

Happy homecoming for Maplewood rabbi

by Robert Wiener
NJN Staff Writer

For Rabbi Sholom Bogomilsky, it is homecoming time. He has returned from Brooklyn to his hometown of Maplewood to preside at the Orthodox Congregation Beth Ephraim-Maplewood Jewish Center, and his primary mission is to expand its membership beyond the 25 families who currently worship there.

"It's an exciting time," he says. "The older generation is

moving out. A younger generation of Jews is moving in. And we're offering them a nice happy atmosphere."



Bogomilsky — launching preschool program

Rosh Hashana will mark Bogomilsky's first anniversary at his first pulpit. As part of his season of renewal, his congregation is moving ahead with plans to convert a vacant dentist's office into a preschool program for 20 children. His wife, Fruma, who holds a master's degree in special education, will be in charge.

"It's going to be a

strictly religious day school," he says, "but my Irish Catholic neighbor tells me she can't wait for it to open so she can send her daughter there. She'll have to understand we won't be celebrating Christmas."

Running the synagogue is a labor of love for Bogomilsky, who says he works pro bono.

"I'm also a CPA. I hold a rabbinical degree from Yeshiva Tomchei Temimi Lubavitch in Brooklyn and an accounting degree from Touro College. That's how I earn my living."

That can pose problems at income tax time, especially if Pesach falls anywhere near April 15. But the rabbi sees no conflict between his religious and secular worlds.

"The only thing it means is that I have to work harder at both jobs."