

# ***HaKol***

## ***The Voice***



A Publication of Congregation B'nai Tikvah

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TEVET/SHEVAT 5754

### **RABBI'S MESSAGE**

#### **HAVUROT!**

Community provides the context for all of Jewish life. Our people have always drawn strength from the understanding that our individual destinies are inextricably linked to that of other Jews. We are all family; descendants of our father Abraham and our mother Sarah.

Yet, for many Jews today, community can be an elusive value. People join a synagogue hoping to bond with other Jews, and yet, too often, we feel that we are strangers. We want to reach out to each other but are unsure how to begin. While this is particularly true of those who are single, intermarried, or have no family living nearby; it is true of most all of us, whatever our personal situation.

I am convinced that the beginnings of a response to this problem lies in forming havurot, groups of families and single individuals within our congregation who will make a monthly commitment to come

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As we approach the month of December, I find myself remembering holiday seasons past.

*December --*

it isn't easy being Jewish. It's especially difficult in America, in December.

Born in 1944 and growing up in the 50's, my family would watch to see if the Jewish entertainers would wish a Happy Chanukah as well as a Merry Christmas. Usually, they did not.

Later on (probably late 50's early 60's) they (the media) started to acknowledge Chanukah and I was pleased -- we were recognized.

As my involvement with Judaism grew, I became less and less enamored with the recognition and the linkage to Christmas which went along with it.

Recently, I have become openly hostile to this recognition and the linkage. The rank commercialism of Christmas is

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## RABBI'S MESSAGE (continued)

together in each other's homes to share a Jewish experience.

If you would like to join a havurah, I invite you to fill out the application in this issue of Hakol and return it to the synagogue office. If you do so, a member of our havurah coordinating committee will contact you to explain the program in detail.

It is my hope that we will be able to form at least five separate havurot over the next month. These groups will learn, celebrate, and grow together, rejoicing in each other's "simchas" and supporting one another through the dark times.

I invite you to join us as we begin this exciting new adventure in Jewish community.

-- Rabbi Andrew Warmflash

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

enough. Now the religious right wants governmental recognition of the United States as a Christian Country. They want and need the linkage with Chanukah to further shove Christmas down our throats. I say enough! We do not celebrate our holidays in public squares but in our homes and synagogues. We do not need to participate in the ceremonies of public lighting of menorahs and trees. Our Chanukah and their Christmas are not similar or comparable! Let them put Christmas back in their homes and Churches, where it belongs.

It is not easy being different! Teach yourselves and your children about your heritage and history. Be proud of who you are and how you celebrate. We do not need the same or comparable holidays to happy and good Americans.

-- Dr. Jack Mailman

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# There's Room for Everyone in a B'nai Tikvah Havurah



Would you like to enhance your sense of Jewish community? Broaden your circle of friends? Learn to lead a Seder? Join others to see a play?

B'nai Tikvah's new Havurah program lets you do all this and much more.

Our Havurot opens a door to richer, more meaningful participation in Jewish life. It's a chance to make Judaism real in your home. And to build a warm circle of friends to reinforce this commitment.

## What is a Havurah?

"Havurah" comes from the Hebrew word "haver," meaning "friend." Each Havurah is a small community of congregants who meet in each other's homes to study, socialize, and celebrate Jewish life together.

A Havurah may comprise families, couples, or individuals who share common interests and concerns. Or simply live near one another.

But they all want to explore their Jewish heritage. What unites them is a commitment to meet together at least monthly to create a personal Jewish commu-

nity within the larger Congregation B'nai Tikvah.

## What do Havurot do?

Havurot create their own personalities and agendas.

Maybe you want to learn to celebrate Shabbat or keep kosher. Your Havurah can be a hands-on way to learn the traditions and



rituals that have bound us as a people for thousands of years.

Havurot needn't have an exclusively religious focus. One month, your Havurah may take a hike in a forest, travel to a museum or festival, or discuss a book. The next month, you might gather for Shabbat dinner.

A Havurah can help families strengthen our traditions. Raising Jewish children in an overwhelmingly Christian country is not easy. Perhaps the support of other families will help you cope with Christmas overload, and/or encourage Hebrew studies.

Perhaps you've recently moved here. Your Havurah can be your extended family. Together, you can celebrate the holidays and make new friends.

Many congregants yearn to better understand Judaism. Havurah members can study Torah, Mishna, Hebrew, and History.

B'nai Tikvah's Havurot let you share many different aspects of Jewish life with small groups of synagogue members. They strengthen our awareness of the entire Jewish community. And they forge a meaningful commitment to participate in our synagogue.

## How do I join a Havurah?

Any B'nai Tikvah member can join a Havurah. It costs only your time, your energy, and your commitment—nothing more, nothing less.

So fill out the attached application and mail or fax it to the



synagogue office, attention Havurah Steering Committee.

We will work to place you with other congregants of similar interests. And strive to help your Havurah develop its unique personality.

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# Application Form

Please answer all questions so we can place you in a Havurah that best matches your interests.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Years B'nai Tikvah members? \_\_\_\_\_

## Other Family Members

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of havurah would you prefer?

Adults

- ☐ Same age
- ☐ Mixed age
- ☐ No preference

Children

- ☐ Same age
- ☐ Mixed age
- ☐ No preference

If you are interested in a group with mixed activities, please indicate those most important to you.

Please list any other B'nai Tikvah members who have expressed a desire to be in your havurah.

When are the best meeting times for you? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your primary interest?

- ☐ Study
- ☐ Adult social
- ☐ Family activities
- ☐ Social action
- ☐ Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

What other synagogue activities involve you, your spouse, or children?

- ☐ Men's club
- ☐ Sisterhood
- ☐ Adult study
- ☐ Early childhood
- ☐ Religious school
- ☐ Shabbat services
- ☐ Daily minyan
- ☐ Social action
- ☐ Temple committees
- ☐ Board of directors
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you keep kosher?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you shomer Shabbat?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Can you participate in a group with a mixed level of observance?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No



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## FEELING CLOSER TO MY RELIGION

-- by Toby Brown Ehrlich

Over the past year I was able to encounter several experiences that have brought me closer to my religion, and helped me feel more a part of our synagogue.

In the past, I often sat at High Holiday services and felt "What am I doing here once a year," or "This is just a masquerade, everyone showing off their new hats." But this year was different for me. Maybe next year can be different for you.

The first experience that brought me closer to both my religion and the synagogue was a retreat weekend run last spring by the synagogue. First, I was lucky enough to work on a committee for the weekend with several people that I had seen at shul but had never spoken to in depth. Second, I was given a tough job to give everyone their work assignments. It was so easy, the weekend went like a well greased wheel...only on Jewish time.

The weekend was not only a spiritual delight, it was one of new friendships. We prayed in the sunlight, studied in the fresh air, and it would be unfair if I didn't mention it to our hearts delight.

Over the weekend I noticed many women wearing tallit. This interested me, as I had grown up in a rather orthodox shul. After the weekend, I asked Cantor Goldberg if he would teach me how to put a tallis on, and this developed into two

classes for women he taught that were very interesting and helpful in making me feel more comfortable about wearing a tallit. I now wear a tallis in shul as do several other women. You can too.

Strangely enough, wearing a tallis and wrapping oneself has made me feel more a part of my prayer. When I recently went to a shul where women do not wear talit, I felt a difference, a distance. This may sound trite or even strange but if you don't try it you'll never know.

I'll end by saying that if you feel awkward coming to shul, or feel on the outside somehow, become involved in one activity, like Makala the singing group, or come to Friday night services or a Saturday lunch and learn. We are lucky enough to have a wonderful religion which, unfortunately, most of us have never taken the time to get to know, and we also have two inspiring and innovative leaders and many warm people to share it with.

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## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NOTES

As we welcome in the New Year of 1994 we have much to celebrate. Our Alef Class had a celebration of their Hebrew names. It was a lovely evening for all of those children and parents who participated.

Chanukah was exciting and so were "Good Clean Fun" and Chanukah Park. Everyone had a really good time.

We are very busy here at Congregation B'nai Tikvah. On Sunday, January 23rd the Alef classes will study "together" with their parents. We will learn about Tu B'shevat.

This month, our Dalet class and our second graders have much to look forward to. The Dalet class will be leading services on Shabbat morning, January 29th. Mark your calendars! On that same day, to say good-bye to Shabbat, our Second graders will share a Seudah Shelishot (a third meal) and then participate in a Havdalah service. We are looking forward to January 29th with much excitement.

I'd like to thank all of those students who participated in the read-a-thon. The Jewish Braille Institute truly appreciates all of your hard work.

Todah Rabbah!

B'shalom,

Vickie Amron

## NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Nursery school registration for the 1993-94 school year will begin soon. Members of Congregation B'nai Tikvah have priority and are granted a tuition discount every month, if registered according to our schedule. If interested, please call the school at 297-0295 between 9am and 11:30am to place your name on our mailing list--in order to receive the application on time. We accept children for our state licensed half-day nursery school program starting at 2 1/2 years of age, as of September, 1994. All our Head Teachers are state certified.

Our winter session of **Mommy & Me and One Step Up** started this month. We are all back from vacation and eager to learn about health and safety. Our plans include a trip to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital for its special pre-school hands on program.

Our fundraiser was very successful, due to the dedication of our parents to the nursery school.

Tu B'shevat was celebrated by arranging to have trees planted in Israel in honor of the children. In addition, the children sampled different fruits that grow in Israel.

### Out-of-the-mouths of Babes:

When the children were asked who was waiting for Christopher Columbus when he came to America, Matthew answered "President Clinton!"... During a review of Thanksgiving, the teacher asked the children, "What boat did the Pilgrims come on?" Jody replied "Potflower!"

-- Joan Shames, Director



We'd like to congratulate the following students for having perfect attendance for this marking period.

Maoz Brown - Alef 1  
Michael Hass - Alef 3  
Eva Kaminker - Alef 3  
Aaron Teitelbaum - Alef 1

The following students deserve a Mazal Tov on making Rabbi's List for this marking period.

Jordan Diatlo - Alef 2  
Michael Hass - Alef 3  
Michael Hirsch - Alef 3  
Eva Kaminker - Alef 3  
Kevin Kornfeld - Alef 2  
Rachel Latinsky - Alef 1  
Audrey Levine - Alef 1  
Erin Marx - Alef 1  
Aaron Teitelbaum - Alef 1

Taryn Bradus - Bet 2  
Scott Edley - Bet 1  
David Gurney - Bet 2

Alison Brams - Gimel 2  
Shelly Calem - Gimel 2  
Rachel Kane - Gimel 2  
Jared Helfer - Gimel 2

Jared Salzinger - Dalet 1  
Jennifer Samelson - Dalet 1

Ryan Leo - Hey 2

These students have received our highest honor. Congratulations for making the Rabbi's List with Distinction.

Yashar Koach!!

Alison Gordon - Alef 2  
Jessica Halpern - Alef 2  
Courtney Murray - Alef 2  
Steven Rekant - Alef 2  
Ian Silverii - Alef 2  
Emily Sokol - Alef 2  
Peri Sokol - Alef 2  
David Weiss - Alef 2

Rebecca Stoloff - Bet 1

Danielle Bradus - Hey 1  
Erica Kaufman - Hey 1  
Lisa Offenbergs - Hey 1  
Stacey Offenbergs - Hey 1



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## FIFTY PLUS GROUP

We'll be starting 1994 off on Senior Safety Awareness presentation by Sergeant Scott Hoover of the South Brunswick Police Department. There is much for all of us, as Seniors, to be made aware of -- scams, flim flams, etc. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, January 25th at 1:00 pm.

Tuesday, February 22nd at 1:00 pm the long awaited Nostalgia Program. Bring an item of memorabilia from your home such as a picture of yourself, spouse, friend, event or anything you wish. It will be fun to guess who it is or what the occasion was. We're looking forward to an afternoon of fun.

Sy Kramer has a listing of events, there are many very interesting trips, etc. Call Sy at 297-3575.

We're planning other theatre parties and enjoyable trips in the spring. Come to meetings and you will be informed as soon as plans are finalized.

Wishing all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

-- Ann Cherson

## ISRAELI DANCING

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and then, Rabbi Diamond will be presenting a series of lectures on Jewish prayer three Tuesdays in March. They are March 1st, 8th and 15th.

## DEAR READERS:

Do you remember  
in April  
last year  
An anonymous poem of an  
event which draws near  
The writer described in  
rather bright verse  
Of costumes and drinking  
... it even got worse  
The poet depicted Jewish  
men wearing in skirts  
If you got to see them  
you'd know that took work!  
Be sure to remember  
which festival will bring  
More Klezmer and kidding and  
grogger knocking  
So run to your date book  
and write February 24  
The date for the Purim Event  
in 1994.

A post note to the poet  
whose verse I extol  
Please critique this year's  
event, in March's HaKol.

# **B'NAI TIKVAH**

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## SISTERHOOD CONNECTION

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### Jan. Meeting: Domestic Violence

Join us on Wed., Jan. 12 at 8 pm, to hear a representative from the non-profit organization, Women Aware, Inc., speak about domestic violence issues. All women are welcome! Refreshments served.

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### Citrus Fundraiser

Get some Florida Sunshine. Order fresh oranges, tangelos, and grapefruit right off the tree! Call Phyllis Safeer for details at 422-8543.

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### A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

"It is not your duty to complete the work; neither are you free to desist from it." (Pirkey Avot 2:21) .... "I will do more than live and let live -- I will live and help live."

With this noble thought, Walter Van Kirk summarizes the work of Mathilde Schechter, of blessed memory. In 1918, at the age of 59, she laid the foundation for an organization which has grown to over 200,000 members in 800 synagogues -- Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

She worked to provide a plan of service to be undertaken by women in their homes, their synagogues, and their communities. She exemplified the Jewish tradition of volunteering by giving of herself freely....We invoke the memory of Mathilde Schechter and of those who worked with her in order that we may continue to walk the same paths as they and cherish the ideals which were theirs.

Excerpt from d'var torah by Judith Gottesman, Norwalk, CT

### WANTED: YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES

Send us your favorite kosher, low fat recipe(s) for Sisterhood's new cookbook. Mail it to Sisterhood c/o Synagogue Office.

Speaking of recipes, here's some CHEESY VEGETABLE CHILI to keep you warm in Jan.: 2 garlic cloves, minced; 1 lrg green or red pepper, chopped; 1 lb mushrooms, sliced; 1 c chopped onion, 2 T oil, 1 can ea crushed tomatoes with added puree (28 oz) and tomato sauce (15 oz); 2 T chili powder; 1 t ground cumin; 2 cans (15 oz ea) kidney beans, drained; 1 1/2 c diced zucchini; 1 pckg (10 oz) sweet corn, thawed; 1 1/2 c shredded sharp cheddar cheese. Cook and stir garlic, peppers, mushrooms and onion in oil 5 min or until tender. Add tomatoes, tomato sauce, chili powder and cumin. Heat to boil. Reduce heat, and add beans, zucchini, and corn. Simmer 15 min or until tender. Add 1 c cheese, stir until melted. Spoon into bowls and top with remaining cheese. 8 servings.

---

HEARD ABOUT A SIMCHA? SEND A LEAGRAM!  
Call Hilda Kaufman at 422-0687.

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### TOVA'S KOSHER KITCHEN (Bobbi Binder 247-2797)

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---

WATCH FOR A FLYER ON FEBRUARY'S meeting. It will be a joint program with Men's Club on Sun., Feb. 6, featuring a folk singer.

**MAZEL TOV & YASHAR KOACH TO:**

Jill Stone on the birth of her granddaughter, Caitlynn Marie.

Carol & Howard Kalish on the birth of their granddaughter, Erica Kiersten.

**CONDOLENCES TO:**

Lester Chasen on the loss of his wife, Judith.

Jack Kaplan, on the loss of his sister.

Joyce Fishelberg on the loss of her uncle, Barney Gurtov.

Rachel Silverstein on the loss of her mother, Muriel Gunsberg.

Shelly Mendelowitz on the loss of her mother, Hilda Bienstock.

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

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Bob & Cid Werbin in honor of their granddaughter Tamar Sorkin.

Bob & Cid Werbin in honor of their granddaughter Mindy Sorkin.

The Melofsky Family in memory of Irving Bach.

Ruth & Sidney Gurtov, Hannah & Sandy Gurtov, Joyce & Gerald Fishelberg in memory of Barney Gurtov.

Howard & Carol Kalish in memory of Albert Kalish.

**Yahrzeit Fund**

Bev & Brad Nozick in memory of Morris Nozick.

The Abschutz family, in memory of William Koshner.

The Abschutz family, in memory of Yvette Koshner.

Isaac & Beverly Grodzinski in memory of Eva Grodzinski.

Fred & Gloria Landsman in memory of Molly Landsman.

Ronald & Mindy Shapiro in memory of Bertram Shapiro.

Martin & Deborah Spigner in memory of Cynthia Spigner.

Barbara Moskowitz in memory of Melvin Moskowitz.

Bernard & Abbey Lorber in memory of Charles Lorber.

Murray Treiser in memory of Armin Treiser.

Leonard S. & Joyce Mandelblatt in memory of David I. Mandelblatt.

**GENERAL FUND**

Ruth Jagodnick in memory of Charles Jagodnick.

Harold & Anita Small in honor of the wedding of their daughter Cheryl to Gary Kasof.

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#### LIBRARY FUND

The Abschutz Family in memory of Mitch Lazar's mother, Rose.

Larry & Dorothy Cohen in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Steven Weiss.

Rosalyn & Abe Cooper in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Steven Weiss.

Adrienne, Andy & Elyse Ross in honor of Rebecca Roller's Bat Mitzvah.

#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Phyllis Alroy in memory of Aileen Alroy.

Barbara & Harvey Abramson in memory of Elsie P. & Hyman A. Friedman.

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### College Information Night Update

On December 20th, B'nai Tikvah's Youth Department held its first "College Information Night". Thirty attendees heard presentations given by our own congregant, Dave Mason (a professional college research consultant) and a second from a representative of Princeton Review (a S.A.T. Exam preparation course). Both speakers were extremely informative. This, coupled with question and answer sessions and printed hand-outs, contributed to our congregants walking away with a greater understanding of today's complex "collegiate process"!

In addition to Dave Mason, I would like to thank Joel Gerbman (our Youth Director), for all his efforts in making College Information Night a huge success. Yashar Koach!

Mark Cohen (Bd of Directors Trustee--Youth)



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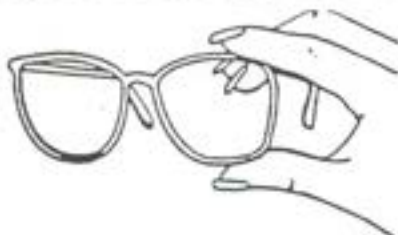
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Jewish Theological  
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Movement Update

On November 16th, at a New Jersey Regional Conference of the Women's League For Conservative Judaism, one of the Movement's best and most passionate leaders, Rabbi William Lebeau, humbly reflected on his tenure as a Conservative Rabbi-- his joy in serving God and the Jewish Community. This was used to enlighten, stimulate, and (hopefully) motivate the attendees into accepting the urgent task at hand: to assist the Conservative Movement's current leaders in identifying worthy candidates who will be the future generations of rabbis, cantors, educators and knowledgeable lay leaders.

As I believe that the "duty and responsibility" to help shape our movement's future is not limited to members of Women's League, I am reprinting Rabbi Lebeau's letter which eloquently states one of the Movement's greatest needs and challenges.

Thank you,  
Mark Cohen  
Co-Editor, HaKol



AND THE BUSH "TICHT"  
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September 21, 1993

To: All Members of National Board of Women's League For Conservative Judaism

Dear Friend,

I am writing to ask for your help -- not in terms of money, but of Jewish talent.

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing the Conservative Movement is developing a new generation of professional and lay leaders. For too long, we have failed to actively recruit for our Rabbinical School, Cantors Institute and Social Work programs (we have only engaged professionals to attract students to List College; thankfully, that effort has brought wonderful results).

I strongly believe there is no greater career for a Jew, no more privileged position, in terms of affecting the "core" of people's lives, no more significant responsibility than the way a rabbi, cantor, educator or knowledgeable lay leader tries to serve God and his people.

I thus am turning to you, to help us find the next generation of leaders. We are determined to increase the number of highly intelligent, thoughtful and creative young Jews who will attend the Seminary and strengthen our Movement, and our people, well into the 21st century. I am asking your help in identifying individuals, beginning with those in their early teens, who show promise for leadership or have particular interest in Jewish studies and religious observance. We in turn will connect with these young people and their parents, and encourage them to begin serious Jewish studies as early as possible, attend or work at Ramah, visit and learn at the Seminary and, in time, apply to our school.

Successful recruitment requires a measure of passion. When we speak enthusiastically about the rabbinate and other Jewish careers, we can move young people along new personal paths. Our reward will be outstanding young men and women who will find the kind of deep fulfillment I have found in serving the Jewish community, and who will help revitalize our people.

I ask you to put this matter, perhaps the key issue that will determine our Movement's future, at the very top of your agenda. As you do all your wonderful work on behalf of Conservative Judaism and the Seminary, please add recruitment of young people to the great gift of financial resources you contribute to our efforts.

I extend warm appreciation for your work and best wishes for a New Year filled with good health, satisfaction and peace.

Shalom,

*Bill Lebeau*

Rabbi William H. Lebeau  
Vice Chancellor  
Acting Dean, The Rabbinical School

## CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

Rabbi Andrew Warmflash  
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### SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

January	7	4:27
	14	4:35
	21	4:43
	28	4:51

### HaKol -- The Voice

\*\*\*\*\*  
Editors: Gigi and Mark Cohen  
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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 February deadline for HaKol will be January 1, and the March deadline is February 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.

### DAILY MINYON SCHEDULE

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