



Congregation Ahawas Achim B'nai Jacob & David
A Shul, A Community, A Torah Way of Life

The Chronicle

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Issue III

Kislev 5781



Rabbi's Message

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A recent study reported that American adults were experiencing levels of depressive symptoms more than three times higher than what is normally expected, due to the pandemic. For the past nine months we have been able to maintain some sense of normalcy during this pandemic, by spending time outdoors, in our backyards or on walks. We now find ourselves in the cold dark winter. Staying outside for too long these days has its consequences.

We have no choice but to stay inside, remain masked when around others, and be cautious of the possibility of exposure. Daylight hours are becoming shorter. The COVID numbers are spiking dramatically, and we seem to be headed into the darkest period of the year. We need something to lift our spirits. A light to restore and revive our beleaguered and tired souls. Behold, Chanukah is upon us. During the darkest periods of our history as a people, the Chanukah candles have represented light and hope.

Chazal teach us that when one lights a candle in a dark room, through one small flame, many people

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President's Message

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Here we are - at Chanukah already - and our COVID year continues. We've gone through all of the Yom Tovim, spring, summer and fall, multiple shortened or cancelled sports seasons, a semester of school, and, yes, in case you missed it, there was even a Presidential election.

Sadly, cases are rising. On Thanksgiving, our non-Jewish friends and neighbors came to share in the painful experience of not being with friends and family for the holiday, which we have dealt with all too often since March. And the weather is turning too, making safe, outdoor visits and activities even harder.

So, there is no better time for Chanukah to come and provide that spark (pun intended) to help keep us going; a wonderful opportunity to be reminded

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Chanukah Edition

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Web Dvar
by Rabbi Eliezer Zwickler

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can see. Even a small candle can be transformational. Our Chanukah candles add even more significance to our lives this year. With all that we have been through during these last nine months, we have learned to place value on the important things in our lives more than ever before.

The light of Chanukah represents the victory of a life filled with Torah learning, values and ideals, over the emptiness of values solely steeped in the physical pleasure of the here and now. There is light and hope ahead. We know that the vaccines are near and even though it is difficult to envision at times, brighter days will come. As we celebrate Chanukah and introduce its beautiful light into our homes, let us warm our souls with its timely message as our spiritual life is embedded in the meaning, history and miracles of this special holiday.

Chanukah Sameach to all!

Congregation AABJ&D Executive Committee

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President's Message *cont'd*

of how our history, our traditions, and our community play critical roles in helping us through difficult times. Being with family (whether in person or on screen), lighting candles, singing songs, playing games, eating greasy food - the best parts of Chanukah need not change during this pandemic.

As a Shul, we should be proud of what we have done over the most recent months. We previously shared the successes of the Yamim Noraim and Chagim, during which we hosted enough minyanim to ensure that any member could daven in a Shul minyan if he or she chose to; we enjoyed hearing new baalei tefillah and appreciated the efforts of new gabbaim; and we even raised much needed funds for the Shul from kibbudim. Today, we continue to benefit from an extensive zoom learning program, individual outreach, multiple minyanim options, youth programs, and other opportunities to stay vibrant and connected.

None of those efforts will stop after Chanukah. Please continue to look for our daily emails, whatsapp posts, occasional videos and other communications so you can stay informed on all there is to take part in. And, as always, please reach out with ideas for programs or other ways for us all to stay connected.

Chanukah Sameach!



The Symbolism Of The Dreidel

Yosef Sharbat
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For centuries, children and adults have enjoyed sitting around playing with a sevivon (dreidel) and eating chocolate coins. The Otzar Kol Minhagei Yeshurun suggests that this game originated from the time of the Assyrian Greek Empire when it was decreed that the Jews were prohibited from studying Torah as it says in the Al Hanisim that the Greeks tried to cause them to forget the Torah. At the time, oral Torah was still studied with a teacher and transmitted from generation to generation. Had teachers not continued to study with their students, then Torah would have been lost forever. In order to circumvent this decree, Jews studied privately and kept their dreidels nearby; if a soldier came to investigate, they would spin their dreidels pretending to be playing a game rather than learning Torah.

Chasidim have found deep mystical symbolism in the structure of the dreidel. The Bnei Yissachar understands the letters of גשנ"ה that are on a dreidel is a mnemonic for the four stages of exile: mind, body, soul and everything [גופני, שכלי, נפשי, הכל]. The symbolism of spinning the dreidel connotes the idea that although we are surrounded on all four sides by kingdoms and oppressors during our lengthy galut, nonetheless the Jewish People are at the center of reality. When the dreidel spins from the center it has control of the four outer sides, which is a prayer for the future that one day Hashem's glory with being seen, felt, and understood by everyone.

The Sokatchover Rebbe sees dreidel playing as a way to keep children up. The custom now is to light our Chanukah candles inside and in order to make a bracha on it, one needs members of the household to be awake and present. As such, the custom developed to play dreidel in order to keep the children awake at night so that they would participate in the mitzvah and provide the necessary pirsumei nisa (the requirement to publicize the miracle) for the household to light with a bracha.

Many of our minhagim are family-oriented with the intent to educate and excite our youth. Even a mundane game of "top" can be transformed into something holy and be a vehicle for fulfilling other mitzvot. The experience of playing a game can be transformed into an educational exercise, and we have the ability to make something meaningful out of something that seems meaningless and mundane.

Wishing you and your entire family a healthy and enjoyable Chanukah!

Meet Rabbinic Intern R' Moshe Weinger

Moshe Weinger was born and raised in Skokie, IL. He has learned Yeshivat Kerem b'Yavneh, Lander College- where he also received his BA, The Mir, and now RIETS, where he is learning for semicha. Moshe is also studying at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work for his MSW.

Yeshiva University has provided his services to our community complimentary, in order to provide him the opportunity to experience community learning and building relationships in shul communities. We would usually have the fortune to have Rabbinic Interns give Divrei Torah throughout the year in person, but, unfortunately, this year, we will only have the opportunity to hear him via ZOOM.

Laws of Chanukah



Chanukah begins on the evening of the 25th of Kislev which this year falls out on Thursday night, December 10th and continues for eight days.

It is permitted to work. However it is customary for women not to work for at least the first half hour of the candles' burning, and some have the custom not to work for the entire time of burning. The types of activities that are forbidden are things like sewing and laundry, etc. (Cooking is permitted)

While there is no obligation to have festive meals, it is customary to celebrate by eating special meals anyway, because of the fact that the dedication of the Temple and Altar took place during Chanukah.

It is customary to eat milk foods because Yehudit, daughter of Yochanan the High Priest, was taken to be defiled by the Greek ruler Holofernes. She fed him cheese (to make him thirsty) and wine (to quench his thirst); and after getting him drunk she killed him. This was one of the events that sparked the Maccabean uprising. Food fried in oil is also eaten to commemorate the miracle of the Menorah. Latkes and donuts are the most common foods.

The minimum obligation is that every household should have one candle burning every night. It is customary to be scrupulous regarding this *mitzvah*: to have one candle on the first night and an additional candle every night (1-8), and for everyone in the house as well.

Any type of oil is acceptable for use in the *menorah*, however, it is best to use olive oil.

The light should be clear, and the wicks should not flicker.

Wax candles are also acceptable, providing they have a single wick.

If a number of people are lighting in one household they should make a slight separation between their *menorahs* so that there is no confusion to the observer as to the number of candles.

Ideally, the Menorah should be placed outside the house to the left of the entrance. Since anti-Semitism was so common throughout Jewish history it became customary among many communities to place the Menorah inside the house, near the entrance or on the table. In many

families it is the custom to place the menorah in a window facing the public, especially where many people share one entrance (e.g., apartment building). In Israel it is customary to light outside in a special box that prevents the flames from blowing out.

In most Yeshivot and Seminaries, it is customary for students to place their menorahs in the dining room at windows facing the street or public thoroughfare. (Lighting in the dormitories is usually a fire hazard and should therefore be avoided)

The menorah should be no lower than three *tfachim* from the floor (approx. 10.5 inches or 27cm) and should be no higher than 20 *amot* from ground level (35.5 ft or 10.8 m). Ideally, it should be about 10 *tfachim* high (35 inches or 90 cm).

The Menorah should have all the candles or wicks on the same level, none higher or lower than the others.

It is customary to have an additional candle (the *shamash*) with which to light the other candles and in order to use its light. The *shamash* should be placed in a way that shows that it is not one of the Chanukah candles.

It is forbidden to derive benefit from the light of the Menorah just as it was forbidden to derive benefit from the Menorah in the Temple, and also in order to show that the purpose of the Menorah is for a *Mitzvah*, not just for illumination.

It is preferable to have the candles in a straight line, and not in a semi-circle, however it is permitted to have them in a semi-circle providing each candle is clearly separated from the others.

It is prohibited to light the *shamash* from the Chanukah candles.

Left over wicks and oils should be destroyed after Chanukah (except for unused oil left in bottle) since they may not be used for anything else. One should not store the used wicks and oil for the next year, since there is a probability that it will be used for profane purposes by accident.

There are different customs as to the lighting of the Menorah. Some light at sunset. Some light about ten minutes after sunset and some light 1/2 hour after. Some specifically light after the evening service is recited (*Maariv*). Ideally a person should follow the custom of his father. If this is not known or is inapplicable for any reason, one should follow the custom of the local community. The time for candle lighting is on the monthly shul calendar.

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Laws of Chanukah cont'd

It is obligatory to put in enough oil, or a long enough candle, to burn for at least 1/2 hour after nightfall (i.e. the appearance of three medium size stars).

If one forgot or was not able to light at the correct time, one may light as long as people are still awake in the house in which one is lighting.

It is best to light in the presence of many people in order to publicize the miracle.

On the first night, three brachot, blessings, are recited. "*Lehadlik ner shel Chanukah*", "*She'asa nissim*" and "*Shehecheyanu*".

On the other nights only the first two blessings are said.

All the blessings should be recited before actually lighting the candles. First light the *Shamash* before the blessings to avoid delay. It is forbidden to speak between the recitation of the blessings and the completion of candle lighting.

We recite "*Haneirot Halalu*" either during or after the lighting of the additional candles.

We sing "*Maoz tsur yeshuaty*".

Place the first candle on the extreme right of the Menorah. On the second night, add a candle on the left. Light the newest candle first and proceed to the right.

There are different customs regarding the placement of the candles, some follow the right and left of the observer from outside, some follow the right and left of the person lighting inside.

Do not remove the *Shamash* from the wick until the flame catches on most of the wick.

One does not add candles if they forgot to light on any night.

The Menorah should not be moved after it has been lit.

If the Menorah was lit in accordance with the requirements of Jewish law and it was extinguished, one is not obligated to relight it, but one may relight it without reciting a blessing.

If the Menorah was not lit properly in the first place, or was lit in a windy place and blew out then one is obligated to relight if it went out within 1/2 hour after nightfall.

On Friday afternoon, the Chanukah candles should be lit before the Shabbat candle-lighting time (if one accepted Shabbat early, it is forbidden to light Chanukah candles). Mincha should be said before lighting, if possible.

Remember to put in more oil or bigger candles on Friday, so that they burn 1/2 hour after nightfall. Try to light just before the Shabbat candles, (without, of course, delaying the lighting of the Shabbat candles)

After Shabbat one should first recite Havdalah, then light the Chanukah candles. One may not use the Menorah as the candle for Havdalah.

If one is a guest at someone's house (and staying there), one should give the owner a small amount of money to buy a portion in their candles and one may fulfill the obligation through the owner. Alternatively the guest may light his own Menorah.

If one is eating out then one should light the Menorah at their place of residence.

During morning prayers, Shacharit, one should recite the full Hallel every day.

"Al hanissim", the special paragraph of prayers for Chanukah, is added in the silent prayers, Shmoneh Esreh, and also in Grace after meals. If one forgot to say this addition, one should not repeat either Shmoneh Esreh or Grace. It is customary to light a Menorah in the Synagogue every evening. It is placed at the southern wall of the Synagogue, in imitation of the Menorah in the Temple in Jerusalem.



Chanukah Candle Lighting Times

Thursday, December 10
1 candle after 5:15pm

Monday, December 14
5 candles after 5:16pm

Friday, December 11
2 candles before Shabbat Candles
Candles by 4:11pm

Tuesday, December 15
6 candles after 5:17pm

Saturday, December 12
3 candles after Havdalah
Havdalah 5:16pm

Wednesday, December 16
Rosh Chodesh Tevet
7 candles after 5:17pm

Sunday, December 13
4 candles after 5:16pm

Thursday, December 17
8 candles after 5:17pm

Join us for a

COMMUNAL CANDLE LIGHTING



Every night of Chanukah

**Each night a
different member of
our shul will host
candle lighting in
their home**

Sing together | Hear Divrei Torah from our youth

7:45 pm on the Shul Zoom account

- *No communal lighting Friday night
 - *Shul candle lighting Saturday night will be part of our youth Mishmash program an hour after Shabbat ends.
- Time will be announced

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A Perspective On Chanukah During The Pandemic

Bryan Bier

While the entire world is waiting and anxiously anticipating the widespread availability of a vaccine in order to end the current Covid 19 pandemic, I decided to share these thoughts with all of you in order to gain some perspective and help us through this period of waiting out the “year of social distancing”. Andrea and I are children of fathers who either lived through the holocaust or fought in World War II. I am going to share a few stories from their lives that they chose to pass down to us.

In 1940, Andrea’s father, Dr. Leon Herschfus, z”l, was already a practicing dentist in Antwerp, Belgium. Having grown up in Rotterdam, Holland, one of his professors invited him to join his dental practice. Rotterdam, a port city situated on the South Coast of Holland is approximately an hour’s train ride north of Antwerp, and Rotterdam is approximately an hour’s train ride south of Amsterdam. Andrea and I made the trip in the summer of 2005.

In early May, the Germans unexpectedly attacked Holland, and his parents were traveling in South Africa at the time. His immediate reaction was to call his 2 younger sisters, who were home in Rotterdam, and tell them to get on the train immediately and meet up in Antwerp. After the war, we learned that they were on the last train out of Rotterdam towards Belgium. Rotterdam was bombed heavily and turned to rubble in a matter of days. Holland surrendered within 5 days and was occupied by Nazi Germany until liberation in 1945.

My father in law and his 2 sisters spent from May 1940 until December of that same year on the run and hiding out in France, living in barns with animals and living off scraps of food. They did not know from one night to the next where they would sleep or what they would eat. They also experienced several “very close calls”, two of which I will share here.

They were driving a Citroen and had thought to sell

the car in order to purchase tickets on a ship to come to America. At the last minute, my father in law, decided not to sell their car, much to the chagrin of his 2 sisters. Subsequently, they learned that the ship that they were going to board had been torpedoed and sunk by German U boats. When asked what made him change his mind, he would answer that it was a message to him from above.

Another close call was while driving across northern France, they were stopped by a German soldier, and asked who they were and where they were going. My father in law answered him in perfect German that he was a German soldier running away from the war and that his uniform was in the trunk. He got out of the car to show him and told his sisters to stay in the car. He pointed to a spot deep in the trunk and when the soldier leaned over to look, my father in law slammed the trunk hood on his head, got back into the car and drove off.

If you were to ask my father in law he would have told you that he had a poor sense of direction, often getting lost only a few blocks from where he lived for many years, yet, somehow, Hashem sent an angel to guide him through months on the road, until December when they were able to travel through France and Spain and get to Portugal in order to buy tickets to come to America.

They arrived in New York in January 1941. One of the many things that helped them was that my father in law was fluent in 7 languages, including Yiddish, Dutch, German, French, and English, which enabled him to talk his way through several awkward situations that could have resulted in doom. Hashem had other plans.

My father, Mr. Horace Bier, z”l, was married with one baby daughter, and living in Newark, NJ, in October 1943 when he was drafted into the US Army. He spent about a month on a training base in Georgia, and then shipped off to the Philippine Islands to join the war against Japan. He was there for about a year, and in the fall of 1944 was sent to Korea to head off the Japanese Army which was retreating through Manchuria to Korea. By then, the US Army had heard stories of the

Japanese, who were already losing the war, would burn down and wipe out innocent communities in northern China, and were frightened by what they would encounter in Korea.

You can imagine that there was an enormous demand for entertainment for the many war weary soldiers. My father explained to us that he never went to the “front lines” because he had a rare ability to serve in that need. He knew how to show reel to reel films and make minor repairs on the projectors. That was his calling during his 2 years overseas.

The reason why he had this ability is a story by itself. After his father passed away in 1922 from spinal meningitis, when my father was 4 years old, his mother, my grandmother, was left with 2 small children to raise. He grew up without a father and they struggled to make ends meet.

Everything that he wanted in life, he had to work for on his own. My father never had a father to buy him a baseball glove or a bicycle. My grandmother had 2 older brothers who owned property in Newark in the 1930s, including movie theaters. They gave him a job, as a young teenager looking to earn a few dollars, showing movie films. It was there that he learned not only how to show films, but how to repair the projectors and splice the films when they would tear, which was common with reel to reel films in those days.

My reason for sharing this small part of our family history with all of you is to point out that none of us know what resources that Hashem gives us will help us later in life, and when we least expect it. At a recent Friday night meal, Andrea and I were talking about the fact that the 2 of us were privileged to having been born approximately 15 years after the holocaust and World War II. Could our parents have even imagined what come from them such a short time later?

During Chanukah, we read the parashot that detail the experiences of Yosef and his dreams in Miztrayim. For over 22 years he was separated from his father and brothers. Even Yosef did not

know what plans Hashem had in store, but only that it would be for the benefit of his people. The Torah tells us so.

None of know what talents or abilities that we learn to perfect early on will come to our benefit and save us in the future. No one can answer why we are in the situation that we are in. Yet, as God fearing Jews, we have “bitachon” that Hashem will enable the Jewish people to come out stronger, more united, more devoted to a Torah way of life, and closer to the coming of Mashiach.

I am sure that all of you have family stories that have helped shape who you are. Chanukah is a time for reflection on the past and for fueling our energy that we need to go forward during this tumultuous time in our lives. Chanukah during this pandemic is perhaps the time to talk to our children and grandchildren about such stories that are very much a part of who we are today. I have heard some people say it has been a waste of a year. Now you can agree that it all depends in our perspective.

In our own community, when I look around, I see very few of those who participated in the building expansion in 1992. Many of our shul’s major supporters have either moved away or passed on to a better place. Yet, during this pandemic we all see several members step up to ensure that we have a place to daven and keep our community together.

There is a halacha that any leftover fuel from the Chanukia that as not used cannot be saved and used for other things. By contrast, I am confident that the fuel or energy left over from the current pandemic will result in a new group of community leaders, that will continue to rise to the occasion and see to it that our community continues to grow and build.

I wish all of you a Chanukah Sameach in good health and may we be privileged to see the current pandemic end soon.



Lauren Elise Bier
Nursery School

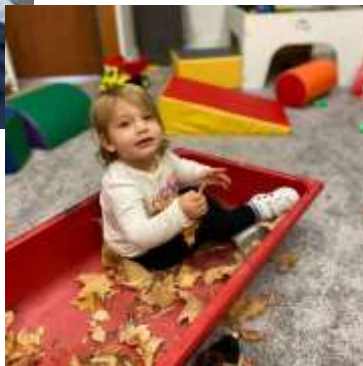
at Congregation AASJ&D

Aliza Maslansky
Early Childhood Director
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Our school year has been fully up and running this fall. The children come to school each day happily wearing their masks and ready to start a day of learning and exploring. Each class has taken advantage of the great weather we have had and been outside as much as possible. The children



love playing with leaves in the parking lot, drawing and writing with chalk, playing on the playground and taking nature walks. This year we also started having a socially distant music class under the awning outside and the children love getting to move their bodies and play instruments with our music teacher, Ms. Jennifer.



This year our Thanksgiving feast looked different from previous years but nonetheless was very exciting. Each class learned about the holiday and created fun projects to bring home to celebrate with their families. We want to thank our PTA for generously organizing and to the many families who sponsored our Thanksgiving feast this



year. Instead of gathering together as a whole school for a feast, each class had their own feast in their classrooms and took pictures and videos to share with their families. The PTA prepared individually packaged lunches for each child to taste some of the flavors of Thanksgiving and the children loved it.

For Chanukah each class created their own special chanukiot. The Tiny Tots created a chanukia with their hands. The 2's class created one using popsicle sticks that the children can manipulate in order to "light" their own chanukia each night. Our 3's classes used mirrors and glass tiles to create their chanukiot and they also created a special box for their candles with the brachot on it. The Pre-K class created a math chanukia. Each night has a

different number of things in a jar to correspond to that night of Chanukah. For example, on night one the jar under that candle has one item etc. They really worked on their one-to-one correspondence when putting it together. Each child in the school decorated their own Chanukah picture frame and the teachers added a special picture of the child inside the picture frame before sending it home as a gift. On Chanukah each class had



special activities going on like painting with candles and dreidels, graphing dreidel spinning and eating latkes and sufganiyot. The whole school had a special Zoom Chanukah celebration with Rabbi Zwicker where he lit the Chanukia with us and read the children a special Chanukah book. He also had special gelt and dreidels dropped off for each child to

take home.

This year has brought many changes to the way that we do things in the nursery school but nonetheless, the amazing and dedicated teachers have made the learning come to life for all of the



children and continue to help foster the children's growth and learning.

It has been a fantastic fall semester and we are looking forward to continuing our learning and growing this year!

Have a Happy Chanukah!

Camp Shemesh

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Camp Director
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Now that Chanukah is here, there are only six more months until Camp Shemesh. At this point last year we thought that summer 2020 would be a regular year of camp filled with trips and shows. Then as the months progressed it seemed like there would be no possible way we could run camp in the middle of a pandemic. But it happened and we had an amazing summer. There were no trips, no outside shows, but the kids didn't miss those things at all and were happy to just play on the playground with their friends. It was beautiful to watch the campers enjoy the simple pleasure in life. We have no idea what to expect for summer 2021. We are hoping for a regular summer, but planning for anything. We will keep you updated about details as we know them. Looking forward to Camp Shemesh 2021, we might not know what it will look like yet, but we know it will be amazing!



Youth

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Although we have been socially distant, our youth department has been very active since the Yamim Noraim! We held our Rosh Hashana apple picking event at Wightman Farms! The warm September morning was the perfect place to get families and children together outdoors in a safe way. We also held an apple carving event over Zoom with Sheina Hererra where we carved our apples into a basket and filled it with small berries- it was beautiful and delicious! This year our Sukkah hop looked a little different. Our joint drive by Sukkah hop with Ohr Torah was a huge success! Families came in their car, drove to the Shul, and received a bag of treats and goodies along with an art project for the holiday. Simchat Torah was filled with a candy creation Zoom event! Children made a Torah scroll out, flowers, and the Luchot out of different candies! It was yummy!

We started up our afternoon Onegs again outdoors and socially distant. Each grade gets together on a different Shabbat afternoon, plays games together outside in the parking lot or in the playground, and learns Parsha. It is nice for everyone to see each other and get together in a safe environment.

MishMash is back over Zoom with Rabbi Zwickler! Families receive parsha questions before Shabbat, learn over Shabbat, and login to zoom Saturday night for chances to win prizes and point cards! It has been so much fun! Our amazing Rebbetzins started Bat Mitzvah club up again. All 6th grade girls are invited over zoom to learn about becoming a Bat Mitzvah!

Our last and most recent event was our Thanksgiving prize room! In lieu of our Purim carnival prize room, we set up a Thanksgiving prize room outside under the Shul awning. Children came with their point cards that they have been collecting since last year and traded them in for amazing prizes!

We can't wait to see you over Zoom for our Chanukah events! Wishing everyone a Happy Chanukah!





ABED youth
Minyan Katan & Kindergarten
Pajama Party & Story Time
6:00- 6:20 pm Tues Dec 15



Happy Chanukah

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84896568235>
Meeting ID: 848 9656 8235

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Sisterhood News

Channie Gottlieb
Sorahleah Mandelbaum

This year as we celebrated Thanksgiving and now Chanukah, we were again faced with challenges of our new reality, and found ourselves looking for ways to celebrate in creative and safe ways. The precautions we need to take for Covid along with the cooler weather forces us to think outside the box, but we are determined as ever to continue to tap into the warmth and inclusivity of our wonderful community. If there's one thing that hasn't changed and can always be counted on, it's that our AABJ&D community will always come together to support each other and find ways to connect with laughter and friendship.

The Sisterhood has had some exciting events and fundraisers since we last checked in and we're excited to share them!

Our **Thanksgiving Zoom Cooking Class**, led by the talented Felicia Bernstein took place on Monday, November 23rd and was so much fun! We learned how to make so many delectable dishes ranging from creamy onion soup to cranberry couscous... not a morsel was left over at our Thanksgiving tables! Thank you to everyone who joined, thank you to Felicia Bernstein for leading us in a journey of delicious creations, and thank you to our generous sponsors Hattie Dubroff, Marilyn Smilowitz, and Robin Amster. And thank you to the Sisterhood team who put the event together! (Debbie Buechler, Dorene Richman)



Our **Virtual Chanukah Escape the Room** adventure is right around the corner – Dec 12th – and looks like it will be a lot of fun! With virtual teams working together to figure out the Chanukah themed clues, and prizes for the top teams, there's no doubt this event will be the one not-to-be-missed! Thank you to the Sisterhood team for making this project happen! (Hannah Kestenbaum, Robin Amster, Debbie Ivker).



As always, our beautiful **Shabbat Bouquets** are made available to the community via our local Midtown Florist (Barry Geiger)! Thank you to those who continue to grace Shabbat tables with the lovely and abundant bouquets throughout the year. Weekly order deadline for Shabbat delivery is Wednesdays at 8:00PM. Bonus: you can also donate any amount (on the bottom of the form) towards bouquets to be delivered to our local nursing homes. Check out the weekly emails for ordering information.



If you haven't already joined in our latest **#HowdoyouScrip** campaign, you're missing out on the easiest way to support our Shul! The Sisterhood recently launched a new appeal to strengthen the once thriving **Scrip program** with updated technology and newly added vendors that makes participating in the program virtually effortless. We're all already shopping at local stores like Shoprite and Arons, placing orders on Amazon for contactless deliveries, and filling our tanks up with gas, so why not support your shul as you shop? If you sign up for monthly scrip delivery, signing up would be a one-time process and the cards or e-cards will automatically be delivered to you on a monthly basis... it's literally as simple as that! Many thanks to all of you who continue to support the Shul through Scrip and to the rest of you that will join!!

Additionally, many thanks to the team that made our new technology possible and is working to re-ramp up the program! (Yosef Birnboim, Hannah Kestenbaum, Alana Schwartz, Larry Rein, Jeff Lichtman, Robin Amster, Gail Novick, Sharon Zughaft).

Ordering Scrip is easy! Simply click on the link: <https://www.aabjd.org/scrip>

A super special thank you to Esther Schultz who works tirelessly to pull everything together!

Be on the lookout for announcements coming soon about Tu B'Shvat and other winter events!

Wishing you all a happy, HEALTHY Chanukah!!

Sorahleah Yudkowitz Mandelbaum and Chanie Goldstein, Co-Presidents





JOIN AABJ&D SISTERHOOD
& BAGELS & LOCKS STUDIOS

A VIRTUAL CHANUKAH ESCAPE THE ROOM EVENT

December 12, 2020 | 8:00 PM

\$36 per computer connection

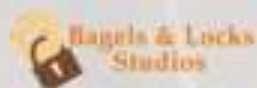
**Join us for a Chanukah themed virtual escape room
event for adults and couples!**

**The game is a competitive online puzzle and you can play
in any of the following ways:**

- 1. My computer connection will be its own team!**
- 2. Please put me together with up to 3 other computer
connections to form a larger (and more competitive!!) team!**
- 3. Please team me up with the following other people (who I
know will be playing)!**

Prizes for the top teams!

Link & directions will be shared before the event



Kol Nidrei Appeal- We Achieved Our Goal!

Larry Rein

Thanks to your overwhelming support, the Kol Nidre Appeal hit a new high. We had a reach goal of \$50,000 and yes, we made it.

Thank you for your generous participation and we wish you and your family a happy and healthy new year.

Last year, we raised \$36,000 and that was higher than the previous year.

Kol Hakavod to the Kol Nidre Appeal Team: Jack Becker, Bryan Bier, Harold Fluss, Barry Hammerman, and Doron Zeif.

We requested you to become first time givers or increase your gift to help support the needs of the shul during this unusual and difficult time.

Here are some exciting statistics:

- 36 new gifts totaling \$8,500
- 58 increased gifts totaling \$12,000
- 125 Total gifts

The number may not add up correctly, because there were individuals, instead of giving to Kol Nidre Appeal, targeted their gift this year to Kibbudim, purchased Arons, shulchans, laining dividers, tents, and other supplies. Bottomline, generosity was prevalent throughout AABJ&D.

Once again, the members of Congregation AABJ&D have stepped up to the plate. Our shul remains the centerpiece and the heart of our West Orange community - sustained by the strong, vibrant, and cohesive membership.

YOU TRULY HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE!

Join Us On
Sunday, December 13
at 12:00pm

Scholar In Residence
Isaiah Gafni

"The Maccabean Uprising and Its Aftermath: What
We Know and How We Know It"



Dr. Isaiah M. Gafni is the Sol Rosenbloom Professor of Jewish History at the Hebrew University. He has taught at the Hebrew University for over forty years, and in 1996 was awarded the university's Michael Milken award for excellence in teaching. He also has served as president of Shalem College, in Jerusalem. Dr. Gafni has written a number of books on aspects of Jewish History in Late Antiquity. Two of these discuss the history of the Jews in Talmudic Babylonia, for which he was awarded the 1992 Holon Prize in Jewish Studies. He has written extensively on a broad range of topics relating to the social, religious and cultural history of the Jews in late antiquity, with a particular stress on aspects of Jewish self-identity and relations with other ethnic and religious communities.

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AABJ&D Zoom Room:
URL: <https://zoom.us/j/289217360>
Dial by phone: +1 929 205 6099
Meeting ID: 289 217 360
Password: aabjd613





Rosh Chodesh Women's Group

COME LEARN INSIGHTS AND INSPIRATION
ON THE BOOK OF TEHILLIM

**The women's Rosh Chodesh Shiur, given by Rabbi Yosef Sharbat,
will take place on Sunday, Decmeber 13 at 8:00 PM via Zoom.**

*This Shiur is sponsored by:
Rabbi Yosef and Batya Sharbat
in celebration of Yael's Bat Mitzvah
and in memory of Rabbi Sharbat's grandmother, Bruria bat Tova.*

AABJ&D Zoom Room Info: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/289217360>
Dial by phone: +1 929 205 6099/ Meeting ID: 289 217 360/ Password: aabjd613

Mazel Tov

- Mazel Tov Joey Plotsker on his Bar Mitzvah. Mazel Tov to parents Julie & Howard Plotsker. Mazel Tov to siblings Matthew & Emma. Mazel Tov to grandparents Phyllis and Sandy Jacobson and Ellen & Kalman Plotsker.
- Mazel Tov to Lynne & Charles Turk on the birth of a grandson. Mazel Tov to parents Lindsay & Steven and big sister Paige. Mazel Tov to grandparents Marilyn & Jamie Sohacheski and the entire Turk and Sohacheski family.
- Mazel Tov Noah Sinnreich on his Bar Mitzvah. Mazel Tov to parents Yonit & Michael, brother Ethan and grandparents Meyer Reichman, Merle Ringer and Mindy Sinnreich.
- Mazel Tov to Lynne & Charles Turk on the birth of a grandson. Mazel Tov to parents Gemma & Corey Turk and big sister Allie. Mazel Tov to grandparents Ria & Tim Levart and to the entire Turk, Levart and Burbank families.
- Mazel Tov to Liat Greenwood on her engagement to Chaim Chernoff of Skokie, IL. Mazel Tov to parents, Pam and Matt Greenwood, and to siblings, Dov, Sefi and Sarit.
- Mazel Tov to Sheila & Robert Benrimon on the birth of a grandson. Mazel Tov to parents Stephanie & Michael Rich and to siblings Jacob, Kayla, Lily, and Connor. Mazel Tov to the entire Benrimon & Rich Family.
- Mazel Tov to Hadar & Naomi Weiss on the birth of a baby girl. Mazel Tov to big brother Yoni.
- Mazel Tov to Jeremy Segal on his Bar Mitzvah. Mazel Tov to parents Rachel & Joel Segal and younger brother Adam. Mazel Tov to grandparents Judy & Dennis Weiss. Mazel Tov to Uncle Josh, Aunt Yael and family & Uncle Jared.
- Mazel Tov to Naomi & Howie Berg on the birth of a granddaughter, Lily Ella. Mazel Tov to parents Dana & Itai Abelski. Mazel Tov to Anni and Sheps Abelski and special Mazel Tov to great grandmother Riva Bell. Mazel Tov to all of the Abelski and Berg family.
- Mazel Tov to Judi Fusman on her engagement to Alon Kosowsky-Sachs. Mazel Tov to parents Arden and Benjamin Fusman and sisters Lior, Hana, Raquel and Eden. Mazel Tov to grandparents Roy and Karmela Waldman. Mazel Tov to Alon's parents Seth and Elka and siblings Bezalel and Yehudit, Yair and Dror of Sharon, Massachusetts.
- Mazel Tov to Esther & David Moskowitz on the engagement of their daughter Alexandra Moskowitz to Avi Baron of Teaneck. Mazel Tov to siblings Max, Joseph, Renee and Lucky. Mazel Tov grandparents Max & Sylvia Moskowitz, Israel Yashar And Rachel Yashar, Deborah Baron, Todd and Chana Baron, Gabi, Eliav and Kobe, Rav Gershon And Tamara Baron, Barbara and Robert Brown.
- Mazel Tov to Jeremy & Shani Gutmajer on the birth of a daughter, Mia Pearl (Miriam Penina). Mazel Tov to big brother Jacob. Mazel Tov to grandparents Anna & Cliff Gutmajer and Eve Thaler.
- Mazel Tov to Ruthie & Ethan Kra on the birth of a granddaughter, Malka (Madeline Golda/Maddie). Mazel Tov to parents Adeena and Joshua Kra. Mazel to grandparents Sarah and David Goldstein and to great grandmother Rebbetzin Bessie Kra. Mazel to siblings Nava, Aron and Elisha, uncles and aunts Yossi and Amira, and Rachel and Simcha and to the entire Kra and Goldstein families.
- Mazel Tov to Rachel Reichman-Hersey on the engagement of her daughter Rebecca to Adam Guttman. Mazel Tov to Adam's parents Rabbi Moshe and Judy Guttman, formerly of West Orange currently from Livingston, N.J.
- Mazel Tov Eli Novick on being elected as this year's West Orange NCSY Chapter President.
- Mazel Tov to Danielle & Harry Greenfield on their wedding. Mazel Tov to parents Andrea & Bryan Bier and Deborah & Robert Greenfield. Mazel Tov to the entire Bier and Greenfield families.
- Mazel Tov to Shira Kelin on her engagement to Rafi Nemes of Manhattan. Mazel Tov to parents Sue & Richard Kelin and to grandmother Bea Taubenfeld. Mazel Tov to Fawn & Alan Nemes of St. Louis.
- Mazel Tov to Shari & David Cherna on the engagement of their son Zachary to Rachel Lesnik of Boca Raton, Florida. Mazel Tov to Rachel's parents Hope & Gary Lesnik. Mazel Tov to Zach's grandmothers, Sylvia Cherna and Natalie Schonfeld and Rachel's

grandparents, Carol & Jerry Lesnik and to siblings Rebecca and Ami, Sammy, and Ashleigh and nephew Dylan.

- Mazel Tov to Daryl & Edward Shapiro on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Jonah Shapiro. Mazel Tov to dad Alan Shapiro and brother Zachary. Mazel Tov to Aunt Lauren and Uncle Marc Shapiro and the entire Shapiro family.
- Mazel Tov to Bernie & Helen Neustadt on the recent marriage of their granddaughter, Dr. Tzipporah Jacobovits, daughter of Rabbi Eliezer and Devorah Jacobovits, to Yoel Bodenheimer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Shmuel Bodenheimer of Washington Heights. Mazel Tov to the siblings and the entire Neustadt, Jacobovits, and Bodenheimer families.
- Mazel Tov to Bernie & Helen Neustadt on the birth of a great-grandson to parents Shmuel and Shaindy Gleiberman. Mazel Tov to grandparents Mordy and Aviella Neustadt, the baby's siblings, and the entire Neustadt and Gleiberman families.
- Mazel Tov to Ethan & Ruth Moskowitz Kra on the birth of a grandson Chaim Yehuda. Mazel Tov to parents Burry & Tamar Moskowitz. Mazel tov to grandparents Rabbi & Mrs. Baruch Lichtenstein, big sisters Shira and Adina and to the entire Moskowitz, Kra and Lichtenstein families.
- Mazel Tov to Debra & Chaim Silverman on the birth of a granddaughter to their children Yisroel & Elisheva Silverman. The baby was named Rivka in memory of Chaim's mother. Mazal Tov to Yisroel, Shevy and Bassie as well as David Silverman, Boomy and Helen Hagler, Irene and Lazer Eisdorfer, Debbie Henigson, Moshe Chaim and Sara Meira Labinsky, and Aharon Henigson.

Condolences

We extend our condolences on the passing of...

- Thelma Peres, beloved mother of Eileen Levitt.
- Irving Podhurst, beloved father of Jaime Podhurst.
- Roxane Gamoran, beloved sister of Sheba Mittelman.
- HaRav Avigdor ben Yaakov HaCohen (Victor Cohen), beloved father of Debbie Becker.
- Steven Buskin, beloved father of Jason Buskin.
- Omid Ezrachyian, beloved father of Sahba Azar.

Men's Club

Saul Maslansky
sjm1583@gmail.com

Ilan Rosenrauch
ilanrosenrauch@gmail.com

Co-Presidents

The AABJ&D Men's Club holds special outings and events throughout the year and provides members with the unique opportunity to serve the Synagogue and Community by working on various special fundraising projects and social events. The Men's Club commits to \$10,000 of the Shul budget every year, making each and every fundraiser and event an important and beneficial one for the entire community.

We would like to thank everyone in the West Orange community for their ongoing support of the AABJ&D Men's Club and look forward to providing many more activities and programs for you throughout the year.

Men's club meetings are held monthly and we are always looking for individuals to take an interest in what we do and join us as we proceed with our programming of future events. If you have any questions about the Men's Club or would like to help plan any activities, please contact our co-presidents, Saul Maslansky and Ilan Rosenrauch.

Jewish War Veterans

Help us continue to keep our 180 year tradition of Jewish War Veterans place in Unites States history. Sanford L. Kahn Post 538 located in West Orange was started in 1946. It has continuously supported our Veterans-In-Need as well as social causes.

Some of these activities include:

- 1-Monthly visits to the Paramus Veterans Home sponsoring a Bingo Game for more than 100 Veteran residents; men and women who served. Gifts and snacks are also furnished
- 2-Sponsoring annually a \$500 Olympiad Award to an outstanding high-school graduating student in memory of Israeli Olympians murdered in Munich.
- 3-Providing funds for youth in scouting.
- 4-Donating to the Nation Museum of American Jewish History in Washington, D.C.; where worldwide visitors are informed about the Jewish Veterans' role in our Country's Military History.

OUR MEMBERSHIP HAS SEVERLY DECREASED due to age, poor health, relocation and death. To continue our long tradition of helping our Veterans, we NEED YOUR HELP.

The SANFORD L. KAHN POST 538 meets monthly in West Orange.

We offer free membership for one year to all new members.

If interested, please contact IRWIN W. NOVICK @ 973-736-2988 for additional information and meeting dates.

Thank you
 Irwin Novick



Recipe Corner

APPLE CINNAMON LATKES

INGREDIENTS

2 Red Delicious apples, peeled
3 eggs, separated
½ cup matzah meal
½ teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons brown sugar
½ cup water
Extra-virgin olive oil

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Grate apples with a hand grater into a large mixing bowl.
2. Beat egg yolks until lemon colored. Add to apples and mix well.
3. Combine matzah meal, cinnamon, salt, brown sugar, and water in a small mixing bowl and mix thoroughly. Add to apple mixture.
4. Beat egg whites in a medium mixing bowl until stiff peaks form. Fold gently into apple mixture.
5. Heat EVOO in a large, non-stick sauté pan.
6. Drop heaping tablespoons of apple mixture into pan, smoothing tops slightly.
7. Sauté latkes until lightly browned on both sides.
8. Drain latkes on paper towels. Serve hot.

CLASSIC POTATO LATKES

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. Russet potatoes, peeled (about 2 medium)
2 large eggs, beaten
1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt, divided
Canola oil, for frying
2 tbsp. freshly chopped chives
Applesauce, for serving
Sour cream, for serving

DIRECTIONS

1. Using the medium holes on box grater, grate potatoes. Transfer to a bowl of ice water until ready to use. Using a clean dish towel, squeeze out as much liquid as possible, or let drain in fridge overnight.
2. In a large bowl, combine potatoes with eggs, flour, and 1 teaspoon salt.
3. In a large skillet over medium heat, heat about 1/8" oil until shimmering. To test if oil is hot enough, sprinkle with some flour. If flour bubbles and dissolves immediately, oil is ready.
4. Add a few spoonfuls of potato mixture to the oil and pat down to flatten. Fry until crispy and golden, about 3 minutes per side. Transfer to paper towels to drain, then sprinkle with remaining salt.
5. Serve with chives, applesauce, and sour cream.



You shop. Amazon gives.

AABJ&D is pleased to offer you a way to make your regular purchases benefit our Shul. For personal purchases (i.e. from "home") the benefits are approximately 0.5%. Please follow the applicable link, sign in using your regular account details and purchase as normal. At this point it is our understanding that you need to follow the link for each basket of purchases you make so your efforts in this regard are appreciated. AABJ&D will have no visibility of the items you purchased or your expenditure.

Dedication Opportunities

Siddur Dedication \$36

Chumash Dedication \$50

Interested in dedicating a Siddur or Chumash in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one? Contact the Shul office: office@aabjd.org.



Tree of Life

Opportunities to participate:

Leaf- \$180

Rock - \$3,600

Pomegranate- \$5,000

Tree - \$25,000

Contact the Shul office: office@aabjd.org



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There are so many things happening and ways to get involved. Below you will find a list of some of our Shul committees and chairpersons. Please feel free to contact them to either volunteer or inquire about their activities. If you have a special skill or talent that you would like to share or an idea that you would like to discuss, contact us at office@aabjd.org.

- **Adult Education**—Gregory Zuckerman- Gregory.zuckerman@wsj.com. Plans and coordinates all classes, lectures, and scholar-in-residence programs.
- **Cemetery Committee**— Judy Israeli- idadesq@aol.com, Chaim Silverman- Chaim@silverlaining.com, Anna Chosak- chosakhouse@comcast.net
- **Chesed/ Bikur Cholim**—Andrea Sultan, Debra Lando, and Lorraine Gold. A branch of Sisterhood that coordinates visits to the sick & meals.
- **Chronicle**—Office- office@aabjd.org
- **Chevre Kadisha**— Avi Laub- avilaub@yahoo.com
- **Constitution Committee**-Harvey Okin- hokin@kpmg.com
- **Dinner Committee**— Plans & coordinates the shul's annual dinner—many volunteer opportunities for all skills and talents.
- **Early Childhood**—Judy Birnboim- judybirnboim@gmail.com. Oversees our Nursery School and Summer Camp programs.
- **Endowment Committee**-Harvey Bell- harveybell@earthlink.net
- **Events Committee** - Chaired by Rob Greenfield- robdebg@yahoo.com. Develop policy for outside caterers to ensure shul kitchen is always left clean, uncluttered, and with all appliances in working order.
- **Finance Committee**— Jeff Lichtman lichtmanj@ou.org
- **Fundraising**-Bryan Bier- bryanbier@comcast.net and Larry Rein- reinlawrence@gmail.com.
- **Hi-Tech**-Yosef Birnboim- yosef@birnboim.com and Seth Lyons-seth.lyons@gmail.com. Maintains website and all hi-tech apparatus.
- **House Committee**-Rob Wagner- email4rob@aol.com. Keeps all our buildings in tip-top shape.
- **Inclusion Committee**—Eta Levenson- jeserichad@aol.com
- **Israel Action & Advocacy Committee (IAAC)**- Barbara Beiss Muskin- barbarabeiss@gmail.com
- **Kiddush Society**— Larry Liebman- liebmancpa@gmail.com. Helps provide the weekly kiddush and Seudah Shlishit.
- **Legal Committee**-David Cherna- davidchern@gmail.com
- **Marketing Committee**- Esti Buskin- estibuskin@gmail.com. Responsible for recruiting new members, hospitality, welcoming and communications.
- **Men's Club**-Saul Maslansky-sjm1583@gmail.com and Ilan Rosenrauch- ilanrosenrauch@gmail.com. Co- Presidents- Provides & coordinates a variety of programs in support of the shul.
- **Outreach**-Moshe Glick- mglickus@gmail.com and Ira Bloom- IBloom@kushnercompanies.com. Coordinates programs of interest to the non-affiliated.
- **Ritual Committee**-Larry Schiffman- lschiffman@sudlerco.com. Oversees the conduct of religious services.
- **Scrip**-Debbie Hauerstock- dah246@hotmail.com and Alyssa Kaplan- aabjdscrip@gmail.com
- **Security Committee**-Robert Ivker- tnsnyc@aol.com
- **Seniors Group**-Together on Tuesday- Debbie Druce, Coordinator- deborahdruce@gmail.com
- **Seniors Services Committee**-Hilda Mann- hvsm@verizon.net. Coordinates services offered to our aging members and their care-givers.
- **Seudah Shlishit**- Mayer Popack- popack1@verizon.net
- **Sisterhood**-Sorahleah Mandelbaum and Channie Gottleib. Provides & coordinates a variety of programs in support of the shul.
- **Tehillim** -Ora Blum- obloom06@gmail.com and Debbie Druce- deborahdruce@gmail.com
- **Welcome**— Stephanie Rosenrauch and Alanna Ben David welcome@aabjd.org. Welcomes and facilitates integration of new members into the community.
- **Youth**-Shira Waldstreicher- shirawald@gmail.com and Pam Greenwood- pam.greenwood@gmail.com, Jennifer Minsky- jennandgaby@gmail.com . Shifra Caruso, Director, youth@aabjd.org

Please note that all of our Board meetings are open to the membership.



A Guide to Help Find the Assistance You May Need with:
Food • Income • Job Search • Mental Health
Health Insurance • Household Expenses • Legal Matters
and more....

Published by the West Orange/Livingston Chesed Group (June 2020)

All government resources included in this booklet are specific to residents of Essex County, NJ.



GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Program Contact Information	Notes
Jewish Family Services https://www.jfsmetrowest.org	<p>For individuals seeking mental health counseling or information on resources offered throughout the community, call 973-765-9050 to speak with an intake worker.</p> <p>In addition to completing all mental health counseling intakes, the intake worker is able to offer limited phone-based case management to callers. This includes reviewing the caller's financial concerns, directing callers to resources, completing basic research for callers, providing support, answering callers' questions about the applications when possible, etc. This often involves more than one phone call.</p> <p>https://www.jfsmetrowest.org/covid-19-resources/</p>
Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest www.jfedgmw.org	<p>This is a generalized resource line for anyone in need of Jewish communal resources and support from local Jewish social service providers:</p> <p>https://www.jfedgmw.org/jewish-resource-line</p> <p>jewishinfo@jfedgmw.org</p> <p>973-929-3100</p> <p>For those with COVID-specific needs like deliveries, medicine, technology, use:</p> <p>https://www.jfedgmw.org/need-help</p>



FOOD ASSISTANCE

Program Contact Information	Notes
<p>NJ SNAP (Food Stamps) www.njsnap.org or https://www.njhelps.org/ Phone: 973-733-3000 Fax: 973-622-2527/ 973-643-3980 SNAP Hotline 1-800-687-9512</p> <p>(NJHelps.org website can also be used to apply for NJFamilyCare (Medicaid) health insurance and CASH Assistance programs -- see Income Assistance and Healthcare Sections below for details.)</p>	<p>Food Assistance has enhanced benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. SNAP information & applications can be found at www.njsnap.org or www.njhelps.org.</p> <p>To be eligible for assistance, applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be income eligible • Live in New Jersey • Be a US citizen or qualified immigrant whose documents allow them to remain in this country permanently. <p>Before you begin to fill out the application, you will need the following information for yourself and the people for whom you want to apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names and birth dates • Social Security Numbers • Information about income, both work income and any other income
<p>WIC (Women, Infants & Children) Program: Assistance for pregnant women and young children City of East Orange 185 Central Avenue, Fifth Floor East Orange, NJ 07018 Phone: 973-395-8960 or 973-754-4575 https://www.state.nj.us/health/fhs/wic/</p>	<p>Prescreening tool to see if eligible for WIC: https://wic.nj.gov/ParticipantPortal/</p> <p>Satellite office in Bloomfield on Fridays (not currently open due to COVID 19)</p>
<p>Jewish Relief Agency Food delivery program</p> <p>Contact moishe@jewishrelief.org</p>	<p>Residents will get a monthly delivery of about 12 items (potatoes, rice , cereal, canned goods etc)</p>
<p>The Bobrow Kosher Food Pantry</p> <p>Oheb Shalom Congregation 170 Scotland Road South Orange, NJ, 07079 973-762-7067</p>	<p>The Bobrow Kosher Food Pantry of Oheb Shalom Congregation serves kosher food to over 200 needy families in Essex County each month. Distribution Hours - One Sunday Morning a Month* 9:00am - 11:00am *Schedule may be affected by COVID. Please call for details</p>
<p>Greater MetroWest Free Kosher Meals for Children Ages 1-18</p> <p>Renee Klyman at klymanr@teachcoalition.org</p>	<p>Through a collaborative effort of Teach NJ, Jewish Educational Center in Elizabeth, Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest and the Greater MetroWest NJ day schools, kosher meals will be available to the entire Greater Food will be available at JEC/Bruria High School for Girls, 35 North Avenue, Elizabeth. This location is an area eligible</p>



INCOME ASSISTANCE

Program Contact Information	Notes
<p>UNEMPLOYMENT</p> <p>North New Jersey: 201-601-4100 To file claim or recertify https://myunemployment.nj.gov/</p> <p>The NJ DOL has a new tool you can use to email the Unemployment Division with inquiries or unresolved tickets: https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/help/contact-us/index.shtml#email</p>	<p>You can check the status of your claim online and reset your PIN online with NJ DOL here: https://lwdwebpt.dol.state.nj.us/ClaimStatus/claimStatus.htm</p> <p>https://myunemployment.nj.gov/assets/pdfs/tli_process_selfemployed.pdf</p>
<p>Essex County Department of Labor 973-733-8500</p>	<p>Callers can expect a return call within 72 hours.</p>
<p>SMALL BUSINESS LOANS</p> <p>There are several loans a small business may qualify for, including COVID-19 tax relief and economic stimulus payments. https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-tax-relief-and-economic-impact-payments-for-individuals-and-families</p>	<p>You may also visit www.SBA.gov for small business loans.</p>
<p>COVID STIMULUS RELIEF CHECKS</p> <p>The federal government is sending relief payments to individuals and families based on their income.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals who earned an income below \$75,000 should receive \$1,200 • Couples who earned an income below \$150,000 and filed a joint return should receive \$2,400. • Dependent children under 17 should receive \$500 as long as they are claimed on their parents' tax return. If you did not file a tax return, you may file a short form or you may be eligible to file a non-filers form. For more information, please visit: www.irs.gov/coronavirus • Those who earned higher than \$75,000 per individual and \$150,000 per couple should have their payments phased out based on their income. • Individuals who earned more than \$99,000, and couples who earned more than \$198,000 should not be 	<p>If you have not yet received this payment, you do not need to take action. If the IRS already has your bank account information from your 2019 or 2018 return, it should transfer the money to you via direct deposit based on the recent income-tax figures it already has. The payments should also be automatic for people who receive Social Security retirement, survivor or disability benefits, and Supplemental Security Income. If you received your tax refund via check in 2019 or 2018, you will have to wait longer because the federal government is producing checks and mailing them in batches. If you prefer to receive the payment via direct deposit, you can update your information here: https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-mypayment</p> <p>More information on this program and other resources can be found in this comprehensive guide: https://www.irscenter.org/public/user/pages/files/brochures/covid19/COVID-19%20Government%20Help.pdf</p>

<p>eligible at all. Many families have already received these payments.</p>	
<p><u>ADDITIONAL COVID-19 SPECIFIC RESOURCES</u></p> <p><i>Eligibility for Key Benefits</i> Below you will find links to a NJ DOL graphic and website outlining eligibility for unemployment, family leave, earned sick leave and temporary disability under different COVID-19 related scenarios. https://www.nj.gov/labor/assets/PDFs/COVID-19%20SCENARIOS.pdf https://www.nj.gov/labor/worker-protections/earned/sick/covid.shtml</p> <p><i>New Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program</i> The State of New Jersey is reaching out to claimants individually regarding their Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims. PUA is the program for those who are self-employed, gig economy workers, those who do not have sufficient work history for a normal unemployment claim, clergy and those working for religious organizations, and others who may not normally be entitled to traditional unemployment insurance, subject to certain eligibility criteria. If you have been contacted by the NJ DOL to begin certifying for PUA benefits, please see the detailed instructions below: https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/puainstructions.shtml</p> <p><i>If You Are Self-employed And Have Not Filed A Claim</i> You can file a claim now. Please review the two documents found at the link below prior to applying; one document answers most common questions and another walks you through the application step by step, with guidance on how to answer the questions as a self-employed individual. Please note that there is not a separate application for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance at this time; all filers must start with the application for normal unemployment.</p>	<p>The NJ DOL website has the following instructions on how to answer the questions when certifying for weekly benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/covidinstructions.shtml</p> <p>Below is a link to the NJ DOL schedule for when you can certify for benefits during the week, depending on the last four digits of your social security number (please check for daily changes) https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/schedule.shtml</p> <p><i>FAQs for Unemployment Insurance & PUA</i> Below are links to a Frequently Asked Questions page from NJ DOL that answers common questions about Unemployment Insurance (UI) and the newly created Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) programs (this is updated often, so check regularly): https://www.nj.gov/labor/worker-protections/earned/sick/covidFAQ.shtml https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/assets/pdfs/NJWorkersFAQs.pdf</p> <p><i>NJ Commitment To Back Pay</i> NJ DOL has stated in the following document, under question #11: "We're committed to ensuring that everyone receives their benefits during this crisis. You will not lose a day's benefits as all claims will be backdated to your first day of employment loss." https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/assets/pdfs/NJWorkersFAQs.pdf</p> <p><i>If You Get the Error "Your Claim Is Not Payable At This Time" When Certifying</i> There are a number of reasons that you may get this error message, but one of the more common reasons is because of the way one or more of the seven weekly certification questions was answered. The NJ DOL has provided this guide on how to certify for benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure you get your benefits in the fastest way possible: https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/covidinstructions.shtml</p> <p>If you believe the reason you have received this error is due to your answers to the weekly certification - your application is likely flagged for review by an</p>

https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/independentcontractors.shtml	<p>unemployment technician. You may want to email the Unemployment Division here: https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/help/contact-us/index.shtml#email</p> <p><i>If Your Unemployment Claim Is Pending</i> Your initial application is awaiting review by a member of the Unemployment Division's staff. Continue to check the website each day to see if the claim status has changed to FILED. You should also continue to check your postal mail and e-mail and watch your phone for calls in case someone from NJ DOL reaches out for additional information. Don't forget to check your e-mail "spam" or "junk" folder.</p> <p><i>Information on the 13-Week Extension</i> Are you currently receiving or have applied for unemployment benefits? If yes, no action is required for the 13-week extension. It will be automatically available to you after your current balance is exhausted. Otherwise, read the NJ DOL FAQ below: https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/covidFAQ.shtml#600</p>
<p>Cash Assistance: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families & General Assistance (TANF & GA) Phone: 973-733-3000 Fax: 973-643-3985 Apply online: https://www.njhelps.org/NJHelpsHomePage Email: https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dfd/staff/email/index.html</p>	<p>To be eligible for assistance, an applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in New Jersey • Be a US citizen or qualified immigrant whose documents allow them to remain in this country permanently. <p>Before you begin to fill out the application, you will need the following information for yourself and the people for whom you want to apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names and birth dates • Social Security Numbers • Information about income, both work income and any other income
<p>If you have tried everything from Social Security and cannot get help, email constituent.relations@nj.gov</p>	<p>Include with name, claim number, last 4 digits of social, phone number, and email</p>

More information can be found on the following New Jersey websites:

<https://myunemployment.nj.gov/>

<https://www.nj.gov/labor/>

<https://covid19.nj.gov/>

The attached comprehensive resource guide prepared by the Lakewood Resource & Referral Center may also prove useful to many Essex County residents.

Updated 5/25/2020:

<https://www.lrrcenter.org/public/user/pages/files/brochures/covid19/COVID-19%20Government%20Help.pdf>



JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE

Program Contact Information	Notes
<p>Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) Jewish Vocational Service of MetroWest New Jersey helps people help themselves through innovative programs in vocational training, education, and career counseling that create pathways to hope, independence, and employment. Inspired by Jewish values, we proudly serve clients from any and all backgrounds.</p> <p>973-674-6330</p> <p>https://jvsnj.org Email: info@jvsnj.org</p>	<p>Offers career counseling services including seminars on relevant topics. Will also help people navigate unemployment.</p> <p>7 Glenwood Avenue, Lower Level East Orange, NJ 07017</p> <p>354 Eisenhower Parkway, Plaza 1 Suite 2150, Livingston, NJ 07039</p> <p>83 Walnut Street, Montclair, NJ 07042</p>
<p>Jewish Job Network Informal volunteer organization serving the West Orange & Livingston Jewish Communities to provide guidance in resume writing, interviewing, career counseling, networking (including LinkedIn), starting a new business, learning how to consult & job retraining.</p> <p>http://jewishjobnetwork.com</p>	<p>The Livingston and West Orange communities have revived the Jewish Job Network (JJN) to provide support to community members in need of job search support during this downturn.</p> <p>The JJN brings together volunteer professionals with background in recruiting & executive search, and contacts in a range of fields who can connect job seekers for industry or position-specific advice and potential placement.</p>
<p>Other recommended resources for job searches:</p> <p>https://www.nj.gov/labor/ https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov/?Facets.filterbox.filter0=%5B%5D&Facets.filterbox.filter1=%5B%5D https://www.upwork.com/</p>	



HEALTH INSURANCE

Program Contact Information	Notes
<p>NJ Family Care 1-800-701-0710 973-733-3000 Wednesday # 973-733-2001 www.njhelps.org</p> <p>Low income households can apply for Medicaid/ NJFamilyCare Information and application can be found at either www.NJFamilyCare.org or www.njhelps.org (Community members can self-screen for benefits they may qualify for)</p> <p>Or over the phone at 1-800-701-0710</p> <p>Essex County SHIP Helpline 973-637-1717</p>	<p>Local office (currently closed due to COVID-19) Division of Family Assistance and Benefits 18 Rector Street, 9th Floor Newark, NJ 07102</p> <p>Income eligibility chart: http://www.nifamilycare.org/income.aspx</p> <p>(NJHelps.org website can also be used to apply for SNAP Food Assistance and CASH Assistance programs -- see Food Assistance and Income Assistance sections above for details.)</p> <p>Call with Medicare Questions</p>
<p>Medicare Savings Programs: Programs may pay partial or full Medicare Part B premiums for eligible participants. www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dcas/services/5lmb Or www.NJSAVES.org</p>	<p>Must be a NJ resident. Participants must not exceed income or asset eligibility limits. See website for details.</p>
<p>The Health Insurance Marketplace Discounted health insurance for those below certain income levels and not eligible for NJFamilyCare are eligible for a Special Enrollment Period.</p> <p>Register online at https://www.healthcare.gov/ Or call 1-800-318-2596</p>	<p>If someone has had a life change they may be eligible for a special enrollment period through the Marketplace (aka Obamacare), such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of health coverage • Changes in household • Changes in residence • Other qualifying events (<i>Changes in your income that affect the coverage you qualify for, Becoming a U.S. citizen, Leaving Incarceration</i>)
<p>Partnership for Prescription Assistance 888-477-2669 https://medicineassistancepool.org/</p>	<p>RX Outreach 1-800-769-3880</p>
<p>Prescription Assistance for Aged Blind & Disabled (PAAD) 1-800-792-9745</p>	<p>Helps with cost of prescriptions, including payment of certain Medicare part D premiums and prescriptions.</p>

<p>www.NJSAVES.org or</p> <p>https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/services/paad/index.html</p>	<p>Senior Gold can be applied for using this application and is for those who do not qualify for PAAD.</p> <p>You can also screen for the Property Tax freeze. Residents can call the municipal tax department for applications and can also ask about programs for eligible seniors, veterans, or disabled that reduce property taxes by \$500 annually.</p>
<p>American Veterans Care Connection (AVCC) Veterans homecare for veterans and their families. https://avcchomecare.com/ 1-855-601-4770</p>	<p>This service can provide up to \$25,000 in home health aide services for veterans, including families with parents, spouse or child who served.</p> <p>Some programs require active duty and some do not, so ask accordingly.</p>
<p>Patient Access Network Foundation Helps underinsured patients get the medication they need. 1-866-316-7263 https://www.panfoundation.org/</p>	



UTILITIES & HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES

Program Contact Information	Notes
<p>Lifeline Telephone Assistance Telephone assistance for low-income families. Within the Lifeline program there are three programs:</p> <p>1. Safelink Wireless https://www.safelinkwireless.com/Enrollment/Safelink/en/Web/www/default/index.html#!/newHome Phone: 1-800-723-3546</p> <p>2. Assurance Wireless https://www.assurancewireless.com/ Email: ourteamassurancewireless@sprint.com Phone: 1-888-321-5880</p> <p>3. Verizon Lifeline https://www.verizon.com/solutions-and-services/lifeline</p>	<p>Free phone for residents who are low-income or who receive food stamps and/or Medicaid</p> <p>For the 65+ population and the disabled, there is also www.NJSaves.org. Here individuals/seniors can check and apply, if they qualify for government assistance including pharmaceutical assistance, SNAP, & NJFamilyHealthcare and more.</p>
<p>Energy Assistance https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr/offices/hea.html</p> <p>NJ Shares http://www.njshares.org/aboutNJShares/energy-assistance.asp http://www.njshares.org/whereToApply/index.asp Phone: 609-883-1626 Fax: 609-883-6364 Email info@njshares.org</p>	<p>Residents may not qualify for Federal and State assistance programs due to the household's income.</p> <p>There is also the Lifeline utility assistance program: https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/home/lifeline/detail.html That is a \$225 benefit towards utilities for 65+ and the disabled population.</p>
<p>Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric Program (PAGE)</p> <p>Website: https://njpoweron.org/page/page-application/</p>	<p>For residents who are not currently receiving USF or HEA, have documented notice of overdue payment for gas and/or electric service and have a history of making regular payments towards their utility bills.</p>



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Program Contact Information	Notes
Jewish Family Services www.jfsmetrowest.org	Supports the emotional well-being of children, teens, and parents. Their resources and ongoing programs related to the pandemic are updated regularly: https://www.jfsmetrowest.org/covid-19-resources/ https://www.jfsmetrowest.org/allnewsandevents/



RENTAL/MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

Program Contact Information	Notes
<p>NJ COVID-19 Short-Term Rental Assistance Program</p> <p>Program to provide rental assistance to low- and moderate-income households that have a substantial reduction in income as a result of the pandemic, including those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>Visit DCA's website (www.nj.gov/dca) on June 15 for the launch of the program website*, with additional information, Frequently Asked Questions, as well as dates that DCA will be accepting applications for the lottery. Further information on how to apply and Frequently Asked Questions, will be available on June 15, and applications will be taken in July.</p> <p><i>* This document will be updated once that information is available.</i></p>	<p>The program will offer an initial three months of temporary rental assistance, with the ability for the household to renew for an additional three months if needed.</p> <p>To submit an application, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a resident of New Jersey • Have a current income that is at or below 80% of Area Median Income for your county • Have been current in your rent payments as of March 1, 2020 • Show that your income was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic beginning on March 9 when the public emergency was declared. You can show this by documenting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A layoff ◦ Reduced work hours ◦ Unpaid leave to take care of children due to school and daycare closures ◦ Need to self-quarantine for 14 days resulted in a loss of income
<p>HomeCorp 973-744-4141 www.homecorp.org</p> <p>To learn more about affordable rentals, call Jessica Almonte, Property Manager 973-860-7205</p> <p>To learn more about housing counseling, call Masanna Johnson, Housing Counselor at 973-860-7106</p>	<p>HOME Corp has developed nearly 200 units of affordable rental and owned housing in Montclair. HOME Corp's housing counseling department assists nearly 200 households annually with achieving housing goals.</p> <p>This application also has Property Tax freeze. Residents can call the municipal tax department for applications and can also ask about program for eligible seniors, veterans, or disabled that reduced property taxes by \$500 yearly.</p>



LEGAL SERVICES

Program Contact Information	Notes
<p>Legal Services of New Jersey P.O. Box 1357 Edison, NJ 08818 Tel: Legal Aid Hotline: 888-576-5529 or 888-LSNJ-LAW</p> <p>This is New Jersey's statewide legal hotline that provides brief service, advice and referrals over the telephone to low-income NJ residents with civil legal problems. Criminal cases are referred elsewhere. English and Spanish available. The service is free, but income limits apply.</p>	<p><i>Areas of Law:</i> Civil, Criminal Record Expungement, Consumer, Disability, Domestic Violence, Education, Family Law, Health Care Access, Housing, Immigration, Name Changes, Public Benefits, Senior Issues Small Claims, and more.</p>
<p>American Civil Liberties Union of NJ PO Box 32159 Newark, NJ 07102 973-642-2084</p>	<p><i>Areas of Law:</i> Criminal Justice, Cyber Liberties, Discrimination, Election and Voting, Free Speech, LGBT Rights, Immigrant Rights, National Security, Police Practices, Poverty Rights, Prisons, Privacy, Reproductive Freedom and Youth Rights.</p> <p>The ACLU does <i>not</i> generally assist in the following types of cases: Criminal defense or post-conviction appeals, divorce or child custody disputes, property disputes, tax problems, consumer complaints, landlord-tenant disputes, building code issues, or complaints about lawyers or judges.</p>
<p>American Friends Services Committee 89 Market Street, 6th Floor Newark, NJ 07102 Tel: 973-643-1924</p> <p>Immigration Law</p>	<p>The Newark office is home to the Immigrant Rights program, helping individuals facing deportation; for survivors of domestic violence and other crimes; for unaccompanied minors; and to assist in family reunification through naturalization and other immigration applications. May charge a small fee.</p>
<p>Community Health Law Project 650 Bloomfield Ave, Suite 210 Bloomfield, NJ 07003 973-680-5599</p> <p>This office provides legal services to New Jersey residents with disabilities such as mental health-related, people with physical disabilities, HIV/AIDS, developmental disabilities, and visual impairments. Although they do not have an office in Newark, they serve all New Jersey residents.</p>	<p><i>Areas of Law:</i> Civil Rights, Child Support, Consumer Debt Collection, Healthcare Law, Fair Housing, and Landlord-Tenant.</p>

<p>Essex County Legal Aid Association 465 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Hall of Records Room 118 Newark, NJ 07102 973-622-0063</p> <p>Clients receive immediate emergency legal advice, legal paperwork preparation, and counseling from attorneys. These free legal services are available to qualified people based on income.</p>	<p><i>Areas of Law:</i> Civil law including Consumer, Family, Housing, Employment and Probate.</p> <p>They do not provide full legal representation such as court appearances or arbitration, but can provide referrals to other full-service organizations.</p>
<p>Essex-Newark Legal Services 5 Commerce Street, 2nd Floor Newark, NJ 07102 973-624-4500</p> <p>This office provides direct civil legal services to income-eligible clients.</p>	<p><i>Areas of Law:</i> Civil, Criminal Record Expungement, Consumer, Disability, Domestic Violence, Education, Family Law, Health Care Access, Housing, Immigration, Name Changes, Public Benefits, Senior Issues, Small Claims, and more. Walk-ins only. First come, first served.</p>
<p>Legal Services of New Jersey Kiosks 465 Dr. MLK Blvd, Room 201 Newark, NJ 07102</p> <p>Provides access to information, publications, benefits calculators & court forms only.</p>	<p><i>Areas of Law:</i> Housing, employment, landlord-tenant, immigration and family law.</p>
<p>Partners for Women and Justice 60 South Fullerton Ave., #106 Montclair, NJ 07042 973-233-0111</p> <p>Free legal assistance to income-eligible victims of domestic violence and those needing assistance with family law-related matters. If you need immediate assistance, please call your local police department or call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).</p>	<p><i>Areas of Law:</i> Domestic violence, family law including restraining orders, child and spousal support, visitation, custody and divorce.</p>
<p><u>Law School Clinics</u> These offices do not take walk-ins. Call for an appointment.</p> <p>Seton Hall University School of Law Center for Social Justice 833 McCarter Highway, Newark, NJ 07102 973-642-8700</p> <p>Rutgers University School of Law -- Newark 123 Washington Street Newark, NJ 07102 973-353-5576</p>	<p>Civil Litigation, Civil Rights and Constitutional Law, Family Law, Equal Justice, Immigration and Immigrant Workers' Rights, Impact Litigation, Juvenile Justice.</p> <p>Areas of Law: Child Advocacy, Community Law, Federal Tax Law, Special Education Law, Urban Legal Clinic</p>

The Chronicle

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