



## Rabbi Weiner's July 2007 Bulletin Article

As I write this bulletin article, the program year for the synagogue is drawing to a close. With the celebration of our Annual Dinner Dance (another great success—thanks to everyone who worked so hard), the synagogue calendar becomes a little less busy. Now we begin to think and plan for next year, and review our achievements of the past year, to help us chart a proper path for the future.

At approximately this time last year Israel found itself engaged in a difficult military conflict with terrorists from both Gaza and Lebanon. You might say our program year began with communal concern for Israel faced, and commitment to do what we could to alleviate the difficulties experienced by her citizens. Our synagogue responded generously to calls for special donations. Our commitment to Israel was similarly matched by successful Israel Bonds drives both on the High Holidays, and during our annual spring Bonds event. For the second year in a row we also had an amazingly successful *Yom Ha'atzmaut* - Israel Independence Celebration.

Adult education was a great success this year as well. We began the year with an outstanding event, Rabbi Moshe Cotel's "A Jewish Life at the Piano." In addition to a variety of new as well as ongoing classes, 2 new initiatives this year provided an opportunity for even greater learning at a high level. Our Judaism 101 class, which the synagogue received a grant in recognition of its content and innovation concluded its first successful season, and we anticipate the beginning of a new class in the fall as well. Our Seminary Scholar Series, the 4 part lecture series hosting leading professors from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America was also well received by our membership, and this too will be continued next year as well.

Religious life at the synagogue continues to be the cornerstone of our congregation. Our daily minyans, Shabbat and holiday services, and special events have been strong. We have concluded our fifth successful year of our Alternative Egalitarian Service, which has strengthened us as a community and proved that when we all work together, we can accomplish important goals for our congregation, forging unity amidst our different approaches to Conservative Judaism. Over the past years we have been well served by three outstanding Rabbinic Interns. We wish a *Mazal Tov* to our first intern Moshe Schwartz, who was recently ordained at the Seminary and has accepted a position at the

Solomon Schechter High School in Long Island. We are grateful to Marshall Lesack for his 2 years of service to the JCCP and look forward to welcoming Ari Perten again this fall. Each have added so much to our shul, and we thank them

Our programming also has remained strong and excellent. Our Social action committee recently honored dozens of congregants for helping us to achieve our goal of making *mitzvot* and service to the community a greater priority in our communal life. Our Shabbat dinners, Persian Shabbat, Trivia night, our annual Golf Outing, Installation and Awards night, our participation in the Israel Day Parade, Shabbat Across America, the dedication of the Mitchel family Holocaust memorial, our basketball league, March madness food drive, successful completion of our strategic planning, blood drive are but a select few of our many events, activities, and opportunities to enrich our Jewish lives and bond together ever more strongly as a community. We have accomplished a lot. But our goal is to accomplish even more.

So we will evaluate and plan over the summer, always thinking of new ways to build our congregation and providing services and events that are compelling, stimulating, (and lets not forget fun!) And as we make these plans, let us remember that the synagogue remains open each and every day of the summer, waiting to be enriched by your participation.



**Jewish Community Center of Paramus**  
E. 304 Midland Ave., Paramus NJ 07652  
Phone: (201) 262-7691 Fax: (201) 262-6516  
© 2007 Jewish Community Center of Paramus