



# Hayenu

**B'nai Shalom**

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

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ADAR I / ADAR II 5763

## From the Rabbi

### B'nai Shalom Florida Get-Together

On Monday evening, February 3, 32 B'nai Shalom members and former members who have permanently relocated to Florida joined Cecille and me for what I hope will be our first annual B'nai Shalom Florida reunion. We met for dinner at City Grill Kosher Restaurant in Boca Raton for an evening of eating, schmoozing, catching up and sharing the latest happenings at B'nai Shalom with those who have been away from the community for a long time.

It was a heartwarming and exciting experience for us to renew connections with many of our members who were active in congregational life when Cecille and I first arrived in West Orange 31 years ago. In fact, present were the very two people who picked me up at the bus when I came out to West Orange for my first interview when I was a graduating senior at the Jewish Theological Seminary! Together we shared the adventures of raising our children, supporting each other in times of difficulty, and sharing semachot of Bar/Bat Mitzvah, weddings, births and professional successes. We also saw B'nai Shalom grow and develop. We became an egalitarian congregation while maintaining commitment to tradition. We saw increasing participation by our B'nai/B'not Mitzvah in the service. We welcomed a whole new generation of younger families who have strengthened and enhanced our community life. We saw and participated in the organic growth and development of our community.

We sat around the table and reminisced. We were congregational presidents and board members, sisterhood and men's club presidents and officers, and active members. It was with a source of pride and satisfaction that we reminisced and recalled precious memories that we

thought had been forgotten! Membership and involvement in a congregation does create strong roots and bonds very much like close family. We were all so pleased to renew the ties and relive the memories.

This evening could not have taken place without the help of Shirley and Dave Oltchick who organized the evening and Murray Gottlieb who located a spacious and "tasty" kosher restaurant for our get-together.

Joining us were Florence and George Berke, Mort Eber, Ruth Eisenberg, Lorraine and Lennie Epstein, Betty and Joe Friedman, Zelda and Arthur Galatz, Zelda and Morty

*(Continued on page 2)*

### SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, March 7	5:35 P.M.
Friday, March 14	5:45 P.M.
Friday, March 21	5:55 P.M.
Friday, March 28	6:00 P.M.

### MINCHA-MAARIV TIMES

Saturday, March 1	5:30 P.M.
Saturday, March 8	5:35 P.M.
Saturday, March 15	5:45 P.M.
Saturday, March 22	5:55 P.M.
Saturday, March 29	6:00 P.M.

# RELIGIOUS NEWS...

FROM THE RABBI

*(Continued from page 1)*

Gillman, Murray Gottlieb, Selma and Michael Hirsch, Charlie Leisten, Yvette and Robert Lieberman, Dave and Shirley Oltchick, Shirley and Phil Pomerantz, Sid and Muriel Rosen, Estelle and Nat Schlossberg, Walter Springer and Shirley Timmins

This event was really “last minute,” as a result of which we did not have time to contact all our “Florida Folks.” Because we want to keep in touch and make this an annual event, please let us know of any other permanent Floridians or “snowbirds” whose addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses should be on our list so that we can keep in touch.

This wonderful event was a poignant reminder of the close ties we all form with each other as members of our B'nai Shalom family. We are more than an organization, more than a synagogue, more than a community. We are “mishpacha” (family)! Together we pray, study, and work within the organizational framework of the synagogue! Together we celebrate “smachot” (the happy times) and support each other in times of challenge and difficulty. We view our building as our “second home” and work to keep it strong because of the many ways in which B'nai Shalom fortifies each one of us. B'nai Shalom is our Jewish Family! As we look forward to Purim on Monday night, March 17 and Tuesday March 18, and then to Passover in April, I hope we will take advantage of all the activities our congregational family is offering to bring us closer together and add meaning and joy to our lives.

## 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.

## 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, March 7, we continue our Family Services.

PLEASE NOTE:

STARTING TIME IS NOW 6:00 P.M.

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

### 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](mailto:grayfield@comcast.net)**

## CANTORIAL COMMENTS

By Cantor Elihu Joseph Feldman

### The Four Koussevitzky Boys Part II

This is the second part of an article dedicated to the blessed memory of a family of great cantors; two of whom I had the privilege to hear conduct Shabbat services monthly, during the summer. 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 Koussevitzky. Last month we looked at the lives of Cantors Moshe and David Koussevitzky. This month we will look at the lives of Cantors Jacob and Simcha Koussevitzky.

#### CANTOR JACOB KOUSSEVITSKY

Of the four Koussevitzky brothers, it was said that Jacob was the best 'Ba'al Tefillah.' It's very difficult to explain exactly what this means, but the implication is that he made a greater impact with the way he interpreted the words, and his usage of the traditional melodic lines (Nusach) than he did with his voice. This doesn't mean that he didn't have a fine voice - he certainly did, (he was actually a lyric tenor), but Jacob had a way of penetrating to the heart of a prayer that makes a far greater impression on the listener, than a voice does on its own.

Jacob was the second of the Koussevitzky boys and was born to Alta and Avigdor Koussevitzky in Smorgon, in Russian Poland. At a very early age he took lessons in singing and Chazanut and studied with various tutors, including the famous Chazan Ravitch in Kharkov. As a youngster he sang in Vilna in the choirs of Chazanim Avraham Moshe Bernstein and Bernstein's successor Eliyahu Zaludkowsky, who were both famous cantors in their time.

When his brother Moshe was Chazan in the Vilna State Synagogue, shortly after the end of the First World War, Jacob was the tenor soloist in his choir. It wasn't long after that, that, he was appointed Chazan himself in Kremenetze, where his younger brother David served as his choirmaster. Some years later they went to Lemberg, where they continued to work together.

In 1936 Jacob came to London, where he was appointed to one of the leading Synagogues at that time, the Dalston

Synagogue on Poet's Road. It's been reported that on his first appearance there, he sang Kaddish to the tune of 'John Brown's Body!' This apparently took the formal Anglo-Jews of Dalston completely by surprise. But their reaction took Jacob by surprise too. It would seem that Jacob had never heard of 'John Brown's Body.' This was a melody that he had heard and used for Kaddish in Lemberg, and as far as he was concerned, this was where it came from!

From Poet's Road, Jacob went to the Western Synagogue and in 1951 he decided to go to Canada. For two years he was Chazan of the Congregation Rosh Pinah in Winnipeg, Canada and in 1953 he became Chazan at the Jewish Center of Kew Gardens Hills in New York. Sadly he was only there for six years before he died.

That Jacob did not become as famous as Moshe and David is probably due to the fact that, although he did give concerts, his true milieu was on the Bimah. He was more of a 'davener' than he was a performer and this comes through very clearly in the lovely recordings he has left us.

#### CANTOR SIMCHA KOUSSEVITSKY

Simcha was born in Smorgon, near Vilna in (then) Poland, the third of four sons. The early years encompassing World War 1 and the Russian Revolution had the Koussevitzky family chasing back and forth - as refugees escaping hardship in Poland, eastward to Russia, and then back westward again. When all seemed hopeless, a top official of the Bolshevik Cheka (Secret Police) - who had once worked for Viktor (Avigdor) Koussevitzky (the father), gave them documents to travel back, where they settled in Vilna.

At this point, Simcha was a teenager, and life henceforth assumed normality. They returned to regular education, with Jacob, Simcha & David pursuing the family tradition of music, singing in shul choirs and learning from their maternal grandfather, Rabbi Shlomo Shulman. It was from him that the brothers learned the perfect Hebrew pronunciation for which they were noted. Moshe was already married and serving as a 'shtot' hazzan.

Simcha served a short stint in the Polish army. But Jewish music, Jewish religious music, was to be the life's ca-

*(Continued on page 4)*

# RELIGIOUS NEWS...

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CANTORIAL COMMENTS (Continued from page 3)

reer of each of the four brothers. As Simcha described it, the Polish Jews were discerning. They understood 'good' cantorial singing. When Simcha was about 23 and already married, he was invited to fill a vacancy at Rovno, after the death of the famous *hazzan* Zeidel. He stayed there about three years, when, his fame having reached Britain, he was invited to a Cantorial position in Glasgow.

In 1935, Simcha made another and very significant move – to the Great Synagogue (Duke's Place), London, which was regarded almost as a Jewish "cathedral" of the British Empire, with Chief Rabbi Hertz in attendance and a Rothschild as "*gabbai*". At this time, back in Poland, Moshe Koussevitsky, generally considered the one of the finest *hazzanim* the world has known, had succeeded Gershon Sirota at the Tlomackie Street Synagogue in Warsaw.

Simcha's recollections of the war years WW11 (1939-1945) in London and the terrible period of the blitz were painfully vivid to him. Simcha sent his wife and children to relative safety in the country areas. The family apartment was attached to the *shul*, which suffered direct hits and bombs. Simcha, as a member of the Civil Defense Unit, was in charge of identifying Jewish bodies at the mortuary; he officiated at funerals. "The bombing was indescribable", he said. He sometimes sang in the bomb shelters to help keep up the spirits of people taking refuge there.

After the war, in 1947, Simcha accepted a position at a synagogue in Greenside, Johannesburg, South Africa. At this time, his brother David took up a position at Boro Park in Brooklyn, New York. David was to stay there for over thirty years, until he died. In 1952, Simcha moved to Cape Town, where he became the beloved cantor of the newly built Tifereth Israel Synagogue, Schoonder Street – the 'Round Shul'.

There were many highlights to Simcha's musical career. One of these was a concert at the Royal Albert Hall with the London Symphony Orchestra in February 1946, where Simcha sang on a program that included violinist Alfredo Campoli, leading operatic soprano Eva Turner, and tenor Frank Titterton. It was a proud moment for Simcha's mother, Alta, and brother David and Jacob, seated in the audience.

By 1953, the brothers were all based in different parts of the globe. Moshe had left Poland for the USA in 1947. David was in New York, Jacob in London and Simcha in Cape Town. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of December 1947 a glorious concert entitled 'The Four Koussevitsky Brothers' was

staged at Carnegie Hall, New York. The brothers presented a program mainly of their own work. Alta was 'spotlighted' sitting proudly in the front row. Their particular rendition of *Sheyiboneh beis ha-mikdosh* – the Koussevitsky 'theme' melody – was always featured in their program, and in the cantorial concerts which were held in later years. For Simcha, the most notable such concert was held at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv in 1985, where he was honored as the last surviving brother. This was a grand affair, with Simcha receiving a standing ovation before the concert began. Moshe's wife was present, and cantors Benzion Miller, Alberto Mizrachi, and David Bagley, performed. Two years later, in Israel, there was another concert based on the arrangements and music of the Koussevitsky brothers, with Moshe Shulhof, David Bagley, Benzion Miller and Jacob Motzen. Simcha retired in 1983, and remained in Cape Town until 1985, when his wife Sonia passed away. He moved to Johannesburg for a few years, and then back to Cape Town to live with his son Jeff.

In 1997, Prof. Neil Levin of the Milken Foundation commissioned Fay Singer to interview Simcha Koussevitsky, the last surviving brother of the famous Koussevitsky brothers. For many years, Cantor Simcha Koussevitsky officiated in one of the main synagogues of Cape Town, South Africa. This was done 'on camera' as part of Prof. Levin's project of chazanim who came to America. The interview videotape is in the Milken Archive of American Jewish Music. Cantor Simcha Koussevitsky passed away in Cape Town at a retirement home, June 1998.

It is said that a truly righteous person never passes away, for he or she lives on in their good deeds and work that inspires all of us. Cantor Simcha Koussevitsky and his brothers are still emulated by some of the finest cantors of our day. In fact a Memorial Concert is being planned for this March in Lincoln Center

May their memory be a blessing for all of us.

Sincerely,

*Cantor Elihu Feldman*

## PURIM DIGEST

by  
Rabbi Stanley L. Asekoff

Purim is celebrated this year on Monday evening, March 17, beginning with the reading of the Megillah at 7:00 p.m. sharp. We will begin the evening service 15 minutes before, at 6:45 P.M. sharp, so that the Megillah reading may begin **on time-7:00P.M.** Following the reading of the Megillah, we shall have a very special Purim party for EVERYONE, CHILDREN AND PARENTS, with **lively and "freilach"** music. Rabbi Asekoff will be in costume, the nature of which is absolutely **TOP SECRET**. Those children who correctly guess his costume prior to Purim evening will receive a special prize. Just drop a note with your guess in the Synagogue Office.

To make your Purim as joyous as possible we present a Purim Digest of the major practices and customs of the holiday:

**משנכנס אדר מרבין בשמחה** The onset of the month of Adar ( in which Purim falls) is a reminder to commence the merrymaking. This famous Rabbinic statement indicates the wonderfully happy overtones attributed to the entire month of Adar. Happy Purim!

### **זכור SHABBAT ZACHOR SATURDAY, MARCH 15**

The Shabbat immediately prior to Purim is called SHABBAT ZACHOR- the Sabbath of Remembrance- because, on this Shabbat, it is customary to read a special section from the Torah that instructs us to remember what the Nation of Amalek did to the Jewish People as they were fleeing from Egypt- they attacked them and attempted to destroy them, singling out the rear of the column of marchers where the elderly, frail, and weak were gathered. God says that He will surely wipe out the remembrance of Amalek from under the heavens. This is read prior to Purim because of the tradition that Haman was descended from Amalek. A special Haftarah that displaces the usual one is also chanted.

### **אסתר TA'ANIT ESTHER- THE FAST OF ESTHER**

**Monday, March 17:** It is customary to fast all day ( from sun up to sun down ) on the day before Purim in commemoration of the Fast observed by Queen Esther prior to her appearance before Ahasuerus to intercede with him on behalf of her people. When Purim occurs on Saturday evening, the Fast of Esther is pushed back to the preceding Thursday. {We do not fast on Shabbat(with the exception of Yom Kippur's coinciding with the Sabbath. We also can not fast on a Friday because Shabbat

begins on Friday evening. Consequently the fast is pushed back to Thursday.}

### **אסתר מגילת MEGILLAT ESTHER-The Scroll of Esther**

The Biblical book containing the story of Purim. We actually read the story of Purim in the Synagogue from a parchment scroll, being very careful to "gragg the graggers" whenever the name "Haman" is mentioned.

### **מחצית השקל MACHATZIT HASHEKEL**

The half shekel. This refers to the half shekel that was collected in ancient days around Purim time for the upkeep of the Temple in Jerusalem. It is a reminder of the custom that developed and is mentioned in "Megillat Esther" of giving gifts of money to the poor on Purim. Many synagogues, including our own, still put out collection plates at the reading of the Megillah into which people may drop their "half shekel" for this noble purpose.

### **רעשנים RA'ASHANIM GRAGGERS**

are noise makers used during the reading of the Megillah every time the name of HAMAN is mentioned to fulfill the Biblical statement that God would WIPE OUT the name of Amalek from under the heavens, The Hebrew word for gragger is RA'ASHAN.

### **מתנות לאביונים MATANOT LA'EYONIM**

means gifts for the poor. In ancient Persia the Jews celebrated Purim by giving gifts to the poor, from which is derived the custom that we should put at least two coins of the realm into at least two different tzedakah "pushkes" at the conclusion of the reading of the Megillah. Please come to Megillah reading prepared to fulfill this important Mitzvah!!

### **משלוח מנות MISHLOACH MANOT**

sending gifts of food to friends is a Purim tradition also derived from the Megillah. We read that the Jews of Persia celebrated Purim by sending such gifts to their friends. We do the same thing-on Purim day. We should send at least two plates containing at least two different kinds of foods to at least two friends.

### **PURIM GELT**

Purim money refers to the custom of giving two coins to any children that bring Mishloach Manot to our homes on Purim day. Hannukah gelt is derived from Purim Gelt and in recent years seems to have become the more popular of the two.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# RELIGIOUS NEWS...

PURIM DIGEST

(Continued from page 5)

## שושן פורים SHUSHAN PURIM

Shushan was the capital city of Persia. Because the Jews of Shushan were saved one day later than all the other Persian Jews, and consequently celebrated Purim one day later, it has become customary that all Jews living in cities that had walls surrounding them in the days of Joshua celebrate Shushan Purim. So the Jews of Jerusalem, for example, celebrate Purim one day later. This means that you can celebrate Purim for two days in Israel- begin in Tel Aviv on Saturday night and Sunday, and continue in Jerusalem on Sunday night and Monday!! Only In Israel!!!! Shushan Purim this year is Wednesday, March 19.

## DRESSING IN COSTUME

on Purim has become a venerable custom. We hope that adults as well as children will join Rabbi Asekoff in this Purim Fun. Why costumes? As a reminder that although God's presence in the Purim story was not mentioned, He was there, in disguise, so to speak, and it was He who helped Esther and Mordechai save the Jews.

## המין אונני הזמן OZNAY HAMAN

(Haman's Ears in Hebrew and in Yiddish HAMANTASHEN -"Pockets of Haman") are the three cornered pastries containing a variety tasty fillings, such as mon( poppy), apricot, cherry, and prunes. They remind us of the three cornered hat worn by Haman, the villain of the Purim story. The original name for this pastry was "muntashen", "mun" being the Yiddish word for poppyseeds, The Hebrew name "Oznay Haman" is taken from the older name "Haman Ohren" (Haman's ears) or in Italian "Orrechi d'Aman."

## סעודת פורים SE'UDAT PURIM - THE FESTIVE PURIM MEAL

is a special, festive meal eaten late on Purim Day close to sunset and continuing through until dark. It commemorates the festive meals that took place in Shushan, the capital of Persia, on Purim Day when the Jews were saved from Haman's plot to destroy them. Our B'nai Shalom Purim Seudah (reservations are a "must") takes place on Tuesday, March 18.

## *New This Year*

### **B'NAI SHALOM PASSOVER UNIVERSITY**

Sponsored By  
Adult Education Committee

Sign up for **any or all** of these three separate sessions by calling the synagogue office, 973-731-0160, and letting us know which of the following offerings you plan to attend!

Join us for morning minyan at 9:00 and our Passover University class immediately afterwards!

**Sunday Morning , March 23, 9:45-11:30: "Haggadahs and Happenings":** We look at some of the many Haggadot now available that can enable you to conduct a Seder (from the very basic to the most complex) and we explore "Happenings" you can include in your Seder to liven up the evening and make it memorable and meaningful.

With Passover still 3 \_ weeks away, you will have ample time to acquire new Haggadot and plan to incorporate new "Happenings" into your Seder!

**Sunday, March 30, time and location to be announced:** " More Than Matzah:" A "real time" cooking experience in preparation for Passover

**Sunday Morning, April 6: 9:45-11:30: "Kashrut, Kleaning, Koping"** How can I ever do it all? What are the laws and customs, where do they come from, how can I ever manage? And at long last, the truth about "kitniyot" (the term for peas, beans, corn, rice, etc. that are permitted for Sephardim but not allowed for us unfortunate Ashkenazim)!

## **Mishnah Study with Rabbi Asekoff**

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

## 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!

“Kosherfest” took place during one glorious week this past fall. This was a huge show – probably the biggest show ever. . There were some new products, some new faces, some companies that have finally gone kosher.

A new product just hitting the market now is SARA G’S CORN RELISH and SWEET PEPPER RELISH. It would make a really great condiment with just about anything. Certification is OU. You can phone them at 518-273-2860, and you can drop them a note at P.O. box 1103, Troy, NY 12181

A company called Two Tribes LLC owns a company called MITZVAH FARMS, which manufactures kosher cheeses. How about these flavors: A Biss’l Swiss’l, Muenster Mench, Yetta’s Chedda, Hava-Na-Varti and Mazel Rella? Reportedly they taste great! Within the types of cheeses, there are variants as well – for example, garden vegetable Muenster Mench. Certification is by the OK. The company is located in Northbrook, IL.

SIMCHA FOODS have Gazpacho, BBQ Sauce, Ratatouille, Salsa, and Cranberry Sauce. They also offer Marinades: Caribbean Jerk, Margarita, Teriyaki, Oriental Ginger and Garlic, Red Wine, Italian, Grecian, Vesuvio, and Hickory. They also have Chili Sauce, strawberry daiquiri mix and pina colada mix. Simcha also sells candies: malt balls chocolate almonds, frosted pretzels, chocolate raisins, Jordan almonds, and much more. All these products are under triangle cRc supervision. Distribution is by Douglas Foods, 340 Anthony Trail, Northbrook, IL 60062. Their phone number is 847 564 2900.

Ready to eat meals from LA BRUITE have finally hit the market for real. And what a great idea: La Bruite makes shelf stable meals (shelf life is two years) that need no refrigeration and are self-heating. The food is said to be delicious. You just put the food pack on the heating tray and the unit self heats in just 14 minutes. Certification is Kof-K Glatt. What this really means is that we kosher consumers can now literally go anywhere and take along these food packages. You can

take them camping, send them to your college kid’s dorm for a healthy, kosher, late night meal or send them to summer camp with your kids. Euro Cut/La Bruite is located at 106 Clifton Ave. Lakewood, NJ 08701. The phone number is 732 370 0035.

CONEY ISLAND BOARDWALK BAGELS and ISLE OF CAPRI PIZZA BAGELS are new entries into the kosher pizza bagel market. These are three-cheese style combining mozzarella, cheddar and Romano cheeses. These bagels are OU-D. The company also markets a deep-dish pizza called Siena’s that comes in extra cheese, spinach and garlic and all-vegetarian pepperoni and sausage. All of the above are OU-D certified.

Capri Bagel and Pizza Corp. is in South Hackensack, NJ. You can phone them at 888-94-CAPRI.

OR ITALIA’S LE PIZZE KOSHER. Is a product that has finally hit the market. Look for the following OU-D pizzas: Pizza Margherita, Pizza Tre Formaggi, Pizza Vegetariana and Pizza Olive Verde.

### DESSERT TIME

From MAUI WOWI comes Smoothie Rip Sticks. These Kof-K (dairy) desserts are all-natural and fat-free. Essentially, the thing is a squeeze-up dessert. Flavors include Strawberry, Mango Orange, and Black Raspberry. Maui Wowi is located at 5601 South Broadway, Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80121. You can phone them at 888-862-8555. On the web, they are located at [www.ripsticks.com](http://www.ripsticks.com). This is one awesome dessert.

You may think of Koppers at Pesach time when they feature KP chocolate –covered espresso beans, but they are much, much more. Koppers has added to their already extensive Malted Milk balls line by adding Lemon, Peach and Granny Smith Apple flavors. They created a new line called Savories – dark chocolate mixed with exotic spices: Rosemary, Cayenne Pepper, Sage, Curry and Thyme. Other products include: Chocolate Cordials, Chocolate Nuts and Fruit Specialties, Chocolate Gummi Bears, Lentils, Caramels and

*(Continued on page 8)*

KOSHER KORNER

(Continued from page 7)

candy-coated Cordials. Koppers is certified by the OK. They are located at 39 Clarkson Ave., New York, NY 10014. You can reach them at 800-325-0026. On the web, they are located at [www.kopperschocolate.com](http://www.kopperschocolate.com)

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## KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES SCHEDULE

Fridays

March 7..... 5:00 P.M.

March 14 ..... 5:00 P.M.

Beginning March 21 Kabbalat Shabbat and our regular Friday evening 6:00 P.M. service meet together at 6:00 P.M.

*All are welcome!*

## LEARNER'S MINYAN

**March 1, 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.

# עץ חיים

## ETZ HAYIM

Rabbi Stanley L. Asekoff

Each month we highlight another aspect of Etz Hayim!

In the back of Etz Hayim you will find two essays entitled respectively "Women" (by Judith Hauptman) and "Matriarchs and Patriarchs" (by Debra Orenstein). This month we read Megillat Esther in celebration of Purim. Not only is the scroll describing the holiday of Purim named after a woman, it is a woman who is at the center of the story and who is, in fact the heroine who is responsible for saving the Jewish people from the hands of the villain Haman. Additionally another woman also plays an important role in the Purim story-Vashti, King Ahasuerus' first wife who stands up to him and refuses to allow him to parade her in front of his cronies at a wild party. Vashti may be the very first woman in recorded history who refuses to allow her husband to abuse her!

With this as background read the two essays mentioned above to gain a picture of women's role and status in Biblical times! You may be disappointed at the roles allowed to women in the Biblical period. At the same time you will also see how the Bible, for its time, was concerned with the status of women. You will also come away very pleased with the way in which women's role in Judaism has expanded throughout the ages and continues to do so in our time as well. The key to understanding women's roles in ancient times is found in the last words of Judy Hauptman's essay, "The response to those who critique the sexism of the Jewish tradition is that the Torah's laws were prescribed for its own day and were not intended to remain as they were, but to be changed as necessary. The primary thrust of the Talmud and related Rabbinic writings is not, as many think, to codify the law, but to adjust the Torah's rules to changing circumstances and philosophical outlook. It follows that today, too, with equality for women and men a widely accepted social truth, more changes must be made to ensure full equality."

## **RELIGIOUS NEWS...**

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### **Adult Bat/Bar Mitzvah Class**

**Taught by Rabbi Asekoff**

**Includes Beginner's Hebrew**

**Is now meeting Wednesday evenings**

**At 8:30 P.M.**

*(following evening minyan at 8:00 P.M.)*

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And To Register**

### **Reserve**

**Friday Evening, March 14  
for a special event**

**6:00 P.M. Friday Evening Services**

**7:00 P.M. Friday night Dinner**

*(watch the mail for information and reservation forms)*

**at dinner we welcome a guest speaker**

**Captain Neta Reef**

**Israeli Pilot**

**In**

**Operational Apache Helicopter Squadron**

## **SYNAGOGUE NEWS...**

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### **ISRAEL ACTION COMMITTEE**

**Steven Jacoby**

Shalom to all!

As you know B'nai Shalom was one of the sponsors of the Israel Fair and Concert held on January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Both events were amazing! Over 600 people attended the terrific concert at B'nai Jeshurun given by Yoel Sharabi! On Sunday over 40 vendors sold over \$100,000 of Israeli goods, which gave a great boost to the Israeli economy. The various programs were busy all day and the food court was jumping! We had over \$16,000 in profit from tickets and food sales. All the money went to Israel. For \$8600 we bought a mobile respirator for Soroka Medical Center. \$4,000 was sent to the Navah Fund, which provides monetary support for victims of terror; and \$2,500 to Kids4Kids, which provides assistance to maimed and orphaned children in Israel. The remaining money will also be sent to Israel,

On behalf of the grass roots coalition I would like to thank all the members of our schul. As volunteers and attendees we were "over represented" and helped make this event a wonderful success!

### **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BOOK FAIR**

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THROUGH  
TUESDAY MAY 6.**

**BOOKS FOR THE  
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# SYNAGOGUE NEWS...

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## MAZEL TOV TO

Phil & Pearl Perlstein on the engagement of their son, Ira Perlstein to Mindy Kogan

Stewart & Rhoda Manhein on the marriage of their son, David Manhein to Dara Modne

Simon and Esther Kaplan upon the birth of a granddaughter Danielle Sydney Kaplan, daughter of Dr. Leonard and Robyn Kaplan.

<b>Bat Mitzvah's Name</b>	Gaby Blady
<b>Date of Bat Mitzvah</b>	March 15, 2003
<b>Parent's Name</b>	Anne & David Blady
<b>Date of Birth</b>	3/12/90
<b>School</b>	SSDS
<b>Grade</b>	7th
<b>Achievements</b>	Great Daughter, Sister to Jenni and Aaron
<b>Interest &amp; Hobbies</b>	Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, and Computer (Talking to friends)
<b>Additional Comments</b>	Gaby is just a great kid to have around. She's easy going and fun to be with. She's terrific with older adults and is especially wonderful with little kids. She's a good friend and meets people where ever she goes.

## BAR/BAT MITZVAH BIOS

<b>Bat Mitzvah's Name</b>	Lindsay Aaron
<b>Date of Bat Mitzvah</b>	March 8, 2003
<b>Parent's Name</b>	Karen & Cliff Aaron
<b>Date of Birth</b>	January 18, 1990
<b>School</b>	Solomon Schechter Day School
<b>Grade</b>	7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Achievements</b>	Lindsay plays on the SSDS Soccer, basketball and softball teams.
<b>Interest &amp; Hobbies</b>	All sports.
<b>Additional Comments</b>	Lindsay loves animals, especially her dog Casey, and loves going to sleep away camp. In fact, she will be making a donation after her Bat Mitzvah to Morry's Camp, a camp for challenged and underprivileged children.

<b>Bat Mitzvah's Name</b>	Melissa Jill Gruhin
<b>Date of Bat Mitzvah</b>	March 22, 2003
<b>Parent's Name</b>	Stephen & Jenny Gruhin
<b>Date of Birth</b>	7/13/90
<b>School</b>	SSDS
<b>Grade</b>	7th
<b>Achievements</b>	Published poem in Fall 1999 Edition of "A Celebration of Young Poets," repeat MVP-SSDS Volleyball Team.
<b>Interest &amp; Hobbies</b>	Tennis, Volleyball, Swimming, Softball, Computers, Reading
<b>Additional Comments</b>	Melissa is an excellent student. She is a loving and compassionate daughter, sister and friend.

# YOUTH ACTIVITIES NEWS...

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## GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT KADIMA for grades 6-8

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

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.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SHABBAT MINYAN

B'nai Shalom provided programming on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur for our 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ARIMAAS@excite.com). Watch your mail for upcoming dates.

*Ari Maas*

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## 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 Rena Casser, our acting 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...

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## USY NEWS

These remarks were presented by Ms. Cohenson at Shabbat morning services on February 8th 2003

Shabbat Shalom everyone, today I was given the opportunity to speak out on what I feel is essential for the future of our youth. A little over a month ago, I attended USY 2002 international convention in Orlando. Although there is much I can discuss about what I have learned, there is one major topic I'd like to discuss with you today. During our trip we learned that our Jewish Community is decreasing every single year. My topic of discussion is Bringing the Jewish Youth Closer to Judaism. Don't get me wrong The Jewish Youth is doing a lot, like joining youth groups, attending Hebrew high schools and Yeshivas. But why is it that every year fewer and fewer Jewish teens are attending Shabbat services? Why do many Jewish teens feel that it is unnecessary to associate on a regular basis with other Jewish teens? Why don't Jewish teens have the yearning that some have to attend almost every single USY event? Most strikingly, I would like to know why is it that some Jewish teens today feel the need to drink and do drugs for that sense of acceptance? Shouldn't a JEW who comes from over thousands of years of history feel the acceptance from his/ her people already? During my trip we were taught that God specifically states that there should be, under no circumstances, harming of the body. If this is true, then that means that the Jewish teens who are associating with drugs and alcohol, are indeed harming their body. Needless to say, it is unnecessary.

Boredom, curiosity, acceptance and the need to get away are causes of the dramatic number of Jewish teens drinking and doing drugs. Now, you're all probably wondering what we as a community can do. To start off, I think that no matter how busy a schedule a teen may have, there is a definite need to associate with other Jewish teens. Take USY for an example. USY has opened my eyes to many different aspects of our culture, religion and heritage. USY is what some may call my ANTI-DRUG. Jewish Youth Groups are the future. It is what bonds all Jewish teens together and it is what enables many to enjoy Sabbaths. The Youth groups give teens a deeper look into what prayer is all about and to what being a genuine person is.

Being a role model is what many of you are. You may not realize it now, but you as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and siblings are the ones who are inspiring the

ones you love. You are who your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and siblings look up to. They say an apple doesn't fall far from its tree. In that sense, why don't you take a stand today and be the person that you want to be. Don't put on an act, there is no longer a need for fancy words, simply be the kind of Jew that you would like to see our future generations turn into. To Rabbi Asekoff, Mr. Murray Gottlieb, and my parents I owe it all. Without them I would not have attended this awe-awakening convention. I got out of this trip knowing my mission...though it may seem impossible I have hope that no longer will our community feel the need to waste their time on trivialities ...instead wake up and realize this is it. Life...you get one shot at it, why not take it and make it the best?

Shabbat Shalom!

Melissa Cohenson

Girlstar319@aol.com

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# ***DONATIONS***

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The Gruhin Family

## **JONATHAN BARUCH CHILDREN'S LIBRARY FUND**

### **In Memory of**

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**Gert, sister of Shelva Gelman**

**Morris, father of Paula Krauss**

Barry & Bobbie Ostrowsky

**Ida Weiner's son**

Rose Bodner

### **In Honor of**

**Mitchell's engagement, beloved of the Decter Family**

Barry & Bobbie Ostrowsky

## **REFUAH SHLAYMAH**

**Wishing a speedy recovery to Max Spinrad**

Karen & Larry Lava

**Wishing a speedy recovery to Ann Dery**

The Bargad Family

## **SIM SHALOM**

### **In Honor of**

**Erica & Elliot Bank's marriage, daughter of Ilene and Jeffrey Greenbaum**

Donna & Stephen Berowitz

## **ROSE GOTTLIEB MEMORIAL FUND**

### **In Honor of**

**Murray Gottlieb in honor of your Special Day**

Leonard & Nancy Fisher

## **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:

**Lillian Burakoff** for a "Refuah Shlemah" (speedy Recovery)  
for Max Spinrad

**Stewart and Rhoda Manheim** in honor of the wedding of their  
son, David, to Dara Modne

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# March 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Auf Ruf – Ira Perlstain Rabbi's Table 9PM B/M of Thomas Noonan PM Reception for Noon (Churgin) Learners Minyan AM Shabbaton Evening Services 5:30 PM
<b>2</b> Morning Minyan 9:00 AM Hey & Vav Kabbalat Sefer Workshop-Purim Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>3</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM 7 pm - Sisterhood Meeting Jewish Enlightenment with Spirituality Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>4</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Hadassah Meeting - EH 11-2 Evening Minyan 8:00 PM Religious School Program 4-6	<b>5</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Board meeting Torah Reading Academy Rosh Chodesh Program 7:30-9 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parents Meeting 8:15 – 10PM (Sanctuary) Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>6</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM 8:30 pm – Board Meeting Talmud Class Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>7</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Friday Night Services 6:00 PM Kabalat Shabbat 5:35 PM	<b>8</b> Morning Services 9:00 AM 6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Program AM B/M of Lindsay Aaron PM Shabbaton Gimel Shabbat Experience Congregant led Minyan Evening Services 5:35 PM
<b>9</b> Morning Minyan 9:00 AM Gimel Cultural Day Field- day Primary Prim Workshop 9:30 – 11:30AM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>10</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>11</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>12</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Torah Reading Bible Study Class 8:15 PM Adult B/M Class Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>13</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Religious Activities Meeting 8:30PM 1 – 3 Double Chai Meeting Talmud Class Religious Activities Meeting 8:30pm Purim celebration – Religious School PM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>14</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Friday Night Services 6:00 PM Kabalat Shabbat 5:45 PM	<b>15</b> Morning Services 9:00 AM AM B/M of Gabrielle Blady Evening Services 5:45 PM
<b>16</b> Morning Minyan 9:00 AM Primary Purim Workshop Purim Carnival Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>17</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Erev Purim Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>18</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Purim Nursery School Purim Carnival Family Ed Purim Seudah & Talent Show 6-8PM Religious School 5:30 dismissal Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>19</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Torah Reading Academy Adult B/M Class Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>20</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM 8:30 pm – Exec Board Meeting Talmud Class Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>21</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Scholar in Residence Friday Night Services 6:00 PM	<b>22</b> Morning Services 9:00 AM AM B/M for Melissa Gruhin 6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Program Minyan Meyuchad Scholar in Residence PM Shabbaton Evening Services 5:50 PM
<b>23</b> Morning Minyan 9:00 AM No Religious School Nursery School Fashion Show/Auction Bnai Shalom Passover University 9:45-11 AM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>24</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>25</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM No Religious School Evening Minyan 8:00 PM Learn-In About Love 8:30-10 PM	<b>26</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Torah Reading Academy Adult B/M Class Bible Study Class 8:15 PM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>27</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM No Religious School Talmud Class Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>28</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Friday Night Services 6:00 PM	<b>29</b> Morning Services 9:00 AM Shabbateinu 11-12 noon 6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Program Evening Services 6:00 PM
<b>30</b> Morning Minyan 9:00 AM No Religious School Adult Ed - More Than Matza Evening Minyan 8:00 PM	<b>31</b> Morning Minyan 7:00 AM Evening Minyan 8:00 PM					

# April 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Hadassah Evening Services 8:00PM Learn In About Love 8:30-10 PM	<b>2</b> Morning Services 7:00AM 8 pm - Religious School Board Meeting Torah Reading Academy Religious School Classes Resume Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>3</b> Morning Services 7:00AM No Religious School 8:30 pm - Board Meeting Talmud Class Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>4</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Friday Night Services 6:00PM	<b>5</b> Morning Services 9:00AM Rabbi's Table 6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Program Learners Minyan Congregant led Minyan Learners Minyan Evening Services 6:05 PM
<b>6</b> Morning Services 9:00AM Bet Kabbalat Sefer- Passover Workshop Men's Club Wine Sale B'nai Shalom Passover Workshop 9:45-11 AM Sisterhood Retreat 6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>7</b> Morning Services 7:00AM 7 pm - Sisterhood Meeting Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>8</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Evening Services 8:00PM Learn-In About Love 8:30-10 PM	<b>9</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Torah Reading Academy NCJW 9-12 Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>10</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Model Seder all Hebrew classes 8:30 pm - Exec Board Meeting Double Chai 12:30 Talmud Class Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>11</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Pre Passover Dinner Friday Night Services 6:00PM	<b>12</b> Morning Service 9:00AM AM B/M of Aaron Paul PM Shabbaton Shabbateinu 11-12 Evening Services 6:10PM
<b>13</b> Morning Services 9:00AM Primary Passover Workshop Men's Club Wine Sale Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>14</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Kasher Kitchen for Passover Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>15</b> Morning Services 7:00AM No Religious School Nursery School Model Seder 10:30-11:30 Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>16</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Erev Passover Nursery School Closed Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>17</b> Morning Services 7:00AM <del>14/17</del> - <del>14/24</del> - Passover No Religious School Nursery School Closed Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>18</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Nursery School Closed Friday Night Services 6:00PM	<b>19</b> Morning Services 9:00AM Evening Services 6:20PM
<b>20</b> Morning Services 9:00AM No Religious School Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>21</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Nursery School Closed 7 pm - Sisterhood Meeting Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>22</b> Morning Services 7:00AM No Religious School Nursery School Closed Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>23</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Nursery School Closed Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>24</b> Morning Services 7:00AM No Religious School Nursery School Closed Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>25</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Nursery School Closed Friday Night Services 6:00PM	<b>26</b> Morning Services 9:00AM AM B/M of Michael Lillinshtein PM Shabbaton 6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Program Congregant led Minyan Minyan Meyuchad Evening Services 6:25PM
<b>27</b> Morning Services 9:00AM Family Ed Yom Hashoah Program? Religious School resumes Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>28</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Family Ed Yom Hashoah Program? Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>29</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Family Ed Yom Hashoah Program? Evening Services 8:00PM	<b>30</b> Morning Services 7:00AM Torah Reading Academy Evening Services 8:00PM			