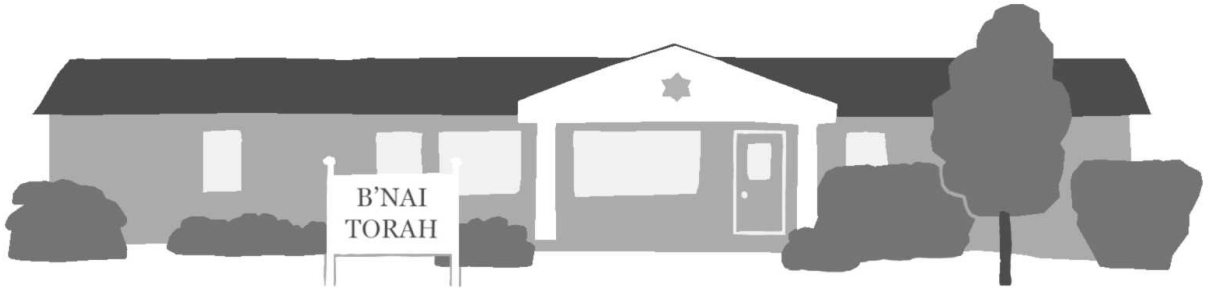


B'nai Torah

Monthly Newsletter

December 2010



Letter from Our President

One of the pleasures I look forward to each week at B'nai Torah is the discussion I have with our Confirmation/Adult Education Class every Sunday.

During a discussion about the intelligence of humans, as compared to other forms of life, we spoke about the spider in South America that has developed a unique method of escaping from its predators. Spiders are considered a delicacy by certain birds who steer clear of ants because of the acid inside the ants.

Ants have six legs, and spiders have eight. This spider folds its front two legs upward to appear as if it was a six-legged ant with two antennae. The birds pass it by. We discussed whether this spider was "intelligent" and whether this was a "creative" act by the spider.

On another occasion, during a discussion about where the soul resides within each of us, we talked about our heart and our brain. When one student suggested that our soul was in our blood, another student asked what happens when we are bitten by a mosquito.

All members and friends of B'nai Torah are welcome to join this discussion class at 10:30 on Sundays. Please ask me for a school calendar, as some Sundays we have field trips, etc.

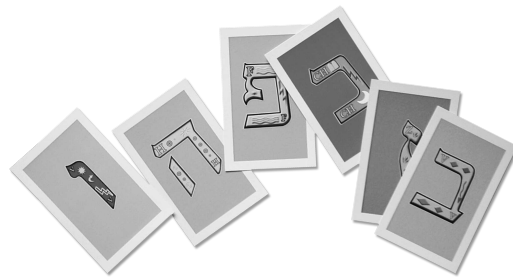
Calendar Information

Chanukah Celebration: December 3rd at 7:30 PM. You are welcome to bring as many friends, family and children as you wish. Please let me have the names and ages of all the children who will be attending, as we wish to have Chanukah gifts for each child.

B'nai Torah's next board meeting: December 8th at 6:30 PM.

Torah Restoration Celebration: December 11th at 10 AM (Saturday).
Torah Service, conducted by Rabbi Dale Schreiber, accompanied by singer/guitarist Andrew Bollinger.

Open House: December 12th from 2-5 PM.



Our Students' Service

We start each Sunday with a students' service that brings each student to the bima to lead a portion of the service. The student who leads the Tefillah tells us that this prayer "originally consisted of 18 blessings that we ask G-d to give to all people, and therefore is also known as the Shemoneh Esreh, which means 18."

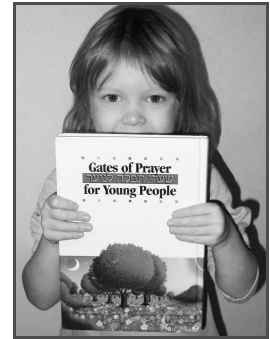
Recently, upon completion of our students' service, our students and parents studied our prayer book, *Gates of Prayer for Young People* to see how many of the 18 blessings they could find. They found all eighteen. The few minutes this took, was time well spent. How often has this prayer been read without understanding what it communicated? This does not happen at B'nai Torah!

Our student led service each Sunday morning is designed to teach our students about the ethics of being a Jew, the history of our prayers, and the love of Torah, as well as the recitation of prayers and the singing of our beautiful Hebrew melodies.

Gates of Prayer for Young People

The Siddur we use at B'nai Torah for our students is one written by the Reform Movement for use in Reform Synagogues. The first four words in this prayer book are, "G-d began the world ---." Shortly thereafter, we read, "God finished creating the world ---." Several pages later we read, "We praise You, Eternal G-d, You created the world---. " And on the next page we read, "G-d, You gave us the Torah---."

Since the founding of B'nai Torah in 1984, we have been teaching our students that G-d is the Creator of everything, and that He gave us the Torah. We welcome the enrollment of new students by parents who want their children to be taught this beautiful message.



Mazel Tov

Our members Candace and Steven Marton recently visited Florida to celebrate the wedding of their daughter, Rebecca, to her fiancé, Daniel. B'nai Torah extends our love and best wishes to the parents and to the bride and groom.

B'nai Torah's Ironman

B'nai Torah extends a *mazel tov* to Steve Weeks upon completion of his sixth Ironman Triathlon on October 24, 2010. This world competition, held annually in Hawaii, consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike race and a 26.2 miles marathon run, raced in that order and without a break between events.

The Ironman race started at 7 AM with a 2.4 mile swim that had to be completed in 2 hours 20 minutes, or less. The cut-off time for the 112 mile bike race was 5:30 PM, and to receive an award for completion of the Ironman Triathlon, the marathon run had to be completed by midnight. B'nai Torah's Ironman completed this Triathlon at 9:36 PM with more than two hours to spare!

Have you looked at www.BnaiTorahStChas.com lately?

*“My mother, Fannie Cohen, always said,
“It doesn't cost anything to say THANK YOU.”*

Thank you **Arthur, Zina and Michelle Kaplun** for placing our prayers in the Western Wall during your recent visit to Israel.



Thank you **Arthur, Zina and Michelle** for the miniature Torah Scroll replica that you purchased for B'nai Torah while you were in Israel. It's amazing how much the cover of this miniature matches the cover of our Holocaust Torah. We will use this Torah when we have our student's Torah Procession each Sunday. And, thank you for the piece of Israeli art you donated to our art gallery.

Thank you to our members and the many guests who attended our November 12th Shabbos Celebration. It was wonderful to have a full house.

Thank you **Rina and Paul Kenkel** for the beautiful Oneg Shabbat you hosted in celebration of your birthday, Rina. Mazel Tov!!

Thank you **Akiva and Revi**. Your generosity and gracefulness is much appreciated, as well as your words of wisdom.

Thank you **Jeremy Karp** for putting B'nai Torah on FACEBOOK.

Special Thanks

Thank You **Hashem** for blessing B'nai Torah by sending us Your messengers, Rabbi Dale Schreiber and her singer/musician accompanist Andrew Bollinger to celebrate Shabbos with us on November 12th. It was a joyous celebration; but more importantly, it was a spiritual celebration. When the Rabbi walked with our Torah, Your Spirituality filled our sanctuary and entered our hearts.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, January 9, 2011

Election will be held for the following positions:

- ◆ Vice President: **Madi Brown**, term ending January 2013
- ◆ Treasurer: _____, term ending January 2013
- ◆ Secretary: **Laura Cohen**, term ending January 2013
- ◆ Corresponding Secretary: **Tony Moseley**, term ending January 2013
- ◆ Website Manager: **Mark Karp**, term ending January 2013
- ◆ Board Member: **Sylvan Cohen**, term ending January 2014
- ◆ Board Member: **Lenny Baer**, term ending January 2012
- ◆ Board Member: _____, term ending January 2014

The following position is not up for re-election:

- ◆ President: **Jack Cohen**, term ending January 2012

Please note that we are still looking for a Treasurer. This task has been automated by Myra and Lenny Baer, using Quicken Software. This is a good opportunity for someone to increase their software knowledge, and add an important skill to their resume.

Lenny and Myra will provide as much coaching and training as necessary, and they will be available to assist and answer any questions once the responsibility is transferred.

Please contact our Nominating Committee Chairperson, Madi Brown at (636) 227-3699 to let her know you are willing to fill this position. If your schedule requires accepting this position later than January 2011, that is acceptable to Myra and Lenny. You are also welcome to call Myra and Lenny at (636) 978-6972 to discuss the responsibilities with them.

Agenda for Annual Congregational Meeting:

10:00 AM - Briefing by our President and Treasurer

10:30 AM – Election and voting

10:40 AM – Complementary Gourmet Breakfast

The following items will be voted on by our members:

- ◆ Officers and Member at Large
- ◆ Approval of the Rabbi selected to conduct our Shabbos Celebrations, and other events
- ◆ Approval of the following revisions to our Constitution:
 - Addition of “Website Manager” as an officer’s position on our Board to recognize the important role that our website plays in attracting new members and communicating with our current members, and the community
 - Approval of our 2011 Budget

**During our December 3rd and December 11th Services
Yahrtzeits will be said for our following loved ones:**

Name	Memorial	Jewish Yahrtzeit Date	Remembered By
Jeff Weeks	12/07/2007	Kislev 27: 12/04/10	Steve Weeks and family
Bertha Sherberg	1/09/79	Teves 10: 12/17/10	Stan Levy & Fran Karp families.
Robert Marton	12/25/2002	Teves 20: 12/27/10	Steven & Candace Marton
Joseph Foier		Teves 25: 01/01/11	Reva Horowitz and family
Irving Muller	01/19/1996	Teves 27: 01/03/11	Rina Kenkel and family
Joseph Sherberg	01/19/1977	Teves 27: 01/03/11	Stan Levy & Fran Karp families
Ben Schatz		Shevat 8: 01/13/11	Mark Schatz and family

“B'nai Torah Monthly Newsletter: December 2010”

Authored by Jack Cohen
Graphic Arts by Tony Moseley