
HAKOL

THE VOICE OF CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

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Our Mission

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.



By Rabbi David Mark Eligberg

*And if you ask me of God, my God
'Where is God that in joy we may worship?'
Here on Earth too God lives, not in heaven alone
A striking fir, a rich furrow,
in them you will find God's likeness,
Divine image incarnate in every high mountain.
Wherever the breath of life flows,
You will find God embodied.
And God's household?
All being: the gazelle, the turtle, the shrub, the cloud pregnant with
thunder...
God-In-Creation is God's eternal name.
Saul Tchernikovsky*

The words of this Haskalah¹ poet captured the mood of the Jewish people in its embrace of nature; a spirit not limited to any one segment of the community. From those being carried on the wings of "enlightenment" who sought to reinvigorate the Jewish spirit by renewed contact with nature, to the many Yiddish poets in Europe and America whose nature poems were often influenced by the writings of Walt Whitman, to the kibbutz movement where a return to nature found its strongest supporters with writers such as A.D. Gordon who wrote:

*And when you, O human, will return to Nature, that day
your eyes will open, you will stare straight into the eyes
of Nature and in its mirror you will see your image.
You will know... that when you hid from Nature, you
hid from yourself...we who have been turned away
from Nature -- if we desire life, we must establish a new
relationship with Nature."*

(Mivhar Ketavim,

57-58)

Continued on page 15

OUR APOLOGIES

We are sorry for the minor mishap, which prevented Family Services from beginning on time in December. It was good seeing everyone who wanted to attend and we hope you will return on January 21, 2000.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORTS

-----by Ann Kanarek-----

TIPS FOR A TERRIFIC TU B'SHEVAT

Tu B'Shevat, the 15th day of (the Hebrew month) Shevat, is Judaism's holiday for the trees. Although it is winter here in North/South Brunswick, it is springtime in Israel. In Ancient Israel, the 15th of Shevat was the day on which agricultural taxes were levied in early spring, so that one might easily assess what the coming harvest would bring.

After the Second Temple was destroyed (in 70CE), Jews who were scattered around the globe yearned to link themselves in meaningful and spiritual ways to their ancient, lost home.

Obtaining fruits and nuts that grew in Eretz Yisrael served for many centuries as a physical connection to the land. Sixteenth and seventeenth century Kabbalists (Jewish mystics) created an elaborate ritual, similar to the Pesach Seder, incorporating not only the fruits and nuts, but readings from the Tanach (Bible), the Talmud and the mystical Zohar.

It is easy to understand how this age old celebration of the trees has become, in our day, a time for planting new trees in Israel. It is known as the Jewish Arbor Day. Fun and tasty customs have arisen over the ages, which are easily adapted for home experiences that teach our families about Judaism's concern for the environment. Here are some tips for a terrific tree time:

- ❖ Enjoy a fruit feast. Taste dried fruits and nuts from the Holy Land, particularly the "seven species." (For example, carob, almonds, figs, olives, dates, wheat & grapes)
- ❖ Plant a tree in Israel through JNF, Jewish National Fund. (Look for a flyer in your child's school bag)
- ❖ Go on a "tree treasure hunt" around your house for all the things which come from trees.
- ❖ This is a time for us to renew our commitment to caring for the entire planet! Consider ways to make your lifestyle more environmentally sound in the year ahead!
- ❖ Save a tree! Cut down on the use of disposable paper goods, buy recycled goods, and recycle the paper that you use.

So chag sameach....have a wonderful Tu B'Shevat!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

Sunday, January 3:	Religious School Resumes
Sunday, January 9:	Kindergarten PACT program: Shema Pajama Party 9:00am-10:25am
Sunday, January 16:	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, Professional Growth Day
Sunday, January 17:	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Birthday
Saturday, January 22:	School-wide Havdallah service
Sunday, January 23:	Cultural Arts Day Chai School: Breakfast with the Rabbi
Sunday, January 30:	Second grade PACT program, Judaism and Ecology, 10:00am-12:05pm Chai school special program: Right to Dream
Sunday, February 13:	Chai School special musical program
Sunday, February 20:	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, President's weekend
Monday, February 21:	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, President's weekend

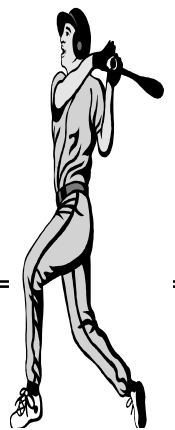


- Thanks to the person responsible for finding and returning to the office my lost tallit and tallit bag. Allen Weg
- Special Thank you to Gloria and Fred Landsman, for their donation of a computer for the Cantor's office.



SOFTBALL & BASKETBALL TEAMS FORMING

We are trying to form a Sunday morning softball and/or basketball team for the spring. If you are interested, call Hadas at the Synagogue office and leave your name and number. Someone will contact you shortly.



COLLEGE YOUTH CONNECTION

For many years, we have been sending Holiday packages to our children at college. They have always been well received and are a vital link between our Synagogue and the college youth.

Our first mailing of the year has gone out to the college students we know about. There will be 2 more mailings this year. If you have a student, please fill out the following form (PRINT), and send it in to the synagogue office, so we can include him/her in our next one. Thank you (and they will thank you).

College Youth Connection
Congregation B'Nai Tikvah
1001 Finnigan's Lane
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Student's Name: _____

Full Address: _____

Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Parent's Name and Address: _____

REMINDER TO PARENTS: This form MUST be filled out with the start of the new school year, as we do not keep lists from previous years. PLEASE NOTIFY COLLEGE CONNECTION IF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS CHANGES DURING THE YEAR.

We are now an ORG!

In Internet terms, an ORG is a non-profit organization as opposed to COM, which represents a commercial site. We are retaining COM for purposes of protecting our name and avoiding confusion. But please, from now on, access our web site as WWW.BNAITIKVAH.ORG (upper/lower case makes no difference).

We are looking for webmaster volunteers:

Arie Behar is posting the "Parsha of the Week". Barry Safeer is maintaining the Junior Congregation attendance records, and Adrienne Ross's board minutes can be found at the bottom of the "Officers & Board" page. These last two items are password protected in a way that only a B'nai Tikvah member will know how to display them.

Please notify Webmaster@BnaiTikvah.org of any committee or project that is not being correctly represented. We can designate an appropriate ["title"@BnaiTikvah.org](mailto:'title'@BnaiTikvah.org) to any committee member who has an existing e-mail address.

Regards,
Gary Bergman
Home is where you hang your @

Crop Walk Update

Thank you, thank you to everyone who walked or sponsored a walker for the 1999 Crop Walk. We raised over \$3,000, which I believe is a record for us. There were quite a few new walkers and contributors this year, which really helped. The money has been turned in to the regional office so the checks should begin to clear within a month or so. Thanks so much again.

Israel Bonds

Rates Increase!!! (This is good)

Zero Coupon Bond - 10 year maturity is now 7.90%
cost is \$2,805 and matures at \$6,000

Jubilee Bonds

5 year now 7.0%, \$25,000

10 year now 7.5%, \$25,000

Rates are unchanged until January 24th 2000

We started our journey through the 613 mitzvot, via HaKol with the first of the Mandatory Commandments: the nine about G-d.

This month follow along through the second section, numbers, 10 – 19, on the Torah.

“The Jew must (10) recite the Shema each morning and evening and (11) study the Torah and teach it to others. He should bind teffilin on his (12) head and (13) his arm. He should make (14) zizit for his garments and (15) fix a mezuzah on the door. The people are to be (16) assembled every seventh year to hear the Torah read and (17) the king must write a special copy of the Torah himself. (18) Every Jew should have a Torah scroll. One should (19) praise G-d after eating.”

* * * * *

(10) Isn't meditation a prayer? What mantra can match the power of Shema Yisroel Adonai Elohanu Adonai Echad? Since the Hebrew “version” is just as healthful, more profound, and a lot older, it makes sense to use my own religious heritage in order to focus my mind twice a day. I'll do it.

(11) Studying the Torah is a major commandment and commitment. It will take precious time but, if you have precious little “others” to teach it to, isn't the Torah worth tackling?

(12, 13, 14, 15) Teffilin and zizit are beyond me but a mezuzah went onto the doorways as soon as we moved into our house -- and I proudly explain its meaning to curious visitors.

(16, 17, 18) Didn't know about the assembly; it probably was because people couldn't read. Don't have a scroll or a king. (I'll have to ask Rabbi Eligberg about the Conservative interpretation.)

(19) I can't even follow the transliteration of the Berkhat when it's said after a meal. That's a mitzvah I can master: either memorize it or practice 'til I can read along fast enough to keep up.

So, here's my tally: Yes-1 (mezuzah). Will do-2 (Shema and Berkhat). Hmmm-1 (Torah. As basic as it is to Judaism, the best I can say honestly is: “maybe, someday, when there's time....”). No and “check out”-3 each. How about yours?

Progress report from me, next issue, along with the Mandatory Commandments on the Temple and the Priests.

If any of these commandments or comments triggers a thought or question, please leave a phone or written message (attn: 613) in the synagogue office. You'll see a response from the rabbi and/or me in a future issue of HaKol.

MAZEL TOV!

January B'nai Mitzvah



Scott Elfenbein - January 8
Leah Behar - January 15
Shane Spigner - January 22
Gary Marx - January 29



FIRST ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS NIGHT

(previously know as the Ad Journal Dinner Dance)

Dine and Dance with us on March 11, 2000 - 7:30pm till midnight by joining us in celebrating the recognition of volunteer/members being awarded for their outstanding volunteerism and unselfish devotion in the following categories:

Best Religious School
Volunteer in a Parent Role _____

Most Active Member
in a Religious Role _____

Lifetime Achievement Award _____

Outstanding Achievement
in Community Activities _____

Mensch of the Year
in a Leading Lady Role _____

Mensch of the Year
in a Leading Man Role _____

Since all of us, being members of B'nai Tikvah, are members of the "academy", please take the time now to fill in each blank next to a category with a members' name whom you feel deserves their respective recognition. Now is the time to do something special for someone who you feel is a long time overdue for an appropriate "thank you".

Please send your votes, along with your name and phone number, to the synagogue office c/o "Fun"raising. Someone will call you to get a brief description of why you feel each of your nominees should be honored.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

**ALL VOTES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 12:00
NOON ON JANUARY 9, 2000**

KADIMA CONNECTION

KADIMA DATES 2000

Mark your calendars and don't miss out on the fun!

January 11 - 7:30-9:00 meeting at the temple

January 16 - Kadima Day (pre-registration required)

January 27 - Jackpot Bingo 7:30-9:00 at the temple

Feb. 1 - Meeting with the Rabbi to practice for services, 7:30-9:00 at the temple

Feb. 11 - Kadima Shabbat Dinner and services, 6:15 at the temple

Feb. 19 - Regional Dance

March 10-11 - 8th grade Shabbaton

March 14 - get ready for Purim meeting

March 19 - Purim carnival

Questions? Call Michele at 438-0083

USY WINTER SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 6 7:00pm - 9:00pm	Come play <u>Laser Tag</u> with USY. Details to Follow.
Thursday, January 20 7:15pm - 8:45pm	Don't miss your chance to participate in a USY first - <u>Stunt Balloon Night</u> at B'nai Tikvah.
Friday, February 4 - Sunday, February 6	<i>Regional Mid Winter Convention in Manalapan</i>
Thursday, February 10 7:15pm - 8:45pm	Watch a great movie and eat lots of pizza at USY's <u>Movie and Pizza Night</u> - at B'nai Tikvah.
Thursday, February 24 7:15pm - 8:45pm	We'll be going <u>Ice Skating</u> at South Brunswick's new ice arena.
Saturday, March 4	<i>Regional Semi Formal Dance in East Brunswick</i>
Thursday, March 9 7:15pm - 8:45pm	Don't miss your chance to have fun and learn about Israel at our <u>Israeli Awareness</u> meeting - at B'nai Tikvah.

Men's Club

Business Planning for the New Millennium

We are pleased to have Alan Wink, one of the foremost management consultants in New Jersey, as a guest speaker. He will speak about business planning for the new millennium. Learn how you can improve growth and become more profitable with the proper planning procedures. This is a must see if you own a business and a very interesting meeting if you work for a business, with many personal applications as well.

Sunday, January 9, 1999

Time: 10:00 am

Bagels & Lox all you can eat

Men's Club Members \$3.00

All others \$5.00

Looking forward to seeing you.

Gerry Edley, President

821-6237

YES! I am delighted to join the Men's Club

Name _____

Address _____

Phone# _____

Please make check for \$25.00 payable to Congregation B'Nai Tikvah Men's Club and mail to:

Men's Club
c/o Congregation B'Nai Tikvah
1001 Finnegans Lane
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

WE'D LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW

Welcome to the Gaelick Family

sisterhood sizzles

Notes & Stuff

- ❖ You already go to the cleaners. Why not go to one that pays off for the Sisterhood? Use Gallery Cleaners (in Hidden Lake) or Absolutely Cleaners (Liberty Square Shopping Center in Dayton). Save your receipts and Sisterhood collects 5 - 10 % of the total! Send Gallery Cleaners receipts to Shelly Talmud (5 Patriot Court, East Brunswick 08816) and Absolutely Cleaners to Bobby Binder (94 Hazel Court, Dayton 08810). Get your clothes cleaned and help your Sisterhood stay solvent!

To date, Gallery Cleaners has donated almost \$900 and cleaned over one hundred talitot for free.

- ❖ 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 him or her.
- ❖ Take advantage of our new Leagram discounts: buy 6 (for only \$18) and get one free! Send these personalized telegrams to celebrate or commemorate any occasion. Contact Toby Ehrlich at 329-1082 or tgehr@aol.com.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ The sisterhood was also busy with a perspective new member tea. We thank all that attended and look forward to seeing you during this coming year!
- ❖ It's a New Year and a sweet time to visit the Sisterhood Gift Shop. The shopping was fantastic at the local gift fairs so come in and look around. The showcase will be updated as new and exciting gift items arrive. Check out our latest Bar and Bat Mitzvah gift section. Read the latest Mark I Shaloman Comics. We have gifts for most occasions. The Gift Shop will be open each Sunday in September (holiday permitting) and October. Please call Deborah Spigner at 545-8457 or Theresa Samtur at 821-8163

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 9, 2000

Our next meeting will be a movie review of 'Life is Beautiful'. Group viewing will take place at the following homes and times. Please RSVP ASAP if you would like to attend. Tuesday, Jan. 4th at 7:30 PM at the home of Lori Sookerman. Lori can be reached at 940-1196. Wednesday, January 5th at 7:30 at the home of Caryl Greenberg. Caryl can be reached at 297-3780. January 9 is our movie review. Please bring Parmalat milk and/or cereal to donate to the local food pantry. Our meetings begin at 10:00am.

February 12

Please mark your calendars and join us for Sisterhood Shabbat on February 12. Sisterhood runs the entire morning service and we would love if you can be there!

February 13

Sunday, February 13 will prove to be a lot of fun as we enjoy rotating crafts! You don't have to be artistic, just motivated to have fun, good conversation and try your hand at something new. More details to follow!

NEW BEGINNINGS

Are YOU in an interfaith marriage?
Are your children in an interfaith marriage or relationship?
Are you reluctant to address interfaith issues with your own parents or children?

Plan to join us on Wednesday, January 19th at the "New Beginnings" group of Temple B'nai Tikvah, Finnegans Lane, North Brunswick, at 7:30 p.m. for this important exchange between Jewish parents, grandparents, and interfaith couples. Discuss problems faced by both couples and parents in this unique family structure. Learn how to avoid conflict and develop positive family relationships when faced with interfaith issues.

Everyone is welcome. Membership not required. Refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP (for seating purposes only), to Jeanette 732 246-1393 by January 10th.

**NURSERY SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS
TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR
1975-2000**

As we approach Y2K, our nursery school is very proud to announce its 25th anniversary. We would like to thank all families past and present who have helped us reach this important milestone.

Our rich Judaic curriculum and innovative enrichment programs as well as our very successful Mommy and Me programs will be continued and expanded. The needs of our synagogue families will continue to be of primary importance to us. Synagogue members will continue to receive a tuition discount and priority registration.

Throughout these twenty-five years our nursery school has achieved and maintained a reputation of high educational standards and a "home away from home" atmosphere for our children. These goals could not have been achieved so successfully however, if it were not for our staff of truly dedicated and caring teachers.

There is no doubt that our nursery school will continue to grow and flourish in the new millennium. I am very proud to be able to contribute to its continued success and growth.

Have a happy and healthy Millennium New Year!

REGISTRATION FOR 2000-2001

Registration for the 2000-2001 school year will begin on January 31, 2000. We look forward to placing your child's name on our nursery school roster. For additional information, to arrange for a school tour, or to be placed on a list to receive registration material, please call the nursery school office at 297-0295. Don't forget temple members receive priority status and a tuition discount.

NEW MOM AND BABES CLASS

OUR NEW MOM AND BABES CLASS STARTING TUESDAY, JANUARY 4th STILL HAS A FEW OPENINGS.

Please call our office to receive registration information. This class is for caregivers and babes ages 3-12 months who want to meet new friends and discuss relevant parenting issues. Come join the fun!

AFTERNOON ENRICHMENT CLASS

Li'l BOOKWORMS

TUESDAYS 12:30 - 3:00 PM

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 3-5 YEARS OLD.

Beat the winter blahs! Come join our club and not only enhance literary knowledge and reading skills but have lots of fun creating crafts around book themes, singing songs, moving to music, eating yummy snacks, and playing with your friends. You do not have to be enrolled in our morning nursery school program to attend our afternoon enrichment classes. Other afternoon options include Passport To Fun, Kaleidoscope Kids, Just Imagine art class, and Curiosity Club, where our budding scientists learn about themselves and the world of science. Call our nursery school office at 297-0295 to enroll.

The Hazzan's Voice

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, my husband, Aaron, and I were fortunate to have members of the North/South Brunswick USY board to our home for Shabbat lunch. We provided the food, but they really provided the essence of the meal. They brought with them their enthusiasm and their energy. It was a wonderful experience for us to have their voices of laughter and song for that Shabbat afternoon. We wish only that we would have had enough space to have the entire USY chapter over that day.

These young adults are a part of a much larger youth program in our congregation. I have had the privilege of seeing the group in action at some of their events this year. I so enjoy going to the programs! I was certainly happy to win movie passes when I bid on items at the USY Chinese Auction that raised money for Tikun Olam (USY's tzedakah fund). But I did not go to the auction to win a prize. I was just glad to be there to see these young people and their positive Jewish energy.

B'shalom,
Hazzan Jodi M. Sered-Lever

Within the religious elements of the community, the teachings of the Torah and Hazal² gave rise to an enthusiastic and renewed relationship with the natural environment. From the Baal Shem Tov's reminder that we too are a part of the Divine creation, not above or apart from it; to the words of Rabbi Schnev Zalman who based himself on the gematria³ that the name of God -- Elohim -- has numerical equivalent of "ha-teva," nature and that we can find God revealed in all of creation (Likkute Moharan); the suggestion by Rabbi Zev Wolf that the wonders of the soil and of growing are to be contemplated before blessing one's food; the teaching of the Medibozzer Rebbe that "God placed sparks of holiness within everything in nature (Butzina De Mehorah); and the prescription by Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav to his followers that they pray daily in the fields -- that their prayers would be strengthened by those of every blade of grass (Sichot Ha-Ran)

Even those who opposed the Hasidim such as Rabbi Joseph Leib Bleich wrote that a Jew "will be filled with wonder and excitement at the sight of the glories of nature...and will know how to use these feelings for the sublime purpose of recognizing the Creator." (Sha'arey Da'at)

It is in this spirit that we approach our celebration of Tu B'Shevat -- reminded that we are an integral part of the natural order which is filled with Divine potential. The challenge is to find a path in the modern world which allows us to fulfill the Divine expectation expressed in Genesis (2:15) that we be guardians and custodians of the world which God has entrusted to our care.

With blessings and the hope to see you at the Tu B'Shevat Seder on January 22,

Rabbi David M. Eligberg

¹ Haskalah -- Enlightenment

² Hazal -- Our sages of blessed memory

From the Administrator's Desk

Yahrtzeit Update

The Synagogue office would like to review our Yahrtzeit list for accuracy. If you have not been receiving Yahrtzeit notifications or feel we may be missing information, please contact us with your Yahrtzeit details so we can better serve you.

You don't need to belong to a "clique" to get the scoop at the Synagogue, all you need to do is "click."

Receive weekly announcements, special announcements, and some good jokes by joining the Synagogue One List. It's simple, quick, and fun. Go to the Synagogue web site at www.BnaiTikvah.Org and select Online Community from the column on the left. This will take you to our Online Community page. Click on e-mail community. This will take you to the Community e-mail page. Finally, enter your e-mail address where it says, "Sign Me Up".

You'll begin receiving your e-mails within a few days and you'll always be in the "know." **SO SIGN UP NOW!**

50 + Group

The holiday of Hannukah was celebrated with traditional food and a program given by our Cantor Sered-Lever which was enjoyed by all.

We ended the year with our annual New Year's celebration including a catered dinner by Classical Caterers.

Our next General Meeting will be January 25. We will serve the traditional foods for the holiday of Tu B'Shevat. Rabbi Eligberg will conduct the program with comments about this holiday.

General Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month in the Social Hall at 1 PM. Join us and bring your friends.

ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

By Aaron Rosloff

A friend of mine is preparing to retire shortly, and is thinking of giving some time to causes for the elderly and/or the young. I have been involved in providing housing for low-income senior for past ten years, so I am very familiar with the needs of the elderly, and I can tell you that there is much to be done. Housing, medical care, social support and on and on.

But a less noticeable area desperately needing attention is that of our young people. Children from broken homes, or no homes at all, are seen as financial and political liabilities. They don't vote, so they have no voice. Thousands are lost in the shuffle every year. The situation is appalling. Before each election we see and hear politicians compete with each other, throwing out ideas on how to improve education, health care, crime prevention, drug programs and more.

Talk, talk, talk, but little money is provided for programs or social workers to help kids who fall between the cracks. The most frequent idea put forth is to build more jails (that'll teach 'em). Our sages tell us that if you don't teach your child a trade you teach him (or her) to be a thief. And at thirty-thousand bucks a year per inmate, besides the cost of building the facilities, it seems obvious that the best way to reduce crime and the cost of maintaining a humongous prison system, is to keep young people from falling through the cracks in the first place.

Kids need role models and mentors. They need an adult (or adults) to look up to and to emulate. They must know and feel that someone cares and that they are special to somebody they respect. A young person who receives respect from an adult will try to repay that gift by making their mentor proud of them by striving for better school grades or athletic achievements, or performing some small public service.

What matters is that another young person may make it to adulthood without a police record, and with less felonious activity in the community. A good idea is useless unless you act on it. Where to start? Call you congressman and ask him (or her) to support drug rehab programs, or locally, call your social service department and volunteer some time. There are many ways to help. Be a voice for the young, get involved.

Keeping kids out of jail is cheaper than keeping them in.

Save a kid, and everybody wins.

Programming Events – Mark your calendar

Sunday, January 16 – A Year in the House with Congressman Rush Holt

What is it like for a Ph.D. to be a freshman again? Have breakfast with our new Congressman Rush Holt on Sunday, January 16. Hear about what he learned in his first year in the U.S. House of Representatives. What has been done, what (if anything) will be done before the 2000 election about healthcare, taxes, education and other issues you care about? Ask him about what interests you and your family.

Prior to his election in 1998, Rep. Holt had been Assistant Director of the Princeton Plasma Physics lab.

9:00 AM Minyon. 9:30 AM bagels. 10:15 AM Congressman Holt's presentation. 10:45 AM questions and answers. Join us and be a guest of the congregation on January 16th.

We would like to Acknowledge the Following Contributions to Our B'nai Tikvah Funds:

Yartzeits:

Gloria & Fred Landsman in memory of Molly Landsman
Hattie Loewen in memory of Abraham Erlebacher
Bobbi & Marc Binder in memory of Elaine Cohn
Shirley & Meyer Ketofsky in memory of Louis Wieseltier
Barbara & Harvey Abramson in memory of Hyman A. & Elise P. Freidman
Abbey & Bernard Lorber in memory of Charles Lorber
Linda & Irwin Katz in memory of Sophie Katz
Shirley Eberle
Audrey & Peter Kuker in memory of Sarah Kuker
Michelle & Curtis Goldhagen in memory of Sylvia Perlow
Arleen & Barry Panson in memory of Harold Herlands
Rachel, Michael, Aaron & Rebecca Silverstein in memory of Theresa Silverstein
Gaby & Jerome Margolin in memory of Ruth Reich
Joseph Schneider
Blanche Fruhling in memory of Benjamin Seidenstein
Maxine & Harvey Abramson in memory of Lena Parisofsky

Passport to Israel Fund:

Joyce & Leonard S. Mandelblatt in memory of David I. Mandelblatt
Lois & Jerry Kaminsky & Family in honor of Rafi Glazer's Bar Mitzvah

Makelah Fund:

Helen & Gary Tinkel in honor of Hilary & Aaron Vernon's 1st Anniversary

Youth Fund:

The No Name Chavurah in honor of Bobbi Binder, as B'nai Tikvah's Eyshtet Chail
Maxine & Mark Kasdin in memory of Ann Kernis

Religious School Fund:

Debra & Martin Spigner in memory of Irving Spigner

General Donation Fund:

Shirley Eberle

Tezdaka Fund:

Barbara & Harvey Abramson

Contributions:

If you are interested in making a contribution to B'nai Tikvah, please fill out the form below and mail it to us at: Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnegans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

In honor of: _____
In memory of: _____
On the occasion of: _____

Amount of Donation:
[] \$18 [] \$36 [] \$54 [] \$72 [] \$118 [] Other \$ _____

This donation is being made by:

Name: _____
Telephone: _____

Please send an acknowledgment to:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

Please Allocate Donation to:

[] Building / Capital Improvements Fund [] Yartzeit
[] Cantor's Special Fund [] Passport to Israel Fund
[] General Fund [] Library Fund [] Youth Fund
[] Religious School [] Torah Restoration Fund
[] Makelah Fund [] Tzedakah Fund [] Rabbi Discretionary
[] Prayerbook Fund [] Social Action Fund [] Other _____

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

Many thanks to people who sponsored Junior Congregation kiddush in honor of the following:

Nicole Hirsh's birthday
Martin Spigner's birthday
Barry Safer's 10 years as Junior Congregation Facilitator
Matt Biderman's birthday
Sarah Berk's grandmother Rita's birthday
Dillon Diatlo's birthday
Samantha Alpert and the Aleph class naming
Adam and Mark Zell's birthdays
Daniel Garten's birthday

Alyssa Tannenbaum
Elliot Cohen's birthday
Jessica Gerstein's grandmother's 90th birthday

We always need more sponsors. Anyone interest in sponsoring kiddush for only \$15 please contact Barry at JuniorCong@bnaitikvah.org

Adult Education Presents

Introduction to Jewish Law

Speaker: Rabbi Joel Roth

Date: January 26

Time: 7:45 PM

It is our pleasure to host Rabbi Roth from the Jewish Theological Seminary, who is an expert on the subject of Jewish Law. Make this one time commitment, or follow through with additional classes by Rabbi Eligberg.

Walk This Way: What's the Shortest Path from Here to There

Instructor: Rabbi David Eligberg

Dates: February 2,9,16 and 23

Time: 8:45 PM

Halacha, the term, which is translated as Jewish Law, comes from the Hebrew root meaning "to walk". Jewish law is the path we follow through life. It is designed to bring us closer to God and to live in accordance with Divine expectations.

From lost objects to industrial pollution, each week the class will focus on a different situation or set of circumstances. We will then apply the pertinent halachic material as we try to resolve the case.

Walk This Way: The Road Less Traveled

Instructor: Rabbi David Eligberg

Dates: March 1,8,15 and 22

Time: 8:45 PM

This class will explore the different layers of Halacha, Jewish Law, by following one topic through the entire decision making process. The class will follow in the footsteps of a Posek (Jewish legal decision maker) who is trying to answer a contemporary halachic question. The specific topic will be drawn from the field of biomedical ethics.

Finding the Sacred in Our Life Experiences: Exploring Jewish Values Through Stories

Instructor: Cantor Jodi M. Sered-Lever

Dates: February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 1 and 8

Time: 7:45 PM

In this class we will examine stories that are Jewish, both ancient and modern, as well as secular stories from a Jewish perspective. Each week will have a particular theme such as visiting the sick or being kind to strangers. We will discuss these stories in an effort to see how our experiences have the potential to yield tremendous meaning for us and for others.

Hebrew Literacy: Levels II

Instructor: Larry Cohen

Dates: January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8 and 15

Time: 7:45 PM

Prerequisite: Familiarity with the Hebrew Alphabet and vowels, or Hebrew Level I.

Minimum: 5 students

Maximum: 15 students

Hebrew Literacy: Levels I

Instructor: TBD

Dates: February 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Time: 7:45 PM

Minimum: 5 students

Maximum: 15 students

Learning to read Hebrew will help you participate in the services. This knowledge of Hebrew reading can open endless opportunity to learn more about Judaism.

This class will introduce you to the Jewish Alphabet and vowels.

Why is this Seder Different from All Other Seders?

Instructor: Rabbi David Eligberg

Dates: March 30 and April 6

Time: 7:45 PM

If the most frequently asked question at your seder is “When do we eat?” then these two sessions are for you. Discover some “fun”damental ways to make your Seder into a wonderful experience for everyone. Learn about the Haggadah, games and activities that you can incorporate and songs, both new and old. Preparing for Pesach can be a huge challenge so let us help you.

Tikkun Lel Shavuot: Wait for the Midnight Hour?

Instructor: Rabbi David Eligberg, Cantor Jodi M. Sered-Lever, and selected others

Dates: June 8

Time: 8:00 PM to Midnight

Other: Includes meal (we must have final count by May 15)

On Pesach we stay up late into the night asking questions and retelling the story of Exodus. On Shavuot we stay up late studying the answers to the questions and exploring the mysterious events which took place at Mt. Sinai when God manifested the Divine Presence to the Jewish People.

A Twice Told Tale of Slavery and Redemption

Instructor: Rabbi Eliezer Diamond

Dates: March 23

Time: 7:45 PM

Presented by the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Central New Jersey Hereld Institute (which is sponsored in part through the generosity of the Hereld Family).

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The next HaKol deadline is January 14. I look forward to hearing from you. It will be distributed February 1. You can leave articles in the HaKol mailbox in the synagogue office or e-mail them to Hakol@aol.com.

JANUARY EVENTS

- January 6 – USY Laser Tag
- January 9 – Kindergarten Pack Program
 - Men's Club Meeting - Business Planning
 - Sisterhood Meeting – Movie Review
- January 11 – Kadima Meeting
- January 16 – Annual Blood Drive
 - Breakfast with Representative Rush Holt
- January 20 – USY Stunt Balloon Night
- January 21 – Family Shabbat Service
- January 22 - School Wide Havdallah Service
- January 25 – 50+ Tu B'Shevat Meeting
- January 26 – Adult Ed – Intro to Jewish Law
- January 27 – Kadima Jackpot Bingo
- January 30 – 2nd Grade Pact Program

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