



# SCROLL

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Newsletter of B'nai Emet Synagogue

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## Extra! Extra! More Holidays Coming Soon!

Very soon, in fact! As mentioned in our last edition of the *Scroll*, *Yom Kippur* falls on October 13 this year, but shortly after we have another group of autumnal holidays, starting with *Sukkot* and rolling right on until we get to *Simhat Torah*. Below is a listing of the upcoming holiday observances at B'nai Emet so you know how and when to participate.

### **Sukkot**

Originally an agricultural harvest festival, *Sukkot* (which translates to “booths” or “temporary, non-permanent shelters”) is one of the *shalosh regalim*, the three annual festivals for which people once travelled to the Temple in Jerusalem. (The other two are *Pesah* and *Shavu'ot*.) This eight-day festival serves as a visceral reminder for us of the time we spent in the wilderness of Sinai, dwelling in *sukkot*. We leave our comfortable homes, our modern spaces, and spend meal times (or even overnights!) in the *sukkah*, trying to connect with what our ancestors must have gone through leaving Egypt and entering the desert. This is also a time when we reconnect to nature. Each day during *Sukkot*, we *daven* special prayers using *lulavim* and *etrogim*, the four

species (citron, palm, willow, and myrtle) which represent the scent, texture, look, and sustenance that nature brings to us. Especially in our modern era, when we have so effectively insulated ourselves from nature, it is important for us to remember that whether our food comes from the grocery store or from our own gardens, we must have a harvest in order to live. Too often, we take our food for granted. This year, during *Sukkot*, take a moment to consider the food you eat—both where it comes from and how it impacts your life—and reconnect to the natural world that makes it all possible.

The final and eighth day of *Sukkot* bears the name *Sh'mini Atzeret*, (“eighth

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### Observance Schedule

#### **Sukkot**

(*Torah* Reading and *Hallel* with *lulav* & *etrog* all seven days of *Sukkot*, except *Shabbat*, on which we do not use the *lulav* and *etrog* for *Hallel*. *Minhah* & *Ma'ariv* services will be every day at 5:45 P.M. *Yizkor* service will be during *Shaharit* on Tuesday, October 25.)

**Tuesday & Wednesday, October 18 & 19** (Sukkot) *Shaharit* Service 9:00 A.M.

**Thursday & Friday, October 20 & 21** (*Hol ha-Mo'ed Sukkot*) *Shaharit* Service 7:30 A.M.

**Saturday, October 22** (*Shabbat Hol ha-Mo'ed*) *Shabbat Shaharit* Service 9:00 A.M.

**Sunday, October 23** (*Hol ha-Mo'ed Sukkot*) *Shaharit* Service 9:00 A.M.

**Monday, October 24** (*Hol ha-Mo'ed Sukkot*) *Shaharit* Service 7:30 A.M.

**Tuesday, October 25** (*Sh'mini Atzeret*) *Shaharit* Service 9:00 A.M.

#### **Simhat Torah**

**Tuesday, October 25** *Ma'ariv* Service and Celebration 7:00 P.M.

**Wednesday, October 26** *Shaharit* Service 9:00 A.M.

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# From the Rabbi's Desk



As the High Holy Days approach, you are probably not surprised to hear a lot about repentance. After all, repentance is one of the major themes of *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*. But all this talk of repentance makes many of us uncomfortable. For one thing, we usually associate the English word “repentance” with religious traditions other than Judaism. In fact, the English word does have connotations that are foreign to Jewish tradition and experience.

For this reason, we should remember that the Hebrew word for “repentance” is “*t’shuvah*.” It comes from the root word “*shuv*,” which means “return.” *T’shuvah*, then, is the process of returning—to our tradition, to our spiritual selves, to God.

We usually think of others telling us to “do *t’shuvah*,” to return. Our High Holy Day prayerbooks urge us to return. Rabbis urge us to return, and they often quote our ancient Jewish prophets who urged Israel to return to God. And the prophets taught that it is God Himself who urges us to return. According to the prophet Micah, for example, God calls out to Israel: “*Shuvu eili* [return to Me]!”

But it’s not only these external forces that urge us to return. We have a need for *t’shuvah*. The late Chief Rabbi Avraham Yitzchak Kook taught that *t’shuvah* is the expression of our own need for spiritual renewal and resurgence, which often lies dormant in our souls. The High Holy Days help to awaken that need in us, help to remind us of our own need to return.

And how do we do it? A radical change in lifestyle, an earth-shattering theological breakthrough, a sudden and extraordinary religious rebirth? Although such dramatic experiences of *t’shuvah* do come to some of us, they probably are not realistic expectations for most of us. But we can begin the process of *t’shuvah* more modestly. Let me reiterate a suggestion that I’ve made over the years (and which most rabbis make—because it’s such an apt High Holy Days suggestion): Why not take the High Holy Days season as the occasion to begin doing one more *mitzvah*? That’s right: just one more *mitzvah* than you performed last year. Perhaps your new *mitzvah* might be coming to the synagogue a little more frequently—supporting our *Shabbat* services or our daily *minyan* and, in the process, discovering the beauty and meaning of services. Perhaps your new *mitzvah* might be *talmud Torah*, the *mitzvah* of studying, of learning more about your Jewish heritage—through our Adult Education classes or through your own independent studying. Perhaps your new *mitzvah* will be giving to *tz’dakah* (charity) regularly; you’ll be amazed at the effect that a few coins in a *pushke* can have on your children’s values and on your own soul.

The wonderful thing about doing “just one new *mitzvah*” is that it pays real dividends. “*Mitzvah goreret mitzvah*,” our tradition teaches, one *mitzvah* brings about other *mitzvot*. The first, tentative steps closer to Jewish tradition can lead to others, can lead to stronger ties with our tradition, can lead to a real feeling of spiritual renewal, of greater closeness with God.

The *Midrash* tells a wonderful story about a king who had a son. The son went astray from his father on a journey of a hundred days. His friends said to him, “Return to your father.” The son said, “I cannot.” Finally, the king sent word to his son: “Return as far as you can, and I will come to you the rest of the way.”

God wants to return to us, just as much as we need to return to Him. To quote the entire phrase from the prophet Micah: “*Shuvu eili va’ashuvah aleikhem* [return to Me and I will return to You].”

May this year’s High Holy Days provide truly significant experiences for us. May we all heed the call of our tradition and begin the process of true *t’shuvah*, returning to our tradition and returning to God.

Rabbi David L. Abramson

## All Are Welcome

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.

## Kashrut Class this Autumn

Want to be a *kashrut* supervisor for the B’nai Emet Kitchen? Have questions about what’s *kosher* and what’s not? Rabbi Abramson will be offering a one-session *kashrut* class this autumn to everyone who is interested in learning more about the dietary laws. Call the office if you are interested in joining this class. Date and time to be determined.

## Scroll Deadline

Monday, October 31 for  
the December 1 issue

That issue will cover from  
December 1, 2005 through  
January 12, 2006.

Please plan accordingly!

## President's Message

How would your life change if you were heir to a fortune?

If you have ever fantasized an answer to that question, hold that thought, because we at B'nai Emet are heirs to a fortune. And I am not referring only to our common Jewish heritage that includes customs and traditions, holy books, Eretz Yisrael, a noble and tragic history, a rich culture, sometimes wayward genes that cause "Jewish genetic diseases," and a taste for gefilte fish.

As I write this column, two different inheritances are on my mind, and they belong to us alone at B'nai Emet Synagogue.

During this past June, Samuel Brodsky passed away. Years ago, Mr. Brodsky was a member of Mikro Kodesh and then B'nai Emet. Though he had not belonged to B'nai Emet in some time, he retained a fondness for the *shul* where his family's religious roots had taken hold. His brother Irwin married Edna at the old Mikro Kodesh—in fact, theirs was the first wedding performed there by Rabbi Nahum Schulman. Irwin and Edna Brodsky have been B'nai Emet members throughout our synagogue's entire history.

Samuel Brodsky thought enough of B'nai Emet to remember us in his will. Thanks to his planning, B'nai Emet will receive a generous and greatly appreciated bequest.

Another type of inheritance has occupied my thoughts for one year now, and that is the inheritance left us by Marty Schoenberger. Throughout Marty's B'nai Emet life, he showed us how to treat one another. When Marty entered our sanctuary on Shabbat morning, whether he was feeling strong or weak, he unfailingly walked around the entire room and greeted each person with a smile and a handshake. Marty's caring telephone calls to our members were legendary. His compassion and support for each B'nai Emet individual, and his dedication to our synagogue provided powerful examples for us all. These memories and lessons, too, are our inheritance.

The word "inherit" is derived from various languages; one derivation is a Greek root word that means "to be empty, to be left behind." We feel the emptiness caused by the deaths of these generous men. We are poorer for their absence, but richer as heirs of their generosity, kindness, and example.

So, as I asked at the beginning of this column, how would your life change if you were heir to a fortune? We at B'nai Emet are heir to a fortune. Now it is up to all of us to answer my question.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu—

Bonnie Berezovsky

Co-President

## Our Synagogue

### More Holidays Coming Soon

*continued from page 1*

of the assembly"). In the section of Leviticus describing *Sukkot* it states that *Sukkot* is a seven-day holiday, and that on the eighth day we shall observe a sacred occasion. From this seeming paradox we get the eight days of this fun, meaningful annual festival.

#### *Simhat Torah*

"Rejoicing in the Torah" is the translation, and that more or less sums up this wonderful holiday. In the evening, we wave flags. We take out all of the *Torah* scrolls and have a procession seven times around the sanctuary, then unroll a *Torah* scroll all the way. We dance and we clap, we eat sweet treats. Then, we go home and sleep, because the next morning, the rejoicing continues. We gather to read the *V'zot ha-B'rakhah* ("And this is the Blessing"), the final *parashah* of the *Torah*, standing to read the final verses of Deuteronomy. People come up for an *aliyah* in fun groups, like "Everyone who's had a *bar mitzvah!*" and afterward, they go out into the hall for a "*l'hayim*" with some schnapps or grape juice and cookies, then circle back in through the back of the chapel to rejoin the service. When we finish the book of Deuteronomy, everyone shouts "*Hazak, Hazak, v'Nithazek*" (Be strong, be strong, and may we be strengthened), and we go on to read the first chapter of Genesis, beginning the whole cycle again. The energy is wonderful and contagious. After spending a time in the wilderness, we must return to our lives and to our responsibilities. But not alone, and not without a game plan—we have the *Torah*, and we are a community, and the year ahead of us will help us to take hold of both and value them.

## Summer's End: A BBQ Tale

*By Sheryl Rutzick & LeeAnn Ancier*

Once again B'nai Emet's Annual Bar-B-Que, which was held on August 21, was a huge success. With close to 150 people in attendance, a great time was had by all. We had good food and a fun time playing bingo. Thank you to our bingo callers, Hannah Rutzick and Chava Lederman. Also, special thanks to our "grillmasters": Randy Rutzick, Harold Lederman, and Steve Lederman. Our thanks go out to those who helped at the Bar-B-Que or who donated pop and prizes for bingo. Breadsmith and Sam's Club were also among our contributors, so a special thank you goes out to them. With everyone's help, we made this year's Bar-B-Que the best ever. Next year's Bar-B-Que will be held August 13, 2006.

# Upcoming Events & Announcements

## Adult Education Series to Highlight End-of-Life Issues November 1, 8 And 15

In light of the Terri Schiavo controversy, many of us have been asking difficult questions about our own—and our loved ones’—end-of-life plans. Join the Adult Education Committee as we explore these issues and emotions at “A Flickering Candle: Confronting and Planning for End-of-Life Issues,” a three-part class Nov. 1, 8 and 15.

Scheduled for three consecutive Tuesday evenings in the Library, the classes will run from 7:30-9:00 P.M. and will feature a wealth of information and lots of time for discussion and questions.

On Nov. 1, Gerontologist Dr. Vic Sandler will give us an introduction to the topic, highlighting the key issues and sharing his experiences in working with older adults.

On Nov. 8, a speaker from Jewish Family and Children’s Service will focus on hospice care, explaining the important role that a hospice can fill.

Rabbi Abramson will conclude the series on Nov. 15, putting the topic in a Jewish context and discussing how our religious sources can help us plan for these issues, and can then bring hope and comfort to what can be a frightening time.

## Hospital Notices

We need to hear from you.

Due to 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 or other health-care facility.

## Calendar Clippings

Friday, October 21

Musical “Service Under the Stars” *Kabbalat Shabbat*  
Service featuring Cantor Art Shragg & Dinner

Sunday, November 13

Men’s Club Breakfast

## Synagogue Wish List

Have you wanted to donate something to our synagogue but didn’t know what was needed? Well, here you go! Some of these items are large and some are smaller, but all are things that we need in order to maintain and improve our facility. If you want to make a donation toward any of these items, please contact the synagogue office!

- 100 hangers (for the upstairs coat racks): \$75
- Repairs to Carpeting (including replacing the main walking area in the sanctuary): Total Cost: \$1,300 (\$600 has already been donated, so the remaining donation would be \$700)
- 16 Rectangular Folding Tables: \$80 per table; \$1,300 total (Four tables have already been donated! Thank you!)
- Removal of 2 Elm Trees with Dutch Elm Disease: \$1,250
- Paving the Parking Lots: approximately \$15,000

## Daily Service Schedule

*Shaharit:*

Monday–Friday 7:30 A.M.

Shabbat, Sunday &

Holidays 9:00 A.M.

*Minhah/Ma’ariv*

(Saturdays, *Minhah* only)

Daily 5:45 P.M.

## Co-Sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush!

In honor of your birthday  
In honor of your anniversary  
In memory of a loved one

For \$200 you can co-sponsor a *Shabbat kiddush*. Invite your friends to services, have an *aliyah*, and be blessed—without all of the work of having company over!

Contact the synagogue office to reserve your special *Shabbat* today!

## What’s so “bitter” about the month of Heshvan?

### Ask the Rabbi!

By the time we get to the first weekend of November, we will have just entered the month of Heshvan, which has earned the nickname *Mar Heshvan*, or “bitter Heshvan.” Is there more than one reason why, and do we have to do anything special because of this special title?

The next “Ask the Rabbi” session, a monthly opportunity to pose your questions to Rabbi Abramson about all things Jewish will be Saturday, November 5 during *Shabbat* morning services, which begin at 9:00 A.M.

## Candle Lighting Times

Oct. 14	6:12 P.M.
Oct. 17	6:06 P.M.
Oct. 18	7:05 P.M.
Oct. 21	6:00 P.M.
Oct. 24	5:55 P.M.
Oct. 25	6:53 P.M.
Oct. 28	5:49 P.M.
Nov. 4	4:39 P.M.
Nov. 11	4:30 P.M.
Nov. 18	4:23 P.M.
Nov. 25	4:18 P.M.

## Our B'nai Mitzvah



Erin Rachel Lurie will be called to the *Torah* as a *bat mitzvah* during *Shaharit* services on *Shabbat* morning, November 26. Her *Torah* portion is *Hayyei Sarah*.

Erin is in the seventh grade at Plymouth Middle School and grade *Hey* at Talmud Torah. She loves playing soccer and volleyball,

both of which keep her busy when she isn't swimming!

Erin is the daughter of Cathy & Mark Babler and of Michael Lurie; sister of Adam; and granddaughter of Ina Lurie. Her parents will be sponsoring the *kiddush* luncheon following *Shabbat* morning services.

### Office Closing Dates

(Office closed all day, unless otherwise noted)

October 13	<i>Yom Kippur</i>
October 17 & 18	<i>Sukkot</i>
October 25	<i>Sh'mini Atzeret</i>
October 26	<i>Simhat Torah</i>
November 24	Thanksgiving Day

### Can you spare some time?

#### Volunteers needed for Super Sunday, November 20th

You can make a difference in the lives of Jews, both locally and around the world, by donating just a few hours of your time at Super Sunday, the Minneapolis Jewish Federation's largest fundraising event of the year. Super Sunday will take place on Sunday, November 20, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Sabes Jewish Community Center on the Barry Family Campus, 4330 South Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park. Proceeds benefit the 2006 Federation Annual Campaign, which supports more than 50 Jewish agencies and programs.

Last year, Super Sunday raised \$215,000. This year, the goal is to raise \$225,000. Under the leadership of Elliot and Eloise Kaplan, the goal of the 2006 Annual Campaign is \$15 million.

To sign up to volunteer online, log on to [www.jewishminnesota.org](http://www.jewishminnesota.org) and click on November 20th on the community calendar. For more information, or if you or your company would like to be a Super Sunday sponsor, please contact Laura Rosen at 952-417-2312 or [lrosen@mplsfed.org](mailto:lrosen@mplsfed.org).

## Services

### *Shabbat Service Schedule*

Morning services conducted by Rabbi David L. Abramson

*Shabbat Ha'azinu*, October 14 & 15  
*Kabbalat Shabbat*: Friday, 5:45 P.M.  
*Shaharit* Saturday, 9:00 A.M.  
*Minhah*: 5:45 P.M.

*Shabbat Hol ha-Mo'ed Sukkot*, October 21 & 22  
**Musical "Shabbat Under the Stars", Friday, 5:45 P.M.**

**Featuring Cantor Art Shragg**

*Shaharit*: Saturday, 9:00 A.M.

**No Shabbat School**

*Minhah*: 5:45 P.M.

*Shabbat B'reishit*, October 28 & 29  
*Kabbalat Shabbat*: Friday, 5:45 P.M.  
*Shaharit*: Saturday, 9:00 A.M.  
*Minhah*: 5:45 P.M.

*Shabbat Noah*, November 4 & 5  
*Kabbalat Shabbat*: Friday, 5:45 P.M.  
*Shaharit*: Saturday, 9:00 A.M.

**"Ask the Rabbi"**

*Minhah*: 5:45 P.M.

*Shabbat Lekh L'kha*, November 11 & 12  
*Kabbalat Shabbat*: Friday, 5:45 P.M.  
*Shaharit*: Saturday, 9:00 A.M.  
*Minhah*: 5:45 P.M.

*Shabbat Vayyeira*, November 18 & 19  
*Kabbalat Shabbat*: Friday, 5:45 P.M.  
*Shaharit*: Saturday, 9:00 A.M.

**USY Shabbat**

*Minhah*: 5:45 P.M.

*Shabbat Hayyei Sarah*, November 25 & 26  
*Kabbalat Shabbat*: Friday, 5:45 P.M.  
*Shaharit*: Saturday, 9:00 A.M.

**Erin Lurie Bat Mitzvah**

**No Shabbat School**

*Minhah*: 5:45 P.M.

# Our Synagogue

## Women's League Update

### Women's League Day of Rejuvenation

The first Day of Rejuvenation was held on Sunday, September 11, and was enjoyed by a number of women. This multi-faceted day included presentations by experts in motivational living, healthy eating, and aromatherapy, along with a presentation by a St. Louis Park Police Officer on personal safety. Classes were available in yoga, eyebrow waxing, chair massages, and the "Silver Sneakers." A continental breakfast and a buffet lunch were also enjoyed by our participants.



Arianne Schnurman, Wendy Grosser, Jodi Rankin, and Robin Richter gathered for a moment during the continental breakfast.

As the women were leaving, the comment was heard many times that they would enjoy attending a similar event next year.

This is one of the ways that our women of all ages can meet and enjoy social gatherings as members of our B'nai Emet Women's League. You have recently received in the mail your new membership application for 2005/2006. Please take a moment, if you haven't done so already, to send in your check and become (or remain) a member of our group.

Women's League does so many things to help not only Conservative Judaism, but our synagogue family as well. We raise funds to assist the general fund to help maintain our beautiful building and to sponsor our award-winning preschool, under the very able direction of Marilyn Richter and her spectacular staff. Our Judaica Shop is visited by many who praise Carole Harris for her wonderful selections and tireless work in keeping this shop so very attractive. Tiki Kelner, Women's League Caterer, continues to prepare many delicious and beautiful meals for the enjoyment of both members and non-members.

Since the High Holy Days are so late this year, we will be having an Open Board Meeting on Election Day, November 8, in the Baratz Social Hall. Enjoy a delicious lunch after you vote and help us with our plans for the coming year. B'nai Emet Women's League will be hosting the annual Torah Fund Luncheon this year with a Sunday morning brunch on December 11. This annual event includes participation from Adath Jeshurun, Beth El, and Temple of Aaron Women's Leagues. Watch your mail for your personal invitation to these and other events. If you do not attend, you will definitely be missed and that would be a shame.

On behalf of Women's League, we would like to take this opportunity of wishing our synagogue family a *Shanah Tova*, a year filled with health, happiness and peace.

*B'Shalom,*

*Anita Siegel & Miriam Kieffer*

*Women's League Co-Presidents*

## Pastoral Reading with B'nai Emet's Book Club

Please attend the next meeting of the B'nai Emet Book Club on Monday, November 14, at 7:00 p.m. The group will discuss *American Pastoral* by Philip Roth. The discussion, which is open to all, will take place at Harvest Moon Coffeehouse, 5101 Minnetonka Blvd., St. Louis Park.

Have a book you want to get on the Book Club reading list? Only one way to do it: Come to a Book Club meeting and make the suggestion. See you there!



Karen Skoog led the Silver Sneakers group in their morning exercises.

## Our Synagogue

### Judaica Shop Needs Your Help

To be a viable shop and an asset to B'nai Emet Synagogue, the Judaica Shop needs your help in two ways.

First, you need to think of the shop as your primary choice for Judaica items. We have everything you need for holidays, life cycle events, hostess gifts, and personal wants. If you don't see what you want in the shop, there are many catalogs to order from. We even have gift certificates if you can't make up your mind, or aren't sure what to give!

The second need you can fulfill is to help in the shop. Although the office staff can do a small amount of selling, their main purpose is to keep the office running smoothly. The shop does more business when the lights are on, the door is open, and a living body is there. You can choose a day and time, being aware that most of the activity in the building is when the Early Childhood Department starts and ends their classes (around 9:15 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.).

As an added incentive, all workers receive a special discount on their shop purchases. It's a quiet way to spend a morning or afternoon and you're doing a *mitzvah* for your synagogue. This is more than a one-person show! To let Carole Harris know when you can help, call her at 952-938-2101.

*Sincerely,*  
Carole Harris

### Men's Club

Well, it's a new year. I hope all of you had a great *Rosh Hashanah* and minimized the calories in your break-fast after *Yom Kippur*! Men's Club has a great year planned with a super "bagels and nosh" breakfast on November 13, and then the greatest event to end the year: Our Latke Dinner, but this year with a very special theme.

Since it will be held on December 25, we figured, hey, what do Jews do on that day? We have Chinese and see a movie—so that's the theme of our event! We'll have our usual great latkes, plus a choice of our regular dinner or an oriental meal, with optional vegetarian and children's platters. After dinner we will have a great movie played on a big screen—with popcorn, of course! Which movie we'll see will be announced at a later time. We will also have some other form of entertainment, to make sure it's an evening packed full of fun. Watch your mail for more details.

*Latkes* will be available for sale again, so get your orders in early. We ran out last year due to the new size and taste.

Also upcoming next spring, we will be doing a joint project with the Women's League. It will be a *kosher* wine tasting evening with a large selection of different kosher wines and appetizers, many *kosher* for Passover. Bring something new to your *seder*!

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

## Our Community

### Camp Schluffy Offers 'Lights Out Learning'

Schluffy is Yiddish for "sleepy" and that's exactly what makes Camp Schluffy such a unique experience for young families with children ages 2-5. You're invited to come in your jammies and bring Mom and Dad for an evening of laughter and lights out learning. Of course, Camp Schluffy is B.Y.O.B. (Bring Your Own Blankie). Together, families can learn, sing, and share. No one will mind a bit if you doze off.

Camp Schluffy offers two upcoming sessions. On November 15, "Arches and Arks: Noah and His Family" will be the topic, and on December 6, it's "Boxes and Bows: Presents of Love." The sessions run from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. at the Family and Parenting Center at the Sabes JCC. The cost is \$3 per person with a maximum of \$9 per family. You do not have to be a member to attend.

Sasha's PlaySpace will be open for childcare for children younger than two years old. Please call Sasha's at 952-381-5425 for reservation and rate information.

For more information on this program, call the Family and Parenting Center at 952-381-3414 or check out the website at [www.familyandparentingctr.org](http://www.familyandparentingctr.org). The Family and Parenting Center is located at the Sabes JCC, 4330 Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park. The Family and Parenting Center is accessible for individuals with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations or any other questions should be directed to Barbara Goldman at 952-381-3414.

The Family and Parenting Center is a program of Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Jewish Federation.

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### Blood Drive Results Are In!

Thank you to the following people who donated blood during our August 21 blood drive:

Brad Arnold	Wendy Grosser	David Liss	Steve Serber
Bonnie Berezovsky	Bob Kane	Jason Londer	Larry Shapiro
Hersh Berman	Steven Kaplan	Michael Lurie	Annette Walder
Jack Brown	Larry Kelner	Sean Murphy	Janice Wallace
Bobbi Brown	Darcy Landau	Jennifer Sampson	Howard Warsett
Bruce Freidson	Sari Lederman	Ruth Schoenberger	

**Save a Vein for our next Blood Drive: Thursday, December 8.**

# Our Youth



## B'nai Emet Early Childhood Department

The professional staff of the Early Childhood Department is working with the Minneapolis Jewish community's "Coastal Comfort" project in their effort to assist Hurricane Katrina's families. We have been making baby blankets during morning staff meetings. Pictured below creating blankets with love are Eloise Gershone, Eileen Kopman, and Sandy Rudoy (left); Desiree Pillay and Suzie Nemer (center); and Donna Blitenthal and Eloise Gershone (right).



This year our outstanding professional staff consists of Donna Blitenthal, Terry Freedman, Eloise Gershone, Wendy Grosser, Eileen Kopman, Suzie Nemer, Marta Otero, Desiree Pillay, Raya Solganik, Sandy Rudoy, Jeri Saad and Pat Sherman. Marilyn Richter is the Director of Early Childhood Education. The governing board of the school is the B'nai Emet Early Childhood Education Committee. The program is under the auspices of B'nai Emet Women's League and its presidents, Anita Siegel and Miriam Kieffer.

The entire staff of B'nai Emet Early Childhood Education Department has been looking forward to a wonderful new school year for our children. During the first month of school the children learned about *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* through songs, stories, and art projects.

After the fall holidays in October, the first series of special afternoon activities from 12:45–1:45 p.m. will begin. This year's activity classes include Dance, Music, and Drama, Signing (ASL), and Kindercooking.

If you have questions about our program, please contact Marilyn Richter at 952-927-8443 weekday mornings.

## Sunday School Is In Session

B'nai Emet Sunday School began classes on September 11 and the students are busy learning the *Alef-Bet*. The first week they studied the letter *Bet* and three Hebrew words that begin with *Bet*: *bayit*, *beit k'nesset*, and *bimah*. Then the students learned that the people in a *bayit* are a *mishpaha* and the Hebrew names for family members. Each week they have a Letter of the Week and a corresponding lesson that involves Hebrew words and Jewish ideals. Songs, games, and crafts help to reinforce the lessons and make them fun.

On October 16 the students will make beautiful decorations for the synagogue *sukkah* and help to hang them up. On October 23 we will host a luncheon for all Sunday School students and their extended families. We will welcome this year's new students: Maia Grosser, Lilly Kaufman, and Maddie Silton. They will each receive a special gift in honor of this milestone in their Jewish education.

November 13 will be our annual *Hanukkah* card workshop. It is a Sunday School *mitzvah* project to create 500 cards by hand and then give them to Jewish Family and Children's Service. In turn, they distribute the cards with gifts and holiday items through their Hag Sameach program. It is hard work, but fun—any family can join us for our card workshop. Call Jeanne Kaufman at 763-533-1888 for more information.

*B'Shalom,*  
Jeanne Kaufman

# Our Youth

## Greetings from the Youth Commission

Our USYers and the Youth Commission are already beginning a productive year. We were busy right before the holidays putting together Apples and Honey Baskets for your *Rosh Hashanah* tables. Thank you to all those who helped to support this large fundraiser by ordering your baskets. Our USYers appreciate your support.

The parent play meeting was held Thursday, September 15. Our play this year is the delightful *Free to Be You and Me* by Marlo Thomas. It is sure to be enjoyed by both young and old. Auditions were held Monday and Tuesday, September 19 & 20. The kids are very excited to be in this terrific performance. Save some time on President's Day Weekend, beginning with our opening performance on Thursday, January 12 and with additional performances on Saturday night, January 14 and twice on Sunday, January 15. More information will follow in future editions of the Scroll.

Our USY Executive Board recently attended Leadership Training Institute (LTI), and had a great time interacting with one another and planning events for the year.

For the USY Twin Cities-wide kickoff, we had an event at Wild Mountain at the end of August. Our BESY Kickoff was a bowling party at Park Tavern with more than twenty kids attending.

The big spotlight is now on *Kinnus*, which will be held in Minneapolis over Thanksgiving weekend. We are expecting about 500 USYers from around the region to attend. What a wonderful opportunity for our own Twin Cities chapters to experience *Kinnus* at home! If parents or other adults would like to help chaperone during the weekend, please contact our Youth Director, Jessica Averbach, or me.

*B'Shalom,*  
Nancy Serber, Youth Commission Chair

## Summer Camp/Israel Scholarship News

*Today 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 for all of your support.

Scholarship applications **will be available in December** for summer 2006 Jewish camp and Israel experiences. Forms will be available through the synagogue office and online at [bnaiemet.org](http://bnaiemet.org). **Applications must be completed in full and returned to the synagogue no later than the January 31, 2006** 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 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. 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 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.

Two notes have come in from Summer 2005 participants in the scholarship programs. See page 10 for what Devorah Lederman and Lauren Rutzick have to say about their experiences this summer:

# Our Family

## *The Wandering Jews of B'nai Emet*

We have a very special letter for this edition of the *Scroll* from our own Dorit Chazin, who is now serving in the Israeli Army. Her letter speaks for itself:

### *An Amazing Experience*

I didn't think that I would have the courage to go off on my own and do something that I had never dreamed of doing. Senior year, as the college response letters came in, I realized that I needed to be somewhere else and fulfill an obligation that spoke to me. Last September I decided to make Aliyah and join the Israeli Army.

I remember my first day when my parents took me and my eighty-pound backpack to the draft center where today's group of eighteen year-olds would be sent off to become soldiers. I was excited and surprisingly not that nervous. The patio of the draft center was filled with soon to be soldiers and their families. It was one big teary-eyed photo shoot like when parents send their kids off to their first day of school. My parents waved me good-bye crying as the bus full of my peers, all in a slight state of shock, pulled out into the base where we would be inducted and sent off to boot camp.

Basic training was three months of sheer experience. I lived in a big tent with 11 other girls and a few stray cats (which are as numerous, if not more, than the squirrels in MN). It took getting used to army discipline and the commander's constant yelling. The training included guns, gas masks, hand to hand combat, and my favorite was a week of intensive field training. We were brought to the middle of the desert and slept in two person tents. No toilets no showers. We lived off of canned food and I'd do it again any day. We learned techniques to battle in the field including camouflage, crawling, attacking, and staging an ambush. I left that week scraped and bruised with bloody elbows and a body full of thorns. I loved it.

Now it's my turn to be commander, and *I'm* the one doing the yelling "drop and give me twenty!" I'm a commander (mefakedet) in Gadna. My base is in Sde Boker next to David Ben Gurion's grave. Gadna is a week of training that high school kids go through to prepare them for the army. It's a pre-boot camp and I'm the drill sergeant. During the summer Gadna offers an IDF experience for teens from all over the world including Americans on programs such as USY Israel Experience and Ramah Seminar.

Being a soldier has taught me a lot about myself, Israel, life, and the world. It's an experience that I wouldn't have missed out on. It has truly been a privilege to serve for Israel.

*Corporal Dorit Chazin*

*Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Dorit in this High Holy Days season and always.*

Dear B'nai Emet Synagogue,  
Thank you so much for the scholarship to go to Israel. The Alexander Muss High School in Israel was a life changing experience for me. Learning about Israel and Jewish history in Israel made me feel more connected to Torat, Eretz, and Am Yisrael. I learned so much about my Jewish heritage on Alexander Muss and I now have an everlasting connection to Israel and my Judaism. Thank you so much for helping me to make this happen. I will never forget going to the Kotel on Shabbat, climbing Mesada, or listening to my teacher explain a time in Jewish history when we struggled. Thank you again for giving me the experience of a lifetime.

*Sincerely,  
Devorah Lederman*

To the B'nai Emet Scholarship Committee,

I would like to thank you sincerely for giving me scholarship money from the synagogue's fund. I wasn't sure if it was a possibility for me to go to Israel until you were able to help me out by providing scholarship money. I've spent my past two months on the Alexander Muss Poland/Israel trip, and it was the most amazing experience I've ever encountered. I gained more independence on the trip, 50 new and wonderful friends, and a greater understanding and knowledge of Israel, the people, and the current issue of the Gaza Strip and everything else that follows. I feel I've gained a stronger Jewish identity as well. Thanks again for making my Israel experience possible.

*Sincerely,  
Lauren Rutzick*

*Todah rabbah to all of the volunteers who help in and around the office and the synagogue, whether it be with mailings, with filing, with physical repairs, or with helping to answer the phone. Your aid is greatly appreciated, and your presence always brings warmth and pleasantness to our work space.*

## Our Family

### October 14-31 Anniversaries

Max & Ruby Addis	56 years
Philip & Tikva Kelner	53 years
Morton & Sally Leder	53 years
Charles & Rasha Marks	55 years
Joseph & Frances Moses	50 years
Daniel & Jennifer Rubin	11 years
Daniel & Carol Tollman	21 years

### November Anniversaries

Clifford & LeeAnn Ancier	24 years
Walter & Judith Buchman	1 year
Leo & Maureen Fine	50 years
Allen & Sandra Harris	34 years
Robert & Naomi Kaplan	42 years
Rudolf & Marija Kessler	48 years
Jim & Esther Paletz	18 years
Randy & Sheryl Rutzick	19 years
Scott & Sandra Shmikler	18 years
Robert & Eileen Simon	20 years
Marcus & Sandra Teichner	30 years

If your anniversary is not listed, please call the synagogue office and let us know.



### We Extend our Condolences to...

- ...Allan Ackerman on the death of his aunt, Marion Dworsky...
- ...Rabbi Barry Woolf on the death of his aunt, Renee Margo...
- ...Michael Engel on the death of his brother-in-law, Moshe Fuchs...
- ...Sherry Coffino on the death of her aunt, Gussie Dim...
- ...and to all of their families and loved ones. May the Almighty comfort them, along with all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

### Mazal tov to...

- ...Joey Christensen, Brady Simon, and their families on their recent *b'nai mitzvah*.
- ... Maya Berezovsky and Noa Funk and to their families on their recent engagement.
- ...Ethan Tarshish and Julie Brenn and to their families on their recent engagement.
- ...Patti and Art Sherman on the birth of their granddaughter Rena Epshteyn, who is the daughter of Dmitriy & Elise Epshteyn and is also the granddaughter of Bella Reznick & Boris Epshteyn of Skokie, IL. Also, *mazal tov* to Blanche Singer, who is Rena's great aunt.
- ...Allen & Sandy Harris on the birth of their great niece, Dina Shoshanah Kaufman.
- ...Bonny & Mike Swatez on the recent *bat mitzvah* of their granddaughter, Joelle Swatez.
- ...Charlie Sherman for being chosen as one of the 2005 recipients of the Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. He is the son of Patti and Art Sherman.
- ...Sheila Cohen, who was recently honored by Jewish Family and Children's Service for 15 years of service to the local Jewish community.
- ...Stan Baratz on receiving the 2005 Man of Achievement Award from the Anti-Defamation League.

## Our Community

### October is Domestic Abuse Awareness Month

For generations, the Jewish people have fought bravely to end injustices inflicted upon us by others. But we have often remained silent about the injustices we inflict upon each other—especially regarding the issue of domestic abuse.

The Twin Cities community has certainly benefited from the tremendous work of many concerned individuals and organizations. There is still a very long way to go. The Jewish Domestic Abuse Collaborative was formed over a year ago in order to establish a collective, powerful, cooperative voice that supports initiatives to address and respond to relationship abuse. Currently made up of 26 members representing 14 organizations, the steering committee stands as a symbol of the diversity of our community and the various points of view that it encompasses—religious and secular, lay and professional, survivor and service provider, medical, legal and spiritual.

Gathered around a single table, this group respectfully discusses ideas and issues and celebrates the great strength that comes from our commonalities as well as our differences. Motivated by a commitment to change the way the community as a whole views and reacts to domestic abuse, we are dedicated to increasing public awareness and acknowledgment, education for youth, clergy, professionals and lay leaders, and an increase in the amount of funding provided for abuse-related programs and projects.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year, we mark this season of renewal by recognizing October as Domestic Abuse Awareness Month. We urge the entire community—each woman, man and family; every business; congregation and agency—to commit to this movement against domestic abuse. It is a commitment to action by all of us—as individuals and as an organization—that will finally and substantially impact this issue. Galvanized as a single voice working together towards a common goal, we will make our community a healthier, stronger, safer place for children, our future generations and ourselves. For information on how you can become involved please call Betsy Sitkoff, Jewish Domestic Abuse Collaborative Coordinator, at 651-690-8930.

*L'Shanah Tovah.*  
Doreen Frankel & Sandy Unger  
Co-chairs, Jewish Domestic Abuse Collaborative

# THE SCROLL

Newsletter of

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3115 Ottawa Avenue South

St. Louis Park, MN 55416

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

www.bnaiemet.org

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David L. Abramson.....Rabbi  
Michael Winikoff.....Cantorial Soloist  
Sean M. Murphy .....Synagogue Administrator  
Rabbi Barry Woolf.....Shabbat School Principal  
Jessica Averbach .....Youth 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!

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