

# Havurat Tikvah

## Short History of the Mezuzah Ends Havurah Tikvah Shabbaton

Havurat Tikvah members and guests gathered April 19-20 at Cornerstone House for a Shabbaton led by Rabbi Daniel

Silberman Brenner of Montclair, NJ. Friday evening included a bring-a-dish dinner and a short service

for families with young children. The next morning, during opening prayers, children joined in song and imitated musical instruments before heading upstairs to play. The Torah reading (*Acharei Mot-Kedoshim*) was followed by a discussion about whether modern counterparts exist to the communal purification rites once practiced in the Holy Temple. Members shared kiddush and lunch.

For "Something About Mezuzahs," the Saturday night program for adults, Rabbi Brenner explained how this familiar doorway marker originated and developed through Jewish history. *Mezuzah* was the word for a vertical doorpost, as in the passage from Exodus 12:7, "And you shall put the blood on the two *mezuzot* and on the upper doorway."

Using quotations from the Tanach, Talmud, Midrash, Rashi and Ramban, and the Kabbalah, he traced the different meanings and powers attributed to *mezuzot*, as well as the practical concerns about where and how to properly display them and ensure that they are kosher.

At first, there was no consensus among Jews about what verse to display on the *mezuzah* scroll, according to Rabbi Brenner. The Karaites in Egypt thought the Ten Commandments should be posted, rather than the Biblical injunction to display the word of HaShem, and their scroll covers featured the symbol of the twin tablets. Later, in the medieval period, rabbis differed on

whether the *mezuzah* was an amulet with its own powers over destructive forces or a reminder of the commandment to love and follow HaShem.

Rabbi Brenner, a Charlotte native and the son of Havurat Tikvah members Martha and Saul Brenner, is a Senior Teaching Fellow at CLAL (National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership) in New York and rabbi for String of Pearls, a Reconstructionist havurah in Princeton, NJ. ☆



Jewish Reconstructionist Federation



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## Havurat Tikvah Calendar of Events

### June

Monthly Shabbat service, 10 AM. Home of Laura and Charles Kaplan, 2900 Somerset Dr. For summer schedule, call 704-554-2241.

### July

July 17: Tisha B'Av Service. Reading of Lamentations and dis-

cussion. Home of Joan and Charles Brown, 1418 Lexington Ave. Time to be announced.

### August

Monthly Shabbat service. Late Night Selichot Service prior to Rosh Hashanah. Home of Laura and Charles Kaplan, 2900 Somerset Dr.

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. Visitors are welcome to attend services and events. For more information, please call Jessica Saxe, new member chair, at 704-333-9106 or Dael and Brenda Waxman, co-presidents, at 704-544-2241. ☆

## JFS Donations

(Continued from page 19)

### IN MEMORY

In memory of Ben Jaffa, Jr. from Felicia and Kurt Dreyfuss, Sheila and Edward Fisher, Janice and Daniel Bernstein, and Lynda and Jim White.

In memory of Louise Pells, mother of Penny Lipsitz, from Ruth and Alan Goldberg. Karen and David Ransenberg, and Ron and Meryl Hunte.

In memory of Jerome Oxman, father of Allan and Marty Oxman, from Florence Jaffa, Sharyn and Lew Shuman, Cecile Rose, Jinny and Lewis Holtzman, Renee and Jules Buxbaum, Dale and Larry Polsky, Fay and Gerald Sinkoe, and Marilyn and Mike Tuckman.

In memory of George Collons, brother of Louis Coleman, from Janice and Bernard Patlock.

In memory of Elsie Bergmann, mother of Kenneth Bergmann, from Richard Osborne.

In memory of Peggy Simon at the time of the unveiling from Renee and Jules Buxbaum.

In memory of the sister of Bob Weiss from Dale and Larry Polsky.

In memory of Lewis Halpert, father of Karen Labovitz, from Audrey Madans, and Marilyn and Mike Tuckman.

In memory of Irene Kossove, mother of David and Harold Kossove, from Audrey Madans, Dorothy and Craig Madans, Alex Madans, Maxine and Barry Klenicki, Dorothy Schulman, from Judie and Michael Van Glish.

In memory of Ludwig Stiefel, brother of Helen Korweitz, from Blanche and Henry Hirschmann.

In memory of Florence Green, mother of Lorri Barman, from Ida Berman and Florence Jaffa.

In memory of Ken Bergmann's mother from Karen and David Ransenberg.

In memory of Linda Babich's mother from Karen and David Ransenberg.

In memory of Jody Molinari's father from Karen and David

Pansenberg, and Ruth and Alan Goldberg.

In memory of Newman Tanenbaum, father of Beryl Tanenbaum, from Marcelle and Allan Oxman.

In memory of Bryana Zellerman, mother of Miriam Diamond, from Evelyn and Leonard Berger.

In memory of mother and step-father of Miriam Diamond from Abe Warshenbrot.

In memory of Henry Hirshmann, father of Judy August, from Heidi and Michael Rotberg, Tammy and Andy Cohen.

In memory of Rhoda Senft, sister of Glorie Levinson, from Joan Gordon, Aileen and Sam Polk, Sandra and Phyllis Weinstein.

In memory of Florence Green, mother of Lorri Barman, from Audrey Madans, Florence Jaffa.

In memory of Gertrude Cohen, mother of Anita Grey, from Selma Melasky, Audrey Madans.

In memory of Louise Pells, mother of Penny Lipsitz, from Ron Hunte and family.

In memory of Cheryl Gould, daughter of Lorriane Gould, from Audrey Madans.

In memory of Gladys Levine, mother of Sherry Richter, from Sandra and Phyllis Weinstein.

In memory of Herman Blumenthal, husband of Anita Blumenthal, from Sandra and Phyllis Weinstein.

In memory of Shirley Barger, mother of Larry Polsky, from Sandra and Phyllis Weinstein.

In memory of Louis Patkin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Patkin, from Audrey Madans.

In memory of Doreen Steg, mother of Audrey Polk, from Audrey Madans.

In memory of Karen Winer, daughter of Tense Winer, from Peter and Stacy Gianiodis.

Mitzvah Makers Hot Meal Program for April

We thank the following people who cooked meals to feed the hungry in our community in April:

Jane Vatz Abel, Susan Applebaum, Linda Babich, Evelyn Berger, Ida Berman, Penny Eisenberg, Iris Friedlander, Ruth Goldberg, Katherine Goldstein, Roberta Malickson, Diggie Pesakoff, Linda Rothman, Peggy Rovman, Ginger Snitz, Marcia Stern, Lori Wojnowich. ☆

## YES Kicks Off the Summer of 2002

YES (Young Energetic Seniors) at the Jewish Community Center has a fun-filled summer planned for everyone who is 50 and up. The Summer Kickoff Picnic on June 2 at Camp Mindy, featuring delicious barbecue and games of yesteryear, is just one of our events for the summer of 2002. If you enjoy being on the go, and having fun with friends, check out our summer of activities.

\* Wacky Bowling at Carolina Lanes in Matthews, Sunday, June 23, 3:00 to 5:00 PM. \$11.00 members/\$15.00 non-members. Pre-paid reservation due by June 17.

\* Dinner at the Lake with friends, July 21. Place and time tba.

\* Weekend in Asheville, August 17 and 18, to include a production of *South Pacific* at the Flat Rock

Playhouse and a luau at the Asheville JCC.

\* Game Night at the JCC - Saturday, September 28.

\* Autumn in the Mountains to view the magnificent fall leaves in October. Details to follow.

Sounds like fun? Are you ready to go? If you are a member of the Jewish Community Center and are 50+, you are automatically a YES member. If you are not a JCC member, all of this can still be yours with an annual YES membership of \$35.00. Membership entitles you to a monthly newsletter and discounted rates at all events. For more information, please call Patti Pickett at 944-6798.

Don't be left out ... just say YES. ☆