



# Congregation B'nai Jacob

Jersey City's Egalitarian Conservative Congregation

## Congregational Newsletter July, August 2008

**Friday Night Live!**  
**July 11th**  
**August 8th**

Friday Evening Services  
 begin at 8:00 PM followed  
 by Oneg Shabbat

Saturday Morning Services  
 begin at 9:00 AM, followed  
 by a Kiddush Lunch

### Whose *Minhag*, Anyway?: Reflections on Modern Jewish American Musical Diversity

I'm on a plane returning to New Jersey from Austin, Texas where I spent the last three days attending the Women Cantors Network conference. A bit of a misnomer, the WCN, as it's known to its members, is not restricted to cantors, or for that matter, to women. Its current By-Laws allows women and men to join the organization, although out of 301 members at current count I know of only two men. Moreover, there are no specific membership requirements of any kind. This goal of 'extreme inclusiveness' had fostered an environment with some interesting effects. Since joining WCN in 2005, I've learned that there are myriads of ways of being Jewish in the 21st century. All stripes and types are represented at the annual gathering which has convened in places like Boston, Washington, Cleveland, Boca Raton, and now, Shalom Y'all, Texas. I can surely report that Jewish diversity is alive and well and has



Cantor Dubrow

traveled many literal and figurative miles from *Sepharad*, *Ashkenaz* and the *Mizrach*.

This broad diversity of backgrounds inside the American, and for that matter, international, Jewish tent allows for a tremendous amount of stimulation. Over the course of three days, the assembled *daven* together for three weekday *Ma'Ariv* services and three weekday *Shacharit* services. Each service is lead by a different person, usually with additional persons assisting with instruments ranging from guitars, clarinets, flutes, all types of drums, tambourines and other percussion instruments. (I've even offered to conduct a service next year or perhaps a workshop introducing our Friday Night Live! Shabbat service with compositions, mine and others", composed according to

Nusach, the traditional model system of the Orthodox and Conservative movements.)

Perhaps the biggest 'take-away' from this pan-denominational experience of music as practiced today in our American synagogues and *chavurot* is that in all denominations other than Orthodox and Conservative, music has taken on the mantle of 'big business'. Over the course of the three days, both in services and workshops, I heard dozens of songs, in both Hebrew and English, that to my mind reflected a simplicity of musical expression. Most of what I heard were *niggunim* or campfire melodies. This simple, accessible music in great part is what has awakened the Reformed community and brought thousands of new members into their synagogues. The Reform movement has the only profitable Jewish music publishing arm in America, Transcontinental.

It is true that we at B'nai Jacob have embraced many modern aspects to the worship experience: We are egalitarian with lay and clerical leadership that includes women. We have musical accompaniment on Friday nights. These are big steps toward change. But, in my view, even more musical innovation can be a good thing for our congregation and community.

On Saturday mornings, at the com-  
**continues next page...**

August 9th, Saturday evening,  
 is the beginning of Tisha B'Av.  
 We will have a Seudah Shelishit Light Supper followed by Havdalah and the reading of Eicha. Check the website for details.

The B'nai Jacob Newsletter is supported by a donation  
 in memory of Betty Cole

**Cantor Dubrow, continued...**

mencement of *Shacharit* (around 9:30 AM or so, if you'd like to hear it), I've begun to use a setting of a *Piyut*, a Jewish liturgical poem, that I composed music for. The music is a congregational tune and the words are in *Siddur Sim Shalom* in both Hebrew and English. What's so nice about this is that congregants who do not understand Hebrew and normally are singing texts they do not understand, the *Shachar Avake-shcha*, alternates between Hebrew and English. Everyone sings, I think, because everyone gets it. After all, most of us understand English!

Meaning matters. And that's where my experience in Milwaukee comes in. Two Shabbats ago, I served as Guest Cantor and Scholar/Composer-in-Residence for Congregation Beth El Ner Tamid in Mequan, a suburb of Milwaukee. In advance of the Sunday Shalshet International Festival of New Jewish Liturgical Music held on June 25 and 26, the Shabbat of June 23 and 24 gave local Milwaukee congregations the opportunity to spend time with the awardees, hear some of their compositions and learn about the composers' creative process. The congregation I visited, a Conservative congregation, had only recently voted to al-

low musical instruments during the Kabbalat Shabbat services. I was to be 'the guinea pig' giving the congregation's clergy – Cantor Berkowitz and Rabbi Berman – an opportunity to experience their congregation's reaction without either of them directly taking the fall. To everyone's benefit, the congregation enthusiastically sang along and enjoyed the '*Ruach*' that an instrumental accompaniment can motivate. Now the congregation can move comfortably forward with a high comfort level about the change, much as we at B'nai Jacob are feeling now. When Hebrew prayer texts are explored, explained and understood, a congregation's enjoyment and deep engagement can be guaranteed.

On the subject of Jewish musical diversity, however, nothing exemplified it as much as the Shalshet concert in Milwaukee on Sunday evening. An auditorium on a local college campus, filled with over 300 eager listeners, reverberated with sounds from around the world, with musical styles as numerous as stars in the sky. There were cantorial solos, choral pieces, even a rabbi leading an improvised chanting with an Indian *shruti box* (an instrument that looks like a small wooden box that sits in one's lap and sounds like a hurdy-gurdy). I am pleased to report that Cantor

Natasha Hirschhorn of Anshe Chesed in Manhattan who sang my *Hashkiveinu* at the concert, accompanied by yours truly on a magnificent Steinway grand piano, sounded truly like an angel of God. The entire Shalshet experience was a deeply humbling one, being among so many gifted and talented composers and musicians, all of whom have a deep love of Jewish music and a desire to translate that *ahavah* into expressions of Jewish worship. The Shalshet festival continues on December 12-14 over Shabbat with another concert, as well. Perhaps some of you would like to attend. Of course, all are welcome!

As Sid Canter reports in his column, our June 20th Friday Night Live! Musical service and Shabbat dinner was a wonderful experience for all who attended and a terrific ending to the year at B'nai Jacob, filled with the richly diverse sounds of both sacred cantorial music and Israeli folk songs honoring Israel's 60th birthday. I wish you all a relaxing and restful summer!

Cantor Marsha Dubrow  
cantor@bnaijacobjc.org  
201-910-4334

**B'nai Jacob Volunteers Recognized and Honored**

On Saturday morning, June 21, we honored our volunteers both on and off the bimah. Many of you were there when we sang a hearty *Siman Tov U'Mazel Tov* to so many of our congregants who have worked so hard on behalf of the entire B'nai Jacob community over the past year. For those of you who could not be there for the celebration, we acknowledge and say *Todah Rabbah!* to the following individuals:

Betty Arenson  
Lenore Berkowitz  
Jane and Sid Canter  
Sam Chapnick  
Pauline Danton  
Raylie and David Dunkel  
Etta Hershfield  
Yael Israel

Abe and Gloria Langer  
Jessica and Alan Lemmon  
Min Natowitz  
Anita Olivirere  
Sylvia Paul  
Frank Pratt  
David Rosenberg  
Claire Silverman

## Sid's News and Views

Jane and I came back from our trip to California where we celebrated Passover with our family. We also went to Evan Karash's Bar Mitzvah. Evan is the son of Rabbi JB Sacks and his mate, Steven Karash. It was beautiful. Evan is a delightful young man, full of charm and warmth and judging by how expertly he led the service he is following in his father's footsteps! The luncheon following had delicious food from different parts of the world; Japanese, French, Italian, Israeli and, of course, good old Jewish comfort food. Everyone danced and had a good time and JB sends his love to all his Bnai Jacob friends. Unfortunately the following day JB's father died after a long illness. If you wish to send him a note Jane or I can give you his address.

In the beginning of May we had a bus trip to the Yiddish Festival at the Y in Wayne NJ. We saw a play called "Mama's Lukshen Kugel" in Yiddish with English translation. We also heard the "Klezmer Mountain Boys" sing songs that reminded many of their youth; and a group of very young local children who sang in Yiddish. They were adorable. Kosher food was available for lunch. Thanks to Etta Hershfield for arranging this terrific day and to her helpers, Min Natovitz, Lenore Berkowitz and Pauline Danton. This was really a fun event, even the part where the bus driver got lost and took us to Timbuktu - which seems to be near the New York State border! Make sure you are on the next bus trip, wherever and whenever that may be, so you don't miss out on the fun.

Thanks to Anna Roque for her donation of spirits for the Saturday Kiddush and Yasher Koach to Jane Canter for leading services one Friday evening. Mazal Tov to Sylvia Paul for her grandson's and her granddaughter's school graduations; to Lil and Sam Chapnick on their grandson's graduation; to Claire Silverman on her grandson's graduation; to Miriam Messing on her granddaughter's marriage; to Betty Arenson on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson Jonathan, son of Iris



and Richard Arenson.

On Friday evening, May 30, Raylie and David Dunkel held a Havurah dinner in their home for about 30 families. Cantor Dubrow conducted services, shabbat candles were lit and a delicious dinner was served. Many unaffiliated people attended and some indicated they would be interested in

future similar programs. Many thanks to the Dunkels for initiating this event and for being such gracious hosts.

The Shalshet Foundation, led by renowned Cantors and spiritual leaders Ramon Tasat and Natasha Hirschhorn, held their annual blind competition for new Jewish liturgical music. They selected, from 300 entries, our Cantor, Marsha Dubrow's composition of Hashkivenu (from the Friday night service), a very beautiful piece. Cantor Dubrow served as guest Cantor at a Milwaukee Conservative Congregation that same weekend. Yasher Koach to Cantor Dubrow, who often sings this Hashkivenu at our services and she once mentioned that it was her mother's favorite.

The Cantor sponsored a Kiddush in memory of her brother David on the first yahrzeit of his passing. Her brother Alan chanted the Torah for us and Maftir. Jessica Lemmon chanted the Haftarah, which was her Bat Mitzvah Haftarah. Yael Israel was Gabbai that morning. Many of our members came to services to share the day with the Cantor and her family.

At Shavuot services we had a guest Torah reader, Andy Silikowitz who chanted the Torah and most of the Musaf service. We also welcomed back Leon Sungalowsky who has been having some health issues and we wish him well. It was good to see him back in our sanctuary.

On Friday evening, June 20 we had a shabbat dinner celebrating Israel's 60th birthday. We especially thank Min Natovitz, Pauline Danton and Lenore Berkowitz for making the arrangements, hundreds of phone calls and purchasing supplies. Thank you also to Yael Israel, Jessica Lemmon and Anita Ollivierre for decorating the room with hundreds of balloons and armloads of exquisite flowers. Our Auditorium looked so festive.

Over 80 people came including Bnai Jacob members and members of the Hudson County community thanks to all the publicity on the Hudson Jewish web site. We started with hors d'ouvres and a chance to greet each other, then candle lighting was followed by services and a delicious dinner with an Israeli songfest. Many visitors talked about loving the musical service, led by Cantor Dubrow. It was a wonderful celebration of Shabbat and of Israel's 60th birthday and the coming together of the Hudson Jewish community. Many thanks to our caretakers, Anna Roque, Nazam Khan and Charles Dobles, for their hard work; to the aforementioned members, the Cantor and her husband David and to many members who contributed financially to make the evening a complete success. And most of all thanks to all of you who came to share shabbat with each other.

On Saturday, June 21 the Kiddush was sponsored in honor of the volunteers who keep the synagogue running. Members work, both on and off the Bima and there tremendous efforts are truly appreciated but we need more of you so if you have some time and can give a little of it to Bnai Jacob it would be great. The Cantor made a special blessing for these "worker bees" who appreciated being recognized for their work.

We offer condolences to the family of Abe Glatt, a former member who died recently. Abe designed and made the beautiful stained glass windows in our sanctuary when our building was built in 1963. He and his family were members for many years and his son in law, Ari Ben Shalom, was the first director of our religious school. Fittingly Abe was buried from our sanctuary which is such a special place largely because of his doing. May the Glatt family know no further sorrow.

Have a wonderful, healthy summer and we will see you in the fall.

*Sid Canter*

B'nai Jacob - Jersey City's Egalitarian Conservative Congregation

July, August 2008/ Sivan-Tammuz-Av 5768

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		7/1 28 Sivan	2 29 Sivan	3 30 Sivan	4 1 Tammuz Candles 7:10	5 2 Tammuz Parasha Hukat
6 3 Tammuz	7 4 Tammuz	8 5 Tammuz	9 6 Tammuz	10 7 Tammuz	11 8 Tammuz Candles 7:08 CANTOR	12 9 Tammuz Parasha Balak CANTOR
13 10 Tammuz	14 11 Tammuz	15 12 Tammuz	16 13 Tammuz	17 14 Tammuz	18 15 Tammuz Candles 7:08	19 16 Tammuz Parasha Pinhas
20 17 Tammuz	21 18 Tammuz	22 19 Tammuz	23 20 Tammuz	24 21 Tammuz	25 22 Tammuz Candles 7:04	26 23 Tammuz Parasha Mattot
27 24 Tammuz	28 25 Tammuz	29 26 Tammuz	30 27 Tammuz	31 28 Tammuz	8/1 29 Tammuz Candles 6:51	2 1 Av Rosh Hodesh Av Parasha Mase
3 2 Av	4 3 Av	5 4 Av	6 5 Av	7 6 Av	8 7 Av Candles 6:43 CANTOR	9 8 Av Fast of Tisha B'av Parasha D'Varim CANTOR
10 9 Av Fast of Tisha B'av	11 10 Av	12 11 Av	13 12 Av	14 13 Av	15 14 Av Candles 6:33	16 15 Av Parasha Va'et Hanan
17 16 Av	18 17 Av	19 18 Av	20 19 Av	21 20 Av	22 21 Av Candles 6:23	23 22 Av Parasha Ekev
24 23 Av	25 24 Av	26 25 Av	27 26 Av	28 27 Av	29 28 Av Candles 6:12	30 29 Av Birkat Hahodesh Parasha Re'eh
31 30 Av Rosh Hodesh Elul						



## Tributes and Donations



### FLOWER FUND

Good health to Min Natovitz from Sylvia Paul  
From Betty Arenson to Sylvia Paul in honor of her grandchildren's graduations  
From Sylvia Paul to Betty Arenson in honor of her grandson's Bar Mitzvah  
From Sylvia Paul to Miriam Messing in honor of her granddaughter's wedding  
From Miriam Messing to Sylvia Paul in honor of her grandchildren's graduations  
To Sylvia Paul belated birthday wishes from Miriam Messing  
To Helen Zelkind on her birthday from Rosemarie Neubolt  
From Irene Peck to Claire Silverman on her grandson's graduation

### TORAH FUND

To Mr & Mrs Blaustein in memory of sister & sister in law from Min Natovitz  
From Gloria & Abe Langer to Mr & Mrs Jack Peyser in honor of son's Bar Mitzvah  
From Gloria & Abe Langer to Mr & Mrs Irwin Peyser in honor of grandson's Bar Mitzvah  
From Betty Arenson to the Russell family in memory of Gene Russell

### PRAYER BOOK FUND

To Min Natovitz for good health from Bernice Brenner  
To Min Natovitz in memory of her sister Annie Daves from Shirley Weisman, Bea Rubin, Evelyn Leibowitz, Sunny Azarow, Claire Silverman, Irene Peck, Pearl & Sam Pepose, Betty Arenson, Miriam Messing, Miriam Bernstein, Helen Berman, Gloria & Abe Langer, Abe & Mattee Polin, Anna Roque & Charles Dobles, Ruth Smith, Pauline Danton, Sylvia Paul, Helen Zelkind, Pearl & Joe Hirshbein, Etta Hershfield, Audrey & Shelden Cohen, Lil & Sam Chapnick, Myrna Ehrlich, Carol Strulowitz.  
To Mr & Mrs M Blaustein in memory of sister and sister in law from Claire Silverman  
To Bea Rubin for recovery of grandson from Carol Strulowitz  
To Nat Saltzman in memory of his brother Shia from Carol Strulowitz  
To Betty Arenson in honor of grandson's Bar Mitzvah from Irene Peck  
To Betty Arenson in honor of grandson's Bar Mitzvah from Gloria & Abe Langer  
To Carol Kleiman in memory of mother from Florence Rosenthal

### MUSIC FUND

From Pauline Danton to Sylvia Paul in honor of her grandchildren's graduations  
From Pauline Danton to Miriam Messing in honor of her granddaughter's marriage  
From Irene Peck to Pearl & Sam Pepose on becoming grandparent

### ARTHUR D. SMITH MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Rose Finkelstein from her daughter Sylvia Ull  
In memory of Martin Arenson from his wife Betty Arenson  
In memory of Rose Arenson from her daughter in law Betty Arenson  
In memory of Charles Feit from his daughter Betty Arenson  
From Pauline Danton to Betty Arenson in honor of grandson's Bar Mitzvah

### SYNAGOGUE FUND

In appreciation of Abe Langer's gift of tickets to the "Merchant of Venice" from Jane & Sid Canter  
In appreciation of Abe Langer's gift of tickets to the "Merchant of Venice" from Bernice Brenner  
In honor of their son Feroze Khan's engagement to Fieona Kalicharan from Nazam Khan & Family  
In memory of those who perished in the Holocaust from Audrey & Shel Cohen

*B'nai Jacob - Jersey City's Egalitarian Conservative Congregation*

**JULY YAHRZEITS**

KADDISH DATE	NAME
4TH - 5TH	IDA RUBIN
	SIDNEY ROTZ
	ROSE KNAPP
	ANNA SILVER
11TH - 12TH	MILTON NATOVITZ
	SADIE KREISLER
	STELLA PRICE
18TH - 19TH	IRVING SILVER
	ROSE BRODY
	JEAN STEIL
	LEE DAVES
	BETTY COLE

KADDISH DATE	NAME
25TH - 26TH	ISAAC GREEN
	GETZEL POLINSKY
	JOSEPH PRICE
	PHILIP RUBIN
	HARRY MILLINGER
	FRIEDA FRANKEL
	ANNIE ATURY BERGER
	PEGGY SHUSTRIN

**AUGUST YAHRZEITS**

1ST - 2ND | GEORGE PECK

**YAHRZEIT DONATIONS**

ELEANOR ARONOFF IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER SONIA ROSENTHAL  
 SONIA AZAROW IN MEMORY OF HER SON MICHAEL AZAROW AND OF HER MOTHER EDITH KURTZ  
 LENORE BERKOWITZ & ANNE GELB IN MEMORY OF THEIR FATHER CHARLES BERKOWITZ  
 GARY BERMAN IN MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER SALLY BERMAN AND HIS FATHER HENRY BERMAN  
 MIRIAM BERNSTEIN IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND HARRY BERNSTEIN  
 EDITH BOUER IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND RAYMOND BOUER  
 ALVIN CANTER IN MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER MINA CANTER AND HIS FATHER MANNY CANTER  
 PAULINE DANTON IN MEMORY OF HER SISTER ROSALINE LOSS  
 MYRNA EHRLICH IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER IN LAW JOSEPH EHRLICH, HER MOTHER IN LAW ADELE EHRLICH AND  
 HER FATHER MORRIS LEVIN  
 ALAN GOTTLIEB IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER MAURICE GOTTLIEB  
 LILY HAIM IN MEMORY OF HER BROTHER YOSSEF TAMAN  
 RUTH HIRSCHORN IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER SAMUEL LEVINE  
 LEAH JACOBS IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER FAYE BAUMGARTEN  
 DORIS KIKEN IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER JACK KIKEN  
 ESTHER KLEINMAN IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND ARTHUR KLEINMAN  
 GLORIA LANGER IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER SOPHIE STRENGER  
 THE LANGER FAMILY IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH AND FANNIE LANGER  
 RUTH MURASKIN IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND MARVIN MURASKIN  
 SAM PEPOSE IN MEMORY OF HIS SISTER SALLY BADER  
 MATTEE POLIN IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER HARRY BADEN, HER MOTHER FANNIE BADEN AND HER FRIEND ROSE BECK  
 BARBARA RICCARDI IN MEMORY OF HER GRANDMOTHER ROSE COHN  
 FLORENCE ROSENTHAL IN MEMORY OF HER SISTER MARGERY STERN  
 MORRIS SERVETZ IN MEMORY OF HIS SISTER IN LAW BEA POLSTEIN  
 BEA SCHIMEL IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER IN LAW MINNIE SCHIMEL  
 RENEE SCHWEBER IN MEMORY OF HER GRANDFATHER YAAKOV ROSMAN AND HER FATHER LEONARD ROSMAN  
 CAROL SHILLING IN MEMORY OF HER AUNT HENRIETTA SCHULTZ AND HER MOTHER ELEANOR SCHULTZ  
 CLAIRE SILVERMAN IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER DAVID WALLACE  
 FRUMA SUKHARENKO IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER ATLVIVANKIN LAIZAR BAN GERSHAE  
 FLORENCE ULL IN MEMORY OF HER SON ROBERT BARRY ULL  
 LILLIAN WEINMAN IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER CLARA WEINMAN  
 HAROLD ZWAIN IN MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER ANNA ZWAIN