TEMPLE BETH EL OF NORTHERN VALLEY

Vol. 28, No. 7

Rabbi's Message



Purim - Not For Children Only

In truth, The Book of Esther, read at Purim, is in part, a Ribald Tale Vashti, Achashuerus' First Queen is a feminist refusing to be put on show for the drunken governors at banquets.

A close reading of the text produces -

not a Miss America-like contest to be queen, but a night by night trial as to who will replace Vashti; Esther wins etc., etc. All of this intermeshed with Haman's hate and Mordechai's Jewish pride and heroism. And the Jews of Persia are saved. It is an adult tale read, these days, to children.

Purim is release, celebration, Jewish survival, Mardi Gras and affirmation.

Tradition dictates an outrageous celebration. For this reason, over the years, I have presided at "Saturday Night Live" Purim, Michael Jackson Purim, Little Rascal's Purim, Muppets Purim, Mickey Mouse Purim among the many. This year our theme will be "Nintendo Purim." Use your imagination!

We write creative noisemakers: Musical Instruments, Dust Busters, Boat Horns, pots & pans.

As the reading of the Megillah of Esther is on Saturday night this year, we are celebrating earlier than ever, 6:00 P.M., Saturday, March 10th (for those who have Saturday night plans). The only evening Jewish tradition encourages intoxication is Purim Eve. Release and be thankful.

The early service is, of course, meant to accommodate those with younger children. Yet all congregants are encouraged to celebrate the unprobable victory in Persia, as well as the miraculous survival of our people over time.

Nintendo Purim. Loosen up! Enjoy! We celebrate knowing full well that we shall face newer enemies tomorrow. Nevertheless, we celebrate Purim. Join us.

Rabbi Frederic S. Pomerantz



Shabbat and Holyday Services

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Family Service Oneg Shabbat: Mitchell & Lois Freeman Alan & Cheryl Katz Saturday, March 3 10:30 am B'Not Mitzvah: Dara Freeman Barbie Katz Shabbat Service B'nai B'rith Brotherhood Award Oneg Shabbat: Bryan & Nancy Pivar Saturday, March 10 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah: Howard Pivar Shabbat Service Guest Speaker - Rabbi Daniel H. Freelander, Regional Director of the New Jersey - West Hudson Valley Council of the UAHC "Changing Face of Reform Jewish Music" Adult Choir will participate. Oneg Shabbat: Martin & Ardelle Kasdan Saturday, March 1710:30 am Bar Mitzvah: Micah Kasdan Kabalat Service Oneg Shabbat: Michael & Suzy Eskridge Saturday, March 24 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah: Kevin Eskridge Shabbat Service Oneg Shabbat: Paul & Dianne Greenberg Saturday, March 31 10:30 am B'nai Mitzvah: Adam Greenberg Joshua Greenberg



President's Message

Dear Congregants:

Today, I along with millions around the world witnessed a historical event. This event was the freeing of a man whose only crime was that he wanted his people to enjoy the basic freedoms. Today South Africa freed Nelson Mandela. We hope that with this event, the end of apartheid as an official as well as an unofficial way of life in South Africa has begun.

In the past few months we witnessed major changes behind the "Iron

Soviet Union itself, we see a call for the basic freedoms of speech, assembly, and hopefully religion. Here in the western atmosphere, in Panama, with the help of our government, another nation may enjoy freedom. Maybe we will also see this revolution take place in Cuba.

There is one disturbing item that is beginning to appear hidden in the back pages of our newspapers while the news of these changes around the world is reported. An old cry is beginning to be heard - "who is to blame for the past - who must also be at fault - The Jews." Anxiously we await whether progoms will follow. The Jews of Russia and maybe from other lands will need a place where they can go - Israel or the United States - but more importantly they need our help to get there and to help reestablish themselves once they get there.

This week I received a clear call for action from Rabbi Schindler, President of the Union of American Hebrew. He urges that all congregations and others move to take action as required to support fully Operation Exodus - the worldwide effort to facilitate the absorption of Soviet Jews in Israel. Our local United Jewish Community has not yet announced how this community will conduct its campaign. The United Jewish Community is still having difficulty in completing its efforts to raise monies for last year's campaign which was to help .settle Russian Jews here as well as in Israel and this new campaign will require substantially more than was anticipated when the first campaign was started. Let me quote from Rabbi Schindler's moving message entitled "The Dream, Again":

In all of Jewish history, there have been no more than ten or so dates that will be remembered as long as there are Jews to remember things. Most generations of Jews have lived and have died without ever witnessing the decisive turns of Jewish history except through the clouds of memory. Yet, within the lifetime of our own generation, those clouds have parted not once, but twice, and we have seen the turning with our own eyes. First was the Kingdom of Night, then was the rebirth of the Republic of Hope.

And now there is the Reunion, the great homecoming of hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of Jews from the Soviet Union, yesterday's trickle becomes today's flow, tomorrow's flood.

Through the tumultuous years of modern Israel's brief history, there have been moments of pure vindication, moments when all complexity has disappeared and the elemental reason for a Jewish State has stood in stark and pure relief. The mass immigration in the last 1940s and early 1950s, from the displaced persons' camps of Europe and from North Africa; years later, Operation Moses, the rescue of Ethiopian Jews; now, Operation Exodus, perhaps as many as a million and a half Soviet Jews ingathered, welcomed. For the Soviet Jews themselves, the new freedom means, at last, the chance to build a life far from the quickening curse of anti-Semitism.

For the Jews of Israel, the new freedom means the renewal of a dream that some had supposed was obsolete, the chance to refresh the authentic purposes of a Jewish national home.

And for us, the Jews of North America, there is an essential role to play in the fulfillment of this new chapter of our people's dream. Two years ago, a quarter of a million of us gathered in Washington to speak for the freedom of our people. That freedom is now ours to enable.

But freedom is not free. To bring masses of Soviet Jews to Israel means to provide housing, schools, jobs, lest the invitation to a new life prove a cruel and bitter hoax, lest the reunion sour. Here are Jews, eager to come; here is a nation eager to receive them. But they cannot come and they will not if there is nowhere for them to live, to learn, to work.

Plainly, it is our task to provide the resources that will translate the dream of freedom into the reality of reunion. As plainly, we want and mean to be more than passive financiers as that translation is written into our people's history. We want and mean to be partners with the Soviet Jews and partners with the Israelis, going beyond the raising of dollars and the signing of checks to helping ensure that every dollar that is spent is spent responsibly, efficiently, effectively.

It is unthinkable that the Jewish people will allow this glorious opportunity to shrivel, that we will allow ourselves to be remembered as the generation that had history in its grasp — and let go of it.

Nor is our shared opportunity limited to the wonders of reunion. The restoration of the early vision of Israel's purpose is inherently a restoration of a vision of peace, as well. The people of Israel know that chronic violence and war not only inhibit immigration, but also exhaust the energies and the treasure that we must now be turned to the sacred task of asborption.

We call attention to the danger of seeking to use this new opportunity for political purposes. The homecoming of our people transcends politics — but politics can poison it. Soviet Jews are not "settlement-fodder," nor ought Operation Exodus be a cover for the pursuit of ideological goals. The absorption of Soviet Jews must not become a pawn in the debate over a Great Israel; if those who enter the partnership with enthusiasm are led to conclude that their efforts are being exploited by partisans of one view or another, their enthusiasm will surely wane.

Above all, we call on each and every American Jew, in all our congregations throughout the land, working through our local federations, to join in this partnership in reunion, to lend hand and heart and pocketbook so that we may together

is here at stake. Together, it has been given us to write a new chapter, to make possible a new beginning, to bring new life to our people and to our dream — the dream of freedom, of peace, of home.

In *this* book of life, it is we who must inscribe our names.

It was incumbent on me to give the entire quote. I felt that although I wanted to raise the issue of the campaign, I had to allow the Rabbi's full thoughts to be communicated so that you could evaluate his full agenda.

It has been said that in my Presidency, one of my agendas

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was to spread interest in the United Jewish Community at the expense of issues at the Temple. In our everyday lives we cannot isolate issues or matters and tend to one exclusively. My last article was intended to engender thought concerning the role of Temple Beth El in our lives - in the realm of our religious lives. Think of this article as a means to raise your consciousness about one of the other matters that must get your attention - one that must get all our attention as Jews. I ask your support for the UJC because it is the primary agency in Bergen County that works for Jews around the world as well as locally. Our needs are great - just reread the above. We cannot ignore the call - complain about their excesses in the manner they fund-raised in the past. Yes, the UJC has also contributed some small amounts to the Chabad House of Bergen County. More importantly, it has raised between \$8 and \$10 million in each of the past few years for Israel and local needs. We need to support the UJC as Rabbi Schindler wrote to help our fellow Jews make it possible to have a new beginning as well as so we can inscribe our names in *this* book of life. Yes, it is my agenda to raise our congregation's consciousness concerning Reform Judaism and to also arouse their interest in helping our fellow Jews around the world through our community-wide UJA/Federation - The United Jewish Community of Bergen County.

> Very truly yours, Jan

P.S. I hope you will join my family and I as we watch our scribe write the first words of Temple Beth El's new Torah on March 4th. This will certainly be a most memorable day for all of us.

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1990

Testimonial for Jan Chason

SHERATION INTERNATIONAL CROSSROADS HOTEL Rt. 17 North Mahwah, New Jersey

"A gala evening with gourmet dining!!"

Testimonial Dinner/Dance

The Testimonial Dinner/Dance, held every two years to honor our outgoing president, deserves to be a memorable event. Realizing we need to keep the cost of the event as reasonable as possible, and yet at the same time provide for a festive event filled with good food, music and fellowship, this year's committee has worked hard to achieve both of those goals.

We know that a few Temple members have commented that the cost of this year's planned activities is high. Those families that have recently celebrated their children's B'nai Mitzvah with a sit down dinner and music know how expensive such an affair is. Our committee visited several hotels and country clubs to negotiate the cost of the Testimonial. We selected the most reasonable site, The International Crossroads Sheraton Hotel in Mahwah.

Based on our estimate of the number of attendees, the cost per person can be broken down in the following fashion: \$88 for the meal which includes an open bar for the evening; \$24 for a wonderful six (6) piece orchestra; \$4 for invitations; \$3 for flowers and decorations; and \$7 to subsidize the cost of invited guests, making a total of \$126 per person. We are charging \$125, thus the Temple will make no profit whatsoever from the cost of the Testimonial.

By selling ads congregants can lower the price charged them to attend.

The Testimonial Committee guarantees everyone a most memorable evening. We hope as many congregants as possible attend. Most importantly, we will gather to honor Jan Chason and celebrate the accomplishments of his presidency.

> Victor Borden, MD Chairman, Testimonial Committee

Cantor's Corner

In honor of the Temple's 40th anniversary, Rabbi Pomerantz and I are planning to lead a tour to Israel from July 7 - 21, 1991.

Highlights:

Spend Shabbat in my hometown, Jerusalem

Visit Bet Shmuel, new Reform cultural center

Meet the Reform leaders of Israel

See the Jerusalem Museum, etc.

Celebrate Shabbat in Haifa with our adopted congregation, Or Hadash.

Opportunities for both first time and experienced travelers.

Please let me know if you are interested. Details will be forthcoming in future bulletins.

Cantor Shlomo Bar-Nissim



Sisterhood

Did you know that your Sisterhood dues help on a national and international level to fund the United Task Force, Pro-Choice Lobbying, The Jewish Braille Institute, Youth Services and Scholarships and a myriad of other activities? The eight dollars per Sisterhood member that are paid to the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods is our direct connection to a lot of wonderful and important work.

That is why we need you as members, even as book members, for your numbers. In numbers we are a great force. *Audrey Pekelney*

SISTERHOOD

presents

Meet The Authors

Doris Mortman

Dana Jennings

Thursday - March 15, 1990 8:00 P.M.

Please join us at our "open meeting."



Adult Education

The Adult Education Committee of Temple Beth El is pleased to present the following programs and speakers in March:

Rabbi Daniel Freelander, Regional Director of the N.J. - West Hudson Valley Council of the UAHC on Friday evening, March 16, 1990 at 8:15 pm. Rabbi Freelander's sermon will be on the CHANGING FACE OF REFORM JEWISH MUSIC.

Dr. Benjamin Nelson, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Sunday evening, 7:00 p.m., March 18, 1990. Dr. Nelson's topic will be THE ADOLPH EICHMANN TRIAL. Join us for coffee and dessert.

ACT I - A one act play entitled "BREAK THE SILENCE" written by Isaac Dostis and Diana Sunrise on Friday, March 30, 1990 at 8:15 p.m. The play is about the liberators in the Allied Forces who opened up the concentration camps.

Please mark these dates on your calendar.



The Adult Education Committee will proudly welcome Rabbi Daniel Freelander on Friday, March 16 at 8:15 p.m. His serman will be "THE CHANGING FACE OF REFORM JEWISH MUSIC."

ADULT EDUCATION COMING ATTRACTION

Rabbi Norman J. Cohen, Ph.D., Dean of the Hebrew Union College, New York City, Sunday, April 8, 10:30 a.m. Rabbi Cohen's talk will be on NEW WINE AND OLD VESSELS: MAKING THE BIBLE COME ALIVE.

From The Religious School

WALKING IN MY SHOES

On Tuesday, February 6, we had a series of workshops and films dealing with sensitivity awareness to various disabilities. The program entitled "Walking In My Shoes" featured speakers who either work with disabled people or who are disabled. There were representatives from Fair Lawn Deaf Center, Spectrum For Living, Dial and other organizations. The afternoon began with a Service and readings from various Jewish sources underlying the importance of human dignity and respect for all people and our common human experience.

So you can keep in the mood of Chesed Day and continue discussion at home with your child, here are some quotations from the Torah and the Talmud which the children discussed during that week.

Jewish Quotations About The Disabled

- 1) "Do not look at the container, but rather at what is inside." Pirkei Avot
- 2) "The respect due to God's creatures is very great." Talmud (B'rachot 19b)
- 3) "God formed all people after Adam and not a single one EXACTLY resembles any other."

Mishna Sanhedrin 4:5

4) "You shall not insult the deaf or place a stumbling block before the blind."

Torah (Leviticus 19:14)

5) "And on the day the Messiah comes, the deaf shall hear the words of the Book and. . .the eyes of the blind shall see."

Isaiah 29:18

6) "To take away anything found by a mentally retarded person is robbery."

Talmud (Gittin 59b)

In a recent survey, it was reported that if given a choice 4 out of 5 people would opt to spend more time with their families than have a quick advancement in their career. We in Jewish Education are providing experiences for the whole family, encouraging parent and child to learn and have fun together and make new connections to Judaism and the Temple.

The days of dropping off children at the front doors of the Temple are changing. Now we are welcoming parents to all aspects of our curriculum. We invite parents to come learn about the Shtetl with us (6th grade), take a trip to Israel (4th grade) and watch us celebrate a real Jewish Wedding (5th grade)!

During the dead of winter here in New Jersey we have found warmth and friendship as we have parent and student join together to appreciate our families and our tradition.

Recently, one Saturday morning, 25 second graders and their parents discussed "Blessings - The Gift of Life." During a series of activities and discussions, families (100% attendance) learned the Sheheheyanu Prayer and then offered examples of what they feel grateful for. As we played a voting game, we said Todah (thanks) for Nintendo, Todah Rabah (thanks very much) for education and a *Blessing* for family, love and our homes.

On Sunday morning, 35 fifth grade families gathered for bagels and a morning program entitled "The Jewish Connection." We explored how Judiasm affects us differently on 4 levels: personal, family, community and klal yisrael - all the Jewish people.

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Parents were able to share their own connections to Judaism in smaller parent led groups. When asked what is the most important thing I want my child to know about Judaism, the responses were overwhelmingly positive:

- traditions family bonds
- pride in her family heritage
- sense of community
- acceptance of all people
- a wonderful history
- strong values and ethics

The kindergarten and first grade families celebrated a TuBishevat Seder - honoring the Jewish Arbor New Year. We sang songs, told stories, ate delicious fruits and shared the fun holiday.

Being together as a family means growing and learning and sharing as a community. We do our jobs well here as parents and can be proud of the incredible turnouts to these events! Chazak Chazak Ve Netchazek - Be Strong and Let Us Strengthen One Another!

Evie Rotstein

Nursery School News

The Nursery School staff attended the annual UJC Early Childhood conference on January 15. This proved to be an extremely stimulating and educational day for our teachers. Various workshops, both hands-on and theoretical, were held during the morning and afternoon sessions. At lunchtime a keynote address was given by Dr. Elizabeth Hirsch. She spoke about the pressures which teachers and parents exert on young children, and how we as early childhood specialists can keep curriculum appropriate to the developmental level of the children we teach. It has been very rewarding to walk into the classrooms since the conference and see teachers implementing new ideas that they learned at their workshops.

On Tuesday evening, March 13, the Nursery School will honor Gerry Wands for her 80th birthday and for thirty years of dedicated teaching at our school. Gerry's warmth, caring, loving, respect for the individual, and sense of humor have touched hundreds of Temple Beth El children. Through the years the many staff who have worked with Gerry have appreciated her dedication, reliability, energy, enthusiasm, professionalism, and wonderful personality.

You will receive an invitation to this celebration soon. Please join us to honor Gerry!

Our classes for the 1990-91 school year are nearly filled. We still have a few openings in the Three Year Old class. Please contact Jean Schreiber at 768-3726 if you are interested. The child must be three years old before September 30, 1990. Jean Schreiber, Director

Youth News and Views

B.E.S.Y. (Grades 9-12)

March offers a very full calendar for B.E.S.Y. . . . including the historic occasion of the Torah Project's Brunch and the festive, colorful annual Purim Carnival. The younger children of Temple Beth El are depending on your help for both of these important events. . . and you'll have FUN too! Call Leigh (664-6823), Danny (666-0748) or Sherry (768-5112) for more information! Happy Purim!

Save Thses Dates:

Sunday, March 4..... 10 am -Torah Project Brunch Tuesday, March 6 8 pm - Youth Committee Mtg. Page Five

Tuesday, March 13 7:30 pm - Party honoring Morah Geri Wands on her 80th birthday *and* 30th year at Temple Beth El If you are a former student of Geri's you might want to attend or send a photo of yourself at nursery school age and/or a note of a memory or good wishes! Call Sherry for more information.

March 16-18JFTY Hagigah Conclave of the Arts in Aberdeen, NJ . Call Sherry for application. March 23-26JFTY/BARJ Trip to PAI -Political Action Institute, Washington, D.C. March 31-April 19 pm-11 am - Shul-In/Overnight for Bagel Box Fund-Raiser Tuesday, April 38 pm - Youth Committee Meeting Saturday, April 28...6:30 pm - Trip to Cafe Feenjan, NYC* Friday, May 47 pm (rehearsal) - BESY/Sisterhood Creative Service Sunday, May 67 pm - BESY Board Mtg.-Elections Tuesday, May 88 pm - Youth Committee Mtg. May 18-20JFTY Spring Conclave Tuesday, May 29Senior Dinner Sunday, June 10End of Year Trip* to Jersey Shore

^{* = 8}th Grade Invited!!



B.E.N.J.Y. (Grades 7 & 8)

Our B.E.N.J.Y./B.E.S.Y. Ski Trip was a *smashing* success!! The weather and conditions were *great*, the motel accommodations were warm and cozy, and the company was great!! Many thanks to Arlene Garber for chaperoning and making many of the arrangements. . .also thanks to Barry Garber, Harry Albirt, John Rubinstein and Larry Semegran for chaperoning! We look forward to doing it again next year! 41 kids came along. . .next year, join us!!!

Save These Dates:

Sunday, March 11 10 am-4pm - Purim Carnival Looking for bakers, DJs, raffle sellers, game monitors - call Sherry! Saturday, April 286:30 pm - 8th Grade invited to Cafe Feenjan in New York City!! Monday, April 306 pm - B.E. N.J.Y. Dinner Sunday, June 108th Grade invited to Shore Trip!!

> Chaverim - Grades 4, 5, 6 Ice Skating at Fritz Dietl Sunday, March 18th - 3 pm

More Information to Follow."

JOIN US!



News From The Parent Center

The new semester got off to a great start the week of January 29th. There are still some openings for children from crawlers to 16 months of age in our Friday Move & Grove class. A few spots remain in our Mommy & Me program.

The Parent Center will be making and selling Shalach Manot Plates for Purim. They will be appropriate to give to children and/or adults. This is the first of our spring fundraising efforts. Please feel free to contact Hope Eliasof or Susan Nussbaum for more information.

Outreach Corner

WHO IS A JEW?

There has been considerable controversy over the years regarding the nature determining Jewish identity. In biblical days, *patrilineal descent* was used, meaning the religion of the father determined the religion of the child. In the Roman period, *matrilineal descent* became the Jewish standard, that, according to the Talmud, the religion of the mother determined the religion of the child. In 1983, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the rabbinic body of Reform rabbis, adopted a resolution based on the idea of *parental determination*. In this approach, children are considered Jewish if either parent is Jewish *if*: the parents decide the child will be Jewish, *if* the child receives a formal Jewish education, and *if* the child participates exclusively in formal acts of commitment (life-cycle events, holiday celebrations) and positive identification within the Jewish community.

Though rejected by the more traditional denominations within the Jewish community, this revolutionary change was made in order to realistically face the growing number of intermarried couples who seek to raise Jewish children and participate in congregational life but were faced with longstanding-discriminatory barriers. In addition, the Reform movement's emphasis on egalitarianism strongly influenced this development.

OUTREACH MEETING Thursday, March 29, 1990

Join us for a discussion on: WHERE JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY DIFFER We will meet at the Temple at 8:00 p.m. Any questions please call Carol Hermalyn 265-6921

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

March 3, 1990 Dara Freeman

My name is Dara Freeman. I am 12 years old (will be 13 in March). I live in River Vale with my parents, Lois and Mitchell and my 9 year old sister Lauren. I am in 7th grade at the Holdrum School. My interests are tennis, softball and talking on the phone. My ambition is to be a good and successful lawyer. I belong to the school newspaper club. "I am nervous and excited about this important day."



March 3, 1990 Barbi Katz



Hi! My name is Barbi Katz. I live in Closter with my parents, Cheryl and Alan. I am in 7th grade at Village School. My school activities include: chorus, band, drama, student council, and service club. Outside of school, I enjoy softball, shopping, talking on the phone, and dancing. My ambition is to succeed in whatever field that I choose. "I am looking forward to my Bat Mitzvah because all the people that I care about will be in one room at the same time. That means a lot to me."

March 10, 1990 Howard Pivar

My name is Howard Pivar. I am 13 years old and in the seventh grade. I attend the Harrington Park School. My hobbies are baseball, basketball and soccer. My goal is to be the best I can be at whatever it is I decide to do. I live with my parents, Bryan and Nancy, and my older brother Michael. I am a huge Chicago fan in any sport. My family and I are looking forward to my "Big Day" and I'm glad I can share it with my family and friends.





March 17, 1990 Micah Kasdan

My name is Micah Kasdan. I live in Closter with my parents, Ardelle and Martin and my sister Jocie. I'm in the seventh grade at Village School. My Interests are baking, cooking and skiing. I have not yet decided what I want to do with my life. "I'm looking forward to enjoying this day with my family and friends."

March 24, 1990 Kevin Eskridge

My name is Kevin Eskridge. I live in Closter with my parents Michael and Suzy and my brother David, age 9. I'm in the seventh grade at the Village School. My interests are music and sports. My ambition is to go to college and study psychology. "I am nervous but looking forward to this big day."



March 31, 1990 Adam Greenberg



Hello, my name is Adam Greenberg. I live in River Vale with my parents Paul and Diane and my brother Josh. I am in 8th grade and attend Holdrum Middle School. I like all sports. My favorites include: soccer, indoor soccer, baseball, basketball, and football. My hobbies include: collecting baseball cards, writing, reading, talking on the phone, and using computers. My ambition is to become a lawyer. I am looking forward to sharing this day with my family and friends. I will look back fondly on it in years to come.

March 31, 1990 Joshua Mark Greenberg

My name is Joshua Mark Greenberg. I live in River Vale with my father Paul, my stepmother Diane, and my brother Adam. I am going to be 13 on May 20, 1990. I'm in the seventh grade and I attend the Holdrum Middle School. My hobbies are drawing, painting, racing my R-C car, baseball, basketball, football, soccer, volleyball, pool, ping-pong, and I also like to bowl. (My average is 130.) I hope I am happy when I grow up and I would also like to be very successful. I would like this day to be very special for my family and friends.



Purim

We often associate Chanukah with gift-giving, but the truth is, the only Jewish holiday which not only encourages, but mandates gift-giving is Purim. A minor holiday with a major message, Purim celebrates the miracle of Jewish survival in spite of anti-Semitism and the power of the individual to change the face of history.

The theme of the Purim story is based on the Book of Esther, in which the Jews of Persia are miraculously saved from annihilation by the wiles of a Jewish hero named Mordecai and his beautiful niece who becomes the heroine Queen Esther. The *Megillah (Scroll) of Esther* instructs us to celebrate the death - and blot out the name - of the evil Haman, who has sought their destruction.

Our commemoration is appropriately celebrated with great merriment. Between costumes and Purim spiels (humorous plays of parodies written especially for Purim), and the Talmudic injunction to drink so much wine tht one cannot tell the difference between Haman and Mordecai, we have ample opportunity to express our gratitude for this remarkable deliverance.

None of these customs, however, embody traditional Jewish values as does the gift-giving tradition of Shalach Manot. It is traditional to bring gifts of food and other treats to friends, and to give gifts of money to the poor. Based on the instruction of Mordecai (Esther 9:22), this was to be a way of demonstrating how Jews turned a day of potential sorrow into one of great gladness.

By this simple act, we find ourselves implementing not only the true spirit of Purim, but of our entire Jewish tradition: to demonstrate our joy not only through self-indulgence (which is not only permissible, but obligatory on Purim), but also through sharing with others a portion that which we are privileged to enjoy ourselves.

Sunday, March 11th - 12:00 - 3:00 pm

PURIM CARNIVAL

Great new games, cotton candy, Deejays, face painting, prizes, food, crafts, and MORE! !!!!

Fantastic Raffles include a Get-Away Weekend at the Park Ridge Marriott and a football autographed by the Giants! !!

Al Getler, ventriloquist will perform.

\$6.00 for unlimited games - \$1.50 for puppet show or \$1.00 if you pay when you enter the carnival. Don't miss it! !!!!!!!!

Call Robin Presser 768-6531 Robin Krasnov 768-3975 for information

WANTED...PARENTS TO HELP AT PURIM CARNIVAL Sunday, March 11th — 11:30 am - 4:00 pm

Partial Shifts Available

Call Robin Presser 768-6531 Robin Krasnov 768-3975 if you can help out! ! ! !



News From National

There is nothing that so distinguishes the Reform Movement today as our commitment and contribution to social action. One issue very much on all our minds is our environment. In New Orleans it was a subject given much thought and discussion. The UAHC and NFTS (National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods) first passed environmental resolutions in the late sixties, and since then, a number of resolutions addressing the growing crisis of pollution, the need for alternative energy resources, and energy conservation have also been passed. The Reform movement has forthrightly advocated strong environmental policies, and addressed such problems as the Energy Crisis of 1973, the contamination of our water and air a decade later, and the growing need to conserve power in 1979.

In Washington, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism is an active member of the Energy and Ecology Coalition of the Washington Interreligious Staff Council. The Center is also the only Jewish member of the Alaska Coalition which has been formed to oppose attempts to open the Alaskan wilderness to all exploration.

The Center will soon be publishing a manual to assist Social Action groups in dealing with environmental issues.

WHAT CAN WE DO AS A CONGREGATION? Urge our Representatives and Senators to support clean air and water legislation, and not succumb to any weakening amendments or proposals. Participate in the national Shabbat Hagadol Day activities. Take more steps in your homes and in our Temple to make them environmentally sound. Recycle! Make an effort to buy only recyclable producgs and CFC-free foam.

Remember THINK GLOBALLY - ACT LOCALLY.

Mim Krieger National Board of Directors NFTS

Volunteers Needed For Kosher Meals On Wheels

Volunteers have been the key to the success of the UJC Kosher Meals on Wheels (KMOW) program. Hundreds of homebound elderly have had the quality of their lives enhanced and have been able to remain in their homes instead of being institutionalized sinze the inception in 1979.

As a result, there is a great need for additional volunteers. Volunteers are asked to give 1½ hours a day every other week. Men and women who want to make an important contribution to the elderly and the Jewish community may secure additional information by calling Bernice Berman, KMOW Director, at the UJC office, 488'6800. Eva Gitterman and Mimi Bookstaver are Chairpersons of the Kosher Meals on Wheels Program.



Caring Community

Do you know anyone who would like to go to Friday evening services but doesn't like to drive at night?

Do you need a ride to a physician's office?

Do you know someone with an illness in the family who would appreciate some home-cooked meals?

Even though ten towns are represented in our Temple, we are all part of one congregation. The Caring Community was formed to reach out to member of our congregation who could use a friendly visit, or some specific help.

Please call us (or the Temple office - 768-5112). Our network of volunteers is ready to work with you.

Barbara Mulholland	767-7276
Nancy Salen	384-9258
Arlene Silverstein	767-8364
Susan Asher	664-6797

Please fill our if you have not already handed one in:

$_______$ (Cut off and return) $_______$
Yes! I would like to be part of the Caring Community of Temple Beth El.
Name
AddressZip
Home PhoneBusiness Phone
I would especially like to: (check one or more)
phone people in need of a call
write people who would appreciate a note
cook or bake for someone who would appreciate it
help with Shivah Services
personal shopping
visit people in the hospital
visit people after a loss
other
My age is (under 18) (18-30)
(30-45) (45-60) (60+)
I am: (married) (single)
(divorced) (widow/widower)

SAVE SUNDAY, APRIL 29TH

FOR A COCKTAIL PARTY FOR ISRAEL BONDS

Meet Hon. Robert G. Torricelli, United States Congressman from the 9th District in New Jersey.

See performed live, scenes from *Songs of Paradise*, the "witty, tuneful and wonderful" (*New York Times*) pop musical in Yiddish and English that made the *Village Voice* say, "From so much laughing you could plotz!"

Come and enjoy at the home of Doris and David Mortman. Celebrate the new decade with a new investment in Israel. Invitation and information to follow.



TENAKILL PRESS FULL SERVICE PRINTING Commercial & Social 768-3800 251 Closter Dock Road, Closter	Henry Morris 201 - 768-3577 Automatic Doors of Bergen County Automatic Garage Door Operators Sales - Service - Installation 198 Walnut St., Northvale, N.J. 07647 Free Gift on All Installed Automatic Garage Door Operators With This Ad	Hamrah's Beautiful Women's Clothing Cresskill 871-444
(201) 567-3099 AAM PASTRIES INC. 66 Unicn Avenue Cresskill. New Jersey 07626	Dr. Kenneth Gasworth OPTOMETRIST Dr. Martin F. Schulman OPHTHALMOLOGIST 768 20/20 S20 DURIE AVE. CLOSTER, N.J.	Laura
 201 - 768-0606 ALAN B. KATZMAN, D.M.D., F.A.G.D. Family & Restorative Dentistry 458 Tappan Rd., Northvale, N.J. 07647 Office Hours by Appt. Evening & Weekend Hours Available 	Ladies Tennis & Golf ACTION WEAR OUTLET 85 Carver Ave., Westwood, N.J. 07675 666-3520 Dolores & Dick Friend	Superb food and casual elegance is our style. Be it an intimate affair or grand event, let Laura custom plan your wedding bar or bat mitzvab with creativity and expertise. Laura Chershy, proprietness, (914) 359-1110
THE WINE AND WHISKEY BARREL 7 Broad Street, Norwood, N.J. (201) 768-1551	ACCENT ON VIDEO Video Movies Rentals and Sales Video Equipment and Accessories 256 Closter Dock Rd., Closter, N.J. (201) 767-8106 Open 7 Days	JOHN A. RUBINSTEIN, D.M.D. General Dentistry ANNE SCHULTZ, D.D.S. Pediatric Dentistry 466 Old Hook Road Emerson, NJ 07630 201-261-7755 212-725-2950
TEMPLE BETH EL of Northern Valley 221 Schraalenburgh Road Closter, New Jersey 07624	Why Not Join Us For Second Seder	Help Write A Torah March 4
tabbi Fredric S. Pomerantz Cantor Shlomo Bar-Nissim President Jan E. Chason Bulletin Editors Carol Pomerantz Doris Mortman Doris Mortman Office .768-5112 Education Director Evelyn Rotstein Religious School Phone .768-2195 Nursery School Director Jeanne Schreiber Varsery Phone .768-3726 Parenting Director Hope Eliasof Youth Director Sherry Newman	Tuesday, April 10th	ATTEND MEETINGS
TEMPLE BETH EL OF Northern Valley 21 Schraalenburgh Road loster, New Jersey 07624		Non-Profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Closter, N.J. 07624 Permit No. 12

Win A Trip

ARZA has announced the second Bar/Bat Mitzvah contest which will send a lucky 7th grade student and two adults to Israel for one week. Students are asked to write a composition of between 200 and 500 words on the theme "My Dream Week in Israel." The contest is jointly sponsored by ARZA (The Association of Reform Zionists of America), the Moriah Hotels, and El Al Israel Airlines. It is open to boys and girls in the 7th grade of Religious School who will be celebrating their Bar/Bar Mitzvah with the congregation.

Along with the First Prize of a week in Israel at the Moriah Jerusalem and/or Moriah Plaza Tel Aviv hotels and three round trip airline tickets (from New York), the winner will be featured in the El Al inflight magazine, *ISRAEL AL*, and the ARZA Newsletter. Second Prize is a \$250 State of Israel Certificate, and Third Prize is a book or record of Israeli content.

Entries are due int he ARZA office by March 31, 1990 and winners will be announced by May 1. Compositions will be judged by a panel of representatives from ARZA, the Moriah Hotels, and El Al Israel Airlines. Judges will be looking for originality and creativity.

For more information, 7th graders should speak with their religious school teacher.

Will Soviet Jews Become More Active Jews?

What can we do to involve Soviet Jewish immmigrants in our congregation? Will they be successfully integrated into our Jewish communities? How can we help them to settle in our area?

A forum to be held Wednesday March 21, 6:00-10:00 p.m. at Temple Sholom, Cedar Grove will focus on these questions. The program, *'Integrating Soviet Jewish Immigrants Into Our Synagogues and Communities,*'' is sponsored by the UAHC New Jersey-West Hudson Valley Council's Social Action Committee. The cost for the program is \$10 which includes a sandwich supper and materials. All members interested in helping to integrate Soviet Jewish immigrants into our community are encouraged to attend.

The keynote speaker for the evening, Dr. Barry Kosmin, Directory of Research for the Council of Jewish Federations, will report on his recently released study of Soviet Jewish acculturation, focusing on the "Class of '79," those who imigrated between 1977-81. The program will conclude with a panel discussion on "Synagogue Programming to Facilitate Soviet Jews' Settlement and Involvement," featuring leaders of UAHC member congregations who are actively involved in working with Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Advance registration for the program is required. For more information, contact your Rabbi, President, or Social Action Chairperson, or call the Union of American Hebrew Congregations at (201) 599-0080.

GRAND UNION/SHOPRITE

YOU PROMISED YOURSELF TO ORDER SCRIP TOMORROW. . . .JUST DO IT!

CALL ARDELLE KASDAN 767-7626 OR DIANNE WEISSBERG 666-1887

Temple Beth El T-Shirts! !

Because of the popularity of our t-shirts and sweatshirts in the Nursery School last year, this year the Temple Beth El Nursery School is proud to offer for sale t-shirts and sweatshirts to the entire Temple community! The 1990 shirts are red, 50/50 poly/cotton, with "Temple Beth El" imprinted in white across the front. The following styles and sizes are available:

Short-sleeved T-Shirt		Youth \$ 7.	00 Adult	\$ 8.50
Crew Neck Sweatshirt		Youth \$10.		\$15.00
Hooded Sweatshirt		Youth \$14		\$18.00
Youth Sizes:	- ()	S(6-8)	M(10-12)	L(14-16)
Adult Sizes:		M(38-40)	L(42-44)	XL(46)

Orders must be received by *March 18, 1990.* Please mail your check (made payable to Temple Beth El) along with the order form below to: Suzette Witschi, 7 Highview Court, Closter, NJ 07624. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery to the Temple - you will be called when the order has arrived.

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Tree of Life

Looking for a unique way to commemorate a special event? A leaf on the Tree of Life is the perfect gift for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, anniversary, birthday, wedding or just a great way to say "I Care."

Call the Temple office for details: 768-5112.

Yahrzeit Plaques

Just a reminder that Yahrzeit plaques are a lasting way to honor and memorialize those loved ones whom we have lost.

A dignified way to continue a person's memory, the plaques are located in the sanctuary.

Call the Temple office for details: 768-5112.

Page Ten

Thank You Thank You Thank You

On Saturday evening, February 3rd I was treated to a wonderful evening of food, entertainment and camaraderie at the Fellowship Dinner Dance. The Del Vikings played and sang music of the 50s and 60s. They were terific. The social hall was filled. Everyone danced, sang, clapped their hands, let down their hair and really enjoyed themselves.

Thank you Bev Kleiner and Alan Katz for all your time and effort in putting together such a wonderful evening.

> Margery Gilmore Executive Directory

All material for the March bulletin must be typed for reproduction and in the Temple office by *March 7th*. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Our Annual

Chai Society Shabbat Dinner

Friday, March 23, 1990 6:30 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

followed by

DINNER

You bring a sharing dish for 10 (salad, starch or dessert) We'll provide the Friday Night Chicken Dinnen

RSVP by March 10th



Good and Welfare

ADULT EDUCATION

In honor of Ed Lieh's 95th birthday by Kay & John Rinderman.

JEWISH ENRICHMENT FUND

To Mrs. Linda deRefler, in memory of her father, by Ann & Stephen Levitan.

In memory of Anna Reider, mother of Dan Reider, by Roberta & Kurt Strauss.

LIBRARY FUND

To Mrs. Betty Levitan, in memory of her sister Dorothy, by Ann & Stephen Levitan.

In honor of Robin Kerne's birthday, by Karen Kerne. Thank you to Rabbi Pomerantz, from the Zisk family. Thank you to Cantor Bar-Nissim, from the Zisk family.

PRAYER BOOK FUND

In memory of Bert Schewel by Shirley & Milton Sisselman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Sidney Rodwin, husband of Peaerl Rodwin, by Mary Ellen & Steven Markowitz & family and Anne Ampole.

In memory of Sidney Rodwin, father of Leonard Rodwin, by Mary Ellen & Steven Markowitz & family.

CONDOLENCES

To Maxine Kaufman on the loss of her sister, Elaine Lesser. To Joyce Halpert on the loss of her mother, Regina Doben.

GET WELL

To Jeremy Pomerantz. To Sydelle Schechter. To Morty Lewis.

Y CAMPS OF SUMMER 90

The camps at the YM-YWHA of Bergen County offer more exciting choices this summer than ever before

Specialty Camp (K-6th grade) Sports•Creative Arts Teens Going Places (grades 7,8,9) (Day-long Adventure + 5-day Trips)

> INFORMATION MEETINGS Thursday, March 1 - 7:30 pm Tuesday, March 6 - 7:30 pm Monday, March 19 - 7:30 pm

For Camp Brochure & Membership Information Call today (201) 666-6610



YM-YWHA of Bergen County, 605 Pascack Road, Washington Township, NJ 07675

ISRAEL BONDS PARTY

APRIL 29, 1990

Take Pride In Our Planet!

The following is a series of suggestions as to how we, as individuals, might take more personal responsibility for the state of our planet. In April of this year, our nation and many others throughiout the world will commemorate "Earth Week," to reflect upon the damage we are causing our planet and to commit ourselves to solutions to those problems.

The most effective solutions begin with individual responsibility. Won't you study these suggestions, and the lists which will follow in later issues? There is much to be found herein for every one of us to consider and to act upon.



PART I

Waste Reduction/Recycling

In the United States each year, we generate nearly a ton of trash per person; 90 percent of this ends up in local landfills, half of which will be full within three years. Incineration causes toxic pollution. The most environmentally sound and cost-efficient way to alleviate the crisis is to reduce the amount of waste we generate in the first place.

SOLUTIONS:

- 1. Reduce consumption wherever possible.
- 2. Use mugs instead of paper cups, rags instead of paper towels, cloth instead of paper napkins.
- 3. Double-side photocopies; use reverse sides of paper.
- Buy products in bulk or with the least amount of packaging.
- 5. Bring your own shopping bags to the market.
- 6. Buy products that are recycled, recyclable, reliable, repairable, refillable, reusable; avoid disposables.
- 7. Mend and repair rather than discard and replace.
- 8. Buy beverages in returnable containers; avoid non-recyclable containers.
- 9. Ask for recycled paper at stationers and printers.
- 10. Recycle/reuse motor oil, tires, and scrap metal.
- 11. For infants, use cloth or biodegradable diapers.
- Pressure local fast food chains and other businesses to end wasteful packaging procedures.
- 13. Buy products that will last.
- 14. Avoid impulse buying. Read labels and research the products you plan to buy.
- 15. Borrow or rent items you use frequently, and maintain and repair the items you own to insure longer product life.
- 16. Remove excess packaging and leave it in the store; make it their problem.
- 17. Do not use plastic bags; request paper bags at stores.
- 18. Separate your recyclable garbage (newspaper, glass, paper, aluminum, and organic waste if you have a garden); only send to the landfill what you can't reuse.

- Study your communities' waste disposal system, and oppose any plans to build more landfills or garbage incinerators.
- 20. If you don't have a recycling center, lobby your City Council to establish one.

Energy

Between 1850 and 1950, the United States switched from being 91 percent dependent on renewable wood to being 96 percent dependent on non-renewable oil, coal, and natural gas. Burning these fossil fuels produces gases that seriously damage our environment. Nuclear energy is expensive, technically problematic, and environmentally risky. Renewable energy is safe and plentiful, but few systems have been developed to harness it. Using energy efficiently can reduce household requirements 25 to 90 percent.

SOLUTIONS:

- 21. When purchasing a home, check for its energy efficiency.
- 22. Get a low-cost home energy audit from your utility company.
- 23. Invest in ample insulation, weather stripping, and caulking.
- 24. Use natural gas rather than electricity for heat and appliances.
- 25. In winter, turn down your thermostat a few degrees, especially at night and when the house is empty.
- 26. Wear a sweater or other warm clothing in cooler temperatures.
- 27. If there are windows near the thermostat, keep them tightly closed.
- 28. Keep fireplace dampers closed unless you have a fire going.
- 29. Avoid air-conditioning as much as possible.
- Close off and do not heat unused rooms; use insulting shades and curtains on cold winter nights and hot summer days.
- 31. Avoid keeping your refrigerator or freezer too cold.
- 32. Add an insultion blanket to your water heater; turn it down to 120 degrees.
- 33. Use a clothesline rather than a dryer whenever possible.
- 34. Keep the lint screen in the dryer clean.
- 35. Instead of ironing, hang clothes in the bathroom while you bathe or shower.
- 36. Don't buy motorized or electric tools or appliances when hand-oprerated ones are available; this includes lawn mowers.
- 37. Buy high-efficiency electrical appliances.
- 38. Use outdoor lights only when necessary.
- 39. Use low-watt light bulbs.
- 40. Install plastic storm windows or new "superwindows."
- 41. Plant deciduous shade trees that protect west windows from summer sun but allow it in during the winter.
- 42. Buy local and recycled products to cut indirect energy use.
- 43. Monitor the environmental and pricing policies of your local energy utility.
- 44. Explore whether municipally owned power might be an option in your city.

BR NG NANEN BER

JOIN OUR MEETINGS MARCH 1990 - ADAR-DISAD 5750

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 16 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 26	CHAI DINNER		APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 16 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Adult Ed. 8:00 pm Ritual 8:15 pm		3 ^{6 ADAR} 10:30 am B'not Mitzvah Dara Freeman Barbi Katz
4 7 ADAR Men's Club 10:00 am - 12 noon BESY Bd. Youth 7:00 pm Torah Kick-off Rabbi Moshe Klein 10:00 am	5 ^{8 ADAR}	6 9 ADAR Youth Committee 8:00 pm	7 10 ADAR Congregational Meeting	Board of Ed. 8:00 pm FAST OF ESTHER	Shabbat Service 8:15 pm B'nai B'rith	10 13 ADAR 10:30 am Bar Mitevah Howard Pivar Tot Shabbat 9:30-10:00 am Megillah Reading 6:00-6:30 pm
11 Juanan Purim Carnival	12 7th Grade 7:00 pm 5th & 6th Grade	13 Nursery School Party 7:30 pm	14 ^{17 ADAR}	15 Sisterhood Progra & Board Mtg. 8:00 pm	Shabbat Service 8:15 pm Guest Speaker Bebbi Deaid	17 20 ADAR 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah Micah Kasdan
18 Gr. 4-6 Ice Skating Party Adult Ed. 6:00 pm Parenting 10:15 - 11:30 am	19 22 ADAR Men's Club 7:30 - 9:00 pm Officers 7:45 pm	20 23 ADAR	21	22 25 AD Bd. of Trustees 7:45 pm	AR 23 25 ADAR Kabalat Service 6:30 pm Chai Society Dinner 7:15 pm	24 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah Kevin Eskridge Sisterhood Garage Sale
25 28 ADAR Sisterhood Garage Sale	26 29 ADAR BENJY Youth 6:00 pm	27 ^{1 NISAN} Nursery Board 7:30 pm	28 ^{2 NISAN}	29 ^{3 NIS} Outreach Commit 8:00 pm	Shabbat Service	31 ^{5 NISAN} 10:30 am B'nai Mitzvah Adam Greenberg Joshua Mark Greenberg
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Our Annual

Chai Society Shabbat Dinner

Friday, March 23, 1990 6:30 р.м.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service

followed by

Dinner

You bring a sharing dish for 10 (salad, starch or dessert) We'll provide the Friday Night Chicken Dinner

RSVP by March 10th

Leatrice Dvoskin ...768-6662 Bernice Strauss768-1114 Bunny Black768-4820 Carol Alexander ...391-4022

Don't be an Apri foo s	apport Beth El Senior
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* Bagel	Box & Sunday. ** April 1st ** for yourselves send
Each bagel box 1	Buy Consumptions send
Contains: 3 bagels	Buy for yourselves send them to your friends!!!!
	All proceeds go to BES.V's Torah Project.
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PROGRAM AGENDA Adult Education is delighted to present the following speakers and programs

RABBI DANIEL H. FREELANDER Friday, March 16, 1990 Regional Director, New Jersey-8:15 p.m. West Hudson Council of the UAHC Topic: The Changing Face of Reform Music

Sunday, April 8, 1990 RABBI NORMAN J. COHEN, Ph.D. Dean, Hebrew Union College, New York Brunch - 10:30 a.m. Topic: New Wine and Old Vessels: Making the Bible Come Alive Professor Benjamin Nelson, Ph.D. Sunday, March 18, 1990 Professor of English and Coffee and Dessert Comparative Literature 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 30, 1990

Topic: The Adolph Eichmann Trial

8:15 p.m.

BREAK THE SILENCE A one-act play written by Isaac Dostis and Diana Sunrise

A play about those allied forces who liberated the concentration camps in World War II.

SHABBAT UNIVERSITY

Rabbi Frederic Pomerantz will discuss Thomas Friedman's "From Beirut to Jerusalem"

Part 1 - Beirut

£

Friday, April 20, 1990 8:15 p.m.

Part 2 - Jerusalem

Friday, May 18, 1990 8:15 p.m.

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SUPPORT JLT EDUCATIO	PROGRAMS Series: \$15.00		Total Enclosed: \$ ===================================	Name Address	Mail to: Batia Grinblat Box 340 Closter, N.J. 07624 or Diane Weissberg 24 Country Squire Rd Old Tappan, N.J. 07675

ACT 1