



# hakol

the voice



NOVEMBER, 1993

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CHESHVAN/KISLEV 5754

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The High Holidays are over -- another year begins.

Yasher Koach to the Rabbi, Cantor, Ritual Committee and ushers for a wonderful holiday season.

The holidays were memorable but hectic. I let the memory linger for a few days but now it is time to move on. There are plenty of things to do and goals to achieve. There are also many holidays to come. Look for news on Chanukah Park, sponsored by Federation, for area synagogues as an outreach program and hosted by B'nai Tikvah.

The adult education program has a plethora of interesting courses. The Men's Club and Sisterhood have full schedules.

Welcome to all those new members who have joined the "B'nai Tikvah family" in the

past six weeks. If I haven't called you and spoken to you personally, I apologize, but the numbers have been large and time short. I will catch up shortly. Most committees of the synagogue need new volunteers and fresh ideas. To all you new and not so new members, I urge you to take this opportunity to participate in running the synagogue. Call Bill Greenberg, Rabbi Warmflash, or myself to volunteer your services. We will direct your interest to the appropriate committee chairperson.

We started the year off on a good note. Lets keep the music flowing.

L'Shana Tovah,

Dr. Jack Mailman

**Photography**  
**by**

- Weddings
- Bar Mitzvahs
- Portraits



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# **Bruce Gaynor**

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## **... 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.*

*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.*

## NURSERY SCHOOL NOTES

The holidays are over, and the children are acclimating to a full week of school. We appreciate and thank Cantor Goldberg for coming in to so many of our classrooms to blow the shofar.

A unit devoted to Shabbat was presented to the children in addition to Election Day, fire prevention, the Fall season and Thanksgiving.

A Thanksgiving feast will be prepared and consumed by the young set who work hard cooking and baking their food. "Back to School Night" is scheduled this month.

In addition to the regular nursery school and the Mommy & Me programs, our school also offers an optional lunch program every day and an optional extended afternoon twice a week for children who attend the morning program.

Joan Shames,  
Director

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newsflash...

CHANUKAH PARK is coming

to B'NAI TIKVAH on

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12!

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\*\*\*\*\*  
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## ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

The eighth annual B'nai Tikvah blood donor drive will take place on Sunday, January 9, 1994 -- from 11am to 3pm -- at the Synagogue, with TV 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 is no chance of any contamination. It will take less than an hour of your day. If you'd like to assist in making our drive a success, we can use some workers for registration and refreshments. Please call Marty Engel at 297-3198 to volunteer -- or if you need any further information.

Martin Engel, Chairman  
South Brunswick Community Blood Bank

## NEW SINGLES GROUP SEEKING PARTICIPANTS

If you, or someone you know would like to become a part of B'nai Tikvah's newly formed Singles and Single Parents/Thirties and Forties Club, please contact Bill Greenberg (VP, Membership and Activities) at 297-6953 or Sonia Amanik (422-7144)

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## SISTERHOOD CONNECTION

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**PAID-UP MEMBERSHIP DINNER**  
(Joyce Gerbman 937-5114)

Great Food! Good Friends!  
Wonderful Entertainment!

Come to Sisterhood's annual paid-up membership dinner on Nov. 17. This year our program features Comedian Terry McGrath. Don't forget to RSVP.

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Dear Mom:

The holidays were wonderful this year. I hope you enjoyed the flowers from Sisterhood. Weren't they beautiful? Mine lasted almost three weeks. I really enjoyed that Chef Vita from Tova's. I can't wait to try some of his recipes at home!

Ushering during High Holiday Services wasn't as difficult as I expected. I had a chance to greet so many members and chat a moment or two. I also felt more involved and definitely helpful (although my feet didn't appreciate it that much!). I'm looking forward to all the "happenings" in November - especially Lox Box. This year we'll make sure you get a delivery too!

Love,  
Jill

---

**GREAT SUNDAY MORNING TREAT!!**  
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Fresh bagels and lox delivered to your house, Sunday morning, Nov. 14. Only \$10. Watch for our flyer and remember to place your orders. Drivers needed.

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**SEND A LEAGRAM** to a special friend to let them know you're thinking of them! Call Hilda Kaufman at 422-0687.

**TOVA'S SCRIP**  
(Bobbi Binder 247-2797)

Sisterhood now offers scrip for purchases at Tova's in Hightstown. The program is similar to the synagogue's (every purchase you make with scrip gives money to Sisterhood) It is a great way to support Sisterhood while purchasing high quality kosher meat and other food products.

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**GIFTSHOP SHOWCASE!**  
(Lynn Biderman 297-6691)

Join us on Nov. 21 for a Shopping Extravaganza! All of the giftshop's merchandise will be on display and a special item will be raffled! Coffee and cake served. Remember -- Hanukkah is just around the corner!

\*10% discount offered to all Paid-up Sisterhood members and to all B'nai Tikvah seniors.

Don't forget these other important events: Nov. 7 (*"Hanukkah Preview Day"*); Nov. 14; Nov. 21 (*"Pre-Holiday Shop" 9 to 3 with special Hebrew school students time*); Dec. 5 (*"Last Chance"*).

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Our thanks to all congregants who ordered wine & flowers. We hope you enjoyed them throughout the holidays. Thank you for your support!

USY -- We hope you had a "Great" trip to Great Adventures. Glad we could help out.

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Watch for our flyer on our annual film discussion meeting on Dec. 5.

**EXCITING EXTRAVAGANZA PLANNED  
FOR GIFT SHOP!**

Coming soon...on November 21, 1993, the B'nai Tikvah Gift Shop will hold its first annual **SHOPPING SHOWCASE!** From 9am until 2pm, you can shop for all your holiday and gift giving needs. In addition to great merchandise, we will have hourly raffles (with prizes including a Kosher Thanksgiving Turkey from Tova's, a beautiful brass Menorah, and a gift bag filled with eight Hannukah Goodies!) Refreshments will be available. Don't miss this fabulous event! And remember, B'nai Tikvah Sisterhood members and seniors are offered a 10% discount.

**KADIMA UPDATE**

For those who haven't heard of the most popular social group in our synagogue for sixth, seventh and eighth graders, it's not too late. Kadima is still offering new and exciting events in the months ahead. The first meeting of the year was hosted by Kadima President Amy Schwartz and her family. Over 33 kids attended and had a great time. Programming Vice President, Jacob Kaminker is busy working to come up with new programs for everyone. Fundraising Vice President Avi Olitzky is concentrating on a new fundraiser to help raise dollars for Kadima.

**KADIMA (continued)**

And if it's Kadima News you need to hear, Lisa Kane will call you and keep you informed. Some of the future events to look for in the up coming months are Dinner & Discuss with Rabbi Warmflash, Dance Night ("Get Down, Get Funky"), Arts & Crafts, Grandslam and Game Night. For more information call Melissa Kivor at 297-0769.

**DO YOU HAVE A CHILD THAT IS A  
PAST-PRESIDENT OF KADIMA OR  
USY?**

We are in the process of purchasing plaques to be placed in the Youth Lounge, which will honor the past Presidents of USY and Kadima.

We would like to be as exact as possible, so if your child is among this group, please call Joel Gerbman at 937-5114 with the correct spelling of his or her name, and the year(s) he/she was President.

We plan to have the plaques engraved by the first week in December, so please contact Joel as soon as possible.

Thank you for helping us to make this meaningful for our congregational youth and those who have worked hard during their tenures.

Mark Cohen,  
Trustee -- USY & KADIMA

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- PURCHASERS:** Approximately one-third of all Bonds are purchased by non-Jewish persons/enterprises, which include thousands of financial institutions, insurance companies, state funds, and labor unions. The remainder of Israel Bonds investments come from Jewish communities around the world.
- PORTFOLIO:** Securities offered by the Israel Bonds organization have been tailored to meet a wide variety of investment needs and circumstances and to provide an attractive income-producing vehicle for many personal investment portfolios, as well as IRAs, Keoghs, and pension funds.

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ABOUT US

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! -- Sage advice from former Israeli Prime Minister Shamir, "Voters should choose a course of action, not just people with straight teeth."

Kibbutz Dan -- The fish ponds of Kibbutz Dan are now growing sturgeon instead of carp -- in order to profit from the highly prized caviar. Five tons of sturgeon are expected to reach the market this year, with 30 tons expected in 1994.

Judaic Software -- Recent news stories and advertisements from Israel tell us of Targumatik, which translates computer aided English to Hebrew or vice-versa, with no knowledge of Hebrew required! And, they say it can also help those who wish to learn Hebrew, verb conjugation, etc.



**ABOUT US (continued)**

**Switzerland** -- Endingen, Switzerland is probably the only place in Europe to boast a synagogue, but no church. With only 60 Jews now living in the community, almost no religious services are held today, but in 1850, when it was built, there were 1500 Jews in Endingen and nearby Lengnau, the only towns in which Jews were then permitted to settle. The tallest building in the area, it bears a clock and the public fire alarm system.

**Blood Money** -- Libya has been trying to make a deal with the families of the victims of Pan Am flight 103, according to the USA National Law Journal. (One of the victims was a member of one of our founding synagogues in South Brunswick.) Not because Libya wants to see justice done, for Libya is still refusing to allow extradition of the accused terrorists, but because they hope this would untangle \$500 million in frozen assets in this country. The law firm representing the families has rejected Libya's efforts to make a deal.

**Sports** -- You don't have to be an American to be sports happy, as is obvious with the Olympics, the Maccabiah games, etc, etc. But the largest sports club in the world, with 30,000 members turns out to be the Hebraica Club, the Jewish club in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Founded 40 years ago, the club boasts a kosher restaurant, eight covered sports halls, five swimming pools (!), a kindergarten and youth center, a synagogue, and two theaters.

**The People of the Book** -- The Sixteenth International Book Fair in Jerusalem displayed more than 100,000 books for sale, from 40 countries. India and Thailand participated for the first time this year.

**Books for Israeli Kibbutzniks** - - Once again, B'nai Brith Women in our community are appealing for used paperback books of fiction to send to Israel.

**Shalamit Chapter** still maintains this project and ships 300 to 500 books yearly. Your donations are urgently needed to successfully continue this program. Call the undersigned for pickup or to arrange delivery. Books should be in good condition, please!

**Statement of the Month** -- The Israeli pedestrian who is asked for directions by the bewildered tourist, "Go straight and then ask"....

L'hitroat,

Mili Rosloff

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\*\*\*\*\*  
newsflash...  
already you forgot?

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## JEWISH OUTREACH/INREACH

-- Gigi Cohen

I come from the new diaspora.

There are many like me.

I was born in a borough of New York City and for much of my young life, grew up in its bedroom -- Long Island.

My childhood was surrounded by family. My parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins and those whose bloodline was traceable during gatherings which included two or more family historians.

We had different interests, diverse goals, conflicting political leanings, but we were all Jewish. Of course we were all Jewish. And, as many do, we affiliated with synagogues when it was time for the children's education -- and for no other reason.

There was no need to affiliate when a sense of belonging was a block or town away. The problem, looking back, is that little was done at that point to nurture my family's Jewishness. Everyone around me was Jewish, so nobody paid much attention to it.

Today, my family is quite different. We no longer live near each other, our diverse goals have been realized to the point in which we barely recognize each other, and we are no longer all Jewish. Out of 17 first cousins, 14 have married, 9 of which were intermarriages. At least two of my relatives have "found Jesus."

This is not a family tragedy. Certainly my family doesn't see it as such.

It is, however, a crisis. It extends far beyond our regional borders and is being addressed in various ways by all Jewish sects who are looking for ways to pull "our own" back in. (You may ask, "doing what?"... Again you forgot Chanukah Park ...go, put it on your calendar, then finish this article.)

And while we need our pulpit Rabbis and Rabbinic scholars to lead the effort, if they are alone in the struggle, the unaffiliated Jew will see it as little more than a push for new donations.

Of course, we need our lay leaders to run programs that may interest the unaffiliated Jew and get them back into the synagogue. Unfortunately (for those balancing the synagogue books) "membership" in Judaism is free of charge, and the unaffiliated Jew, can fortify him/herself with the commandments and the Torah without putting a dime towards a building fund. After all, money is often the leading stated reason why a large portion of the Jewish population remains unaffiliated. So, if our lay leaders are left to shoulder the burden, the unaffiliated Jew I'm afraid, will see the effort as a push for new members, and new dollars, and little else.

So why do Jews need a community, an affiliation, somewhere they belong? What can a synagogue offer beyond any other secular center?

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A minyon.

It's that simple. The one thing we need our Jewish community for is prayer.

We are reminded of this fact every high holiday, when unaffiliated Jews feel they must say Yizkor and call the synagogue for the correct time to attend.

Next year, I suggest synagogues across the country say "come any time, our doors will be opened." I know one temple that does this...it's even in Nassau County, Long Island.

Unfortunately, it's a Messianic Temple (aka, accepting Christ as the Messiah).

I am aware of the problems and expenses of house and grounds, but a beautiful building which houses a few rooms and a gift shop, is little more than a museum.

And though having a brilliant Rabbi and virtuoso Cantor may help bring visitors to a Shabbat service, they will come to watch, maybe even to experience, but not necessarily to join.

So what's left? We are. The most important part of any synagogue. The congregation. It is our responsibility to welcome "wandering" Jews, to make them feel at home, to make them want to come back.

I will leave you with one personal story which I feel best illustrates my point.

When Mark (my husband) and I moved to North Brunswick five years ago, we floundered for a

while and before we knew it, the High Holidays were upon us. We called area synagogues. One receptionist was nasty on the telephone so we eliminated them. A few other synagogues (including ours) didn't answer their phone. We decided to go to a Friday night service on Finnegan's Lane. Our cable man told us he thought there was a Jewish Center there.

We arrived early and the parking lot was deserted. Maybe the information was wrong. Maybe this wasn't a synagogue. The cable man didn't look Jewish. And at that time there were no markings on the outside of the building. And who would build a synagogue on a street named Finnegan's?

But soon, the doors were opened and services began. The Rabbi seemed knowledgeable, the Cantor had a lovely voice, the building was being redesigned to sport a fancy catering hall. But when the services ended, we thought we were going to check out a few other area synagogues.

Then, we were invited with the other congregants in for kiddush. Before we could make our expected quick exit, a congregant, named Judy, walked over, introduced herself and made us feel welcome. She was the first of many. We never did "check out" any other synagogues, we didn't need to. We had found a place where we were comfortable.

Like Abraham, we must strive to welcome guests and make them feel at home. It makes them feel good, it makes us feel good, it makes God "feel" good.

## FIFTY PLUS GROUP

We are in full swing for 1993-94 -- interesting programs and special events -- theatre and trips.

Wednesday & Sunday, December 15th & 19th -- "Hellow Muddah, Hello Fadduh" at 2:30 pm. Call now for your reservation and send in your check NOW.

We invite all our members and friends to meetings and special events. Call Ann Cherson 297-3575 for additional information.

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## SOLOMON SCHECHTER -- A LEADER TO REMEMBER

This month (12 Kislev) marks the *yahrzeit* of one of Judaism's great leaders, Solomon Schechter.

The following biography is taken from the introduction (by Louis Finkelstein, President & Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, 1940-1972) in the collection Seminary Addresses and Other Papers, by Solomon Schechter (The Burning Bush Press, 1959).

In Solomon Schechter, modern Judaism produced a figure comparable in depth of understanding, breadth of learning, originality of thought, force of personality, genius for organization, brilliance of vision, and religious insight, to the foremost personalities of post-Talmudic times. In less than thirteen years, he managed to place the stamp of his personality on a considerable segment of American Judaism, and through it to influence profoundly the course of events in our time, and perhaps beyond our time. Receiving his childhood education in Romania, he early in life came under the influence of the great Jewish scholars living in Vienna in the eighteen-seventies and eighteen-eighties, especially Meir Friedmann and I.H. Weiss. After studying in German universities, he came to England under the patronage of Claude Montefiore, and in Cambridge became the center of a group of idealistic and far-sighted Jewish students whose influence is still felt in Great Britain.

However, it was in America that he was destined to find the community particularly receptive to his astonishing genius. In the early years of the twentieth century, American Judaism was rent into different segments, without spiritual or often even social contact with one another. The older immigration had become definitely Americanized, and found little in common with the flood

of East European immigrants which began in the 1880s. Even the latter were segmented into separate groups, according to the lands and often the villages of their origin. There were, in many towns, Russian synagogues, Polish synagogues, Hungarian synagogues, (and so on) in which each group of Jews found solace in the company of its own "landsleit".

An objective observer of Jewish life at the turn of the century might indeed have felt justified in the conclusion that the community was bound to disintegrate spiritually, and that even its Jewish nostalgias might in a comparatively short time be reduced to delight in East European dishes and memories of Yiddish tales.

A number of prominent laymen, including such men of vision as Jacob H. Schiff, Felix M. Warburg, Leonard Lewisohn, Daniel Guggenheim, Louis Marshall, Harry Friedenwald and Solomon da Silva Solis-Cohen, assembling in 1901, rejected the inevitability of this disintegration, and determined to persuade Solomon Schechter to come to America. They saw in Dr. Schechter the man who could re-organize the Jewish Theological Seminary and make of it a center of learning for world Jewry, and a source of religious guidance for the nascent American Jewish community.

The concept of the synagogue and of Judaism as institutions with goals transcending them, (which is) inherent in the whole Jewish tradition, was especially strong in Schechter. He never forgot that the Prophets, the Psalmists and the Rabbinic Sages are at one in their view that the Kingdom of God will be an era in which all will find shelter under the wings of *Shekhina*, (divine spirit) without necessarily joining the Jewish faith. Judaism, Dr. Schechter believed, permitted of no compromise - neither distortion of principles to curry popular favor, nor dilution of central ideas to achieve superficial harmony within the community.





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Drawing on the experience of Jewish history, Schechter recognized that his first task was to create an assembly of scholars in whom the wisdom inherent in the Rabbinic tradition could be combined with the method derived by Western scholarship from the classical tradition. The scholars who were brought to the Seminary during Schechter's life included such rare spirits as Louis Ginzberg, Israel Friedlaender, Alexander Marx, Israel Davidson and Professor Mordecai M. Kaplan.

There emerged out of the thought and study of these scholars, guided by Schechter's own vision and wisdom, the idea of Conservative Judaism. The reader of the essays and addresses brought together by Solomon Schechter [in this volume] will, I believe, agree that the basic traits of Conservative Judaism, as Schechter envisaged it, included at least three which may prove of permanent significance to the future of Judaism, and perhaps mankind.

Of these, the first was the importance of debate in religion...His second principle, I believe, was that debate itself had to be founded on authentic scholarship and clear reasoning...and finally, in his great essays on Zionism and on Abraham Lincoln, we discover the form which the combination of particularism and universalism, characteristic of the Jewish tradition, assumed in Schechter's thinking.

But even the vast majority of the readers [of this book] who could not know Schechter as he lived among us, will surely be able to re-create from the words he spoke and the essays he wrote something of the personality which proved so magnetic to all who came within its orbit. Fearless, determined, confident, energetic and resourceful, Schechter brought to every task he undertook, great or small, a wealth of wit and learning, which overwhelmed not only young students, but also mature colleagues and associates. But he brought to the young people in his charge also a kindness of spirit, a charitable forgiveness of error and a profound love, which won their affection, as well as their respect and admiration. Even the tiny tots who attended the

Seminary synagogue services on the Sabbath came to love him, finding in him a foster grandfather.

No wonder that by the time he died, the two institutions he had founded, the United Synagogue of America and the Rabbinical Assembly of America, as well as the Seminary which he helped re-organize, had firm foundations, and could carry on his labors for the benefit of succeeding generations.

Each of these institutions has expanded, since Schechter's day, to an extent which he could scarcely have foreseen. Yet each has also grown in depth, and it is this intensive development which characterizes Conservative Judaism. Conservative Judaism today takes on many forms; all of them reflect some aspect of the great man to whom our movement owes its very existence.

**LOVINGKINDNESS & TRUTH, from an address delivered at Commencement Exercises of the Jewish Theological Seminary, June 6, 1915.**

"Above all will this regeneration be felt in the Synagogue. The pulpit will cease to be an institution of self-glorification, boasting of our successes in various departments of secular endeavor. This is sufficiently done by our friends outside of the Synagogue, and even more often by our open and disguised enemies...

Nor must we indulge in emphasizing too much the question of our mission. Such topics are only provoking criticism. To have a mission, but never be able to point to the missionaries and their achievements, is an awkward position to say the least."

-- Solomon Schechter

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To submit articles:

\*\* Submissions for any Hakol must be in the Synagogue office by the first of the previous month. For instance, the December deadline for HaKol will be November 1, and the January deadline is December 1.

\*\* We welcome all written contributions. Any submissions which the editors find inappropriate, will be turned over to the Rabbi and/or President for final approval.

\*\* Suggestions for improving this monthly bulletin are also welcome.

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**DAILY MINYON SCHEDULE**

<u>Friday (Shabbat)</u>	<u>8:00 pm</u>
<u>Saturday (Shabbat)</u>	<u>9:30 am</u>
<u>Sunday Mornings</u>	<u>9:15 am</u>
<u>(bring your tefillin,</u>	
<u>learners welcome!)</u>	
<u>Sunday-Thursday</u>	<u>7:30 pm</u>
<u>Thursday Mornings</u>	<u>7:00 am</u>

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