Investigation About Hornets). The Oriental hornet, which builds its comb in the direction of the gravitational vector, will be launched into Earth orbit in a micro-gravity experiment via one of NASA's space shuttle canisters. Hopefully, this will shed some light on the effects of gravity on humans, as well as insects.

Egypt A recent haul of stolen treasures has yielded an unexpectedly unique item — an 800-year old Talmudic scroll written on an 18-foot gazelle skin. This scroll also deals with the origins of the Jewish community in ancient Egypt.

United States As Jewish baby-boomers are aging, many are returning to orthodox roots after rejecting other lifestyles, as evidenced most dramatically by the explosion in sales of kosher foods. In 1990, 20,000 different kosher foods were available, contrasted with only 1,000 in 1977. So what do we call Jewish yuppies who have become "frum"? "Fruppies", what else?

Egypt The Egyptian Interior Ministry has refused to provide information to Israeli investigators about the family of Rabbi Meir Kahane's assassin. The family resides in Port Said, Egypt. If you believe this is because the crime took place in the United States, not Israel, you might want to know that according to *Dateline: World Jewry*, published by the World Jewish Congress, Egypt also refused an Israeli request to share information pertaining to the ambush of an Israeli tourist bus.

Israel Nineteen-ninety saw an influx of 200,000 Soviet Jews, Ethiopians and other immigrants to Eretz-Israel. According to our own Princeton Packet, the average aid extended to each Soviet family was \$11,000. Obviously, Israel needs our generous help to arrange this massive resettlement.

Argentina In Mar del Plata, in the province of Buenos Aires, a joint religious service to pray for an end to hatred and for respect and justice for all mankind — to "Pray for Peace" — was held during this time of conflict in the Middle East. The participants in the joint service were members of the Jewish and Arab communities.

Brooklyn Among the irritated complainants of the late and unlamented recent U.S. census count were the Hasidic Jews of Brooklyn who say tens of thousands of their children will not be counted because the form lists only up to seven dependents; many Hassidic families boast more.

Portugal We-might-ask-why-now department. After almost five hundred years, the remaining descendants of approximately 80,000 Jews forced to convert to Catholicism during the Inquisition are slowly coming into the open. Until recently, the marrano families of Belmonte, Portugal were holding secret services in private homes, mixing Jewish and Christian traditions. Now, members of this community plan to build a synagogue and revert to the faith of their forefathers.

L'hitroaf,
Mili Rosloff

Nursery School

Chanukah Celebration

Without a doubt, the highlight of December was Chanukah. The smell of latkes frying in the hot oil permeated the hall. A Chanukah luncheon of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches was enthusiastically consumed by the young set. Outstanding entertainment was provided by Bonabini the clown. A card and gift wrapping paper were made in school as a Chanukah gift for parents. Each child received a dreidel and small gifts from the school and chocolate gelt from Jewish Federation. Chanukah songs were sung, games were played, and the story of Chanukah was dramatically presented. The afternoon pre-kindergarten class enjoyed entertaining the 50-plus club at their Chanukah party with songs and dances.

Fall Fundraising

We completed our Fall fundraising campaign and the two top Stick-ees sellers will receive four tickets each to Middlesex County College Children's theater for a Sunday performance. Other sellers received a variety of prizes.

Registration

We will begin our nursery school registration for the September 91-June 92 school year in February. If you are interested, please call the school office at 297-0295 to have your name put on our mailing list. B'nai Tikvah members have a priority if registered on time.

Out of the Mouths of Babes...

Jesse was asked what his family's favorite activity was, and he replied, "My family likes to play together and kiss, but I hate the kissing part!"

Seth wanted to know why we say chicken pox and not turkey pox.

According to Rebecca, her brother's new name is "Trouble" because he is beginning to get into so much trouble.

When the pre-kindergarteners were asked what the best thing about Chanukah is, their answers included: "opening presents", "lighting the menorah", "eating Chanukah cookies", "eating special foods like potato latkes", getting Ninja Turtle Game Boy, "daddy gave me a bubble necklace and a pen and mommy gave me a book", "hiding the presents — mommy hid them", mommy gave me presents and costumes".

No surprise — presents won by a landslide!

Joan Shames, Director

JTS

Jewish Theological Seminary

Editors Note: The JTS has asked us to include information about the Seminary in our Hakol. We trust you will find these news items interesting and informative.

American Scholars Bring Jewish Studies to Soviets The Moscow State Institute of History and Archives will sponsor a program in Jewish studies in cooperation with the JTS and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. This program will begin in the Fall of 1991.

First Soviet-born Rabbi Travels Home to Teach Judaism Leonid Feldman, the first Soviet-born Conservative Rabbi, made a three week visit to his hometown of Kishinev this summer; he left home an atheist fourteen years ago and returned as a Rabbi and emissary of the Conservative movement. The trip also served as a honeymoon for the Rabbi and his wife, Melissa.

Crown Fellowships Fund the Movement's Future This year four students received the Seminary's prestigious Crown Fellowship. The award includes tuition and a generous stipend. Crown Fellowships allow students of excep-

tional academic and professional promise to study full-time during their first two years at the Seminary.

Inter-faith "Quest for Spirituality" Held by Louis Finkelstein Institute Catholic, Jewish, Orthodox, and Protestant Scholars will gather at the JTS for the first program of the 1990-91 Louis Finkelsrtein Institute for Religious and Social Studies. This program will meet for eight Tuesday mornings starting October 30. Its purpose is to explore the challenges and opportunities that confront the clergy and religious institutions as they seek to foster spirituality in our urban society. Mr. Irving M. Levine will assume the Directorship of the Institute beginning October 1.

Brit Kodesh Conference Hosted for Second Year Doctors from around the world attended the second annual Brit Kodesh Conference. The conference focused on texts, ritual training, and discussion for Jewish Doctors interested in performing the Brit Milah (circumcision). All attendees had to meet strict requirements including observance of dietary laws, ongoing Talmud Torah study and commitment to the binding nature of Halakhah according to the standards of the Conservative movement.

Donations

Prayer Books

- Richard and Lisa Seidman in honor of the birth of Walter and Suse Rosenstock's Granddaughter.
- Jodi and Mark Schneidman and Leslie and Dan Carey in memory of Elsie Friedman.
- Richard and Lisa Seidman in memory of Elsie Friedman.
- Richard and Francine Waldman in memory of Elsie Friedman.
- Walter and Suse Rosenstock in memory of David Dillman.
- Walter and Suse Rosenstock in memory of Herman Weiss.
- Walter and Suse Rosenstock in memory of Leo Runyon.
- Walter and Suse Rosenstock in honor of the 50th anniversary of Dave and Millie Kutiroff.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Ellen Weber
- Lynn and Meyer Sapoff
- Kenneth and Susan Myers in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Kirsten Luther
- Neil and Elizabeth Kurtz in memory of Elsie Friedman
- Stephen and Bette Koffler in memory of Irving Krigsman
- Gil and Ellen DeMarras in honor of the Engagement of Jeff Kramer to Kim Marriott

Library Fund

- Michael and Janet Weiss in Honor of their son Jonathan's Bar Mitzvah
- Jeffrey and Ellen Marcus in honor of the Pidyon Haben of their son

Reisberg Memorial Fund

- David and Myrna Kurtzman in memory of Stephen and Jenny Reisberg
- Martin and Ellen Kurtzman in memory of Stephen and Jenny Reisberg

Good and Welfare

Congratulations to

- Suse and Walter Rosenstock on the birth of their granddaughter
- Bruce and Nan Kessler on the birth of their son Evan
- Wayne and Shari Wooger on the birth of their daughter Sarah

Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvot

- Adam Marks
- Robert Weinstein
- Stephanie Smith

To send a card, call:

Ellie Fried 297-6831
or
Bette Stark 297-4398

Social Action Committee

On Wednesday, January 2, 1991, the Social Action Committee met to allocate this year's "Pushka" funds to various charities. The meeting was open to the entire congregation to provide a forum for suggestions for new agencies or worthwhile causes. Typically, the Pushka funds are divided between local and non-local organizations, for Jewish and non-Jewish needs, with a focus on agencies that provide food, clothing and shelter.

This year's allocations are as follows:

Local

Elijah's Promise (Soup Kitchen).....	\$250
North Brunswick Meals on Wheels.....	\$100
South Brunswick Food Pantry	\$100
Jewish Family Services (Southern Middlesex).....	\$500
"Our" Russian Jewish Family.....	\$1000

Non-local

Mazon (Sponsors various kinds of hunger relief programs)	\$500
Yad Lekashish (Sheltered Workshop for the Elderly in Jerusalem)	\$100
American Jewish World Service (Sponsors health care, agricultural, and disaster relief programs in developing countries).....	\$300
Righteous Gentiles (Provides Assistance to needy righteous gentiles who helped Jews during the Holocaust).....	\$100

Total \$3000

All of the agencies that will be receiving funds, and all of those that were suggested provide important and valuable services at either the local, national or world level. Please contribute generously to this year's Pushka drive, so that we can continue our support for these many worthwhile organizations.

PURIM

We celebrate the festival of Purim on the 14th of Adar (and during leap year in the second month of Adar) in memory of the deliverance of the Jews of the Persian Empire from extermination. The story of the event is reported in the Book of Esther, and only there, so that there may actually be some doubt of its historicity. Nevertheless, the contents of this book of the Bible gave courage and hope to the Jews of the Diaspora throughout the centuries.

The most important part of celebrating Purim is the reading of the specially prepared and handwritten parchment scroll. This ceremony takes place both on the preceding night and on the day of Purim itself.

The name Purim derives from the plot (pur) that Haman, chief Minister of Ahasuerus (Xerxes I, 485-465 B.C.E.), cast to determine the day on which he would, with the King's permission, annihilate all the Jews in Persia. He cast this lot during the month of Nisan, but settled on Adar 14, thereby gaining ample time to send his letters of command to the farthest outposts of the Empire. The origin of his hatred of the Jews, or perhaps the last straw, lay on the refusal of Mordechai to bow down to him. Mordechai, the uncle of Esther, the King's wife, heard of Haman's plans and asked his niece to intercede with the

King. When Esther hesitated at first, Mordechai sent her a message that is as timely and appropriate today as it was 2500 years ago, "Do not think you will escape in the King's house more than all the Jews." Esther realized the fact of her inescapable bond with all Jews and, by making the King aware of Haman's plans, averted the disaster and turned it into a victory of the Jews over their oppressors.

There are four mitzvot prescribed for Purim: the reading of the Megillah; festivity and rejoicing; the mutual sending of gifts; gifts to the poor.

Reading the Megillah Both men and women are required to read (or hear read) the Megillah at night and then repeated the next day. This should be done in the synagogue rather than in one's home, even though one has many persons there. This is to ensure that the miracle is made known more widely.

Festivity and Rejoicing One must have a sumptuous meal, including meat and wine. The miracle of Purim occurred through wine: Vashti was removed from her throne because of a wine-feast and Esther replaced her; Esther held the wine-feast which resulted in Haman's downfall. We therefore try to fulfill the obligation of drinking on Purim until we no longer know the difference between "cursed is Haman" and "blessed is Mordechai."

Mishloach Manot (the sending of mutual gifts) We are obligated to send a gift which consists of at least 2 portions

(only food or beverages) to a friend. Both men and women are required to fulfill this mitzvah, and even a poor person is required to do so. Sending of gifts is usually done through a messenger rather than personally. Gifts are sent on Purim to acknowledge that it was by the merit of his fellow Jew, and not by his own merit, that the Jew was saved in times of danger.

Mantanot la evyonim (gifts for the needy) Although one is obligated to eat more fully on Purim than usual, one must not do this at the expense of helping the poor. We are obligated to first help the poor with appropriate gifts and eat less ourselves, if necessary.

Book of Esther Of the twenty-four books of the Hebrew Bible, the five shortest works are commonly referred to as the five Megillot (scrolls), the best known being the Megillah Esther. All five books: Esther; Ruth; Kohelet; Shir Hashirim; Ay-chah, The Book of Lamentation, are traditionally connected with commemorative occasions in the Jewish year, and each has a distinctive character and literary style, representing different aspects of Judaism, and recalling different varieties of Jewish experience. The scroll of Esther, read on Purim, is universally known as The Megillah; it is the only one still read in synagogue from a parchment scroll. During the reading, the congregation interrupts at every mention of Haman's name, stamping their feet or waving their "graggers". In Deuteronomy 25:19

we are commanded to "erase the name of Amalek," enemy of Israel, from whom Haman was supposed to be descended. There has scarcely been a period in Jewish history when the Purim story has not been reenacted, and yet another Haman or another scheme devised against the Jews. The Scroll of Esther exemplifies the eternal miracle of Jewish survival.

Excerpted from the North Shore Jewish Center Bulletin, March, 1982

NEW NEIGHBORS?

If you have neighbors new to the community, please let us know who they are so that we can welcome them properly. We all need a sense of community, especially in these troubling times.

Israeli Bonds

The State of Israel has agreed to accept any unmatured 4% Bonds purchased during the period 1976 through 1977, which are due to mature in 1991 and 1992, under their advanced reinvestment program provided additional funds are added to purchase a new bond of a higher denomination.

The bonds may be used to purchase Seventh Development Issue Bonds, the Individual Variable Rate Issue Bonds as well as State of Israel \$250 certificates.

Additional information and investment forms can be obtained by calling the Israel Bond office at (201) 828-0200.

Gift Shop

Our Chanukah season was a success due to everyone who took time out and made an effort to stop by and shop at our Gift Shop.

We are now starting to stock up for the coming holiday of Passover which will include an assortment of seder plates, matzo holders and covers, haggadahs, children's books, gift items, and much more.

Watch for our flyer in the mail for the hours and days we will be open.

We are here to serve your needs. For questions and special appointments call Joyce 937-5114 or Blanche 297-0272.



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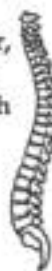
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(908) 821-8304

... a note about our photography coverage ...

Our goal is to provide fine photography and pleasant memories of your very special day. We plan your photography sessions as to allow you, as well as your family and guests to enjoy the affair. Pre-wedding ceremony photographs are scheduled to allow a **complete** but **relaxed** session.

Bar Mitzvah portraits are also planned in a similar manner keeping all religious aspects in mind.

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Counselor at Law

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Rabbi Andrew Warmflash
Cantor Dov Goldberg

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Jack Mailman, Vice President (297-6474)
Jeff Schwartz, Vice President (297-6365)
Sheila Hordon, Vice President (297-9023)
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February 1991

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						2
Men's Club 9:30-1:00 P.M. Social Hall Shabbat Kiddush Room 9:00-12:30 P.M.	Board meeting 8:00 P.M.				1	Junior Cong. 10:15-12:15 P.M. Rm 203
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Religious School Library 10:15-12:15 P.M.			Sabbath Morning Social Hall 6:30 - 10:30 P.M.		Shabbat	Shabbat Solomon Schachter Matzah Mafka
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Exec. Board Meeting				Jun. Cong. Rm. 203 10:15-12:15 P.M. Men's Club Bowling U.S.Y. Stud-in
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
U.S.Y. Stud-in Relig. School Library 10:30-12:15 P.M. Christian/Hebrew Dialog	50+ Meeting Social Hall Noon-3:00 P.M.		Magila Reading Young Child 7:00 P.M. AGAs 8:15 P.M.		Religious School Class Service & Teach. Recog. 8:30 P.M. U.S.Y. Stud-in	
24	25	26	27	28		