

HaKol The Voice

A Publication of Congregation B'nai Tikvah

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Tishrei, 5756

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI ELIGBERG

"I love a parade!" These words from an old song truly capture the sense of joy and excitement that envelops the festival of Simchat Torah. All of us are familiar with the pomp and pageantry which accompany the scrolls of the Torah as they are paraded around the synagogue amidst joyous singing and dancing. The Torah itself insists that this be a season of happiness.

Our raucous and spirited celebration should not, however, obscure the deep and abiding significance of Simchat Torah. The familiar observances carry an inner symbolic meaning. During the hakafot, each person takes a turn carrying a sefer Torah in one of seven processions that move around the synagogue. In doing so, we not only accept the physical weight placed in our arms but we show that we are accepting the weight of expectations which the Torah places upon us as Jews. By parading around with the Torah in our arms we publicly acclaim our commitment. By having each person take a hakafah (a turn), it shows that every individual is significant and essential to the building of a Jewish community.

On Simchat Torah morning, as each person present receives an aliyah (singly or in groups) the blessings recited thank God for the gift of Torah. The same blessings also issue a challenge to us to study its contents. Our sages dictated that even as we conclude the reading of the Torah, we begin again, knowing

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

*"There is a season -- Turn, turn, turn;
For every reason -- Turn, turn, turn;
And a time to every purpose under
Heaven."*

Thus, sang the Byrds in the mid-1960's of mankind's inability to influence the outcome of human endeavor during the brief period of a man or woman's lifetime. Few people realize that the Byrds merely set to music that which had been an essential teaching of Judaism for millennia.

The Book of Ecclesiastes (or, Kohelet) is attributed to Kohelet (viz., Ecclesiastes) who was King of Israel in Jerusalem. The Book of Ecclesiastes is found in the third part of the Tanakh known as Ketuvim, or, the Writings. It is appropriate to turn one's attention to the Book of Kohelet now, since the Book is chanted during services on the Festival of Sukkot.

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Our Holocaust Memorial
The Minahel's Moment
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RABBI'S MESSAGE . . .
CONTINUED

that each rereading brings new perspectives, new interpretations, new levels of understanding. The study of Torah is shown as a never ending process challenging Jews to attain greater awareness and new insight. Thus, as we join in the hakafot and other observances of Simchat Torah, we are participating in more than a parade around the sanctuary, we become the next step in the parade of Jewish history, following in the footsteps of our ancestors and setting a path for our descendants.

Everyone loves a parade. On Simchat Torah, we are invited to join a parade—the parade of Jewish living.

Chag Sameach,

Rabbi David M. Eligberg

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .
CONTINUED

The timing of Kohelet's importance probably derives from the Rabbis' notion that the period of self-evaluation, introspection and repentance, which began on the first day of Elul and culminated at the Ne'ilah service on Yom Kippur, is not properly put behind us until the end of Sukkot. To use the familiar metaphor, although the "decree" is sealed in the Book of Judgement on Yom Kippur afternoon, the Book is not closed until Sukkot, thus affording us an extended period of time in which to repent.

The themes contained in the Book of Kohelet are especially appealing for a Jew living in the post modern, techno-informational age. Much as we believe that human progress since ancient times has been stunning, Kohelet brings us back to earth with the realization that ". . . in much wisdom is much vexation, and the one who increases knowledge increases sorrow." Indeed, as the quality of our individual lifestyles has improved -- and, I think, we all agree that America has been very good to the Jews -- it



seems as though the larger problems which affect the community, the nation, and the world become more difficult to solve. For example, AIDS appeared at about the same time that Smallpox was eradicated from the planet. Additionally, although the world subsequently decried the Holocaust of the 1940's and sought to prevent its repetition through the widespread adoption of the U.N.'s Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mankind, we witness "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia in our own time. Today's technology and our greater knowledge seem to be sorely inadequate in addressing the important issues of our time. Arguably, greater misery has been created in our neighborhoods and cities where the advent of the information age has transformed our economy into a service-based economy, eliminating traditional manufacturing jobs and throwing a multitude of people out of work.

Kohelet's self-imposed quest for truth and understanding about the nature of things is very much in the Jewish tradition. We Jews must eventually realize that our essence is quite properly defined by our lifelong patterns of study (of the traditional Jewish sources). The study of our professional and vocational materials is so much "*weariness of the flesh*" for Kohelet. Take away the study of Tanakh or the other

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .
CONTINUED

traditional sources, our Jewishness becomes devoid of content. The very essence of Jewish continuity is at stake if our children do not witness a spiritual, studious pattern of Jewish expression in the home. We are more than what we eat! Celebrations around the holiday dinner table are just a part of the program. They cannot become the sole expression of Jewishness.

Kohelet speaks to the modern tendency to ascribe tremendous importance to ourselves and to our era: *"I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind"* Although the cynics among us might conclude this means that nothing matters, I think that a fairer reading of the text reminds us that life is short, and that we leave no permanent legacy to posterity.

"The end of the matter, all having been heard: fear God, and keep His mitzvot; for this is the whole individual. For God shall bring every work into the judgment concerning every hidden thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil." Pretty sound advise Kohelet leaves us with, don't you agree!

Shalom,

Jeff Schwartz

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***THE MINAHIEL'S (PRINCIPAL'S) MOMENT:
NOT FOR PARENTS ONLY***

The great 12th century scholar, Moses Maimonides, began his monumental 14 volume code of Jewish law (the Mishneh Torah) by claiming that the fundamental mitzvah (commandment) from which all the other mitzvot flow is to know that there is a God. There is little reason to follow God's mitzvot if one doesn't even believe that there is a God. The next most basic mitzvot are love of God and reverence for God. Without this attitude, what makes God worthy of being obeyed? However, if one loves and reveres God, then it is not only appropriate, but even likely that God's mitzvot will be followed.

Two hundred years later Rabbi Chasdai Crescas found it troubling that Maimonides could state that it is a mitzvah to know that there is a God. Though it is certainly logical that belief in God is a prerequisite for following the mitzvot, how can one be ordered to believe in God? Belief is not something which can be dictated. Neither simple desire nor sheer force of will can oblige such a demand. The persuasion to believe is not under our conscious control. Crescas argued that though we are not commanded to believe in God we may yet be rewarded for doing those things which may bring it about.

Crescas' argument is compelling. Belief in God, Torah and mitzvot is not something which can simply be taught, no matter how excellent the Jewish instruction. God is not a fact to be memorized or a skill to be acquired. Further, what we teach will only be recognized as important by our children if they already believe in the reality of God and the special relationship between God and the Jewish people (the covenant).

For our children, seeing others (especially those they respect and with whom they see some connection) displaying a conviction in the reality of God, so deep that they have chosen to live a life informed by Torah and mitzvot, is the most compelling persuasion for God's existence and relevance. Especially when they see that such a life is overflowing with beauty, meaning and satisfaction. At B'nai Tikvah we believe it is vital that our Religious School model this kind of faith

THE MINAH'EL'S MOMENT ...
CONTINUED

and commitment for our students. But this certainly cannot be enough.

Our children need to experience this faith and commitment in our homes and in our Jewish community generally, as well as in our school. It is a responsibility for each of us to be conspicuous in demonstrating a love and reverence for God (Maimonides' second and third mitzvot) that impels us to follow the wonderful and wondrous path God has set before us. We must make an extra effort to visibly participate in the life of the Jewish community, in the synagogue and elsewhere. We must be seen at home affirming the importance of attachment to Jewish tradition. If our children don't witness a vibrant Jewish community engaged in Torah, mitzvot and all other aspects of a Jewish lifestyle, how valid can Judaism be? If no one other than the paid religious fanatics (rabbi, cantor and teachers) and a few other extremists put much stock in the Jewish idea of God and God's covenant with the Jewish people, why should it be worthy of even a second thought?

Exhibiting commitment to God, mitzvot and the Jewish legacy is not just the responsibility of the school. We each have an obligation to all of "our" children. Don't just nod your head in agreement and return to your old habits and familiar practices. It is always possible to make a change and to increase involvement with the synagogue and with the Jewish tradition. (If you disagree come down and show our youth that you care enough about Judaism to "argue" with me. Our tradition has always loved a good debate.) We are the key, so let's join together in unlocking the gate beyond which the magnificence of our God and our heritage can clearly be seen. Our future depends on our "future" (the children) realizing that Judaism is not a forbidding overgrown swamp path but an open, well-traveled highway whose breathtaking view makes the journey as worthwhile as the destination. With God's help and our own efforts may us and our children all be privileged to travel it together.

*(For the logicians among you, it is true that Maimonides' argument is circular. He already agreed that following any of the mitzvot is

presupposed by belief in God. So, it appears that in order to accept that there is a mitzvah of belief in God, one must already believe that there is a God who gave this mitzvah. Despite its superiority, there is an element of circularity in Crescas' position as well.)

Hag Sameach,

Dov Goldberg

NURSERY SCHOOL NOTES

School started, along with tears, with learning about Rosh Hashonah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah. The children ate apples and honey, made decorations and consumed their snack in the Sukkah, when possible. They all shook the lulav and smelled the sweet etrog, as well as heard the shofar being blown. All were encouraged to attend Simchat Torah services at B'nai Tikvah.

A trip to Lee's Turkey Farm in October is planned for most of the children. Our photographer will be taking class and individual pictures for grandma and grandpa to kvell. Our delightful candid shots will decorate the school wing shortly. The younger children and siblings will have another day during the winter.

The fall Mommy & Me session is scheduled to begin. Also available is our preschool lunch program, extended day and day care. Back to School night for parents are also planned during October.

Joan Shames, Director

Out of The Mouths of Babes

When the children were asked how old they were, Jacelyn told them that she was 2 while her twin brother, Evan, shouted out: "I'm 3."

When the children were told they were going out soon (to the playground), David asked, "Are we going out for dinner?"

MOMMY & ME PROGRAM
(Mommy or Any Designated Adult)

Once again, this enriching program for children eighteen months and older has begun in September, yet there is still room available. The program includes socialization, free play, art projects, music, snacks, stories and more! It is one hour per week for ten weeks. Synagogue members receive a discount.

Also available for children twenty-seven months and older is our successful "One Step Up Program" which meets one and one-half hours per week for ten weeks. An adult must remain on the premises until the child is two and one-half years old.

For additional information on either program or to register your child, please call the nursery school office at 297-0295.

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THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL AT B'NAI TIKVAH

During last spring's Yom HaShoah service memorializing the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust of World War II, Ed Hirsch, President of Congregation B'nai Tikvah's Men's Club announced the acquisition of a Holocaust Torah. Through the generous contributions of 100 congregants, friends of the community, and funds earned through the Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program, B'nai Tikvah is now the home of a permanent memorial to Hitler's victims. The Torah, on permanent loan, is the centerpiece of the memorial.

Holocaust Memorial Committee

B'nai Tikvah is grateful to the Holocaust Memorial Committee for making this Memorial a reality:

Bernie Adler
Arthur Cederbaum
Elliott Danto
Rabbi David Eligberg
Chazzan Dov Goldberg
Ed Hirsch
Ilene Karp
Caroline Lawrence

Irwin Millinger
Mark Roller, Chair
Suse & Walter Rosenstock
Martha & Herman Roller
Itka & Mayer Rutman
Jeff Schwartz
Rabbi Andrew Warmflash
Nina Wolff

*For the Dead
and the Living
We Must Bear Witness*

WHY A HOLOCAUST TORAH? WHY NOW?

On November 9, 1995, Jews all over the world will pause to remember the events of November 9, 1938, a night of death and destruction in Germany and Austria known as Kristallnacht. That night, and the many that followed, brought a nightmare of darkness and devastation so total and far-reaching as to be almost beyond human comprehension.

This, we must never forget.

As the years pass, there will be fewer Holocaust survivors and observers to bear witness and remember the six million murdered Jews and other victims of the Nazis. A B'nai Tikvah Holocaust Memorial is a call to action and a reminder of OUR promise -- "Never Again!"

The Torah enshrined in our Holocaust Memorial was selected by congregants Nina and Alan Wolff and their daughter Amy during a recent trip to London, England. The Torah they chose was originally confiscated by the Nazis during their occupation of the town of Kolin and placed in a Prague synagogue, along with many other stolen treasures, that were to become the basis of Hitler's museum of an extinct people. Instead, these Torahs, now known as the Czech Memorial Scrolls, and other valuables have become a testament to survival.

When the Czech government returned to power after the war, the 1,564 Czech Memorial Scrolls remained where they were left by the Nazis. Almost 20 years later, in 1963, Eric Estorick, a London art connoisseur, arranged with the Czech government to move the Scrolls to London's Westminster Synagogue in 1964.

B'nai Tikvah's Scroll, number 443, was written in about 1700 and comes from the town of Kolin, Bohemia, 34 miles east of Prague. The Jewish population of Kolin, first noted in the 14th century, peaked in 1854 at 1,700. The population declined in the intervening years. In 1942, 2,203 Jews and other individuals from Kolin and nearby towns were deported to the Terezin concentration camp. Only 105 people

survived the Nazi occupation.

The synagogue, which was the original home of this Torah, was located on Nahrabach Street, between the house at number 157/12 and the former city walls of Kolin. That building, erected on the site of a pre-1587 synagogue, was begun in 1642 and completed in 1696. The congregation, revived after World War II, existed until 1955. Today, the chandelier and some of the furnishings which survived are kept in Temple Emmanuel of Denver, Colorado. B'nai Tikvah is proud to be the guardian of their Torah.

Dedication

of the
Holocaust
Torah
Memorial

on *Kristallnacht*
Thursday, November 9, 1995
at 7:30 pm

Speakers

Paul Zell

Witness to the Holocaust and East Brunswick resident

Ilene Karp

Program Coordinator and teacher of Holocaust studies

Rabbi David Eligberg

WE CAN GET HERE FROM THERE!

by Nina Wolff

In February 1995, my husband Alan, my daughter Amy, and I traveled to visit my son Bill, who was spending the year in London on a Watson Fellowship. Before we left, we were approached by the Holocaust Torah Committee and asked to visit the Westminster Synagogue in hopes of finding a Torah that we might include in our Congregation's Holocaust Memorial. This we gladly did, and it became one of the highlights of our trip.

The 1,564 Czech Memorial Scrolls, of which our Torah is one, are not "Rescued Torahs" in that they were not hidden by Jews in the hope that they would survive and be found after the Holocaust. These Scrolls were confiscated by the Nazis and stored with other treasures stolen from Jews before they were sent to their deaths.

Twenty years after the end of World War II, the Scrolls were moved to London and placed in the care of Mrs. Ruth Shaffer, who told us their history. Restoration of the scrolls by scribe David Brand began shortly after their arrival in London. Those able to be repaired enough to be Kosher were the first to find permanent homes in synagogues, museums, and schools around the world.

The remaining Torahs, still lovingly housed at the Westminster Synagogue, are well beyond repair. They are water or fire-damaged, ripped, stained, and some are so fragile that they cannot be unrolled. Unfortunately, the history of many of these scrolls remains a mystery. We were lucky to find one that can be unrolled and, although the writing is somewhat faded, can be read.

My family is honored to have participated in bringing this Czech Memorial Scroll to its new and permanent home in B'nai Tikvah.

"HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED?"

By Paul Zell

The following, written by Paul Zell, is an excerpt from an article which originally appeared in *The Home News* on March 2, 1995, "How could the Holocaust happen? We only know that it did."

There are some who deny a Holocaust ever happened or cannot believe an act of such monstrous proportion was perpetrated in this modern day by a highly civilized people.

I am living proof that the murder of millions of innocent men, women and children, Jewish and non-Jewish, did indeed occur. On the one hand, I am sad I have to convince anybody that the darkest moment in human history did occur. On the other hand, what choice do I have?

...I know that millions of innocent people, men, women, children, even babies, Jews, Catholics, Gypsies, and others were wantonly slaughtered in the name of . . . white, Aryan, Teutonic supremacy, promulgated by Hitler and his cohorts.

In 1938, as a 13-year-old in Vienna, Austria, I was chased and badly beaten on several occasions by Nazi Hitler youths and their dogs for the sole crime of being Jewish

On November 9, 1938, during Kristallnacht, I witnessed the burning and destruction of our local synagogue, the breaking into and looting of Jewish stores, . . . and a local citizenry filled with hatred and gone berserk.

...I finally escaped from Vienna . . . with my sister in December of 1938 . . . I was 13 and my sister, 15. We eventually arrived in the United States . . . [but] . . . twelve members of my family perished in the Holocaust.

In June 1943, I joined the U.S. Army . . . The eventual German surrender in May 1945 found me close to the infamous Nazi concentration camp of Buchenwald. Even though I had experienced Nazi bestiality first hand and had just been in a war where death and suffering were all too common, I was shocked and sickened [by what I saw] . . .

Who are these people who deny everything I personally experienced or witnessed? What is their motive? . . . I have no answer . . . However, let me unequivocally assure them. Yes, it did happen!

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SUKKOT HAPPENINGS AT B'NAI TIKVAH



LULAV and ETROG (palm branch and citron) - Perform the mitzvah of waving the lulav and etrog during the holiday. Orders taken by the synagogue office. \$36 a set. Pickup on Sunday, October 8.

SUKKOT HOSPITALITY PROJECT - This program matches up those building sukkot with those who wish to fulfill the mitzvah of "dwelling" in one. Hosts provide beverages, guests dessert. Contact the synagogue office.

SET UP B'NAI TIKVAH'S SUKKAH on Sunday, October 1 starting at 8:00 am. Schach will be added on Sunday morning, October 8. Call Marc Binder 274-2797.

BORROW A SUKKAH - The synagogue has two 6 X 8 "pre-fab" sukkot to loan. Call the office.

SCHACH - Evergreen branches to use as schach (covering for the top of a sukkah) can be ordered through the synagogue office. One bundle covers 90 sq. ft. \$25 a bundle. Pickup at synagogue on Sunday, October 8.

**SUKKOT begins sundown Sunday, October 8
and continues until SHEMINI ATZERET on October 16.**

Shemini Atzeret is followed by SIMCHAT TORAH on Tuesday, October 17.

Services:

- Erev Sukkot -- Sunday, October 8, 6:00 pm*
- Sukkot -- Monday, October 9, 9:30 am & 6:00 pm*
- Sukkot -- Tuesday, October 10, 9:30 am & 6:00 pm*
- Hoshanah Rabbah -- Sunday, October 15, 9:00 am*
- Erev Shemini Atzeret -- Sunday, October 15, 6:00 pm*
- Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor recited) -- Monday, October 16, 9:30 am*
- Erev Simchat Torah -- Monday, October 16,*
 - Mincha 6:00 pm*
 - Maariv 6:30 pm*
 - Hakafot 6:45 pm*

*Simchat Torah -- Tuesday, October 17, 9:30 am
LUNCH FOLLOWING HAKAFOT*

Make a Lulav SHAKE this Sukkot!

INFRASTRUCTURE IS SUCH A BIG WORD

From time to time I am asked why if Israel is becoming such a financial success, do we still have to buy Israel bonds? The United States is a somewhat larger economic entity, but it too must sell bonds.

Bonds are the means by which a country (or state or city) finances it's expansion of infrastructure. "What's that?" you ask. So I'll tell you. For an economy to expand it must have roads and bridges and rails, for people to get to work and to move merchandise and supplies. To build homes there must first be water and sewer systems, electricity and gas, and schools and libraries. This is infrastructure. Without it there can be no growth or expansion. An economy stagnates.

The huge amounts of money required to fund this kind of expansion is too much to come from current taxes, so the government must borrow. One of the ways for a government to borrow is to issue bonds. A bond is a contract between the borrower, (Israel) and the lender. That's us. Of course they also borrow from banks and other sources, but we the Jewish people of America are a very important resource.

The money that we lend to Israel is helping to build that infrastructure that provides the economic base for the economy to expand and provide jobs for the tens of thousands of Jews that immigrate to Israel. What a way to do a mitzvah and help yourself at the same time.

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Aaron Rosloff 908-297-2233



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ABOUT US

ROSH HASHONAH GIFTS - Hamashbir Department Stores report they do 18 percent more business during the Rosh Hashonah season than the rest of the year combined . . . Israel's other department store chain, Shekem, sold \$2 million worth of Rosh Hashonah gift certificates last year . . . so, how come the Encyclopedia Judaica informs us that the giving of Rosh Hashonah gifts and cards has no basis in Jewish religious tradition.

BOSTON - The Human Nutrition Research Center of Tufts University has conducted an experiment which proves that elderly men and women in their 80s and 90s benefit from pumping iron. They suggest lifting weights at least thrice weekly, and participating in leg or thigh physical exercises. Apparently, the elderly build walking speed, gain muscle strength, and have fewer falls and injuries as a result. Use it or lose it, they say. As a result, the weight rooms are now more popular than all other activities at Boston's Hebrew Rehab Center for the aged.

BIBLICAL NAMES - Hadassah tells us that half the states in the U.S.A. contain a Bethel, and twenty states have a Goshen or Hebron. Almost 1,000 towns throughout the United States have biblical names. Hawaii is the only state without one. New Jersey, by the way, boasts of nearby New Egypt, or 'Nyah Mitzrayim', in Yiddish.

BILLINGS, MONTANA - The American Jewish Committee has honored Billings for its display of solidarity with the city's 240 Jewish citizens. When homes displaying Hanukkah menorahs were vandalized last year, the residents of Billings decided to display menorahs on all their own homes for the holiday, Jewish or not.

MEMORABLE QUOTE - "It took us 15 minutes to fly over. It took us 46 years to arrive at this time and this place." Peres, at the first public meeting with Jordan's Prime Minister at the Dead Sea last fall.

HOLLAND - KLM, the Dutch national carrier, is planning to move its Middle-East center of operations to Israel's Ben Gurion Airport. The company considers Israel the most natural site for the handling of flights from Europe to Africa, Asia, the Far East, and the Middle East.

WANTED TO BORROW - A book entitled, "The Joys and Oys of Jewish Food." The author may be Israel Shenker. Do you have?

EL AL - Now offers frequent flyer credit (2) trips to the United States now gives a bonus free fare to the USA). And, now the flights can be to and from Newark Airport, each seat boasts an individual TV, and a free liquor after the kosher meal. Wonder if the speaker still plays "Hava Negillah" during take off?

FORBES MAGAZINE - In June, Forbes predicted that Israel "is on the verge of becoming one of the leading lights in the high tech age." The magazine also noted that Israel has a more highly-educated, harder-working population than any other country. So, qvell!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JERUSALEM - In honor of Jerusalem's 3,000th anniversary, Moscow has opened a special exhibit entitled, "Jerusalem As Seen by Artists." Are you planning to join the celebration? This year in Jerusalem!

L'hitroat,

Mili Rosloff

MAZEL TOV TO:

Our OCTOBER Bat Mitzvah Janine Kates.

CONDOLENCES TO:

Ruth Schwartz on the loss of her father, Majer Majerovits.

Sherry Kahn on the loss of her father, Norman David Gordon.

Althea Wurmbrand on the loss of her mother, Ida Asch.

DONATIONS, MEMORIUMS,
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Joan & Morris Shames and Ruth & Seymour Risman in memory of Tillie Shupack.

Renee & Steven Levin in memory of Barbara Weiss's mother.

Mr & Mrs Jack Birkenthal in honor of Ethan Michael Yaros' birth.

YOUTH FUND

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Stuart & Sandy Weiner in honor of Amy's Bat Mitzvah.

GENERAL FUND

Mrs. Shiva Nili in memory of Yonatan to the Social Action Fund.

The Siegel Family in honor of Lisa and Jason Diamond & family.

Mark & Susan Yaros in honor of Ethan Michael Yaros.

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Stuart & Sandy Weiner In honor of Amy's Bat Mitzvah.

Anonymous in memory of Estelle Kulick.

YAHREZEIT FUND

Aaron Jay in memory of Harry Jay.

Len Mandelblatt in memory of Isadore Mandelblatt.

Adrienne & Andrew Ross in memory of Eleanor Ross.

Judith Schiller in memory of Joseph Schiller

Sydell Spinner in memory of Harry Horowitz

Gale M. Dillman in memory of Susan Warshaw.

Isidore & Claire Hirshman in memory of Max Silverman & Sam Hirschman.

Abbey & Bernard Lorber in memory of Louise Kahn.

Eleanor & William Greenberg in memory of Joseph Krause.

Beth & Brian Statman in memory of Samuel Scherer.

Dagobert & Ruth Reich in memory of Hilda Reich.

SHABBAT CHILDCARE FUND

Renee & Steven Levin in honor of the birth of Anna Rose Schamberg.

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Irwin & Sylvia Heit
Harvey & Maxine Anderson
Marc & Gale Dillman
Jornathan & Sydell Spinner
Gerald Juris
Ann Cherson
Shelly & Carol Piekarski
Isidore & Claire Hirshman
Jerry & Bertha Goldsmith
Mark & Vivian Menscher
Arlene Bacher
Gerald Juris
Gary & Tamar Tolchin
Myron & Cheryl Asnis
Barry & Caren Dworkin
Arnold Lidsky
Daniel & Sharo Kragh
David & Michele Greenfield

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Sidney Abramson
Susan Warshaw
Barry Horowitz
Brenda Kramer
Eva Cramer Krevans
Mollie Reitzon
Sam Hirshman
Rachel Braha
Renee Brozman
Samuel Levine
Carroll Rafkind
Sarah Witt
Ruth Asnis
Bernice Dworkin
Leah Lidsky
Israel Kukafka
Robert Greenfield



A Very Special Day in Israel

In a moving ceremony at Kibbutz Hanaton, 12 children adopted from other countries by Israeli parents became Jews. The conversions were performed by the *Beit Din l'giyur* (religious court for conversion) of the Masorti Movement in the *mikvah* at the Kibbutz and received wide coverage in the Israeli media.

The adoptive parents had first approached the Chief Rabbinate, but were refused unless they agreed to lead an Orthodox lifestyle and send their children to Orthodox schools. Na'amat, the Labor Party Women's Organization, tried to help them but they, too, ran into a barrier. After researching the possibilities, they turned to the Masorti *Beit Din le-giyur* because they knew that the conversions would be performed according to *halacha*.

Rabbi Michael Graetz, a member of the *Beit Din*, wrote, "It was a wonderful feeling to be able to serve religious needs of Israelis in such a positive way. This

event is a turning point in our history as a Movement in Israel. ...As one who has been witness to the growth of our Movement from the beginning, this was a sight that I never expected to see in my generation; Israeli families, in the framework of a large public organization, coming to Masorti rabbis out of great need and of gratitude for their help. It was truly a day of rejoicing."

The rejoicing, however, is not complete. The next step is to have the children registered as Jews at the Interior Ministry. If they are refused, the Masorti Movement and Na'amat will take the case to Israel's High Court of Justice. Previous rulings by the Court require that the Ministry recognize conversions performed *outside* Israel by non-Orthodox rabbis. This will be the first time and, hopefully, the last that a case involving conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis *in*

Israel would be brought before the Court.

"This event is a turning point in our history as a Movement in Israel...."

Bar/Bat Mitzvah for the Special Child

The Education Department of the Masorti Movement recently launched a unique project in which rabbis and educators from the Movement teach children with Cerebral Palsy and prepare them to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The teachers were trained at a workshop conducted by **Rabbi Reuven Hammer** who has a Ph.D. in Special Education, on the subjects of: *How to Work with Special Children* and *The Spiritual Needs of Special Children*.

This project, the first of its kind in Israel, has attracted much attention. A long range objective is to expand this effort to include children with other disabilities. We are indebted to **Sara**

Simon of the Board of Jewish Education of Greater Washington for providing advice and guidance in the initial efforts to establish this project.



Jewish Holiday Workshops

Under the direction of Udi Givon, Director of NOAM (the Masorti Youth Movement), workshops are held prior to each holiday to give the children and their families a knowledge of and feeling for the holiday in a fun and creative way. "The idea is to teach them about materials, books, customs and traditions, and give them an opportunity to think about the deeper messages of the holiday..." says Givon. This is accomplished through hands-on art projects, games, readings, drama, etc.

Repentance, the theme of the High Holiday Workshop, featured a psychodrama section in which the children ex-

amined their actions. In the art station the youngsters made High Holiday greeting cards and Sukkot decorations.

The Hanukkah Workshop found the children making Hanukkiot, dreidels, and latkes. They had a trivia game in which they learned facts about the holiday, and in the drama section, they made a video on news based on the Book of the Hasmoneans.

The Tu B'shevat workshop featured a simulation game in which the participants had to solve ecological problems facing a model city.

According to Givon, the Jewish Holiday Workshops have been so successful that he has been approached by several schools which are interested in running these programs.

Know Before You Go To Israel

How To:

- Meet and be greeted by your Conservative (Masorti) "family" in Israel.
- Join them at services in their Masorti Congregations.
- Meet new Russian and Ethiopian olim.
- Learn about the Masorti programs for integrating the new Russian and Ethiopian olim.
- See the NOAM Youth Groups in action

- Visit Kibbutz Haraton, its Education Center, and Moshav Shorashim.
- Arrange for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebration in a Masorti congregation

For more information, contact:

Clara S. Gordon
FOUNDATION FOR CONSERVATIVE
JUDAISM IN ISRAEL
6525 Belcrest Road, Suite 305
Hyattsville, MD 20782
301/779-6400

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America

New on the Web this Month

You can access our home page by url, <http://www.jtsa.edu>

- Upcoming events
- Recent press releases
- Chancellor Ismar Schorsch's *parashiyot hashavuah* (weekly Torah commentaries)

BIKKUR CHOLIM

Yes, we're still in existence and revitalizing our forces! If you have already signed up, or are currently interested in being an "integral force" on this most important and rewarding committee, please touch base to let me know when you are available to make hospital visits. There will be a committee planning and training session with Rabbi Eligberg at the synagogue on October 22, 1995 at 8 pm.

In the interim, if you know of someone in the hospital, please contact the synagogue office (297-0696) or me (249-9141) so that we can arrange a visit with them!

Thanks,
Ann Rosenzweig, Bikkur Cholim Chairperson

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED !!

Synagogue Hospitality would like to form a small committee of individuals interested in assisting its all too busy, yet dedicated Coordinator, in plating, layout of food, and general overseeing of the synagogue kitchen for Friday night Oneg's and Saturday morning Kiddushes.

HOSPITALITY . . . CONTINUED

Please, even if you are available to help only on Friday nights or Saturday mornings, your efforts would be appreciated and certainly welcomed. Contact the synagogue office at 297-0696 for further information or to volunteer.

PLANNING TO CELEBRATE A SIMCHA . . . SUCH AS A BIRTHDAY, AUF RUF, BABY NAMING, WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, BAR/BAT MITZVAH ANNIVERSARY, CHILD'S FIRST JOB OR ENTRANCE INTO THE COLLEGE OF THEIR CHOICE . . .

Whatever the joyous occasion might be, share your mazel with fellow congregants, extended family and visiting friends by sponsoring an Oneg on Friday night and/or a Kiddush on Saturday morning.

The simcha is guaranteed to be more memorable and our synagogue will benefit as well. For further details, please contact the synagogue office at 297-0696.

"DOUBLE IDENTITY" (Shver Tzu Zine Ah Yid)

A musical comedy in Yiddish by Sholom Aleichem with simultaneous English & Russian translation.

At the Folksbiene Playhouse in New York City Sunday, November, 5th, 1995 Matinee

Cost is \$33.00 which includes ticket and bus transportation (departure from Congregation B'nai Tikvah parking lot)
(Sorry, participants are on their own for lunch.)

All congregation members and friends are invited. Sponsored by the Fifty Plus Group
Call Sy Kramer at 297-3562 for tickets.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION SCHEDULE

October	21
November	4, 18
December	2, 16
January	6, 20
February	3, 17
March	2, 16
April	13, 27
May	4, 18

Please note the following two highlights which are also outlined in the Junior Congregation Booklet:

1) Please send in \$3.00 with your child to cover special kiddushes and luncheons. In lieu of the \$3.00 you may wish to sponsor a Junior Congregation kiddush, which can occur on any of the above dates, for \$15.00.

2) Two parent volunteers are needed for each Junior Congregation date, to sit with us and watch our children lead Junior Congregation. Please call with the date which would be convenient for your attendance.

Please call Barry Safeer during the day at (212) 645-4545 or in the evening before 9 pm at (908) 422-8543, if you should have any questions.

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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.

•	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 7 *	TBD	Family Bar-B-Que.

* Independence Day picnic postponed due to the Fast of Tammuz which inaugurates a three week period of incremental and limited mourning that culminates with the Fast of Tisha B'Av. Weddings, haircuts, and new clothing are prohibited during this period and festivities of all kinds are greatly reduced or eliminated.

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



September 1995

Dear Parents,

Kadima, a national youth organization for Jewish youth in middle and junior high school, has 10,000 members and over 360 local chapters throughout North America. Under the auspices of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Kadima programs are sponsored by local conservative congregations. Our synagogue is very proud to sponsor a Kadima chapter and to make such a program available to your child.

Participation in a Kadima chapter, on a regular basis, is of special importance particularly to this age group, (6th, 7th, and 8th grades) through our local Kadima chapter, members may participate in full activities program while meeting other Jewish kids in a wholesome environment.

Some of the activities available on the chapter level include: Jack Pot Bingo, Sports and Stuff, Friday Night Services, Arts and Crafts, and many other programs.

By joining Kadima, your child will be eligible to participate in the highly diversified and well-rounded Regional Kadima programs, Dances Conventions, and Weekend Shabbatones. Especially now it is very important to increase the involvement of your child in this type of environment and program. If your child does not belong as of yet, the importance of participation becomes even more immediate.

Dues for the 1995 - 1996 year is as followed:

\$ 25.00 for B'nai Tikvah Members.

\$ 35.00 for non temple members.

If you have any questions or need more information please call:

Melissa Fisch: Kadima Advisor 908 - 438 - 0393

Marcia Schwartz: Youth Chairman 908 - 297 - 6365

Sincerely,

*Melissa Fisch
Kadima Advisor*

JOSEPH D. GRODMAN, FNAO



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FIFTY PLUS GROUP

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 24th, at 1 pm and will feature the very popular Bill Roufberg who will speak on various religions. All members and guests are invited!

We are sponsoring a trip to the Folksbiene Playhouse in New York City on Sunday, November 5th. Details are announced in this issue of HaKol under a separate advertisement. Please call Sy Kramer at 297-3562 for tickets. Members of Congregation B'nai Tikvah as well as guests are welcome.

Our November meeting, which will be on Tuesday the 28th, will include our annual Chanukah Party and our Famous Fun Auction!

For further information on any of the above events, as well as Fifty Plus Group membership, please call Madeline Gaynor at 297-4240.

KADIMA SCHEDULE | 1995-1996

For more information, please call Melissa Fisch (Kadima Advisor) at (908) 438-0393

October:

Thursday, 12th-- Jack Pot Bingo (\$.50 per board)
Monday, 23rd-- Meet & Greet Rabbi Eligberg

November:

Monday, 6th-- South Brunswick Grand Slam
Saturday, 11th-- Dance at Clark
Tuesday, 21st-- Movie Night Showing "The Brady Bunch"

December:

Wednesday, 6th-- Holiday Arts & Crafts
Thursday, 21st-- Chanukah Party

UNITED SYNAGOGUE YOUTH

The school year kicked-off with a number of U.S.Y. events. October and November are filled with even more exciting activities for everyone! For instance, the group will be having an "All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast" on Sunday, October 29th from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at Congregation B'nai Tikvah. The breakfast is open to all members of the congregation and to the public. Cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12. Please come out and support U.S.Y.!

If you haven't joined U.S.Y. yet, it is still not too late. Please contact Candace and Craig Botnick at (908) 940-8463 for membership information.

October:

Saturday, 14th-- Regional Opening Dance at Greenlane "Y" in Union. 8:30 pm- 12:30 am
Wednesday, 18th-- Name That Tune & Tie-dying Night at B'nai Tikvah. 7:15 - 8:45 pm
Tuesday, 24th-- Newyfriend Game at B'nai Tikvah. 7:15 - 8:45 pm
Friday., 27th -Sun., 29th-- Regional Leadership Training Institute in Teaneck.
Sunday, 29th-- All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast at B'nai Tikvah 9:30 - 11:30 am

November:

Tuesday, 7th-- Billiard Night at a place to be determined. 7:15 - 8:45 pm
Tuesday, 14th-- Chocolate Making Night & Prepare T. O. Tea 7:15 - 8:45 pm At B'nai Tikvah.
Friday, 17th-Sun.,19th-- Regional Fall Kinnus in East Brunswick.
Wednesday, 22nd-- Regional Turkey Dance/Alumni in Springfield.

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FRESH FLORIDA CITRUS FOR DELIVERY FOR HANUKKAH (and/or LATER)...

All prices include shipping	All Oranges *	All Grapefruit	Mixed *
1/4 Bushel (15-18 oranges, 9-11 gfruit, 9-12 oranges/3 gfruit)	Gift # A2 / \$23.98	Gift # A3 / \$23.98	Gift # A3 / \$23.98
1/2 Bushel (30-36 oranges, 18-22 gfruit, 15-18 oranges/9-11 gfruit)	Gift # B1 / \$31.98	Gift # B2 / \$31.98	Gift # B3 / \$31.98
3/4 Bushel (45-54 oranges, 27-33 gfruit, 30-36 oranges/9-11 gfruit)	Gift # C1 / \$37.98	Gift # C2 / \$37.98	Gift # B3 / \$37.98
1 Bushel (Great Value!) (60-72 oranges, 36-44 gfruit, 30-36 oranges/18-22 gfruit)	Gift # D1 / \$45.98	Gift # D2 / \$45.98	Gift # D3 / \$45.98
3 - 1/4 Bushels VALUE!	Gift # 3N / \$68.50	Gift # 3G / \$68.50	Gift # 3M / \$68.50
3 - 1/2 Bushels VALUE!	Gift # 3N2 / \$91.50	Gift # 3G2 / \$91.50	Gift # 3M2 / \$91.50
3 - 3/4 Bushels VALUE!	Gift # 3N3 / \$109	Gift # 3G3 / \$109	Gift # 3M3 / \$109
3 - Full Bushels VALUE!	Gift # 3N4 / \$131	Gift # 3G4 / \$131	Gift # 3M4 / \$131

* Add \$2.00 additional for Tangelo, Temple and Honey Tangerine orders

NAVELS

Available October - January

The large seedless Navel orange...Sweet as sugar and always a holiday favorite

TANGELO

Available January - February

Also known as the "Mineola" or "Honeybell." It's a Florida hybrid combining the juicy sweetness of the tangerine and refreshing grapefruit. \$2.00 Additional for Tangelo orders.

PINK SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT

Available October - May

No other grapefruit can compare to the sweet thin skinned delicious flavor of the Indian River "Pinks." Counting calories never tasted sooooo good!!!

TEMPLES

Available January - February

This is one of Florida's finest! Known as the "zipper skinned" orange...it is easy to peel and so easy to enjoy! \$2.00 additional for Temple orders.

HONEY TANGERINE

Available February - March

This sweet as honey tangerine is a very popular eating treat. One not to be missed since they are only available for a short time. \$2.00 additional for Honey Tangerine orders.

SEE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FLYER FOR THE ORDER FORM...

ALSO AVAILABLE ARE HANUKKAH GIFT BASKETS:

"8 Days of Hanukkah"

Gift # 75

\$79.95

Only the finest premium items are included in our unique Hanukkah gift! Our 8 tiered assortment comes packed with oranges, grapefruit, hand dipped chocolate cookies, chocolate Hanukkah greeting cards, a rich milk chocolate dreidel, topped off with a box of gelt and a charmingly cute Teddy "Bearing" a gift. A favorite for adults and children alike and something special for every night.

"The Spirit of Hanukkah"

Gift #38

\$39.95

Pretty blue basket holds treasures to celebrate the spirit of Hanukkah. It comes filled with large pistachios, a solid chocolate dreidel, box of gelt, chocolate Hanukkah lollipop, and an un"Bear"ably cute Teddy. Steal their hearts this holiday with a gift of good taste.

DEADLINE FOR HANUKKAH BASKET ORDERS IS December 3, 1995

.....
Please fill out the form below if you are interested in purchasing Fresh Florida Citrus OR Hanukkah baskets for yourself or as a gift. Please mail your completed order form (and check made out to Sisterhood) to Phyllis Safeer, 109 Princess Drive, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 or drop off the order form at the synagogue in the Sisterhood mailbox. Please don't forget to include the shipping date and an extra \$2.00 for Tangelo, Temple or Honey Tangerine orders.

Deadline for **Thanksgiving** shipment

November 9, 1995

Deadline for **Hanukkah** shipment

December 3, 1995

Customer Information:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZipCode _____
Phone # _____

Please fill in and/or circle the appropriate information below. Please indicate date next to Other if ordering Tangelos, Temples or Honey Tangerines.
Please refer to the reverse side for delicious orange descriptions.

Quantity	Gift #	Type of oranges*	Price	Delivery Date
_____	_____	_____	_____	Thanksgiving/Hanukkah/Other____
_____	_____	_____	_____	Thanksgiving/Hanukkah/Other____

Please provide the name, address and phone # of the individual you would like to ship to if you would like items shipped to someone other than yourself. Please use a separate piece of paper for additional orders.

THE JERRY YAROS MEMORIAL JEWISH VIDEO LIBRARY

To all Library Users--we would appreciate it if you could check your home video library because the following video titles have been missing for an extended period of time:

From the Shalom Sesame Series:

- 1) Sing Around The Seasons
- 2) The Land Of Israel
- 3) Jerusalem
- 4) The People Of Israel
- 5) Shabbat Express
- 6) Shabbat Experience
- 7) Hester Street
- 8) Exodus
- 9) The Boat Is Full
- 10) Night And Fog
- 11) The White Rose
- 12) My Israel
- 13) Jerusalem Discovery
- 14) Getting Jerusalem Together
- 15) Yiddish-The Mama Loshen
- 16) Jewish Mother's Video Cookbook
- 17) Routes of Exile-Morrocan Jewish Odyssey
- 18) A Chanukah Celebration

We ask all Library Users to cooperate by returning borrowed tapes within two weeks of taking them out. By following this reasonable rule, others will have the benefit of their use AND we will not have to replace tapes (waste funds) which were already a part of our video library.

The following video tapes are recent acquisitions and are highly recommended for viewing:

- 1) *"Who Am I?"* (This video deals with intermarriage and answers the question, 'why be Jewish?')
- 2) *"Ritual: Three Portraits Of Jewish Life"* (This video points out the importance of ritual in Judaism.)
- 3) *"The Discovery"* (This video handles the subject of Bar Mitzvah.)
- 4) *"Saying Kaddish"* (This video follows a family through the difficult time of mourning.)

ANOTHER VIEWPOINT



Was the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima an act of defensive war, or was it racism? Fifty years after the event, Japan is apologizing for starting the war and Americans are agonizing over how it was ended.

If my mother were alive today, she would have some very sharp words for people who criticize how America ended the war with Japan. Mama had all three of her sons in the military at the time, at least two of whom were about to be shipped to the Pacific Theater. All she wanted was to see us all home alive and well. Those were the prayers of millions of mothers of American GIs, and hate and fear were their constant companions! Racism was a distant second.

Germany or Japan would have had no compunctions about using it against us if they had obtained it first. But suppose that we had developed the bomb a year earlier and used it against Germany. Or would we have not used it because they were Aryans?

In view of the fact that we believed that the Germans were working on an atomic devise, it would have been a dereliction of duty not to use it against them first. But because it was not developed in time to use in Europe, but was used against Japan, we are now, two generations later, accusing ourselves of racism against one of the most racist regimes that ever existed.

The Bomb put an end to an era in which the Japanese were enslaving, torturing, raping and killing people on a scope so vast, that it made Genghis Kahn look like a messenger of peace. To give them their due, the Japanese soldier was a brave and fierce fighter. We didn't buy Okinawa on the cheap, and invasion of Japan would cost us and the Japanese very, very dearly.

There is no way to know if, as some say, we actually saved lives by dropping the bomb. But my mother would have said, "we saved my sons . . . and that's good enough for me."

Aaron Rosloff

TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN
ABOUT GOD

A Book by Rabbi David J. Wolpe

A man came to his rabbi and said: "Rabbi when I was a child I felt very close to God. Now that I am older, it seems as if God has left me, or perhaps it is I who have left. In either case, I feel far from God. I am not sure what to do." The rabbi answered him, "When you teach a child to walk, at first you stand very close. The child can only take one step, and then you must catch him. But as he grows, you move farther and farther away, so that he can walk to you. God has not abandoned you. Like a good parent, God has moved farther away, but is still close by, waiting for you. Now you must learn to walk to God."

MANY OF US have lost the certainties of our childhood, now we face the need to teach our own children about God. To help them search for faith we must try to understand some things anew for ourselves ...

When I set out to select an excerpt for this book "preview," I had a difficult task -- there are so many. To illustrate the richness of Wolpe's book, this excerpt can be found on page 1! It is only the beginning of a book which improves with each chapter. *Teaching Your Children* is filled with wonderful parables and exquisite guidance on how we feel and think about God. The beauty of this book, for those parents struggling with time, is that each chapter is easily read on its own. I call this a book "preview," rather than review, since I have not read it cover-to-cover. Instead, I read a chapter at a time -- when time permits. Or when one of my sons asks me a question about God, to which I have no answer.

But for those of you who are not currently rearing children, do not be fooled by this book's name. *Teaching Your Children About God* goes far beyond its title. This book is more than a "do it yourself guide" to teaching your children. It offers, instead, meaningful ways to "find your children" (and the child within you) as you walk towards God.

Teaching Your Children About God is published by Henry Holt & Company and can be found in many local bookstores.

Happy Reading, *Gigi Cohen*

☞ Read any Good (Jewish) Books Lately?
Share the experience . . . review it for **HaKol!**



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CLOSEUP

Renaissance Cantor

By Johanna Ginsberg



PHOTO CREDIT: AMERY KURMAN

He speaks six languages, has studied viola at the Peabody Conservatory, played with the Orchestra of the Tel Aviv Academy of Music, and sung with the Baltimore Symphony. A member of the faculty of Harvard Medical School in the Department of Neurology, he holds a joint appointment as researcher and clinician in the neuropsychology and neurolinguistics laboratories at Massachusetts General Hospital. He has a PhD from Johns Hopkins University, and is now on leave from Harvard to study at the Cantors Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary. Dr. Scott Sokol is a human whirlwind who embodies the term Renaissance man.

Radiating the warmth and ease of someone very much at home with other people, he speaks quickly, running from thought to thought as though one would disappear if he did not hurry to meet it. Now in his second year of study at the Cantors Institute, he will attempt to compress the five-year course—which many say could easily expand to eight years—into a three-year program. Why? "I have a three-year attention span," he explains.

As a high school student, Dr. Sokol considered attending a conservatory to study viola, but his teachers talked him out of it with tales of struggling musicians. He did not, however, leave his viola behind. While a student at Brandeis University, he was principal violist with the university symphony and music director of its Gilbert & Sullivan Company; he studied chamber music with the Lydian String Quartet, which became Brandeis' resident chamber ensemble; and he studied with Robert Koff, a founding violist of the Julliard String Quartet. As a graduate student in Baltimore, he

found time to study at the Peabody Conservatory, play with the Hopkins symphony, and sing with the Baltimore Symphony Chorus.

It was in Boston that his interest began to shift from viola to *bazzanut*. Though his research position at Harvard occupied most of his time, he began studying voice with Cantor Charles Osborne, joined the Zamir Chorale of Boston, and served as *bazzan* for the high holidays in New York and Massachusetts.

He grew restless after three years in Boston, and applied both for a Fulbright Scholarship to do research in Israel in his field and for admission to the Cantors Institute. Both came through. Choosing to defer his admission, he went off to Israel. Home for a visit when the Gulf War interrupted his studies, Sokol was offered the clinical portion of his joint appointment and deferred his cantorial school admission for a second year.

Though Rabbi Morton Leifman, dean of the Cantors Institute, believed that the Seminary would never see Sokol, whom opportunity seemed to follow around, Dr. Sokol began to realize that *bazzanut* filled two spiritual needs that science never could: music and Judaism. Supported by a colleague with a similar interest in *bazzanut*, Dr. Sokol arranged a tempo-

rary leave from his position, won the first Wexner Graduate Fellowship awarded to a cantorial student, and began his studies here. He spends Sunday through Thursday at the Seminary, then jaunts up to Boston Thursday nights for research and teaching, his part-time *bazzan* position at Kehillath Israel in Brookline on Shabbat; and to see his wife, a professor at Brown University.

Fascinated by trope as a link to cognitive psychology in the way it represents a series of notes in print, Dr. Sokol lights up when he talks about liturgy. Asked what he responds to in the liturgy, he says simply, with a smile, "the 'Hineni.'" Then he explains, "The *bazzan's* role is scary. You're up there because you sing well and you know Hebrew and you're a responsible character. But what else do you know? and you think, 'Who am I, this *pisbkeb* guy, to act as *shaliach* for this *tzibur*? What chutzpah I have!' And if you look at the 'Hineni,' that's precisely what it says," and he paraphrases, "Here I am standing and praying before You in deep humility...what do I have to offer except a sweet voice and a full beard. Nevertheless, God, accept my prayers as if they were worthy and have pity on me and on this congregation that has sent me."

When congregants express to Sokol that he has helped them *daven*, he is moved at having accomplished his task. "That is what is at the heart of trying to be a *bazzan*," he says. "It really comes down to your spirit moving others, and having music to do that. The rest is gravy."

Johanna Ginsberg is assistant director of communications at the Jewish Theological Seminary and editor of *Masoret*.



Don't Miss it...

All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast

Sponsored by North/South Brunswick U.S.Y.



Date: Sunday, October 29, 1995

Time: 9:30am-11:30am

Cost: \$5.00 for Adults
\$3.00 for Children under 12

Place: *Congregation B'nai Tikvah*
1001 Finnigans Lane
North Brunswick

Congregation B'nai Tikvah

Rabbi David M. Elligberg
Synagogue 297-0696

Chazzan Dov Goldberg
Religious School 297-0993

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HaKol will again be published on a monthly basis. The deadline for the November issue is October 8. The deadline will always be the first week of the preceding 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. If faxing to us, please use straight type, no columns, etc.

👉 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 & 5:30pm
Sunday	9:00am & 7:30pm
Monday through Wednesday	7:30pm
Thursday	7:00am & 7:30pm

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