



SCROLL

מגילה

Newsletter of B'nai Emet Synagogue

December 1, 2004

Volume 34, No. 2

18 Kislev 5765



From the Rabbi Post-Election Musings

As we prepare this month's edition of the *Scroll*, the outcome of the

presidential election is still "new news."

Undoubtedly, some B'nai Emet members are pleased with the outcome, while some are displeased.

With the election and the hard-fought political season finally behind us, I don't particularly want to re-hash and re-argue the primary issues of the presidential campaign. I don't want to debate the rightness or wrongness of the American invasion of Iraq. I don't want to debate the rightness or wrongness of tax cuts for the rich compared to tax cuts for the not-so-rich. I don't want to debate the merits of this candidate's health care plan over that candidate's health care plan.

But I do want to reflect on what I found to be one of the most disconcerting—indeed, one of the most frightening—things about this year's election, and that is the analysis that has emerged from the exit polls and others: the sense that it was not the war in Iraq that decided the election; it was not the American economy that decided the election; it was not prescription drugs or health care plans that decided the election.

Instead, many analysts feel, it was the issue of "traditional values and morality" that seems to have most influenced many voters.

The election evidently was not influenced by any significant sense that John Kerry was

continued on page 2

Rabbi Abramson's Open Office Hours

On Mondays and Thursdays, from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., Rabbi Abramson will hold Open Office Hours. Feel free to drop in if you have a question, a concern, or if you just want to *shmooze*. The Rabbi is looking forward to seeing you!

President's Message Lights Shine Bright at B'nai Emet!

At B'nai Emet we have many bright lights that shine upon us throughout the year. One very special spark at B'nai Emet is derived from our wonderful Women's League, currently led by Co-Presidents Anita Siegel and Miriam Kieffer.

Women's League's Annual "Deli"ghtful Deli Dinner, held on November 7, was well attended and featured many delicious delicacies.

B'nai Emet Women's League offers a variety of enriching programs throughout the year and also sponsors our award-winning B'nai Emet Early Childhood Department. Our phenomenal preschool, under the exceptional direction of Marilyn Richter, is taught by a group of masterful educators. I would like to acknowledge the important role that our valued preschool staff plays in teaching and nurturing our future leaders at B'nai Emet and the community at large. The happy sounds coming from each of the classrooms reflect the fun-filled activities provided daily. Most of the preschool staff celebrate 15-30 years at B'nai Emet Preschool and continue to bring exciting and new ideas to the classroom each day. A special *todah rabbah* to the fabulous preschool staff, as well as to Women's League for the continued support you bring to our congregation!

May the *Hanukkah* lights shine bright upon all of our B'nai Emet families. Best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2005!

B'Shalom
Adeel Saad
President
adeels007@aol.com

Messages

From the Rabbi

continued from page 1

lacking in personal integrity or displayed personal moral lapses, or that George W. Bush was more of a morally upstanding person than Senator Kerry was. It wasn't the personal morality of either presidential candidate that seems to have influenced the election outcome the most. Instead, it was the apparent perception, held by many voters, that President Bush stood for a clear moral vision, a strongly felt moral stance, and that Senator Kerry did not.

We know the issues on which this perception was created: abortion, stem cell research, same-sex marriage, and a variety of issues under the broad rubric of "Separation of Church and State." The Christian Right—President Bush's own religious community and the community he clearly spoke for throughout the presidential campaign—had a clear stance on these issues, and the Bush campaign was able to convince many of the American voters that this stance was the moral stance on these complex ethical issues.

That's the tragedy.

I'm not being critical of President Bush for being a fundamentalist Christian, any more than one might be critical of President Carter for being a fundamentalist Christian. And I am not being critical of President Bush's campaign forces for trying to convince the electorate that his moral vision was the only moral vision. (After all, their goal was to win the election, and they achieved that goal.)

I am, however, critical of the rest of us—the Jewish community included—for failing to make our moral vision explicit, for failing to more fully understand the perspectives of our religious traditions, and for failing to sufficiently bring those moral perspectives into the public arena and ultimately into the voting booth.

The arrogant assertion "My morality is the only correct morality," was played out in a variety of areas, as I wrote above. While I respect the perspectives of the Christian Right in all of these areas—as much as I disagree with many of those perspectives—I categorically reject the assertion that the Christian Right's perspectives are the only proper religious perspectives.

Just to illustrate: This past weekend, my Confirmation Class and I began studying the complex issues in Jewish law related to abortion. In fact, depending on the circumstances, *halakhah* [Jewish law] may prohibit, permit, or even require an abortion.

Not only would I not dream of imposing the positions of *halakhah* on non-Jews—and that is the crux of my commitment to freedom of choice—but the numerous positions of Jewish law on these matters are quite complicated.

It surely is simpler and easier to assert that all abortions are murder, that all people who defend any abortions under any circumstance are immoral. But that is a false assertion—according to Jewish law and Jewish ethics.

My religious ethics are not inferior to George Bush's religious ethics, and as an American Jew I have the right—and the responsibility—to make my religious morality manifest, not only in my own behavior, but in my political discourse as well.

Whether we voted for the Democratic or Republican candidates in this year's presidential election, whether we're happy or unhappy about the election results, we Jews have a lot of work to do.

We need to redouble our efforts to become more and more familiar with the ethical teachings of

Judaism; to understand what Judaism challenges us to do, to think, and to feel about the complex moral issues facing us today; to replace that vague, fallacious notion of "Judeo-Christian ethics" with a real understanding of the complexity, uniqueness, and significance of Jewish ethics; to bring Jewish ethical concepts and understandings into our lives; and, in so doing, to fulfill our mandate to be an *ohr la-goyim*, a light unto the nations.

Rabbi David L. Abramson

All Are Welcome Here

B'nai Emet Synagogue is committed to the inclusion of all people in synagogue activities. If accommodations for special needs would enhance your participation, please contact the Special Needs/Inclusion Committee through the synagogue office.

Don't Risk Being Towed This Winter! When You're At The Synagogue, Park in The Parking Lot

On-street parking on St. Louis Park streets is banned—day or night—as soon as snow accumulation reaches three inches. Vehicles parked on unplowed streets can be ticketed. If these vehicles are not moved within 24 hours of being ticketed, they can be towed. Don't wait for a news announcement declaring a snow emergency—St. Louis Park does not declare snow emergencies. Your best bet? Always park in the synagogue lot when you're at B'nai Emet.

Candle Lighting

December 3	4:15 pm	December 24	4:19 pm
December 10	4:14 pm	December 31	4:24 pm
December 17	4:15 pm	January 7	4:30 pm

Services

Lunch & Learn Thursday, SATURDAY, and Thursday!

The next two regular “Lunch & Learn” sessions with Rabbi Abramson will be Thursday, December 2 and Thursday, January 6, from 12:30-1:30 P.M. (this new time was initiated in November) in the library. Please feel free to bring a dairy or vegetarian lunch.

A special “Lunch & Learn” session will be held after *Shabbat* morning services on December 4. The topic is one that touches (and sometimes surrounds) all of us, no matter how much we might wish otherwise. Please check the “Upcoming Events” section of this *Scroll* for details.

An Awesome Light Display?

Ask the Rabbi!

When you first see your neighbor’s spectacular light display with reindeer “and all the fixins” for their holiday season, should you recite the *b’rakhah* reserved for when one sees a great wonder? The next “Ask the Rabbi” session, a monthly opportunity to pose your questions to Rabbi Abramson about sights, wonders, and all things Jewish, will be January 1 during *Shabbat* morning services, which begin at 9:00 A.M. Due to the special “Lunch & Learn” session planned for December 4, “Ask the Rabbi” will not be held during December.

Daily Service Schedule

Shaharit:

Monday–Friday	7:30 A.M.
<i>Shabbat</i>	9:00 A.M.
Sunday & Holidays	9:30 A.M.

Ma’ariv

Daily	5:45 P.M.
-------	-----------

Toast to “Carlebach And Then Some” on December 31

Join us at 5:45 P.M. on Friday, December 31 for our special “Carlebach And Then Some” *Kabbalat Shabbat* service, followed by dinner and a toast to the New Year 2005! Use the form enclosed in this *Scroll* to sign up for dinner. If you’ve already got dinner plans, feel free to join us just for services. Or, better yet, encourage your dinner guests to join us, too!

Shabbat Service Schedule

Services conducted by Rabbi David L. Abramson

Shabbat Vayyeishev

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday, December 3, 5:45 P.M.
Shabbat Morning: Saturday, December 4, 9:00 A.M.

Tot Shabbat, 11:00-11:45 A.M.

followed by **Shabbat Lunch and Learn: “The December Dilemma”**

Evening: Saturday, December 4, 5:45 P.M.

Shabbat Hanukkah (Mikkeitz)

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday, December 10, 5:45 P.M.

Young Families’ Service: Friday, December 10, 7:00-7:30 P.M.

Shabbat Morning: December 11, 9:00 A.M.

Women’s League Shabbat

Evening: Saturday, December 11, 5:45 P.M.

Shabbat Vayyiggash

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday, December 17, 5:45 P.M.

Shabbat Morning: December 18, 9:00 A.M.

Prozdor Shabbat

Evening: Saturday, December 18, 5:45 P.M.

Shabbat Vay’hi

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday, December 24, 5:45 P.M.

Shabbat Morning: December 25, 9:00 A.M.

Welcome Home Shabbat

Evening: Saturday, December 25, 5:45 P.M.

Shabbat Sh’mot

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday, December 31, 5:45 P.M.

Carlebach And Then Some followed by dinner

Shabbat Morning, January 1, 9:00 A.M.

“Ask the Rabbi”

Evening: Saturday, January 1, 5:45 P.M.

Shabbat Va’eira

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday, January 7, 5:45 P.M.

Shabbat Morning: January 8, 9:00 A.M.

Tot Shabbat, 11:00-11:45 A.M.

Evening: Saturday, January 8, 5:45 P.M.

Upcoming Events

Torah Reading Coordinator Sought

We are currently seeking a new *Torah* Reading Coordinator. The job would include coordinating assignments of *Torah* portions and *haftarot*, assisting and supervising less experienced *Torah* readers (via phone calls), and efforts to encourage more B'nai Emet members to read *Torah* more frequently. Internet access is required for use of our online *Torah* Reading Registry. For more information or to apply for the job, please contact Rabbi Abramson.

The December Dilemma A Special *Shabbat* Lunch and Learn

Join us after services on December 4 for a *Shabbat* Lunch and Learn, sponsored by the Adult Education Committee, when we'll discuss the holiday challenges we all face each December.

"The December Dilemma," a wide-ranging discussion led by Rabbi Abramson, will focus on how we as Jews react to the holiday pressures of December at home, at school, in the workplace, and in the mall.

Bring your experiences, questions, and opinions. We're planning a free-wheeling discussion and we want to hear from you!

The program includes a delicious lunch (a special children's lunch will also be available). No pre-registration is required; just show up and look forward to a great *Shabbat* experience.

Scroll Deadline

December 20 for the
January 14 issue

That issue will cover from
January 14 through
February 28, 2005.

Save the Date: January 8, "Saturday Night at the Movies"

Lies My Father Told Me

Mark your calendars for our annual "Saturday Night at the Movies," sponsored by the Adult Education Committee on January 8.

We'll be watching *Lies My Father Told Me*, the acclaimed drama about inter-generational conflict and a young boy's coming of age in Jewish Montreal during the 1920s. It's a drama about an earlier time that also has lessons for us today.

The movie starts at 7:30 P.M. in the Party Room at Park Hill Apartments, and is always a well-attended highlight of the year. Popcorn and dairy desserts will be served.

Women's League "Nus"

To all of you who attended our recent November 7 Deli Dinner, thank you. To those of you who could not be with us, you missed an evening of good food, fun, and the chance to win a variety of raffle prizes. *Todah rabbah* to our raffle contributors: Breadsmith, Café Floral and Gifts, Leon Bongard, Twin City Poultry, Purse-fection, Chili's, Cookie Lee Jewelry, Crossroads Deli, Rainbow's End, TGI Fridays, Luggage World, and Esta Gold.

During the evening, Lil Colford was honored. After over twenty years of service to B'nai Emet, Lil recently retired as our kitchen supervisor. She was presented with a beautiful vase from Sisterhood, and a lovely bowl from the synagogue.

A huge *todah rabbah* to our wonderful volunteers: Tiki Kelner, Miriam Kieffer, Ruby Addis, Dorothy Haskvitz, Fran Moses, Wendy Grosser, Jan Markus, Miriam Wells, Nettie Beers, Roberta & Ed Chargo, Ruth Goldberg, Joni Pico, Steve Kaplan, Steve Levy, and Steve Goldschmidt; and to our USY servers: Jessica Averbach, Brad Serber, Steve Lederman, Hannah Rutzick, Frankie Warsett, Max Paletz, Brett Bellows, Samantha Coffino, and Derrick Galey. A special *todah rabbah* is extended to Sari Lederman and Sheryl Rutzick for baking all of our delicious desserts. All of these vendors and people helped make this event a great success.

Sisterhood is in the midst of a membership campaign not only to obtain new members but to get as many women as possible involved in one of our many projects. A Koffee Klatch was held on October 13 at Dunn Bros. in Crystal. The women in attendance were not only treated with coffee and dessert but with information regarding Women's League, and were able to become better acquainted with one another. Another Koffee Klatch was held in the home of Clarice Cutts, the proud owner of a beautiful Jewish doll house which consists of many items created by her.

Please mark your calendars for our annual *Torah* Fund Luncheon, which will be held this year on Tuesday, December 7 at Adath Jeshurun Synagogue, and our Women's League *Shabbat* on Saturday, December 11 at 9:00 A.M. Invitations for both of these events will be in the mail shortly. We look forward to seeing many of you at these two events.

Miriam Kieffer & Anita Siegel,
Co-Presidents

Our Synagogue



Some New, Great Books in Our Library

B'nai Emet's library continues to grow with the addition of the following books:

- 📖 *The Beggar King and the Secret of Happiness*, Joel Ben Izzy. The author's quest for meaning and magic in his life took an ironic twist when the professional storyteller lost his voice to throat cancer. Featured in this year's Jewish Book Fair, Mr. Ben Izzy presents a story that is wise, heartbreaking, and inspirational.
- 📖 *The Kaddish Minyan: From Pain to Healing, Twenty Personal Stories*, Rabbi Herbert A. Yoskowitz, Ed. After Rabbi Yoskowitz's first book about the healing effects of saying *Kaddish* during the period of mourning for a beloved family member, he received personal testimonials from a large number of readers, which he included in this new volume. This is an informative, moving collection about the power of prayer to heal and to change lives. A CD is inserted in the book to assist people in learning to recite Mourner's *Kaddish* and Rabbis' *Kaddish*.
- 📖 *The Plot Against America: A Novel*, Philip Roth. In Mr. Roth's newest book, he creates and explores a hypothetical situation—Charles A. Lindbergh, heroic aviator and Nazi sympathizer, defeats FDR for the American Presidency in 1940. The book examines the Lindbergh presidency; his policies which include efforts to break up Jewish communities and relocate Jews outside their “ghettoes,” and the impact of this new order on the author's family and other Jewish families.

Thanks to donors to the Farb Family Library Fund for funding the acquisition of the Roth and Ben Izzy books, and to donors to the Ben Teitel Trust Fund for Rabbi Yoskowitz's book.

Mishpacha News

Shalom from all your friends in Mishpacha. We had a wonderful evening at the home of Bonny and Mike Swatez, who hosted our first event this fall. It was a great chance to get together with friends, *kibbitz* and *nosh* on the wonderful appetizers and desserts, and enjoy each other's company. We had the opportunity to warmly welcome back one of the founding couples of Mishpacha, Rabbi Sylvan and Rhoda Kamens. Rabbi Kamens has taken on the position of Interim Rabbi at Temple of Aaron Synagogue in St Paul. We send a big thank you to Bonny and Mike, for sharing their home. We also want to thank our co-hosts, Sandy and Allen Harris and Sue and Chuck Cohn for helping plan and carry out this lovely event. Future events include a possible trip to Mystic Lake in December to see an Elvis impersonator, the U.S.Y play in January, the play *Jack and Rochelle* (a play about a couple in love during the Holocaust) in March, and a summer barbecue and pool party in June or July. For information about Mishpacha or our events, please contact Co-Presidents Steve and Nancy Serber at 763-546-0477. We would love to have you join us!

Our Youth

Attention High School Seniors

At the end of the school year, the Scholarship Committee presents the Senior Service Award to one or two seniors in recognition of their involvement and service in USY, Shabbat School, and synagogue activities during their high school years. The criteria for this award are to:

- 🔗 Teach or tutor in Shabbat School or the B'reisheet program for a minimum of three years, including senior year
- 🔗 Participate in adult services or Junior Congregation by leading parts of the service and/or reading *Torah* or *haftarah* when possible
- 🔗 Take a leadership role in High Holiday Youth Services or babysitting
- 🔗 Be a member and regular participant in B'nai Emet USY for at least three years, including senior year
- 🔗 Be a positive role model at USY programs and functions, including regular attendance, showing interest, being respectful, being involved and taking initiative
- 🔗 Participate in synagogue services and programs when possible
- 🔗 Continue formal Jewish education at Talmud Torah or equivalent or informally in USY and community classes and programs
- 🔗 Participate in *tzedakah* and *tikkun olam* via USY, synagogue, and Jewish community programs
- 🔗 Belong to a family that has B'nai Emet membership.

The Senior Service Award recipients are selected by a process involving the Rabbi, Youth Director, and Education Director.

Our Youth



Winter Holidays, Dinner, a New Toddler Class, and 2005 Registration

The children have been busy learning about Thanksgiving and *Hanukkah* through song and a wide range of activities. Our Parents' Group is sponsoring our annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, December 5. This is the Early Childhood Department's major fundraiser and all profits go toward purchasing items for the school and playground. The entire congregation is invited!

B'nai Emet Early Childhood is pleased to announce that, as of January 3, we will be opening a new toddler class for children 16 through 20 months of age. Socialization skills will be the focus of the new class as the children begin their secular education. The children will also celebrate and discover traditions of the Jewish holidays at an age-appropriate level.

As of December 1, applications for Fall 2005 enrollment will be accepted. We are licensed for children aged 16 months through five years. Early Childhood Department hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., and Friday, 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. The Early Childhood Education Department is a year-round program with full daycare offered for both preschool and summer camp. Enrichment classes such as karate, rhythm and dance, creative music and drama, signing, as well as outstanding special programs, enhance a complete secular and Judaic curriculum.

Congregants of B'nai Emet Synagogue are given priority registration and are encouraged to call to arrange a visit to our Preschool. Please contact Marilyn Richter, weekday mornings at 952-927-8443, for either program.

Sunday School Update

We have scheduled our consecration ceremony and brunch for December 19 in the Baratz Social Hall. Our new students—Rachel Christensen, Zollie Kaplan, Benjamin Rubin, and Ahmree Schear—will each receive a small English/Hebrew *Torah* scroll and a certificate of consecration from B'nai Emet Sunday School.

October 31 was our Card Workshop *Mitzvah* Project. *Todah rabbah* to the following Sunday School students and their families: Rachel Christensen, Rachel Grosser, Erin Kaplan, Zollie Kaplan, Abby Klugman, Benjamin Rubin, Ahmree Shear, and Jessica Siegel. Together with Hela Zadaka and myself, they created 500 *Hanukkah* cards for the Chag Sameach program that is sponsored by the Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS). For six years the Sunday School has been making cards. Because the number of cards requested grows annually, each student made more cards than ever before. The hard work and enthusiasm of the students and their parents are greatly appreciated. On November 7, Sheila Cohen from JFCS visited our class to pick up the cards and tell the students about the program and the people it serves.

B'shalom,
Jeanne Kaufman

Shabbat School Update

Our Shabbat School students and their families enjoyed a delicious and engaging *Shabbat* dinner last month, followed by a fun social program. Special thanks to Sari Lederman, Sheryl Rutzick, and the other parent volunteers who made the experience wonderful!

Prozdor Shabbat will take place on December 18. The *Prozdor* students are busy preparing to lead services, read *Torah* and *haftarah*, and deliver the *d'var Torah*.

Twice a year, students and teachers in each class are recognized with the Student Excellence and Teacher Excellence awards. Criteria for the student award include maintaining a positive attitude, staying on task, being productive, learning something new each week, being respectful of teachers and peers, participating in Junior Congregation, completing homework, maintaining appropriate *Shabbat* behavior, and attending Shabbat School regularly.

Criteria for the teacher award include being a *dugmah* (role model), maintaining a positive attitude, keeping students on task, being creative, exhibiting patience and tolerance, showing respect and sensitivity, teaching something new each week and making learning fun, checking homework, attending regularly and being prompt, and continuing to learn, study and participate in sanctuary services and Junior Congregation.

We are proud of all of our students and staff who make Shabbat School enjoyable, inspirational, and a positive learning environment!

Laura Brandys, Education Director

Our Youth

Summer Camp & Israel Scholarship News

Todah rabbah to those congregants who have generously renewed or recently made the commitment to support the Janus Korczak Memorial Scholarship Fund. This offers a \$100 scholarship towards a Jewish camping experience to each and every *bar* and *bat mitzvah* here at B'nai Emet. On behalf of our teens, thank you all for your support.

Scholarship applications **will be available in December** for Summer 2005 Jewish camp and Israel experiences. Forms will be available through the synagogue office and online at www.bnaiemet.org.

Applications must be completed in full and returned to the synagogue

no later than the January 31, 2005 deadline to receive consideration for summer programs. Scholarship grants are based on family income and financial need, and applicants must also make application to other community resources, as listed on the form. Contact the synagogue office if you have scholarship questions.

The third annual Senior Service Award will be given out 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.

Detailed criteria for this award are listed on page 5 under "Our

Youth" in this *Scroll*, and are also available through the Scholarship Committee, Laura Brandys, and Rabbi Abramson.

Jewish Vocational Service (952-591-0300) 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. They also have an extensive educational resource center with school catalogs, financial aid handbooks, and listing of Jewish facilities. In addition, JVS also administers post-secondary scholarship funds within the Jewish community. Contact JVS for detailed information.

The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus offers the Nathan Lifson/Gilda Lifson Bronsztein Scholarship to both 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.

There are also several small (under \$500) B'nai Emet Post Secondary Education scholarships. Specific criteria and applications will be available through the synagogue office in December.

Please consider a contribution to one of B'nai Emet's Scholarship funds to celebrate a *simhah* 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.



Pictured with an impressive 500 *Hanukkah* cards for Chag Sameach are: (back row) Hela Zadaka—our aide this year, Sheila Cohen from Jewish Family and Children's Service; (front row) Rachel Christensen, Erin Kaplan, Abby Klugman, Zollie Kaplan, and Jessica Siegel. Students not pictured: Ahmree Shear, Rachel Grosser, and Ben Rubin.

Our Youth

An Update from the Youth Commission

Greetings from the Youth Commission and all of U.S.Y. We have been very busy these past few weeks with some of our board members attending L.T.I. (Leadership Training Institute) in Des Moines, Iowa. We listened and learned a lot over that special weekend that will help keep our chapter #1. There was a lot of *ruah* and idea sharing that we will put to use in our upcoming chapter programs.

We recently conducted Youth Program *Shabbat* on November 13, when our young adults led services as the congregation honored our esteemed, former Youth Director Sasha Kuznetsov.

In the next few weeks we will be attending one of our favorite conventions, Kinnus, which will be held in St Louis this year over the Thanksgiving weekend.

We have already started working on the play with our new director Jaime Kleiman and her wonderful crew. We are presenting the play *Applause* this year, which promises to be a treat for all who attend. Play dates are January 15, 16, 22, and 23. If you would like to help with volunteer opportunities during the play, such as selling food, tickets, or other concessions, or to work on the set or in costumes, please get in touch with either of the adult play chairs, Sheryl Rutzick (763-557-0244), or Nancy Serber (763-546-0477).

We are in the process of collecting ads for our Ad Book, which is the biggest part of this fundraising venture and a great way to advertise your business. Please be sure to send an ad to your favorite U.S.Y.er as well. If you have questions in regard to your ad, feel free to contact Sharyn Grone at 763-559-5040. Come for the food and the great acting. You won't have more fun or enjoy better company anywhere else. Looking forward to seeing you there!!

*Nancy Serber, Chair,
and the Youth Commission*

Our Synagogue Family

The Dave & Rose Turchick Memorial Essay Contest (Talmud Torah of Minneapolis)

Mazal Tov To This Year's Winner: Dorit Chazin

"To Be Or Not To Be In The IDF (Israeli Defense Forces)"

The State of Israel—the homeland of the Jewish people, the small country across the ocean, the country which is struggling with so many security issues, the country where so many relatives live.

And here in Minnesota is where I was born and raised, I, Dorit Chazin. Every year, during every long summer break, we packed our suitcases and went to Israel; to be with the family, to get to know the country, the landscape, the culture, all the beautiful nature reserves and parks, and especially to get to know people in the place I already felt "like it is my home."

Years go by, in which I received so much from the Land of Israel. Belonging to the land grew, the connection to Jewish values, to the holy places, and to all the fun that is in the country. Now, I've reached the age at which every young man and woman in Israel is called up for army service. I felt that my place is there—in Israel—in the Israeli Defense Forces—in the IDF.

Should I follow the feelings?

Should I listen to the other voices that want me to stay here?

Will I be able to be so far from my parents?

Will I make new friends?

Will I do something interesting in the army?

And many more questions...And so I was struggling day and night, thinking — to be, or not to be, in the army?

I decided to do something, to go to Israel and visit a military base and check how I felt. Still struggling with myself—yes or no?

Days go by, and one needs to make a decision. Should I go to the recruiting base? Should I go to the first call to the army?

Will there be a way back?

One more discussion and more questions and one more meeting, and I already know what I knew long ago....

I want to be a soldier.

by Dorit Chazin

(Editor's note to readers: As you read this, Dorit, the daughter of Alan and Carmella Chazin, is in Israel fulfilling her dream of being a soldier in the IDF. We at B'nai Emet wish her a wonderful experience over the next two years and a safe return!)



Our Synagogue Family

The Congregant Kibbitz Corner

Meet Jeanne Astren

Jeanne Astren has been a member of B'nai Emet all of her life. She even went to nursery school at B'nai Abraham, in the exact same rooms we use today. Jeanne has the unique distinction of being the only B'nai Emet member whose mother and father—Lorraine and Alex Astren—each served as president of the congregation. Jeanne has always lived in Minneapolis, except for a few years she spent in Israel. She studied for 18 months at Hebrew University and another time she lived on a *kibbutz*. Jeanne graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies and received her Hebrew Education Certificate as a minor. She currently works in the family printing business, Ad Art, and even got to use her degree once when a man wanted meat labels printed in Arabic. Jeanne met her husband, Warren Goldstein, through a customer. They have one son, Avi. Jeanne's idea of a fun evening is sipping mojitos with B'nai Emet friends.

Interview by Michelle Shapiro

B'nai Emet Celebrates A Letter From the Erlich

We would like to thank everyone who was involved in making the *Shabbat* morning service on October 2 a very memorable anniversary celebration for us. We would like to thank Rabbi Abramson, Mike Krause, Mike Engel, Annette, Jeff, Max and Rachel Paletz, and Audrey Resig for coordinating and participating in the service. We would also like to thank Steve, Sean, Anita, and the rest of the office staff, Ruth and the kitchen staff, and Roosevelt and the custodial staff. We are very glad to belong to a community as warm as B'nai Emet. And one more big thank you—to everyone who shared in our celebration!

Fondly,
Linda, Steve, Robby, and Brian Erlich

December Anniversaries

Jarrold & Sue Berezovsky	37 years
Irwin & Edna Brodsky	62 years
Edward & Roberta Chargo	50 years
Charles & Susan Cohn	37 years
Allen & Julie Engle	24 years
Ansel & Leslie Gardner	38 years
Norman & Lena Goldberg	57 years
Barry & Nancy Goldstein	37 years
Sam & Shirley Gurewitz	38 years
Michael & Elaine Herman	38 years
Monroe & Colleen Hodroff	16 years
Alvin & Renee Hork	54 years
Robert & Miriam Kleinbaum	44 years
Louis & Bette Kotlarz	50 years
David & Elaine Liss	29 years
Nelson & Monica Muller	19 years
Larry & Marilyn Reich	34 years
Thomas & Diane Rifkin	23 years
Stanley & Frances Rosen	31 years
Michael & Nancy Schoenberger	30 years
Max & Manya Sherman	63 years
Ronald & Carol Siegel	21 years
Jeffrey & Marlene Solle	37 years
Howard & Estee Warsett	21 years
Warren & Marilyn Wert	48 years
Herbert & Joyce Wolk	29 years

January Anniversaries

Max & Ruby Addis	55 years
Milton & Delores Chazin	50 years
Charles & Carol Frank	41 years
Eric & Debra Freudenheim	26 years
William & Barbara Hirshberg	17 years
Lev & Natalia Koyrakh	19 years
Michael & Marguerite Krause	30 years
Leonid & Simona Kudishevich	20 years
Morris & Roberta Muller	43 years

These couples will be offered an *aliyah* on the Saturday following their anniversary. If your anniversary is not listed, please call the synagogue office and let us know.

Hanukkah Hoopla Carnival & Celebration

The Talmud Torah of Minneapolis and Sabes JCC are co-sponsoring the only *Hanukkah* carnival in the Twin Cities. It will be on Sunday, December 5, from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. at the Sabes JCC.

Call 952-381-3300 or 952-381-3429 for more details.

Mazal tov to...

...Matthew Kramer, and Freda and Kent Confeld, on Matthew's safe return from military service in Kosovo. Matthew is the son of Freda Confeld, and the grandson of Lena & Norman Goldberg.

...Dan & Nicole Goldstein on the birth of their two sons, Eli and Noah, and to grandparents Barry & Nancy Goldstein, great-grandmother Lorella Goldstein, and to all their family. Eli Benjamin is named after his maternal great-great-grandmother, Beatrice Vanvickle, and Noah Max is named after his paternal great-grandfather, Max Goldstein.

...Rachel Raviv & Dr. Alan Hoffer on their October wedding in Baltimore, and to their parents Marsha Raviv, Joseph Raviv, and Dr. Barry & Joyce Hoffer, and to all their families.

Condolences to...

...Jennie Berlovitz on the loss of her brother, Harry Haskvitz.
...the family of Jules Herstein.
...Meyer "Mike" Salloway on the death of his wife, Sally Salloway.
...the family of Joseph Lapp.

*"May their memories be
an eternal blessing"*

Hospital Notices We need to hear from you.

Due to federal regulations, we do not 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 or other health-care facility.

THE SCROLL

Newsletter of

B'nai Emet Synagogue

3115 Ottawa Avenue South

St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Phone: 952-927-7309 • FAX: 952-927-0179

www.bnaiemet.org

published eight times per year

David L. Abramson.....Rabbi
Michael Winikoff.....Cantorial Soloist
Laura Brandys.....Education Director
Jessica AverbachYouth Director
Marilyn RichterEarly Childhood Director

Officers:

Adeel SaadPresident
Jeffrey Paletz.....Executive Vice President
David Cera.....Vice President
Alan ChazinVice President
Sari Lederman.....Vice President
Joseph Moses.....Vice President
Betty Kohn.....Secretary
Gerald Gold.....Treasurer
Alan Ingber.....Past President
Bonnie Berezovsky.....Past President
Anita Siegel.....Women's League President
Steven GoldschmidtMen's Club President
Stephen Lederman.....USY President
Nancy & Steven SerberMishpacha Presidents

DATED MATERIAL!



Printed on Recycled Paper

Use Scrip for All of Your Shopping Needs

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

- B Dalton Booksellers
- Baby GAP
- Barnes & Noble
- Bath & Body Works
- Best Buy
- Big Bowl
- Blockbuster Video
- Chili's
- Cub Foods
- Don Pablo
- GAP Kids
- Home Depot
- Italianni's
- JC Penney
- Kohl's
- Macaroni Grill
- Maggiano's
- Old Navy
- Olive Garden
- Panera
- Rainbow
- Red Lobster
- Red Robin
- Ruby Tuesday's
- TGI Friday's
- Timberlodge