



T H E
Menorah
N E W S L E T T E R

The Official News Bulletin of Congregation B'nai Israel

September 2011

www.bisrael.com

Elul-Tishrei 5771

A MESSAGE FROM OUR RABBI

COMMUNITY: CBI AND BEYOND

At a rabbinic retreat I attended a few years ago, the organizers asked everyone to describe his or her community in one word. It was a useful exercise with some humorous outcomes. It forced each of us to consider what we mean when we say “community” (most rabbis considered “community” a synonym for “synagogue”) and what quality most profoundly shapes and defines that community.

Of course, the choices were purposely constrained. In real life, we aren’t confined to one word or quality – or to just one community. In Hebrew, the very word “community” has multiple, rich meanings.

Two Hebrew synonyms are translated as “community” in English: *chevrah* and *kehillah*. *Chevrah* comes from the same root as *chaver*, meaning friend or member. (It’s inspiring, as we welcome new members at this time of year, to realize that the two words are not separable in Hebrew.) Community certainly, among other things, derives from and gives rise to friendships. The same root – *ch.v.r* – also means notebook, composition, and corporation. What they all have in common is connection. (The verbal form of *ch.v.r* means “to connect” or “to join.”) Pages are bound into a notebook; ideas are ordered and connected coherently to form a composition; the dictionary definition of “corporation” is “a group of persons united in one body.” Connection is the hallmark of community. We join a synagogue community to connect with God, ourselves, fellow members, the Jewish people, and humanity.

Kehillah, sometimes translated as “assembly,” comes from the root *k.h.l.* meaning to gather or

be gathered. Community can’t be cultivated alone or even in small groups. Community helps us discover the connections among more than just the few people whom we already know. That is one reason it’s so important for people to attend the Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies of children in the congregation, even when they aren’t (yet) personal friends of the family. This aspect of community also explains why it is so healing when members – known and unknown to the deceased – gather to make a *shiva* minyan. We all need community, and every person has a great deal to contribute to it – even (and sometimes especially) by his or her very presence.

In *The Spirituality of Welcoming*, Ron Wolfson offers the following diagnosis and prescription for synagogue communities. He says that most synagogue members consider themselves guests in shul. They are polite and respectful. They don’t like to come empty handed. They are excellent guests. But what synagogues need more of – and what members would derive more meaning from – is hosting. When members see themselves as hosts, the synagogue becomes a second home to them. They reach out to greet newcomers, as if greeting someone in their own living room. The community becomes more welcoming and more loving.

I encourage you to see yourself as *connected*, as a *friend* at and of CBI, among the many who *gather* together and bring their own contributions to the entire *assembly*. Most of all, I hope that you will feel like a *host*, as well as an honored guest.

This principle applies not just within our synagogue, but beyond it. More and more, CBI is relating to the wider Jewish community as a friend, community member, and host. Our Dalet and Hey

students participate in the Kehillah Partnership program with other area Hebrew Schools. We are one of four local synagogues who have formed a pilot partnership with the YJCC. This year, we will again be part of UJA’s Mitzvah Day by feeding the homeless, and we have plans, already, to join the Israel Day Parade. We have strengthened our ties to Israel with programming for adults and children at the synagogue. Our Hebrew School Students raised funds for and connected with Yemin Orde, a youth village and orphanage in Israel afflicted by arson last December.

The Temple reached out to the non-Jewish community, as well. At our recent rummage sale, thanks to volunteers from Sisterhood and our Social Action Committee, we raised one thousand times *chai* (\$1,800) for the Westwood Community Hospice and connected with our neighbors in the process. I have connected with local rabbis, priests, and ministers, and we are working on community-building. Inter-faith services are planned for the anniversary of 9/11, Thanksgiving, and Martin Luther King weekend. In the past year, CBI raised funds and awareness for victims in Japan, Haiti, and Darfur. As a gift to the community in honor of my installation, I subscribed CBI as a member of Jewish World Watch, a collective of congregations who help the victims of genocide around the world and work to prevent future catastrophes.

There is more we are doing and can yet do. But it all starts with the awareness: “I am a member, friend, and host of community.”

I welcome your feedback and your participation on this subject. After all, we’re all in this together.

Rabbi Debra Orenstein

CANTOR'S CORNER

From the time I was nine, I wanted to go to the US Naval Academy. I watched a zillion war films growing up, but none got to me more than the films about the Navy: *They Were Expendable... Crash Dive... We Dive at Dawn*. I loved *The Long Gray Line* as well, but the Army never floated my boat (no pun intended).

I doubted there were any Yeshiva boys at the Academy, but so what?

"You won't be marching to the beat of your own drum there," my dad said, which I found to be true on my first day in my college ROTC program. A senior was inspecting us and, when he looked at my uniform (I was missing my name plate), he said: "Where's your name plate, son?" I looked him in the eye and said: "First of all, I'm not your freaking son!" There's more to the story, but you get the point.

So when Shelly and I headed south this past July 4th weekend, our first stop was Annapolis. It was Induction Day when we got there. What a thrill: 1200 new midshipmen and their parents. My eyes teared up picturing myself in that crisp white uniform. What a difference my life might have been had I attended the Academy.

We took the tour, and the more I walked, the more I wondered. We found what I was looking for hidden in the back of one of the buildings: an absolutely beautiful Synagogue for Jewish Midshipmen. There was a box at the entrance and I took a Navy blue, hand-knitted Kipah with a gold star in the center.

A man walked over, I told him who we were and he took us on a tour of the "Jewish museum" of the Naval Academy. On display was a Torah from a Czechoslovakian town wiped out by the

Nazis. Over the year, the name of every single Jew from that town is read on erev Shabbat and, in that way, remembered. The Torah was opened to The Song at The Sea (Exodus 15:1-18) – gee, what a surprise: a Torah at the Naval Academy open to The Song at the Sea!

David, our guide, had incredible knowledge about the myriad Jews who'd attended Annapolis. He spoke of those who never admitted their religious affiliation...and those who stood up to defend their rights as Americans to worship any way they chose. We stayed longer than planned at the Academy, but having David give us the Jewish history tour of the U.S.N.A., was worth every second.

As we finished our visit, I told David, "I'm working real hard not to steal this beautiful yarmulke." He laughed, led us into a closet in the back, and pulled down a hat. "Here," he said. "This is for you!" The back read: "Jewish Midshipmen Club, US Naval Academy." He turned it around and we almost fell down laughing. There was the Navy mascot, Bill the Goat, wearing a kipah, clutching a Torah, surrounded by Hebrew letters that spelled out: GO NAVY, BEAT ARMY!

There are times when one second guesses the choices he's made. That day was one of those for me. But I will tell you unequivocally that there has never been a day at CBI where I have second guessed my choice to stay.

The Mandel family – Shelly, Stacie, Wayne, Dylan, Ari, Spencer, Lotte & Cantor Lenny – pray that this New Year brings joy to your lives, and puts smiles on your faces as that hat did to us. May you all enjoy a sweet, healthy and prosperous year.

Cantor Lenny Mandel

THE Menorah NEWSLETTER

The Official News Bulletin of Congregation B'nai Israel
53 Palisade Ave., Emerson, NJ 07630

Temple Office:	(201) 265-2272
Rabbi Debra Orenstein	(201) 265-2272
Cantor Lenny Mandel	(973) 325-1778
Cantor Emeritus	Sidney Derner
Temple Fax	(201) 265-0971
Temple Website	www.bisrael.com
Temple E-Mail	Bnaioffice@bisrael.com

MENORAH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Articles due 5th of preceding month. E-mail articles to Menorah@bisrael.com. Questions? Call 201-768-9661.

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Refer to www.bisrael.com for officer e-mails.

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SISTERS IN THE HOOD

August may be the “dog days of summer,” but Sisterhood had lots going on. We led the Friday night service on August 5, focusing on Jewish heroines. The Oneg was sponsored by Renee Kuperinsky, in honor of all of the special Jewish women in her family and in our synagogue. And then Sunday morning, August 7, we worked off our bagel breakfast with Victoria Pasher and Lori Yoselow leading a Latin dance exercise class. Book club enjoyed discussing *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett over dinner, followed by watching the recently released movie version. In September, the group is reading Willa Cather’s *My Antonia*. If you’d like to receive e-mails about the book club, let Lisa know.

September starts Sisterhood’s busy season. Please remember to renew your membership (or join for the first time) -- you’ll find the membership form in the newsletter. Two events are planned for September. The first is a **holiday cooking lesson with**

Warren on Sunday, September 18, at 10am. We’ll learn how to make a chicken main course for the holidays and recipes will be distributed. Please RSVP to Lisa if you can come. **On Sunday, September 25, Sisterhood will hold a Meet and Greet for new and returning members** in the Temple lobby. Stop by between 10:00 and 11:30am for coffee, tea, lively conversation, and Lisa’s spiced-honey chocolate cake (a great way to finish your holiday dinner; copies of the recipe will be available.)

In October, we’ll be teaming with the Social Action Committee to support two walks – the **American Cancer Society’s Making Strides against Breast Cancer (Oct. 16)** and the **Walk to End Alzheimer’s Disease (Oct. 23)**. Watch for information on how you can participate (we are looking for a team captain for the breast cancer walk; let Nancy know if you can help).

Lisa Pollack, Audra Bida & Nancy Passow
Sisterhood Co-Chairs

HOLIDAY TICKETS 2011/5772

Adult members in good financial standing (paid up to date including 20% of this year’s dues) will be receiving High Holiday tickets in the mail by the end of August. Children of members who are under the age of 25 are admitted without tickets.

Additional tickets are needed per the following guidelines:

Tickets for children of members who have reached their 25th birthday must be purchased for \$75 per ticket.

Tickets for family members of all ages who are not CBI members (parents, grandparents, grandchildren etc.), must be purchased for \$75 per ticket.

All other outside visitors are \$200 per ticket.

- A ticket is required regardless if attending one day or all days of the holy days.
- A ticket is the same price regardless if attending one day or all days of the holy days.

Tickets are non-transferable.

Please contact **Bruce Sonkin** at 201-358-0129 (day or evening) for additional tickets and/or information.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2011/5772

SELICHOT

Saturday, September 24 9:00 P.M.

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, September 28 7:00 P.M. (Evening Services)

ROSH HASHANAH

Thursday, September 28 9:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:00 A.M.

EREV SHABBAT SHUVA

Friday, September 30 7:00 P.M.

SHABBAT SHUVAH

Saturday, October 1 10:00 A.M.

EREV YOM KIPPUR

Friday, October 7 6:00 P.M.

YOM KIPPUR

Saturday, October 8 9:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:00 A.M.
Healing Service 4:30 P.M.
Mincha, Neilah, Havdalah, Tekiya'ah Gedolah 5:45 P.M.

EREV SUKKOT

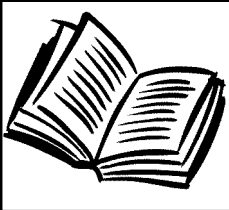
Wednesday, October 12 7:30 P.M.

SHMINI ATZERET

Thursday, October 20 7:30 P.M.-Yiskor

SIMCHAT TORAH

Thursday, October 20 7:30 P.M.-Yiskor



EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

L'Shana Tova and welcome back to Hebrew School! We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. Please note that our first day of Hebrew School is scheduled for Sunday, September 11, 2011. Children in grades Aleph through Hey are required to attend the Sunday morning minyan at 9:00 AM. Hebrew school ends at 11:30 AM. Pre-Aleph (Prozdor) children are welcome and encouraged to attend minyan, if accompanied by a parent. We encourage parents to stay for minyan and a quick bagel brunch to follow. It is a great way to learn the service and meet the B'nai Israel family.

Our Principal, Zahava Gall, and our entire staff of teachers will be returning, along with Rabbi Orenstein. We welcome back Morah Carmelle, Morah Debbie, Morah Sarit, and Moreh Simon.

A reminder: your children should bring the following to every Hebrew School class:

- Supplies – 1-inch binder (any color) filled with 5 binder dividers and loose leaf paper, a 2-pocket folder, and pens or sharpened pencils.
- Snack – we suggest your child bring a healthy kosher snack, e.g., pretzels, piece of fruit.

Parent meetings will be scheduled throughout the year. These are a great time to ask questions, provide us with suggestions or comments, and just get to know the other parents of your children's Hebrew school friends. We will also be scheduling a classroom visitation day.

Also in store for our Hebrew School children: Junior Congregation services for the High

Holidays, These will be held both mornings of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning, and will include prayers, songs and Torah reading. More details on Junior Congregation will be included with your High Holiday tickets. We need volunteers, both adult and post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah, to assist with Junior Congregation and pre-Prozdor babysitting. Please contact one of us if you would like to help.

Hebrew School graduates are also welcome to come back and assist with tutoring of prayers for kids who need a little extra help. If your child is interested, please contact Zahava Gall at principal@bisrael.com or just let us know. It's a great way to get community service credit.

*Val Weinstein & Lori Aisenman
Education Co-Chairs*

RITUAL

It's hard to believe that the summer is over. Hope everyone stayed cool during the hot spells and had a relaxing couple of months. We thank those members who helped cool our spirits by leading our Friday and Sunday summer services, especially Charlotte Milchman, and Gabe and Mikah Green. We also thank Audrey Bida, Nancy Passow, and Lisa Pollack, and all the "sisters" who participated in a beautiful Sisterhood Shabbat that honored our Jewish Heroines. The service was lovely and informative as we learned about inspiring Jewish women.

On August 13th, Congregation B'nai Israel hosted a "Tot Shabbat Hopping" service and lunch in conjunction with UJA's PJ Library program for young children. The sweet story, "Bagels from Benny," was presented using puppets and interactive storytelling. What a delightful time we had with this wonderful story and making new friends.

On August 25th, Rabbi Orenstein led a class called "Cracking the Code." She discussed nusach (the melodies for High Holiday and Shabbat services) and trope (melodies for chanting the Torah). The class was quite enlightening. It taught us the meaning behind the melodies we chant on different occasions and was good preparation for the High Holiday services.

Looking forward, our highly acclaimed Tailgate Shabbat is on September 9th. It's always fun to gather under the stars, dressed in our favorite football jerseys, singing and praying together. Thanks in advance to our own Bobby Flay's: George Liepmann, Bruce Weinberg, and David Spatz, for their BBQ mastery.

Our popular Inter Generational Drumming Circle will be held on Friday, September 23, 7-8pm. On Saturday, September 24, we usher

in the High Holidays with a Selichot service, led by Rabbi Orenstein and Cantor Mandel at 9pm. She will introduce new music and poetry while dressing the Torahs in pure white covers for the High Holidays. Rosh Hashana Services will begin at 9am on Thursday, September 29th and 30th. We hope that children, 12 years and older, will attend. Junior Congregation Services, for 8 -11 year olds, will begin at 10am both days. Children, 5-7 years old, are invited to attend Junior Congregation with a parent. Babysitting will be available for children under 5.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER:

Friday, October 7: Kol Nidre Service, 6 -9pm

Saturday, October 8: Yom Kippur Service, 9am-4pm; Yom Kippur Healing Service (contact the Rabbi if you wish to participate) 4:30-5:30pm; Mincha, Neillah, Havdallah services 5:45-7:15pm

Wednesday, October 12: Erev Sukkot service, 7:30-9pm

Friday, October 14: Sukkot buffet dinner, 6:00pm, followed by a Rock & Roll Casual Shabbat , 7:30-9pm

Saturday, October 15: Family Shabbat and lunch, 10:45-11:30am; Dalet/Hey Learning service, 10-11:30am

Thursday, October 20: Yizkor Services, 7:30-8:30am, and Simchat Torah Services, 7:30-8:30pm

Friday, October 28: Inter Generational Drumming Circle, 7-8pm

*See you in Shul!
Linda Spatz, Judy Schoenfeld
Ritual Co-chairs*

President's Pen

*Programs are filling up our calendar with fun, food, and prayer
CBI is creative and busy with clergy and committees who care
But a little help from you makes a difference so grand
Please be a part of who we are and offer to lend a hand*

Rosh Hashanah is still a few weeks away. So, this is a good time to reflect a bit on the year that is coming to an end and take a brief look at some of what's to come. It has been another full year at CBI – a year filled with fun, programs, services and new members' faces. It's also been a year for coming to terms with the departures of dear friends and fellow congregants and expressing our condolences to those who lost family members.

Our new fiscal year began on July 1st and programs and services are being scheduled. Monthly Casual Shabbat services continue, beginning with our annual **Tailgate Shabbat on Friday, September 9th**. As we approach the High Holidays, Rabbi Orenstein will lead a **High Holiday workshop on September 13th** and Hebrew School begins on the 11th, with Sisterhood's cooking class (18th), and its annual Meet and Greet (25th) soon after. Our ever-popular **Inter-Generational Drumming Circle returns on the 23rd** and **Selichot services on the 24th** will bring 5771 to an end. September ends and 5772 begins with **erev Rosh Hashanah services on the 28th**, and then Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah will bring us together in October.

As always, I look forward to seeing my B'nai Israel family as we gather to worship, have musical and spiritual experiences, and of course, share

a bagel or two. I treasure seeing how we support one another, not only in critical times of need, but when we just pitch in as an extra pair of hands. CBI is already a community of people who do it all. We set up weekly bagel breakfasts...shop for and prepare all those Shabbat and hot dog dinners...assemble and take down the sukkah.

And more: our young family programs are growing – Shabbat morning Family Programs and UJA's Shalom Baby and Mom's Night Out...all need help with set up. Simply putting out, then putting away chairs for Adult Education classes is a mitzvah. And the larger Jewish Community needs you, too – whether supporting Israel through our Focus On Israel Committee, doing mitzvot through Social Action, or joining the YJCC to show support of our local Jewish Community Center. **Give of your time. Participate in the programs you already enjoy...but try out a few new ones, too.**

Your Board wants to meet your needs and help you experience our Jewish community on many levels. **But we need your help to make CBI everything you want it to be.** CBI support is boundless and provided without hesitation. While your financial support is always valued, your time and effort mean so very much – and the feeling you gain is wonderful indeed. Be a part of that support system and smile, knowing you have done so.

*Looking forward to seeing you,
Naomi Weinberg, President*



The Principal's Pen

Shalom Chaverim,

I hope you had a wonderful and restful summer. This summer, as usual, I travelled to Israel. As always, I had a great time and learned a lot. There is so much to see, in such a small place. All the archaeological work is quite amazing. I always come back from Israel energized, ready to work, and full of joy.

Last year, we had a fabulous school year. The students learned and accomplished so much, making tremendous progress in all our academic subjects. In our school, we have the opportunity to learn together about our rich Jewish heritage, studying different aspects of Jewish life through both historical and modern perspectives. We try to ensure that each child explores our Jewish heritage in a challenging, yet nurturing environment. It is also important for our students to become familiar with the Siddur and the prayers – and last year's Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations were testament to how far our students are able to go.

To help us fulfill our educational goals, we have an amazing, experienced teaching staff. Our teachers provide a strong resource and support network that motivates the students. We are lucky to have the same teachers from last year: Rabbi Debra, Morah Carmelle, Morah Debbie K, Morah Sarit, Moreh Simon and myself. We will also have a special guest teacher, Morah Hanna. This is a very strong group of educators and the continuity of our staff is so important. In addition, we have Lori and Val doing an amazing job as our leaders. But we also need your support and cooperation if we are to achieve our objectives.

I am looking forward to a great and successful year. We begin the school year with the holiday of Rosh Hashanah, which literally means the "head of the year." It is customary on Rosh Hashana to eat different foods that symbolize sweetness and abundance for the new year. L' Shana Tova, B'ehatzlacha. I hope you have a sweet and abundant year.

*Le'hitraot,
Zahava*

SAC EXCHANGE

We hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer. But now that summer is winding down, it's time to roll up our sleeves and get involved in the community! First on the agenda is our annual High Holiday Food Drive for the Center for Food Action that runs September 11th to October 9th. Food pantries are experiencing severe shortages, so please help SAC support our most vulnerable and needy neighbors by donating urgently needed items to replenish supplies. Please see the flier and the "Shul Shmooz" for more details.

Next, we are joining forces with Sisterhood in the fight against breast cancer and Alzheimer's by participating in two walk-a-thons. The first is the American Cancer Society's Making Strides against Breast Cancer walk-a-thon on Sunday, Oct. 16th. Then, for the third straight year, we'll be doing the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's at Van Saun Park (see flyer) on Sunday, Oct 23rd. To register, visit www.alz.org/nj and sign up to join the CBI/Emerson team. Save these dates, watch for more information in the October Menorah,

and make a commitment to do your part to end Alzheimer's and breast cancer. Start now by asking your friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers to be your sponsors!

Upcoming events: Mark your calendars to participate in Mitzvah Day, which is on Sunday, November 6th. SAC is planning to hit the road again to serve a full-course dinner at the shelter in Hackensack. FYI: Attention kids & parents! For Mitzvah Day this year, we will be collecting school supplies for children in need. So when you go back-to-school shopping, please keep this in mind and pick up a few extra items.

Please join SAC at the year's first planning meeting on Sunday, Sept. 11th, at 10:30am. We welcome your ideas! Please contact Judy at socialactionjn@bisrael.com or Renee at socialactionrk@bisrael.com, or 201-967-0074, if you have questions or comments.

—Co-Chairs
Renee & Judy

SAC Rummage Sale!



CBI presenting Community Hospice with a check for \$1805



Pastor Tom Korkuch of Westwood United Methodist Church presenting CBI with \$500 check

GREETINGS FROM THE CBI MEN'S CLUB

TIME TO "BUTTON UP YOUR MAN SUIT"

Yes, indeed, it is time for all the men of CBI to answer the call...come to the aid of your party...button up your man suit...(insert your hackneyed saying here). It is the new year – or will be in a few short weeks – and we have things to do.

What those things are...well, you'll have to wait for the October issue of the Menorah, when the year will become clear.

But right now, we just need you to say you'll JOIN – dues are **only \$36 a year**. Go ahead, shop around -- I can guarantee you aren't going to get a better deal than that. Just email me at

mensclubdg@bisrael.com, and let me know you're joining the team.

Oh, and mark these dates on your calendar – October 9 (put up) and October 23 (take down) – when we do battle with the new Sukkah, which they tell me won't require nearly the battle it usually did. See, this Men's Club thing just gets easier and easier.

So, give me some men who are stout-hearted men....

L'shana Tova
David Gordon

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

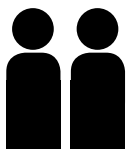
The Buzz about B'Nai

Membership is quite active as we reach the peak of our recruiting season right before the high holidays. Our rabbi has done a great job selling the temple by getting the word out and being accessible to the community. The "Buzz about B'Nai" is resonating strongly. We booked five new families through the first week of August and believe we will double that by Rosh Hashana. Our prospect list is well over a dozen. Membership welcomes the new families: the Kaufmans, Paulens, Haydens, Schwartzs and Shashouas. Three of the families are from Hillsdale (Lets Go Hawks). Many thanks to Sara Robinson, who worked the front end of recruiting, as well as volunteers Andrea Collier and Carol Aferiat, and our existing members who made referrals.

We're on the hunt for more. On **August 11th**, we had our Open House BBQ. Thanks to everyone who attended and made prospective new members feel welcome. We have had a lot of interest in the temple this year, making us feel good about buying new grills to handle the [hot] dog days of summer, as well as the future load.

RECRUITMENT INNOVATIONS

The Rabbi and Membership met in July to discuss new ways to build membership. Here are some of the ideas.



Buddy System – Match up new members with existing members to help ease them into the CBI community. Have the new member over for Shabbat dinner. Bring them along to a drumming circle.

To make the buddy system more convenient, we may match new members with existing members from their town. If you want to

volunteer to be a buddy, let Membership know.



Welcome Baskets – Arrange and send welcome baskets to Jewish people who move into the area. The baskets would include information packets already printed by *The Record*, *Pascack Press* and *Jewish Standard*, coupons for local merchants, and other welcoming items. One of our members in real estate would obtain lists of new families moving into area. If you have other ideas for our baskets, please let me know.



Meet and Greets – The Rabbi hosts socials with different groupings that include new members, e.g., same occupation, same town, same hobbies or special interest. We're also thinking about a New Member Havdalah Dinner in November.

These ideas are just a start. In the coming year, Membership is going to operate as a real "committee": in addition to Sara, Andrea and Carol, Naomi Weinberg and Sheryl Silver have worked tirelessly and brought great experience to the table. Many thanks to them all for their help in keeping the existing membership happy and continuing to grow the base. Email me if you have other ideas or want to help out in any way. My email address is membership@bisrael.com.

Happy holidays to all.
Bruce Kasper



What if you could “friend” Elijah instead of just putting out a glass a wine for him on the Pesach table? What if you could “like” Moses’ presentation of the tablets? The Levinsky College of Education in Tel Aviv has developed a method of teaching the Bible through social media. Students are going on Facebook and learning about the wars, heroism...and marital status of Biblical characters.

The new instruction program, called “The Bible on Facebook,” was developed by Dr. Ilan Abekasis and Shirley Natan-Yulzari. “Personal profiles” were opened for most Biblical characters and information is given about the marital status, professions and habits of these heroes. The personal profile of Elijah, for example, notes that he is employed by God and that his main profession is to “root out the idolatry of King Ahab.” The relationship status of Bathsheba says she is married to King David after he sent Uriah the Hittite to die in war. The profile of David’s daughter, Tamar, says she’s in a relationship with her brother Amnon, after he fell in love with her and brutally raped her.

When a student “likes” one of the characters, a window opens with an assignment related to the study material, which combines links to songs and clips on YouTube.

Both teachers and students have been pleased with the new program. The college has been asked to develop programs for other subjects as well. With Bible studies suffering from bad PR, the enthusiasm found in connecting the subject to the modern world of teens has been promising.

Just think: once they translate the course into English, we’ll all be able to work through 5772 years of Jewish history to expand our Facebooks.

COOKING CLASS FOR ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday September 18, 2011



Join your sisters in the Temple Kitchen

Come for Minyan, Stay for Bagels and we will start cooking with Warren at 10:00 a.m. We will be making a chicken main course for the holidays while exchanging ideas and lively conversation (Recipes will be distributed at the meeting)

Free but donations appreciated.

Contact Lisa @ 201-750-0546 or
sisterhoodlp@bisrael.com if you are coming.

WELCOME BACK SISTERHOOD “MEET AND GREET”

Sunday September 25, 2011



Drop in between **10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.**
for coffee, tea

Ideas, lively conversation and spiced-honey
chocolate cake—a great way to finish your
holiday dinner!

(Pick up a copy of the recipe at our “Meet and
Greet”)

**HEBREW SCHOOL MOMS AND RETURNING
SISTERHOOD MEMBERS**

Give yourself an hour to find out what Sisterhood
has to offer!

Congregation B'nai Israel Sisterhood 2011-2012

invites you to become a member

Please complete the information below, enclose a check for \$36 (if applicable) payable to:

Congregation B'nai Israel Sisterhood and mail to
Joan Zelman, 961 Amaryllis Avenue, Oradell, NJ 07649.

Membership is free for new temple members.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check for **\$36** enclosed payable to Congregation B'nai Israel

New member

If you can donate one hour of your time to help us, we would greatly appreciate it.

Here are some ways to do that:

Photograph Sisterhood events (digital)

Help with Sisterhood Gift Shop

Other: _____

You mean everything to us. Thank you for your interest.

The Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Audrey (sisterhoodab@bisrael.com), **Lisa** (sisterhoodlp@bisrael.com) and

Nancy (sisterhoodnp@bisrael.com)

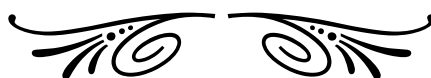
Come join us for our next book club meeting. Join us for Mitzvah day, book club, and/or Progressive Dinner or help us out with our gift boutique. You can be as active as you want.

SOME OF LAST YEAR'S EVENTS:

Monthly Book Club • Sisterhood Erev Shabbat • Progressive Dinner
Mah Jongg • Shelter our Sisters Cooking • Cooking Class • Seniors Symposium
Dance and Exercise Class • Rosh Hodesh Friday Night • High Tea Trips
Spring Luncheon with Speaker



MORE FUN TO COME! PICK UP OUR NEW CALENDAR IN THE FRONT OF THE SYNAGOGUE.





ASK THE RABBI

Rabbi Orenstein will be answering questions from the bimah periodically during the High Holidays. You are welcome to submit your questions in advance of the Holidays or bring your written questions on index cards with you to services. The submitted questions can be signed or anonymous, and your name will never be shared from the bimah. This is an opportunity to raise issues about High Holiday themes and/or to ask

“everything you always wanted to know about Judaism, but were afraid to ask.” Questions can be snail mailed to CBI or emailed (rabbi@bisrael.com).

GRATEFUL FOR BEING SPARED?

During High Holiday services, Rabbi Orenstein will share the “Gomel” blessing, a prayer for coming through a dangerous passage – traditionally, travel across an ocean, an accident or near-accident, childbirth, major surgery, or the like – in safety. If you have had an experience in which you escaped harm, or were spared even more serious harm than might have occurred, please contact the rabbi at the CBI office (201) 265-2272 or at rabbi@bisrael.com. Everything you share is confidential. People can be included in the blessing by name or completely anonymously.

***** REMINDER *****

Please return your New Years Greeting Booklet form ASAP. Honor friends, family and fellow congregants while supporting our synagogue.
Shana Tova!



Current Babysitter List

Calling all Babysitters! - CBI would like to gather a list of all teens interested in babysitting. We will publish the list in the weekly Shul Shmooz as well as in the monthly Menorah newsletter. If your teen is interested, please email **Sheryl Silver** at ipp@bisrael.com - the following information: name, age, town, phone number and if you drive.

KIRA MEINHARD (Age 17, Drives) - Woodcliff Lake, 201-819-5072. Available days, nights & weekends during the summer.

ERIC KASPER (16) - Hillsdale, 201-664-2175

JOSH KASPER (14) - Hillsdale, 201-664-2175

PERI GANBARG (15) - Hillsdale, 201-358-6850. Available nights and weekends in the summer.

CHARLOTTE MILCHMAN (16) - Demarest, 201-750-0546

SAMANTHA WEGLIN (15) - Hillsdale, 201 358-0288

DIANA YASHPEH (13) - Park Ridge, (201) 782-0555, Certified By Emerson HS, very responsible, parents will drive.

☆ SELICHOT ☆

On Saturday night, **September 24th** Rabbi Orenstein and Cantor Mandel will lead Selichot Services beginning at 9:00 PM. Selichot will include inspirational stories, heart-felt songs and prayers, and discussion. The evening will be highly participatory. As part of the prayers, we will dress the Torahs, removing the usual coverings and exchanging them for white High Holiday finery. This ritual parallels what we are trying to accomplish for ourselves spiritually and concretizes the words of Isaiah: “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

HEALING NEEDED INFORMATIONAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 13

Last year, CBI initiated a Healing Service on Yom Kippur afternoon, which was well-attended and well-received. Once again this year, before the afternoon prayers on Yom Kippur, Rabbi Orenstein will lead a Healing Service open to all members and guests. The service will be focused not only on physical and spiritual healing for each participant, but on extending our strength and wellbeing to others, and serving as vehicles for the healing of other people and the planet.

If you are interested in helping to facilitate the service (no experience and no Hebrew necessary) or if you would like to help with chanting and music, there will be an informational meeting on what is involved and how to help on Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00 pm, immediately preceding the High Holiday workshop. You are also welcome to contact the Rabbi at the CBI office (201) 265-2272 or at rabbi@bisrael.com

HAPPENINGS IN OUR COMMUNITY

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES:

Contemporary Issues and Hot Topics

Congregation B’Nai Israel and led by Rabbi Orenstein

TBD -- EITHER Thursday, November 10 7:30 pm OR Tuesday, 11/22

Please note that there will be no class on Tuesday, November 8, as another program, Mom’s Night Out, will be held at CBI that evening.

Is there a Jewish perspective (or are there multiple legitimate Jewish perspectives) on political and ethical dilemmas today? How can Jewish history, sacred texts, and philosophy help us deal with contemporary issues -- in the public arena and our own homes? Ecclesiastes famously said, “There is nothing new under the sun.” In this participatory class and discussion, Rabbi Orenstein will introduce the breadth and depth of Jewish influence and opinion on issues of concern today.

Tuesday, October 25, 7:30 pm

SESSION 1 - Homosexuality and the status of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their unions. How does the Jewish tradition relate to homosexuality? What are the textual, philosophical, ethical, and historical elements that shape Jewish responses? Where do the different movements stand today? How can Jews of different opinions find common ground, so that we welcome Jews of every background and orientation as part of our community?

Tuesday, November 1, 7:30 pm

SESSION 2 – Anti-Zionism and Anti-semitism on campus.

Tuesday, November 15, 7:30 pm

SESSION 3 - Jewish response to the suffering of non-Jews.

Tuesday, November 29, 7:30 pm

SESSION 4 - The topic of the fourth session will be selected by participants, based on the interests and concerns of the group.

TAILGATE CASUAL SHABBAT & DINNER

Friday, September 9th

Throw a football around the tree-lined parking lot and then enjoy Shabbat dinner tailgate-style at 6:30. Services in the sanctuary at 7:30. with songs and commentary on the connections between pigskins and a kosher life. Free and open to all. You are invited to come in team colors or jerseys. Hebrew School graduates will enjoy an informal reunion.

TASTE OF MELTON

Sample a free “Taste of Melton,” a program of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, an innovative adult Jewish learning program, which gives you the opportunity to achieve basic Jewish literacy in just two years. Students of varying backgrounds together explore Jewish texts to understand how Judaism developed and what Judaism means to them. This inclusive approach fosters an atmosphere of warmth, respect, and mutual understanding. Melton classes start Wednesday, October 5. For more information, please visit www.jfnnj.org/meltonschool or contact Francine Koszer, **201-820-3914**, or francinek@jfnnj.org.



The Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies will be hosting a wine-tasting event will be held at the Jewish Community Center of Paramus on **Sunday, September, 18, from 7-9 pm**. A light, dairy hors d’oeuvres buffet will complement the wine sampling and cleanse the palate. Ticket prices are \$18/pp in advance (up to Sept. 13) at the BCHSJS Office (940 Main Street, Hackensack) or \$25/pp at the event door. We also have posted the price list and order form on our web site to facilitate purchases from those unable to attend the Sept. 18 event.

MOM'S Night Out

Tuesday, November 8

Congregation B’nai Israel, in conjunction with Shalom Baby of the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey, will host a Mom’s Night Out for mothers of babies and children age 7 and under on Tuesday, November 8 at 7:30pm.

The evening, which includes wine and snacks, is free of charge and open to the public. It will provide area Jewish moms with a relaxing evening together.

The Temple’s spiritual leader, Rabbi Debra Orenstein, will lead a discussion on the subject: “The gift-giving season: joy or dread for moms.” As moms shop, wrap, and prepare, it’s a good time to consider the messages of the season and spiritual tips for fostering gratitude – not greed.

The evening will be facilitated by Shalom Baby Coordinator, Nancy Bach. For additional information or directions, contact the temple office at: **201-265-2272** or bnaioffice@bisrael.com, or contact Nancy Bach at nancyb1@ujannj.org.

LETTERS

Dear Fellow Members,

Thank you so much for the lovely basket. My family will be happily devouring the many goodies and treats in the days ahead! It was so thoughtful of the Temple Membership to think of me as I recover from my recent illness and surgery. One of the best decisions that we made was to join such a warm, caring congregation. The Congregation and everyone at the Temple has made our family feel welcome, and it seems like we have been members a lot longer than one year. I know that our family has found our spiritual home.

Thanks again to all for your caring, concern, and thoughtfulness.

Best regards,
Judy Brown

Dear Congregation B'nai Israel,

Thank you for your generous donation of clothing and other items to Clothes for Kids Sake and Big Brothers Big Sisters. Your thoughtful gift will make a big difference to children in our program, giving them a better chance for a better life through the magic of mentoring.

Thank you for your commitment to improving the lives of these young members of our society. They will be considerably better off with your support.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Colligan
Director of Marketing

Rabbi Debra Orenstein and friends at Congregation B'nai Israel,

Your kind and generous donation of \$1805 – the sum you worked so hard to raise for us – is deeply appreciated, and your support, moving. Without the loving help you and others like you have given us over these years, we would not be where we are now – a functioning hospice with every intention of providing the best care possible to those facing the end of life.

Thank you for caring – thank you for your confidence in hospice philosophy, services and us.
Sincerely,
Patricia Hutzelman, Donna Bott, Wendy Megerman and Alan Israel, MD

FUNDS

ETERNAL LIGHT FUND

In memory of Doris Sonkin Weil

FROM: Bruce Sonkin

TO: Adam Samansky
In memory of your beloved father, Leonard Samansky
FROM: Idelle & Gary Schwinder

TO: Connie Klein
In memory of your mother
FROM: Les & Donna Kaufman

TO: Jamie Kreiman and Sam Gavzy
In memory of your husband and father, Ike Gavzy
FROM: Bruce & Ellen Sonkin, Ed & Sheila Faerber, Doris & Harry Albirt, Les & Donna Kaufman, Weinberg Family, Silver Family, Irwin & Elaine Kadin, Harvey, Vanessa, & Alex Meer, Marc & Shelly Saperstein, Robin, Fred, Nitza, Yariv & Ayal Pierce, Richard & Amy Kargauer, Reiff Family, Vivian Holzer, Harry & Hanna Wechsler, Phyllis & Bernard

Weinberger, Walter & Alice Krieger, Carol & Ira Grodin

TO: Mrs. Ruth Alffid & Family
In memory of your husband & father, Robert
FROM: Fran & Bernard Silverberg

GET WELL FUND

TO: Judy Brown
Get well soon
FROM: Bruce & Naomi Weinberg

TO: Alan Peck
Get well soon
FROM: Bruce & Naomi Weinberg

IRVING REIKES MEMORIAL GARDEN

TO: Lafe Solomon
In memory of his mother
FROM: Lisa Pollack, Mark & Charlotte Milchman

TO: Jamie Kreiman and Sam Gavzy
In memory of your husband and father, Ike Gavzy

FROM: Elyse & Leonard Asch, Allan, Jackie, Lisa & Zachary Millstein, Sid & Bunny Derner,

GENERAL FUND

TO: Harvey Meer – Happy Birthday
FROM: David & Goni Vardi

TO: Alex Meer
Congratulations on graduating from College
FROM: David & Goni Vardi

TO: Jamie Kreiman and Sam Gavzy
In memory of your husband and father, Ike Gavzy
FROM: Leslie Brunell & Joe, Emma, Sallie Corrado

FREYDA FUND

In honor of the birth of our granddaughter, Maya Brooke Katcher,
daughter of Jana & Jaimie Katcher
FROM: Marla & Roy Klein

CANTOR MANDEL'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation for all you have done to provide loving support to the Gavzy/Kreiman family in their time of greatest need.
FROM: Samuels/Green Family

RABBI DEBRA ORENSTEIN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation for all you have done to provide loving support to the Gavzy/Kreiman family in their time of greatest need.
FROM: Samuels/Green Family

CANTOR SID DERNER BUILDING FUND

TO: Jamie Kreiman and Sam Gavzy
In memory of your husband and father, Ike Gavzy
FROM: Gus & Joan Eben

GOOD & WELFARE

TO: Jamie Kreiman and Sam Gavzy
In memory of your husband and father, Ike Gavzy
FROM: Cathy & Bob Brintz

SEPTEMBER 2011

Elul-Tishrei 5771

Candle Lighting Times: **2:** 7:10 **9:** 6:59 **16:** 6:47 **23:** 6:35
28: 6:26 **30:** 6:23

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	8pm Erev Shabbat Service 2	Parashat Shoftim 3
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 4	Labor Day 5	6	7:30pm Board Meeting 7	8	6:30pm "Tailgate" Shabbat dinner & service 9	10am Shabbat Morning Service 10 Parashat Ki Teitzei
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 11 9am First Day Of Hebrew School 9-11 Ceremony in Emerson	12	4pm Hebrew School 13 7:30pm High Holiday	14	15	8pm Erev Shabbat Service 16	10am Shabbat Morning Service 17 Parashat Ki Tavo
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 18 9am Hebrew School	19	4pm Hebrew School 20	21	22	7pm Inter-Generational Drumming Circle 23 8pm Erev Shabbat Service	10am Shabbat Morning Service 24 Parashat Nitzavim-Vayeilech 9pm Selichot
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 25 9am Hebrew School 9:30am Sisterhood's Meet and Greet	26	4pm Hebrew School 27	Erev Rosh Hashana 28 7pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service	Rosh Hashanah 5772 29 7pm Rosh Hashanah Service 10am Jr. Congregation Service	Rosh Hashanah II 30 9am Rosh Hashanah Service 10am Jr. Congregation Service	

OCTOBER 2011

Tishrei-Chesvan 5771

Candle Lighting Times: **7:** 6:11 **14:** 7:30 **19:** 5:53 **21:** 5:50 **28:** 5:40

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						10am Shabbat Shuva Morning Service 1 Shabbat Shuva Parashat Ha'Azinu
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 2 9am Hebrew School Tzom Gedaliah	3	4pm Hebrew School 4	7:30pm Board Meeting 5	6	Erev Yom Kippur/ Kol Nidre 7 6pm Kol Nidre Service	Yom Kippur 9am Yom Kippur Morn. Service 8 10am Jr. Cong. Service 4:30pm Yom Kippur Healing Serv. 5:45pm Mincha, Neillah, Havdallah Services
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 9 No Hebrew School	Columbus Day 10	4pm Hebrew School 11	Erev Sukkot 12 7:30am Erev Sukkot Services	Sukkot I 13	Sukkot II 14 7:30pm Rock & Roll Casual Shabbat Service	Sukkot III (CH"M) 15 10am Dalet/Hey Learning Service 10:45am Family Shabbat program + lunch
Sukkot IV (CH"M) 16 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 9am Hebrew School	Sukkot V (CH"M) 17	Sukkot VI (CH"M) 18 4pm Hebrew School	Sukkot VII (Hoshana Raba) 19	Shmini Atzeret 20 7:30am Yiskor service 7:30pm Simchat Torah Service	Simchat Torah 21 8pm Erev Shabbat Service	10am Shabbat Morning Service 22 Parashat Bereshit
9am Minyan & Bagel Bfast 23 9am Hebrew School 9am Minyan spnsr by the Efron family	24	9:30am Shalom Baby at CBI 25 4pm Hebrew School	26	27	Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan 28 7pm Inter-Generational Drumming Circle 8pm Erev Shabbat Service 8pm Oneq spnsr by the Efron family	Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan 29 Parashat Noach 9:30am Jakob Efron Bar Mitzvah
9am Minyan & Bagel Bfast 30 9am Hebrew School 9am Minyan spnsr by the Tancer family	31					

SEPTEMBER YAHRZEITS

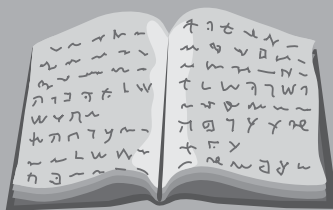
Rose Rosengart	Elul 2	09/01/11
Tova Zahavi	Elul 2	09/01/11
Naomi W Tauber	Elul 3	09/02/11
Ruth Moser	Elul 6	09/05/11
Estelle Cohen	Elul 10	09/09/11
Sheldon Levens	Elul 12	09/11/11
Nettie Heimovitch	Elul 14	09/13/11
Henry Bein	Elul 15	09/14/11
William Stein	Elul 15	09/14/11
Bess Rothman	Elul 15	09/14/11
Ruth Holzer	Elul 15	09/14/11
Lillian Kaplan	Elul 15	09/14/11
Charlotte Levy Pollack	Elul 15	09/14/11
Jack Faerber	Elul 17	09/16/11
George M Swerlick	Elul 18	09/17/11
Meyer David Schneider	Elul 19	09/18/11
May Feinman	Elul 20	09/19/11
David Tauber	Elul 21	09/20/11
Jennie Reitknecht	Elul 21	09/20/11
Edward E Silverberg	Elul 23	09/22/11
Elaine Feigelman	Elul 23	09/22/11
Oscar Faltitschek	Elul 24	09/23/11
Sophie Lippis	Elul 26	09/25/11
Asher Amity	Elul 27	09/26/11
Rose Sklar	Elul 27	09/26/11
Seymour Roth	Elul 28	09/27/11
Mary Stein	Tishre 2	09/30/11



CONDOLENCES

Connie Klein on the loss of her mother Anne Wise
 Jamie Kreiman and Sam Gavzy on Ike's passing.

SIDDUR DEDICATION



Meryl, Larry, Jared and
 Evan Kutzin dedicate a
 Siddur in honor of Anne
 Kutzin's 90th birthday.
 Thanks.

Mazel Tov

Roy and Marla Klein on the birth of their
 granddaughter Maya Brooke Katcher

TEMPLE SERVICES

YAHRZEIT/MEMORIAL PLAQUES

\$200

A reminder card is mailed every year prior to the yahrzeit anniversary. Plaques are displayed on the sanctuary walls.

Call Paula Javits at 201-265-6559

TREE OF LIFE LEAVES

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Call Bob Greenblatt at 201-265-5777

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Call Bruce & Ellen Sonkin at 201-358-0129 or e-mail fundcards@bisrael.com

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- **ETERNAL LIGHT FUND** for memorials
- **IRVING RIEKES MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND** for all occasions. Funds used to maintain garden behind temple.
- **GET WELL FUND**
- **CANTOR SID DERNER BUILDING FUND** for all occasions. Funds used for existing building needs.
- **GOOD & WELFARE FUND**
- **SOCIAL ACTION FUND** to help those in need
- **BERNICE'S KITCHEN FUND** for all occasions, in memory of Bernice Kuperinsky. Funds used for kitchen equipment.

Contact Meryl Kutzin at 201-664-0684 or e-mail mkutzin@qtbras.com or Idelle Schwinder at 201-265-7281

PRAYER BOOK FUND

Contact Barry Bluestein at 201-782-0969

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Contact Bruce Kasper at 201-664-2175

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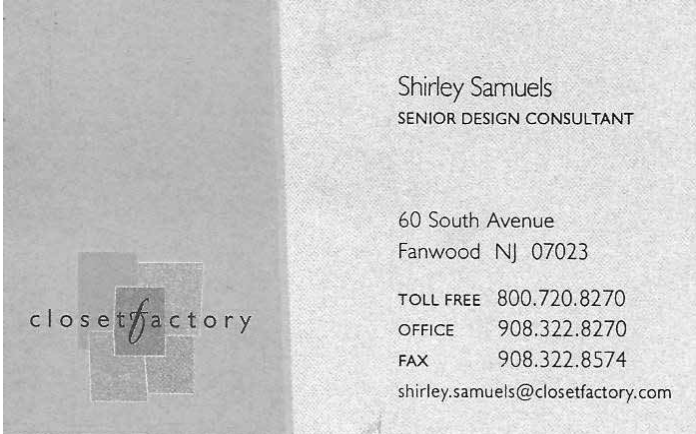
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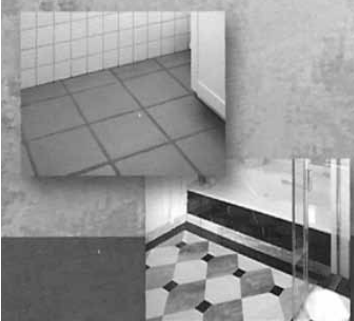
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