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February *Bulletin* Deadline

February *Bulletin* articles are due in the office on January 5, 2009. Stories may be delivered to the office, faxed to 248-788-0604, or e-mailed to cbminfo@bnaimoshe.org. (If e-mailing, send as text only in the body of your message, please.) Photographs are encouraged to accompany stories when appropriate. Late stories are subject to inclusion on a case-by-case basis.

**HAVE YOU VISITED
OUR WEBSITE?
www.bnaimoshe.org**

We Have Archive Bulletins

Thoughts From Our President

by Steven Sperling



Dear Congregant,

The winds of change are upon us. A new year is here, a changing of the guard is about to take place in our country. Regardless of where you stood on the election, you must realize the historical significance of it. John McCain and Barack Obama are two men who love their country and presented their case to us voters. We have someone of a different skin color than the majority of us. But, thankfully a majority of voters looked beyond that and voted for the person. How many years has it been

when a Jew could not hold certain jobs or live in certain places. I remember my father of blessed memory, telling me that in 1941 when he first came to Detroit with a pregnant wife and a little girl in tow, trying to find a place to live. The signs on the apartment buildings stated "NO DOGS, BLACKS OR JEWS ALLOWED" (the words that I use were changed from the derogatory terms that were actually used).

We keep hearing about our new Black or African-American President. I personally would rather hear just about "our new President." I do not like how we are always hyphenated Americans. I do not consider myself a Jewish American. I consider myself an American. I think it is time for all of us to just be Americans, regardless of skin color, religion, nationality or personal preferences.

The winds of change are also changing our congregation. Those of us over sixty years of age must bring in new leadership and new members of the younger generation. That is not to say my generation must step aside. I plan to stay active for many more years, but I plan to help mentor a new generation to "STAND UP AND BE COUNTED"

For those of you who do not want to realize it, change is definitely here. Our economy is changing and our government is changing. A former President said that we must not fear change, but embrace it. We must always be on the side of progress.

Now that we of the Jewish faith are part of the main stream, we hear that we are so integrated that we are losing our identity as Conservative Jews. I hear from various congregants that the Conservative movement will soon be gone. I believe this will not happen. We are going through a change. We have to identify who we are and what the movement stands for in these changing times. I hear some want a different type of service. a shorter service, a livelier service and other changes. We must always stay on message. We should not do what is popular, but what is right by Conservative Judaism. This is not to say that change is to be avoided, but change for the sake of change is not necessarily the way to go either.

We must always stay positive and get our message out that Conservative Judaism is a movement with a rich tradition, family oriented, a leader in social action and a strong belief in Jewish education. This is a wonderful message that must get out to the community.

There was a time when the children went to their parents' synagogue. Now we are experiencing parents leaving the congregations they called home for so many years and are instead going to the synagogue where their children attend. We as a congregation must avoid this. B'nai Moshe is a welcoming place for all Jews.

Last month, our Vice-President Kerry Greenhut, wrote about our Long Range Plan that will guide us for the next five to ten years. There are so many goals that we want to bring to fruition in that time period. But we need your help. We, as all religious organizations, count on volunteers to do what is necessary to perpetuate our Synagogue.

As time goes on you will be hearing more about this plan.

I urge all congregants to talk to your fellow Jews about the benefits of being a member of our B'nai Moshe family.

Shalom until next month

A Word From Our Rabbi

by Rabbi Elliot Pachter



Chances are, you are among the many people who love to do the Sudoku puzzle in the daily newspaper. For those who are unfamiliar, Sudoku is the puzzle consisting of 81 squares, in a 9 x 9 grid, in which each row, column, and 3 x 3 section is required to contain the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. Filling in this grid correctly can be a challenge. Why do we love it so much?

First of all, it's a game, and in these stressful times we all need a little fun. Unlike other forms of fun, Sudoku is safe, inexpensive, and doesn't require a lot of time or any special equipment, other than a pencil (or a pen, for the real "gutsy" players).

But, more importantly, Sudoku is a puzzle which always has a solution. If only everything in our lives shared this feature.

So often we find ourselves with a problem, a dilemma, a personal or professional crisis, for which there is sadly no clear answer, just a series of imperfect choices. Similarly, we read in that same newspaper about issues facing our government leaders—like war and the economy—and we know "deep down" that no simple solutions exist.

How nice then, to try to solve a puzzle which has a clear solution. Even on the days when the Sudoku proves too challenging, we know that the correct answer still exists, if only we had enough time to keep trying to find it.

And when you successfully complete the Sudoku grid, something else wonderful happens. You know you are right, without question! What a great feeling that can be. In life, we make choices—whom to marry (or even, whether or not to marry), what career to enter, in which city to live, how to parent our children. Few of these, and other important decisions have clear "right" and "wrong" answers. Moreover, if we succeed in making a good (not necessarily perfect) decision, we often will not know this to be true for years to come.

So, again, isn't it nice, if only for the few minutes of doing a puzzle in the morning newspaper, to be certain that we are right!

Now, real Sudoku players understand that in order to be a winner, one needs to take chances. Certain numbers can be easily filled in, others are not so obvious. One can stare at a blank grid for hours, and not make any mistakes, but "avoiding mistakes" is not the definition of success. Isn't that a great message for our lives? Our goal should be not merely to avoid failing, but rather to take some calculated risks, and even if we make a temporary wrong decision, we will ultimately learn from our experience and move closer to the correct path.

A final feature of Sudoku is, of course, that every number must be used equally, or the puzzle doesn't work. Here, too, is a message for our lives, that is best summed up in the wisdom of the Mishna, in Pirke Avot (chapter four):

Ben Azzai used to say: Don't despise any person nor discriminate against anything. For every person has his/her time, and every thing has its place.

This sounds a bit like Andy Warhol's statement that everyone receives in this world ten minutes of fame. But look again, and you understand that the mishna's message is that the world only works correctly if we realize that every person plays a role. Sometimes we struggle to find our own niche, or to recognize the importance of others besides ourselves.

But ultimately, like the numbers on the Sudoku board, unless we all work together, and use everyone's strengths and contributions, we will not truly ever succeed.

A Word From Our Cantor

by Cantor Earl G. Berris



On December 9, 2008, 30 of my colleagues and I from around the United States and Canada were honored by the Jewish Theological Seminary with Doctoral Degrees. Every year, the seminary holds a special convocation ceremony to honor professionals in the Jewish community by offering these Doctorates. This year it was to

members of the Conservative Cantorate.

I wish to thank those from the congregation who honored me by coming to New York for the Convocation and to Tom Wexelberg Clauser and Michele Siegal from JTS for all their hard work in helping to prepare for that day. Before the ceremony the group from Detroit had a tour of the rare books collection of the seminary library and learned from two of the librarians. One who spoke about the rare books dealing with prayer and music in the library and the second about the online musicology collection which can be accessed on the JATS web site: www.jtsa.edu.

After the tour, we had lunch together before the Convocation Ceremony. The auditorium was full and the contingent from Detroit, much to my appreciation, made their presence known. Below is the Citation which came along with the Diploma.

Hazzan Earl Gordon Berris
Doctor of Music

You are the beloved cantor of Congregation B'nai Moshe in West Bloomfield, Michigan. Respected marriage and family counselor, you began your illustrious thirty-year career as a hazzan via your training at The Jewish Theological Seminary's Cantors Institute. You became the treasured associate cantor in Farmington Hills, Michigan and served with distinction as cantor and religious school principal in Overland Park, Kansas.

You have devoted yourself to working tirelessly with children, adults and the developmentally challenged, and the new siddur you coauthored allows Jews with little Judaic background to feel welcome and participate with ease in Shabbat services. So adored are your original congregational songs, they have been published by the Cantors Assembly for use by other synagogues and cantors. You are a founder of the Bima Players, founder and president of the Michigan Board of Cantors, and you have served as esteemed chairman of the Cantors Assembly's Tri-state / Great Lakes and Rivers Region, and valued president of the Cantors Council of Metropolitan Detroit.

Your love of sacred music, the Jewish people, and community life has offered solace to those in need and inspired many to follow in your distinguished footsteps.

I want to thank those of you who have, already, offered me a Mazal Tov and wish to invite all to come and continue this honor conferred upon me by supporting the seminary and joining us on January 18 for the local JTS reception and music program.

L.I.F.E. / Youth News



Claire Lillie Yerman will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, January 10 at Congregation B'nai Moshe in West Bloomfield. She is the daughter of Ada and Howard Yerman, and sister to Al and Ellie. She is the granddaughter of the late Eleanor and Arnold Yerman, and the late Phyliss Kusnetz.

Participating in the service will be Claire's proud grandfather Harold Kusnetz. Claire is a seventh grade honors student at Hillel Day School in Farmington Hills. Claire has found participating with JARC very rewarding.

Ryan Joseph Brickner will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, January 24th. He is the son of Wendy and Howard Brickner and brother of Danielle. Ryan's proud zayde is Herbert Cohen. He is also the grandson of the late Cecile Cohen, and the late Rachel and Sidney Brickner. Sharing in his simchah will be his great grandmother Anne Gutman.



Ryan attends Walnut Creek Middle School in West Bloomfield. He felt it especially meaningful to participate in the Relay for Life.



Shane Sperling will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday January 31. Shane is the grandson of Heather and Steven Sperling. Sharing in the joy is his mother Megan Sperling and his proud brother Devin.

Shane is in the eighth grade at Abbott Middle School in West Bloomfield. He has a junior black belt in karate. He has just finished his first season in football as a defensive end. Shane's mitzvah project is volunteering at Yad Ezra.

SABBATH AND FESTIVAL PRAYER BOOKS TO BE SORTED AND DISTRIBUTED

In anticipation of our soon to arrive new Shabbat Siddur, Tefillah l'Moshe, eighth grade student Andy Fisher will head up a project in our synagogue to find new homes for many of our Sabbath and Festival Prayer Books. As a step toward attaining the title of Eagle Scout, Andy will lead congregational members in sorting through the older siddurim and attempting to give the black prayer books to people whose name appears inside, either as a donor or honoree. Please volunteer to help Andy Fisher. The project will begin Sunday, January 4, 2009, and continue for the three consecutive Sundays starting at 10:00 a.m. Come and perform two mitzvot simultaneously by connecting our members with a copy of the old siddur, and helping Andy reach Eagle Scout.

THE SHABBAT EXPERIENCE

A program for L.I.F.E. Program 7th graders and all non-L.I.F.E. Program students, grades 5 and up.

When: 11-11:45 a.m. every Shabbat the L.I.F.E. Program meets

Where: B'nai Moshe Library

Top-Notch Facilitators: L.I.F.E. faculty and visiting special guests

Upcoming Dates

- January 3, 2009: No Religious School/No Shabbat Experience
January 10, 2009: Ms. Lynne Avadenka: Torah Scrolls, Parchments, Ketubot
January 17, 2009: Mr. Joshua Berkovitz: Jews in the News
January 24, 2009: Mr. Don Cohen: Israeli Politics for Students

Mark your calendars:

All 7th graders:

Friday night Midrasha Dinner and Class –
January 23, 2009

All 7th graders

A class trip to the JET Theater Production (JCC, West Bloomfield) of ***The Diary of Anne Frank*** on Sunday, March 15, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.

A trip to the Holocaust Memorial Center
Sunday, March 22, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

The LIFE Program Religious School and all LIFE Programs will be closed for Winter Recess from December 17th through January 4th. Monday classes resume January 5, 2009; Tuesday classes resume January 6, 2009.

Kolel Moshe / Family Education

KOLEL MOSHE

January, 2009

Tevet / Shevat 5769

"TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK" SHABBAT MORNING STUDY GROUP

Every Shabbat at 10 a.m. Kolel Moshe offers a lively discussion of the weekly Torah portion led by Barry V Levine. No knowledge of Hebrew is necessary to learn, participate, and enjoy. New students are welcome to join this class, which has been learning together for over six years.

STAY AND LEARN ON SHABBAT

Every Shabbat starting at about 12:30 p. m, following services and kiddush, all are invited to participate in an hour of relaxed Shabbat learning and camaraderie in the Cantor Klein Chapel. No charge, no reservations needed.

Jan 3: No Stay and Learn

Jan 10: Rabbi Elliot Pachter, *How Jewish Leaders are Chosen—A Strange Talmudic Story*

Jan 17: Barry V Levine, *My name is Moses, and I'm in a Rush!*

Jan 24: Don Cohen, *Bibi, Tzipi, Ehud and Barack: The Israeli Elections and the American Factor*

Jan 31: Marc Sussman, *Birchot HaShachar, the first blessings of the day*

KOLEL MOSHE is made possible by the Ruth Rosenberg Albert Adult Education Fund of B'nai Moshe, by tuition fees from our students, and by contributions from members and friends of B'nai Moshe who share our shul's dedication to Torah Lishma - lifelong Jewish learning for its own sake - as a prime Jewish value. Kolel Moshe classes are open to the community, and everyone is invited to come and learn. For more information or to be placed on our Kolel Moshe e-mail list to receive regular updates on upcoming Kolel Moshe lifelong learning opportunities e-mail cbmedu@bnaimoshe.org.

Friends of the B'nai Moshe Library
**READ and REVIEW
Book Club**
an adult group for couples, singles, men and women to read and discuss literature, both fiction and non-fiction, of interest to the Jewish world.

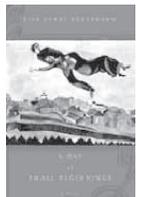
The next meeting will be on
MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2009
7:30 PM

At the home of
Leslye & Lewis Rosenbaum
4384 Pinehurst, West Bloomfield

The book for review will be

A Day of Small Beginnings by Lisa Pearl Rosenbaum

Set in Poland, this novel tells the timeless story of three generations of the Lieber family, the secrets that break them, the love that binds them, the ghost that haunts them, and the town that is both their curse and their redemption. Rosenbaum packs a lot of Jewish history, recent and otherwise, into this luminous tale, as well as joy in the arts and in prayer.

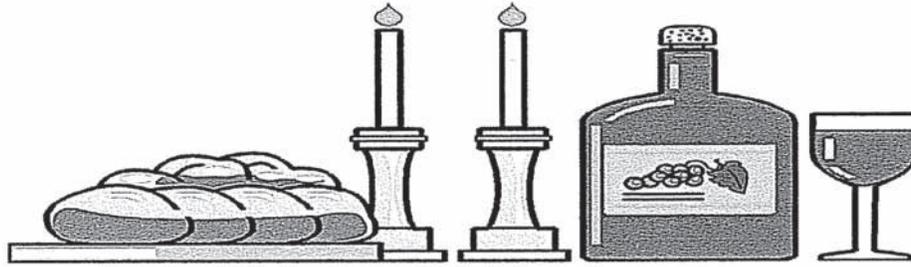


Refreshments will be served.

R.S.V.P., or for more information, contact Ed Klarman
248-358-2178 or email eklarman@comcast.net
by January 16, 2008



Congregational Shabbat Dinner



Friday, January 23, 2009

Shabbat Service - 5:15 p.m. / Dinner - 6:15 p.m.

Fried Chicken, Fish, and a Vegetarian Selection

(Chicken Soup and Matzo Balls, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Fruit, and Dessert)

*This dinner is being underwritten by the
Nellie and Max Friedman Shabbat Dinner Fund*

RESERVATION FORM

Friday, January 23, 2009

Return this form with your payment to:

Congregation B'nai Moshe

6800 Drake Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322

**Prepaid reservations must be to the synagogue office by
Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 5 p.m.**

Names: _____

Children: _____

Phone No: _____

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
_____ Adults	\$9	\$12
_____ Children to age 18	N/C	\$ 5

*FISH AND VEGETARIAN DISHES ARE SPECIAL ORDER ONLY
AND MUST BE REQUESTED AT THE TIME OF RESERVATION*

No. of Adults: Chicken _____ Fish _____ Vegetarian _____

No. of Children: Chicken _____ Fish _____ Vegetarian _____

Note: We have a very limited number of high chairs. The small picnic tables will also be available. Total Enclosed \$ _____

Synagogue / Sisterhood / Men's Club

THE B'NAI MOSHE SISTERHOOD INVITES YOU TO THE STUDIO OF LYNNE AVADENKA SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 10:00 AM

Lynne's work is inspired by Jewish subject matter: classic texts, history, ritual and ceremony. She is also inspired by the concept of the book: A singular object binding together a multiplicity of meanings and ideas.

Lynne's work is in the permanent collections of the Detroit Institute of Arts, The Israel Museum in Jerusalem, The Library of Congress, The Jewish Museum in New York, The Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and many others.

She has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Lynne will give a printing demonstration and talk about her upcoming solo exhibition.

- Reservations a must, please RSVP to Lynne at lynneavadenka@gmail.com or 248-541-3132
- Lynne's studio, located in Huntington Woods, will accommodate 25 people.
- \$5 (payable to Sisterhood) for the visit and light refreshments
- We will assist with the formation of car pools. Please indicate, in your RSVP, if you can drive others or need a ride.



Join us for Sisterhood Shabbat



Saturday, January 17, 2009
9:00 am Services followed by Kiddush

Wrap up with God, then, let's have a bagel.



After the Wrap, join us for a bagel
and drash on the Mitzvah of Tefillin.



Don't have a set of Tefillin? Purchase a set for as little as \$140 plus S&H
at www.WorldWideWrap.org

Please join **B'nai Moshe Men's Club** along with tens of thousands of Jews around the world for this year's **World Wide Wrap** - during morning minyan on Sunday, February 1, at 9:00 am. Afterwards, stay for a fabulous breakfast along with a program on "staying healthy despite a hectic schedule".



SAVE THE DATE FOR A

Musical Program and
Champagne Reception

Celebrating JTS's awarding the degree of Doctor of
Music, *Honoris Causa*

Cantor Earl Berris

Sunday, January 18, 2009
22 Tevet 5769

7:00 pm at Congregation B'nai Moshe



For more information or to volunteer,
contact Michele Siegal, Assistant Director, JTS Great Lakes Region
(248) 258-0055 or email msiegal@jtsa.edu.



77th Annual

Inter-congregational Men's Club Dinner

Hosted by

Congregation B'nai Moshe

Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvre, Open Bar, Full Course Dinner and Dessert

Guest Speaker

Pastor Glenn Plummer

Pastor of Ambassadors For Christ Church

Cofounder of Fellowship of Israel and Black America

This dinner is the only one of its kind in the United States.
It Brings together men from the Conservative, Reform and
Orthodox movements, giving them a wonderful opportunity
to socialize and break bread together in the true meaning of
Brotherhood.

Cost: \$52.00

B'nai Moshe Men's Club
Chairman: Stewart Silverman
248-666-8170

Synagogue / Community News

Mazel Tov

Jennifer and Mitchell Bass, and Ruth and Alan Rosenfeld on the birth of their daughter and granddaughter, Millie Selma Bass
Vicki and David Buckfire on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Emily Elconin
45th Wedding Anniversary of Rosalind and Michael Grand
Carol Pollack's Special Birthday
50th Wedding Anniversary of Ruth and Allen Rosenfeld
30th Wedding Anniversary of Galina Lubanskaya and Arkady Shgorodsky
60th Wedding Anniversary of Miriam and Harry Weberman



We Extend Our Condolences To:

We extend our condolences to William (Jane) Behrmann and Rosanne (Dr. Arthur) Cherkinsky on the passing of their mother and our member, **Belle Behrmann**.

We extend our condolences to our member Mark (Margaret) Eichner, on the passing of his mother, **Esther Mary Eichner**.

We extend our condolences to our member Alan (Joan) Feldman and Joel (Daphne) Feldman, on the passing of their mother and our member, **Helen Feldman**.

We extend our condolences to our member, Belle Abel, on the passing of her brother, **Albert Goodman**.

We extend our condolences to our member, Alex (Barbara) Green, on the passing of his mother, **Yetta Green**.

We extend our condolences to our member and wife Myra Gunsberg, children Louis (Linn) Gunsberg, Lisa Gunsberg, Leslie Schram, Loren Gordon, our member and sister-in-law Renee Gunsberg, and our member and nephew Laurence Gunsberg on the passing of **George Gunsberg**.

We extend our condolences to our members Charles Koshar and Gerry (Abe) Pasternak on the passing of his wife and her sister, **Elaine Koshar**.

We extend our condolences to Michael (Cindy) Adler on the passing of his grandmother, **Ruth Pizer**.

We extend our condolences to our member Judy (Sy) Berman on the passing of her father, **David Rubin**.

We extend our condolences to our member Donald (Ellen Kotler), and Richard (Patty Rowen) Rubin, Andrew (Annette) Rubin, Dan Blechman and Jim (Elise) Blechman on the passing of their father, **Harold Rubin**.

NEW HAPPENINGS AT THE LIBRARY

It's a **NEW** calendar year but that's not all that is **NEW** at the Library.

NEW internet provider for accessing the library catalog. By the time you read this article the synagogue will have a **new** internet access provider. This change should be happening in December, but as I write this the details have not yet been finalized. This change may require changes in how the Library Catalog is linked on the WEB so it can be reached both from the library and from home. Hopefully, the switchover will be seamless and there will be no interruption of library service. If however, the catalog goes down, I hope it will be of short duration and that the Library Catalog will be back up and running very quickly.

NEW programs are being offered by The Friends of the Library. First there is our **new book group "Read & Review"**. This group is open to all synagogue members, men and women, and will meet in member's homes. The next meeting is on January 19 at 7:30 at the home of Leslye and Lewis Rosenbaum. The book to be discussed is *Day of small beginnings* by Lisa Pearl Rosenbaum. You should have received a flyer in the December Mid-month mailing. Join the group for a lively discussion.

Second, **NEW for pre-schoolers "My Shul Time"**. This series of 6 programs for children ages 3-6 and their accompanying adult, will meet the first Sunday of the each month starting in January. Each month will feature a different activity, light lunch and time to visit the library and select books to take home. You can register for the complete series or come to them separately as meets your schedule. There is a nominal fee for the program.

Third, **NEW "CABIN FEVER LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE"**. This is in the early planning stage. Lose the winter blahs. Come out to the library for schmoozing, choosing and perusing (library books). First we'll chew (light refreshments) and then we'll view (a Jewish movie to be announced later). Coming in late January. Watch for more information.

NEW BOOKS. The library continues to expand the collection of books with new titles for all ages that were published in 2008. Look for them on the Shabbat Friendly Cart in the Social Hall at Kiddush every Shabbat, and on display in the library. And remember, if you haven't read it, even an older book is **NEW** to you.

NEW FRIENDS. Become a Friend of the B'nai Moshe Library. **NEW** members are always welcome in the Friends group. Join NOW.

Email Addresses our a vital link in sending information out to you, our congregants. If you have not yet given the office your email address or if you have change your address and not informed the congregation please do so as soon as possible.

Thank You!

GIVE US YOUR INPUT ...

If you have an idea for a study group or class that you and some friends have an interest in please let us hear about it. We do our best to set it up for you. We want B'nai Moshe to be your place of learning for all ages.