

# HAKOL

## THE VOICE OF CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

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### From the Rabbi's Desk

By David M. Eligberg

It's early December. Jim Carey's *Grinch* has already stolen Christmas countless times (not to mention a huge number of moviegoers). TV networks have begun their holiday programming. Bill Murray's *Scrooged* is ahead of Jimmy Stewart's *It's a Wonderful Life* in the number of times its been shown. No doubt it will catch up as the December 25th deadline approaches (and if not he can always ask for a recount). Advertisers have been in full force since before Labor Day. Holiday decorations in the stores and the musical accompaniment have been going on long enough so that I look at the parade of mail order catalogs that arrive without immediately thinking "recyclable."

At this time of the year, much of what is hidden becomes overt, especially the degree to which Christian culture and language are dominant within American society. This dominance is reflected in both symbolic and structural ways that pervade..... Let me share two examples from these Supreme Court decisions.

In the case of *Braunfeld vs. Brown*, the court ruled that "it is common knowledge the first day of the week has come to have special significance as a rest day in this country. *People of all religions and people with no religions* regard Sunday as a time for family activity, for visiting friends... Sunday is a day apart from all others. The cause is irrelevant; the fact exists." The court trivialized the roots of Sunday Blue Laws which originated in and were designed to support Christian beliefs and had the consequence of forcing the Orthodox Jewish plaintiffs to observe the Christian day of rest.

The second case (*Lynch vs. Donnelly*) involved the public display of a crèche (nativity scene). The Court wrote:

When viewed in the proper context of the *Christmas Holiday season*, it is apparent that...there is insufficient evidence to establish that the inclusion of the crèche is ... some kind of subtle government advocacy of a particular religious message... The City ...has taken note of a *significant historical religious event* long celebrated in the Western World. The crèche in the display depicts the historical origins of the *traditional event* long recognized as a *National Holiday*.... The narrow question is whether there is a secular purpose for Pawtucket's display of the crèche. The display is sponsored by the City to celebrate the *Holiday* and to depict the origins of that Holiday. **These are legitimate secular purposes.**

*From the Rabbi's Desk continued on page 22*

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# HAZZAN'S VOICE

By Hazzan Jodi Sered-Lever

Dear Friends,

I would like to share with you a story that relates to Chanukah. I have adapted from the book Because God Loves Stories, edited by Steve Zeitlin:

During the sixteenth century, there was once a man named Jacobi who went to shul every Shabbat morning and listened intently to the rabbi's sermon. It was a unique situation because the rabbi spoke in Hebrew and Jacobi knew only Spanish. On one particular morning, the rabbi taught how twelve loaves of bread were offered to God when the Temple stood. Jacobi came away with the message that God ate bread. Knowing his wife was a gifted bread baker, he asked her to make twelve loaves, which Jacobi took to the synagogue and left in the ark.

At this point, the shammes (caretaker of the synagogue) came before the ark with a prayer to God. "God," he said, "While I love taking care of the shul, it has been weeks since I was last paid. I need a miracle, please!" Then the shammes opened the ark and found the twelve loaves of bread that would feed him and his whole family. He believed that God had put the bread there for him to find.

The next day Jacobi returned to the ark and discovered the bread was gone. He believed that God had eaten the bread.

For thirty years, they continued in this way. Until one day, the rabbi saw Jacobi putting the bread into the ark. "What are you doing?" the rabbi asked Jacobi. Jacobi replied that he was leaving the bread for God. "But God does not eat bread!" exclaimed the rabbi. "But he has been eating my wife's bread for thirty years," Jacobi explained.

The two men hid to see what would happen to the bread. Soon, the shammes came and took the bread out of the ark. The rabbi grabbed the shammes and stopped him from taking the bread. Then an argument ensued between the three men. In the middle of their bickering, Elijah the Prophet emerged and explained that God had such fun watching as one man gave the bread, another man took the bread, and the Holy One got credit for all of it. Elijah then told Jacobi that from now on, he must give the bread directly to the shammes and believe that God will be just as pleased with him and have just as much fun.

On Chanukah, we recall the legend of the oil that burned for eight days. Chanukah is a time to think about miracles. Miracles come in many different forms. We all have the power to create miracles and receive the blessings that enrich our lives and the lives of those around us. In Judaism, we have a blessing for encountering miracles: "Praised are you God, who made for me a miracle in this place." Hag Urim Sameach. May this Chanukah be for you a holiday of light and joy.

B'shalom,  
Hazzan Jodi M. Sered-Lever

## We're Expanding in More Ways Than One!

As an indication of how comprehensive our web site has become, there are now over 50 POINTS OF CONTACT and more than 30 ENTRY FORMS located throughout the site. A brief visit to "bnaitikvah.org/forms.html" will give you an idea of just how much we have been expanding.

If you have something to advertise, promote, or keep track of, contact me and I'll help you design an appropriate page. Just visit the site and fill-out the form

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## WANTED IDEAS & VOLUNTEERS

.....for Activities Committee

The Activities Committee, chaired by Cheryl Goldstein, is looking for some innovative ideas for activities and volunteers to organize activities. There is no idea too far reaching. Our membership is so diverse that there is likely to be an audience for almost anything.

The Activities Committee strives to get all members involved in at least one fun activity each year. Please help to make this happen. If interested in volunteering or if you have ideas, please call Cheryl Goldstein on 732-821-7845 or send e-mail to [activities@bnaitikvah.org](mailto:activities@bnaitikvah.org)

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORTS

—by Ann Kanarek—

## CHANUKAH BEGINS THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 21st

The first candle of Chanukah, our joyous Festival of Lights, is lit on Thursday evening, December 21st. Each night, we light another candle to celebrate the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian-Greek army of the tyrant Antiochus.

Chanukah is, of course, more than a holiday commemorating a military victory. Though technically a minor holiday (Chanukah is not mentioned anywhere in the Bible), today it is a major family celebration. As we exchange gifts, join in playing dreidel, lighting candles, and eating latkes, we remember that the Maccabees' struggle of long ago is still our struggle today: how to remain loyal to the traditions and dreams of our people while participating in the best that the secular world has to offer. Theirs was also a battle for religious freedom, a battle that we continue to fight today as well.

We have planned many exciting programs for the month of December to help us celebrate Chanukah as a congregational family and we hope that you will join us. The following are upcoming holiday events:



Our children excitedly get ready for Chanukah and prepare to learn about our traditions and enjoy the celebration. In front, left to right, are Corey Allen, Jordan Smith, Gregg Allen, Danny Silver, Nicole Rubin, Elizabeth Samtur, Ashley Mayzlur with their teacher, Mrs. Carol Winter. Kneeling in front are William Samtur and Anna Rothfus.







Sundays, December 3, 10 & 17 (9:00am-12:05pm)  
**Shop at the SISTERHOOD JUDAICA GIFT SHOP.**  
Affordable Chanukah gift items for the entire family.

Friday, December 15 (7pm-8pm)  
**FAMILY SHABBAT AND PRE-ALEF CHANUKAH SING-A-LONG**

Sunday, December 17 (either 9:15am or 10:45am)  
**CHANUKAH CHOOTENANY WITH PERFORMER, BRUCE FAGAN**

### CHANUKAH MITZVOT

It's a mitzvah:

-  for each home to have its own Chanukah menorah
-  to kindle the Chanukah lights each evening of the eight days of the festival
-  for parents to relate the story of Chanukah to their children
-  for the whole family to participate in, and bear witness to, the lighting of the Chanukah menorah
-  to share the lighting of the menorah and the meaning of Chanukah with our friends and neighbors
-  to give tzedakah during the eight days of Chanukah.

*Religious School Report continued on next page*

## SCHOOL WIDE CHANUKAH PROGRAM

On Sunday, December 17, at 9:14 and 10:45, the Religious School will sponsor a Chanukah extravaganza. This event will be a musical concert by a popular Jewish singer and performer, Bruce Fagan.

### MEET BRUCE FAGAN

We are delighted to welcome to our congregation, for our Chanukah extravaganza, **Bruce Fagan**. Bruce is a popular entertainer, composer and keyboardist. He has a broad range of musical talents and a wide repertoire of Israeli and Jewish music, contemporary children's tunes, rock and roll classics and current dance tunes. Fagan combines a refreshing personality, non-stop energy and musical excitement from the very first beat.

On Sunday, December 17, Bruce will perform for our religious school children. He will deliver a rollicking, bouncy, lively, holiday concert that will entice the audience to sing, dance or just keep the beat...this is not just for kids—it's family entertainment.

A special thanks to the families who donate to the religious school education fund on an ongoing basis and to all of you who will support our Chanukah flames project that will help to sponsor this program.

### OTHER SCHOOL EVENTS FOR CHANUKAH

**Friday, December 15, 7:00pm-8:00pm:** Chanukah Pre-Alef Family Shabbat Service. The service will include Mrs. Phyllis Edley's and Ms. Sara Chvala's Kindergarten class, Mrs. Miriam Ziegler and Ms. Tamar Weiner's first and second grade classes. With the help of our music specialist, Gina Giuffre, our children will lead the Congregation in many of our familiar tunes and Chanukah classics. Please join us for a great evening.

### SUPPORT OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Put your name on a flame, put your handle on a candle. Look for the Wall of Flame, our Religious School Menorah with your name in lights. For only a dollar each, you can buy paper flames for every member of your family. Or, for 18 big ones, you can buy a whole paper candle for your group. Anyway you choose, you are warming up to a great cause—your Religious School. For more information, check the flyer in this bulletin or in your child's bag. On behalf of the Religious School staff and children we thank you for your support.

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

**Sunday, December 3, 9:00am-1:00pm:** Hei Class special program "Tallit Making Workshop" with guest artist, Barbara Stoner

**Sunday December 10, 10:00am-12:05pm** Chai School special *Copper Chanukiyot* program with Israeli artist, Avi Zuckerman.

**Friday, December 15, 7PM-8PM:** Family Shabbat and Chanukah Sing-A-Long (K-2)

**Sunday, December 17, 10:40AM-12:05PM:** Chai School: *Breakfast with the Rabbi*

**Sunday, December 24 - Monday, January 2:** NO SCHOOL, *Winter break*

(School resumes Tuesday, January 3)

**Sunday, January 7, 9:00am-10:30am:** Kindergarten PACT program: *A Shema Pajama Party*

**Sunday, January 14:** NO SCHOOL, *Professional Growth Day*

**Monday, January 15:** NO SCHOOL, *Martin Luther King Day*

**Friday, January 19:** ALEF CLASS Naming Ceremony and Dinner, 6:30PM

**Sunday, January 21, 10:30am-12:05pm:** Second grade PACT program: *Judaism and Ecology*

# B'NAI TIKVAH BULLETIN BOARD



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Larry Cohen

## LOST AND FOUND

Help - Lost during the High Holy Days,  
a watch pin adorned with rhinestones.  
If found, please call Caryl Greenberg  
297-3780. Thank you.

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

We now have lockers in the Coatroom. You can get one with a key, for a recommended donation of \$54.00 to the Prayer Books Fund, or congregants are invited to use one of the opened lockers for their Tallitot and other things they need for services.



By Appointment

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## MAZEL TOV ON YOUR UPCOMING SIMCHA

It is customary to throw candy at the couple while they are on the bima during their aufruf. So that you don't have to worry about small details, The Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Tikvah will put together 50 bags of candy that will be available on the Shabbat morning of your aufruf.

All you need to do is:

- 1) Call Suse Rosenstock if your aufruf is before Oct. 15, 2000 or after May 15, 2001 at 732-329-3101. Otherwise, call Gale Dillman at 732-821-7392.
- 2) Give us your date.
- 3) Send a check for \$36 to Sisterhood, attn: Gale Dillman/Aufruf donation, to Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnegan's Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

Baskets of the candy throws will be waiting for you at the synagogue. Thank you for your support of our Sisterhood.

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## CHAI SCHOOL "CHAI" LIGHTS

Bend, squat, and pull on a Sunday morning. Is it an exercise class? No, but it was an exercise in doing mitzvot for those in need of food. On Sunday, November 5th the teenagers in our "Chai" School, along with their teachers, Sara Chvala, David Kanarek, Noah Krug, Marshall Lesack, Becky Leventhal, Maxine Kasdin (a very loyal and energetic parent who has joined our group for the last 4 years!!), and the high school class of Har Sinai Temple in Trenton harvested food at Giamarese Farms in East Brunswick. They collected one hundred eighty-one bags of collard greens and turnips, which amazingly weighed in at 3600 pounds! The New Jersey Farmers Against Hunger truck was there to whisk nearly 2 tons of food to soup kitchens to feed the hungry. Students got down and dirty in the process, but equipped with rubber gloves and determination, the task was an exercise of satisfaction in knowing that those less fortunate would 'reap' the benefits of their reaping!!



### DAVID ADLER "WOWED" OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

In honor of Jewish Book Month, we had the great pleasure of hosting author, David A. Adler. Our school children and parents were delighted by his presentation and thoroughly enjoyed his visit. Some of Carol Winter's Bet students jotted down some thoughts about Mr. Adler's workshop. Here are a few sample excerpts:

**Ginaily Applebaum:** Thank you for coming to our school and signing my book for me. I like how you think about how to write your stories.

**Keren Brown:** I thought you were very funny. Your books are engaging...they fill you with laughter. You also made what could be a boring speech into an amazing bunch of words. It was very interesting how you get ideas from real people. I REALLY ENJOYED YOU.

**Erica Cohen:** Thank you Mr. Adler, for sharing the stories about your son's funny adventures.

**Matt Cohen:** David Adler was nice and it was fun to hear about the gerbils and snakes.



Students waiting for David Adler to autograph their books.

**Melissa Sheps:** I liked the story that was *A Little at a Time* and every time the grandpa answered the boy, it was always "a little at a time."

**Dana Speesler:** I liked David Adler's drawings the most.

**Melissa Cohen:** I liked David Adler because he was cool, nice and really funny.....and he writes good stories.

**Daniel Garten:** I liked when he held up the big cards to explain an idea.

**Jessica Gerstein:** I like your books. I also enjoyed when you put the pictures and numbers together to make a word.

**Gary Goldsmith:** I liked when he read the book *A Little at a Time* because I ask a lot of questions just like the little boy did with his grandpa.

**Lindsey Gottfried:** I liked the way he told us how he gets ideas for his stories, especially for the book *House on the Roof: A Sukkot story*.

**Ellis Klein:** I loved when he joked about his kids and s

signed autographs.

**Benjy Levin:** I liked the "rebuses" he made.

# Sisterhood Sizzles

## Coming Soon...

### Sunday December 3rd -

Hanukkah Bazaar. Get all of your Hanukkah shopping done at our Hanukkah bazaar. If last year was any indication you'll find everything from gelt for the children to beautiful works of art. From 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The holiday is just around the corner!

### Sunday December 17 -

Makeover's with Maddy. Come to a live make over meeting with a professional make up artist that has worked on the people you see on TV. Learn how to become a whole new you.

### Saturday January 20 -

Sisterhood Shabbat and Luncheon. Come and participate in this wonderful Shabbat service run entirely by Sisterhood. Anyone interested in participating in the service should call Ellyn Schneider at 254-4909. Anyone interested in helping with the luncheon should call Shelly Wistreich at 422-4273 or Linda Saffer at 422-7516.

### January 21 Sunday -

Self defense with Tiger Shulman. Come to the synagogue at 10:00 am ready to learn how to defend yourself. Mark your calendars now.

## Save the date...

### February 22 Thursday -

Passover workshop 2001. Complete with a recipe exchange. Details to come.

### March 22 Thursday -

Movie Review with Lori. 8:00pm. Watch for details in a future issue of HaKol

## DON'T HAVE TIME TO COOK?

Purchase a delicious Shabbat dinner for the third Friday of each month! See the order form in this issue of HaKol or call Teresa Samtur at 821-8163.

## PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

For Sisterhood Shabbat on January 20. Have you always wanted to do a responsive reading, open the ark, lead a prayer, chant a Torah portion? If so, here is your chance in this service run entirely by Sisterhood. Call Ellyn Schneider at 254-4909 and let her know how you would like to participate.

## GIFT SHOP

Deborah Spigner (545-8457) and Teresa Samtur (821-8163) are available for all your Judaica needs: mezzuzot, kippot, candles, candle sticks, challah plates and more. There are lots of new items available - come in and browse.

## LEAGRAM DISCOUNTS

Leagrams are cards sent in honor of, in memory of, in celebration of etc. Leagrams are 15\$ for 6 if paid for in advance, or \$3 if paid for separately. Just contact Toby Ehrlich by email at [tehr18@yahoo.com](mailto:tehr18@yahoo.com) or call her at 732-329-1082 with all the information, its easy.

## NEED TO SEND A CARD?

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.

## FAMILY SHABBAT

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. Interested in helping lead the service? It's fun and sets a great example for your kids. Contact Jackie Master at 545-8021.

## PLANNING A WEDDING OR B'NAI MITZVAH?

Order the B'Nai Mitzvah computer program to help you keep everything organized and at your fingertips. See the order form in this issue of HaKol or visit the Sisterhood Gift Shop.



# *Men's Club*

## **Men's Club Meeting**

**Our November meeting was a huge success, and all those who heard Jim McCloskey speak about Centurion Ministries learned a great deal.**

**Come join us on Sunday, December 10th for another very interesting program as Jim. We will have a guest who is sure to be as engaging and fascinating. We will announce his name and topic on the B'nai Tikvah website and to all subscribers to the Men's Club and general email lists.**

**Please join us for bagels and lox, a great program and an hour and a half away from all the pressures of your day.**

**Sunday, December 10th  
10 AM**

Looking forward to seeing you

-----  
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 Finnegan's Lane  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
-----



# Nursery School News

by Fran Pearson

As the 2000 year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on how in the hustle and bustle of our grown-up lives we sometimes forget that to a child each holiday moment is magical and filled with wonder.

## FROM TURKEYS AND THANKSGIVING TO LATKES AND CHANUKAH..

Our nursery school fills our children's senses with magical moments... interwoven with the beauty of our customs and traditions.

December is a busy, exciting and productive time of the year for our nursery school children as they prepare for the joyous holiday of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights.



### NURSERY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



- Our school children will create special hand made menorahs for their families.
- Classes will make delicious edible menorahs or driedels.
- The smell of freshly made potato latkes will permeate our nursery school halls.
- The children will learn about the Chanukah story.
- Each class will make special gifts for their families wrapped in class made wrapping paper.



### NURSERY SCHOOL FESTIVITIES



- Bruce Bray master magician will entertain our pre-k and three year olds for our Chanukah party on Wednesday, December 20th.
- Gina Giuffre will entertain our two and two and a half year olds at their Chanukah party on Tuesday, December 19th.
- Our children will experience our Chanukah Wonderland Oil Press Program where they will have the exciting and unique opportunity to watch fresh olives being squeezed into oil to light the menorah.
- Our children will put on little skits depicting some part of the Chanukah story at our parties.
- The nursery school will distribute driedels, gelt, and a small gift to each nursery school child for Chanukah.

*All nursery school families are cordially invited to attend our Chanukah festivities.  
The last day of school is Friday, December 22nd. School resumes on Tuesday, January 2nd 2001.  
On behalf of the JCC staff, I would like to wish all our families a very Happy Chanukah.*



**WILD WEST CASINO NIGHT is  
Coming to  
B'nai Tikvah  
On Saturday, March 3, 2001!**

**BIG NEWS!**

Thanks to the generosity of Josef and Susan Saloman we will be *raffling* off their donated "life time" *time share in St. Martin.*\* Tickets will be available prior to and on the night of the auction. This is a gift of a life time that you can share with your family.

Our Silent Auction has hundreds of prizes, including:

One week time share at a villa at the Sea Pines in Hilton Head, NC\*\*  
Tickets to ABC's "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire"  
Free Magic Show by Ferris the Great  
Airplane Flying Lesson at Princeton Airport  
6 Horseback Riding Lessons  
*and many more...*

\* For details, please call Caryl Greenberg.

\*\*Some restrictions apply. For details, please call Caryl Greenberg.

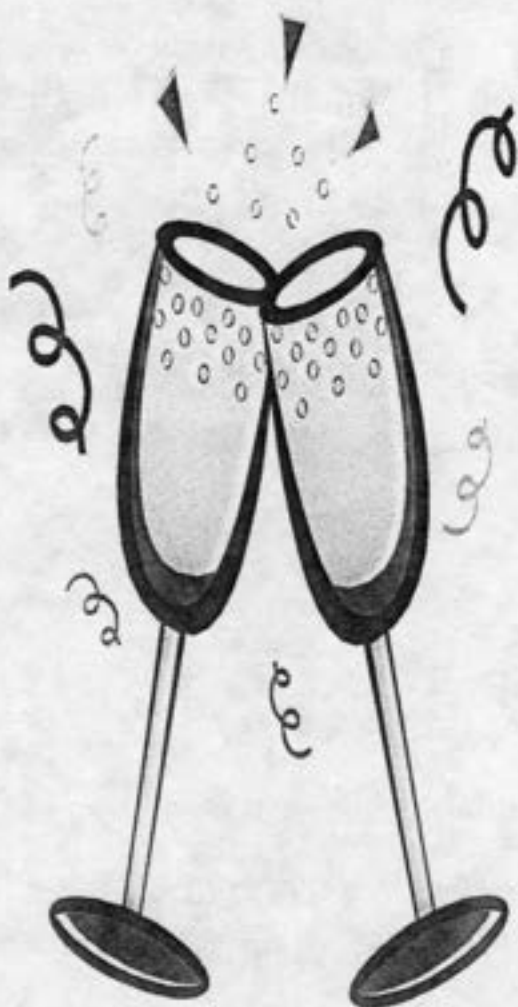
*P.S. Please let us know if you can donate baskets, cellophane wrap, shredded cellophane, ribbons, raffia or polaroid film for the event. We are also actively seeking sponsors for our gaming tables. Tables are \$180, \$360, \$540.*

*Call Cyndi Kleinbart at 297-1577 ([kleinbart5@msn.com](mailto:kleinbart5@msn.com)) or Caryl Greenberg at 297-3780 ([caryl@home.com](mailto:caryl@home.com)).*



**CLASSICAL CATERERS  
PRESENTS  
1<sup>ST</sup> TIME NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA!**

**LAST CHANCE!**



Our evening begins at 9:00 PM sharp on December 31, when Classical Caterers throws open the doors for the sumptuous cocktail hour with non-stop music. Then join us for an elegant dinner until 2:00 AM, January 1, 2001. Get your appetite revved up and your dancing shoes polished and join us for a party to end all parties.

- SPACE IS LIMITED!
- 10 - 12 people to your own table
- **SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR SYNAGOGUE MEMBERS \$90 per person**
- List the people you want to sit with
- Reservations - call 297-6444

***Your Evening Includes:***

- Extensive Cocktail Hour
- 3 Course Sit Down Dinner
- Choice of Entrees
- Complimentary Open Bar all night, including champagne
- Elaborate Dessert
- Full Service
- 5 hours of good food, good drink, good music and fun!!!

# B'NAI TIKVAH BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting is December 5 in the Synagogue Library at 8:00 PM. The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver. This book discussion should prove to be quite lively and interesting because this is a story told by the wife and four daughters of a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959.

We have picked our books for the next few meetings. The dates, titles and authors are as follows:

February 6, 2001: Fierce Attachments by Vivian Gornick

April 17, 2001: Bee Season by Myla Goldberg

June 5, 2001: Jew vs Jew by Samuel Freedman

August 7, 2001: Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson.

In addition to these books which are discussed the group usually comments on other recent good reads. All are welcome!

Remember if you plan to purchase any of these books they are available through Barnes & Noble, just sign into the B'nai Tikvah website and "go shopping" - Barnes & Noble will credit a percentage to B'nai Tikvah or purchase your Barnes & Noble Retail Scrip (in \$10 denominations) on Sunday mornings or by completing the order form in this issue of HaKol - what easy fundraisers!!!!

---

## FIFTY PLUS

The Fifty Plus group will meet on Tuesday, December 26 at 1:00 PM in the social hall of the synagogue. Our program will feature a Chanukah celebration with appropriate refreshments. If you are not a member and would like to join us, please call Blanche at 732-297-0272. Our January Program will include Tu B'Shevat with the Rabbi. Please join us for a social afternoon, refreshments and to learn our future plans.

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## The "December Dilemma" Program at B'nai Tikvah

Do you have a child in an interfaith marriage or relationship? Would you like to hear how other parents are facing interfaith issues? Join our discussion on the upcoming Christmas/Chanukah season at "New Beginnings," a Jewish Support Group for parents and grandparents of children in interfaith marriages/relationships. We will meet on Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m., at Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnegan's Lane, North Brunswick. **NO CHARGE.** Everyone Welcome.

"New Beginnings" meets monthly to explore positive approaches to interfaith issues in a non-threatening, non-confrontational environment. To RSVP or for more information, please call Jeanette at 732-246-1393.

# ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS!!!

## START SAVING IMMEDIATELY

**\$30**



- Buy-one-get-one-free and 50%-off discounts on dining, shopping and services

**NEW Frequent Values® program provides ongoing 20% discounts with select merchants**

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Cut and mail to the Synagogue office or call the synagogue (297-0696) or Barry Safeer (422-8543) to order. **We deliver!** Consignment orders for your office accepted. We can order any book in the US. Orders can also be placed at [www.Bnaitikvah.org](http://www.Bnaitikvah.org). If mailing, please enclose a check made payable to B'nai Tikvah.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Central NJ/Middlesex (\$30 each)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Central NJ/Monmouth (\$30 each)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other (call for pricing and choices)

# HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

WE'D LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Dr. Harry Frankel  
Susan Turner.

## MAZEL TOV!

December B'nai Mitzvah



Samantha Rudin - December 2  
Sara Koenig - December 9  
Evan Waltzer - December 16  
Elyse Ross - December 23  
Kira Harvey - December 30



### DENTIST

***Dr. Lanny Rubin***

*61 Livingston Avenue  
New Brunswick, N.J.  
(off street parking)*

***732-545-1268***

*I pledge 10% of all dental treatment paid in full to  
be returned to B'nai Tikvah  
in the form of Tzedakah.*



# New Jersey Devils

2000 Stanley Cup Champions



IT'S JEWISH FAMILY NIGHT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEVILS

**Come see the 2000 Stanley Cup Champion  
New Jersey Devils**

**vs.**

**Phoenix Coyotes**

**Sunday, January 7, 2001 - 7:35p.m.**

**Continental Airlines Arena**

**Tickets \$25**

**(Box office price \$48)**

**Second Level Seating - 200s**

Deadline for orders: Wednesday, December 13

(all orders must be RECEIVED by this date)

Order Form (Tear Off)

Send check made payable to: **Cong. B'nai Tikvah**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ @\$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

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25 Village Road  
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08824**

Interested in taking a bus? (circle one) YES NO



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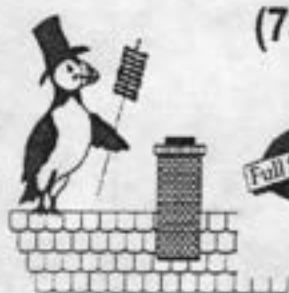
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### NEW YEAR'S SHOPPING

Grocery Store scrip will be  
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on Dec. 31  
from 9-10:30 AM. Please stop by  
to fulfill all your New Year's Eve  
Party needs!

## Discount BROADWAY & OFF BROADWAY TICKETS

B'nai Tikvah Earns Money  
For Each Ticket You Buy!

Contact Ruth at 732/238-7995 for  
available shows, dates & prices  
(be sure to mention B'nai Tikvah  
when ordering)

## SUPERMARKET SCRIP

For home delivery of SCRIP, please call:

Dayton, Deans

Mark Binder (732) 274-2797

Rachel Shaneson (732) 329-2189

Kendall Park

Phyllis Rosen (732) 297-5555

Andrew Ross (732) 422-0637

Kendall Park-Brunswick Acres

Joyce Fishelberg (732) 297-6290

East Brunswick

Bonnie Stevens (732) 967-9560

Franklin Park-Somerset area

Jay Scheuer (732) 940-8473

Monmouth Junction

Linda Feinstein (732) 329-3185

Bette Koffler (732) 329-6518

Rachel Shaneson (732) 329-2189

Monroe, Jamesburg, Cranbury

Sylvia and Erwin Lewis (609) 409-0299

North Brunswick

Ann Rosenzweig (732) 249-9141

Jackie Master (732) 545-8021

Princeton area

Rachel Shaneson (732) 329-2189

**Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
and  
The Highland Park Conservative Temple**

*Are Co-Sponsoring an*  
**ART AUCTION**  
**On Sunday, December 3**  
**7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**  
*Preview begins at 6:00 PM*

Please come to the Highland Park Conservative Temple for this joint fundraiser. Ross Galleries, located in Holbrook, Long Island, will be bringing a wonderful selection of art to choose from. Many famous artists will be represented & prints as well as signed pieces will be offered. Prices start as low as \$50. Dessert and soft drinks will be served. Ticket will be \$10.00 per person. Ordering information and invitations to follow. If you have any questions, please contact Arlene Frumkin at 297-5069.



## HEALTH INSURANCE

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### Schmooze on the News!

A New Discussion Forum at B'nai Tikvah  
Facilitated by Aaron M. Lever

- Join us to discuss and debate:
- Issues in the Jewish Community
  - World News from a Jewish Perspective

When: The 4th Monday of every month  
After minyan, 7:45-9:00 PM  
Next Date: Mon. Dec. 18th  
Location: Classroom #4

Contact: Synagogue Office at 297-0696  
Please RSVP one week in advance.

Next Topic: The American Jewish Community: Where Are We and Where Are We Going?

# ANNOUNCING B'NAI TIKVAH'S NEW RETAIL SCRIP PROGRAM

ATTENTION SHOPPERS – FREQUENT YOUR FAVORITE VENDOR & EARN MONEY FOR B'NAI TIKVAH!

*OVER 50 WELL-KNOWN RETAILERS PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM.*

ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FLIER YOU WILL FIND AN ORDER FORM WHICH LISTS PARTICIPATING VENDORS AND THE PERCENTAGE DISCOUNT (PROFIT) THAT B'NAI TIKVAH RECEIVES FROM EACH. THESE GIFT CERTIFICATES OR CARDS LOOK LIKE THE SAME ONES ISSUED BY THE STORES! USE YOURSELF OR GIVE AS GIFTS!

## **SOME EXCELLENT USES FOR SCRIP:**

- YOU'VE BEEN INVITED TO A BAR/BAT MITZVAH. BUY SOME RETAIL SCRIP AT OLD NAVY OR GAP (TEENAGERS LOVE IT!).
- A FRIEND OR RELATIVE JUST HAD A BABY. BUY SOME RETAIL SCRIP AT TOYS R US OR AT KB TOYS.
- A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IS GETTING MARRIED. BUY SOME RETAIL SCRIP AT POTTERY BARN.
- YOU WANT TO REWARD OR MOTIVATE YOUR EXCELLENT EMPLOYEES? BUY SOME RETAIL SCRIP AT BARNES AND NOBLE OR BORDERS.
- REMEMBER, HANUKAH IS AROUND THE CORNER. ALSO, YOU MAY NEED TO BUY END OF YEAR PRESENTS FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S TEACHERS.

AS YOU CAN SEE, EVERYONE NEEDS TO BUY A GIFT FOR SOMEONE. WHY NOT SHOW SOME ORIGINALITY IN YOUR GIFT GIVING, AND HELP THE SYNAGOGUE AT THE SAME TIME! THE DISCOUNT RATE IS THE PROFIT THAT THE SYNAGOGUE MAKES ON EVERY PURCHASE.

THIS IS THE EASIEST, MOST PAINLESS WAY TO HELP OUR SYNAGOGUE THRIVE. BY PARTICIPATING, YOU PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MAINTAINING THE FACILITIES, PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND SCHOOLS – NOT TO MENTION KEEPING DUES DOWN!

WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING RETAIL SCRIP CURRENTLY IN STOCK:

1. GAP/GAPKIDS/BABYGAP-\$25 DENOMINATIONS
2. OLD NAVY-\$25
3. BARNES AND NOBLE-\$10
4. BATH AND BODY WORKS-\$10
5. HOME DEPOT-\$25
6. MACY'S-\$25

COMPLETE FORM ON THE REVERSE SIDE (SHADED SPACES INDICATE UNAVAILABLE DENOMINATIONS, WHITE SPACES INDICATE AVAILABLE DENOMINATIONS)

FILL OUT SUMMARY AS FOLLOWS

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL AMOUNT ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_

WRITE A CHECK FOR THE FULL AMOUNT DUE PAYABLE TO "B'NAI TIKVAH"

EITHER MAIL FORM & CHECK TO:

RETAIL SCRIP, CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH, 1001 FINNEGAN'S LANE, NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ 08902 (ATTN: ANDY ROSS), OR

PRESENT YOUR ORDER FORM & CHECK TO THE RETAIL SCRIP COMMITTEE AT THE SYNAGOGUE ON A SUNDAY MORNING DURING HEBREW SCHOOL. ORDERS RECEIVED BY SUNDAY WILL BE AVAILABLE THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY AT THE RETAIL SCRIP TABLE OR CALL ANDY FOR DELIVERY.

**If you have any questions, please call Andy at 732/422-0637 or e-mail him at: [adrcpa@aol.com](mailto:adrcpa@aol.com)**

**CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH  
RETAIL SCRIP-ORDER FORM**

RETAILER	Discount (PROFIT)	AVAILABLE \$10	\$25	\$100	OTHER	OTHER AMTS AVAIL.
AMERICAN AIRLINES	18%					\$50
AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS	8%					
AT&T 60 MIN. PREPAID CARD	25%					\$12.50
AUGUST MAX WOMAN	19%					
B. DALTON BOOKSTORES	9%					
BANANA REPUBLIC	9%					
BARNES & NOBLE	10%					
BATH & BODY WORKS	13%					
BEST BUY	2%					\$50
BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO	7%					
BORDERS	8%					
CASUAL CORNER	19%					
CIRCUIT CITY	3%					\$50
CVS PHARMACY	2%					
DICK'S SPORTING GOODS	8%					
EDDIE BAUER	9%					
EXPRESS	13%					
FOOTLOCKER	9%					
GAP/GAPKIDS/BABYGAP	9%					
HOLD EVERYTHING	13%					\$20
HOLLYWOOD VIDEO	18%					\$1
HOME DEPOT	3%					
HYATT HOTELS	9%					
JC PENNEY/ECKERD	5%					
JO-ANN FABRICS	9%					
K MART	3%					\$50
KB TOYS	9%					
LILLIAN VERNON	14%					\$20
LIMITED	9%					
LOEWS CINEPLEX	13%					\$5
LOWE'S	3%					
MACY'S	9%					
MARRIOTT HOTELS	9%					
MARSHALL'S	8%					
OFFICE MAX	4%					
OLD NAVY	9%					
PAYLESS SHOES	13%					\$20
PETITE SOPHISTICATE	19%					
PIER ONE IMPORTS	9%					
POTTERY BARN/WILLIAMS-SONOMA	13%					\$20
SAM GOODY	14%					
SEARS	2%					\$250
SPIEGEL	9%					
STRUCTURE	13%					
SUNCOAST VIDEO	14%					
T.J. MAXX	8%					
TOYS-R-US	3%					
VALUE CITY	9%					
WARNERS BROS. STUDIO STORE	13%					
BP GAS	3.5%					
CITGO GAS	3%					
EXXON	3%					
SHELL OIL	2%					

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

### Yartzeit:

Abbey & Bernard Lorber in memory of Rose Lorber  
 Helene & Mark Chelton in memory of Nathan Weinstein  
 Florence & Herbert Feldman in memory of Sadie Feldman  
 Judith & Allen Cohen in memory of Abraham Schenkman  
 Phyllis & Howard Rich in memory of Dorothy Schneier  
 Barbara & Jeff Leebaw in memory of Milton Frankel  
 Nancy & Barry Kivor in memory of Sam Kivor  
 Susan & Harry Rosenzweig in memory of Lee Zieselman  
 Gladys & Sidney Kalman in memory of Morris Mandel  
 Rose & Milton Kabakoff in memory of Marsha Epstein  
 Arlene & Jerry Shulman in memory of Sid Lichtman  
 Millicent & David Kutliroff in memory of Jerauchine Steinberg and Celia Steinberg

### General Donation

Dorothy Shapiro in memory of Nathan Brown, Roy Brown, Edward Shapiro, Sadie Shapiro, Hyman Shapiro, Florence Abbott  
 Phyllis & Ira Schloss in memory of Martha Schloss  
 Phyllis Alroy in memory of Aileen Alroy  
 Jill Stone in memory of Phyllis Seidman

### Expansion Fund

Gale Dillman in honor of her Aliyah

### Rabbi Discretionary Fund:

The Hass & Granit Family in honor of Rabbi David Eligberg  
 Carole & Howard Kalish in honor of the birth of our grand-daughter Rachel Fay Watman

### Youth Fund:

Marilyn & Steve Breitkoptf in honor of our grandson Caleb William Manheim  
 Renee, Steve, Noah, Benjy & Daniel Levin in memory of Phyllis Seidman  
 Shelley & Steve Talmud in memory of Phyllis Seidman  
 Nitsat Hadas Elami in honor of Aaron Rosloff receiving the Indik award

### Religious School Fund:

Ken & Shelly Wistreich in memory of Phyllis Seidman  
 Abby, Ben, Sarah & Elizabeth Krevsky in honor of Bobbi Binder first Haftorah reading  
Cantor's Discretionary Fund:  
 Ruth Anne Koenick thanks Bobbi Binder, Judy Roller, Arlene Cederbaum, Nancy Danto, Fran Schneider, Jay Scheuer, Brenda Sherman, and Dot Cohen for shopping and preparing the brunch at Simchat Torah.

Ruth Anne Koenick in honor of Molly Jen Herman receiving the honor of Kallat Beresheet  
 Ruth Anne Koenick in honor of Jay Scheuer receiving the honor of Hatan Torah

### Prayer Book Fund:

Ellen & John Missry in memory of Phyllis Seidman  
 Phyllis & Ed Rosen in memory of Jack Kalafer, Lillian Kalafer & Susan Michelle Frank

## 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 Finnegan's 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  
 Prayer book Fund  Social Action Fund  Other \_\_\_\_\_

The import of these cases is to remove from the realm of the religious events, icons and celebrations and transfer them into the secular world. This transformation is an affront to those who hold these powerful religious symbols as sacred by stripping them of their meaning. For Jews and other minority religious groups, it creates tremendous pressure to accept and even embrace these newly defined secular American symbols as an expression of our patriotism. Participation in secular activities such as the annual "Holiday" (read Christmas) party, the public school's "Holiday" concerts and plays, and a myriad of other "neutral" social activities are expected.

Over the years, I have had families come to me to discuss what to do about their child's desire to visit Santa Claus or have a Christmas tree. Not one of these children ever believed that Christmas, Christmas trees, or Santa Claus were anything other than Christian. As one of our students recently remarked in class, "They can call the tree that is put up in our school 'a Giving Tree' or anything else they want to, it's still a Christmas tree."

In its ultimate expression, this secularization of the religious results in a denial of differences. This leads many Christians to consider Judaism to be just another manifestation of Christianity and Hannukah simply the Jewish Christmas.

Our best response is to keep our holiday in its proper perspective. On the Jewish calendar, Hannukah is a minor festival. When we try to make into something more, to keep pace with the swirl around us then we are falling into the trap of the so called "Holiday Season". We celebrated our holiday season - Rosh Hashannah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Shmini Atseret and Simhat Torah - over a month ago. We can look forward to a second season with Pesach and Shavuot in the Spring. We have to make the most of each of our holidays; giving ourselves and our families the fullest and richest religious experience possible.

That does not mean we should ignore Hannukah. On the contrary, let us celebrate it as what it truly represents; a dedication to living Jewishly. Sarah will grow up with the same tradition that I did. She will receive a small gift each night of Hannukah - a Jewish puzzle, a Jewish book, a simple Jewish game - each of them designed to create an opportunity for family interaction.

May the Hannukah lights we kindle reflect our dedication to living authentically as Jews and celebrate our ability to express our beliefs freely.

With blessings,  
Rabbi David M. Eligberg

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## SAVE A LIFE!

On January 7th, 2001, Congregation B'nai Tikvah starts the new century with our Annual Blood Donor Drive, from 11am to 3pm. We closed the last century with fifty-eight people donating 48-pints. We're looking forward to an even better response from our community this drive. We hope to collect fifty or more pints, **with YOUR help!**

While bread is the staff of life, **BLOOD is the stuff of life!** Each time you donate a pint of blood, you give the gift of life to people in desperate need. Becoming a blood donor is a MITZVAH that ought to become part of one's life in early adulthood, and continue through the senior years. And multiple donations each year are the ideal!

The demand for blood is constantly increasing, yet the pool of blood donors doesn't seem to grow in answer to the need. For whatever reason, less than 5% of everyone eligible donates blood. Yet the need for blood grows 1% each year, donations decrease by the same number. We continue to play catch-up! There's still no substitute for human blood.

Think about the following and make a commitment to join us as a donor.

**WHAT GOOD IS A BLOOD DONOR? A BLOOD DONOR IS GOOD FOR:**

- ◆ Somebody with leukemia.
- ◆ People being operated on.
- ◆ Hemophiliacs, so they'll be normal as possible.
- ◆ People undergoing dialysis, while awaiting a transplant.
- ◆ Burn victims
- ◆ New mothers in need of transfusion.
- ◆ Babies needing a complete change of blood supply.
- ◆ Cancer patients.
- ◆ The very tired with severe anemia.
- ◆ And people in a lot worse shape than most of the folks you know!

If you have any questions about donating, or would like to help with our drive, please call Marty Engel at 297-3198.

# Can you have a complete Shabbat Dinner for four for only \$25.00?

*You bet you can . . .*



On Thursday evening December 14 from 7:45-9:00 you can pick up your Shabbat dinner at the synagogue from The Kosher Experience in Shop-Rite of East Windsor. Your dinner will be in the refrigerator with your name on it. You can partake in this wonderful fundraiser by ordering your dinner by December 10.

Basic dinner includes (serves 4):

- Chicken (1 large or 2 small)
- 1 lb. salad
- 1 lb. kugel
- 1 challah

For an addition \$5.00 we will deliver your dinner to your door (or to a friend's house as a special Shabbat gift). North/South Brunswick only (exceptions can be made, please call).

Basic Dinners	_____	X \$25.00	=	_____
Choices: (choose one from each category for each dinner ordered)				
Salad: _____ Potato _____ Cucumber				
_____ Coleslaw _____ Health				
Kugel: _____ Potato _____ Noodle _____ Apple				
Challah: _____ Traditional _____ Raisin _____ Whole Wheat				
Additional Items (available after at least one basic dinner has been ordered)				
Salad: _____ Potato _____ Cucumber	_____	X \$2.75	=	_____
_____ Coleslaw _____ Health				
Kugel: _____ Potato _____ Noodle _____ Apple	_____	X \$ 3.75	=	_____
Challah: _____ Traditional _____ Raisin _____ Whole Wheat	_____	X \$2.75	=	_____
Extra Chicken	_____	X \$7.00	=	_____
Gefilte Fish (4 Slices)	_____	X \$3.00	=	_____
Home Delivery	_____	\$5.00	=	_____
Total Enclosed				_____

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:  
 Sisterhood, B'nai Tikvah  
 Mail to: Theresa Samtur  
 4 Zev Court  
 Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

Use separate sheet for gift instructions

Any questions call Theresa at: 821-8163

## THE PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

By Mitchell Frankin

This past month, for the first time I attended the South Brunswick Community Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service at St. Cecilia Roman Catholic Church. The service, which was well attended, featured presentations by the Clergy from each of the different religious groups in the Township. In addition to the Clergy, who led us in a responsive reading of their choice, we were also entertained by the Crossroads School Vocal Ensemble as well as the Crossroads School Hand Bell Ensemble. Also making a presentation was Dr. Sam Stewart who is South Brunswick's Superintendent of Schools.

A large group of Congregants represented B'nai Tikvah. Additionally, Rabbi Eligberg led us in a reading from the Hebrew Scriptures and Cantor Sered-Lever chanted, in Hebrew, the same scripture which the Rabbi read in English. Our Makela led a prominent part of the service, under the direction of the Cantor. They performed a number of Hymns including Od Yavo Aleinu (Peace May Come to Us) and Amri Shem Nora (Blessed is the Almighty God). Towards the end of the service, all of the Clergy made a prayer in unison for Peace in the Middle East.

The most personal part of the Service were presentations made by a Congregant from each of the different religions regarding what Thanksgiving means to them in their personal lives. The overriding theme of these presentations being how much we all have to be thankful for, but take for granted in our everyday lives.

It was interesting to me that we were told that all of the selected Congregants were over sixty-five. This stood out because it seemed to imply that it is harder to realize what you have to be thankful for when you are younger.

Having thought about this, I have come to realize that this probably is true. When we have kids running around the house and we are working to support our families, we tend to be caught up in what is going on in our day to day activities. We do not take the time to reflect on what we are doing, why we are doing it, and what is important to us. For this reason, if you take anything from this short article, it should be that as we wind down the year 2000, we should all, no matter our age, take a minute to think of what we have to be thankful for. I am sure you will see that these things more than outweigh everything else.



It's time for . . .

The Sisterhood Gift Shop  
HANUKKAH BAZAAR!  
Shop Early! Shop Often!



The store will be open Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>!  
Knock off all your Hanukkah shopping with one stop!

If Gelt's what you need, we have that indeed!  
If a Menorah is what you demand, we have them on hand!  
"Dreidel," you say, we say, "Yellow, Blue or Gray?"  
Okay, maybe not gray but we needed something to rhyme

Come on down and check out our selection!



## Sisterhood Paid up Membership Dinner

*By Bobbi Binder*

On Monday, November 13, 2000, the annual Sisterhood Paid up membership dinner was held at the synagogue. We had 77 women attend this event. The evening ran smoothly, thanks to Membership Co-Vice Presidents Lisa Seidman and Ellie Greenberg. They had help from many people to do the shopping, help set up the tables, clean up afterwards, sell 50/50 tickets, and welcome our guests for the night. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED!!!

Congratulations to our 50/50 winner Ruth Anne Koenick as well as to the 4 winners of our door prize winners, Toby Ehrlich, Michele Millinger, Adrienne Burg-Charwat and Ilene Karp.

After schmoozing for a while, we sat down to enjoy our dinner, which was prepared by our own Evan Bernstein. Have you ever tasted such delicious garlic mashed potatoes? After brownies, ice cream and fruit, the entertainment for the night began. We were all in for a treat as The Hester Street Troupe performed Klezmer, Yiddish and Hebrew songs and told a few jokes and stories. They even got a bunch of us up to dance!!!

A fun time was had by all.

If you haven't yet joined Sisterhood, it is not too late. We currently have 130 members and we will always welcome more. We are always looking for people to help us with our various fundraisers, mailings, events or phone squad. Sisterhood will be running Shabbat services on Saturday, January 20, 2001. There are both Hebrew and English parts available. The only requirement is that you are a member of Sisterhood. Don't want to get up in front of people? We could always use help with the luncheon afterwards, including shopping, cooking, setting up and cleaning up. LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS.

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## HANUKAH GIFT GIVING

*By Rabbi David Eligberg*

The traditional gift for Hanukah was gelt, shiny coins. Gift giving was modest; more elaborate gift exchanges took place on Purim. As a result of the influence in living in a commercialized Christmas-oriented culture, Hanukah presents have become more elaborate. As a result of the increased emphasis on presents, the religious significance of Hanukah has become obscure for many American Jews.

For some families what to do about gifts has become a major concern. I would like to suggest some "presents" of mind - gift-giving suggestions this year that will link our past and present to make an even brighter Jewish future. Each of these gift ideas is based on FUTURE POWER. They are gifts with significance today which will be appreciated even more tomorrow!

- Assemble a family photo album.
- Buy Israel Bonds
- Start a family scrap book
- Expand a Jewish record, tape or book library
- Take a formal family portrait
- Parents: Tape an oral family history as a living legacy for the future.
- Start a coin or stamp collection
- Open a Hanukah Savings Account for a future trip to Israel
- Create a family heirloom by presenting your child(ren) with his/her own Hanukiyah.

Here are some other suggestions for recasting gift giving into a less materialistic context:

1. Have four (4) nights for giving and four (4) nights for receiving. A family discussion might take place on the "giving nights" to decide where the family's Tzedakah money should go.
2. Have one night of Hanukah designated for each family member - gifts should be handmade and that person gets special privileges.
3. Make sure that some of the gifts (especially for children) have Jewish content (books, toys, puzzles, etc.) Many things are available.

*It's coming... Nursery School's*

# *Holiday Gift Bazaar*

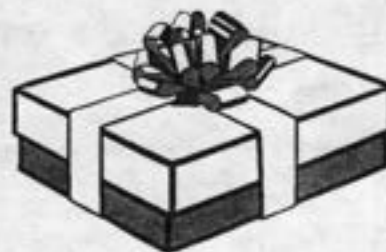
*Show date: Thursday, December 7th, 2000*

*Show time: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM*

*You'll find your holiday gifts  
in one convenient place including:  
personalized gifts - stationary  
children's clothing - women's apparel  
books - jewelery - cosmetics - toys - novelty items*

*And names you can trust like:  
B'nai Tikvah's Sisterhood Gift Shop  
Discovery Toys - Tupperware - Pampered Chef*

*Support our school with  
"One-stop shopping at the Holiday Gift Bazaar"*



# What's New in Jr. Congregation

By Dorothy Cohen, Religious School Committee

Students attaining the following levels of attendance by December 18 are eligible to attend the famous **Jr. Congregation Pizza Party** on **January 7**.

Aleph	3 times
Bet	4 times
Gimel	5 times
Dalet	6 times
Hei	6 times

**Be sure to RSVP** to your invitation when it arrives so we know how much pizza and ice cream to buy (we sure don't want to run out!). Please note: Party for *invited* students only – that is, students who have reached the above milestone by December 18.

You can sponsor a pizza for the party (\$10) by contacting Barry Safeer at [jc@bnaitikvah.org](mailto:jc@bnaitikvah.org) or (732) 422-8543.

There's been many new faces at Jr. Congregation and new parents also. **Thank you parents** for taking the time and interest to participate in our special service with your kids. It certainly is time well spent!

Don't miss out! Come and see what Jr. Congregation is all about!

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Coming soon in 2001...

**Torah Readers Club**  
for Grades 5-6

## REGISTER NOW FOR NURSERY SCHOOL'S MOMMY & ME PROGRAMS

- Monday* - Mom and Tykes (18 - 24 months) 10:15 - 11:15 am  
*Tuesday and Thursday* - Toddler Fun Club (24 - 30 months) 9:30 - 11:00 am  
*Wednesday* - Mom & Tots (12 - 18 months) 10:15 - 11:15 am  
*Friday* - Mom & Tykes (18 - 24 months) 10:15 - 11:15 am  
*Wednesday* - Mom & Babes (3 - 12 months) 9:30 - 11:30 am

*Come join the fun!*

These programs include arts and crafts, music, stories, snack, and free play in a warm and nurturing environment. Comfortable, casual play clothes are worn to class. You and your child will have lots of fun while new friendships are formed.

Please contact Fran Pearlson at 297-0295 to receive a Mommy & Me registration packet or to answer any questions

# Everything you need to know for lighting your chanukiyah

Reprinted in part from *The How To Handbook For Jewish Living* by Kerry M. Olitzky and Ronald H. Isaacs published by KTAV Publishing House Inc., Hoboken NJ.

Place one new candle in the chanukiyah for each night of Chanukah, increasing one candle per night (plus the shamash). Candles should be placed from right to left. Say the following blessings first. Then light the shamash first and use it to light from left to right.

On each night:

ברוך אתה ד' אלהינו מלך העולם,  
אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של תענה.

*Baruch atah Adonai elohaynu melech ha'olam  
ahser kidishanu bemitzvotav vetzivanu lehadlik ner  
shel Chanukah.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has made us holy by mitzvot and instructed us to light the Chanukah candles.

On each night:

ברוך אתה ד' אלהינו מלך העולם,  
שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

*Baruch atah Adonai elohaynu melech ha'olam  
she'asah nisim lavotaynu bayamim hahaym  
bazman hazeh.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who performed miracles for our ancestors at this season in ancient days.

On the first night only:

ברוך אתה ד' אלהינו מלך העולם,  
שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

*Baruch atah Adonai elohaynu melech ha'olam she-  
hecheyanu vekimanu vehigeyanu lazman hazeh.*








Praised are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has given us life, sustained us, and helped us to reach this day.

After you have lit the candles, read the following prayer called *Hanerot Hallalu*.

הנרות הללו אנו מעליקין על הנסים ועל המצוות והנחיות  
האלהיים ועל המלחמות שעשייתם לאבותינו בימים ההם  
בזמן הזה על ידי בניגודי הקדושים וקל-שמעו ימי וצנה  
הנרות הללו קדש הם, ואין לנו רשות להשתמש בהם אלא  
לראותם בלבד, בני להודות ולהלל לשמך הגדול, על נסיד  
ועל נפלאותיך ועל ישועתך.

In order to recall the miracles and wonders that You performed for our ancestors through the agency of holy priests, we kindle these lights. We hold these flames sacred throughout the eight-day Chanukah period; we shall not make any profane use of them. Instead, we will simply look at them so that we may recall Your reputation as a God who makes miracles, does wonders, and delivers our people.

## Remember:

-  Load from the right; light from the left.
-  Place your chanukiyah in the window nearest the street so all can see.
-  Candle holders in traditional chanukiyot are all on the same level, with a higher or separate shamash.
-  On Shabbat Chanukah (December 22<sup>nd</sup> and December 29<sup>th</sup>), light the Chanukah candles before you light the Shabbat candles. Candle lighting should be at 4:17 and 4:23 PM respectively.
-  Light your candles after nightfall but early enough so that people can see them.
-  At the end of Shabbat Chanukah (December 23<sup>rd</sup>), do Havdalah first and then light the Chanukah candles.
-  Don't use the lights of Chanukah for practical purposes, like reading.

# LIGHT UP THE B'NAI TIKVAH RELIGIOUS SCHOOL WALL OF FLAME



Put your name on a flame.  
Put your handle on a candle.

See your name in lights this Chanukah.

For only a dollar each, you can buy paper flames for every member of your family (Including grandparents, aunts & uncles, pets - you name it!)

Or, for 18 big ones, you can buy a whole paper candle for your group.

Anyway you choose, you are warming up to a great cause - your Religious School.

Please order your flames and/or candles by December 17. Then visit our school during Chanukah, to see your name in lights on our magnificent Religious School Menorah.

**BUY A CANDLE!**

**BUY SOME FLAMES!**

**FIRE UP THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL MENORAH  
WITH CHANUKAH CHAPPINESS!**

### Religious School Menorah

We would like \_\_\_\_\_ flames at \$1 each with the following names on them (limit one name per flame): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We would like \_\_\_\_\_ Candles at \$18 each with the following names(s) on them:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete, detach, and send to the religious school office.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

## Israeli Student Exchange Program

Got any plans for this year's spring break? Well, cancel them because, this spring, North/South Brunswick USY will be hosting 16 Israeli students in an exchange program lasting two weeks! Together, the students and USYers will engage in trips and activities that provide entertainment and a deeper look into the heart of a culture that all participants study intensely. It is our hope that this initial program becomes the first of many, allowing USY to host students from Israel while propelling forward the idea of travelling to Israel in exchange.

The Israeli students will arrive at B'nai Tikvah on Friday, March 30, and stay until Sunday, April 1. Then, they will depart to Niagara Falls and Washington D.C., where they will stay until Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, when they will return to North/South Brunswick. The students will spend the nights of Pesach (Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>) with their host families, as well as attend Friday night and Saturday morning services at B'nai Tikvah during their stay. Activities planned for the week of Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> include: a trip to the Liberty Science Center, and day trips to both New York City and Philadelphia.

While this program is just being lifted off the ground, we, as a USY chapter, hope it will be an enormous success. We ask for your support, help and participation as a congregation so that this program may become the spark in a new series of events that will build an even stronger cultural relationship with Israel.

Since students will stay with the families of either a USYer or a temple member, any volunteers willing to house students are welcome. Also, if anyone is familiar with the Philadelphia or Niagara Falls regions, and/or Washington, D.C., would like to chaperone an event, or help prepare Kosher for Passover meals, please call either Craig or Candace Botnick at 940-8463, Maya Behar at 422-1495, or Caren Abschutz at 329-0018. Thank you, we appreciate your help!

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### USY REMINDER

Don't be confused when it's Purim in December at USY's December 14<sup>th</sup> Switch-up, Mix-up meeting. See you at 7:15! Look for USY's Winter/Spring Calendar in upcoming issues of HaKol.

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### THE STORY OF HANNUKAH IN BRIEF

Reprinted from Siddur Sim Shalom.

After the return of the Jews from their exile in Babylon, they succeeded in reestablishing themselves in Palestine under the wise leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah. Under the rule of the Persians and later the invincible Greeks led by Alexander the Great, the Jews were permitted to live in peace and happiness although subject to foreign rule. When Alexander died, his empire was divided and Israel became part of the kingdom of Syria.

About the year 175 B.C.E., a new king, Antiochus Epiphanes, ascended the throne of Syria and, urged on by Hellenized Jews, attempted to force the Jews of Palestine to abandon their religion and language, to accept the Greek idols and Greek language instead. When the Jewish people resisted, Syrian soldiers were sent to enforce the King's orders, even venturing into the Temple in Jerusalem to set up idols and to offer pagan sacrifices on the sacred altar. Resistance brought martyrdom to many Jews including the aged sage Eliezer, who was killed when he refused to eat swine meat; and the Jewish woman Hannah who lost her seven sons when they refused to bow to idols.

Open revolt against this savagery began in the town Modi'in when an old priest named Mattiyahu and his five sons broke up an attempt to enforce idol sacrifices, and with the slogan "Whoever is for the Lord, follow me!", scattered the king's soldiers and then fled to the hills. Around this family of Maccabees grew up a company of fearless patriotic men who waged guerrilla warfare from the caves in the mountains. When the aged Mattiyahu died leaving leadership to his son Judah Maccabee, warfare was taken into the open in a series of successful battles with the great victory of Emmaus. The Syrian armies were routed. Right had won out against brute might. The powerful kingdom of Syria had to recognize the independence of the little state of Judea. The walls of the city of Jerusalem were repaired, the holy Temple was cleansed and rededicated to the worship of God, and peace and order were restored to the land.

The story is told that at the rededication of the Temple, no pure oil could be found with which to light the great seven-branched Menorah. At last a little cruse of holy oil was found in the corner of the Temple. Miraculously this oil burned eight days instead of the short time expected. To remember the brave Maccabean family, their heroic struggle for freedom against tyranny, the feast of Hanukkah (dedication) is celebrated beginning on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the Hebrew month Kislev and candles are lit for eight days.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President	Mitchell Frumkin	297-5069
VP, Administration	Arie Behar	422-1495
VP, School & Youth	Kim Riemann	940-4066
VP, Ways & Means	Jodi Marcou	422-6628
VP, Activities	Ben Shapiro	940-9229
Financial Secretary	Gary Tinkel	545-1135
Recording Secretary	Adrienne Ross	422-0637
Treasurer	Marc Dillman	821-7392
Asst. Treasurer	Harold	254-4909
Past President	Mark Kasdin	274-2897

## Trustees —

Janice Baer	940-0268
Gary Bergman	246-7285
Sheree Berk	422-7146
Harvey Finklestein	609-860-9338
Ann Gold	609-409-0668
Stephen Gordon	821-4750
Ron Harkov	874-7159
Jerry Kaminsky	297-3766
Bruce Rockman	422-0963
Keith Zimmerman	398-1420

## Voting

### Representatives

50 Plus Group	Jay Scheuer	940-8473
Men's Club	Gerry Edley	821-6237
Sisterhood	Libbie Marx	297-2055

# Committees, Groups & Staff

Rabbi	David Eligberg	297-0696
Hazzan	Jodi Sered-Lever	297-0696
Synagogue Administrator	Nitsat Hadas Elami	297-0696
Administrative Assistant		297-0696
Religious School Principal	Ann Kanarek	297-0295
Nursery School Director	Fran Pearlson	297-0295
Summer Camp	TBA	297-6175
Special Financial Arrangements/Dues	Gary Tinkel	545-1135
Junior Congregation	Barry Safeer	422-8543
HaKol Editor	Kim Riemann	940-4066
HaKol Advertising	Tammy Zimmerman	398-1420
Publicity	Bette Koffler	329-6518
Kiddushes & Onegs	Nitsat Hadas Elami	297-0696
Men's Club	Gerry Edley	821-6237
President		
Sisterhood President	Bobbi Binder	274-2797
Kadima Advisor	Leora Trub	
U.S.Y. Advisors	Craig & Candace Botnick	940-8463
Couples Club	Nadine Weg	329-1359
Fifty Plus Group	Blanche Fruhling	297-0272
Makelah Choral Group	Cheryl Asnis	297-5379
New Beginnings	Jeanette Bergelson	246-1393
Yahrzeit Plaques	Nitsat Hadas Elami	297-0696
Cemetery	Millie Kutliroff	329-6661
Israel Bonds	Larry Cohen	821-4376
	Alan Kane	418-1913
Membership	Sheree Berk	422-7146
College Committee	Marcy Finkelstein	
Ritual Committee	Bruce Rockman	422-0963
Torah Lishmah	TBA	
Adult Education		
Youth Committee	Marcia Schwartz	297-6365
Religious School	Janice Baer	940-0268
Chairs	Lisa Tannenbaum	422-1340
Passport to Israel	Bette Koffler	329-6518
Feedback Committee	Marty Abschutz	329-0018
Scrip Committee	Rachel Shaneson	329-2189
Interiors	Jennifer Shapiro	940-9229
Programs	Ann Gold	609-409-0668
	Linda Kohn	297-7025

## HAKOL DEADLINE

The next HaKol deadline is **December 15th**. I look forward to hearing from you. It will be distributed by **January 3**. You can leave articles in the HaKol mailbox in the synagogue office or e-mail them to [HaKol@aol.com](mailto:HaKol@aol.com).

### 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.*

All phone numbers are area code 732 unless otherwise indicated

# B'NAI TIKVAH UPCOMING CALENDAR

## DECEMBER

- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Candle Lighting 4:14  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sisterhood Chanukah Bazaar, Hei Class Talit Making Workshop  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Hebrew Literacy Level I – Evening Class  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Jewish Foundation: Jewish Holidays – Evening Class, Ethics: The Final Frontier – Evening Class  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Nursery School Chanukah Bazaar  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Candle Lighting 4:14  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Men's Club Bowling  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Men's Club Meeting, Chai School Program  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> 50+ Board Meeting, Hebrew Literacy Level I – Evening Class  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Jewish Foundation: Jewish Holidays – Evening Class, Ethics: The Final Frontier – Evening Class, New Beginnings  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> USY Meeting, School Board Meeting.  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Candle Lighting 4:15, Family Shabbat Service & Hanukah Hootenany  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Religious School Chanukah Program, Sisterhood General Meeting, Chai School Breakfast with the Rabbi  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Shmooze on the News, Sisterhood Board Meeting  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Hebrew Literacy Level I – Evening Class  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Jewish Foundation: Jewish Holidays – Evening Class, Ethics: The Final Frontier – Evening Class  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Candle Lighting 4:19  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL – Winter Break  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Synagogue's Offices and Schools are closed  
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 50+ General Meeting  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Candle Lighting 4:22  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, New Year's Eve Party

## January

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Synagogue's Offices and Schools are closed  
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> RELIGIOUS SCHOOL RESUMES, Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Torah Lishma  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> USY Meeting  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Candle Lighting 4:27  
Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Religious School – Kindergarten PACT, Blood Drive, Concert – Visions  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> 50+ Board Meeting  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> New Beginnings, Torah Lishma  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Candle Lighting 4:35  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Men's Club Bowling – Evening Event



Mr. & Mrs. Gary Bergman  
14 Hickory Lane  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

HaKol the Voice of  
CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH  
1001 FINNEGAN'S LANE  
NORTH BRUNSWICK, NJ 08902