



B'nai Shalom

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

Hayenu

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 9

MAY 2003

NISAN / IYAR 5763

From the Rabbi

Dear friends,

With Passover just having been concluded the words of the Haggadah still ring strong in our ears, especially the often quoted phrase

יָ בְכָל דּוֹר וְדוֹר חַיִּיב אָדָם לִרְאוֹת אֶת עֲצֻמוֹ כְּאִלּוּ הוּא יֵצֵא מִמִּצְרַיִם

“In each generation each one of us should look upon ourselves as if we personally had just been redeemed from Egypt.” The customary explanation of this phrase is that although we are separated by more than 3200 years from the Exodus from Egypt we should never lose our appreciation of the many freedoms with which we are blessed today in our own lives. Both as Jews and as Americans we probably enjoy more freedoms than were available to any other people at any other time in the history of the world!

As Americans, the still unfolding saga of the events taking place in Iraq most powerfully puts into perspective the extraordinary freedoms we enjoy by virtue of living in America and being American citizens. May we never take this great privilege and gift for granted!

At the same time we must be most grateful for the unlimited freedom we have to live openly as Jews. This realization was brought home to me in a Commentary that New York's former mayor Ed Koch prepared for Bloomberg Radio (and which was forwarded to me by our member Rose Raposa) Mr Koch writes in part,

“Only in the United States have we seen a full acceptance of Jews as citizens and the Jewish State treated as a friend and ally by an overwhelming number of fellow citizens. In the U.S. Jews have been permitted to rise and fall based on their individual talents, virtues and faults.

In one elite bastion after another, Jews have been selected to head institutions heretofore seen as beyond their reach. Today the presidents of Harvard and Yale Universities are Jews, as are recent former presidents of Columbia and Princeton. Having been elected three times as mayor of the City of New York, I have been the beneficiary of this country's generosity and freedom from bigotry and I will be eternally grateful.”

Mr Koch then goes on to thank this country for its broad based and bipartisan support for the State of Israel. He acknowledges those religious leaders in the non-Jewish

(Continued on page 2)

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Friday, May 2 | 7:36 P.M. |
| Friday, May 9 | 7:43 P.M. |
| Friday, May 16 | 7:50 P.M. |
| Friday, May 23 | 7:56 P.M. |
| Friday, May 30 | 8:02 P.M. |

MINCHA-MAARIV TIMES

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Saturday, May 3 | 7:35 P.M. |
| Saturday, May 10 | 7:45 P.M. |
| Saturday, May 17 | 7:50 P.M. |
| Saturday, May 24 | 7:55 P.M. |
| Saturday, May 31 | 8:00 P.M. |

RELIGIOUS NEWS...

FROM THE RABBI

(Continued from page 1)

world whose support for Israel has been consistent and unswerving, regrets those religious leaders who have unfairly attacked Israel for defending itself against near-daily terrorist acts against its citizens, and then concludes with the following:

“...I will avoid France as a place to vacation. France leads those countries in the Security Council who are the enemies of the State of Israel. So too is Mexico, joining as a consistent supporter of resolutions unfairly denouncing Israel at the U.N. Security Council.

I will not support National Public Radio in any way. NPR’s reporters and management delight in unfairly attacking Israel. I will no longer lend financial support to New York’s Channel Thirteen public television station. That station recently showed a documentary that was blatantly biased against Israel and has refused to acknowledge the bias or to try to correct it. I will not watch ABC’s World News Tonight anchored by Peter Jennings. For many years, Jennings has specialized in vicious and unfair portraits of Israel intended to injure the Jewish state and lionize Palestinians. BBC news is horrifically anti-Israel and I will shun it completely. Susan Sontag ... (has made) outrageous assaults on Israel, I will no longer read her works.

Regrettably there are many others whom I could include on this list, but I will leave that for another day.”

You may agree or disagree with Mayor Koch’s words. Only your own personal evaluation of his charges can help you determine your own stance on these and many other instances of anti-semitism and anti-Zionism occurring in the world today. However, Mr. Koch’s message indicates

1. that he certainly takes to heart the exhortation of the Haggadah that “In each generation each one of us should look upon ourselves as if we personally had just been redeemed from Egypt” and we should act accordingly! Mr. Koch does that, do we?
2. that it is crucial (and in fact a matter of our survival) that we keep abreast of all current events and use all the tools at our disposal to evaluate them and respond accordingly.

His concluding words powerfully underscore our obligation: “We can never know the results of our actions on the future of the world. What is certain, however, is that if you do nothing, nothing can happen!”

To remain faithful to the Haggadah’s teaching that “in each generation each one of us should look upon ourselves as if we personally had just been redeemed from Egypt,” means that we maintain our ongoing appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy, use those freedoms to keep well informed and evaluate our situation in the world, and create every possible opportunity to spread the message and respond appropriately to every incident of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, no matter how seemingly insignificant, with the hope that what we say and do WILL make a difference and will preserve our precious freedoms for us and for generations yet to come!

Sincerely,

Stanley L. Asekoff
Rabbi

HAYENU

B'nai Shalom

300 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052

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**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

Two Hero Cantors of the Shoah: Joseph Schmidt and Gershon Sirota

I am writing this article in observance of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day. In dedicating this article to the two hero cantors of the Shoah, Joseph Schmidt and Gershon Sirota, their memory is kept alive and the tragedy of their loss remains with us. Both cantors had the opportunity because of their great reputation to leave Nazi Germany, and did. Both however, though, returned to Germany and chose imminent death over life. Joseph Schmidt chose to try to save his mother rather than be free and Cantor Gershon Sirota chose to be with his Warsaw congregation on the seventh day of Passover for Yizkor, precisely when the Warsaw Ghetto was put to the torch. In this article we will meet Cantor Joseph Schmidt who died at the young age of 38 by the Nazis, after returning to Nazi Germany to care for his mother.

Many Jewish musicologists say that to hear Joseph Schmidt's singing any of the 80-plus recorded songs and arias that he left behind to posterity, is to encounter one of the most glorious and tragic stories in the annals of music. In addition to being a cantor, to the Jewish and non-Jewish world he was respected as one of the most celebrated tenors of the 1920s and 1930s. He was affectionately called "the Jewish Caruso," and captivated audiences in Germany and throughout Europe with his singing for a decade. However, because of his Jewish ethnicity and his dwarf height he was denied the right to perform on the operatic stage in Nazi Germany. (In America, he was affectionately called "the Pocket Caruso" because of his small size. But rather than being an impediment, his ability to produce such beautiful and powerful singing from a small body was championed.

Joseph Schmidt was the eldest of the three children born to Wolf and Sarah Schmidt. The family lived in a multi-ethnic community composed of Poles, Romanians, Ukrainians, Germans, and Gypsies. In his youth Joseph studied languages, while living in Cernowitz. He became fluent in Romanian, German, French, and Hebrew. In Cernowitz he served as a very young cantor in the local synagogue. It was there that his voice began to show serious promise, as he sang operatic arias in addition to Chazzanut and Jewish folk songs.

He studied voice in Berlin, but his life was interrupted by three years of military service in the late 1920s. Upon his

discharge, Schmidt resumed his career as a cantor in the synagogue in Cernowitz. His work there led to a performance in Berlin, which, in turn, led to an engagement to sing the role of Vasco de Gama in the opera *L'Africaine* by Meyerbeer in a broadcast performance on radio. That broadcast led to an international career for Schmidt as record companies scrambled to sign this man, whom the opera-loving public desperately wanted to hear more of. He was signed on briefly to the largest recording companies in Germany: Telefunken's predecessor, Ultraphone, and HMV, but for most of his career, Schmidt recorded for the Odeon and Parlophone labels.

By 1931, amid an ever-growing list of singing engagements, Schmidt began his movie career with a movie called *Der Liebesexpress*, in which he had a supporting part as a singing bartender. He made a handful of additional films in which he played starring roles, and which were released in English-language versions; all of them successful.

Schmidt had major audiences in England and America, as well as the Netherlands, France, Belgium, and much of the rest of Europe and South America, but his greatest renown was in Germany. The sad irony was that he was massively popular in the country whose political system put him in the greatest jeopardy conceivable. Schmidt tried to ride out the ban on Jewish performers imposed after the election of the Hitler regime, and with help from people like Richard Tauber, a colleague and friend, he did get to perform on occasion.

In 1937, he left Germany for an extended tour of the United States, where he performed in concert with such legends as Metropolitan Opera star Maria Jeritza, movie/concert legend Grace Moore, and Erna Sack. By this time, he was forbidden to appear in Germany and Austria, but was warmly welcomed in Belgium and the Netherlands. In 1939 he returned to Cernowitz for a final visit with his recently widowed mother. It was his hope to bring his mother out of pre-war Europe.

As war erupted he tried to make his way to America, but made it only as far as a Swiss refugee camp in Gyrenbad. In 1940 he suffered a heart attack and was taken to the camp infirmary. He was quickly released, his complaints interpreted as excuses to escape the hard work of the camp. Forced to return to ditch digging he soon succumbed to a second heart attack and died. He was thirty-eight years old. He was buried in a Jewish cemetery near Zurich.

(Continued on page 4)

RELIGIOUS NEWS...

CANTORIAL COMMENTS

(Continued from page 3)

Joseph Schmidt was not only an important opera singer, he was also an outstanding Cantor. However, Josef Schmidt did not compose his own cantorial pieces. Most of his pieces with the exception of the Lewandowski items are by David Moishe Steinberg - from Vilna - e.g: "Habet," "Ana Avda" and "Kohanecha." Renowned for his phenomenal upper register, Schmidt is often heard effortlessly ascending to As, Cs, and the occasional high D. His warm lyric voice is perfect for the melodies of Schubert and Lehar; a rich velvety amber. Like so many before and after him, Joseph Schmidt was a victim of his time. Still greatly admired for his technique and vocal qualities, many recordings are currently available on CD. Truly, no cantorial or operatic collection is complete without at least one recording of the amazing Joseph Schmidt.

It is said that Joseph Schmidt had one of the most powerful tenor voices ever recorded. To hear him, even as recorded in the 1930s, is to hear one of the most transcendent voices of the century. Had he lived a decade longer, he would have been a natural for the recording studio, singing all of the great lyric tenor roles of Italian, French, and German opera and operetta on late 78 rpm discs and early LP records. Had he lived a normal lifespan, into his 60s, his voice would have challenged all rivals right up through the advent of Luciano Pavarotti's career in the 1960s. And had he been of sufficient physical stature, he would have owned all of those same roles as surely as Caruso did at the turn of the century and Pavarotti did in the 1960s and 1970s.

It is sad indeed that this year we mark Yom Ha Shoah by not having the beautiful voice of Cantor Joseph Schmidt to pray with or listen to.

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, May 2,
we continue our Family Services.

**PLEASE NOTE:
STARTING TIME IS NOW 6:00 P.M.**

All May birthdays will be celebrated.

Stories, singing.

LEARNER'S MINYAN

May 3, 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.

In Appreciation

It is impossible to acknowledge personally the overwhelming outpouring of sympathy and concern from our very dear friends at B'nai Shalom and from the community at large upon the death of our beloved husband and father Bernard Allman. The many donations and tributes in his memory will be used to improve the lives of others and in that way perpetuate his memory. With heartfelt gratitude,

*Betty Allman, Gary Allman and
Cecille Allman Asekoff*

THE KOSHER KORNER

By Rabbi Stanley L. Asekoff

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

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

SPECIAL ALERTS

1. Some cartons of regular Hot Cocoa Mix, products of Pathmark, bearing the "OU" symbol, have been found to contain individual packets labeled "Hot Cocoa with Marshmallows." The marshmallows are not kosher. Consumers should check the packets before using.

2. Some Kellogg brand Mickey Magix cereal packages bear a "K-D" marking. This product is not certified by the Vaad Harabonim of Massachusetts.

3. Wegman's White Cheddar Popcorn, product of Wegman's Food Market Inc., Rochester, NY, bearing the "OU", with the expiration dates Oct. 23, Oct. 29, or Nov. 14, contains a non-kosher ingredient. Products with other date codes are not affected. The affected product is being withdrawn.

4. Edy's Grand Light S'Mores & More Ice Cream (a product of Dryer's Grand Ice Cream) is not kosher and mistakenly bears an "OU-D" on the lids. Corrective action is being taken.

5. Yummi Bears Multi Vitamin & Mineral (children's), products of Hero Nutritional products, San Clemente, CA, bear an unauthorized "OU." Corrective action has been taken.

6. Good Humor/Breyers Popsicles – Cookies and Cream Zone bears an unauthorized "KOF-K."

7. Laish Foods brand Grape Leaves, Stuffed Green Peppers and Stuffed Eggplant bears an unauthorized "KOF-K."

8. Smart Choice brand 3 bean Marinated Salad bears an unauthorized "MK."

9. "No Name" brand 3 Bean Marinated Salad bears an unauthorized "MK."

10. The following products packed by Sagsveen & Sagsveen, Dix Hills, NY are no longer certified by the "Star-K," even when bearing a "Star-K" logo: Elizabeth Natural Dried Fruit, Nuts, Seeds & Chocolate; Robert Gourmet Treats Dried Fruit, Nuts, Seeds and Chocolate; and Joseph Xavier Fine Foods Dried Fruit,

11. Vermont Pure Canadian Maple Syrup Organic, (230ml) (product of Canada), bears an unauthorized "OK" symbol.

12. Tyson/Kirkland Signature Boneless Skinless Chicken Breasts, sold in Costco Wholesale stores, bore an unauthorized "OU symbol on the back of the package as part of a product identification code. The product has been withdrawn.

13. Quaker Chewy S'Mores Granola Bars (Quaker Oats Co., Chicago IL), in:

A) Bulk Packs containing varieties of Granola bars, sold exclusively in BJ's and in Costco, inadvertently bear an unauthorized "OU-D" symbol on the individual S'Mores bar wrappers inside the carton. The product is not kosher, and corrective action is being taken.

B) Value Packs containing 3 varieties of granola bars, sold exclusively at Sam's Club, inadvertently bear an unauthorized "OU-D" symbol on the cardboard carton. The individual S'Mores bar wrappers inside the carton do not bear an "OU" symbol. The S'Mores bar is not kosher and corrective action is being taken.

14. Maple Grove Farms of Vermont continues to bear a "Half Moon-K", although the products have not been certified by the Kosher Overseers (Half-Moon-K") for three years. The company is now "OU" certified.

15. Village Extra Virgin Olive Oil (Brooklyn, NY), a product of Turkey, bears an unauthorized "Half Moon-K" and has never been certified by the "Half Moon-K."

(Continued on page 5)

STILL MISLABELED

1. **Kraft Fat Free Miracle Whip Salad Dressing** (32 ounce size only) with lot numbers “Feb 18 03c,” “Feb 19 03c,” “Mar 06 03c,” “Mar 17 03c,” “Apr 02 03c,” were mislabeled “OK-Pareve.” They are dairy (cream is an ingredient). Dairy labels are being placed on the jar near the “OK-Pareve.”
2. **Sam’s Club Ranch Dressing** (gallon size) bears only an “OU” and not an “OU-D.” The product contains buttermilk as listed on the ingredient panel.
3. **Aunt Patty’s Meatless Taco Seasoning**, GBF Manufacturing, Eugene OR in the industrial size, is “OU-D” – certified. The “D” was inadvertently omitted
4. **Carbolite Bars**, product of **Carbolite Food, Inc.**, Evansville, IN (1 oz. Size) are OU-D” certified but the “D” was inadvertently omitted on the label. Corrected packaging is being implemented. The 1.75 oz. is not certified by the “OU.”
5. **Ben & Jerry’s Fudge Sauce** bore a “KOF-K” and not a “KOF-D”. The product is dairy and future labels will be corrected.

KOSHER WITHOUT A SYMBOL

Baruch Restaurant (Lexington Ave., Manhattan) continues to be certified by the “OK”, contrary to an earlier announcement.

CLARIFICATIONS

1. The syrups for the following new sodas are kosher – certified (if produced in this country). The bottles are acceptable, even when bearing no kosher symbol: **Red Fusion**, a product of **Dr. Pepper**; **Vanilla Coke**, a product of Coca-Cola; **Red Supreme**, a Mountain Dew product; and **Pepsi Blue**, a Pepsi product.
2. **Toastettes Gourmet Round Croutons Natural Parmesan Cheese & Garlic** (Old London Foods, Bronx, NY) is properly labeled “OU-Pareve” because, as listed in the ingredients, the cheese is actually natural cheese *flavor*.

עץ חיים

ETZ HAYIM

Rabbi Stanley L. Asekoff

Each month we highlight another aspect of Etz Hayim!

Over the past months issues of war and peace have come to the fore in America and throughout the world. It is only natural that we would want to be informed about the Biblical response to these issues.

Rabbi Michael Graetz’ article “War and Peace” can be found on pages 1382-1389 in Etz Hayim. He introduces the essay in these words: “Issues of war and peace play major parts in the biblical narrative: in the historical books, as background to the prophetic books, in the laws, and in biblical theology. There is no one view of war in the Bible, rather there are various views. I shall confine myself largely to the Torah, but shall touch on other parts of the Bible and on Rabbinic Judaism. Both of these bodies of literature are influenced by the laws and instances of war in the Torah.”

His essay contains sections on “God At War,” “Humans At War,” “*Heirem*:The Ban,” “Laws,” “Instances Of Peace,” “Peace In The Prophets, Writings, And Rabbinic Literature.”

Attention All Spring 2003 Graduates!

If you have an immediate family member graduating from high school, college, graduate school or professional school this spring, please let us know so that we can list your simcha in our next Hayenu issue. Please return the information form below to Rabbi Asekoff’s secretary or phone/fax her with the information.

Name of Graduate

School/Program from which graduating

SYNAGOGUE NEWS...

MAZEL TOV TO

Harriet Rosenstein upon the birth of a grandson Ari, son of Barry & Lizanne Rosenstein

Seth & Marisa Cohen upon the birth of their daughter, Sarah Reva Cohen

Heidi & Myron Levey upon the birth of a granddaughter, Brooke Paige, daughter of Melissa & Carey Berger

Wishing Joanne Snyder a Refuah Shlaymah

Wishing Seymour Goldsman a Refuah Shlaymah

CONDOLENCES TO

Jordon Galatz on the loss of his father, our former congregant, Arthur Galatz.

Cecille Asekoff, Betty Allman and family on the loss of their husband, father, grandfather & great-grandfather Bernard Allman

**Please join us on Saturday, May 17th,
at 8:15 PM, at a Melavah Malkah
honoring Lynn Shenassa.**

**Don't miss the opportunity
to celebrate with Lynn.**

**For more information,
please call Robin Colten at 973-736-7887**

BAR/BAT MITZVAH BIOS

Bat Mitzvah's Name: Emily Friedman
Bar/Bat Mitzvah: May 3, 2003
Parent's Name: Mark & Carol Friedman
Date of Birth: July 12, 2003
School: Heritage Middle School
Grade: 7th
Interest & Hobbies: Emily has interests in playing soccer and attending art school.

Bar Mitzvah's Name: Michael Benjamin Hochberg
Date of Bar Mitzvah: May 10, 2003
Parent's Name: Debbie & David Hochberg
Date of Birth: April 12, 1990
School: Solomon Schechter Day School
Grade: 7th
Achievements: June 2001: recipient of Mildred Feig and Barbara Zinbarg Reading Achievement Award. Also received student Council Citizenship Award in June 2001. Both awards received at Solomon Schechter at graduation of lower school.
Interest & Hobbies: Sports, listening to music, watching movies

Bat Mitzvah's Name: Michelle Uranowitz
Date of Bat Mitzvah: May 17, 2003
Parent's Name: Jayne & Ken Uranowitz
Date of Birth: June 4, 1990
School: Montclair Kimberley Academy
Grade: 7th
Achievements: Played Dorothy in school's "Wizards of Oz" and Juliet in school's 'Romeo and Juliet'. Honor roll and television voice-overs
Interest & Hobbies: Theatre, softball, singing, dancing

Bat Mitzvah's Name: Alyssa Forster
Date of Bat Mitzvah: May 31, 2003
Parent's Name: Ilan & Rochelle Forster
Date of Birth: September 29, 1990
School: Solomon Schechter Day School
Grade: 7th
Achievements: Good grades
Interest & Hobbies: Reading, playing sports, writing
Additional Comments: Alyssa is hard working, kind spirited and loves to travel. Our family is so very proud of her.

"TREASURES IN TALMUD AT B'NAI SHALOM"

by Amy Geldzahler

As members of B'nai Shalom, you are probably well aware of the extensive list of Jewish educational opportunities available to adults in our congregation. This year's opportunities have included guest lecture series, Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah classes, Adults, Hebrew Reading Boot Camp, weekly Mishna classes with Rabbi Asekoff, Women's Bible Study and Rosh Chodesh classes with Cecille Asekoff, A Learner, Minyan taught by Moshe Rudin, New York City walking tours, Jewish Enlightenment with Spirituality sessions, and various other seasonal and life-cycle inspired learning events.

Another class that you may have seen mentioned in our weekly e-mails and announcements, is our Advanced Talmud class led by Rabbi Mayer Rabinowitz. What you may not know, however, is the story of the special history behind this class, its members, and teachers. The story of this Talmud class goes back about eight years ago when it was formed in response to the instructions of one of our community, great Jewish Educators, Hirsch Jacobson (zikhrono l, bracha may his memory be for a blessing).

Our member Saul Andron had just moved to West Orange with his family and he was interested in continuing his Jewish learning under the direction of Hirsch Jacobson, whom he knew to be a great scholar. Hirsch told Saul that when he got together a chevra of people who were also interested in Jewish learning on a high level, he would come to teach and lead them. Saul did find that chevra of people in B'nai Shalom who had strong backgrounds in traditional Jewish learning and who were excited to have the opportunity to pick up where they had left off in their yeshiva-days.

These now slightly older yeshiva buchers found the traditional Jewish learning, and high level thinking they remembered as they worked together slowly through original Jewish texts and surrounding sources. One thing was very different, though, for the class members who had come from an Orthodox upbringing. For many of these original class members, this was the first experience they had in a Talmud class where they were able to argue, discuss, and disagree with their teacher, each other, and the sources, where it was not considered sacrilege. In this Conservative context, they were finally allowed and encouraged to ask questions. While the texts and the sources were still the same, the students were initially shocked to find the class to be so free-flowing and loose.

And they loved it!

Besides their intimacy with the texts, this group of learners bonded through their meetings, and felt especially close to each other. This is a bunch of people who have shared a lot including brachot and also sad things, Saul Andron explains. After going strong for a few years with this class, Hirsch Jacobson began to get sick. Even before his illness became serious, a big part of this class was Hirsch, hashkafat chaim his philosophies on life, etc. Especially after he became ill, Hirsch led the class off onto tangents about how to lead a full life and other such subjects, which, as Ron Strulowitz, who has been part of the class since its inception said, was sad and upsetting, but also inspirational. Hirsch loved this class as much as his students loved him. He was so appreciative and proud of the fact that he was teaching these adult member

After a natural break, the class was ready to continue even though they did not know who their new teacher should be. Rabbi Asekoff then suggested a friend and former colleague of Hirsch Jacobson's, Rabbi Mayer Rabinowitz. Mayer is a true master teacher, said Saul Andron. What the students love about Rabbi Rabinowitz is their feeling that he approaches the class the same way he would with his rabbinical students at the Jewish Theological Seminary. When commenting on learning with Rabbi Rabinowitz, the students largely expressed their newfound respect for the importance of studying Talmud, and its intricacies. They also find with Mayer the same thing they loved most about their class with Hirsch, with Mayer, which was the challenge of the interactive approach to learning Talmud.

The class is currently modeled the same as it always was, concentrating on one Masekhet or volume of the Talmud at a time. They read directly from the pages of the Talmud in Hebrew, they look at Rashi's interpretations, the Tosefot, and Mayer brings in other Rishonim, or primary sources to add to the lessons. This year the Masekhet they are studying is Ketubot or Marriage Contracts. This is an especially amazing Masekhet to study with Rabbi Rabinowitz as he is a member of the Rabbinical Assembly's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards and is also chairman of the Joint Beit Din of the Conservative movement which deals with matters of marriage and divorce.

(Continued on page 9)

SYNAGOGUE NEWS...

TREASURES IN TALMUD... (Continued from page 8)

A normal meeting of the Talmud class on Thursday nights at B,nai Shalom averages eight to twelve participants, including most of the original members of the class taught by Hirsch Jacobson, and some newer members including Flora Yavelberg, a Judaic Studies teacher at Solomon Schechter, who joined this year because she had studied with Mayer Rabinowitz at the Jewish Theological Seminary years ago.

David Blady, one of the original class members, insists that the class is definitely not exclusive, and that there is a range in levels. Morty Warshavsky, who has been a part of the class for about five years, believes that knowledge of Hebrew is not the necessary prerequisite, which some people may think, but rather closeness to Judaism, its laws and customs, along with its language.

Although most members of the Talmud class today have been with it since the beginning, they always welcome new members. You are invited to share in the learning and uniqueness of this class or to discover your own treasures in the diversity of offerings at B,nai Shalom.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS...

The year is quickly coming to an end, and what a year it's been. I want to assure everyone that everything is running smoothly as we race towards the end of another successful year of Religious school.

Building the Warsaw Ghetto:

On Sunday, May 4, the Religious School, grades 3 through 7, built a model of the Warsaw Ghetto out of Legos. This activity, led by architect Steven Schwartz, enabled the children to learn some of the history of the uprising. Each group was responsible for one building, and at the end of the morning, shared what they had learned with all their peers.

Primary Graduation:

Graduation for our Second graders will be held on Sunday, May 18 at 10:30 in the main Sanctuary. We wish a hearty Mazal Tov to our graduates: Ilana Bier, Joshua Cimbol, Harry Kaplan, Andrea Perkins, Brian Perkins, Jacob Pollack, Erica Prince, and Jared Saltzman. I have personally enjoyed teaching these children, and look forward to seeing them next year in our Third grade.

Zayin Graduation:

Graduation for our seventh graders will take place on Thursday evening, May 22, at 7:30 PM in the main Sanctuary. Our best wishes go out to: Emily Friedman, Sam Haberman, Sally Hammer, Harris Kaplan, Thomas Noonan, Max Sass, Merav Savir, Nolan Sheppard, Michelle Uranowitz and Stephen Wallach. It's been quite a year for this class, but through it all, they have maintained their cheerfulness, and succeeded.

Mitzvah of the Month:

In March and April the entire Religious school participated in collecting food for the Food pantry and cosmetics for the Rachel Coalition. All in all, the students collected over 200 cans of food to feed the hungry, and well over 250 items to donate to the Rachel Coalition. As I type this, the kids have decided on building a pyramid of tuna for their final project of the year.

One last personal note:

This has been quite a year for me as well. I would like to express my deepest thanks for everyone who has supported me and helped me through all the changes. I couldn't have made it without all of you. Looking forward to a great year. Have a wonderful summer.

Rena

YOUTH ACTIVITIES NEWS...

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT KADIMA for grades 6-8

PLEASE CALL 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

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 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...

USY NEWS

Summer is almost here! LUSY has quite a few ideas for you....

Firstly, on May 10th a Regional Closing Dance will be held in North Brunswick. This will be the last dance of the year! I can't believe how fast this year has gone by, that we are already down to our last USY dance! This dance will once again, be a great opportunity for everyone to see their friends from near and far, and as always to make new USY friends. A bus will most definitely be leaving from Temple Beth Shalom that evening.

On June 8th, USYer's can, and should attend the Regional USY Six Flags Great Adventure day! Come join the fun...rides, **Kosher** cotton candy, friends, shows, and more! Spots for this event are tight, so make sure you R.S.V.P. as soon as possible.

As your summer nears its ends...A new year for USY is **JUST** beginning. What better way to start your new USY Year then with USY REGIONAL ENCAMPMENT! USY Encampment is a week spent at a camp in Starlight, PA. Throughout this week USYERS from entering grades 9-12, will be learning while still having fun! There are 2 dances, a Color War, a Shabbat, and tons more. This week is what many USYers remember as being the best week ever! To register please contact Scott Lantzman at (973) 992 9293, or myself at (973) 736 3248.

Thursday night activities for LUSY are still going strong! I am amazed how much our chapter has grown this year...and I look forward to a new and and even better year to come.

B'Shalom,

*Melissa Ilona Cohenson
Your 2002-2003 Noar Hayomist for LUSY*

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS...

May is here and it is hard to believe that an entire year at B'nai Shalom Nursery School is winding down. We have had an incredibly successful year which we owe largely to the continued support of our dedicated parents. They have volunteered their precious time and numerous talents to make our events so special.

In starting to evaluate our Nursery School progress for this school year, the overwhelming opinion (including my own) is "Thumbs Up!" We continue to search for constructive and innovative ideas and/or suggestions; our door is always open!

"It's going to be a long, hot summer" is a phrase we've been talking about when we discuss "Summer Fun", our B'nai Shalom Nursery School Summer Camp. A typical camp day will include water/sand play, arts and crafts, drama, music, sports, nature, cooking and trips, etc. our Camp aims to fulfill the individual interest of every child. Our highly qualified, hand-picked staff is always warm and nurturing, the atmosphere small and inviting. Please don't forget to insure a spot for your child.

Registration for the 2003-2004 school year is on-going. If you are interested or know of anyone who would like to give their child a wonderful nursery school experience, please call our office for an application at 973-325-8825.

Shalom

*Michele Weiss,
Director*

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In Honor of

The engagement of Paulina Berowitz, daughter of Stephen & Donna Berowitz, to Joshua Levine

Ted & Karen Eisenberg

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

Ted & Karen Eisenberg

The Bar Mitzvah anniversary of Jack Nathanson

Kate Tarnofsky

Matthew Fleissig, great-grandson of Frank & Gloria Schanerman, son of Jody & Daniel Fleissig

Morris & Beatrice Waxman

The 60th Wedding anniversary of Miriam & Morris Hammer

Janet & Bernard Sobel

Irwin & Esther Laufman

JONATHAN BARUCH CHILDREN'S LIBRARY FUND

In Memory of

Chiae Herzig, mother of Rena Casser

Barry & Cheryl Citron

In Honor of

The marriage of Shira Asekoff, daughter of Rabbi & Cecille Asekoff, to Ariel Meyer

Lois Schuback

Frederick Fern, on the 36th anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah

Barry & Cheryl Citron

Matthew Fleissig, great-grandson of Frank & Gloria Schanerman, son of Jody & Daniel Fleissig

Robin, Steve & Evan Colten

Aaron Paul's Bar Mitzvah, son of Stephen & Gilda & grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Martin Gen

Kate Tarnofsky

BUDDY EDELMAN FUND

In Honor of

Morris & Miriam Hammer's 60th Wedding Anniversary

Cissy & Seymour Rudd

REFUAH SHLAYMAH

Wishing a speedy recovery to Max Spinrad

Lois Schuback

Wishing a speedy recovery to Joanne Snyder

Robin, Steve & Evan Colten

The Shenassa Family

Aileen Grossberg

SIM SHALOM

In Memory of

Minnie Yale, mother of Arlene Karp

Ted & Karen Eisenberg

In Honor of

The 60th Wedding anniversary of Mimi & Morris Hammer

Frieda Ostrowsky

Pamela Isaacson, daughter of Steve & Davida Isaacson, on her recent marriage to Craig Garretson

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CHUMASH

In Honor of

Arthur Maron's 70th Birthday

Loren, Mark, Sarah, Ben & Gaby Roth

GAIL LIEBMANN EDUCATION FUND

In Honor of

Fran Klein, for her recent patient assistance to our Special needs

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In Honor of

Arthur Maron's 70th Birthday

Loren, Mark, Sarah, Ben & Gaby Roth

TREE OF LIFE

In Honor of

The 60th Wedding anniversary of Mimi & Morris Hammer

Sylvia Roth, Nadine & Larry Weinberg

Vicky & Mark Roth

Alice & Stanley Rothstein

Your friend, Elaine

Michael Yakov Lilinshtein, becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Mom & Dad

Alyssa Forster, daughter of Rochelle & Ilan Forster, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Your Loving Family

DINA SKALRUD FUND

In Honor of

Pinchas David Feldman, grandson of Cantor Elihu & Marcia Feldman

Lois Schuback

DONATIONS

Pamela Isaacson, daughter of Steve & Davida Isaacson, on her recent marriage to Craig Garretson
Lois Schuback

Fred & Irene Einstein's grandson, Jared
Lois Schuback

GRUHIN MEMORIAL FUND

In Honor of

Melissa Gruhin, daughter of Stephen and Jenny Gruhin, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Clara Creditor

HAIM SMADAR FUND

In Honor of

Gabrielle Blady, daughter of David & Anne Blady, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Steven & Goldie Jacoby

Melissa Gruhin, daughter of Stephen & Jenny Gruhin, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Steven & Goldie Jacoby

Michael Lilinshtein, son of Sofia & Edward Lilinshtein, on becoming Bar Mitzvah
Robin, Steve & Evan Colten

In Memory of

Arthur Galatz, father of Jordan Galatz
Robin, Steve & Evan Colten

Bernard Allman, father of Cecille Asekoff
Sarah Weingberg

Bernard Allman, beloved husband, father, grandfather & great-grandfather
Barbara & Stuart Herman & Family

Lillian, sister of Sally Kirschenbaum
Jackie Dakss

Bernard Allman, husband of Betty Allman & father of Cecille Asekoff
Janet & Alan Arnowoitz

ROSE GOTTLIEB MEMORIAL FUND

In Honor of

Murray Gottlieb in honor of your Special Day
Lois Schuback

The engagement of Paulina Berowitz, daughter of Stephen & Donna Berowitz, to Joshua Levine
Lois Schuback

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

Sam Farber, husband of Sylvia Farber
Lois Schuback

Augusta Locker, sister of Bea Solomon
Lois Schuback

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:

Because of the Passover holiday "rush" all donations received since the publication of the April Hayenu will be listed in the June edition. We thank you for your understanding.

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Wines we carry:

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May 2003

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| | | | | 1 Morning Services 7:00AM Rosh Chodesh-Cecille 7:30-9 Talmud Class Evening Services 8:00PM Book Fair books to arrive today 5:30 Friedman Photography | 2 Morning Services 7:00AM Friday Night Services 6:00PM | 3 Morning Services 9:00AM AM B/M of Emily Friedman Shabbat Yom Ha'Atzmoat - Adult Ed After Kiddush - David Twersky Learners Minyan Shabbateinu 11-12 Evening Services 7:35PM |
| 4 Morning Services 9:00AM Book Fair Dalet Family Workshop NS Alumni Day 1:30-3:30 Prospective Member Brunch Evening Minyan 8:00PM New Years Day Card Fund Raiser 10-12pm | 5 Morning Services 7:00AM Book Fair 7 pm - Sisterhood Meeting - General Elections & Program Evening Services 8:00PM New Years Day Card Fund Raiser 9-3:30 | 6 Morning Services 7:00AM Book Fair Hadassah Evening Services 8:00PM Religious Activities Meeting | 7 Morning Services 7:00AM Yom Ha'Atzmoat NCJW Program 9:30-2PM 8 pm - Religious School Board Meeting Torah Reading Academy -Rooms 4, 5, 6/7 & YL Evening Services 8:00PM | 8 Morning Services 7:00AM Double Chat 12:30 8:30 pm - Board Meeting Talmud Class Evening Services 8:00PM Hochberg Photography | 9 Morning Services 7:00AM Friday Night Services 6:00PM | 10 Morning Services 9:00AM PM B/M of Michael Hochberg Congregant led Minyan Leslie Selba Aufnuf Evening Services 7:45PM |
| 11 Morning Services 9:00AM Mothers Day Brunch Evening Minyan 8:00PM New Years Day Card Fund Raiser 10-12pm | 12 Morning Services 7:00AM Evening Services 8:00PM New Years Day Card Fund Raiser 10-12 | 13 Morning Services 7:00AM Meeting w/ Shevins 10 AM Evening Services 8:00PM | 14 Morning Services 7:00AM Torah Reading Academy -Rooms 4, 5, 6/7 & YL Evening Services 8:00PM | 15 Morning Services 7:00AM 8:30 pm - Exec Board Meeting Talmud Class Evening Services 8:00PM USCJ Dinner & Program 6:30 Bone Marrow testing 4-8:30 | 16 Morning Services 7:00AM Friday Night Services 6:00PM | 17 Morning Services 9:00AM AM B/M of Michelle Uranowitz Rabbi's Table Minyan Meyuchad Malava Malka Evening Services 7:50PM |
| 18 Morning Services 9:00AM Primary Graduation Ground Breaking 10:30 AM Evening Minyan 8:00PM | 19 Morning Services 7:00AM Michaellis sponsor Breakfast after am minyan Evening Services 8:00PM | 20 Morning Services 7:00AM Nursery School Lag B'Omer Picnic Evening Services 8:00PM | 21 Morning Services 7:00AM Torah Reading Academy -Rooms 4, 5, 6/7 & YL Evening Services 8:00PM Naase Meeting | 22 Morning Services 7:00AM Last day of Religious School 7:30 pm - Hey Graduation Talmud Class Evening Services 8:00PM | 23 Morning Services 7:00AM Nursery School Closed Friday Night Services 6:00PM | 24 Morning Services 9:00AM PM B/M of Sabrina Katz Evening Services 7:55PM |
| 25 Morning Services 9:00AM No Religious School Nursery School Flea Market Evening Minyan 8:00PM | 26 Morning Services 9:00AM Memorial Day - Office Closed Nursery School Closed Evening Services 8:00PM | 27 Morning Services 7:00AM No Religious School Religious School Faculty meeting & Dinner Congregational Meeting 8:30 Evening Services 8:00PM | 28 Morning Services 7:00AM Torah Reading Academy -Rooms 4, 5, 6/7 & YL Evening Services 8:00PM | 29 Morning Services 7:00AM Talmud Class Evening Services 8:00PM | 30 Morning Services 7:00AM Forster Dinner 6:00 PM Friday Night Services 6:00PM Forster Photography | 31 Morning Services 9:00AM AM B/M of Alyssa Forster Congregant led Minyan Evening Services 8:00PM |

June 2003

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1 Morning Services 9:00AM AM Bar Mitzvah of Max Sass Rosh Hodesh 10-12 Evening Minyan 8:00PM | 2 Morning Services 7:00AM 7 pm – Sisterhood Meeting Evening Services 8:00PM | 3 Morning Services 7:00AM Evening Services 8:00PM | 4 Morning Services 7:00AM 8pm – Nursery School Board Meeting 8pm – Religious School Board Meeting Evening Services 8:00PM | 5 Morning Services 7:00AM Erev Shavuot Nursery School Graduation Evening Services 8:00PM | 6 Morning Services 7:00AM Shavuot Friday Night Services 6:00PM | 7 Morning Services 9:00AM Seniors honoring shabbat Shavuot Luncheon Learners Minyan Shabbatainu 11-12 Evening Services 8:05M |
| 8 Morning Services 9:00AM Couple of the year 7:30PM Evening Minyan 8:00PM | 9 Morning Services 7:00AM Evening Services 8:00PM | 10 Morning Services 7:00AM Evening Services 8:00PM | 11 Morning Services 7:00AM Evening Services 8:00PM | 12 Morning Services 7:00AM 8:30 pm – Board Meeting Double Chai 12:30 Evening Services 8:00PM | 13 Morning Services 7:00AM Installation of Officers Friday Night Services 6:00PM | 14 Morning Services 9:00AM Congregant led Minyan AM Merav Savir Evening Services 8:10PM |
| 15 Morning Services 9:00AM Evening Minyan 8:00PM | 16 Morning Services 7:00AM 7 pm – Sisterhood Meeting Evening Services 8:00PM | 17 Morning Services 7:00AM Evening Services 8:00PM | 18 Morning Services 7:00AM Evening Services 8:00PM | 19 Morning Services 7:00AM 8:30 pm – Exec Board Meeting 6 pm - Congregation Picnic Evening Services 8:00PM | 20 Morning Services 7:00AM Friday Night Services 6:00PM | 21 Morning Services 9:00AM Mandel Auri Ruf Minyan Meyuchad Mandel Spec Kiddush Evening Services 8:15PM |
| 22 Morning Services 9:00AM Evening Minyan 8:00PM | 23 Morning Services 7:00AM Nursery School Summer Camp begins Evening Services 8:00PM | 24 Morning Services 7:00AM Evening Services 8:00PM | 25 Morning Services 7:00AM Evening Services 8:00PM | 26 Morning Services 7:00AM Evening Services 8:00PM | 27 Morning Services 7:00AM Friday Night Services 6:00PM | 28 Morning Services 9:00AM Rabbi's Table Congregant led Minyan Evening Services 8:15PM |
| 29 Morning Services 9:00AM Evening Minyan 8:00PM | 30 | | | | | |