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VOL. 8 NO. 3 May/June 2022 5782

### From the President

### Alongside the Spring Flowers, Life is Returning to our Temple

By Marty Skolnick, President

Our administration has been

meticulous when it comes to the

health and safety of our family

and friends.

Since the last *Chai Lights* publication, we have made some significant moves in order to normalize temple life after the past many months of lockdowns and caution. We are still committed to keeping our community out of harm's way when it comes to the various variants of COVID that are affecting some of the population. With that said, many of the activities

we had before COVID are being implemented in a timely and accurate manner.

We had a dinner in the Knesset Room to celebrate in person Shabbat Across America.

We celebrated Purim with an ice cream social followed by a robust megillah reading.

With the implementation of our Saturday morning in person Shabbat services and removal of the center lectern, we are able to resume the Torah processional and have honors once again on the bima. Our Sisterhood and Fundraising Committee have been busy with programming and much more is being

planned. Our educational and informative Sunday morning speakers programs are starting up again. These steps have taken time but, barring any other outbreaks, we will move forward and bring life in the building back to normal.

Our administration has been meticulous when it comes to the health and safety of our family and

friends. Being together and enjoying all of the events the shul has to offer is an important part of our community's life. Be a part of this robust community that we call Congregation B'nai Sholom – Beth David.

As we are well into spring, we want to wish everyone a happy summer. Whether you are embarking on a staycation, going to the local beaches or on a trip, domestic or overseas, please stay safe and well. And after coming back refreshed and recharged, please consider helping as a volunteer. We can always use your time and talent in order to keep our community strong and robust.

### **Good & Welfare**

By Jill Kaplan

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

Jules Abramson, Jay Adler, Stephanie Ausubel, Sam Baharvar, Samantha Baharvar, Barbara Brooks, Ira Casson, Gary Cohen, Dr. Joseph Cohn, Barbara Colodner, Jack Friedman, Barry Goldberg, Marla Goldberg, Hon. Jeffrey Goodstein, Jason Greenberg, Dr. Neil Hammerman, Judy Hoenig, Steven Kanowitz, Emil Kesselman, Ilene Fern Knobel, Steve Lander, Martin Levine, Andrew Levy, Lawrence Levy, William Lieberman, Sheryl Lillienthal, Heidi Lobelson, Sandy Lobelson, Jeremy Melendez, Alexander Micillo, Kala Micillo, Lawrence Mlawski, Carrie Moffett, Nanci Moskowitz, Miriam Roiter, Robin Sackstein, Connie Salwen, Ira Salwen, Nancy Schwartz, Sonia Schwartz, Leonard Silver, Karen Skolnick, Mark Skolnick, Herman Smith, Howard Stein, Gloria Lynn Turetz, Allen Weiser, Douglas Wikle, Darnell Williams, Elliot Winter, Tony Yin.

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

Sam and Samantha Baharvar, Robert and Francine Fish, Mel and Dana Friedman, Alyce and Hon. Jeffrey Goodstein, Ryan and Debra Levine, Ken and Debra Lieber, Brandon and Samantha Berman-Melendez, Marvin and Virginia Meyers, Howard and Deborah Rubenstein, Dr. Robert and Linda Schwartz, Ellis and Tracey Simon, Richard and Marcia Talesnick.

### **MAZEL TOV TO:**

Bryce Levine on becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

### **GET WELL TO:**

Ian Bernard

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Educational Director: Dan Seid

Chai Lights Staff: Co-Editors Ellis Simon, Helene Parsons, Lisa Mack

**Contributors:** Claire Gordon, Steve Lander, Connie Salwen, Jonathan Winderman, Jill Kaplan, Jay Abrahams

Comments & suggestions encouraged. Newsletter articles 300 words or less accepted in Microsoft Word. Send to cbsbdoffice@gmail.com Attention: Lisa Mack

**CHAI LIGHTS** is generously underwritten by the Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Sholom - Beth David

### New Catering Venture at CBS-BD

By Jonathan Winderman

A lot has changed since the start of the pandemic. One of these things is the catering situation at our synagogue. During the pandemic, New Star Catering agreed to cease being the exclusive caterer for CBS-BD and entered into an agreement to rent the ballroom for storage of non-food supplies. This agreement gives CBS-BD a steady income (more than while they were the caterer) and gives us flexibility to open the space to other catering options and room rentals.

CBS-BD's new Catering Committee has established policies for off-site caterers to come in and use our facility for affairs along with setting room rental rates for the Knesset Room and the lobby. We can accommodate parties of 150-200 comfortably, with the ability to go to 250, albeit tightly.

All parties must use an approved kosher establishment for food. We are marketing ourselves as a lower-cost venue for small to mid-sized parties, almost like a fancier, kosher American Legion hall. While we look to bring in parties from outside the CBS-BD community, we obviously want to remain a venue for congregation simchas.

This flexible approach enabled us to have a community Shabbat dinner as part of Shabbat Across America. Food was provided by Chimichurri Charcoal Chicken of Oceanside. They are one of the many options for outside catering we are now able to choose from.

If you or someone you know is looking for a venue for a wedding, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, shower, bris, baby naming, birthday or retirement party, give the CBS-BD office a call. Samantha Berman-Melendez or I will be happy to call you back and help plan your affair. Temple members receive a substantial discount on room rental rates. We look forward to speaking with you.

Thank you and yasher koach to Claire Gordon who is stepping aside after more than 20 years of acknowledging and keeping records on temple donations.



### Borscht Belt Author Evokes Memories of Going to 'The Country'

By Tracey Simon

Whether you stayed in any of the 500-plus hotels or 50,000 kuchaleins that dotted Sullivan County, your memories of summers in "the country" or "the mountains" evoke something unique. On April 10 those memories stirred again for more than 60 people who came to CBS-BD to hear a talk on the Borscht Belt by photographer/author Marisa Scheinfeld and enjoy a bagel brunch sponsored by Dr. Larry and Lisa Mack.

Ms. Scheinfeld, who produced the highly acclaimed book, "The Borscht Belt: Revisiting the Remains of America's Jewish Vacationland," was introduced by Sisterhood Co-President Linda Schwartz. The program was the first Sisterhood event inside the Temple since the COVID pandemic began more than two years ago.

The author covered the Catskills' history, including the Leni Lenape tribe, its scenic appeal to artists, and the industries that arose there. Around the turn of the 20th century, it began to evolve from a place full of restricted hotels ("No Jews or dogs") to a virtual paradise for generations of Jews yearning for relief from city summers and a sample of the American dream.

That dream included swimming pools, endless food, dance lessons, world-class entertainment, and chances for romance. It was not unusual to see



Author/photographer Marisa Scheinfeld speaks with Rabbi Lerner after the program.



Ms. Scheinfeld signing books with Sisterhood Co-Presidents Linda Schwartz and Alyce Goodstein.

celebrities, sports figures, and noted people like Eleanor Roosevelt and Martin Luther King, Jr. After discussing the hotels in their heyday, she shared photographs she took of their ruins. Not wishing to leave her audience on a sad note, she also talked about the renaissance now under way, which includes condominiums, revitalized towns, and casinos.

After the lecture ended, attendees shared memories of meeting spouses while on vacation, working in hotel dining rooms, and eating off the extensive menus. The centerpieces featured historical photos of hotels, which prompted lively conversations at each table. Sisterhood Co-Presidents Alyce Goodstein and Linda Schwartz thanked volunteers Lisa Mack, Bonnie Friedman, Jill Kaplan, Sharon Friend, Florence Lubitz, Barbara Kaplan, Karen Skolnick, Samantha Berman-Melendez, CeCe Friedman, Elisa Matas Skolnick, Sandy Friedman, and Tracey Simon.

Anyone interested in purchasing a copy of Ms. Scheinfeld's book can do so here: https://cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/9781501700590/the-borscht-belt/#bookTabs=1. Use discount code 09FLYER.

### **CBS-BD Celebrates Purim in Style**

Purim 2022 was a delight. From Sisterhood's beautifully-themed (Peace, Love, Purim) Shalach Manot baskets to the make-your-own sundaes and grab & go cotion candy donated by Go Nuts for Sweets, the Purim Spiel and the costume contest. Lots of fun was had by all throughout the Megillah reading. Yascher koach to all who made it gevaldig.





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### Thank You - Todah Rabah

By Connie Salwen & Claire Gordon

Thank you for your cooperation in using the Donation Form printed in this newsletter, large sheets of paper and Yahrzeit Cards when making your generous donations. The Donation Form is also available in the Temple Office. Please be sure to write legibly!

You can also make donations online at https://www.cbsbdrvc.org/payment.php. A list of funds and opportunities to support CBS-BD can be found at https://www.cbsbdrvc.org/support\_opportunites

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**TZEDAKAH** 

**Svetlana Gomelsky** 

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Alice & Matt Greenberg-Sheedy

IN HONOR OF

Birthday of Martin Greenberg

Marge & Sheldon Grossman

IN HONOR OF

Cantor Xan and pianist Pedro D'Aquino

for a wonderful concert

Jill & Paul Kaplan

IN HONOR OF

Cantor Xan's amazing Broadway concert

**Kaczmarek & Strauss Families** 

IN MEMORY OF

Gary Carl Stein

Beverly Krosky, Marlene Masler,

Marsha Berkowitz, Eileen Schifrin

IN MEMORY OF

Dear friend Lester Goldstein,

husband of Merle Goldstein

Lisa & Larry Mack

IN HONOR OF

Wonderful concert by Cantor Xan;

Terrific Chagall windows presentation by

Jill Kaplan;

Naming of Maggie, granddaughter of

Carol & Andrew Levy;

Nancy Hochhauser, Elisa Matas Skolnick

& team for bringing joy to all with Purim

baskets

### Michelle & Mark Reinharz

IN HONOR OF

Rabbi Lerner's excellent reading of

the Torah

### **Howard Rubenstein**

IN APPRECIATION OF

Good wishes from my old

**RVC** friends

**Diane & Irving Singer** 

IN HONOR OF

Purim baskets

Karen & Mark Skolnick

IN APPRECIATION OF

Birthday honor

**Muriel & Hy Smith** 

IN HONOR OF

Birthday of Jane Scherer

### Rabbi's Fund

Jean & Gary Cohen

IN HONOR OF

Birthday of Gary Cohen

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Claire Gordon

IN MEMORY OF

Brother, Kenneth Grossman

**Judy & Henry Hoenig** 

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Lillian Hoenig

Sandy & Sheldon Lazarowitz

IN MEMORY OF

Cantor Don Goldberg

**Larry Levy** 

IN HONOR

Birthday of Dave King;

Birthday of Jane Scherer

Michelle & Mark Reinharz

IN HONOR OF

Richard Perlbinder's always excellent

reading of the Torah

(continued on page 9)



### Thank You - Todah Rabah

Jane & Bob Scherer

IN HONOR OF

Birthday of Hy Smith;

Jill Kaplan's outstanding

Chagall windows program

**Memorial Fund** 

**Dorothy Abrams** 

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Michelle & Mark Reinharz

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Alfred Reinharz

Connie & Ira Salwen

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Barbara Salwen

(continued on page 10)



### Thank You - Todah Rabah

### Sheila & Bert Schneider

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Ruth Schoolsky

### Joan Sidney

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Benjamin Kravitz;

Mother, Rose Kravitz;

Father-in-law, Julius Schmuckler;

Mother-in-law, Rose Schmuckler;

Sister, Laurel Stein;

Husband, Gerald Sidney;

Friend, Rachel Guinsburg

### **Muriel & Hy Smith**

IN MEMORY OF

Brother, Reuben Smith

### **Argentina & David Strahl**

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Isaac Strahl;

Mother, Reva Strahl;

Grandfather, Joseph Hoffman;

Grandmother, Nesha Hoffman

### Marcia & Richard Talesnick

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Sidney Palley

### **Paul Tilles**

IN MEMORY OF

Grandfather, Julius Hecht

### Rita & Leon Vilinsky

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Sylvia Traurig

### **Jewish Learning Center**

### Sandy & Steven Friedman

IN MEMORY OF

Howard Silverman, brother of

Barry Silverman

IN HONOR OF

Cantor Weiser & Pedro d'Aquino for

wonderful Broadway revue;

Sergio Marmol for 38 years of hard work

and friendship;

Nancy Hochhauser & Elisa Matas Skolnick

& team for beautiful Shalach Manot;

Rabbi Schwartz's publication of his memoir

### **Helene & Robert Parsons**

IN MEMORY OF

Son, Wesley Steven Parsons

IN HONOR OF

Many family birthdays and our anniversary

### **Sisterhood**

**Larry Levy** 

IN HONOR OF

Purim baskets

### **Judy Perlman**

IN HONOR OF

Cantor Weiser for wonderful concert;

Jill Kaplan for beautiful program

### Jane & Bob Scherer

IN HONOR OF

Nancy Hochhauser & Elisa Matas Skolnick for another wonderful year of Shalach Manot

### **Carol Schulz**

IN HONOR OF

Cantor Xan for sharing her beautiful voice during Broadway on Zoom

### Kiddush Fund

### **Larry Levy**

IN MEMORY OF

Grandfather, Dr. Abraham Goldstein;

Aunt, Ida Jeanette Levy

IN HONOR OF

Nanci Moskowitz, Judy Greenberg,

Alice Purus, Connie Salwen, and all

who help with our kiddushim

### **Prayer Book Fund**

### Linda & Bob Schwartz

IN MEMORY OF

Susan Schultz, sister of Barbara Colodner



### The Value of Education, in Particular, Jewish Education.

By Dan Seid

We need to realize the values of

both our Judaic and public

those values to our youth.

education systems and teach

I recently saw a Facebook post from a parent asking if she should take her kids out of school for a two-week vacation, or if the absence would cause her children to miss too much learning.

The overwhelming majority of commenters said, "Go on vacation. Life is too short," they responded. "They won't miss much anyway." One mother reasoned taking the vacation was like keeping out the children for a cold or the flu. The feeling was overwhelming that school, and the education system in general, is not as important as taking a vacation.

Oy vay! How did we reach a point where just about anything, including a week on the beach, is more important than our children's education. Don't blame COVID. For years now I have witnessed families in our community and others choose

just about every other extracurricular activity over their children's Jewish education. I even have students who only attend ILC classes once a week because of other commitments.

When I was young and a friend asked me to

sleep over on a Friday my mother wouldn't hear of it. She insisted I attend junior congregation Saturday morning. When I complained about boring services and doing the same prayers every week, she responded that maybe if I recited the prayers correctly God would start listening to me.

My mother valued education. She valued the system that she knew would prepare me not only for bar mitzvah, but for the future.

While our children may love playing sports like football, baseball, or soccer, they are unlikely to play them for their entire lives. There is, however, a much greater probability they will remain Jewish their entire lives. So where should you, as a parent, spend your time and energy?

COVID didn't teach us that education has no value - just the opposite. Learning loss is real. Every time we let our children skip junior congregation, we systematically tell them that EVERYTHING is more important than Judaism. When we choose menial events over our religion, our culture, and our educational system, we give our children the message that everything besides education is important.

There's a Yiddish expression: Un Eyer Viln Zayan Kliger, fun de hinner: The eggs think they're smarter than the chickens.

Our society built a free and accessible public

education system, with rules on attendance and set schedules for vacation times. That public education system systematically bestowed success upon the American people. Who are we to devalue the system that brought us into prosperity?

We need to realize the values of both our Judaic and public education systems and teach those values to our youth.

In the first line of Pirkei Avot, it says Moses received the Torah from God and gave it to his disciples who taught it to their pupils. From this we learn three things: have mercy with justice, teach many students, and protect the Torah, our tradition, customs, and law. Having and teaching students require their consistent attendance and focus and acceptance of the importance of our educational system.

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Rockville Centre, NY 11570-2828



Congregation B'nai Sholom-Beth David kicked off Super Bowl Sunday, February 13, 2022, at Maple Lanes RVC with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Super Bowl-A-Thon.

Nine bowlers knocked down pins and even bowled strikes and spares. A fun day was had by all.

Rabbi Diamond "Diamond in The Rough" Bonnie Friedman "The Bonster" Rabbi David Lerner "The Detroiter Rav" Rebbetzin Dr. Alexis Lerner "The Professor"

d in The Rough"

Nancy Hochhauser "Triple H"

Brandon Melendez "Boulder Shoulder"

Detroiter Rav"

Barry Silverman "The Silver Bullet"

Cantor Xan Weiser "Can Xan"

Jonathan Winderman "Win-It-All Winderman"

Despite the snow, there was a crowd of congregants cheering on the bowlers and eating pizza from Sauly's in West Hempstead. Marty Greenberg once again was our official scorer.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored their favorite bowlers and contributed to the fundraiser. We had an incredible turnout and its generous donors like you, who help make fundraisers a success!

A special thanks to Lisa & Larry Mack for covering the costs of the pizza and bowling lanes, in addition to sponsoring all of the bowlers.

An extra special thanks goes to Samantha Berman-Melendez for designing the T-shirt art and ironing on the T-shirt transfer sheets with Elisa Matas Skolnick.

At The Shabbat Across America dinner on Friday, March 4, three prizes will be given out to the bowler with the (1) Most money raised (2) Highest score (3) Lowest score.

