



# THE SHO FAR

BSKI's Monthly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2009

ELUL/TISHRE 5769/5770

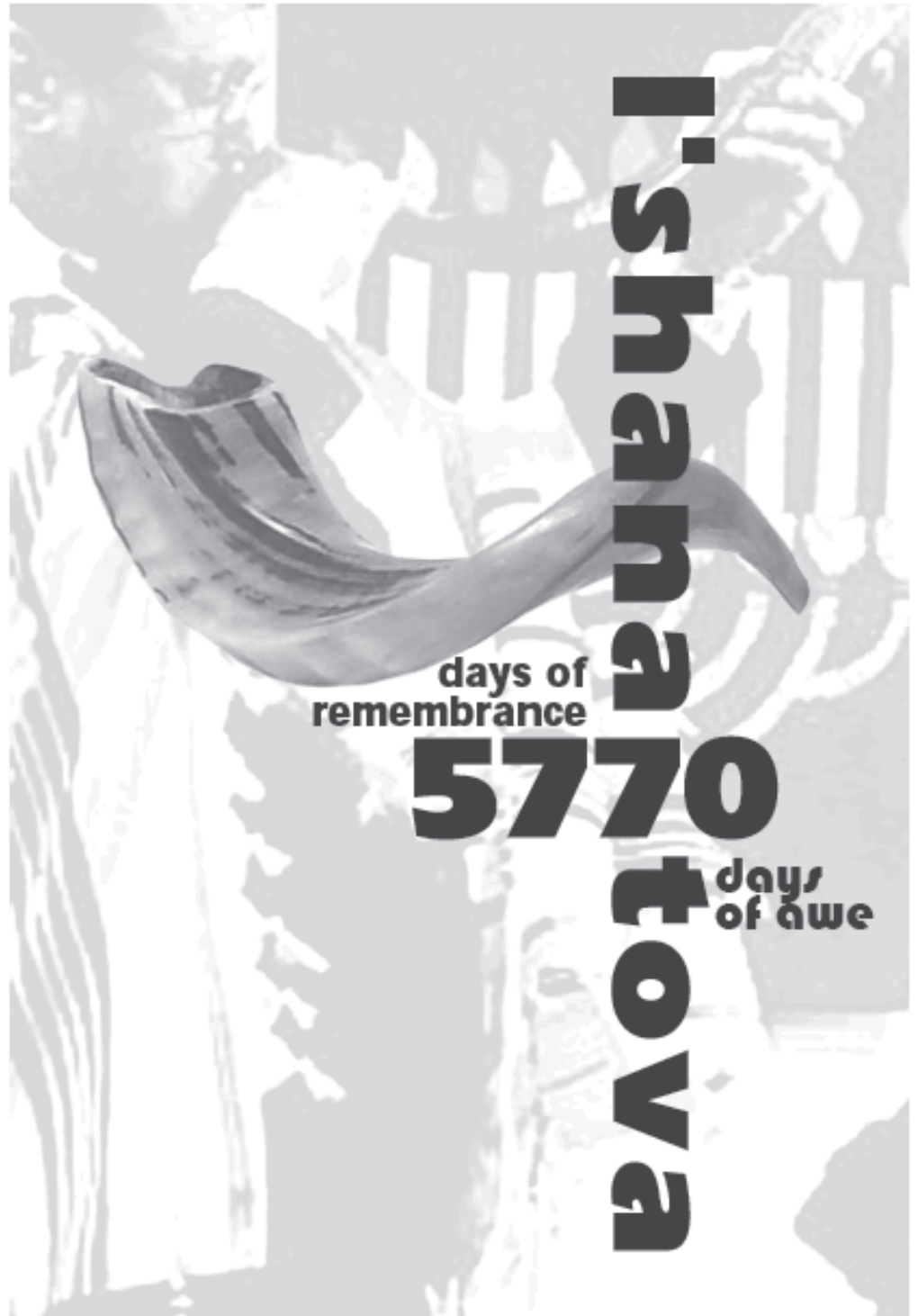
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## Upcoming Events

- Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner with Cantor Jay O'Brien..... **September 4**
- Shabbat Services with Cantor Jay O'Brien ..... **September 5**
- Selichot ..... **September 12**
- Shabbat Play and Pray Open House ..... **September 13**
- Book Club Meeting ..... **September 13**
- Rosh Hashanah..... **September 18-20**
- Men's Club Sukkah Construction..... **September 27**
- Tashlich at the Confluence ..... **September 27**
- Kol Nidre..... **September 27**
- Yom Kippur..... **September 28**



Cover art by Frank Roth

# FROM THE RABBI: EARNING A LIFE



Rabbi Mordecai Miller

There's a conversation I remember having with one of my closest friends while growing up in South Africa. I was probably about sixteen or seventeen at the time. My friend shared with me how his father had told him how differently we look at life as we pass through different ages. In our youth we see life with tremendous confidence in our ability to succeed or make a significant difference. As we develop, experience marriage and take on full time employment in order to support our families, our concerns and expectations take on a less idealistic color. Our needs become far more immediate and we begin to realize that the sphere of our influence is quite likely far less than we might have dreamt.

Still further on into our lives we may become much less concerned about what we personally need or will accomplish and take far more pleasure in the accomplishments of our children and grandchildren. Our own personal significance seems far less important given the magnitude and complexity of this world and, of course, we can't help being far more sensitive to our own mortality.

It's also a process of being more and more conscious of how little we can really take for granted: health, financial and personal security... pretty much everything. This process of spiritual maturity involves us disrobing from the mantle of entitlements which we received as children. Back then we simply took for granted that we were "entitled" to food on the table, a roof over our heads, a bed to sleep in, free transportation, education,

entertainment: you name it!

With the approach of the great holy days of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, I begin to think even more deeply about what life has to offer and about our roles as humans. We live at a time of such amazing advances in technology and yet there still remains many of the basic issues that have confronted human happiness. Health issues still challenge us, as do issues of discovering intimacy and personal satisfaction in our various relationships. Loneliness is certainly still an issue. Can we really experience true happiness in the course of our lives, one that isn't simply transitory?

So our Tradition offers us a model with which to try to explore and, if possible, discover a way to experience joy that can truly fill our lives. Such reward isn't necessarily easy to achieve; on some levels it takes trial and error—in other words, experience. On other levels, it involves being a student of life: trying to learn from the experience or wisdom of others. It certainly involves trying to develop realistic expectations when it comes to the people and situations that we encounter.

A great theme of these holidays is "*HaMelech*"—the notion of the world having a divine Ruler. We talk about *Avinu malkeinu*—"our Father, our King;" in other words, having a relationship to a Power beyond and above us—the ultimate reason and controller of all our experiences.

So if God is the One ultimately responsible for the wonders of nature, the One who ultimately gave us our very lives and the means to support them, is there some way in which we can gain human dignity in *not* just having our hands out, so to speak, to receive all we have? Is there some small way in which we can "deserve" our lives? I would think that there would have to be some sense of deep personal satisfaction to feel that (continued on next page)

**Please join us for these upcoming t'fillot**

**Friday, September 4**  
*Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner with Cantor Jay O'Brien*

**Saturday, September 5**  
Torah Portion:  
*Ki Tavo*  
  
*Morning Service with Cantor Jay O'Brien*

**Saturday, September 12**  
Torah Portion:  
*Nitzavim/Vayeilech*  
  
*Selichot*

**Friday, September 18**  
*Erev Rosh Hashanah*

**Saturday, September 19**  
*First Day of Rosh Hashanah*

**Sunday, September 20**  
*Second Day of Rosh Hashanah*

**Saturday, September 26**  
*Shabbat Shuvah*  
Torah Portion:  
*Ha'azinu*

**Sunday, September 27**  
*Erev Yom Kippur*  
  
*Kol Nidre*

**Monday, September 28**  
*Yom Kippur*

# NEW DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING AND CANTOR

## WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING UP...AROUND THE BEND



Roland Roth

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the past few days, since I had the distinct honor of becoming your Director of Programming, I have

become situated in a city and an area of the country known for its hospitality, for its warmth and kindness, and for its love of, well, everything Cardinal.

Briefly, I was born in Sapporo, Japan, to a Jewish mother and a Sicilian-Catholic father, parents who divorced when I was

a baby. My mother raised me first in Berkeley, California, then for a few years in Guadalajara, Mexico (where she taught English at the American School, which I attended), then the rest of my school years in San Jose, CA. My mother remarried a Jew by Choice, JP Villedrouin, and a few years ago they moved to northern Virginia as my father works in the defense industry.

My personal journey includes a Bar Mitzvah at the Kotel in Jerusalem, a year after high school living in Israel, college at San Jose State University (Child Development), a few years in New York City as a public school teacher, first in Harlem and then on the Upper West Side, two years at the Jewish Theological Seminary pursuing my MA in Synagogue Education and Administration, two years as Director of Educa-

tion at Beth Shalom in Seattle, Washington, completing my MA in Jewish Education at Gratz College in Philadelphia, four years as Director of Education and Programming at Beth Shalom in Wilmington, Delaware, and now starting my career here at BSKI.

**My role here is as simple as it is complicated: work with and for you to create quality, positive, inclusive, exceptional synagogue programming for every facet (age group, interest group, observance level) of the BSKI family.**

My primary foci as I begin this journey with you will be High Holy Days programming for youth, families, and congregants. To that end I have been working with our Executive Director, Harvey Leader, and President, Rick Kodner, to (continued on next page)

## MEET BSKI'S NEW CANTOR SEPTEMBER 4 AND 5



BSKI's new cantor, Jay O'Brien, will lead a music-filled Kabbalat Shabbat service in the Allen Sanctuary, Friday evening, September 4.

This short and engaging service is perfect for all ages.

Shabbat dinner following the service:

Adults - \$12

Children - \$8

Make your dinner reservations by Tuesday, September 1:  
314-725-6230 or [reservations@e-bski.org](mailto:reservations@e-bski.org)

Saturday, September 5, Jay will again be on the bima to help lead Shabbat services.

An extended Kiddush will follow the service.

Please come and help welcome Jay to BSKI.

Jay O'Brien will be a student at the H.L. Miller Cantorial School at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York in the fall of 2010. In the intervening year, Jay looks forward to singing at BSKI as well as writing and recording his own musical compositions. Jay is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, where he studied vocal performance and operatic repertoire. Born and raised in St. Louis, Jay O'Brien is the son of Rhonda O'Brien and James O'Brien.

## FROM THE RABBI (CONT.)

we can "earn" our existence and all the blessings that surround it.

Very simply put, the notion of us being "loyal subjects" to God is behind the *mitzvot*: to take seriously the notion of learning and performing the Commandments. Performing the *mitzvot* might bring their own reward—though we are told that the *mitzvot* were not given for our personal benefit, but they allow us to develop a consciousness of always being in God's presence and in performing them we can hope to earn this wonderful experience—despite its "ups" and its "downs"—we call life.

May you and those who are dear to you be inscribed in its Book!

B'Shalom,  
Rabbi Mordecai Miller

# THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: THANK YOU ONE AND ALL



President Ricky Kodner

I would like to thank everybody for a wonderful, feel good family weekend, the weekend of Paul and Jordan's B'nai Mitzvah. The office was outstanding—Jeanne, Raisa

and Harvey. Whatever I needed to get the synagogue ready for the event was done. Thank you guys so much. The maintenance staff—Priya, Matt, Robert and the part time help—could not have done it without you. Your attention to details, not to mention having to turn the room three times that weekend—you guys are great people. Paula Hamvas and Kosher Katering, what can I say? You wow us and our guests each and

every time you step into the kitchen. You only had to prepare some 700+ meals that weekend. You are a super hero.

Rabbi Miller, you worked with the boys over the last nine months, you gave them the ability to write two wonderful Divrei Torah, and you have known them since birth. Thank you for everything. Susan Low, thank you for taking the boys under your wing and tutoring them. Your gentle teaching style allowed them to take on as much as they wanted to do without pressure. Not to mention keeping them on track while attending Camp Ben Frankel.

We had a B'nai-Mitzvah with 400 of our closest family and friends. We invited our blood relative family, our Solomon Schechter family and most importantly, our BSKI family. Thank you all so much for everything. Your constant encouragement to the boys their whole lives have made a huge impact on who they are today.

I think it is fitting that we started the countdown to the High Holidays with this B'nai Mitzvah. It was a weekend that will carry us through each of the seven special Haftorot leading up to Rosh Hashana. In a way, we started the High Holiday season off in grand style. We did a superb job showcasing our synagogue, our Kosher Katering and most importantly our warm and generous hospitality. We are a "Warm and Welcoming" synagogue.

We have a lot to be thankful for and a lot to look forward to. With our new Cantor, Jay O'Brien, and our new Program Director/Kadima-USY Director, Roland Roth, we can look forward to a very good year with great things coming our way.

*L'Shanah Tova Tikateivu!* May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a good and peace-filled New Year. Amen.

**B'Shalom,  
Ricky Kodner**

## PROGRAMMING (CONT.)

create High Holiday youth programming and childcare that mirrors what we're all about: quality, safe, interactive, and fun Jewish religious and spiritual opportunities.

I have been working with Elizabeth Gartenberg, Golda Cohen, and Steve and Sheldon Low to create a schedule that includes three services for three different age groups, snacks, music, safe places, and new and innovative programming, including "Build Your Pizza and Edible Sukkah" scheduled for Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> here at BSKI from 5-6:30 pm and assisting with the Simchat Torah arrival and performance of Klezunteit! (Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm).

There is so much potential here that it makes my head spin. Our youth groups are going to grow, gain prominence in our region, and place leaders on a national level. We will collaborate with our

neighboring synagogues and other houses of worship to strengthen both our spiritual home here at BSKI and our Jewish and secular communities. We will have stronger relations with our Solomon Schechter school as well as our local secular and non-Jewish private schools. We will draw from the thousands of Jews that are unaffiliated, unconnected, and frankly unaware of the goodness that our programs and objectives will reach.

I'll close this article by sharing a true story that exemplifies how I feel as I begin this journey with you.

When I was in college I once drove from San Jose to Seattle, Washington. It's a long drive with parts that include little scenery and just Interstate 5, a long, lonely road. To go the speed limit there is simply impossible...you're likely to get run over by cars going ten, twenty, even thirty miles faster than you. I share this as I tell you I was speeding, going about

80 mph in a 65 mph zone when I began to approach an 18-wheeler that was going about 65 mph...and straddling the two lane highway. I approached with caution and then tried to pass on the left. He swerved left and I had to slow down. I then tried to pass, with caution, on the right. Again, he swerved, not allowing me to pass. I tried again both sides and again my passing routes were blocked. Frustrated, I slowed down and simply drove behind him for a few miles.

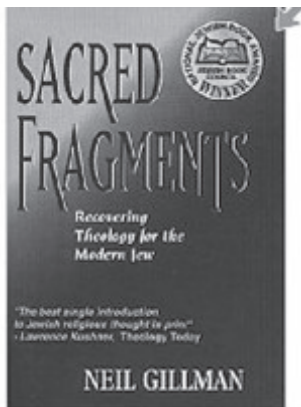
Finally, he took one lane and allowed me to pass. To say I was angry is an understatement. Yet out of the corner of my eye, as I passed a giant billboard, I noticed something shiny behind said billboard. It turned out to be a highway patrol officer, radar gun in hand, waiting for speedster like me to pull over and give a very expensive ticket to. Suddenly everything made sense to me.

That trucker had heard that there was a (continued on next page)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

BSKI ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS

## THE CILLIA ROTMAN HAFFNER SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND WITH RABBI NEIL GILLMAN NOVEMBER 13 - 15, 2009



Thanks to a wonderful donation by Cillia Rotman Haffner, the BSKI Adult Education Committee will present to you a great and exciting speaker and a wonderful

725-6230) and they'll give you directions. The locations of the subsequent events will be announced.

In their writing, religious philosophers often appear to be writing for one another rather than for the general public. Gillman seriously attempts to write in a way that is understandable to the general public. To accomplish this, he defines a group of terms, among which are **Signs, Symbols** and **Myths**.

weekend with Rabbi Neil Gillman. Information will be forthcoming on the program.

In anticipation of his visit, the BSKI Book Club will review Rabbi Gillman's book *Sacred Fragments* on September 13, October 25 and November 8.

The September 13 meeting will be at the home of Mimi and Ralph Graff. Please call the BSKI office to RSVP (314-

An example of a sign is a red traffic light that indicates "stop," even though there is no inherent connection between "red" and "stop."

An example of a symbol is our use of the expression Avinu Malkenu ("our father, our king"). Although God is neither our father nor our king, we use the expression because the terms have strong and positive meaning to us. Gillman uses the term myth as a story with no proof of its

truth or untruth.

The myth is the structure through which a community organizes and makes sense of its experience. He suggests that religious language has to be understood as mythic.

Using these terms and others, Gillman helps us look at Judaism in a modern way and still maintain our Jewish tradition.

In our September 13 Book Club Session, we will focus on chapters I through IV.

Unaffiliated and members of other congregations will be invited and we encourage you, as BSKI members, to help spread the word about this event to your friends, colleagues and others who value Jewish learning.

*Richard Gavatin and Ralph Graff*

## PROGRAMMING (CONT.)

cop and went out of his way to protect me from that ticket. I didn't realize it at the time, but his actions, which I took incorrectly as him just being mean and rude, were done to protect me. I was so grateful that I tried to find that trucker and thank him but by the time I figured everything out he was gone.

Sometimes we think we know exactly what's happening, exactly why things are the way they are, and it isn't until

much time has passed that the pieces all seem to fit right, that the world makes sense.

I look forward to journeying with you on a spiritual and religious experience that at times simply makes sense, at times encourages a bit of struggle, and at times take even greater patience than we thought we had, with great reward in the end.

Shalom,  
Roland Roth

## BSKI/TAMSKY GIFT SHOP

Hours: During Sunday School  
10 am-noon  
or by appointment  
Call 314-725-6230 to arrange  
a shopping time

Stop by and see what's new!  
"Come Shopping!"

# SHAARE SHALOM NEWS

The Shaare Shalom Religious School year begins on Sunday, September 13 and Monday, September 14. Because of the craziness of the Jewish calendar, this will be the only Sunday we will have class in September. However, Shaare Shalom invites everyone in Shaare Zedek and BSKI to join us for our Tashlich event at the Confluence on Sunday, September 27 from 10 am to noon. We will be meeting at BSKI and going together. You have the option of either going with us in a bus or joining the caravan to the site. We are going to have a full morning of activities and giveaways and so we need to know who is planning on coming. Please contact the Shaare Shalom office at 314-725-6230 to make a reservation. Remember if you are planning on joining us you should bring some of your own breadcrumbs.

The Tashlich is just the first of five special programs Shaare Shalom is presenting

this year. Through the generosity of the Crown Grants from the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, Shaare Shalom will bring four more special programs. Sunday, October 18, from 10 am to noon, we will have an event for 5th - 7th graders and their families, "Putting God On The Guest List." On Sunday, December 13, the Pre-K - 4th grade families will participate in a program we are calling "Hanukkah is More Than Wrapping Paper and Latkes." All families are invited to the event on Sunday, January 31, 2010 to enjoy our Tu B'Shevat family event. Finally, on Sunday, March 28, 2010, we will present a very special Pesach celebration for 8th - 10th graders and their parents. All of these events are open to all families in BSKI and Shaare Zedek whether or not you have a child in Shaare Shalom. Jewish education is for everyone and the more the merrier. Please note these events on your

calendar now and plan on joining us. If you are available to assist in running these programs, please do not hesitate to contact the Shaare Shalom office.

By the way, it is of course not too late to register for Shaare Shalom. If you have let the time slip by and you still have not filled out the paperwork, go ahead and do it now and let's get those kiddies into the school. We have great plans for the coming year and it would be a shame for your son or daughter to miss out on one more day.

On behalf of everyone in Shaare Shalom and the Raileanu family, shana tovah u'metuka, may you have a sweet and exciting year full of challenges and growth.

Michael S. Raileanu, M.A.Ed., Director,  
Shaare Shalom Religious School  
Teach your passion to someone!

## BSKI SHABBAT PLAY AND PRAY

We are happy to introduce  
a new, informal and casual Shabbat experience  
for parents and their babies, newborn to 18 months

### OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, September 13, 10:30 am

- Snacks will be served
- Enjoy the new Children's Activity Room
- Meet our new Director of Programming, Roland Roth
- Take a tour of BSKI and see Sunday School "back in action"
- Meet play group organizers Sarah Miller & Toni Wasserman Oldham

Expectant parents and Interfaith families are welcome.

Join *Shabbat Play & Pray* monthly

Time: 10 am

Place: Children's Activity Room, lower level of BSKI

What: Join other young Jewish families who are deciding where and when they want their child's Jewish education to begin.

Learn what BSKI has to offer.

*Play & Pray* will also meet on the first day of  
Rosh Hashanah at 10 am

The Children's Activity Room will be open for parents and their babies during the services in the Allen Sanctuary. Snacks will be provided.

## TISHA B'AV AT BSKI

Tisha B'Av is one of the saddest days in the Jewish calendar. It commemorates the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem as well as other tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people on the same day, such as the expulsion of the Jews from Spain.

On Tisha B'Av we recite the Book of Lamentations (Megillat Eicha), which was written by the prophet Jeremiah who witnessed the destruction of the first Temple in the year 586 BCE. The despair of the inhabitants of Jerusalem is lamented in the book.

This year, Karen Aroesty, Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League, was guest speaker at BSKI's Tisha B'Av services on Wednesday night, July 29. She described increasing incidents of anti-Semitism in the U.S. and Europe.

BSKI members who chanted Megillat Eicha at the services included Susan Low, Marvin Marcus, Howard Granok, Micah Shilcrat and Denise Field.

## Men's Club Moves Up

Men's Club Sukkah Construction Company will be erecting the congregational sukkah on **Sunday, September 27** after morning services. Come out to help and learn so that this traditional service to BSKI can continue into the future.

Due to a conflict with a Crown Grant received by BSKI from the Jewish Federation, the Men's Club is postponing the Family Sukkah Project until next year when the grant may provide a subsidy for the purchase of the Sukkah kits. I regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

Men's Club will again provide usher/greeting and parent locator service during the High Holy Days.

Remember, our meetings are generally the first Sunday of the month, right after services. Join us, help with our projects, and have some fun.

Thanks,  
Don Pearline

## ARE YOU GOING PAPERLESS?

Connect with BSKI on Facebook. It's an easy way for members to stay up to date with news, programs and events at the shul.

Not sure how to become a BSKI friend on Facebook? Call Executive Director, Harvey Leader for directions.  
3134-725-6230

Thank you to Diane Berg for her expertise and assistance with the BSKI Facebook page.

## FREE MEMBERSHIP OFFER

The BSKI Membership Committee is asking for your help in getting out the word that BSKI is offering a FREE one year, no strings attached, complimentary membership for singles and families. Our Board of Trustees approved this very unusual offer to attract families and individuals of all ages to consider becoming members of BSKI. The Jewish Light, jewishinstlouis.org and other local publications have run articles about this membership program.

Please spread the word to family and friends who are currently unaffiliated or that you think may be looking for a new congregation to join. The High Holidays are coming and now is the perfect time for people to join. For more information call Executive Director Harvey Leader at 725-6230.

## LOST WOODEN SYNAGOGUES OF EASTERN EUROPE: A BIG THANKS!

On behalf of BSKI's Adult Education Committee, I want to thank the following individuals for making the July 26 "Lost Wooden Synagogues of Eastern Europe" program a great success:

1. Our program Co-Chairs, Margaret Gillerman and St. Louis Holocaust Museum and Learning Center (HMLC) Curator and Education Director Dan Reich, for their many months of planning and their belief in the program.
2. Bill Solomon and Joe and Gerry Burstein for their generous financial support.
3. Members of BSKI's Adult Education Committee, including Rabbi Miller and Harvey Leader, plus Jean Cavender, Margie Lenga Kahn, and others who contributed from the HMLC.
5. All those BSKI members who attended.
6. And, of course, Albert Barry, producer of the documentary, who is passionate in his mission to recover the rich heritage and memories of Jewish pre-1945 Europe.

I hope that BSKI will continue to take a major role in future significant events like this.

Marvin Beckerman

# SOCIAL ACTION AT BSKI: KOL NIDRE FOOD DRIVE

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*Social Action isn't just once a year on Mitzvah Day; help in many forms is needed every day!*

At this time of year, we tend to be more in tune with the needs of others as we approach the time for reflection of our own deeds. But, social action isn't about a few days a year or Mitzvah Day in the spring, the need for helping those less fortunate is year around and continually growing. And, even more so in these tough economic times, the need to help those who are hungry or otherwise lacking is even greater as the resources available to them are more limited and stretched to capacity.

The most critical need in our area is for food. With the economy in the shape it's in, the demand for food in our own backyard is growing daily and the supplies are more strained than ever. Even if people have food, they may not have resources for medicines, rent or education. By providing food, they can then direct their resources to other needs.

At BSKI, our social action committee is hoping to significantly improve our collection of food and other items for the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry not only for the upcoming High Holidays drive, but also on a continuing basis all year.

Here are some facts you might not know:

- The Jewish Food Pantry was started in 1991 by the Jewish Family and Children's Service (JF&CS, located at the corner of Schuetz and Guelbreth across from the Jewish Federation building) to help meet the food needs of about 25 Jewish families and was open just two days per week. Very soon, they found that the need for food was so large that they started attracting people from 12 different zip codes and they didn't want to turn anyone away, regardless of religion or ethnicity. Only a small percentage of even the Jewish recipients keep kosher, but they do appreciate very much the donations of kosher food, al-

though there are no restrictions of what they will take as there is no limit to the number of people they need to help.

- Harvey Kornblum gave a large donation to enable them to serve the growing numbers of people in need and the Jewish Food Pantry was renamed to the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry (HKJFP) in January 2004. The HKJFP has been growing every year. They have doubled again in even just the last three years so that they are now serving about 1250 families and feeding 3500 people each month. Last month alone there were 500 new clients added. There are 75 active and dedicated volunteers who help keep the doors open 40 hours and 5 days per week now and have the responsibility to do all of the work of sorting, bagging, cooking and preparing meals, making baskets and doing deliveries.

If you need help or know someone who does, no appointments are required, just show up at the JF&CS office. There will be an interview, but there is no checking, no one is turned away and food will be given that day. The purpose of the interview is to find out if there are other needs that they can help with and to make referrals to places and organizations to help meet those needs. Privacy and confidentiality are strictly enforced. You can find out more about the HKJFP and how you can help or volunteer by talking with the coordinator, Susan Rundblad at [srundblad@jfcs-stl.org](mailto:srundblad@jfcs-stl.org) or with BSKI's own Ellen Sabin at [esabin@jfcs-stl.org](mailto:esabin@jfcs-stl.org) or either at 314-812-9309. The website is [jfcs-stl.org](http://jfcs-stl.org).

WHAT YOU CAN DO right now and always is to help the HKJFP with their critical need for protein rich and healthy foods. The Social Action Committee is planning for a large collection on Kol Nidre so please bring a bag of food that evening when you come for services. We will be stacking and displaying food as a reminder for everyone that evening that hunger is an unacceptable problem that we can easily do something about. Please remember to not bring anything

perishable or in breakable containers (glass, etc.).

**Foods that are most urgently needed include:** peanut butter and jellies, tuna and other canned fish or meats, canned meat pastas, stews, chili, packages of beans, pasta, rice and healthier choice and special dietary needs type foods (low salt, low sugar, low fat, whole wheat, etc.).

Other things always needed and appreciated include: canned vegetables, fruits, beans, tomatoes and sauces and cans or plastic bottles of juice or juice mixes, oils, dressings, packages or boxes of sauce mixes, cold and hot cereals, other grains, crackers and healthy snack foods and individual snack packs of fruit, pudding, etc. for school lunches.

And, lastly there is also a continually growing need and short supply of non-food items that the HKJFP distributes such as personal care and household items including: cleaners, detergents, laundry supplies, toilet paper, tissue, dental and other hygienic items like diapers, soaps, shampoos, etc.

And, hunger is not just a problem here; it is also a significant problem around the world and in Israel. There is an organization called **Table to Table** that helps provide food and services to those in need in Israel and they also need our help. Direct monetary contributions are requested and if you able to support this cause, your donation would be immensely useful and appreciated. They rescue excess, unserved food that would otherwise be destroyed from catered events, restaurants, groceries, bakeries, army bases, perishable food manufacturers, farmers and packinghouses and then transport the food to non-profit organizations throughout Israel serving people in need. You can out find more information about them and how to make a donation on their website [tabletotable.org.il](http://tabletotable.org.il).

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The BSKI Social Action Committee sponsors many programs and activities throughout the year to help others in need. If any of these spark an interest in you, please join us. We are always looking for more volunteers as the needs are constantly growing and every little bit helps. Most of them require time and perhaps a bit of elbow grease as opposed to monetary contributions but everything makes a difference. Our programs range from **helping out in the community programming for seniors** (programming for the 60+ group and regular Friday night services at Crown Center), **for the environment** (we're active participants in the Jewish Environmental Initiative, planting trees, etc. and we do the recycling containers in the building), **multi-religion and cultural programs** (we participate in and contribute clothing, food, blankets, etc. through other organizations to the needy, and we participate in Interfaith Partnership and Faith Beyond Walls programs), **helping people who are sick or shut in** (we make plants and decorated hats for kids in the hospital and people in nursing homes and we prepare and deliver kosher meals on wheels for those who are homebound), **we serve the synagogue membership with our caring committee** (we send notes for those who are in the hospital, condolence and congratulatory cards and provide shiva trays to families) and **we package and deliver food to our Christian neighbors who are homebound on their Christmas holiday**. The Social Action Committee (SAC) would welcome your contributions of time or if you wish, there is a SAC fund that you can make tributes to that helps to support many of our activities.

Here are some additional suggestions for how you can help those in need in our community:

- When you come to BSKI for a program or a meeting, don't come empty handed. Please remember to bring a can or package of food. It really is helpful and most appreciated.
- Contribute to the HKJFP by sponsoring food baskets in the sanctuary for Shabbat or other holiday services. The large baskets are \$50 each (\$100 for two) and the money all goes directly to help feed the people that need it. The basket makers and dressers are all volunteers. You do this through the BSKI office.
- If you are planning a gathering or large party type event, consider using smaller baskets as centerpieces, perhaps not as pretty as flowers, but way more powerful in what they represent. Centerpiece food baskets are beautifully decorated and are \$30 each. You would do this directly with the HKJFP.
- If you have some time, volunteer to help the HKJFP doing whatever you can.
- When you are buying new clothes, shoes, coats, etc. and replacing old, if they are still in good condition, please hang onto them for the spring Mitzvah Day clothes collection. The same with blankets and other warm bedding materials.
- When buying new books, games and toys for birthdays to replace ones that your kids have outgrown, please remember all the kids who wouldn't otherwise have things to play with and learn from. We collect gently used books and toys, etc. for kids to be distributed on Mitzvah Day.
- And, when you are buying Hanukkah presents, please remember those who otherwise wouldn't have anything new and buy an extra toy or two for Hanukkah Hugs, the collection of new toys for distribution at that time of year.
- The BSKI Social Action Committee, in addition to Mitzvah Day, regularly designates Sundays for food preparation for the HKJFP throughout the year. We make Spanish rice and five-bean soup packages. We do it assembly-line style, have fun and prepare food for about 1000 meals each time.
- Buy an extra can of cranberry sauce, string beans or pumpkin when they go on sale and bring it in before Thanksgiving. Likewise, other sale items

at any time of the year will be much appreciated by the HKJFP.

- Before Passover, buy a 5 pack of matza instead of the 2 – 3 you might use and give the rest to the HKJFP.

Come and participate in any of our activities; the reward of satisfaction of having done a mitzvah is both immediate and profound. We would ask that you help in whatever way you can for the upcoming Kol Nidre food appeal and year around.

*Linda Spitzer Gavatin*



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- Israeli Buffet-Hummus, Falafel, Salads, Baklava
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# SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Members of BSKI's Social Action Committee have been busy in a number of programs in the community. Here are most of our recent and future activities:

**Jewish Food Pantry:** BSKI volunteers broke the time and attendance records to prepare over 400 Spanish rice packages for the Jewish Food Pantry. Thanks so much to Bev Fogelman, Shirley Portman, Frances Robbins, Fred Blumenthal, Diane Berg, Fran Cohen, Linda Gavatin, Rick Kodner, Gail Brody, Keith Zeff, Marcia Sterneck, Linda Biggs, Joyce and Al Weltman, Marilyn and Saul Dien, Joyce Eisenberg, Howard Granok, Saul Silvermintz, Bea Borenstein and Barbara Wexler. **We had fun and fed our souls by feeding the needy in our community. Please bring canned foods during the High Holidays whenever you come to the shul.**

**Caring Committee:** Thanks so much to Joyce Eisenberg, Bev Fogelman, Claudia

Horn and Roberta Stolz for doing a fantastic job. Please call them about news in your family so they can send the notes. What a mitzvah it is to connect with our BSKI members when they need us.

**Crown Center:** Our last Shabbat service was on August 28. The next Crown Center services will be on **October 16 and December 18**. Please join us to welcome Crown Center residents and mingle with them. Thanks again to Roberta Stolz, Muriel and Marvin Beckerman and Gene Barken for setting it up and conducting the services.

**Jewish Environmental Initiative:** BSKI and Faith Beyond Walls will be planting trees on September 13 at Fairground Park at 2 pm. Come to shul and ride with other members. You will meet people from other faiths and can connect with them and have fun. Great for families with young children.

**Jacob & Sarah Elbaum Garden Party:** Music, flowers and good spirit—can't go wrong with that. Todah Rabbah to Women's League and the talented musicians at BSKI.

**Sixty Plus Program:** Our next program at BSKI is on October 15 at noon. Movies have been great. Thanks to all the ladies working so hard to make this a great success.

**Next SAC meeting will be on October 4, 2009.**



## A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP: BSKI AND CROWN CENTER

BY STEVEN ROSENBLUM, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE GLADYS & HENRY CROWN CENTER FOR SENIOR LIVING

About nine years ago, a couple from Virginia, Faye and Meyer Soroko, moved into Crown Center for Senior Living. Their daughter, Zella Blum, and son-in-law Herbert were Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel (BSKI) Congregation members. Not long after, a partnership began between Crown Center and BSKI when BSKI volunteers began hosting Shabbat services for residents at Crown Center. And over the years an enduring relationship has grown, benefiting both organizations and all of the individuals who take part.

Every other month, members of BSKI's Social Action Committee conduct a Kabbalat Shabbat service. Though the founders have moved out of town, and several others in the original group have passed away, the Friday night tradition continues. New residents and synagogue members are participating, including B'nai Mitzvah students and a diverse group of residents. Welcoming Shabbat

has become an inter-generational and multi-ethnic celebration.

Services begin with the lighting of the Shabbat candles. A special book specifically designed for this service contains traditional Kabbalat Shabbat prayers, with songs in both Hebrew and English. Wine and grape juice are used for the Kiddush, and HaMotzi is said over the challah. An Oneg Shabbat, with lots of sweets and camaraderie, follows the service.

Many new friendships have sprouted between volunteers and participants that include a 92-year-old social issues advocate, two Miss Senior Missouri finalists who inspire with their lovely singing voices, a Protestant minister who fought in the Dutch Resistance, saving Jews during World War II, and a number of African American and Russian speaking residents.

In addition, the Crown Center bus takes residents to various services and special programs at BSKI to which they are invited throughout the year. Recently the children of Shaare Shalom (BSKI's religious school), shared some beautiful songs and special treats with residents as part of a Mitzvah Day project. How do we measure the value of "collaborations" between organizations? Perhaps the yardsticks of measurement are the durable nature of the partnership over time and the relationships that develop among the people involved. In that case, the BSKI and Crown Center collaboration is an unqualified success. We encourage everyone to attend a Crown/BSKI Shabbat service to experience the special bonds that have formed over the past decade—an amazing phenomenon that must be witnessed in person to fully appreciate the power of this warm and wonderful gathering.

# HIGH HOLIDAYS

## MAIN SERVICE AND CANDLELIGHTING TIMES

### Selichot—9/12

Service and Program

### Erev Rosh Hashanah—9/18

Evening Service 6 pm  
Candlelighting 6:47 pm

### Rosh Hashanah Day 1—9/19

Morning Service 8 am  
Evening Service 6 pm  
Candlelighting 7:45 pm

### Rosh Hashanah Day 2—9/20

Morning Service 8 am  
Evening Service 7:15 pm

### Erev Yom Kippur—9/27

Tashlich at the Confluence (morning)  
Evening Service 5:45 pm

Kol Nidre 6:15 pm  
Candlelighting 6:32 pm

### Yom Kippur—9/28

Morning Service (with Yizkor) 8:45 am  
Mincha 3:30 pm  
Neila 5:30 pm  
Fast Ends 7:32 pm

### Erev Sukkot—10/2

Evening Service 6 pm  
Candlelighting 6:25 pm

### Sukkot Day 1—10/3

Morning Service 8:45 am  
Evening Service 6 pm  
Candlelighting 7:23 pm

### Sukkot Day 2—10/4

Morning Service 8:45 am  
Evening Service 7 pm

### Sukkot Day 7/Hoshanah Rabba—10/9

Morning Service 6:30 am  
Evening Service 6 pm  
Candlelighting 6:14 pm

### Shemini Atzeret—10/10

Morning Service (with Yizkor) 8:45 am  
Mincha 5:45 pm  
Ma'ariv 6:15 pm  
Hakafot 6:45 pm  
Candlelighting 7:13 pm

### Simchat Torah—10/11

Morning Service 8:45 am  
Evening Service 6:45 pm

## YOUTH PROGRAMMING AND CHILDCARE

This year we are pleased to offer organized activities, including supervised childcare and three youth services for three different age groups on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Beyond this we, starting this year, offer formal activities starting with Erev Rosh Hashanah going all the way through Simchat Torah (where we'll welcome *Klezuntheit!*, a wonderful local Klezmer band).

Please take a moment to review the be-

low information (yes, we know there's a lot there... we have a lot to offer and you deserve the best in innovative, positive, quality programming!). Keep in mind that as we create youth- and family-friendly opportunities that it is still the responsibility of the parents to be aware of the activities and locations of their children.

Our staff (Elizabeth Gartenberg, Micah Miller, Harvey Leader, and myself) are

committed to working with you to create High Holy Day experiences for you and your family that are positive, engaging, holy, and welcoming to people of all ages. I look forward to meeting you this year and to wishing you a new year that is filled with all things sweet.

Shalom,  
"Rosh" Roland  
roland@e-bski.org

### 9/18 6 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah - Activities & Snack for kids 6 - 12

### 9/19 & 9/28 8:30 am RH Day 1 & YK - Four Age-Specific Supervised Rooms, plus:

- 10:30 am: Ktantan Service (ages 5 and under, parents, grandparents, etc. encouraged to attend) with Elizabeth Gartenberg, Golda Cohen and Sheldon Low on guitar
- 10:30 am: Youth Service (ages 6-12, parents welcomed) with "Rosh" Roland Roth (new BSKI Director of Programming) and Steve Low on guitar
- 11:45 am: Teen Power Hour (ages 13-19, parents barred) with "Rosh" Roland Roth and Steve Low

### 9/20 8:30 am RH Day 2 - Four Age-Specific Supervised Rooms, plus:

- 10:30am: Family Service (children of all ages, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are all welcomed) with "Rosh" Roland Roth and Steve Low on guitar

### 9/27 5:30 pm Erev Yom Kippur - Two Age-Specific Supervised Rooms, plus:

- 6:30pm: Youth Program (children of all ages, parents, grandparents, etc. encouraged to attend) with "Rosh" Roland Roth and Steve Low on guitar

### 10/2 5:00 pm Erev Sukkot - Pizza in the BSKI Sukkah

- 5pm (come when you can): Make your own pizza! We'll supply the dough, cheese, sauce, and toppings (all certified kosher, of course). Plus you can make your own, edible, sukkah. Yum! Then stay for 6:00 pm services. Sponsored by the new BSKI Kadima and USY Youth Groups.

### 10/10 6:15 pm Erev Simchat Torah - Live Music with Klezmer Band Klezuntheit!

- Join the fun as we celebrate the Torah as the gift that it is. We'll dance, sing, laugh, and have a blast!

# TRIBUTES

## DONATIONS FOR YARTZEITS

(to 7-31-09)

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Dr. and Mrs. Melvin Allen..... Marie Allen  
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..... Matthew Gould's bar mitzvah

### *Donor ..... Recovery Of*

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Ms. Rhonda Appel  
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Mr. & Mrs. David Weber.....  
..... Sheila Gordon's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

## ALIYAHS & HONORS

(to 7-31-09)

### *Donor*

Ms. Cindy Payant

## ADULT EDUCATION FUND

(to 7-31-09)

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..... Margaret Gillerman,  
..... Gene & Shirley Barken's anniversary  
Ms. Cindy Payant..... Diane Berg

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Ms. Helene Frankel & Mr. George Boniface.....  
..... George Boniface  
Ms. Cindy Payant..... David Samuels,  
..... George Boniface, Jack Rosen,  
..... Joyce Eisenberg, Sylvia Cherrick

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND

(to 7-31-09)

### *Donor .....In Honor Of*

Mr. Shimon Ben-Poorat.....  
..... Al & Joyce Weltman's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fogelman.....  
..... Bill Solomon's haftarah

### *Donor .....In Memory Of*

Mr. & Mrs. Saul Dien..... Theresa Kenny

## DONATIONS TO BSKI GENERAL FUND

(to 7-31-09)

### *Donor .....In Honor Of*

Mr. & Mrs. Joel Allen.....  
..... Marcia Sterneck's birthday  
Ms. Lauren Buchsbaum..... Anniversaries of  
..... Al & Joyce Weltman, Judel & Susan Lew,  
..... Fred Blumenthal & Patricia Powers,  
... Gene & Shirley Barken, Marc & Penny Alper,  
..... and Harvey & Deborah Leader  
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Ms. Eleanor Glick.....  
..... Shirlene & Irl Baris's anniversary  
Mrs. David Heller.....  
..... Sheryl & Frank Weissman's anniversary  
Mr. & Mrs. Nino Heres..... Rabbi Miller,  
..... Sally Needle, Stewart Shilcrat,  
..... Shaare Shalom Confirmation Class  
Mrs. Mildred Mellman.....  
... Chelsea Bryant & Ben Silvermintz's wedding  
Ms. Audrey Shanfeld..... Matthew Gould  
Mrs. Fred Suffian.....  
..... Al & Joyce Weltman's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary,  
..... Matthew Gould's bar mitzvah

### *Donor .....In Memory Of*

Ms. Barbara Bianco..... Jackie Levine  
Ms. Patricia Cohen & Mr. Bruce Lippmann.....  
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## WOMEN'S LEAGUE TRIBUTE FUNDS

(to 7-31-09)

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE GENERAL TRIBUTE FUND

To donate to this fund, call Marian Katz at  
997-0112

### *Donor*

Annita Suffian (Meals on Wheels)

# TRIBUTES

## ABE FINE FUND

To donate to this fund, call Frances Bell at 647-9115

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 Bea Borenstein ..... Lauren Buchsbaum,  
 ..... Anniversaries of Gene & Shirley Barken  
 ..... Fred Blumenthal & Patricia Powers,  
 ..... Harvey & Deborah Leader  
 ..... and Judy & Howard Pearlstone,  
 ..... Myron Jacobs's birthday

**Donor ..... Recovery Of**  
 Bea Borenstein ..... Joyce Eisenberg,  
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## EDITH MAZUR LIBRARY FUND

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**Donor .....In Memory Of**  
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## FIRST YEAR MELTON CLASSES AT BSKI

Have you heard about the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School? Have you ever considered enrolling in the course but location and/or date and time just didn't work for you? Well there is a new option being offered by CAJE that is available here at BSKI.

The first year courses of 30 sessions will be taught on Sunday mornings beginning September 13. Sign up for:

- \*Purposes of Jewish Living, taught by Rabbi Lane Steinger
- \*Rhythms of Jewish Living, taught by Cyndee Levy and Rabbi Stephanie Alexander

Classes begin at 10 am and end at noon, the perfect time for parents who have children attending Shaare Shalom.

For more information or to enroll for classes contact:  
 Cyndee Levy at CAJE at (314) 442-3754 or e-mail: [clevy@cajestl.org](mailto:clevy@cajestl.org)  
[www.cajestl.org](http://www.cajestl.org)

# WOMEN'S LEAGUE HIGH HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Mrs. Shirley I. Appel  
 Shirlene & Irl Baris  
 Shirley & Gene Barken  
 Marvin & Muriel Beckerman  
 Frances Bell & Family  
 Barbara Bianco & Family  
 Bea Borenstein  
 Susan & David Cort  
 Marilyn & Saul Dien  
 Abe & Marian Ehrlich  
 Joyce Eisenberg & Family  
 Gloria K. Feldman & Family  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harvey & Jackie Fenster  
 Roberta & Louis Fine  
 Richard & Beverly Fogelman  
 Marvin Foster  
 Esther Goldenhersh & Family  
 Deborah & Phillip Gould  
 Mimi & Ralph Graff  
 Dr. Howard & Jodi Granok  
 Frank & Rachel Haspiel  
 Helen Herrmann  
 Phyllis Hyken  
 Margaret & Martin Israel  
 Randee & Myron Jacobs  
 Charlene & Michael Kass  
 Mr. & Mrs. Martin Katz  
 In memory of Theresa Kenny  
 Ida & Malcolm Kessler & Family  
 Marvin & Sue Kodner

Dr. & Mrs. Phil Levens  
 Evelyn Lieberman, Gary, Liz,  
 Spencer and Charlie, Donna,  
 Aliyah & Alexandra Warwick  
 Barbara Lowes & C. W. Scherer  
 Anne Madden & Family  
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Makler  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Melnick &  
 Family  
 Barbara Meyers & Family  
 Dr. Mark & Judy Meyers, Mat-  
 thew, Morgan & Lila, Jamie &  
 Julie  
 Rabbi & Mrs. Miller & Family  
 Helen Munoz  
 Lena Newman, Ronald, Rose,  
 Michelle, Tom, Phillip, Laura &  
 Andrea  
 Betty Novick  
 Betty Oberman & Family  
 Arlene & Tim O'Connell & Family  
 Cindy Payant & Jim White  
 Jean Sloofman Payuk & Family  
 Howard & Judy Pearlstone &  
 Family  
 Miriam Pessin & Family  
 Mrs. Shirley Portman & Family  
 In memory of parents, Louis &  
 Bessie Plattner & husband, Mar-  
 tin D. Pultman  
 Carol Rafsky

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Rosenberg &  
 Family  
 Alfred, Sheila, Amy Rosenfeld  
 Carolyn Rosenfeld  
 Beatrice & Joe Rothberg, Adam  
 Crane—Best wishes for the New  
 Year  
 Best wishes for a Happy &  
 Healthy New Year—Arnie &  
 Andrea Rothman & Family  
 Libby Sorkin Routman & Family  
 Marc, Deborah (Rubin), Robert &  
 Benjamin Levin  
 Mrs. Abe Schneider  
 Mrs. Charlotte Schneider  
 Marcella & Norman Segall &  
 Family  
 Barbara & Merwyn Sher  
 Charlene & Herman Shyken and  
 Family  
 Naomi & Saul Silvermintz  
 Florence Simon  
 Rabbi Skoff & Family  
 Bill Solomon & Family  
 Alan R. Spivack, M. D. & Cecelia  
 A. Spivack  
 Marcia Sterneck  
 Roberta Stolz & Family  
 Betty Tannenbaum  
 Rae Ellen Tash  
 Ron, Enid & Julie Tennenbaum

Ilien & Gerald Towbin  
 Peace & happiness for a good  
 year, Aileen Wallis & Family  
 Marc & Gina Wallis  
 Carla Weinberg and Family  
 Rosetta & Ben Weintraub  
 Mrs. Eli Weisman & Family  
 Sam & Nadine Wilk  
 Deborah Zorensky & Family  
 The Zorensky Family

## ZICHRAN LIVRACHA

We deeply grieve  
the passing of

Jackie Levine  
Sylvia Sandow

May their souls be  
bound up in the bonds of  
eternal life

# September 2009

<p><i>Minyan Times</i>                      Sunday Morning and September 7: 8 am                      Monday-Friday Morning: 7 am                      Sunday-Thursday Evening: Sept. 1-3 6:30 pm; Sept 6-30 6 pm; Friday Evening: 6 pm                      Saturday Morning: 8:45 am                      Saturday evenings and High Holidays: see calendar</p>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Women's League Meeting 9:30 am	3	4 <b>Kabbalat Shabbat and Dinner with Cantor Jay O'Brien</b> Candlelighting 7:09 pm	5 <b>Parshat Ki Tavo Morning Service with Jay O'Brien</b> Evening Service 6:40 pm
6 Men's Club Meeting after morning service	7 <b>Labor Day</b> Office Closed Morning Service 8 am	8	9	10 Adult Ed. Meeting 7 pm	11 Candlelighting 6:58 pm	12 <b>Parshat Nitzavim-Vayeilech</b> Evening Service 6:30 pm <b>Selichot Program and Service</b>
13 Shaare Shalom 10 am <b>Play and Pray Open House 10:30 am</b> <b>Book Club Meeting</b>	14	15	16	17	18 <b>Erev Rosh Hashanah</b> Candlelighting 6:47 pm	19 <b>First Day of Rosh Hashanah</b> Morning Service 8 am Evening Service 6:00 pm Candlelighting 7:45 pm
20 <b>Second Day of Rosh Hashanah</b> Morning Service 8 am Luncheon after service Evening Service 7:15 pm	21 <b>Fast of Gedaliah</b>	22 Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30 pm	23	24	25 Candlelighting 6:36 pm	26 <b>Parshat Ha'azinu Shabbat Shuvah</b> Evening Service 6:05 pm
27 <b>Erev Yom Kippur BSKI Sukkah Construction Tashlich at the Confluence</b> Evening Service 5:45 pm Kol Nidre 6:15 pm Candlelighting 6:32 pm	28 <b>Yom Kippur</b> Morning Service 8:30 am Mincha 3:30 pm Neila 5:30 pm Fast Ends 7:32 pm	29	30			

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Benson Skoff, Ph. D ..... Rabbi Emeritus  
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Harvey Leader..... Executive Director  
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Fax: 314-725-6256  
Website: [www.e-bski.org](http://www.e-bski.org)

**Office Hours**  
**Monday-Thursday**  
8:30 am-5 pm  
**Friday**  
8:30 am- 3 pm

SAVE THE DATE!  
RABBI SKOFF'S  
50TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION  
OCTOBER 31