



Congregation B'nai Torah Megilla

The Center Of Jewish Family Life In The Greater Trumbull Area

Vol. 5771

Issue 6

August/September 2011

From the President's Desk

by Jeff Levi



As I write this article in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, it is my sincere hope that everyone weathered the storm with only minimal damage to homes, businesses, and personal health.

Many of you, like me, may have lost power and/or hot water in our homes. It is amazing how many of today's conveniences and luxuries we take for granted; we only seem to notice them when we lose them, however temporarily. By the time we publish this article, however, I hope that everything is back to normal and that life's activities have fully resumed.

It is interesting that as I write this article, I am sitting in my 'dark' kitchen working on my battery powered laptop computer. Interesting because I have been procrastinating writing my Megilla article this month, using one excuse or another to delay the inevitable.

First, I was busy with getting my favorite youngest daughter ready to take her driving test, helping her practice her driving for many hours in the car. Next, I had some very aggressive work schedules to achieve in early to mid-August keeping me very occupied with my company, my employees, and my clients with their looming deadlines. Next, we had upcoming events at B'nai Torah, such as the Open House Shabbats that required attention. Finally, my favorite oldest daughter was preparing to move herself into college for her (continued page 3)

From the Rabbi

by Rabbi Colin Brodie

Dear B'nai Torah,

I must begin by thanking those of you who were able to be there, for being part of Elisheva's Batmitzvah celebration at the end of July. For the second summer in a row, I was able to reflect upon how fortunate we are to have raised our children within this outstanding and warm community. It was a magnificent day for us to witness how grown up our daughter had become. Dressed in her finery, Ellie showed us how much she understood what becoming a Batmitzvah was all about. She made us proud, she made us impressed, and she made us laugh....appropriately, of course, although Yoni hasn't quite forgiven Ellie for her 'bwleur' when referring to him, not once, but twice!

You may have received a 'thank-you' card from Ellie, probably the most unique thank-you card you have ever received as she took very seriously, both the person and the gift she received. Each card was different to the next, each more decorated than the next, as she relished the idea of expressing her gratitude for the extremely thoughtful and generous presents she had been given.

Ellie reminded me that although we are a community, and a very fast developing community, we are made up of many families, couples, and individuals. Each member of B'nai Torah is unique, with their unique likes, dislikes, interests, skills, and fears. We come together for the High Holidays, but (continued page 4)

Editor's Greeting



Dear friends, it is my great pleasure to bring you the September 2011 edition of the B'nai Torah Megilla. Many thanks once more to all who made it possible.

I get so many e-mails from fellow B'nai Torah congregants. Rather than fully rendered articles, many are simply short messages expressing a point of view, an impression, or opinion. From time to time, I like to share them.

I have reproduced two that are particularly inspiring.

Vince, I would like to send an article in about what I do. People are always asking me for theater advice, so here goes.

I have been a theater critic for over 30 years. You can hear me on WMNR 88.1FM FINE ARTS PUBLIC RADIO on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:55PM and Saturdays and Sundays at noon. The radio station has a website www.WMNR.org that publishes all my reviews from Connecticut and New York.

I have just started writing for www.curtainup.com - a very forward looking and international theater website as their CT representative. I have two pieces up right now: an article under "New and Noteworthy" about some of the plays that will be presented in CT Theaters this year and a review of Show Boat at www.goodspeed.org

You can read my reviews and others from CT at www.Ctcritics.net.
- Roz Friedman

Vince, I received this letter from some visitors who attended B'nai Torah Yiskor services. I just wanted to share it with everyone at B'nai Torah. How true it is!

"Enclosed please find my check to be used by your Congregation for its general purposes. I was present for your Yiskor service this week as a guest and, as always, I was warmly treated. I am sure you know what an inviting Congregation you have. You have a wonderful Rabbi, of whom you should be most proud. I found his service inspirational and look forward to visiting again in the future."
- Bonnie Lobel

From these we can only conclude that B'nai Torah is a friendly
(continued page 7)

The Megilla is the official synagogue bulletin of Congregation B'nai Torah, and is published about 11 times per year.

Congregation B'nai Torah serves as the Center of Conservative Jewish life in the Trumbull area.

Publisher:

Congregation B'nai Torah
5700 Main Street

Trumbull, CT 06611

Phone: (203) 268-6940

Fax: (203) 268-4844

Email:

info@bnaitorahct.org

Website:

www.bnaitorahct.org

Committee:

Editor-in-Chief:

Vince Woodward

Layout, binding & mailing:

Sharon Nagy

Printing: Susan Elkodsi

Subscriptions:

The Megilla is mailed to all members of Congregation B'nai Torah and to those expressing an interest in receiving it. Please contact the synagogue office to be included on the mailing list.

From the President continued

Junior year, getting ready to take her car to campus for the first time, ordering books for classes, getting her computer ready in time, and getting moved into a new room before the storm came through. My next 'excuse' on the list was going to be an upcoming black tie wedding that Terri and I will be attending for her cousin next weekend - on Labor Day Sunday.

So, with all these things going on, with all these 'distractions', I could not find a quiet block of time to sit down and put my attention toward writing my Megilla article. I kept thinking I would get to it as soon as I have a free moment without any of these distractions... I suppose G-d, in His own way, has answered my prayers(!), and given me this quiet opportunity to sit and write! On the other hand, this is His way of telling me to stop all the procrastination and get on with it. G-d does work in mysterious ways...

As the High Holidays approach, just four short weeks away, I write this article to report on the progress thus far of our High Holiday appeal drive.

First, I want to thank all of those who have promptly sent in their pledge cards already, as we are continuing to make steady progress toward our drive goals. So far, we have received pledges from more than 85 families, and I have personally received many positive comments and good feedback on the aspirations of this new appeal drive approach.

Although we have currently reached a pledge total of nearly \$22,000, this total is still short of our overall goal for the drive of \$30,000. This dollar total may sound good at first, and it is; but it is still less than the amount generated by the High Holiday drive last year (about \$27000).

Even understanding the economic difficulties we are all facing in today's world, the participation percentage, which is currently at just over 37 percent, is the most disheartening number for me.

Last year, our pledge participation percentage was well over this amount. I was hopeful that even if we could not achieve our very ambitious 90-100% participation level and even if we

(continued page 9)

Social Action

by Mara Brosler & Susan Nerenbeg

Let me start by welcoming all our new members to our B'nai Torah Family! Bruchim HaBaim and I look forward to meeting you.

This is an especially exciting year for us as our Talmud Torah has chosen "Tikun Olam" (Healing the World) as its theme for the year!

As usual, we will be doing our redeemable bottles and cans collection with the students, the proceeds of which we will use to further the Tikun Olam projects. Please remember to take the tabs off the cans for a separate collection to benefit Ronald McDonald House.

We will also be continuing the backpack program to assist kids in Bridgeport whose families the economy has hard hit hardest. More specifics on both these programs will come home with the students separately. For now, food items most

(continued next page)



wanted for the backpack program are:

- * Individual boxes of cereal
- * Hot Cereal packets
- * Microwaveable rice packets
- * microwavable meals
- * Mac and cheese
- * Spaghetti O's, ravioli/pasta with meat in cans
- * ramen noodle soups, canned soups
- * small cans of veggies
- * tuna fish
- * juice boxes, boxed milk, small bottled juice, hot cocoa packets
- * individual fruit cups and applesauce
- * Pop Tarts, granola bars, puddings (non-refrigerated)

Please note: We are not looking for many snacks. We are looking for items to make meals for these children

A new program for Talmud Torah will be providing one or two teams for the Rotary Clubs leaf-raking program for the elderly this fall. Of course, we also plan to provide a meal for the homeless with Mrs. Tarinelli again this spring.

We will be doing several programs separate from the Talmud Torah as well.

Our first project will be the Project Isaiah High holy Day
(continued page 8)

ultimately we are individuals within a community. Indeed the way we conduct our services reflects this. Rather than reading everything together, we break into what we call davening, praying to ourselves, which can sound a little disorderly, but provides us with the option of reading slowly, if we choose. We can focus on one prayer rather than another, or we might close our eyes and listen to the hum in the room, and then we come together for majestic moments that push us to continue the journey through this powerful day.

Rosh Hashanah is all about the hope for change and renewal, a reminder, that things do not have to be the way they were. We can begin again. We are supported as we struggle with the past and with the nagging feeling that nothing ever changes. On Rosh Hashanah we blow the shofar, perhaps as a clarion call to wake us up so that we might engage in all that life has to offer, or in the words of Rabbi Michael Strassfeld in his magnificent book, 'A Book of Life,' it is a sound beyond words, the cry of our souls seeking healing or seeking a response from G-d. I sounded the shofar during our ceremony to commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11. It seemed appropriate, to cry out, to be shaken, to focus on the need to change our world by changing ourselves.

There is one ceremony that we do not do at B'nai Torah during the High Holiday experience, and I regret it very much indeed. This is *Tashlich*. I love *Tashlich*, because it epitomizes the concept of being an individual in a community. We are supposed to go to a body of water, and throw breadcrumbs into it, as we symbolically cast away our sins, **Our** sins, not somebody else's. The issue for us is that there is an ordinance in the Town of Trumbull that forbids us to feed the geese. It would not be a great idea to be arrested on Rosh Hashanah, although it would be an interesting 1st amendment case! I'm not advocating that you break the law, of course, but I think *Tashlich* is a crucial part of the Holiday journey as we symbolically, yet physically leave behind aspects of the past, in order that we prepare for the future. So, I recommend that you go individually to a body of water some time during Rosh

(continued page 14)

Bat Mitzvah - Kayla Wallet

Kayla Wallet will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, September 24. Kayla is the daughter of Randi Blatt-Wallet and Steven Wallet of Monroe. She has an eleven year old sister, Diana.

Kayla is an 8th grade honor student at Jockey Hollow Middle School in Monroe. Her favorite subjects are Math and Language Arts. She is part of the Reading and Writing Rocks (RAWR) student mentoring program, which involves helping 1st grade students learn. Kayla is also a member of the school chorus.

Kayla has been dancing since the age of two. She has studied ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, modern, and pointe at Connecticut Dance in Monroe. She is part of the Connecticut Dance Performance Troupe where she has danced to raise money for charities, including the American Cancer Society and Brady's Smile. She also performs at various nursing homes around Fairfield County. In addition to dance, Kayla loves to play the piano and act. She has been in many plays, three of which she has had a starring role. Kayla has also enjoyed spending the past two summers at sleep-away camp at Camp Laurelwood in Madison, CT.

Kayla would like to thank her family, Rabbi Colin, Mrs. Volpe, and her B'nai Torah teachers for their support, guidance, and patience as she prepared for becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Cards Sent by Rabbi & the Congregation

Lloyd Baron & Family
In memory of Elayne Baron,
Mother & Grandmother

Jeffrey & Judith Zakim
& family
In memory of Sam Zakim

Don & Shirley Pollack
Mazel Tov on their marriage

Gertrude Kantrowitz
Mazel Tov on 95th birthday

Grace Zweig
Mazel Tov on daughter
Gabriella's Bat Mitzvah

Corine Koornhaf
& Jeffrey Scott
Mazel Tov on son, Max on his
Bar Mitzvah

Alice Missan
In memory of Seymour, hus-
band & father to Elizabeth,
Robin & Susan

Rabbis Colin & Amanda Brodie
Mazel Tov on daughter Ellie's
Bat Mitzvah

High Holiday Services 5772

Rosh Hashana

Wednesday, Sept. 28,
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 29
Shacharit 8:30 a.m.
Junior Congregation
11:00 a.m.
Maariv 7:00 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 30
Shacharit 8:30 a.m.
Junior Congregation
11:00 a.m.

Cemetery Service

Sunday, October 2,
1:00 p.m. at B'nai Torah Cemetery

Yom Kippur

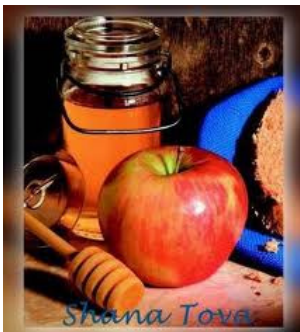
Friday, Oct. 7
Kol Nidre 5:50 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 8
Shacharit 8:30 a.m.
Junior Congregation 11:00 a.m.
Yizkor (approx.) 11:00 a.m.
Mincha & Family Service 4:40 p.m.
Neilah 5:55 p.m.

Sukkot

Wednesday, October 12
Erev Sukkot services
7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 13
Services 9:30 a.m.
Evening Service 7:30 p.m.



Friday, October 14
Services 9:30 a.m.
Erev Shabbat services
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 15
Shabbat Hol HaMoed Sukkot serv-
ices 9:30 a.m.

Shemini Atzeret

Wednesday, October 19
Erev services 7:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 20
Services 9:30 a.m.
Yizkor approximately
11 a.m.

Simhat Torah

Thursday, October 20
Dance & Sing with the
Torahs/Simhat Torah celebration
6:30 a.m.

Friday, October 21
Services 9:30 a.m.

Kaddish & Memorial

We recall members of our
congregation who have been
taken from us since last Yom
Kippur:

Sylvia Feinberg
Mordka Knopf
Seymour Missan
Helen Weiner

Their memories are
enshrined in our sanctuary
and are gratefully recorded
upon the tablets of our
hearts.

Sisterhood News

by Debbie Velthuisen

It has been a very productive, fun
and exciting year (in many ways).
There is a lot of news to share with
you.

The sisterhood barbecue July 24
was very successful. The weather
held up pretty well.

We had a super time schmoozing
and established a new Sisterhood
Board for the coming year:

President/Treasurer:

Debbie Velthuisen

Publicity: Linda Schulman

Parliamentarian: Shelly Berman

Recording Secretary:

Barbara Twickler

Correspondence Secretary:

Roni Yessenow

Education Programming:

Dorothy Schoengood

Phone Tree: Rosalind Belinke

We are still open to new members!
New members to the synagogue or
new to join the Sisterhood are enti-
tled to the 1st year free. If interest-
ed call Debbie at 203.445.9973.

Our meetings for the year will be
Sundays at 11am (Board members
will meet at 10:30am). The dates
are:

- * October 2
- * December 11
- * February 5
- * April 11
- * June 10



(continued page 8)

From the Editor (continued)

and stimulating shul of which we should be very proud.

Finally, I trust you have had a fine summer. Enjoy the dog days while you can. It seems inconceivable that we are already in September with a new school year and the High Holidays just below the horizon.

The ancient Greeks characterized a ship's progress away from the shore toward the skyline as "sailing up the sea". As the summer quickly passes, you can almost imagine yourself doing something similar, sailing upwards toward another horizon. Perhaps you can even feel a sea wind in your hair as you go. Progress is fast; events develop quickly and may leave us in their collective slipstream. *Tempus fugit*, you would say if you spoke Latin. Which I do not, so I will translate: Time flees. Contrary to popular belief, time does not fly; rather, it runs away, up the sea to the edge of perspective.

For the time being, let the horizon remain a hazy flat line in the distance and let us not concern ourselves with what is under it. The High Holidays are almost here and we eagerly anticipate them.

For easy reference, within this edition of The Megilla we have included a comprehensive schedule for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services. I look forward to seeing you there. Keep reading and writing - make the Megilla yours!

Vince Woodward

Phone: (203) 450-1846

E-mail: Vince.woodward@gmail.com



Exploration and Discovery

It's the start of a new school year at B'nai Torah Nursery School. Welcome back to school!

Donation Opportunities

Overview of Existing Funds

To make a donation to the synagogue toward a specific cause or endowment, in honor of a special event, occasion, or in memory of a loved one, the following funds are available. For more information about these funds or to make a donation, or if you have an idea for a new fund, please contact Bonnie Lobel.

General Fund

Nursery School Enrichment Fund

Nursery Playground Fund

Talmud Torah Fund

Kiddush Fund

Ritual Fund (Yahrtzeits, etc.)

Chumash & Machzor Book Funds

Torah Repair Fund

New Social Hall Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

The Jerome Mendell Fund

The Muriel Frankel Fund

The Alan Wollner Fund

The Mazal Knepler Fund

The Jerome Handleman Fund

Social Action continued

Food Collection. You will soon see Stop and Shop bags placed in the office and the entryway near the sanctuary. Please take one and use it to bring in your donation. Please be aware that Jewish Family Services much prefers \$10 grocery store gift certificates (Robert V. would be very happy to help you with that through our Scrip Program!), and all kinds of non-perishables work well for Trumbull Social Action. Then, on Nov. 13, we will be spearheading a food drive at the Trumbull and Monroe Stop and Shops for JFS and the food pantries in each of the respective towns.

Between now and Veteran's Day, we will be doing our annual Veteran's Day collection to benefit the Veteran's Home in Rocky Hill CT where one of our congregants currently reside. A separate mailing is going out with the details.

Other programs later in the year will be a diaper collection for Family Services Woodfield in Bridgeport, and a Spring Food Drive..

If you have other ideas and/or are interested in becoming more involved in Social Action here at B'nai Torah, we will be having a meeting on Sunday Oct. 16 at 11:45 in Herscher hall. Hope to see you there or you can contact either of

(continued page 14)

Goods and Services Auction

Sy Hirsch and Paul Antell, co-chairs



Mark 7:00 p.m., November 12, 2011, on your calendar for a fun evening at B'nai Torah. Through a silent and live auction presided over by none other than Rabbi Colin, we will be offering many items to bid on for house and home, entertainment, apparel, self-indulgence, etc. Raffle baskets add to the fun. The cost to attend is \$5 a person.

The goal is to raise at least \$10,000 of much needed funds to reach our fund raising goal for this coming fiscal year. To do this, we need the support of every member of this congregation.

Now think about where you shop and dine and who provides services for you. Perhaps they will give you an appliance or tune up on your car. Maybe you can get a manicure or a haircut, a spring or fall cleanup for your yard? Perhaps you can get some nice bottles of wine or a dinner for four at a restaurant you frequent.

Do you travel frequently? Perhaps you have some miles you can donate. If you use a chauffer or are a chauffer, perhaps you can donate a roundtrip service to one of the New York airports.

By now, I am sure you get the idea. The more goods and services we get, the more we make for our schul. This is a MAJOR fundraiser for the synagogue and we ask every one of our members to approach businesses you do business with, a service you or others could provide, or a time-share for a vacation home you might own to ensure we have a successful event.

Join us along with our auctioneer extraordinaire for an evening of fun. Of course, you will be able to "hop a nosh" as well. More information to follow; we hope to see you all there!

From the President (continued)

could not achieve our overall \$\$ goal, we would at least reach a higher overall participation percentage than last year. This has not been the case so far and, clearly, there are still a number of outstanding member pledge cards. Therefore, for me personally this is a 'dark' day indeed, pun intended.

However, there are still four weeks until my High Holiday speech, and I continue to have faith in a ground swell of pledge support from the many outstanding pledges. Nonetheless, I am considering beginning to write an appeal-like speech to deliver if we do not meet our goal. We had planned for this right up front, when we put together our new approach to the pledge drive.

I was open in letting you all know that we needed to reach our drive goals IF we were to have an appeal free Holiday service. Let me stress that even as I begin to think of the content for this new speech, I am CERTAIN, and I continue to maintain my HOPE and FAITH in the congregants of B'nai Torah, that surely this speech will be unnecessary.

I am SURE that we as a community are all very satisfied with our Rabbi. We are all very pleased with our educators and the Jewish knowledge our children are acquiring. We all enjoy the comfort of our Sanctuary, to socialize and to pray in together as a community, to share our simchas in, and as a place to remember our loved ones. For these reasons, I believe we all recognize the importance of supporting and sustaining our Jewish institution, our synagogue, within our community. The bottom line is that we need your support.

As 9-11 approaches its 10th anniversary, I recently heard President Obama talking about rekindling the 'Sprit of Unity' that pervaded our society in the aftermath of those horrendous terrorist attacks. However, a feeling of unity, by definition, is impossible without the support of everyone in the commUNITY. Does it only take such a horrific disaster to motivate people to unity? Alternatively, can we decide on our own to join in support of a single cause?

(continued next page)

Thank You for Your Support!

Submitted by Paul Antell

Take a walk to the main hallway near the office and you will see a beautiful map of Israel and four framed posters. These posters along with the brochures, which will be available shortly, not only serve to beautify our synagogue, but will also serve as a reminder to support Israel and to travel there as well.

Just as a reminder, there are still a few spots available for the March 10, 2012 synagogue trip to Israel, led by Rabbi Brodie. Contact me if you wish to join us.

On behalf of the Action Committee for Israel, thanks to the following members for underwriting the cost of this project (in alphabetical order):

- o Paul And Gale Antell
- o Allan And Ellen Berger
- o Melvin And Judy Cooper
- o Larry And Ellen Dinkes
- o David And Joan Gorbach
- o Sy And Roberta Hirsch
- o Melvyn And Nancy Mazer
- o Irwin And Beverly Peck
- o Stephen And Judy Polatsek
- o Jay And Marlene Rosen
- o Elliott And Judy Rudnick
- o Jonathan And Linda Schulman

Sisterhood News (continued)

If you have not yet joined, membership is only \$18 (payable to the B'nai Torah Sisterhood). We plan to have many activities for different ages and interests. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie.

We provide kiddush every shabbos, usually preparing food on Fridays at around 10am. If you would like to participate, even once a month would be helpful. We really have a great time working together - fantastic people!

Some tentative upcoming activities are:

[Membership Luncheon 11a.m. Oct 30](#)

[Rosh Chodesh Women's Program Nov 27](#)

[Vashti's Banquet Feb 22 2012](#)

[Women's Seder Mar 25 2012](#)

[Sisterhood Shabbat Jun 22 2012](#)

Because of Barbara Twickler's Activity Questionnaire, many were interested in educational and entertainment activities. We hope to plan several outings with various venues, prices and topics on the menu. When we announce an activity, please respond quickly as there is usually a time or size limit.

This summer we established our first Sisterhood joint organized activities between B'nai Torah, Rodeph Shalom, Beth El and B'nai Israel.(continued next page)

From the President (continued)

No matter what level or form that support takes on, I will continue to believe that everyone in our B'nai Torah community feels strongly about the desire to maintain a strong synagogue

community and is committed to keeping it financially sound and able to meet its obligations. A strong High Holiday pledge drive is just one important part of that equation.

As I conclude this article, I was hoping I would fulfill my metaphor and in my last paragraph restore the power to my home, to 'enlighten' me toward even greater hope for a wave of new pledge cards to arrive in the synagogue office. This of course would provide me another excuse for procrastinating over writing my appeal-like High Holiday speech.

Alas, the lights remain dark, I must write a new speech and the battery-operated clocks on the walls continue to tick forward toward the High Holidays. Yet I maintain my faith in our community to create its own power, and light its own way.

I will NOT trash my original NON-appeal speech, even as I write a new one - undaunted in the hope for success of our new approach over the old. If you DO NOT want to hear an "appeal" speech on these High Holidays, PLEASE give your support NOW. If you were planning to send in your pledge card, but like me have been procrastinating in your tasks, please send it in now, so we can count you in our pledge goals - our synagogue and our community requires a UNITY of support.

Please consider donating a Machzor (\$54) or a new Etz Hayim Chumash (\$72) in honor of or in memory of someone special.

Thank you to all who have donated Siddurim over the years; Because of your generosity, we do not need any additional Siddurim at this time.



We plan to do some more to provide programs that might be challenging for a synagogue on its own (special speakers, entertainers or trips).

Our first scheduled event will be 11am Sunday Nov 13, 2011 at congregation Rodeph Shalom. It will be a brunch with June Feiss Hersh, author of *Recipes Remembered: a Celebration of Survival*. There will be a book sale and signing afterwards. More information on this will follow.

Our Labor Day Tag Sale was BRILLIANT! A very big yasher koach to all the volunteers who made it the success it was. We brought in \$3,400. A heartfelt thank you to the following volunteers: Linda Schulman, Shelley Hall, Alissa Heilbrunn, Arkadiy, Daniel and Michael Belousov, Vincent, Debbie and Robert Velthuizen, Jill Makaron, Anita Rosnick, Janet Bass, Beverly Fein, Sue and



Stuart Nerenberg, Susan Elkodsi, Marge Labinger, Amanda, Yoni and Rafi Brodie, Rita Marino, Rosalind Belinke, Ellie Yanowitz, Barbara Twickler, Wayne Brosler, Bernice Dietz, Cheryl Elliott, Terri Levi, Gale and Paul Antell.

My apologies if I left anyone out! What a wonderful group of participants! It was a lot of work...but what a great pleasure!

Yasher Koach to all those who donated money for the dairy kitchen refurbishing; and to Janet Bass for all her work painting and generally beautifying our synagogue. Thanks also to Paul Antell for the beautiful framed posters of Israel in the front lobby.



Everyone enjoyed the trip to 97 Orchard Street May 22.

Please join us for the Book Club meeting Sunday 10am Oct 23. Everyone is welcome. The book this time is "The Lemon Tree" by Sandy Tolan (an Arab, a Jew and the heart of the Middle East). Discussion should be lively and insightful, facilitated by Robert Velthuizen.

Here's wishing everyone a safe, happy healthy and prosperous New Year. Let us be thankful for every moment of every day - and all the blessings in our lives.

DONATIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

To Rabbis Colin & Amanda Brodie, mazel tov on Ellie's Bat Mitzvah, from: Lorraine Buddy Hillman & Family, Leah & Bernard Ferszt, Diane Fried, Mara & Wayne Brosler

To Susan Elkodsi, full & speedy recovery, from Roz & Arthur Friedman

To Craig & Scott Rogoff, congratulations on graduation, from Marsha Cohen

To Rabbi Colin, gratitude for prayers for Eric Fisher, from Joan & Rich Watnick

To Mel Mazel, full & speedy recovery, from Judy & Elliott Rudnick, Ellie & Al Berger, Shirley & Dan Pollack

To Kenneth Kaplin & family, in memory of Rose Knepler Kaplin, from Stan & Eileen Kaplin

To Jeffrey Zakim & family, in memory of Smauel Zakim, from Stan & Eileen Kaplin

To Rabbi Colin Brodie, in memory of Shirley Bernstein, and thanks for Faith doing yoga class here, from Faith Wollner

To Faith Wollner & Family, in memory of Shirley Bernstein, from Beverly & Irwin Peck, Julie & Gary Knepler, Joan & Richard Watnick

TORAH FUND

To Susan Elkodsi, full & speedy recovery, from Roberta & Sy Hirsch

To Fred & Lisa Knopf & Family, in memory of Mordka Knopf, from Roberta & Sy Hirsch

To Nonie Rubin, speedy recovery, from Roberta & Sy Hirsch

NURSERY SCHOOL ENRICHMENT FUND

To Ellen & Robert Zunick, mazel tov on

Jonathan's engagement to Thea, from Susan & Stuart Nerenberg

To the Goby Family, in memory of David Goby, from Julie & Gary Knepler

To Alice Missan & Family, in memory of Seymour Missan

List of people that contributed to the Nursery School Playground

Marge & Richard Labinger; Jay & Judith Kopstein; Howard & Marcia Cohen

Richard Jackson; Terry & Randy Kalfus; Suzanne Novik & Branna & Dean's Nanny Sue; Linda & Jonathan Schulman; Judy & Mel Cooper

NEW CHUMASH

To Roz & Arthur Friedman, mazel tov on 55th wedding anniversary, from Anita & Hal Rosnick

In memory of Sandra Claire Brelau, from Ellen & Steve Mendell

MACHZOR

To Lloyd & Shari Baron & Family, in memory of Elaine Baron, from David & Elaine Kaplin

In memory of Sandra Breslau, from Ellen & Steve Mendell

RITUAL FUND

To Susan Elkodsi, full & speedy recovery, from: Judy & Elliott Rudnick, Ellie & Al Berger, Gale & Paul Antell, Charlotte & Jeffrey Denenberg, Irene Handleman, Beverly & Irwin Peck, Anita & Hal Rosnick, Linda & Jonathan Schulman, Gerry & Zelig Zacharow, Eleanore & Herb Yanowitz

ARTS & EDUCATION FUND

To Faith Wollner & Family, in memory of Shirley Bernstein, from Margery & Peter Verlezza

DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND

To Alice Missan & Family, in memory of Seymour Missan, from Irene Handleman

To Eleanor Grossman, in memory of Steve Grossman, from Shirley Cohen

To Dr. Peter Haffner, wishing you well, from Charlotte & Jeffrey Denenberg

To the Levitan Family, in memory of Susan's mother, from Charlotte & Jeffrey Denenberg

To the Frians Family, in memory of Ed Frians, from Charlotte & Jeffrey Denenberg

To Steve, Judy & James Franks, in memory of Kalman Linger, from Charlotte & Jeffrey Denenberg

Yizkor of Elda, Arja & Sam Ferszt Family, Waller Family, Perelsztein Family, from Leah & Bernard Ferszt

Yizkor services, from Leon & Sharon Field

Yahrzeit of Arja Ferszt, from Leah & Bernard Ferszt

KIDDUSH FUND

Yahrzeit of Donald Wiener, from Sandra Wiener

Yahrzeit of Gussie Wiener, from Sandra Wiener

Yahrzeit of Louis Searle, from Jonas Searle

Yahrzeit of Jerome Cohen, from Eleanore Cohen

To Susan Elkodsi, full & speedy recovery, from Debbie & Robert Velthuizen & Family

Yahrzeit of Bea Denenberg, from Charlotte & Jeffrey Denenberg

Yahrzeit of Iola Zeitz, from Fred & Charlotte Zeitz

Yahrzeit of M. Rinaldini, from Roz Belinkie

Yahrzeit of Max Zeitz, from Charlotte & Fred Zeitz

Yahrzeit of Stefan Bren, from Ruth & Leonard Kunin

Yahrzeit of Mark Stern, from Edna & Vic Stern

Yahrzeit of Hyman Wiener, from Sandra Wiener

Yiskor Shavuot, Charlotte & Jeffrey Denenberg

PRAYER BOOK

To Susan Elkodsi, full & speedy recovery, from: Bonnie & Manny Lobel, Renee Rubin, Brenda Kendall, Trina & Bill Berkowitz, Bernice Dietz

FUND TO BE DECIDED

To Charlotte & Jeffrey Denenberg & family, in memory of Adela Goryn, from: Trina & Bill Berkowitz, Susan & Marty Levitan & Family, Larry & Ellen Dinkes, Margery & Peter Verlezza, Renee Rubin, Sharon & Janet Nagy, Gale & Paul Antell, Roz & Arthur Friedman, Irene Handleman, Marge & Richard Labinger, Beverly & Irwin Peck, Bonnie & Manny Lobel, Anita & Hal Rosnick, Linda & Jonathan Schulman, Joan & Rich Watnick, Gerry & Zelig Zacharow, Debbie & Robert Velthuizen, Julie & Gary Knepler, Ellie & Sid Wiesner, Simone Klabin, Jill & Les Makaron

From the Rabbi continued

Hashanah, or the days leading up to Yom Kippur, and partake of this ritual. Perhaps, it could be done without the bread, reaching into your pockets and throwing out your 'sins.' I have a printed *Tashlich* service, if anyone would like to have it.

You may have read this tongue-in-cheek version of *Tashlich*, but just in case you missed it.

- * For ordinary sins, use white bread
- * For exotic sins, use French or Italian bread
- * For dark sins, Pumpernickel
- * For complex sins, multigrain
- * For warped sins, pretzels
- * For Sins of indecision, waffles
- * For being ill-tempered, sourdough
- * For excessive use of irony, rye bread
- * For continual bad jokes, corn bread
- * For hardening our heart, jelly doughnuts

Our services will be somewhat different this year, since, as you know, Cantor Helmreich will be absent after 25 years of service to B'nai Torah. I ask you to be patient and reflective about our services, and certainly I welcome feedback. I very much hope you will find them meaningful.

In the meantime, let us all resolve to cast off those actions or words that we regret. Let us work to preserve what is good and to leave behind what is bad.

My family and I wish you all a year of goodness and blessing. Shanah Tovah oometukah, a sweet and good new year.



Social Action continued

the social action co-chairs: Mara Brosler 203-445-1055 or maraafied@aol.com about activities with the Talmud Torah or Susan Nerenbeg 203-261-0312 about the veteran's collection.

L'shana Tova vChatima Tova.

Special Speaker Announcement!

On the Second Day of Rosh Hashana this year, B'nai Torah will be hosting a special speaker during the morning service. Professor Yehezkel Landau, from the Hartford Seminary will be giving a speech entitled '*Can Israel and Palestine Share the Abrahamic Blessing?*'. This promises to be an interesting and enlightening topic, full of information, and guaranteed to spark discussion at your Rosh Hashana dinner table. Professor Landau is the Director of the Building Abrahamic Partnerships program, and we are pleased to have him with us for our second day service.

Cafe B'nai Returns

Please join us every Sunday for Cafe B'nai

Cafe B'nai serves up a scrumptuous breakfast every Sunday morning. We have fresh bagels, coffee, bottled water, orange juice. Surprise special each week. Visit us in the lobby before class or after minyan.



Sisterhood of Congregation Rodeph Sholom
 Sisterhood of Congregation Beth El
 Sisterhood of Temple B'nai Israel
 Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Torah
 Present

Brunch with June Feiss Hersh, author of
Recipes Remembered:

A Celebration of Survival

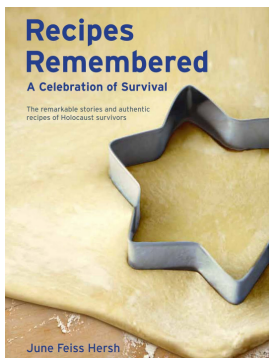
Sunday, November 13th, 11 a.m.

At Congregation Rodeph Sholom
 Park & Capital Aves., Bridgeport

June has combined her talent for cooking
 with her dedicated support of *The Museum of
 Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the
 Holocaust* by writing *Recipes Remembered*.

She will speak on the life-affirming aspects
 of the book, explain how she came to write
 it, and share anecdotes about some of the
 families featured. Admission: \$36.00 -
 brunch and a copy of the book \$10.00 -
 brunch only

RSVP required: Rodeph Sholom office,
 203-334-0159



Your Ad Could Be Here

We're looking for advertisers for the
 Megillah! Contact Karen Pinsky at
kpbnaitorah@gmail.com for
 information about ads and rates

August/September 2011

The Megilla

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE



It's about our unique approach to building
 educational excellence on a foundation of
 Jewish tradition and values, an appreciation
 of modern culture and a firm belief in the
 importance of weaving learning into living.

To learn more about the Ezra Academy
 difference, visit www.ezraacademy.net



75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, CT
 (203) 389-5500 www.ezraacademy.net

YOUR SOURCE FOR SENIOR SERVICES



SENIOR CHOICE AT HOME

An innovative long-term care program designed to help you stay in your own home
 203.365.6491

THE ROYAL AND LINE FRIEDMAN HOME CARE AGENCY
 Medical Home Care, Licensed Nurses & Therapists Medicare Accepted
 203.396.1136

COMPASSIONATE CARE COMPANIONS
 Non-Medical Home Care, Hourly & Live-In Available
 Companionship & Help at Home
 203.374.2273

OUTPATIENT REHAB THERAPY
 Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy
 Wellness & Exercise Programs
 203.365.8454

THE INSTITUTE ON AGING
 Geriatric Assessments & Case Management
 The Center for Elder Abuse Prevention
 203.396.1240

GRASHERS BY THE SEA ADULT DAY SERVICES
 Comprehensive Nursing, Social & Recreational Program
 Transportation Available
 203.365.6470

SKILLED NURSING CARE
 Long-Term Care & Dementia Care
 Goldstein Rehabilitation Center
 203.365.6483

175 Jefferson Street, Fairfield, CT 06425 | 203.365.6400 | www.jh.org

Page 15

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, September 20
Movie Night 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 2
Sisterhood meeting 11:00 a.m.
Cemetery service 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 9
Sukkah building

Sunday, October 30
Sisterhood paid-up member
luncheon 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 25
Movie Night 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 26
General Membership Meeting
7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 28
Talmud Torah PJ & Stuffed
Animal Shabbat service
7:30 p.m.

Are you a
Facebook user?



Find us on
Facebook

Check out our new
and updated

Facebook site at **B'nai Torah CT**. You will find information about upcoming events at B'nai Torah and links to articles and sites of interest to all of us. Recent updates include photos of the recent visit of the Tzofim Israel Scout Caravan, links to an ongoing blog about Conservative Judaism written by Arnold Eisen, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and a review of the book *Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza*.

You don't get the **e-Megilla**? You don't know what's happening at B'nai Torah every week.

Send an email to David Elkodsi at elkodsi@earthlink.net, that's all you need to do to get your weekly update of upcoming events at B'nai Torah and around the community.

CONGREGATION B'NAI TORAH

5700 MAIN STREET
TRUMBULL, CT 06611

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TRUMBULL, CT
PERMIT NO. 144