

אגודת

Newsletter of B'nai Emet Synagogue

SCROLL



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From the Rabbi

Purim: Is It Really a Silly Holiday?

“*Mishenikhnas Adar marbim b'simhah*,” our tradition tells us, “from the beginning of the month of *Adar*, rejoicing increases.” *Adar*, of course, is the month we celebrate *Purim*, and on

Purim rejoicing prevails. As a matter of fact, *Purim* is a downright silly holiday: we observe it by dressing in funny costumes, by listening to the story as related in the *Megillah* of Esther, by booing Haman, the “bad guy” in the story, whenever his name is mentioned. The *Talmud* even indicates that on *Purim* one is encouraged to get drunk, so much so that one can't tell the difference between “*arur Haman* [cursed is Haman]” and “*barukh Mordechai* [blessed is Mordecai].”

In fact, *Purim* is a much more serious holiday than its observance might indicate. The story of *Purim* is the story of armed resistance, of an endangered Jewish community standing up for itself. It's a story of anti-Semitism, and ultimately a story of Jewish triumph. Why, then, is our observance of *Purim* so silly?

Laughter is often a way of dealing with something that makes us uncomfortable. We often joke when confronted by something we'd rather not deal with. Perhaps that's the key to the silliness of *Purim*: we Jews are uncomfortable thinking about enemies, armed resistance, and the like. The serious lesson of *Purim* is the reminder that, throughout our history, enemies have sought to destroy us and it has been necessary, on occasion, for Jews to defend themselves. And as important as it is for us to remind ourselves of these things, we're still not comfortable with the subject, so we couch these reminders in fun, pageantry, and silliness.

In the midst of our costume-wearing, *Megillah*-reading, *gragger*-sounding, and *hamentash*-eating, we should remember the real threat that the Jews of Shushan faced and the real threat that Jews face even today. We have daily reminders of the beleaguered state of the world in general, and Jewish communi-

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President's Message As The Year March-es Onward

Despite the chilly temperatures and snow that coats our lawns, things are heating up at B'nai Emet. It is the warmth of our wonderful congregants, the joyous sounds of our preschoolers, celebrations in the Fingerhut Sanctuary and all of the ongoing exciting activities at B'nai Emet that makes the time fly by for those of us here during the winter months.

Our annual *Tu BiSh'vat* celebration included an enriching Carlebach *Kabbalat Shabbat* Service, followed by a full house for *Shabbat* dinner, which was further enhanced by the *Tu BiSh'vat Seder*.

The Adult Education Committee sponsored an engaging panel discussion by local clergy about life in the rabbinate on February 13. People enjoyed learning about what it means to be a rabbi and what is involved in doing the various jobs that a rabbi does.

APPLAUSE goes to all of our wonderful USYers who entertained us with this year's marvelous play production. Encore!

I'm pleased to report that our building repairs have been completed. A special thank you for your numerous contributions.

Our February 4 Young Families' Service was such a success that no one wanted to go home. Please join us on March 11 for our next Young Families' Service.

It's hard to believe that springtime and warmer temperatures are just around the corner. The wonderful aroma of the delicious *hamentaschen*, baked by our dedicated group of volunteers who are busy filling the multitude of orders for the best *hamentaschen* in town, reminds us that the fun-filled holiday of *Purim* and the *Megillah* reading is fast approaching. Please join us at our fabulous annual *Purim* Carnival on March 27.

B'Shalom
Adeel Saad, President
adeels007@aol.com

Messages

From the Rabbi

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ties throughout the world—of course, including Israel—live in varying degrees of uncertainty and insecurity. We need a silly holiday like *Purim*, not only for its lightness and fun, but also for the glimpse of a community that was saved from annihilation, that triumphed over adversity.

Ultimately, our observance of *Purim* can teach us a number of things. The custom of sending *mishloach manot* (gifts of food) to one another reinforces our sense of community, our sense of mutual responsibility, and another *Purim* custom, sending *mattanot l'evyonim* (gifts to the poor) reminds us of those who are in need and our responsibility to the unfortunate in our community.

“*Kol yisrael 'areivim zeh bazeh,*” the *Talmud* states, “All Jews are responsible for one another.” The Jews of ancient Shushan learned this lesson. May we, too, learn and relearn this lesson on *Purim*, and may we remember it throughout our lives.

So our *Purim* celebrations at B'nai Emet, I hope, will be fun and meaningful. Please plan to be with us on *Erev Purim*, Thursday, March 24, as we begin our *Purim* celebration with a *Purim* Dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by our raucous, family-oriented and kid-friendly *Megillah* reading at 7:30 p.m. As in past years, our *Erev Purim* celebration will include a musical play, “The *Megillah* according to...”—well, you’ll just have to come to find out! You will also have two opportunities to fulfill the *mitzvah* of hearing the entire *Megillah* reading: Thursday at 5:45 p.m. and Friday at 7:30 a.m. And our *Purim* Carnival—one of our major fundraisers and fundraisers of the year—will take place on Sunday, March 27. We look forward to a *Purim* celebration that is both fun and meaningful.

Rabbi David L. Abramson

Upcoming Events

Carlebach *Kabbalat Shabbat* Service on April 1

We aren't foolin'! Join us at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, April 1 for our special Carlebach *Kabbalat Shabbat* Service led by our USYers, followed by a congregational dinner! If you haven't made your reservation yet, use the form enclosed in this *Scroll* to sign up. **Please note that reservations must be in by the deadline of 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 28. Please plan accordingly.**

Lunch & Learn

The next two “Lunch & Learn” sessions with Rabbi Abramson will be Thursday, March 3, and Thursday, April 7, 12:30-1:30 P.M. in the library. Please feel free to bring a dairy or vegetarian lunch.

Should We Celebrate at *Purim*? Ask the Rabbi!

We don't celebrate when we recall that the Egyptians drowned in the Red Sea—in fact, the *Talmud* says that when the angels rejoiced, God rebuked them, saying that His creatures were dying and that celebration was inappropriate. So why do we celebrate our defeat of Haman every year at *Purim*? The next “Ask the Rabbi” session, a monthly opportunity to pose your questions to Rabbi Abramson about celebration, Haman, and why *hamentaschen* are three-cornered, will be Saturday, March 5 during *Shabbat* morning services, which begin at 9:00 A.M.

You can also ask him questions about *Pesah* on March 5, or you can ask those on Saturday, April 2, at the next “Ask the Rabbi” session, three weeks before *Pesah* begins!

Inclusion *Shabbat* is March 12

What's new in Inclusion? Come to *Shabbat* services on March 12 and hear all about it from guest speaker, Beth Gendler, who is the Inclusion and Accessibility Services Director of the Jewish Community Center of St. Paul. Beth will update us on programs and services to help people with disabilities participate more fully in Jewish Life and will share some exciting new things that are happening in our community.

Come celebrate our commitment to making B'nai Emet a welcoming spiritual home for everyone. *Kiddush* luncheon follows services.

“Evening of Jewish Learning”

Services

Candle Lighting

March 4	5:46 P.M.
March 11	5:55 P.M.
March 18	6:04 P.M.
March 25	6:13 P.M.
April 1	6:22 P.M.
April 8	7:31 P.M.

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 or enable your participation in synagogue events, please contact the Special Needs/Inclusion Committee through the synagogue office.

Daily Service Schedule

Shaharit:

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

Minhah/Ma'ariv

Daily	5:45 P.M.
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Scroll Deadline

Monday, March 28 for the April 15 issue

That issue will cover from April 15 through May 31, 2005.

Please note the new deadline and plan accordingly!

Shabbat Service Schedule

Morning services conducted by Rabbi David L. Abramson

Shabbat Vayyak'hel

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

Gimmel Shabbat "Ask the Rabbi"

B'nai Emet Youth Choir

Motza'ei Shabbat: Saturday, March 5, 5:45 P.M.

Shabbat Sh'kalim (P'kudei)

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday, March 11, 5:45 P.M.
Young Families' Service: Friday, March 11, 7:00-7:30 P.M.
Shabbat Morning: March 12, 9:00 A.M.

Rosh Hodesh Adar II

Inclusion Shabbat

Motza'ei Shabbat: Saturday, March 12, 5:45 P.M.

Shabbat Zakhor (Vayyikra)

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday, March 18, 5:45 P.M.
Shabbat Morning: March 19, 9:00 A.M.

Featuring B'nai Emet's Choir

Motza'ei Shabbat: Saturday, March 19, 5:45 P.M.

Shabbat Tzav

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday, March 25, 5:45 P.M.
Shabbat Morning: March 26, 9:00 A.M.

Tot Shabbat 11:00-11:45

Motza'ei Shabbat: Saturday, March 26, 5:45 P.M.

Shabbat Parah (Sh'mini)

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday, April 1, 5:45 P.M.
Carlebach Service followed by dinner
Shabbat Morning: April 2, 9:00 A.M.

Men's Club Shabbat

Featuring B'nai Emet's Choir

Motza'ei Shabbat: Saturday, April 2, 5:45 P.M.

Shabbat Ha-Hodesh (Tazria)

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday, April 8, 5:45 P.M.
Young Families' Service: Friday, April 8, 7:00-7:30 P.M.
Shabbat Morning: April 9, 9:00 A.M.

Alef/Bet Shabbat

"Ask the Rabbi"

Motza'ei Shabbat: Saturday, April 9, 5:45 P.M.

Upcoming Events

Save the Date
Sunday, March 27,
11:00a.m.-3:00 p.m.:
Purim Carnival!

This is the date and time of the best *Purim* Carnival in the Twin Cities. Join not only your B'nai Emet family, but members of the Twin Cities Jewish community for this fun-filled day. Dine on a variety of Jewish food, play bingo, bid on numerous auction items, and watch your children and/or grandchildren participate in many games, while gathering tickets for them to turn in at the redemption center. Do your shopping in the Women's League Judaica Shop and save on the reduced prices.

Name the Booth!

Always wanted your own fish pond? Well, this year, the *Purim* Carnival is offering you a unique opportunity to achieve your dreams!

Sponsor a *Purim* Carnival Booth for only \$50 each. For example, who wouldn't want to play the Grosser Family Fish Pond or the Brodsky Family Ring Toss!

- 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: _____

Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

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

Noted *Kabbalah* Scholar
to Speak at B'nai Emet
Saturday Night,
March 5

B'nai Emet Synagogue will host nationally-known *Kabbalah* scholar Prof. Ronald Kiener on Saturday night, March 5, at 7:30 p.m.

The evening, which promises to be stimulating and thought-provoking, will also honor the memory of Martin Schoenberger and is sponsored by the B'nai Emet Adult Education Committee.

Kiener, Professor of Religion at Trinity College in Hartford, CT, will discuss "Entering the Mystical Garden of *Kabbalah: An Introduction*" at the Martin Schoenberger Memorial Evening of Jewish Learning.

A native Minnesotan and B'nai Abraham *bar mitzvah*, Prof. Kiener earned a B.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Pennsylvania, and has taught at Dartmouth College, Smith College, Hebrew University, and Tel Aviv University.

He co-authored **The Early *Kabbalah*** and has published many articles on Medieval and Modern Jewish and Islamic Thought.

The program begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by a dessert reception.

Admission is \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased in person at the synagogue office, or by sending a check to B'nai Emet.

The evening honors the memory of B'nai Emet past president Martin Schoenberger. His inspirational leadership, his tireless work to strengthen our community, and his deep love for Judaism and for each of us will never be forgotten.

Our Synagogue

Women's League
"Nus"

Do you know how to make a floral centerpiece for your *seder* table? You will have the opportunity of learning how if you attend the upcoming Mitzvah Fund dinner on Tuesday evening, April 5, at 6:00 p.m., Vicki Siegel Logan, owner of Café Floral & Gifts, will be giving a "how to" demonstration for us. Please watch the mail for further information.

Two bagel breakfasts have been scheduled for all preschool mothers. The first was held on Tuesday, February 15 from 8:30-10:00 a.m., and the next will be Wednesday, March 16 from 8:30-10:00 a.m., to give them the opportunity of learning more about our group. We hope to see many of you there after dropping off your children for preschool.

We have many wonderful programs planned for future meetings and hope you will be with us as they are announced.

On a personal note, I would like to say how wonderful the USY kids were in their production of "Applause." This was a difficult play because of the serious nature of the story, but they pulled it off magnificently. My granddaughters were enthralled with the music and dancing, and as a bonus were able to enjoy a delicious hot dog lunch. I hope most of you were also treated to this wonderful performance. Those of you who were not there missed a very special treat.

Shalom,
Anita Siegel,
Co-President,
B'nai Emet Women's League

Our Synagogue

News from the Judaica Shop

You probably noticed something different in this headline. The official new name of our synagogue gift shop is now the Judaica Shop. In keeping with the recommendation of National Women's League of Conservative Judaism of which B'nai Emet's Women's League is a member, we have changed the name. Actually, Judaica Shop is a better choice to describe the shop sponsored by our Women's League, since our major responsibility is to provide our members with the necessary Judaica items to meet their needs in their homes, for *Shabbat* and holidays, for life cycle events, for personal needs, and for gifts.

Our shop includes not only the merchandise inside the actual store, but also the items displayed in the showcases in the lower foyer across from the store and the special "Red-tag Sale" items in the display cases behind the Fox Family Chapel (in the back hall near the elevator). In addition, merchandise can be ordered from over 40 catalogues stored in the shop. We also have Gift Certificates available when you're not sure what gift to give.

We have a gift registry for upcoming *b'nai mitzvah* and weddings. Letters are sent to future *b'nai mitzvah*, as well as brides and grooms, inviting them to register for Judaica. Their choices are then kept in the shop and in the main office so gifts can be chosen from their personal selections. Be sure to check our registry when you're buying a gift for these events.

The Judaica Shop is always in need of volunteers to work. We try to be open one morning and one afternoon during the week and on Sunday mornings. Workers receive a discount on purchases. Please call Carole Harris at 952-938-2101 if you are interested in helping or if you have any suggestions, or leave your name with the synagogue office.

We hope you will think of our Judaica Shop first, before you shop elsewhere. Remember, a purchase in our shop is a direct donation to B'nai Emet Synagogue. Look for our annual *Purim* sale and future specials and coupons.

Janus Korczak Scholarship Fund

Donations from this fund are earmarked only for use by children attending a Jewish camp or going to Israel or Poland. Please consider becoming an annual donor by contributing \$25 to this very important fund. Call the synagogue office and we will inform Wendy Grosser and Harold Lederman, Scholarship Committee Co-Chair that you will be participating. A plaque with your name on it will be installed on the Janus Korczak donor commemorative board in the foyer outside of the Fingerhut Sanctuary.

New! Monthly Shabbat Dinner Group

Are you interested in having *Shabbat* dinner with other B'nai Emet members? Join our new monthly *Shabbat* Dinner Group. The basic idea is to have a wonderful *Shabbat* experience while getting to know other B'nai Emet members. The details will be determined based on input from group participants. Call or email Michelle Shapiro if you are interested at 952-545-3466 or shap5@earthlink.net.



See What's New in B'nai Emet's Library Collection

There is something for everyone in B'nai Emet's library. See the latest additions to our collection, purchased through our members' generous contributions to the Henry & Fannie Farb Library Fund.

📖 *American Judaism*, Jonathan D. Sarna. The author, a Brandeis University Jewish history professor, focuses on the 350-years of Jewish religion in America. This comprehensive yet highly readable work focuses on Jewish ideas, leaders, and change. He points out that the fear of assimilation has been with American Jews for hundreds of years, and has been the stimulus for renewal and innovation. This book was named the National Jewish Book Award 2004 Book of the Year.

📖 *Real Time*, Pnina Moed Kass. The Association of Jewish Libraries awarded this book its 2004 Sydney Taylor Book Award for using the highest literary standards to portray authentically the Jewish experience. This insightful and riveting book, recommended for young adults, chronicles the experience of several Israelis—a kibbutznic, tourists, soldiers, and a Palestinian bus bomber—following a bus bombing in Israel.

📖 *Shanda: The Making and Breaking of a Self-Loathing Jew*, Neal Karlen. After a period of rejection of everything Jewish, this local author searches for a way back to Judaism, with the help of his father and Rabbi Manis Friedman.

Our Synagogue

For an Extraordinary Mother's Day... ...join Team B'nai Emet 2005!

On Sunday, May 8 (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 will be the fifth year we've participated in this community-wide event.

Please call Eileen Kopman at 763-536-0013 for registration or additional information. (Registration forms should be available in March.) The deadline for registrations will be near the end of April. Mark your calendars now for May 8!

Mishpacha News

Many of our members had a wonderful time on Saturday January 22, as we went to watch our USYers and Kadimaniks perform the play "Applause." Our young adults did an excellent job and we all enjoyed the performance a great deal! After the play, we all went to Bakers Square Pie Shop. We had such a nice time enjoying each others' company as we kibitzed and noshed on delicious desserts!

We have another great outing planned for Saturday, March 5, when we will be going to the Hopkins Mainstreet Theatre, to see "Jack and Rochelle." This is a true story of love during the darkest hours of the Holocaust and of two people determined to overcome the horrors of that period in history. Although we have had to put in reservations for this program already, we would love to have you join us for our future gatherings. Please check with Nancy and Steve Serber (763-546-0477) to find out what we're planning next!

*B'Shalom,
Steve and Nancy Serber, Mishpacha
Presidents*

Men's Club

People are still raving about the *Latke* Dinner and our new *latkes*, kids' chicken tenders, and our very own vegetarian puff pastry. Well, we have more great edible news! Keep March 13 open to join us for the Men's Club "Breakfast Bonanza." We'll be having french toast, pancakes, and eggs, just to mention a few items. Check the enclosed flyer for full details. Also on the agenda for this spring are the *Pesah* taste-test evening (date and time to be announced), the Men's Club *Shabbat* on April 2, and the *Yom Ha-Sho'ah* Yellow Candle Program (*Yom Ha-Shoah* starts the evening of Wednesday, May 4). Mark your calendars today for these upcoming events, and come join us for meetings the second Sunday of every month, following morning *minyan*.

If you haven't already done so, send in your dues to join Men's Club. They're only \$18.

*Shalom,
Dr. Steve Goldschmidt
President, B'nai Emet Men's Club*

Tz'dakah Opportunity

Want to help severely handicapped students in Israel? Visit B'nai Emet's Judaica Shop and take a look at the hand-made cards from the Yuvalim School in Afula Elit, Israel, a school for young people who suffer from cerebral palsy. These were sent to us by Sherrie Ezra, Beverly and Jerry Finkelstein's daughter, who works at the Yuvalim School assisting the pupils. A packet of five cards costs five dollars, three dollars of which is a *tzedakah* donation directly to the Yuvalim School.

Our Youth

Remembering

Our Roots

Again this year we were fortunate to have volunteers from Hopkins High School's Community service class working in our preschool classrooms. The high school seniors have been a wonderful addition to our program, and the staff as well as the children have truly enjoyed their presence. Recently, we received this note from Yoni Saad, one of this year's volunteers and an alumnus of B'nai Emet Preschool.

Dear Marilyn,

Thank you so much for the wonderful opportunity to volunteer at the preschool almost every morning. At first I was unsure if it was the right placement for me, but as time went on, I really enjoyed my class and got along well with them. This class strongly emphasized giving back to the community, and it was perfect for me to come to B'nai Emet Preschool to give back to the place I began my wonderful education. I surely will come back at least a few times to check in on everyone and see my kids. I also look forward to attending the all-school *Shabbat* service on February 4. Again, thank you for allowing me to come volunteer at my old preschool—it was truly an enriching experience.

Sincerely,
Yoni

Our Youth



The State of Minnesota recently held a re-licensing inspection of B'nai Emet Early Childhood Department. The inspector concluded that we have a wonderful school environment for the children and gave us an excellent rating along with our new license.

Todah rabbah to Rabbi Barry and Zena Woolf for the generous donation of electric candlesticks. The gift is in loving memory of Marty Schoenberger and Debbie Freudenheim and is intended for use in a preschool classroom.

This month, preschool classes are busy with their *Purim* preparations, including making *hamantaschen*, *mishloach manot* baskets, learning new *Purim* tunes, and reviewing the *Purim* story and all of its characters. The children are looking forward to wearing their costumes to school on *Purim* and to the synagogue for the *Megillah* reading.

After *Purim* the children will begin learning about *Pesach*. They will be learning the entire Passover story, the Four Questions, and Passover songs, as well as making their own *Haggadot*, and having a class Model *Seder* for their families.

Children in Eileen, Donna, Cheryle, and Ana's class and Sandy and Wendy's class will be featured in B'nai Emet Synagogue's Young Families' Service on Friday, March 11, from 7:00-7:30 p.m. On Friday April 8, at the Young Families' Service, Suzie, Tammy, Marta, and Pat's toddler class (sixteen months through two-years-old) will be performing from the *bimah*. We invite the entire congregation to join us in the Fingerhut Sanctuary for these Young Families' Services.



Preschoolers present an \$1800 check to JCRC—money collected by local Jewish preschools to help children who are victims of the tsunami.

Camp Ahava (our preschool Summer Camp) is now taking applications. Special event guests have already been booked and it looks like a great summer with lots of "fun in the sun" activities. Please contact the Early Childhood Office weekday mornings at 952-927-8443 for more information or to receive an application.



"Kids Caring for Kids" is a program designed for Twin City preschoolers (in conjunction with the JCRC and Justice Squared) allowing them to help another child who survived the tsunami to feel comforted with a special blanket or teddy bear. It was our way to help teach *tikkum olam* (repairing the world). 100% of the money donated was sent to the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee who will deliver the blankets and teddy bears to tsunami survivors. Pictured is Kameron Richter giving a teddy bear a squeeze before sending it off to a tsunami victim.

Our Youth

Shabbat School Update

February will continue to be a busy month for our students and staff in Shabbat School. *Alef* students continue to master the *Torah* trope, and are working on their *maftir* portions and prayers of the *Torah* Service. *Bet* students have nearly mastered the *haftarah* trope and are working on the *haftarah* blessings. *Gimel* students are mastering the *Shaharit* and *Ma'ariv* Services, and working on their individual *Torah* readings. *Prozdor* students continue to be stimulated by classes led by Rabbi Woolf and Hela Zadaka, and have opportunities to be "tutors in training." On any *Shabbat* morning, you can see Shabbat School staff participating in congregational services by reading *Torah* and leading parts of the service.

During January, we welcomed Michael Engel as a guest speaker during Junior Congregation. We all know how blessed we are to have Michael as part of our B'nai Emet family. He shared wonderful stories about "The Cherry Tree" and "The Best Synagogue in the World." He is a great storyteller and a great teacher, and we all enjoyed hearing him speak.

Gimel Shabbat will take place during *Shabbat Services* on March 5. *Gimel* students and staff will lead services, students will present an innovative *d'var Torah* on the *parashah*, and the Youth Choir will enhance the service with their beautiful voices.

Progress reports will be sent home this month. Students should remember to check their homework sheets and practice at least one hour per week on the new skills they have learned in Shabbat School. A CD of the entire *Shabbat* service is now available for students to supplement their learning and for staff to refresh their skills.

We miss our senior staff Max Paletz and Orrie Chazin and wish them all the best as they continue their studies in Israel.

Laura Brandys, Education Director

Sunday School Update

B'nai Emet Sunday School students and their families explored *Tu BiSh'vat* on January 23. We had a small *Tu BiSh'vat Seder* with red and white grape juice, and we tasted many different kinds of fruit—some that grow in Israel, some that have inedible skins, some that have inedible pits, and some that you can eat the whole fruit! We also planted seeds for purple coneflowers. They are being left outside because they need freezing temperatures to stimulate germination. In the spring after they sprout we will transplant the purple coneflowers to the hill in the Sunday School garden. They are perennials, so they should flower every summer!

On February 13 students and families were invited to the Taste of Talmud Torah while the *Mekhina Bet* students celebrated *Yom HaSiddur* and Consecration. This program gave them an opportunity to see what they can accomplish if they attend the Talmud Torah next year.

Due to the date change for the *Purim* Carnival at B'nai Emet, the Sunday School calendar has changed. There will be class on March 20; however, there will be no class on the day of the *Purim* Carnival—March 27.

B'shalom,
Jeanne Kaufman

Shalom and Greetings from the Youth Commission

As the curtain comes down on yet another play season, the Youth Commission wishes to send another round of "Applause" to our wonderful USYers and Kadimaniks. *Yasher koah* for a job well done. We are so proud of each and every one of you! The play was a huge success and we hope you had as much fun performing it as those of us in the audience did watching you put your hearts into making this play as great as it was.

Countless hours of volunteering also went into this production behind the scenes. We wish to thank the people who helped make this effort an incredible experience for our young adults and the audiences that came to see them.

Thank you to our play director, Jaime Kleiman, choreographer, Erin Sheppard, and accompanist John Banks. You all must be so proud! Sheryl Rutzick and I also wish to thank everyone who helped make our jobs as the adult play-chairs a pleasure to do. Since there are too many people to name individually, a heartfelt thank you goes out to our dedicated volunteers. These terrific people were our co-chairs and their committees who worked on the ad book, sets, painting, lights and sound, costumes, kitchen prep, food concessions, flowers, and candy. A special thank you to Roosevelt Edwards for set-up and cleanup after the performances. Thank you to the parents for supporting your U.S.Y.ers and Kadimaniks, and for all the hours of schlepping your kids back and forth to practices. We couldn't have done it without all of you! Finally, thank you to our Youth Director, Jessica Averbach, and Kadima advisors, Ben Abramson and Maya Berezovsky (who were also our stage managers). You are awesome leaders, and we here at B'nai Emet really appreciate your devotion to our youth programs!

Nancy Serber
Youth Commission Chair

Our Family

Look Who's Who at KOACH!

Mazal tov to Maya Berezovsky, daughter of Bonnie and Bruce Berezovsky, who was named to the position of Assistant Editor of KOACH's online e-zine, "KOACH-On-Campus." (KOACH is the national organization for college-aged Conservative Jews.) One of her first forays into the world of editing provided her with another connection close to home when she worked on the Sh'vat issue of the magazine, the theme for which was "Jewish Superheroes." Not only did she write a wonderful article about her conception of what makes a Jewish superhero (entitled "Great Love for Friends, Judaism & God"), but she also worked on another piece with local connections: Caryn London's essay "Minnesota's Mother Teresa" about her Jewish superhero, Rabbi Barry Woolf.

You can find both articles at www.koach.org/articles.htm by scrolling down the page to the Sh'vat issue. Keep scrolling down for other great articles by Maya, and look for more in the future!

Mazal tov to...

...Leah Braverman, daughter of Pam Lifson and Alan Braverman, who had a key role in the play "Home on the Mornin' Train," which was performed recently by the Youth Performance Company. *Yiyshar Kohlek*, Leah!

Condolences

We mourn the death of our member, Robert Teitelbaum, and extend our condolences to his wife, Irene Teitelbaum, and to all of his family.

We mourn the death of our member, Lea Charniss, and extend our condolences to her niece, Shirley Haskovitz, and to all of her family.

We extend our condolences to Lee Walter on the death of his mother, Esther Walter, and to all of his family.

We extend our condolences to Linda Fieldman on the death of her uncle, Henry Shapiro, and to all of her family.

We extend our condolences to Michael Engel on the death of his cousin, Jack Maurer, and to all of his family.

We mourn the death of our member, Sam Schwartz, and extend condolences to his wife, Donna Schwartz, his brothers, Abe and Morris Schwartz, and his granddaughter, Estee Warsett.

The Congregant Kibbitz Corner

Meet Joni Pico

Joni was born in Chicago and received a Masters of Social Work from the University of Illinois. She then moved to Juneau, Alaska where she met her husband, Mickey. They both took a year off to go to Brandeis University where Joni received a Master's degree in Jewish Communal Service. (Brandeis is one of a few universities offering such a program.) The program included learning about fundraising and working with seniors.

Joni, Mickey, and their four-year-old daughter Sasha moved to Minneapolis in September 2002. They wanted a community that offered Sasha more Jewish opportunities than Juneau—a city with only 250 Jews. Marilyn Richter was the first "Jewish opportunity" Joni encountered. Meeting Marilyn and Rabbi Abramson convinced Joni and Mickey that they wanted to join B'nai Emet.

Currently, Joni works part-time for Sha'arim, the Jewish educational organization for children with special needs. She is also a substitute teacher at our preschool and at Torah Academy. Twice a week Joni volunteers at Torah Academy, where she works with a group of third-grade girls. Joni is a member of Women's League and would like to get involved with B'nai Emet's *Bikkur Holim* program. She likes B'nai Emet because it is such a warm and friendly community. Her daughter even calls Bobbi the "Lemon Drop Lady."

Interview by Michelle Shapiro

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.

Jewish Dating Service

JDS is back and running on the internet at www.jdsminnesota.com. JDS is striving to continue serving and strengthening the Jewish Community.



Our Family

March Anniversaries

Harvey & Rene Fishman	50 years
Harold & Lillian Berman	30 years
Todd & Jennifer Ginsberg	4 years
Meir & Blanche Amar	20 years
Sheldon & Carolyn Levin	43 years
David & Lisa Brodsky	15 years
Sheldon & Alice Flom	55 years
Ronald & Elaine Gross	20 years
David & Karen Katz	25 years
Sidney & Esther Hankin	58 years
Marshall & Nancy Edelstein	16 years
Sheldon & Sally Masnek	51 years
Nathan & Minnie Zweigbaum	59 years
Murray & Betty Cooper	37 years
Bernard & Eleanor Borkon	20 years

April 1-14 Anniversaries

Jason & Aryel Londer	4 years
Harlowe & Gussie Edelstein	46 years
Paul & Audrey Estrin	59 years
Earl & Trudy Lerner	21 years
Ted & Doris Ginsberg	54 years
Michael & Susan Judes	16 years
Steven & Sheila Cohen	29 years
Marvin & Fay Frieman	53 years
Lev & Zinaida Vaynberg	30 years
Sam & Donna Schwartz	25 years
Oskar & Lola Schreiner	60 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.

Memorial Plaques

Memorial Plaques have been installed in the Fox Family Memorial Alcove for:

Aaron Batchman
Helen Jurisz
Sally Salloway
Martin Schoenberger
Edna Morris Wolfson
Harry Wolfson

Our Community

JCRC Fights Back Against Anti-Semitic Music Company

Minnesota-based Panzerfaust Records, whose slogan is "We don't just entertain racist kids...we create them," recently launched "Project Schoolyard USA." The stated aim of this project is to distribute one hundred thousand hate-song filled compact discs to high school and middle school kids across the country. Panzerfaust's songs advocate death to Jews, blacks, and other minorities.

The Jewish Community Relations Council pre-empted this "project" by alerting the media and every single school in Minnesota, and by providing innovative lessons and activities about tolerance and understanding to thousands of teachers and students. Messages of respect and civility drowned out the hate music, and tens of thousands of Minnesota students and teachers were engaged in learning to celebrate Minnesota's diversity.

JCRC is the only local agency fighting hate speech and anti-Semitism in Minnesota. To find out more, and how you can help promote tolerance and understanding, call the JCRC at 612-338-7816.

New Mentoring Program to Benefit Jewish Medical Students

Are you currently working toward a career in the medical field? Would you like to learn from those already in practice? If so, the Twin Cities Maimonides Society*, an affinity group for Jewish physicians, dentists, and veterinarians affiliated through the Minneapolis Jewish Federation and the United Jewish Fund and Council of St. Paul, has recently launched the Medical Mentoring Program, which pairs medical students with professionals in the field.

The program provides students with the opportunity to learn what it's like to be a physician and get advice on choosing a medical specialty. It seeks to connect Jewish medical, dental, veterinary and pre-med students not only with Jewish medical professionals, but also with the Jewish community.

The program is open to students who attend school in the Twin Cities area and for Twin Cities residents who attend school out of state.

To sign up or for more information, contact Laura Rosen at 952-417-2312, rosen@mplsfed.org or log on to www.jewishminnesota.org and click on Twin Cities Maimonides Society in the About Us section.

*The Twin Cities Maimonides Society seeks to encourage and strengthen the sense of community among its members, provide programming and social action *tikkun olam* opportunities and raise money for local and overseas Jewish communities.

MJDS 20th Annual Benefit

"Walk in Sunshine" the gala Minneapolis Jewish Day School event will take place Sunday evening, April 10 at City Center in downtown Minneapolis. A presentation of the first MJDS Ner Tamid Award to MJDS Board of Trustees founding members will be given to Louise Ribnick, Margie Ostrov, Mahryam Daniels and Ron Kaufman. For tickets and information please call 952-381-3500.

B'nai Emet Adult Education Committee

cordially invites you to the

Martin Schoenberger Memorial Evening of Jewish Learning

featuring

Dr. Ronald C. Kiener

Professor of Religion, Trinity College

"Entering the Mystical Garden of Kabbalah: An Introduction"

Saturday, March 5

7:30 p.m.

Dessert reception following the program

B'nai Emet Synagogue

3115 Ottawa Avenue South

St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55416

952-927-7309

Tickets may be purchased in advance at B'nai Emet Synagogue

\$8 in advance, \$10 at the door

THE SCROLL

Newsletter of

B'nai Emet Synagogue

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Michael Winikoff.....Cantorial Soloist
Laura Brandys.....Education Director
Jessica AverbachYouth Director
Marilyn RichterEarly Childhood Director

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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
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- Home Depot
- Italianni's
- JCPenney
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- Macaroni Grill
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- Old Navy
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- Panera
- Rainbow
- Red Lobster
- Red Robin
- Ruby Tuesday
- TGI Friday's
- Timberlodge