



Newsletter of B'nai Emet Synagogue

SCROLL

מגילה

January 16, 2004

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Our Leaders



From the Rabbi

We often speak of *bar/bat mitzvah* training as preparation for Jewish adulthood—a lifetime of

active involvement in the Judaism of the home, the synagogue, and the community. And the synagogue skills included in *bar/bat mitzvah* education have that same focus: We teach our *bar/bat mitzvah* students how to read *Torah*, chant *haftarot*, and lead parts of the service, in the hope that most of them will further develop and employ those skills for many years to come. Indeed, our *Bar/Bat Mitzvah—Parents Handbook* states: “Our *bar/bat mitzvah* curriculum is not designed merely to train your child for participation on a specific day; we see *bar/bat mitzvah* education, at its best, as preparation for Jewish adulthood. Therefore, the skills we attempt to teach are those that will equip your child to become and remain an active member of the adult Jewish community.”

Of course, it’s no secret that, sadly, at least for **some** of our kids and **some** of their families, the focus doesn’t go far beyond the “big

day.” The seeds of Jewish skillfulness and Jewish enthusiasm that we try to plant don’t always take root.

I recently experienced a striking illustration of the real meaning of *bar/bat mitzvah*, which I want to share with you. A few weeks ago, Avi-Natan Zadaka celebrated becoming a *bar mitzvah*. That *Shabbat* in December was the first day of *Hanukkah* and the service had numerous *Hanukkah* additions, as well as the usual *bar/bat mitzvah* extras. On *Hanukkah* we add the beautiful *Hallel* Service to our morning prayers, and there’s a long *maftir* portion, read from a second *sefer Torah*. Add to that the *bar mitzvah’s d’var Torah*, as well as the other speeches and elements...and you can understand why we were running late by the time the *Musaf* Service approached.

The officer on the *bimah* quietly asked me if there was anything in

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President’s Message

Our Youth and Congregation in 2004

The president of a congregation somewhere out East commented to a small group of congregants, “If I had only three more congregants like you, I’d be so happy!” One of the congregants responded, “I always bring my complaints to you. How come you want more like us?” The President replied, “Well, I already have more than 30 like you, so if I had just three more congregants like you, I’d be much happier!”

Of course, there’s always room for improvement, and I encourage everyone to speak up when you have a concern. At the same time, I want to share with you a few of the many positive highlights going on now at B’nai Emet.

One of our greatest sources of pride and joy is our fabulous youth department, under the dynamic direction of Youth Director Sasha Kusnetzov and our dedicated Youth Commission.

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Rabbi Woolf

Rabbi Barry Woolf is available to congregants at all times and can be contacted at the synagogue (952-927-7309) at home (952-922-0322), or by pager (612-613-6236).

Services

Stump (Ask) the Rabbi

The next "Ask the Rabbi" session will be February 7 during *Shabbat* morning services at 9:00 A.M. This monthly event is an opportunity to pose your questions about Judaism to Rabbi Abramson. If you do come up with a question he can't answer right away, please notify the office. We don't believe it's possible.

Tot Shabbat

Instilling the Joy of Shabbat Early

February 21, 2004

Families with children ages one to five are invited to join Jeanne Kaufman for this informal, creative, and inspiring *Shabbat* morning program, from 11:00 to 11:45 A.M., followed by a *kiddush* in the Goldberg Lounge.

Two Events—One Night

Tu B'Shevat Seder & Shlomo Carlebach Service

Check the flyers inserted with this *Scroll* for details on our upcoming annual *Tu B'Shevat Seder*, and the inauguration of a Shlomo Carlebach Friday evening service. Save the date—Friday, February 6.

New Members Shabbat

Welcoming Newcomers to Our Home

Please join us for New Members *Shabbat* at 9:00 A.M. on February 7. You'll have an opportunity to welcome and meet some recent additions to our B'nai Emet family. Come celebrate with us!

Shabbat Service Schedule

Services conducted by Rabbi David L. Abramson

Shabbat Morning, January 10, 9:00 A.M.

Torah Reading: *Vay'hi* *Haftarah* Reader: Jeanne Kaufman

Torah Readers: David Cera, Nathan Cera, Michael Engel, Linda Erlich, Miriam Kieffer, Debbie Slutsker, Hela Zadaka

Shabbat Morning, January 17, 9:00 A.M.

Torah Reading: *Sh'mot* *Haftarah* Reader: Paul Tuchman

Torah Readers: Jeanne Astren, Ari Baumwald, Maggie Burton, Linda Erlich, Alan Grone, Larry Kelner, Alyson Meier, Ben Meier

Shabbat Morning, January 24, 9:00 A.M.

Torah Reading: *Va'eira* *Haftarah* Reader: Alyson Meier

Torah Readers: Aliza Bach, Michelle Shapiro, Amir Zadaka, Avi-Natan Zadaka, Hela Zadaka, Noam Zadaka, Yefet Zadaka

Shabbat Morning, January 31, 9:00 A.M.

Torah Reading: *Bo* *Haftarah* Reader: Michael Engel

Torah Readers: Lee Amar, Robbie Amar, Michael Engel, Linda Erlich, Miriam Krause

Shabbat Morning, February 7, 9:00 A.M.

New Members *Shabbat*

Torah Reading: *B'shalah* *Haftarah* Reader: Diane Baumwald

Torah Readers: Jeanne Astren, Sara Bernstein, Dorit Chazin, Orrie Chazin, Jeff Freidson, Marguerite Krause

Shabbat Morning, February 14, 9:00 A.M.

Torah Reading: *Yitro* *Haftarah* Reader: Alan Grone

Torah Readers: Rabbi David Abramson, Amir Zadaka, Avi-Natan Zadaka, Hela Zadaka, Noam Zadaka, Tomar Zadaka

Young Families' Service

Watch Our Children Grow

Friday, January 16, at 7:00 P.M., featuring Laura, Marta, Raya, and Pat's class and Tammy, Tova, and Vivian's class.

Daily Service Schedule

7:30 A.M. Monday through Friday

9:00 A.M. *Shabbat*

9:30 A.M. Sunday and holidays

5:45 P.M. Daily

Our Leaders

From the Rabbi

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the service that we could shorten. By that point in the service, though, there was little that we could easily cut. The *Musaf* Service—including the repetition of the *Amidah*—is one of the parts of the *Shabbat* Morning Service which most *bar/bat mitzvah* students lead—and which they spend a number of years learning.

Glancing at my watch and worrying about the implications of an overly long service, I approached Avi, just as he was about to begin the *Hatzi Kaddish* before *Musaf*. “How would you feel about doing a *Heikha K’dushah*,” I hesitantly asked him, “chanting the opening *brakhot* of the *Amidah* and then the *K’dushah*, instead of the full repetition?” I certainly would have understood if Avi had not accepted my suggestion; after all, like so many other students, he had begun learning the *Musaf* Service in his first year of *Shabbat* School.

As quickly as I asked the question, though, Avi looked at me and replied, “Okay.”

“Are you sure?” I asked.

“Sure I am,” he said, and he proceeded matter-of-factly to lead the short version of the *Musaf* Service. Probably most people in *shul* that morning were unaware that there had been a change in plans, that Avi had elected not to

chant the full repetition of the *Amidah*. He and I were among the few people who were aware of the change—and, by making that choice, he taught me an important lesson, one that I’d been trying to teach others for years.

You see, Avi and his family are regulars at our *Shabbat* Morning Services. On weekdays when he doesn’t have school, he and his siblings are regular participants in our morning *minyan*. Avi has been around *shul* and *davening*, literally all of his life.

And so, on that *Shabbat* morning in December, it was no big deal for Avi to decide to forego the repetition of the *Musaf Amidah*. After all, he had learned the repetition not simply for that particular *Shabbat* morning. He had learned it for a lifetime of adult *davening*. There would be plenty of other opportunities, Avi knew, to chant the repetition of the *Amidah*.

There were a lot of reasons that I was one of many people in *shul* that morning who were proud of Avi—but, in my case, I was most proud because of the quiet choice he had made and the almost private lesson he had taught me.

Now, let me reassure those of you whose children or grandchildren have *bar* or *bat mitzvah* celebrations in their futures: I’m not going to ask them, at the last minute, to forego chanting prayers that they’ve worked on for years. This was a unique situation and a unique young man. But I hope Avi’s example will inspire many future *b’nai mitzvah*—and their families—to appreciate the real meaning of *bar* or *bat mitzvah*: the beginning of full, meaningful participation in our rich Jewish tradition.

Rabbi David L. Abramson

President’s Message

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Rumor has it that congregants Michael, Wendy, and Peter refuse to grow up (ONLY until our committed USY thespians have completed rehearsing and performing their upcoming production of *Peter Pan*!) It promises to be a fun-filled show that audience members of all ages are sure to enjoy. Please join us and show your support for our youth by attending at least one of the four performances.

When the members of USY aren’t at play practice, they can be found serving our community in a variety of ways, most recently helping serve meals at the Men’s Club *Hanukkah* dinner. A special thanks to all of our youth group members and their families for all of their wonderful and continued acts of kindness!

Another amazingly busy group at B’nai Emet is our Membership Committee, engaged in numerous (and growing) activities to reach out to unaffiliated and new people in the community. If you know of anyone that would like to, or should be called, please contact our Membership Chair, Wendy Grosser, or me.

As we usher in 2004, I wish you a year that focuses on your continued happiness and good health, while our synagogue family embarks upon a successful and positive year.

Adeel Saad
adeels007@aol.com

Candle Lighting

January 9	4:32
January 16	4:41
January 23	4:50
January 30	5:00
February 6	5:10
February 13	5:20

Upcoming Events

Lunch & Learn

Feed Your Stomach and Your Soul

The next Lunch & Learn session with Rabbi Abramson will be Thursday, February 5, from 12:00 to 1:00 P.M. in the library. Please feel free to bring a dairy or vegetarian lunch.

Save These Adult Education Dates...

...for Jewish Awareness and True Confessions of Rabbis' Spouses

My Spouse, the Rabbi. Tuesday, February 3, 7:30 P.M.

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be married to a rabbi? Find out when three local rabbis' spouses share the ins and outs of their unique lives. It is sure to be an enjoyable and eye-opening evening sponsored by the Adult Education Committee.

Festival of Jewish Awareness.

Saturday night, March 20.

Hold the date on your calendar for the return of B'nai Emet's Festival of Jewish Awareness—an evening jam-packed with an amazing variety of classes and discussions. From Israeli politics to *Kabbalah*, Jewish cooking to living wills, and gay/lesbian Jews to Yiddish music, it will be a whirlwind of stimulating and fun learning for everyone. Watch for details in the next *Scroll* and then join us for an evening to remember. Sponsored by the Adult Education Committee.

Book Club

Discuss Literature Without Fear—Book Reports NOT Required!

B'nai Emet's Book Club has scheduled dates and chosen books through June 2004. Everyone is welcome to participate.

For location information (meetings are at members' homes), email bookclub@bnaiemet.org or call the synagogue office.

Upcoming books and 7 P.M. Sunday meetings are:

February 8: *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*, Joseph J. Ellis.

March 21: *What You Owe Me*, Bebe Moore Campbell.

April 25: *The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown.

June 6: *The Case for Israel*, Alan Dershowitz.

Your Favorite Art Auction is Returning to B'nai Emet!

Save the date: Sunday, April 25. Details to follow in the next *Scroll*.

Scroll Deadline

January 29 for February 20 issue.



Wacky Ideas Needed!

Got an idea for a fun *Purim* Carnival Game? Can't stop thinking about the upcoming *Purim* Carnival on Sunday February 29? Call Wendy at 763-559-9118.

Name That Booth!!

Always wanted your own fish pond? This year, the *Purim* Carnival is giving you a chance to make your dreams come true!

Sponsor a *Purim* Carnival Booth for only \$50 each. Consider this: who wouldn't want to play the Grosser Family Fish Pond or the Brodsky Family Ring Toss?

Please mail this form and your check to the B'nai Emet Synagogue office.

- Yes, I want to sponsor a booth. Enclosed is a check for \$50.00.
- Yes, I wish to donate to help support the *Purim* Carnival. Enclosed is my check for \$_____.
- Yes, I have a great idea for a booth. Please call me!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Our Synagogue

Kitchen Update

Wanted—Six Volunteers to Look at Food

To give us more flexibility in our kitchen, we'd like to have six volunteers (in addition to our current kitchen supervisor) to serve as *mashgi'im* when anyone is working in our kitchen. A *mashgi'ah* supervises *kashrut* in the kitchen. Since we'd then have seven people able to do this work, the time commitment for any single volunteer would be minimal. Of course, if we ask if you're available to fill in for a specific date and you're not free, that's not a problem.

Rabbi Abramson will train and certify our *mashgi'im*. Please phone Jan in the office if you're interested.

Prune, Apricot, & Poppysed Hamantaschen, Oh My!

Fay Leader and her crew have already started baking to meet (or beat) their last year record of 6,000 *hamantaschen* available for you to order. At \$12 a dozen, you may order now by email at hamantaschen@bnaiemet.org, or call Ruth Schoenberger at 952-935-1143.



Do We All Get to Celebrate Harry Breitman's BIG Birthday?

Absolutely! Harry Breitman is turning 90. To mark this momentous occasion, the Breitman family is sponsoring a *kiddush* after services on Saturday, January 17. Everyone is invited.



Membership Committee

Keeping Our Synagogue Warm (*Haimish*)

The B'nai Emet Membership Committee wants to nurture our Sharing, Caring, Helping image. Here are three ways you can help:

- **Call or visit a B'nai Emet "shut-in."** B'nai Emet has congregants who are unable to leave their homes for a variety of reasons. To help them feel less isolated and abandoned, let's make sure these people know they're in our thoughts!
- **Offer guidance and friendship to a new or potentially new B'nai Emet family.** It's always hard to make new friends, especially if one is new in town. (And some would add that it's even harder in Minnesota.) This mentoring role may be as simple as calling an individual or family and personally inviting

them to a B'nai Emet function (*Shabbat* included!) or as complex as having an individual or family to your house for dinner. Let's make newcomers feel welcome and part of the community. These are just suggestions—you decide for yourself how to do this!

- **Extend an invitation to short-term visitors for *Shabbat* and holidays.** Traveling is always stressful. What would you want if travels took you away from home during *Shabbat* or a *yom tov*? The Membership Committee plans to strategically place notices in area hotels and convention centers to advertise our presence. We would like to offer a place to pray and celebrate, and a welcome home and friendly companionship to these travelers.

Please consider these opportunities to perform some *mitzvot* that are focal to Jewish tradition. Our B'nai Emet family will be stronger, healthier, and happier as a result of your involvement. Contact Wendy Grosser at 763-559-9118 to volunteer, if you or anyone you know would like to be a recipient of our Sharing, Caring, Helping program, or if you have comments, questions, or suggestions.

Wendy Grosser
Membership Committee Chair

Urgent: Don't Let Your Car Get Towed...

...or ticketed while you're *davening*!

Because it only takes one or two cars on a block to hamper snowplows, the City of St. Louis Park tickets and tows vehicles parked on unplowed streets. If snow is falling or appears imminent, or whenever a snowfall exceeds three inches, park in the synagogue parking lot. Once the street has been plowed to the curb, on-street parking is allowed again. It's probably simpler to use the synagogue parking lot until Spring.

Our Synagogue

Make This Mother's Day Extra Special

Join Team B'nai Emet 2004

On Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day), TEAM B'NAI EMET will participate in the Susan G. Komen Twin Cities Race/Walk for the Cure to support breast cancer research, screening, education, and treatment. This year will be the fourth time we've participated in this community-wide event.

Please call Eileen Kopman at 763-536-0013 for registration or information. (Registration forms should be available in March.) The deadline will be near the end of April. Mark your calendar now, watch for more information in the next *Scroll*, and pray for dry weather on May 9!

Bikkur Holim Committee

It's So Easy and Rewarding to Perform a Mitzvah

Visit someone in the hospital, nursing home, or in their own home. You'll bring emotional comfort and instill a feeling of being cared for. When you see a welcoming smile on the faces of those you visit, you'll know you are truly performing a special *mitzvah*.

To join our committee, phone the synagogue at 952-927-7309, leave your name, and a member of the committee will contact you.

Fundraising Opportunity

Do You Know Your Used Ink Cartridges Become Cash for Us?

B'nai Emet is collecting ink cartridges from any printer. We send them in monthly and receive cash back from a recycling company. Just

drop them off when you're at the synagogue. If the office isn't open, leave them outside the door. Start collecting at WORK and at HOME. Every little bit helps!



Donors of All Ages Make Our Library Grow

These books and books that will be featured in the next issue of the *Scroll* have been added to B'nai Emet's library collection through the generosity of Robert Markus, a recent *bar mitzvah*. Many thanks to Robert and his family for this donation and for the many ways they enhance our congregation.

Masada: The Last Fortress, Gloria D. Miklowitz. This historical novel vividly recounts the last months and days of the Roman siege of Masada. The Jews' last stand against the Roman assault is related from the viewpoints of the teenaged son of the leader of the Jewish zealots, and the son of the commander-in-chief of the Roman legion. Recommended for middle-school readers and up.

The Virtual Kibbutz: Stories From a Changing Society, Ellis Shuman. This collection of stories examines the *kibbutz* movement and the changes it has sustained in the past 50 years. The author, originally an American from Iowa, was a founding member of Kibbutz Yahel. He describes the lives of *kibbutzniks* today, as they cope with the threat of violence, the Internet, and loss of the original idealism that gave birth to the *kibbutz* movement.

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Our Youth



Early Childhood Development

Register Now for Next Year to Participate in Exciting Activities Like These

December was a busy, fun-filled month at Preschool. The children celebrated by making *Hanukkah* treats, decorations, and family gifts, while learning new tunes and *Hanukkah* tales. Living Legacy's Olive Press made Pre-K's *Hanukkah* preparations even more exciting with the opportunity to make their own oil. All of the classes participated in the act of *tz'dakah* by donating gifts to Jewish Family and Children's Services' *Hag Sameach* program.

For *Tu B'Shevat*, many of the B'nai Emet Early Childhood Education classes will be planting parsley seed that should be ready just in time for their families to put on the *seder* plate for *Pesah*.

The next Young Families Service will be on January 16. At the February Young Families Service on Friday, February 20, our 3- and 4-year-old classes will enhance the evening with a few songs performed on the *bimah*. Active participation is encouraged and extended families are welcome. The March Young Family Service will be Friday, March 19 with our two youngest classes leading *Shabbat* songs from the *bimah*.

We are now accepting registrations for the 2004-2005 school year. Our program is open to children 16 months through five years old and we are open 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Fridays. A full secular and Judaic curriculum is enhanced by enrichment classes,

Our Youth

Kidrate, dance, and music, as well as special programs. The Early Childhood Education Department (ECD) is a year-round program with full daycare offered for both preschool and summer camp. Congregants of B'nai Emet Synagogue are given priority registration. We encourage you to call and arrange a visit to the Preschool. For additional information or to schedule a tour of ECD, please contact Marilyn Richter or Jeri Saad weekday mornings at 952-927-8443.

Preschool summer camp (Camp Ahava) at B'nai Emet features great programming with arts and crafts, drama, nature, sports, and much, much more. Camp registration forms will be available in February.

Shabbat School Update

Training Students to Teach As They Master So Much!

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
(Proverbs 22:6)

Mazal Tov to our recent *b'nai mitzvah*, Avi-Natan Zadaka and Elena Siegel.

We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of staff and students in *Shabbat* School. Nearly all students join our *Prozdor* program after their *bar* or *bat mitzvah* celebration and continue through high school as staff. Our teachers and tutors learn to write lesson plans, lead discussions, provide individual tutoring, serve as role models, and work as a team. The experience they gain allows them to develop leadership skills, master prayer and *Torah* reading skills, and work with students using a variety of learning styles. Staff continue to work on their own development by leading services, learning additional High Holiday and *megillah trope*, singing

BESY Happenings:

- Saturday, January 10** Twin Cities-wide Talent Show—7–10 P.M.
Saturday, January 17 *Peter Pan*, Opening Night—8:00 P.M.
Sunday, January 18 *Peter Pan*, USY Night—8:00 P.M.
Friday, January 23 *Rebbe's Tish*—8–9:30 P.M.
Saturday, January 24 *Peter Pan*—8:00 P.M.
Sunday, January 25 *Peter Pan*—8:00 P.M.
Saturday, January 31 Beth Jacob play, USY Night—7–10 P.M.
Saturday, February 14 USY/Kadima Casino Night—8–10 P.M.
Tuesday, February 17 Paint Me Lounge Night—7–8:30 P.M.
Friday–Sunday, Feb. 20–22 Winter *Shabbaton*
Friday, February 27 *Rebbe's Tish*—8–9:30 P.M.



in the youth choir, and preparing and presenting *divrei Torah*.

Our *Alef* students have mastered learning the *Torah trope* with Wendy Bach and are beginning to learn their individual *maftir* portions. Our first group of *Bet* students have completed learning their *haftarah* trope and blessings with Michael Lurie and are prepared to work with Esther Paletz on their individual readings. *Gimel* students continue to study *tefillah* with Yefet Zadaka and are preparing for *Gimel Shabbat* on February 28. Our *Prozdor* students continue to study with Rabbi Woolf and are gaining experience tutoring our younger students.

There will be **NO SHABBAT SCHOOL** on January 17 during Martin Luther King weekend and on February 14 during Presidents' Weekend.

Laura Brandys
Education Director

Sunday School

Living Shabbat and the Meaning of Tu B'Shevat

We've begun our *Shabbat* unit. It includes eight lessons: A Gift From God, Welcoming *Shabbat*, A Holy Day, Saying Thank You, A Time to Be Joyful, A Time to Pray, Saying Goodbye, and *Shabbat* Is Our Day.

In these lessons, we'll learn to prepare for *Shabbat*, say blessings over *Shabbat* candles, wine and *challah*, why and how to rest on *Shabbat*, and *Havdalah* traditions. Games, songs, and crafts will reinforce the lessons and Rabbi Abramson is prepared to answer any questions our students have for him the next time he visits us.

We will have a special program for *Tu B'Shevat*. Students will review from their *mitzvah* unit the obligation to protect our earth. Using natural resources wisely is a great way to perform that *mitzvah*; we'll recycle paper into handmade paper sheets that we'll use to make beautiful cards, picture frames, and other projects.

Jeanne Kaufman

Dear Kadimaniks, Maccabees, Parents, and Congregants...

Happy 2004 to all! This year is going to be better than all the past years combined. January is a busy month with the BESY play *Peter Pan*.

Kadimaniks and Maccabees, if you come to the first show on January 17, you may go backstage during intermission to meet the cast and get autographs. Immediately

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Our Youth

after that first show, you can also join us in the 3rd floor Youth Lounge for snacks. We hope to see many of you for all four performances. Cheer for your fellow USYers and enjoy an exciting show. Plus, who could pass up pickles-on-a-stick at intermission?

February! Look forward to the month that will be brimming with prune and/or chocolate, gooey *hamantashen*, tree planting, and exciting programs.

Eighth graders, keep the weekend of March 12-14 open for Kadima Kinnus! Watch your mail for information in the next few weeks.

B'shalom,

Maya Berezovsky and Carly Gershone

Hey Peter—We Can Fly!

Peter Pan Performances:

Saturday, January 17 and Sunday, January 18—8:00 P.M.

Saturday, January 24 and Sunday, January 25—8:00 P.M.

Tickets:

General Admission—\$6 (also available at the door)

Reserved Seating is \$12 on a first-come, first-served basis.

To purchase tickets, mail your check and a list of your desired performances to Nancy Serber (8500-33rd Ave., No., New Hope, MN 55427-1822).

Parts of the show are still available for you to sponsor:

- lights—\$350
- sound system—\$285
- costumes—\$150
- ad book—\$100

Todah rabah for your support. We can fly. Believe in miracles, come to the show, and see for yourself!

Sasha Kuznetsov

B'nai Emet Youth Director

B'nai Emet USY Update That Crib Full of Toys in the Main Foyer

In the past month, the *Mitzvah* Crib, our campaign to collect toys for under-privileged children, was filled to extremely overflowing. We gave half of the Crib to the Hag Sameach program, and then collected more donations to give ten bags of toys to the STEP program just in time for the holidays. The BESY Board extends a hearty thank-you to the Chazin family for their help in organizing this drive, and to all who participated and made it such a success.

Youth Commission

Your Donations Help Youth Programs and Provide Scholarships to Attend USY Events

B'nai Emet has a fund that enables the Youth Commission to subsidize USY/Kadima/Maccabee programs, and helps provide financial assistance to families with children who want to attend some of the many regional USY events. To make your donation for any occasion, please call Sharyn Grone at 763-559-5040.

Special Section:

Scholarship Opportunities / Summer Camps & Israel Experiences / Planning Your Secondary Education

Commit to the Future of the Jewish People

Please consider a contribution to one of B'nai Emet's scholarship funds to celebrate a *simcha* or as a memorial remembrance. Your donations help our children live a Jewish life by helping to send them to Jewish camps, Jewish and Israeli

programs, and post-secondary education.

Scholarship Reminder: Beat the Deadline

B'nai Emet scholarship applications for Summer 2004 Jewish camp and Israel experiences must be completed in full and returned to the synagogue office by Friday, January 30 to receive consideration for summer programs. Scholarship grants are based on family income and financial need. Applicants must also make application to other community resources as listed on the form. Contact the synagogue office for forms or if you have questions.

- **The Janus Korczak Fund.** Through the Janus Korczak Memorial Scholarship Fund, B'nai Emet Scholarship Committee is able to offer each *bar* and *bat mitzvah* a \$100 scholarship toward a Jewish camping experience. On behalf of our teens, thank you to our congregants who have supported this fund or have renewed their commitment to do so. To make a pledge, call the office and we'll be happy to make arrangements.
- **The third annual B'nai Emet Senior Service Award** will be awarded in May. This monetary award is given to one or two high school seniors who exemplify outstanding involvement in both our *Shabbat* School and USY. The individual(s) must teach in our *Shabbat* School, participate in Youth Services and Torah reading, be an active member of USY, participate in community programs and *tz'dakah*, and continue his or her Jewish education. Detailed criteria for this award are available through the Scholarship Committee, Laura Brandys, and Rabbi Abramson. No application is necessary.

Our Youth

- **B'nai Emet Post Secondary Education scholarships under \$500.** Specific criteria and applications are available through the synagogue office.
- **Project Reconnect (Keshet L'Yisrael) Mission to Israel is an opportunity to visit Israel** with fellow alumni of USY, ATID, NATIV, KOACH from May 3-11. The price is \$1,899.00/person, double occupancy, air and land. Get complete information from www.projectreconnect.org/keshet.htm.
- **Joshua Scholarships are available to attend Zionist Camp Moshava.** Apply by April 1 for this scholarship which is primarily for Minnesota residents. To obtain an application form, contact Barb Ruud (952-417-2320) or logon to www.jewish-minnesota.org, click on *Grants and Scholarships*, and view information on *Jewish Community Foundation* grants.
- **The Nathan Lifson/Gilda Lifson Bronsztein Scholarship** is offered by the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus, to undergraduate and graduate students with preference given to Minnesota residents of Jewish descent. For information, contact Elizabeth Stevens at the U of M Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (612-624-3890).
- **Jewish Vocational Service** serves the community by helping high school students and their families examine the many issues involved in post-high school planning. Services include assessments, assistance with admissions and scholarships, and evaluation of transcripts and test scores. JVS also has an extensive educational resource center with school catalogs, financial aid handbooks, and a listing of Jewish facilities. In addition, the Service also

administers post-secondary scholarship funds within the Jewish community. Contact JVS at 952-591-0300 for detailed information.

B'nai Mitzvah Students Help Feed Over 4,300 People

Tz'daka projects are on students' minds in our *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* class. On December 30, they performed their first *mitzvah*. Feed Our Starving Children is an organization in Brooklyn Park that donates food bags to people in third world countries. With the assistance of others, we helped fill over 700 food bags with nutritious meals. This food will feed over 4,300 people! Thank you to our hard-working volunteers: Sarah Brammer-Shlay and David Shlay; Adam, Erin, Cathy, and Michael Lurie; Hannah and Sheryl Rutzick; Ann and Michelle Shapiro, and Frankie and Estee Warsett.

Social Action Committee

Jews Bring Joy on Christmas

Todah Rabah to everyone who made our Christmas Dinner for Seniors a wonderful success. On December 25, volunteers from B'nai Emet, Beth El, Shir Tikvah, and Adath Jeshurun served over 650 dinners to senior citizens living in area high rise buildings. The food was delicious, the weather was cooperative, and everyone enjoyed the dinner. KSTP and WCCO even did small features about our efforts. Thanks to our great volunteers:

Wendy Ackerman, Cliff & Justin Ancier, Roberta & Ed Chargo, Benjamin Cohen, Ellen Etzkin, Alan & Sharyn Grone, David Grone, Sandy & Tris Hage & family, Carole & Max Harris, Mike Hindin & Elaine Savick & family, Alan & Evie Ingber

Life Cycle

& family, Sheldon Levine, Mike, Adam, & Erin Lurie, Fran & Stan Rosen & family, Steve Serber, Michelle & Larry Shapiro & family, and Sue & Stu Weinstein & family.

January Anniversaries

Delores & Milton Chazin	49 years
Carol & Charles Frank	40 years
Debra & Eric Freudenheim	25 years
Hattie & Sidney Greenblat	47 years
Barbara & William Hirshberg	16 years
Natalia & Lev Koyrakh	18 years
Marguerite & Michael Krause	29 years
Simona & Leonid Kudishevich	19 years
Roberta & Morris Muller	42 years
Gale & Soren Shablott	33 years

February Anniversaries

Leanne & Peter Affias	22 years
Janet & Saul Amdur	60 years
Helen & Richard Averbach	27 years
Eleanor & David Blatt	35 years
Clara & Harry Breitman	67 years
Harriet & Milton Cell	53 years
Jenny & Morris Gordon	35 years
Avis & Robert Held	28 years
Jeanne & Bruce Kaufman	33 years
Sari & Harold Lederman	21 years
Nessa & Martin Moldo	35 years
Lenore & Joseph Nash	53 years
Tanya & Alexander Rodnyansky	18 years
Joan & Allen Silver	22 years
Shirley & Edward Silver	54 years

These couples will be offered an *aliyah* on the Saturday following their anniversary. If your anniversary is not listed here, please call the synagogue office with the details.

Congratulations to ...

...Jeff and Linda Freidson on their marriage.

continued on next page

Our Synagogue Family

Congratulations to...

- ...Arlene Gulton on her new grandson. Born January 3, Miles Jacob Grossman is the son of Barney and Stephanie Grossman of Dallas, Texas.
- ...Marsha Raviv on the engagement of her daughter Rachel.
- ...Steve and Sheila Cohen on their new business at the corner of Highway 212 West and Anderson Lakes Parkway in Eden Prairie. *Print & Pack Plus* (952-942-4901) provides copying, packaging, mailing, printing, and **many more** services. *B'hatzlacha*—may you have much success!

Condolences to ...

- ...Jules Herstein on the death of his sister, Adeline Freeman.
- ...Linda Fieldman on the death of her mother, Sharon Plotnick.
- ...Zollie Baratz on the death of his cousin, Sharon Plotnick.
- ...Jack Rubenstein on the death of his sister, Rosalind Nicker.
- ...Solomon Fridland on the death of his father-in-law, Zenovy Teichman.
- ...Bev Shapiro on the death of her mother, Edith Aaron.
- ...Sidney Greenblatt on the death of his wife, Hattie.

"May their memories be an eternal blessing."

Mishpacha News

Schmoozing and Supporting Charitable Causes

If you are looking for fun, we are looking for you! Mishpacha is a synagogue-based group of adults ranging in age from 45 to 60-something. We welcome both singles and couples to join us several times a year for planned activities. We are a group of people who enjoy each

other's company while helping charitable causes. We charge a nominal fee for the evening and \$10.00 per couple or \$5.00 per individual for yearly dues. The money we collect helps support the synagogue's Youth Commission scholarships for USYers, Israel's Red Magen David (similar to Red Cross), Hag Sameach gifts for families affected with terminal illnesses, food shelf, and many other worthwhile causes. Several dates have been chosen for the upcoming year.

Our first event took place at the home of Sandy and Allen Harris. We had a chance to *schmooze* with friends while enjoying movies and eating pizza.

Please save the following dates for this year:

January 17—Mishpacha at the USY Play Night

June 19—Mishpacha Summer BBQ

We may also see a play sometime in March (info to follow). Come play with us. We'd like to see you!

For more information, contact Mishpacha President, Nancy Serber at 763-546-0477.

Hospital Notices

We Need to Hear From You

Because of new federal regulations, we no longer receive hospital notices. Please phone the office and let us know when a member of your family, friend, or member of the community is in the hospital.

Women's League "Nus"

Supporting Our Heritage and Eating Well

Although I wasn't able to attend, I've heard wonderful comments about our annual Women's League *Shabbat*. Many thanks to co-chairs Laura Brandys and Betty Kohn, our

caterer. Tiki Kelner, and everyone else who helped make our December 13 service a memorable event.

Women's League is fortunate to have some of the most capable women in the Twin Cities. Linda Eisenstadt recently coordinated our well-attended Deli Dinner on November 16. Terry Freedman promoted a successful Torah Fund Drive to support JTS (the Jewish Theological Seminary). The day culminated in a luncheon planned by the Adath Jeshurun, Beth El, and B'nai Emet Women's Leagues, and was hosted by Beth El.

Esta Gold has already begun work on our Mitzvah Fund Drive for April. This event raises money to be used for varied projects in our synagogue, and, like the Torah Fund Drive, culminates in a luncheon. Check your mailbox soon for details.

The women mentioned here are but a few of the dedicated members who work for the good of our synagogue and our Jewish heritage. We would love to have you join us.

Anita Siegel

B'nai Emet Women's League President

Women's League Torah Fund

Fulfilling the Promise of Jewish Education

This year we celebrate the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the first Jews in America. The vital role our people have played in the growth and success of the United States has taught us the importance of survival. As Jews, our survival has depended greatly on education for ourselves and future generations. You can help by donating to Women's League's Torah Fund at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS).

The Jewish Theological Seminary educates and trains our

Our Synagogue Family

future rabbis, cantors, teachers, and lay leaders. JTS also offers on-line classes at a discounted price to all Women's League members. For more information or to register for a course, check out www.learn.jtsa.edu.

For donations of \$180 or more, you'll receive a pin "Limud—Study," that depicts the bible and a *yad*. To date, B'nai Emet Women's League has presented Torah Fund pins to: Lorraine Astren, Beverly Dolinsky, Rose Fingerhut, Terry Freedman, Fay Frieman, Esta Gold, David Grone, Fannie Schanfield, and Anita Siegel.

A gift of any amount is always accepted and Torah Fund Cards may be purchased in the synagogue's Judaica shop. If you would like to make a donation, or have any questions, please contact Women's League President Anita Siegel or Torah Fund Chair Terry Freedman.

Our Blood Drive: A Gift of Life

Thank you to everyone who generously donated blood on Friday, December 26, 2003:

Bobbi Brown	Allan Klugman
Jack Brown	Richard Levine
Ed Chargo	David Liss
Bruce Freidson	Jason Londer
Wendy Grosser	Michael Lurie
Brian Hage	Cheryl Rubenis
Carole Harris	Sheryl Rutzick
Alan Ingber	Steve Serber
Steve Kaplan	Anita Siegel
Karen Katz	

The Men's Club Cooks...and Eats!

Thanks to everyone who dined with us at the Men's Club annual *Latke* Dinner during *Hanukkah*. The event was a smashing success! A number of people worked over a

two week period to make this happen—Joe & Fran Moses, Morris Muller, Hersh Berman, Bruce Berezovsky, Joel Coffino, Lil Colford, Charles Frank, Marvin & Fay Frieman, Larry Kaplan, Steve Kaufman, Jackie Leader, Steve Levy, and BESY (B'nai Emet USY) volunteers. (Our apologies in advance if we've missed anyone. Please let the synagogue office know and we'll mention you in the February *Scroll*.)

Our next meeting will be Sunday, February 1 around 10:10 A.M. (after the morning *minyan*). Come for breakfast, *kibbitz*, *nosh*, and enjoy the morning with us. Mark your calendar for future meetings on Wednesday, February 18; Sunday, March 14; and Sunday, April 4. Stay tuned for details on a wine tasting festival, Men's Club *Shabbat*, and some outings for the whole family. If you aren't a member of Men's Club yet, for just \$18 you can help us plan our year and hold events, join in functions we plan for ourselves and our families, and spend time with a great group of folks. Have a healthy and prosperous 2004!

Steve Goldschmidt
Men's Club President

Gift Shop

Looking for a Few Good Volunteers

Have you always wanted to have fun in the retail business?

Do you love to open presents and guess what's in the box?

Are you frustrated that you can't change the displays in your home often?

Then the B'nai Emet Gift Shop is the place for you!

Our Gift Shop is looking for a few men and/or women to help out on a weekly or monthly schedule (you can choose your own days and

times) with sales, displays, unpacking, and pricing.

Join our wonderful group of volunteers, have fun, and get a discount on your purchases. Call the synagogue office (952-927-7309) to leave your name for Carole Harris. She'll then contact you, answer your questions, train you, schedule you, and thank you from the bottom of her heart!

Todah Rabah

Welcoming Others—Good Job B'nai Emet!

Dear B'nai Emet,

Todah rabah for the warm welcome my uncle and I received one recent *Shabbat* morning at your services. I was not only given the honor of an *aliyah*, but a woman offered to provide care for my four year old, which allowed me to have one of the more meaningful *davening* experiences I have had in many years.

I hope if any of your congregants should find themselves in Seattle, that they would find a similar welcome at my synagogue, Herzl Ner Tamid.

Sincerely,
Patricia A. Willner-Martin

Our Library

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Walking the Bible: A Journey by Land Through the Five Books of Moses, Bruce Feiler. As the author walks across Israel and through surrounding areas, he links stories from the Bible to the places he is actually visiting. Recounted in the context of archaeological discoveries and geographic observations, the stories take on new meaning for the author, a fifth-generation American Jew, whose adventure gathers personal and spiritual momentum as the story unfolds.

THE SCROLL

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You've seen it here on the back cover of the *Scroll*, you see signs in the entry as you come into the building. You may not know what 'scrip' is, or why you should buy it here. 'Scrip' is a gift certificate to any of the listed stores. It's used just like cash, and can also be given as a gift for graduation, *bar/bat mitzvah*, new baby, anniversary, birthdays and so much more. By buying your 'scrip' at B'nai Emet, you are supporting our fundraising efforts. So, fill your shopping cart with groceries and your wallet with 'scrip'.

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