



## A Night At The Grand Ole (Shul) Opry



“A Little Bit Country, A Little Bit Rock ‘N’ Roll”

Saturday, January 29 at 7:30 p.m.  
Congregation B'nai Moshe  
6800 Drake Road

Snacks & Dessert served  
Cost: \$10 in advance  
\$12 at the door  
Kids under 12 are FREE

Join the CBM Singers for the annual CBM Cabaret Bash featuring the best in country music - from Hank, Willie, and Dolly to Kenny, Shania, and The Dixie Chicks.

If you think country music is only about cowboy Cadillacs, huntin' dogs, and lost loves, think again! Thanks to the direction of Larry Gunsberg and producer Cantor Earl G. Berris, you will be tapping your feet and singing along. Country is Today's Music.



### Cabaret Goes Country

RSVP with payment to Congregation B'nai Moshe,  
6800 Drake Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322, by Jan. 19.  
For questions, please call synagogue office at 248.788.0600.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ Check No: \_\_\_\_\_  
For reservations of \$18 or more:  
\*Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Required fields for credit cards.



## HOW YOU CAN REACH US

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**Fax: (248) 788-0604**

**School office: (248) 788-3600**

**email: [cbminfo@bnaimoshe.org](mailto:cbminfo@bnaimoshe.org)**

**on the web: [www.bnaimoshe.org](http://www.bnaimoshe.org)**

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Cantor Earl G. Berris ... [cantorb@bnaimoshe.org](mailto:cantorb@bnaimoshe.org)

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## February *Bulletin* Deadline

February *Bulletin* articles are due in the office on January 5, 2010. Stories may be delivered to the office, faxed to (248)788-0604, or e-mailed to [cbminfo@bnaimoshe.org](mailto:cbminfo@bnaimoshe.org). Photographs are encouraged to accompany stories when appropriate. Late stories are subject to inclusion on a case-by-case basis.

**HAVE YOU VISITED  
OUR WEBSITE?**

**[www.bnaimoshe.org](http://www.bnaimoshe.org)**

*We Have Archived Bulletins*

## Thoughts From Our President

by Kerry Greenhut



I thought you might like to hear about some of the meetings I have attended recently.

The first was a Sunday afternoon retreat at Beth Israel Congregation in Ann Arbor. Five of us from B'nai Moshe attended. We discussed topics dealing with what our organizational purposes are and how to serve our members.

This training program for current synagogue leadership was put on by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) for USCJ-affiliated congregations in Michigan.

USCJ is the umbrella organization for Conservative synagogues, mainly in the US but with participation in many other countries, too. It is the "voice" of the Conservative movement, representing and speaking out on behalf of its membership.

USCJ membership is voluntary, so it does not include every synagogue that considers itself to be Conservative. B'nai Moshe has been a member for many, many years. The dues we pay go to support a central staff – which includes an executive vice president, Rabbi Steven Wernick. USCJ also does training for synagogue employees and lay leadership. It provides resources (e.g., written materials, webinars, etc.) that help synagogues in all sorts of ways. As a B'nai Moshe member, you should be familiar with the "Conservative Judaism" magazine that is published quarterly (in conjunction with the national Men's Clubs and Sisterhoods).

The second meeting was an annual program for Detroit-area congregations. The special guest speaker was Arthur Horwitz, son of our members Mort and Sally. His second claim to fame is as president and publisher of the *Detroit Jewish News*.

Arthur's presentation dealt with Jewish demographics in metro Detroit and what might be done to reverse the outflow. It expanded on his *Jewish News* article which laid out the "hard facts" and encouraged local Jewish organizations, especially synagogues, to become involved in stabilizing our population through the promotion of information about job opportunities and recruiting people from other states to move here. It is an extremely important and, admittedly very difficult task. And while it may take some time to make an impact, it's an effort in which we - both as an organization and as individuals - ought to be involved.

Finally, there is a new group internal to B'nai Moshe called the "POD." It is an outgrowth of the recent religious school study conducted by the Detroit Jewish Federation. The study identified areas for future development of the L.I.F.E. program. The POD was formed to plan and implement changes.

Membership on the POD includes Gordie Berris, Susie Rabinovitz, Dan Sperling, Steve Sperling, Jodie Weinfeld, Kevin Whelan, Marilyn Yarbrough, Rabbi Pachter, me, and, of course, Gail Gales, along with professional Federation facilitators, Amy Newman and Barry Rubin. We are following a successful model that was developed by other Jewish communities in the U.S. Watch for more information about the POD as we progress and consider changes to improve the education of our youth.

See you in shul,

Kerry

## A Word From Our Rabbi

by Rabbi Elliot Pachter



### Super Idea for a Super Day

February 6, 2011 is Super Bowl Sunday. It is also the day of the Mens Club's World Wide Wrap — an exciting opportunity to join together as a congregation in demonstrating our love of God via the Mitzvah of Tefillin.

We joke (or cry) here in Metro Detroit about our lowly Lions. Until a year ago, only two teams that were in the NFL when the Super

Bowl came into being, had never played in a Super Bowl. Last February, the New Orleans Saints not only played in their first Super Bowl, but they scored an upset victory. What a great emotional celebration that was for the city of New Orleans, just five years after the destructive forces of Hurricane Katrina.

In New Orleans, Super Bowl Sunday generated both a physical victory and a spiritual re-birth. The combination of the physical and spiritual can also happen here in Metro Detroit on this year's Super Bowl Sunday, regardless of what happens on the football field.

Judaism, and specifically the observance of mitzvot, is generally about action, not feeling.

It is insufficient to have sympathy for the less fortunate; rather it is our duty to provide real and tangible help. On a different note, eating, which is for others just a physical act of survival, is for Jews a meaningful religious encounter with God.

This brings us to the mitzvah of prayer.

In Judaism prayer is not merely words. Prayer is sitting, standing, bowing, taking three steps forward or backward. And prayer involves special clothing. Most of us are familiar and comfortable with a head covering or a tallit.

I hope even more of you will join us at the World Wide Wrap to demonstrate your ongoing practice of wearing tefillin, or even to do so for the first (of hopefully many times) in the comfortable companionship of your B'nai Moshe family.

Of all the ritual garments, Tefillin are unique in that they contain words of Torah. Wearing tefillin is equivalent to wearing the Torah itself on our arms and heads.

Only through the wearing of tefillin can one literally fulfill the commandments found in the Shema of having a sign of God's presence directly on our bodies — close to our heart and brain, reminding us of God's gifts of life and intelligence which should inspire us to be better people.

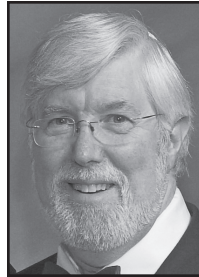
The wearing of tefillin is one of the "time bound positive commandments" for which men are obligated, but women are exempted. What this means is that women are welcome to assume the practice, though not required to do so, and men are expected to wear tefillin every morning during prayer, except for Shabbat and the major Jewish festivals.

If you are ready to begin to practice this mitzvah, or you need a "refresher course," you will always find the availability of spare tefillin, and friendly assistance at our daily morning minyan. However, you might also want to use the upcoming World Wide Wrap on February 6 as an inspiration to purchase your own set of tefillin.

We are fortunate to be able to provide our members with excellent quality tefillin at a very reasonable price of \$236. If you put in your paid order no later than January 13, your new tefillin will arrive in time for you to use them with pride at the World Wide Wrap.

## A Word From Our Cantor

by Cantor Earl G. Berris



### Israel 2012 or Bust

A journey to Israel is a journey to a place where the past and present call out to travelers in astonishing ways. There are layers of meaning everywhere you turn in this intense land, and why not? The history and legends of this country lie at the very heart of Western civilization's consciousness.

We are now in January of 2011. It has been a number of years since Ilana and I led a group from B'nai Moshe to our ancestral homeland. Recently, there

has been a ground swell asking for a return trip. It may seem too soon to inform you that we will be going on a group trip again, sometime in 2012, but it takes a long time to plan and for those going, a long time to prepare to participate in such a trip.

Israel is amazingly dramatic and diverse; the more so when you realize the entire country is the size of New Jersey. When you find yourself in the silent, haunting desert scape near the Dead Sea, spotting goats on sheer cliffs that are dotted with caves like those in which the Dead Sea Scrolls lay hidden for more than 18 centuries. Or visit the beautiful oasis of Ein Gedi, which we had to bypass last time due to a flash flood. It can be hard to believe that less than 60 minutes away is the 19th-century East European ghetto world of Jerusalem's Orthodox Mea Shearim (100 gates) quarter. A few blocks away from this ultra-orthodox community, you'll find the labyrinthine medieval Arab bazaars of the Old City, with more than one of the pathways leading to the Western Wall and the Temple Mount. Then, hop into a taxi to Tel Aviv on downtown Jerusalem's Jaffa Road, or take a bus from the Central Bus Station and in about an hour you're in a world of white skyscrapers, surfboards, and bikinis on the beach, with the Mediterranean lapping at your feet. Two hours to the north, and you can be exploring ruined Crusader castles in the green forests of the Galilee mountains.

As a visitor and one time resident, I have had the opportunity to see Israel from a number of different perspectives. When Ilana and I were married in Jerusalem, over 33 years ago, the country was a much more austere, no-frills society - Israelis lived with few luxuries, and the Spartan, close to the earth life of the chalutzim (pioneers) was still part of the national ideology. Today, Israeli society is "uber" inventive and modern; the country's economy is booming, the standard of living has skyrocketed, and many surveys rank Israel's per capita income among the top 20 in the world. Israel has become a nation with a lively sense of style and a taste for the good life. Luxury and better-quality hotel accommodations and resorts have popped up all over the country, and visitors find an interesting array of fine restaurants and shopping opportunities. Just imagine what wonders she could have already brought to the world, if she didn't also have to worry about her existential existence, at the same time.

Nevertheless, with the Israeli-Jordanian and Israeli-Egyptian lukewarm peace treaties, a journey to Israel can also, easily, include an excursion to the fabulous ancient Nabatean city of Petra in Jordan, or a diving and snorkeling odyssey off the Sinai Peninsula. But amid Israel's busy swirl of exoticism, ancient sites, shopping malls, and crowded highways, you can still find young, idealistic kibbutzim and communities in the Negev. New immigrants and old-timers reclaiming the land from the desert still learning how to live on it, appreciate its wonders, and make it truly their own. You can, also, get the feeling of the old pioneering spirit with a trip north; where the smaller settlements of the Galilee and Golan return us to the pre-"48" days of excitement and discovery, working the land and restoring both our ancient homeland and building a new way of life.

Look for more information on the upcoming trip to Israel and speak to me or any of the 40 or so fellow members of B'nai Moshe who were on the previous trip. I'm sure we can convince you that there is no better way to experience Israel than with your B'nai Moshe family.



*Bat Mitzvah*



*Marissa Ruben*

Marissa Ruben will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, January 29, 2011.

Marissa is the daughter of Mindy and Bruce Ruben and the sister of Dana and Ruby. Proud grandparents are Jerald and Ann Ruben and Sonia Freedman.

Marissa attends Hillel Day School and enjoys dance.

Marissa's mitzvah projects include donating proceeds from homemade dog treats, volunteer work at Yad Ezra, and volunteer training for the Friendship Circle.

## SISTERHOOD SHABBAT TO BE HELD JAN. 22

Join us in celebrating Sisterhood Shabbat at Congregation B'nai Moshe on Jan. 22.

Our special guest speaker will be Judie Blumeno, past president of the Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood as well as corresponding secretary of the Michigan Branch of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

During Sisterhood Shabbat, Sisterhood members will participate in the service.

For more information, please contact Lynne Avadenka at [lynneavadenka@gmail.com](mailto:lynneavadenka@gmail.com).



## B'nai Moshe Families Celebrate Chanukah



B'nai Moshe families and friends celebrated the seventh night of Chanukah on Dec. 7 with a "freylich" program that began with a performance by L.I.F.E. Program students led by

music teacher Ruth Katsnelson.

The entire congregation celebrated the holiday with a candle lighting by Cantor Berris and a delicious dairy supper including latkes and an ice cream bar.

"The Klezmanics" entertained the crowd of 160 with a lively mixture of klezmer Chanukah songs and Broadway show tunes, while children made a variety of Chanukah craft projects.

Heather Sherman and Harriet Sherman Kohl chaired this overwhelmingly successful event with a food committee that included Rachel Brown, Susan Greenbaum, Jodie Isser, Paula Kosciak, and Beth Mealoy. A special thanks to my advisors, Ruth Shayne, Carol Pollack and Mimi Markofsky.



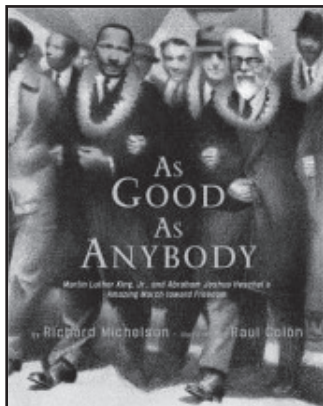
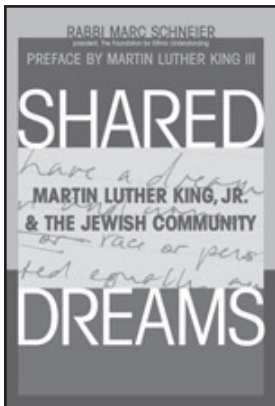
# Check Out New Series of Jewish Encounter Books

It's January and a new secular year has started. In the Jewish calendar, January is pretty quiet after the excitement of Hanukkah that usually dominates December. So I thought I would take time to talk about one of the most exciting developments to happen in the world of Jewish publishing in the last five years.

This is the establishment of an organization called Nextbook Inc. Nextbook is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Jewish literature, culture, and ideas. It runs both Nextbook Press and Tablet Magazine, an online magazine about Jewish life. Inspired by the hunger for books on Jewish subjects that are written in a lively, intelligent, and popular manner, Nextbook Press created the Jewish Encounters Series, which brings together writers of the first rank with people and ideas and events from the Jewish past. The Jewish Encounter Series, under the general editorship of Jonathan Rosen, is a collaboration of Nextbook Inc. and the publisher, Schocken Press with its storied backlist of Jewish classics. These are relatively short focused books that take a contemporary look at Jewish classics via biographies and topical subjects. Below are jackets from some of the Jewish Encounter titles that have been published which the library either has on order, or already in its collection.



And don't forget that in January we celebrate the national holiday of Martin Luther King Day. The library has two books to help commemorate this remarkable American leader and his relationship with the Jewish community.



In the adult department look for the biography **Shared Dreams: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Jewish Community** by Marc Schneier and Martin Luther King III.

For children, find the award winning title **As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom** by Richard Michelson.

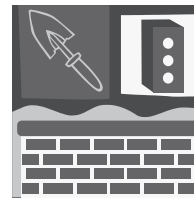
So, as the cold of winter settles in this January, curl up with a good book from your B'nai Moshe Library.



## ✓ Countdown To 100

### ✓ Coming Soon to Your Home Mailbox:

A beautiful brochure offering the opportunity to purchase a commemorative brick engraved with the name of someone who is special to your life. The bricks will be installed outside the school wing entrance to mark weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, bar/bat mitzvot, names of our past and present religious school participants, or any occasion you wish to celebrate. Orders placed by April 1, 2011 will be included in the inaugural groundbreaking ceremony as part of B'nai Moshe's 100-year celebration.



### ✓ A Call For:

All B'nai Moshe family who celebrated bar/bat mitzvah or consecrations with us from 1911-2011. Our **Bar/Bat Mitzvah & Consecration Shabbat** will be Saturday morning, February 5. A **Wedding Shabbat** is scheduled for Saturday, March 5. Please complete and submit the form in this Bulletin and plan to attend!



### ✓ Another Special Shabbat Service:

January 22 is Sisterhood Shabbat, featuring Judie Blumeno of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism Board of Directors. Join us for a very special morning.

### ✓ A Call for Help!

We are looking for sponsors to underwrite some of the costs of our centennial birthday. Perhaps you can help with a donation to fund the Anniversary Weekend Kiddush or the Shabbat dinner? The decorations? The quilt project created by our Life Program students? If you can contribute, please call Pearlana Bodzin at 248.357.1157.



### ✓ Spread the Word!

**Do you know** any former Detroiters who were members of our congregational family? We'd like to invite all who shared our history to join our simcha! Please supply the office with names and telephone numbers and we'll be sure to include them on the guest list!



### ✓ Write it Down!

**BIG Celebration Weekend** is May 20-22, 2011, starting with a very special Shabbat and capped with an incredible **Dinner Dance!**



## B'nai Moshe celebrates World Wide Wrap Feb. 6

Take time to get entangled in The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual FJMC World Wide Wrap on Feb. 6 with the B'nai Moshe Men's Club.

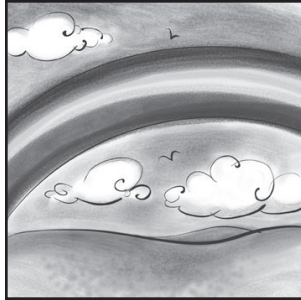
B'nai Moshe will join synagogues around the world in the largest tefillin festival on earth as men and women gather together to fulfill this mitzvah. The event begins at 9 a.m. with a demonstration of how to wear tefillin that will include "The Ties That Bind" video. Morning minyan will begin at 9:15 followed by breakfast at 10 a.m. After breakfast, our guest, Theodore Banks, the assistant treasurer of the National Jewish Fund, will speak about *JNF and the Environment: How You Can Make a Difference for the*

*Land of Israel - and the Peace Process.* Banks, a longtime JNF supporter, is President of Compliance & Competition Consultants, LLC., a firm devoted to assisting corporations in development of effective and efficient corporate compliance programs. He also serves as Counsel to the law firm of Schoeman Updike Kaufman & Scharf, where his practice concentrates on general corporate and antitrust matters. A question and answer session will follow the presentation. To RSVP for this event, call the B'nai Moshe office at 248.788.0600.



Theodore Banks

**STAY AND LEARN  
with  
BARRY LEVINE**



What: One hour discussions on Shabbat beginning about 15 minutes after Adon Olam

**January 15, 2011-  
"Describing God"**

**February 5, 2011-  
"Creation"**

**March 19, 2011-  
"Prophecy"**

**What To Do and How to Do It:**

Go to the Kiddush table and fill your plate. Bring your plate, drink and curiosity to the chapel. Join in the discussion, share your perspective with us, or just listen, eat and enjoy!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Stay and Learn Course Syllabus**

A three-part Introduction to the concepts that have perplexed the "thinking faithful" since our forefathers began the journey to Torah and beyond. How should we describe God? Must the Torah be interpreted literally? What happened in the beginning? Is Creation still occurring? Who is fit to be a Prophet? How do we recognize a Prophet?

In his masterful book, Maimonides: A Guide for Today's Perplexed, Kenneth Seeskin addresses the basic questions that Rambam contemplated in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

To obtain advance copies of the specific chapters from the text and Barry Levine's notes, contact Gail Gales (248.788.3600) two weeks in advance of each session to pick up materials. Droppers-in and the 'just curious' will not need text materials.

**Hold the Date**

The Young Israel of Oak Park Men's Club will host the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Inter-Congregational Men's Dinner Wednesday, February 16 Young Israel of Oak Park 15140 10 Mile Road, Oak Park



Guest Speaker: Stephen Kuperberg

Executive Director, Israel on Campus Coalition

"Fighting the Anti-Israel Bias on the College Campus: Promoting the Israel Agenda"

Hors D'oeuvres 5:30p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Kosher Dietary Laws observed

Couvert: \$50

For reservations, please contact Stewart Silverman

B'nai Moshe Chairman at 248.666.8170

or [stewart\\_silverman@att.net](mailto:stewart_silverman@att.net)



**Dear Manny...**

**Our Minyan Answer Man**

Manny Minyan - Your daily minyan answer man.

Got a question about daily minyan? Write to

Manny, c/o the B'nai Moshe office.

**Dear Manny:**

I'd like to try morning minyan, but I don't own tefillin and don't know how to use them. Is it necessary to wear them?

Signed,

**Unwrapped**

**Dear Unwrapped:**

Though tefillin are a mitzvah for Jewish men, we do not insist that all men wear them. But, we do encourage men to use them and have a few spare pair available if you don't have your own set. If you want lessons on the correct way to put them on, you can ask the clergy in advance. Or, just show up and ask for help! Someone will be glad to assist you in fulfilling this mitzvah. (See Rabbi Pachter's column on page 3.)

**Manny**

# Synagogue News



## Searching for B'nai Moshe Life Cycle Alumni

### Bar/Bat Mitzvah & Consecration Shabbat – Saturday, February 5 Wedding Shabbat - Saturday, March 5

As part of the Congregation B'nai Moshe 100 Years Anniversary Celebration, these two very special shabbatot are planned. If you marked any of these special life cycles at one of the B'nai Moshe buildings, we hope you will plan to attend and take part.

The Rabbi will invoke a special blessing over you, our esteemed alumni. In addition, our alumni will be honored throughout in the service. If you wish to participate, please plan to be in shul by 9:30 a.m. Services will be followed by a festive Kiddush in honor of this celebration.

Please complete the form below and return it to the synagogue office as quickly as possible

### Bar/Bat Mitzvah & Confirmation Shabbat and Wedding Shabbat

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Bar/Bat Mitzvah or Consecration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Date

Number attending: \_\_\_ Bar/Bat Mitzvah & Consecration Shabbat \_\_\_ Wedding Shabbat

\_\_\_ Yes, I would like an honor. (Please check all that apply)

#### Bar/ Bat Mitzvah & Consecration Shabbat

\_\_\_ Torah reader

\_\_\_ D'var Torah (English)

\_\_\_ D'var Haftorah (English)

\_\_\_ Other available Honors in Hebrew  
(Cohen? \_\_\_ Levi? \_\_\_)

\_\_\_ Other available Honors in English

\_\_\_ Non verbal honor (e.g. curtain opening)

#### Wedding Shabbat

\_\_\_ Torah reader \_\_\_ Haftorah

\_\_\_ D'var Torah

\_\_\_ D'var Haftorah

\_\_\_ Other available Honors in Hebrew  
(Cohen? \_\_\_ Levi? \_\_\_)

\_\_\_ Other available Honors in English

\_\_\_ Non verbal honor

We cannot guarantee every request but will try to honor as many as possible.