



קירוב

The Bulletin of Congregation B'nai Israel

Heshvan 5769

November 2008

*Judaism for Today
In a Warm and Caring
Environment*

FROM THE RABBI



Michaela Altenburger
Born: November 4, 2008
Time: 8:01 A.M.
Weight: 5 lbs. 13 oz.
Length: 18-3/4"

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Several weeks ago, one of my staff members spoke to me about how the current economic crisis has hit her home. Her husband has been out of work these past nine months. Her son, a construction worker was anticipating the loss of his job with the decline of the housing industry. His job loss would mean that he would not be able to keep his apartment and would have to return to live with them. She was terrified of losing her teaching position should the economic downturn spread through the education field, as it seems to already have.

Within this synagogue, there are members who have been separated from their employment, as well as other members who are actively seeking jobs as they re-enter the workplace. Notice I didn't say "lost their jobs," as this archaic expression connotes some kind of blame or malfeasance. Thirty two years ago I was laid off from my art teaching position at Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn, a job I truly loved. All NYC public school art teachers with under eight years of service were laid off over a period of two years as the City was rejected for a federal bailout (the infamous headline in the Daily News screamed, "Ford to City. Drop Dead!").

I was a number on a seniority list, and literally and figuratively my number was up. Thirty two years later, it still hurts.

Our synagogue is a community and it is entirely possible that some members of our community might be able to assist those members looking for work. Several of our job seekers are in the financial and business fields and are willing to share their resumes. Please contact me if you can be of assistance.

The state of financial health of our synagogue is an ongoing concern, even in decent times, hardly the times we are in. Actually, we're in reasonably good shape, barring any surprise repairs. We have a budget freeze in effect, at least until we get a sense of where the economy is heading. That means no "Wish List" initiatives or repairs except emergencies and general upkeep. We have ended the past two fiscal years in the black and the goal is to "three-peat."

We have a new roof, thanks to the enormous efforts of Shalom Lampell and his committee of Sol Berman and Chris Kimball. That's a capital expense we would have loved to avoid, and of course, avoidance is what made it necessary to do a full-scale replacement. Over the years, our perpetually leaky roof caused collateral damage, which we also repaired, including replacing the floor tiles and under-flooring in the back of the sanctuary, which had been warped by flooding and replacing and repainting the rotted drywall behind it. Shalom and team had written specs which were sent out to bid and he was on site for the whole extremely time consuming process.

Over \$25,000 was raised from you, our generous members. Given the economy, that was an excellent sum and went far toward paying the over \$30,000 total cost of all of the repairs. *Yasher koach* to all who contributed.

Our experiment in welcoming unaffiliated Jews to High Holy Days services free of charge was a success all around. Not only did we provide a *mitzvah*, but we met a new bunch of very nice people (with a surprising number of twenty/thirty-somethings) and actually made several hundred dollars more from their donations than we had made in ticket sales last year. Our hope is that several will join us for Shabbat services during the year, and maybe even become members. We intend to keep in touch with them.

The Kol Nidre appeal, still in operation, has been very successful, again in light of these tough times. It's likely we will top off only slightly less than last year's mark. That's pretty remarkable and again, reflects your commitment and generosity.

We are also the recipients of a long term commitment from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, to pay down the mortgage on the rabbi's residence. The first installment of \$15,000 lowered our monthly mortgage payment by \$100. There are angels out there.

We cannot become complacent, as we know that all nonprofits are experiencing tough times. We will need to be careful, as well as lucky to get through the year with our finances and more importantly, our spirit intact.

And that, God willing, I believe will really, really happen!

Shalom,
Joel

NOVEMBER EVENTS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH AT 7:00 P.M. MAIMONIDES ACADEMY CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Just a reminder that Maimonides Academy of Western Connecticut will celebrate its 30th anniversary with a fund-raising cocktail reception, entertainment, and both a silent and live auction on Saturday, November 8th 7:00 P.M. at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield, CT.

Tickets are still available at \$100 each For more information on the 30th Anniversary Celebration, please contact Dawn Roberts, Fundraising Committee Chair at 646-468-0239 or Roberts4@snet.net

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH AT 11:00 WOMEN'S GROUP DISCUSSION AND BRUNCH

Please join us for another provocative Woman's Group discussion this Sunday. Our topic will be Growing Up Jewish in Different Parts of the U.S. Come share your adventures or just listen to others. We look forward to seeing you!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH FROM 11:30 A.M. - 12:15 P.M. HEBREW READING CRASH COURSE

We are pleased to offer another Hebrew Reading crash course to our members and to anyone in the community who might like to learn to read Hebrew. Our member, Dr. Charles Cahn, will be teaching this course and it will run for ten weeks.

All are welcome. No prior knowledge necessary.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH FROM 4:00 - 6:00 P.M. ARTSHOW RECEPTION FEATURING THE WORK OF PHILIP GELBER

Don't miss this wonderful reception and art show running through the month of November at the Ridgefield Library featuring the work of CBI member Philip Gelber.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH AT 7:00 P.M. - INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ARC (Association of Religious Communities) will be hosting its Greater Danbury Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service on Monday, November 24th at 7:00 P.M. at the United Methodist Church at 5 Clapboard Ridge Road in Danbury. The guest speaker this year is Rev. Phyllis J. (P.J.) Leopold and this year's theme is "Building Bridges."

It will be an evening of Thanksgiving prayer and music. Let's have a good representation from B'nai Israel.

THANKSGIVING ASSISTANCE FOR ADOPTED FAMILIES

This year, as we have for the past several years, the Congregation B'nai Israel community will be providing food assistance to six needy families in the Danbury community. Originally a Hebrew School project to teach the concept of *tzedakah* to our youngest members, the program, sponsored by the Interfaith AIDS Ministry, has expanded to include all of us who are able to help. Once again, Vanessa Hirsch will coordinate this effort.

Below is a list of items that are needed. All items must be at the synagogue no later than November 23rd as they will be delivered to Interfaith Aids Ministry on November 24th. Please contact Vanessa at hirschvanessa@sbcglobal.net or at 203-790-8648 to tell her what item(s) you will be donating or if you have any questions. (Turkeys are provided by IAM through donations they have received). Vanessa also needs four (4) volunteers to help put the baskets together on Sunday, November 23rd. Please let her know if you can help with this.

Needed:

12 boxes of stuffing, 12 boxes of mashed potatoes, 12 bags of frozen veggies, 6 bottles regular Coke, 6 bottles of diet Coke, 6 bottles of apple juice, 6 pumpkin pies, 6 containers of butter, 6 bags of dinner rolls, 12 cans of gravy, 12 large cans of yams, 6 bags of marshmallows, 12 cans of cranberry sauce, 6 large cans of chicken broth, 6 large baskets, 6 settings of plastic goods for 8, 6 bags of potatoes, 6 bags of sweet potatoes, 6 bags of salad, 6 salad dressings, fresh fruit, fresh veggies, onions, celery, tomatoes carrots, etc.

GOOD TIMES WE SHARED





Photos courtesy of Alice Cahn and Doreen Waver

WOMAN'S GROUP MEETING

B'nai Israel is fortunate to have exciting, intelligent, witty, informed (not to mention attractive) women in our congregation. (Men, are you reading this? Please take note!) These women, as part of the B'nai Israel Women's Group, are invited to meet monthly to discuss topics relevant to their lives as Jewish women.

Our October Brunch meeting was lively and informative as we discussed what we, as Jewish women, take away from our High Holiday services to help us lead our lives in more meaningful and productive ways. Some of our male congregants, who were part of a group working outdoors to construct a *sukkah* tried to enter our meeting because they said we seemed to be having a great time. It was in vain as we women needed our space to ponder, learn and relate to each other. (Sorry guys, we love you, but puhleeze!)

On Sunday, November 9 our next brunch meeting will take place at 11:00 A.M. We'll be reminiscing about growing up Jewish in different communities around the world. I'll give a mini-review of a book I'm currently reading and enjoying about a Jewish woman who grew up in old Cairo, "The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit" by Lucette Lagnado.

Please join us for another interesting brunch meeting. It's an hour and a half of time you won't regret spending with other terrific B'nai Israel women. We want you! We need you as part of our group!

Natalie Slavin



Photos courtesy of Jessica Block

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Meet David Maser

When David Maser returned to B'nai Israel as a member earlier this year, he was immediately summoned to the *bimah* to davon -- an action that he performs with precision, ease and obvious feeling.

David and his wife, Sandra, came to Danbury in 1975. As a sales manager for a printing company based in NYC he divided his work time between his office there and traveling throughout New England. Although David is now enjoying retirement, he continues to work as a life guard and water aerobics instructor at the YMCA. He and Sandra, a retired operations manager at Oppenheimer and Co., enjoy spending time with their two grandchildren, Skylar and Tye.

As a child growing up in Manhattan, David attended Ramaz School, a Jewish Day School that gave him a solid background in Hebrew and Judaic Studies. The Maser family were members of CBI when their daughter, Amy, and son, Gary, reached *Bat/Bar Mitzvah* age. B'nai Israel's then rabbi, Jack Moline, required that one parent attend Saturday morning services weekly along with his/her *bat/bar mitzvah* age child. David became the designated parent to attend Shabbat services and soon discovered that his early training held him in good stead leading to a real satisfaction in active participation. Since that time he has become a consistent synagogue attender, a practice that he has found to greatly enhance his life.

David most appreciates the traditional service and finds CBI much to his liking. He loves the camaraderie of the congregation and has great respect for Rabbi Nelly. Having a reliable weekly minyan on Shabbat morning is "fantastic" he explains.

And B'nai Israel is delighted to welcome David back and is grateful for his consistent enhancement of our services.

Pat Goldman

CBI EVENTS & CLASSES

Mondays at 8:30 A.M. Torah With Modern Commentary (will resume in February).

Saturdays, beginning October 25, 2008 for one hour after Shabbat services. A Hebrew Class designed to teach adult learners the rudiments of Hebrew grammar and a vocabulary of Siddur and Torah Hebrew in order to provide more depth to the Shabbat Service. Taught by Rochelle Hutchings, the class is open to all with a familiarity with Hebrew letters.

Sunday, November 9th at 11:00 A.M. Women's Group Brunch and Discussion

Sundays beginning November 9th for ten weeks from 11:30 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. Hebrew Crash Reading Course. All are welcome. No prior knowledge necessary.

**Religious School: Tuesdays 4:00- 6:00 P.M.
Sundays 9:30-12:30 P.M.**

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Call Cheryl at the office (792-6161) for your gift card(s).



TREES FOR ISRAEL

\$18.00 PER TREE

TO BENEFIT

THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS

PAYABLE TO:

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

Contact Gail Boms

For Information

203-740-9888

SCHEDULE OF SHABBAT SERVICES

Services begin at 9:30 a.m.

✧ **Shabbat 10 Heshvan, November 8, *Lekh L'kha*:** Abraham and Sarah are called by God to set out for Canaan and become a people.

Haftarah: Isaiah 40-27-41:16

✧ **Shabbat 17 Heshvan, November 15, *Vayera*:** Abraham's tests: The birth and binding of Isaac.

Haftarah: II Kings 4:1-37

✧ **Shabbat, 24 Heshvan, November 22, *Haye Sarah*:** Sarah dies and Isaac is paired with Rebecca. *Haftarah:* I Kings 1:1-31

✧ **Shabbat, 2 Kislev, November 29, *Toldot*:** The wrestling twins Jacob and Esau are born.

Haftarah: Malakhi 1:1-2:7

✧ **Shabbat 9 Kislev, December 6, *Vayetze*:** Jacob leaves home to make his own life.

Haftarah: Hosea 12:13-14:10

✧ **Shabbat 16 Kislev, December 13, *Vayishlah*:** Jacob reunites with his brother Esau.

Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1-21

CANDLE LIGHTING

November 7, 2008:	4:24 P.M.
November 14, 2008:	4:17 P.M.
November 21, 2008:	4:12 P.M.
November 28, 2008:	4:08 P.M.
December 5, 2008:	4:06 P.M.
December 12, 2008:	4:07 P.M.

YAHARZEITS

15 Heshvan, November 13, 2008

Karl Bank (Alex Bank)

18 Heshvan, November 16, 2008

Leo Mendlovitz (Pat Goldman)

22 Heshvan, November 20, 2008

Rhea Yulman (Susan Tritter)

25 Heshvan, November 23, 2008

Gunter Hermann (Patricia Weiner)

26 Heshvan, November 24, 2008

Frances Wasserman (Roslyn Bank)

27 Heshvan, November 25, 2008

Clara Shenker (Martin Shenker)

Sylvia Steinberg (F. Richard Steinberg)

28 Heshvan, November 26, 2008

Eugene Cahn (Charles Cahn)

29 Heshvan, November 27, 2008

Fred Adler (Dennis Adler)

1 Kislev, November 28, 2008

Sidney Steinberg (Jeff Steinberg)

4 Kislev, December 1, 2008

Aaron Klebanow (Marcia Klebanow)

5 Kislev, December 2, 2008

Jerry Simon (Paul Simon)

8 Kislev, December 5, 2008

Gertrude Glickman (Sol Berman)

10 Kislev, December 7, 2008

Golde Rochma Kerstein (Michael Kerstein)

12 Kislev, December 9, 2008

Gloria Mark (Paula Cook)

13 Kislev, December 10, 2008

Barbara Salm (Joyce Shenker)

THANKS! THANKS!

For the General Fund

✧ Roz and Alex Bank in memory of Karl Bank

✧ Pam and Shalom Lampell *mazel tov* to Rabbi Nelly and Mark on the birth of their daughter, Michaela

For Their Generous Kiddush

✧ Jean and George Ohring in honor of their grandson Isaac's birthday

For the Robinson Children's Book Fund

✧ Barbara and Joel Levitt *mazel tov* to Rabbi Nelly and Mark on the birth of their daughter, Mich