



From Our Rabbi...Eric Rosin

So, here's a piece of trivia: Do you know the origin of the magical incantation "Abracadabra?" Neither do I. But there is one theory that it is from the Hebrew or Aramaic words meaning, "I create as I speak."

Our tradition recognizes that words possess great power. In the Book of Genesis, God creates the world with divine words. Observant Jews spend hours each day and each week reciting the verbal formulas that make up the extensive fixed liturgy of our prayer services. Our scholars have spent centuries pouring over the words of sacred texts and each generation adds more words to the articulation of our understanding of God's will. Throughout our history, we owe so much of our success to our appreciation of the power of words.

But the more one reads and learns and prays, the more it becomes clear that Judaism is not about magically controlling the world around us. It's about discerning those things that we can change, differentiating them from those we cannot, and wisely choosing the correct response to those things that are impervious

to our wisdom, our knowledge and our desires.

Why is this on my mind? Because winter has arrived. Truth be told, I could have used a few more weeks of fall. I don't mind the cold. I grew up in Michigan and I have lots of sweaters, coats and gloves. Nevertheless, a few years ago I took a spill on the ice that put my left shoulder out of commission for a few months. Since then, I've been more tentative once things start freezing over. I also find it demoralizing to wake up each morning in darkness and to come home from the synagogue each night long after the sun has once again set.

But I've learned from experience that winter comes each year regardless of how hard I try to postpone it and it has become clear from our conversations in the synagogue and from the number of people who leave for warmer climes come December that I am not alone in wishing that I could recite some magic words that would shorten the winter and alleviate the hardships that accompany it.

The question is: knowing that we can't change it, how should we respond to the sudden plunge in temperature? According to **Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotz** (1787-1859), who was also known as the Kotzker Rebbe, there are at least

two responses that would be appropriate, and even admirable. Describing the plight of the tzadik, or holy person, in the winter, the Kotzker Rebbe explains that there is a distinction between being tzaddik and being a tzakik in peltz, or a tzaddik wearing a coat. Finding himself suddenly out in the cold, the tzaddik lights a fire. The tzaddik in peltz puts on a coat. Both provide themselves with warmth, but donning a jacket warms only the individual. Lighting a fire brings warmth to everyone nearby.

This resonant metaphor is a helpful way to look at our synagogue. Neve Shalom is one place that we as a community find warmth and a sense of belonging in a world that we might otherwise experience as cold and alienating. The Kotzker's question is whether we should be keeping this warmth to ourselves or whether we should, instead look for ways to share it with others.

I would like to suggest that we reach out and to invite others in. Of course, it's wonderful to feel a sense of belonging when we enter the synagogue, but for both practical and principled reasons, it's long past time for us to make an effort to let others know

Continued on page 16

IN THIS ISSUE

"Beets" is the Word	9
SSMF Concert Brings "Safam"	10
High Holiday Thanks	15





Notes from the Hazzan

By Hazzan Sheldon Levin

January Concert News

At the end of December and in beginning of January I will be traveling. First I will go to Jerusalem to attend the PARDES Seminar on Jewish Spirituality, then to California for the Cantors Convention. While in Los Angeles, I plan to attend services at IKAR and hope to learn some new melodies which we might want to bring to Neve Shalom. On Saturday, January 16 at 6:00 pm the Choir and Band will lead a sing along program of some of **Debbie Friedman's** hits. Children from the Hebrew School will help with Havdalah and then we hope everyone will sing many of your favorites Debbie Friedman tunes.



On Sunday, January 31 the entire community is invited to gather to share in different cultures and heritage of several faiths and ethnic groups. The concert will begin at 4:00 pm with a performance by Mercaz Jewish Choir of Central NJ. They will be singing both sacred and joyful settings in Hebrew and English which include some famous masterpieces and new popular songs. The group includes about 45 singers from around Central NJ conducted by **Cantors Anna West Ott and Sheldon Levin**. The Nrityopaasana Dancers, directed by **Vidushi Sushama Shreyas** is passing on the rich cultural Indian heritage to the next generation through music and dance. The students from Edison and surrounding areas will enchant us with authentic Indian music, dance and costumes.

The New Hope Baptist Church Gospel Choir & Band, directed by **Gregory Rhodes**, will perform uplifting and rousing Gospel spirituals and hymns. You will be clapping, waving your arms and shouting "Amen." **Rev. Ronald Owens**, Pastor of the church in Metuchen is their spiritual leader. The finale of the concert will bring together the two choirs singing a famous Gospel song in English and in Hebrew.

Refreshments will be served. The concert is free, though sponsors can help defray the costs in advance by contacting Hazzan Levin at Neve Shalom. A collection will benefit local food pantries. Please join for this wonderful opportunity to bring the community together and share and delight in each other's heritage and culture. For more information contact Hazzan Sheldon Levin at 732-548-2238, ext. 14 Hazzan@NeveShalom.net

Congregation Neve Shalom
250 Grove Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840
www.neveshalom.net
Phone: 732-548-2238
Fax: 732-548-2335
E-mail: neve.shalom@verizon.net

Affiliated with the
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

OFFICERS

- President..... Dan Hirsch
- Vice President..... Christina Daniels
- Vice President..... Stu Mantel
- Vice President..... Debbie Schildkraut
- Vice President..... Hope Serratelli
- Vice President..... Benna Thompson
- Treasurer..... Linda Gotlib
- Financial Secretary..... Lawrence Dombrow
- Recording Secretary..... Carol Hacker
- Sisterhood President..... Jennifer Bullock
- Men's Club President..... Steven Schneider
- USY Presidents..... Danny Boxer,
..... Hannah Sessler

SYNAGOGUE STAFF

- Rabbi..... Eric Rosin
- Hazzan,
Director of Education..... Sheldon Levin
- Rabbi Emeritus..... Gerald L. Zelizer
- Nursery School Director..... Martha Mack
- Office Manager..... Rita Devlin
- Secretary for Hebrew School..... Jeanne Cowhey
- Secretary for Nursery School..... Jacqueline Stoecker
- Youth Secretary and
Office Assistant..... Danielle Mendez
- Bookkeeper..... Lisa Luzzi

BULLETIN STAFF

- Editor/Designer..... Mindy Osterman
- Calendar Editor..... Ron Becker

Advertising in this Bulletin does NOT constitute certification of kashrut.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

- March Issue — January 20
- April Issue — February 20
- May Issue — March 20

Submit your articles and graphics for publication to
Rita Devlin via e-mail at
office@neveshalom.net

**Please see above for
UPDATED deadlines
for future bulletins.**

IN MEMORIAM ב"ה

Lee Wolberg,
mother of Robert Wolberg


Neve Shalom

Neve Shalom
invites you to a special
Community Event:


Neve Shalom

Congregational Meeting:

Sunday, January 24, 2016
Time: 11:00 am
Where: Neve Shalom
250 Grove Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840



Points from the President

By Dan Hirsch

Welcome to a New Year of great things happening!.....
On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to wish the Congregation a happy secular New Year! With the onset of winter and the first month of the year, I would like to reflect on my first six months as President. These six months have been very eventful as we have welcomed, installed and celebrated **Rabbi Rosin** as a new member of our community. Thanks to the Transition Committee, the Installation Committee and the Membership Committee for doing such a wonderful job in uniting us all during these six months.

The Transition Committee, chaired by **Nancy and Stuart Shlossman**, will continue as an entity for some time, and will meet as is necessary. The committee has decided to forego monthly meetings, as the transition committee has deemed the transition to be a success. However, we strongly encourage our congregants to reach out to its chairs, the Rabbi or myself if there is something you would like us to consider. The Transition Committee has also indicated a desire to encourage our members to stop using the words "our new Rabbi" to describe him. After six months, Rabbi Rosin is our Rabbi, and we are thankful for that.

Within the past six months, we commemorated the High Holy days. Special thanks go out to **Christina Daniels, Andrea Colby** and the Ritual Committee for everything that goes into organizing and executing the High Holy Day services. This is especially true since we welcomed Rabbi Rosin to the pulpit. The Board made an important decision to welcome family members to commemorate the High Holy days together, and we can all agree that it was an unmitigated success.

The past six months has also seen the creation and introduction of a new logo and with it, a marketing plan. This was described in the December Bulletin and reflects our commitment to the concept of One Community, with the six pillars that support the Community (Common Values, Education, Leadership, Engagement, Support and Spirituality). We appreciate the work of the marketing committee led by **Steven Schneider** and **Hope Serratelli**.

The Sisterhood has been busy with a couple of new projects. First, we have seen the introduction of the Loom Room, and with it, a unique opportunity to weave a tallis, a tallis bag, a challah cover, etc. To our knowledge, this is the only loom in the State of New Jersey in a synagogue specifically for this purpose. It represents a physical way of weaving our community together, and in creating talleisim for our future generations, we provide ties between those generations. Thanks go to the donor of the loom, **Sue Watt**, and to **Cory Schneider**, who has worked so hard to get this project off the ground. Kol hakovod!

Our Sisterhood is also preparing a new project called "Guess Who is Coming to Shabbas", a program designed to encourage our community to celebrate Shabbat dinner together, and to get to know each other better, as we recognize the pillars that unite us as a Community, one being the shared common value of Shabbat dinner and the importance of home-based rituals. Thanks go out to **Julie Hersch** for spearheading this project!

The Education Portfolio has been busy as well during the first six months of the year. Our Hebrew School and Nursery School have been going strong since we welcomed our children back to school in September, and the Youth Learning Team has been busy with successful Shabbat community dinners which, again, reflect the importance of Community and the shared value of Shabbat ritual. The YLT has also held several Java Negilas designed to highlight issues important

to our Hebrew School families. Thanks to **Debbie Schildkraut, Jamie Grubman** and **Gail Scheutz** for the wonderful work. Not to be outdone, The Adult Education Committee, led by **Sam Grafton** and **Bob Moss**, has put together an amazing series of Adult Education speakers and events. **Alisa Solomon** spoke about the history of "Fiddler on the Roof", and **Maurice Samuels** spoke about Anti-Semitism in France, on the eve of the tragic events in Paris. **Amy Artman** organized a wonderful Book and Author Event, sponsored by the Donald and Ruth Kahn Book Fund. That particular weekend was further fueled by the synergies of a youth book and author event, during which **Karen Ostrove** spoke and engaged students in the Hebrew School, thanks to the efforts of **Melissa Jacobs**. We also held the second annual Book Sale, organized by **Melissa Schilowitz**. Bibliophiles had an amazing weekend, and a huge thanks go out to all.

The Men's Club has had an amazing six months as well. From the welcoming picnic to Beer and Steak in the Booth, to the Man and Youth of the Year events, to Family Fun Day, our Community has had many opportunities to enjoy living a Jewish life.

As President, I wanted to let you know that the next six months promise to be as exciting and event filled as the past six months have been. We have programs and events to look forward to – holidays and festivals, and Neve Shalom will be buzzing almost non-stop through the end of June.

The leadership of Neve Shalom wants to alert you to some of the things that we will be doing over the next few months – things that are mostly unrelated to events and ritual, but things that are important. The Board of Directors has authorized an audit of our financial records for the first time in many years, to determine where we could be doing things better and more efficiently. The Board is also taking steps to organize itself in more of a professional manner, including the introduction of official policies. We will be instituting formal evaluation processes of not just employees, but also of processes. Are we doing the types of things we should be doing? Do we have manuals that explain how things are done? Our computer network and our sound system are examples of areas which we are formalizing and documenting processes. The idea is to have standard processes that are not reliant on one person with individualized knowledge. Another example is in the library, where we will be introducing a new system that will simplify the maintenance and use of the library. Yes – we will have barcodes and e-books! Yet another example will be the introduction of a simple to follow communication strategy.

We are utilizing the expertise of volunteers to help create these processes, and can always use more help. If you have expertise in an area, we welcome your input and your elbow grease. If you don't have expertise, but want to help, we will train you.

After reading this, you might have some questions. Where do you get answers? The Neve Shalom Constitution requires that the Board of Directors hold two Congregational Meetings every year where members of Neve Shalom get to ask questions of its leadership, to find out how we're doing. The mid-year meeting is typically held on the fourth Tuesday of January. The past several years, we have heard complaints from congregants that this is not good for them. It is dark, often cold, and sometimes snowy – who wants to go out then? Therefore, this year, we will be holding the January meeting on Sunday morning, January 24, at 11:00 am. We want to encourage our members to come out, listen to the great things that we have done, the great things we are planning, and to let us know what we can be doing better. Happy New Year!



Adult Ed News

By Hazzan Sheldon Levin



Hebrew School News

By Hazzan Sheldon Levin

“Catskills” Morning Film Series

We will be showing several very interesting, films on Tuesday mornings in February. We especially hope some of our retirees and parents of younger children might be available at those times and will enjoy these enlightening and entertaining films.

- ◆ **WHEN COMEDY WENT TO SCHOOL**, Tuesday, February 2 at 10:30 am is a fun documentary which includes interviews and some comedic routines by **Robert Klein, Jerry Lewis, Sid Caesar, Jerry Stiller, Jackie Mason** and others about why so many great comedians got their start in the “Borscht Belt.” Some hilarious, historic clips will be shown. 77 minutes, 2013 documentary
- ◆ **MARJORIE MORNINGSTAR**, Tuesday, February 9 at 10:00 am stars **Gene Kelly** and **Natalie Wood** in a classic tale of a Jewish girl who falls in love with a Catskills singer, dancer, composer. The film is notable for its inclusion of Jewish religious scenes which was very unusual at that time. 128 minutes, 1958 Academy Award Nomination for Best Song.
- ◆ **DELI MAN**, Tuesday, February 16 at 10:30 am shows Jewish cultural shifts as Americans adapt to the changing tastes of living in America. Stories of Katz’s, the Second Avenue Deli, Nate ‘N Al and other eateries will make you hungry and nostalgic for times gone by. 91 Minutes, 2014 Documentary.
- ◆ **WELCOME TO KUTSHER’S**, Tuesday, February 23 at 10:30 am. Kutscher’s was the last surviving kosher Jewish resort in the Catskills. The film explores the Catskills experience through a look at Kutscher’s rise and fall over 100 years. The award winning film captures a last glimpse of a lost world as it disappears in our time. 73 minutes, 2012 Documentary.

Your Winter/Spring Adult Ed tuition, or being a Benefactor of the Scholar Event entitles you to any or all of these films for free. Any individual film is \$5 or \$15 for the series.

For more information contact:
Hazzan@NeveShalom.net or 732-548-2238, ext. 14.



Friday, January 8, the Hebrew School Family Dinner at 5:30 pm will feature Mexican food. \$5 feeds up to two people and \$10 feeds three or more in a family. Additional donations are welcome to help defray the costs. The Family Service will be led that night by **Rabbi Rosin** and will begin at 6:30 pm

Sunday, January 10, and then again on January 31, Midrasha class for 11th and 12th graders will meet at 11:00 am.

Saturday, January 16 at 6:00 pm children from grades 4, 5 and 6 will help lead Havdalah at the sing-along program. Then children are invited to “Kids’ Night” while their parents go out for the evening.

Sunday, January 17, **Sid Schwartz** of Building Blocks Workshops will bring 10,000 Legos and instructions to help our children build Masada during Hebrew School at 9:00 am. Parents and friends are welcome. Jewish Federation in the Heart of NJ is sponsoring this fun, educational and exciting event. There is no admission fee.

Sunday, January 24, during school, classes will do special Tu B’Shevat activities. In the afternoon, Temple Emanuel is hosting a “Drum Tales” program at 4:00 pm to which our children are invited.

Friday, January 29 at 6:30 pm there will be a special Tot Shabbat service for children in our younger grades and pre-school, along with their families.

Sunday, January 31 at 4:00 pm Neve Shalom is hosting an inter-faith concert which will include gospel singers, a Jewish choir and Indian dancers. There is no admission fee though collections will be accepted to help local food pantries.

Friday, February 5 at 5:30 pm, will be our next Family Dinner followed by Family services at 6:30 pm.

On Sunday, February 7, in addition to the World Wide Wrap sponsored by Men’s Club which will be attended by our older grades, there will be a very fun program by Jewish rappers. They will perform some of their Biblical “raps” and help our students create and record an original rap as well.

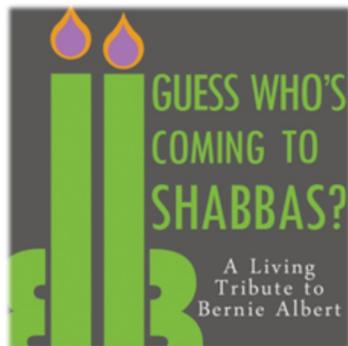


Sisterhood News



Each year, members of affiliated Sisterhoods celebrate the 1918 founding of Women’s League by **Mathilde Schechter** with a special Shabbat service. This year, Sisterhood Shabbat will fall on January 16. As this day is approaching, it is a perfect opportunity

to learn some little known facts about the woman’s special role in Shabbat. For instance, while lighting Shabbat candles is an obligation for the entire household, it is the responsibility of the woman to actually light the candles. But did you know that if the husband wishes to light the candles, he must first ask permission from his wife! The only exception to this rule is on the first Shabbat after the wife gives birth, when the husband lights the candles for his wife. Candles are lit 18 minutes before sundown. Eyes are covered, a blessing is recited, and when you uncover your eyes and see the candles shining, the day of rest has officially begun. Before marriage, women and girls light only one candle. However, once a woman is married, she lights at least two candles. Why two? Tradition connects the two candles to the two forms of the Shabbat commandment found in the Torah: "remember" and "observe."



Then there is Shabbat dinner which is often shared with family and friends. The idea is to take a break from ordinary life and focus on family, community, and spiritual growth. In our fast-paced lives it is a welcome change to slow down and enjoy a weekly reconnection with the people and ideas that really matter in life.

Neve Shalom is joining synagogues across the country in a new community-building initiative called “Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas?” Sisterhood will be sponsoring this exciting new on-going program where congregants will have the opportunity to host or attend a Friday night Shabbat dinner. The following morning at Shabbat services, all the participants will have a special communal honor. It's only fitting that the first night of this program will be Friday, January 15--the night before Sisterhood Shabbat. If you are interested in participating, call **Jennifer Bullock** at 908-510-4005 or **Julie Hersch** at 732-494-3439/732-742-8613.

And of course, stop by the Sisterhood gift shop for your Shabbat needs. We have a lovely selection of Shabbat candlesticks and candles, challah covers, and Havdalah sets.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday – January 15, 2016
 “Guess Who’s Coming to Shabbat?”

Saturday – January 16, 2016
 Sisterhood Shabbat

Saturday – February 27, 2016
 Sisterhood/Men’s Club event

Sunday – March 6, 2016
 Sisterhood Chai Tea

Wednesday - June 2016
 Garden State Region Women’s League
 Regional Honoring Event

✻ • ✻

SISTERHOOD “PAID UP” EVENT BRINGS PERFORMER TO MEMBERS

On Monday November 16, Sisterhood hosted its annual event for paid up members. This year we had the pleasure of having award winning recording artist, performer, musician and composer **Ellen Allard** (pictured, right) perform some of her original music. It was a fun night, with a delicious dinner enjoyed by all!



Sisterhood President **Jennifer Bullock** announced that Sisterhood is sponsoring a new program "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas." Families will host other congregants for Shabbat dinner in their own homes, with the expectation that the guests would then serve as hosts in subsequent months.

Our Sisterhood has received an award from Women’s League for Conservative Judaism for meeting our quota for Torah Fund Benefactors. Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism is a grassroots fundraising campaign dedicated to perpetuating Conservative/Masorti Judaism by supporting its seminaries. For more information on Torah Fund contact **Judy Tabak** or **Sandy Schwemer**.

Our next event is Sisterhood Shabbat on January 16. We hope to see you all there!



Men's Club Minute

By Steven Schneider, Men's Club President

The next few months will be full of wonderful Men's Club events. In particular, we have an opportunity to honor one of our Founders and to wrap ourselves in a beautiful mitzvah.

On January 17, Men's Club will be honoring **Jeff Schulman** at our annual Founder's Breakfast. While we recognize that Jeff hasn't been around long enough to be an *original* founder of the Neve Men's Club, Jeff has been a critical part of getting the club to where it is now.

Jeff's dedication to Men's Club on the local, regional and international level is unmatched in our community. Jeff has served as the club President twice, as the regional President and now serves on the International Board. I hope you can all join us at the Founder's Breakfast to honor and celebrate Jeff's accomplishments.

Every year on the morning of Super Bowl Sunday, Men's Clubs around the world share in the experience of putting on tefillin. The World Wide Wrap is a way for many to be exposed to this mitzvah. Putting on tefillin literally allows you to wrap yourself in your Jewish identity.

Join us at 9:00 am on February 7 for the World Wide Wrap. It doesn't matter if you put on tefillin every day or have never done it. Members of Men's Club will be there to help and answer any questions.

We look forward to seeing the entire community at the Founder's Breakfast and the World Wide Wrap. And if you have any questions about Men's Club or whatever, you can email me at mensclub@neveshalom.net.

Beautiful Heirlooms Being Created in the Loom Room

There are exciting goings-on in the Neve Shalom Sisterhood Loom Room. Two open houses were held in November introducing the Loom Room, demonstrating how easy it is to weave. Some of the beautiful items already woven on our loom were displayed. Interest is great and there are now more than a dozen people signed-up to weave beautiful heirlooms. *(See the photos below!)*

Are you interested in weaving at the Neve Shalom Loom Room? Want a tallit? How about a new tallit bag or tefillin bag? How about weaving a challah cover? The weaving program provides the opportunity to weave heirloom garments for your sons, daughters, grandchildren, husbands, wives or other family and friends – or even for yourself. You do not have to know how to weave or even be someone who has done creative handiwork in the past. The Loom Room volunteers will guide you through the process. With our help, you can weave.

This ongoing program is open to the entire community, men and women, boys and girls.

For more information, pricing, and to schedule your time on the loom, contact: **Cory Schneider** (phone: 717-574-1807; email: corstan65@gmail.com) or **Jennifer Bullock** (phone: 732-906-8565; rjbullock@aol.com).

Dream Weavers in the Neve Shalom Loom Room





The Rushefsky family would like to thank the families of Neve Shalom for the loving support we received from the congregation during our time of sorrow. May the memory of our dear mother Carolyn, Hatoun Hannah bat David Haim haKohen a"h, serve as an everlasting inspiration.

Community Stars



Don Wernick, whose family founded Neve Shalom and who served as mayor of Metuchen, was recently voted into the Metuchen High School Hall of Fame as a Humanitarian and Human Service Contributor. The eleven inductees were part of the first group of individuals selected for this singular honor. **CONGRATULATIONS!!!**



Got Simcha?

Share your Simcha with the
Entire Neve Community!

Community Kiddush Fund

Mazel Tov Sponsorship - \$500

The most popular sponsorship! Includes everything in a regular Kiddush with lots of extras. You'll be listed prominently in the *Shabbat Shalom* and get lots of Mazel Tov's from the community.

L'Chaim Sponsorship - \$250

A great option for all of life's Simchas! This sponsorship is like a standard Kiddush on steroids. You'll be listed prominently in the *Shabbat Shalom* and thanked by everyone in the congregation.

Simcha Donation - \$18 multiples

Sharing a Simcha is what builds our community. Support the weekly Kiddush and let everyone know about the good things in your life.

Please contact Rita in the office at (732) 548-2238 or
Email at office@neveshalom.net
Visit www.NeveShalom.net • Click on **Community Kiddush Fund**

YOUTH & FAMILY EVENTS IN JANUARY!

We continue to plan fun ways for children of all ages to engage and explore Shabbat services, plus a variety of ways to share time with their peers within the synagogue every month. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or suggestions!! Contact **Debbie Schildkraut**, Vice President, Education at dkestins@gmail.com



- **Friday January 8: Family Service & Shabbat Dinner.** A delicious Shabbat meal is served at 5:30 pm, followed by a lively and fun service at 6:30 pm. Dinner is just \$5 for 1 or 2 people; \$10 feeds 3 or more people in a family. All are invited to participate!

Sunday, January 10: Jewish Journey monthly program continues, 11:00 am – noon, for families with children ages 3-5. The program explores the Jewish holidays through art, music, cooking, stories and games. Cost is partially subsidized by a generous donor. Please contact **Martha Mack** for registration information at mjmack@aol.com

- **Sunday, January 17 at 9:00 am: Build Masada with 10,000 Legos!!** Sid Schwarts of Building Blocks will help our children create Masada and learn about what happened there. The event is co-sponsored by Neve Shalom, Temple Emanuel, Highland Park Conservative Temple, Beth Mordecai, PJ Library, and Jewish Federation. Free and open to the community.

- **Friday, January 22: Teen Shabbat at 6:30 pm.** Services will be led by our teens with a ruach-filled dinner and singing to follow.
- **Saturday, January 30 at 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm: Kids' Night Out!** Parents can drop off their children for a night of film, food and fun.
- **On-going: Shabbat Buddies** is a new program to match up Hebrew School children with our teens. The purpose is to build relationships and promote attendance at Shabbat services. Plus, special desserts will be offered at various Shabbatot for participants. This is a great way to help kids who need that extra incentive. Contact Wendy Kushner at whkushner@gmail.com
- **On-going: Youth Groups** for school-age children are active throughout the year: Hanoar, Kadima, and USY. Please contact Stacey Sern for more information at staceysern@gmail.com. More fun to come in February!!!

The Power of Pilgrimage

By Teddy Geardino

Tuesday, June 23. It was finally here. I had been eagerly anticipating this day since my return from USY on Wheels last summer. Counting the months, days, hours, and now just minutes until my mom would be taking me to JFK airport. I was packed and ready to go; excited, happy, nervous...even a little scared—all kinds of emotions rolled into one big cloud of expectations.

I was greeted at the airport by the group of people that for the next five weeks would be my family—some I knew, most I didn't. (See photo at far right) I gave my mom a hug and a kiss, and over my shoulder, watched her watching me as I ran to catch up to my group and collect my luggage tags.

Our flight to Poland took off late that night but despite the hour, I was wide awake thinking about all the things we were about to see, the places we would go and the things we were going to do. It was always in the back of my mind that I had stepped into this with such high expectations, I was bound to be disappointed.

We landed at Warsaw's Chopin airport at 1:00 pm, collected our luggage, had our passports stamped and went straightaway to the Ganesha Cemetery, one of—if not *the* largest Jewish cemetery in the world. I had read through the itinerary and knew this would be our first stop but I didn't give it much thought. Stepping off the bus however, I was struck by the sight of a short wall bordering the cemetery. I saw Hebrew writings on the wall and as I approached, I realized the wall is made up of headstones—broken headstones. The cemetery is the site of individual and mass graves—where, among others, victims of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising are buried. The sadness was overwhelming. That evening, as I was trying to go to sleep, I thought to myself "this is not what I signed up for". A multitude of emotions were running through my mind. Disbelief—how could such horrors have actually happened. Sadness—for those people that had to go through such fear and suffering. Then anger—I was angry that the world could let this happen. Exhaustion finally forced all thoughts from my mind and I slept until morning.

The following day we visited the Majdanek Concentration Camp. It was surreal. It was horrifying. It was shocking. So much of what we saw was exactly as it was at the end of the war. I never doubted that concentration camps existed, but now I was here and seeing it in person. It was just so hard to

wrap my head around the atrocities that took place here...on the same ground where my feet were now planted. The next day, Friday, we would visit Tarnow. I was never as thankful for Shabbat as I was that week. And I'm not going to lie—the food in Poland...well, let's just say it didn't make things easier.

Shabbat was incredibly meaningful and peaceful. It was a welcomed opportunity to recover from the physical and emotional strains of the past few days and a perfect time to connect and bond with my fellow USYers. Havdalah lifted our spirits.

Auschwitz was scheduled for Sunday. Auschwitz. That was "the big one". Not just big in size, but big as in THE concentration camp. The most famous of all. My mother's maternal uncle, at the age of 17, was murdered in Auschwitz. My mother's paternal grandmother miraculously survived Auschwitz. Auschwitz was personal. That day, as we left Auschwitz, we began to sing. Walking out through the gates of Auschwitz in the rain, our voices came together as we sang "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav", and I cried. I cried for the millions of people who never had the opportunity to walk out through those gates. That was one of the most emotional experiences I've ever had in my life.

It was a hard week. A week of cemeteries and concentration camps and a lot of sadness. But it was also a good week. We learned so much. We visited the Jewish Museum in Warsaw, shopped at a Polish market, and danced with Polish Jewish kids in Krakow. And now the week had come to an end. It was bittersweet—one week was behind us, but we were all thrilled to board the plane and head to Israel.

We landed at Ben Gurion Airport at 4:00 am and cheered as the plane touched down. All of a sudden I felt I was home. Thousands of miles away from my house, my parents, my dogs...I was home. We recited the "tefilat ha 'derekh" – the travelers' prayer – and boarded the bus that would take us all over Israel over the course of the next four weeks.

Israel is an amazing country. We had so many great experiences. I tried to savor each activity in hopes it would make time slow down. We went on an archeological dig, where I found a rare piece of pressed glass with gold in it. We visited Hezekiah's Tunnel—one third of a mile of pitch black, narrow tunnel leading to the Pool of Siloam. We rode camels, picked cherries, slept outside in the desert. We rafted on the Jordan River, swam in the Dead Sea, stood under the waterfalls at Ein Gedi. We hiked to the top of Masada where we watched the sun rise and we prayed. We shopped. We stayed in Bedouin



Tents. We stayed in hotels. We stayed in a youth hostel.

I had the opportunity to worship at four different synagogues in Israel, all of which were Orthodox yet all were quite different from each other. One was Sephardic. At one, we met someone from Highland Park, NJ. I felt so connected to everyone. I was far from the country I grew up in, yet here in Israel, in a small Orthodox synagogue in Jerusalem, I am able to pray in the same way, in the same language, as everyone else.

I also had the opportunity to pray at the Kotel. It was a sweet moment for me on many levels. The last time I had been to the Kotel was when I was 10 years old and on a trip with **Rabbi Zelizer**, my mom and my brothers, and 45 other members of Neve Shalom. We purchased my tallis in Jerusalem at that time. And now, here I was, back at the Kotel with that tallis.

One of the most memorable experiences I had in Israel was when my "Group Four" family prayed together at the Southern Wall – no one else around. Just us.

The last weekend, we had Kabbalat Shabbat in a park overlooking Jerusalem. It was a beautiful sight, and we all clung to each other knowing our time in Israel was coming to an end. Saturday, we were invited to have Kiddush at the home of **Rabbi Paul Freedman**, the first director of USY, who now lives in Israel. It was erev Tisha B'Av so Rabbi Freedman taught us lessons related to the holiday.

When Tisha B'Av ended, we broke the fast with one pound burgers at Burger Bar on Ben Yehuda Street, did some last minute gift shopping and went back to finish packing. Everyone was quiet as we made our way to the bus for the return trip to the airport.

I'd like to thank so many for helping make the trip a reality. I could not have gone without the support of the Suzy Schwartz Fund, the Neve Youth Committee, Rabbi Zelizer, Jewish Federation, and of course my family. Am Yisroel Chai!

BEET IT!

By Chef Lon

Beginning in the early 1900s, through its hey-day from the 1940s through the early 1960s until its ultimate decline in the 1970s, thousands of Jewish vacationers spent their summers in the Catskill Mountains, also fondly called the Borscht Belt. Besides their religion which set them apart from mainstream Americans, it was their culture and food that also set them apart. One of the dishes which brought to America by the Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe was a strange beet-infused soup called borscht (בּוֹרְשְׁט). This distinguishing cuisine that leant its name to the area, but it was also a play on words, in mocking reference to the area of (southeastern and south-central) United States known as the Bible Belt.

Beets and Borscht

Borscht is a soup commonly made in Jewish homes with beetroot (beets) as its primary ingredient. The name for borscht comes from the Yiddish name for the dish, which was derived from the very similar Ukrainian name for the dish, *borshch* (борщ). The origins of the dish are believed to have come from the Slavic areas in and around Ukraine. The dish was first made with hogweed, a common and plentiful plant that grew in that area. They would add the hogweed to meat and water and let it ferment, which provides the tart flavor the soup. The earliest reference to this soup is from a Russian book entitled *Domostroy* from the 1500s, and the dish spread to other areas of Russia and Northeast Europe. As the dish spread to other areas, the ingredients to make the dish began to become as diverse as the cultures that adopted it, but one thing remained constant, all of these sour-tasting soups were generally known as borscht.

One cannot make a traditional borscht without beetroot. It is the roots of the beet plant which are used for the dish, and is typically just referred to as "beets" in North America. The wild beet is believed to have its origins in the area around the Mediterranean Sea in the Prehistoric era. It was the leaves of the plant (chard) that were first consumed, and not the root. The ancient Greeks, as early as the 4th century BCE, wrote of eating chard. The beet did not make its way to northern Europe until the 13th century.

Beets, specifically, are not mentioned in the Torah, but may have been generally referred when it mentions leafy plants, but peo-

ple of that time and in that region consumed beets as part of their daily diet.

The oldest mention of the cultivation of beets was found in Babylon on a cuneiform tablet dating from the 8th century BCE. The Roman Empire used recipes with the roots around the 2nd or 3rd century. The use of the roots eventually made its way to Northern Europe somewhere around the 14th century. The variety of beet which is most common today with the big red bulbs for roots was first mentioned in Germany in the mid-1500s. As it became more plentiful, this beet variety took on the name "Roman beet" and became popular in England and France. The (red) beet plant made its way over to North America in the 1800s.

Beets have a number of uses besides being the main ingredient for a tasty dish. When a German chemist discovered a way of extracting sucrose from beets, he hit upon a million-dollar discovery. Twenty percent of the sugar used today comes from beets. Beets have been used for hundreds of years in medicine for their healing properties. Beets contain a chemical called betalains, which is a natural antioxidant, and there has been some research showing that beet juice may be helpful in lowering blood pressure.

The Borscht Belt

It was the unique European dish named borscht that was given homage when referring to the area of the Catskill Mountains where Jewish families spent their summers during the middle part of the 20th century. The area was given the name the Borscht Belt, which provided an outdoor paradise for those that spent the colder months confined to the concrete jungle of New York City. Sadly, the area came about because Jews were not allowed entry into other hotels and resorts.

Some of the big hotels included: Grossingers, Kutshers, Neville, and the Pines Resort (to name a few). The idea of the "all-inclusive" vacations of today was invented by these establishments, which included three sit-down meals a day, snacks, entertainment, and other activities.

The entertainers appearing at the hotels were top notch, and included: **Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Barry Manilow, Barbara Streisand, Bob Dylan, and Dean Martin** to just name a few. The comedians are who's who of comedy, and included such names as: **Woody Allen, Mel Brooks,**



George Burns, Sid Caesar, Rodney Dangerfield, Jerry Lewis, Jackie Mason, The Three Stooges, Henny Youngman, and many more.

By the mid-1960s the decline of the Borscht Belt began. Hotels and resorts closer to NYC began opening their doors to Jews, so the need for such a haven was no longer needed. Today, it is the Orthodox Jews that have bought up many of these smaller properties as Torah camps and retreats.

For an unabridged version of this article, please visit <https://foodhistoryreligion.wordpress.com/>.

For an unabridged version of this article, please visit <https://foodhistoryreligion.wordpress.com/>.

THE RECIPE

Not everyone likes beets, so here's a quick recipe that will not take much time, so you will not feel that you put much effort into it, if you do not like the outcome. It will take no more than 20 minutes to prep and cook . . .

Roasted Beets with Feta Cheese

Ingredients (serves 4)

4 beets (peeled and cut into ¾" cubes)
2 Tbs olive oil
1/8 cup feta cheese (crumbled)
salt (to taste)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425.
2. Toss beets in the olive oil and salt.
3. Place beets on a baking sheet and bake for 12 minutes.
4. Take out of oven and sprinkle with feta cheese.
5. Place into oven for 5-7 minutes or until beets are tender and feta is not burned.

Keep Cookin' — Chef Lon





will mark Neve Shalom's 26th annual Susy Schwartz Memorial Scholarship Fund Benefit Concert. The goal of this scholarship fund, which is primarily supported by the concert, is to raise money to provide each Neve Shalom bar and bat mitzvah child a "Passport to Israel." The Passport, with a value of \$2,000, may be redeemed towards any trip to Israel that has an educational component, taken between ninth grade and the end of college. High school students using the Passport are also eligible to receive additional funds from the Jewish Federation. Approximately 125 of our students have redeemed their Passport since the program's inception. As the need has arisen, the scholarship funds have also been made available for our students to attend Jewish summer camp. Research has shown that both an Israel experience and Jewish summer camp attendance are significant factors in fostering lifelong connections with the Jewish community.

Concert tickets are on sale now by mail and on the Neve Shalom website, www.neveshalom.net. On behalf of the next generation, please consider becoming a Benefactor (\$200) or Patron (\$100) of the April 3 concert. Benefactors and Patrons receive two tickets, preferred seating, name listed in the concert program and more. This year we have reinstated "early bird" general admission pricing to help us better plan the event logistics. General admission tickets are \$25 for adults in advance, \$30 at the door. The price for children under 12 is \$12. Free babysitting will once again be available by preregistration. **Please note the 6:30 pm starting time for this year's concert.** Contact the Neve Shalom office at 732-548-2238 if you need additional information.

The excitement in the room was palpable as soon as the idea began to take shape. "Safam? Do you really think we can get Safam to perform for the 2016 Susy Schwartz Concert? I used to go to all their concerts in New Brunswick and I always had a fantastic time," one committee member said. About half of the concert planning team immediately started a mental tally of the Safam fans we knew who would be thrilled at the group's return to Central New Jersey. The other half of the committee stared blankly, wondering: Who is Safam?

If you're in the group that hasn't yet experienced a Safam concert or heard the quartet's recordings - here's your chance to discover the sheer joy of Safam. And if you're a longtime fan who just can't wait for the April 3 event, start warming up your vocal chords! Safam tunes, both the English and Hebrew songs, are eminently singable as well as memorable.

For many years, Safam was closely associated with Rutgers University and Rutgers Hillel. **Dan Funk**, a Rutgers alum and owner of the lyrical, cantorial-quality voice you'll hear in most of Safam's Hebrew songs, is the son of **Rabbi Julius Funk, z"l**. The much-loved Rabbi Funk, who passed away in 2006, was the first Rutgers Hillel rabbi, serving from its founding in 1943 until his retirement in 1982. The connection with Rabbi Funk and Hillel helped spread Safam's "Jewish American sound" across our region, but the quartet's continuous musical innovation catapulted Safam to national and then international fame. Songs like "Leaving Mother Russia," "Just Another Foreigner," "The Greater Scheme of Things" and "Peace by Piece," composed by lead guitarist/vocalist **Robbie Solomon**, have so aptly captured the breadth of Jewish themes and the texture of Jewish life that Safam's music resonates with all ages and Jewish backgrounds.

Safam's appearance on our stage - after the group's 10-year hiatus from performing in Central New Jersey -



The Community Kiddush Fund

has all kinds of opportunities to share your simcha with the community. Every donation towards the Community Kiddush Fund will be acknowledged in the *Shabbat Shalom* and will help to support a wonderful opportunity for the community to schmooze, eat, and drink during Kiddush on Shabbat.

We just want to take a moment to thank all



the volunteers (*some shown in the photos at left and below*) who prepare the Kiddush each week. These volunteers purchase and pick up all the items for every Kiddush. They make the tuna and egg salads from scratch, cut up all the fruit, and beautifully

plate everything for the entire community's enjoyment. Please join us preparing Shabbat lunches for about two hours on a Friday. We need some people who enjoy talking while preparing beautiful platters. If you are interested, in helping out once in awhile, contact **Michele Rosenfield** at mr399@optonline.net.

Please consider sponsoring a Kiddush for a simcha or just for fun. But more importantly recognize our tireless volunteers – members of our **One Community**.



Community Conversations Continue!

Your valuable feedback continues to help shape our future. To host or to participate, please contact either **Nancy Shlossman** at nshloss@aol.com or at 732-321-4081, or **Debbie Schildkraut** at dkestins@gmail.com, or at 732-549-7224.



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@neveshalom.net

732-858-1764



Sisterhood Gift Shop

• Our doors are open •

Visit us for all your Judaica needs ...and more!



Bargains galore!

We have a wide variety of tallit, kippot, candlesticks and gifts for all occasions

Tons of fun children's toys, puzzles and books

Remember us for everyday needs as well as holiday items!

Stop by any Sunday morning for conversation and coffee

or

Shop like a celebrity and call for an appointment. We will open the shop at YOUR convenience!



Robbie Geller
908.303.2376

Debra Nagel
732.986.1645

Cathy Salamon
732.319.9884

We Gratefully Acknowledge

and thank the following generous contributors to our funds:

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF From

Daniel Hirsch, congratulations
on being the Men's Club
Man of the Year Honoree Debbie and Brett Schildkraut
Judy Tabak, congratulations
on the honor given to
you by Hadassah Shirley Segal
Rabbi Rosin F and R Glassman
Rabbi Rosin, for
Azi Richman's bar mitzvah Kelli and Alan Richman
Rabbi Rosin's inauguration..... Dr. Harvey and Anita Zalesin
Shirley Segal, on your
grandson's wedding Judy and Sy Tabak
Sue and Mal Keller, mazel tov
on David's wedding Donald and Fran Reisfeld
The Keller Family, mazel tov
on David and Lisa's wedding Judy and Sy Tabak

IN MEMORY OF From

Bertha Ross Barbara Luster
Carolyn Rushefsky,
mother of Daniel Rushefsky Judy and Marty Slutzky
Carolyn Rushefsky, mother
of Daniel Rushefsky Benjamin and Gladys Leibowitz
Emil Kalfus Debbie and Brett Schildkraut
Esther Gunsher Jerome Gunsher
Esther Lechman Yetta Gelber
Evelyn Braunstein Sue Horwitz
Jocha Grodzicki Benjamin and Gladys Leibowitz
Morton Braunstein Sue Horwitz
Ruth Specht Judy and Marty Slutzky
Simon Schoenbrun Ruth Candeub
Sylvia Leibowitz Benjamin and Gladys Leibowitz
Yahrzeit Michael Kaplan
Yahrzeit Marc and Gail Bressler

NER TAMID

IN HONOR OF From

Andrea Colby, being
recognized at Simchat Torah ... Debra and Bruce Greenberg
Daniel Hirsch Philip Kibel
Ken Braverman,
for being recognized
at Simchat Torah Debra and Bruce Greenberg
The Loewenthal Family,
mazel tov on the birth of
your first grandson,
Alec Myer Helene and Al Epstein
The Seidner Family,
mazel tov on Josh and Carolyn's
wedding Ira and Myra Wiener

IN MEMORY OF From

Alexander Kohn Arthur and Carmen Fulop
Bennett Greenhouse Beverly and Stephan Perry
Benti Fulop Arthur and Carmen Fulop
Carolyn Rushefsky,
mother of Daniel Rushefsky Edna Sherber
Carolyn Rushefsky,
mother of Daniel Rushefsky Stacey Sern and Jonathan Greenberg
Celia Wolman Sandra Moss
David Kaufman Marian and Howard Kaufman
David Rubin Alma Rubin
Emil Kalfus Richard and Bernard Kalfus
Leon Greenhouse Beverly and Stephan Perry
Max Sladowsky Beatrice Grossman

Michael Robin Beatrice Robin
Rose Kaufman Howard Kaufman
Ruth Specht,
sister of Ed Markman Karen Reichel
Sam Derman Arnold Derman
Sophie Schreiber Philip Schreiber
Walter Meyer Marian Szeinbaum
Yahrzeit Stanley and Cory Schneider
Yahrzeit Eleanor Massey
Yahrzeit Eric Neugroschel
Yahrzeit Aaron and Marlene Strauss
Yahrzeit Walter Newman
Zita Max Daniel and Esta Max

SUSY SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL FUND

IN HONOR OF From

Donald and Maya Solomon,
b'nai mitzvah. Mazel tov! Miriam, Shira and Arielle Kafker
Rabbi Eric Rosin and
Dr. Jennifer Blum, may you both
go from strength to strength ... Miriam, Shira and Arielle Kafker

YOUTH FUND

IN HONOR OF From

Azi Richman's bar mitzvah Stacey Sern and Jonathan Greenberg
Donald and Maya Solomon,
b'nai mitzvah Stacey Sern and Jonathan Greenberg

IN MEMORY OF From

Your mother and grandmother,
Lee Wolberg, may happy
memories comfort you all Jennine and Yehuda Shpigel and family

FRIENDS OF NEVE SHALOM NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

IN HONOR OF From

Dr. Mark Rosenfield,
Torah reader for Azi's
bar mitzvah Kelli and Alan Richman
Michele Rosenfield, Gabbai
Rishon for Azi's bar mitzvah Kelli and Alan Richman
Stephen Traum, Gabbai
Sheni for Azi's bar mitzvah Kelli and Alan Richman
The Orchid Restaurant,
caterer and friend, for Azi's
bar mitzvah Kelli and Alan Richman

IN MEMORY OF From

Lee Wolberg, with deepest
condolences on the loss
of your mother and
grandmother Marty and Ellen Romm

PRAYERBOOK

IN HONOR OF From

Hazzan Levin, with love and
heartfelt appreciation for
officiating at our marriage
so beautifully and
meaningfully Mindy and Scott Osterman
Rabbi Eric Rosin and
Dr. Jennifer Blum, We
welcome you to Congregation
Neve Shalom Susan and Malvin Keller

IN MEMORY OF From

Jitzhak Westreich Bob and Becky Seely

MAX ROLLER LIBRARY FUND

IN HONOR OF From

Iris and Paul Berman,
60th Wedding Anniversary Sandy and Fred Schoenfeld



We Gratefully Acknowledge

and thank the following generous contributors to our funds:

DON & RUTH KAHN BOOK AND AUTHOR FUND

IN HONOR OF.....From
The Keller Family, mazel tov on
David and Lisa's wedding.....Miriam and Ron Rockmore

GERSHON ROBINSON MUSIC AND ART FUND

IN HONOR OF.....From
Hazzan Levin- for Azi Richman's
bar mitzvah.....Kelli and Alan Richman

IN MEMORY OF.....From
Carolyn Rushefsky, mother
of Daniel RushefskyJudith Harrison and Stephan Gross
Carolyn Rushefsky, mother
of Daniel RushefskySondra and Fred Schoenfeld
Carolyn Rushefsky, mother
of Daniel RushefskySue and Alan Horwitz

BLOOD DRIVE IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL ALLAN THOMPSON FUND

IN MEMORY OF.....From
Carolyn Rushefsky, mother
of Daniel RushefskyDr. Edward Thompson
YahrzeitDr. Edward Thompson

COMMUNITY KIDDUSH FUND

IN HONOR OF.....From
Dr. Eliot Spack, thank you for
giving her the honor of an
Aliyah on the yahrzeit
of my father.....Sondra Schoenfeld
My grandson's wedding.....Shirley Segal

IN MEMORY OF.....From
Evelynn GietterSharon Ludwin
Florence Spector.....Sandra Goldberg

Neve Shalom would like to thank the following people for chanting Torah during the month of November

T=Teen, JR=Junior

Ronald Becker 2
Melissa Boxer 1
Jake Bullock..... 2
Jennifer Bullock..... 1
Lawrence Dombrow..... 7
Michael Friederwitzer 2
Eric Goldman 1
Sharon Goldman 2
Rosalie Green 1
Ari Greenberg 1
Bruce Greenberg..... 1
Jonathan Hersch 1
Shira Hersch T 1
Miriam Kafker 2
Elliot Kramer 1
Michael Kushner 2
Azi Richman T 1
Kelli Richman 1

Mark Rosenfield13
Debbie Schildkraut4
Stacey Sern.....2
Hope Serratelli2
Donald Solomon.....1
Maya Solomon1
Lisa Spiegel1
Alana Taub1
Stephen Traum.....1
Karen Weinstein.....9

Haftorah

Sharon Goldman
Stacey Sern
Donald Solomon..... T
Maya Solomon T
Ed Thompson



**Sharing in Harmony
An Interfaith Concert
of Song and Dance**

Neve Shalom

Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016 4pm

No admission fee * Sponsors \$36 *
Donations will be accepted for local Food Pantries

New Hope Baptist Church
Gospel Choir & Band
Gregory Rhodes, Director;
Rev. Ronald Owens, Pastor

Nrityopaasana Dancers
Vidushi Sushama
Shreyas, Director

Mercaz Jewish Choir of Central NJ
Cantors Anna West Ott &
Sheldon Levin, conductors



Neve Shalom is delighted to be hosting the USY Regional Freshman Shabbaton on January 22 and 23. Approximately 50 freshman from all over Northern and Central New Jersey will be gathering in Metuchen for a Shabbat of prayer, study and fun.



The Youth Committee is looking for families able to host at least two visiting USYers members from Friday evening through Saturday morning. The host family would need to pick up the USYers on Friday evening around 10:15 and bring them back to the synagogue on Saturday morning at 9:30. They would also need to provide a cold, dairy breakfast on Saturday morning. All other meals will be provided at the synagogue. The USYers will bring sleeping bags and pillows.

If you can host USYers for the Shabbaton or have any questions, please email youth@neveshalom.net.



Neve Shalom Nursery School
 250 Grove Avenue
 Metuchen, NJ 08840
 (732) 548-2238 ext 17
 nurseryschool@neveshalom.net

“My Jewish Journey”

Come join us for a very special Jewish learning experience for you and your preschool aged child (ages 3 – 5). Starting in October 2015, each month there will be a one hour program on a Sunday morning designed specifically for young Jewish families to learn, interact, and create together!

We will explore Jewish holidays and values through art, music, cooking, storytelling, games, and activities designed specifically for you and your preschool aged child.

There will be eight sessions on the following Sunday mornings from 11 am – 12pm.

October 18th	November 15th	December 13th	January 10th
February 7th	March 13th	April 10th	May 8th

The cost will be subsidized so that each family pays only \$36 for the entire nine sessions! **Even if you are joining us after the first session, please “jump in” at any time, we can pro-rate your cost!**

Please contact Martha Mack, Nursery School Director at (732) 548-2238 ext 17 or nurseryschool@neveshalom.net if you any additional questions or to sign up your family today!

“My Jewish Journey” – Neve Shalom Nursery School

Parent’s Name(s): _____ Child’s Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Please return bottom of form to Neve Shalom Nursery School and include payment of \$36.



**THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES RESPONDED TO THE HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL FOR 5776 - 2015
BY DONATING GENEROUSLY. THANK YOU SO MUCH.**

Brian and Elise Abraham	Eric and Susan Goldman	Muriel Marash	Murray Simon
Steven and Linda Ader	Mark and Elaine Goldstein	Harold and Estelle Marcus	Stanley and Gail Slobodien
Stephen and Jacqueline Alter	Ethan and Margaret Gorenstein	Edward and Sondra Markman	Irwin and Joyce Slurzberg
Marcia Anderson	Linda Gotlib	Daniel and Esta Marx	Martin and Judith Slutzky
Ronald and Deborah Anes	Samuel and Joy Grafton	Barry and Linda Mendelson	Leonard and Arlene Smith
Anonymous	Rosalie Green	Marilyn Miller	Igor and Marina Sobol
Ira and Amy Artman	Bruce Greenberg and Deborah Berman	Robert and Sandra Moss	Eliot and Barbara Spack
Michael and Helene Baum	Jonathan Greenberg and Stacey Sern	Caryn and Eric Nacht	Judith Spiegel
Ronald and Christine Becker	Suzanne and Jim Griffin	Steven and Debra Nagel	Robert Spierer
Jean Belowich	Bernard and Jill Grodzicki	Joel and Audrey Napchen	Leonard and Cheryl Stein
Eric and Marci Berger	Beatrice Grossman	Eric Neugroschel	Alan Stern
Jerome and Marilyn Bergman	Gerald and Rhoda Grossman	Amy and Brian Opitz	Marilyn Stone
Paul and Iris Berman	Jamie and Ira Grubman	Mindy Orchowitz	Aaron and Marlene Strauss
Carol and Kenneth Bernstein	Kitty Haberman	Mindy and Scott Osterman	Howard and Marilyn Sukoff
Alan and Iris Borack	Gilbert and Claudie Hayat	Francine Pasmaik	Edward and Marian Sztainbaum
Olga Brahin	Faith Heisler and Fred Fischer	Stephan and Beverly Perry	Judith and Seymour Tabak
Kenneth and Aimee Braverman	Morris and Esther Heller	David and Marci Pinkowitz	Michael and Sharon Taub
Sanford and Nancy Braverman	Jonathan and Julie Hersch	Lauren Rachel Rabinowitz	Scott and Shelley Telson
Marc and Gail Bressler	Lisa and Walter Heskes	Sheila Rabinowitz	Leo and Doris Terr
Seymour and Renee Bromberg	Marcia Horn	Karen Reichel	Martin and Marilyn Tessler
Jennifer and Richard Bullock	Alan and Sue Horwitz	Donald and Fran Reisfeld	Edward Thompson
Ruth Candeub	Larry and Lauren Howitt	Fredda Robinson	Frank Thompson and Benna Brodsky
Joel and Sondra Caplan	Irene Hutt	Michele and Mark Rosenfield	Scott and Cindy Lynn Ull
William and Donna Martin	Jamie Israel	Mark and Sherry Rubenfeld	David Verbitsky
Robert Clare	Miriam Kafker	Seth and Sheri-Rose Rubin	Abraham and Sandra Vorensky
Volma Coen	Bernard Kalfus	Marvin and Dorothy Rubinstein	Martin and Ellen Weinberg
Donna Coen O'Gorman	Richard A. Kalfus	Stuart and Margo Rudin	Edward Weinstein
Barbara Cohen	Rena and David Kallman	Daniel and Corinne Rushefsky	Karen Weinstein
Michael and Andrea Colby	Judith Kamen	Sylvia Russell	Steven M. and Phyllis E. Weiser
Flora Cowen	Bernard and Gail Kanar	Herbert and Myrna Samuelson	S. Merrill and Carol Weiss
Mark and Christina Daniels	Michael and Florine Kaplan	Seymour Sandler	Donald and Joyce Wernik
Joshua and Jaclyn Danziger	Scott and Susan Kahan	Kevin and Carol Scheid	Joyce Westerman
Scott and Stacey Derector	Reuven and Nancy J. Kaswin	Deborah Janet and Brett	Ira and Myra Wiener
Arnold and Harriet Derman	Malvin and Susan Keller	Schildkraut	Robert and Shelley Wiesner
Irving and Brenda Dessel	Michael Kesler and Barbara Reed	Ellen Schimmel	Larry Wineberg
Lawrence Dombrow	Michael and Frayda Kleiman	Cory and Stanley Schneider	Alan and Donna Wink
Davene Iris Dultz	Lisa Klein	Steven and Lisa M. Schneider	Louis Worman
Jeffrey Einbond	Elliot Kramer	Frances Schonberger	David and Marcia Yellin
Jerome and Gloria Engel	Michael and Kushner	Philip Schreiber	Gerald and Viviana Zelizer
Albert and Helene Epstein	Robert and Carole Kussner	Gail and John Schuetz	Mary Zirlin
Gary and Mindy Epstein	David and Lea Lanton	Jeffrey and Elyse Schulman	Howard and Karen Zuckerman
Julius Feinson	Irving and Lenore Lapidus	Martin and Sandra Schwemer	
Sandra Fields	Bennett and Susan Lass	Hope and Thomas Serratelli	
Marlene Fineman	Robert and Beverly Lazarowitz	Kenneth and Paula R. Shatten	
Barry and Arlene Fink	Susan Leckart	Andrew and Phyllis Shepard	
Robert and Karen Fleischer	Benjamin and Gladys Leibowitz	Larry Sher	
Renee Frank	David and Susan Lemerman	Charlotte Sheratsky	
Gary and Phyllis Frederick	Emanuel and Betty Leventhal	Mark Sheratsky	
Florence Fried	Bruce and Dorie Levin	Edna Sherber	
Lena Friedel-Feld	Edward Levine	Michael and Ruth Sherman	
Edward and Randi Garber	Florence Levine	Steven and Lori Shery	
Herbert and Carole Gary	Herbert Levitt	Edward and Elise Shill	
Morris and Yetta Gelber	Robert and Nancy Lipschutz	Stuart and Nancy Shlossman	
Samuel and Susan Gilbert	Sharon and Elliott Ludwin	Yehuda and Jennine Shpigel	
Laurence and Joyce Goldberg	Allen and Barbara Luster	Joel S. and Rhonda F. Silverman	
Betty Goldfarb	Stuart and Jody Mantel	Judith Simet	

thank
you!

From Our Rabbi

continued from page 1

about this sacred shelter that we have constructed. The Hebrew Bible describes the Jewish People as a “kingdom of priests” (Exodus 19:6) helping to bring the rest of the world into closer proximity with the divine and “a light unto the nations” (Isaiah 49:6) helping guide those around us towards the repair of the world. We can do neither if we keep the warmth of Neve Shalom a secret.

I am energized by my work with our Membership Committee, our Tikkun Olam Committee, the Board of Directors and the Long Term Planning Committee among many others to turn our attention outwards towards the larger community in which we live.

And of course, this is a task that every current member can help us perform. Think about your neighbors, friends and colleagues in our area who might appreciate the opportunity to come in from the cold and to become part our *kehilah*, or synagogue community. This is an exciting time for us. Let’s let everyone around us know everything that happening and changing within our walls. The first step in our becoming the kind of congregation which brings warmth to those around us is to invite others in. Barring the discovery of some actual magic words, we’ve still got a few months of winter left. Let’s not waste them!



Neve Shalom—Adult Education
hosted by Hazzan Levin
 Free if you registered for the Spring Semester. Any individual film is \$5 or \$15 for the series

When Comedy Went To School

Tues., Feb. 2—10:30 a.m.

Robert Klein, Jerry Lewis, Sid Caesar, Jerry Stiller, Jackie Mason and other famous comedians answer questions about why so many great comedians got their start in the “Borsht Belt.” Some hilarious , historic clips and some personal recollections. 77 minutes, 2013 documentary.

Marjorie Morningstar

Tues., Feb. 9—10:00 a.m.

Gene Kelly and Natalie Wood star in the classic tale of a Jewish girl who falls in love with a Catskills singer, dancer, composer. The film is notable for its inclusion of Jewish religious scenes. 128 minutes, 1958 Academy Award Nomination for Best Song.

Deli Man

Tues., Feb. 16—10:30 a.m.

Jewish culture continues to shift and adapt in America as seen through the tastes and experiences of Deli owners and patrons. Stories of Katz’s, 2nd Ave. Deli, Nate ‘N Al and others embody a tradition of savory, nostalgic foods. 91 minutes, 2014 Documentary.

Welcome To Kutsher’s

Tues., Feb. 23—10:30 a.m.

Kutsher’s was the last surviving Jewish resort in the Catskills. The film explores the Catskills experience through a close up look at Kutsher’s rise and fall over 100 years. The award winning film captures a last glimpse of a lost world as it disappears before our eyes. 73 minutes, 2012 Documentary.



Neve Shalom Hebrew School
invites everyone to

A fun program of songs and raps about Biblical stories and Jewish History. Children will get to create their own Bible Rap.

Sun. Feb. 7 at 9:45 a.m.
 Free and open to all families with children grades K-7.

Parents are also invited to join the Men’s Club in putting on Tefillin and learning during the morning service at 9 a.m. at the annual **WORLD WIDE WRAP**.




Sponsored in part by



The Jewish Federation
 IN THE HEART OF NEW JERSEY



Co-sponsored by Metuchen USY and YIT

January 16

Join us for a family Havdalah service from 6:00-6:15 then head out for an adult evening.
 Your children will get dinner (at 6:45pm) and fun provided by our USYers.

\$25 for first child/\$10 each additional
Children ages 3-12 welcome.
 *Must be potty trained.

Pick up is at 9:30pm.

Questions? Contact youth@neveshalom.net



Neve Shalom's Hebrew School invites you to

Dinner before Family Services

Friday, Jan. 8— dinner 5:30 pm, services 6:30 pm
Join us for Mexican Dinner
\$5 for 1 or 2 people, \$10 for 3 or more
Register by contacting Jeanne Cowhey in the office.
Feel free for adults to bring your own wine to dinner.




Neve Shalom

Neve Shalom invites students and parents to build a

HUGE MODEL of MASADA

With 10,000 LEGOs.

On Jan. 17, 2016 from 9-11am.
during Hebrew School.



Sponsored by a grant from
The Jewish Federation
IN THE HEART OF NEW JERSEY



For information contact
Hazzan Levin
732-548-2238 x 14
Hazzan@NeveShalom.net



Neve Shalom invites you to

MULTIPLE MINYANIM

Sat., Jan 9, 2016 10:15-11:30 a.m.

During the Shabbat morning service, several options will be offered throughout the building including

- ✧ The Regular Service *starts 9:30am*
- ✧ Yoga with a Jewish Twist
Led by Wendy Kushner at 10:15 a.m.
- ✧ Torah Study
led by Stephan Gross at 10:15 a.m.



All will join together for *Musaf* and *Kiddush*.

**Neve Shalom's USY and Kadima Youth Groups
 invite the entire congregation to join them on
 Friday, January 22nd at 6:30 P.M.
 for spirited Services featuring USY melodies
 followed by Shabbat Dinner**

(reservations required for dinner)



**Welcome Shabbat through a traditional
 Friday Night Service
 infused with the youth and energy of USY and Kadima!**

Questions? Email youth@neveshalom.net

Kosher Chinese Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 22nd

Please respond by January 15th

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

_____ # Adults @ \$10

_____ # Children (13 & younger) @ \$7.50

Total Enclosed - \$ _____ (Make check payable to Metuchen USY)





LOX STOCK & DELI RESTAURANT
 Eat In or Take Out
 Catering for All Occasions

Heritage Plaza
 228 Ryders Lane
 Milltown, NJ 08850

Phone: 732-214-8900
 Fax: 732-214-0555

A NEW JERSEY PVF INDUSTRIAL WHOLESALER IS SEEKING PROSPECTIVE INDIVIDUALS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN MERGING OR ACQUIRING OUR BUSINESS. WE HAVE BEEN IN BUSINESS SINCE 1946, WITH SALES OF APPROXIMATELY 3M, 12 CURRENT EMPLOYEES AND A 40K SQUARE FOOT TOTALLY ENCLOSED WAREHOUSE. THE MANAGEMENT HAS NO LEGACY CURRENTLY IN THE BUSINESS AND WE ARE LOOKING TO PERPETUATE WHAT WE HAVE GROWN OVER ALMOST 70 YEARS. PLEASE RESPOND TO: LEGACYSALE1946@GMAIL.COM



Thomas Peoples
 Sales Consultant - Sansone Hyundai
 tpeoples@sansoneauto.com

Main: 732.587.1100
 Ext: 1312
 Cell: 732.991.4884

SANSONE
 AUTOMALL

FOR OVER 50 YEARS

90-100 Rt. 1 North, Avenel, NJ 07001 • SansoneAuto.com

732 • 738-8900
 800 • 272-1063

Fax: 732 • 738-5808
 Email: fred@fbssecurity.com

692 KING GEORGES ROAD • FORDS • NEW JERSEY 08863

FRED SCHOENFELD

GOLDSTEIN
 FUNERAL CHAPEL INC.

We value the dignity and the sanctity of the Jewish soul and we uphold and maintain reverence for the Jewish tradition

Exclusively Jewish Operated
 Conveniently Located
 Large Chapels

Martin Goldstein, Mgr.
 N.J. Lic. 4025

2015 Woodbridge Avenue, Edison
732-777-0032

Because we care... www.bctire.com

COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE • TRUSTED FOR OVER 40 YEARS

Joel Caplan - President

OCEAN TWP - EDISON - PISCATAWAY
 732-988-9000 732-549-0990 732-985-6100

THE MIDDLESEX MEDICAL GROUP

Richard B. Bullock, M.D., F.A.C.P.
 Diplomate American Board of Internal Medicine and Geriatrics

Darshana Tawde, M.D., F.A.C.P.
 Diplomate American Board of Internal Medicine

Anne Alliegro, RN, ANP-C
 Nurse Practitioner

Jennifer E. Wiseman, RN, ANP-C
 Nurse Practitioner

Hours by Appointment

225 May St., Suite E, Edison 732-661-2020

Sales Phone: 732-548-9191 Service Phone: 732-548-9394
 Fax Phone: 732-548-9759

TV & APPLIANCE CENTER

Discounted Sales and Service 551 Middlesex Ave Metuchen, NJ

HAIMM
 MEMORIAL CENTER

MONUMENTS FOR ALL CEMETERIES

10 MAIN STREET 732-634-8500
 WOODBRIDGE, NJ 07095 732-634-1521
 800-729-0582 Fax: 732-750-0120

Ameriprise Financial

I can help you reach your milestones and all the mile-pebbles

Our Advisors. Your Dreams. MORE WITHIN REACH®

Call me today at (908) 755.2552

Merrill Thor, CFP*
 Financial Advisor

34 Mountain Blvd
 Bigg A
 Warren, NJ 07059
 908-755-2552

merrill.g.thor@ampf.com
 www.ameripriseadvisors.com/
 merrill.g.thor

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA and SIPC. Ameriprise Financial cannot guarantee future financial results.
 © 2012 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

BRESSLER ~ DUYK LAW FIRM
www.bresslerlaw.com

MARC J. BRESSLER, J.D.
marc@bresslerlaw.com

DAVID S. BRESSLER, J.D.
david@bresslerlaw.com

60 STATE HWY. 27 EDISON, NJ 08820 TEL: 732-494-8555 FAX: 732-494-9464

Commercial Litigation, Collections and Bankruptcy Nationwide

SAMUEL and JOY GRAFTON
 POPPER and GRAFTON - ATTORNEYS AT LAW

225 West 34th Street
 Suite 2209
 New York, NY 10122-1600 212-290-2630



**NEVE SHALOM
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**
250 GROVE AVENUE
METUCHEN, NJ 08840
732-548-2238

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ
PERMIT NO. 40030

Dated Material - Please Expedite

January

January 2016/Tevet-Shevat 5776

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

<p>Service Times Shabbat morning 9:30 am Children's Service 10:15 am Morning Minyan Rosh Chodesh 6:35 am Sundays, New Year's & MLK Jr. 9:00 am Monday and Thursday 6:45 am Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am</p>						<p>1 Candles 4:23 pm Services 6:30 pm</p>	<p>2 Shemot Mincha/Maariv 4 pm</p>
<p>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p>							
<p>3 Hebrew School resumes Rabbi's Class 10 am</p>	<p>4 Nursery School Resumes Finance Comm USY, Sisterhood Pizza, Beer, and Torah all at 7:30 pm</p>	<p>5 Ritual Comm 7:30 pm</p>	<p>6 Kadima/USY Basketball 6:30/7:30 pm</p>	<p>7 Men's Club 7:30 pm</p>	<p>8 Candles 4:29 pm Services 7:30 pm Family dinner 5:30 pm Traditional and Family services 6:30 pm</p>	<p>9 Va-Era Multiple Minyanim 10:15 am Mincha/Maariv 4pm</p>	
<p>10 Youth Learning Team 9 am Rabbi's Class 10 am Midrasha 11 am Jewish Journeys 11 am Hanoar 12 pm</p>	<p>11 Rosh Chodesh Kadima 7:30 pm Pizza, Beer, and Torah 7:30 pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 55 Plus 1 pm Kadima/USY Basketball 6:30/7:30 pm Membership Comm 7:30 pm</p>	<p>14 Choir 7:30 pm Fundraising Comm 7:30pm</p>	<p>15 Candles 4:37 pm Services 6:30 pm</p>	<p>16 Bo Sisterhood Shabbat Mincha/Maariv 4:15 pm Havdalah and singing 6 pm Kids Night Out 6 pm</p>	
<p>17 LEGO Day 9 am Library Comm 9 am Men's Club Founders Breakfast 10 am</p>	<p>18 M.L. King Day Pizza, Beer, and Torah 7:30 pm</p>	<p>19 Hazzan's Class 11 am Colonia Hadassah 1 pm Metuchen/Edison Hadassah 7 pm</p>	<p>20 Kadima/USY Basketball 6:30/7:30 pm</p>	<p>21 Youth Comm 7:30 pm</p>	<p>22 Regional Senior Shabbaton Candles 4:45 pm Services 6:30 pm Led by USY and Kadima Shabbat dinner 7:15 pm</p>	<p>23 Be-Shalach Shabbat Shira Regional Senior Shabbaton Mincha/Maariv 4:15 pm</p>	
<p>24 Rabbi's Class 10 am Congregational meeting 11 am Hanoar 12 pm</p>	<p>25 Tu-B'Shevat Pizza, Beer, and Torah 7:30 pm USY 7:30 pm</p>	<p>26 House Comm 7 pm</p>	<p>27 Kadima/USY Basketball 6:30/7:30 pm</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Candles 4:53 pm Services 6:30 pm Kabbalat Tot Shabbat 6:30 pm</p>	<p>30 Yitro Mincha/Maariv 4:30 pm Hadassah Dinner 7 pm</p>	
<p>31 Rabbi's Class 10 am Interfaith Concert 4 pm</p>							