



Hayenu

B'nai Shalom

300 Pleasant Valley Way
West Orange, New Jersey 07052
(973) 731-0160

VOLUME 46, NUMBER 5

JANUARY 2001

TEVET / SHVAT 5761

From the Rabbi

Dear friends,

“Ethics of the Fathers” teaches: **אם אין אני לי מי לי**; “If I am not for myself, who will be for me?” Recently Mr. Yehuda Ya’akov, a member of Israel’s foreign Ministry who is posted to the Israeli consulate in New York City, wrote an article entitled “An Israeli’s Lament: Is Anybody Out There?” Twenty times during the past two months Mr. Ya’akov has witnessed the chanting and marching of Palestinian protestors outside his office at the Israeli consulate. Only **once** has there been a counter demonstration on the part of Jewish marchers-50 American Jews rallying on Second Avenue across the street. Only one problem, however- the gathering was sponsored by “Jews Against The Occupation,” a group opposed to what it describes as Israel’s “excessive use of force” and “oppression” of the Palestinians.

No wonder that he feels frustrated and abandoned. With the exception of the October 12 solidarity rally, the Jewish community has, in Mr. Ya’akov’s words, “ceded the street outside the consulate in New York to Palestinian demonstrators.” As Mr. Ya’akov says, “With those statistics, it’s hard not to feel lonely.”

In reality, however, the situation is not so glum. According to Martin Raffel, vice chair of the Jewish Council of Public Affairs, “...American Jews generally are not the kind of people who easily take to the streets.” But we are expressing our support: through frequent solidarity missions to Israel involving hundreds of people at a time and through increased financial support for Israel. Two months ago the annual gathering of North American Federation leaders was transformed into a five-day support for Israel event. And during December thousands of American Jewish college students headed to Israel as part

of “Birthright” (the special program subsidizing visits to Israel by American teens and college students who had not yet been to Israel). In addition, the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations has just launched an informational campaign on behalf of three Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah at the Lebanese border.

(Continued on page 4)

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, January 5	4:25 P.M.
Friday, January 12	4:33 P.M.
Friday, January 19	4:40 P.M.
Friday, January 26	4:49 P.M.

KABBALAT SHABBAT TIMES

Friday, January 5	4:25 P.M.
Friday, January 12	4:35 P.M.
Friday, January 19	4:40 P.M.
Friday, January 26	4:50 P.M.

MINCHA-MAARIV TIMES

Saturday, January 6	4:25 P.M.
Saturday, January 13	4:35 P.M.
Saturday, January 20	4:40 P.M.
Saturday, January 27	4:50 P.M.

President's Message

Shalom

I hope everyone had a wonderful Hanukah with their families, and a happy New Year to all! The year 2001 has arrived, and it is said that this, rather than last year, is actually the first year of the new millennium. We cannot imagine what the future has in store for humanity, not only in the new century, but in the next thousand years! There have been so many advances in technology, communications, medicine, and all fields of science in the last fifty years that it staggers the imagination to dream of what might occur in the future.

At B'nai Shalom there is a dedicated group of individuals who are attempting to bring us all into the age of cyberspace with B'nai Shalom's own new and exciting web page. Point your browser to www.bnaishalom.net to see it – and to read this and every issue of the Hayenu before its physical publication. We are also working on linking the entire congregation via e-mail, and we hope that in the not-too-distant future we will be able to eliminate a great deal of the paper we send out each month by “snail mail”. Yasher Koach to Ron Goldberg, Ralph Siegel, Ellen Cohen, and Mordechai Warshavsky, who are working on this project. I know they would all welcome your suggestions and your help.

I was reminded recently of what a vibrant synagogue we have. At Shabbat morning services two weeks ago we had the B'nai Mitzvah class attend with their parents. This fine group of students participated in leading the congregation in services. Yasher Koach to Janice Colmar and the students. We also enjoyed the participation of a group of our Teen Torah Reading Academy members. Yasher Koach to director Margo Heda and all the teen Torah readers. Finally there was a baby naming, a lovely little young lady, Jacqueline, granddaughter of Roberta Goldberg. Mazel Tov! This was a great Shabbas! In addition, after minyan on a winter Monday evening I was asked to stop in at the following meetings; fundraising, family education, and nursery school, and to discuss an issue with a member of the renovation committee. The

week also included a religious school board meeting, an executive board meeting, and strategic planning. My thank you to all the excellent volunteers and professionals on these committees and all the other organizations at B'nai Shalom. They give their time and energy for the benefit of all our members...Yasher Koach!

There is a rumor from the fund raising-committee that the comedian Robert Klein will appear at B'nai Shalom this Spring — watch for details and please make plans to attend. I understand there is also a terrific event now being organized for Purim- a gala casino evening with prizes galore. This promises to be a very fun evening and will be a benefit for our shul. Family Ed and Adult Ed are teaming up for a special Yom Ha'Atzmiot this spring, a celebration of and tribute to Israel on its Day of Independence. Watch the calendar for these upcoming events ... Volunteer, participate, and enjoy.

I imagine by the time this issue of Hayenu reaches you the country will be preparing for a presidential inauguration. As I write this article though, we still do not know who the president will be! It would be interesting to know how history will treat these times. I can tell you I am glad this entire recount situation was in Florida and not New Jersey. Our state would never live it down.

Finally we have just received the new boundary survey for the synagogue's property. We have almost seven acres. The best news is, we have no wetlands. We are moving ahead with the planning of our new renovation, and will keep the congregation informed.

Shalom,

Bennett

HAYENU

B'nai Shalom

300 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052

Rabbi STANLEY L. ASEKOFF
Cantor ELIHU FELDMAN
President BENNETT SCHWARTZ
Editor GORDON RAYFIELD

**B'NAI SHALOM
IS NOW ON LINE
VISIT THE SITE AT
[www. bnaishalom.net](http://www.bnaishalom.net)**

**PLEASE NOTE
HAYENU HAS ITS OWN E-MAIL ADDRESS:
grayfield@home.com**

CANTORIAL COMMENTS

By Cantor Elihu Feldman

There is a Temple in Heaven That is Only Opened Through Song.

Jewish choral music is currently enjoying a grand renaissance; Jewish vocal ensembles, synagogue and school choirs, and campus a cappella groups are springing up across North America. This coming summer, the North American Jewish Choral Festival will once again bring together hundreds of singers in the Catskill Mountains. Festivals sponsoring Jewish choir participation occur throughout the year in Israel and in Europe during the summer.

But when did the first Jewish choir start? In the Torah, the famous Shirat Hayam, or the song sung by Moses and the children of Israel after they crossed the Red Sea, was the first instance of choral singing in the Bible. But that might not be true. Some Jewish musicologists point to the invention of musical instruments by Yuval, an early descendent of Adam, and suggest that choral music was in place even in those early days. While choral singing was employed in Temple worship in later Jewish history, the destruction of the Temple led to a rabbinical ban on instrumental and vocal music as a sign of national mourning. Later Choral singing is mentioned in the context of a communal ceremony in which the head of the Babylonian Jewish community the Rosh Hagolah or Raysh Galuta was appointed.

Jewish Choral singing remained a peripheral phenomenon until the Italian Renaissance, when the first artistic choir in synagogues history, founded by Rabbi Leone da Modena in the early 17th century, performed the liturgical work of Salamone Rossi Hebreo. We know there were Jewish choirs in the Shteytles of Europe till World War II and even in concentration camps during the war.

In modern times the choir has become an integral part of many synagogues. Whether at services or as part of the religious school or an adult choir, whether in the main sanctuary or parallel service or at a special festival a choir can only enhance the opportunities for communal participation in the Synagogue.

Non-liturgical choral music became a serious factor in Jewish cultural life with the founding in Eastern Europe of the ha-Zomer movement in 1899. This year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of this movement. The very famous contemporary Zamir Chorale found its early beginnings in this movement. But were there other times in

Jewish history that a Jewish chorus was predominant.

Before examining the history of Jewish choirs or choral singing let us examine the word zemer. Zemer, may be interpreted as singing, music or a choir or chorus. In the Song of Songs we find the word zemer used in the following context. "When a man is young he sings songs." It is interesting that in Modern Hebrew a "zamer" is a nightingale, a wonderful songbird. The Zamir Chorale is a modern Jewish chorus. In Genesis 43:11 we find the word zimrah meaning singing or music.

The word zamar and zameret is used to describe a male and female singer in Ezra 7:24, and in the Mishna Kelim 19:7. Klei-zemer is used to describe the musical instruments in the holy temple. The Hebrew phrase "Klei-zemer" is the origin of the yiddish word "klezmer" — instrumental music played at weddings and other festive occasions. In conversational Hebrew the word Z'miriyah is used to describe a festival of choral music. King David was called naim z'mirot yisrael literally "sweet singer of Israel." We all know that king david composed many of the psalms in Tehillim which were sung to the harp.

But again when did the first Jewish choir appear? The first instance of a choral performance recorded in the Bible took place in the spring of 1312 BCE as part of the drama of the exodus from Egypt. Pursued by Pharaoh's army, the Israelites were able to pass through the Sinai Peninsula as the Sea of Reeds dried up; the waters then receded, drowning the Egyptian army. At this point the jubilant Israelites burst into song.

According to Zamir Chorale conductor Joshua Jacobson's reading of the verses in Exodus, the ancient Israelite choir had two conductors, both of whom were Levites. The first was Moses, who conducted the basses and tenors: "Then Moses and the men of Israel sang this song to the Lord: I sing to the Lord for He has greatly triumphed. The second conductor was his sister Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, who led the sopranos and altos; when she took the drum in her hand, all the women followed her with drums and dances, and the men and women sang antiphonal: "I sing to the Lord for he has greatly triumphed, casting chariots and horses into the sea."

Professor James Kugel offers a different approach. Exodus 15:20-21 reports that Aaron's sister Miriam sang a song along with all the women at the Red Sea. Much

(Continued on page 5)

RELIGIOUS NEWS...

FROM THE RABBI

(Continued from page 1)

Yes, American Jews may not “easily take to the streets,” but if we really are for more than ourselves, it is our responsibility to go public in our support for Israel. As time goes on this will become more and more difficult for us. At this writing it looks like we may have to “hunker down” to a long and protracted period of “intifada-like activity” in the West Bank and Gaza, and even within Israel proper. Once these activities become the “norm of the day,” we will become accustomed to them, accept them as just another, albeit painful, reality of life for Israelis, and lose the impetus to continually respond to them and speak out and act in Israel’s defense. Not only will this give the other side the upper hand in the media and in the eyes of the world, it will be another reason for our Israeli “mishpacha” to ask where we are and what we are doing to support them in their time of need. For all the talk of Israel’s strength and ability to defend itself (both of which are true), Israelis still need to know that they are not alone, they are supported by Jews all around the world, and especially by the Jews of North America, who still comprise the largest concentration of Jews in the world.

So what can we do? Write letters to the editor, write to the United States government, respond to any call for demonstrations and public gatherings in support of Israel, and if possible travel to Israel on one of the many missions now being sponsored by the Jewish community. Recently, Jim Ellowitch returned from a mission sponsored by MetroWest Federation, about which he wrote the following:

“As many of you know, I spent last week in Israel, having a wonderful experience. I would strongly encourage all of you to plan a trip to Israel soon.

Because of the violence, there are far fewer tourists than usual, causing a great hardship to the psyche and economy of the people. Just by going, you would be sending an important message. Most of the Israelis that I met thanked me for coming to them at this time. The cost of the trip (a UJC mission) was less than trips to much less interesting and satisfying destinations. I spent very little time waiting in lines for attractions, customs, at stores, or anywhere else.

Safety was no problem whatsoever! Violence has been located in several flash points which are not tourist destinations. You will easily avoid the dangerous places and enjoy late night walking with no fear. The most dangerous thing that I did was riding on twisting mountain roads.”

Last month we celebrated the festival of Channukah, whose lesson is that the few in number—the Macabees in the case of Channukah—can successfully protect themselves and stand up against their enemies who would overwhelm them. We, the Jewish People, may be few in number. We may feel overwhelmed by the large number of Arab States and Palestinians who oppose us—and in fact, oppose our very existence. We may feel at a distinct disadvantage in the international arena and at the United Nations, where even supposedly “neutral and objective” investigative committees looking into the violence in the Middle East always seem to issue reports that have a distinct bias against Israel and always seem to favor the Palestinian point of view. Nevertheless, if we keep in mind that especially in the present situation we must remain ever vigilant, go the extra distance to keep Israel in mind and look for ways to actively declare our support, Israelis and Israel will not feel alone and isolated from us, we will strengthen them (and ourselves) in the process, and keep Israel’s point of view before the eye of public opinion. Above all, keep in mind the words of “Hatikvah,” Israel’s national anthem, “Our hope is still not lost, the two-thousand year old hope to be a free nation in our own land, in Zion and Jerusalem.”

Sincerely,

Rabbi Stanley L. Asekoff

CANDLE LIGHTING BLESSINGS FOR FRIDAY NIGHT

ברוך אתה ה' אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו

במצותיו וצונו להדליק נר של שבת

Baruch attah Adonai Eloheynu melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu b'mizvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Shabbat.

EARLY FAMILY SERVICE

Friday Evening, January 5, 7:30 P.M.

Join us for a wonderful family experience. Singing, stories, dialogue with the Rabbi. This month we honor all children with birthdays in the month of January!

RELIGIOUS NEWS...

CANTORIAL COMMENTS

(Continued from page 3)

speculation surrounded this song. The only words cited from it, "Sing to the Lord, for He has acted gloriously, horse and rider he has cast into the sea," match almost perfectly the first line of the men's song.

Did Miriam thus simply form a women's chorus to sing along with the men, yet separately? Such modest behavior seemed altogether praiseworthy, and a number of authors specifically mentioned it: Philo of Alexandria (c 20 BCE - 40 or 50 CE) wrote: They set up two choirs, one of men and one of women, on the beach, and sang hymns of thanksgiving to God. Over these two choirs Moses and his sister presided and led the hymns. Ephraem Syrus who lived in the fourth century wrote: The people were divided into two groups on that day, so that they might sing the wondrous hymn to Him who split the sea and drowned their oppressors on that day. Moses led the men in singing and Miriam, the women.

Perhaps it may have been one choir? Philo wrote, "This wonderful sight and experience, an act transcending word and thought and hope, so filled with ecstasy both men and women that, forming a single choir, they sang hymns of thanksgiving to God their Savior, the men led by the prophet Moses and the women by the prophetess Miriam.

At the same time ancient interpreters supposed that the Israelite women must have sung their own song, with different words, at the Red Sea. One such text found among the Dead Sea Scrolls apparently contained the words of such a song attributed to Miriam. Unfortunately, only a fragment of it has survived:

You have put to shame.
For You are clothed in majesty;
Great are You, savior are You,
The enemy's hope has perished, and he is forgotten;
They have been lost in the mighty water, the enemy;
Praise to the heights; You gave and took;
Who does gloriously.

In forthcoming articles we will explore the development of Jewish choral music from post Levitic times through the Talmudic period. We will also see the rise of Jewish choral music in Italy and trace its evolution into modern times.

MISHNAH STUDY WITH RABBI ASEKOFF

Every Tuesday Evening, 8:30 P.M.

PEREK YOMI DISCUSSION GROUP

To enhance our reading of the daily Biblical chapter Rabbi Asekoff offers a weekly discussion group of the Biblical chapters being read.

Shabbat Mornings

Immediately Following Services!

SPECIAL NOTICE

Services on Sunday evenings now take place at 8:00P.M. every week throughout the winter season.

SPECIAL NOTICE

**Starting Time For Shabbat
and Holiday Morning Services**

**Beginning Shabbat morning,
January 6, 2001
all Shabbat and Holiday services
will begin at 9:00 A.M.**

(replacing our current 9:30 A.M. starting time)

**to enable us to conclude services
at a more reasonable hour!**

THE KOSHER

KORNER

By Rabbi Stanley L. Asekoff

Keeping you up to date with the latest in the world of Kashrut:

Never let it be said that the Kosher world is without variety and excitement!

Special Bulletin: Farm Rich Non-Dairy Creamer will no longer be kosher!

The OU has announced that the new bottles of Farm Rich Non-Dairy Creamer will no longer be kosher. Current containers that have the OU pareve designation may still be on the market when you read this, but all new containers will **not be kosher at all**. Let the buyer beware!

THE FANCY FOOD SHOW

The summer Fancy Food Show in Manhattan is always a great source of new kosher products.

"Xcafe" makes little cups of perked coffee essence that you add to hot water to make a perfect cup of coffee. The product is called Coffee PERCup, is Kof-K certified, and is amazing. You would think that someone just brewed fresh coffee. Each little one-ounce cup of coffee extract is perfect for a cup of coffee. You can reach Xcafe at 508-393-7060. They are located at: 75 Otis Street, Northborough, MA 01532.

Bone Suckin' Sauce. There is no better sauce out there than Bone Suckin' Sauce. This is one serious sauce! You can find them on the Web at www.bonesuckin.com. Or you can call them at 919-833-7559. Ford's Foods is located 1109 Agriculture Street, Raleigh, NC 27603.

From Marietta, Georgia, comes a great idea: flavored honeys. These honeys come in small jars with a taste of heaven inside each and every one. Flavors include: Lemon, Cinnamon, Peach, Raspberry, Blueberry, and Amaretto. THE HONEY BEE COMPANY is under the supervision of the Atlanta Kashrut Commission. The company is located at 1691 Enterprise Way, Suite D, Marietta, GA 30067. You can phone them at 800-572-8836. These are wonderful honeys.

ECHOES OF SUMMER makes organic, gourmet fruit spreads, chutneys, and fruit butters. They are certified by the OU. Flavors include Apple Butter, and Plum

Butter, as well as the following spreads: Wild Blueberry, Strawberry, Bing Cherry, Red Raspberry, Cranberry Pecan, Orange Pineapple, and Hot and Sweet Habanero Pepper Jelly. They also make Hot and Spicy Pineapple Chutney. All are fat-free and sodium-free. They are low in sugar and carbohydrates. They are all natural and organic and they taste like they were just made in some country kitchen. The company may be reached at 508-429-9423. You can write to them at 175 Maple St., Marlboro, MA 01752. Their Web page is at www.echoesofsummer.com.

OTIS SPUNKMEYER makes some really fine cookies. Muffins and cookies are what this company does, and they do it exceptionally well. The company has OU Dairy certification. The cookies, especially, are terrific! You can reach them at 527 Springfield Road, Kenilworth, NJ 07033. The phone number is 800-275-1538.

DAVID'S COOKIES. This company features OU Dairy baked treats of every type. They make Chocolate Chip Cookies, Oatmeal Raisin Cookies, Chocolate Chip Scottish Scones, Rainbow Layer Cookies, Italian Assorted Cookies, Assorted Biscotti, Assorted Fruit Tarts (a fancy-schmancy name for Hamantaschen) and Assorted Ruggalach. All of these are great-tasting goodies. David's Cookies is located at 12 Commerce Road, Fairfield, NJ 07004. You can phone them at 973-227-2800.

AUNT GUSSIE'S COOKIES AND CRACKERS makes really big, oversized cookies that are fat-free, some are low-fat, sugar-free cookies and crackers, and others still are high-octane, full-fat cookies. The best, though, are the oversized cookies that come with really creative designs on them. You can find Auntie at 141 Lanza Avenue, Bldg. 8, Garfield, NJ 07026 and call them at 800-4-A-COOKIE. Some cookies are dairy and others are pareve. Check the wrapper. Hashgacha is by the Kof-K.

(Continued on page 7)

RELIGIOUS NEWS...

KOSHER KORNER

(Continued from page 6)

GOLDEN GLOW COOKIE COMPANY makes cookies that are pareve. Supervision is by the O-K. They make Italian Bakery cookies, biscotti, no-sugar-added cookies, Mama Rose Classic gourmet bakery cookies, ruggalach, and Machaya Hamantaschen fruit tarts. The company is located at 1844 Givan Avenue, Bronx, NY 10469. Their phone number is 718-379-6223.

MOON SHINE TRADING COMPANY introduces chocolate and vanilla nut spread crèmes. Flavors include Roaster Nut Crunch (almonds, cashews and filberts with a semisweet crème), Vanilla Almond Dream, Vanilla Cashew Crème, and Almond Crunch. Supervision is by Kehilla Kosher in California. The company is located at 1250-A Harter Ave., Woodland, CA 95776. You can call them at 800-678-1226.

One of the latest products certified by the OU is: HEINZ's new **green** ketchup! Be brave and give it a try!

People have complained that they cannot buy many of the products about which we write. Call the company and find out who distributes the product in your area and their location. Many companies will sell to you directly.

Flavored water. Not carbonated, just lightly flavored spring water. No sticky aftertaste. No fat, no sodium, and not a lot of calories, either (70-80 per 8 oz). Flavors are wildberry, the strawberry kiwi, and the peach. Also cherry, lemonade, cherry lemonade, kiwi watermelon, cherry lime, and orange cream. All are definite winners. Certification is by the OU. **Fruit Geyser** is by Geyser Products, P.O. Box 1685, Mesa, AZ 85211. You can phone them at: 602-898-7450. They are on the web at www.geyserbev.com.

Briar's Premium Beverages. They make OU-endorsed sodas. Birch Beer, Root Beer, Sarsaparilla, Orange Cream, Ginger Ale, Lemonade Swirl, and Raspberry Fizz. The Birch and Root Beers come in diet and high-test. All are very, very good. Briar's USA can be reached at P.O. Box 7092, North Brunswick, NJ 08902. You can phone them at 732-821-7600. They are on the web at www.briars.com.

PRIORITIES QUIZ:

PLEASE CHECK ANY OF THE ITEMS YOU HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT DOING TODAY!

PURCHASE A HOME:

SAVE FOR COLLEGE:

INVEST FOR RETIREMENT:

BUY CEMETERY PLOTS:

MANY TIMES THE HECTIC PACE OF OUR LIVES MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO SEE CLEARLY. WE ALL HAVE DAILY PRIORITIES WHICH SEEM TO OVERWHELM US AND CLOUD THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS.

DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE OVERWHELMED BY THE DECISIONS WHICH NEED TO BE MADE ALL AT ONCE. WE ALL MUST PLAN FOR THE INEVITABLE.

THE SYNAGOGUE HAS A LIMITED NUMBER OF SINGLE AND FAMILY CEMETERY PLOTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE KING SOLOMON CEMETERY IN CLIFTON, NJ.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE OR STEVE COLTEN AT (973)736-7887

SYNAGOGUE NEWS...

MAZAL TOV TO

Rabbi and Cecille Asekoff on the engagement of their daughter, Shira to Ariel Meyer.

Janet Arnowitz on her installation as Vice President of Women's League For Conservative Judaism.

Heidi and Myron Levey on the birth of their grandson, Griffin Matthew, son of Heidi's daughter Melissa and Carey Berger

GET WELL TO

Shirlee Gottlieb

CONDOLENCES TO

Len Fisher on the loss of his mother, Dorothy Fisher.

Len Eber on the loss of his wife, Roz Eber.

Beverly Kronen on the loss of her husband, Len Kronen

Roberta Yecies on the loss of her mother, Sadie Hochheiser.

Don Legow on the loss of his mother, Nettie Legow Blacker.

ADULT EDUCATION

David Twersky

B'nai Shalom's Political Analyst

Over 60 people attended David Twersky's analysis of the current situation in Israel on Shabbat Morning, December 2, 2000. David, the Editor of the Jewish News, presented an informed, succinct and realistic analysis of the situation. It gave us all a lot to think about.

The good news is that David is coming again! Save the dates March 2 and April 28 to hear David's view of the Israeli elections and the current security situation. Details will follow.

DUES RAFFLE WINNERS

A hearty Mazal Tov to Barry and Cheryl Citron and their family for winning the 2000-2001 B'nai Shalom Dues Raffle. Barry purchased his ticket shortly before the drawing, proving the old adage, better late than never. Congratulations.

To All Our B'nai Shalom Family

Frank and I want to extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all your cards, donations, calls and concern for our recovery. There are not enough words or ways to express our appreciation.

We wish all our dear friends and family all the best for a good healthy year. Thank you again for all your concern and good wishes to us.

Love,

Frank & Gloria Schanerman

SISTERHOOD NEWS

It's That Time Again!

The time we've all been waiting for..save the date:

February 10, 2001

We're looking for gracious hosts/hostesses to offer their kosher homes for our biannual PROGRESSIVE DINNER.

B'nai Shalom needs your help.

If you enjoy meeting synagogue members, making new friends, and eating good food by progressing from house to house for each course.

Does this sound intriguing, but you have a few questions before committing?

PLEASE CALL Eylana Garfinkle (535-0645), Jane Kaplan (731-6629) or Susan Galatz (736-3798) for information or

CALL Marsha Feldstein (324-9766) to RSVP

(seating is based upon how many kosher host respond for serving dinner)



ROBERT KLEIN AT B'NAI SHALOM

Comedian Robert Klein will be the star of B'nai Shalom's 2001 Annual Concert, on Sunday night, April 29, 2001.. Klein has made numerous guest appearances on *The Tonight Show*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brian*, *E! Stand-up Sit-down Comedy*, *HBO comedy specials*, and *Saturday Night Live*, where he participated in the first infamous "Cheeseburger" sketch with John Belushi and Dan Akroyd. Klein was Tony-nominated as Best Actor and winner of a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for his performance in the hit musical, *They're Playing Our Song*. He later starred with Madeline Kahn and Jane Alexander in Wendy Wasserstein's *The Sisters Rosensweig*, where he won both an Obie and an Outer Critics Circle Award for outstanding performance by an actor. From 1993-1996, Klein starred on NBC's *Sisters* as "Big Al" Barker, Swoosie Kurtz' burly, yet lovable retail appliance magnate. The show is presently in syndication.

Tickets are available at the synagogue office. For \$90, Patrons will attend a pre-show dessert buffet and reception with Robert Klein. All other seats will be \$45, and will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Come on Sunday, April 29, 2001, to enjoy the show and support B'nai Shalom.

MEN'S CLUB 14TH ANNUAL TOY DRIVE AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

Many thanks to all the generous members of our congregation who contributed over 250 new toys, puzzles and games to our 14th Annual Toy Drive.

The toys were donated to the Rachel Coalition, an agency for battered Jewish women, sponsored by the Jewish Family Service of MetroWest, and the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty, which is an affiliated agency of UJA-Federation of New York.

Larry Lava, Men's Club President

Tom Phon, Toy Drive Chairman

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

YOUTH GROUPS NEWS

The first half of the year has been great for our Synagogue youth. With programs covering all ages from 4th through 12th grade, there is something for everyone happening in our joint program with Beth El and Oheb Shalom in South Orange. Here are some of the highlights:

USY

Synagogue members Arielle, Sam and Stephan Kallus, Jonah Grossman and Reuben Meltzer, along with other USYers, attended the USY regional Encampment last August.

We have had all sorts of programs, from a murder mystery dinner to cooking food for a local homeless shelter.

Arielle Kallus joined over 1,200 Jewish teens in Boston for the USY International Convention.

Kadima

We have already equaled last year's membership in Kadima, with 13 members from B'nai Shalom

There have been a whole range of programs, from playing with our food as we built Sukkahs from graham crackers and Marshmallow fluff to a great Channukah party at B'nai Shalom.

Check below for the upcoming events for this month.

January Calendar of Events:

- 7 - Kadima - See Guys and Dolls at the JCC of Metropolitan NJ, in West Orange
- 11 - USY - Open Lounge night at Oheb Shalom - foosball, air hockey, ping pong, Playstation, and free food.
- 14 - Kadima - Regional Kadima Day
- 19-20 - USY - Zonal Shabbaton, Oheb Shalom
- 21 - Kadima - Indoor Rock Climbing
- 25 - USY - Discussion group about body piercing and tattooing - Beth El
- Feb. 2-4 - USY - MidWinter Kinnus in Ocean, bussing will be provided at extra cost
- Feb. 4 - Kadima - Make Tu B'shvat baskets for patients at the Kessler Institute - Beth El
- Feb. 8 - USY - Tu Bshvat Seder - Bnai Shalom

For information about upcoming programs, call the hotline - (877) 256 5709

B'NAI SHALOM IS THE PLACE TO BE ON SHABBAT

On Shabbat morning, B'nai Shalom offers programming for children ages 2- teens.

Shabbat Fun run by Mollie Andron and Sherry Kirschenbaum is for children ages 2-4. Children and their parents, participate in a child-oriented service, play, listen to stories and march with the Torah. This program begins at 11:00 each week.

Torah and Tefila run by Shira Bortniker and Sam Kallus is for children ages 5- 7. Through a variety of activities and games, the children daven and learn about the weekly Torah portion. Torah and Tefila begins at 11:00 each week.

Mini Minyan run by Arielle Kallus is for children ages 8 - 10. The "Minyanaires" lead their congregation in Tefila - prayer. During the Torah service they have the opportunity to discuss the weekly Torah portion and act it out. Minyanaires are fond of earning points through question answering which can be traded in for various prizes. Mini Minyan begins each week at 10:45.

Beginning in November - PreTeen and Teen Services.

Shabbat Experience Family Service for 3-5th Graders.

Fresh from leading the Family Service on the High Holidays, Mr. Jeff Kirschenbaum is back to lead Shabbat Experience. Jeff and Janice Colmar have run Shabbat Experience for the last two years.

The Shabbat Experience is a program is for all families of **third, fourth and fifth graders** in the synagogue. Third and Fourth grade families will meet together, while Fifth Graders will have alternative dates. The families spend a Shabbat morning together learning, praying and playing. Not only do families have the opportunity to mix but also it offers a great opportunity for children in the Religious School to meet their counterparts who attend Day Schools.

For more information please call Janice Colmar at 731-3720.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

THE SHABBAT CHAT ROOM HAS ARRIVED!

Beginning January 13, at 11:00, 8th – 12th graders will have an opportunity to daven, discuss, eat and hang out on Shabbat morning. The program will meet on a twice a month basis and will be led by Scott Lantzman. It will conclude at 1:00 following a Shabbat lunch from Eden Wok. Reservations are necessary for lunch. Please call Scott at 364 -1222 or Janice Colmar at 731-3720 or woprinc@aol.com

BOWLING WITH THE RABBI

Like to Bowl? Like to hang out with Rabbi Asekoff ? Here is great opportunity for 3rd and 4th graders at B'nai Shalom. Attend Shabbat services – Friday night , Shabbat morning, or for Havdalah – at any synagogue and earn a Bowling Pin. An invitation to a bowling party with the Rabbi will be issued to those children who earn 3-5 Bowling Pins. For more details, check out the bulletin board outside of Ms. Colmar's office or call the school office at 731-3720.

SHABBAT EXPERIENCE FOR 3RD AND 4TH GRADE FAMILIES ON JANUARY 13

The Shabbat Experience is a program is for all families of **third and fourth graders** in the synagogue. The families spend a Shabbat morning together learning, praying and playing. Not only do families have the opportunity to mix but it offers a great opportunity for children in the Religious School to meet their counterparts who attend Day Schools. This program is run by Mr. Jeff Kirschenbaum and Ms. Janice Colmar For more information please call Janice Colmar at 731-3720.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS...

“Oh Chanukah, Oh Chanukah, come light the Menorah/ Let's have a party...” and that's just what we did. The Nursery School had a wonderful Hanukah celebration. We performed a variety of songs on the bimah in front of our relatives and friends. We continued our party in Maron Hall where we ate potato latkes and cookies.

In January, we will begin our Young Twos Program. This class will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:15 - 11:15. If you, or anyone you know, would like information about this program please contact me at 973-325-8825.

We have so many wonderful events coming up, including “Sunday Funday, “ We promise a fun filled morning with lots of special treats. This will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2001. We will be having our Nursery School Open House on February 11th as well. This will give new students as well as registered students a chance to meet and greet each other.

Registration for the 2001/2002 school year will begin shortly. Please don't miss an opportunity to have your child attend a Nursery School that offers a warm, nurturing, developmentally appropriate program for your preschooler. Again, for information please contact the Nursery School office at 325-8825.

The Nursery School staff and I wish you a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Michele Weiss

Director

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS...

ALEPH STUDENTS CELEBRATION

During the month of January, the Aleph class – 3rd graders – of our Religious School, will be preparing for their Kabbalat Siddur ceremony. This is a ceremony during which they receive their very own Siddurim Families will meet to discuss the importance of this day at a Workshop on January 7th.

We invite the entire congregation to **Kabbalat Siddur on Friday, January 19 at 8:00**. The Aleph students who will be honored are: Jacequeline Burkat, Sarah Cimbol, Jennifer Deutsch, Joshua Dumbroff, Adena Ershow, Rachel Goodman, Benjamin Haberman, Joshua Kastner, Sarah Kesslebrenner, Brandon Leff, Isaac Lynn, Jordan Weiss, and Scott Zenn

ACTS OF HESED AT B'NAI SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

The school would like to thank all the members of the congregation who contributed to OPERATION TOYBOX. Over ten boxes of gently used toys were sent to North Carolina. That will surely ensure happy holidays for many children who have lost their possessions in the last 12 months. Our special thanks goes to Larry Cusmariu for shipping our boxes to North Carolina.

Meanwhile the students have performed many different acts of Gemilut Hasaidim. At last month's Hanukkah Workshop, students brought in can goods for the synagogue on going food drive. In addition they made Hanukkah cards, which were delivered to the residents of Green Hill and Brighton Gardens.

Several Hey students participated in Super Sunday by donating their time and efforts. Yasher Koch to Jason Bergman, Jacob Simon and Ben Heller. Our thanks to the many students who returned their Super Sunday Tzedakah cans.

With the troubles in Israel, so concerning to us, the students had no trouble deciding to donate their Tzedakah monies since September to a variety of Israeli Tzedakah organizations. Organizations chosen by the students included: Magen David Adom – Israel's National Emergency Service, Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind, and the Israel Defense Fund – a fund that assists members of the Israel Defense Forces through the funding of projects that improve their quality of life and enhance their well being.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS !

The members of the school would like to thank the parents who volunteered for the Hanukkah Workshop on December 3rd. With your help it was a great day. Our special thanks to Jill Schneck, our art teacher, who coordinated the entire program. The volunteers were: Carol Churgin, Rhonda Rubins, Ellen Alboum, Sharon Cohen, Bonnie Goodman, Michele Leff, Sharon Cimbol, Trudy Bier, Judy Haberman, Joan Wynn, Alan Grossman, Amy Schwarz, Larry Prince, Martin Perkins, Jeff Heller, Elise Norowitz, Bonnie Stanziale, Marsha Feldstein, Marlene Lynn, Debbie Studen, Debbie Silverstein, Orit Kastner, Marcy Madden, Lisa Snyder, Ellen Isaac, Tina Kaplan, Donna Deutsch, Heidi Leibovich, Donna Burkat, Gloria Geller, Stefanie Leon, Barbara Reuven, Bonnie Issacson, Roz Moskowitz Bielski, Robin Goldberg, Sharon Yontef, Linda Weiss, Steve Burkat, Barbara Alsieux, Lisa Batchelder, and Jerry Kaplan.

SUPER SUNDAY

On December 3 the UJA of MetroWest held its Annual Super Sunday event. It was held in Whippany. There were many people who attended to help contribute to the event. The senate-elect Jon Corzine was attending and even made a few phone calls. The mayor from West Orange, John McKeon attended along with the Livingston Town Council. It wasn't all adults that showed up at the event. Many teenagers showed up to help do certain jobs (such as collect the pledges and bring them to the counting area). With all the volunteers giving a helping hand, Super Sunday was a huge success.

Jason Bergman

Hey student

COMMUNITY NEWS...

TAKE FIVE DAYS TO IMPROVE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

The Isidore and Rose Wagner Institute for Leadership Development at the Jewish Theological Seminary will offer a five day course from Tuesday, March 20, 2001 through Sunday, March 25, 2001 on the Jewish Life Cycle: A Sanctification of Life. This is an opportunity to learn with luminaries of the Conservative Movement and to immerse yourself in Jewish texts, thought, theology and religious life. You will learn with open-minded, inquisitive and committed Jews like you from throughout North America. You will engage in Jewish conversations that will educate, excite and inspire.

Registration for this magnificent program is now taking place. For further information or a brochure, please call the Jewish Theological Seminary Now Jersey Regional Office (201) 227-2577 or email sarudich@jtsa.edu.

JEWISH VOCATIONAL SERVICE CAREER PLACEMENT CENTER

INDIVIDUAL SERVICE...GROUP WORKSHOPS

Career Assessment and Planning
College Selection Counseling
Interest-Free College Loans
Job Search Assistance
Interview Preparation
How To Develop And Use A Network
Transferable Skills For Career Transition
Letter and Resume Preparation
Mentor Matching

Provided by Professional Career Counselors
at our Whippany or East Orange Locations

Call Linda Zamer at: (973) 674-6330 for an
appointment or additional information.

JVS is accredited by: The International Association of
Counseling Services

JVS is a member and beneficiary agency of the United
Jewish Federation of MetroWest and its United Jewish
Appeal.

DONATIONS...

SHALOM FUND

In Honor of

Vivian Feldman becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Amy & Jack Durschlag
Batchelder Family

The engagement of Shira Asekoff to Ariel Meyer
Chaya & Steven Meyer

REFUAH SHLAYMAH

In Memory of

Dorothy Fisher, mother of Len Fisher
Rina & Leonard Kurland
Batchelder Family
Janet & Robert Berger
Ana, George & Jennifer Bercovici
The Baruch Family

Leonard Kronen, husband of Beverly Kronen
Jim Ellowitch
Patricia & Michael Monica

Nettie Legow Blacker, mother of Don Legow
Lynn & Simone Shenassa

Ann Kornreich, grandmother of Karen Mazal and family
Ann Spring & Family

Get well wishes to Gloria Schanerman
Carol & Philip Borker
Sylvia Edelman

Speedy Recovery to Gloria Schanerman
Karen & Larry Lava

Speedy recovery to Gloria & Frank Schanerman
Ana, George & Jennifer Bercovici

JONATHAN BARUCH LIBRARY FUND

In Honor of

Avital Andron becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Ana, George, & Jennifer Bercovici

Vivian Feldman becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Karen & Larry Lava
Ana, George & Jennifer Bercovici
The Baruch Family
Susan & Robert Grossman
Rachel & Dave Esrig

Emily Sher becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Ana, George & Jennifer Bercovici

Leslie Gleaner's special birthday
The Baruch Family

**Michael Baruch on your acceptance to college. We wish you
lots of luck.**
Avi, Lea and Beth Giladi

Jenni Blady becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Rachel & Dave Esrig

DONATIONS...

In Memory of

Jonathan Baruch on what would have been his 14th birthday.

Doris & Jerry Becker
Sylvia & Stanley Segall

SIM SHALOM

In Memory of

Dorothy Fisher, mother of Len Fisher

Tom and Renee Phon

In Honor of

Vivian Feldman becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Ellen & Marc Goldman & Family

BUDDY EDELMAN FUND

In Memory of

Faye Strauss

Adele & Chuck Schuman

Beatrice, mother of Richard Black & Family

Sylvia Edelman

The brother of Bobbi Frank

The Ostrowsky's

The son of Florence Leiter

Sylvia Edelman

In Honor of

Steve Dranoff publishing his book

The Ostrowsky's

Sharon Kronman's special birthday

Sylvia Edelman

Andrew becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Frieda Ostrowsky

Rabbi Stanley and Cecille Asekoff's daughter, Shira becoming engaged

Sylvia Edelman
Rose Bodner

GAIL LIEBMANN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Honor of

Abe and Gail Liebmann's Grandson becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Rina & Leonard Kurland

Rabbi Stanley and Cecille Asekoff's daughter, Shira, becoming engaged

Abe & Gail Liebmann

Len and Rena Kurland's granddaughter, Laura, becoming engaged

Abe & Gail Liebmann

DENA SKALRUD FUND

In Memory of

Dena Skalrud – With fond and grateful memories of Dena

Howard, Randi, Doug & Deena Cohen

RABBI'S MITZVAH FUND

The Rabbi's Fund is an ongoing source for the performance of good deeds and acts of loving kindness. In addition, it supports a variety of good causes, including scholarships for Jewish Summer Camping. Donations may also be made "in honor," "in memory of," and "for the recovery of." All donations are acknowledged in writing. We deeply appreciate those who have made donations this past month:

Bonnie and Allen Smiler in memory of Dorothy Fisher, beloved mother of Len Fisher

Barbara and Elliot Leinwand in memory of Dorothy Fisher, beloved mother of Len Fisher

Suzanne and Elliot Grossman and family in memory of Dorothy Fisher, beloved mother of Len Fisher

Suzanne and Elliot Grossman and family in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Vivian Feldman, daughter of Cantor and Marcia Feldman

Suzanne and Elliot Grossman and family in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Emily Sher, daughter of Geri and Jay Sher

Suzanne and Elliot Grossman and family in honor of the engagement of Shira Asekoff

Sharon Miller

Rochelle and Ilan Forster and family in honor of Vivian Feldman's becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Neil Ruderman in memory of Dorothy Fisher, beloved mother of Len Fisher

Mary, Bob, Larry and Mollie Mandel in memory of Dorothy Fisher, beloved mother of Len Fisher

Mary, Bob, Larry and Mollie Mandel in honor of the engagement of Shira Asekoff

Mary, Bob, Larry and Mollie Mandel in memory of Harry Ades, beloved father of Carole Kaye

Sisterhood Bible Class in memory of Dorothy Fisher, beloved mother of Len Fisher

Sisterhood Bible Class in honor of the Speedy Recovery of Matthew, grandson of Shirley and Phil Pomerantz

Jane and Fred Gottesman in memory of Dorothy Fisher, beloved mother of Len Fisher

Susan and Robert Grossman in memory of Dorothy Fisher, beloved mother of Len Fisher

Betty and Bernard Allman in honor of the Speedy Recovery of Gloria and Frank Schanerman

Edith and Abe Rosenblatt in honor of the Speedy Recovery of Arlene Levine

Myrna and Max Spinrad in memory of Dorothy Fisher, beloved mother of Len Fisher

The Cohenson Family in memory of Dorothy Fisher, beloved mother of Len Fisher

DONATIONS...

The Cohenson Family in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Vivian Feldman

The Cohenson Family in honor of the Speedy Recovery of Gloria and Frank Schanerman

Carmen and Henry Klein in memory of Dorothy Fisher, beloved mother of Len Fisher

Carmen and Henry Klein in memory of Dr. Caren Fried, beloved daughter-in-law of Shirley and Phil Pomerantz

Carmelle and Nathaniel Bargad, Friday Night Pushke

Shirley and Phil Pomerantz in memory of Dorothy Fisher, beloved mother of Len Fisher

Shirley and Phil Pomerantz in honor of the Speedy Recovery of Gloria and Frank Schanerman

Shirley and Phil Pomerantz in honor of the Speedy Recovery of Lois Schuback

Robert and Yvette Lieberman in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Paige Berger

Roberta Goldberg in honor of the naming of her granddaughter, Jacqueline

Doris and Nat Stecklow in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Anne Slovin, granddaughter of Ellen and Don Legow

Doris and Nat Stecklow in memory of Nettie Legow-Blacker, beloved mother of Donald Legow

Selma and Chuck Wapnowitz in honor of the good health of Sy Cipnick

Rachel and Dave Esrig in memory of Dorothy Fisher, beloved mother of Len Fisher

Phyllis and Richard Some in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of the granddaughter of Helyn and Mel Benjamin

The Blady Family in memory of Dorothy Fisher, beloved mother of Len Fisher

Rita Aronoff in honor of the engagement of Shira Asekoff to Ariel Meyer

Marilyn and Lester Bornstein in honor of the engagement of Shira Asekoff to Ariel Meyer

Marilyn and Lester Bornstein in memory of Nettie Legow-Blacker, beloved mother of Donald Legow