

# ***HaKol***

## ***The Voice***



A Publication of Congregation B'nai Tikvah

FEBRUARY, 1994

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 6

SHEVAT/ADAR 5754

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Coming in February, Congregation B'nai Tikvah will be sponsoring an Art Auction on Saturday night, February 12th; a Shabbaton (February 18th-19th) featuring Rabbi Eliezer Diamond who is a professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; and last, but not least, our annual Purim Carnival (February 27th). I welcome and urge every congregant to "participate" in these events!

Every Shabbat we are treated to excellent services and an opportunity for prayer. In addition, we receive inspiration and information through the "Shabbat Shalom" hand-out which is available to us as we enter the sanctuary. The sheet always includes a thought-provoking message surrounding the weekly Torah reading. All of them are excellent, some are truly exceptional!

On New Year's day, the Shabbat Shalom hand-out contained one such exceptional message. Because the message generated

many thoughts and comments by all those present (including myself), I decided that it should be shared with the congregation at large. The message reflects upon one of the many underlying themes of the Torah portion, *Shemot* (which is in the Book of Exodus) and was excerpted from a sermon written by Rabbi Saul I. Teplitz.

#### **What is in Your Hand?**

Moses pleaded with God not to place the mantle of responsibility on his shoulders. "What if they will not believe me and will not listen to me?" he asked the Lord. Moses truly believed that he was not competent to lead the Israelites, that he had no influence over them, and that they would not accept his leadership. God then, turned to Moses and asked, "What is in your hand?" And he replied, "A rod." With that rod of wood, God enabled Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness.

continued...

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President's Message (continued)

"What is in your hand?" We have countless blessings in our hands--life, health, marriage, children, faith and friends. Never before in human history has our society enjoyed as much affluence as today. What do we do with the wealth and substance that is in our hands?

Judaism has never declared, as has our daughter religion, "Blessed are the poor." Money is important. It takes money to live in dignity, to rear our families honorably, to send our children to college, and even to provide for our loved ones after our eyes are closed in eternal sleep. The real question is not what we do with money, but what does it do to us?

While gold is tested by fire, man is tested by gold. Money can destroy some people. It can make them arrogant and obnoxious. Some men hoard their money, and are more concerned with the rule of gold than with the golden rule.

One day a farmer came to pay his rent to a man whose love of money was widely acclaimed. After settling his account, the farmer said "I will give you another shilling, if you will allow me to go down to your vault and just have a look at your money." And so the farmer was permitted to see the piles of gold and silver in the miser's safe. As he ascended, he declared, "Now I am as well off as you are." "How can that be?" asked the miser. "Why," said the farmer, "you can never use any of this money. All you do with it is look at it. Now I have looked at it too, so I am just as rich as you are."

It is interesting to note that a wealthy man is called "a man of means", not of "ends". The truly wealthy man understands that wealth is only a means for the betterment of others, for with money we can minister to schools, synagogues, hospitals, institutions and agencies for the refinement and healing of mankind.

What are we doing with the money in our hands, and what is it doing to

us? If all the gold in the world were melted down into a solid cube, it would be about the size of an eight-room house. If a man got possession of all that gold, with it he could not buy character, a friend, peace of mind or a clear conscience.

"What is in your hand?" If it is wealth, then we must remember that true wealth is determined not alone in what we have, but also in what we are.

Please, it is imperative that all congregants pay their dues and obligations in a timely fashion; and for those of you who can make additional donations, it will be warmly and gratefully received. If you wish to make a much needed "capital gift" (monies set aside solely to be used to maintain the synagogue building and related machinery/structures), please contact Jeff Schwartz at 297-6365.

*See you around the synagogue,*

*Dr. Jack Mailman*

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It's been said that there are only two things that are inevitable in life, and one of them--taxes--will soon be upon us. As the April 15th tax deadline approaches, it is important to remember that you can still make a contribution to your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) for 1993.

Although the tax laws have changed regarding IRA contributions, IRAs remain a popular way to build a significant source of income for retirement. There are many investments you can make through your IRA. Friends of Israel may be interested in investing in Israel Bonds for their retirement portfolios. The Israel Bonds Organization offers securities with a variety of features and interest rates that make them attractive additions to many IRAs.

Some of them are discussed under a separate advertisement in this issue of Hakol.

For prospectuses and other information, you may call the Israel Bonds Organization located in Highland Park at (908) 828-0200 or call "our own" Aaron Rosloff at 297-2233.

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Words From "A Very Wise Man"  
(editors' title)  
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Anyone who is active in an organization will sooner or later hear talk about "its running" by one clique or another.

The board of directors of our congregation welcomes all the help it can get from the membership. One of the easiest ways to learn how you can help is to attend a board meeting. Board meetings are held on the *first Monday of the month at 8 PM at the synagogue*. Get there early to meet and talk to board members, or just to sit and listen. You'll soon begin to understand what the needs are and where you can help.

Start by offering to join a committee. Which committee? Just listen and ask a few questions. You will soon find an area that will suit your interests or your talents or experience. There are plenty of needs to go around and never enough willing hands. Start by working with a committee. If you have an interest in doing so, you may be asked to serve on the board of directors as a trustee and then to run for an executive office.

The alternatives to involvement are to accept the governance as it is, to gripe about how things are run. Unfortunately, and to the benefit of no one, it is much easier to grumble than it is to become *involved* and to voice *constructive* opinions and concerns *directly* to the board of directors.

**Wise Man (continued)**

Oh! Your reward for your efforts? That, you may, receive in Heaven. But here on earth you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you had a hand in the future of OUR congregation and OUR community.

*Aaron Rosloff*

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**Religious School Notes**  
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Shalom! I'm hoping that this edition of HaKol finds you all warm and not covered with snow and ice. January was really something, but we made it through to February and have so much to look forward to.

Tu B'Shevat came and went, but trees can still be purchased for \$10.00 each, checks payable to JNF (Jewish National Fund).

By our purchasing one tree in honor of an event or in memory of someone who has passed away, we can really feel good that we helped to beautify and enhance the State of Israel, an important mitzvah!

On February 13th, the Gimel Class will come "together" with their parents for a program on Purim. We look forward to learning together.

Just a reminder that there will be **no classes** on Sunday, February 20th through Thursday, February 24th. On February

24th, the Megillah will be read and I hope to see you all there.

Report cards will be sent home the week of March 6th.

I'd like to thank last year's Hey Class for their graduation gift to our Hebrew School. At the end of last year, the students donated \$200.00 which was to be used to enhance our school. I am proud to report that we have just purchased five videos which will be used to help teach various lessons in our curriculum. Once again, todah rabah to the Hey Class of 1992-1993.

*B'shalom,*

*Vickie Amron*

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**Nursery School News**  
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What is the best thing about this month? Ask the children and they will tell you--the beginning of "Mommy Stay & Play Day"! This is the individual day that Mommy comes to school and plays with YOU!--no siblings, no phones. Daddy will also have his day.

Also discussed during the month was George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

A trip to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital was enjoyed last month by all the Pre-K Classes for their special

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children's program. A gift was presented to them for their playroom from our children. This was bought from the tzedakah money that was collected every Friday.

A special dental program is planned for February when we learn about dental health. A puppet show and video will be presented by a local pediatric dentist.

Purim celebration will consist of a costume parade, a goody bag to share, groggers to make, songs to sing and listening to the story of Purim and a visit from someone who looks like Mickey Mouse.

If you have NOT let us know that you are interested in registering next year, call the office immediately at 297-0295.

#### OUT-OF-THE MOUTH OF BABES:

When the teacher asked the children what month it is, Hilary answered, "Devember!"

When the teacher asked the class why they played the dreidel game years ago (reviewing what was learned), Dara replied, "Because there was nothing else to play with!" (Perhaps Dara is right.)

Before Thanksgiving, Erica told her teacher that she was thankful for "yummy turkey". When her teacher asked if she liked to eat, she said, "no, I like to play!"

When talking about community helpers, William responded that God is a community helper!

*L'hitraot,*

*Joan Shames, Director*

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**News From Rapaport House**  
**(The United Synagogue of**  
**Conservative Judaism)**  
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\*\*\*One thousand USYers and staff members gathered on December 26th through the 30th for the 43rd Annual USY International Convention which was held in Irvine, California. Beginning with an opening session that recreated the Garden of Eden and the seven days of creation, the Convention focused on the theme "Judaism and the Environment". In informal classes, workshops and activities, the USYers discussed, explored and acted on the Jewish imperative to preserve and repair the world. Each participant spent Wednesday, December 29th, working on environmentally related social action projects throughout the Orange County area, from beach and highway clean-up to seeding and planting. In this manner, USYers continue to carry out the concept of *tikun olam, repairing and preserving the environment and the world.*

\*\*\*Twice daily we repeat the familiar Torah refrain: "You shall teach the words of the Torah to your children, when you sit in your home, when you walk by the way..." In light of this, The Department of Education is publishing materials to assist our congregations in making these words a reality to our families:

*Jewish Family Matters*, a family education manual, is currently being written by



Rabbi Ron and Dr. Leora Isaacs. It is based on the 1993 Solomon Schechter Award winning Jewish family education program developed in their congregation, Temple Sholom, Bridgewater, New Jersey. Each section outlines goals and objectives and provides detailed instructions for all activities. Published in loose-leaf format for easy duplicating, it contains family activities for Shabbat and programs which follow the cycle of the Jewish calendar. It also includes background information as well as resources. It will be available this spring.

**A Jewish Zoo Safari**, by Lonna Picker and Hana Berman, with illustrations by Judy Nagle, features a guide which will make a common family outing into a Jewish experience. It includes activities dealing with art projects, tzedakah activities and social action. It will be available this spring.

**Shabbat Shalom--Young Children and Their Parents Celebrating Together on Friday Night**, a family activity guide written by Lyndall Miller, provides suggestions and ideas for exploring and enjoying Shabbat "preparation". It is available now. For further information, contact the Education Department at (212) 533-7800, extension 2500.

\*\*\*In order to make the Passover Seder a more meaningful experience for affiliated members of The United Synagogue, the Public Affairs Department has produced a *Haggadah* supplement. This publication, developed by USCJ staff, includes insights, ideas and suggestions for

participants to use to revitalize the age-old tradition of the Passover Seder. Please call (212) 533-7800, extension 2600 if you would like a copy of this publication.

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**Fifty Plus Group News**  
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The Gala New Year Party was a huge success. The food was delicious and plentiful, and the hospitality very warm! Many thanks are offered to Claire Hirshman, Arnette and Sy Kramer, Sid Marcus and Madeline Gaynor who helped set the tables, picked-up the cake, served etc. Applause, applause to Claire for the table decorations which were lovely and set the mood of festivity.

On Thursday, February 17th, "The Hollywood Ice Show" will appear at the Lily Langtry Theatre in the Sheraton Inn, Valley Forge, PA. The cost is \$36.00 per person, which includes a luncheon and transportation to the show. Please call Sy Kramer at 297-3562 for your reservation and additional information.

Bring a nostalgic item to the February 22nd meeting at 1:00pm and share your warm memories with us. It may be a dress, picture, tie or anything else which brings back a memory in which you cherished.

On Thursday, March 24th, "The Wedding" will appear at the Lafayette House in Sussex. The cost is \$40.00 per person.

## Fifty Plus (continued)

Please call Sy Kramer at 297-3562 for your reservation and additional information.

Hold the date for "Mature Driving: Fifty-five Alive" on **Tuesday and Wednesday, May 9th and May 10th.** Gil will give the course and he is excellent! Don't miss the opportunity. All attendees will be updated with the latest rules and regulations as well as other helpful driving information. Those who were enrolled in the course before, will tell you how much they had learned and the confidence they had gained upon its completion. Please call Ann at 297-3575 for further information. There is a donation to AARP, the amount to be confirmed shortly.

Please join us at our all our meetings and enjoy a few hours with friends!!

**Ann Cherson**

## THE LOTTERY LOSER -- HAMAN

The name Purim means "lots," for Haman used a lot (pur) to decide when to kill the Jews. The lot fell on the month of Adar. Of course we are able to celebrate because Haman was outwitted by Mordechai and Esther.

That, in a nutshell, is the whole *megillah*! Of course, if you would like to hear the entire story, you should attend our reading and celebration on February 24th. Alright, so maybe you remember the story, and you're wondering why in the world do you need to join us again? Consider this "Purim Vision." It is reprinted from the book by Michael Strassfeld, The Jewish Holidays, A Guide & Commentary.

*Why must we seriously fulfill the commandment to be crazy on Purim?*

The Jewish festival cycle is full of different moods -- the bittersweet joy of Pesach, the mourning of the Three Weeks, the awe of Yom Kippur, the rejoicing of Simchat Torah, among others. Each of us in his or her own life, experiences the same range of feelings, and part of the festival cycle's effort is to provide a context for those feelings. Each of us probably has difficulty expressing one or more of them -- for example, grief or joy or guilt. Surprisingly, perhaps, many people find it less difficult to feel contrite on Yom Kippur than to act the joyous fool on Purim. Purim calls upon us to give free rein to that dimension of our personalities signified by the phrase AD DE-

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## PURIM (CONTINUED)

LO-YADA. AD DE-LO-YADA -- the state of not knowing the difference between Haman and Mordechai -- is a time when all our rules and inhibitions are swept away, when the superego is pushed aside by an untrammelled id. We enter the world of the drunk, a world of blissful ignorance of reality.

The state of AD DE-LO-YADA also enables us to see how easy it is to change from Mordechai into Haman, from a crusader for justice into simply a crusader. That is why the Talmud says that we fully accept the Torah only on Purim, for only when we can mock the tradition can we fully accept it. Only then are we safe to do so; otherwise we make the tradition into an

Purim (continued)

idolatry rather than a smasher of idols, into frozen-in-stone dogma of what once was rather a living faith. The threat of the mountain of Sinai hanging over our heads evaporates as do all mirages at the laughter of the Jews on Purim. All the smoke and sound of Sinai vanishes and we see clearly the Torah, its great potentials and great dangers. We accept the Torah knowing that once a year on Purim there will be a time to laugh at our own self-righteousness. We can live by that Torah all the rest of the year because for one day we can let out our repressed feelings as we overturn all the rules, even turning the Torah itself upon its head. Both for the sake of Torah and ourselves, we need Purim to laugh at what we value and thus paradoxically gain a real sense of self-

worth.

AD DE-LO-YADA has another level of meaning as well. It is not an animalistic state of stupor, but rather a higher degree of consciousness. It is a messianic/mystical moment when there is no difference between Haman and Mordechai, good and evil, for both are found in the Holy One "who created light and darkness, made peace and created evil" (Isa. 45:7).

Which is it then -- Purim the nihilistic holiday of unbounded joy, or Purim the climax of the festival year by its fulfillment of the message of Pesach and Shavuot? Which is it, Haman or Mordechai? AD DE-LO-YADA -- {the author} leaves it to you to distinguish which is the real Purim.

When all the other festivals will be abolished [in messianic times], Purim will remain. [Midrash Mishle 9:2]

Whichever meaning Purim holds for us, if we are to laugh at ourselves, we should laugh together. See you for the reading of the book of Esther and the Purim Carnival.

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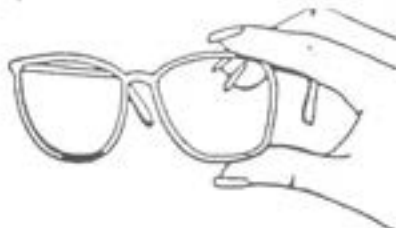
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**Celebrate PURIM !!!**  
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Join us for B'nai Tikvah's most exciting Purim Party and Megillah Reading ever!

**Thursday, February 24th:**

**4:30 pm**--Children's Megillah Reading and Costume Contest for Pre-schoolers and Sunday School children through age 7.

**7:30 pm**--Traditional Megillah Reading and Party. Come in costume for the merriest night of the year. Festivities include: Megillah reading, dancing to live Klezmer music, skits, refreshments, prizes for the best and wackiest adult and children's costumes.

**Sunday, February 27th:**

**12:00 Noon - 3:00 pm**--Purim Carnival

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**FUND RAISING NEWS**  
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Thanks to all who purchased **Entertainment Books** this year, and especially **Bill Greenberg** for his repeated chairing of this activity.

Thanks also goes out to all individuals and business owners who are participating in the **LDM/AT&T discount telephone program**. For information on how you can save money on your phone bill with AT&T, while helping your synagogue at the same time, please give me a call at 297-1387.

Upcoming Events:

**\*\*\*Art Auction** February 12th at Livingston Park Elementary School in North Brunswick. We will be using a local art gallery and featuring a wide variety of art.

**\*\*\*13th Annual Ad Journal Dinner Dance** March 5th at Congregation B'nai Tikvah. We will be honoring our Past President, Susan Kleinman.

**\*\*\*Passover Food Sale** March 7th-9th (Monday - Wednesday, in the evening) at Congregation B'nai Tikvah. We will feature a wide selection of foods from Tovah's Kosher Kitchen.

**\*\*\*9th Annual Oldies Rock N Roll Concert** April 9th at North Brunswick High School. The Drifters and the Capris are to perform.

Please support OUR synagogue by publicizing and attending these fund raising activities. Your participation is very much needed to help keep our synagogue running efficiently and effectively. Thank you!

*Alan Berger*

*Vice President--Ways & Means*



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Michael Silverstein on the loss of his mother, Theresa Silverstein.

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## SISTERHOOD CONNECTION

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### FEB. Meeting: Mitzvah Music

Join us on Sun., Feb. 6, at 10:00 a.m. to hear Mark Levy sing Traditional Judaic Folksongs. This is a joint Sisterhood/Men's Club meeting. Breakfast will be served.

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### SCHINDLER'S LIST

On Wed., Feb. 2, Helen Rosenzweig, a Holocaust survivor who was on Schindler's List, will speak about her experiences. Jewish Federation and Sisterhood are co-sponsoring the program. \$5.00 donation.

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Dear Mom,

It was wonderful seeing you in November. I will never forget the glow on your face as you held your great-granddaughter for the first time. For me, I still get chills remembering the moment Theresa placed her in my arms. Mom, We are blessed and I am so thankful. I also have an even deeper understanding, appreciation, and love for you since Kaitlyn entered my life. I miss you.

Love,  
Jill

---

### WANTED: YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES

Sisterhood plans to publish a brand new cookbook and needs exciting, low fat, delicious, kosher recipes. If you have a tried and true favorite, send it to Sisterhood c/o Synagogue Office.

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### PURIM BASKETS

Send Shaloch Manot or Purim baskets to your friends and neighbors or order one for yourself. At a cost of \$6

per basket, Sisterhood will deliver on Sun., Feb. 20. Each basket will contain Hamentaschen, candy, raisins, juice, and an explanation of this custom. To order, fill out cut-off on flyer or call Deborah at 908-545-8457. Deadline is Feb. 11.

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### PASSOVER CAKE SALE

Again in 1994, experience our annual Passover cake sale. Watch for our flyer to see our delicious selection. Have your orders in by Mar. 18. Pick up is Mar. 24.

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### Just In Time For Passover!

Get some great ideas for Passover at the Mar. meeting -- a joint Sisterhood/Men's Club Kosher Wine & Cheese Tasting Program on Mar. 6.

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### Winter Blues

Do snow, sleet and icy roads keep you from attending Sisterhood meetings? If so, tell your Phone Squad member when she calls to remind you about upcoming events. Or give one of Sisterhood's board members a ring. We'll try to arrange a ride.

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### GO FOR IT! SEND A LEAGRAM!

(Hilda Kaufman 422-0687)

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### TOVA'S KOSHER KITCHEN

(Bobbi Binder 247-2797)

Buy your kosher meat from Tova's in Hightstown, and write the check to Sisterhood. Tova donates 5% of purchases back to Sisterhood.

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### Watch for flyers on the FASHION SHOW.

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## MEN'S CLUB NEWS

### What We've Been Up To

#### Our Past Meetings:

September - Steven Papenberg the Health Officer of South Brunswick gave a talk on the little known activities of his office

October - In co-sponsorship with Shomrei Tikvah we presented Senator Lautenberg for a talk followed by a question and answer period.

November - Norman Politzner spoke on Investment Strategies for the 90's. Norm is a Certified Financial Planner who is a member of the Registry of Certified Financial Planners.

December - Rabbi Kerry Olitzky spoke on Exploding the Myth of Jewish Addiction. Drug and alcohol abuse is found in the Jewish household.

### Belated Thank You's

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our fellow congregants Norman Politzner and Rabbi Kerry Olitzky for being past guest speakers. The time and effort you spent in your presentations is greatly appreciated



### Future Activities

#### Breakfast Meeting January 2, 1994

Topic: Your Guide to Fame and Fortune - Why The Press Covers Some Small Businesses, Professionals Consultants and Not Others

by Alan Brown, a partner in Insight Communications, a firm that helps small companies transform technical achievements into business advantages.

#### Breakfast Meeting February 6, 1994

Mark Levy will perform traditional Judaic folk songs in Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino. He accompanies himself on 6 and 12 string guitars. Mark has been researching, collecting and performing songs for 20 years. He has toured the US, Europe and Israel. This performance is co-sponsored by the Sisterhood.

#### Meeting March 6, 1994

In co-sponsorship with the Sisterhood we will be having wine and cheese tasting. The wine samples will all be from Kedem.

#### Special Event April 10, 1994

For the second year in a row we are coordinating a trip to see the:

#### **NJ NETS vs. NY KNICKS**

For further details see the enclosed flyer.

#### Special Breakfast June 5, 1994

Sam Rosenzweig has been our Torah Reader extraordinaire for many years. The Mens Club is planning a breakfast, with a smear of humor, in his honor. Jot down the date. Further details will be forthcoming.

# REPEAT OF A SELL OUT!

B'NAI TIKVAH MEN'S CLUB PRESENTS

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-----  
13th Annual Ad Journal Dinner Dance  
Susan Kleinman, Honoree  
-----

Congregation B'nai Tikvah of North & South Brunswick is holding its Annual Dinner Dance at the synagogue on Saturday evening, March 5th at 7:30 pm. Susan Kleinman of South Brunswick is the honoree, in appreciation of her efforts on behalf of the congregation over many years.

Susan Kleinman was raised in Central New Jersey and moved to South Brunswick eighteen years ago. Her family life has centered around the synagogue, both socially and spiritually. Her daughters were Bat Mitzvahed at B'nai Tikvah and her husband, Jonathan, had his Bar Mitzvah at Beth Shalom in Kendall Park (one of the temples that merged to form B'nai Tikvah). She has served on the synagogue board for nine years, including terms as: Recording Secretary; Vice President of Membership; and two terms as President (1989/1990, 1990/1991). She was instrumental in the planning, development and implementation of the new catering facility, and interior design of B'nai Tikvah's lobby and public areas.

Commenting on her tenure with the board, Susan said, "It has been a wonderful experience, being involved with B'nai Tikvah since its inception, and an honor to be the first woman president of the combined congregations. My priorities were people, and I feel very good about what I accomplished."

Susan and Jonathan Kleinman have been married for twenty-three years and have two daughters: Michele, 21, is a senior at the University of Delaware; and Jenna, 19, is a sophomore at West Virginia University. Susan is a library media specialist at the Hammarskjold Middle School in East Brunswick; Jonathan is employed by AT&T.

For more information about the Dinner Dance, contact the synagogue office at (908) 297-0696. The cost is \$45 per person.

*Please Join Us*

-----  
**Ninth Annual  
Oldies Rock N Roll Concert**  
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On Saturday night, April 9, 1994, we will present our Ninth Annual Oldies Rock N Roll Concert at the North Brunswick High School. The doors will open at 8pm and the show will start at 9pm. Headlining this year's show are the legendary *DRIFTERS* and the exciting *CAPRIS*.

In 1959 the *DRIFTERS* first hit, "There goes my baby", sold two million copies and their subsequent recordings accounted for sales of over 200 million singles and 80 million albums. This ranked them fifth in "all-time record sales", earning their well-deserved spot in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The *DRIFTERS* 18 top-ten hits include million sellers: "This magic moment", "Save the last dance for me", "Up on the roof", "On Broadway", "Under the boardwalk", "Dance with me", "I count the tears", "Saturday night at the movies", "Some kind of wonderful" and "Lonely winds". Their career has included 100 television appearances, performances at the White House, the 1977 Bicentennial Tour of Russia and 10 sold-out shows at Madison Square Garden. The April 9th show by these legendary performers promises to be one you will never forget!

Adding to the evening's entertainment are the *CAPRIS*. Their classic 1960 hit, "There's a moon out tonight", reached number one on the national charts and catapulted the group to superstardom. Named for the "Isle of Capri", the New York City group followed with other hits including "Where I fell in love", "Girl in my dreams" and perhaps the best session off be-bop harmony ever put on record, "Morse code of love".

Tickets are \$20 each and will go on sale in March. For information and directions, call Allen Karp at 297-6646.

*Don't Miss It!*

-----  
**About Us**  
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United States Holocaust Museum--"Washington" has been agog at the amazing attendance records set at this museum. In a recent survey of visitors, it was found that three in five visitors are not Jewish, with the variety of religions represented hitting an unbelievable high. In addition, most of the 3,200 visitors surveyed claimed that the museum was at the top of their list to visit while staying in Washington; and more than twenty-six percent of out-of-towners stated they had come to Washington specifically to visit the museum. Often, their visit ends with the general comment, "We must return. There is so much to see and absorb." For those of us who had some reservations about this museum, this is proof of the sponsors' faith in providing something significant.

Help Wanted--United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali has requested of the Israeli Ambassador that he ask Israel to provide experts to help direct and observe democratic elections around the world.

Comparisons--President Clinton's health reform committee is studying and contrasting the United States 7.5 employees per hospital bed with the ratio of 2.5 employees per bed in Israel's hospitals.

Indirections--An Israeli travel agency arranges Middle Eastern tours that begin in Israel and tours Jordan and Syria afterwards. Remember when Arab

countries did not allow visitors to come to their country following a trip to Israel? However, the tour is NOT open to Israelis.

Footnotes--To those of us who automatically think "hora" when we hear of Israeli dances, or do crossword puzzles, think again! The international edition of the Jerusalem Post tells us that there are about 1,000 Israeli folk dances, varying from classical to disco, and including Yemenite, Oriental and Hassidic sources.

Circassians--Have you ever heard of them? Our attention was caught by the designation when we met a Circassian nurse working at our daughter's kibbutz, not far from Safad. The Circassians are a Muslim people who have successfully kept their distinct identity and traditions. They reside in two small Galilee villages, one of the very isolated back roads leading to Safad. 2,600 strong, the Circassians are a minority people who are very loyal to Israel, and at their own request are subject to compulsory service in the Israel Defense Forces.

Yiddishisms--Even those of us who understand a few phrases cannot always manage to translate from Yiddish to English in a literal fashion. For instance, to date we have not quite managed to work out the expression, "hock mir nisht kan chaynik". Literally, it means, "don't knock me a teapot", yes? Should we tell our curious grandkids idiomatically "don't bother me", or should we try to explain??? "Qvech" means "squeeze", but on television

these days what means a "squeeze"?? So what are we talking about? "Shlemiel" is easy, as is "gevalt", but but but. (We welcome your contributions.)

Auld Lang Syne--In true holiday tradition, Friday night services this year featured a discussion of "Sylvester" as the holiday is called in Israel, and if you want to know more, do ask the Rabbi or find one of the attendees. Just to keep in the spirit of things, we also followed tradition by singing the closing hymn, "Adon Olam", to the tune of the appropriate song, "Auld Lang Syne". We refrained, however, from expressing in Yiddish the traditional wish, "Gut Yuntiff, mishpocha, und zeits mir gezindt"!

*L'hitraot,*

*Mili Rosloff*

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#### Kashrut Korner Update

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Attention congregants! Congregation B'nai Tikvah, is NO longer purchasing cake and other baked goods from **Gaston Avenue Bakery**. If you have any further questions, please feel free to speak to Rabbi Warmflash.



#### Upcoming G I F T S H O P Hours

The Giftshop will be open on Sunday February 13, 1994 from 9:00 am until 12:30 pm

Shop for PASSOVER  
...yes we are already planning for Passover...

During the Passover Food Sale:  
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday  
March 7, 8 and 9 from  
4:00 pm until 9:00 pm

We will also be open on  
the Sundays of  
March 6 and March 20  
from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm

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These products are approved by the "OU" even though the "OU-D" emblem does not yet appear on the label. The "OU" will appear on the label of these products as new packaging is printed which will be a matter of months or as much as a year.

Only the specific products mentioned above are certified by "OU" - no other M & M Mars product is certified by "OU." Please post this announcement in shuls and yeshivos.

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**Plant A Seed**  
contributor unknown  
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- \*\*\*Do you worry that your children will not be "as Jewish" as you would like them to be when they grow up?
- \*\*\*Do you have friends whose grown children intermarry and leave the faith and this disturbs you?
- \*\*\*Do you worry that your children will not care whether they go to synagogue and may not care if their children are raised as Jews?
- \*\*\*Do you worry that you will be the one to blame for not setting a good enough example to your children when they were young?
- \*\*\*Although you have planted the seed of Jewishness by enrolling your children in Hebrew School and by bringing them to synagogue on the High Holidays, are you worried that it may not be enough?
- \*\*\*Is it a "belief" that you cannot show your children how important it is to be involved with a synagogue because you do not have the time?

If any, or all, of these "worries or beliefs" applies to you, then there is an EASY way to water and cultivate the seeds in which you have planted--to watch them flourish!

The way you show, by example, to your children that you care is by attending several of the evening services held at the synagogue, Sunday through Thursday at 7:30pm and bring them with you. Show them that you are fulfilling a MITZVAH to help make a minyon.

- \*\*\*Do you have to understand Hebrew? No.
  - \*\*\*Do you have to be able to read Hebrew? No.
  - \*\*\*Do you have to get dressed up? No.
  - \*\*\*Do you have to be at the synagogue for a long time? No.
- Services are usually over in fifteen minutes.

You can do more cultivating of that seed with fifteen minutes of Jewish bonding spent together with your children--building memories, than in hours of talking to them about your expectations. Make it a habit to come twice a month to these services and it will show your children that you care and then they will care. It is up to you whether you leave a legacy of weeds...or one of flowers.

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In other words, unmatured Reconstruction and Development Issue or Sixth Development Issue Bonds purchased in 1979 and 1980 can be submitted for advanced reinvestment toward the purchase of Individual Variable Rate Issue (IVRI) Bonds, Current Income Bonds, and \$250 State of Israel Certificates.

The IVRI has a current annual rate of interest of 5.50% for bonds purchased through February 1994. (Bonds purchased in March will bear April 1 rate). The IVRI has a minimum subscription of \$5,000 (and is available for \$2,500 or \$2,000 for IRAs only). The bond has an annual rate of 5.00%, plus half the excess of the average prime rate over 5.00%. If prime falls below 5.00%, the rate is prime. The bond matures 12 years from issue date and has an early redemption privilege for IRAs and pension plans.

The Current Income Bond has a minimum subscription of \$500. When held at least one year, the bond may be cashed in Israel for Israeli currency, up to \$2,500 a month per person, to defray tourist expenses. The bond has an annual interest rate of 4.00% and matures in 15 years.

The \$250 State of Israel Certificate, when held at least one year, can be redeemed in Israel for Israeli currency or used toward payment of El Al Israel Airlines tickets for flights to and from Israel, under current provisions. The certificate matures in five years.

It is not possible to buy Economic Development Issue Bonds, Floating Rate Issue Bonds, or Zero Coupon Bonds through this advanced reinvestment program.

Those who would like to participate in the program should contact the local Israel Bond office in Highland Park. The telephone number is (908)828-0200 or (800)752-5652. The office's address is 300 Raritan Avenue, Suite #2, Highland Park, N.J. 08904.

With this program the Israeli government is thanking you for investing in its growing economy, and at the same time asking for your continued investment.

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The Association of  
Conservative  
Congregations

December 16, 1993

TO: ALL CONGREGATIONAL BULLETIN EDITORS  
FROM: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**It is our pleasure to report the success of our 1993 Biennial Convention, held November 11-15 at the Bonaventure Resort & Spa in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In keeping with the theme of the Convention, "Climbing the Ladder: The Conservative Jew's Quest for Spirituality," the Convention was held over a *Shabbat*, allowing participants to share enriching prayer and study sessions.**

The Biennial included plenary sessions featuring distinguished speakers such as Elie Wiesel, Chancellor Ismar Schorsch, Dr. Ron Wolfson and Rabbi Joel Roth, as well as informative seminars in which delegates learned a variety of skills to bring back to their congregations. Experts in numerous fields from social action to synagogue fundraising to membership enrollment were available to advise participants.

One of the Convention highlights was a *Mitzvah* Fair. Designed to provide resources and hands-on activities for the enhancement of *Shabbat*, the fair had booths where delegates learned the *Havdalah* service, how to lay *tefillin*, how to build a *sukkah*, and many other skills.

One of the most important sessions of the Convention dealt with the subject of intermarriage. Led by Rabbi Azriel Fellner, spiritual leader of Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston, NJ, together with our Executive Vice-President Rabbi Jerome Epstein, the session, entitled "Intermarriage -- The Media's Message is Not OUR Message," showcased clips from recent films and programs that further the erroneous impression that preserving a distinct ethnic identity is somehow politically incorrect.

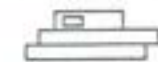
At the gathering, The United Synagogue announced the creation of the "Natural Disaster Relief Fund," which will assist congregations in areas affected by natural catastrophic occurrences which do extensive damage to the synagogues themselves and create hardships for their members. We are also pleased to note that in his presentation on achieving spirituality through *mitzvot*, poet/author Danny Siegel singled out for special praise the Directory of Accessible Congregations listed in the 1993-94 United Synagogue Directory and Resource Guide, as well as the USCJ's use of TDD, a telecommunication system for the deaf.

The United Synagogue is proud of its leading role in serving the congregations of the Conservative Movement. Biennial Conventions are an important way for us to reach our congregants, and we are pleased that we were able to offer such an outstanding and informative program.



# KOACH

*Conservative Judaism's  
College Programming for the 90's*



## A Guide for the New Jewish College Student

Dear College Freshman, **By Rabbi Neil Gillman**

The transition you are now making is a very exciting, challenging and rewarding one. It is a time for unparalleled personal growth and exploration. You will be inundated with all sorts of information from various organizations on campus, from your professors, from the administration and even from home. And as exciting as it is, it can also be very confusing and a little bit scary.

You will now have to decide many things for yourself. When to study, what friends you'll make, what you'll take advantage of on campus, how you will even make your decisions. As part of this development, you will also need to define your Jewish role on campus. This may well be one of the most crucial decisions you will make in your entire life.

Until now, you have had some affiliation with the Conservative Movement. Hopefully, your experiences have been important to your own personal growth as a member of the Jewish Community. Now, however, you are about to separate from the familiar structures of your USY chapter, your local camp connections and the "comforts of home." It will be up to you, and you alone, to find your niche in the Jewish community on campus and beyond. That's where we come in to help.

Rabbi Neil Gillman provides some sound advice and some encouraging guidance as you begin this exhilarating experience. Take some time now to read this pamphlet - before you become too busy to give it another thought. And then contact us to let us know how we can help you during this wonderful time in your life.

*B'hatzlacha - Good Luck!*

Richard S. Moline  
Director of College Outreach - KOACH  
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism



**By this time,** you are fully aware that the twelve-month period beginning with the spring semester of your senior year in high school and ending with the fall semester of your freshman year in college is one of the most trying and stressful periods in our lives. Most of us survive this period and eventually look back at it with a mix of horror, pain and a bit of nostalgia. If you and your family have been in any way involved with issues of Jewish identity, the fate of your Jewishness in the years ahead will add to the turmoil.

The reality is that many young men and women do emerge from college as healthy, committed and even knowledgeable Jews. In fact, the American college scene today offers you infinitely more opportunities for Jewish growth than it did your predecessors a generation ago.

Here then is some very practical advice for you and for anyone who is entering college concerned with

preserving his or her Jewish neshama (soul).

### 1. GET YOURSELF A GROUP OF JEWISH FRIENDS

For many of you the undergraduate years mark your first extensive stay away from home. Your high school friends have scattered, your family lives far away, you're thrown into a dormitory with people who may come from very different cultures and represent very different lifestyles from anything you are familiar with. You are invariably going to feel lonely, especially during your first month in school.

It's during this period that you will be much more susceptible to the invitations issued by campus-based cults and religious groups of all stripes who offer close-knit communities, intense spiritual experiences and strong, structured lifestyles. Suspect them. They may meet your immediate needs, but they will demand far too much in return — sacrifice of your mind, individuality and autonomy.

Remember that the best way to

find a community is to leave your dorm room and go look for it. These communities are everywhere on campus and the Jewish population will offer multiple possibilities to meet men and women who share your values, your interests and concerns and support you.

The natural place to begin is with your local Hillel Foundation or its equivalent. You will find there is a structured program with multiple options through which you can express your Jewish concerns, be they study, social action, prayer or simply meeting other Jews.

Get yourself a group of Jewish friends — men and women who share your basic Jewish commitments and your basic outlook to your tradition. There is little more difficult than trying to observe kashrut or Shabbat in the dorm. There is little more enriching than to observe it in the company of a group who share your appreciation of the experience. The college experience will inevitably throw you into contact with enough people who will challenge your commitments: there should be a group of people and a place where you find sharing and support for what you stand for. Jews need community, and your sense of your own Jewishness can only be strengthened and your loneliness dissipated to the extent that you find your own Jewish community.

### 2. GET YOURSELF A "REBBE"

...maybe your own Rabbi, another Rabbi, a fellow student, a member of the faculty, a learned layperson in town — someone who is an authentic Jew and possibly even a learned Jew who will serve as your "teacher with a small T", invite you into his or her home for a Sabbath meal, share books and periodicals, keep you up-to-date with news of the Jewish world, as well as be available to help you with issues that are on your mind.

### 3. USING CONFRONTATION AS CHALLENGE

You'll soon discover that much of the overtly Jewish activity on your campus will emerge around issues of confrontation between Jews and other groups on the campus scene. However much we may bemoan

the fact, the reality is that today there are genuine tensions between Jews and Blacks, between defenders and critics of Israel, between Jews and American Anti-Semitic movements. These tensions may be dormant for



while, but suddenly a guest speaker is invited on campus, some terrorist event occurs or a political issue grabs the headlines and suddenly rallies are convened, people are marching, posters are displayed and emotion runs high. You now have to declare yourself. Where is your own voice? How strongly do you feel? What are you prepared to do? Use those opportunities as the challenges that they are. However painful they may seem, they present an opportunity to clarify issues, sharpen the options and impel you to identify your deepest convictions. However tempting it may be to engage in hysterical name-calling, try to inject a note of rationality into the discussion, understand what moves your opponents and most of all read, think, study and use the opportunity to clarify who you are and what you stand for.

#### School



Your local Hillel or Office of Jewish Affairs will direct you to the national

study those areas of the Jewish experience that interest you the most. Above all, this experience must not become a chore which you try to avoid. Never forget that Judaism is the most consciously intellectual of all religious traditions and that by any possible definition, the authentic Jew is the studying Jew.

KOACH will happily supply study materials and help organize learning experiences on your campus.

#### 5. GET YOURSELF A BASIC JEWISH LIBRARY

For less than \$100, it should be possible for you to acquire enough Jewish books and periodicals of value to keep you busy for many months. Your collection should include at least one good history of the Jews (Roth, Sachar, Grayzel), a few books on contemporary philosophy (Buber, Rosenzweig, Heschel, Kaplan), a good Siddur and Festival Mahzor, and the Hebrew Bible in Hebrew and English. For the rest, follow your particular interest. Every concerned Jew should be a member of the Jewish Publication Society which will provide you with a steady stream of the best in Jewish books year in and year out. JPS has recently launched a collegiate program enabling students to obtain books at below cost prices. There are also a wide variety of periodicals of Jewish interest: *Judaism* (15 East 84th Street, New York, NY) spe-

cializes in theological issues: *Commentary* (165 East 56th Street, New York, NY 10022) and *Tikkun* (PO Box 408, Syracuse, NY 13217) on political and social issues; *Mainstream* (515 Park Avenue, New York, NY) on issues relating to Israel and America; and *Sh'ma — A Journal of Jewish Responsibility* (Box 567, Port Washington, NY 11050). Many offer special student rates.

#### 4. STUDY: USING YOUR JEWISH HEAD

Your years in college will provide you with unlimited opportunities for intellectual growth no matter what your field may be. If you do not manage to grow intellectually as a Jew at the same time, you will find that your sense of Jewishness will invariably waste away. You must then study — not simply read, listen to lectures, participate in discussions — but study: a rigorous, careful, and serious attempt to grapple with the intellectual content of the Jewish tradition as it emerges out of classical Jewish texts both ancient and modern.

The more closely this experience of Jewish study is located at the very center of your life as an undergraduate, the more satisfying it will be. Ideally then, you should attend a school that has a department of Judaica or a first rate college of Jewish studies nearby. If neither is available, then watch for classes sponsored by Hillel, or find yourself a teacher or friend with whom to study. As a last resort, put aside part of every week for your own private study experience. In any case, it must become an integral part of the rhythm of the week. If you have a choice,

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#### 6. GO TO ISRAEL FOR A SUMMER, SEMESTER OR A YEAR

There is now available to every undergraduate a wide variety of programs in Israel suitable for any budget, any span of time and any particular field of study. If you are interested in studying, chances are your school will grant you academic credit for the work you do at a recognized university in Israel. Working in a kibbutz or touring the country can be worthwhile experiences. No one experience will do more for your Jewishness than a stay of this kind and there is no excuse for going through four years of college without spending some time in Israel!

#### 7. WORK WITHIN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

If you are in or near a decent sized Jewish community and if you have some ability, training and/or experience, the chances are that you can be employed as a teacher,

youth leader, Torah reader, etc. in a synagogue. Most rabbis and synagogues can use this kind of help and will compensate you for your time and effort. Besides, there is no better way to learn what it means to be a Jew than by trying to instill this feeling into a group of teenagers or young children.

Summers provide their own opportunities for work. There are a number of Jewish summer camps sponsored by various organizations which are always on the lookout for talented and committed undergraduates with particular skills. If you have some facility with Hebrew, you might well turn to one of the Ramah camps in the United States or Canada (write to: 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027). Also, USY Israel Pilgrimage and USY-ON-WHEELS have positions available for the summer. (Write to: 155 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010). These are rewarding summer experiences. To be considered for staff members on Israel Pilgrimage, applicants generally



must be at least 20 years old. For WHEELS, applicants should have completed a minimum of two years of college.

#### 8. TUNE IN TO THE JEWISH NATIONAL SCENE

There is more doing now in the world of Jewish college students than ever before. There are all kinds of political groups and synagogue groups. Many of them sponsor regional and national conferences where you can get involved in study and action programs on issues that appeal to your personal interest.

KOACH sponsors national conferences as well as regional and local programs. Contact our office for details.

#### 9. KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HOME

Specifically, keep in touch with your home congregation and home Rabbi. Ask to be put on the congregation's mailing list. Visit your Rabbi and synagogue on vacations and use his/her resources, library and friends. She is one of a group of over one thousand Conservative rabbis around the world and she can use this fellowship with these men and women and countless other Jewish personalities on your behalf.

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#### 10. ABOVE ALL...

...remember that Jewishly you are now on your own. The college years are invariably a tumultuous experience. Some of us enter with clear career goals in mind and the pressure of meeting the deadlines, getting the grades, getting good references are exhausting. At the same time, the college scene offers you multiple programs and activities that can consume every free moment of your day and night. You are quickly exhausted and pulled in many different directions at the same time. Your Jewish life may provide you with an anchor in the midst of this turmoil. Shabbat, for example, offers an island of rest, unwinding, community and joy which will put the rest of the week in perspective. Many newly Shabbat observant Jews have frequently asked: "What do Jews do who don't observe Shabbat? How do they survive?"

But Shabbat won't happen by itself. At this point the responsibility is yours alone. Your authorities of the past are no longer with you. You must take control of your own Jewish neshama and shape it as you will, or not.

**And, remember: We at KOACH are here to help you. Just call or write**

KOACH is a project of  
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\*\*\*\*\*  
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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 March deadline for HaKol will be February 1, and the April deadline is March 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**

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
Thursday Mornings	7:00 am

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