



hakol

the voice



DECEMBER, 1992

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A MESSAGE FROM RABBI WARMFLASH

"What did you kids get for Christmas?" A smiling saleswoman asked my children in late December a few years ago. They just stared at her. She repeated the question and they told her: "Nothing, we didn't get anything." She shook her head in disbelief. How could parents be so heartless?

December is a hard month for Jewish children. Most people, kids especially, want to be like everyone else. December is a reminder that, fundamentally, we are not. We are outsiders. Like Scrooge, we are unwilling and unable to share in the pervasive "Christmas Spirit."

Small wonder, some Jewish parents try to compensate with Hanukkah bushes and dreidel socks hung on the mantle. Others are more subtle. They simply over-emphasize Hanukkah, showering their kids beneath an eight day avalanche of presents.

Attempts to make Hanukkah into a sort of super Jewish Christmas are bound to backfire. Children are quick to recognize inauthenticity. In the long run, they are liable to ask: "Why should I settle for an imitation Christmas? Why not just convert and enjoy the real thing?"

Moreover, such a blending of traditions violates the spirit of Hanukkah. The Maccabees fought against Greeks and Jews who sought to Hellenize Judaism, to assimilate into Greek culture at the expense of basic beliefs. The miracle of Hanukkah was that they did not succeed. Despite overwhelming pressure to conform to a pervasive, enticing majority culture; our ancestors stubbornly insisted on maintaining their own holidays, customs and traditions.

I remain convinced that the best way to compensate for the almost inevitable feelings of alienation experienced by Jewish children during the "Christmas Season" is not to overemphasize a minor festival like Hanukkah. It is, rather, to provide a rich diet of Jewish experiences in every season. Experiences which will serve as an enduring source of enjoyment and pride throughout the year. Children who bake Hamantashen and dress in costume for Purim;

-- continued

Photography
by

- *Weddings*
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Bruce Gaynor

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**... a note about our
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All our photography includes full coverage of your special day. A generous presentation of previews will follow for your selection of your favorite photographs for your albums.

Rabbi's Message (cont.)

search for the chumatz by candlelight and bargain for the afikomen on Passover; build, decorate and eat in a Sukkah on Sukkot; and dance with the Torah on Simchat Torah aren't very likely to be jealous of a little tinsel in December.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The High Holidays are over. I wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

Attendance at all High Holiday services from Selichot to Simchas Torah was at record levels. Response to my high holiday appeal was also a record -- thank you. (The person who had a medical emergency at the end of my appeal recovered fully.)

Aaron Rosloff's Israel Bond appeal also set record highs. Again, thank you.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to the following individuals for their help in making these high holiday services some of the smoothest running services in our congregation's history:

Elliot Danto and the entire Ritual Committee for their planning, set up, and constant attention to every detail.

Board of Trustees for ushering amidst their davening.

Gordon Heit and his committee for running the baby sitting and Torah for Tots programs.

Barry Safeer for Junior Congregation, and last but certainly not least Cantor Goldberg and Rabbi Warmflash. Yasher Koach!

Our Hebrew School enrollment is at record levels and general membership is also higher.

While it is always fun to report good news, our record levels are causing us to need some help.

I would like to see more of you at services -- weekdays and Shabbat! Also, to provide the services and programs we all want and need, we need more of our congregants to become actively involved in our programs and events.

B'nai Tikvah is not a closed club! We want and need your active participation! Without it we will not be able to continue the programs we have, nor expand into new areas which we all want.

It is easy to make excuses -- I work, I'm tired, I'm busy -- stop being a Jewish couch potato! Get involved, you'll like it.

Call me at 940-0596, I'll put you to work. If I'm not home leave a message and I'll call you back.

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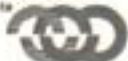
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RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

Shalom Chaverim. Our school is running very smoothly. I'd like to thank both teachers and parents for your cooperation and for enabling the school to work so nicely.

Our Fall Holidays were fun and educational. We had learning stations, we tasted hearts of palm and pomegranates, we shook the lulav and etrog and we went into the Sukkah. The Hey class built their own Sukkah and led their own Hakafah on Simchat Torah.

In November, we had our Bet Class meeting "together" with their parents for a very exciting morning. In our kindergarten class, we would appreciate it if the parents would not drop their children off without making sure that the teacher is there. Thank you for your cooperation.

By now, the children who were born in 1977, 78 and 79 should have received our new "Chai School" brochure. We look forward to seeing many of those children registering for the program.

L'Hitraot
Vickie Amron

NURSERY SCHOOL NOTES

December is the month when the pace of activity reaches its peak. The smell of potato latkes frying in oil permeated the air. We are sure that the highlight of the month was our Chanukah party with entertainer, "Bonabini, The Clown." A gourmet lunch of

peanut butter & jelly sandwiches was served. The children participated in a grab bag exchange and also received a dreidel and a small gift from the school. The story of brave Judah Maccabee and the miracle of the oil was told several times, and songs about Chanukah were sung. Gifts and cards were made by the children for their parents.

We were delighted with the enthusiastic response to "Back-to-School Night" last month. Our guest speaker was Carol Sakofsky, an instructor of Basic Life Support at St. Peter's Hospital and a member of the North Brunswick Rescue Squad. She demonstrated the Heimlich technique and spoke about the foods that can cause choking.

We will begin our nursery school registration for the 1992-93 school year soon. If interested, please make sure that we have your name on our list to receive an application on time. The nursery school office number is 297-0295.

OUT-OF-THE-MOUTHS OF BABES:

Eric came to school one day very proud of his outfit. He said to the teacher: "Do you like my pants & shirt? These are my cool dude clothes!"

Joan Shames
Director

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

Junior Congregation has been going well. Upcoming dates are November 21, December 5, December 19 and January 16. Daled I will be leading services on December 5 and

Daled II will be leading services on December 19.

Our first luncheon to honor our students will be held on December 5. We will be honoring our Aleph and Bet students. All students who attend Jr. Congregation that morning are invited to stay for lunch.

Junior Congregation is held in the library from 10:15 am to 12:15 pm on the above dates. Parents are welcome to attend with their children.

Parents, Grandparents and Friends have the opportunity to sponsor a Junior Congregation Kiddush if they wish for \$20.00. This gives the sponsor an opportunity to celebrate their child's birthday, a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, grandparent's anniversary or anything else. The sponsor's name and reason for sponsorship will be read from both the main pulpit and the Jr. Congregation pulpit on that Shabbat which the kiddush is sponsored. Please call Barry Safeer (422-8543 before 9 pm please) or the Synagogue Office for more information.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE YOUTH

Our hayride on October 17 was a great success. We had people from three other chapters there. We had a hayride and then sat around a bonfire and kept warm while ghost stories were told. Last month we also tie dyed everything from our shirts to our socks and various things in between.

On November 2, we had our ever popular Waffles, Wet Paint and Whip Cream night. The winning

finger paints are on display outside the youth lounge. On November 19, we will be playing human bingo.

Coming up on Monday, December 7 at 7:30 pm, there will be a self defense lesson at the synagogue and on Monday December 21 there will be a USY Hanukkah part. Finally, on January 22-24, USY will hold their annual shul-in at the synagogue.

USY is a great experience! If you're in high school why don't you come down and try us out! There's no obligation. Call Stacey at 297-6916 or Jessica at 297-4169 or the Synagogue Office for more information.

****FUND RAISING--CARD SHOW****

A new fund raising activity this year is the Card and Collectors Show, scheduled for Sunday, March 28th. At this time, we are still in the planning stage. One of the decisions made has been not to use an outside promoter, but rather do the work ourselves. This will include lining up the dealers, advertising etc.

Any congregant who knows any dealers, or can help us on the day of the show (working the door, selling hot dogs and soda etc.) or, has an uncle who has a friend whose sister's neighbor's newspaper delivery boy knows the second cousin of a former professional player who may be willing to sign autographs, please call Alan Berger (908) 297-1387, or the synagogue office.



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The Hebrew language is read from right to left. That is why you fill the Hanukkah menorah with candles from right to left. The candles should be lit, however, from left to right so that you are always lighting the newest candle first.

******* FUND RAISING -- TUPPERWARE*******

The Tupperware Fund Raiser got off to a great start! Those that attended the "kick off" party at the synagogue on October 15th had a great time. Lots of prizes and products were won by all.

We will be accepting orders on an on-going basis, so please keep passing the catalogs around and gathering orders. Any orders placed by December 8th will be received in time for Chanukah delivery. A new catalog will be available December 18th with a whole new product line that will carry us through the Spring.

Anyone interested in having a Tupperware Party or placing an order should call Laurie Holmes at (908) 821-7418. The synagogue receives 20% of the sales from each order. If you need more supplies or have any questions, please call Laurie TODAY!! Thanks for your continued support.

FIFTY PLUS GROUP

We will start 1993 with two theatre parties and some pertinent, informative meetings. As a result of attending a conference on health care at JFK Hospital, sponsored by Mayor James E. McGreevy of Woodbridge, a few speakers will present a varied program on health care issues in the beginning of the year.

On Sunday, March 21st at 2:30 pm and Wednesday, March 24th at 2:30 pm our Group will be attending the Forum Theatre to see the show "Minnie's Boys" which is based on the Marx Brothers. The Sunday and Wednesday ticket prices are \$18.00 and \$17.00 respectively.

On Thursday, April 8th at 11:00 am and Sunday, April 25th at 2:00 pm our Group will be attending the George Street Playhouse to see the show "Foxfire". The Thursday and Sunday ticket prices are \$15.00 and \$19.00 respectively. Don't wait to make your reservation as many seats have been sold at the time we called to reserve group seats. Also, the George Street Playhouse does not state that you have to be a senior to attend at the Group Price.

Did you make a note on your calendar to attend our December 22nd Chanukah celebration? Please call now! All inquiries and reservations will be answered by a call to Ann Cherson at (908) 297-3575.

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The B'nai Tikvah Men's Club

On October 4, 1992 the men's club of congregation B'nai Tikvah held a very successful kick-off meeting. More than twenty members attended. In the past virtually all adult male temple members were men's club members; this is our 1992-3 goal.

We elected **Mark Roller** President, **Dave Kutliroff** as Programming Vice President, **Hank Koenig** as Vice President for Special Events, **Joe Grodman** as Treasurer, **Rich Diatlo** as Secretary and Vice President for Publicity, and **Norman Politziner & Jerry Edley** as Membership Vice Presidents

Our second meeting on November 15 was a great success with Dave Kutliroff giving us a : **A Personal View of India**. In November we also revived the traditional Men's Club gift giving to B'nai Mitzvah. We will be presenting Kiddish cups to all B'nai Mitzvah. If you will be attending a B'nai Mitzvah or Shabbat morning services and would like to make the presentation please let any officer or the office know.

We chose monthly dates for subsequent meetings; 10am with bagels & lox. On **December 6**, we will be have presentations on **Tax Strategies** from an accountant, and a tax attorney. There will be a short presentations followed by panel of questions and answers. This may be your last chance to learn how to minimize your 1992 and 1993 taxes. At that meeting we will also review suggestions for future events scheduled for, **January 17, February 14, March 14, April 18, May 9 (this is tentative since it is Mother's Day), and June 6. Put these dates on your calender!!**

Initial suggestions for programs are • Travel agent • An Atlantic City Gambler • Sports Person • Crypto Jews • Investment and estate planning • State Prosecutor's Office on Kashrut and Bias laws • The Rabbi's Talk on the Jewish View of Sexuality • Karate Exhibition • CPR training, general first aid • Barbershop Quartet • Physical Fitness • **Mother's day brunch** .

Membership in the Men's Club is \$18 (Chai). You can join by sending the tearsheet below to Joe Grodman, 9 Harper Road, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852 or coming to the 11/15 meeting.

Other events we can consider include: A theater party at George Street or the Forum Theater • a December 24, trip to Atlantic City • A Father and Child Trip to a Sports Event (on the table is a Nets vs. Knicks game on February 28, 1993) • Spring picnic • Participation sports - basketball, racquetball, our favorite softball - we have been the Men's club league champs for the past two years, etc. • and anything you can think of.

LET'S SEE YOU AT THE December 6 MEETING. Bring a friend!

TO JOIN SEND \$18 TO: JOE GRODMAN, 9 HARPER ROAD MONMOUTH JUNCTION, NJ 08852

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Please make out the checks to: Men's Club, Congregation B'nai Tikvah

YASHE

MAZEL TOV & YASHE KOACH TO:

Brian Rolland on his Bar Mitzvah.

Payam Nili on his Bar Mitzvah.

Brenna Tinkel on her Bat Mitzvah.

Joel & Madeline Kates on the arrival of Emily.

Aaron & Linda Jay on the birth of their son, Zachery Samuel.

Howard & Carole Kalish in honor of their daughter Stacey's engagement.

Randy & Beverly Kansky in honor of the birth of their son, Eric Nathan.

Lynn & Meyer Sapoff on the marriage of their daughter Michelle Lee Graer

Bruce & Adrienne Rogove on the birth of their son Michael Aryeh.

Nancy & David Shultz on the birth of their daughter Jessica Michelle.

DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND

Paul Wyckoff

Alan & Barbara Starsky

Bruce & Adrienne Rogove in honor of the birth of their son Michael Aryeh.

YARZEIT FUND

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Dorothy Shapiro in memory of Sadie & Edward Shapiro, Hyman Shapiro, Florence Abbott and Nathan & Roz Brown.

Bernard & Abbey Lorber in memory of Rose Lorber.

LIBRARY FUND

Burt & Vicki Bauman in honor of Adam Grossman's Bar Mitzvah.

YOUTH FUND

Phyllis, Jerry, Abby & Scott Edley in memory of Irwin Auerbach.

Mark & Gigi Cohen in memory of Israel Glassman.

PRAYERBOOK FUND

Gale Dillman in honor of Elliott Danto & The Minyon participants.

Neal, Daniel & Amanda Dillman in loving memory of Aunt Susan.

Gale & Marc Dillman in loving memory of Susan Warshaw.

Bernard & Ruth Adler in honor of Rebecca Binder.

Donald & Len Feiman.

CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Tuesday	1	8:00 pm	Synagogue Board Meeting
Friday	4	4:11 pm 8:00 pm	Shabbat Candle Lighting Time Shabbat Services
Saturday	5	9:30 am 10:15 - 12:15	Shabbat Services Bar Mitzvah of Brett Lubins Junior Congregation
Sunday	6	10:00 am	Jewish Parenting Workshop Men's club breakfast
Tuesday	8	1:00 pm 7:30 - 9:00 pm	Fifty Plus (off premises) KADIMA Meeting - Youth Lounge
Friday	11	4:11 pm 8:00 pm	Shabbat Candle Lighting Time Shabbat Services
Saturday	12	9:30 am	Shabbat Services Bat Mitzvah of Jill Piekarski
Sunday	13	10:00 am	Sisterhood Meeting (social hall)
Friday	18	4:12 pm 8:00 pm	Shabbat Candle Lighting Time Shabbat Services
Saturday	19	9:30 am 10:15 - 12:15	Bar Mitzvah of Justin Kahn Junior Congregation
Sunday	20	5:30 pm	Synagogue Hanukkah Party
Tuesday	22	1:00 pm 7:30 - 9:00 pm	Fifty Plus (Library) KADIMA Meeting - Youth Lounge
Friday	25	4:16 pm 8:00 pm	Shabbat Candle Lighting Time Shabbat Services
Saturday	26	9:30 am	Shabbat Services

WHAT IS HANUKKAH?
(A Personal Exploration)

It started with the murder of one Jew. A single man. Historically speaking, this is not so unusual. Doesn't someone have to be the first to die in a war?

The sadness (and perhaps part of the Rabbinical ambivalence about the holiday) is that the Jew was killed, not by the Greeks, but by another Jew. Mattithias, a priest so enraged at another Jew's attempt to comply with Antiochus's decree by sacrificing a pig to Greek gods, that he essentially sacrifices his fellow Jew.

"What is Hanukkah?" It is a question posed by the Rabbis in the Gemara (Tractate Shabbat 21b).

Should the festival be considered by the Talmudic interpretation, which barely mentions the military endeavor and focuses on the oil and the miracle of its sustenance? Or rather should we look at the historical accounts in The First and Second Books of the Maccabees, where the story is the battle, and there is no mention of the oil, just the war and final victory.

In the Maccabees account, Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days because it is modeled after the major holiday of Sukkot, which the Maccabees were unable to observe (since they were fugitives in the mountains of Judea).

This military interpretation, while not quite as spiritual as the miracle of the oil version, may have greater implications

for Jews in the 20th Century.

Today, as a people, we grow further and further apart in philosophy. The divisions between the various sects (Hasidic, Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, etc.) often seems cavernous. Telling some Orthodox Jews (even some Conservatives) that women, for example, must count as minyon and should be allowed to be Rabbis may alone be cause for a Holy war. And some might even consider it to be a righteous war. (Not unlike the battle that is currently raging between the Church of England and the Vatican.)

But back to Hanukkah. We can consider the two (or more) versions of Hanukkah, and interpret all we want. But perhaps a better objective for us at Hanukkah, would be to examine our personal relationship within the greater Jewish community, rather than looking for ways to create a "Jewish Christmas." Judah the Maccabee, celebrated the 25th of Kislev because he was kept from observing the more important festival of Sukkot. Historically, Jews have fought to observe their religion regardless of their secular surroundings. Remembering Hanukkah and its history, helps to bind all Jews together regardless of their Halachic practices. Recreating a Christian holiday separates us even further from the Jewish community, and more importantly, from God.

-- Giji Cohen



Hanukkah

According to one legend, one of the first things the Maccabees did after they relit the Menorah and cleaned up the Temple was to make new coins for the Jewish people. This may be how the tradition of giving gelt, or money, on Hanukkah was started.

Gelt Holder



You need:

a plastic dish-detergent bottle, strong scissors, construction paper, rick-rack or yarn, glue

What to do:

1. Wash and dry the bottle. Cut out the bottom, as shown. (Soaking the bottle in warm water first will make this easier.)
2. Glue rick-rack or yarn around the edges. Cut Hanukkah shapes from construction paper and glue them to the plastic.
3. Give the holder as a gift, or keep it for yourself to hold your own Hanukkah gelt!



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Graduate Division. Edie received her real estate license in 1984 and achieved her Broker's License in 1989. Edie has also been certified to teach the pre-licensure course for real estates sales associates and brokers. Edie resides in North Brunswick with her husband Stan and two daughters, Tami and Mindy.

She is a member of Congregation B'nei Tikvah in North Brunswick and is the Past President of its Sisterhood.

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If currently listed, please disregard this notice

The dreidel has played an important part in Jewish history. There have been times when Jews were not allowed to practice their religion or study the Torah. They had to do these things in secret. Students would gather to study the religion but would keep a dreidel handy so they could pretend to be playing if soldiers came by.

Dough Dreidel



What you need:

dough (1/2 cup flour, 1/4 cup salt, 1/4 cup water), a mixing bowl, food coloring, a cookie sheet, a marker

What to do:

1. Mix the flour, salt, and water together to make the dough. Add a few drops of food coloring. Knead the mixture well until it is smooth. If it is too dry, add more water. Be careful not to make it too soft, however, or it will not hold its shape.

2. Roll the dough into a ball. (First tear off a small piece to save for a handle.) Shape the ball into a cube by flattening the sides. Then shape the bottom into a point.

3. Make a small knob out of the extra piece of dough you saved and attach it to the top for the handle. Use water to make it stick.

4. Put your dreidel on the cookie sheet and have an adult help you bake it in the oven at 300 degrees for 30 minutes. After it cools, use a marker to write the Hebrew letters *Nun*, *Gimel*, *Hay*, and *Shin* on it.

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CONGREGANT'S CORNER
Letter to the Editors

Many members of B'nai Tikvah have probably read about the case of the former Navy civilian employee, Jonathan Pollard, who was convicted of giving military secrets to Israel.

Jonathan Pollard is now serving a life sentence in solitary confinement without parole.

The issue is not the innocence or guilt of Pollard, but rather whether the punishment, life in solitary confinement without parole, fits the crime.

I urge every member of B'nai Tikvah to write to President Clinton the moment he takes office (Bush has already refused to reduce his sentence.) If you've never written to our Capitol before its:

President Bill Clinton
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- Herb Feldman

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A POET AMONG US

The following poem, written by one of our congregants, has recently been accepted for publication in the Poetry Explosion, a literary magazine, (scheduled to be released in March, 1993.) It has already been published in the Union College literary magazine, The Idol.

Our thanks to the author's family for sharing his work with the congregation. It is especially appropriate during this Hanukkah season when we are mindful of the battles which Jews have fought throughout history -- battles which may lie dormant, but seem unending.

IN A NUT SHELL

Knock, Knock...

Take
Herd
Ship Separate
Cut Strip Shower-
-Not Really
Gas SCREAM!
F
A LL
Burn
B
U
R
Y

Repeat 6 million times.

End of story.

WILLIAM I. WOLFF

Dear Congregant:

This year, we will be holding our Twelfth Annual Ad Journal Reception, honoring Marc & Gale Dillman. Marc has been active on the Board of Directors, including a tenure as President, and continues to serve the Congregation as Treasurer. Gale has assisted Marc in his synagogue work, has been an active member of Sisterhood, and is currently the advertising coordinator for HaKol.

Let's show the Dillmans our appreciation for their long and continuing service to B'nai Tikvah by supporting the Ad Journal. It is up to all of us to help in this effort by bringing in as many business advertisements as possible.

The culmination of our campaign will be a reception on February 20 where the Dillmans will be formally honored. You can get a free ticket to the Dillman's reception by selling only \$250 worth of ads (maximum 2 tickets per family.)

Forms are available from Ken Salzinger or the Synagogue office.

We know you will want to join with us in dedicating the Ad Journal to Marc & Gale, so start selling now and attend the reception for free.

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WORTHY JEWELRY

As publicized in last month's HaKol, don't forget to give all your unwanted (or broken) jewelry to Dotty Fertig for forwarding to her son in California. He and a group of volunteers from all branches of show business collect costume jewelry, break it apart and turn it into unique pins that have a name & theme. Proceeds from the sale of these pins go to an organization "Shanti" (Sanskrit for "inner peace," and to other firms that help individuals with AIDS.



SEVENTH ANNUAL B'NAI TIKVAH BLOOD DONOR DRIVE

This important event will take place at Congregation B'nai Tikvah on Sunday, January 10th, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm in the catering hall. A television will be provided in order to continue feeding your football frenzy while you donate.

Spend a little of your Sunday being part of this most important *mitzvah*. We've set a goal of fifty pints and we hope all of you will make the effort to come down and give the "Gift Of Life"!

Donating blood is easy and practically painless. Everything used are one-time disposable materials. There's no chance of contamination, or of your contracting anything. It takes less than one hour.

If you'd like to assist in making our day a success, we can use some workers for registration and refreshments. Please call Marty Engel at (908) 297-3198 to volunteer or if you need any further information.



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To submit articles:

** We welcome all written contributions from congregants of B'nai Tikvah. Any submissions which the editors find inappropriate, will be turned over to the Rabbi and/or President for final approval.

** We appreciate any ideas from readers which may enhance this publication.

** All submissions must be in HaKol box (located in the Synagogue office) by the deadline dates listed below.

Issue: February
Deadline: Sunday, December 27

Issue: March
Deadline: Sunday, January, 31

Issue: April
Deadline: Sunday, February 28

Issue: May
Deadline: Sunday, March 28

Issue: June
Deadline: Sunday, April 25



Congregation B'nai Tikvah

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