

*Serving the Northern
Middlesex County
Jewish Community*

NEVE SHALOM

נוה שלום

FROM THE RABBI

By Gerald Zelizer

The Quest for Pluralism in Israel

We all know that Israel is the only democratic state in the Mid-east. Most are also aware that there is a serious flaw in Israel's democracy – namely in the religious sphere. Public expressions of religion are under the authority of what we would call Orthodox (a “catch all” – there are many forms of ‘Orthodoxy’ – ranging from Fundamentalists to Modern). How did that all start? At the establishment of Israel in 1948, the first Prime Minister **David Ben Gurion** made a deal. Although not Orthodox himself, he agreed with the Orthodox that, in return for, for example, buses running on Shabbat in some cities like Tel Aviv and Haifa, the Orthodox would be granted hegemony over all official state religion. Items like marriages, gittins (Jewish divorces), funerals, appointment of chief rabbis, neighborhood rabbinic functionaries working for the government, supervision of the IDF, would all be under the authority of the Orthodox. Their hegemony also included the authority over the Kotel – the “Wall” in Jerusalem. Of course, that agreement in 1948 evolved and was massaged through the years. But the basic principal of Orthodox public religion remained.

Much of Diaspora Jewry, including our Conservative Movement, contend that the Kotel belongs to world Jewry as a critical religious symbol, even though it stands within the State of Israel (of course, for many years that was not the case because it was in the hands of Jordan). We argued that liberal kinds of religious services – includ-

ing the participation of women, should be allowed equal access at the Kotel. For decades that was impossible. The Orthodox establishment designated a prayer area with a thick mehitzah down the middle. Women were separated on the other side. As the years progressed, the men's section expanded, and space allocated to the women's section diminished.

Recently there has been a dramatic change for the better. More and more, the government of Israel acknowledges the point of view that the Kotel is a sacred spot for all of world Jewry, agreeing to accommodate our “flavor” of Jewish services, – as well as Reform – and Reconstructionist – without negating the Orthodox. Jewish Agency Chairman **Natan Sharansky** was appointed to come up with a compromise after interviewing all streams of Jews, plus Arabs, Christians, etc.

The basic outline of the compromise is as follows. Spatially, the Kotel actually extends well beyond the particular area with the plaza that many of us know as the Orthodox synagogue. It reaches hundreds of meters down to the “right side” – as you look face on at the Kotel - all the way to what is called “Robinson's Arch.” That is an arch of the Ancient Temple named after the archeologist who uncovered it in modern times. Even before this compromise, Conservative and Reform services, egalitarian services, were held informally at that place. I have prayed at Robinson's Arch with Conservative Jews many times. It is a very inspirational environment – one literally stands next to boulders which were part of the second Temple, before it was destroyed by the



Romans in 70 C.E.

The Sharansky compromise calls for that whole area to be expanded and formalized to facilitate non-Orthodox religious services. This accommodation is recommended after the protests over the years, harassment, even arrests of many Jewish women who prayed at the Kotel and chanted the service as “Baalei Tefillah” wearing tallit and tefillin, as they would pray in our synagogue. Significantly, the Orthodox Rabbi Rabinowitz who has authority

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NOTES FROM THE HAZZAN

By Hazzan Sheldon Levin

Springing Ahead

This spring has been an amazing chance to celebrate Israel's birthday. At Neve Shalom we had the Israel Segal Lecture with **Moshe Halbertal** challenging us to think about the morality of war. The Hebrew School children built a model of the Old City of Jerusalem with thousands of Legos. The ISRAEL 65 day-long celebration included three concerts, six speakers, four films, demonstrations and participation of Israeli cooking, dancing and Krav Maga, many arts and crafts tables, a huge model of the Kotel made by the kids, wonderful vendors, eight exhibitors of Israeli organizations and food from the Sisterhood. I want to thank **Jennine Shpigel** of the JCC, **Linda Gotlib** of Neve Shalom's Israel Affairs Committee, **Rabbi David Vaisberg** of Temple Emanu-el and **Rabbi Ari Saks** of Beth Mordecai who co-chaired this event with me. Thanks also to every volunteer who staffed tables, ushered, led sessions, organized things, performed, sold food or helped in any way.

The Susy Schwartz Concert brought **Cantor David Amar** leading famous Israeli songs and comedian, **Benji Lovitt**, sharing barbs about Israeli travel and life. A fun time was had by all. In May I chaired the Cantors' Convention including a wonderful concert of world Jewish music celebrating Israel's birthday.

In June we look forward to two concerts in Monroe Township at the Marasco Theater. Federation is hosting **Margot Leveret** and the Klezmer Mountain Boys with guest singer **Naomi Miller** on Wednesday, June 19 at 7:30 pm.

On Sunday, June 23 at 3:00 pm, Makhelat Hamercz, the Jewish Choir of Central NJ is singing a program of mostly Israeli selections with some Broadway, opera and Yiddish added. Our guest soloists are **Cantors David Perper** and **Faith Steinsnyder**, two of the finest cantors today. This is not a cantorial concert but a celebration of Israel with lots of fun and participation. Tickets can be ordered by phone 732-322-1252 or 732-688-4146 or online at www.MerczChoir.org



Cooking demonstrations at ISRAEL 65



Margot Leveret and the Klezmer Mountain Boys



Cantors David Perper and Faith Steinsnyder

IN MEMORIAM ב"ה

Walter Steigerwald
 father of Stuart Steigerwald

Betty Simon
 our member and wife of
 Murray Simon

Dorothy Baum
 mother of Michael Baum



Congregant Q&A

The Napchen Family

By Debbie Kestin-Schildkraut,
Vice President, Membership Committee



This month...get to know more about our members, the Napchen family: Audrey, Joel, Lindsay and Mathew.

You've heard her cheerful voice on your phone on Thursday nights, and seen her on the bimah most

weekends. While we've all had the benefit of experiencing her energy and enthusiasm in one way or another, I thought it would be fitting to feature Audrey and her family in this issue. As she wraps up her Presidency, I would like to personally thank Audrey for the countless hours of dedication, caring and diligence that she has put into this role over the last two years. Her leadership style has been warm, welcoming and always professional, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to get to know her more and work with her, as she embraced this role in a positive and passionate fashion. Yasher Koach Audrey! Now let's all find out a little bit more about Audrey and her family.

How long have you been members of Neve Shalom?
Nineteen years.

What made you join Neve Shalom?

Our son Mathew attended Nursery School at Neve Shalom, and when he went on to Kindergarten, I (Audrey) started working as a teacher in the Nursery School. I became friends with the teachers and moms who were Neve members. We learned that Neve had a first rate Hebrew School and that was very important to us. We became members when Lindsay entered Kita K'tana. We were warmly welcomed by then Membership Vice President **Sandy Fields**, and the rest is history.

What do you like best about Neve Shalom?

Neve Shalom has first rate educational opportunities for children as well as adults. There is a warm wonderful, participatory service on Shabbat and there is a genuine feeling of care for fellow congregants.

Where are you each from originally?

Audrey grew up in Edison and is a graduate of Edison High School. Her family belonged to Congregation Beth El in Edison. Her father was the President of the synagogue. Originally from the Bronx, Joel grew up in central New Jersey and graduated from New Brunswick High School.

Tell us about your professions?

Joel is a manager for Home Depot in Milltown, NJ. He has been with Home Depot for 13 years, and has been in managerial retailing for most of his career. Audrey has been a Jewish communal professional for the last 15 years. She is currently Director of Women's Philanthropy for Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County. Previously, she was Executive Director for Temple Beth Ahm in Springfield, NJ.

What are your hobbies and interests?

Joel knows every trivial statistical fact about baseball and sports history. He is an avid and lifelong Yankees fan. Audrey's interests are music, reading and synagogue life.

Anything you want to share about your kids and their interests and/or professions?

Our son Mat is getting married to Morgan this June. We are very excited. They are a USY couple and met while on USY on Wheels. Our daughter Lindsay is the Director of Teen and Youth Services for the JCC in Scotch Plains. She has a Masters in Jewish education from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Both kids worked as paras in our Hebrew school and were officers in our USY chapter. This strong foundation at Neve Shalom is what led Lindsay to her avocation as a Jewish communal professional.

What is something that people may not know about you?

Joel and I met while playing volleyball at the old YM/YWHA in Highland Park. Originally, I was planning to fix him up with my cousin but she never showed and I got to know him. We really liked each other! Here I was, interviewing him for my cousin and we fell in love. I'm really glad I didn't introduce him to my cousin.

Audrey has successfully fixed up four other couples who have gotten married, including her own brother. We have a "yenta" in our midst? Who knew? (Maybe Audrey's next gig should be running J-Date?!?)

Any highlights or favorite moments or aspects from your Neve Shalom presidency?

The work of the long range planning committee has been outstanding. I have never seen a more dedicated group of people researching, making calls, coming up with proposals, etc., all to make our congregation stronger for the future. I am so happy to be a part of this team. While it can be tough work, it has been a great experience.

It has been a privilege to be President of Neve Shalom. Congregants have been nothing but wonderful and supportive.

We have a wonderful congregation staff and clergy. Rabbi Zelizer has been a great partner. We had many opportunities to talk and think things through - things that greatly affected and benefitted the congregation. Hazzan Levin - there is no end to his energy and creativity. We are lucky to have him. He is a treasure.

Sisterhood and Men's Club invite you to join us for breakfast with the Rabbi

"Common Misconceptions about Judaism, and the Reality"



Please join us Sunday, June 9, 2013

10:00 am

Neve Shalom

Breakfast will be served

Neve Community Conversations... We want to hear from you!

Please participate! The on-going vitality of our synagogue is a top priority. As part of the Long Range Planning Committee's efforts, we want to reach out to as many segments of our membership as possible to gather people's interests and feedback on all aspects of the synagogue. We felt the best way to do this would be in small groups, where people can feel more comfortable to speak up and share their views. Each session should take approximately 90 minutes.



If you would like to host or participate in one of these sessions, please contact **Rena Kallman** at renakallman@gmail.com or **Debbie Schildkraut** at dkestins@gmail.com, or call the synagogue office.



HEBREW SCHOOL NEWS

By Hazzan Sheldon Levin

A Celebratory Spring



Our spring was very full. Maccabiyah centered around Israel which was fun and educational. We remembered Yom Hazikaron (Israel's Memorial Day) and Yom HaShoa (Holocaust Remembrance Day).



With the help of architect Sid Schwartz, and a grant from Federation, we built a model of the Old City of Jerusalem with thousands of Legos.

Register Online

for Hebrew School at http://www.neveshalom.net/hs_registration_2013-2014.pdf



At the Israel 65 Celebration we sang....



....and danced.





...did crafts.



....placed messages in the Kotel.



....solved puzzles.



....and much, more!!
 On Lag B'Omer we did fun sport activities. The cooking chug made Israeli cakes and Shavuot desserts. On the last day of school the award Assembly shared many of the highlights of the past year and plans for the future.

Neve Shalom would like to thank the following people for chanting Torah in the month of April: T=Teen, JR=Junior

- Ron Becker..... 16
- Andrea Colby 3
- Benjamin Daniels..... T 1
- Jessica Dobbs..... T 1
- Lawrence Dombrow 1
- Michael Friederwitzer 12
- Sam Gilbert..... 2
- Eric Goldman 2
- Rosalie Green 2
- Bruce Greenberg 3
- Larry Howitt..... 1
- Will Howitt..... T 1
- Rena Kallman 2
- Sidney Krane..... 1
- Max Lipschutz..... T 1
- Barbara Osofsky 1
- Daniel Rosenfield..... T 1
- Mark Rosenfield 8
- Michele Rosenfield..... 2
- Sophie Rubin..... T 1
- Cathy Salamon..... 1
- Brett Schildkraut..... 2
- David Schildkraut..... T 1
- Debbie Schildkraut 2
- Sarah Schildkraut..... JR 1
- Elyse Schulman..... 1
- Jeffrey Schulman 1
- Stacey Sern 1
- Martin Sutzky..... 1
- Arlene Smith 1
- Barbara Spack..... 3
- Lisa Spiegel 2
- Alan Stern 1
- Stephen Traum..... 5
- David Yellin 1



HAFTARAH

- Ron Becker
- Aimee Braverman
- Jessica Dobbs..... T
- Bruce Greenberg
- Will Howitt..... T
- Max Lipschutz..... T
- Barbara Spack

ASHREI

- Jacob Anes..... JR
- Sarah Schildkraut..... JR

CALLED TO THE OFAH

By Flora Cowen

On Saturday, June 8, **Evan Derector**, the son of **Stacey and Scott Derector**, will become a bar mitzvah. Evan's brother **Justin** will be celebrating with him on that day, along with **Grandma Brenda and Grandpa Howie Derector** from Port St. Lucie, FL; **Grandma Ellen and Grandpa Perry Saines** from Marlboro; and aunts, uncles and cousins from Florida and Colorado.



Evan is in grade 7 at Edgar Middle School in Metuchen, where his favorite subjects are Gym and Social Studies. He participates in several sports, including baseball, soccer, flag football, and floor hockey. His hobbies and interests include "playing sports and umpiring," and in his spare time, he likes "hanging out with friends and listening to music."

With his family, he has traveled in the United States to California, Nevada, Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Washington, DC. He has also traveled outside of the United States to the Bahamas, Italy, and Canada.

For his mitzvah project, Evan will "volunteer for the Fuce 5K race, which helps Metuchen and Edison families in need."

Jacob Daniel Anes, the son of **Debbie and Ron Anes**, will become a bar mitzvah on Saturday, June 1.



Many family members will join in the celebration of Jacob's bar mitzvah, including his brother **Josh**, a senior at J. P. Stevens High School; his **Grandparents Nancy and Alan Carlin** from Palm Beach Gardens, FL; his **Grandmother Minna Anes** from Howard Beach, NY; **Uncle Wayne, Aunt Liz** and cousins **Ben, Max, Sarah and Sam Carlin** from Demarest, NJ; **Aunt Barbara, Uncle Deren** and cousins **Alec and Anders Getz** from NYC; and **Aunt Amy Carlin** from NYC.

Jacob is in the seventh grade at Woodrow Wilson Middle School in Edison, where his favorite subjects are Social Studies and Science.

He plays basketball with Kadima, and he also enjoys playing baseball with travel and rec teams. When he plays baseball, he answers to the nickname "Wheels." He tells us, "My teammates in baseball call me Wheels. My coach gave me that nickname at a team workout when he realized that I was not one of the faster runners!"

In other activities, Jacob reports, "I play the clarinet. I collect baseball cards. In my spare time, I like to be outside playing sports with my friends." Jacob also loves the Red Sox and one of his favorite memories is watching the Red Sox play at Fenway Park. He has also attended several baseball games at Shea Stadium, Citi Field and various minor league ballparks.

Family travels have taken Jacob to Israel, the Caribbean, Florida, Boston, and "all over the East Coast, mostly visiting college campuses!"

For his mitzvah project, Jacob "counted, sorted and packed 25,000 brochures into packs of 25 and then in boxes by school, for the CARE Committee to distribute to all of the Edison Public Schools for their charity walk."



Ilana Rosen, the daughter of **Melanie and Eric Rosen**, will become a bat mitzvah on Saturday, June 15. Ilana is looking forward to this special day and being able to share it with family and friends, both near and far, including her sister **Rachel**; **Grandma Marilyn and Pop Pop Steven Rosen** from Edison; **Aunt Gail and Uncle Marty Komisar**, and cousins **Randi Schachter, Eric Schachter, and Bradley Komisar** from Milwaukee; **Sarah Minkin** (Bradley's fiancée); **Aunt Donna and Uncle Evan Adelglass**, and cousins **Rebecca, Brett and Jeffrey** from Westport, CT; and **Aunt Carrie, Uncle Dan Lipton**, and cousins **Josh and Chloe** from New York City. She is also excited to be reunited with her friends and counselors from Camp Nejeda, her home away from home.

Ilana will be the fifth member of her family to celebrate the rite of bat mitzvah at Neve Shalom. Her **Grandma Marilyn**, father **Eric**, sister **Rachel**, and **Aunt Carrie** also became b'nai mitzvah at Neve Shalom! And, as an infant, Ilana was named in Neve Shalom. She will carry on a great family tradition at her bat mitzvah.

Ilana is a seventh grade student at Edgar Middle School, where her favorite subjects are Science and Art. Ilana tells us that she "...enjoys sewing, reading, playing Foosball and Nok Hockey, collecting make-up and watching TV. Some of my favorite shows are 'Jeopardy', 'Body of Proof', 'The Lying Games', and 'Charmed'. Also, I play tennis, love to ride my bike and enjoy walking my dog, **Emmy**."

Family travels have taken her to South Beach Miami and Orlando in Florida, to Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Washington, D.C., the Jersey Shore and the Bahamas.

For her mitzvah project, Ilana reports, "I have been volunteering for Buddy Ball, which is a program where special needs children are teamed up with peer buddies to play baseball."

JUNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Pre-bat/bar mitzvah children whose birthdays fall in May will join us on **June 1** for a special blessing from the Rabbi and a celebratory kiddush following services. We wish a joyful mazel tov to the following children and their families:

- Shaina Garb**
- Ronan Gray**
- Sydney Palter**
- Elisa Pinkowitz**
- Max Rubin**
- Sarah Schildkraut**



**Legal
Ease:**

Accommodating Jewish Employees on Shabbat

By Bruce D. Greenberg

Federal law prohibits an employer from discriminating against any person because of that person’s religion. When an employee has a genuine religious practice that conflicts with requirements of his or her employment, the employer must offer the employee a reasonable accommodation, unless that would cause the employer undue hardship.

Avrohom Marmulsteyn, who worked as a Customs and Border Protection Officer (“CBPO”) for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”), an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security, sued the Secretary of the Department for religious discrimination. Marmulsteyn’s claim arose from the fact that, as an Orthodox Jew, he could not work on Shabbat.

All CBPO’s were required to work five consecutive days, followed by two consecutive days off. The workdays rotated according to a fixed schedule, however, so that CBPO’s had to work five out of seven Saturdays. A few Jewish and Muslim CBPO’s were exempt from working on their Sabbaths, but those CBPO’s got that consideration because they had worked for other agencies, which had given them those exemptions. Those agencies were later merged into CBP. As a result, those exemptions were “grandfathered in” when the merger occurred.

Marmulsteyn filed an administrative complaint within the agency, seeking an exemption from having to work on Shabbat. CBP at first offered an accommodation under which Marmulsteyn could swap shifts with another CBPO. When he rejected that as insufficient, CBP offered to assign him to a Friday morning shift while moving any of his assigned Saturday morning shifts to an overnight period that ran from Saturday at 10 P.M. through Sunday at 6 A.M. That would have eliminated any need for Marmulsteyn to work on Shabbat while still following CBP’s policy of providing at least eight hours off between shifts. Marmulsteyn rejected that proposed accommodation also and instead filed suit.

A federal judge in Brooklyn dismissed his case. She gave several reasons for reaching that conclusion.

First, the law protects an employee only from “adverse employment consequences” as a result of the employee’s religious observance. Marmulsteyn was never demoted, disciplined, terminated or punished with any other “employment consequence.” That was because, among other things, he never had to actually work on Shabbat due to the ability to swap shifts. Moreover, Marmulsteyn himself admitted that he had “progressed through the ranks” and received positive evaluations, so he did not suffer in any way because of his

religious observance.

Second, CPB had given him exactly what he wanted: “a permanent exemption from work on the Sabbath.” Marmulsteyn complained that having to work the Saturday-Sunday overnight shift might leave him too tired to volunteer for overtime during the rest of the week. But the judge found that this was not enough to amount to a wrongful reduction in his employment status or benefits.

Finally, Marmulsteyn objected that he was being treated differently than the Jewish and Muslim CBPO’s who had “grandfathered in” exemptions. But it was reasonable for CBP to treat all “grandfathered in” employees in one way and all new employees, like Marmulsteyn, in a different way. There was no religious discrimination, since Orthodox Jews among the “grandfathered in” employees were treated like other such employees, and Marmulsteyn was treated no differently than other, non-Orthodox Jewish, new employees.

Bruce D. Greenberg is a partner in the law firm of Lite DePalma Greenberg, LLC, in Newark.



Edna Sherber Selected as Millie Fishbein Volunteer of the Year

This year, Congregation Neve Shalom chose to honor Edna Sherber as our Millie Fishbein Volunteer of the Year. Edna’s service to our synagogue predates Rabbi’s Zelizer’s tenure. She served on the committee that selected Rabbi Zelizer. She has had leadership roles at Neve Shalom and has volunteered in these various positions: Secretary of the Board and Executive Board, Vice President of Sisterhood, Treasurer of Sisterhood, member of the Board of Directors. Edna has served on nearly all of the synagogue’s com-

mittees, including Adult Education, Education and Ritual.

Edna has been volunteering in the synagogue library since the 1960s, at Rabbi Herschel Matt’s request. She ended up getting her library degree at Rutgers University and was the Children’s Librarian in the Woodbridge School System. She is now working with some newer congregants who are professional librarians and want to modernize the synagogue library. Edna also lovingly performs the sacred task of restoring prayer books that have fallen into disrepair.

Many of us have to come know Edna as the person most called upon to read aloud during Shabbat services. Edna is also a regular at weekday morning minyan because she thinks it’s important to be counted as a woman and as a Jew, in spite of her reluctance

to accept an aliyah, due to her conservative views about Jewish women taking on more traditional male roles.

For Edna, opening the shul for morning minyan for 16 years has been her most outstanding volunteer role to date. Before recently handing the job over to **Sid Krane**, Edna would come in any weather, even walking 2 ½ miles in snow, to open the building for daveners.

Outside of Neve Shalom, Edna has delivered Meals on Wheels and been involved in senior programs at JFVS. She was the membership chairperson at the Retired Educators of Middlesex County and often volunteers at the Edison Public Library.

Please join us in congratulating Edna for her remarkable years of committed service.



ADULT ED NEWS

By Hazzan Sheldon Levin

We want to start by thanking everyone who helped make this past Adult Ed year such a success. Thanks to **Rabbi Zelizer**, the Adult Ed chairs, **Sam Grafton** and **Bob Moss**, and the entire committee who come up with great ideas

and are so supportive. Special thanks to **Gilbert and Claudie Hayat** who support the Shabbat Speakers Series. Thanks to everyone who donated to the Scholar Fund and Neve Shalom and Ohev Shalom Endowments who made the Scholar event possible. Today to the family of **Don and Ruth Kahn** for supporting the Book and Author Event and **Amy Artman** and her committee who did a great job. Thanks to the **Israel Segal** family for their annual support and another outstanding lecture. We are also grateful to **Bob and Debbie Chalfin** for bringing **George Vescey** to speak about sports.

This past year's array of speakers included: **Professor Julian Zelizer** speaking about the Presidential elections, Xscholar **Dr. Reuven Kimelman** who taught texts of "L'cha Dodi" and "Shema", **Rabbi Esther Reed** who shared college campus issues, **Professor David Mechanic** shared important information about Health Care in America, **Dr. Shirley Wachtel** wrote a book about her parents' Holocaust experiences and **Professor Yael Zarubavel** enlightened us on cultural and social issues in Israel.

In addition, Bob Moss shared slides and information about the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto and **Arie Kaplan** spoke about Jews and comic books. At the Israel 65 event Rabbis Zelizer, Saks and Vaisberg spoke of Zionism issues from different perspectives, **Barbara Spack** and **Barbara Kavadias** talked about pluralism issues in Israel and new plans for the Kotel. **Stephen Makler** shared his experiences serving in the Israeli Army.

Films this year included "Faces of Israel", "The Debt", "Oh Jerusalem" and "Live and Become". Courses comparing religions, studying Zionism and Israeli history, Talmud, and Hebrew were taught. Concerts this past year included **Sam Glaser**, **Benji Lovitt**, **Cantor David Amar**, the Yale-Magevet Chorus, Makhelat Hamercatz Choir, the fun Purim shpiel and other programs. Thanks to **Keith and Melissa Boxer**, the Tu B'Shvat Seder tradition continued and on Shavuot **Steve Gross** will share an evening of enchanting study.

Plans are underway for next year's exciting Adult Ed programs. In October, **Ben Dworkin** will speak about New Jersey politics just prior to the State elections. In November **Gary Rendsberg** will teach about differing views of the Torah in a lecture postponed from last year because of weather. December features our Scholar, **Dr. Burt Visotzky**, who is engaging, entertaining and enlightening. He is featured regularly on PBS and other media talking about the Bible which is what he teaches at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

January will feature **Rabbi Kerry Olitzky**, a national expert on Jewish Outreach. February's speaker, **Rabbi Mordecai Schwartz**, will teach about the Babylonian Talmud the subject of his forthcoming book. In March, **Hazzan Nancy Abramson**, the director the H. L. Miller Cantorial School of the Seminary, will speak about zemirot during services and after lunch we will discuss the future of the cantorate. **Pat Henry** will make a return appearance to teach about the Holocaust now that his extensive book on that subject is completed. Finally, in May, **Ken Moss** will share historic insights into the Jews of Poland prior to the Holocaust. Many other courses, special events and other programs are being planned. We look forward to wonderful opportunities for us all to learn and study together.

Thank
You

What an amazing late Sunday afternoon we shared on June 2, honoring **Michael and Andrea Colby** and **Joel and Sondra Caplan**. Following delicious hors d'oeuvres, we enjoyed a gala musical event and then scrumptious desserts and coffee. As usual, thanks to the dedication and support of our chairpersons **Jennifer Bullock** and **Cindy Steinbach**, along with

Aimee Braverman and **Marlene Fineman**, the food and activities were stunning. The food was prepared by Lox, Stock and Deli and not only was it delicious but plentiful as well.

I would like to thank the entire congregation of Neve Shalom. Your support, thoughtfulness and generosity towards this event and others like it, help create a gratifying atmosphere of learning, praying and socializing in our synagogue. Also I would like to thank **Debra Berman**, **Julius Feinson**, **Bruce Greenberg**, **Miriam Kaffer**, **Mindy Paris-Thurer**, **Lauren Rabinowitz**, **Madeline Tolins-Schlitt**, **Eliot Spack**, and the entire office staff for their helpful guidance and dedication. Of course I would be remiss if I did not mention the honorees for without them this event would not have been so successful.

For me, it was truly an honor to work with Joel and Sondra Caplan and Michael and Andrea Colby. They were extremely generous and helpful with thoughtful insights and suggestions. They worked very hard to raise approximately \$37,000. At a time when our synagogue is running deficits, this influx of money means so much, enabling the shul to continue with its programs and projects. A yasher koach to all.

Kenneth Braverman
Ad Journal Chairman

YOU'RE INVITED . . . TO BE A NEVE SHALOM VOLUNTEER!!

We are a very "select" group of people who are looking to expand. There are minimal requirements: a) looking to give back, b) looking to have fun and c) looking to meet new people. There is no interview process, no need for a resume and no dress code. Very easy!!

There are plenty of opportunities. Looking to visit the sick? We have that. Looking to help at one of the synagogue events? We have that too. Looking to help out in the Sisterhood, Men's Club or any of the numerous committees that keep Neve Shalom functioning? Yes, we have that also. There's the Library Committee, Membership Committee, Fundraising Committee, Keruv Committee and Ritual Committee...just to name a few.

Volunteers help to keep our dues lower than they would be ordinarily. Volunteers help make Neve Shalom a friendly place. Volunteers help members in need, raise funds and do things that the synagogue would have to pay someone to do.

There are benefits to being a volunteer. Volunteering leads to better health. A small sampling of our own volunteers confirms that they feel better when they volunteer. Volunteering is also a great way to make new friends. In short, it is a "win-win" for you and Neve Shalom.

To take advantage of this great opportunity, call us anytime!
Hope Serratelli at 732-452-9211 or **Linda Gotlib** at 732-906-0737.

ISRAEL @65

By Eliot Spack

Picture the sight of dozens of young children, all decked out in white shirts, beaming with smiles while standing on the steps of the sanctuary bimah and heartily bellowing out their favorite Hebrew songs. Picture the same sight of dozens of adult choir singers exercising similar messages of joy and celebration. Picture an assembled audience standing proudly to join in the singing of "Hatikvah".

On Sunday, April 21, Neve Shalom served

as the host for a grand day of celebratory activities to mark Israel's 65th year of independence. In concert with three institutional partners---JCC of Middlesex County, Temple Emanu-El and Temple Beth Mordecai---Neve Shalom served as the venue for a **five-hour** power-packed day with something for **every** age category. A full schedule of children's activities took place in the Ballroom which gave the youngsters a chance to play video games, make crafts projects and an opportunity to watch videos. Adult participants spent the time shopping for Israeli and local jewelry/gifts, purchasing Israeli food products and meeting representatives from a number of Israel-based organizations. There were live demonstrations of how to make baklava, exercise Krav Maga (Israeli martial arts) as well as Israeli dancing. A highlight of the day featured opportunities to have a live exposure to

six different outstanding speakers all of whom addressed topics related to Israel or Zionism. To supplement this, a regular cycle of films on Israeli themes was shown throughout the entire day. And, of course, not only was there nourishment for the soul and mind, but there was also an available supply of food for the stomach.

Many hundreds of people from Middlesex County attended this day's wonderful program of activities. It provided them all with a powerful opportunity to express their solidarity with the State of Israel in marking her 65th year of statehood. Special kudos to **Hazzan Levin** who efficiently and creatively orchestrated the day's activities, to **Linda Gotlib** who served as the Neve Shalom liaison, and to the dozens of volunteers who offered their time and talents. *Am Yisrael chai!*

MEMBERSHIP



By Debbie Kestin Schildkraut,
Vice President, Membership

On Saturday morning, April 27, we celebrated Chai Shabbat. This is an annual Shabbat service where we celebrate members who have achieved 18+ years of membership. We marked this occasion by honoring the following families who joined the 18+ year ranks this year:

- **Brian & Elise Abraham**
- **Deborah & Ronald Anes**
- **Phyllis & Gary Frederick**
- **Lisa & Paul Kleiman**
- **Jennine & Yehuda Shpigel**
- **Ronit & Merrill Thor**
- **Shelley Zakim**
- **Stuart Zakim**
- **Howard & Karen Zuckerman**

Since this is a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon memories of our synagogue community, we had three wonderful speakers:

Jack Belowich, who described moving his family from Maine to Metuchen, and how they joined Neve Shalom through warm outreach. **Fran Drescher** reflected upon days at Ohav Shalom, and the warm integration into Neve Shalom. **Larry Wineberg**, unfortunately, returned from a trip with fever and was unable to attend at the last moment. However, he sent his remarks, reflecting upon the earliest days, when he was a child, recalling the coming together of multiple communities over the course of time: Beth Am of Colonia, B'nai Jacob of Avenel, Temple Ohav Shalom of

Colonia (2003), Adath Israel of Woodbridge (2006), the originating Metuchen-Edison community members, and many others from surrounding towns...all culminating in today's Congregation Neve Shalom.

This special day also marked the 68th anniversary of **Emil and Bernie Kalfus'** liberation from the concentration camps, so with an aliyah, we also told them how much they continue to mean to us. A Kiddush luncheon followed services. We look forward to building many more wonderful memories together with all of you!

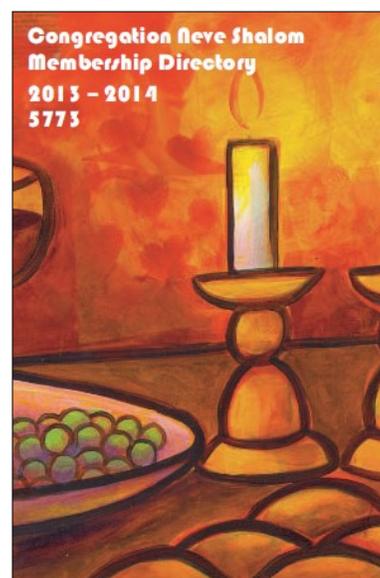
New Membership Directory

The new membership directory will be on its way to you soon! (Take a look at the graphic of the cover, pictured at right!) Many thanks to my wonderful committee for this long and intensive project. Special thanks to **Lauren Rabinowitz** for the cover art, **Martha Mack** for the compilation, **Jamie Grubman** for the layout. The directory committee includes: **Debbie Schildkraut, Keith Boxer, Lena Feld, Marlene Fineman, Jamie Grubman, Daniel Hirsch, Jody Mantel, Martha Mack, Lauren Rabinowitz** and **Benna Thompson**.

Community Conversations

We want to hear from you! Please participate! The on-going vitality of our synagogue is a top priority. As part of the Long Range Planning Committee's efforts, we

want to reach out to as many segments of our Membership as possible to gather people's interests and feedback on all aspects of the synagogue. We felt the best way to do this would be in small groups, where people can feel more comfortable to speak up and share their views. Each session should take approximately 90 minutes. If you would like to host or participate in one of these sessions, please contact **Debbie Kestin Schildkraut** at dkestins@gmail.com or **Rena Kallman** at renakallman@gmail.com, or call the synagogue office.





NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

By Martha Mack, Director

It's hard to believe but the school year is drawing to a close and it's time to say goodbye to our graduating 4 year old class of 2013. What a wonderful year it has been and we wish you all much joy and success in kindergarten next fall! A special thank you to the entire Nursery School teaching and administrative staff for all of their hard work and dedication. Thank you to **Jackie Alter** and **Stephanie Kandel**, our Nursery Committee Co-chairpersons for doing a phenomenal job, as well as to all of the parents of Neve Shalom Nursery School students for their support and for playing such an active role in their child's preschool education.

During the month of May, the entire Nursery School participated in our Raising Butterflies Project. They arrived as caterpillars and we observed them transform first into a chrysalis (cocoon) and then into beautiful Painted Lady butterflies which we released outdoors at the end of the school year.

On Friday, May 31 we celebrated Shabbat together with our very own Kabbalat Tot Shabbat service. We hope that everyone enjoyed participating in this wonderful musical Shabbat experience designed

specifically for young children and their families.

We are excited to announce that we have already begun signing up new families for our new extended hours in the fall. For those of you who haven't heard, as of September 2013 the Nursery School will have programming available from 7:30 am – 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday. We look forward to serving the needs of young Jewish families with two working parents who need a full day of child care, as well as providing a NAEYC accredited, Jewish preschool experience for those families who wish their child to attend the traditional Nursery School hours of 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

Not only do we offer classes for 2-1/2, 3, and 4 year olds, we also have Mommy & Me and Just Me classes for the youngest ones as well as a Kindergarten Before/After School Program for those children in half day kindergarten. As always, our best method of advertisement is word of mouth, so if you know anyone who would be interested in sending their child to Neve Shalom Nursery School please have them contact me at 732-548-2238 ext 17 or mjmack@aol.com.

Have a wonderful summer and see you in the fall!



We found a worm!



Nursery schoolers give tzedakah!

**Know someone who needs help?
Don't Keep It Under Your Hat!**



Know someone in need of help during an illness, after surgery, after the birth of a child, please contact the **Mitzvah Mission**.

No Mission Is Impossible!
tikkunolam@verizon.net 732-858-1764

Have a
great
summer!

July 2013

Tammuz/Av 5773

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Office Closed	5 Candles 8:13 pm Services 6:30 pm	6 Matot/Masei Mini Minyan Only
7	8 Rosh Chodesh	9	10	11	12 Candles 8:11 pm Services 6:30 pm	13 Devorim Shabbat Chazon
14	15 Erev Tisha B'Av Services 8:00 pm	16 Tisha B'Av Services 6:30 am	17	18	19 Candles 8:07 pm	20 Va'etchanan Shabbat Nachamu Mini Minyan Only
21	22	23 Board Meeting 7:30 pm	24	25	26 Candles 8:01 pm Services 6:30 pm	27 Ekev
28	29	30	31	Regular Services Shabbat morning 9:30 am Shabbat mincha 12:30 pm Morning Minyan Sundays and Independence Day 9:00 am Monday and Thursday 6:45 am Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am Rosh Chodesh weekdays 6:35 am Tisha B'Av 6:30 am		

August 2013

Av/Elul 5773

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Regular Services Shabbat morning 9:30 am Morning Minyan Sundays 9:00 am Monday and Thursday 6:45 am Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am Rosh Chodesh weekdays 6:35 am				1	2 Candles 7:54 pm Services 6:30 pm	3 Re'eh Mini Minyan Only Mincha/Maariv 7:30 pm
4	5	6 Rosh Chodesh	7 Rosh Chodesh	8	9 Candles 7:46 pm Services 6:30 pm	10 Shoftim Mincha/Maariv 7:15 pm
11	12	13	14	15	16 Candles 7:37 pm Services 6:30 pm	17 Ki Tetze Mini Minyan Only Mincha/Maariv 7:15 pm
18	19	20	21	22	23 Candles 7:27 pm Services 6:30 pm	24 Ki Tavo Mincha/Maariv 7:00 pm
25	26	27	28	29	30 Candles 7:16 pm Services 6:30 pm	31 Nitzavim/Vayelech Mincha/Maariv 6:45 pm Selichot

We Gratefully Acknowledge

and thank the following generous contributors to our funds:

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 Samuelson family,
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 on Sophie's 4th birthday.....Martha Mack

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Individuals who have recently contributed to the Kiddush Kitty:

Ken and Carol Bernstein
 Yetta and Morris Gelber
 Dan and Debra Hirsch
 Brett and Debbie Schildkraut
 Mal and Susan Keller in honor of Jayne Sklon



Thank you!!

Please considering making a donation to support Kiddush luncheon on Shabbat!



FROM THE RABBI *Continued from page 1.*

over the Kotel has accepted this compromise, and **Prime Minister Netanyahu** has asked Sharansky to prepare a time table for its implementation.

So what does this all mean?

- It means that even in a strictly Orthodox environment, where there is a will there is a way.
- It means that our beloved State of Israel is beginning to accommodate and acknowledge that non-Orthodox forms of Judaism in the Diaspora and within Israel have a strong stake in the State and should share in sacred public spaces.

What does it NOT mean?

- It does not mean that all expressions of public religion will be removed from Orthodox control. That will not change soon. I have had occasion over the years to raise the question of the non-democratic Orthodox control of public religion in Israel both with Benjamin Netanyahu when he was Foreign Minister, and with **Shimon Peres** when he was Prime Minister. Both of them answered me as follows. "When the Conservative Movement and Reform Movement have many more individuals who make Aliyah to Israel, and vote for the government, then and only then can we react broadly to your demands." I can understand their response, even as I am unhappy with the policy. A political system which depends on coalitions, elections, and a democratic process must respond to the population to whom it is responsible, those who live and vote in Israel. But what we can ask them to recognize is how we Jews who live in the Diaspora – with a different kind of Zionism – love Israel in spite of its warts. There is no excuse for excluding us from places like the Kotel.

Above all, for us, our love for the State must transcend these impediments. Israel is still a refuge for all Jews. Israel still has more institutions of Torah – Orthodox, Reform and Conservative than anywhere in the world. Israel's shuls are still filled on Shabbat with pray-ers. Jewish Festivals determine the public calendar. Israel is still democratic and humanitarian. Israel is still inspirational on so many levels. We cannot expect the impossible at this stage in history, but should certainly rejoice at this significant change.

Erev TISHA B'AV Services
Monday, July 15th
 Evening Service– 8:00 PM
 followed by
 D'VAR TORAH by Rabbi Zelizer
 & chanting of Book of Lamentations.

TISHA B'AV Morning Services
Tuesday, July 16th
 6:30 AM
 The Torah will be read

Tikkun Olam's Mitzvah Mission of Neve Shalom
In conjunction with
Sisterhood, Men's Club, and the Membership Committee

Join us in performing the mitzvah of offering assistance to
 Neve Families during shiva
In order to provide this assistance we, as a congregation, need to
explore volunteer availability.

Please fill out this bottom section and return it to:
 Julie Hersch
 64 Monroe Ave.
 Edison, NJ 08820

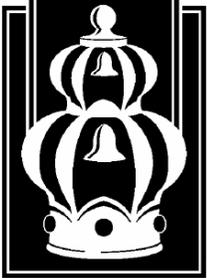
Tuesday, September 24th at 7:30 PM, all volunteers will participate in an **information session** to learn about how to set and maintain the house during the shiva period according to the individual families' requests.

Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____
Address: _____
Email: _____

I am interested in:

Working with 1-2 other members to set up the house during the funeral	
Maintaining the house – (i.e. freshening the food, dishes)	
Setting up for evening minyan	
Cleaning up after evening minyan	

General Days and hours you are available to perform this mitzvah:



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Shabbat morning,
June 23, 2013

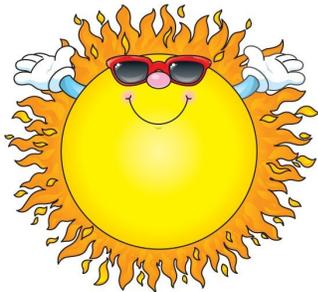
following the 9:30am Service, at a free luncheon, we will recognize those who have chanted Torah, Haftarah, Megillot, led services and taught Adult Education courses.

*For more information contact
Hazzan Levin 732-548-2238 ext 14 can2r11@aol.com*



*Neve Shalom 7:30 pm (note special time)
Shabbat Evening, June 7, 2013
with Rabbi Gerald Zelizer, Hazzan Sheldon Levin,
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Installation of Neve Shalom
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Light Refreshments will follow*

for information call Hazzan Levin 732-548-2238 ext 14



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June 2013

Sivan/Tammuz 5773

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Regular Services</p> <p>Shabbat morning 9:30 am Shabbat mincha 12:30 pm</p> <p>Morning Minyan</p> <p>Sundays 9:00 am Monday and Thursday 6:45 am Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am Fast of Tammuz 6:45 am</p>						<p>1 Shelach Jacob Anes Bar Mitzvah Mini Minyan Only</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Honoree Event 4:30 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Sisterhood Bd. 7:30 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Ritual Comm. 6:30 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>USY 7:30 pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Nursery School Graduation 7:00 pm</p> <p>Band and Choir 7:30 pm</p> <p>Men's Club 7:45 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Last day of Nursery School Candles 8:07 pm Services 7:30</p> <p>Friday Night Alive and Installation of Officers</p>	<p>8 Korach Rosh Chodesh Evan Derecor Bar Mitzvah</p>
<p>9 Rosh Chodesh Breakfast with the Rabbi 10:00 am</p> <p>Hanoar 11:00 am</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Ohev Meeting 6:30 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Kadima 7:30 pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Candles 8:11 pm Services 6:30 pm</p>	<p>15 Chukat</p> <p>Ilana Rosen Bat Mitzvah Mini Minyan Only</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Candles 8:13 pm Services 6:30 pm</p>	<p>22 Balak</p> <p>Torah Readers Luncheon 9:30 am</p>
<p>23 30</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Fast of Tammuz</p> <p>House Comm. 7:00 pm Synagogue Bd. 7:30 pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Candles 8:14 pm Services 6:30 pm</p>	<p>29 Pinchas</p>