



**Pine Brook Jewish Center**  
*Chevra Agudas Achim Anshy Pine Brook*  
*Established in 1896*

A monthly publication of the Pine Brook Jewish Center.  
Serving the needs of our diverse Jewish community for more than 120 years.

# CANDLESTICK

## **Clergy and Staff**

Mark David Finkel, Rabbi  
Menachem Toren, Cantor  
Dr. Asher Krief, Rabbi Emeritus  
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Lisa Lerman and Jill Buckler, Nursery School Co-Directors  
Sandy Gonzalez, Melanie Lewis, and Karen Herbst, Office Administrators  
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## **Religious Service Times**

**Friday Evenings** at 8:00 p.m. The family service is held on the first Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. instead of 8:00 p.m. from September through June.

**Saturday Mornings** at 9:45 a.m. with preliminary prayers at 9:30 a.m.

## **Emergency Contact Information**

Please use the following protocol in the event of an emergency or if you lose a loved one:  
Call the synagogue office at 973-244-9800. If the office is closed, call Rabbi Finkel at (973) 287-7047 (home) or (973) 407-0065 (cell). If you are unable to reach the Rabbi, contact Cantor Toren at (973) 980-7777 or Michelle Zuckerman at (973) 886-5456.

# RABBI'S MESSAGE

RABBI MARK DAVID FINKEL

## A Shushan *Purim* Double Feature (A time not to protest masks)

As COVID numbers come down and masks become optional, we can pick up where we left off last summer and begin to think of all of the things that we are going to catch up on post-COVID: such as, what will be the next movie that we are going to see, not on cable, or Netflix or Amazon prime, but really going to the movies !

Ahh ! Back to the multiplexes, where there is something for everyone. In the old days ... as I tell my children, there were “double features” to, hopefully, bring in a crowd to the large or even the neighborhood “single screen” theaters by offering an audience two films (one for those who like chocolate and one for those who like vanilla), and the second feature, maybe, was also near the top of our list to see, ... and to those for whom the “double feature” brings home a moment for warm nostalgia, there was the “double feature” at the drive-in.

*Purim* is a time to look back and smile, even laugh at the way things were, and hopefully, it can also give us a moment to laugh today in the face of craziness in our world.

... and so, on *Purim* evening Pine Brook Jewish Center will offer a Shushan *Purim* “double feature” in-person and remote. We will begin the evening with the traditional reading of the *megillah*: Vashti, Haman, Mordecai, Queen Esther, Ahashverosh: the oldest Jewish melodrama: chanted in the PBJC sanctuary and on Zoom and livestream.

The second feature, as Monty Python would say: “and now for something ... different:” Billy Joel – *Megillah Man*.

If you were a fan of *The Sound of Music*, you may have attended or heard about *The Sound of Music* sing-alongs, where people go to see a special showing of *The Sound of Music* in a large movie theater, and people are encouraged to sing along with Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, and the von Trapp family while the movie is being shown. It's fun, and it's cathartic. No one “sh-sh-sh's” you, and it's even better than singing in the shower because your singing doesn't disturb any of the other people in the theater who are doing the same thing and the soundtrack is louder than any voice in the audience: a G-rated Rocky Horror Picture Show experience.

So, for those of you who are *Purim* fans and Billy Joel fans, we are going to show on the “big screen” in the sanctuary and on whatever size screen you Zoom or watch livestream at home, *Billy Joel - Megillah Man*, a pre-recorded parody of the *Purim* story, told through parodies of Billy Joel's music. We will be distributing song sheets in the sanctuary and offering them as a download to accompany the Zoom and live stream. **EVERYONE** is encouraged to sing along: again, remember: the original soundtrack is louder than any voice in the audience !

It will be fun. It also can be cathartic, given the stress we feel; and for those of you who always thought that you could get a gig singing Billy Joel songs in public: this is your opportunity ... and since it's *Purim*, you might try dressing up like Billy Joel (or one of his ex-wives) to enhance the experience.

Further details are in this *Candlestick* and the PBJC Weekly announcements.

Hag Same'ah, Happy *Purim*.

I look forward to seeing you in *schule*, or on Zoom, or you seeing us on livestream.

Rabbi Finkel

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MICHAEL WEINSTEIN

President

*"He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters." Psalm 23:2*

So okay...I'm no Rabbi, but since one of my responsibilities as President is to write a monthly article of some significance, I'll take a stab at this all-popular and relevant Psalm. I think it's too easy to take the "green pastures" most literally, that G-d supplies all we need in amazing abundance. What David was saying is lots more about the seasonality, dry and rainy, not just in the environment but in our lives - tougher times and better times. We've been laying low in tough times, but can also "lie" around in good times too, maybe being thoughtful towards what the better outlook means to each of us. And the "still waters" must be about G-d emphasizing the calm so we are comfortable making our own call on things. The message to me is, borrowing from one of my favorite *Oh Brother Where Art Thou* quotes, "C'mon in boys; the water is fine!". Of course, we can each still decide whether we want to dive in for a swim, wade ankle deep, or just go quench our thirst. The message seems clear. Enjoy it the way you choose, and don't forget that above all, to trust in G-d.

So it seems to me this is exactly where we are. At least for now, let's just say, "Time's up, COVID-19". Cases are certainly way down. Some of us would rather continue from a comfortable distance; that's fine. For others, I among them, you feel the calling. It's time to suck it up, be optimistic, and get out there to find a place, your place. For our community, this may be the best chance at a sustained normalcy since the pandemic hit us two years ago. I believe we may be in the best moment, with the best outlook, to emphasize, maybe reaffirm, our Pine Brook Jewish Center as a "center" of our community. It's time to remember connections, to breathe in life, and make it all a personal thing - the way we as social animals (Jews) were meant to.... We've been bogged down enough so let's forge ahead with bigger steps and leaps of faith than we've perhaps become used to. Please come join us, become engaged, step out and get involved.

Here are some of the many developments and opportunities PBJC has to offer to you, our community:

- Though Zoom and livestream will remain an option, Shabbat and holiday services are now mask-optional beginning March 7. Arriving in mid-March, look to Purim for a whimsical celebration, our own Megillah reading, and a special Purim Spiel inspired by Billy Joel and his music. Come and join us!
- Oneg Shabbats, Kiddushes, and holiday celebrations are once again in-person. As in days past, PBJC will provide bountiful food after services. Come join us in the chance to break bread (and rugelach) and connect with fellow congregants in our beautiful Scheinman Hall. Having passed all inspections, our much-anticipated kitchen is now a wonderful reality, full of culinary possibilities; you can look forward to celebrating it soon with a "shower", the dry kind, soon to be announced.
- Our Religious School has returned to mask-optional and we are once again celebrating our students' achievements with in-person class services.
- Sisterhood, Men's Club, the Betty Crane Friendship Club, our Programming and Membership Committees are busy planning and scheduling future events for this spring and beyond! Come paint some pottery with Sisterhood or attend a hockey game with Men's Club. Let's enjoy being together as a PBJC community.
- A new Rabbi-taught adult education class is beginning and Cooking with the Cantor classes are continuing.
- Please come and look for inspiration in whatever area may satisfy you. Other events and programming are planned, some are scheduled and some coming into focus; please read our weekly blasts and look on our website for the latest.

One more thing... Even though we've been sheltered and weighed down with our own stuff, please let us not forget the plight of the Ukrainian people, our Jewish brothers and sisters among them. We, as Jews, know precisely what it's like to be diminished, minimized, targets of baseless hatred and worse, victims of the unprovoked. As the Jewish people have a history of supporting other oppressed communities around the world, please consider charity and prayer for their return to normalcy. Let this be an important step for the members of the PBJC community to stand tall, as we are afforded new opportunities to stand together and reaffirm our own community more personally and intimately.

Michael, [pbjcmweinstein@gmail.com](mailto:pbjcmweinstein@gmail.com), 551-404-2089

# EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

LISA LERMAN and JILL BUCKLER

Early Childhood Center Co-Directors

February was a short but exciting month here at the PBJC ECC (Early Childhood Center!). Winter just flies by when you are busy doing all the fun, creative, and educational activities that can be found right here in our building. The children have been discussing whether or not they thought the groundhog saw its shadow, they continue to work on their winter counting books and they continue to discuss the letter or color of the week.

As we hope you have heard by now, PBJC ECC is thriving. We have expanded our already vibrant and stimulating preschool program to accommodate the needs of parents who require longer hours. Children ages 18 months to 5 years old can enroll in the Giggle Zone, an expanded care option (hours available from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) to complement our current preschool classes.

Registration is now open for the 2022-23 school year. We will be offering classes for 18 month olds (Intro) through Pre - K 4's. Additionally, we provide enrichment classes including music, gym, art appreciation, and science. We also hope to be offering optional after school programs such as cooking, sports, movement, and more!

Summer 2022 will be here before we know it. Planning for PBJC Day camp is in full swing! Applications for summer 2022, for children ages 18 months - 5 years old will be available at the end of the month. Registration forms will be available through the ECC office. At PBJC Day camp we offer an 8-week program highlighted by fabulous weekly themes and programming that includes water play, arts and crafts, music, games, sports, special events, and more!

Be sure to "like" us on Facebook and check us out on the PBJC website. We will be sharing all sorts of information, updates, and photos.

As always, our door is open to anyone who would like more information about any of our ECC programs.

Warm regards,

Lisa Lerman and Jill Buckler  
PBJC ECC Co-Directors

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

MARY SHEYDWASSER

Educational Director

I cannot believe that we are preparing for our 2022-2023 Religious School registration. We are looking forward to another great year, and with your input from our recent Religious School survey, we will continue to make the necessary revisions to give your children, the very best Jewish experience that we possibly can. Thank you all for your support, commitment, and dedication to our program!

Kitah Gimel participated in their Kabbalat Shabbat Service and did an excellent job. I am so proud of our students, *yasher koach* and *mazel tov* to each and every one of them. Words cannot express the gratitude that we have to our wonderful educators who have worked so tirelessly in preparing our children: Joshua Gonzalez, Michelle Nadel, Alyse Heilpern. Jennifer Axelrad and Wendy Dratler.

*Kehila Kedosha* is a community that genuinely cares about the people who are part of it. As Educators, we strive to touch the lives of our students and to provide a meaningful and positive impact on the way they and their families embrace Judaism. We do this by creating a warm and inviting community with our class services and special events. In the spirit of being a part of a *kehilla*, our Kitah Bet families will be coming together to create a *birkat habayit*, a *hamsah*, a blessing for one's home.

Let no sadness come through this gate,  
Let no trouble come to this dwelling,  
Let no fear come through this door,  
Let no conflict be in this place,  
Let our home be filled with blessing and peace.

Our Kitot Aleph and Bet parents and students will be learning the importance of "*hiddur mitzvah*" by decorating the cover for the siddur that their children will be studying from in the years ahead. May the siddur be a constant source of Jewish knowledge throughout their lives.

The joyous holiday of Purim takes place during Adar, a month known for celebration and happiness. Our primary grades (K-2) have a Purim Puppet Workshop planned and our older students will have the opportunity to enjoy a phenomenal program, "The Give and Take Jugglers" sponsored by Sisterhood and the Religious School. Todah Rabah to the wonderful women in Sisterhood who provides us all with all the amenities to make our holidays so celebratory. I would also like to acknowledge all the students in our school for contributing tzedakah, monies that went towards the *mishloach manot* for our community!

As I write this article, Kitah Dalet students are busy preparing for their Kabbalat Shabbat Service scheduled for Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. We are going to have an abbreviated Shabbaton, and while it will be an event filled with lots of fun, food, and games, it does have an educational purpose.

I challenged these students to break up into groups, come to a consensus and write a meaningful prayer. I would like to share what these thoughtful students had to say....

"Dear G-d, we ask for you to protect our synagogue. The congregation and community within. We care for this place like it's our home. The synagogue is so meaningful and has an amazing history behind it. We shall cherish the memories in this synagogue in our hearts forever. We love giving tzedakah for different causes. We can't wait to become a Bat Mitzvah, when we go on the bimah and read from the Torah."

"Bless the sun, the sky, the seas. You shall love the trees. Love all animals from the whales to the bees. Bless your home, your family your friends. Spread kindness wherever you may end. Big and green, blue and gray, love the Earth every day. (We wrote this prayer because we believe that everyone should respect and protect the Earth and all of its creatures.)"

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL (continued)

“Equal rights: Blessed are you Adonai, our G-d, King of the Universe, only you have the power to make everyone equal in their own individual ways. They all deserve to be heard. G-d intended all beings to be equal, yet some are not treated as they should be. All beings are different but the same. We pray to you, Adonai, help these people see others equally.”

“Don’t be greedy, do a good deed. We will all come together as one community and sing our prayer very creatively. Be kind and nice, don’t be cold as ice, and we will all be blessed tonight. Next year, we will win, win the Torah portion fight, we will do it right with lots of might. So, watch us win the prayer fight tonight!”

These students are our future, and I couldn’t help but “*shepp nachus*” when I read these!

Upcoming Events and Programs for the month of March:

- Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> – Havdalah Workshop for Kitot Aleph and Bet
- Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – Kitah Bet – Hamsah and Siddur Workshop with parents and students
- Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – B’Yachad for 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> graders
- Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – Kitah Dalet Kabbalat Shabbat Service
- Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Junior Congregation
- **Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – 2022-2023 School Year Registration**
- Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – Kitah Aleph Siddur Workshop with parents and students
- Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – Puppet Show Workshop for primary grades
- **Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – Challah Days**
- Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> – Purim Celebration
- Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – B’Yachad – 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders
- Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> – Junior Congregation

B’Shalom,

Mary Sheydwasser

# THE HARVEY JAFFE B'YACHAD MEMORIAL FUND

Harvey Jaffe, *Hershey*, was the driving force behind *B'yachad*. He helped make our dream come alive by leading a vibrant community of learners who come together post their B'Nai Mitzvah! This is what Hershey had to say about it:

The success of our Hebrew High School, *B'yachad*, is dependent on the ability to not only learn about 'the ethics of our people,' but more importantly to build a community. When students trust and care about each other they feel safe to share their views and ideas in a classroom setting and a dialogue begins. The fear of being judged by one's peers dissipates, and discussions become lively and interactive. From the time of Hillel and Shammai, our tradition teaches that there was always room to examine, dissect and re-evaluate our laws. In fact, many believe that different perspectives are exactly the reason Judaism has survived for almost 6000 years. However, all our ancestors agreed on the importance of a holy community a '*kehilah kedusha*,' where everyone is respected, and every opinion is valued.

A few testimonials...

*The reason I come back to B'yachad cannot be put into words. I cannot describe how much fun it is; it is something that needs to be experienced to understand. Hershey is a magnificent teacher who does an incredible job engaging with all the students and I strongly recommend that everyone attend B'yachad.*

*The reason I keep coming back to B'yachad is because I want to keep learning deeply about Judaism and all its many different features. Also, I love Hershey's sense of humor and the way he handles things are funny. Finally, I like the things we talk about and hanging with friends. B'yachad is the best place to be on a Thursday night, Mrs. Sheydwasser, Hershey, and everyone in it are the best.*

*B'yachad has given me the opportunity to grow closer with my peers. I've learned beyond the basics of responsibility, right from wrong and a series of life lessons. The friendship, trust and creativity in the room allows me to connect individually with each person. I am proud to be a part of B'yachad and I am proud to speak freely there without hesitation.*

*I still come to B'yachad because of the environment and because I know I will learn something I may not anywhere else. Hershey is someone I know I can tell anything to and ask anything without worrying about it leaving the conversation. I love learning about my Jewish roots and about what my religion stands for in relation to the past, the present and what will happen in the future.*

Funds were collected after his untimely passing four years ago, however, his legacy still lives on. Hershey's family has decided to put this money and all future donations towards scholarships for students interested in enrolling in *B'Yachad*, along with funding off-site excursions that have always been highlights of our program. Donations are accepted in any amount. To make a donation, go to the [DONATE NOW](#) section of the PBJC website and make sure to select Harvey Jaffe B'yachad Memorial Fund as the Payment Type.

May this serve as a living tribute to his memory.

# ELIOT SAKOLSKY AARON MELZER SCHOLARSHIP

Arlene and David Sakolsky, along with their three sons, Eliot, Harvey, and Bill, were pillars of the Jewish community. Eliot was the United Synagogue Youth (USY) leader at Congregation Beth Shalom in Pompton Lakes. He passed away at the age of thirty-one.

A scholarship fund was established by Congregation Beth Shalom in Eliot's memory. The goal of the fund is to provide financial aid to youth participating in Jewish activities, such as Kadima, USY, Camp Ramah, Israel trips, and other Jewish educational activities.

Congregation Beth Shalom has transferred the fund to Pine Brook Jewish Center, where it will continue to perpetuate Eliot's memory. May his memory be a blessing to your youth.

Eliot's brothers, Harvey and Bill, are current members of Pine Brook Jewish Center. Upon learning of the sudden and tragic loss of Aaron Melzer, a Pine Brook Jewish Center Religious School student, Congregation Beth Shalom honored the Melzer family by rededicating the fund as the Eliot Sakolsky Aaron Melzer Scholarship Fund.

Aaron is the son of Margo and Jason Melzer, and the older brother of triplets, Anna, Brielle, and Brian. Aaron was a Religious School Student at Pine Brook Jewish Center, beginning at the age of two in its Nursery School. Aaron was a kind, loving, thoughtful and empathetic young man who was looking forward to his Bar Mitzvah. It was Aaron's dream to travel to Israel, but he never did, as a result of his sudden passing at the age of eleven. The Melzer family shares the Sakolsky family's mission to offer financial assistance to Religious School students so that they can further their Jewish studies at home and abroad.

In memory of Eliot Sakolsky and Aaron Melzer, this fund will continue to financially assist Jewish youth to obtain a meaningful Jewish education and to fulfill their own individual dreams. Please note that recipients of this scholarship must be members of Pine Brook Jewish Center and students in high school or college. All decisions related to this fund will be governed by the Eliot Sakolsky Aaron Melzer Scholarship Fund Committee.

Please contact the Eliot Sakolsky Aaron Melzer Scholarship Fund Committee chairperson, Beverly Berkowitz, at [sakolsky-melzer-scholarship@pbjc.org](mailto:sakolsky-melzer-scholarship@pbjc.org) with any questions.

We are pleased to announce that we awarded two scholarships last year and two again this year. We would like very much to award many more in years to come; however we need more applicants and donations from congregants. If you would like to make a donation to PBJC, we would like you to consider the Sakolsky/Melzer Scholarship Fund.

**[CLICK HERE FOR THE SAKOLSKY/MELZER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION](#)**

# BAT MITZVAH

**Chase Agrusti**  
**March 19, 2022**



Our world changed forever, March 19, 2009, when the beautiful Chase Renee Agrusti was born and came into our lives. From the first peaceful night of sleep at the hospital to her 13th birthday, we can't believe how fast the time has gone. She has grown into such an amazing young lady. To list all of her accomplishments would simply take too long. Some of the highlights would be how quickly she excelled at Apple Montessori to her ongoing amazing report cards. Her sport accolades are also incredible. We have been fortunate enough to watch her grow in gymnastics, softball, soccer, track, and basketball skills to an unimaginably high level. To say that we are proud of her is simply an understatement. She is a terrific little sister to her big brother Reese. She is an incredibly kind, thoughtful, smart, and beautiful individual. We know the future is incredibly bright for her, and we can't wait to see how amazing her life will continue to become. We wish her the happiest of birthdays and Mazel Tov on her Bat Mitzvah.

The mitzvah project that Chase has chosen, is to raise money to help the girls' soccer team from Afghanistan. This past summer, everything changed for those girls, when the Taliban took over Kabul, Afghanistan, their home town. The soccer team, made up of girls from the ages of 14-18, and their families were no longer safe in their own country. Humanitarian groups from all over the world and American politicians got together to make a plan for the girls and their families to leave Afghanistan. In late September, the team was finally able to get on a humanitarian flight out of Afghanistan and made their new home in Portugal. This is the home country of one of their heroes, soccer superstar Cristiano Ronaldo. This was not the first time that Portugal had helped others in need. During World War II, Portugal was also a stopping point for thousands of European Jews fleeing Hitler and coming to North America. Chase chose to do this mitzvah project to help out this Afghanistan girls soccer team because she has been fortunate to live in a country that has allowed her to play soccer since she was four years old. Also her Mom and her family were all born in Portugal which makes this mitzvah project have a personal connection with her.

# SISTERHOOD

**ILENE THAILER and FRAN SIMMONS**

Co-Presidents

We would like to wish everyone a very happy Purim! This is one of our favorite holidays, where there is joyous celebration and delicious cookies to eat! Let us start this article with thanking our Purim chairs, Nancy Drillings and Helene Vallese for putting together a very colorful bag this year! This is Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser and we thank them for undertaking the task of putting it together. We also want to thank everyone who contributed to the bags and to those who helped pack, pick up, or delivered them! As you know, we as Jews are encouraged to give to charity for Purim and we feel Sisterhood is no exception. This year we will be donating a percentage of the profits to The Holocaust Museum in DC and Jewish Services for Developmentally Disabled in NJ. Purim Bag pick up will be on Sunday, March 13, Religious School pick up at 11 am, and everyone else from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.

A great program about children's health and wellness during COVID was held in February via Zoom organized by our fabulous programming chairs, Lauren Baumgarten and Samara Barness. I would like to thank our speakers, Dr. Michael Barness, Staci Handler SLP, and Dr. Fran Reinstein. - all of whom are PBJC members, and really make our world a better place!

We have another upcoming program on Thursday, March 31 that will be in person and lots of fun! Come join us for Passover pottery painting at PBJC. We will have five items to choose from and you will paint them at PBJC and we will bring them to Artsy in Boonton to get fired! [CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER](#)

Save the date of Thursday, May 12 for our rescheduled Paid-Up Event featuring the comedy of Johnny Lampert. Look for more information as it gets closer to the date.

On Tuesday, March 1 we had another fun night of Zoom Bingo. Thank you to everyone who played and congratulations to all the winners. We would also like to thank Heddy Belman for bringing us together with three other Sisterhoods to bring us the program "Not All At Once". And as always, thank you for your continued support of Sisterhood. Don't hesitate to reach out at any time with questions or suggestions.

Ilene Thailer 201-658-4244 ithailer@optonline.net

Fran Simmons 973-650-0566 fmsimmons@hotmail.com

# SISTERHOOD TORAH FUND

The Torah Fund theme for 2021–2022 is B'Yachad, which means 'Together'. This theme signifies the joy of sisterhood members working together year-round to make important contributions to the Jewish community through their volunteer efforts at synagogues across the United States and Canada.

Our pride in being Jewish shows in everything we do.

The Women's League for Conservative Judaism (which you are all a part of) in the Torah Fund B'Yachad Campaign supports scholarships and programming at The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, Schechter Institutes of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires, and Zacharias Frankel College in Potsdam. Help strengthen Jewish education and ensure the vibrancy of the Jewish people for decades to come, with your gift to Torah Fund. You each can make a difference, and do make a difference, every time you donate a small \$18 or \$36, or bigger amounts when you are given a gift of a B'Yachad pin as a "Thank You". You each make a difference for the future.

Women's League for Conservative Judaism understood, decades ago, that they had to support the future leaders and educators of our communities, and they began the Torah Fund Campaign now supporting the five centers of education mentioned above.

I am honored to announce that Gail Feldman will continue to send Torah Fund cards for all occasions. Gail can be reached at [gfeldman3993@gmail.com](mailto:gfeldman3993@gmail.com), 973-334-2482 (home), or 201-323-4854 (cell).

I look forward to connecting with each of you and answer any questions you may have, as well as helping Pine Brook Jewish Center, The Garden State Region of WLCJ and Women's League for Conservative Judaism reach their goals during 2021-2022, so our children, grandchildren, families, and communities benefit as we move forward into the future together – "B'Yachad"!!!

*Sincerely,  
Heddy Belman  
Past Sisterhood President PBJC  
Torah Fund Cabinet and WLCJ Board,  
Worldwide Communications WLCJ  
AND Representing you on various Boards in  
the Greater Jewish Community*



Dear Friends,

This is a busy season for Torah Fund, as we progress toward our annual campaign goal. B'Yachad -- together - let's raise money to benefit the important Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher education that train our next generation of Jewish leaders.

Below, we're happy to present a D'var Torah by Carol Simon in honor of our 80th anniversary... consider making a donation becoming a benefactor @ \$180.00, or any amount. For benefactor you receive a B'Yachad pin as a gift in recognition of your donation. In the meantime, here is a little history of 80 years ago.

Sincerely,

Heddy Belman, [hbelman@wlcj.org](mailto:hbelman@wlcj.org)

Past Sisterhood President PBJC Torah Fund Cabinet and WLCJ Board, Worldwide Communications

### **Torah Fund 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary D'var Torah**

By Carol Simon, Past International President of WLCJ

We have reached a most notable milestone, 80 years of supporting Torah Fund!

As our matriarchs gathered to create an entity that would assist our future clergy, the world was on the brink of war. 1942 was the year that the United States entered World War II, joining with Canada who had entered the war in 1939. It was a time that saw women creating a variety of auxiliaries to make a difference in the world that we lived in.

The Women's Coast Guard Auxiliary was established, as well as the Women's Army Auxiliary commonly known as the WAAC. Over 150,000 American women joined this special group during the war. General Douglas MacArthur said the women in his command were "My best soldiers. They worked harder, complained less and were better disciplined than the men."<sup>1</sup>

At the same time, the members of National Women's League realized that they also needed to mobilize to ensure that our students had proper places to live and study, and to provide tuition assistance. They founded Torah Fund. At a time when a gallon of gas cost 15 cents, the average new car cost \$920 and the average home cost \$3,770, the first donation to Torah Fund was \$6.11. In gematria, the numerical value of Hebrew letters, "Torah" is 611. Our "sisters" rose to the occasion, giving "Torah" for future clergy.

The number 80 is represented by the letter "Pey", the 17<sup>th</sup> letter in the Hebrew alphabet. "The symbol represents the divine spark of God within the soul."<sup>2</sup> 80 years ago, our matriarchs knew that this undertaking of Torah Fund was essential. I am sure that there was much praying, as they led our membership through uncharted waters. Yet it was a time of activism. It was a time when the women throughout North America knew that they needed to step up, that our soldiers needed their mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, and friends, to provide comfort during a very trying time. I am sure that they never imagined that WE would be doing the same thing, 80 years later! Our donations to Torah Fund still help provide comfort to our students worldwide – scholarships, programming, and a place to live and study.

May the next 80 years, be as successful as our first 80!

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<sup>1</sup> McIlvaine, Ron, "Army women honored for paving new paths throughout military history," Fort Hood Sentinel, December 22, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Flynn, Alexis, "What is special about the number 80?" Greedhead.net, February 11, 2021.

# MEN'S CLUB

**JAY THAILER**

President

Even though the weather did not fully cooperate, we were pleased to offer a meaningful World Wide Wrap for our community this year on February 13th in conjunction with many other synagogues through the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs. Whether you participated in the sanctuary or on Zoom, it was great to come together for this event.

Thank you to Phil Schachter for putting together a family hockey night for our Men's Club on April 3rd. Join us at the Prudential Center as we watch the NJ Devils play the NY Islanders. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER](#). We hope that many families can join us for this fun event. If we have 50 or more people attend, someone from our group could get a zamboni ride or we may have a special pic taken on the ice.

We are also planning an exercise class at Retro Fitness in Fairfield, a Men's Club breakfast for this spring, the PBJC Men's Club 5K (scheduled for May 22, 2022) and a PBJC Day of Giving (scheduled for June 12, 2022). Look for more information about all of this soon.

Finally, be sure to look in your Purim Baskets that will be distributed soon for your Yom HaShoah Yellow Candles, which Men's Club is once again sponsoring for our congregation.

Jay Thailer ([jthailer@pbjc.org](mailto:jthailer@pbjc.org))

# BETTY CRANE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

FRAN HOBERMAN-SCHENKEL AND BETH FUCHS

Club Coordinators

We hope everyone has weathered the winter well. We look forward to seeing you on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm via Zoom for Michael Gabriele's presentation on the **Diners of New Jersey**. Michael's discussion will be based on his 2019 book (190 pages and over 80 photos, including a 16-page color insert) which documents stories gathered throughout the "Diner Capital of the World." These are heartfelt remembrances that have shaped lives, families, careers, businesses, and communities - the "untold" stories of New Jersey's history. Many tales are snapshots of the immigrant experience - people who have traveled to New Jersey from far-away countries to gain a foothold as American citizens. A lifelong Garden State resident, this is Gabriele's fourth book on New Jersey history.

We just wanted to take a moment to update you regarding the AARP Safe Driver course. AARP is currently not running in-person courses due to COVID but they are working with us to schedule an in person class for June. Hopefully PBJC's protocols will allow for this. The course will cost \$20 - 25 per person (dependent upon whether you are an AARP member) and will have a maximum capacity of 15 people as per AARP's guidelines. If there is enough interest, we believe we can hold two courses at PBJC. Stay tuned for updates.

If you have suggestions for future programs or want to be more involved and join the Friendship Club Committee, please reach out to us at [PBJCfriendshipclub@gmail.com](mailto:PBJCfriendshipclub@gmail.com).

Beth and Fran

# PBJC Betty Crane Friendship Club

## 2022 Membership Form

The Betty Crane Friendship Club is open to empty-nesters in Morris and Essex counties and you do not need to be a member of PBJC to join the Club. The Club meets about once a month for entertaining and informative programs (when in person, most events take place at PBJC and refreshments are served). Typically the group also takes an annual trip, visiting a museum, or attending a concert or the theatre. During COVID the Club has continued offering programming, via Zoom.

Some recent programs have included The Maccabeats, photographer Phil Mando, Lloyd Kishinsky on Zero Mostel, Marty Schneit on Women of NY, Janet Mandel on Andy Warhol, Broadway historian John Kenrick, author and NJ historian Kevin Woyce, professional organizer Jamie Novak, and Miriam Kraemer Gray on Jewish superstitions.

If you have any questions, suggestions for future programs or want to be more involved and join the Friendship Club Committee, please email us at [PBJCFriendshipclub@gmail.com](mailto:PBJCFriendshipclub@gmail.com).

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To join, please fill out the form below and mail it with a check made payable to Pine Brook Jewish Center Friendship Club (\$25 **per person** to defray the cost of refreshments; there will be additional charges for certain events). Please mail form and annual dues to:

Pine Brook Jewish Center Friendship Club  
174 Changebridge Road  
Montville, NJ 07045-8800

First and Last Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Person One): *circle* Home or Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Person Two): *circle* Home or Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently a PBJC Member: *circle* Yes or No

Louis Schwartz  
Chair

I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped PBJC help nourish.NJ. Due to the generosity of our congregants, we collected \$1,152 in cash donations and once again delivered a full car load of food to people in need. These donations are so greatly appreciated.

Our next formal collection for nourish.NJ will be in May.

I'd like to send a special thanks to:

Pam and Michael Baron  
Sheila and Jordan Basem  
Beverly Berkowitz  
Wendy and Jay Birnbaum  
Lesley and Todd Bressler  
Susan Charnet  
Diane and Frank Dalton  
Sheila and Wally Ferguson  
Sharon and Bob Fields  
Barbara and Abe Goll  
Marcy and Alan Guilder  
Gayle and Jeffrey Isacson  
Paula and Edward Kadushin  
Beatrice and Seymour Katz  
Barbara and Marvin Kaufman  
Rosalee Keech  
Carol Kotch  
Melinda Kraus  
Melanie and Keith Lewis  
Susan and Gilbert Mandel  
Michelle and Craig Nadel  
Stewart and Sharyn Nadel  
Margaret and Earl Rostoker  
Reese and Micah Schachter  
Sandy and Arnie Schancupp  
Marlene Scheinthal  
Louise Shapiro  
Jodi Spitzberg  
Estelle Stein  
Nancy Lerner-Weiss and Jeffrey Weiss  
Howard Youngman  
Robyn and Edio Zampaglione

# UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL PBJC CALENDAR](#)

**Note: Click on the links below to be directed to the information and registration pages for each event.**

[Tuesday, March 1 at 8:00 PM - Sisterhood BINGO Night via Zoom](#)

[Wednesday, March 2 at 8:00 PM - Chevra Board Meeting via Zoom](#)

[Thursday, March 3 - Deadline to sponsor Sisterhood Purim Baskets](#)

[Wednesday, March 9 at 7:30 PM - Cooking with Cantor Toren: Purim Favorites](#)

[Sunday, March 13 – Purim Basket Pick-up \(11 AM – 11:30 AM for Religious School families, 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM for other congregants\)](#)

[Wednesday, March 16 – Purim Celebrations \(\*Megillah\* Reading at 7:00 PM, Billy Joel Purim Spiel, \*Megillah Man\* at 8:15 PM\)](#)

[Tuesday, March 22 at 7:15 PM – Betty Crane Friendship Club presents \*Stories from NJ Diners\* via Zoom](#)

[Tuesday, March 29 at 7:00 PM - Adult Education with Rabbi Finkel - Session I: Who Wrote the Bible](#)

[Thursday, March 31 at 7:30 PM - Sisterhood Pottery Painting Art Class](#)

[Sunday, April 3 at 4:00 PM - Men's Club Family Hockey Game - Devils vs. Islanders](#)

[Wednesday, April 6 at 7:30 PM - SAVE THE DATE - Cooking with Cantor Toren: Passover Favorites](#)

[Thursday, May 12 - SAVE THE DATE - \(rescheduled date\) - Sisterhood Paid-Up Event featuring the comedy of Johnny Lampert](#)

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary to...

3/13 – Lois and Barry Davis  
3/15 – Sima and Abe Feder  
3/24 – Laurie and Matthew Silverman  
3/28 – Joyce and Martin Helfant



Happy Birthday to...

3/1 – Zachary Boyer, Hayley Edelstein, Stephanie Kutlow, Eliana Musikant,  
Toby Wolfman, Harry Zohn  
3/2 – Dylan Kideckel  
3/3 – David Katz  
3/4 – Abby Crane  
3/5 – Scott Estrin, Lindsay Marchant, Jordana Michaels, Gabrielle Roth  
3/7 – Jack Steckleman  
3/8 – Toby Hofstein, Emilie Yudkin  
3/9 – Elliott Abrutyn, Barry Isaacs, Ellen Levitan  
3/10 – Lesley Neadel  
3/11 – Ester Robbins, Jason Roeltgen, Shari Schwartz  
3/12 – Fred Colfin  
3/13 – Abby Edelman, Marcy Guildler  
3/15 – Fred Morrison, Zachary Pett, Noah Wolf  
3/16 – Ethan Eskinazi  
3/17 – Darius Jasinski, Ilanit Leibowitz  
3/18 – Sandy Gonzalez  
3/19 – Chase Agrusti, Meryle Handler  
3/20 – Andrew Kalfas, Ralph Zemel  
3/21 – Samantha Bernstein, Zachary Friedman, Hudson Handler, Ryan Kahwaty  
3/22 – Carol Kotch, Cory Schneiderman, Ethan Schneiderman  
3/23 – Marshall Kaplan  
3/24 – Gerson Alkin, Joyce Helfant, Robin Mangino, Rachel Pett, Morris Rynsky  
3/25 – Elaine Fisvitz, Michael Pett  
3/26 – Jake Garb, Susan Mandel  
3/27 – Seth Edelstein, Matthew Gonzalez, Matthew Waldorf, Lester Wolfson  
3/28 – Samuel Abramson, Jordan Bergman, Stephen Berman  
3/29 – Emanuel Steren  
3/30 – Joseph Crane, Rebecca Eisen, Karen Kraut  
3/31 – Craig Agrusti, Nicholas Zampaglione

# DONORS/SPONSORS

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

By: Gloria J. Ascher  
In memory of Adele White

By: Sheryl and Howard Chesler  
Thank you to Rabbi Finkel for his kindness

By: Randee and Glenn Fox  
In memory of Josephine Sweigart

By: Dean Haymes and Jeff and Nisma Haymes  
In memory of Harry and Pearl Haymes

By: Sharon Hurwich  
In memory of Robert Reich

By: Arlene and Eddie Lopez  
In memory of Paul Fenton

By: Arlene and Eddie Lopez  
In memory of Pearl Cohen  
In memory of Robert Reich

## CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

By: Beverly and Ilysa Berkowitz  
In appreciation for the Cantor's thoughtfulness  
and kindness

## ETZ HAYIM FUND

By: Paula and Ed Kadushin  
In memory of Pearl Cohen

## nourish.NJ DONATION

By: Jeffrey Weiss and Nancy Lerner-Weiss  
In memory of Jeffrey's beloved mother, Joan Weiss

## ELIOT SAKOLSKY/AARON MELZER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

By: Margo and Jason Melzer and family  
In memory of their beloved son and  
brother, Aaron Melzer

## THE HARVEY JAFFE B'YACHAD MEMORIAL FUND

By: Sharon Jaffe  
In memory of Joni Casalino's beloved cousin, Tricia  
In honor of Sandra Davis' special birthday  
In honor of Dan Goldblatt's 50th Birthday  
In memory of Sharon Jaffe's beloved  
father, Morris Pincus  
In memory of Caryl Melasky and family's beloved  
father, father-in-law, and grandfather

## PBJC GENERAL DONATION

By: Jay and Wendy Birnbaum  
In memory of Joan Weiss

By: Fred and Betty Crane  
In memory of Robert Reich

By: Gary and Nancy Drillings  
In memory of Paul Fenton

By: Stacey Garb  
In memory of Sylvan Rothenberg

Gail and Jeff Rempell  
In memory of Paul Fenton

## Yahrzeit DONATION

By: Marcia Chazen  
In memory of her beloved husband,  
Dr. Kenneth A. Chazen

By: Diane Dalton  
In memory of her beloved grandfather,  
Harry Gitomer and beloved uncle, Harry Greenetz

By: Alan Gitlin  
In memory of his beloved father, Hyman Gitlin

By: Miriam Gitomer  
In memory of her beloved brother, Harry Greenetz,  
beloved father-in-law, Harry Gitomer, and beloved  
mother-in-law Gussie Gitomer

## Yahrzeit Donation (continued)

By: Barbara Goll  
In memory of her beloved mother,  
Gertrude Schofield

By: Ellen Levitan  
In memory of her beloved mother, Sally Cholever

By: Melinda Kraus  
In memory of her beloved father, Irving Kwasnik

By Karen Kraut  
In memory of her beloved mother, Cynthia Bressler

By: Fred Morrison  
In memory of his beloved father, Louis Morrison

By: Patty Shwartz  
In memory of her beloved  
grandfather, John Shwartz

By: Larry Wayne  
In memory of his beloved father,  
Myron Leslie Wayne

By: Deborah and Bernard Ulrich  
In memory of Deborah's beloved mother,  
Mary Goldberg and Bernard's beloved father,  
Samuel Ulrich and beloved brother, Marvin Ulrich

### OUR CONDOLENCES TO

Jonathan Cohen and Robyn Tuch, on the loss of  
their beloved mother, Pearl Cohen

Margot and Janet Reich, on the loss of their beloved  
son and brother-in-law, Robert Reich

Bennett Rothenberg, on the loss of his beloved  
father, Sylvan Rothenberg

Jeffrey Weiss, on the loss of his beloved mother,  
Joan Weiss

### THANK YOU

Dear Family and Friends,

It is so difficult to say "Thank you" to so many people who have done so much for the Fenton family during these past months. Again, "Thank you" are just two words which cannot express all the feelings that we have for each and every one of you. Thank you for caring to make the many phone calls, the food you brought us, the cards you sent, the contributions you made, shopping for us, and making sure we had enough to keep us well stocked. Most of all, thank you for the love you gave. We feel blessed because of all of you. What a wonderful feeling to know that we have a support system behind us. For all of these things, the Fenton family thanks all of you. We give you our love in return for all you have given us.

With much love and appreciation,  
Jackie, Lloyd, Marla, Tyler, Brittany, Scott, Mindy, Emily, and Jessie Fenton

Dear PBJC Family,

We would like to thank all of you for the calls, texts, cards, donations, and visits during *shiva* in person and virtually. Having a supportive community nearby made our healing less lonely and a bit easier. We feel extremely fortunate to have a strong bond with the synagogue and its members.

Jeffrey and Nancy Weiss

# SISTERHOOD TRIBUTES

To: Ben Buren –  
In memory of your mother, Flossy Buren  
From: Ellen and Peter Lieber, Estelle Stein,  
Debi and Lonny Tarowsky

To: Jonathan Cohen –  
In memory of your mother, Pearl Cohen  
From: Bev and Ilysa Berkowitz, Sue Charnet,  
Jackie Fenton, Judy and Steven Gothelf,  
Marcia Grossman and Family, Roberta  
and Bob Kanarick, Rosalee and Doug Keech,  
Carol Kotch, Diane and Alan Krause,  
Marian and Bob Lowenfish, Susan and  
Gary Messinger, Ina and Mark Roffman  
Marlene Scheinthal, Estelle Stein,  
Libby and Charlie Stein, Debi and Lonny Tarowsky  
Natalie and Len Wallach, Randy and Jack Wenarsky  
Esta and Phil Zwick

To: Scott Coleman –  
In memory of your father, Milton Coleman  
From: Debi and Lonny Tarowsky

To: Abby and Charles Crane –  
Mazel Tov on the upcoming marriage of Elliot and Eve  
From: Marian and Bob Lowenfish

To: Abby and Chuck Crane –  
Mazel Tov on the aufruf of your son Elliot and Eve  
From: Ina and Mark Roffman

To: Jackie Fenton –  
In memory of your husband, Paul Fenton  
From: Carol and Stephen Berman, Julie  
and Peter Cohan, Marcia Grossman and Family,  
Tom Peck, Janet Reich, Trudy and Marty Sarver,  
Sheila and Barry Weinreb, Toby Wolfman

To: Bea and Sy Katz –  
Mazel Tov in your new home  
From: Bev and Ilysa Berkowitz, Sue Charnet,  
Sharyn and Stewart Nadel

To: Toby Levy –  
In memory of your wife, Susan Levy  
From: Trudy and Marty Sarver,  
Marlene Scheinthal

To: Janet Reich –  
In memory of your brother-in-law, Robert Reich  
From: Roberta and Bob Kanarick, Rosalee and  
Doug Keech, Susan and Gary Messinger

To: Margo Reich –  
In memory of your son, Robert  
From: Janice and Fred Aibel, Jackie Fenton,  
Judy and Steven Gothelf, Marcia Grossman,  
Roberta and Bob Kanarick, Rosalee and  
Doug Keech, Susan and Gary Messinger

To: Marlene Scheinthal –  
Wishing you a Happy Birthday  
From: Bev and Ilysa Berkowitz, Sue Charnet

To: Jeffrey Weiss –  
In memory of your mother, Joan Weiss  
From: Bev and Ilysa Berkowitz, Carol and  
Stephen Berman, Gail Feldman, Jacki Fenton,  
Ellen and Peter Lieber, Marian and Bob  
Lowenfish, Tom Peck, Ina and Mark Roffman,  
Mel Sanders, Marlene Scheinthal, Mary and  
Frank Sheydwasser, Estelle Stein, Libby and  
Charlie Stein, Kim and Craig Stiller, Myra Sumka,  
Debi and Lonny Tarowsky, Ilene and Jay Thailer,  
Natalie and Len Wallach, Sheila and Barry  
Weinreb, Randy and Jack Wenarsky

If you want to send a tribute card, please contact a member of the tribute team according to your last name. Tribute cards may be sent to synagogue members and non-members, but only members will be listed in the Candlestick.

**Email notification is preferred.**

**No calls on the Sabbath, Jewish holidays, before 9:00 AM, or after 9:00 PM please.**

A-GO	Marlene Scheinthal	<a href="mailto:malkacs@msn.com">malkacs@msn.com</a>	973-227-5142 (only if not sending email)
GR-M	Pam Weinstein	<a href="mailto:23cheryl@optonline.net">23cheryl@optonline.net</a>	973-296-7020 (only if not sending email)
N-Z	Estelle Stein	<a href="mailto:EstelleBPStein@gmail.com">EstelleBPStein@gmail.com</a>	973-588-7332 (only if not sending email)

# YAHREZEITS

**READ ON FRI/SAT,  
3/4 and 3/5**

**3/5/22 – 2 Adar II**

Samuel Ershowsky  
Bernard S. Leon  
Leo Zuckerman

**3/6/22 – 3 Adar II**

Richele Blake  
Irving Kruger  
Samuel Mariash  
Sarah Schneider

**3/8/22 – 5 Adar II**

Angie Polsky  
David  
Schachter

**3/9/22 – 6 Adar II**

Harry Gitomer  
Joel Grabell  
Harry Greenetz  
Miriam Manheim  
Michael Reiser  
Florence Zerman

**3/10/22 – 7 Adar II**

Jacob Blum  
Irving Brenner  
Monroe Saul  
Gertrude Schofield

**3/11/22 – 8 Adar II**

Emma Liberman  
Irving Reich

**READ ON FRI/SAT,  
3/11 and 3/12**

**3/12/22 – 9 Adar II**

Helen Levy  
Mollie Zakarin

**3/13/22 – 10 Adar II**

Sandy Bond  
Max Daniels  
Dora Simon

**3/14/22 – 11 Adar II**

Marjory Goldstein  
Mildred Roth  
Jennie Schiff

**3/16/22 – 13 Adar II**

Leonard Handman  
David Weiner

**3/17/22 – 14 Adar II**

Irving Baker  
Louis Morrison  
Shirley Moskowitz  
Hannah Schirn  
Diane Schneider

**3/18/22 – 15 Adar II**

Dave Cohen  
Seymour Cohen  
Clara Kleiner Goldberg

**READ ON FRI/SAT,  
3/18 and 3/19**

**3/19/22 – 16 Adar II**

Stanley Diener

**3/20/22 – 17 Adar II**

Rose Kaplan  
Eugene Morton Paster  
Simon B Seltzer

**3/21/22 – 18 Adar II**

Louis Feinstein  
Samuel Grubman

**3/23/22 – 20 Adar II**

Adam Glenn Belman  
Miriam Bogert  
Martin O. Greenberg

**3/24/22 – 21 Adar II**

Aida Reingold  
Lowell Sherwin

**3/25/22 – 22 Adar II**

Morris Grossman  
Barbara June Levine  
Rose Messinger  
Alfred Weiss

**READ ON FRI/SAT,  
3/25 and 3/26**

**3/27/22 – 24 Adar II**  
Abraham Cohen  
Isidore Rosenhouse

**3/30/22 – 27 Adar II**  
Philip Bergman  
Minnie Handwerger  
John Shwartz

**3/28/22 – 25 Adar II**  
Martha Weitman

**3/31/22 – 28 Adar II**  
Hyman Abraham Bartner  
Danny Hofstein  
Gertrude Sheinis  
Irving Stoltz

**3/29/22 – 26 Adar II**  
Cynthia Bressler  
Mordecai Kanengiser  
Frances Levy  
Paul  
Spindel

**4/1/22 – 29 Adar II**  
Cecelia V. Prager