



Congregational Shabbat Dinner

"Outdoor Shabbat Odyssey"



Friday, September 5, 2008

Shabbat Service - 6 p.m. / Dinner - 6:45 p.m.

Chicken, Fish, Chicken Tenders, and Vegetarian

(Chicken Soup, Salad, Potatoes, Vegetable, and Dessert)

A Little Study and A Lot of Song

RESERVATION FORM

Return this form with your payment to:

Congregation B'nai Moshe

6800 Drake Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322

"Outdoor Shabbat Odessey"

September 5, 2008

Reservations must be to the synagogue office by Tuesday,
September 2, 2008 at 5 p.m.

Names: _____

Children: _____

Phone No: _____

	Members	Non-Members
_____ Adults	\$20	\$25
_____ Children 18 and Under	N/C	N/C

No. of Adults: Chicken _____ Fish _____ Chicken Tenders _____ Vegetarian _____

No. of Children: Chicken _____ Fish _____ Chicken Tenders _____ Vegetarian _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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



HOW YOU CAN REACH US

Telephone: (248) 788-0600
Fax: (248) 788-0604
School office: (248) 788-3600
email: cbminfo@bnaimoshe.org
on the web: www.bnaimoshe.org

Clergy
Rabbi Elliot Pachterrabepach@bnaimoshe.org
Cantor Earl G. Berris cantorb@bnaimoshe.org

Executive Director
Charles Berris.....cbminfo@bnaimoshe.org

Director of Education
..... Gail Gales
cbmedu@bnaimoshe.org

Officecbmoffice@bnaimoshe.org
bnaimoshe@bnaimoshe.org

President..... Steven Sperling
tcspur@ameritech.net

Vice Presidents..... Kerry Greenhut
Alisa Peskin-Shepherd
Dan Sperling

Treasurer Douglas Zack

SecretaryNaomi Pinchuk

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West Bloomfield, MI 48322

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October Bulletin Deadline

October *Bulletin* articles are due in the office on September 1, 2008. 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**

Letter From Our Treasurer

Dear Charlotte (*Sharlene*),

Hope all is well wherever you are. It seems like an eternity since you patrolled the Synagogue office. In fact now it is becoming more and more apparent the incredible amount of details handled seamlessly by you to run the congregation on a day to day basis.

As always, the 800 pound gorilla of issues is still money and yes, everyone is hurting. B'Nai Moshe's current issue is cash flow. In fact, if everyone that owes dues paid up tomorrow we would be on solid ground financially. I understand that is a tall order because many of the members also have cash flow problems. There are a few reasons dues are a bit jumbled right now, and at least one source of help for those truly in need of help.

Last year the synagogue changed our fiscal year, and this always creates a bit of mess. Therefore, members will see possibly two dues bills at the same time between July and September. Everyone was billed for last year's dues last September and will be billed for next year's dues starting in July. Of course it sounds like a double whammy, but that is where the confusion has always been. Dues should be paid when billed, but traditionally many people wait until just before the High Holidays, pay up and get their tickets, in essence paying after the fact for twelve months of membership. An effort was made this year, mostly by Steve Sperling, to encourage members to pay at least quarterly. If everyone pays at the beginning, or in monthly installments on a credit card, the synagogue's cash flow problem goes away and members can make a smooth transition to the new fiscal year. It may be a surprise for some to have to pay the dues billed in July to receive High Holy Days tickets.

Now the question comes up about those who simply cannot afford to pay right now. In the past, these members would resign just before the holidays having been a member for a year without paying and unfortunately no one knew they were having an issue. The Dues Committee can step in and help. The Dues Committee's goal is to enable financially strapped members to stay with the synagogue. All meetings with members are extremely confidential and the members of the committee often serve long term to ensure as few people as possible know the business of the members asking for help. A meeting with the Dues Committee does not mean an automatic reduction in dues, but the Committee works long and hard to aid those who are upfront and open about their situation. The goal is to keep members, especially during tough times when many need the B'nai Moshe community the most.

If someone finds themselves staring at a dues bill they cannot pay, call the executive director and ask for the help of the dues committee. Again, the first step is to let the committee know help is needed and avoid the last moment High Holy Day Ticket negotiations. Sooner is always better than later for all involved in this case, especially for anyone who can pay the dues without issue. I hope everything continues to go well up north.

Doug Zack

SELICHOT AND ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE TIMES 2008-5769

<u>HOLIDAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERVICE TIMES</u>
Selichot	Saturday, September 20	Details to Follow Community Service at Adat Shalom Synagogue
Rosh Hashanah	Monday, September 29	6:00 p.m. - Evening Service Tuesday, September 30 8:15 a.m. - Morning Service 5:30 p.m. - Tashlikh* 6:00 p.m. - Evening Service "Come as You Are"
	Wednesday, October 1	8:15 a.m. - Morning Service 7:00 p.m. - Evening Service

A Word From Our Rabbi

by Rabbi Elliot Pachter



During our recent driving trip to New York, I convinced my family to make a stop in Allentown, Pennsylvania so I could spend a few minutes visiting the grave of Isaac Herskowitz (see photo page 5). Mr. Herskowitz was born in 1879 and lived into his 80th year, which is impressive for his generation. I am told that Mr. Herskowitz walked with a stoop, but that if he were able to stand upright, he would

have been my height (again, impressive for that era). He is my great grandfather, and I am named for him, having been born just a few months after he died.

It had been about forty years (a nice biblical number!) since I last visited my great grandfather's grave, and like re-reading a great book, this visit taught me new lessons.

In addition to being the same height and sharing a name, my great grandfather and I have other things in common. I had been reminded for years, and now saw with my own eyes, that he is buried next to a rabbi.

My great grandfather, like many of his generation, was a pious Orthodox Jew, who came from Europe to the U.S. to try to make a better living. He had a store in Allentown, but I am told that he spent most of his days sitting in the back of the store studying Talmud with the Rabbi!

Ironically, I am a rabbi who spends precious little time studying Talmud because there are always so many other things that get in the way.

It is nonetheless exciting to realize that I, born less than four months after he died, might be living out his dreams. When I graduated from Rabbinical School in 1987, my grandmother, the oldest child of Isaac Herskowitz, gave me a surprisingly tight hug and whispered in my ear, "my Rabbi!"

Then there is the issue of our names. My great grandfather's name was Isaac. Today, we would name a child Isaac, but it wasn't in fashion in 1959. So my parents chose Elliot.

But I always assumed that my Hebrew name, *Yitzchak*, was what I had in common with Isaac Herskowitz. Then I saw his gravestone and learned that I was wrong—his name in "Hebrew" (actually Yiddish) is *Izak*, just like in English.

My parents wisely chose a Hebrew name, rather than perpetuating a Yiddish name into the next generation. My middle name, *Chananel*, is similarly a Hebrew substitute for the Yiddish name, *Henekh*, of a great uncle on my mother's side.

Choosing a Hebrew name for a child is one of the greatest responsibilities of Jewish parents. Some parents turn to the rabbi, mohel or grandparents and say: Pick the Hebrew name for me. It is wonderful, though, when parents take this role seriously and choose a meaningful name, honoring the memory of a good person.

I feel lucky to know so much about the person for whom I am named. It is all the more special that he is a man of many admirable qualities, and that we have a lot in common—both physically and spiritually.

Take this opportunity to ask yourself (and your children):

Do you know whom you are named for? Is your Hebrew name really Hebrew? Can you pronounce your name correctly? Do you know anything about the person for whom you are named?

For my personal tips on choosing a Hebrew name for your child, please go to: bnaimoshe.org/babynaming.htm.

A Word From Our Cantor

by Cantor Earl G. Berris



As the last month of the Jewish year, Elul is traditionally a time of introspection and stocktaking -- a time to review one's deeds and spiritual progress over the past year and prepare for the upcoming "Days of Awe."

The days of Elul are called the days of "Divine forgiveness and kindness". This is embodied in the word Elul. It is written in the Song of Songs (6:3) Ani l'dodi v'dodi li. . . (I am for my beloved and my beloved is for me. . .). The acrostic of the first

letters of this phrase spells Elul. The last letters of the words of the phrase are all "Yud". The numerical value of "Yud" is 10. $4 \times 10 = 40$, the number of days that Moshe spent on Mt. Sinai when he received the second set of the Ten Commandments. He went up on Rosh Hodesh Elul, as God pardoned the people for the event of the Golden Calf. When he came down forty days later it was Yom Kippur, the day of ultimate expression of the reunification of God and His people. These days of Elul are therefore the beginning of a special time of favor and conciliation. Each morning of Elul we blow the shofar; tekiah, shevarim, teruah and Tikiah as a call to repentance.

The Baal ShemTov called the days of Elul "the days when the King is in the field." He explained with a parable. Normally, in order to gain an audience with the King, one must go through a lengthy procedure. He must travel to the capitol city, arrange an appointment, and then get permission to enter the palace. Even when permission is granted it may be days or weeks before he is finally allowed to enter. When he does finally get to see the King, the audience is likely to be short and very formal. The citizen, not used to the royal surroundings doubtlessly feels out of place, and maybe even regrets his decision to see the King. From his great fear and uneasiness, he may forget to put his request before the King.

Once a year, the King leaves his capitol to visit the various regions of his Kingdom. Now a King can't just enter a city unannounced. When he reaches the outskirts of the city he is to visit, his entourage sets up a camp while a special delegation goes ahead to the city to make preparations for the King's visit.

In the meantime, the King is in the field; relaxed and enjoying the early fall weather. He doesn't stand on the same formality that he does when in the palace. The common folk are allowed to come out to greet the King and receive his blessing.

During the month of Elul, the King is in the field and he is easily accessible. We need only make the effort to go out and greet Him. The customs of Elul are meant to help us tune into the spirit of the times and to attune ourselves.

The Zohar, the primary text of Kabbalah explains that at the beginning of Elul we are "back to back" and by the end of Elul we are "face to face." But how can it be that we are back to back? Wouldn't that imply that God has His back turned to us as well? Is it not the month when God is more accessible than ever, when He is waiting for us to greet Him, when He is there for us in the "field" of our everyday lives?

It is the month of Elul that teaches us the necessity of being willing to turn around. The King is in the field, our Creator is there, and no matter how we may feel, He has never had His back turned. All we need to do is turn ourselves around to realize that He is there and waiting for us. The "back to back" that we experience in the beginning of the month is based on our misperceptions, our fears, our assumptions. Only when we turn around do we realize the truth, the inner essence, and then we are "face to face" which does not only mean that we can finally look at each other, but more so, that we can look in each other, for the root of the word for face in Hebrew is the same as the word which means "innerness."

L.I.F.E. / Youth News



Evan Bradley Paul will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, September 20. Evan is the son of Elissa and Dennis Paul and brother of Alex and Zachary. Proud grandparents are Fay and Leon Siegel and Doris Paul. He is also the grandson of the late Dr. Lloyd J. Paul. Evan is an eighth grade student at Hillel Day School. The mitzvah activities that Evan found meaningful were visiting the Fleischman residence,

volunteering at Yad Ezra, the JARC home visit program and currently he is assisting in the collection of inline hockey equipment to donate to the JCC. Evan enjoys playing basketball, skiing, soccer, golf, ice and tournament roller hockey and is looking forward to participating in the JCC Maccabi Games this summer.

Michael Philip Rosenthal was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Sunday, August 31, 2008. He is the son of Cindee and Neal Rosenthal and the brother of Rachael. He is the grandson of Roseann & Bernard Rosenthal and Sandra & Ronald Moss.

Michael attends West Hills Middle School in Bloomfield Hills. He enjoys a variety of sports including baseball and roller hockey. He enjoys working with handicapped children and helping animals. His mitzvah projects included volunteering at the West Bloomfield based Friendship Circle and at the Michigan Animal Rescue League.



September 2008 CALENDAR L.I.F.E. Program at Congregation B'nai Moshe

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	I	2	3	4	5	6 L.I.F.E. Program K-6 9:30-12 noon First day of School Adult Torah Study 10:15-11:15 a.m.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 L.I.F.E. Program K-6 9:30-12 noon Adult Torah Study 10:15-11:15 a.m.
14	15 LIFE Program 7th Grade 4:30-6:30 p.m.	16	17	18	19 LIFE Program 7th Grade First Midrash w/Shabbat Dinner 5:00-9:00 p.m. Parents are invited.	20 L.I.F.E. Program K-6 9:30-12 noon Adult Torah Study 10:15-11:15 a.m.
21	22 LIFE Program 7th Grade 4:30-6:30 p.m.	23	24	25	26	27 L.I.F.E. Program K-6 9:30-12 noon Adult Torah Study 10:15-11:15 a.m.
28	29 Erev Rosh HaShanah Services	30 NO SCHOOL Rosh HaShanah Services 9:30-1 p.m. <u>** First Family Service**</u> 5:30 Tashlich All grades/ages				

Kolel Moshe / Family Education

KOLEL MOSHE

September, 2008

Elul 5768 / Tishre 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 five 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.

September 6, 2008 - Barry V Levine: *"What Are We Doing Here?" Self improvement, Preparing the Next Generation and Repairing the World.*

September 13, 2008 - Don Cohen (Topic TBD)

September 20, 2008 - Mark Sussman: *"Highlights of Rosh Hashanah"*

September 27, 2008 - No Session

Visit and learn "at home"

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.

CHOOSING JUDAISM

Conservative Community Conversion Class/Academic Year 2008-2009

Sponsored by The Michigan Region of The Rabbinical Assembly

CHOOSING JUDAISM is an in-depth 24-week course designed for adults who are considering the idea of becoming Jewish and are looking for a meaningful, accessible introduction to Judaism, Torah, and the Hebrew language (especially with regard to Jewish prayer) in a supportive welcoming environment.

Class will meet on Monday nights from 7 to 9 pm starting Sept. 8, 2008, at Hillel Day School in Farmington Hills. The course consists of two subjects (each taught for one hour each week): Our own Rabbi Elliot Pachter is one of the instructors.

FROM OUR NEW EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear B'nai Moshe Member Families,

July 28, 2008

Hello new friends. I am Gail Gales, the new Director of Education and Youth at B'nai Moshe. How lucky and excited I am to have so many new possibilities to continue the wonderful programming, learning, and Jewish growth already underway here. I come to B'nai Moshe with a career in education that spans decades in both religious school teaching and a public school teaching career (Southfield Public Schools) that includes Hebrew Language, English, and Social Studies. After my 2006 retirement from Southfield Lathrup High School, I spent three years teaching English and Government at SRAC, Southfield's alternative high school. In my youth I spent several years in Israel doing a variety of things: I worked and studied on a Kibbutz; clerked at Bank Hapoalim; and taught English in an Israeli high school. Yes, I speak Hebrew fluently and have a love for Israel and for Yiddishkeit. I will bring this love and all of my experiences to the Director's job.

I began my official duties on July 21, 2008. Since then I have worked diligently to get to know the staff at B'nai Moshe as well as the L.I.F.E. Religious School faculty. I see that our current programs are top quality and our faculty dedicated professionals, all working as a team to ensure a top-notch Jewish educational experience for our students as well as for their parents.

In the last week we have enlisted the participation of two "artists-in-residence" to work with our students in the 2008-09 school year on hand woven tallitot and on wood challah boards. We have also arranged for our 5th-7th grade girls to participate in a Hadassah program to enhance self-esteem, planned art projects for our L.I.F.E. Program, and have made a strong connection with volunteer librarian, Sherry Wasserman, to involve the library in our classroom activities and in our holiday preparations.

A big change for the school is the shift from a Congregation B'nai Moshe High School to a city-wide Conservative high school program called ATID (Alliance for Teens in Detroit), headed by Rabbi Jason Miller. The program will meet on Monday nights at Hillel Day School. I am excited to be a part of ATID (I am teaching the 10th grade core class called "Coming to America") and I am confident that we can help our students from B'nai Moshe make a smooth transition. If you have any questions about this program, please contact me and I will fill you in.

I know that you have had many excellent years with my friend Daniella Har Paz Mechnikov. I look forward to building upon the foundation you have here and I welcome your ideas about how to make the Family Education Program at B'nai Moshe the best anywhere. Please do not hesitate to contact me about any concerns you may have with the religious school. Direct line: 248.788.3600

Email: cbmedu@bnaimoshe.org

B'Shalom

Gail Gales



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As the summer flies by, it's time to look towards the high holidays. Even though they are "late" this year, planning for them is essential. To make things easier on you and your families, Elite Kosher Catering is, once again, offering carryout meals for Rosh Hashanah. Everything is listed as ala carte but we will be happy to put together complete meals for you and your guests. We are also offering carryout options for breaking the fast after Yom Kippur. Please call our office and we will be happy to help you place your order.

We wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Shana Tovah U'metukah,

Mimi Markofsky

&

The staff of Elite Kosher Catering

248-592-0200

Email: elitekosherinc@aol.com

WEEKDAY MINYAN HONOR ROLL

When a person needs to say Kaddish, they rely on the synagogue to provide a reliable minyan at which to fulfill that obligation. However, it takes more than those individuals saying Kaddish to assure that a minyan is sustainable on a daily basis. B'nai Moshe's ability to provide a daily minyan depends upon some dedicated volunteers who have committed to regularly coming to services so that a minyan will be present. This month we would like to honor our Sunday "Regulars".

A. M. --

*Marty Rosenfeld
Mort Horwitz
Cathleen Zepelin
Barry Kaufman
Ed Golenberg
Mel Friedman
Mike Leibowitz
Erno Friedman
Joel Ungar
Seymour Garsoff
Sharon Klein
Seymour Ungar*

P.M.—

*Burton Weintraub
Gerald Feldman
Gerald Katzman
Git Feldman
Mel Friedman
Seymour Garsoff*

*"Our apologies if we missed anyone,
and please contact the office so we
can make the corrections."*

Please join us and become a regular minyaner and keep our minyans strong!