

*Serving the Northern
Middlesex County
Jewish Community*

NEVE SHALOM

נוה שלום

FROM THE RABBI

By Gerald Zelizer

Nursery School Inaugurates Zelizer Playground

As the children in the Nursery School often say, "Thanks for the treat."

I want to thank **Martha Mack** and the parents of the Nursery School for their treat! It was a surprise and a moving honor that they decided to name the Nursery School playground "The Zelizer Playground." Interfacing with the Nursery School has been a highlight of my service to you all these years. I always enjoy showing the kids the sanctuary, the inside of a Torah, explaining to them what a rabbi and hazzan do, and answering their lively questions. The banter in the hallway as they are lining up for the bathroom and I pass them and they call me by my name "Rav Yehuda", is wonderful.

That connection to them is the reason why I reallocated some monies dedicated to my late parents, in order to subsidize the new playground apparatus and anything else that the Nursery School should need. Dayenu! - a small plaque would have been fine! (The joke is when future archeologists will un-

cover synagogues of 2012 they will not deduce that the synagogues were constructed from bricks, but plaques.) Thanks to Martha Mack and the Nursery School parents for their abundant generosity!

These monies were donated by my father, **Rabbi Nathan Zelizer**, in memory of my mother, **Florence Zelizer**, when she died. Then when my father died, I supplemented the fund and through the years various donations have come in from our members in honor of different occasions. My father, Rabbi Nathan Zelizer, was the rabbi of a congregation in Columbus, Ohio for over forty years and then into his retirement and old age, the rabbi of various synagogues in Florida which he found and turned over to younger colleagues. Some in our congregation knew him from his visits and presence on my pulpit. My mother Florence died at a relatively young age.

In addition to the above, my enthusiasm over our Nursery School is multiplied:

A. My son, now forty-two and a college professor, attended Neve Shalom Nursery School,

B. As a child, I attended a nursery school and summer camp in synagogue of my father,

C. Most importantly, the newest frontier in Jewish education is pre-school education. It is only in recent years that the Jewish dimension of pre-school education, has been given proper attention and been thought through by Jewish educators.

Martha Mack, our Director, is a pioneer in giving a strong Jewish component to Nursery School education and she does an exemplary job at this.

Today rabah to Martha and the members of the school committee who have honored my parents' memory and my own tenure in Congregation Neve Shalom in this way. I am moved and humbled by their gesture.

Look for Rabbi Zelizer's frequent cyber thoughts on the synagogue website: www.neveshalom.net



Rabbi Zelizer with Nursery School children in the playground that bears his family name.

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BULLETIN DEADLINES

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Submit your articles and graphics for publication to Rita Devlin via e-mail at rabbi.secretary@verizon.net.



NOTES FROM THE HAZZAN

By Hazzan Sheldon Levin

“And the Angels Sing”

On Sunday, June 24 at 3:00 pm at the Marasco Performing Arts Center in Monroe Township, I will be co-directing a most spectacular concert. The program features the 45 voice Makhelat Hamercaz, Jewish Choir of Central New Jersey (*pictured below*), a local klezmer band, “Tsu Fil Duvids”, and one of the world's leading cantors, **Alberto Mizrahi**, (*pictured above*), as our guest soloist. The program is entitled "And the Angels Sing: Jewish Music Classics and Great Hits." It includes pop and classical music, Israeli and Sephardic, Yiddish, American and European, Cantorial, Klezmer and Swing music. We will include a new piece that the choral has commissioned this year and many selections that will be familiar to Jewish audiences.



with major symphonies throughout the world. You may have seen him on several PBS specials of Jewish music or major concerts in New York. His spectacular voice, excellent musicianship and charming personality have won over many fans.

This is not a Neve Shalom event but a community program to help bring quality Jewish music to Central New Jersey. Tickets are available online at www.MercazChoir.org, by phone at 732-422-6444 or 732-985-2778 or by sending a check payable to Makhelat Hamercaz with a self-addressed stamped envelope to 21 Thatchwood Ct., North Brunswick, NJ 08902. Patron reserved seats with tax deductible listing in the program are \$100 for two people, Friends of the Choir tickets, which also include a listing in the program, are \$36 per person. General Admission seats are \$25 each and seniors or students are only \$15 per person.

We promise you a fun afternoon with a lot of energy, audience participation and great singing. Alberto Mizrahi, who was born in Greece, was trained at the Jewish Theological Seminary and is the cantor of the historic Anshe Emeth synagogue in Chicago. He has appeared on many recordings, concert stages and sung

Feel free to email me or call me at Neve Shalom with any questions. The Arts Center is about a 30 minute drive from Metuchen and perhaps some people might be able to car pool. I hope you can join us for this very special event in our greater community.

IN MEMORIAM

ב"ה

Irma Gilbert
 mother of Sam Gilbert

Cheryl Dorsch
 daughter of
 Herb and Carole Gary

Haskell Fleischer
 father of Robert Fleischer

Devira Marcus
 mother of Sheri-Rose Rubin



Membership Musings

By Debbie Schildkraut, Membership Vice President

It has been a terrific year together! We have been doing many exciting things for Membership outreach. I want to thank Membership Committee members for their time and dedication, and remind everyone that this is an open committee, so please come join us anytime and share your insights and ideas!

Here are some of the highlights from the past year:

- ❑ **Our new Suggestion Box!** Be sure to let us know your ideas and suggestions. It is located near the office window. Many thanks to **Ben Lass** for donating it to fulfill an item on our committee's wish list!
- ❑ **The "Meet our Members" column:** Thank you for the positive feedback on this column. It has been fun to get to know more about our members, and foster deeper connections among us all. Please contact me via email at dkestins@gmail.com if you'd like to be featured in future bulletins.
- ❑ **Our new "Neve Now!" weekly email updates,** with a fresh and easy-to-read view of what's happening at Neve Shalom each week. Thanks to **Jeff Schulman** for helping us jumpstart this important project, and to **Eric and Susan Goldman** for funding our initial user license.
- ❑ **Our weekly Shabbat Shalom friendly phone calls** on Thursday evenings.
- ❑ **New Neve Shalom signs around town!** Many thanks to **Keith Boxer** for helping us make it easier for potential members to find us.
- ❑ **Welcome outreach to new members** in a variety of ways.
- ❑ **Interfaith Committee:** We are working on communications to help interfaith members understand how they can play an active role in our shul.
- ❑ **Booster Seats:** Parents asked for it, and we delivered. Check out the bright green booster seats to help make socializing at Kiddush much easier with young children.
- ❑ **Nursing Station:** Our library has now been made available as a more quiet and private location for nursing mothers during services.

Coming Soon!

- ❑ **Membership Directory:** Please be sure to send us your confirmed contact information. We need updates by the end of June.
- ❑ **A refreshed Neve Shalom website!** We have a committee, led by **Lynn Sessler**, working hard to plan a new and exciting website.
- ❑ **Neve Shalom t-shirts:** T-shirts are a fun way to build community spirit! We will have one available soon; keep an eye out for them!

MEN'S CLUB MINUTE

By Matt Bonus, Men's Club President



As our summer approaches I would like to make all of you aware of some of the lasting things that our Men's Club does for our synagogue. First and foremost we support our youth by donating money to the Youth Fund for scholarships. We also support our local college by donating money to Rutgers Hillel. We are not just about money. We take on synagogue projects when there is a need for them. This spring and summer we have had all of the ballroom High Holiday furniture refinished including the ark in the ballroom. Special thanks goes to **Jeff Weiss** for spear heading this project. We are also planning to fix the book holders in our sanctuary and Beit Midrash. These have started to fall apart so we are repairing them. In the past, we have bought vacuum cleaners, new desks and rugs for the Hebrew school, and new book carrying carts for the synagogue.

In order to continue doing these needed projects we need your support. In this column I have asked for our members to come out and support our programs, this time all I would like you to do is to continue to support our Men's Club by checking the Men's Club box when your dues form comes in the mail this summer. I know our dues continue to go up and some of our congregants have tried to offset this by not joining our Men's club. While this may save you a little money, it hurts our organization and prevents us from giving back to the synagogue with the projects above and more. To those who continue to support the Men's Club I extend a gracious thank you

This month, one of our own, **Jeff Schulman**, is slated to become the next president of the Northern New Jersey Region of the FJMC (Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs). Our club is extremely proud of Jeff and we know that he will bring his determination and spirit to our entire region.

Sisterhood Sez...



As we near the end of this year, the Sisterhood board and officers wish you a very good summer. However, before that happens, we hope you will join us for our "Annual Breakfast with the Rabbi." It takes place on Sunday, June 10. Everyone is invited. We look forward to seeing all of you. The Rabbi's talk is usually interesting and exciting and we always to learn something. Breakfast is always delicious. Don't miss this important event.

We look forward to hearing from any of you who wish to contribute ideas for the coming year. Let's keep Sisterhood alive and well and current.

In order to help us continue to accomplish things around the synagogue, including our support of the various youth groups, we hope you will support us, by purchasing your religious items in our Gift Shop or on our web-site. Please purchase our leagram anniversary cards. The proceeds go toward many different paths to help the temple. We also hope you continue to support Torah Fund.

See you on June 10 and in the fall.

That Special Feeling

By Joshua Ull



By Rebecca Glinn

I casually opened my eyes from my nap and arose from my deep slumber. Surrounded by strangers and the sound of snoring, I had forgotten where I was. It was a stormy flight from Eastern Europe, where my group had spent the past two weeks intensively learning about the Holocaust and Jewish history. The exit signs and floor lights dimly illuminated the cabin as the rushing sound of compressed air poured out from the knob above my seat. The plane was cold, dark, and asleep. Within minutes of my awakening a familiar beep buzzed overhead and the pilot requested our preparation for arrival. The silence of the plane was broken as the wheels descended from the belly of the aircraft. Seatbelts clicked, chairs pulled up, and tray tables returned to that familiar "upright position". As we glided safely onto the runway my fellow passengers erupted in song. "Am Yisrael Chai, Am Yisrael Chai, Am Yisrael, Am Yisrael, Am Yisrael Chai!" we chanted. I could not see those around me, but I heard their music and felt their excitement. Lethargy turned into enthusiasm as our voices joined together in beautiful harmony.

After five minutes of taxiing and another ten of bottlenecking out the plane door, my group and I finally made it into Ben Gurion Airport. Having never been to Israel, I waited anxiously to feel that "vibe" or those spiritual "chills" everyone seems to experience when stepping foot in the Holy Land. Strangely, I didn't feel anything. It was amazing to see every sign in Hebrew, to watch as natives spoke the language of my people, and to see the beautiful sun rise over this land which I have learned so much about. But where was that feeling? Once we made it through security and boarded our bus we thought we were going to the Fuchsberg Center for Conservative Judaism (The Conservative Movement's home base in Israel) where we would be staying periodically throughout our four weeks in Israel. However, our staff announced that we were making a pit stop.

Immediately they swarmed the bus and covered our eyes with blindfolds. After driving for about twenty five minutes, we came to a stop. Guided carefully down the steep steps

of the coach bus, we were told to place our hands on the shoulders of the person in front of us. We cautiously followed directions about where to step up, when to step down and which way we should turn our bodies. Eventually we were told to stop talking and listen. After a brief moment of silence, permission was given for our blindfolds to be removed. Above me I felt the blazing morning sun blanket my bare neck in warmth. Behind me I listened to the daily rush of traffic and movement of Israeli life. And in front of me, I witnessed thousands of homes lining a beautiful landscape. There were cars, trees, buildings, schools, hospitals, grass, hills, and valleys. Hebrew School posters came alive as I stood before a magnificent view on an overlook known as Haas Promenade. The Dome of the Rock glistened as the old city blended into an amazing scene. I stood there beside my forty three new best friends as we davened Shacharit (the morning service) to start our day.

That is how the most incredible summer of my life began. For four weeks I embraced Judaism spiritually, culturally, and historically. I made lifelong friends, took spectacular pictures, and made unforgettable memories. Through music, hiking, and learning, I became one with a land that had always been so far away. As I reflect on my summer on USY's Eastern Europe Israel Pilgrimage, I can sincerely say it changed my life. Everyone should have the opportunity to visit Israel with USY. There is nothing like spending Shabbat with your closest friends overlooking the Old City. Also, you can't find a program that is as safe and responsible as this one. Lastly, the staff consisted of inspiring, educated, and passionate individuals who give of themselves to create the best summer possible. With my scholarship from the Suzy Schwartz Fund, I was able to travel across the world. When I opened my eyes at Haas Promenade I finally felt that special feeling run up my spine. I was safe, I was happy, and most importantly - I was home.

Joshua Ull is senior at John P. Stevens High School. He will be going on NATIV next year (the Conservative movement's leadership gap year program in Israel.)

The school year is coming to a close and METUSY is going out with a bang! Our first event of May was Yom HaZikaron /Yom HaAtzmaut night, turning darkness into light. It included a social action project to support Israeli troops and an Israel festival. We stuffed our faces with falafel and chocolate, and rocked out to some Israeli music and much much more! We also had the pleasure of hosting another regional dance this year! Our members represented Metuchen USY with some crazy spirit and awesome dance moves. Though the Closing Dance meant saying goodbye to some Regional friends, our year couldn't be finished without electing a new chapter board while enjoying the traditional Chinese food. All candidates worked really hard and we congratulate the new board and are excited to see what great things they have in store for next year! Finally, we ended the month with another "Havdalah Hangout."

But the year is not quite finished! We are excited for our annual Closing Barbecue. We have the pleasure of officially inducting the new board into office as well as doing what we Metuchen members do best, eat. We urge all current and potential members of USY to attend Encampment, a weeklong event in Starlight Pennsylvania from August 19-26. Here, USYers have the opportunity to meet Jewish teens from all over New Jersey and it is a fantastic way to end the summer! It is, "the most exciting and amazing week of the year!" Registration is now open, so contact **Penina Mark** at peninasm@gmail.com for information. We also wish a fantastic summer for all participants of USY summer programs. Enjoy!

METUSY Brings Home Top Honors

HaGalil, the northern New Jersey region of USY, held its Spring Convention the last weekend in April in Somerset. The 15 USYers in attendance from Neve Shalom saw **Micah Lubow** elected as 2012-2013 Regional Social Actions/Tikkun Olam Vice President. Metuchen USY received the highest award at the convention, Chapter of the Year, as well as an award for the largest Tikkun Olam donation in the region, and seven other awards. Tikkun Olam is USY's tzedakah fund.



Josh Ull presided over the convention as the 2011-2012 Regional President. Mazel tov to advisor, **Penina Mark**, Chapter President, **Andrew Podob**, the chapter board and the entire USY membership for these great achievements.



HEBREW SCHOOL NEWS

By Hazzan Sheldon Levin

Our special theme this year has focused mainly on prayers. We brought in **Rick Recht** for a concert in the fall featuring his rock versions of many prayer texts which the children sang with him. We held a Prayer Fair with many activities for fun and creative ways of connecting to traditions and customs, blessings and rituals. Every grade participated in leading services from the youngest Tot Shabbat programs to the classes participating in the sanctuary, the Family Services in the Beit Midrash, sometimes including the Daled students as Torah readers, the 3rd graders leading Friday night prayers at their Consecration to the tenth grade class participating in Shavuot services at their confirmation. Our USYers and Hebrew High students sometimes led their own separate Shabbat services in the Beit Midrash and twice led the congregational service in the sanctuary.

The Spiritual Passover Concert had many of our children singing words of the Hagaddah with new melodies some of which have African-American roots. At the Six13 Concert many of our USYers and Hebrew High teens

were dancing in the aisles and even went on the stage for the final number.

This year's Maccabiyah was renamed "Prayer Games" with some of the activities inspired by "The Hunger Games" film and books, though no one gets hurt or killed here. For example, one day a boy and girl from each team (Mincha, Maariv and Shacharit) were given huge word search puzzles which their team mates needed to help them find and translate. We had an exciting "sing down" with each team singing prayers for one round and songs from Israel in another round. The kids, grades Bet, Gimel and Daled, seem to enjoy these activities and hopefully they are learning while they are having fun.

Of course we also celebrated Passover in the school with age appropriate seders, Yom HaShoa with **Emil Kalfus** as our guest speaker and Yom HaAtzmaut with different art projects, food items, songs and activities for different classes.

We bid farewell to **Anita Belek** who has been our Hebrew School secretary for a number of years and is moving out of our community. Our new secretary is **Jeanne Cowhey** who can be reached at

JC2061@aol.com. We think you will find her a welcome addition to our staff with her warm demeanor, love of children and many years' experience as a school administrative assistant.

We hope that everyone will register for Hebrew School as soon as possible and will encourage other friends and neighbors to also join us. The registration form can be found at: <http://neveshalom.net/HSregistration.pdf>

We thank all of the teachers, madrichim and students for a great year and we wish everyone a wonderful summer.



Emil Kalfus, Holocaust survivor, with some of our children.



NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

By Martha Mack, Director

A wonderful thing happened this spring in the Nursery School, and we have **Rabbi Zelizer** to thank for it.

Let me tell you all a little story.....

We have a beautiful playground here at Neve Shalom, primarily used by the students of Neve Shalom Nursery School, complete with a large commercial-grade play structure, handicapped-accessible rubberized flooring, and a swipe card secure entryway off of the school wing of the building. Over the years we have supplemented that beautiful large, commercial-grade play structure with other smaller items such as a playhouse, rocking seesaw, and various outdoor toys one would find in any average suburban backyard. Unfortunately, those items were neither sturdy nor safe enough for the twice daily usage (weather permitting) of the nursery school students. For safety reasons, we have removed all of the non-commercial-grade play equipment and began researching the cost of adding one or two additional commercial-grade items to complement the existing large piece of equipment and complete the playground.

To make a long story short (or perhaps that ship has sailed!), we located two new additional commercial-grade pieces of equipment. Unfortunately, the purchase, shipping, and installation of these items came with a pretty hefty price tag. Certainly more than we had in our nursery school fundraising bank account. When told of this need for additional funds, Rabbi Zelizer came forward with funding from a very personal source in memory of his parents, **Rabbi Nathan and Florence Zelizer**. (See page 1 for more information in the *Rabbi's column*.)

We are honored and deeply touched that Rabbi Zelizer has designated these funds to enrich the lives of our Nursery School students. Whenever the children see him in the hallways, they sing out with "Hi Rav Yehudah!" and they inform him of their latest accomplishments or ask him questions on every subject imaginable. Whether it is in the sanctuary learning about the tallit or the Torah, or in the hallways striking up a casual conversation, our Nursery School students share a special bond with Rabbi Zelizer.

We held a dedication ceremony and named the playground "The Zelizer Playground" upon the delivery and installation of the two brand new items in early May. The exact inscription over the Zelizer playground reads:

THE ZELIZER PLAYGROUND
REMEMBERING MY PARENTS
RABBI NATHAN & FLORENCE ZELIZER
AND CELEBRATING THE CHILDREN OF
NEVE SHALOM
AS THEY PLAY IN THIS SPACE

בנערינו ובזקנינו נלך

"WITH OUR YOUNG AND OUR OLD
WE WILL PROCEED" (EXODUS)

GERALD ZELIZER, RABBI,
NEVE SHALOM
1970 - 2015

CALLED TO THE TORAH

By Flora Cowen

Alex

On Saturday,

June 9, Alex Telson will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah. Alex is the son of **Shelley and Scott Telson**, and the brother of **David** and **Howard**. Alex is the grandson of the late **Howard and Audrey Schneider**, and of the late **Marlene and Frank Gelbard**.



Alex will be following family tradition as a Congregation Neve Shalom bar mitzvah celebrant; he was preceded in this rite of passage at Neve Shalom by his mother and father, when they were 13, and also by and his two older brothers.

Alex is a 7th grade student at John Adams Middle School in Edison, where his favorite subject is Math.

In his spare time, he loves to play sports, including ping pong and basketball, but his absolute favorite sport is "Tennis, Tennis and Tennis." As a sideline, he reports that "I am also a stringer of tennis racquets. I have a small business, which keeps me busy. If anyone needs their racquets strung, they should contact me at telson24@gmail.com."

For his mitzvah project, Alex will be donating baskets of food to needy people and collecting used tennis balls for school chairs.

Thank You

As the Commemorative Ad Journal season winds down I would like to thank **Mindy Paris-Thurer** for doing an outstanding job publishing the journal. Thanks to committee members **Deborah Berman, Julius Feinson, Bruce Greenberg, Stacey Sern and Eliot Spack** for their vital contributions.

Thanks to **Madeline Tolins-Schlitt** for her original and beautiful cover artwork and to **Aimee Braverman, Jennifer Bullock and Cindy Steinbach** for the planning and coordination of a beautiful luncheon, and to the entire office staff whose assistance is invaluable.

I would also like to thank the congregation of Neve Shalom. With your support, thoughtfulness and generosity, this event and others like it, help create a gratifying atmosphere of learning, praying and socializing in our synagogue. Of course I must mention the honorees; **Eric and Susan Goldman** and **Yehuda and Jennine Shpigel**. Thanks to their devotion and generosity this major fundraiser was such a success. It was a true pleasure and honor working with all of you. Again, thank you so much.

Kenneth Braverman
Event Chair

SUMMER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Pre-bat/bar mitzvah children whose birthdays fall in June will join us on **June 2**; July birthdays on **July 7** and August birthdays on **August 4**, for a special blessing from the Rabbi and a celebratory Kiddush following services. We wish a joyful mazel tov to the following children and their families:

JUNE

- Jacob Anes
- Evan Derector
- Shaina Garb
- Noah Greenhouse
- Elisa Pinkowitz
- Max Rubin
- Sarah Schildkraut
- Alex Stolz

JULY

- Michelle Arnel
- Avner Chaplin
- Zachary Lanton
- Azi Richman
- Ilana Rosen
- Ilana Stein

AUGUST

- Ike Busch
- Ben Kupersmit
- Julianna Margolin
- Rebecca Margolin
- Brian Schuetz



Neve Shalom would like to thank the following people for chanting Torah in the month of April:

T=Teen, JR=Junior

- Ronald Becker 11
- Matt Bonus 1
- Melissa Boxer 1
- Jennifer Bullock..... 1
- Andrea Colby 3
- Laurence Dombrow 1
- Michael Friederwitzer... 8
- Sharon Friederwitzer T 1
- Eric Goldman..... 1
- Rosalie Green..... 1
- Bruce Greenberg..... 3
- Jennifer Greenberg T 1
- Ariel Kafker T 1
- Miriam Kafker 1
- Rena Kallman 3
- Mark Rosenfield..... 19
- Michele Rosenfield 15
- Daniel Rushefsky..... 1
- Cathy Salamon 1
- Debbie Schildkraut..... 2
- Steven Schneider 1
- Elyse Schulman 1
- Stacey Sern 1
- Martin Slutzky..... 3
- Arlene Smith 1

- Alan Stern.....1
- Lisa Spiegel.....1
- Stephen Traum.....6
- David Yellin.....8

Ashrei

- Benjamin DanielsJR
- Ariella KushnerJR
- Cheryl SchneiderJR
- Nathan ZelizerJR
- Sophia ZelizerJR

Haftarah

- Keith Boxer
- Aimee Braverman
- Bruce Greenberg
- Miriam Kafker
- Audrey Napchen
- Seymour Tabak

Israel Awareness Committee:



Pride and Remembrance

Although you will be reading this in the June bulletin, as I write today it is Yom HaZikaron (a day of remembrance in Israel.) What comes to my mind is a beautiful young man from South Africa, **Steven Konigsberg**, who had made aliyah to Israel to join his family there. He so enjoyed the freedom of being out in the streets with his friends and being able to breathe the fresh air of Eretz Yisrael, something he never could do in South Africa.

As an 18 year old he joined the army and went to serve most willingly. Early in his service, while stationed at the Erez crossing, he was killed. His father, **Kevin**, embraced the young men in his unit as if they also were his own sons and through his efforts and the efforts of friends and family, raised enough money to purchase protective vests for this unit in memory of his son Steven, may his memory be for a blessing. He was one of 22,993 who died defending the Jewish State or were victims of terrorism.

There are several videos on the Israel21c website (Israel21c.org) that will make us all very proud! One is called "Top 64 Innovations from Israel in the Last 64 Years." Another is called "Made in Israel." They show Israel's innovations and creativity at its best. This is a true celebration of Israel's 64th birthday! Have a "Kayitz tov" (a good summer).

Miriam Saruya – hensar18@comcast.net



Good Sports!

In the first annual Men's Club-USY basketball game, the score was close (58 to 56) but Men's Club was victorious.

Dave Schwemer, son of **Sandy and Marty Schwemer**, kept it all in the Neve family, by serving as referee. Dave played Kadima and USY basketball as a youth in the eighties.

Wanna play? Contact **Matt Bonus** at matlicia@optonline.net.

Spirituality Comes Alive at Neve Shalom

By Eliot Spack

Who knew what to expect at the Spiritual Passover Concert held on March 25 at Neve Shalom?

There were over 300 people in attendance and their motivation to attend was guided by one of several possibilities:

Some came as proud parents/grandparents to watch their own kids perform. Others came out of pure curiosity to see what this assemblage could generate. Still others came simply because they knew that any event created and orchestrated by **Hazzan Sheldon Levin** was surely to be a special experience. The good news is that nobody left the event disappointed.

On the contrary, everyone left uplifted and inspired.

Under the joint sponsorship of Neve Shalom and Congregation Beth Israel of Scotch Plains the concert brought almost 100 singers to the bimah of our sanctuary. Both of the congregations' adult and children's choirs came together to blend their harmonies with us under the animated baton of directors **Hazzan Matt Axelrod** and **Hazzan Sheldon Levin**. A special feature of the program was the inclusion of the Philadelphia-based Intermezzo

Choir Ministry under the direction of **Dr. Verolga Nix**. This very special group of Gospel singers brought a unique blending of booming and profoundly beautiful voices to the day's program. It was clear that they had been briefed on the meaning of the Hebrew selections and they joined in several pieces that were sung in Hebrew. What was particularly remarkable was the manner by which **Hazzan Levin** had conceived and arranged many of the program's selections---a mix of familiar Pesach words and melodies with powerful spirituals.

The audience was bedazzled by each of the singing groups---especially the children---but the most responsive reaction emerged when ALL of the groups sang together. For a group that had very few opportunities to rehearse together, the blending of their voices (in two different languages) was magnificently overpowering. A hearty yasher koach to all the singers and directors for providing us with remarkable inspiration as we prepared ourselves for the imminent Festival of Pesach.



Legal Ease

"Jerusalem, Israel" as the Birthplace of American Citizens Born in Jerusalem

By Bruce D. Greenberg

Israel has made Jerusalem its capital. Jews around the world view Jerusalem as part of Israel. But the United States, under Presidents of both parties and for delicate diplomatic reasons, has long equivocated about the status of Jerusalem in various ways, such as by not moving this country's embassy to Jerusalem.

Thus, the State Department had a policy that passports of American citizens born in Jerusalem cannot show the citizens' place of birth as "Israel" or "Jordan," but only "Jerusalem." In 2002, however, a law went into effect that gave an American citizen born in Jerusalem, or his or her legal guardian, the option to have the citizen's passport show "Israel" as the place of birth.

Menachem Zivotofsky was born in Jerusalem on October 17, 2002. His parents were American citizens. Thus, Menachem too was an American citizen. His mother asked the State Department to list "Jerusalem, Israel" on Menachem's passport. The State Department refused, citing the policy against doing so. The Zivotofskys sued for an order requiring the State Department to identify Menachem's place of birth as "Jerusalem, Israel."

Two lower courts threw out the case. They did so, they said, because the "political status of Jerusalem," such as whether Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, is a "political question" that is for the Executive Branch (that is, the President and his State Department) alone to decide. Under the separation of powers, the lower courts said, courts have no right to intrude into that decision. The case then went to the United States Supreme Court, which reversed the lower courts earlier this year.

The Supreme Court said that the courts were not in fact being asked to replace a foreign policy decision of the Executive Branch with the courts' own view of what United States policy toward Jerusalem should be. Rather, the courts had only to decide whether the Zivotofskys had a right to enforce the statute passed by Congress and whether that statute is constitutional. "This is a familiar judicial exercise," the Supreme Court said, and the courts were not forbidden from considering the case.

The Supreme Court did not decide whether the Zivotofskys were correct. The Court recited some of the arguments that had been made, and directed the lower court to examine carefully "the textual, structural, and historical evidence put forward by the parties regarding the nature of the statute and of the passport and recognition powers." As a result, the Zivotofskys will get their day in court. Whether they will ultimately win remains to be seen, and it may be years before we know.

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

Friday Night Alive!

Neve Shalom 7:45 pm (note special time)

Shabbat Evening, June 8, 2012

with Rabbi Gerald Zelizer, Hazzan Sheldon Levin,
and the Neve Shalom Adult Choir and Band

Installation of Neve Shalom
Officers and Board

Light Refreshments will follow

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

SIX13 Charms Neve Shalom Audience

By Eliot Spack

The 2012 Susy Schwartz Concert featured the a cappella singing sensation group, SIX13, and those who attended the event were treated to an evening of great entertainment. The smiles on the faces of the audience were complemented by their rhythmic handclapping as they joined in song and hummed along to the group's creative selections. Once again, the Concert committee presented the members of the congregation with a featured presentation by a nationally-recognized musical performing group.



Neve Shalom has been fortunate to be the beneficiary of the commitment of the Susy Schwartz Memorial Scholarship Fund board's efforts to bring high quality entertainment to our community for the past twenty-two years. Not only has the congregation been the recipient of outstanding performers, but 105 of our teens have redeemed Passport to Israel vouchers providing generous financial assistance to their Israel experience.

Neve Shalom has become the envy of many congregations who observe the manner by which we continue to provide encouragement and support for our young people to include a trip to Israel during their high school/college years.

The evening included a very moving message from **Josh Ull** who recounted the impact of his 2011 trip to Israel (his initial Israel experience) and how it has motivated him to participate in the 2012-13 NATIV Program for a full year in Israel. This year's event was generously supported by more than 75 individuals and families who elected to become Patrons and Benefactors in order to support the Fund. Resounding kudos were extended to **Rena Kallman** for chairing the event which treated us to such a special tribute to honor **Susy Schwartz's** memory.

Hot Summer Read

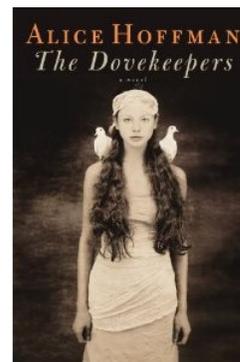


The Dovekeepers is **Alice Hoffman's** most ambitious and mesmerizing novel, a tour de force of imagination and research, set in ancient Israel.

In 70 C.E., nine hundred Jews held out for months against armies of Romans on Masada, a mountain in the Judean desert. According to the ancient historian Josephus, two women and five children survived. Based on this tragic and iconic event, Hoffman's novel is a spellbinding tale of four extraordinarily bold, resourceful, and sensuous women, each of whom has come to Masada by a different path. Yael's mother died in childbirth, and her father, an expert assassin, never forgave her for that death. Revka, a village baker's wife, watched the horrifically brutal murder of her daughter by Roman soldiers; she brings to Masada her young grandsons, rendered mute by what they have witnessed. Aziza is a warrior's daughter, raised as a boy, a fearless rider and an expert marks-

man who finds passion with a fellow soldier. Shirah, born in Alexandria, is wise in the ways of ancient magic and medicine, a woman with uncanny insight and power.

The lives of these four complex and fiercely independent women intersect in the desperate days of the siege. All are dovekeepers, and all are also keeping secrets—about who they are, where they come from, who fathered them, and whom they love. *The Dovekeepers* is Alice Hoffman's masterpiece. (From amazon.com)



CHAI SHABBAT



On May 12th, we celebrated Chai Shabbat, marking the occasion of our members who have achieved 18 years of membership in our Congregation Neve Shalom community. Those families include:

- Deborah and Robert Chalfin & Family**
- Andrea and Michael Colby & Family**
- Lena Feld**
- Renee Frank**
- Julie and Jonathan Hersch & Family**
- Nancy and Reuven Kaswin & Family**
- Susan Leckart & Family**
- Audrey and Joel Napchen & Family**
- Lisa and Leonard Olim & Family**
- Donna and Alan Wink & Family**

Our congregation combines a history of three wonderful shuls: Adath Israel, Ohav Shalom, and Neve Shalom. Each entity has brought together a rich history of local simchas and memories. At our beautiful Shabbat service, we heard wonderful reflections on the past and present from **Sandy Goldberg**, **Miriam Saruya**, and **Marlene Fine-man**. This was a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon fond memories, and we look forward to building many more wonderful memories together with all of you.



Helpful Hints on "How To's" at Neve Shalom:

Rent a Room:	Jayne (x12)
Inquire about the use of the facility:	Jayne (x12)
Reserve a time or date for a meeting:	Jayne (x12)
Scheduling of photographers and party vendors:	Jayne (x12)
Arrangements for 'Mitzvah Projects' for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs	Jayne (x12)
Meetings with caterers:	Jayne (x12)
Food request for meetings in a classroom:	Jayne (x12)
Sponsor a Kiddush	Jayne (x12)
Yahrzeits	Rita (x18)
Purchase plaques	Rita (x18)
Purchase cemetery plots	Rita (x18)
Announcements for the Bulletin, Shabbat Shalom Or News Shoutings:	Jayne (x12) or Rita (x18)
Special non Neve Shalom flyers to be posted:	Jayne (x12) or Office (x0)
Notices of deliveries:	Jayne (x12) or Office (x0)
Directions for invitations:	Jayne (x12) or Office (x0)
"How To's" not mentioned above:	Jayne (x12) or Rita (x18)
	<i>Questions About:</i>
Nursery School & Youth Group:	Debbie (x13)
Bookkeeping:	Kathy (x15)
Hebrew School:	Jeanne (x11)

To Celebrate.... To Remember....

Neve Shalom provides unique and meaningful ways to honor or to remember a loved one, to pay tribute to someone special or to commemorate a joyous life cycle event. See below for options. Contact the office to discuss details.

- **Your donations to specific funds to be published in the bulletin: \$10.00**
- **Chumash: \$72.00**
- **Siddur: \$54.00**
- **Memorial and Yartzheit Plaques: \$500.00**
- **Library Wall Memorial and Yartzheit Plaques: \$600.00**
- **Leaves on the Tree of Life: \$225.00**
- **Simcha Plaques (Single): \$500.00**
- **Simcha Plaques (Double): \$1,000.00**
- **Lithograph of Sanctuary: \$72.00**
- **Trees: \$18.00**
- **Host a kiddush: 250.00**
- **Sponsor a kiddush: 500.00**



We Gratefully Acknowledge

and thank the following generous contributors to our funds:

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 Lillian Epstein Robert and Robin Elkinson
 Benjamin Arenzow Kitty Haberman
 Esther Greenhouse Beverly and Stephan Perry

Ner Tamid Fund

In Honor OfFrom
 Josh Meehan, mazel tov on
 your bar mitzvah Muriel Marash
In Memory Of.....From
 Yahrzeits Abbie Lieber
 Yanzel Fay Schessler Susan Farber
 Yahrzeits Bennett and Susan Lass

Misheberach Fund

In Honor OfFrom
 Dorothy Lass, wishing you
 a speedy recovery Frieda Lefkowitz

Youth Fund

In Honor OfFrom
 Yehuda and Jennine Shpigel,
 mazel tov on being honored by
 the temple Felice, Alan, Michelle and Allison Preefer
In Memory Of.....From
 Ida Zuckerman Scott and Susan Kashan and family
 Carmine Serratelli Shpigel family

Education Fund

In Memory Of.....From
 Bernie Farber Susan Farber

Susy Schwartz Memorial Fund

In Honor OfFrom
 Bob and Carole Kussner, thank you
 for your generosity. I appreciate
 you always thinking of me Heidi Slurzberg

Friends of Neve Shalom Nursery Fund

In Honor OfFrom
 Martha Mack, thank you! Mara McAuley
 Chaplin family, on Avner's
 5th birthday Martha Mack
 Hanbridge family, on Callie's
 4th birthday Martha Mack
 Greenhouse family, on Noah's
 4th birthday Martha Mack

Friends of Neve Shalom Nursery Fund

In Honor Of..... From
 Gray family, on Ronan's
 4th birthday Martha Mack
 Alter family, on Jonah's
 4th birthday Martha Mack
 Sokolov family, on Dayah's
 3rd birthday Martha Mack
 Donna Kibel, mazel tov on your
 son David's engagement Martha Mack
In Memory Of From
 Haskell Fleischer Ellen and Marty Romm and family

Prayerbook Fund

In Honor Of..... From
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 Aaron Braun Marlene Fineman
 Anne Linksman Marlene Fineman

Blood Drive in Memory of Michael Allan Thompson Fund

In Memory Of From
 Yahrzeit Dorothy and Ed Thompson

High Holy Day Machzor

In Memory Of From
 Gerald Kleiman Paul and Lisa Kleiman

Individuals who have recently contributed to the Kiddush Kitty:

Herb and Carole Gary
 Shirley Segal

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



To inquire about the various ways to honor or remember loved ones, please contact the Neve Shalom office at 732-548-2238.

July 2012 Tammuz/Av 5772

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 Independence Day Office closed	5	6 Candles 8:12 pm Services 6:30 pm	7 Balak Mincha 12:30pm
8 Fast of the 17 th day of Tammuz	9	10	11 Tikkun Olam 8 pm	12	13 Candles 8:09pm Services 6:30pm	14 Pinchas Mincha 12:30 pm
15	16	17	18	19	20 Rosh Chodesh Candles 8:04 pm Services 6:30pm	21 Matot/Masei Mincha 12:30 pm
22	23	24 Synagogue Board 7:30 pm	25	26	27 Candles 7:58 pm Services 6:30pm	28 Devarim Shabbat Hazon Mincha 12:30 pm Tisha B'Av Service 8:45pm
29 Tisha B'Av Book of Lamentations read at services	30	31	<i>Regular Services</i> Shabbat morning 9:30 am Shabbat Mincha 12:30 pm Morning Minyan 6:45 am Monday and Thursday Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am Sundays and 4 th of July 9:00 am Rosh Chodesh 6:35 am		There is NO Junior Congregation in the summer. Tot Shabbat and Mini Minyan will be held: July 7, 21	



August 2012 Av/Elul 5772

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
<i>Regular Services</i> Shabbat morning 9:30 am Shabbat Mincha 12:30 pm Morning Minyan 6:45 am Monday and Thursday Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am Sundays 9:00 am Rosh Chodesh 6:35 am			1	2	3 Candles 7:51 pm Services 6:30pm	4 V'etchanan Shabbat Nachamu Mincha/Maariv 7:15 pm			
There is NO Junior Congregation in the summer. Tot Shabbat and Mini Minyan will be held: August 4, 11, 18			5	6	7	8	9	10 Candles 7:42 pm Services 6:30pm	11 Ekev Mincha/Maariv 7:15 pm
12	13	14	15	16	17 Candles 7:33 pm Services 6:30pm	18 Re'eh Rosh Chodesh Mncha/Maariv 7 pm			
19 Rosh Chodesh	20	21	22	23	24 Candles 7:22 pm Services 6:30pm	25 Shoftim Mincha/Maariv 7 pm			
26	27	28	29	30	31 Candles 7:11 pm Services 6:30pm				



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

**Keruv/Outreach
Its Goals and Hazards**

**What it means for
Neve Shalom and the
Conservative Movement**



Please join us Sunday, June 10, 2012

10:00 am

Neve Shalom

Breakfast will be served

*Neve Shalom
Honors our
TORAH READERS*

Shabbat morning,
June 16, 2012

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

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

GOT SIMCHA?

**Birthday? Anniversary? Child's Achievement?
Or Just Because?**

How about sponsoring a Shabbat Kiddush at Neve Shalom The donation to sponsor is \$500.00. Kiddush will include fancy finger foods, cookies, punch, coffee, tea, tuna salad, egg salad, pasta salad, cheeses, hummus, mini bagels, challah rolls, cream cheese, butter, tossed salad and fresh fruit platters. In addition, your name will be listed in the Shabbat Shalom.

You could also host a Shabbat Kiddush for \$250.00. This will include loaf cakes, punch, coffee, tea, tuna salad, egg salad, pasta salad, hummus, green vegetable salad, mini bagels, challah rolls, cream cheese and butter. As with sponsoring, your name will be listed in the Shabbat Shalom.



Did you know...

Another way to help the community enjoy a Shabbat Kiddush is to contribute to the Kiddush Kitty! The suggested donation is a multiple of \$18.00, but you can donate any amount you'd like! When the Kitty reaches \$250.00 the money will go toward funding a Shabbat Kiddush. It's a great way to enhance the Shabbat and promote community participation at Neve Shalom. It will be a "Community Kiddush," and all those who donated to the Kitty will have their names posted in a future Bulletin.

There will always be something served after services.

Thank you for your support,
Hope Serratelli
VP Fundraising

 I am interested in sponsoring or hosting a Shabbat Kiddush. Please contact Jayne Sklon for available dates. (732) 548-2238 ext. 12.

 I would like to make a donation to the Kiddush Kitty. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____ made payable to Neve Shalom. There will be no billing or credit card charges for this fundraiser.

Name: _____ Phone: _____



It is a Rosh Hashanah tradition to dip apples in honey to usher in the New Year.

Send your family and friends the gift of eight ounces of delicious golden certified pure kosher honey. Help others celebrate this New Years tradition with a personalized gift from Sisterhood Neve Shalom along with a signed gift card from you.

This package is an exceptional value.

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- 1 - 3 jars \$10 each
- 4 - 6 jars \$9.50 each
- 7 + jars \$9 each

All orders must be in by July, 15 2012 to insure delivery for Rosh Hashanah.

Use order form. Please print clearly!!

 Enclosed please find check payable to Sisterhood Neve Shalom

For _____ gift jars of honey Total amount _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Please contact Sandy Schwemer with any questions 732-254-1759 or bluegran5@aol.com

\$36 Business Card Ads for our New Membership Directory!

Our new Membership Directory will have a section available with business card ads. For just \$36, you can promote your business in our directory which will have lots of usage and a long shelf-life. Simply send to the synagogue office a check and your business card in an envelope for the Membership Committee. Deadline is July 30, 2012.



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June 2012

Sivan/Tammuz 5772

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Regular Services Shabbat morning 9:30 am Shabbat Mincha 12:30 pm Morning Minyan Monday and Thursday 6:45 am Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am Sundays 9:00 am Rosh Chodesh 6:35 am		There is NO Junior Congregation in the summer. Tot Shabbat and Mini Minyan will be held: June 2, 9, 16, 23			1 Candles 8:04 pm Services 6:30pm	2 Naso Honoree Luncheon Mincha 12:30 pm
3	4 USY, Sisterhood Board 7:30 pm	5	6 Hanoar 7:30 pm Tikkun Olam 8 pm	7 Men's Club 7:45 pm	8 Candles 8:09 pm Friday Night Alive & Officers Installation 7:45 pm	9 B'halot'cha Alex Telson Bar Mitzvah Mincha 12:30 pm
10 Breakfast with the Rabbi 10 am	11 Kadima 7:30 pm	12	13	14	15 Candles 8:12 pm Services 6:30pm	16 Shelach L'cha Torah Readers Luncheon Mincha 12:30 pm
17	18	19	20 Rosh Chodesh	21 Rosh Chodesh	22 Candles 8:14 pm Services 6:30pm	23 Korach Mincha 12:30 pm
24	25	26 Synagogue Board 7:45 pm	27	28	29 Candles 8:14 pm Services 6:30pm	30 Hukat Mincha 12:30 pm