
HAKOL

THE VOICE OF CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

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Happy Purim

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WHAT IS PURIM?

Purim, one of our most joyous holidays, commemorates the deliverance of Jews of Persia from the destruction planned against them by Haman, vizier of King Ahasuerus. That monarch's Jewish wife, Esther, and her cousin, Mordecai, accomplished the deliverance. These events are related in the Biblical Book of Esther, which is read in the synagogue on Purim.

WHAT IS A MEGILLAH?

It is the Hebrew word for scroll. Megillah Esther is the Scroll of Esther, which contains the story of Purim, read on Purim in the synagogue.

WHAT IS THE SPIRIT OF PURIM?

There is no merrier occasion in the Jewish year than Purim. Tradition has it that we should be so intoxicated with merriment at this season that we fail to distinguish between the cursing of Haman and the blessing of Mordecai. The Hebrew expression for "fail to distinguish is 'ad lo yada'. "Shalach manot," the sending of gifts to friends and to the poor is obligatory upon all Jews as a token of deliverance and to add to the joy of everyone at this festive season.

By Ann Kanarek

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORTS

By Ann Kanarek

The Story of Purim...

...is so full of human interest, of excitement and hair-breadth escapes that we have never grown weary of telling it. However, the way we tell it may sometimes vary. Whether or not the story is told in prose, rhyme, or performed from door to door it's always a "big shpiel." With some contemporary phrasing, in a rap format, here's yet another way to tell the Purim tale:

Here's the story I gotta tell,
About a fine young maiden you know so well.

Her name is Queen Esther, and she was so brave.
Her people, the Jews, she did save!

The story's villain is a man named Haman,
Who lied about the Jews whom he was blamin'.

And, Mordechai, the Jew, now he wouldn't bow,
to Haman, the Agagite, who raised such a row.

He thought he would eliminate our race,
But Mordechai, our main man, put him in his place.

Stop!! Now look and listen,
There's more to this Purim edition.

The King, whose name is Ahasuerus,
Gave Haman the power to scare us.

But when Esther spoke to the King,
He wouldn't hear of such a thing.

And because she was a courageous Esther,
We retained the freedom to be Jews together.

And every year on the 14th of Adar,
(March 1st is the Purim date)
We go to Temple and celebrate.
We have a carnival and a masquerade
Listen to the Megillah and enjoy the costume parade.

So come on all you Jews,
Get on the move...
Grab a gragger,
and get into the groove.

PURIM CELEBRATION

Carnival and games Sunday, February 28 at 12:00 p.m.

Get your costume, grogger, and masks ready, and plan to join us for a wild Purim celebration at the synagogue on Monday, March 1 at 6:30PM. A costume parade for children and Megillah reading will start off our night. Following a serious (and not so serious) Megillah Reading, with plenty of opportunities to "blot out" the name of (dare we say it) Haman, an original Purim Shpiel (parody) with melodies everyone will recognize will be performed by B'nai Tikvah's "Never Ready for Anytime Homegrown Performing Troupe." It will be a great fun. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

- Sunday, February 14: NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, President's Weekend
Monday, February 15: NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, President's Weekend
- Sunday, February 21: GIMEL CLASS PACT: Parent and Child Together
Program: TZEDAKAH & THE GIRAFFE PROJECT, 10:00am and
JUNIOR CONGREGATION Roller Skating Party
- Sunday, February 28: PURIM CARNIVAL, 12:00pm
NO REGULAR CHAI SCHOOL SESSION (K, 1, 2 will meet Late Session, 10:40-12:05)
Grades 3 and 4 will meet at the regular times.
- Friday, March 5: GIMEL CLASS Shabbat Dinner & Service, 6:30PM
Sunday, March 7: DALET CLASS PACT: The Bridges of Mitzvot County, 10:00AM
Sunday, March 14: Breakfast with the Rabbi (Chai School)
Sunday, March 21: PESACH HAPPENING
- Wednesday, March 28 -Thursday, April 8: NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, Spring Break & Passover

ADULT EDUCATION EVENTS

TORAH LISHMAH

Book Lovers Meetings

HOPPING CONVERSATIONS are happening at B'nai Tikvah's Book Discussion Group. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 23. We will be reading The Gifts of the Jews by Thomas Cahill. The host for this meeting will be Cheryl Asnis (297-5379) with Ann Gold as facilitator. The Gifts of the Jews is written by a non-Jewish historian but by no means is this book "historically dry".

SHALOM FROM KITAH DALET

Kitah Dalet has been hard at work these past weeks. For the study of Jewish History, we have taken on the role of an historical society; The Blue Star Travel Corporation logs the travelling of the Jews throughout History. Our first project was the Ashkenazic countries during the Crusades. The class was broken up into groups and each group given a country, either France, Germany or Poland. The group was responsible for portraying what happened in their country to the rest of the company. This could be done either by a poster, written report, or a skit.

So, what actually did go on these countries during this time period? If you were in class on December 6, 1998, you could have watched the Jews being blamed for the plague, or you would have seen the Talmud go before the French court or even observed Poland turn from a ravished nation to an economic power base.

The next project for the Blue Star Corporation is to present the occurrences in the Sephardic countries during this time period. As their teacher, I really enjoyed the students' presentations. Through their creativity and unique approach, they are successfully learning about important Jewish historical moments. I am very proud of them. Stay tuned for more adventures from the students in Kitah Dalet.

B'Shalom,
Joel E. Cohen
Kitah Dalet Teacher



Kitah Dalet students (Tuesday's section) proudly display their Jewish history projects. Pictured in the first row from left to right: Adam Feinstein, Kenneth Smith, Adam Zell, Seth Frumkin, Amy Wolf. Second row, left to right: Molly Herman, Leah Behar, Samantha Rudin, Mara Gittelman, teacher, Joel Cohen, Scott Elfenbein, Joshua Kober, Jeffrey Weiner and Joshua Baer. Missing from picture is Alyssa Tannenbaum

B'NAI TIKVAH MISSION STATEMENT ADOPTED

To those of you familiar with a lot of the buzz words floating around the business world these days Mission Statement is not an entirely new phrase. However, for those of you who missed this craze let me quote from Strategic Planning and Shared Accountability to briefly describe what a mission statement is:

"A strong mission statement clarifies the organization's service niche."

The temple board decided through a series of workshop meetings, that we as a congregation, needed to define what is our "service niche". As a result, we adopted a mission statement describing what we felt our synagogue is and what it should be. Therefore, without further a do, let me introduce the B'nai Tikvah Mission Statement:

To foster a vibrant egalitarian Jewish community founded in the religious customs and traditions of Conservative Judaism; offering excellent Jewish education and community activities for all ages with commitment to Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world.

Throughout the coming months you will begin to see the mission statement on everything from synagogue stationary to this publication. The board hopes you will read it, embrace it and help us to make Congregation B'nai Tikvah a living example of the ideals set forth in it.

Thank you.

Now At B'nai Tikvah -- Israeli Dancing

Israeli dancing has arrived at B'nai Tikvah! We are having weekly lesson/dance session. Our instructor is Sara Alter, who has many years of experience teaching Israeli dance.

We will meet every Sunday night at B'nai Tikvah from 7:45 to 9:15 PM. This is a family event and we encourage children Kadima age and up (sixth grade and up) to attend. Babysitting will be provided for younger children.

If you don't know how to dance - this is for you. We'll teach you. If you don't know Israeli music - this is for you. You can hum. If you last did Israeli dancing at summer camp 25 years ago - this is for you. No cute counselors, though.

It will be a fun evening, so come out and learn new dances, meet new people, get some exercise, and do something as a family. We already have a group of dancers at every level eager to dance, so join us.

There is a nominal cost of \$3 to cover the cost of the instructor. If you have any questions, please contact... Arie Behar 732-422-1495.



Fundraising News

**SAVE \$100 ON YOUR 4TH QUARTER DUES
And
A NIGHT ON THE TOWN FOR FREE!**

How is this possible you ask? Well it's simple, help us solicit ads for 1999 B'nai Tikvah Ad Journal and you can earn an evening out for free. Plus if we, as a congregation, exceed our fundraising goals for the year, we may all be refunded a percentage of our fourth quarter dues. So, get charged up to sell those ads and keep the night of Saturday April 24th open! Details will follow shortly.

**ANNOUNCING THE OLD AND IMPROVED "CONGREGATION B'NAI
TIKVAH SCRIP PROGRAM"**

WHAT IS SCRIP?

Scrip is a gift certificate issued from your favorite food stores (i.e., Shop Rite, Edwards, Foodtown and Pathmark). This scrip may be issued in denominations of \$5, \$10 and \$20.

HOW DO I USE SCRIP?

If you go food shopping, scrip is easy to use. Each dollar of scrip is worth one dollar of cash. When you shop, you pay with the scrip. No messy checks to write, no ATM records to enter into your checkbook register. Using scrip is painless to you and it benefits our synagogue.

HOW DOES CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH BENEFIT?

Our synagogue receives 5% from the sale of the scrip. Think of all the ways our synagogue could put extra funds to work without the added inconvenience to our wallets!

HOW CAN I ORDER SCRIP?

1. Call the synagogue office at (732) 297-0696. If you get the answering machine, do not hang-up. Press #5 to leave a message. Or,
2. Call a committee person; a full list of committee members is below.
3. Purchase at your favorite B'nai Tikvah organizational meeting (coming in the future).

No matter which method you select, just let someone know which store and the amount of scrip you want to buy. If you get an answering machine (at the synagogue office or a committee persons), leave your name, telephone number and your address.

HOW WILL I RECEIVE MY SCRIP ORDER?

Someone from the scrip committee will contact you to make personal arrangements.

THE SCRIP COMMITTEE

Rachel Shaneson CHAIRPERSON (732)329-2189

Bette Koffler (732)329-6518

Linda Feinstein (732)329-3185

Dayton
Monmouth Junction
Princeton (Linda)
Trenton area (Linda)

Sylvia Lewis (609)409-0299

Cranbury
East Windsor
Jamesburg
Monroe
Plainsboro

Jay Scheuer (732)940-8473

Franklin Park
Somerset
Kendall Park (Brunswick Acres)

Joyce Gerbman (732)937-5114

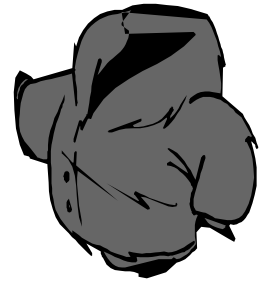
Estelle Bach (732)828-6939

Ann Rosenzweig (732)249-9141

North Brunswick
New Brunswick

PhyllisRose732)297-5555

Kendall Park
Rocky Hill
Kingston



BRRRRR!

LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW! BRRRRR!

If it snows this year will you have a warm enough coat? If you're planning on buying a new one - **DONATE** your old winter coat. Each of us knows what it feels like with a brisk, chilly wind hitting us in the back -- brrrr! The large, round, blue container in the hallway between the office and school is where all donated clothing should go---BUT----if there is no room there, put winter coat donations, hanging on hangars, in the coatroom marked 'DONATION". Clothing will always be needed and our community is benefiting greatly. Thanks for all the donations received! They have been in great shape, clean and wearable! Questions call Deborah Spigner 732-545-8457.

GET IN THE ACT - I can always use help with the clothing drive - dropping off clothing at the Rescue Mission, Women's Shelter, Golden Opportunities, Amandala Crossing and Salvation Army. Call me if you can spare some time! Deborah Spigner - 732-545-8457.

FIND THE WORD – Tu B'Shevat & Purim

Submitted by jacqueline master

- Purim
- Tu b'shevat
- Mordecai
- Trees
- Haman
- Almonds
- Ahasuerus
- Fruits
- Megillah
- Seder
- Vashti
- Planting
- Esther
- Hamantashen
- Ad Delo Yada
- Grogger
- Persia
- Shalach Manot
- Adar

R	T	S	H	E	V	M	H	A	L	L	M	P	V	T	I	S	S	I	M	X
S	H	H	A	M	A	N	T	A	S	H	E	N	A	R	S	U	T	H	E	I
I	S	H	M	I	R	U	T	L	G	R	O	G	G	E	R	E	I	T	G	N
E	A	O	T	D	B	N	O	M	S	T	G	S	H	E	V	R	U	E	G	E
S	V	R	M	S	E	D	N	I	A	I	S	R	U	S	P	D	R	A	R	H
T	D	C	I	T	H	S	A	V	L	O	D	S	E	R	T	I	F	H	M	T
H	C	H	O	A	S	P	M	L	N	G	A	D	D	E	L	O	Y	A	D	A
A	E	S	E	R	E	L	H	O	M	H	Y	C	H	N	H	N	E	S	W	V
V	F	R	U	D	D	A	C	M	A	A	V	M	S	G	O	G	R	A	C	E
H	M	O	D	E	R	N	A	L	H	M	S	A	I	O	G	M	F	V	S	H
T	P	A	H	E	O	T	L	S	I	A	C	E	D	R	O	M	L	E	A	S
S	Q	S	D	T	M	I	A	J	V	N	R	S	T	G	U	U	W	A	M	B
R	B	E	G	A	G	N	H	K	P	C	O	T	N	U	M	P	Y	S	A	U
E	S	T	H	E	R	G	S	D	N	O	M	H	A	S	V	D	R	E	H	T
P	V	A	M	I	G	T	L	Z	B	P	U	R	M	E	U	S	A	H	C	A

Find these words in the above puzzle. They can be found in any combination of backwards, forwards, horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. Have fun!

Nursery School News

Submitted by Fran Pearlson, Director

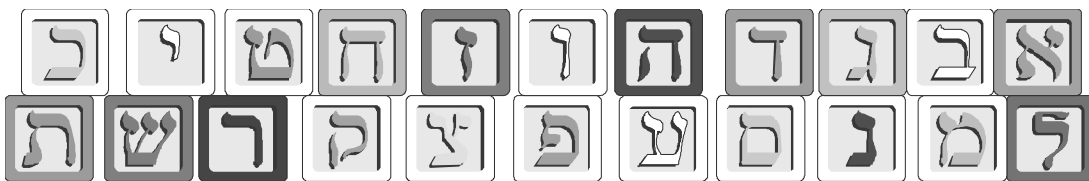
1998 was a very good year...in our nursery school. New and innovative programs were established. Our new Moms and Tots program (12 – 18 month olds) is underway, our 2 ½ year old lunch program has been launched, kids in the kitchen cooking class is cooking up a storm while wearing their hand decorated little aprons, and our curiosity club's budding scientists are busy experimenting and learning about our universe.

Our enrollment continues to climb...and our school is now at maximum capacity. In January, six new two and a half-year-olds start their journey into learning and two new children are entering our three-year-old classes.

Our hallways are festively decorated with our children's artwork and our floors have been buffed and polished to perfection. My many thanks to my husband Howard Pearlson, Art and Janice Baer, Amy and Arie Behar, Mitchell Frumkin, Lisa and Jeff Tannenbaum and their children Alyssa and Eric, for all coming to the rescue of our nursery school and putting our rooms back into workable nursery school condition. Our diligent floor cleaners piled high all our nursery school belongings and our rooms were quite a mess! Thanks to the dedicated efforts of these hardworking volunteers our school is now better than ever. Their helping hands were truly appreciated.

1999 Will be even better! A robot will be coming to our school in February to teach our kids about recycling and the Pre-K class will be taking a trip to the State theater to see a production of Tubby the Tuba.

Our highlight in March is our Purim holiday. On Wednesday, March 3, 1999 our school will have their Purim festivities. The retelling of the Purim story, a Purim sing-along, a carnival with games and prizes, a hamentashen snack (made by all the children) and a Shalach Manot basket making session are all on our nursery school agenda. Costumes will be optional. Class parents will be asked to assist us with the carnival. Our Purim will be a joyous and fun filled holiday!



THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE
YEAR IS COMING!!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS
SATURDAY NIGHT APRIL 24TH
DON'T MISS IT!!!!

sisterhood sizzles

COMING EVENTS

January 24

Sunday morning at 10:00 am Susan Pomerantz from the Central NJ Jewish Home for the Aged will discuss aspects of the home as well as issues around aging relevant to all. Please bring unscented baby wipes for a local woman's shelter.

January 30

Sisterhood's annual Shabbat service will be held on Saturday morning January 30th. Please call Meryl Heit at 297-6284 if you are interested in participating. There are prayers in Hebrew and English available.

February 21

Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. at the synagogue we will be having a discussion on the movie "Gentleman's Agreement". This movie can be viewed at the following homes:

Sunday Feb 7 11:00 a.m. Melissa Fisch 438-0393
Tuesday Feb 9 7:45 p.m. Lisa Seidman 297-6950
Wednesday Feb 17 7:30 p.m. Lori Sookerman 940-1196
Thursday Feb 18 10:00 a.m. Adrienne Burg-Charwat 438-3166

Please call the appropriate hostess to let her know you will be attending.

Please bring peanut butter or jelly to the sisterhood meeting for the local food bank.

Notes & Stuff

* Please save the date. Sisterhood's 7th annual fashion show will be held on May 11th. Details to follow.

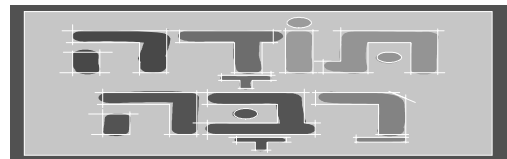
*Please continue to collect your Gallery Cleaners receipts. By forwarding your yellow copy to Shelly Talmud at 1 Point of Woods Dr. North Brunswick, Sisterhood will receive 10% of the bill. Any questions call Shelly at 297-3112.

*Why go out to Hallmark when you can call Sandra and she can send a torah fund card. Please give her a call at 940-8744 and for \$3.50 a card can be sent for any occasion or just to let someone know that you are thinking of them.

*Leagrams are a way to send a personalized telegram for any occasion. If you are interested in sending a Leagram call Debbi @ 422-7907 and for \$3.00 she will send your message.

*If you are interested in purchasing a Shabbat dinner please call Bobbi Binder at 274-2797. This fundraiser is held the third Friday night of each month.

* The monthly children's service is held the third Friday night of each month at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in sponsoring the Oneg Shabbat following this service can call Lisa Seidman at 297-6950.



A special thanks to Helene Feinberg for opening up her house to sisterhood for the recipe swap!!

AN INTRODUCTION TO TU B'SHEVAT

Submitted by Jacqueline Master

If you are anything like me, you are saying, okay, Purim I know something about, but what is Tu B'Shevav?

Tu B'Shevav means literally the 15th day of the month of Shevat and is also known as the New Year for Trees, sort of a Jewish Arbor Day. This year the secular date is February 1. It is the New Year for purposes of calculating the age of trees for tithing in ancient Israel. In Leviticus, it tells us that fruit from trees are not to be eaten during the first three years, the fourth year's fruit is for G-d, and after that, you may eat the fruit. Tu B'Shevav is considered the birthday of planted trees. Anything planted before 15 Shevat is considered one year on that day.

There are numerous ways to partake in the celebration of Tu B'Shevav. The most widely practiced in the Diaspora are making donations to have new trees planted in Israel and eating fruits and nuts indigenous to Israel. Almonds are especially associated with the holiday because they are the first to blossom.

An Ashkenazic custom is the eating of fifteen different fruits on the 15th of Shevat and many people made preserves out of etrogim they saved from Sukkot.

A Sephardic custom that is gaining in popularity, including here at B'nai Tikvah, is the Tu B'Shevav Seder, modeled on the Passover Seder. It includes a tradition of drinking four cups of



wine to represent the four seasons. There is a progression from white wine in the first cup going by stages to full red in the fourth. The Seder involves much symbolism regarding the Rabbinical model of how we should interact and relate to the world around us by incorporating the use of all five of our senses in its performance.

Now, go plant a tree in Israel.



NEW BEGINNINGS

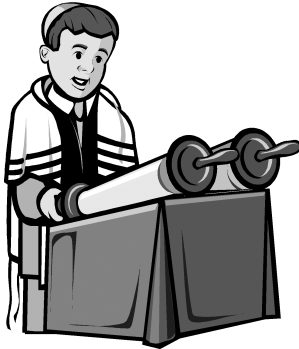
CAN AN INTERFAITH HAGADAH BE MADE?

Find out! Bring your favorite Passover recipes to our Passover Recipe Swap on February 17th at 7:30 p.m. at the synagogue. Meet new friends as we work together to create a Hagadah for interfaith families. This will be fun for everyone and anyone who contributes a recipe will receive a free gift.

Our next meeting is March 17th at the synagogue. Look for further details in future fliers.

ol 11

Mazal Tov To Our B'nai Mitzvah



February 6 - Zlata Kobzantsev
March 13 - Brian Hirsh
March 20 - Ryan Allen



North/South Brunswick USYer Elected to International USY Board!

Submitted by Candice Botnick

Temperatures were well below freezing during the recent International USY Convention December 27 - 30, 1998 in Chicago. While it was bitter cold outside, members of North/South Brunswick USY (8 of our USYers were in attendance) and the Hagalil Region were burning up inside with excitement when one of their very own was elected to the International Executive Board of USY. On December 29, 1998, Avi Olitzky was elected as the new International Membership/Kadima Vice President.

As a member of the International Board Avi will help shape the future of USY for the 400 plus chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada. This is only appropriate since USY is Avi's life. He has been an extremely active member of North/South Brunswick USY for the past four years, serving as our Religious/Education Vice President, On-Line Chairperson, and Regional Liaison. Avi has also been a leader on the regional level. He is currently the Hagalil Regional President, presiding over thirty-four chapters throughout Central and Northern New Jersey. He has also served as the Regional Membership/Programming Vice-President and Regional Zone Head.

We are extremely proud of Avi and all he has accomplished and will continue to

HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

WE'D LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW
MEMBERS!

Sheldon & Susan Aaron
Debra & Rick Anseume
Todd & Edita Applebaum
Amy Bauman
Linda Bauman
Michael & Beth Berger
Debra Cohen
Mollie Cohn
Michael & Christine Cukor
Marc & Stacey Deitch
Harvey & Marcia Finkelstein
Stephen & Sharon Franzman

Steven & Susan Gershenfeld
Lawrence & Gina Gerstein
Fred & Linda Jacobs
Ronnie Katz
Ruth Anne Koenick
Elisabeth Neumann
Tom & Hope Peters
Dan Rakover
Bruce Rockman
Joel & Jamie Rothfus
Alan & Terri Woller



And Again!!!



MAZEL TOV TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS
ON THEIR NEW ARRIVALS!

Steven & Ruth Boda on the adoption of their daughter Carly Rose

Marc & Stacey Deitch on the birth of their son Henry Ross

Steven & Shelly Talmud on the birth of their daughter Mikayla Sarah

Kim's Kitchen

Can you believe spring is just around the corner and an early harbinger of it, for me, is Purim. As a child, this was one of my favorite holidays. I liked going to the synagogue to hear the Megillah, where I was actually encouraged to make noise. But I loved the Purim Carnival (this year on February 28th) and baking Hamentashen.

Now I must admit, I am not a traditionalist when it comes to Hamentashen fillings. My mother was a strict prune and apricot person but I always explored with Raspberry and Strawberry preserves. Last year, under the influence of my daughter, Rebekah, I even used chocolate chips. So, I will leave the filling choice to you. However, I do recommend Solo pastry filling since they do not seem to bubble over.

I got this recipe from my Aunt Sheila. Hope you enjoy it.

1 1/2 Cup Sugar
3/4 Cup Butter
2 Eggs
3/4 Cup Sour Cream
1 t Baking Soda
4 C Flour
1/2 t salt
Filling (prune butter, apricot or anything else)

1. Dissolve baking soda in sour cream.
2. Cream butter and add all ingredients together.
3. Refrigerate for one hour.
4. Roll out dough and cut into circles using the top of a glass.
5. Place about 1/2 teaspoon of filling in center of each circle.
6. Form triangle by pinching up on circle with fingers.
7. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet at 350 until dough is brown, about 15 – 20 minutes.



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Dear Congregant,

By following these suggestions, you will help yourself and your family in times of great joy, or moments of crises and stress.

As your Rabbi, it is my desire to attend to your life cycle needs. These include births and weddings, funerals and hospital or home visitations of the ill. In order for me to be of help to you, I must be kept informed. Please take a moment to read through these steps, and always keep this cut out and in a handy place.

Thank you,

Rabbi David M. Eligberg

ILLNESS

In case of illness and/ or hospitalization, please notify the synagogue office at 297-0696 or, if an EMERGENCY, Rabbi Eligberg at 940-1973.

DEATH

1. Even before making funeral arrangements notify Rabbi Eligberg at the synagogue office at 297-0696 or directly at home 940-1973. Rabbi Eligberg will assist you in arranging for an appropriate funeral.

2. In the event that you cannot reach the Rabbi, contact the Jewish funeral home and begin to make your arrangements. PLEASE, do not finalize the funeral time until Rabbi Eligberg has been contacted.

It is appropriate to contact Rabbi Eligberg whenever tragedy or trauma occurs. Please contact him irrespective of the hour at 940-1973. On Shabbat and Yom Tov, the Rabbi does not use the telephone. Therefore, you can convey information to him on these days at the synagogue during scheduled service times, by calling him immediately after Shabbat or Yom Tov, or by sending someone to his residence. The Rabbi lives at:
6 Matthew Avenue, in Brunswick Acres,
Kendall Park.

AN INTRODUCTION TO PURIM

Submitted by Jacqueline Master

The 14th of Adar we celebrate the holiday of Purim. The word Purim means "lots" and is taken from the lot cast by the wicked Haman to decide which day the Jews would be exterminated. The Book of Esther, not part of the Five Books of Moses and the only book of the bible in which G-d's name is not mentioned, reads like an historical novel.

In ancient Persia, King Ahasuerus sends for his wife, Vashti, to show off at a party, but she refuses to come so he gets rid of her. Now in need of a new wife, he holds a beauty pageant to pick his queen. Esther, the beautiful cousin of Mordecai, is chosen. Mordecai had foiled a plot by the king's guards to overthrow Ahasuerus. This deed is recorded in the Kings Book of Remembrances.

Haman, the Prime Minister, a descendant of the Amalekites, wants Mordecai to bow down to him, but is refused. Haman was so infuriated that he decided to punish Mordecai and his people. After convincing the King that the Jews do not respect royal decrees, Haman cast lots to determine which day to kill the Jews. Hence the name Festival of Lots.

Once Mordecai learns of this, he convinces his cousin to help the Jews by using her position to talk to the king and thwart this plan. Despite the fact that she was not summoned, she decides to go to the King. Esther fasts before doing this (the fast of Esther is observed from dawn to dusk just before Purim). She invites the King and Haman to a party in her chambers later that evening.

The King orders the Book of Remembrances read to him the night before the invitation from Esther, and learns that the man responsible for saving his life from the earlier conspiracy had not been rewarded. Haman is summoned to discuss his ideas on how such a man should be rewarded. Thinking the King could wish a reward for none other than himself, he suggests that he be dressed in royal garments and paraded through the streets with accolades. Haman is dumbfounded and furious when he is told that it is Mordecai who will receive this honor.

That next evening, Esther tells the King of Haman's plans to destroy her people. The King has Haman and his sons hanged and the Jews are saved.

There are four Mitzvot that are associated with Purim. The first is to hear the entire Megillah read (yes, the *whole* Megillah). Second is Shalach Manot, gifts of food for friends consisting of at least 2 different kinds of food. Third is Matanot La Evyonim, gifts for the poor. And last is the Fast of Esther the day before Purim, commemorating the fast and prayer of Esther and the Jews for success before her approaching the King.

Purim is a happy celebration rejoicing in triumph over evil and anti-Semitism. At the Megillah reading, people dress in costume, and groggers (noisemakers) are given out to drown out Haman's name every time it is mentioned. One practice is to party and drink so much that one cannot tell the difference between the names Haman and Mordecai. A favorite food at this holiday is hamentashen, a triangular pastry traditionally filled with poppy seeds, prunes, or apricots to resemble Haman's hat or ears. The Megillah is read in the synagogue both Erev Purim and the day of Purim.

Simchat Purim!

HEAR THE STORY OF PURIM

Reprinted from My Very Own Animated Jewish Holiday Activity Book by Jacqueline Jacobson Pliskin published by Shapolsky Publishers 1987. A Purim story for children.

Many years ago, in the land of Persia, there lived a King called Achasuerus. He wanted a new queen. All through the land it was announced that King Achasuerus was going to chose a new queen from among all the young girls.

There was a beautiful young Jewish girl named Esther who lived with her uncle, Mordecai. Mordecai told Esther to go with all the other young girls to the court. She went and the King chose her to be his new queen.



One day after Esther became Queen, Mordecai saved the King's life, which made the King very happy. Now, there was a very mean man who did not like this. His name was Haman. Haman hated Mordecai; he hated all the Jews. He told the King bad things about the Jews and planned to kill them all, especially Mordecai.

When Esther heard about this, she had to go and ask King Achasuerus to save them. When the King learned that Haman meant to kill the Jews, and that Esther was Jewish he would not let his new queen and her people be killed. King Achasuerus ordered that Haman be hanged instead, and all the Jewish people saved.

This is why, on the fourteenth day of Adar, we celebrate with noisemakers, give presents to friends and read the story of Esther. We are happy to be saved.



BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, IT WILL BE HERE!

Before you know it, Purim will be here which means so will the **Annual Purim Carnival**. This year's Purim carnival will take place on Sunday, February 28th. It promises to be better than ever with newer games, updated prizes, and delicious food. Watch upcoming Temple News Flyers for details. In the meantime, mark the date - February 28th.

HOW to PURIM at B'nai Tikvah?

Erev Purim is Monday evening, March 1, 1999. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR, MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW!

What do we do on Purim? We read the Megillah, eat, drink, sing, discuss the Purim story, give money to the poor, deliver a portion of food, etc... You get the idea. There are four (4) Rabbinical commandments fulfilled during Purim. Read the Megillah (really listening, but we should read along), Mishloach Manot (send two types of food to at least one family/person), Matanot Le-evionim (gifts for those in need), Purim Feast (seuda or festive meal on the day of Purim).

North/South Brunswick USY Winter/Spring Calendar

<p>Thursday, January 7 7:15pm - 8:45pm</p>	<p>Come shoot some pool and have some fun at USY's <u>Billiards Night</u>, Paradise Billiards, Route 27, North Brunswick</p>
<p>Saturday, January 16</p>	<p><u>USY Regional Battle of the Bands</u> in Ridgewood/Glen Rock</p>
<p>Thursday, January 21 7:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>Don't miss out on the fun at USY's <u>Chinese Auction</u>. Who knows what you could take home</p>
<p>Monday, February 1 7:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>Sharpen your skates and put on your mittens for USY's <u>Night of Ice Skating</u></p>
<p>Friday, February 5 - Sunday, February 7</p>	<p><u>USY Regional Mid Winter Kinnus</u> in Livingston</p>
<p>Thursday, February 18 7:15pm - 8:45pm</p>	<p>We can't do it without you. So please come help us <u>Prepare for the Purim Carnival and the USY Friday Night Service</u></p>
<p>Friday, February 26 6:00pm - 9:30pm</p>	<p>Come share your Shabbat with us at <u>USY's Family Shabbat Dinner and Friday Night Service</u>.</p>
<p>Sunday, February 28 9:00am - 1:00pm</p>	<p>It's that time of year again for our <u>Annual Purim Carnival</u></p>
<p>Saturday, March 6</p>	<p><u>USY Regional Roller-skating</u> in Aberdeen</p>
<p>Thursday, March 11 7:15pm - 8:45pm</p>	<p>Come play <u>Human Israeli Monopoly</u> with your fellow USYers</p>
<p>Thursday, March 25 7:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>Don't miss out on the fun when USY goes to play <u>Laser Tag</u></p>
<p>Saturday, March 27</p>	<p><u>Regional SATO Dance</u> in Bridgewater</p>
<p>Monday, April 12</p>	<p>USY will join the Temple in celebrating <u>Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Awareness Day</u>.</p>
<p>Sunday, April 18 12:30pm - 3:30pm</p>	<p>USY will <u>visit and serve lunch at the Family Homeless Shelter</u> in Piscataway</p>
<p>Friday, April 23 - Sunday, April 25</p>	<p><u>Regional Spring Convention</u> at Kutchers in the Catskills</p>
<p>Thursday, April 29 7:15pm - 8:45pm</p>	<p>Come taste your creations at <u>USY Candy Making Night</u></p>
<p>Thursday, May 6 7:00pm - 9:30pm</p>	<p>You may have seen it at a Bat/Bar Mitzvah but now it's coming to North/South Brunswick USY. Come see what you can create with your hands at our <u>Interchapter Wacky Wax Night</u>.</p>
<p>Saturday, May 15</p>	<p><u>USY Regional Closing Dance</u> in Clark</p>
<p>Thursday, May 27 7:00pm - 9:00pm</p>	<p>Don't miss your chance to be a big star at <u>USY's Karaoke Night</u>. All eighth graders are invited to attend</p>
<p>Sunday, June 6</p>	<p>Join us when we go to <u>Dorney Park and Whitewater Kingdom</u>. Elections for 1999-2000 officers will take place.</p>
<p>Thursday, June 10 7:30pm - 8:30pm</p>	<p>Say goodbye to the old Executive Board and hello to the new at <u>USY's Installation Night</u>.</p>

**** Every second Shabbat of the month is USY Shabbat at B'nai Tikvah. Come to either Friday Night Services or Shabbat Morning Services and share Shabbat with your fellow USYers. USY Shabbats are: February 12 & 13; March 12 & 13; April 9 & 10; and May 7 & 8.**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President	Mark Kasdin	274-2897
VP, Administration	Irwin Millinger	297-6477
VP, School & Youth	Janice Baer	940-0268
VP, Ways & Means	Mitchell Frumkin	297-5069
VP, Activities	Joel Gerbman	957-5114
Financial Secretary	Susan Kleinman	297-2562
Recording Secretary	Kerry Halpern	422-0086
Treasurer	Marc Dillman	821-7392
Asst. Treasurer	Mark Roller	297-7055
Trustees ---		
Arie Behar		422-1495
Adrienne Ross		422-0637
Elliot Danto		297-6175
Ann Gold		609-409-0668
Isaac Grodzinski		821-5258
Cyndi Kleinbart		297-1577
Joe Plotnick		821-8794
Dan Krantz		873-9435
Kim Riemann		940-4066
Harold Schneider		254-4909
Voting Representatives		
50 Plus Group	Madeline Gaynor	297-4240
Men's Club	Gerry Edley	821-6237
Sisterhood	Bobbi Binder	274-2797
Past President	Jeff Schwartz	297-6365

Committees, Groups & Staff

Office Administrator	Sharon Levine	297-0696
Administrative Assistant	TBA	297-0696
Religious School Principal	Ann Kanarek	297-0295
Nursery School Director	Fran Pearlson	297-0295
Summer Camp	Nancy Danto	297-6175
Special Financial Arrangements/Dues	Gary Tinkel	545-1135
Junior Congregation Synagogue Newsletter	Barry Safeer	422-8543
	TBA	297-0696
HaKol Editor	Kim Riemann	940-4066
HaKol Advertising	Mitchell Frumkin	297-5069
Publicity	Bette Koffler	329-6518
Kiddushes & Onegs	Sharon Levine	297-0696
Men's Club President	Jerry Edley	821-6237
Sisterhood President	Joyce Gerbman	937-5114
Kadima Advisor	Michele Kleinman	438-0083
U.S.Y. Advisors	Craig & Candace Botnick	940-8463
Couples Club	Nadine Weg	329-1359
Fifty Plus Group	Madeline Gaynor	297-4240
Makelah Choral Group	Cheryl Asnis	297-5379
New Beginnings Group	Jeanette Bergelson	246-1393
Yahrzeit Plaques	Sharon Levine	297-0696
Cemetery	Millie Kutliroff	329-6661
Israel Bonds	Mark & Gigi Cohen	821-5917
Membership	Joe Plotnick	821-8794
College Committee	Sheila Hordon	297-9023
Ritual Committee	Elliot Danto	
Social Action Committee		
Torah Lishmah Community Adult Education	Nurit Brown	
Youth Committee	Marcia Schwartz	297-6365
Ways & Means Committee	Adrienne Ross	422-0637

Chanukah Contest Winner!

We have a winner in our Chanukah Contest. Sara Eisner correctly guessed that Chanukah was spelled five different ways in our previous issue, three different ways in English and two different ways in Hebrew.

Congratulations Sara!