EAST BRUNSWICK



RECORDER

KISLEV - TEVET 5779

DECEMBER 2018; VOL 85



Rabbi Pivo & his family, Cantor Larry and his family, the EBJC staff, and committees hope you have a happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year!



SHABBAT SERVICES

VAYESHEV

Friday, November 30 - 4:10 pm Saturday, December 1 - 9:30 am & 4:10 pm

MIKETZ

Friday, December 7 – 4:10 pm Saturday, December 8 – 9:30 am & 4:10 pm

VAYIGASH

Friday, December 14 – 4:15pm Saturday, December 15- 9:30 am & 4:15 pm

VAYECHI

Friday, December 21– 4:15 pm Saturday, December 22– 9:30 am & 4:15 pm

SHEMOT

Friday, December 28- 4:20 pm Saturday, December 29- 9:30 am & 4:20 pm

CANDLELIGHTING

11/30 4:13 pm **12/7** 4:12 pm **12/14** 4:13 pm **12/21** 4:16 pm **12/28** 4:21 pm

PRIMARY CONTACTS

Tel: 732-257-7070

Rabbi Jeff Pivo - Rabbipivo@ebjc.org

Deena Oren & Eric Pelofsky,

Co-Presidents - Presidents@ebjc.net

Ellen Botwin, Executive Director
Ebotwin@ebjc.org

Cantor Larry Brandspiegel, Education

Director - Cantorlarry@ebjc.org

Cheryl Decker, Bookkeeping
C.decker@ebjc.org

DECEMBER 2018

Board of Directors 12/19

Board of Ed 12/8

Egalitarian Morning Minyan

Egalitarian Mincha Minyan

Executive Board 12/6

Genesis Science 12/3, 10, 17, 24

Hebrew Class 12/6, 13, 20, 27

Israeli Dance 12/3, 10, 17

Mah Jong 12/3, 10, 17

Talmud Class 12/5, 12, 19, 26

Youth Commission 12/5

Membership Committee

East Brunswick Jewish Center

511 Ryders Lane, E Brunswick, NJ 08816

Tel: 732-257-7070 Fax: 732-257-9630

www.ebjc.org

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Margot Julis, Sara Ullman Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Arthur Fliegelman and Sheldon Horowitz, Men's Club Presidents

Rhonda Gold, Youth Commission

Cantor Larry Brandspiegel, Education/ and Youth Director

Joe Behrman, Chairperson, Special Circumstances

Hollie Cerame, Social Action/Fundraising

Lynda Perel, Director of The Center for Early Learning

Joannie Weinfeld, Calendar

If you have problems at EBJC that are not getting adequately resolved, please call Ellen Botwin, x5 (732) 257-7070

RECORDER STAFF

Stefani Kovler, Administration

Vicki & Marty Nathanson, Madeline Frances

Deborah A. Berger, Graphic Designer (Recorder Redesign)

Thank you to David Kosher for helping put the Recorder together

SAVE THE DATE (Dates subject to change)

December 2018

- 12/1 Hanukkah Family Sweetheart Dance
- 12/6 Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo
- 12/13 Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo
- 12/15 Sisterhood & Men's Club Evening of Jewish Humor
- 12/17 Hazak Lunch
- 12/20 Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo
- 12/20 EBJC/Hazak bus trip to see Fiddler on the Roof

January 2019

- 1/10 Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo
- 1/11 Sisterhood & Men's Club Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner
- 1/12 Mitzvah Corps 3rd Annual Wine, Liquor & Food Experience
- 1/14 Hazak Lunch
- 1/17 Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo
- 1/24 Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo
- 1/26 Sephardic Shabbat & Sisterhood-Men's Club Movie Night
- 1/31 Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo

February 2019

- 2/2 New Era Family Karaoke Night
- 2/3 World Wide Wrap
- 2/18 Hazak Lunch
- 2/22-23 USY Senior Shabbaton
- 2/24 Israel Program
- 2/28 Shabbat Across America Challah Bake

March 2019

- 3/1 Shabbat Across America Dinner
- 3/2 Shabbat Across America Volunteer Shabbat
- 3/3 New Era Candy Bingo & Sisterhood Brunch w/ Women's Wellness
- 3/9 New Era Pinot Palette
- 3/17 Purim Carnival
- 3/23 Purim Ball
- 3/24 Hazak Brunch
- 3/28 Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo

April 2019

- 4/4 Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo
- 4/6 Comedy Night with Modi
- 4/15 Hazak Lunch
- 4/20 Congregational Pesach Seder

May 2019

- 5/1 Yom HaShoah Program 5/2 Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo
- 5/4 Sisterhood & Men's Club Egalitarian Shabbat
- 5/5 60's Sock Hop Gala & Torah Fund Brunch
- 5/8 Yom Ha'Zikron/Hom Ha'atzmaut Program
- 5/16 Hazak Dinner
- 5/18 Sisterhood Egalitarian Shabbat Service
- 5/19 Mah Jong Tournament

June 2019

- 6/1 Grandparents Shabbat
- 6/2 Celebrate Israel Parade
- 6/18 Congregational Meeting
- 6/23 Hazak Brunch

Rabbinic Reflections



When we light the Hanukkah menorah over the holiday's eight nights, we do so in order to publicize the miracle that Hanukkah represents. But what is that miracle? We all know the account of the oil in the rededicated Temple in Jerusa-

lem that burned for eight days instead of one, but since that account first shows up hundreds of years after the events themselves, in the Talmud, there must have been other reasons our ancestors lit their lights before that, other miracles that they were publicizing. What were they? short-lived not match. The miracle of bolizes the fought, with the Maccal short-lived not match.

In the immediate aftermath of the revolt against the pagan Greeks, the victorious Maccabees and their supporters would have been justified in publicizing their miraculous military victory. The Syrian Greeks were the inheritors of the art of warfare, which had shortly before shattered many national armies and established Greece as an imperial power. The few Maccabees had defeated the many Greeks! But the light of the miracle of the Maccabees' victory eventually dimmed; their power lasted only about a hundred years before imperial Rome came to control Israel.

Perhaps the miraculous can be found in the immediate cause of the revolt, the desire to resist assimilation and hold onto Jewish traditions. Having swept out the pagans, the traditional Jewish Temple rites were reestablished. Religious freedom and Jewish distinctiveness had won! But the lights for traditional Judaism also dimmed; the Maccabees themselves soon assimilated, and the office of the High Priest fell so low that it was often awarded to the highest bidder.

So if the miracles that were celebrated and publicized in the immediate aftermath of the events of Hanukkah faded, what was it and what is it that we are publicizing? I would argue that the account of the oil and its miraculous burning, though late in coming, arrived just in time. As the military victory of the Maccabees receded in time and as their national and religious achievements eroded, the meaning of Hanukkah had to evolve. The account of the oil shifted the emphasis from human war to divine intervention, infusing Hanukkah with eternal meanings that the short-lived victories of the Maccabees could not match

The reason that we continue to find the miracle of the oil compelling is that it symbolizes the values for which the Maccabees fought, without having to focus too much on the Maccabees themselves: Self-rule in the Jewish homeland; religious tradition; the ability of the few to stand up for themselves against the many. These are all worthy values that the light of Hanukkah continues to illuminate for us. We will continue to teach and live those values regardless of how their originators ended up, and despite the challenges that our own times bring. Hanukkah's lights teach us that human events are as transitory as oil or candles, but that the values that animate those events burn as brightly as the lights that recall them.

Hanukkah same'akh.

Rabbi Jeff Pivo

Presidents' Report



sacre was horrific and painful. As a result, EBJC reluctantly has made additional security enhancements and sped up some of the features

already in progress, like locking down the doors when we are inside. We joined together as a community, East Brunswick and Old Bridge, Jews and non-Jews alike, to stand in solidarity. This coincided with our Artist-in-Residence week with Mordechai Rosenstein. He created a beautiful piece of artwork in commemoration of the attack and as a shared expression of the solidarity of all the East Brunswick and Old Bridge Jewish organizations. This work of art will be presented to the Tree of Life community soon. Thank you, Rabbi Pivo, for coordinating the community gathering and to Mordechai Rosenstein for being with us and easing the pain by bringing us together. We are not alone and as Jews we will be united against hate in all its horrible forms.

We have been focusing all our efforts on security. Your board has voted to have armed guards stationed in front of the entrance way/ s when we are congregated. Additionally, all doors will be locked when we are inside and when the children are present. This means we will speed up the implementation of the plan that was already in place to have every member, teacher and parent have their own biometric access to the building. Additionally, we are holding active shooter response training from the EB Police Department. Thank you to our amazing volunteer, Steve Zeidwerg.

We are moving full speed ahead on the Pavilion project. The Board of Directors has authorized the opening of a restricted bank account. This means monies dedicated by donor

The Tree of Life mas- to this project will never be co-mingled with operating expenses or any other project. The administrator of this account, i.e. the person to assure the financial rules are followed, is Hayley Migdal. Any check received for any purpose, from now on will have a clear designation of the funds, whether as dues, as participation in event, a donation to Rabbi or Cantor discretionary accounts or to the Pavilion project. This is also a requirement of the outsourced bookkeeping services we have engaged, Kesef Accounting Service (http:// kesefaccountingservice.com/about-us/).

> Additionally, we have engaged the database company, ShulCloud (https:// www.shulcloud.com/). It's a cloud-based database for accounts receivables, web site, smart scheduling and events, membership and donation tracking, member communication, and online portal. Watch for an email requesting each member unit to set up their own user access and verify and enter valuable data, such as emergency contact and Jewish names.

> Your board and EBJC staff are hard at work all the time. Please be understanding and forgiving of mistakes and differences of opinion. Deena remembers growing up in Israel within the Orthodox public school system and being admonished as a Conservative Jew by her fellow Grammer School classmates, because they didn't agree or respect other ways. Let's be better than that. Let's always assume the best in people; ואהבת לרעך כמוך (V'ahavta l'reacha kamocha) love your friend as yourself.

Deena Oren Eric Pelofsky Co-Presidents

Executive Director



automatic garage door wasn't some patience. working (I assume it was a dead battery in my remote) and I didn't have the key to the front door because... well, I never go in through the front

door! So here I am in my car, with a trunk full of groceries wondering how the heck will I get into my house. No one was home, so calling my husband would serve no purpose other than to have him chastise me for not carrying a key to the house. Been there, done that. Oh well.

building. Yes, it is for everyone's safety, but the co- year), and anniversaries if we actually have them. nundrum is how do we make the synagogue warm and welcoming while ensuring the safety of everyone? I have no doubt that some of you will have feelings of anger and frustration as we navigate the various biometrics and codes to enter the building and wings. Not everyone will have access to every entrance and every wing door. It's a sophisticated process and entry system and although it is our goal to make it as easy as possible, I know there will be bumps in the road. There will be times when a congregant is "locked out" due to a glitch or due to the (fingerprint).

Our goal is to make sure every congregant has access into the building for services. Entry into the rug wing for individuals attending regular meetings will also be granted a special code or access. I believe there will be different codes for different needs as well. Our Mah Jong ladies will be provided access Monday nights from 7 - 11pm, but the code they are given will not work any other time of the week. That's how sophisticated this system is! Again, there will be glitches as there are with any new installation and system. However armed with the knowledge that this is being provided for and paid by a govern-

Recently, I was accidentally ment security grant meant to help institutions secure locked out of my house. The themselves from evil intent, I think we can muster up

Another new-fangled thing EBJC has is a data base called ShulCloud. This replaces Chaverware which was proving to be quite problematic. The really good thing about ShulCloud is that (when launched completely), each and every member will have access into the system to update their personal information, pay bills, sign up for events, etc. We will ask you to please make sure your address, email, cell numbers are correct. Adding your date of birth will provide us with the ability to know when to offer you Senior Membership rates. Updating or entering Then I thought that many of our members and con- the date you joined EBJC will enable us to recognize gregants might soon be feeling "out in the cold" due you at our Anniversary Shabbat. We'd love to recogto all of the security changes we are making to the nize your birthdays (without acknowledging the

> So, a lot is going on at EBJC. This is our 60th year celebration. EBJC was incorporated February 1959 by families that wanted a Jewish presence in East Brunswick. They worked hard, raised money and built the first wing (the original sanctuary that is now the Beit Midrash) in 1962.

But let's get back to how I got into the house. I used the "jiggle" method. I took the batteries in the remote control thingy and just rotated them, and then I sort of "jiggled" them in the remote. I closed it up, fact that we haven't obtained their biometrics pressed it and voila! The garage door opened! I guess I forced the last bit of "juice" out of those batteries! I carried the groceries into the house, put them away, got two new AA batteries, put them into the remote and no one was the wiser! By the way... if you're reading this...don't tell my husband I don't carry a key to the house. I'll eventually remember to put it on my key chain.

> Happy and Healthy Chanukah to all, filled with latke's, gelt (real and chocolate) joy, and family,

Ellen

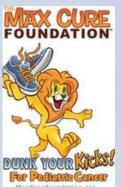
IN AN EFFORT TO CONSERVE ENERGY AND NOT HAVE OUR MAINTENANCE STAFF SPEND COUNTLESS HOURS SETTING UP AND BREAKING DOWN TABLES AND CHAIRS FOR MEETINGS, WE ASK THAT YOU HAVE YOUR GATHERINGS IN ROOM 8 OR 9 IN THE RUG WING, OR TO MAKE IT MORE HAIMISH....IN YOUR HOME (YOU CAN ROTATE). Eliminating meetings in the KBR will help the maintenance staff and reduce the cost of lighting and heating that large room.

Wine for Sale!

WINE FOR SALE ALL YEAR ROUND

Do you need wine before and after Passover for Shabbos, a holiday, a simcha, for dinner? Contact the Mitzvah Corps at ebjcmitzvah-corps@comcast.net. Wine list and prices available at the EBJC website; click on the Mitzvah Corps Wine List tab. Relax and enjoy your wine while supporting Yashar LaChayal.





In honor of her **Bat Mitzvah**,
embracing the ideals of tikkun olam
(repairing the world) and gemilut
hasadim (acts of loving kindness), **Arielle Revis** is collecting gently used
sneakers to donate to the Max Cure

Foundation for Pediatric Cancer

Please consider bringing a pair. A

donation box will be by the entrance.

The Congregation Extends

CONDOLENCES TO:

Janet Fliegelman on the loss of her father, Samuel Warm

MAZEL TOV TO:

Hayley and Alan Migdal in honor of the engagement of their daughter, Jordana Schubert to Matthew Rosenberg

Gale and Marc Dillman on the birth of their grandson, Joseph Samuel

Gale Dillman on her retirement

Elise Merkel on being honored by EB Hadassah at the Southern Jersey Hadassah annual Myrtle Wreath Luncheon

Dr. Cantor Larry Brandspiegel on his confirmation as Doctor of Pedagogy, honoris causa from the Jewish Theological Assembly in recognition of his years of devoted service and significant contributions to the field of Jewish Education

Men's Club Man of the Year Neil Kosher and Youth of the Year Amanda Gold Arthur and Leslie Rubenstein on the Bat-Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Skylar Alexa Rossen Michael and Hannah Schneiderman on their move

Amy, Will and the Schafer Family wish to congratulate:

Neil Kosher on a well deserved honor and a thank you for all the work you have done for our community over the years!

Elise Merkel on a well deserved honor and thank you for all you have done for our community over the years!

The Migdal Family on the engagement and best wishes.

Social Action

Please donate new unwrapped toys. Food donations are always welcome for Trenton Mission. In December we will be collecting Winter coats.

Save the Date!

Hazak Monday Lunch - December 17 at 12:00 pm - Martin Schneit - Learn all about the Zigfeld Girls

Evening of Laughs and Libations - Saturday, December 15, 8:00 pm. Featuring Al Kustanowitz of Jewish Humor Central

Community Events!

East Brunswick Hadassah Holiday Gift Wrapping - December 2-24th inside Brunswick Square Mall in front of Macy's. Please support East Brunswick Hadassah's effort to raise money for Cancer and Medical Research. Volunteer opportunities available

A Hanukkah Breakfast celebrating 70 years of Israel, the modern day Maccabee, and the men and women of the IDF. Featuring guest speaker Brig. Gen. (Res.) Eli Ben Meir, former IDF Chief of Intelligence Corps and IDF soldiers. Congregation B'nai Tikvah North Brunswick, December 9 from 9:30-11:30 am. An elaborate breakfast will be served, For tickets contact Ari Gutman at 646-274-9646 or Ari.Gutman@FIDF.ORG or register online www.fidf.org/njhanukkah



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NJ sales tax and 20% service charge will be added to the final bill. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotion. Package price only available at Marlboro Jewish Center. Not applicable for previously booked events. Applies to events booked between June 1st, 2018 and January 31st, 2019.



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Table Names & Numbers
Jewish New Year Cards
and More!





The Center for Early Learning







The Center for Early Learning @ EBJC

Our Thanksgiving Feast was delicious and fun!













Onto the next holiday.... Happy Hanukkah



I wish I can be a Maccabee so brave so young and so strong.

I will take away the enemy, but I am only 3 or 4 years old!

I have a little dreidel...











All Toddlers with Caregivers

Please join us for

TODDLER FUN

(ages 12-24 mo.)

Fridays 9:45-11:00am January thru June

Arts & Crafts

Dancing

Singing



Contact Lynda Perel – Preschool Director 732-257-7070 lperel@ebjc.org



Alan J. Kramer, CFP®, CLTC, MBA, LUTCF Financial Services Professional* and Licensed Agent



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The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.

Cantor Larry



Hello everyone,

We continue to get more excited about the wonderful activities and learning happening in the Kesher program, as well as in all of the Youth Groups. Just a few reminders:

- Please remember to check your calendars and emails for upcoming events.
 Also, if you have not already done so, sign up for our new TEXT MESSAGING system (especially with colder weather here, it could snow any day).
- The next Shabbat School

and Shabbat B'Yachad Family Service will be on Shabbat Hanukkah, December 8th. We want every child and parent to attend to give everyone the best Shabbat morning experience possible. Come help us light the way.

- NEW: TOT SHABBAT for little people and their adult friends (Toddlers through Kindergarten) on Shabbat, December 8th (11am).
- Service Attendance is a very important component in our Kesher curriculum. Every student has an attendance card that can be found in a small box in the lobby.
 When you have attended a Friday night, Shabbat morning, holiday, or weekday service please pull your name card. We are keeping record each week. Great attendance will come with a reward.
- Coming Soon: Jr. Congregation starting this month of December. Please keep an eye out for more information.
- Sunday, December 2 ~ Kesher Hanukkah celebration with Bingo, Latkes,
- and fun! (Parent Volunteers needed)
- Wednesday, December 5 is Youth Night for Chaverim, Kadima, and USY.
- Hebrew High School will be on Wednesday nights, December 12 and 19.
- Kesher will <u>not</u> have classes during Winter Break on Sunday, December 23, Wednesday, December 26, and Sunday, December 30.

If you have any questions, please contact me at <u>cantor-larry@ebic.org</u>

Also, here are a few of my thoughts with the approaching holiday of Hanukkah:

With the holiday of Hanukkah this month, there is more to think about than the candle-lighting and the presents, even though, they are both fun. There are a multitude of themes to consider and to discuss with your families and friends, that bring true value and meaning to this time of

year. I was reading an article that sparked my interest and desire to share some themes of how we can make Hanukkah a little more meaningful this year and every year.

We know that Hanukkah celebrates more than just the miracle of the oil burning for eight days. We know about the military victory that the Maccabees strived for to give us the lives we have today. However, ask yourselves this question: In what ways are we powerful and powerless today? With what power do we have within each of us to spiritually touch one another? How in today's world is this type of power a good thing and a not so good thing?

Sometimes, we search for the light in the darkness in our lives. What "light" do we celebrate? What "darkness" do we face? Perhaps the blessings within your family are the light, while the health challenges or even death are the darkness we face. How do we celebrate and how do we cope?

Besides the gifts you receive, what gifts have you given and to whom? Is it just material gifts or gifts that help others, such as studying with someone struggling in a class or giving monetary Tzedakah to a family in need.

What are your fears and what are your hopes and dreams? Since Hanukkah represents triumph over fear, then what have you done to overcome or wish to overcome? What hopes have come true and brought new spirits into your life? The story of the Maccabee's triumph is part strength and part vulnerability. In standing up for who they were, the Maccabees were celebrating being part of a Jewish people. But to do this leaves one exposed and vulnerable. Does Hanukkah gives us strength or does it make us vulnerable? Does the competition of celebrations with others make us feel superior or inferior?

These are only a few topics to start a conversation. Make up your own questions and themes to discuss. Use this opportunity to celebrate and learn at the same time. Make use of the time with family and friends to find betterment in your lives. There are always things beyond our control, but the things we can control should definitely change the odds in our favor.

On behalf of my entire family, I wish you a Hanukkah filled with light, blessings, new found spirit, and joy!

Cantor Larry I. Brandspiegel

Youth Programming

DATES_{FOR} EBJC TEEN + CHAVERIM PROGRAMS 2018/2019

- Hebrew High for teens in 8-12th grades, meets most WEDNESDAYS, from 6:30-8:15 pm
- Chaverim 4th & 5th grades / Kadima 6-8th grades / USY 9-12th grades
- EBJC Teen Programs are open to EBJC members and Jewish non-members who register, and Most programs include dinner, dessert, and time to socialize with friends

DATE		TEEN PROGRAM	
Oct	3	Hebrew High	
	10	USY	ш
	17	Hebrew High	ш
	24	Kadima / USY	ш
Nov	4	Kadima: Artist-in-residence	ш
		USY	ш
	14	Hebrew High	ш
	28	Kadima / USY	ш
Dec	5	Kadima / USY	ш
	12	Hebrew High	ш
	16	Kadima / USY	ш
	19	Hebrew High	ш
Jan	2	Hebrew High	ш
	6	USY	ш
	9	Hebrew High	
	16	Kadima / USY	Y
	29	USY	
Feb	6	Hebrew High CANT	ORI
	13	Kadima / USY For	info
	20	Hebrew High Cha	verir
	27	Kadima / USY or s	end
Mar	6	Hebrew High	
	8-9	Youth Shabbat	A D II
	17	Purim Carnival	ADII
	20	Megillah Reading	CC
	27	Kadima / USY	ar
Apr	3	Hebrew High	E
	10	Kadima / USY	1/
	28	USY	K
May	1	Hebrew High: last class	gi Pi
	8	Kadima / USY / Yom HaZikaron -	
		Ha'Atzmaut	U
	15	Kadima - end of year BBQ	W

22 USY Elections

31 USY Board Installation & Dinner

DATE		CHAVERIM PROGRAM		
Oct	24	Chaverim		
Nov	4	Artist-in-residence		
	28	Chaverim		
Dec	5	Chaverim		
Jan	16	Chaverim		
Feb	13	Chaverim		
Mar	8-9	Youth Shabbat		
	17	Purim Carnival		
	20	Megillah Reading		
	27	Chaverim		
Apr	10	Chaverim		
May	8	Yom HaZikaron - Ha'Atzmaut		
	15	Chaverim - end of year BBQ		

CANTOR LARRY is our Director of Education.

For information about the Hebrew High program and/or Chaverim Youth Group, please call him at 732.257.7070 x3 or send an email to CantorLarry@ebjc.org.

KADIMA & USY

For more information, please contact Erin Kaplan, Kadima and USY Advisor: ErinKaplan3190@gmail.com

Kadima: 6th, 7th & 8th graders. Programs are 6:15-7:45PM

USY: 9th-12th graders. Wednesday programs are 7:45-9:00PM; Sunday programs vary CHAVERIM is for 4th and 5th graders. This group meets monthly on WEDNESDAYS, from 6:15-7:30 pm, following Kesher

Chaverim Youth Co-Leaders: Amanda Gold and Joe Weiss



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Kesher Tzedakah Team

supports EBJC's Social Action Committee and serves the needs of our community

Please bring donations to the Social Action Closet, located across from the Gift Shop.

Do you have questions, suggestions, or want to get involved?

For Kesher questions, contact Cantor Larry cantorlarry@ebjc.org. For Social Action Committee questions, contact Hollie Cerame sltcbear@aol.com. Thank you!





NOVEMBER

Collecting NEW and UNWRAPPED Toys

JANUARY

Collecting Hats & Gloves

MARCH

Collecting Toiletries such as Soap, Toothpaste, and Shampoo (any size)

MAY

Collecting Granola
Bars and Single
Serve Snacks
(pretzels, potato
chips, corn chips,
etc.)

Sisterhood



When this issue arrives in your homes, you will hopefully be lighting candles and frying latkes. There is nothing like Chanukah to illuminate the early darkness and the chill of winter.

If you still haven't joined or rejoined Sisterhood, it's not too late. You will stand among 115 proud members who support our mission and want to make a significant contribution to our congregation. Our goal is 100% membership, so that Sisterhood can truly represent the glorious array of women in EBJC-women of all ages and education levels, women who are both traditional and progressive in their practice of Judaism. Sisterhood embraces us all and works to help each of us fulfill her highest potential and aspirations as a Jewish woman. We warmly welcome you.

Rabbi Pivo's adult education series "Torah, Time and Tefillah" is an intellectual adventure every Thursday evening after minyan. This is no ordinary lecture. It is a lively, interactive class, filled with questions, comments, and sharing of stories. The two-year curriculum can culminate in bar/bat mitzvah for those who wish. If you'd like to check out the syllabus, the entire outline for the two-year course is available online. And you can join at any time, or just visit those classes that interest you most, so it's clearly worth a try-just ask any of the 30 men and women who regularly attend.

October was marked by a fascinating five-day Artist-in-Residence man without a light. program, featuring renowned artist Mordechai Rosenstein. His pieces are colorful and stimulating, and they tell beautiful stories about our sacred books, history, and culture. Rosenstein's creative use of Hebrew calligraphy makes his work truly unique. On November 1st, Sisterhood presented "Originals by an Original," a slideshow and lecture by Rosenstein himself, in which he displayed a variety of custom-designed commission pieces he has created over the years, including ketubot, birth announcements, and invitations. Through his narration, we gained valuable insights into the inspirations that drive Rosenstein's innovative talent.

hosted a joint Kabbalat Shabbat dinner and service, featuring Chanukah, storytelling and a sing-a-long by our own Rabbi Pivo and Cantor Brandspiegel. The cozy group basked in the joy of fellowship with our friends and neighbors on Shabbat.

On November 4th, EBJC Sisterhood was honored with a Torah Fund Award at the Garden State Region Brunch, in recognition of



the fact that we exceeded our Torah Fund goal last year. And we have already reached over 90 percent of this year's goal, so we are well on our way to another honor!

This annual fundraising project supports all the educational institutions of Conservative Judaism throughout the world. You can demonstrate your

commitment to this cause by purchasing a beautifully designed pin for \$180. This year's pin features the insignia "Atid," meaning "Future" on a stunning polished black background. But all donations are welcome at any level. Contact our exceptional Torah Fund chair Jody Bramson at <u>Jlbrams@aol.com</u> to get involved.

On The Horizon

Jewish Comedy Night with Men's Club on Saturday, December 15th, spotlighting humorous entertainer

Al Kustanowitz offering a multimedia presentation (see information in the Recorder)

Wine and Chocolate event with Sisterhood of B'nai Tikvah in North Brunswick

Torah Fund Dinner and Service on Friday, March 8th

*Please remember to read each Friday's Tidbits email blast to learn details of upcoming events

"Everyone should know and understand that inside each individual there's a light,

And no one's light is identical to another's and there is no hu-

One must kindle it, and strengthen it into a great torch, and use it to brighten the whole world."

--Rav Abraham Isaac Kook

In this season of miracles, let's vow to fortify the bonds that unite us as Jewish women-intense love for our families, fierce commitment to Jewish values and education, compassionate outreach to the vulnerable among us, and sincere dedication to the continuity of our heritage and faith.

On Friday evening, November 9th, Sisterhood and Men's Club From our families to yours, wishing you all the beauty and joy of

Margot Julis

magoo1211@comcast.net

Sara Ullman

tranquil77@aol.com



3Uccess & Opportuni



Men's Club is continuing another busy year with a focus on expanding our reach to include younger families.

Men's Club cosponsored our first Sing-A-Long Kabbalat Shabbat with Cantor

Larry. A good time was had by all.

On Nov. 14 we held our Man and Youth of the Year dinner when we honored Neil Kosher and Amanda Gold. Both honorees richly deserve their recognition.



EBJC's first Hannukah Family Sweetheart Dance on December 1 is being held in cooperation with New Era and Sisterhood. This is a family oriented fun event for all ages. Please signup at ebic.org/sweetheart. Attendance by interested non-EBJC members is encouraged. If you know a non-member family interested in attending, please invite them to attend.

Comedy Night with Sisterhood will be on Dec. 15. Please look elsewhere in the Recorder for additional information regarding this event.

January will be a busy month for Men's Club.

On Sunday, January 13 we will be hosting two programs: am all day blood drive and our annual Unsung Heroes



program at 9 am with a free Men's Club sponsored breakfast. Our newest heroes names



will be announced soon. Please sign up for the Blood Drive at ebjc.org/blood and do a life saving mitzvah.

Our Jordan Barth Giants brunch featuring the running back Billy Taylor will be on Sunday, January 27 at 10:30 am as we are all getting ready for this year's Super Bowl.) Please sign up at ebjc.org/giants.

Our Kabbalat Shabbat with Mayor Cohen is now on Feb. 18. We will share details next month.

You can find out more about Men's Club and our coming events at ebjc.org/under-our-roof-2/mens-club

While we already have a busy calendar, we are always seeking ideas for new and interesting events. You are welcome to join the fun in arranging our programming. Do you have an idea for an event or activity? Attend any Board meeting and share your idea. Our next two are on Dec. 10 and Jan. 14 at EBJC at 8:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

We invite interested members to join Men's Club. Only a modest amount of time and effort is required. If you can help us run just one event, we would be delighted to have you join us. We can use all kinds of help. No matter your skills, interests and availability, Men's Club has something to fit your schedule and background. Contact us anytime at mensclub@ebjc.net.

Shalom.

Arthur Fliegelman and Sheldon Horowitz

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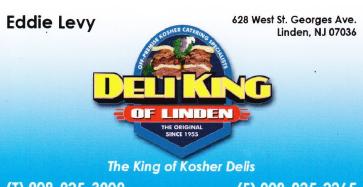
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HAZAK

It's that time again to start planning for Hazak and the wonderful programs we will be having. We're busy trying to secure speakers and entertainers (and maybe even a trip) for all of our Hazak participants!

Hazak is for active seniors who enjoy having a good time and socializing. Sponsored by EBJC, Jewish Family Services and Federation, we are happy to provide a delicious lunch and entertainment. The suggested donation is \$5.00 which goes to Jewish Family Services to help defray the cost of lunch.

Hazak is open to everyone. It is a program for all faiths and races... as long as you are over 55, you're welcome to attend! All we ask is that you RSVP so that we can make sure there is enough food to go around!

Tentative dates for programs are as follows:

December 17 Monday Lunch 12:00 - Martin Schneit - Learn all about the Zigfeld Girls

January 14, 2019 Monday Lunch 12:00 - Memories of the Civil War with Mark Simmons

February 18, 2019 Monday Lunch 12:00

March 24, 2019 Sunday Brunch 10:30

April 15, 2019 Monday Lunch 12:00

May 16, 2019 Thursday Dinner 6:00

June 23, 2019 Sunday Brunch 10:30

We're planning some wonderful programs - to be announced!



HAZAK - DECEMBER 17, 2018

Thursday Luncheon, 12:00 Noon

THE ZIGFELD GIRLS - Presented by Martin Schneit

The Ziegfeld Follies ran from 1907 to 1931. Florenz Ziegfeld glorified the American girl and made her a symbol of the modern independent woman. Florenz Ziegfeld was instrumental in bringing women to the center of society. The Ziegfeld Girl became an American Institution. Marty will talk about the following individuals: Irving Berlin, Anna Held, Justine Johnston, Ann Pennington, Peggy Hopkins Joyce, Marilyn Miller, Fanny Brice, Joseph Urban and Ruth Etting. The following songs will be a part of the lecture: My Man, Love Me or Leave Me, and A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody.

RSVP TO 732-257-7070 BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

The East Brunswick Interfaith Clergy Council strongly condemns the horrific shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pa. We are heartbroken by this tragedy. Our hearts and prayers are with the victims, their families and their community.

We mourn the loss of eleven innocent lives and pray for a speedy recovery for those injured. We are grateful for the quick response and selfless actions by the law enforcement and we pray for a speedy recovery for the officers who were injured.

This act of Anti-Semitism is an act against all religions. A house of worship is a sanctuary and no one should ever have to worship in fear.

We urge all religious and civic leaders to work together and to speak out against hatred and bigotry in any form. Only by remaining united can we achieve the goal of a more kind, just and peaceful world.

The Reverend Jill Ellen Collict Pastor, Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Reverend Sang-Won Doh Calvary Korean United Methodist Church

Rabbi Eric Eisenkramer Temple B'Nai Shalom

Father Mark Hanna Saint Mary Coptic Orthodox Church

Muhammad Hashmi Islamic Center of East Brunswick

Reverend Karen G. Johnston Settled Minister, The Unitarian Society

Rabbi Shlomo Landau Torah Links of Middlesex County

Pastor Stan Mistak Old Bridge Baptist Church

Reverend Erica Munoz Senior Pastor, Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Reverend Kathryn R. Mustaro Interim Head of Staff, Trinity Presbyterian Church

Rabbi Jeff Pivo East Brunswick Jewish Center

Rabbi Efrayim Unterman Young Israel of East Brunswick

Reverend Thomas Walsh Pastor of Saint Bartholomew Catholic Church

Pastor Thomas Wong Point Community Church of East Brunswick

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please contact Cindi Jacobs at cindi_jacobs17@yahoo.com

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RSVP to: ebjcmitzvahcorps@comcast.net, by January 4, 2019



EBJC Tot Shabbat



Shabbat experiences for Toddlers and Kindergartners accompanied by a parent or grandparent



11am-12pm followed by Kiddush

TOT SHABBAT DATES

December 8, 2018

January 5, 2019

February 23, 2019

March 16, 2019

SAMANTHA IVINS our Tot Educator and Musician,

will lead this new program. Her energy and enthusiasm will have you and your little person singing along to all of the Shabbat songs and blessings, including Bim Bam. She will also introduce Torah learning through songs, movement and music.

Invite friends to join you for these TOTALLY TOT focused Shabbat celebration.





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CANTOR LARRY is our Director of Education.

For information about Kesher and the Tot

Shabbat program, please contact him directly

at 732.257.7070 x3 or send an email to

CantorLarry@ebjc.org.



DO YOU HAVE A COLLEGE STUDENT IN YOUR FAMILY?

Attention College Students (and Parents):

Even while you are away at school, your EBJC family is thinking of you. We would love to send you special packages at Chanukah and Purim! Please let us know where you are so we can reach you. There is no charge for this program if you are an undergraduate student. In a post-graduate program, but still want to receive packages? No problem; just enclose a check for \$36 payable to EBJC.

Just fill out the information below and give it to the synagogue office or send the form back. You can also e-mail CantorLarry@ebjc.org with the information!

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Phillip and Susan Ben-Zvi in memory of Esther Schwartz's husband, Steve Schwatz

Myra-Lee Cohen for Yizkor

Sylvia Cohen in honor of Allen Russ' 90th birthday Sylvia Cohen for a speedy recovery for Fran Shafer

Lillian and Les Deutsch in honor of arc opening

Lillian and Les Deutsch in honor of the naming of Lori and Arnie

Pelofsky's great granddaughter, Gefen Segal

Joel and Frances Greengarten in honor of Cantor Larry Margot and David Julis in honor of Neil Kosher being named Men's Club Man of the Year

Margot and David Julis in honor of Amanda Gold being named Men's Club Youth of the Year

Margot and David Julis in honor of Taryn and Steven Webber on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Sydney

Margot and David Julis in honor of Hayley and Alan Migdal on the engagement of their daughter Jordana to Matthew Rosenberg Margot and David Julis in memory of Janet Fliegelman's father, Samuel Warm

Margot and David Julis in honor of Elise Merkel being honored by East Brunswick Hadassah

Rosanne Kleinman in memory of Samuel Warm Judith Klotzkin in memory of Herman Price's sister Leslie Listwa for Yizkor

Ira and Elise Merkel in honor of the engagement of Jordana Schubert

Ira and Elise Merkel in honor of the birth of Gale Dillman's grandson

Barbara and Dov Pollak in memory of Samuel Warm
Barbara and Dov Pollak in memory of Steve Schwartz
Carole and Stephen Schneider in memory of Steve Schwartz
Joel and Fran Shafer in memory of Steven Schwartz

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Leslie and Mark Foladare in memory of Elsa Sulzbacher Leslie and Mark Foladare in memory of their Holocaust child,

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Joel and Fran Shafer in memory of his uncle, Irving Mitnick

Joel and Fran Shafer in memory of her mother, Lillian Proscia

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Steven and Sara Ullman in memory of Lillian A. Ullman

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Joseph and Naomi Weinberger

Paul and Renee Weissman in memory of her father, Daniel Barnestein

Florence and Steven Winter in memory of her mother, Sophie Stein

Roz Zell in memory of Alan Lewis Zell

Roz Zell in memory of Abraham Zell

Words from Veterans Shabbat

Joe Behrman:

Bruce asked me to relate a hopefully amusing incident that occurred during my service. I will talk about my first Sunday in the army. My apologies to my wife who after hearing this story for 54 years wondered why I needed the help of this piece of paper to tell it.

In order to fully appreciate the story you must first understand a few basic principles of army life. In no special order —1—all the English rules you learned from your teachers in school are totally unimportant in the army. Ending a sentence with a period, capitalization etc. are not significant. The army has one rule of grammar and only one rule. Every sentence no matter how big or small must under penalty of court martial, contain a minimum of one and preferably more than one, swear word. You cannot speak correct army without swearing. A corollary to this rule is that all speaking should be yelled. 2- it should also be noted that the army essentially thinks all people are right handed. People who dress as most left handers do or at least as i do. When they put their belts on are dressing backwards.

This brings us to my first Sunday. Your first few days in the service are filled with great adjustments. I had to adjust from a graduate program at Columbia University in Manhattan to basic training at fort Benning Georgia – the deep south in the 50s. I had to adjust to putting my belt on backwards from how I had done it the first 22 years of my life since I am left handed. And now I was about to adjust to Jewish life in the service.

At 6am the sergeant came in the barracks. "All you bbbb recruits fall out in your class a uniforms and line up outside in 5 bbbb minutes." After trying to remember what actually were my class a's and remembering to put my belt on backwards i found myself outside in a line of 100 men half asleep and wondering what was going to happen next

<u>"All bbb Catholics one step forward"</u> the sergeant bellowed. 25 men took one step forward oh my gosh what is going to happen to the poor Catholics – what did they do to make sarge mad – i did not see any pens of lions on the way here so I guess they were not going to feed them to the lions. "Sergeant Smith is going to march you bbb Catholics to mass – right face forward march." Off they went to mass

Now 75 of us were standing there. Things were starting to make a little sense. All bb Protestants one step forward. 74 men took one step forward." I will march you to bbb Protestant services. Left face forward march. "74 men started to march and then serge out of the corner of his eye saw me still standing there. Halt.

Sarge, red faced, and obviously really upset with me came back and stood in front of me about 5 inches away. "What the bbb are you standing there for you bb recruit?" Now coming right out of academia as I mentioned before, I assumed the correct approach to solving this problem was to reason with the sergeant. I forgot to mention in my introduction another rule you need to learn in the army is you never reason with a sergeant. "I am standing here sergeant because you said all Catholics go left and all Protestants go right." "Well you dumb bb you gotta be one or the other." I still tried to use logic and reason – "no sergeant the entire world's population does not consist of only Catholics and Protestants." He became even redder – "what are you one of those bbb atheists?" He screamed.

"No sergeant i am not an atheist." He was now about one inch from my

face and about to explode. "Well what the bbbb are you then?"

Needless to say I was a tad worried at this point but I pressed on. "I am Jewish sergeant."

The sergeant's uniform had medals that attested to the fact that he had met and conquered Germans, Japanese, North Koreans. Now he faced for the first time perhaps in his life a Jew.

He then broke the first rule of army grammar and uttered a sentence without a swear word. Quietly he said – "oh- you go back to the barracks."

Mordy Bermann:

I want to sincerely thank the EBJC congregation and Bruce Sommers' committee in particular for inviting me to this special Shabbat event.

I believe that such an event does not only honor those veterans who are among us, but maybe more importantly, those who are no longer with us.

Since Bruce approached me, less than a month ago, so many veterans' related events took place; the unfortunate recent attack in Pittsburg, the visit of the Israeli POM group in our community and the intensification of the Gaza conflict, all remind us of the importance of honoring those who are serving the country and who are protecting us.

(One of the things that always impressed me here is when people always thank you for your service in this country as soon as they find out that you are a veteran. This is a tradition they should definitely adapt in Israel. They may not say it because everyone is a veteran and they don't feel that they have to say it)

My service in the IDF begun in July 1973 right after graduating from high school and lasted three years, until July 1976. During those three years I became a medic and a paratrooper.

In military terms, The two most significant events that took place during that period were; the October 6,1973 Yom Kippur war and the Entebbe Operation, freeing the passengers on the hijacked Air France flight from Tel Aviv to Paris on July 3rd, 1976.

(Coincidently, the next day US celebrated its bicentennial Independence day.)

In retrospect, this was the most significant period of my formative years in which I established life-long friendships, participated in once-in-a-lifetime experiences and got prepared for whatever life had in store for me.

Many people would say that the military service postponed my future career plans. I would disagree with them, and if I had to do it again, I wouldn't change a thing.





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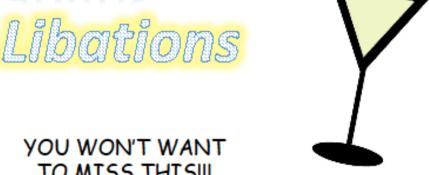
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An Evening of Laughs and





YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!!!

EBJC Sisterhood and Men's Club present a Saturday evening of fun and drinks.

It will feature Al Kustanowitz of Jewish Humor Central who will entertain us with a multimedia presentation on Jewish humor!

You won't go hungry. Delicious dairy desserts included!

Saturday, December 15 at 8 PM

East Brunswick Jewish Center 511 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick, NJ, 08816

> \$18 per person if paid by Wednesday, 12/12, \$23 thereafter.

Please RSVP and send your checks to the EBJC Office, attn Sisterhood. For questions, call Cindi at 732-690-2743, or Sharlene at 732-672-9014.

TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN 2018-2019 LET'S KEEP THIS GOING...INTO THE FUTURE!!

The Torah Fund Campaign is women ensuring Conservative Jewish education of Future Rabbis, Hazzanim, Educators, Professionals and Lay Leaders.

The funds support education in five international learning institutions, ranging from New York, Los Angeles, Jerusalem, Germany, and Buenos Aires, Argentina

Atid means "future" in Hebrew.



As Women's League for Conservative Judaism enters its second century, and the State of Israel enters its 71st year, Torah Fund begins its 77th year. We look forward with joy to our future together with you, our Torah Fund supporters. For 2017- 2018 EBJC Sisterhood was presented with two prestigious awards at the Garden State Region Dinner – recognizing 54 years of Sisterhood Membership, and for exceeding Torah Fund goals.

Any contribution is greatly appreciated! With a donation of \$180.00 you become a Benefactor and receive this beautiful pin. (Payment plan through May 1, 2019 is available.)

The campaign is also eligible for matching funds.

Please make checks payable to Torah Fund.

Questions? Contact Jody Bramson at JLBrams@aol.com or 732-390-5166





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