

Chai-Lites

January 2017

Issue 6

Notes from the Corner Office:

As we head into another new year (our second in two months!), I want to share with you thoughts from our recently named Nobel Laureate in Literature. They seem appropriate as we face a time of reflection, change, and opportunity to fulfill our promises (made at Rosh Hashanah) to be our best selves!
See you soon: Anne

Forever Young (abridged)

[Bob Dylan](#)

May God bless and keep you always
May your wishes all come true
May you always do for others
And let others do for you
May you build a ladder to the stars
And climb on every rung

May you grow up to be righteous
May you grow up to be true
May you always know the truth
And see the lights surrounding you
May you always be courageous
Stand upright and be strong

May your hands always be busy
May your feet always be swift
May you have a strong foundation
When the winds of changes shift
May your heart always be joyful
May your song always be sung
And may you stay
Forever young



**KEEP
CALM
AND
MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

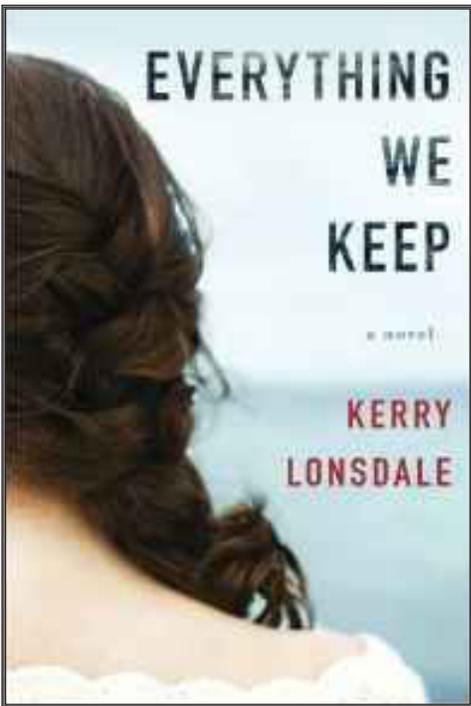
Saturday 12/31/16 : Breakfast Club

Friday 1/6/16 : Tot Shabbat 6:30pm

**Friday 1/20/17 : Boomers
Kabobs & Conversation @ 6pm**

**Sunday 1/22/17 : Refugee Action
Committee meeting 10:45am**

Sunday 1/29/17 : Make-a-Meal



**TUESDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB
January 31 @ 10am**

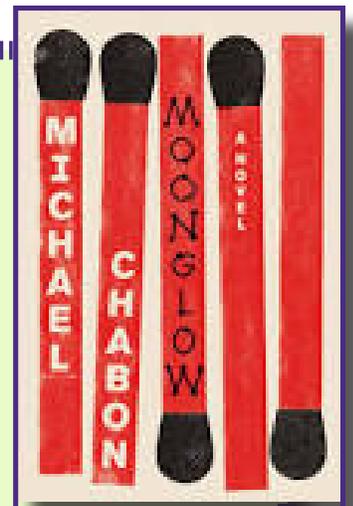
**Everything We Keep
By: Kerry Lansdale**

For questions please contact Nancy
Cook nancyfcook@gmail.com

CBI

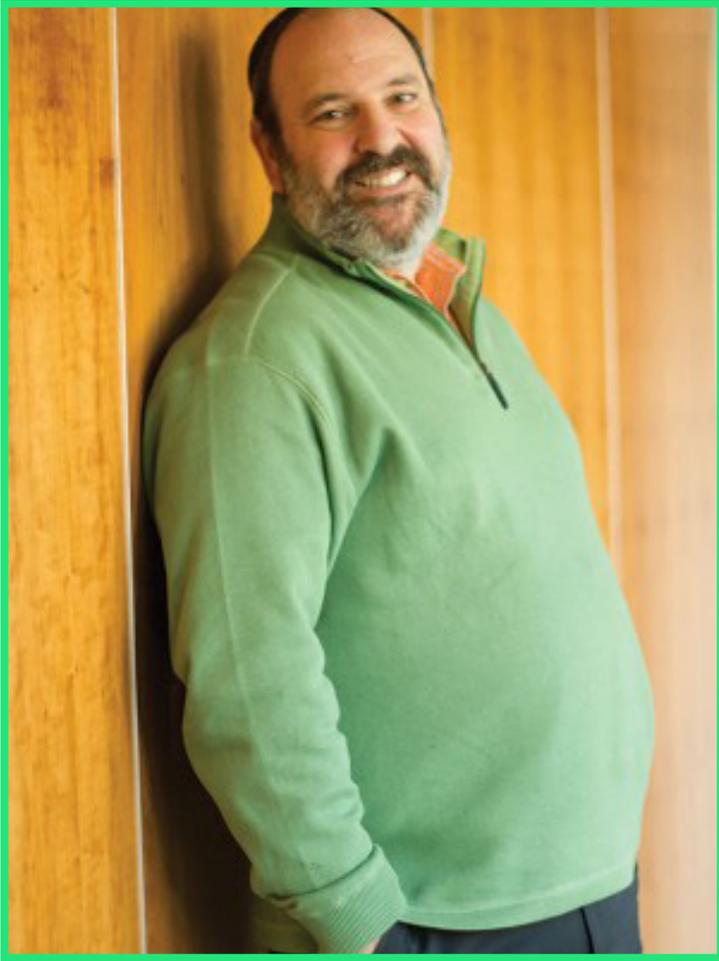
**Sunday Book Club
January 15th @ 9:30am**

**Moonglow
By: Michael Chabon**



Questions??? * Debby Rosin * entmom1219@aol.com

Our Cantor in the News!!



Cantor Brian Kalver said he looks forward to getting involved in “the family part of life, the growing-up part of life, the getting older part of life.”

by Johanna Ginsberg
NJN Staff Writer
December 7, 2016

After 20 years as a corporate lawyer, Brian Kalver of Morristown now sings for his supper. Invested as a cantor last spring following five years of study at the Academy for Jewish Religion in Riverdale, NY, he started in September at Congregation B’nai Israel of Basking Ridge as hazzan.

Singing “has particular meaning for me because it’s such a contrast to being a lawyer,” Kalver said. “I’m so enamored of the idea of having my life’s work be part of the fabric of the synagogue and the Jewish community.” By contrast, he pointed out, “in law I was involved in the business part of life as opposed to the family part of life, the growing up part of life, the getting older part of life.”

His model for his new role is Cantor Jack Korbman, who, before retiring in December 2015, served 30 years at Adath Shalom in Morris Plains, where Kalver, his wife Sue Och, and their three children (ages 21, 18, and 14) are longtime members.

“Jack is so beloved by people in the synagogue. People are crazy about him,” said Kalver. “Whatever I accomplished as a lawyer, I never established that kind of relationship with my clients.” Kalver, 54, said he’d be grateful “just to have some of that as opposed to the dryness and tensions created between lawyers and the world.”

Though this is Kalver’s first professional cantorial gig, music has been a fixture in his life. He played piano and clarinet growing up, was involved with musicals in high school and at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires, sang in a choir while studying at the University of Virginia, and performed in light opera while at University of Pennsylvania Law School. Then he hit a dry spell (as a lawyer in a large firm, he was, he said, “much too busy” to sing) until his first child was born in 1995, when, in addition to caring for the baby, he managed to participate in several local community theater productions.

But he never really considered music more than a hobby — until he started singing with Kol Dodi, a Jewish community choir founded in 1991 by two local cantors, Rikki Lippitz of Oheb Shalom Congregation in South Orange, and Joel Caplan of Congregation Agudath Israel of West Essex in Caldwell. He joined at the suggestion of then Adath Shalom religious school director and friend Rebecca Glass, who also suggested he take on the role of music teacher at the synagogue.

It was during this time that Kalver’s aging mother developed dementia. “I’d go to Kol Dodi and it was a relief to sing,” he said. “It was cathartic in a way that struck me as revealing something about me I did not expect. That was very powerful.”

Refugee Action Committee
Next meeting is on
Sunday, January 22 at 10:45am
at B'nai Israel.

If you are interested in getting involved,
please contact
Jane Simon
janesimon1964@comcast.net or
Mike Berg
Michael.Berg@verizonwireless.com

On December 9th after Friday night services, CBI's new Refugee Action Committee was honored to host speaker Roberta Elliott. To an audience comprised both of congregants and members of the local community, Ms. Elliott shared her moving personal history and passion to help refugees - including those recently in Austria and Greece. It's safe to say that everyone in the audience was moved and overwhelmed by her story. The deplorable conditions in the refugee camps (extreme crowding, no electricity or running water, mandatory scheduled cesarean sections for all deliveries so as to not inconvenience the physicians) disturbed all of us, but I believe we were equally inspired by Roberta's tales of the generous and loving volunteers she has met along the way.

Contrary to what we might wish to believe, Roberta reported that the refugees are very much like us: well-educated and middle class. Those who are in the refugee camps were late to leave their homes because they had much to lose, yet finally felt forced to leave. Roberta educated us about the insurmountable red tape refugees must endure in order to move on to more permanent living situations, whether in Europe or in the US, and that this humanitarian crisis is unfortunately likely to be with us for decades to come.

Her inspirational talk felt like a call to action for members of our committee to try to do all we can to help refugee populations locally and abroad. In the near future we hope to plan more educational speakers and participate in more hands-on volunteer activities. We also intend to collect needed household items and even yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks to send to the refugees in Greece (apparently they have absolutely nothing to do and love to knit!). We hope to involve the local community in all of these efforts, increasing awareness and support for these vulnerable, desperate people.

Our Refugee Action Committee will next be meeting on Sunday January 22 at 10:45am. Please join us to learn what you can do to help. For more information email Jane Simon at Janesimon1964@comcast.net or Mike Berg at mikeberg67@gmail.com



*Ridge Oak Dinner
December 14, 2016*



Congregation
B'NAI ISRAEL
בני ישראל

Shabbat Services

Friday evenings - 7:30pm

Saturday mornings - 9:30am

Breakfast Club December 31st

January 2017 MINCHAH Jeremy Lebovitz

Saturday afternoon, January 28, 4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Would you like to sponsor an Oneg or Kiddush, and support CBI?

It can be in honor of a special occasion, such as
a birthday, an anniversary, a graduation, a milestone, or just because.

Please contact the office
office@cbibr.org

Congregation
B'NAI ISRAEL
בני ישראל



TOT SHABBAT

Every first Friday of the month
6:30-7:00 pm
January 6th
February 3rd

Come sing along with Hazzan Brian and learn about the Torah
with Rabbi Schechter!
This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and their young children
to have their first taste of the warmth and joy of the
Shabbat experience.
Light refreshments & candle lighting following.

January is Rush month.

All 8-12th graders are welcome to join us for these fun events especially for prospective members!

January 3 we have a Frozen Yogurt night in Basking Ridge at Frozen Falls (413 King George Road) from 7pm-8pm. Next we have another Frozen Yogurt night on January 5 but this will be in Warren at 16 Handles (6 Mt Bethel Road) from 7pm-8pm. Come hang out with us and enjoy some yogurt!

January 13, we are hosting a Shabbat program, 6:30-8:30. Watch Tuesday Tidbits for the location. It will be a great opportunity to get to know our members while celebrating Shabbat together.

February 5, join us for a Scavenger Hunt at Bridgewater Commons (400 Commons Way, Bridgewater), 2pm-4pm, for a super fun afternoon! We all hope to see you guys during these next few events!!

For more information, email me at haleylevine19@gmail.com or Maya Zucker at chaverimbbyo5317@gmail.com.

Parents can contact our advisor, Janice Zucker at jalderz@optonline.net or 908-963-5357.

Follow us on Instagram @Chaverim_BBYO!

Like Rabbi John Schechter on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/RabbiSchechter>

Need a BABYSITTER or a Mother's Helper?

Get out and have fun with the help from one of our own members!!

Please consider this list of available CBI teenagers whose contact information is listed in the directory

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Rachel Breslau | Basking Ridge |
| Erica Isaacs | Bedminster |
| Cameron Lipton | Warren |
| Meghan Miller | Bernardsville |
| Alex Simon | Gladstone |
| Lily Simon | Gladstone |
| Sam Foster | Chester/Mendham |
| Eli Foster | Chester/Mendham |
| Maya Zucker | Basking Ridge |
| Lauren Wasserman | Green Brook |

If you have a teen you'd like to be included in this directory, please contact sunrise@cbibr.org

PLANNING AN EVENT?

Keep CBI's Catering Facility in Mind!

If you are planning a special occasion, consider using our spacious and elegant hall for your next simcha.

When celebrated in the sanctity of the Temple, weddings, B'nai Mitzvah, Brit, Baby Namings and other life cycle events take on a more spiritual significance.

We have a marvelous panel of caterers from which to choose.

Contact the CBI Office: 908 204-1412, x104 or office@cbibr.org





February:
Sisterhood Dinner 3.0 at Bistro 73
Tentatively Feb 7th

May Cooking Club event:
Summer salads
Favorite salads and recipes
(venue tbd)



Our next Make-A-Meal :
Spaces are available for January 29,
February 26 and March 19.

Debbie and Marcy

Boomers & Beyond

Boomers Does Broadway!!

Tickets to the next hit of the Broadway Season,
"Dear Evan Hansen", Sunday April 2nd, 3:00 pm.

All his life, Evan Hansen has felt invisible. But when a tragic event shocks the community and thrusts him into the center of a rapidly evolving controversy, Evan is given the opportunity of a lifetime: the chance to be somebody else. A new American musical, Dear Evan Hansen is a deeply personal and profoundly contemporary story about a little lie that changes everything. Orchestra seats are \$160 each. RSVP required.

RSVP to boomers@cbibr.org

Religious School Calendar

Sunday, December 25-	NO SCHOOL – WINTER BREAK
Sunday, January 1	
Friday, January 6	Tot Shabbat-(Story telling & songs w/ Rabbi & Cantor) 6:30-7:00pm Family Service 7:30-8:30pm
Saturday, January 7	6th & 7th grade lead services & after services lunch/discussion
Sunday, January 8	School: Grades 1-7 7th Grade Social Action
Friday, January 13	3rd, 4th & 5th lead services 7:30pm
Sunday, January 15	NO SCHOOL – MLK Weekend
Sunday, January 22	School: K-6 Kinder Club
Wednesday, January 25	HEBREW HIGH #5
Saturday, January 28	K-3 Family Service 9:15am 4th & 5th Grade Havdalah Service – 5:00-6:00 pm
Sunday, January 29	School: Grades 1-7 School: K-5 Pancake Breakfast for K-5 9:15 am - w/Pajama Collection 7th graders to prepare pancake breakfast with Rabbi-8:00am 6th graders & their parents Mitzvot of Metrowest 9:00-11am
Friday, February 3	Tot Shabbat-(Story telling & songs w/ Rabbi & Cantor) 7:00-7:30pm Family Service 7:30-8:30pm
	Sunday, February 5 School: Grades 1-7 Pre K/Kindergarten Tu B'Shevat Program





Glenn Wechsler

Religious School Director

Our tradition teaches that after we light the Chanukah candles we should put the menorah in a place where it can be seen from the outside in order to proclaim to all the miracle of Chanukah. What miracle, though, are we proclaiming? Many suggest that the miracle of Chanukah is the fact that the olive oil found in the Temple lasted for eight days rather than one. Others contend that the real miracle of Chanukah is that a small band of Jewish rebels were able to defeat the mighty Syrian-Greek army and restore Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel. Author Daniel Gordis proposes a third modern day option: By putting our menorah in the window, he suggests, we are demonstrating yet another historical miracle - the continued survival of the Jewish people.

Gordis may be right but survival alone is not sufficient. Our survival must be animated by celebratory and purposeful living both of which were on full display at our Religious school in December. One walking through the school might very well have encountered children singing Chanukah songs with the Chazzan, learning about the history and practices of Chanukah and practicing Hebrew reading with their teachers, sculpting clay dreidels, or hearing stories about How they play dreidel in the town of Chelm and of the time when a community in Billings, Montana came to the defense of their Jewish neighbors during Chanukah. If one stopped by on a particular Sunday morning they might have seen a Chanukah celebration at which the children participated in Chanukah themed carnival like games, decorated donuts, and searched for the missing cruse of oil. Or possibly they might have witnessed our seventh graders helping to prepare a meal for those in need, listening to a Holocaust survivor share his experiences with them or singing holiday songs and serving a meal to residents of Ridge Oak Senior Housing.

There is a wonderful legend in the Jewish tradition which relates that when the sea split and the Israelites passed through the waters, a small group of people missed seeing the miracle entirely. Rather than looking up and seeing all the miracles around them, they could only focus on the mud in their shoes.

Indeed, even today, we sometimes need to remind ourselves of all the miracles in our lives and to focus on all the beauty surrounding us rather than being bogged down by the mud in our shoes.

Perhaps, then, some 2000 years later the real miracle of Chanukah is watching an energetic group of children in our Religious school taking pride in their Jewish heritage, reaching out to those in need and celebrating their traditions all within the embrace of a warm and caring community.

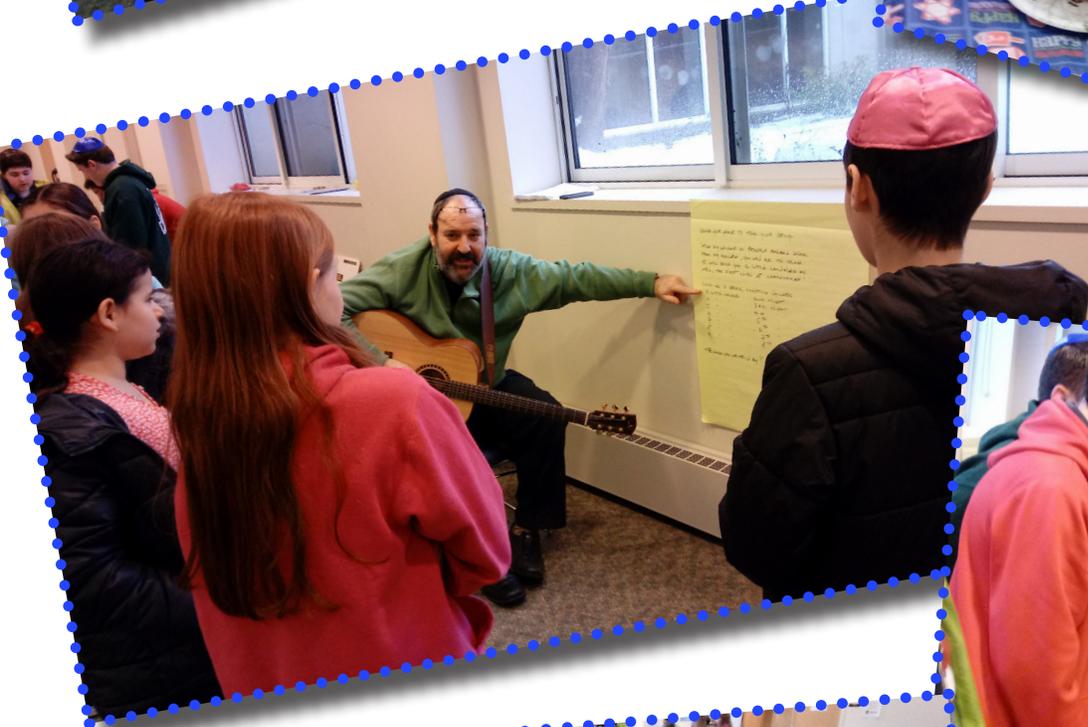
Hanukah Fun with CBI Religious School



**Sunday,
December 18
2016**



...more



**Hanukah
fun!**

Tributes

Tributes \$18

Tree Certificates \$18 per tree

Siddur or Mahzor \$54

Dedicate a volume of the Schottenstein edition of the Talmud \$100

To... congratulate someone on a B'nai Mitzvah
honor a Graduate
say "I'm sorry for your loss" or remember a loved one
tell someone you're thinking of them
thank someone for their kindness
wish Mazel Tov on a wonderful occasion or achievement

A card will be sent to the recipient and listed here.
To order, contact **Sara** in the office at
204-1412 X104 or cbibr.org or 40 Whitenack Road,
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Donations have been made to the synagogue for the following occasions:

January 2017

To Mr. & Mrs. Adam Abellew & Family

In memory of Dorothy Kurzweil
From, Harriet Sheitelman & Jerome Sheitelman

Maureen Joachim & Family

In memory of Florence Bryer
From, Debbie & Yehoshua Looks

Dr. Alan Lapa & Family

In memory of your beloved mother, Shirley Lapa
From, Debby & Larry Rosin
Linda & Glenn Rosenthal
Robert & Rosalie Grass
The Dubovy Family
Anne Nemetz

To Michele Ganes & Family

In memory of your beloved father,
Milton Greenberg
In memory of your brother-in-law,
David Silverstone
From, Anne Nemetz

Thank You

The Joachim Fund From:

Dr. Alan Lapa & Family

In memory of your beloved mother, Shirley Lapa
From, Susan Goldsmith

Trees

A tree has been planted in Israel

Dr. Alan Lapa & Family

In memory of your beloved mother, Shirley Lapa
From, Ellen & Bill Marks
From, Ellen Stevens

Caring Committee

Dr. Alan Lapa & Family

In memory of Shirley Lapa, mother of Dr. Alan Lapa
From, Pam & Steve Ball
From, Maureen & Steve Joachim

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Dr. Alan Lapa & Family

In memory of Shirley Lapa, mother of Dr. Alan Lapa
From, Beth & Jeff Goldstein & Family
From, Nancy & Fred Okun
From, Nancy & Bob Novack

Michele Ganes & Family

In memory of Milton Greenberg, father of Michele
Ganes
From, Nancy & Bob Novack

Prayer Book

**A prayer book has been donated in memory of
Shirley Lapa,**

mother of Dr. Alan Lapa
From, Gayle & Michael Braunstein

Zichronam Livrakhah — Their Memories are a Blessing

We Pass The Mourning of...

Marilyn Shelz grandmother of Scott Miller
Alvin Rotberg father of Jane Simon
Michael Massa brother of Jim Massa
Harold Goldstein father of Jill Dolgin
Benjamin Loscher father of Elna Robbins
Lena Zemel mother of Mildred Klein
Michael Weinstein father of Alan Weinstein
Sarah Diamond grandmother of Paul Kiell
Janis Goldstein mother of Risa Goldstein
Joe Dwek father of David Dwek
Naomi Herstein Robbins wife Murray Robbins
Charles Okin father-in-law of Elna Robbins
Nettie Doctofsky mother of Nancy Okun
Margaret Mendelson grandmother of Michelle Schachter
Florence Schuster mother of Stacey Simon
George Garfinkel father of David Garfinkel
Elias Sefchovich father of Philip Sefchovich
Golda Och mother of Sue Och
Irwin Braunstein husband of Elayne Braunstein
Irwin Braunstein father of Michael, David & Gale Braunstein
Carol Pressler mother of Lee Pressler
Arnold Brauer father of Jonathan Brauer
Anita Gans mother of Aviva Rosenberg
Sylvia Massen mother of Jo Ann Issenman
Jack Spitalny father of Robin Klein
Arthur Freedberg father of Amy Massa
Rose Axelrod aunt of Ellen Marks
Beverly Mayle mother of Jan Mayle

COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

**New committees still forming!*

Boomers and Beyond

Pam Ball
Diane Newman

Budget and Finance

Steve Joachim

Building

Gale Braunstein

Caring

Pam Ball

Kippot and Tallit Sales

Michelle Ganes

Membership

Nancy Cook
Ellen Marks

Memorial Wall

Dorit Kransdorf

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Nancy Braunstein
Nancy Novack

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Lydia Muller
Marla Sommer

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Michael Berg

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Shari Lapa

Refugee Action Committee

Jane Simon
Michael Berg

Holiday Committee

Dorit Kransdorf
Hilary Kelly

Technology & Operations

Craig Lipset
Howard Stolzer

Chai-Lites

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Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm
Wednesday 9am-6pm (during Religious School)
Friday 9am-2pm

Submit your articles and advertising requests to the attention of
Sara Faber or Heather Silver @ sunrise@cbibr.org

DEADLINE is the 15th of the month

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First Vice President

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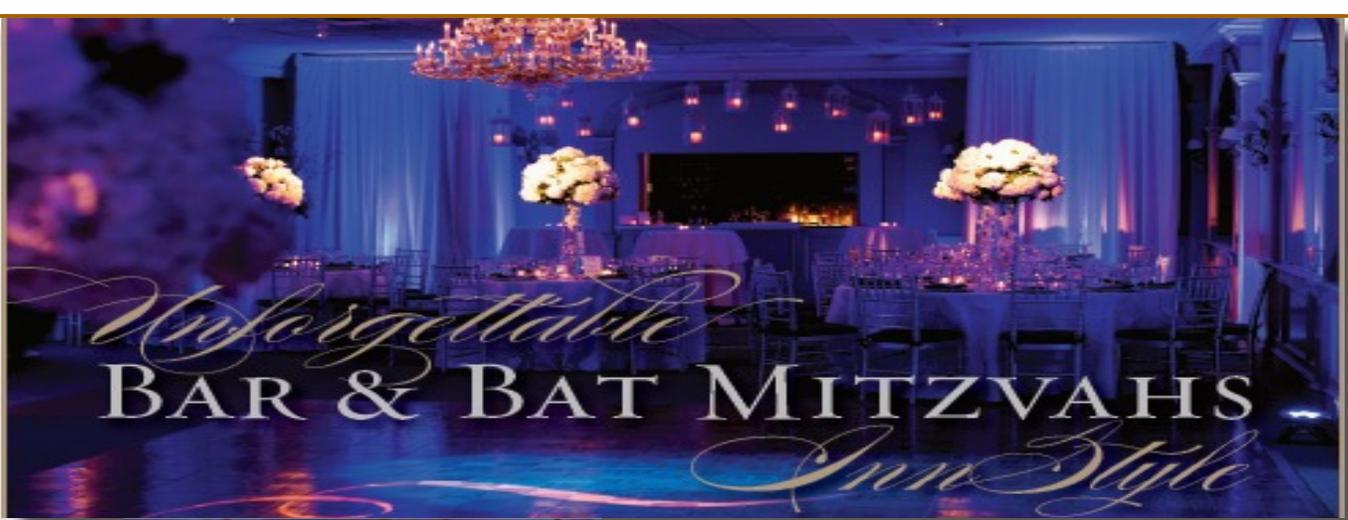
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