

HaKol

The Voice of
Congregation Kol Emeth
5130 W. Touhy Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60077
847-673-3370

January - February, 2009
Tevet - Shevat - Adar, 5769

Ask Bubbe & Zayde



Q I thought Rosh Hashanah was the Jewish new year and I just read that Tu B'Shavat is the new year - How can there be more than one New Year?

A This is not strange at all; in America we have more than one new year - we have the calendar year new year in January, the school new year in September and many businesses start their new year at different times of the year.

Q How can a tree have a new year?

A Tu B'Shavat is the new year for the purpose of calculating the age of trees for tithing. Lev. 19:23-25 states that fruit from trees may not be eaten during the first three years; the fourth year is for G-d and after that you can eat the fruit. Trees are considered to have aged a year each Tu B'Shavat - it is their birthday.

Q How do people celebrate a tree's birthday?

A To celebrate Tu B'Shavat some people eat a new fruit on the day, while others plant trees. When I was a little girl we used to go around with our blue JNF boxes collecting money for trees for Israel at this time of year.

Q What fruit should I eat on tu B'shavat? Is an apple or banana OK?

A No, you need to eat fruits of Israel like olives, dates, grapes, figs and pomegranate.

Q What happens to the trees after you plant them?

A An ancient custom in Israel when a baby was born, the parents planted a tree in its honor. The tree was planted on Tu B'Shavat following the child's birth. If the baby was a boy, a cedar was planted. If the baby was a girl, a cypress was planted. As the children grew, so did the trees. When children got married the wood from the trees built their chupah (wedding canopy).

As the wood from the two trees were joined in the chupah so were the bride and groom in their marriage. _ _ _

*If you have any questions for Bubbe or Zayde please email hakol@fischoff.com and your question will be answered in HaKol. Also, if you would like to be a "guest" bubbe or zayde to answer people's questions please email hakol@fischoff.com and we'll make it happen. This month "Bubbe" was portrayed by **Pamela Wolf**.*



טו בשבט

Services

Friday Evening	8:00 p.m.
Saturday Morning	9:30 a.m.

Minyan

Sunday Morning	9:15 a.m.
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday Evenings	7:40 p.m.
Levinson Memorial Chapel	

Refer to calendar for holiday service times.

Message From The President

The year 2009 has arrived. I wish you a very healthy and happy new year. I am hoping that the December weather that we endured will be replaced by milder temperatures and that we will have experienced what is commonly called "the January Thaw!"

In writing these messages, I have often tried to summarize the excellent programs and activities of the synagogue; as well as mention the many members and **Rabbi Barry Schechter** who have contributed their fine talents to the success of these events.

One such special event took place on November 19 at our monthly board meeting. Lisa Krule, Executive Director and Karen Kesner, President of the Midwest Region of the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism were invited to present an over view of USCJ- its history, operation and services. During the time Lisa has been Executive director of USCJ I have been impressed with her accessibility, her help and advocacy on our behalf. Lisa has been very understanding of our synagogue-its operation, activities and special constituency of our membership.

I have been convinced that once our board members met her, we would be able to create a dialogue in which we would initiate the use of those services of USCJ that were applicable to Kol Emeth. The presentation by Lisa and Karen was extremely successful and very informative. We all gained a much more comprehensive understanding of USCJ. And Lisa was extremely impressed with both the turnout and enthusiasm of our board. I know she has an even better understanding of the energy and loyalty of our membership. She discovered that though we may be small number in comparison to some other conservative synagogues in the Midwest we have a spirit and soul that is unmatched.

In the near future you will be hearing more about some of the initiatives we will be considering. I wish to thank the board members for their enthusiastic support. And on your behalf and the membership of the congregation I extend a huge thank you to Lisa and Karen for their presentation.

William Raffeld
President

Congregation Kol Emeth Sends Deepest Sympathy To:

Helen Balikov in memory of her beloved sister-in-law Evelyn Sohn
Rebecca Navez in memory of her beloved father Jerry Farr
Marvin Rosenblum in memory of his beloved brother Alfred Rosenblum
Ruth Rosenblum in memory of her beloved sister Vivian

Yahrzeit/Yizkor Donations

Nata Andinysh
Howard Aronson
Nissin Behar
Joseph Berezin
Marge and Harry Besser
Judy and George Blinick
Milton Gordon
Linda Green
Nanette Greenspon
Paul Helman
David Jorbin
Fern Katz
Shirley Kleifield

William Klein
June Korey
Audrey and Farrel Krawetz
June Lefkowitz
Ludmila and Michael Livshultz
Ruth and Herman Nussbaum
Iris Okmin
Esther Peven
Irina and Dmitriy Polevoy
Phyllis M. Projansky
Zelda and Irwin Rich
Sarine Rohde
Teresa and Isaac Vatkin
Eleanor Zeff

Should you wish to honor the memory of your beloved departed with a permanent Memorial Plaque, please contact the synagogue office at 847-673-3370 for additional information.

HaKol Goes Digital

The trial run of the digital version of HaKol has pointed out a few minor problems (which have been corrected). The newsletter has been reformatted into one-page-at-a-time 8.5 x 11 pages. This will make it a snap to print out any or all pages and it will pop up larger on your monitors. (If you need some pointers on how to easily view HaKol please read the separate article titled "Digital HaKol Pointers".) Again, all that's required is a computer program called "Adobe Reader." This is an absolutely free program that is available at Adobe.com if you don't already have it. On the homepage click on "Get Adobe Reader" and follow the instructions.

In order to get you started, you need to send an email to hakol@fischoff.com. Please write "**HaKol Goes Digital**" in the subject line of your email and then make sure to send it. That's it! (If you want to include a publishable joke, we'll try to use that too!) You will soon be receiving both the digital version and the paper version of HaKol in the snail mail.

Roger Fischoff
HaKol editor

Digital HaKol Pointers

Q. What if the window is too small?

A. First make sure that the window is as high as possible and as far left as possible. To do this, click and hold anywhere on the top shaded strip of the window, then drag the window to the upper left. Then move your cursor to the lower right corner of the window. Click and hold using the left click button and then drag the window as far to the right and as low as possible.

Q. What if the type is too small to read?

A. There are several ways to enlarge the type. Look at the symbols and windows across the top. One small window probably shows a low number in it. (Possibly 25 or 50, meaning 25% or 50% actual size) Change the number to 100 or 200 or 400. You can make the type HUGE.

Another way to change the type size is to simply hold down the control key and press the "+" key to enlarge or the "-" key to reduce size. Repeat several times and the type will grow to any size you want. These same commands can be used in many programs and at many internet sites.

Q. How do I move around easily?

A. Rather than using the scroll bars that appear on the right and bottom of your screen just click and hold anywhere in the file where there is white space (such as between columns) The cursor, which normally looks like a hand, "grabs" the page and then you can drag the page view in any direction. (Remember to keep holding down the left click button while dragging.)

If you have any further questions, problems or suggestions regarding HaKol (digital or print), please email hakol@fischoff.com.

The rabbi was in the middle of a sermon when he beckoned to the shammes to come over. The rabbi said to him, "That man in the third row is asleep. Wake him up"!

The shammes replied, "You put him to sleep. You wake him up"
Submitted by **Len Colen**

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember: amateurs built the ark. Professionals built the Titanic.

Submitted by **Len Colen**

We Celebrate... We Pray... We Remember...

PRAYER BOOK & PLATE

Sondra and Max Lorig in honor of their "Special 50th" Wedding Anniversary

LEAF ON THE "TREE OF LIFE"

Ruth and Herman Nussbaum in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Sarine Rohde in honor of her "Special" Birthday

ROCK ON THE "TREE OF LIFE"

In honor of **Sally Lerner's** 100th Birthday

MAZEL TOV TO

Margaret and Harry Besser on their grandson's recent Bar Mitzvah

Nanette Greenspon on her "Special" Birthday

Karl Larson on his promotion to Sergeant

Debbie Mammoser on the birth of her 2nd grandson Noah Jacob Mammoser

Marvin Nussbaum on his grandson's Bar Mitzvah

CONGREGATION WANTS TO WISH A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Phyllis Borak

Linda and Harold Chupack (on their daughter's recovery)

Sheldon Cooper

Helene Ellis

Fred Levin

Milton Gordon

Lynda Orlean

Phyllis M. Projansky

Doris Sohn

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF

Helen Balikov - In memory of sister-in-law Evelyn Sohn

Rebecca Navez - In memory of father Jerry Farr

Marvin Rosenblum - In memory of brother Alfred Rosenblum

Ruth Rosenblum - In memory of sister Vivian

GENERAL & SIMCHA DONATIONS

Marge and Harry Besser - In honor of their grandson's Bar Mitzvah

Nanette Greenspon - In honor of her "Special" Birthday

Abigail and Michael Koppel - In honor of their son David's Bar Mitzvah

Karl Larson - In honor of his promotion to Sergeant

Sunnie and Fred Levin - In honor of granddaughter Stephanie's Baby Naming

Debbie Mammoser - In honor of the birth of grandson Noah Jacob Mammoser

Marvin Nussbaum - In honor of his grandson's Bar Mitzvah

Herbert Root - Donation of some of the Bakery Goods for Ester Hana Program

Elaine Snow - In honor of all her hard work on **Sally Lerner's** "Special 100th" Birthday Party

Florence and Melford Wolf - Donation to the Synagogue

SIMCHAT TORAH AUCTION

Howard I. Aronson

Gail Myers Jaffe

Phyllis M. Projansky

Ina and Arnold Weiner

Rivka and Brian Weiner

DONATIONS FOR SPEEDY & COMPLETE RECOVERIES

Phyllis Borak

Linda and Harold Chupack - Speedy & Complete Recovery to daughter

Sheldon Cooper

Helene Ellis

Fred Levin

Milton Gordon

Sheila Lewis

Lynda Orlean

Phyllis M. Projansky

Doris Sohn

Sheila Wexler - Speedy & Complete Recovery to Sister

Sisterhood News

The last portion of 2008 had several interesting programs. One of them was **Selma Katz** reviewing the book "Sin In The Second City". We also had a very enjoyable program with the Men's Club which was Ester Hana, who played the piano and sang songs. On Hanukah, we had a delicious Friday night Hanukah dinner with our very own **Rabbi Schecter** who spoke about Hanukah.

We hope everyone had a chance to see and buy the various items on display for Hanukah that the Sisterhood was selling. Also there are still a few Entertainment Books available for \$20.00.

Please remember to think about sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat or Kiddush for a special celebration or just for "no reason".

Helene Colen

Congratulations to Herman and Ruth Nussbaum on their 50th Anniversary and in honor of Herman Nussbaum being 2008 "Man of the Year".

Love, Anita, Bruce, Austin and Payton.

We appreciate and encourage newsletter contributions from all our congregants but, hard copy (paper) submissions will no longer be accepted. If you are unable to submit electronically, please contact **Sarine** in the office. All emails must be sent to hakol@fischhoff.com. Articles must be sent by the 10th for the following month's newsletter.

Ha Kol is compiled by **Sarine Rohde** and edited by **Roger Fischhoff**.

Men's Club News

The first Men's Club breakfast of the season was held on Sunday November 2, 2008. Our guest speaker was State Representative Lou Lang of the 16th Legislative District. His topic was "The Coming Election and other Issues Facing State Government". There was a question and answer session afterward. A delicious breakfast and a good speaker made for an enjoyable morning for the close to forty members and guests in attendance.

On a cool evening in November, a packed social hall of members and guests were treated to an evening of unforgettable singing and piano playing by Ester Hana. This diminutive and talented grandmother treated the audience to a medley of favorite songs in English, French, Spanish, Yiddish and Malaysian. It was ninety minutes of foot tapping musical memories. This event was co-sponsored by the Men's Club and Sisterhood. It's an example of the wonderful activities we have come to enjoy at Kol Emeth.

The next Men's Club Sunday Breakfast will be held on March 8th with a guest speaker to be announced.

To all of our snowbirds - go and come home in good health.
Herman Nussbaum

2009 Maj Jongg Cards Now Available

Please order your new maj jongg cards through the sisterhood. We benefit financially. Send your check payable to **Marilyn Cooper** at 1175 Lake Cook Rd. #407, Northbrook, IL 60062

\$7 for regular, \$8 for large print. Make checks payable to **Marilyn Cooper**. Deadline Jan. 28th. Thanks.

Please Take Special Note

Our bank is now charging a \$25.00 fee for checks that are returned for whatever reason. This does not pertain to only NSF checks. So please make sure that your check is good.

Thank you.

Congregation Kol Emeth
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Address Service Requested

Rabbi
Barry Schechter

President
William Raffeld

Vice President/Treasurer
Michael Okmin

Vice President/House
Leonard Colen



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Tu B'Shevat The Rosh HaShanah of Trees February 9th

THANK YOU... THANK YOU...

Helen Balikov – I would like to thank all my wonderful friends for your donations that I received in memory of my beloved sister-in-law Evelyn Sohn. It was a very warm friendship I felt at this most depressing time of my life. Thank you again!

Marge and Harry Besser – To our dear friends of Kol Emeth Congregation, Sisterhood and Men's Club for sending donations in honor of our grandson, Daniel Tyler Besser on his Bar Mitzvah. It is very much appreciated. Thank you so much. It is wonderful to have Simchas!

Irene Kogan – I wish to extend my gratitude to the Board of Directors and members for the generous donations in honor of my family. I also want to thank **Sarine Rohde** for making our Oneg Shabbat honoring my grandson Joshua Dein's Bar Mitzvah and my family visiting from Israel so very special. Kol Emeth is my home indeed.

Sally Lerner – I shall always remember the Shabbat of my 100th Birthday; the many, many expressions of love extended to me by family, friends and my Kol Emeth family. To our Rabbi, I shall always remember the beautiful Services. I loved when we danced. It is with humility and gratitude that I thank Congregation Kol Emeth for sponsoring the beautiful Kiddish Luncheon in my honor. I cherish the special beautiful pin presented to me by

Elaine Snow in behalf of the Congregation. To my friend **Elaine Snow** I am forever grateful for making the Kiddish Luncheon a special event.

Fred Levin – Thanks to everyone for your contributions, good wishes, calls and visits, as well as the generous gift which I hope to redeem soon. They have very much helped in my recovery. I particularly appreciate **Rabbi Schechter's** calls, visits and concern. Thank you again.

Max and Sondra Lorig - We would like to thank all of our Kol Emeth friends who made donations in honor of our 50th wedding anniversary. They made our very special occasion even more special, and we appreciated receiving each one of them. Thank you so much!!

Ruth and Herman Nussbaum – We thank our Kol Emeth Family for your generous donations and Leagrams in honor of our 50th Anniversary. We really appreciate all your good wishes.

Marcia Nussbaum – Thank you dear friends for all the Leagram birthday wishes. They sure put a happy smile on my face! I'm sending thank you hugs to everyone.

Phyllis Projansky - Thanks to all who made donations in honor of my speedy recovery. I'm feeling much better now.

Sarine Rohde – I want to thank everyone plus an extra thank you to **Rabbi Schechter** and **Julie** for making my "Special" Birthday really special. I want to thank everyone who sent me so many Leagrams and cards etc along with singing at our lovely and delicious November dinner prepared by **Debbie Mammoser** and **Sam Spector**. This was truly one of my best-remembered birthdays. Kol Emeth is truly my family and again thank you for making my birthday so wonderful. I do not even know if I was walking on the floor or floating in the air. Thank you! Thank you!

Dawn Rosen – I want to thank **Rabbi Schechter** and everyone for all their wonderful phone calls, cards and donation letters while I was laid up from shoulder surgery recently. All your thoughtfulness and concerns helped make me to have a speedier and easier recovery. Thank you one and all for thinking of me.

Marvin Rosenblum – I want to thank everyone for your generous donations in memory of my brother Alfred Rosenblum. Your thoughts were very comforting.

Doris Sohn – Thank you dear Kol Emeth friends for your good wishes after my recent surgery. It's always nice to be remembered and I appreciated your thoughtfulness. Happy and Healthy 2009.