



Hayenu

B'nai Shalom

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

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 6

FEBRUARY 2003

SHEVAT / ADAR I 5763

From the Rabbi

Dear friends;

Shabbat morning January 15 was a musical highlight at B'nai Shalom. The Torah portion read on that morning was Beshallah (Exodus 13:17- 17:16), which relates the account of the Exodus from Egypt and our ancestors' crossing the Sea of Reeds (incorrectly called the Red Sea) on dry land. As you may recall, the waters of the sea had formed two walls facing each other, thereby creating a large swath of dry land upon which the Israelites crossed through the sea in safety. Once they had reached the shore on the far side, the waters came crashing down upon the Egyptians pursuing them and drowned them all. The Israelites then broke forth in "Shira," "Song," singing a beautiful poetic composition that constitutes the fourth aliyah of the morning's reading. The congregation rises while it is read to a special "trop" (Torah melody) in which all those present participate in singing certain designated selections.

In commemoration of the reading this Shabbat is named "Shabbat Shirah," "The Shabbat of Song," because it has become customary to mark this occasion with special musical programs. We did this at B'nai Shalom by honoring our teen Torah readers who are members in T.R.A., our Teen Torah Reading Academy. Every Wednesday evening they meet in the synagogue under the direction of Margo Heda. They eat, "schmooz" and study the skill and art of Torah reading. Many of them have been certified as "Mentors" who are then "licensed" to serve as instructors for the other participants in the program. Once a year they are honored on Shabbat Shira, and throughout the year they come forward to participate on Shabbat, Holiday, and High Holy Day services as "Ba'alei Kriah," "Torah readers."

This year at Shabbat Shira we also marked the arrival on the B'nai Shalom scene of the "BCCC," The Brunch Club Children's Chorus," that meets for practice on Sunday mornings at 11:30 A.M. They had made their "debut" in December at our congregational Channukah party and were formally recognized on Shabbat Shirah. They sang several selections in the service and were a musical delight!

None of this could have taken place without the inspiring and dedicated leadership of Margo Heda, our Music Educator. In her honor the parents of our Teen Torah readers dedicated a leaf on the "Tree of life" in our lobby,

(Continued on page 2)

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, February 7	5:04 P.M.
Friday, February 14	5:12 P.M.
Friday, February 21	5:20 P.M.
Friday, February 28	5:29 P.M.

MINCHA-MAARIV TIMES

Saturday, February 1	4:55 P.M.
Saturday, February 8	5:05 P.M.
Saturday, February 15	5:10 P.M.
Saturday, February 22	5:20 P.M.

RELIGIOUS NEWS...

FROM THE RABBI

(Continued from page 1)

and we all join them in expressing our gratitude to Margo for her inspiring efforts and dedication!

Beyond the satisfaction and “nachas” we derived from these wonderful musical events there is an important lesson to be learned that has far reaching consequences for congregational life and for our membership. A meaningful community can not be created, sustained, and enjoyed without the active participation of both professionals and congregational members. It is like a candle: without both the wick and the wax there can be no flame to light up the darkness. A congregational staff of qualified Jewish professionals can not produce very much without the active involvement of synagogue members. On the other hand, interested and motivated members need the advice and guidance of the professionals to bring their dreams to fruition. Congregational life thrives when there is a “brit,” a “covenant” among and between all members of the community to actually initiate and bring to fruition all those activities that create community. Nothing could happen at B’nai Shalom without this “brit” that binds all of us together. Whether it is a social activity, an adult education lecture or program, people to chant haftarot, read Torah, serve as gabbaim, lead services or attend a weekday minyan, it would not happen without the active involvement of our members. Our many committees could neither exist nor create their programs without everyone’s participation. And on the other side of the coin, the various activities that draw each of us to the synagogue would not be there for us without our active participation.

One weekday evening many years ago we did not have the 10 people needed for the minyan and we had to make a few phone calls to have the evening service. While waiting for those we had called to arrive one of those present indignantly complained that we did not have the

full 10 people there on time. “I have to say kaddish for my yahrzeit! Why isn’t there a minyan? Where are the people who are supposed to be here to make the minyan without any difficulties?” I responded by asking, “Where have you been all those other nights of the year when your fellow congregants also needed a minyan?”

We at B’nai Shalom have much to sing about as we look back at Shabbat Shira. At the same time, as we look forward, we must ensure our continuing participation in the covenant of our community so that the song goes on for many years and the flame burns bright with enthusiasm and joy!

Sincerely,

Rabbi Stanley L. Asekoff

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING BRACHA

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.

HAYENU

B'nai Shalom

300 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052

Rabbi STANLEY L. ASEKOFF

Cantor ELIHU FELDMAN

President SIMONE SHENASSA

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@comcast.net**

CANTORIAL COMMENTS

By Cantor Elihu Joseph Feldman

The Four Koussevitzky Boys – Part 1

This article is dedicated to the blessed memory of a family of great cantors, two of whom, as a child, I had the privilege to hear conduct Shabbat services monthly. I want to acknowledge assistance for this article to Cantor Ivan Oppenheim of Holland and to Rabbi Geoffery Shisler from Great Britain for biographical information on Cantors Moshe, David and Jacob Koussevitzky. I also want to thank Fay Singer from Capetown, South Africa, for biographical material on Cantor Simcha Koussevitsky.

For those of you who may not know it, Cantors Moshe and David Koussevitsky had a profound effect on me as a youngster and as a young man growing up. For very few times in life have I been inspired with so much awe and reverence for G-d that I was motivated to pray with all my heart and soul. These times, though, were very special and occurred when I prayed while these cantors were leading services.

Before I tell you about the Koussevitsky boys, I would like to share with you how I know both of them. My uncle Nathan, of blessed memory, regarded himself as the great Cantorial Afficianado of the Grand Course Jewish Center, located in the Bronx, New York. It was he who wanted me to sing with Ben Friedman's and Samuel Sterner's choirs which accompanied both of these world class Chazzanim. His ultimate goal, along with my father of blessed memory, was to groom me to become a cantor. This master plot was hatched without my knowledge.

One humorous event that involved Cantor Kouusevitsky and me occurred on a Shabbat in August. Moshe was doing his annual Rosh Chodesh Ellul Concert Shabbat in Temple Beth El in Long Beach, Long Island. My Uncle Nat decided that he wanted me to sing for Moishe, and as a favor he asked Ben Friedman's choir to back me up. I was petrified because he arranged all this without telling me. This great audition occurred during the Cantor's break between Torah Reading and Musaf. So here I was, a young lad of 12 or so, singing Heeneni Heeoni before one of the greatest cantors in the world. I started to sing and it was beautiful. After all, I had Moshe Koussevitzky's symphonic choir accompanying me. All of a sudden Cantor Moshe Koussevitsky started to gesture vigorously with his hands to the choir and me and stopped us after the first two lines. My uncle, seeking approbation from the Cantor, said to him, "Why did you move him back?" "Was his voice that strong?" The Cantor told him, "No,

your nephew was spitting in my coffee."

Although there are many who would argue with me, Moshe is generally regarded as the Chazan's Chazan. He possessed an outstanding, well-trained, tenor voice of extraordinary range and flexibility and an innate understanding of the art of Chazanut. Frequently, when I heard him daven Musaf in Long Beach the 12:00 noon midday siren would go off. This was usually during Musaf Kedushah. He easily could drown it out.

Moshe Koussevitzky was born on June 9th, 1899, at Smargon in Vilna, Lithuania, and came from a background of Cantors. He was the oldest of four brothers, Jacob, Simcha and David; each of whom went on to become famous Chazanim in their own right. Moshe began his singing career at the age of eight as an alto in the choir of Chazan Shlepak. Like many artistic people, he could not only sing, but he was also gifted with his hands. As he grew up he toyed with the idea of becoming an artist or a sculptor. Fortunately, however, he accepted a position as Chazan at the Vilna 'Savel's Shul' and in 1927 he auditioned for the plum position in Poland at the 'Tlomazke Shul' in Warsaw where, against the finest opposition, he was awarded the post. He took the opportunity to study voice and music, and throughout his life he always learned Torah.

Being in such an illustrious Cantorial position, his fame spread around Europe very rapidly and soon Moshe traveled to Brussels, Antwerp, Vienna and London to give concerts. During World War II, Moshe took his family to Russia and adopted the name Mikhail Koussevitzky. While he was there he sang in the operas Boris Goudinov, Tosca and Rigoletto. When he returned to Poland he gave a concert at which the ambassadors of the United Kingdom and the United States were in the audience. As a result of this concert he obtained visas for both countries and came to England until 1947, when he traveled to settle in America.

Moshe continued to travel and concertise all over the world. Fortunately he also made numerous recordings and, even though many of them were produced on comparatively primitive equipment, it is still possible to appreciate the exceptional quality of his voice. The last Cantorial position he held was at Temple Beth El in Boro Park, Brooklyn. He died on August 23rd, 1966, and is buried in Jerusalem.

(Continued on page 4)

RELIGIOUS NEWS...

CANTORIAL COMMENTS

(Continued from page 3)

I will always remember singing the boy alto solo Uvyom Hasshabat with him and hearing him sing Sheyiboneh Beit Hamikdash after services.

Cantor David Koussevitsky

While Moishe was admired for the strength, power and range of his voice, it was David Koussevitsky who had the sweeter voice. In Hebrew this quality is called Metikut, literally sweetness. David certainly had a most unusual voice, and was able to maintain long phrases on very high notes. Others have tried to copy him, but few have succeeded in coming anywhere near the excitement that he could generate by his extraordinary singing.

As a child David Koussevitzky sang in the choir in the Vilna Great Synagogue. He was intent on following a musical career from the start. He studied at the Vilna Academy of Music and became a choir master at the age of eighteen. After serving in the Polish army, he continued his voice studies in Warsaw, officiating at various Synagogues before becoming the Chief Chazan in Rovna.

In his middle twenties he accepted a call to the Hendon Synagogue, London, where he stayed for twelve years. Koussevitzky was not enthused with the life of a Chazan in the United Synagogue in London. In his book, 'Chosen Voices,' Mark Slobin quotes from a verbatim interview with David in which David says: "[Working for the United Synagogue] was like a government. Each shul sends their representative, like to the House of Commons... it's like the Church of England... They all had their traditional music. They had a Blue Book that they give you, and they tell you, "use it as much as possible..." You had to be there every shabbes... and [I] taught in Jews' College. I used to share the weekday services with the rabbi. I did Sunday morning. No layman was allowed to officiate..." He relates how he did not want to leyn (read the Torah), and eventually got an agreement with the 'chief warden' that he wouldn't be expected to do so.

A business man who used to travel frequently between England and the USA persuaded David to set his sights higher, and in 1948, after the businessman helped him to obtain a visa, he went to America and was appointed to the highly prized position at Temple Emanu-El in Boro Park, Brooklyn.

Throughout his long career, David Koussevitzky traveled the world, singing in the most prestigious venues. He was an outstanding showman who could hold an audience in the palm of his hand. His top notes could rattle the chandeliers and make your hair stand on end, and his soft notes - his piano, could bring tears to your eyes.

After Moishe's death, David inherited the Koussevitsky mantle here in the United States. He continued Moishe's tradition of a special concert Shabbat in Temple Beth El in Long Beach on Rosh Chodesh Ellul and singing Sheyiboneh at the end of services. While Moishe's and Doveed's fame grew in the United States, Jacob and Simcha's own unique style of Chazanut developed a following of their own in Europe and South Africa.

Next month we will continue to enjoy reminiscing and paying our respects to Cantors Simcha and Jacob Koussevitsky, whose voices, along with Moishe and David are now part of the Heavenly choir surrounding Hakadosh Boruch Hu.

Sincerely,

Cantor Elihu Feldman

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

On Friday evening, February 7, we continue our Family Services.

PLEASE NOTE:

STARTING TIME IS NOW 6:00 P.M.

All February birthdays will be celebrated. Stories, singing, and a wonderful Oneg Shabbat highlight the evening!

Mishnah Study with Rabbi Asekoff

Tuesday Evenings, 8:30 P.M. Any one with a reading knowledge of Hebrew is invited to join us!

עץ חיים

ETZ HAYIM

Rabbi Stanley L. Asekoff

Each month we highlight another aspect of Etz Hayim!

On Shabbat morning, January 25, we read “Aseret Hadibrot,” the “Ten Commandments,” that are found in the Biblical book of “Shemot,” “Exodus,” chapter 20:1-14, in the portion known as “Yitro.”

On page 1509 in Etz Hayim you will find an essay by Jeffrey H. Tigay entitled “Decalogue With ‘Upper Accents.’” Tigay pints out that the Ten Commandments are found in two places in the Torah, exodus chapter 20 and Deuteronomy chapter 5. In printed versions of the Torah (but not in the Torah scroll itself) we find little signs known as “trop” that are the “musical notes” indicating how the words should be chanted. Unlike anything else in the Torah, the Ten Commandments have two sets of “trop,” one set of which has become known as the “lower accents” (*taam tachton*) and one of which has become known as the “upper accents” (*taam elyon*). Tigay points out that each set of “trop” demand that the sentences be divided differently. The “lower accents” divide the commandments into 13 verses of standard length while the “upper accents” divide the Ten Commandments so that each commandments, whether long or short, constitutes just one verse. “There is only once exception-the first verse contains what Rabbinic tradition regards as the first two commandments (which corresponds to the midrashic tradition that these two commandments (which refer to God in the first person) were spoken directly by God to the people in a single, uninterrupted statement, whereas the rest (which speak of God in the third person) were transmitted to the people by Moses.

The custom among *Ashkenazim* is to use the *lower accents* whenever the Ten Commandments are read on Shabbat during the year, and to use the upper accents on Shavuot. In this way the reading on Shavuot re-enacts the original proclamation of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai when the people heard the first two commandments from God in a single utterance, as the upper accents render them.

We encourage you to stop in the synagogue to examine a volume of Etz Hayim and take advantage of the educational and informative articles it contains, in addition to the Biblical text itself and the accompanying commentaries!

LEARNER'S MINYAN

February 7,, 10:45 A.M.

Join us for the second year of our Learner's Minyan. No skill or knowledge needed other than the desire to learn and become comfortable with the service. You will enhance your knowledge and enjoyment of the Shabbat morning service as we delve into the meaning, format and mechanics of the synagogue service.

Our very own and very talented B'nai Shalom member

Moshe Rudin

will lead the minyan as he draws upon his extensive musical skills and Jewish knowledge to create a wonderful experience for all who participate.

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES SCHEDULE

Fridays

February 7 5:05 P.M.

February 14 5:10 P.M.

February 21 5:20 P.M.

February 28 5:30 P.M.

All are welcome!

Adult Bat/Bar Mitzvah Class

Taught by Rabbi Asekoff

Includes Beginner's Hebrew

Begins This Month

Call Rabbi Asekoff For More Details

And To Register

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!

About Stella D'Oro products

Several months ago the designation "OU-D" (indicating that a product is under the "OU" supervision and is "dairy" began to appear on Stella D'Oro products, which for many years had been "pareve" and had been in wide use by the Jewish community precisely because they were "pareve." The change in designation was made in anticipation of changes in manufacturing that the company had planned to implement.

Recently the following communication was sent out from the "OU":

Subject: Stella D'Oro

The mother company, Nabisco, originally wanted to introduce dairy equipment and even some dairy ingredients in the future when all of the Pareve packaging would be depleted. The plant, the products, and equipment have remained Pareve all this time. On the more popular products whose pareve packaging ran out first, they began putting on the OU-D packaging. Now that they have changed their minds, we will have to wait about four months for them to deplete the dairy packaging and reintroduce the pareve packaging. However all products are to be considered pareve effective immediately.

I stress again that there were no non-pareve ingredients in the plant during all this time.

Yosef Goldberg

Rabbi Yosef Goldberg, Rabbinic Coordinator
Kashrus Division - Orthodox Union
11 Broadway, New York, NY 10004

Bottom Line: All Stella D'Oro products have been, are, and will be "pareve." The anticipated changes never took place. So "ess gesind," eat and enjoy all the "pareve" selection offered by Stella D'Oro!

"Welcome To The Neighborhood!"

The "Kosher Korner" is always delighted to welcome a new Kosher establishment to the area. We hope that after reading about it you will take advantage of its arrival and give it your own, personal "taste test!"

Mosaica restaurant recently opened in the Millburn Mall located on Vauxhall Road just off Millburn Avenue in Millburn. The setting is informal and inviting, the space is on the small side (my guess is it seats 40-50 people), and the menu is more on the "upscale" side with offerings not found in any of our other local eateries.

The opening week menu included such appetizers as *Fritto Misto* mixed fry of sweet potato, Gala apples and red onions with garlic aioli; chicken liver terrine with pickled beets and grilled sourdough bread, *Merguuz* Moroccan lamb sausage with eggplant, parsley and preserved Lemon salad and *tabini* dressing, celery root and wild mushroom soup. Then you can move on to the Entrees that included wood grilled Atlantic salmon with grilled leeks, roast fingerlings and white wine mustard sauce; cumin roasted chicken with butternut squash, chickpea and red pepper stew; grilled lamb chop with mint lentil stew and parsnip fritters; and grilled rib-eye steak with crispy potato cake, sautéed winter greens and Merlot peppercorn sauce.

The desserts included *Gateau le Ariel* steamed chocolate cake; and quince and pear crostata with Cognac caramel sauce.

Mosaica is under the supervision of the Va-ad of MetroWest, is open for lunch and dinner (Shabbat excluded, of course). Call them at 908-206-9911 for more information concerning the days and hours of operation and any other questions you might have.

We wish them good luck and success! Bon Apetit!!

REFORMULATIONS

Freihoffer's Potato Bread has reformulated. The product used to be "OU- Pareve". Now the bread is dairy and bears a "K-D" designation and lists dairy ingredients.

Herr's Pretzels have reformulated and are now "OU-D."

In the event that you purchase these products, be aware of the changes and be careful not to serve them with meat meals!

SYNAGOGUE NEWS...

CONDOLENCES TO

Beatrice Walvick on the loss of her mother, Clara Linder
Roberta Knauer on the loss of her mother, Elsie Kopen
Sharon Cimbol on the loss of her mother, Lillian Hoffman
Arlene Levine on the loss of her mother, Ruth Friedman

MAZAL TOV TO

Natalie Levitt, upon the birth of a grandson Eli London Levitt, son of Mark & Susan Levitt
Terry & Shari Friedman on their son being accepted to Duke University
Rob & Hela Blazer on their daughter Rebecca's marriage to Dr. Mark Bernstein
Donna & Stephen Berowitz upon the engagement of their daughter Alyson to Tzvi Small
Dr. & Mrs. Fred Einstein on the birth of their grandson Jared Einstein Astrof, son of Jacqueline and Joshua Astrof
Richard & Ellen Bodner on the marriage of their daughter Debra to Douglas Goldstein
Doreen Genkin for being honored by West Orange Hadassah as Woman of the Year on November 24th, 2002
Janet Arnowitz upon her installation as National Vice President of Women's League for Conservation Judaism

BAR/BAT MITZVAH BIOS

Bar Mitzvah's Name	Nolan Filip Sheppard
Date of Bar Mitzvah	February 2, 2003
Parent's Name	Mirabella & Jack Sheppard
Date of Birth	February 6, 1990
School	Edison Middle School
Grade	7 th
Achievements	Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do, High Honor Roll, First Place Team in the Essex County Gifted and Talented Problem Solving Convocation, Art work exhibited at W.O. Library and Livingston Mall.
Interest & Hobbies	Playing the flute, reading, video games, creative writing

WELCOME WAGON

By Rachel Plafker Esrig

Please extend a warm welcome to the following new members of our B'nai Shalom family.

Deborah Cummings and Douglas Sandlaufer

Deborah and Douglas were both born and raised in Jersey, Deborah in Maplewood/South Orange and Douglas in Jersey City. They have two children, Sam, who attends Kushner, and Sarah. Douglas is the District Sales Manager for Sears Home Central's heating and cooling division, covering New Jersey and Staten Island. Deborah is a Deputy Attorney General for the State of New Jersey's criminal justice division, office of bias crime and community relations. She is also an adjunct professor of law at Seton Hall Law School, teaching legal writing and research, and civil trial practice. They are all the proud owners of Bubbles, the resident guinea pig.

SISTERHOOD NEWS...

Shalom ya'll,

As the cold weather ascends upon us let us not be querulous, for we have much warmth within Sisterhood. Our calendar is always abundant with Jewish Education, such as Cecille Asekoff's bi-monthly Bible Study and her Rosh Hodesh Class every other month (March being the next month). Where else can you build on your Judaic knowledge, as a woman, and be in this casual learner friendly atmosphere? Every Sisterhood member is invited to join these groups as with any of our programming, you don't feel you have anything to learn or nothing to contribute....Cecille has her way of making us all feel we gain some very valuable knowledge... Please RSVP to Ellen Grossman if you are interested to attend @736-5727. READ.....READ....LOVE to READ...Come to our BOOK REVIEW—FEB. 12th @ Jill Schneiderman's house. RSVP to Jill @994-2969 the current book to be reviewed is "The Good German" by Joseph Kanon. If you want more information regarding future books to be reviewed and dates, call Gilda Paul, chairperson @324-0536.

FASHION, DID I HEAR FASHION..... Or did I hear you say....."you wanted a FASHION SHOWCASE" well, Now we've got it ! YES. Calling all future Brides to Bat Mitzvah, girls and women of all ages, formal to casual, this showcase is for you. FEBRUARY 23rd, @ 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Sisterhood is sponsoring a fashion show for you and your friends of all ages. COME ONE COME ALL and meet the Designer Lauri, of LAURY'S DRESSES, custom styles exclusively for you , the customer , whatever the occasion. FREE to ATTEND, Come see B'nai Shalom children, teens and women model. Purchases made that day will be discounted from the reasonable prices offered to our members. CUSTOM WORK @ GREAT PRICES...CHECK IT OUT and bring lots of friends and family. Please RSVP to: Eylana Garfinkle, Program Chairperson @535-0645 ALSO, raffle will be held that day. Refreshments too.

YASHER KOACH, to everyone that participated in this year's celebration of SISTERHOOD SHABBAT. Everyone that attended this service in Sisterhood 's honor we thank you the congregation for now and throughout the year's programming. For what is B'nai Shalom without the influence and help from Sisterhood and what's Sisterhood without the need and participation from our members and the B'nai Shalom congregation. We're all volunteers here to promote to adults and teach our children of our Jewish laws and observances in our homes and our daily living. This is our Sisterhood's goal as a part of National Women's League. Thank you again for your much needed support of our programming. Special thanks to Bonnie Kessler and Mary Mandel and Janet Geldzahler for your

time and efforts to make our Sisterhood Shabbat happen. Everything was executed beautifully. This is the second year that other Sisterhoods have come to observe. Thank you for paying your \$36.00 dues each year and if you are a woman of our congregation that has not yet paid your dues, please do so now, for your \$36.00 helps many far more than you know.

The Sisterhood Judaic Gift Shop is offering 10 and 20 percent off on all Passover Sedar items. Stop in and shop.

This special offer is good only in Feb. and March.

We're trying to put together, at your request, a Progressive Dinner on March 8th, 2003. If you would like to host dinner, dessert or appetizers in your kosher home or if you are interested in attending that evening or if you just want to know what the heck I'm talking about, call me (and don't leave a message) @731-2021.

SAVE THE DATE: May 17th, " A MALAVA MALKA ", in honor of Lynn Shenassa for all the efforts and time Lynn has given to B'nai Shalom Sisterhood over the past many years. Robin Colten has graciously volunteered to chair this funfilled evening of events along with our past honorees. Anyone else that would like to be on this committee please contact Robin @736-7887. We look forward to a mass turnout so please ,RSVP early, as there are many details to personalize. Invitations will be forthcoming.

Yasher Koach to the Chavarim Club for another successful family event. My family was unable to attend this year but we heard everyone had a super good time. Did it really beat our group of singers from last years, Bye Bye American Pie?

What a great mitzvah for this committee to have parents and children enjoying the same party , great family time. Thanks for another year.

Passover candy forms have been sent home through the Hebrew School; any additional forms can be found in temple offices. contact Goldie Jacoby@325-1930. Candy and cakes make great gifts for those you want to give a holiday present. Order multiples for sedar hostess . Orders must be turned by the end of February.

We'll soon be nominating new positions on our Sisterhood Board, if you are interested in participating call me. Thanks.

Keep warm, keep attending our programs, be proud of yourself, because we are...

Your Sisterhood President,

Suzie Hammer

SISTERHOOD NEWS...

YAD L'YAD

Helping Hand
Sisterhood Mitzvah Committee

VOLUNTEERS WANTED
to participate in a GREAT MITZVAH

Visit the sick, the elderly, the
homebound or those in mourning.
Help with errands or transportation.

If you are able to volunteer or if you
know of anyone who is in need of a
"HELPING HAND", Please call:
Sharon Maas 973-731-0343

SISTERHOOD SCRIP PROGRAM

What is SCRIP and how does it work?

SCRIP are store gift certificates. Dollar for dollar, full face value, you buy them from one of the Sisterhood volunteers. You write a check or you can charge it on your credit card.

Sisterhood buys SCRIP at discount and therefore earns a profit when you buy them at face value. It is one way to raise funds for the Sisterhood causes.

Do all your grocery shopping at:

PATHMARK, SHOP RITE, KINGS, GOURMET GALAXY, PLEASANTDALE KOSHER MEAT MARKET. Books at BARNES & NOBLE.

It's easy and at no cost to you !!!

ALL of YOU can PARTICIPATE !

BONUS: earn credit toward a GIFT CERTIFICATE to JUDAICA GIFT SHOP !!!

Call one of our volunteer sales people:

Ana Bercovici 731-2063
Hannah Bargad 669-0896
Anne Blady 669-8379
Eylana Garfinkle 535-0645
Mirabella Sheppard 325-3509



DJ MasterJeff

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Ask for Jeff

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RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS...

After a jam-packed month of programs in January, February will probably seem like a breeze, at least to me. We had executed a total of eight major programs of which six involved families of various grades. I am very pleased that in the midst of reviewing, over eighty resumes, and interviewing numerous prospective candidates for the School Administrative Assistant position, we accomplished the following enriching programs:

Gimel Kabbalat Siddur family workshop, on January 5 and the planning and delivery of Kita Gimel **Kabbalat Siddur** dinner, ceremony and presentation on January 24. To mark the initiation of the students into formal Jewish Education, each student received a Sim Shalom Siddur with a beautifully decorated cover done by the parents with a special message typed inside.

Mazal Tov to the families of our Kita Gimel and their students listed below:

Randall Burkat	Liat Kastner
Benjamin Denson	Dael Norwitz
Jordan Dumbroff	Isaac Elliot Rubins
Daniel Goodman	Ariel Stanziale
Sara Isaac	Bryan Schonfeld

Two **Shabbatonim** with the 6th and 7th grade families from Solomon Schechter and the Religious School. We studied Torah with commentaries - on January 4th, Parashat va'ara, and on the 25th Parashat Yitro.

Shabbat Experience program involved the Religious School Kita Hey families who gathered for a study of Torah in Parashat Bo, and learners Shabbat Morning Service, utilizing educational games and Play-acting on January 11. At this interactive program two excellent facilitators joined me. They are our well-known Jeff Kirshenbaum, and Stephen Kallus-a senior Mini Minyan leader.

The very Successful **Zimriyah, Regional Song Fest** for 4th Grade students took place in Morris Plains on January 12. Our students sang two Hebrew songs and enjoyed an activity mixer and refreshments. Kudos to Margo Heda our Music director for the beautiful singing and to the parents who *schlepped* the kids to the location.

Kita Vav participated in an inspiring Family Workshop on January 26 at the JCC in Whippany called **Mitzvot of Metrowest**. The dynamic keynote speaker Dr. Gabriel Goldman delivered a riveting message. The program was run by the Jewish Educators Association.

Sixteen of our twenty Kita Vav families attended. The theme this year was Conservation of The Environment, by following the Mitzvah of Bal-Tashkhit, do not destroy the Jewish way; this campaign was thus appropriately

named Shomrey Ha'adamah, Guardians of The Earth.

On January 19th our teachers attended a very special two-hour workshop, at the JEA, dealing with the political system and "**the situation**" of the **State of Israel**. I was very proud to see my teacher's overwhelming response to attend. We discussed and made recommendations on how to promote activities that will increase our student's love and commitment to our homeland Israel, especially at these difficult times. We also enjoyed the Israel Cultural Fest, which ended at 5:00PM.

Yishar Koakh to those dedicated partners who help make this B'nai Shalom School intellectually rich with abundant programs; enhancing an already excellent Religious School Education

Our programs and schedule for the Month of February will continue as follows:

The Religious School February Calendar 2003

Sat	1	Cancelled: Shabbat Experience Kita Vav-6 th
Sun	2	Regular Classes. Mazal Tov-Nolan Sheppard Bar Mitzvah. Rosh Hodesh Adar
Tue	4	Regular Classes
Thu	6	Regular Classes
Sat	8	AM Shabbaton – All Kita Vav and Zayin Families (6th & 7th Grades)
Sun	9	Regular Classes Primary & Gimel through Hey Required Talit & T'fillin Kita Vav family Workshop 9: 30 - 11:30 AM
Tue	11	Regular Classes
Thu	13	Regular Classes
Sun	16	No classes – Presidents' Day Weekend
Tue	18	Classes resume
Thu	20	Regular Classes
Sat	22	Shabbat Experience Kita Dalet (Fourth Grade) 10:00 AM
Sun	23	Regular Classes Kita Bet Family Havdalah Workshop 9:30 – 11:30 AM
Tue	25	Regular Classes
Thu	27	Regular Classes

February 2 through February 6 Mallka will be away at the Educator's Conference in Boston MA

YOUTH ACTIVITIES NEWS...

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT KADIMA for grades 6-8

PLEASE CALL OUR YOUTH ADVISOR JANET BRENNER AT 973-818-2607 OR

GILDA PAUL OUR PARENT SUPPORT AT 973-324-0536 OR EMAIL AT GILDA@PRINCETON.EDU

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE 4/5ER CLUB for grades 4 & 5

PLEASE CALL JANET BRENNER OUR YOUTH ADVISOR AT 973 -818 -2607 OR

SUSAN GROSSMAN AT 973-731-0847 OR

KATIA GRINBERG AT 973-736-1890.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT USY for grades 9 - 12

PLEASE CALL SCOTT LANTZMAN AT 973-992-9293 OR EMAIL AT HOUSEDAD01@AOL.COM OR

SONIA COHENSON AT 973-736-3248 OR EMAIL AT NYCRUNNER9@AOL

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ANY YOUTH PROGRAMMING OR SHABBAT MORNING PROGRAMMING

PLEASE CALL SUZANNE GROSSMAN AT 973-243-9798 OR EMAIL AT PDNEURO@AOL.COM

KEEP IN MIND THAT SYNAGOGUE YOUTH PROGRAMMING CAN BE BETTER THAN EVER WITH MORE PARENT PARTICIPATION. LET ME KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY! PARTICULAR HELP IS NEEDED IN PHONE CHAINS AND CHAPERONING THE 4/5ER CLUB. THANKS!

*Suzanne Grossman
Youth Committee Chairperson*

THE ROSE GOTTLIEB MEMORIAL FUND

was established to honor the memory of a very special woman. This fund helps to defray costs for the more expensive USY and Kadima programs such as Encampment and Conventions. Please consider making a donation to this worthwhile cause. If any of our young people are considering participating in these programs and would be interested in a subsidy please write a brief note to Murray Gottlieb and mail directly to the synagogue.

6TH THROUGH 8TH GRADE SHABBAT MINYAN

B'nai Shalom provided programming on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur for our 6th through 8th grade students. Participants were able to lead or participate in the service, prepare and provide the torah reading, blow and listen to shofar, but most of all be together to celebrate the holiday. Our 6th, 7th and 8th grade shabbat morning program will continue this year. It's a place where young people can come and discuss the weekly Torah portion, current events and participate in prayer. It is a place to meet new people and talk with old friends. No previous knowledge of Hebrew or "Jewish studies" is required to participate. Everyone is welcome. We begin at 10:30 and end at noon. Look forward to seeing you there! Questions? Email to ARIMAAS@excite.com. Watch your mail for upcoming dates.

Ari Maas

SHABBAT MORNING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Did you know that every shabbat morning our synagogue holds programs for our young people? Shabbat Fun for ages 3 - 5 begins at 11:00 a.m. Torah and Tefillah for 5 - 7 year olds and Mini Minyan for ages 7 - 11 begin at 10:45. We request that parents bring their children directly to the programs. Room assignments are posted outside the main sanctuary. The programs end at noon, at which time the young people are escorted back to the main sanctuary to join the congregation. Each program is overseen by Malka Hapner, our religious school principal. Prayer and activities are designed with the age of each group in mind. The children who participate really have a great time - hope to see you there!

*Jonah Grossman, Stephan Kallus, Sam Kallus, Leah Maas, Arielle Goldfischer, Dina Kirschenbaum
Group Leaders*

YOUTH ACTIVITIES NEWS...

USY NEWS

It is unquestionably most difficult to sit here and try to tell you all of my trip. A trip that will never be forgotten, nor left behind. A trip that has opened my eyes to many new things. A trip that has brought me closer to Judaism and my people. A trip of a lifetime some may say...USY 2Orlando2 International Convention.

I woke up around 3:45 a.m. Went to Newark Airport, not knowing what lay ahead of me. Four hours later I was brought into a place I wish I never had to leave. This place was with 1,261 Jewish teens throughout America.

We had 7 days, and 6 nights to be in Florida. Our days consisted of Jewish Study, Prayer, Ruach, and a beautifully spent Shabbos. I learned more than I have ever learned in seven days.

I was awoken by what the Rabbi's were teaching. I never knew in depth the consequences a person faces when he or she jumps to conclusions. The Rabbi's taught us how one should not assume anything about a person, nor gossip about anyone. I will not lie to you and say I never have gossiped. As we all do, I have too. Why does a person gossip and make assumptions of another? One might say to make that person feel better about him or herself by putting others down, jealousy, or the need to feel accepted by peers. Whatever the reason may be, I now know that it is plainly pointless.

When you're placed into a room with 1,261 Jews your age who come from all different backgrounds it is hard to pick and choose those worthy of a friendship. I am so proud to say that I made friends with people whom I would never have thought to have ever even spoken to. These unique and undeniably special people have opened my eyes to so many things, and have made me feel accepted as a Jewish teen in America.

Our studies also consisted of what the Torah has to say about the use of drugs and alcohol. The torah teaches us that we should not do anything that would harm our bodies. That is why drugs are restricted in the Jewish Law. Nowadays, sadly more and more teens are getting into drugs and alcohol. This thought makes me want to make a change.

There is so much beauty in the Jewish Youth, why do some feel the need to harm their bodies and destroy their time? There is no need for a person who feels lonely or unacknowledged to turn to drugs and alcohol. Being a Jewish teen, you have many more options. This is what I strive for, for Jewish teens to realize their other options. For me, I know that being involved in USY has prevented me from doing things that I would not be proud of.

Besides study groups, our time getting to know others was just unreal. Walking into a room, and spending nearly 2 hours dancing to our singing of Jewish songs was what some may call a "High". Spending a Shabbos in Miami was unforgettable. Havdallah services outside right by the beach made the trip worth while.

So everyone will probably ask the question, so I might as well answer it now. "Was praying 3 times a day annoying?" In fact, as the week went on it only became more gratifying. I learned what certain prayers meant and I learned how essential it is to thank God.

This experience that has ended, has changed me forever. This trip was everything and more, and I'd like to thank Rabbi Asekoff and Mr. Murray Gottlieb for making this trip possible. Now more then ever I am beyond doubt proud to be a Jew, and I feel such an immense amount of pride to be able to give you a taste of my unforgettable experience.

As one Chapter of one's life comes to an end...Another begins.

B'shalom,

Your 2002-2003 Noar Hayomist,

Melissa Ilona Cohenson

Girlstar319@aol.com

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The engagement of Alyson Berowitz, daughter of Stephen & Donna Berowitz, to Tzvi Small

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Uri Meltzer's first haircut, son of Noel Meltzer & Mindy Carson

Paula & Jeff Lipkin

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Chiae Herzig, mother of Rena Casser

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Avital Siegel, daughter of David & Rena Siegel, upon becoming a Bat Mitzvah

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In Honor of

The engagements of Alyson to Tzvi Small & Paulina to Joshua Levine, daughters of Stephen & Donna Berowitz

The Shenassa Family

ROSE GOTTLIEB MEMORIAL FUND

In Honor of

Murray Gottlieb's special Day

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Max Kutcher

DONATIONS

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:

David and Anne Blady in memory of Albert Cook, Brother-in-law of Steve Gruhin

Joanne, Eric and Ethan Snyder in memory of Chiae Herzig, beloved mother of Rena Casser

Bonnie and Michael Kessler in memory of Sam Greene

Bonnie and Michael Kessler in memory of Frank Lax, beloved father of Renee Phon

Martin and Geri Karno in memory of Martin's father, Philip Karno

Fedor and Roza Shmulevich to the Grossman family in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Talia

Jonathan and Nancy Solomon in appreciation of the wonderful High Holy Services

Judith Haberman in appreciation of Rabbi's support during her father's illness and death

Natalie Levitt in honor of her grandson, Eli Landon Levitt

Natalie Levitt in memory of Ernie, grandfather of Eli Landon Levitt

Mary and Robert Mandel on the Yahrzeit of Frances and Saul Mandel, and in memory of Chester Schrank, father of Dee Cohen

David and Anne Blady in honor of Uri Meltzer's first haircut, and in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Jessica Friedman, daughter of Bruce and Susan Friedman

Barbara and David Bortniker at the Yahrzeit of Benjamin Bortniker and of Sam Israel

Gail and Michael Herman in honor of the 30th wedding anniversary of Nancy and Lenny Fisher

Michael and Bonnie Kessler in honor of the engagements of Paulina Berowitz to Joshua Levine, and Alyson Berowitz to Tzvi Small

Roberta and Philip Probolsky

Allan and Pearl Cohen in memory of Elsie Kopen, beloved mother of Roberta Knauer

Jerry and Ellen Sciarrillo in memory of Elsie Kopen, beloved mother of Roberta Knauer

Wendi Glassman and Paul Weinstein to honor Rabbi Asekoff, on Paul and Wendi's 20th wedding anniversary

Michael and Bonnie Kessler in memory of Chaie Herzig, mother of Rena Casser, in memory of Clara Linder, mother of Bea Walvick, and in memory of Elsie Kopen, Mother of Roberta Knauer

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February 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Morning Services 9:00 AM Yav Shabbat Experience Learners Minyan Evening Services 4:55 PM
2 Morning Services 9:00 AM 10:00AM B/M of Nolan Sheppard Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	3 Morning Services 7:00 AM 7 pm - Sisterhood Meeting Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	4 Morning Services 7:00 AM No Religious School Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	5 Morning Services 7:00 AM 8 pm - Religious School Board Meeting Torah Reading Academy- Rooms 6/7 & YL Bible Class 8:15 PM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	6 Morning Services 7:00 AM 8:30 pm - Board Meeting No Religious School Talmud Class Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	7 Morning Services 7:00 AM Friday Night Services 6:00 PM Kabalat Shabbat 5:05 PM	8 Morning Services 9:00 AM Rabbi's Table Minyan Meyachad PM Shabbataneinu Evening Services 5:05 PM
9 Morning Services 9:00 AM Adult Ed Montclair Chamber Music 3-5 PM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	10 Morning Services 7:00 AM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	11 Morning Services 7:00 AM Nursery School Closed- Conferences Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	12 Morning Services 7:00 AM Rabbi Smooze Torah Reading Academy- Rooms 6/7 & YL Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	13 Morning Services 7:00 AM 1- 3 pm Double Chai Meeting Talmud Class Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	14 Morning Services 7:00 AM Friday Night Services 6:00 PM Kabalat Shabbat 5:10 PM	15 Morning Services 9:00 AM Congregant led Minyan Evening Services 5:10 PM
16 Morning Services 9:00 AM No Religious School Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	17 Morning Services 7:00 AM Nursery School Closed President's Day Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	18 Morning Services 7:00 AM Nursery School Closed Religious School Classes Resume Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	19 Morning Services 7:00 AM Nursery School Closed Torah Reading Academy- Rooms 6/7 & YL Bible Class 8:15 PM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	20 Morning Services 7:00 AM Nursery School Closed 8:30 pm - Exec Board Meeting Talmud Class Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	21 Morning Services 7:00 AM Nursery School Closed Friday Night Services 6:00 PM Kabalat Shabbat 5:20 PM	22 Morning Services 9:00 AM Dalet Shabbat Experience After Kiddush - David Twersky Evening Services 5:20 PM
23 Morning Services 9:00 AM Primary II Havdallah Workshop Sisterhood Fashion Show Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	24 Morning Services 7:00 AM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	25 Morning Services 7:00 AM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	26 Morning Services 7:00 AM Torah Reading Academy- Rooms 6/7 & YL Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	27 Morning Services 7:00 AM Talmud Class Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	28 Morning Services 7:00 AM Friday Night Services 6:00 PM Kabalat Shabbat 5:30 PM	

March 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Morning Services 9:00 AM AM B/M of Thomas Noonan Bet Shabbat Experience Learners Minyan PM Shabbaton Evening Services 5:30 PM
2 Morning Minyan 9:00 AM Hey & Vav Kabbalat Sefer Workshop-Purim Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	3 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM 7 pm - Sisterhood Meeting Jewish Enlightenment with Spirituality Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	4 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	5 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM 8 pm – Religious School Board meeting Torah Reading Academy Rosh Chodesh Program 7:30-9 Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	6 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM 8:30 pm – Board Meeting Talmud Class Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	7 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Friday Night Services 6:00 PM Kabalat Shabbat 5:35 PM	8 Morning Services 9:00 AM AM B/M of Lindsay Aaron PM Shabbaton Aleph Shabbat Experience Congregant led Minyan Evening Services 5:35 PM
9 Morning Minyan 9:00 AM Hey Cultural Day Field-day Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	10 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	11 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	12 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Torah Reading Academy Bible Study Class 8:15 PM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	13 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM 1 – 3 Double Chat Meeting Talmud Class Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	14 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Friday Night Services 6:00 PM Kabalat Shabbat 5:45 PM	15 Morning Services 9:00 AM AM B/M of Gabrielle Blady Gimel Shabbat Experience Evening Services 5:45 PM
16 Morning Minyan 9:00 AM Primary Purim Workshop Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	17 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM 7 pm - Sisterhood Meeting Erev Purim Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	18 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Purim Family Ed Purim Seudah & Talent Show Religious School 5:30 dismissal Purim Seudah 6-8 PM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	19 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Torah Reading Academy Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	20 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM 8:30 pm – Exec Board Meeting Talmud Class Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	21 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Scholar in Residence Friday Night Services 6:00 PM	22 Morning Services 9:00 AM AM B/M for Melissa Gruhin Minyan Meyuchad Scholar in Residence PM Shabbaton Evening Services 5:50 PM
23 Morning Minyan 9:00 AM No Religious School Nursery School Fashion Show Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	24 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Jack Nathanson 2nd B/M Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	25 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM No Religious School Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	26 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Torah Reading Academy Bible Study Class 8:15 PM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	27 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM No Religious School Talmud Class Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	28 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Friday Night Services 6:00 PM	29 Morning Services 9:00 AM Shabbateinu 11-12 noon Evening Services 6:00 PM
30 Morning Minyan 9:00 AM No Religious School Adult Ed – More Than Matza Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	31 Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM					