# HAKOL

# THE VOICE OF CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

Volume 22, Issue 09

May 2001 -Iyar/Sivan 5761

#### 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.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE 1 Expansion Update 3 Hazzan's Voice, USY Schedule 4 Religious School Report 6 B'nai Tikvah Bulletin Board, Another Viewpoint 8 Sisterhood 9 Men's Club 10 Graduating Class 2001 11 Bond Breakfast, B'nai Mitzvah 12 White Water Rafting Info 13 Book club, 50 Plus 15 Refaeinu 17 Lag B'Omer BBQ 18 Refaeinu 19 Contributions 20 Nursery School News 21 College Committee Update 22 Genetic Screening, New Beginnings 24 Congregant Corner 25

President's Podium

# **Expansion Update**

By Mark Kasdin

It's my pleasure to inform you that the North Brunswick officials unanimously approved our expansion plan on Thursday April 19th! This positive development clears a major hurdle. Before I discuss the details of the hearing, I'd like to thank the following individuals for joining us there: Rabbi Eligberg, Jeff Schwartz, Arie Behar, Marcy and Marty Abschutz, Jeff Cadoff, Joel Gerbman and Irwin Millinger.

Our well-prepared attorney, Les Lefkowitz made an outstanding presentation on our behalf. He called on Mitch Frumkin as our first expert witness. Mitch detailed all aspects of the history of our congregation, the changing demographics and the proposed expansion including parking and peak usage data.

The Kipcon engineer and also our architect, Mike Soriano, testified next. They spoke clearly and detailed our exciting plans to the gathering. Mike Soriano successfully addressed the North Brunswick officials' concerns regarding life safety exits from the multi-purpose room. At the hearing, we agreed to expand our "handicapped" parking spots to agree with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) code.

At the end of the evening (about 11:20PM), I spoke to several North Brunswick Planning Board members and thanked them for their support. The consensus among the Board members was that this is a wonderful project and they wished us success! Interestingly, some of these individuals have been to parties at the synagogue, catered by Classical Caterers. One individual told me that they've planned the North Brunswick Republican Club dinner to be held at BT/Classical Caterers in a few weeks. The chair of the Planning Board described our catering capabilities as one of the "hidden treasures" of North Brunswick.

At this time, I'd like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of both Mitch Frumkin and Arie Behar. They have been the "point men" and made sure that we dotted our I's and crossed our I's so that our expansion proposal would have minimal problems getting through this phase of approval.

I'd also like to thank Les Lefkowitz who not only did a great job but also informed us after the proceedings that he would not be submitting any billing beyond his retainer fee. He enjoyed working with us and considers the bulk of his time spent in the legal preparation and the five hours at the hearing as a fulfillment of a personal commitment to the Jewish community of North and South Brunswick. What a wonderful sentiment!



We've changed the name !

PETER KUKER REAL ESTATE
is now ...
KUKER & KESSLER
REAL ESTATE

We are still the same group of Real Estate professionals available to serve all of your real estate needs! Ready to move?

Call today for a no-cost, no-obligation home market analysis.

PETER KUKER

JON KESSLER

732-297-8282

3031 ROUTE 27

FRANKLIN PARK,

N.J. 08823

Anniversaries

Birthdays

# **Graduations**

Want to mark that special occasion?

Why not sponsor a Kiddush or Oneg Shabbat?

For Information please call Tammy Zimmerman at: (732) 398-1420

Namings

Cest: \$136 each\*
\*Ce-sponsoring available

. Just Because

# HAZZAN'S VOICE

Bv Hazzan Jodi Sered-Lever

Dear Friends,

Soon we will celebrate the festival of Shavuot. It is Matan Toratainu, the time when we rejoice in receiving the gift that is our Torah. Shavuot is connected with the revelation at Mount Sinai-the story in which our ancestors received the Torah. At this sacred time, God's presence was revealed to the people of

In our rich tradition, we have not only the story of the revelation as it appears in the Torah, but we also have many midrashim to expand on it. A midrash is an interpretive story about a story in the Torah. The midrash I will share is adapted from The Classic Tales: 4,000 Years of Jewish Lore by Ellen Frankel:

Even though the people of Israel were eager to accept the Torah, still God hesitated to give it to them.

"Bring Me guarantors who will assure Me that you will observe it, and then I will give you My Torah."

And the people said, "Our ancestors will be our guarantors."

But God rejected their claim. "Your ancestors are in My debt. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all sinned in some way and lost faith in Me. No, they will not do as guarantors."

So the people said, "Our prophets will be our guarantors."

But God rejected these as well. "No, your prophets will fail Me, too. 'Like foxes in the desert' they will become. Have you no one else to be your guarantors?"

And the people said, "We will give You our children as our guarantors."

Then God smiled and said, "These are good guarantors!"

Then the mothers brought their babies cradled in their arms and the pregnant women came, too. And God made the bellies of the pregnant women as transparent as glass and spoke to the children in the womb.

"Behold, I am giving your parents My Torah. Will you guarantee that they will keep it?"

And the babies answered, "Yes!" Then God said, "I am your God." And they answered, "Yes!" "You shall have no other gods but Me." "No other!"

And they answered each commandment with a resounding "Yes!" and each prohibition with a firm "No!"

Then God gave the Torah to their parents.

Our children represent the innocence and purity of the world. We commit ourselves to Jewish continuity through the education of our children in the classroom, in the sanctuary, and in our homes. Our children are our guarantors that Judaism will continue to thrive. Each child that I teach is a priceless treasure to our people. I am privileged to have the opportunity to be a part of this process.

Best wishes to all of you for a joyous and meaningful Shavuot.

B'shalom. Hazzan Jodi M. Sered-Lever

# 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)

Orthopaedic Institute of Sports Medicine

#### Fredric A. Kleinbart, M.D. **Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon**

Specializing in Arthroscopic Surgery

Sports Medicine Knee & Shoulder Reconstruction Peclatric Orthopaedics

303 George Street New Brunswick, NJ 08901 732-247-3667

One Woodbridge Ctr. Drive Woodbridge, NJ 07095 732-726-3311

Thursday, May 10
6:45 - 9:00

Saturday May 19

Hagalil Region Closing
Dance. RSVP by May 14.

Thursday, May 24
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Sunday, June 10
9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Bagels, Elections and
GREAT ADVENTURE.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORTS

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

## ABOUT SHAVUOT

Shavuot, like so many other Jewish holidays, began as an ancient agricultural festival. In biblical times, it marked the end of the Spring barley harvest and the beginning of the Summer wheat harvest. As with our other two Jewish "pilgrimage festivals," Pesach and Sukkot, Shavuot was distinguished by the bringing of crop offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem. Reflecting the original nature of the festival, the Torah refers to it as Chag Hakatzir (Festival of the Harvest), Yom Habikurim (Day of First Fruits), and Chag Hashavuot (Festival of Weeks).

Shavuot is also the Festival of the Giving of the Torah, Z'man Matan Toratainu. It is customary on Shavuot to read the section of Torah containing the Ten Commandments and the Book of Ruth.

The Book of Ruth is read on Shavuot for two reasons. First and most obviously, the story occurs during the summer harvest. Second, the book reminds us of our responsibility to Judaism. If Ruth, a convert, could be so committed to Judaism in spite of many obstacles, we too should find a continual source of blessing in our tradition.

Continuing a practice begun by mystics of the sixteenth century, many Jews stay up all night on Shavuot. They read from a special volume containing sections from the beginning and end of every book in the Bible and Mishnah. This custom, *Tikun Leil Shavuot*, symbolizes commitment to Torah. As part of our observance today, we should include a time for the study of a few, selected Jewish texts.

# SHAVUOT GRADUATION SERVICES FOR OUR "CHAI" SCHOOL AND OUR HEI (7th Grade) STUDENTS

TUESDAY, MAY 29, 7:30 PM

#### "CHAI" GRADUATION

This year, on Shavuot, Tuesday, May 29, our eleventh graders will stand together before the Congregation to affirm their commitment to the study, observance, and practice of our tradition. Since Jewish education is based on Torah, it is fitting that this year's Chai School graduation will take place on Shavuot. The students will affirm Torah and make it their personal possession all the days of their lives. Our graduates will lead a creative service that they have prepared. This promises to be a very special service and memorable experience. We hope that many of you will join us as we congratulate this year's graduating class. A special Oneg Chag in honor of our students will follow in the Social Hall.

We offer Mazal Tov to this year's "CHAI" School graduates:

Scott Edley Tzvi Heit Ian Schwartz Jason Surks

We look forward to seeing them continue their activity in Temple life.

#### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REMINDERS:

Sunday, May 6: CHAI SCHOOL ORIENTATION for HEI STUDENTS AND PARENTS, 11:45 AM.

Sunday, May 13: GIMEL CLASS MOCK WEDDING CEREMONY, 11:30 AM:

Friday, May 18: ALEF CLASS HAGIGAT HASIDDUR, 7:00PM-8:00PM. (A one hour special service/program)

Sunday, May 20: LAST DAY OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Tuesday, May 29: HEI CLASS SIYUM/CHAI SCHOOL GRADUATION, 7:30pm

Religious School Report continued on facing page

# Hei Class Siyum (7th Grade Class Commencement) Service

On Tuesday, May 29, we will have an opportunity to celebrate with our Hei class at their siyum service. This special service marks the completion of one segment of our students' Jewish education here at B'NAI TIKVAH, and the beginning of another, the CHAI School program.

This is an exciting event for which our seventh graders have been eagerly working. As a culmination of their studies, students will be sharing Jewish rituals and traditions that are particularly meaningful to them. The theme this year is how we learn and live Judaism. Their play, "Bringing Torah To Life," beautifully explains how Judaism enriches our lives.

Please join us as our hei students graduate from Hebrew School and share their service with the congregation.

Congregation B'NAI TIKVAH
extends heartfelt good wishes
to the members of the 2001 Religious School Hei (7th grade) Class

# THANKS FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR

As the school year winds down, it is gratifying to look back at all that our students have learned and accomplished. It is thanks to our devoted group of teachers that all of our students have had such a successful year.

Teaching is crucial to the Jewish future and without our teachers Judaism would quickly evaporate. As we mark

the end of the school year, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of our staff. Many thanks to our esteemed faculty:

Jodi Brenner Sara Chvala Joel E. Cohen Phyllis Edley Rabbi David M. Eligberg Gina Giuffre

Marlo Hirshon Loren Hurwitz Andrew Kanarek David Kanarek Noah Krug Marshall Lesack Rebecca Leventhal Aaron Mizrahi Melanie Rodgers Cantor Jodi Sered-Lever

Valerie Titus
Ora Topiol
Kfir Weinraub
Tamar Wiener
Carol Winter
Miriam Ziegler



On behalf of the faculty and school, I would like to thank the parents for all your support and help throughout the year, and, most especially, for giving us the pleasure of working with your children.

Thank you to Vice President of School and Youth, Kim Riemann and Religious Education Co-Chairpersons, Janice Baer and Lisa Tannenbaum and their committee for their encouragement and efforts all year. Many thanks to all the subcommittees for helping us to make our Shabbat dinners and other holiday celebrations special.

Religious School Report continued on page 11

# **B'NAI TIKVAH BULLETIN BOARD**

# ISRAEL BONDS



rael Bonds Current Investment Rates Call 800-752-5652

Zero Coupon Bond is 6.65% Variable Rate Bond is 6.85% Floating Rate Bond is 7.00% Chai Bond is \$136

Call State of Israel Bonds at 732-828-0200

# Bar Mitzvah Project

For Matthew's Bar Mitzvah project, the Katz family will be collecting media items for the Cancer Institute of New Jersey. These will include new to near new books and magazines, video tapes and audio tapes for adults. We will also be collecting the same items for children. We may be contacted at (732) 329-0687 and items may be left in the box outside the synagogue office. Thank you for helping a worthy cause.





#### ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

By Aaron Rosloff

Saving Face

There is the old story about the small town Rabbi in Poland who is asked to adjudicate a claim between two litigants. In those days, part of the Rabbi's income was derived from the fees that the loser of a dispute paid the Rabbi.

So the first man states his case, the Rabbi says that he is right and the man leaves. The second man protests that he has not had a chance to rebut the first man. So the Rabbi lets him state his case and again the Rabbi says that he is right and the second man leaves without paying.

The Rebbetzin, who has been standing with her ear to the door hoping the Rabbi will give her a few groshen to buy a chicken for Shabbos, storms into his study and berates him. "If the first one is right and the second one is right, so who will pay the Rabbi?" The dejected old Rabbi drops his eyes and says, "You're right too."

The point of my story is that everyone wants to be right. The Orientals call it saving face, and the result can lead to petty scrapping and stalemate. If the devil is in the details, his disciples cause the mischief by creating dissention in the ranks. There is no progress without compromise and cooperation. It takes strength to hold your position, but some times on has to be even stronger to step back and try another's ideas. Saving face can be expensive, especially when it slows progress.

Guys and Dolls of the B'nai Tikvah Board and Committees, don't lose your momentum. The only face you have to face is the face you face in the mirror.

# New Jersey PERFORMING ARTS CENTER The Jewish Community Advisory Council is pleased to announce their second NJPAC Partnership.

Enjoy free music and a drink at Absolut Sounds of the City prior to the performance when you attend



# RAGTIME-The Musical

THUR MAY 31 AT 7:30 PM 1 PRUDENTIAL HALL

defining musical for the end of the American Century." Based on the best-selling novel by E.L. Doctorow, Raginesells the epic story of three families at the turn of the twentieth century – a Jewish immigrant from Latria who decans dramatically intertwined with one another and with the historical characters and events of the period, as the action of prosperity in a new country, an African American who longs for a life of equality for his family, and an upper-middle class wife who dreams to move beyond the confines of her structured existence. Their lives become The Los Angeles Times called four-time Tany Award-winning musical Raptime "almost too good to be true... a moves through such varied settings as Ellis Island, Manhattan's Lower East Side and Harlem.

P A 8 C Regular Price: \$ 42-60 42-60 54-60 J2-60 Discount Price: \$ 52.50 52.50 43.50 37.50 Ticket prices include a benerage at Absolut Sounds of the City or during intermission. Sounds of the City begins at Spm. Softe and secure surface parking is available for \$10 to \$15. TO ORDER TICKETS FOR THIS PERFORMANCE, PLEASE MAIL OR FAX THIS ORDER FORM TO: The synagogue's Office

# JEWISH COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL ORDER FORM NAME ORDER FORM NAME ORDER FORM NAME ORDER FORM NAME ORDER FORM ORDER FAX ( ) FA

CHARGOS AT CONTROL CONTROL CONTROL CONTROL CARD NUMBERS C

NAME ON CARD (p

IONIATURE OF CARDINOLDER

(pisoss pri

NJPAC

# Sisterhood Sizzles

# Coming Soon...

May 24 Thursday – Shabbat Arts & Crafts 8:00pm

Watch for Information on Sisterhood Installation...

#### 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.

## GOING TO THE CLEANERS?

You already go to the cleaners. Why not go to one that pays off for the Sisterhood? Use Gallery Cleaners (in Hempstead Plaza, 2015 Route 27. Across from Hidden Lake) or Absolutely Cleaners (Liberty Square Shopping Center in Dayton). Gallery cleaners donates over 10% of the total receipts! 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!

# **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.

SPECIALIZING IN WATER HEATERS KITCHEN & BATH REMODELING APPLIANCE HOOKUPS

# PARK ACRES PLUMBING & HEATING

INSTALLATIONS AND REPAIR

HAROLD SMALL LIC. NO. 5648 15 Paul Avenue Kendali Park, NJ 08824 (732) 297-7538

#### GIFT SHOP

Lots of wonderful new items available — come in and browse. Open most Sundays from 9 — Noon, or contact Deborah Spigner (545-8457) and Teresa Samtur (821-8163) for all your Judaica needs

## 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 tgshr18@yahoo.com or call her at 732-329-1082 with all the information, its easy.

#### **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.

# **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

Don't forget to bring in your Box Tops for Education and drop them off in the school wing.



By Appointment

# DR. STEVEN B. DICKERT

CHIROPRACTOR

58 Wetherhill Way (Corner Georges Road) Dayton, N.J. 08810 (730) 339-2355 176 Hart Boulevard (Corner Forest Avenue) States Island, N.Y. 10301 (718) 951-4900

# Men's Club

Our May meeting is moving to May 6<sup>th</sup>, because May 13<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day. All Men's Club members are encouraged to spend the second Sunday in May pampering all the mothers in their lives.

# Join us on May 6th as we welcome

# Dave Kaplan

Dave Kaplan is executive director of the Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center, a nonprofit sports education entity on the campus of Montclair State University. Founded in 1998, the Museum's mission is to highlight the history of baseball, while reflecting the lifelong commitment of Yogi Berra to the education of young people.

The Museum offers culturally diverse, educational programming, conferences and rotating exhibits that enhance public awareness of sport and its role in society.

Mr. Kaplan, a resident of Montclair, is a founding member of the Museum. Prior to that he was a reporter and editor, having worked at the Associated Press and New York Daily News.

He also collaborated with Yogi Berra on the book, "When You Come To A Fork In The Road, Take It! Inspiration and Wisdom from One of Baseball's Greatest Heroes," which will be available in bookstores in May.

Mr. Kaplan will be regaling us with his stories of baseball and of Yogi!

Our famous bagels-and-lox breakfast starts at 10:00 AM, our speaker will start at 10:30 AM. Please let us know you will be coming by calling Mark Sherman (732.940.1110) or Danny Greenberg (732.297.3780).



# Congregation B'nai Tikvah Announces the Graduating Class of 2001



Members of the congregation who wish to make a contribution to honor individual graduates or the entire graduating class are asked to do so by completing this form. A card will be sent to the individual graduates. Please check the name(s) and also a fund.

#### HEI CLASS GRADUATES

e
rd
Brad
1
-

#### CHAI SCHOOL GRADUATES

{ } Scott Edley, son of Phyllis & Gerald	{ } Ian Schwartz, son of Marcia & Jeffrey
{ } Tzvi Heit, son of Meryl & Gordon	( ) Jason Surks, son of Linda & Mark

#### **FUNDS**

{ } Religious Schoool Education Fund: K-Chai School Special Programs: Jewish authors, artists, storytellers, musicians, Holocaust speakers, etc. { } Passport to Israel { } Youth Fund

Please make your check out to: Congregation B'nai Tikvah 1001 Finnegan's Lane North Brunswick, NJ 08902



Please save the date for our

# **Annual Israel Bond Breakfast**



Sunday, June 3, 2001 10:00 AM Congregation B'nai Tikvah

Honoring
Mark and Maxine Kasdin



Please show your support for our valued friends of the our community and supporters of Israel

Religious School Report continued from page 5

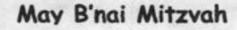
#### THANK YOU TO OUR CHAI SCHOOL TEENS

The Toranim (our High School aides) have been excellent role models for our younger children. You can find them around on a Sunday morning or midweek afternoons either in the school Office or in a classroom. They have been a wonderful asset to our staff, helping in every capacity. I am really proud of the high level of commitment demonstrated by these fine young people. Despite the complexities of their busy schedules, its wonderful to see how seriously our Toranim take their roles in our school. Our Toranim provide our Congregation with a genuine source of pride and joy. This year's Toranim are:

Caren Abschutz Emily Alpert Joshua Baer Leah Behar Maya Behar Audrey Levine

Matthew Biderman Hannah Ehrlich Mara Gittleman Lewls Goldsmith Sara Goldstein Adam Zell Jessica Halpem Gabriel Harkov Brian Hirsh Stacy Kasdin Sari Kaufman Gary Marx Samantha Rudin Shane Spigner Alyssa Tannenbaum Rachel Wolf

# MAZEL TOV!





Jennifer Bavati - May 5 Ilana Katronetsky - May 12 Allison Schwartz - May 19 Julie Stevens - May 26





# VHITEWATER RAFTING



Questions?

Call Jennifer Shapiro

732-940-9229

Registration Deadline May 20th

Date: Sunday, June 10

Time: Meet at 10:00 AM at Matamoras

Base

Cost \$27.00 per person

# Bring your lunch 25 person minimum

#### TO MATAMORAS BASE

FROM NY & NJ: 80W to NJ Eet 34B, 15N to Rt. 206N, across from Milford Bridge, 209N through vitages of Milford & Matamoras\* turn left on Delaware Drive Just before silver bridge. 21/4 miles on right, look for gray building. Travel time 2 1/4 hours.
FROM POCONOS: 80E to ext 52, 209N approx. 40 miles to vitage of Matamoras, follow\* above.
FROM RT. 23: Rt 23N to I-84W. Ext 11, Matamoras.
Right on 209N thru Matamoras follow\* from above.
From I-84: I-84 to Ext 11, Matamoras. Take 209N from\* above.

#### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

#### When are you open?

Depending upon river and weather conditions, we are open mid-April through October. Bases open at 8 a.m. weekends and 9 a.m. weekdays, Memorial Day through Labor Day. Call for early and late season hours and to find out which bases are staffed.

#### How are Summer Water Levels?

The Delaware has a consistent minimum flow of at least 1,750 cubic feet per second daily. This is regulated by releases from 5 reservoirs. Therefore, we have whitewater all summer long.

#### Do I need experience or a guide?

Experience and guides are not required. Everyone gets pretrip instructions and a river orientation. We offer calm water or whitewater trips. Guides are available for a fee.

## What should I wear and bring?

Bathing suits or shorts for warm weather, wool, and windbreaker in cool weather. Wetsuit and booties rental are available when water is cold - call for prices. Wear river shoes or old sneakers and bring a poncho and a dry change of clothing. Don't forget a picnic lunch and non-alcoholic beverages (there's room for small coolers in canoes and rafts), sunscreen, hat, waterproof bags or containers for personal items, litterbag, and string to tie things in. Please don't bring valuable items or glass containers.

# Are alcoholic beverages allowed on the river?

Alcohol is limited to three 12oz. Cans of beer per day per person, 21 or older. No hard liquor or glass containers of any kind are permitted. All coolers and containers going into boats will be checked. Anyone who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be allowed on the river. Anyone on the river who appears to be intoxicated is subject to arrest and removal without refund. Your cooperation will enable you to safely enjoy the scenic Delaware and to help keep it clean.

#### Are there age limits?

People of almost any age can enjoy a Kittatinny river adventure; however, children must be at least 4 years old and able to swim. They must also weigh at least 40 pounds to be properly fitted with a life vest.

# BOOK CLUB

Our next meeting is June 5 in the Synagogue Library at 8:00 PM. We will discuss Jew vs. Jew by Samuel Freedman. From the publisher: at a time when American Jews should feel more secure and cohesive than ever, civil war is tearing apart their community. Congregations, neighborhoods, even families are taking sides in battles about Jewish identity and Jewish authenticity. The conflict pits fundamentalist against secularist, denomination against denomination, even liberal against conservative within each branch of Jewry. Jew vs. Jew tells the story of how American Jewry has increasingly -- and perhaps terminally -- broken apart in the last forty years.

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

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!

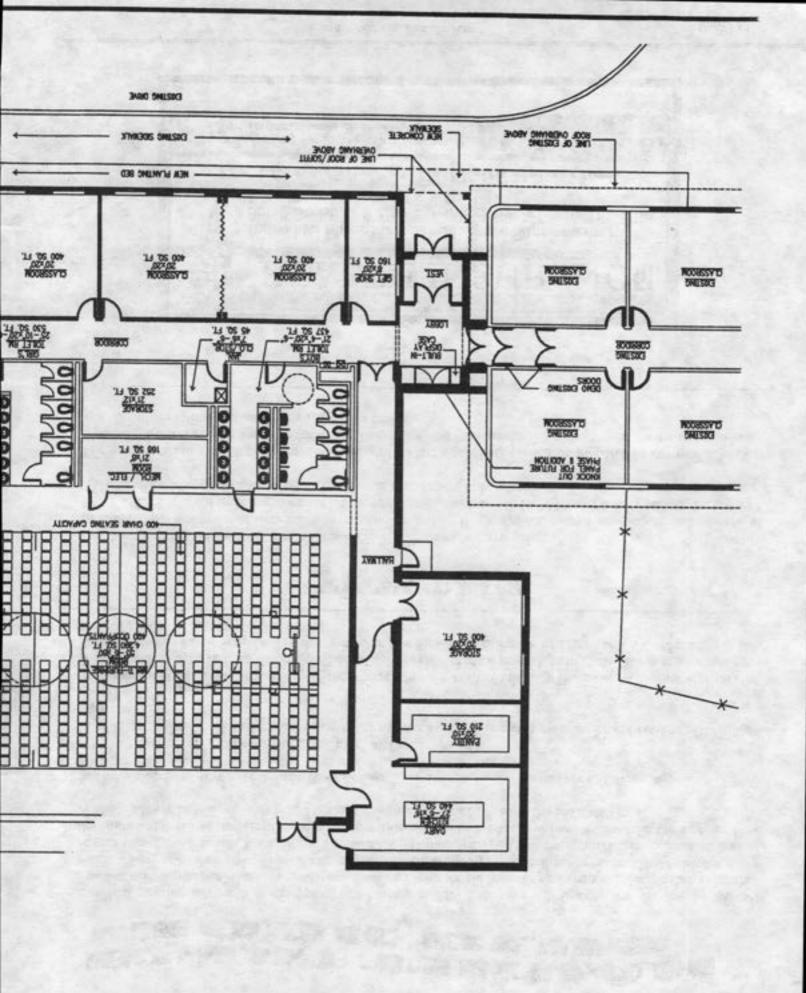
Remember if you plan to purchase any of these books they are available through Barnes & Noble, just sign into the B'nai Tikvah website and "go shopping" - Barnes & Noble will credit a percentage to B'nai Tikvah or purchase your Barnes & Noble Retail Scrip (in \$10 denominations) on Sunday mornings or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

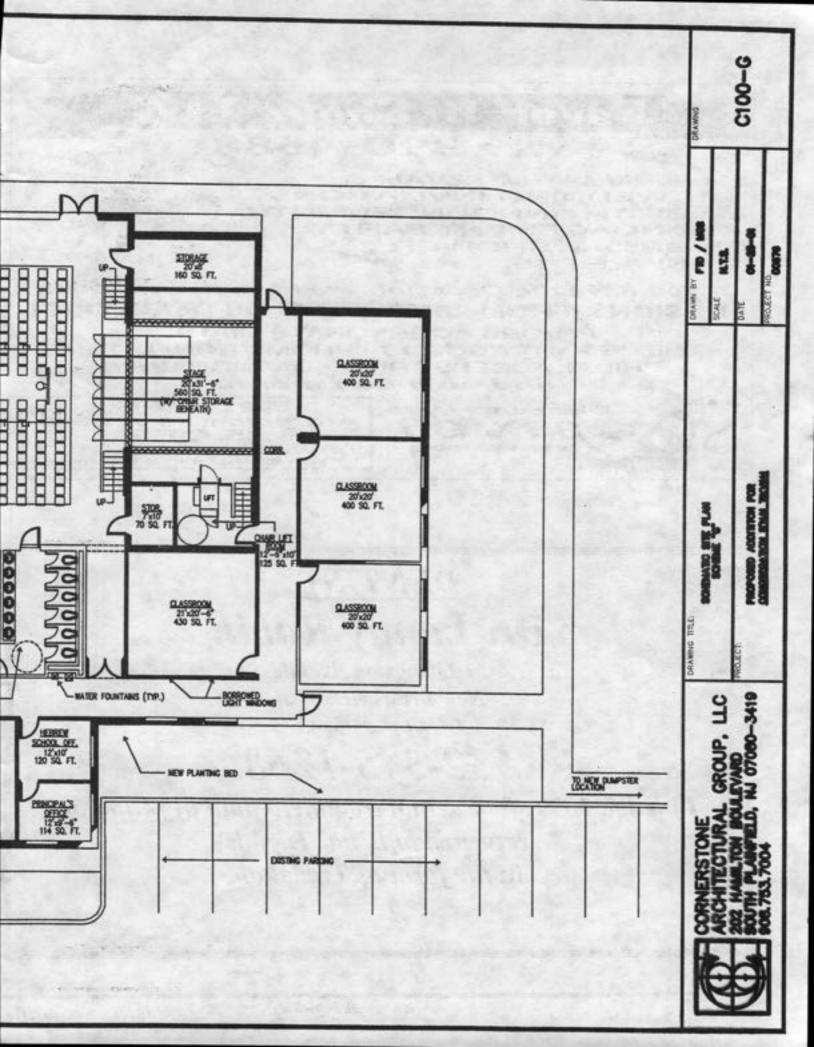
# **FIFTY PLUS**

Our May meeting will not be held at B'nai Tikvah! Instead, we are going to the "Grounds for Sculpture" in Hamilton, NJ. Reservations were made at our April meeting. If you did not make a reservation, call Blanche at 732-297-0272 to see if there are any reservations remaining. Our bus will leave B'nai Tikvah's parking lot at 10:45 AM and return at approximately 3:00 PM. Advance reservations only, please!

The June 24 meeting will include installation of officers and a gala buffet luncheon prepared by our own, Classical Caterers. We will also be honoring our original members who founded the Fifty Plus Group almost eighteen years ago. Details to follow and reservations will be necessary.







# Favor-It Shop, LLC

732 390-4688

- BAR/BAT MITZVAH & WEDDING INVITATIONS
- BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS
- \* ENGAGEMENT PARTY
- BRIDAL SHOWER
- SWEET 16



FAVORS • CORPORATE GIFTS

THEME PARTY GOODS • PROMOTIONAL ITEMS
BRIDAL ACCESSORIES • CALLIGRAPHY

and so much more...



\$25 OFF
Any purchase of \$500
\$5 OFF
Any purchase of \$100
Not to be combined with any other offers.

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.

# **Shavuot Pullout Pages**

# The Light of Torah Continues to Shine

The eighth day of Pesach is generally a quiet day. We look back with satisfaction at the celebration that is drawing to a close. We smile as we remember the wonderful moments that took place at our Sedarim. We marvel at how quickly the children have grown in the past year and who is now reciting "Mah nishtanah". We pause to reflect on the loved who were not present to rejoice with us as we recite the Yizkor passages.

We also begin to look forward to renewing our enjoyment of hametz in all of its delicious forms. We laugh at the sea of plastic containers and bags filled with assorted leftovers that have overrun our refrigerator. All in all, a typical last day of Pesach. But this day is different.

After being previewed and written about for several days the comic strip BC's Sunday cartoon hit the newstand. As anticipated the comic strip prompted much discussion, including one in shul that morning. For those of you who missed it, I have reproduced it below. My intention here is not to renew the discourse begun several weeks ago about the cartoon itself. I do think that the author of BC meant to depict in his cartoon a message of "Replacement Theology", a doctrine which suggests that Judaism has run its course and has been superceded by Christianity, a doctrine rejected by the majority of Christianity. The depiction of a seven branched menorah, like the one from the Temple in Jerusalem, burning down, panel by panel, to leave a depiction of a cross with a trail of blood leading to the cave in which Jesus was buried does not leave much room for misinterpretation.

What I find more intriguing, and ultimately more edifying, is one strand of reaction that has recurred in many of the Jewish responses to the BC comic strip. Taking umbrage at the relegation of Judaism to history and antiquity they proclaimed its viability. Essentially, the argument ran, the assertion of the demise of Judaism was untenable. They pointed to the strength of the Jewish communal institutions and their diversity; the resurgence of interest in Jewish life; the increase in attendance at Jewish Day Schools of all denominations; the proliferation of books on Judaism and related subjects; the growing numbers of adults involved in Jewish study; and the involvement of so many Jews in synagogue life. All this, they concluded, highlighted the vibrance and vitality of Judaism. Not a fossilized remnant of the past but a living, thriving religious community.

These assertions have lingered with me even as Pesach and the debate over the BC cartoon are both in the past. Perhaps the counting of the omer, the build up to Shavuot and the celebration of Z'man Matan Torahteinu, the season of the giving of the Torah, is having an affect. The sages of blessed memory formulated their understanding of the events at Sinai as an act of Divine revelation.

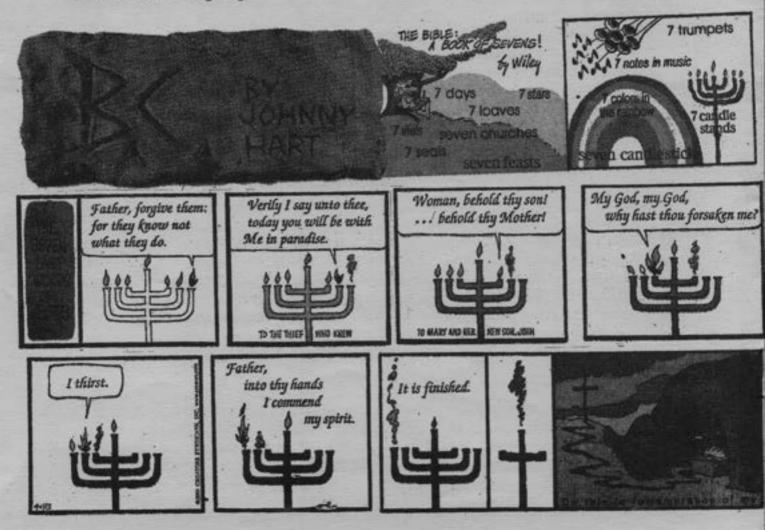
The Holy One revealed to our ancestors the impact of God's Presence in their midst, an act which included the giving of the Torah. By phrasing it in the present, even though they were writing centuries after the event itself the rabbis were trying to impart a profound truth. The Torah is given to us by God not only at Sinai, at some distant time and place, but every day and wherever we are. Like our ancestors we are faced with the choice of receiving or rejecting what is being offered.

Only by active acceptance of the Torah that is held out to us can we make all of those assertions mentioned above into statements of truth, describing our Jewish community. If we choose to reject the rich tradition that is being passed down to us then Judaism will in fact become the relic of history that was suggested by the cartoon and that we rejected so vehemently.

As we celebrate Shavuot, let us follow in the footsteps of our ancestors, answering God's call with the words "Na'ah-seh v'nish-ma" "we will hear and pay heed" so that we can build a community in which the Divine Presence is found and the people reflect the grandeur of Jewish life.

Hag Sameyach,

Rabbi David M. Eligberg



# The Customs of Shavuot

Many of the traditions and customs of Shavuot have evolved from the legends and stories describing the experiences of the Israelites at Mount Sinai. Among these are the following:

- Staying up all night to learn Torah on the first night of Shavuot
- Spreading wheat, barley, greens and flowers in the synagogue
- Eating Dairy Meals

# Staying Up (Without NoDoz)

There is a custom among the People of Israel to stay up all night to study the Torah on the first night of Shavuot. According to tradition the Israelites actually overslept on the morning of G-d's visit and God had to wake them up with peals of thunder and Shofar blowing, to receive the Torah. To compensate for this negligence, Jews hold a vigil on the eve of Shavuot. They stay awake from dusk to dawn, keeping themselves busy with the readings of the Torah and the Talmud. A digest of readings has evolved called Tikkun Leil Shavuot, the "Restoration of Shavuot Eve," which includes selections from the Torah, the Prophets, the Talmud, and the Zohar.

It is said in defense of those Jews that they slept "I'shem shamayim," with good intentions, for they felt that they would be better able to absorb and withstand the experience of God's Revelation, which they knew was coming in the morning.

# Spreading Wheat, Barley, Greens and Flowers

A legend tells the story of the Israelites finding Mount Sinai blooming and lush with greenery and flowers. From this legend grew the custom to decorate the Jewish home and synagogue with tree branches and flowers. Some have the custom of adorning the Sefer Torah with roses.

There also exists a beautiful custom of decorating the synagogue on Shavuot with sheaves of wheat and barley in recognition of the harvest in the land of Israel.

# **Eating Dairy Meals**

There is a tasty custom of eating dairy foods on Shavuot. There are a number of reasons offered for this custom.

- It is linked to the statement about the abundance with which the land of Israel is blessed as captured by the verse, "a land flowing with milk and honey."
- 2. The "gematria," sum of the numerical equivalents of the Hebrew letters making up the word, of "chalav," milk, is forty (letter "chet" (8) plus letter "lamed" (30) plus letter "beit" (2) equals forty) which corresponds to the number of days that Moshe studied the Torah with God on the top of Mt. Sinai.
- 3. Another explanation comes from a legend stating that before the visit from G-d the Jews did not keep kosher or follow the Kashrut (dietary) laws. It was on this first Shavuot that they found out that their utensils were nonkosher and thus unfit for use. So finding themselves without kosher meats or utensils the Israelites were forced to eat only dairy foods. Today Jews celebrate Shavuot by eating blintzes, cheesecake, and other dairy dishes.



From Running A Muck, copyright @ 1978 by John Caldwell. By permission of Writer's Digest Books.

# Shavuot

(Some of the material in this section is adapted from Sefer HaToda'ah by Rabbi Eliyahu Kitov)

#### The Names

The reality of many things, their background and purpose, can be told by explaining what they are called. This is true of the holiday of Shavuot as well. The names of this holiday are:

- "Hag HaShavuot" The Feast (or Holiday) of Weeks
- 2. "Z'man Matan Torateinu" The Time of the Giving of Our Torah
- "Hag HaKatzir" The Holiday of the Cutting of the Crop
- 4. "Atzeret" The Holiday of "Being Held Back Close to God, in the Temple"
- 5. "Hag HaBikkurim" The Holiday of the First Fruits

# "Hag Shavuot" - The Feast of Weeks

The holiday is given this name because it is the climax of the Counting of Days and Weeks which make up Sefirat HaOmer. Sefirat HaOmer connects Passover which commeorates our physical redemption from Slavery in Egypt to Shavuot which celebrates our spiritual redemption. Passovere alone would have left us "free" people, but without a moral and religious purpose to our lives. Shavuot is the purpose of the Exodus from Egypt. On Shavuot, the Divine Presence appeared to us on Mt. Sinai to give us the Torah. By accepting it, we earned the title of "A Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation."

"Z'man Matan Torateinu" - The Time of the Giving of Our Torah
The Jewish People arrived in the vicinity of Har Sinai (Mt. Sinai) on Rosh Chodesh
Sivan. The purpose of their assembling there was to receive the Torah from God. After
three days Moshe was instructed by God that the Jewish People would have to
prepare themselves for another three days before they would be ready to receive the
Torah.

There is a midrash that tells how before giving the Torah to the Jewish People, God had, so to speak, "shopped it around" to the various nations of the world, but there were no takers.

According to another Midrash, Moshe "Rabbeinu," Moses our Teacher, had to overcome the objection of the Angels, who claimed that the Jewish People were not sufficiently deserving to receive the Torah. Fortunately for the Jewish People, and for the world, Moshe won that debate.

# "Hag HaKatzir" - The Holiday of the Cutting of the Crop

This refers to the wheat crop, which is the latest of the crops to be harvested, which took place at this time. There is also a reference here to Megillat Ruth, which places the time of the events described in the Megillah as "at the beginning of the cutting of the barley crop."

# "Hag HaBikkurim" - The Holiday of the First Fruits

This name commemorates the New Grain Offering, which was brought at this time. This refers to the "mitzvah" to Jewish farmers to bring to the Temple their first fruits, from the seven species with which "Eretz Yisrael" is blessed: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. In addition to bringing the First Fruits, the farmer is required to recite a declaration of gratitude to God for bestowing His blessings upon Eretz Yisrael.

# Celebrating the Day of the First Fruits

The farmers of Israel would begin their spring harvests with the barley crop at Passover. The harvest continued for seven weeks as the other crops and fruits began to ripen. As each fruit ripened, the first of each type would not be eaten but instead the farmer would tie a ribbon around the the branch. This ribbon signified that these fruits were Bikkurim, or the first fruits.

On Shavuot the farmers would gather the Bikkurim into baskets and bring them to the city of Jerusalem where they would be eaten in the holy city. The farmers living close to Jerusalem would bring fresh fruits, while those who had to travel a long distance carried dried raisins and figs. This joyful occasion was celebrated with the music of fifes, timbres, and drums. As the pilgrims approached the city walls they were greeted by the inhabitants of the city with shouts of "Our brothers, from Place So-and-So, welcome!"

"Atzeret" - The Hollday of "Being Held Back, Close to God"

This is the name used exclusively for this Holiday in the Talmud. It suggests a similarity to Shemini Atzeret which comes at the end of Sukkot. This "Atzeret" comes at the conclusion of the process of redemption which began on Passover as noted above. One way of understanding the idea of "Atzeret" is that God wants the sense of Divine immanence that the Jewish People to feel during the festival to be true at all times and so extends the period of celebration.

# 不

# Shavuot and the Divine Word

Shavuot is also known as Zeman Matan Toratenu, the Season of the Giving of Our Law, which commemorates the receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

After Moses and the Israelites fled the slavery of Egypt, they wandered the desert. G-d provided the travelers with food to eat (manna) and water to drink. After almost two long months Moses brought his followers to the foot of a mountain called Sinai. Though the desert was dry and bare, the mountain was lush and green, covered with grass, flowers and trees. Moses and the Israelites set up camp at its base.

On the third day of the Hebrew month of Sivan, Moses was commanded by G-d to prepare the Jewish people for G-d's decent and visit. The Israelites washed and purified their clothes and their bodies. Three days later, on the sixth day of Sivan, the people were awaken by thunder and lightning. Thick, dark clouds hung over the mountain. The sounds of the Shofar, the ram's horn, were heard echoing across the desert. The earth began to tremble and shake.

Then the Israelites heard a voice, G-d's voice, speaking to them from out of the clouds.

"I am the Lord your G-d, Who has taken you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery"

"You shall have no other gods but me"

"You shall not take the name of your Lord in vain"

"You shall remember and keep the Sabbath day holy"

"Honor your father and mother"

"You shall not kill"

"You shall not commit adultery"

"You shall not steal"

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"

"You shall not covet your neighbor's goods. You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his bull, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbour's."

Moses went up the mountain and returned with the Tablets that contained the Ten Divine Utterances.

Through the centuries the Jewish people have celebrated this important event. It was at Mount Sinai that this band of worn and weary travelers would became the nation known as Israel.



# **Tikkun Lel Shavuot**

Sunday, May 27, 2001, 8:00 PM The Bible in Study and Song Blintz Bash

# Ice Cream Sundae Kiddush

Monday, May 28, 2001 Services at 9:30 AM Kiddush Following Services

# **Bikkurim: First Fruits**

lessing the newborns in our congregation
Monday, May 28, 2001
Services at 9:30 AM

# Mincha/Ma'ariv

Monday, May 28, 2001 Services at 7:30 PM

# Ice Cream Sundae Kiddush

Tuesday, May 29, 2001
Services including Yizkor at 9:30 AM
Kiddush Following Services

**Hei Class Siyyum** 

**Chai School Graduation** 

Tuesday, May 29, 2001, 7:30 PM

# BBQ for Lag B'Omer Friday, May 11



Dinners begin at 6:30 pm

Festive Shabbat evening dinners at B'nai Tikvah with Classical Caterers

Celebrate Shabbat with these delicious meals. Our Goal is to enjoy each other's company & celebrate Friday night.

May 11 MENU

BBQ Ribs and chicken on the bone
Baked potatoes
Pasta salad
Coleslaw
Mixed green salad
Pickles, relishes, condiments
Kids: Hot Dogs, hamburgers
Corn on the cob
Soda

Kiddush dessert served after service.

SOMETHING NEW FOR FRIDAY NIGHT...



May 11 Lag B'Omer BBQ



XAX	XX
Name(s)	
Phone	
Number of Adults	@ \$18 =
Number of Children (under 10)	@ \$8 =
TOTAL ENCLOSED	

Checks payable to: Congregation B'nai Tikvah. Mail to 1001 Finnegan's Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 ATTN: Friday Dinner For May, by Monday May 7. Questions or to assist, Dorothy Cohen 821-4376.

# Refaeinu: A Service of Healing

A monthly service for the renewal of spirit.

Join us if you seek:

Comfort

Guidance

Strength

Hope

Come if you or someone you know is ill, or if you or someone you know is having a difficult time.

Thursday May 31, 2001 B'nai Tikyah Social Hall 7:45 pm, immediately following minyan

For more information, please contact Hazzan Jodi Sered-Lever 297-0696 ext. 3015

# We would like to Acknowledge the Following Contributions to Our B'nai Tikvah Funds (March 15 - April 15):

Yartzeit:

Linda Brown, in memory of William La Vine Madeline Gaynor, in memory of Ethel and Daniel Reich Daniel and Bernice Natelson, in memory of Reuben R. Natelson Fran and Philip Weinstein, in memory of Leo Gorcey Wendy and Ira Heisler, in memory of Louis Breitkopf Erwin Lewis, in memory of Max Leibowitz Loren and Jeffrey Asch, in memory of Raymond Jacobson Loren and Jeffrey Asch, in memory of Louis Asch Stephen and Marilyn Breitkopf, in memory of Louis Breitkopf Matica and Harris Bierstein in memory of Shirley Bierstein Roslyn Naiburg, in memory of Harry Hirschfield Bert Sichel, in memory of Isidore Sichel Joel and Joyce Gerbman, in memory of Rachel Gerbman Abbey and Bernard Lorber, in memory of Louis Lorber Howard and Phyllis Rich, in memory of Herman Rich Meyer Barrack, in memory of Isidore Barrack Phyllis and Ira Schloss, in memory of Arthur Marcus Debra and Scott Rekant, in memory of Seymour Rekant Faye Mory, in memory of Molly Zyteer Erwin and Sylvia Lewis, in memory of Ida Leibowitz Roslyn Naiburg, in memory of Elias Naiburg Blanche Fruhling, in memory of Evelyn Tobias Marvin Schwartz, in memory of Roslyn Schwartz Ruth Anne, Paul, Josh, Shari and Molly, in memory of Adeline M. Koenick Solomon and Irina Dinkevich, in memory of Zusman Dinkevich

Passport to Israel Fund

Joseph and Maria Lesko and family, in memory of Jack Edley Nancy and Elliot Danto, in memory of Alan Rosenstock Nancy and Elliot Danto, in memory of Jack Edley

Expansion Fund

Morton and Adele Leader, in honor of Joseph Broder's 90th birthday Mark, Brenda, Joshua, Arielle and Hannah Sherman, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim Morton and Adele Leader, in memory of Pauline Wiener Mark, Brenda, Joshua, Arielle and Hannah Sherman, in memory of Alan Rosenstock

Mark, Brenda, Joshua, Arielle and Hannah Sherman, in memory of Jack Edley

Paul and Marsha Greenberg, in memory of Jack Edley Mark, Brenda, Joshua, Arielle and Hannah Sherman, in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Pelofsky's granddaughter

Mark, Brenda, Joshua, Arielle and Hannah Sherman, in memory of Brian Chertock's mother

Mark, Brenda, Joshua, Arielle and Hannah Sherman, in memory of Sy Goldstein

Mark, Brenda, Joshua, Arielle and Hannah Sherman, in honor of another great Passover, with Mr. and Mrs. Irving Lopatin Norman and Selma Linefsky, in honor of another great Passover, with Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Gorson Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Jodi and David Marcou, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim Norman and Fran Shapiro, , in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim Nancy and Paul Zankel, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim

Rubin and Ruth Rakowitz, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim

The Rekant family, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim

Toby, Gary, Hannah and Benjamin Ehrlich, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim LouAnne, John, Rachel and Amy Wolf, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim

Leonard and Joyce Mandelbalatt, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim

Bernard and Ruth Adler, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim David and Millie Kutliroff, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi

David and Millie Kutliroff, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim

Keith and Tammy Zimmerman, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim

Harry and Susan Rosenzweig, , in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim

Youth Fund:

Maxine and Mark Kasdin, in memory of Saul Kasdin Carol Marks, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim

Allen and Ilene Karp, in memory of Alan Rosenstock Wade and Beverly Lebowitz, in honor of the Religious School's Graduating Class of 2001

Allen and Ilene Karp, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim

General Donation Fund:

Morton and Adele Leader, in honor of Purim Robert Krovetz, in honor of Pesach Marvin and Betty Stark, in memory of Alan Rosenstock The Stephen A. Rosenstock Family, in memory of Alan Rosenstock

Vicky and Burt Bauman, in honor of the birth of their twin granddaughters Erin Kate and Megan Emily

Barry and Nancy Kivor, in honor of Howie Butnick coming home from hospital

Prayer Book Fund:

Dr. and Mrs. Leon Horlick, in memory of Mary Arougheti, Michelle Greenfield's mother

Dr. and Mrs. Leon Horlick, in memory of Sidney Nevins Howard and Carole Kalish, in memory of Alan Rosenstock Howard and Carole Kalish, in memory of Bernard Landers Irwin and Maxine Nudelman, in memory of Helen August (mother of Maxine)

Ruth Anne Koenick, Paul and Molly Herman, in honor of the engagement of Joshua Herman to Shari Heimowitz

Contributions continued on page 21

# Nursery School News

By Fran Pearlson, Director

The sun is shining the flowers are blooming the sky is blue, and the birds are chirping. What a wonderful time of year! Our school is full of incredible springtime activities to challenge and excite our children.

One activity our children love to do is to create snacks. Please step into the kitchen with your child and let the fun begin!

# Recipe For Flowerpot Cupcakes

Ingredients small clay flowerpot aluminum foil butter cake batter lollipop chocolate cookies candy worms

### Steps

1. Have your child rub butter on a piece of aluminum foil.

2. Help your child place the aluminum foil (buttered side up) in the pot.

3. Help your child fill the pot 2/3 full with the batter of your choice.

4. Set the pot in a muffin tin and bake according to the recipe direction.

5. When cool, let your child "plant" a lollipop "flower" into the center of the "dirt"

6. Have your child crush the chocolate cookies by placing in a ziplock bag, using their hands as hammers.

7. Add crushed "soil" and a candy "worm" to each flowerpot.

# Happy snacking to you and your little chefl

# May Highlights

Mother's Day Special Artistic Event Special Dairy Snacks for Shavuot

Lag Ba'Omer School Picnic May 18th — School Raffle Drawing

Parent-Teacher Conferences

#### For Your Information...

A limited number of openings are still available in our nursery school for September.

Mommy & Me registration will begin the week of May 1st.

We will offer:

1) Mome & Babee

4-12 months

2) Moms & Tots 12-18 months

3) Moms & Tykes

18-24 months

4) Toddler Fun Chib

24-30 months (Tues/Thurs class and Friday only)

Please call the nursery school at 297-0295 for registration information. Temple members will continue to receive priority registration and discounted tuition rates.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

This year 32 children will be graduating from our school. Nursery school graduation will take place on Wednesday, June 13th at 10:00 a.m.

On behalf of the nursery staff, I would like to wish all our moms "A Very Happy Mother's Day."



# Test Now Available to Screen for Another Genetic Disease

By Bette Koffler

While Ashkenazic Jews are familiar with testing to determine the presence of the Tay Sachs gene, a new test has recently become available to test for Familial Dysautonomia (FD), a genetic disease also associated with Ashkenazic Jews.

Familial Dysautonomia (also called Riley-Day Syndrome) is a disorder of the autonomic nervous system, which controls involuntary processes such as swallowing and digestion and regulates body temperature and blood pressure. Symptoms vary, but often include excessive sweating, vomiting, frequent pneumonia and problems with speech, balance, and coordination. One hallmark symptom of the disorder is the inability to produce tears. The disorder also interferes with perceptions of sensations such as pain and heat. Children with FD often do not feel pain and may break a bone or burn themselves without being aware of the injury. FD can be fatal and half of those affected do not live to be 30.

Approximately one in 30 Ashkenazic Jews carries the FD gene. The FD gene is as prevalent as the gene for Tay Sachs. If both parents are carriers of this recessive gene, a 25 percent chance exists with each pregnancy of giving birth to a child affected with FD. Until very recently, tests were unavailable to determine whether you were a carrier of the FD gene unless you already had a child with the disease. However, after long research, scientists have identified the gene, which causes FD, and widespread genetic screening will be available. Through increased awareness, the Jewish community can help reduce the incidence of FD. Hopefully, genetic testing for FD will one day become as common among Jews as screening for Tay Sachs.

This information has been shared by Adena Lebeau and Jeff Kress, members of the Highland Park Conservative Temple, whose three-year old son is a victim of FD. Ezra has spent a lot of time in the hospital and has had numerous illnesses and surgeries. Physical activities that come easily to many people, such as eating, speaking, and waking up in the morning are monumental tasks for Ezra. According to Adena and Jeff, "In many ways, he has been able to experience life like any other three-year-old, as a result of ongoing medical treatments and therapies. He enjoys puzzles, games, and videos, and attends preschool. He is very social and clearly understands everything we say (even when we don't think he is listening). Ezra manages to take all of this in stride – his bright outlook is a never-ending source of strength for us."

For more information on testing for FD and other genetic diseases, contact Mount Sinai Center for Jewish Genetic Diseases at (212) 659-6700 or the Dysautonomia Genetics Counseling Center at NYU at (212) 263-5746. For more information about FD, you can access <a href="https://www.fdvillage.org">www.fdvillage.org</a> or <a href="https://www.fdvillage.org</a> or <a href="https://www.fdvillag

# **NEW BEGINNINGS**

New Beginnings will meet on Wednesday, May 16th meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Our speaker will be Rabbi Jo David, founder & Executive Director of the Jewish Appleseed Foundation, Inc., NY, and organization that works with Jews and non Jews around the world who live away from the Jewish mainstream.

Rabbi David will share her experiences of counseling interfaith couples and families, and participate in an open question and answer discussion.

She was ordained by the Academy for Jewish Religion in 1992 & holds a Master's degree in Judaic Studies from NYU. She has served congregations on Long Island, Westchester, & Fayetteville, Arkansas. Since 1994 she has been an "Ask the Rabbi" for America On Line and answers questions on the Foundation's website: jewishappleseed.org and has written articles for Jvibe, a Jewish Internet magazine for teens.

Rabbi David is a published author of books and articles on a wide variety of topics. Her most recent publication is "How to Trace Your Jewish Roots", a beginner's book on Jewish genealogy. Her book "The Book of the Jewish Life", published by UAHC Press, is the life cycle textbook for Reform religious schools. Her original prayers, poems and meditations appear in "Covenant of the Heart" and "Covenant of the Soul", both published by Women of Reform Judaism.

Please plan to attend this informative meeting. No charge. Refreshments will be served.

Tzedakah Fund

Hyman Arougheti, in memory of Mary Arougheti Barbara Bailer, in honor of Janet and Marcel Szpiro's 35th wedding anniversary

Mildred Browndorf, in memory of Leah Messerman Mildred Browndorf, in memory of Samuel Messerman Dan and Shiva Nili, in memory of Tom Nili

Makhela Fund

Ellie and Bill Greenberg, in memory of Alan Rosenstock Ellie and Bill Greenberg, in memory of Leah Greenberg

Religious School Fund

Arthur and Helen Farb, in honor of their Aliyah The Kleinbart family, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim

Neal and Cindy Gittleman, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim

Lisa, Jeff, Alyssa and Eric Tannenbaum, in honor of Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg's baby boy Yonatan Efraim

Lisa, Jeff, Alvssa and Eric Tannenbaum, in memory of Jack Edley Harriet Greenfield, in memory of Norman Greenfield Ann Gold, in memory of Alan Rosenstock

Toby, Gary, Hannah and Benjamin Ehrlich, in memory of Alan Rosenstock

Mark and Carol Winter, in memory of Jack Edley Ann and Jack Kanarek, in memory of Jack Edley

# Contributions:

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

# COLLEGE COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Marcy Finkelstein

The College Committee reports that all packages are now out for this year. We sent 3 packages:

- a package for Chanukah, with dreidle and candy
- a Purim package with items for celebrating and snacking
- a Passover package with a few necessities of life for this holiday, including a new toothbrush (one of the most overlooked necessary items).

We want to say THANK YOU to:

- Raritan Container Company, who kindly supplied us with cartons for the second year
- The ladies of Sisterhood, who got matzos for the last package
- The teachers at the Woodrow Wilson Middle School, in Edison, who also were kind enough to supply us with matzos, and Marcia Schwartz who bright them to us. As you can tell, we got many matzos, and we gave the extra to Jewish Family Services for distribution.
- Sir Speedy Printers in the Raritan Center, in Edison, for pads of papers that were included with one of our mailings

We hope the rest of the school year goes well for our students, and look forward to seeing them when they return home.

# CONGREGANT CORNER

Have you seen our mission statement? "Our Mission is 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." As it states on our Internet homepage: "We are a conservative synagogue located in North Brunswick, NJ. Our approach to Judaism reflects a commitment to preserve our rich, traditional heritage while confronting today's realities. In our response to Jewish ritual, we are committed to equal rights and participation for men and women."

These statements, and our historical roots from the merger of multiple communities around North and South Brunswick, are evidence of our commitment to change and growth. The ritual committee, along with the Rabbi and the newly formed Steering committee are working to institute change in many aspects of our community.

The changes were undertaken for a number of reasons:

- · To make our services more understandable
- · To create a strong sense of community
- To reinvigorate our prayer experiences
- To make our traditional services more open and inviting to those just entering our community

The changes to the Friday night service are:

- · The Rabbi now sits within the congregation instead of separate upon the Bimah
- We encourage everyone to sit on one side of the room, instead of spreading out, to foster a sense of community
- · Congregants lead the English readings from their place in the pews
- At Oneg, new comers are identified with blue cups so we know who to approach and get to know

The changes to the Saturday service are:

- · Danish and coffee are offered prior to the service for early risers
- Congregants lead the service from the Bimah until the Torah service
- Congregants lead P'Zukai de Zimrah, the initial psalms
- Reasons for Aliyah are called out in English
- The Rabbi comes down and joins the congregation during D'var Torah
- Misheberach, the prayer for those who are ill, is said together while standing and each person inserts the name(s) of loved ones

We've started with the Shabbat experiences and hope, with your suggestions, to expand into other areas that would benefit from change. Many people, myself included at times, feel change to the rituals they are used to takes away from their prayer experiences. However, I have found that after a few times I get used to the changes and, more often than not, I think the service is improved.

We are a large and vocal community and not every change is going to satisfy everyone, but we think that, overall, the changes will improve our Shabbat experiences and make our community more inviting to potential new members. We've been told that the new practice of calling out reasons why people are called to the Torah has been very positively received. This offers congregants the opportunity to say happy birthday, happy anniversary, or condolences for a yartziet. It was such a small change, but it has made such a big impact on our sense of community.

We welcome your suggestions for continued improvements with our prayer experience or other aspects of our community life. You can find one of your friendly neighborhood ritual committee members via voicemail (call the main synagogue number), email via Bnaitikvah.org, or just bump into us at Oneg! We look forward to seeing you there.

Shalom Beth Schurman Ritual Committee

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

# You bet you can . . .

On Thursday evening May 17 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 May 13.

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).

		A BOUND OF THE OWNER.	x \$25.00	
e from each catego	ev for each dinne	r ordered)		
Potato	Cucumber			
		Apple		
Traditional	Raisin	Whole Wheat		
available after at	least one basic d	inner has been ordered)		
Potato	Cucumber		X \$2.75	-
		Apple	X\$3.75	
	- Misin -	Prilote Princit		
		A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	X \$3.00	
174 Success				
werv			\$5.00	
		Total Enclosed		-
		Make check payable to:		
	State Am	Sisterhood, B'nai Tikval	1	
WAR STATE OF THE S		Mail to: Theresa Samtu		
	-	4 Zev Court		
		Monmouth Junction, I	NJ 08852	
heet for gift inst	ructions	Any questions call The	resa at: 821-8163	
	Potato Coleslaw Potato Traditional Cavailable after at Potato Coleslaw Potato Traditional on (4 Slices)	Potato Cucumber Coleslaw Health Potato Noodle Traditional Raisin  (available after at least one basic d Potato Cucumber Coleslaw Health Potato Noodle Traditional Raisin	Coleslaw Health Potato Noodle Apple Traditional Raisin Whole Wheat  Cavailable after at least one basic dinner has been ordered) Potato Cucumber Coleslaw Health Potato Noodle Apple Traditional Raisin Whole Wheat  Len H (4 Slices)  Total Enclosed  Make check payable to: Sisterhood, 8 nai Tikval Mail to: Theresa Samtu 4 Zev Court Monmouth Junction,	Potato Cucumber Coleslaw Health Apple Traditional Raisin Whole Wheat X\$2.75 Coleslaw Health Potato Cucumber X\$2.75 Coleslaw Health Potato Noodle Apple X\$2.75 Traditional Raisin Whole Wheat X\$2.75 X\$7.00 X\$3.00

# PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

By Mitch Frumkin

This past month, our Congregation has moved one step closer to fulfilling the dream of our founders when the North Brunswick Board of Adjustment unanimously approved our expansion plans. This approval will allow us to truly become the Jewish Community Center that was envisioned when our Congregation was created 20 years ago. Our name according to the bylaws is, "Congregation B'nai Tikvah and incorporated as the Jewish Community Center of North and South Brunswick."

To familiarize you with the proposed plan for the expansion, a copy of the floor plan has been included as the centerpiece of this newsletter (see pages 14 and 15). The plan was prepared by the Architectural firm of Cornerstone Architects which worked closely with our Expansion Committee under the direction of Mark Kasdin. The plan not only includes 7 new classrooms to replace the 4 classrooms in the current trailers, but also includes a 5000 square foot multi purpose room/gymnasium, Sisterhood gift shop, a kitchen, stage, storage, and rest rooms. The multi purpose room will be 2 stories in height while the rest of the building will be a single story.

The new wing will be located immediately adjacent to the current school wing where the trailers now sit. It will extend to where the parking starts (about 150 feet long) and back towards the property line (about 105 feet deep). Four of the classrooms will face the parking lot with the other three on the right hand side. The gift shop will be in the hallway where you enter the building and the kitchen and multi purpose room will be at the rear.

As far as scheduling goes, it is anticipated that it will take 6 to 8 weeks for the construction documents to be prepared at which time we can begin soliciting formal bids. This then will most likely take another month. It is estimated that construction will start in late summer and will take 6 months to complete.

As we start planning for the usage of the new wing, we would appreciate planning help from any member of the Congregation who is interested. You should feel fee to contact me, Mark Kasdin or any other of the Board of Trustees.

# It's Coming...

JCC of North & South Brunswick Nursery School's

# RAFFLE 2001

Each spring our nursery school holds a raffle to raise funds to benefit our school.

There are lots of terrific prizes to win.

Please support our school by buying/selling our raffle tickets.

The cost is only \$10.00 for 10 tickets (1 book)

Just think, for \$1.00, you might win

DONOR	PRIZE	DONOR
Hudson Hotel	TwirlyRocket Rider	Wanna Play
NY Sports Club	Hair out and gift basket	Arena Salon
The Harkavy Family	Dinner for Two	Lox, Stock & Deli
	Manioure Ensemble	Dorothy Cohen
Li Or Judaica	Gift Certificate	Karen's Kreations
Allure Salon	Gift Certificate	Barnes & Noble
Suzanne Peskin	Museum Admission for 4	Discovery House
Explorations	Milano French Cleaners	The Meghnagi Family
Walmart	Gift Cert.	Learning Express
D'Kor Designs	Star Wars Sleeping Bags (3)	Anonymous
	Hudson Hotel NY Sports Club The Harkavy Family The Harkavy Family Li Or Judaica Allure Salon Susanne Peskin Explorations Walmart	Hudson Hotel TwirtyRocket Rider  NY Sports Club Hair out and gift basket  The Harkavy Family Dinner for Two  The Harkavy Family Manicure Ensemble  Li Or Judaica Gift Certificate  Allure Salon Gift Certificate  Suzanne Peskin Museum Admission for 4  Explorations Milano Prench Cleaners  Walmart Gift Cert.

Completed ticket stubs must be returned to the nursery school office prior to drawing.

Drawing is to be held on May 18th.

Raffle books will be available in the beginning of April.

Yes, I would like to support our r	nursery school by buying/selling tickets.
Name:	
# Books:	
Telephone #:	
Enclosed is a check for \$	made payable to: JCC of N & S Brunswick Nursery School
Address:	JCC Of N & S Druiswick Hursery School

# **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

and the second s		A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
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 Schneider	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	100	398-1420
Voting		Te off to the
Representatives		040 0473
50 Plus Group	Jay Scheuer	940-8473
Men's Club	Gerry Edley	821-6237
Sisterhood	Libbie Marx	297-2055

# % HAKOL DEADLINE %

The next HaKol deadline is May 15th. I look forward to hearing from you. It will be distributed by June 1. You can leave articles in the HaKol mailbox in the synagogue office or email them to Hakol@aol.com. HaKol will be on vacation during the summer. The deadline for the September issue will be August 15.



# Committees, Groups & Staff

Rabbi	David Eligberg	297-0696
Hazzan	Jodi Sered-Lever	297-0696
Synagogue	Nitsat Hadas Elami	297-0696
Administrator		
Administrative	TBA	297-0696
Assistant		
Religious School	Ann Kanarek	297-0295
Principal		
Nursery School	Fran Pearlson	297-0295
Director		
Summer Camp	TBA	297-6175
Special Financial	Gary Tinkel	545-1135
Arrangements/Dues		
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	Karasan and A	
Sisterhood President	Bobbi Binder	274-2797
Kadima Advisor	Leora Trub	373-8189
U.S.Y. Advisors	Craig & Candace	940-8463
	Botnick	
Couples Club	Nadine Weg	329-1359
Fifty Plus Group	Blanche Fruhling	297-0272
Makelah Choral	Cheryl Asnis	297-5379
Group		24
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
FeedbackCommittee	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
Web Master	Gary Bergman	246-7285

All phone numbers are area code 732 unless otherwise indicated

# B'NAI TIKVAH UPCOMING CALENDAR

# May

Tuesday 1st Guest Lecture - Azriella Jaffe Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Torah Lishma - Adult Ed.

Friday 4th Candle Lighting 7:38, Bet Shabbat Dinner and

Sunday 6th USY Meeting, Men's Club Meeting, Budget

Meeting

Monday 7th Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday 8th 50+ Board Meeting Wednesday 9th Torah Lishma: Adult Ed.

Thursday 10th USY Meeting, Future Planning Meeting Friday 11th Candle Lighting 7:45, Lag Ba'Omer BBQ

Saturday 12th Men's Club Bowling

Sunday 13th Religious School - Mock Wedding Ceremony

Monday 14th Sisterhood Board Meeting

Wednesday 16th Torah Lishma - Adult Ed., New Beginnings

Meeting

Thursday 17th School Board Meeting, Rabbi's Feedback

Committee Meeting

Friday 18th Candle Lighting 7:52, Religious School Alef

Consecration, Family Shabbat Service

Sunday 20th Last Day of Religious School Monday 21st Yom Yerushalyim: Jerusalem Day Wednesday 23rd Torah Lishma - Adult Ed.

Thursday 24th USY Meeting-Offsite, Sisterhood General

Meeting.

**Executive Committee Meeting** 

Friday 25th Candle Lighting 7:58

Sunday 27th Erev Shavuot, Tikun Leil Shavuot Service

Monday 28th

Tuesday 29th Shavuot (Yizkor), Religious School Hei Class &

Chai School Graduation

Wednesday 30th Torah Lishma - Adult Ed. Thursday 31st Cantor's Healing Service

## June

Friday 1st Candle Lighting 8:04 Sunday 3rd Israel Bonds Breakfast Monday 4th Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday 6th Torah Lishma - Adult Ed. Friday 8th Candle Lighting 8:08 Saturday 9th Men's Club Bowling Sunday 10th

White Water Rafting, Men's Club Meeting, USY

Meeting



Mr. & Mrs. Gary Bergman 14 Hickory Lane North Brunswick

Brunswick, NJ 08902

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