



Reconstructionist Temple Beth Israel of Bergen County

A Contemporary Look at Tradition

201-845-7550
rtbi@rtbi-online.org

www.rtbi-online.org

34 West Magnolia Avenue
Maywood, NJ 07607

8th of Sh'vat - 6th of Adar, 5772

Vol. 14, No. 7
February 2012

Rabbi Jarah Greenfield
Congregational Cantor Lois Kittner

ה' בְּשֵׁבַט - ו' בְּאָדָר תשע"ב

Redemptive Listening

by Rabbi Jarah Greenfield

In the Torah's account of how the Israelites left Egypt, there is a moment during which Moses finds himself in the throes of a personal struggle to assert his leadership. He must speak up to Pharaoh on behalf of the enslaved people of Israel but his speech impediment dampens his confidence. When Moses tries to convey God's promise of redemption to the Israelites, they do not heed his words. He thinks that, because he doesn't speak well, nobody will listen to him. Demoralized by his apparent failure, Moses appeals to God: "Indeed the children of Israel have not listened to me, so how will Pharaoh listen, since I am a man of uncircumcised lips?" [Ex. 6:12].

The 19th century Hassidic master, Rabbi Yehudah Leib Alter of Ger, author of *Sefat Emet*, explained that the cause of Moses' inefficacy was not his speech impediment at all but rather the inability of the people to hear the message. "The prophet prophesies by the power of those who listen," he wrote. The incapacity of the people to hear Moses' words and their inability to take in the ramifications of God's promise to rescue them, is a dilemma that gives us insight and guidance on how to comprehend and confront the reality of slavery today.

There are an estimated 11-27 million slaves around the world whose overseers smuggle them across international borders, forcing them into agricultural labor, mining, prostitution, and other form of subjugation. According to Tomatoland, the recent exposé on the tomato industry, U.S. Attorney Douglas Molloy, who has spent a decade prosecuting slavery cases in Florida, asserts that "any American who has eaten a winter tomato, either purchased at a supermarket or on top of a fast food salad, has eaten a fruit picked by the

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RTBI Security Update

by Peter Cohen,
Security Task Force Chair

As was communicated previously, RTBI has decided to organize a Security Task Force with the purpose of evaluating building security and establishing safety policies and procedures. Before outlining the different initiatives the Task Force is working on, it is important to understand the priorities and limitations the Task Force is dealing with.

First and foremost, the goal is to protect the safety of the congregants and their children. Protection of our assets is important as well, but it will always take second place to the people safety issue.

The second important issue to understand is the funding of the improvements we need and want to make. RTBI has very limited funding and we must make sure to use it optimally. While there are grants available from the Department of Homeland Security, the process to obtain these funds is lengthy and, of course, not guaranteed. The Task Force has set the process in motion, but it will definitely not be completed in the near future.

As the chair of the security task force, I have been reaching out to other synagogues and security experts for advice and assistance where possible.

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Reconstructionist Temple Beth Israel of Bergen County

34 West Magnolia Avenue
Maywood, NJ 07607

Rabbi Sarah Greenfield has a direct line for RTBI calls.
You can reach her at **201-838-9824**.
You may also send email to rabbi@rtbi-online.org

In the event of an emergency, please contact
Caryn Starr-Gates at 201-791-4694 or
carynstarr@yahoo.com

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RTBI MISSION STATEMENT

Reconstructionist Temple Beth Israel is a community of open-minded people who value social justice, learning, full and equal participation, and inclusiveness. Our worship services and social action initiatives provide spiritual experiences connected to sacred moments. Our commitment to Reconstructionist Judaism confirms our continuing evolution and growth as a Jewish community in a changing world.

Oneg Shabbat

A Delicious Way to Give to the Temple

Each of our member households is expected to sponsor an oneg Shabbat (" joy of the Sabbath ") after Friday night services once during the year. Onegs—refreshments served after the service—are sponsored for happy occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, and engagements; serve to commemorate Yahrzeits and memorials; or can be sponsored " just because. " **AS PART OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP, YOU MUST SPONSOR ONE ONEG EACH YEAR.**

The sponsor is responsible for shopping and setting up the Oneg (other members can help if you are not physically able to do it yourself). For your oneg, you should buy:

Cakes, cookies, pastries—*parve and kosher dairy*

There needs to be one parve, packaged choice available.

Soft drinks, seltzer or other drinks—*with a hechsher*

Juice for Kiddush—*marked as kosher*

Fresh fruit (*cut at temple with our knives, or purchased from a produce-only or Kosher market*)

Challah for Saturday morning

You 'll be sent a letter outlining how to set up, and there are people to lend you a hand if you need one.

Please contact Alexandra Hanson-Harding at ahh13@comcast.net to sponsor an oneg shabbat

KASHRUT POLICY

Our kitchen is kosher dairy.

All food brought into the temple for snacks, onegs or meals should be parve (neutral) or dairy. You may prepare food at home *only* if you have been certified by the kashrut committee. Any prepared/packaged foods (things in packages, jars, cartons, etc.) must have a hechsher (kosher certification) mark, such as OU, Circle K, Star K or Chaf K.

Contribute to The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

This vital fund is used to help congregants who are in need or for other special situations, at the rabbi's discretion.

You may send donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund to:

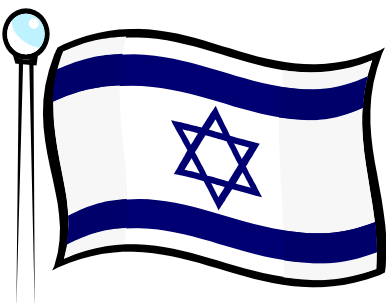
The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund—RTBI

Scholar in Residence Program at the JCC

by Roz Altman

The JCC recently held a three-part lecture series on Israel called "Light of the New Middle East, which featured Gil Lainer, counsel for Public Diplomacy at the Consulate General of Israel.

He initiated his conversation by stating that the Middle East is going through epic changes, revolutionary uprisings, and overthrow of previous leaders. Currently, according to Mr. Lainer, Israel is still the only democracy in the Middle East as democracy is not about overthrowing governments but also about education, equitable work, equal opportunities, good healthcare, etc.



Democracies are not an overnight process. These freedoms still do not exist in the countries surrounding Israel and democracy is a slow process requiring basic

educational opportunities for all classes in a society. In other words, the revolution is just the beginning and a slow emerging democracy hopefully will evolve.

Mr. Lainer believes these revolutions are also a world issue. Every country should be watching and hoping for a more democratic Middle East. The real danger is Iran since they are closer to inventing nuclear power and the atomic bomb, he said. The danger is the combination of their ideology and their nuclear development. He agrees with the sanctions proposed by our government and feels any military option is premature.

Another dangerous situation, he said, is the new Muslim leader in Turkey. Turkey and Israel were on friendly terms before the overthrow. So far the new leader has rejected Israel and has formed bonds with Syria.

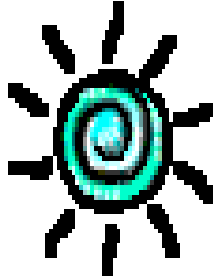
Mr. Lainer was asked a question about the settlements and he responded by saying they are not part of any agreement since

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Israel already has given up land for peace, which was never realized. Mr. Lainer would not answer any question about Israel's view of Obama since he is a current President and what is good for America is good for Israel. He did, however, praise previous President Clinton.

A discussion ensued about the poor publicity and incorrect facts that newspapers print about Israel. Mr. Lainer stated that we should refute any information and write the editor of the newspaper or call the editor and state what is correct.

On a more positive side, he stated that he is also for a two-state solution to Palestine and Israel, but as it stands now Israel cannot negotiate with Hamas. He also discussed Israel's technical achievements from cell phones, medical procedures and the Internet.



If you wish to donate to the Sunshine Fund, call Sue Coleman at 201-837-1490 or email her at suecoleman@optonline.net. When you give a donation with a message to someone, a card is sent out by Sue to that person. We now ask for a \$10 donation for a card.

TRIBUTE CARDS: *For a donation of \$18 or more, you can send someone a tribute card for special recognition. This original-art card is nicer and larger than the sunshine card. Send a check to RTBI, attn: Roz Altman, Tribute Card. Include a note with the message you'd like in the card, the name & address of the person it's going to, and how it should be signed. You can also contact Roz at rozzi0630@aol.com or 201-342-1641.*

NATHAN KITTNER

ATTORNEY AT LAW

131 MAIN STREET
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601

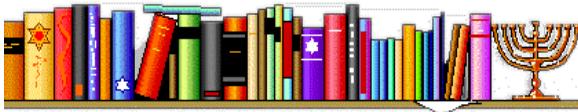
CERTIFIED CRIMINAL TRIAL ATTORNEY

email: VLSgrad@prodigy.net (201) 488-5565
FAX (201) 488-2335

Book Club News

The Book Club will meet Monday, February 13 to discuss *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak at Gloria Lieberstein's house.

They will next meet Monday, March 12 to discuss *The Finkler Question* by Howard Jacobson at Judy Baslaw's house.



RTBI BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY

- 1 Ivan Salinas
- 2 Gloria Lieberstein
- 5 Gail Sherengos
- 10 Judy Baslaw
- 12 Jade Goldstein
- 14 Jacob Hanson-Harding
- 15 Julie Goldberg
- 17 Marsha Weisfeld
- 19 Danielle Weisfeld
- 24 Linda Shapiro
- 25 Michael Bauman
- 26 Alex Shukhman and
Kyra Burdick
- 27 Peter Cohen
- 28 Alexandra Torebka



Thank you

RTBI gratefully acknowledges a donation by Judy Baslaw to the Rabbi's Discretionary fund with a "Mazel tov to Rabbi Jarah and Elizabeth."

A Guide to Jewish Practice: Everyday Living, edited by Dr. David Teutsch of the JRF, recently won the National Jewish Book Award for Contemporary Living and Practice. This is a boost for our movement and our approach to ethical and ritual issues. The book is ideal for teaching, study, or gift-giving for new members and family.



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A JOKE 4 U

Doctor Bloom, who was known for miraculous cures for arthritis, had a waiting room full of people when a little old lady, completely bent over in half, shuffled in slowly, leaning on her cane. When her turn came she went into the doctor's office.



Amazingly, she emerged within half an hour walking completely erect with her head held high.

A woman in the waiting room who had seen all this walked up to the little old lady and said, "It's a miracle! You walked in half bent over and now you're walking erect. What did that doctor do?"

She answered, "Miracle, shmiracl... He gave me a longer cane."

JRF Salutes NY/NJ

Please save the date so you can join JRF's New York/New Jersey Chapters in JRF's salute to us - our congregations and our accomplishments as a congregational movement over the years: March 12, 2012 at 6:00 pm at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, 36 Battery Place in New York.



As the JRF and the RRC (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College) continue towards restructuring the movement, we are taking this opportunity to celebrate the legacy of our first half-century as a congregational movement. We are putting together a Legacy book which will highlight JRF and our communities. We will recognize every congregation, their leadership and self-defined major achievements.

Kitchen Wish List

- *Glass soup bowls—one dozen
 - *White or black coffee mugs (one dozen)
- Thank you to Roz & Gloria for donating the others!*

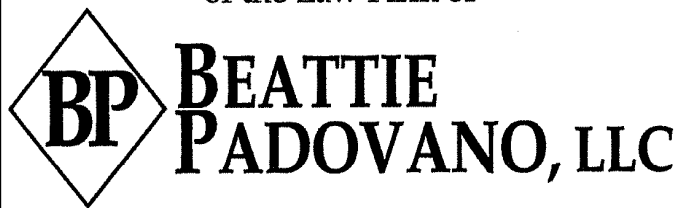
HUNGER IN NEW JERSEY



On Friday, February 10th at 7:30 PM (before services), RTBI will be presenting a program on Hunger in NJ. The volunteer coordinator from the Community Food Bank in Hillside will address our congregation on this growing problem and what our community can do to help.

Please bring non-perishables (no glass or expired items) or supermarket gift cards to be donated to the Food Bank.

Steven A. Weisfeld, Member
of the Law Firm of



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FEBRUARY EVENTS

Friday, February 3 at 8pm

Erev Shabbat Services
Led by Caryn

Saturday, February 4 at 10am

Shabbat Services and Torah Study
Led by Student Cantor Lois

Sunday, February 5 at 11am

Tu b'Shevat Community Seder
Please RSVP to Ivan at ivangs1@juno.com ASAP

Friday, February 10 at 7:30pm

"Hunger in NJ" program with the Community Food Bank in Hillside.

Please bring non-perishables (no glass or expired items) or supermarket gift cards to donate to the Food Bank

8pm - Erev Shabbat Services

Led by Rabbi Jarah

Saturday, February 11

No Morning Services

4:45pm - Havdalah Services with Bat Mitzvah of Jade Goldstein

Sunday, February 12 from noon to 2pm

*Judaism in Your Own
Hands: Learning to Lead
Kabbalat Shabbat ser-
vices, A Four Session
Class through RTBI*

Subsequent sessions are
Sundays, 2/19, 2/26 and
3/4

Cost: \$10 fee for audio

CDs. Students must own a copy of Siddur Kol
Haneshamah. Register by February 10 by emailing
Rabbi Jarah Greenfield at rabbi@rtbi-online.org

This class is for those who want to expand their
knowledge of Jewish prayer and learn to become a
shaliach/shalichat tzibbur (prayer leader). We will be
learning and practicing the nusach (musical modes for
particular sections of the service) and main prayers
sung aloud in Kabbalat Shabbat services, including
traditional nusach, Carlbach and other contemporary
melodies. We will be working from the Kol HaNeshama
Shabbat V'Hagim Siddur (student should purchase if
they don't already own one). Open to anyone with a
comfort in Hebrew reading and general familiarity with
the Friday evening service. Class is led by Rabbi Jarah
Greenfield.



Friday, February 17 at 8pm

Shir Hadash Services
Led by Student Cantor Lois

Saturday, February 18

No Services

Friday, February 24 and Saturday, February 25

No Services

OTHER EVENTS

Saturday, February 4: Sweet Tastes of Torah III Fair Lawn Jewish Center, 10-10 Norma Avenue, Fair Lawn

Join the North Jersey Board of Rabbis for a
community night of solidarity, learning, discussion,
music, and fun!

The offerings this year are inspired by Shabbat
Shirah, or Shabbat of Song that falls this year on
February 3-4. It derives its name from the Shirat
Hayam/ Song of the Sea. Having safely crossed the Yam
Soof or Red Sea, Moses and the people of Israel
joyously sang the very first song in Jewish history. And
so, *hava nashira*, let's study together the music and
the rhythms of Jewish life!

Musical Havdalah begins promptly at 6:50 p.m.
followed by two one-hour sessions of classes; more
than 25 North Jersey rabbis will teach. Dessert and
schmoozing to follow.

**\$15 per person preregistered by Thursday,
February 2; \$20 (cash or check only) at door.**

Register online by credit card or send a check payable
to: North Jersey Board of Rabbis, 32 Franklin Place,
Glen Rock, NJ 07452. For registration or info, see
www.jfnnj.org under "Upcoming Events."

Heart to Heart Journey to Israel: February 4-10 Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy Journey to Israel.

Land-only cost: \$2,200 double occupancy/\$500 single
supplement. Group flights coordinated through Gil
Travel. Hotel: David Intercontinental Tel Aviv.

**For information, contact Jodi Heimler ,
jodih@jfnnj.org or 201-820-3952.**

Tuesday, February 7 at 7:30

Eden Village Camp Open House in Teaneck

Learn about an innovative Jewish environmental
sleepaway camp only an hour away from Maywood that
focuses on organic farming & food, wilderness
connection, creative arts and a Jewish approach to
environmentalism and spirituality.

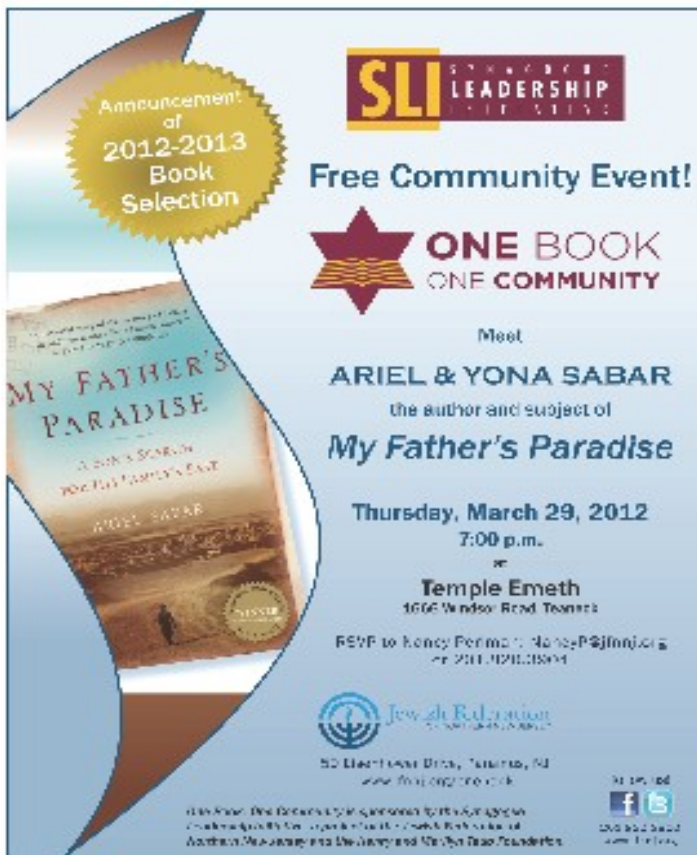
3rd-11th grade campers and apprentices develop
leadership, community-living and outdoor skills, explore
a vibrant food culture, and awaken their sense of
purpose, joy, and positive Jewish identity.

The experience includes goat-milking, the most
delicious kosher food of any camp, farming, cooking,
herbalism, natural science, joyful Shabbat celebration
and Jewish practice, pottery, swimming and more ... all
within a kind, earth-based, diverse Jewish community.
All led by exceptional staff role models in a 3:1
camper:staff ratio. Sessions are 7 weeks, 4 weeks, 3
weeks and 6 days. **E-mail 118events@gmail.com for
details and directions.**

Calling all artists! Explore the beauties of nature in
northern New Jersey and Nahariya. Tell your story
through art. Contest is open to all, 18 years of age and
older. All media, including video. Deadline for
submission, March 12. Reception, April 29. Four winners
will travel to Israel to participate in the
Partnership2Gether exhibit in our sister city, Nahariya,
May-June. For information, **contact Sarit Ron,
saritr@jfnnj.org or 201-820-3907.**

February 2012 8 Shevat 5772 - 6 Adar 5772

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8 SHEVAT	2 9 SHEVAT	3 10 SHEVAT	4 11 SHEVAT
					4:55 8pm Erev Shabbat Services	Beshalach 10am Shabbat Services and Torah Study
5 12 SHEVAT	6 13 SHEVAT	7 14 SHEVAT	8 15 SHEVAT	9 16 SHEVAT	10 17 SHEVAT	11 18 SHEVAT
11am Tu B'Shevat Seder			Tu B'Shvat	7pm Board Meeting	5:04 7:30 pm Hunger in NJ Speaker 8pm Erev Shabbat Services	Yisro No Morning Services 4:45 Havdalah Services and Bat Mitzvah of Jade Goldstein
12 19 SHEVAT	13 20 SHEVAT	14 21 SHEVAT	15 22 SHEVAT	16 23 SHEVAT	17 24 SHEVAT	18 25 SHEVAT
Lincoln's Birthday 12 noon Judaism in Your Own Hands Class					5:13 8pm Shir Hadash Services	Mishpatim Parshas Shekalim No Services
19 26 SHEVAT	20 27 SHEVAT	21 28 SHEVAT	22 29 SHEVAT	23 30 SHEVAT	24 1 ADAR	25 2 ADAR
12 noon Judaism in Your Own Hands Class 2	Washington's Birthday (observed)			Rosh Chodesh Adar - Day 1	Rosh Chodesh Adar - Day 2 5:21 No Services	Tierumah No Services
26 3 ADAR	27 4 ADAR	28 5 ADAR	29 6 ADAR			
12 noon Judaism in Your Own Hands Class 3						



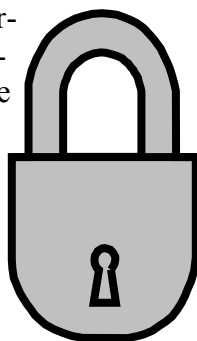
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Security is something which concerns all of us and therefore involves all of us. It is important that all RTBI members and others using the building are aware of the policies and procedures being implemented and, even more important, abide them. We will be looking for volunteers for different aspects of the changes we are introducing. We need everyone to always be alert to potential security problems: **WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING – SAY SOMETHING!**

The very first change the Task Force has implemented concerns the use of the doors. There are three outside doors at RTBI:

- The entrance to the Sanctuary.
- The side entrance used to enter the classrooms in the rear part of the building.
- The emergency door in the back of the classroom building.

We have arranged for the installation of new and more effective locks for the Sanctuary and side entrances. New keys will be issued only to a small number of individuals who hold leadership and employment positions.



Continued previous column

In addition, a new policy has been put into effect requiring all doors always to be locked except in limited circumstances. At any time only one door is allowed to be open and as long as a door is unlocked, there must be a greeter at the door. We are looking for volunteers to be greeters. For services, only the Sanctuary entrance and not the side entrance will be used.

Only one door will be open at a time, and staffed by a volunteer greeter.

At any other time, please use the doorbell next to the side door to request entrance into the building. The rear emergency door leads to a small hallway and then into the back yard. There is a light on in the hallway at all times and the door **MUST** always be accessible.

In addition to these changes, the CLC will start holding fire drills and the principal of the school will be responsible to plan and execute those.

It is important that the vegetation around the temple is kept well-trimmed so as to increase visibility around the temple. Especially in the rear portion of the yard near where the emergency door exits, there is a great need for a cleanup. This spring the temple will organize a yard cleaning. We will need as many able-bodied volunteers as possible.

This brings us to the lighting outside the temple. Currently there are outdoor spotlights that are switched on manually. We are looking to replace these with motion-sensitive lights as well as adding additional motion-sensitive spotlights in key areas.

Many people have asked about installing surveillance cameras. We are currently seeking the assistance of security experts in order to determine what specific surveillance equipment would best meet our needs. In keeping with this goal, we have arranged for a thorough security assessment of our building through the Bergen County Prosecutor's office.

Together with the Maywood police department, the prosecutor's office will do a security assessment of our temple and provide us with a report which will outline additional security measures they think will benefit the temple.



Yahrzeits



It is customary to attend services on the Shabbat before the yahrzeit to say Kaddish.

Celia Epstein February 12 Shevat 19
Marguerite Goodman February 15 Shevat 22

Remember, Hebrew days begin at sunset, so light candles on the evening preceding the civil date.

Continued from page 1

hand of a slave.”

Will we listen to this prophecy?

Slave labor is part of the chain of supply that leads to the production of all kinds of items, from the clothes we wear to the food we eat. The economics of slavery works because we live within the confines of a market that values convenience, novelty, and materialism over human rights.

Today, in most of the instances in which slavery cases are discovered and prosecuted, the slaves themselves recognize the injustice of their situation and find the courage to speak up. Will the rest of us—who are not slavemasters, but who benefit from goods produced by slaves—have the courage to listen and to speak up as well?

If we do not listen, we are, like our Israelites ancestors, unable to hear God’s promise of redemption. We must instead listen and imagine a changed reality in which our freedom from slave-tainted goods is linked to the freedom of the estimated 11-27 million people currently enslaved in the world.

Hearing the cry of oppression requires actualizing a sacred commitment. We can derive wisdom for the human realm from the example set by God, who hears the cries of the Israelites and responds. Through our own redemptive power, we can free one another from the bonds of Egypt.

The Key Services Guide for Older Adults in Bergen County is now available online.



It contains useful information and can be downloaded here:

<http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/seniors1/>

“Busy 3s”

Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County announces an exciting addition to its family -- “Busy 3s”, its new, innovative program for 3-year-olds slated to open September 2012.

Schechter’s Busy-3s features an “inquiry-based” & thematic approach to learning that inspires curiosity and creativity while promoting social skills, self-confidence and independence. Jewish holidays and customs come to life through joyful, creative story, song, and play. Hebrew and Spanish languages are introduced through movement, music and cooking – and much, much more. Busy 3s benefits from all that Schechter has to offer, including its state-of-the-art indoor and outdoor facilities, optional hot lunch program, and complimentary after-care.



For more about half-day or full-day options, contact Director of Admissions Sarah Sokolic at 201-262-9898 x203 or ssoklic@ssdsbergen.org. The school is centrally located at 275 McKinley Avenue in New Milford.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN IS ALWAYS THE 20TH OF THE MONTH
e-mail: rtbibulletin@yahoo.com

 www.torahlady.com

Available for Life Cycle events:

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Torah chanting lessons

Bar and Bat Mitzvah tutor

LOIS KITTNER
201.343.2107

RTBI’s Congregational Cantor



*Greetings
From
Our
Friend
Mark
Kaplow*



34 West Magnolia Avenue
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A Contemporary Look at Tradition