

# HaKol The Voice

*A Publication of Congregation B'nai Tikvah*

September, 1995

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## A MESSAGE FROM RABBI ELIGBERG

**C**hayim Nahman Bialik was a great modern Jewish poet – the Robert Frost of Hebrew letters. Unfortunately, Bialik was also absent-minded. His thoughts rested mostly upon his poetry. Once, around the turn of this century, he was invited to address a conference which was being held in Kiev. Mrs. Bialik, knowing how forgetful her husband was, went to the railroad station and bought a ticket for him. She returned home and placed it in his vest pocket. On the morning that he was to leave by train for Kiev, he dressed hurriedly and forgot to put on the vest.

The conductor called for the tickets aboard the train and Bialik searched all of his pockets to no avail. "Don't be upset," said the conductor, "pay me the fare now and when you return home and find your ticket, you'll be refunded the money for the unused ticket." "That's not why I'm so terribly upset," responded Bialik, "I'm concerned because I don't know where I am going!!!" As we approach the High Holy Days, each of us should be concerned about where we are going.

Rosh Hshana, Yom Kippur and Sukkot afford us the most significant opportunity to pause and reflect upon our journey in life. The sacredness inherent in these holy days is that we are presented with the potential to make mid-course adjustments in our journeys through life. As we stand at the dawning of the new year of 5756, we are bidden by our heritage to actively determine where we are going.

What have we accomplished in the past year? Have we given of ourselves, have we shared our love, and our lives, have we made a difference and

had a beneficial impact upon our family, friends and community? Have we been living worthy lives?

These questions are not mere philosophical musings, they are in fact very real issues for us to ponder and decisively act upon. We can transform ourselves into the type of person, and the quality Jew we know we ought to be. Let us strive together in spiritual renewal and soul searching as we seek to find the true significance of where we are going in life. Our congregation is the context in which to share this most rewarding Jewish journey.

May we strengthen one another as we embark on a new chapter in our Book of Life. May our prayers guide us and may our deeds affirm the sanctity of our traditions and mitzvot.

I wish each of you and your loved ones a year of peace, good health and happiness and the time to enjoy these Divine blessings.

Rabbi David M. Eligberg

### Issue Highlights

High Holiday & Sukkot Review  
About Us  
American Jewish Heroes  
Social Group News & Events  
Kashrut Korner

**October HaKol Deadline: September 13**



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

**C**an it already be a year since I wrote to wish all of you a good and sweet 5755? The calendar does not lie. In fact, it has been nearly thirteen months on the civil calendar since we last assembled for High Holy Day services. In looking back at the year which is ending and forward to the New Year which is beginning, I would say...

*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times--* 5755 began with much promise. A new president was beginning his first term at Congregation B'nai Tikvah. His Board of Trustees was enthusiastic about the two most important issues which they would soon face: refinancing the high-interest rate mortgage on the synagogue building and renewing the contract of the sitting Rabbi. Other business would include outreach to unaffiliated Jews in the community with the goal of bringing them in as members of B'nai Tikvah; and the creation and presentation of high-quality programming and educational course offerings, for adults as well as for our Hebrew School students.

*It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity--*

We were sure to accomplish in 5755 all that we had originally set out to do. After all, the Board of Trustees had an accumulated seventy-five years of experience in overseeing the operations of B'nai Tikvah, if everybody's tenure on Boards of the past were added together. Nothing could go wrong. Everything would work out as planned. There would be no changes in 5755, except those which we, ourselves, would characterize as most positive. There would be no unanticipated curves in the road, we would ably field all balls.

*It was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair--*

The autumn holidays of 5755 whirled by in a blur. "Yom Tov" arrived directly on the heels of Labor Day for only the second--and certainly the last time, in this 20th century. Sukkot and Simchat Torah sunsets were the latest, ever; and the weather should have been the warmest and most congenial. Unfortunately, it rained and the winds began to blow--too soon for most of us.

As March/Cheshvan began, we were preoccupied by the methodology of evaluation and the "correct" composition of the Rabbinic Evaluation Committee. Positioning dominated much of the activity at B'nai Tikvah at this time, from the print shop to the boardroom.

Thanksgiving Day and Chanukah provided some much needed distraction, though. The nighttime Chanukah party left us warmly aglow. The shortest days of winter gave way to a new civil year and a sense that the worst lay behind us. Although this was true of the weather, in other matters we were mistaken. B'nai Tikvah was shaken to its very foundation as winter turned into spring.

*We had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going directly to Heaven, we were all going directly the other way--*

In short, 5755 was so far like the years which preceded and which are bound to follow, that some of our noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.

As shock and disbelief of Rabbi Warmflash's departure gave way to pain, anger and guilt; which, in turn, gave way to acceptance, gratitude and love, Congregation B'nai Tikvah stood absolutely united in the spring of 5755! Singularity of purpose and determination to survive, yea, thrive, marked the congregation and the leadership alike. It is truly amazing how much we can accomplish when we believe ourselves besieged and react to the situation as one.

The changes which we have witnessed have brought out the best in every congregant. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve you! You will all be in my prayers during these Days of Awe as I ask forgiveness from all whom I have offended or wronged in 5755.

L'Shana Tovah,  
Jeff Schwartz

P.S. We did successfully refinance the synagogue mortgage.

P.S.S. Special thanks to the late Charles Dickens.

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## NEW SYNAGOGUE PERSONNEL

For those who have not already noticed, our synagogue office and maintenance personnel have changed. They are: **Sharon Levine** [Administrator], **Ken Gruenfeld** [Office/School Secretary] and **Cleo Johns** [Custodian].

If you have any needs please feel free to call them at the synagogue office, 297-0696. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9am-5pm and Friday, 9am-3pm.

## SYNAGOGUE ADMINISTRATION NOTES

Please call Ken Gruenfeld if you have a key to ANY of the synagogue's doors. This will help to ensure that you are notified when the building's alarm security code is changed.

Please call Sharon Levine if you desire to reserve any room for group meetings. A "room reservation form" will need to be filled out. Upon completion of the form, the event will be placed on the "official" synagogue calendar and two, it will establish those duties (e.g. set-up of chairs, clean-up) to be undertaken by the synagogue and those of the group requesting the room.

Please call Ken Gruenfeld if you have a "working" computer in which you would be willing to donate on a permanent basis to the synagogue.

### *The Fourth Annual Great Cantors Concert*

*Sunday, November 5th at 2:00 pm*

The State Theatre

New Brunswick, New Jersey

Featuring Cantors:

Moshe Stern

Moshe Schuloff

Aaron Bensousson

Accompanied by Cantor Daniel Gildar

Ticket Prices: \$20.00 Patron: \$50.00

For Tickets contact Mark Cohen

(908-821-5917)

## NURSERY SCHOOL NOTES

Shalom from the Nursery School! Although, at the time of this writing we are still preparing for the forthcoming school year, I Joan Shames, the Director of Nursery School along with our Head Teachers, look forward to welcoming all our youngsters on the first day of school, September 11, 1995. This year we also happily welcome to our staff Maris Goldberg and Beth Reiter as Head Teachers for the three Pre-Kindergarten classes.

Last school year, our three Pre-Kindergarten classes accumulated enough tzedakah money to donate fifty dollars to WCTC for the talkathon program aiding cancer, diabetes and heart funds. Approximately one hundred dollars for seven toys was donated to the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital playroom; one hundred twenty-five dollars to B'nai Brith to help in the Oklahoma disaster program; sixty-five dollars to the Jewish National Fund; and fifty dollars to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund.

The Jewish Community Center of North & South Brunswick Nursery School is state licensed and is sponsored by Congregation B'nai Tikvah. We offer half day pre-school programs for children 2-1/2 to 5 years of age. To date, we still have several openings in some of our classes. This year we have added optional extended hours (8:30am to 3:30pm) for 3 and 4 year olds who are registered in a morning class. Our active nursery school also offers an optional extended hour lunch. In addition, we offer "Mommy & Me" program for children 18 months and up, which includes our successful "One Step Up" class.

For additional information on any of the above programs, please call 297-0295 or 254-9192.

### Out-Of-The Mouths of Babes:

*(Recorded from the 1994-95 school year)*

*When the teacher told the story of Passover, she asked, "What do you think happened to the Red Sea?" Dillon replied, "It turned green!"*

*One day Aaron and his friends were discussing being old and dying. Aaron made this insightful statement, "I know why G-d is in heaven...He's there to keep dead people company!"*

*Immediately after Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Adam told his mother, "We had a birthday party today for a boy,*



*Out-of-the mouths...continued*

*but I forgot his name." Adam's mom asked, "Was it for Israel?" Adam replied, "Yeah, that's it, but he wasn't there!"*

*When Cantor Goldberg asked his son, Eli, what flavor ice pop he had at the Lag B'Omer picnic, he replied, "greenberry!"*

Shalom,  
Joan Shames, Director

### WE HAVE A NEW ADDITION!

For years, we have been asked to provide additional time for our nursery & Pre-Kindergarten classes. Starting September 1995, we will have additional class space in the afternoon to meet this request.

Please keep in mind that the J.C.C. of North & South Brunswick Nursery School is primarily, and will remain, a nursery school offering the best in promoting social, emotional, physical and intellectual development. However, now we will offer some additional hours as well. Don't despair, you can still change classes if you find that this new addition will help your schedule. However, we urge you to do it: quickly before this news is public.

We will be offering an optional full day (8:30am - 3:30pm) for children registered only in a 3-day or 5-day morning class. Our regular school calendar, which covers 9-12 months of school, will be followed in all classes.

#### Cost:

3-Day (M.W.F.): \$225 per month. Includes 3-day morning nursery school tuition, lunch fee (11:30am - 12:30pm-own lunch), and care from 8:30am - 9:00am and 12:30pm - 3:30pm. Two snacks are provided.

5-Day (M.- F.): \$375 per month. Includes 5-day morning Pre-Kindergarten tuition, lunch fee (11:30am - 12:30pm-own lunch), and care from 8:30am - 9:30am and 12:30 -3:30pm. Two snacks are provided.

June's cost is one-half of the monthly fee.

Should your needs require even more time, we will offer extended hours starting at 7:30am (includes breakfast) and ending at 6pm (4pm on Fridays due to Shabbat) at \$3.50 per hour. These additional hours are paid monthly in advance and are flexible to meet your needs.

We will accept children on a daily basis to meet emergency or occasional needs only if room is available.

Please contact the nursery school office at 297-0295 to sign up!

18 Albury Way  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
June 7, 1995

Joan Shames, Director  
Nursery School  
J.C.C. of North and South Brunswick  
1001 Finnegan Lane  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Dear Joan:

We wanted to thank Ben's teachers, Mrs. Seckler, Mrs. Winter, yourself and all of the assistant teachers, Mrs. Levine, Mrs. Ferrer, Mrs. Lesko and Mrs. Edley who were so instrumental in his extraordinary development over the past three years.

Ben's enthusiasm for learning, the broad base of knowledge he's acquired and his social growth are, in very important ways, tied to his experiences with all of you at the Pre-School. Ben's life has been enriched as a result of your collective professionalism, dedication and nurturance, and we thank you for all of your efforts on our son's behalf.

Sincerely,

*Allen Anker-Rosen*  
DR. AND MRS. DAVID ROSEN

cc: HAKOL  
Board of Directors, J.C.C. No. 150, Brunswick

### HaKol Is In Search Of...

Book reviewers. We are looking for individuals to review books pertaining to Judaism for publication in HaKol. Rabbi Eligberg would be happy to suggest age/topically appropriate books if necessary. We are particularly seeking Parent/Child readers to review the same book from different perspectives. Expert writers not necessary. . . expert readers (of all ages) preferred. If you have any questions contact Gigi Cohen 821-5917.

*Mazel Tov to the following nursery school students who have graduated our Pre-Kindergarten curriculum and who are entering Kindergarten in September 1995:*

Gregory Aaron  
Melonie Aronoff  
Amy Binder  
Joshua Brooks  
Brandon Chinich  
Margot Cohen  
Daniel DeOliveira  
Dillon Diato  
Craig Dickert  
Benjamin Ehrlich  
Melissa Feldman  
Melissa Gaber  
William Gerr  
Aaron Gittleman  
Jessica Goldberg  
Andrew Goldhagen  
Rachel Gurney  
Marissa Jaffe  
Deborah Kang

Caitlin Katz  
Jaqueline Kelly  
Alexa Langrock  
Jacob Lassin  
Michael Levine  
Alexa Margulies  
Tayla Melmid  
Lawrence Nastelon  
Danielle Nudelman  
Christopher Reyes  
Benjamin Rosen  
Rachel Rosen  
Marissa Roth  
Erica Rubin  
Amanda Rudin  
Erica Salmirs  
Shana Samuels  
Andrew Schaer

Dustin Schnoor  
Joshua Sherman  
Ashley Siegel  
Laura Sperber  
Matthew Staffin  
Aaron Stevens  
Danny Taubenslag  
Nitish Thatte  
Aaron Triefler  
Jana Walsh  
Cara Wasserstrom  
Joshua Weser  
Matthew Wolfers  
Joseph Wong  
Sarah Woogen  
Stephanie Zabel  
Michael Zankel

*Shalom Chaverim*

## **SISTERHOOD CONNECTION**

◆ **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 - 9:30 am**  
General Meeting - Rabbi Eligberg will speak to both Sisterhood and Men's Club. Join us for breakfast and our business meeting followed by the Rabbi.

◆ Our next General Meeting will be **Wednesday, October 11 at 8 p.m.** Come at 7:30 p.m. for minyan and stay for our program.

We will again be offering flowers to brighten your holiday tables. Look for information in the newsletter or call Lisa at 297-6950.

No room to build your own sukkah? Are you building a sukkah and would like to share it? Join in our **Sukkot hospitality program**. Call Bernice at 247-2707 and keep you eye out for more information.

Another year, another chance to join Sisterhood - our annual Paid-Up Membership Dinner will be on Wednesday, November 15. Join us for good food, entertainment and friends.  
Call Joyce at 937-5114

Any occasion is a good one to send a Torah Fund card. Call Gigi at 821-5917.

Sisterhood **Gift Shop** is filled to the brim and overflowing with wonderful Judaica - watch for dates we'll be open for the holidays or call Lynn at 297-6691.

Support Sisterhood by attending our fund raising events throughout the 1995-96 season. If you'd like to get involved call Lisa at 297-6950.

Send a Leahgram just to say hello. Call Judi at 390-0919

## HAKOL

We would like to thank the many people involved in making HaKol happen last year. They made improvements which you will continue to see on a monthly basis. On behalf of the congregation, our thanks go to:

Arthur Biderman  
Nancy Harris  
Beth Statman

Robyn Bronstein  
Phyllis Rosen  
Brian Statman

Alan Brown  
Ann Rosenzweig  
Irwin Weintraub

Fortunately for all of us, many of these individuals will continue to play a vital role in bringing HaKol to you. We look forward to working with them, as well as Rabbi Eligberg in creating a publication as vibrant and as varied as those who read it.

It is our good fortune that Gale Dillman is tireless in rounding up advertisers for HaKol. Without her efforts there might not be a publication at all.

Mark & Gigi Cohen

### Yahrzeit

*If you would like to receive a reminder about a loved one's yahrzeit, please contact the synagogue office.*

*The following yahrzeits were recently observed:*

### August 12

William & Jeanette Bergelson  
Charles & Barbara Bloom  
Ann Cherson  
Gerry & Bobbie Dumoff  
Marty & Shirley Engel  
Dave & Sandy Friedheim  
Jerry & Bertha Goldsmith  
Isidore & Claire Hirshman  
Irwin & Sharon Kalet  
Robert & Lita Katz  
Harold & Sandra Kizner  
Dan & Lisa Kurschner  
Bernard & Abbey Lorber  
Leonard & Joyce Mandelblatt  
Richard & Melanie Margolis  
Steven & Ronnie Mark  
Steven & Melissa Mekler  
Robert & Eileen Robison  
Walter & Suse Rosenstock  
Robert & Carol Turkheimer

Jack Koven  
Samuel Bloom  
Benjamin Shapiro  
Lila Dumoff  
Lila Engel  
Anna Friedheim  
Gabriel Goldsmith  
Max Silverman  
Minnie Imber  
William Katz  
Zalman Kizner  
Dorothy Kurschner  
Louise Kahn  
Isadore Mandelblatt  
Louis Margolis  
Arthur Mark  
Lila Dumoff  
Sophia Robison  
Moses Rosenstock  
Morris Arnold Norack

### Bonds & The Jewish Heart

A Chinese friend of ours, who runs a restaurant, was intrigued by the fact that most "Chinese" restaurants in Israel are run by Vietnamese. She also did not understand why Americans continue to send money to Israel.

She was touched when I explained that the Vietnamese were boat people who were picked up at sea by Israeli ships. When other ships' captains had become too jaded by the sight of these starving and wretched people to even stop and give them some food or water, Israeli sailors said that life was too precious to waste, and picked them up and took them home. All these human flotsam wanted was a chance to make a new life. Just a chance.

Today they come, mostly by plane-from Sarajevo, from Chechnya or wherever Jews or people of Jewish descent feel endangered. They come to Israel and we in the Western world are privileged to help them to become resettled in the Jewish land of opportunity.

**Buy Israel Bonds. Buy them for investment  
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**For more information call  
Aaron Rosloff 908-297-2233, or  
Israel Bonds 908-828-0200.**



## Yahrzeits continued

### August 19

Mark & Helene Chelton  
Ann Cherson  
Ann Cherson  
Marty & Shirley Engel  
Bill & Eleanor Greenberg  
Robert & Lucille Greenberg  
Leon & Phyllis Horlick  
Aaron & Linda Jay  
David & Dorothy Nailburg  
Andrew & Adrienne Ross  
Jeffrey & Marcia Schwartz

Nathan Weinstein  
Micah Mayer Shapiro  
Harry Shapiro  
Louis Ginsberg  
Joseph Krause  
Harry Greenberg  
Nelle Evenchick  
Harry Jay  
Estelle Friedman  
Eleanor Ross  
Stanley Schwartz

### August 26

Ann Cherson  
Isidore & Claire Hirshman  
Gerald Juris  
Shelly & Carol Piekarski  
Jonathon & Sydell Spinner

Eva Cramer Krevans  
Sam Hirshman  
Brenda Kramer  
Mollie Reitzen  
Harry Horowitz



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ISRAEL BONDS

### On Deadline ANOUNCEMENTS

#### SISTERHOOD FAMILY SHABBAT

The next "Family Shabbat" programs are scheduled to take place on Friday, September 15th and October 20th respectively. Anyone wishing to sponsor an "oneg" may contact Lisa Seidman at 297-6950.

#### SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP

The gift shop will open every Sunday, 9am - 11am, during the month of September for all your holiday needs. Private shopping appointments may be made as well. Please leave a message for Lynn or Sandy at the synagogue office.

#### COUPLES CLUB

Join us for a fun evening of miniature golf & dessert on September 9 at 7:30 pm. Please RSVP to Shelly and Steve Talmud, 297-3112. Also, reserve October 15 (noon) for our annual Succah party at Renee & Steve Levin's house.

### QUALITY CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

\*\* INCLUDING AFTER SCHOOL\*\*

Mother with BS in Child Development and 6 years experience is looking to care for child (3 years or older). Call (908) 846-8632.

### KASHRUT KORNER

Below are some interesting & important tidbits taken from *Kashrus Magazine* - June, 1995 issue.

The International Kosher Food Trade Show will be held November 14 and 15 at the Meadowlands Convention Center. Call (212) 643-1623 for details.

Weich's Grape Juice (64 oz. size) bore an "OU-P" on some bottles. This product was certified for Passover only. The juice was from a special run made this fall. It is produced from concentrate. No plans exist for any regular "OU" certification of Weich's.

# STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS

## Current Rates

### FLOATING RATE ISSUE (FRI) BOND

**8.25%**

Current Annual Interest Rate for Bonds Purchased Through October, 1995.

- Annual rate is .75% below the prime rate, subject to adjustment twice each year. Maximum annual interest rate is 8.25%.
- Prior to maturity, bonds may be submitted for redemption by employee benefit funds, which include IRAs, Keoghs and union funds, after 3 years from issue date, and by others after 5 years from issue date, on 120 days notice, given after the expiration of the relevant holding period. The bonds are redeemed at par plus accrued interest.
- Matures: January 31, 2003.

MINIMUM SUBSCRIPTION: \$25,000

### 5TH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUE (EDI) BOND

**6.95%**

Fixed Annual Interest Rate for Bonds Purchased Through September 8, 1995.

- Fixed annual interest rate for the life of the bond is determined at the beginning of the Sales Period in which the bond is purchased. Payable by check mailed June 1 and December 1.
- Prior to maturity, the bond may be redeemed by employee benefit funds, which include IRAs, Keoghs, and union funds, 4 years from issue date, and by others 5 years from issue date, on 120 days notice, which may be given prior to the expiration of the relevant holding period. The bond is redeemed at par plus accrued interest.
- Matures: April 30, 2005

MINIMUM SUBSCRIPTION: \$25,000

### 7TH DEVELOPMENT ISSUE BOND

- Annual rate is 4.00%.
- A bond held at least 1 year can be redeemed in Israel for Israeli currency to help defray tourist expenses.
- This bond is fully and freely transferable. It may be donated to charitable or educational institutions.
- Matures: 15 years from issue date.

MINIMUM SUBSCRIPTION: \$500

#### Advance Reinvestment

All unmatured bonds issued in 1980 and 1981 due in 1995 and 1996 are eligible for advance reinvestment. The government of Israel has agreed to give you credit for the full maturity value provided you add additional funds and reinvest in securities of a higher denomination (Seventh Development Issue Bonds and IVRI Bonds only).

#### Matured Bonds

You will not receive interest after bonds have matured. Bonds may be redeemed or reinvested.

### 4TH ZERO COUPON BOND

**7.274%**

Effective Yield to Maturity and Current Price of \$3,080 for Bonds Purchased Through October 24, 1995.

MATURES AT \$6,000 ON JANUARY 31, 2005

### 5TH INDIVIDUAL VARIABLE RATE ISSUE (IVRI) BOND

**7.00%**

Current Annual Interest Rate for Bonds Purchased Through October, 1995.

- Annual rate is 5.00% plus half the excess of the prime rate over 5.00%. If prime is less than 5.00%, rate is prime. Annual rate is subject to adjustment twice each year.
- Prior to maturity, bonds may be submitted for redemption by employee benefit funds, which include IRAs, Keoghs and union funds, after 3 years from issue date, and by others after 7 years from issue date, on 120 days notice, given after the expiration of the relevant holding period. The bonds are redeemed at par plus accrued interest.
- Matures: 12 years from issue date.

MINIMUM SUBSCRIPTION: \$5,000  
(\$2,500 OR \$2,000 FOR IRAS ONLY)

### STATE OF ISRAEL \$100 CERTIFICATE

- Non-interest bearing.
- Can be redeemed in Israel for \$100 in Israeli currency after a minimum of one year from issue date. Upon maturity, may be redeemed in the United States for \$100.
- El Al Israel Airlines will accept State of Israel \$100 Certificates that are at least one year old toward the purchase of a round-trip flight to Israel, under current provisions.
- Matures: 5 years from issue date.

MINIMUM SUBSCRIPTION: \$100

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Lessons For the HIGH Holidays  
Contributed by Rabbi Eligberg

ROSH HASHANA

In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of rest, a memorial proclaimed with the blast of the horn, a holy convocation. You shall not do any servile work...(Leviticus 23:24-25)

In the Torah and in the prayer book, this sacred day is called the Day of Remembrance (Yom Hazikaron) and the Day of Sounding the Shofar (Yom Teruah). It marks the start of a ten-day period of spiritual self-examination and repentance which culminates with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. In as much as the years are reckoned from the first of Tishre, however, this day became known throughout the Jewish world as Rosh Hashanah, the New Year.

Intensive prayer is the central mood of this day. Acknowledgment of God's sovereignty over the world and ruler over human kind are the major themes of the prayers. The special Biblical precept that is most identified with Rosh Hashana is the blowing of the shofar. It is a religious duty on this day to listen to the shofar sounds.

At the conclusion of the evening service, the proper greeting to extend to one another is:

To a male: "L'shana tovah tikatev v'taihatem."  
To a female: "L'shana tovah tikatevi v'taihatemi."  
"May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year."

The Sabbath which falls during this ten-day period is known as Shabbat Teshuvah, the Sabbath of Repentance, or Shabbat Shuvah, the Sabbath of Return. The latter word is taken from the opening of the chapter of the Prophets read on this Sabbath: "Shuvah Yisrael," "Return O Israel unto the Lord, your God" (Hosea 14:2).

The proper greeting to extend during the period following Rosh Hashanah is "gmar hatimah tovah," "May the final seal be for good." The greeting reflects the belief that Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are Days of Judgement (Yom Hadin) for all people.

Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah is a time of asking questions:  
We ask:

What did I do last year?  
What am I proud of and what am I sorry about?  
What will I change in the new year?  
What do I want to do better?

We call this kind of thinking "self-inventory" or "taking stock."

It's the Jewish way of beginning the new year.  
It helps start us off on the right foot.

This makes Rosh Hashanah a serious time and a happy time.

It's a serious time because we have serious thinking to do.  
It's a happy time because the new year gives us all a chance to start over.

To help us along, Rosh Hashanah has home and synagogue celebrations, unusual food and its own prayer book (the Mahzor.)

Rosh Hashanah even has its own sound - the shofar.



**A** tale is told of one who sat in the study before the zaddik Rabbi Mordecai of Nadvorna, of blessed memory, who before Rosh Hashanah, came to obtain permission to be dismissed. That zaddik said to him "Why are you hurrying?" Said he to him, "I will be leading the congregation in prayer, and I must look into the festival prayer book, and put my prayers in order." Said the zaddik to him, "The prayer book is the same as it was last year. But it would be better for you to look into your deeds, and put yourself in order."  
Likkute Mahariah

Said Rabbi Abahu: Why do we sound the horn of a ram? Because the Holy One, blessed be He, said: Blow me a ram's horn that I may remember unto you the Binding of Isaac the son of Abraham, and I shall recount it unto you for a binding of yourself before Me. "And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns." (Genesis 22:13) - teaching us that the Holy One, blessed be He showed our father Abraham the ram tearing himself free from one thicket and becoming entangled in another. Said the Holy One, blessed be He, to Abraham: Thus are your children destined to be caught in iniquities and entangled in misfortunes, but in the end they will be redeemed by the horns of a ram. Therefore it is said "And the LORD God will blow the horn."  
(Zechariah 9:14). Rosh Hashanah, 16a/Genesis Rabbah, 56

It is custom to go visit one's friends on the eve of Yom Kippur to beseech their forgiveness, though there is generally no need to do so, for one has not sinned against one's friends, and even if one has sinned against them it was unintentional, and love covers all sins; their enmity must certainly have left them already. Yet, being an ancient custom, it is worthy of respect, for there is no knowing what feelings are stored up in the hearts of one's friends.  
Yosif Ometz

### Tashlikh ~~~ Casting Our Sins Away

Tashlikh is a remarkable ceremony - symbolic and concrete all at the same time. Through this ritual, we express not only our desire to be free from sin but our continuing hope that we will be forgiven for past misdeeds. On the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah - or on the second day, if the first day is Shabbat - it is customary to go to a flowing body of water and to recite prayers while "casting" our sins (represented by bread crumbs) in the water. As we read in Micah: "You will cast (tashlikh) all your sins into the depths of the sea" (7:19). By performing Tashlikh, we signify our hope that God will overlook our failings during the past year and grant us favor in the year to come.

- The preferred "order for the bodies of water is (1) the sea, (2) a river, (3) a lake, spring, or fountain. If there is no such water within walking distance; in the case of inclement weather; or if one did not perform the ceremony on Rosh Hashanah for any reason, then Tashlikh may be performed at any time up to Yom Kippur.
- According to some customs, the body of water we visit should have fish in it. It has been suggested that this helps remind us of our precarious existence and thus puts us in the mood to repent. It has also been suggested that we may be compared to fish caught in the net of divine judgement.
- While it is traditional to shake out the hems of one's clothing to ensure that all "sins" have been disposed of, Tashlikh ceremonies differ all over the world. The Jews of Kurdistan had a custom to recite the Tashlikh prayer near a river and then to jump into the water and swim around, instead of only shaking out the hems of their clothing.

## Tashlikh as Creative Family Liturgy

Tashlikh can be recited independently or as a communal ritual. Summoning us to spend time outdoors after a morning spent inside the synagogue, the ceremony also provides an opportunity for creative liturgy. The Tashlikh ceremony is an ideal family activity, providing an opportunity for parents and children to perform a ritual together.

Children may prepare the bread crumbs for "casting" and then distribute them to the various members of the family. Parents can also explain the ritual to the children as they walk to the water's edge and assign each family member a different reading.

Preparing for Tashlikh

Topics for family discussion in preparation for the High Holy Days including Tashlikh can include:

### **Looking Back**

- During the past year, what has made you really happy?
- What do you regret not doing last year?
- What opportunities did you miss?
- Whom do you wish you had not hurt?
- How might you make up for what you did?
- What was a Jewish high for you this past year?
- What was a Jewish low for you this past year?

### **Looking Forward**

What new goals have you set for yourself for the coming year?  
How would you like to do things differently in the coming year?  
How will you enhance your life Jewishly during the coming year?

### **Today is the Birthday of the World!**

- What two wishes do you have for the world on its birthday?

### **Create Your Own Family Blessing**

May God bless you with \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May you be \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May this Rosh Hashanah fill you with \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

And let us say, Amen.

*The water is pure, teaching us that it is time to cleanse ourselves and wash away all of our mistakes. Today we begin a new year of goodness. Today, as we throw away our crumbs, let us rid ourselves of all bad habits and any grudges that we may have had. May we always feel God's love for us and know that God will help us improve ourselves in this new year. (From Jewish Family Matters, by Ronald & Leora Isaacs, published by The United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education).*



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# Conservative

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# Seminary UPDATE

## Students from Moscow Study at the Seminary

by Project Judaica student Irina Ashtashkevich

After two and a half months in the United States studying at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, it is still very hard to comprehend that I am here. Many Russian students study all over the world today, and a group of Russian students coming to New York is nothing extraordinary. But we are very special. We are Project Judaica students, and we are likely the first students since 1917 to come from Russia to study Judaica.

Project Judaica began in September 1991 at the Russian State University for the Humanities. Project Judaica is a joint educational program of the RSUH, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. The aim of the project is to prepare Russian specialists in Jewish studies, who know Jewish languages, Jewish history and how to work with Jewish archives.

For three and a half years we have studied Yiddish and Hebrew, Jewish history from the biblical period through modernity, and Jewish philosophy and religion; and we worked with the Jewish archives in Moscow, Kiev and Vilna.

Although study in Israel or in the United States was structured into our course of study from the outset, until very late autumn

1994, I could not imagine that I would actually be at the Seminary for the spring 1995 semester. Though we already had our tickets and visas, I kept asking myself, "Is it really possible?"

My academic life here is very different from my life in Russia. I can concentrate completely on Jewish studies, without having to complete the simultaneous course of work we were responsible for at the Russian State University for the Humanities. I can spend all day long sitting in the wonderful library, which I could only dream of in Russia. While Project Judaica has its own library in RSUH (about five thousand volumes), it cannot compare to the JTS library, one of the greatest Judaica libraries in the world. I also have the opportunity to learn a new way to learn. Not only can I choose some of the courses I take, which we cannot do in Russia, but further, here I have to work by myself and read a lot for each class. I cannot just go to lectures and take notes, as we do in Russia. At the Seminary, I have learned how to learn.

I am at the very middle of my stay here. With most of this semester's classwork behind me, and exams and summer work in the archives ahead, I already know that this semester is one of the most significant experiences in my life.

**Vice President Al Gore** received an honorary degree at the commencement ceremony and delivered the keynote address. Quoting Jewish sources from the Torah to Maimonides, he focused on the religious roots of environmentalism. "I believe that the purpose of life is to glorify God and one cannot accomplish that goal while heaping contempt on God's creation."

He also remarked on his recent visit to Russia, where Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told President Clinton that what is wrong with the United States foreign policy is that the vice president is a Jew. Embracing the appellation, Gore said, "What a week it's been. In the same seven-day period, I have been bestowed

an honorary degree of humane letters by this great institution, and I have been given the honorary title of 'Jew' by a hate-monger. I cannot tell you what a badge of honor I consider it to be."



# What Being Jewish Means To Me

## Seminary Student Wins National Essay Contest

*Adina Schapiro, who just finished her first year at the Seminary's joint List College/Columbia University undergraduate program, won an essay contest sponsored by the American Jewish Committee. Her winning essay was printed in the New York Times and several Jewish newspapers. "What Being Jewish Means To Me" is reprinted below.*

My link to the Jewish people was forged by a personal encounter with fear; not the fear of bombs that terrorize, but the fear of the power of a single aberrant cell in my body to alter the course of my life. I am a cancer survivor, and like the Biblical Jacob, I have grappled with the angel until daybreak. In that struggle, I was brought closer to God, the land of Israel and to my people.

At age twelve I was diagnosed with bone cancer. I endured numerous surgeries, chemotherapy and physical therapy to learn to walk again. During the course of treatment, I asked to go to Israel since I had never been there and feared that I would never have the opportunity. Something deep within was calling me there. My ten days in Israel were magical: I received the blessing of a revered rabbi, and my family and I rejoiced at my Bat Mitzvah at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. In the years that followed my recovery I returned to Israel on several occasions, making up for time lost in hospital wards and rehab centers.

In many ways, I am a typical college student, interested in friends, fashion, studies and career. But I know that my brush

with death sets me apart from many of my contemporaries. I emerged from it with a renewed faith and a heightened sensitivity to the sanctity of life. In Judaism, nothing is more sacred than the life of a human being. Our tradition teaches us that saving one life is like saving the entire world.

Recently, I marked the fifth anniversary of being cancer-free. My family and I breathed a collective sigh of relief and thanksgiving. But I know, as does every cancer survivor, that there are no guarantees. Our lives are very fragile.

I also know that the same can be said for the Jewish people. Only our faith and the bond of our communal life have enabled us to survive centuries of hatred and persecution, even extermination.

We need not search the pages of history to learn that human beings are capable of great inhumanity. Recent events in Rwanda, Oklahoma City and Tel Aviv, show us time and again how the lives of innocent adults and children are ended in an instant by bullets or bombs.

But we have also witnessed human acts of great love, empathy and healing. These are a reminder of the seeds of compassion and love that God has planted in the human spirit. My own faith in God and my reliance on the power of community have given me the strength to face the future with the hope that such seeds will grow and flourish. To me, that is the meaning of being Jewish.

## Seminary On-Line

So you want information about the Jewish Theological Seminary. You don't have to call. You don't have to write. Get plugged in and surf the web. You can find whatever you are looking for by accessing our home page on the World Wide Web. Our url (address) is <http://www.jtsa.edu>.

Through our home page, you can stay current on what's happening at JTS by reading *Seminary Update*, news releases and events announcements; peruse *Masoret* magazine complete with photos and graphics; read Chancellor Schorsch's "Parashat Hashavuah" or his monograph "The Sacred Cluster: Core Values of Conservative Judaism"; get up-to-date information on Seminary schools, programs and institutes.

Would you like to participate in discussions about things Jewish in the world? You can sign onto one of the discussion lists the Seminary maintains. On TOR-CH, or "Living Torah: Tradition and the World from the Perspective of Conservative Judaism," people from all over the country engage in lively conversations about what Conservative Judaism has to say about various issues and traditions. On any day, several discussions may be going on at once: can a

congregation write a by-law concerning egalitarianism? Why do Jews place stones on graves instead of flowers? How can one cope with the intermarriage of one's child? Discussions may occur over a period of several days; new questions are posed continuously.

If your synagogue would like to start a list for its members, the Seminary can create and maintain the list for you. Synagogues in Caldwell, NJ; Omaha, NE; and Forest Hills, NY have each begun private discussion groups. So have spouses of rabbis, the RA of Latin America, and more.

For a complete list of discussion groups sponsored by JTS, send an e-mail message to [LISTSERV@jtsa.edu](mailto:LISTSERV@jtsa.edu). The message should read LIST. To join a discussion group hosted by the Seminary, send an e-mail message to [LISTSERV@jtsa.edu](mailto:LISTSERV@jtsa.edu). The message should read: SUB listname yourfirstname yourlastname (example: SUB TOR-CH Michael Starr).

For more information about our World Wide Web home page or about a discussion group, please contact Michael Starr by e-mail: [mistarr@jtsa.edu](mailto:mistarr@jtsa.edu) or by telephone: (212) 678-8901.

## Schedule of High Holiday Services 1995/5756

<b>S'Lichot</b>		
	Saturday, September 16	10:00 pm
<b>Rosh Hashanah Eve</b>		
	Sunday, September 24	6:15 pm
<b>Rosh Hashanah</b>		
	Monday, September 25	
	Morning	9:00 am
	Tashlich - Evening	5:30 pm
	Evening	6:45 pm
	Tuesday, September 26	
	Morning	9:00 am
	Evening	6:00 pm
<b>Kol Nidre - Tuesday, October 3</b>		6:00 pm
<b>Yom Kippur</b>		
	Wednesday, October 4	
	Morning	9:30 am
	Mincha-Neila	4:45 pm
	Final Shofar (Ending Fast)	7:25 pm

## Yom Kippur

The Lord spoke to Moses saying: "...the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement: It shall be a holy convocation to you, and you shall afflict your souls..." (Leviticus)

The biblical commandments to "afflict your souls" is observed by a complete and total fast, by abstaining from all eating and drinking for the entire period (approximately twenty-five hours).

In addition, we abstain from washing and bathing; anointing oneself; wearing of leather garments and shoes, and sexual relations.

Yom Kippur is referred to as Yom Ha-Din, the Day of Judgement. Judaism teaches us that for transgressions against God, the Day of Atonement atones as we pray for forgiveness. But for transgressions of one human being against another, the Day of Atonement does not atone until the individuals have made peace and

forgiven one another.

The service which introduces Yom Kippur is called Kol Nidre (All Vows) from the name of the historically meaningful and moving prayer that is then recited. The concluding service of Yom Kippur on the next day is called Neilah which meant "the Closing (of the Gates)". Except for the time when one goes home to sleep or rest, the entire period is spent in prayer.

Spending the day in the synagogue is an essential aspect of Yom Kippur. Feeling part of a community makes the process of teshuvah easier. The Yom Kippur liturgy consists of five separate services which take up most of the day. Each service contains confessional prayers said only on Yom Kippur. Staying in the synagogue is helpful for doing teshuvah because it facilitates concentration and minimizes distractions.

The conclusion of Yom Kippur is marked by a single long blast of the shofar. It is symbolic of "when the ram's horn sounded long..." which marked the conclusion of the Revelation at Sinai (Exodus 19:13).

Following Yom Kippur, one should begin to prepare for the festival of Sukkot, four days later, by building a sukkah and acquiring a lulav and etrog. (Excerpted from To Be A Jew by Rabbi H. Donin.)

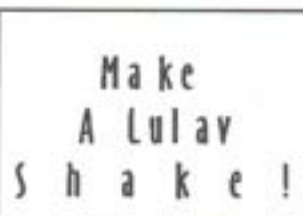
## Experience

### The Joyous Festival of Sukkot

Remember, the High Holy Days don't end with Yom Kippur. Our festive season continues with Sukkot, beginning on Sunday evening, October 8. Join us at the synagogue for services, followed by **Sukkah snacks each day and evening of Sukkot.** Sukkot - the Festival of

Booths - is the third pilgrimage festival. It continues the story of our ancestors which started with the Exodus from Egypt (Passover), and the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai

(Shavuot) and concludes with our re-enactment of our wandering in the wilderness and dwelling in temporary shelters or booths (Sukkot). →





**SUKKOT ACTIVITIES**

*Sukkot* is indeed a happy holiday. In Hebrew it is called *z'man simhateinu* -- the season of our joy! *Sukkot* has also been called the Harvest Festival, God's Festival and the Festival. *Sukkot* is our time to celebrate the fall season and all that the summer harvest has brought us. Historically, it reminds us of the journey through the desert after our Exodus from Egypt. It is also a time for thanksgiving to God, the source of the earth's bounty. It is a superb and limitless opportunity for family celebration and activity.

**SUKKOT FUN**

► Original *sukkah* decorations can be made by cutting fruit shapes from construction paper. Dab edges with various oil pastel colors. Place shapes on folded white paper and lift off quickly so that smudged fruit design is created.

► Collect falling leaves for leaf rubbings. In addition, you'll need 8 1/2" x 11" plain white paper and flat crayons. Method: A leaf is placed between 2 pieces of paper. Rub crayon over the top sheet. Ask children to notice the outline of the leaf and veins. Ask them to compare different kinds of leaves. These rubbings can be used to decorate the *sukkah*.

► Take a nature walk and collect leaves, nuts, small stones or pine cones.

► Go to an apple orchard to pick apples.

► Visit a pumpkin field. If possible, pick pumpkins and prepare a pumpkin dish for *Sukkot*.

► Tour a farm.

► Celebrate the fall/harvest season by preparing a huge pot of vegetable soup. Involve all members of the family in its preparation -- washing, peeling, dicing and slicing.

► Prepare an assortment of appropriate *Sukkot* storybooks for family enjoyment.

**SUKKAH DECORATING**

► Young children love being involved in *sukkah* decorating. The *sukkah* may be decorated with artificial vegetables and fruits and with lots of children's drawings and crafts. Waxed dental floss and large needles with rounded points are good for stringing together popcorn and cranberries to hang in the *sukkah*.

► Invite friends to your *sukkah* with original cards you have designed from nearly any art medium. Try sprinkling glitter and pasting paper scraps or pieces of colored paper that have been hole-punched for easy hanging.

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Sukkot also has an agricultural aspect. It marks the final harvest in the land of Israel before the onset of the winter months.

The primary mitzvot on Sukkot include:

1. Building a sukkah and (minimally enjoying festive meals while in the sukkah.)
2. Owning a lulav and etrog - the four species - recalling the agricultural significance of Sukkot.
3. Rejoicing - as Sukkot is called "zeman simchateinu" (the season of our joy). We rejoice and share a sense of fulfillment in our completing the process of atonement and repentance initiated during the Days of Awe.

### Ushpizin: The Honored Guests

A mystical tradition holds that certain of our ancestors come to sit with us in the sukkah. They are called ushpizin - "holy guests." When we enter the sukkah, we stand in the doorway and greet them with an ancient welcome: "I invite to my meal the honored spiritual guests, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron and David." The Zohar, a thirteenth century college of mystical lore, warns that the ushpizin will not join our celebration unless we also invite the poor. This teaching reminds us of the Jewish tradition of hospitality, as well as the imperative of tzedakah. Honor the ushpizin by inviting family, friends and neighbors to your Sukkah.

### SOME ISSUES SEEM UNIVERSAL

Driving to Foodtown recently I saw a sign at a local church. It read in fairly large letters:

**COME PRAY WITH US NOW  
AVOID THE CHRISTMAS RUSH!**

So, what do you think of a neon sign in front of B'nai Tikvah? It would announce:

**Services Daily  
Reservations, Tickets & Membership  
Not Required**

Okay, so such a sign is doubtful. But remember the issue with prayer that is not universal. Some of our prayers, need a minyan.. So while reservations may not be required, attendance is. The next time you drop by the synagogue, why not drop in for a service. It's short, it's sweet, it's a mitzvah.

L'Shana Torah  
Gigi Cohen

### ABOUT US

Israel Tourism -- This year, many of our B'nai Tikvah congregants took trips to Israel, some for the first time, swelling the Israel tourist rate by 13% more than that of 1994. Next year, hugely higher numbers are anticipated as Israel celebrates Jerusalem's 3000th birthday. Among others will be the largest convention of tourists ever held in Israel, which will take place in February. 10,000 to 15,000 Christian pilgrims from Korea are due to visit then. Thus far, the pilgrims, members of the Church of Korea, have reserved 250 busses for their tour of the country.

Wine Grapes -- Unbelievably, wine grapes will soon be growing in Israel's arid Negev desert, using techniques of the ancient Naboteans. Obviously, grapes need quantities of water, but the Naboteans figured it all out. Approximately 8 acres of Negev are being planted with wine grapes. Water? Yes. Brackish water is being used, saving the fresh for other essential needs.

Dr. Fluency -- Hadassah Hospital is presently testing a new program called by the unusual name, "Dr. Fluency". The program is designed to allow stutterers to improve their lot via a customized plan of voice and breathing tools, which can be utilized at home.

Curses -- Archaeologists have unearthed 50 lead scrolls which ancient Romans used to curse their enemies. The scrolls are estimated to be at least 1500 years old, and were found at the bottom of a well in Caesarea, Israel. The well is on the grounds of what was once one of King Herod's palaces.

The Evil Eye -- Long part of our Jewish lore, most of us repeat the strictures, have a good laugh at what we regard as mere "Bubba Meises," but find ourselves surreptitiously tying red ribbons on an infant's crib just in case. With Rosh Hashanah just about upon us, we offer this recently learned morsel. It has been said (we're not sure by whom), that the loud blasts of the shofar are useful in driving away evil spirits. So, question: Does it work on mosquitoes, poison ivy, telephone sales persons or nudniks?

Lament for the Waiting Game -- Jewish waiters, like some American Indians, are a vanishing colorful tribe. Only some stories (or legends) will soon remain. Like the patrons in a restaurant



## ABOUT US ... continued

who inquired, "Waiter, what time is it?" The reply, of course, was "Sorry, it's not my table." Or, the reply of the waiter who was asked for some menu suggestions. He replied, "Find another restaurant." Are there any more of the old timers with their one-liners still around? Or do we have to conserve this disappearing breed by leading a drive for an annual holiday to visit the old time Jewish restaurants, like Rappaport's.

L'Shana Tova,

Mili Rosloff

### USY – A New Year

September symbolizes a new beginning and a fresh start as we turn the pages of the Jewish Calendar to start a new year, 5756. Our USY chapter is looking forward to September as well, as it will mean a number of new and exciting changes and events. First, the chapter has new advisers. Candace and Craig Botnick who are looking forward to bringing a number of new programs and fundraisers to Congregation B'nai Tikvah. Second, the chapter has a new Executive Board – President, Erica Brams; Executive Vice President, Fran Weinstein; Communications Vice President, Jamie Strauss; Membership Vice President, Jessica Millinger; Social Actions/T.O. Vice President, Brenna Tinkel; Religious Vice President, Eliat Margolin; Recording Secretary, Audra Trost; and Treasurer, Scott Mason. And last, but certainly not least, is the list of exciting upcoming programs which everyone will need to mark on their calendars. These events include:

September 10: USY Registration Night at B'nai Tikvah 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Come sign up for USY and meet the new board and advisors and learn about upcoming chapter and regional events.

September 17: USY Opening BBQ (Details to follow.) What a great way to kick off the year – share a hot dog and make new friends.

September 27: USY night at Grand Slam USA in South Brunswick. Come play a few games, hit a few baseballs and have lots of laughs.

October 14: USY Regional Opening Dance at Greenlane Y in Union. (Details regarding a bus to follow.)

October 18: USY Name That Tune & Tie-dye Night at B'nai Tikvah. Bring a t-shirt, boxers or other clothing to tie-dye while you try to name that tune.

October 24: USY Newlyfriend Game at B'nai Tikvah. Come see how well you really know your fellow USYers.

Upcoming fundraisers include a USY all you can eat pancake breakfast and Tikun Olam Tea.

All meetings will take place from 7:15 pm - 8:45 pm unless otherwise stated. Look for November and December's programs in upcoming synagogue bulletins. Please feel free to call Candace and Craig Botnick at (908) 940-8463 if you would like further details or have any questions.

Don't miss out on what will be a great year!!!

### Kadima – New Beginnings

Kadima this year welcomes Melissa Fisch back as Kadima advisor and looks forward to welcoming back some old friends and making some new ones during the coming season. Join us for an Ice Cream Party at Amy Schwartz's house on September 17 from 2 - 3 pm; Roller Skating at Kendall Park on Thursday evening, September 28; and a regional dance at Marlboro Jewish Center on October 7. Other exciting events will be forthcoming. If you would like details on these events or membership information please call Melissa Fisch at 438-0393.





# HOW DO YOU MAKE A LULAV SHAKE?

Take two scoops of ice cream, some chocolate soda, and a little lulav? Well...that's one way to do it. There is a better way that isn't nearly as filling, but is infinitely more rewarding. First you take the branch of a palm (*in Hebrew: lulav*). On the right side attach 3 myrtle branches (*hadas*). On the left, place 2 willows (*aravot*). Now hold them together with a bright yellow etrog and give them a good shake.



Since time immemorial, blessing the *lulav* and *etrog* has been the Jewish way of thanking God for the blessings of the earth on the holiday of Sukkot. By holding the four species together, we symbolically "*get our own act together*" in preparation for the New Year. By pointing them in six directions, we remind ourselves that God's presence can be found in every area of our lives. And by shaking the *lulav & etrog* vigorously, we commit to being movers and shakers in the world this year, for good and for blessing.

Do you like colorful ceremonies and joyous celebrations? Then, this mitzvah is for you.

Do you want to add meaning to your Jewish life, and create special memories for your children?

*Try something new that's very old.*

**Make a lulav shake.**

**And then ask for seconds.**

To order your lulav & etrog please contact the synagogue office. Plus watch for future mailings concerning B'nai Tikvah's own "How Do You Make A Lulav Shake?" program. ~ The Ritual Committee

A JOINT PROJECT OF THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY & THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM.

## COUPLES CLUB

Are you new in the neighborhood or looking to make new friends? The B'nai Tikvah couples club proudly presents the 1995-1996 calendar of events. We have exciting activities planned. We hope you will join us in fun and friendship.

- |   |             |          |                                    |
|---|-------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| • | September 9 | 7:30 pm  | Miniature Golf & Dessert.          |
| • | October 15  | 12:00 pm | Succah Party (family activity)     |
| • | December 9  | 7:30 pm  | Game Night & Dessert.              |
| • | January 14  | 7:00 pm  | Tentative Date for Israeli Dancing |
| • | February 9  | TBD      | Shabbat Dinner at B'nai Tikvah     |
| • | March 30    | TBD      | Progressive Dinner                 |
| • | May 5       | 8:00 pm  | Wine & Cheese                      |
| • | July 4      | TBD      | Family Bar-B-Que.                  |

For more information about joining the Couples' Club please contact Shelly Talmud, Group Coordinator, at 297-3112, or Ken Wistreich, Treasurer, at 422-4273.

### Fifty Plus Group

Mazel Tov and Happy Birthday to all who have reached the half century mark. There is one good point. You are now eligible to join our Fifty Plus Group and we will be happy to welcome you.

Our meetings are held on the afternoon of the fourth Tuesday of the month, unless a Holy Day causes a change in date. Several additional social events and trips are scheduled through the year. At this meeting we anticipate a movie and dessert get together and a theater party as well as our regular meeting programs. Our next events include a musical program, Hanukkah Party and New Years' Party.

The next scheduled meeting dates are September 19, October 24, November 28 and December 26. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. For further information, please call Madeline at 297-4240.

### MAKELA SINGS

Makela had a wonderful singing summer, enhancing many of our Shabbat services. Their beautifully arranged and expertly performed choral pieces are enjoyed by young and old alike. We will be able to enjoy their singing again for Kol Nidre and on the first day of Rosh Hashanah. **Anyone interested in joining Makela call Eve Goldberg at 422-0038.**

### Jewish Heroes of America Contributed by Irwin Weintraub

The following are short biographies of famous Jewish American heroes. Can you identify them?

1. He had a brief life as a soldier, statesman and political leader and was known as the "Paul Revere of the South." He left London, settled in South Carolina in 1773, and was elected a delegate for his area to the first South Carolina Provincial Congress. He received a commission to sign and stamp South Carolina currency, served as an advisor to the South Carolina Assembly and participated in drafting the State's constitution. He was the first Jew to die in the American Revolution in 1776 at age 29. He was killed leading an army of 330 troops defending frontier settlers against the Cherokees who had been incited by the British. What was his name?
2. He was a former cigar maker who was elected as President of the American Federation of Labor in 1886 and served until his death in 1924. He promoted stable labor relations through collective bargaining and personal contact between labor leaders, industrialists and bankers. During World War I, he supported the policies of President Woodrow Wilson and organized the War Committee on Labor which included representatives of labor and business. After the war, Wilson appointed him as a member of the International Labor Federation where he fought to maintain the gains that labor had made. He became the official editor of the *Journal of the Federation*. Who was he?
3. She became the second American woman to



travel in space. In 1983, she was a mission specialist on the maiden voyage of the space shuttle *Discovery*, logging 144 hours and 57 minutes. Part of her job was pointing a camera on the craft's robotic long arm to inspect initial efforts to shake a chunk of ice off the craft's side. She received her Doctorate in Electrical Engineering from the University of Maryland in 1977. Before entering the space program, she worked on circuitry for specialized radar control systems for RCA Corporation in Morristown, New Jersey, and published a paper on the topic. She was a biomedical engineer and staff fellow in the neurophysiology laboratory at the National Institutes of Health. She had been chosen as one of the crew for the *Challenger*. She was unfortunately among the crew that perished when *Challenger* exploded seconds after it was launched on January 28, 1986.

4. He was born in Newark, New Jersey on August 31, 1905. He entered show business and played many bit parts in his early years. He taught himself play writing and produced his first play, *Too Many Heroes*, in 1938. He later became a movie producer and produced or supervised over 250 films in his lifetime. Many dealt with social issues and problems of the day. He wrote the award winning play *Sunrise and Campobello*. He was National Chairman of the B'nai B'rith Anti Defamation League from 1963-1969. For his efforts on behalf of social justice, he received the Golden Slipper Award for Humanitarianism in 1947 and the Thomas Jefferson Award from the Council Against Intolerance in America in 1948. He died in 1980 having made his mark as a fighter against antisemitism and injustice.

5. During World War I she was very successful in selling Liberty Bonds and Thrift Stamps for the war effort. She became involved in politics in the early 1920s and made many political connections. When Franklin Roosevelt was Governor of New York, he sought her advice on labor matters. In 1937 she was named Chairwoman of the New York State Constitutional Committee and in 1938 was named by President Roosevelt to a committee to study industrial relations in Great Britain and Sweden. During World War II she was director of the Office of Defense and regional director of Health & Welfare Services. In 1944 she was sent to the European Theater of Operations by President Roosevelt and after the war by President Truman as a personal observer. She was sworn in as the Assistant Secretary of Defense under George C. Marshall on November 15, 1950. This

was the highest post ever achieved by a woman in the national military establishment. She worked with Marshall on a draft for the Senate Armed Services Committee which became known as the Universal Military Services and Training Bill. She received the Medal of Freedom in 1945 and the US Medal for Merit in 1947. In 1968-1969, President Johnson appointed her to serve on the Commission on Income Maintenance which examined welfare and income support programs. She died in May, 1983 after serving her country with honor.

6. She was born in Philadelphia in 1781 into a wealthy and highly esteemed family. At age 20, she organized and served as first secretary and fund raiser of the Female Association for the Relief of Women and Children of Reduced Circumstances. She was one of the founders of the nonsectarian Philadelphia Orphan Asylum chartered in 1815 and served over 40 years as its secretary. She organized and founded the Female Hebrew Benevolent Society and the Hebrew Sunday School Society of Philadelphia in 1818. Children from all parts of the Jewish Community attended the school without a fee. She created the Jewish Foster Home and Orphan Asylum in 1855 and was instrumental in the establishment of the Fuel Society and the Sewing Society. She died in 1969 at the age of 88 and was remembered as one of the foremost American Jewish women of her time.

7. He was born in Bavaria and came to America with his parents as a young child and was educated in a log cabin school in Talbotton, Georgia. After the Civil War the family moved to New York. In 1888, he became one of the owners of R.H. Macy & Co. Where he started many innovations in the store such as rest rooms, a depositors' account system, medical care and a cost-price lunchroom for the employees. When the American expeditionary forces were fighting the Spaniards in Cuba in 1898, he presented them with refrigerating plants to help keep down the disease mortality rate. He became Park Commissioner in New York City from 1889-1893 and President of the Board of Health in 1898. He was a great believer in pasteurization of milk and started a campaign to educate the public which led to compulsory pasteurization in most cities. In 1911, President William Howard Taft appointed him as the only U.S. delegate to the Third International Congress for the Protection of Infants, which was held in Germany. He was greatly devoted to Palestine and gave more than

two thirds of his wealth and the last 15 years of his life to the cause. In Palestine, he established a domestic science school for girls, a health bureau to fight malaria and trachoma, and a free public kitchen. He also opened a Pasteur Institute, child health welfare stations and health centers in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. He died in 1930.

Answers: 1. Francis Salvador, 2. Samuel Gompers, 3. Judith A. Resnick, 4. Dore Schary, 5. Anna M. Rosenberg, 6. Rebecca Gratz, 7. Nathan Straus.

Adapted from: *Jewish Heroes of America*, by Seymour Brody. New York, Shapolsky Publishers, 1991.

#### **JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE of Southern Middlesex County**

JFS is offering a service to community members. They will pick up your used furniture & household goods (they specify in good condition and working order) that you may wish to donate. JFS sells these items using the proceeds to support the many services they offer. If you have items to donate, or would like to find out about the various counseling they offer (including family, children & addictions counseling), or about the many other services they offer, call them at 908-257-4100. They are located at 517 Ryders Lane and have Senior Services available in the Medical Arts Building, Concordia Shopping Center, Cranbury.

#### **B'NAI MITZVAH - MAZEL TOV!**

<b>Scott Roland</b>	<b>August 12</b>
<b>Amy Weiner</b>	<b>August 19</b>
<b>Adam Weiss</b>	<b>September 9</b>

#### **ABOUT OUR NEW RABBI**

Just in case you didn't have the opportunity to find out our new Rabbi's credentials during the Rabbinical review process, here is a brief synopsis of Rabbi David Eligberg's resume.

Rabbi Eligberg graduated in 1981 from Columbia University earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, as well as a joint degree from the Seminary College of Jewish Studies. He went on to The Jewish Theological Seminary being ordained as Rabbi in 1985.

His Rabbinical experience started in Woodmere, New York where he was the Assistant Rabbi of Congregation Sons of Israel. In 1987, Eligberg moved to Pomona New York and became the Rabbi at Pomona Jewish Center. In 1989 Rabbi Eligberg was hired as the Rabbi for Congregation Beth El in Levittown, Pennsylvania where he stayed until joining B'nai Tikvah.

Rabbi Eligberg's resume is full of creative and exciting ideas which he brought to the various communities he served. Activities which B'nai Tikvah could benefit from as well.

Of course the best way to get to know someone is through discussion, so if you have not had the opportunity to meet Rabbi Eligberg, why not stop by the synagogue office and say hello. You can always ask him about the plays he's written: *Greekbusters* and *It's Hanukkah, Charlie Brown!*

#### **THE BRUNSWICK FOOT & ANKLE GROUP**



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## NOTES FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

### Billing in General

Since our fiscal year begins on August 1, 1995 and ends on July 31, 1996, everyone should have their first quarter bill by this time. The quarterly dues amount as shown on the bill - reflects the new \$1,160 annual dues per member family. Of course, that divided by four was the amount shown on your bill. Members who have joined our community during the past few years; members above the age of 65; and members on financial arrangement have been billed at a reduced amount.

### 1st Quarter Miscellaneous Credits

Several of you may have noticed that a portion of your first quarter dues were already paid. These "credits" were a result of my detailed review of all the prior year's scrip reports and making sure your account was credited for the full amount of the scrip to which you were entitled. In the past, if a portion of the assessment was paid by check, then afterwards-when scrip credits were earned, there was no outstanding assessment line item to credit. Therefore, no credit was issued. This bookkeeping "oversight" was due to the extremely time consuming task of figuring every members account on an ongoing basis. Well, since there is no more assessment and likewise, no more scrip crediting, I took the time to adjust everyone's account before the August 1 bills went out.

### School Billing

For those member families with children in religious school, you should have noticed that you've been billed separately for those fees. Any questions regarding school billings should be directed to Mark Kadsin.

### Did I For get the Assessment?

No. The congregation voted in favor of not having to assess any additional monies over and above the normal dues which were being billed. Members will continue to have to pay their unpaid assessments from prior year(s) in order to remain members in good standing.

### Monthly Billing?

Some of you prefer to spread your payments out during the year and I'd like to make you efforts a

little bit easier. If you would like to be billed on a montly basis, please send a note to my attention mentioning your preference. Beginning next month, after receipt of your request, you will be sent your first montly bill.

### Credit Cards

At the board of directors meeting on August 7, 1995, a motion was made to have members pay their entire dues balance by credit card if they have left their dues obligations unpaid for more than two (2) quarters. The motion was passed by a huge majority. Since the second quarter bills will be mailed November 1, 1995 and since you are technically late in paying your dues after 30 days from receipt of your bill, a mailing asking for credit card numbers and authorizations will be sent out December 1, 1995 for those members who have not fully paid their first and second quarter dues obligations.

From myself and my entire family, we wish everyone a Happy & Healthy New Year.

Marc D. Binder,  
Financial Secretary  
*Please wait one second while I change my Hat...*

### Scrip -

Fundraising for the synagogue often gets a bad rap. We occasionally feel as though the synagogue has enough of our money, or we're not in that "tzedakah" kind of mood when the fundraising event comes around...or we spend enough time in the synagogue doing other things so we quietly let someone else participate (there will be another fundraiser some time soon)!

Well forget all that because I'm in charge of the # 1 fundraiser - SCRIP!

SCRIP is simply supermarket gift coupons which come in \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$25 denominations. All you do is buy as much sa you'll need in the supermarket for that week (or even month). It's that simple. Do you normally spend over \$100 per week at the supermarket? Then stock up on SCRIP by writing your check for \$100 payable to "Congregation B'nai Tikvah." In return, you will immediately receive \$100 of supermarket gift coupons which are fully redeemable at the check-out counter (no special authorizations are needed at the courtesy desk!).

You might ask... if the synagogue receives a check for \$100 and gives me \$100 of gift coupons in return, how then is this going to be the #1 fundraiser of all time? Well, when the synagogue buys the SCRIP from the supermarkets, we don't pay full price. We purchase \$100 of SCRIP for \$95, thereby pocketing the \$4 in the fundraising SCRIP account.

If everyone in the congregation used SCRIP all the time, then:

450	member families
x \$ 50	Average amount of SCRIP used per week
\$ 22,500	Total average SCRIP purchased per week by congregation
x 52	weeks per year
\$ 1,170,000	Total SCRIP purchased each year by congregation
x .05	5% discount B'nai Tikvah receives
\$ 58,500	Total SCRIP fundraising revenues for the year

We know that not everyone will use SCRIP all the time, but even if half of the members participate in the program, then this year's SCRIP fundraiser will bring in more than \$29,000. SCRIP will be responsible for bringing in almost twice the entire budgeted line item for total fundraising.

I'm very enthusiastic about selling SCRIP. It doesn't cost anyone any out-of-pocket money. It is simply a trade; I give your \$100 of SCRIP and you give B'nai Tikvah a check for \$100. (This check is not considered a charitable contribution).

SCRIP is available for Foodtown, Pathmark, Grand Union, Shop Rite (Rickel too!) and IGA. The synagogue office has SCRIP from all these stores on hand for your purchase. Also, SCRIP is available from the following members who have volunteered to keep a little extra on hand in case members who live in their area would like to purchase some quickly:

Joyce Fishelberg	22 Chipper Drive	Kendall Park	297-6290
Joyce Gerbman	310 Constitution Cl.	No. Brunswick	937-5114
Arline Kane	7 Redwood Road	No. Brunswick	418-1913
Bette Koffler	6 Harper Road	Monmouth Jct.	329-6518
Lisa Seidman	397 Halsey Road	No. Brunswick	297-6950
Scott Rekant	3 Tulsa Court	Monmouth Jct.	422-7907
Ann Rosenzweig	980 Linwood Place	No. Brunswick	249-9141
Phyllis Rosen	7 Victoria Way	Kendall Park	297-5719
Marc Binder	94 Hazel Court	Dayton	274-2797

Let me know if you'd like to become a neighborhood "retailer." I thank you all in advance for making this fundraiser successful!!

*Scripfully yours,*  
*Marc D. Binder,*  
 Scrip Chairperson





Enjoy the summer, but don't forget...

### ONLY FOUR MONTHS UNTIL

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## Congregation B'nai Tikvah

Rabbi David M. Elligberg      Chazzan Dov Goldberg  
 Synagogue 297-0696      Religious School 297-0993

### HaKol The Voice

Mark & Gigi Cohen...Editors...821-5917  
 Brian & Beth Statman...Production...422-6926  
 Ann Rosenzweig...Calendar...249-9141  
 Gale Dillman...Advertising...821-7392  
 Mili Rosloff...Contributing Writer  
 Irwin Weintraub...Contributing Writer  
 Phyllis Rosen...Committee

### Board of Directors

President	Jeff Schwartz	297-4365
VP, Administration	Irwin Millinger	297-4477
VP, School & Youth	Mark Kasdin	274-2897
VP, Ways & Means	Alan Kane	418-9913
VP, Membership	Mark Roller	297-7955
Financial Secretary	Marc Binder	274-2797
Recording Secretary	Meryl Heit	297-6284
Treasurer	Marc Dillman	821-7392
Assistant Treasurer	Michael Wein	246-4306

### Trustees

Larry Cohen	Ritual	821-4376
Isaac Grodzinski	House & Grounds	821-5258
Bette Koffler	Publicity	309-6508
Sam Rosenzweig	Constitution	249-9141
Ken Salzinger	Liaison to Jewish Federation & United Synagogue	309-6487
Mark Sherman	Adult Education	940-1110
Bill Greenberg		297-4953
Adrienne Fovi		422-0637
Bonnie Stevens		309-6938
Irwin Weintraub		249-5814
Jack Mailman	Past President	718-273-9365

### Represented Groups on Synagogue Board

Cemetery	Millie Kutiroff	309-6661
Fifty Plus Group	Madeline Gaynor	297-4240
Men's Club	Ed Hirsch	274-9585
Sisterhood	Deborah Spigner	545-4457
USJ	Erica Bram	422-7279

HaKol will again be published on a monthly basis. The deadline for the October issue is September 13. Beginning with the November issue, the deadline will always be the first week of the preceeding month. Contributing to HaKol is simple. Write something, put it in the Synagogue office box labeled HaKol. If you can leave a floppy disc with a hard copy of the article please do. However, the message is more important than the medium, please put it in the box by deadline, even if it is neatly hand-written.

### 👉 The Synagogue Board Needs Feedback 👈

So how are we doing? While we are proud of our Synagogue and its programs, we are always looking for ways to improve. Help us identify areas in which we can do even better. Call any Board member with your suggestions.

Bette Koffler, Board Trustee

### **Business on Shabbat**

Just a reminder that no synagogue business of any kind is to be conducted on Shabbat. Please do not call any of the group or congregational representatives for any reason on Friday late afternoons or Saturdays.

### *Daily Minyan Schedule*

Friday	8:00pm
Saturday	9:30am & 7:00pm
Sunday	9:00am & 7:30pm
Monday through Wednesday	7:30pm
Thursday	7:00am & 7:30pm



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