Shabbat this week

Kiddush—Main: Sponsored and prepared by the SOI Sisterhood.

Rabbi Epstein’s Shabbat Afternoon Class: Will meet at 3:45pm.

Seudah Sh’lishit: Sponsored by Allen and Carol Seftel in memory of Allen’s mother, Betty Seftel.

People to People

Mazel Tov:
- To Neely and Elon Elisha and family on the birth of a baby boy.
- **SHALOM ZACHER:** 8:15pm at the home of Jen and Dore Provda (49 Wagon Ln.)
- To Harvey and Sharon Chaitoff on the birth of a grandson to Heshy and Aliza.
- To Elaine Chaitoff on the birth of a great-grandson.
- To Eric and Rachel Klein and family on the Brit Milah of their son, Ayal Mordechai.

Refuah Shelaimah:
- To Bruce Goldhagen, who is recovering at home.

Hoshavat Aveydah (Lost and Found):
- A gold cufflink with a coin on it has been lost. If you have any info, please speak to Karen Chast.

From our Office Manager

Database Updates: Please turn in your Database Updates. If you have not received one, please contact Karen in the office as soon as possible.

Lost and Found: The lost and found has been growing. Please check it out and claim lost items. It is located in the coat room. At the end of January, any items which remain will be donated to a worthy charity.

120th Anniversary Lecture Series

On Sunday evening, January 12th, Rabbi Mordechai Becher will be the 2nd speaker in our lecture series honoring our 120th Anniversary. Rabbi Becher will be speaking at 7:00pm following a deli dinner. All are invited to attend the lecture.

**TITLE:** “Where on Earth is the World to Come”

For those interested in attending the dinner, **RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST.** Cost is $10.00 per person. For reservations, please call Larry Miller at 667-0860 or e-mail him at twinks-3043@msn.com. The deadline for dinner reservations is Wednesday, January 8th.

Bikur Cholim Update & Meeting

**UPDATE:** As a reminder to the congregation, please call Janet Miller at 856-667-0860 regarding anyone sick or in the hospital who would like to receive a call from the Bikur Cholim Committee.

**MEETING:** Bikur Cholim’s next meeting will be on Wednesday January 8th at 3:00pm at Janet Miller’s home. We are also having a speaker, Nanci Levy Epstein, a therapist at Avista Care. She will speak about preventing slip and falls in and out of the home. All are welcome.
Get it in the Newslink

We are delighted to share news of all happy occasions & accomplishments of our congregants. Just let us know by email!

Deadline for each week’s issue is Wednesday.
Announcements: soinewslink@gmail.com
Advertising: soinewslinkads@gmail.com

Your SOI Newslink Staff:
Editorial Team: Alise Panitch & Aaron Greenberg
Advertising Manager: Tova Freidenreich

NEXT WEEK: Shabbat Dinner @ SOI

Please join us for a

Progressive Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 10th, 2014

Candlelighting: 4:36pm
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat beginning at 4:40pm
Followed by a delicious Shabbat meal

Activities during dinner will provide an opportunity to get to know other congregants. Be prepared to move around during this progressive meal, as you may find yourself eating dinner at a different table and with different people than when you eat dessert!

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.
Payment can be dropped off at the shul office, or take advantage of paying online: http://www.sonsofisraelnj.com/detail.php?id=85

$18/adult; $10/child (4-12 years of age); Children under 3 are free
Please RSVP by MONDAY JANUARY 5th to Suzie Mindel
suziepm@yahoo.com or 856-482-0954

Because You Asked

Our Lobby Wasn’t Always Big, Bright, and Open...
How many of you can remember the easy way to get downstairs into the old school building or the mikvah? The next time you are in our current beautiful lobby, just visualize a giant circular staircase taking up 1/2 of the lobby. That's what we had. Due to safety precautions and room for social affairs, it had to be dismantled.

Save the Date—Our Gala Weekend

On Shabbat Jan 31–Feb 1, 2014 we will be having many special events to honor our 120th year, including a distinguished Scholar in Residence, a Friday Night dinner at the shul and a special Kiddush.

Our Scholar in Residence will be Mark Dratch, founder of JSAFE (The Jewish Institute Supporting an Abuse-Free Environment) and Executive Vice president of the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA). In 2010 and 2013 he was named as one of Newsweek’s Top 50 Rabbis in America.

Save the Date: Sat. Night, Feb.1, 2014

Politz Day School Presents

PANOPLY
A Multimedia Trivia Event

REGISTRATION OPENS SUNDAY AT: www.PolitzPanoply.org
As Sons of Israel continued to struggle in Camden, attention turned to the idea of building a branch in Cherry Hill. After more evaluation, a total move seemed the only logical solution. A search for a location began - with one stipulation - that the Shul be near apartment complexes to serve the senior congregants selling their homes and moving to Cherry Hill. After reviewing several choices, 720 Cooper Landing Road was determined to be the best choice for a new building. The location had 5.5 acres to build on and an existing house (called “the Little White House” by congregants) that could be used until the new complex was built. In 1969, the first nursery school class opened in the Little White House, and Hebrew school classes followed. While the main Shul in Camden still operated, additional Shabbat morning minyanim were held in the Little White House, followed by kiddishes arranged by the sisterhood. Leah Zarge was one of the founding workers to work in the little kitchen. As per Leah, it was a warm bonding experience. During this time period, there were no sidewalks on Cooper Landing Rd and no traffic lights at the intersection of Chapel Ave & Cooper Landing Rd.

In the meantime, long time member Abraham Besser informed Rabbi Rothman and then President Sam Supnick that he had an architect friend in Columbus, Ohio who had just built a new shul there. He said the architect would be agreeable to us using the same building plans at a very reasonable fee. Upon hearing this, the three men went to Columbus to inspect the building. They liked what they saw and agreed to engage this architect and use these plans, with some revisions.

In June of 1967, the official ground breaking took place. Irwin Levy, the Shul’s First Vice President, was the building contractor and Larry Miller, the Shul’s Second Vice President, undertook the administration of the job. Many of the congregants participated in making decisions along the way.

Another important decision was made at this time: to hire a full time Cantor. After reviewing 5 or 6 candidates, a young man from Borough Park, New York was chosen. His name was Isaac B. Horowitz. He and his wife Pnina moved to Cherry Hill in 1968, where he led the davening and also taught Hebrew School and gave Bar Mitzvah lessons.

Finally, in September of 1971 Congregation Sons of Israel moved into the new building. Shabbat services took place in a room in the lower level, and Rosh Hashanah services were held in the main Shul on folding chairs and plain cement floors. At the very time when the Congregation’s joy should have been complete, ominous clouds began to block the sun...

To be continued...
From the Rabbi

Tora-relationships and The Shovavim—Check Up

By now almost everyone in the SOI family is familiar with the word Shovavim. Shovavim is a Hebrew acronym for the first six Parshiyot located at the beginning of the Book of Shemot—Namely: Shemot, Vaera, Bo Beshalach, Yitro, and Mishpatim. During these six plus weeks that always fall out between Chanukah and Purim the Jewish world reinvests itself in intrinsic and internal Jewish family harmony and purity. There are many reasons offered as to the origins of this pursuit this time of year; we can discuss this detail at the presentations. Because of this in every major Jewish enclave in the world there are lectures, classes and workshops taking place on the topics of Jewish family purity, harmony and functionality under the auspices of The International Annual Shovavim Project. Our community has been participating for decades as well. This year we will be presenting three different times in honor of Shovavim: This morning’s Drasha entitled: 1+1=1, this coming Monday night January 6th 8pm at SOI for women entitled: The Secrets of Harmony in the Home and finally Monday, January 20th at 8pm in the Kollel for Men entitled: Mikvah For Men. (All dates are weather permitting.) There is something for everyone; so we hope to see you at our Shovavim series this year. But wait, there’s more:

Annual Checkups:

As the new calendar year begins many moms have begun planning the annual checkups for the family. There are the yearly physicals, eye appointments, dental exams and so many others that need to be scheduled.

What about a Marital Checkup?

With all of the cultural wear and tear on our marriages besides the regular lumps and bumps that occur throughout the year, perhaps it’s time to schedule a Marital Checkup. Marital health is vital for personal wellness, familial wellness, and overall wellness.

Even the healthiest and most fit people aim to attend a yearly physical to measure their health and take steps to preserve and/or better themselves. Our Marital Health is equally as important.

While many of you may already have counselors, advisors or the like that you can call on for an MC, in honor of Shovavim I would like to invite any interested couple to engage in an MC administered by me in order to identify and improve different facets of your marriage that are important to you.

To schedule an MC - Marital Checkup with me please email me at rabbiepstein@sonsisrael.com to arrange a mutually convenient hour.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Ephraim Epstein, Ed.S