



the RECORDER

EAST BRUNSWICK



JEWISH CENTER

DECEMBER 2020

KISLEV—TEVET 5781

VOLUME # 105



SHABBAT SERVICES

Services being held online at the following times. To join the stream, visit ebjc.org/online-events

Friday Evenings
12/4 4:10pm
12/11 4:10pm
12/18 4:15pm
12/25 4:15pm

Saturday Mornings
10:00 AM

DECEMBER 5
Vayishlach

DECEMBER 12
Vayeshev

DECEMBER 19
Miketz

DECEMBER 26
Vayigash

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Chairperson, Special Circumstances

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UPCOMING DATES

AS OF THIS WRITING, WE HAVE MOVED ALL SERVICES BACK TO ZOOM ONLY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO BRINGING BACK IN-PERSON SHABBAT SERVICES, BUT WE WILL NOT UNTIL IT IS DETERMINED SAFE TO DO SO, AND ALL OF THE LOGISTICS FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CONGREGANTS AND CLERGY HAVE BEEN DETERMINED. PLEASE CONTINUE TO READ TIDBITS AND THE RECORDER AND GO TO WWW.EBJC.ORG FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

ONLINE SERVICES AND EVENTS—EBJC.ORG/ONLINE-EVENTS
UPDATES FROM THE RABBI, CANTOR, ELLEN BOTWIN, AND CO-PRESIDENTS:

RABBI PIVO—EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-RABBI-PIVO

CANTOR LARRY—EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-CANTOR-LARRY
CO-PRESIDENTS

ROBERT SALSTON—EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-ROBERT-SALSTON

STEVE ZEIDWERG—EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-STEVE-ZEIDWERG

ELLEN BOTWIN - EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-ELLEN-BOTWIN

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE:

ONLY checks made out to EBJC go to Montvale. Sisterhood, Men's Club, Mitzvah Corps, all discretionary funds, 613 event, Pavilion donations all go to 511 Ryders Lane.

FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH:

TROUBLE PAYING DUES

If you are having trouble paying dues, please reach out to Marilyn Friedes at marilynfriedes@mac.com. We are committed to helping our families remain a part of the EBJC community when the need arises.

SHABBAT SERVICES

Shabbat services are currently being offered via Zoom only. Please check the cover of the Recorder or the weekly Tidbits for Friday evening service times. Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. . The link to join will be found 15 minutes before services begin on our website at ebjc.org/services.

ONLINE EVENTS AND UPDATES

Go to the Online Events page under the Events tab on our website, or go to ebjc.org/online-events, to stay up to date on events being held online during the quarantine. Also look for updates from the Rabbi, Cantor, and co-presidents under the Clergy and Lay Leaders tab.

OFFICE HOURS

The office is staffed Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.; however, the office is currently closed to visitors.

ZOOM HELP

For those of you who are having difficulty using Zoom or the Zoom update, please let us know. We will be happy to give you a call and walk you through it. Just call: 732-257-7070 x1 and leave a message. Someone will get back to you.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Bikur Cholim would like to reach out to our congregation during this difficult time. If you would like a friendly call or know someone who might need a friendly call from a member of the Bikur Cholim committee, please contact Madeline Frances at (732) 254-2783 or email madelinef18@gmail.com.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

We have been working diligently to find programs of interest to everyone. On December 15th we'll have our Night of Comedy and Mentalism for fun, family entertainment. Sign up is under the Events tab on our website. The Membership Committee will soon have a list of programs from January through June covering a wide variety of topics. On January 21st we're having an online Pinot and Painting evening. Information regarding a four -part series called "Using Your Wits", a fun, interactive program to enhance cognitive abilities, will start mid-January and run for four consecutive weeks (no charge). Keep your eyes and ears open, read Tidbits and the emails we send! There's nothing more frustrating than hearing a member say they had no idea a program was being offered, when we promote it in Tidbits, mailings and separate emails!!



DECEMBER 2020

Board of Directors 12/21
(Zoom)

Executive Board 12/7
(Zoom)

Genesis Science 12/7, 14,
21, 28(Zoom)

**Parshat Hashavuah with
Rabbi Pivo** 12/4, 11, 18, 25
(Zoom)

Lunch and Learn 12/2, 9,
16, 23, 30(Zoom)

Talmud Class 12/2, 9, 16,
23, 30(Zoom)

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS MAZEL TOV TO:

Gale and Marc Dillman on the birth of their grandson, Isaac Gideon Uniman

Rebecca and David Anca on the birth of their granddaughter, Miriam

Jan and Gerri Lewis on the marriage of their daughter, Rachel Elyssa to Dmitry Phillip Yevel

Judy Klotzkin on the B'nai Mitzvah of her grandchildren, Talia and Meydad Klotzkin

Thelma Zalewitz on the birth of her twin great-grandsons (her 16th and 17th great-grandchildren!) Julian and Herschel, to Alyssa and David Austern

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

Diane Perkel, on the loss of her mother, Ida Rose

Gloria Nadler, on the loss of her father, Albert Garbuz

Alvin Wittlin, on the loss of his wife, Renee

Gerald Silver, on the loss of his brother, Sheldon

THE CONGREGATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

Russell, Jodi and Emma Klotzkin

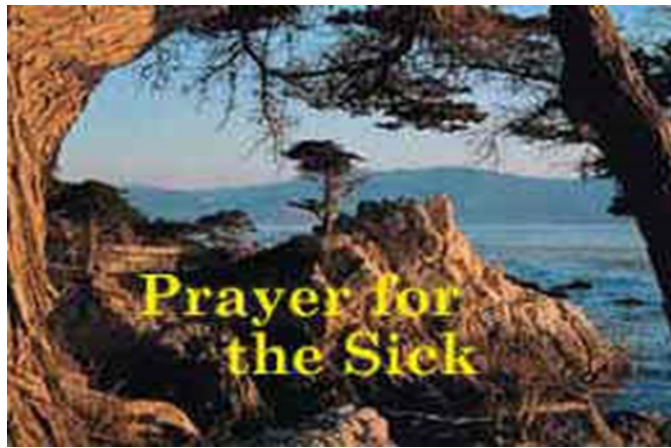
Alex, Robyn, Maya and Noah Zernitsky

Fran Katz

BAT MITZVAH



My name is Molly Blatteis. I am in seventh grade at Hammarkjold Middle School. Some of my favorite things to do are play basketball, bake, take dance classes, make jewelry, and play with our new puppy. All of these things have kept me busy during these past months while we had to stay at home. I will be having my Bat Mitzvah this upcoming January. I have learned the importance of doing mitzvot from my parents who are both health care workers. They have taught me, my brother and my sister the importance of family, community and the need to help others. As my Bat Mitzvah approaches I thought about how difficult it might be for some people to be connected with their families, friends and loved ones. For my Bat Mitzvah project I created handmade cards for Rosh Hashana that were distributed to the patients where my mother works. Although I did not see them open the cards, I was happy to know that I put a smile on their faces.



Hevra Tehillim

A "Psalm Fellowship," which gathers with some regularity to chant psalms together to pray for the sick and ask for their healing.

Anne Kroll will be chairing and leading a healing prayer circle for EBJC members reciting from the Book of Psalms in English. Barbara Pollak and Deena Oren will co-lead in Hebrew. All are welcomed to join the Zoom meeting on Tuesday evenings from 8:30PM to 9PM. All are welcomed to send in the name of the person they will be praying for to my email address, selectivemedia@comcast.net, where a list will be kept.

Emails are sent out each Monday with the Zoom meeting information.

Pediatric and Adolescent Associates of Central New Jersey, L.L.C.

Dr. Robert S. Salston
Dr. Jeffrey P. Herman
Dr. Henry T. Shih
Dr. Maheswari Arumugam
Pamela J. Donner, P.A.

100 Perrine Road
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

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CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING



The Center for Early Learning @ EBJC

Our yeladim had fun voting for their favorite breakfast, snack, and President. Our preschoolers predicted that Joe Biden would become the next President of the United States.

We enjoyed the beautiful fall weather and collected leaves, pinecones, and acorns. We can't wait to celebrate Thanksgiving with our friends at the end of the month.

CEL hopes you had a nice THANKSGIVING and wishes you a HAPPY HANUKKAH!



They waited in line to vote!



They Voted!



Our nature walk



If you know anyone interested in our school please have them contact Lynda Perel @ Lperel@ebjc.org or call 732 257 7070

RABBINIC REFLECTIONS



In December, as the days grow short, Jews prepare for Hanukkah. Winter's early nightfall brings with it the rituals of candle lighting, games, songs, and gift giving. It is a joyous holiday, when multiple generations of families gather. But not this year. Like so many other rituals and family times, the pandemic will make it impossible for most to observe these traditions. This year, we will all have to find a way to celebrate unlike past years, using video technology to come together. We will celebrate Hanukkah this year, but differently. In an odd way, that is actually appropriate for Hanukkah, since it was first celebrated as a way to make up for lost holiday time during the wars of the Maccabees.

In the second century BCE, the Jews of the land of Israel fought real battles against the Syrian Greeks in response to Antiochus IV defiling the Temple in Jerusalem. For three and half years, no sacrifices were offered there, disrupting practices that had

taken place continuously for over eight hundred years. Miraculously, the small Jewish forces succeeded in forcing the Greek army to withdraw from Jerusalem, rededicated the Temple, and resumed the ancient sacrifices. These events are recorded in the books of the Maccabees, as well as in other ancient sources. During the war, it had been difficult for Jews to observe holidays. At the conclusion of the war, in the month of Kislev, the newly victorious Maccabees observed the recently missed holiday of Sukkot for eight days, the length of its annual observance. They observed Sukkot late that year, differently than Jews had for many centuries, because of the necessity of first winning the war.

In ensuing years, the eight days celebrated in Kislev became a holiday of its own, commemorating the miracle of the victory of the few over the many in order to reestablish Jewish tradition. Since then Jews have lit the eight branched Hanukiah to remember the Maccabees' exploits, and celebrate the hard won right to live as Jews. That lighting is the main ritual we still observe.

We have missed being together with family and friends, both at home and in the sanctuary, for many months this past year. We pray that soon this terrible pandemic will end, and that we will return to celebrating Purim, Pesakh, Shavuot, the High

Holidays and, yes, Hanukkah as we had in previous years. As we light the Hanukiah this year, we will remember the occasions that we were not able to celebrate, just as the Maccabees remembered Sukkot. This year, the light of our candles should remind us that even during dark days, the light of Torah continues to shine, and that we will soon emerge into a time of health and safety, when we can rededicate ourselves to our practices, just as the Maccabees rededicated the Temple in Jerusalem over two thousand years ago.

Rabbi Jeff Pivo

FROM CANTOR LARRY



When I stand at the Cantor's podium during a service facing the Holy Ark, on occasion, I look up and see the beautiful Ner Tamid, the Eternal Flame flickering. The flame illuminates the dark sanctuary during the night. Its continuous existence reminds us of the eternal essence of the Jewish people. No matter how dark things appear, there is always a light that shines.

In the book of Proverbs, it says, "Ner Adomai Nishmat Adam – the lamp of God is the soul of the individual" (Proverbs 20:27). Within each of us is a burning flame. We all have a burning desire in our lives. So, the question to ask is, "What is your burning desire?"

Our ancestry tells the story of the Jewish people fighting for their lives against a

numerous Greek army. With God's help and the people's faith, a victory is had and today we celebrate the festive holiday of Hanukkah. The Talmud only briefly discusses the idea of lighting the nine branched candelabra. Even though the holiday is considered minor, the message that comes from it is what drives each of us. The lights of Hanukkah give us a sense of warmth in the winter months. The glow of the lights remind us of how each of us can be individuals, like each stem of the Hanukkiah, but also be a part of a larger group like the makeup of the entire candelabra.

Ma'oz Tzur, Rock of Ages, the song and melody so familiar to this holiday is a status of strength for us. We know that God is our Rock and Savior, while we are the testament of time through the generations.

So, from where does your light come? Within each of us there is a light, a flame deep inside. It is a light we seek out to use and use again, in order to brighten up the darkest of days. The flame that burns deep inside gives us the courage and strength to fight for things we believe in and for what is right.

This Hanukkah, search extra hard and recharge that flame. Find that light and entertain the desire that is within you to better not only yourself, but the world around you.

May the lights of Hanukkah shine brightly upon you and your family. On behalf of my family, all the best for a wonderful holiday.

Larry I. Brandspiegel
Cantor/Director of Education

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



So here we are with the world still turned upside down, dealing with further lock downs and closures. No one...and I mean no one...could have anticipated this. Every holiday, every birthday, every anniversary and special occasion happened via Zoom, Skype, FaceTime...or not at all.

However, time marches on. Should we stand still and let this pandemic take over our lives to the point where we're stunned into immobility? I am saddened when I talk to some of our members who are suffering through this alone, either through self-imposed isolation out of fear, or by the fact that their children and families refuse to see them for fear of making them sick. Now that the winter is coming, it will only worsen as people fear "going indoors". This is especially true for our older population. How do we take into account the extreme depression vs. extreme isolation? This can't be good for our mental health! Retail stores and restaurants that were a staple in our lives are closing their doors for good. AMC and Regal theatres buckled and closed because how long can an establishment exist without income? Say goodbye to

Friendly's and Lord and Taylor.

So what do I do to stay sane (well, I guess that's a matter of opinion)? Luckily, I'm still working and in an environment where safe distancing is very easy. I do see friends and family, safely distanced and wearing masks if we get too close. I am very blessed that my daughter and her family live close and we are in a "pod" or "bubble"...new terminology to explain who you see without masks! I go food shopping, I've entered stores where I felt it was safe, clean and not overcrowded (if not, you just turn around and leave). I will go indoors to visit, again safely distanced and wearing a mask. Some friends are okay with this and some are not and you have to be respectful of everyone's concerns, fears and phobias, no matter what your opinion is. My personal opinion is...be smart! Don't make yourself crazy and let "pandemic fever" make you paranoid beyond mobility. Engage your brain...safely distance, wear a mask and enjoy the people you love and care for to the best of your ability. Of course, that's me and I'm not telling you what to do so don't send me emails telling me I'm encouraging you to do something that makes you uncomfortable.

So, what do I see for the future? Amazon! Amazon will take over everything! Welcome to the Amazon supermarket (this is actually real)! Welcome to the Amazon clothing store! What's next...Amazon salons? Get your nails done and hair cut at the Amazon Styling Salon! Amazon movie theatres? Amazon housing developments? Amazon

Furniture Stores? Don't get me wrong, I shop at Amazon, but I certainly don't want them taking over the world!! Variety is the spice of life, or so they say!

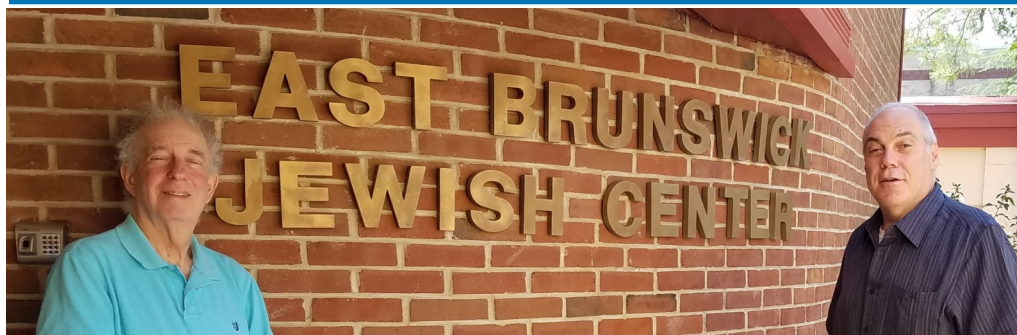
Speaking of variety (see how I'm doing a smooth segue?)...we at EBJC, are doing everything we can to offer you variety. Granted it's mostly on Zoom (we pretty much have no choice) but we're trying! You want comedy? We have it (December 15th a night of Comedy and Mentalism). You want to learn to read Hebrew (why the heck not, now that you've got the time)...Cantor is teaching a crash course! You want to learn Torah or take a class with the Rabbi? Check! You want interesting programming? Between EBJC, Sisterhood and Men's Club, you've got a variety from which to choose! You don't want to cook and would like to support our kosher restaurants so that they don't close? You got it with our "grab and go" meals through our membership committee!

What else do you want? What can we do for you that we're not doing or not thinking of? If it's within reason and within our power...we'll certainly consider it!

As always, I wish you well. Enjoy Hanukkah as best as you can. Light the candles honoring the miracle of lights and maybe pray for a new miracle...that the pandemic ends, that a viable vaccine is made widely available without costing a fortune, and that we can all return to hugging those we love!

Be well,
Ellen

FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



As this edition of the Recorder goes to press, we are in the midst of a surge in reported cases of COVID-19. When we began having outdoor Erev Shabbat services this past summer, we were sanguine that the worst of the pandemic was behind us. Indeed, we were able to hold in-person Shabbat morning services as well as in-person High Holiday services, both outdoors and indoors. What a moving sight it was to see people gather (at a social distance) to participate in full services. It was, however, clear to those of us who attended some or all of these services that the majority of the congregation chose not to attend in person, preferring to join our services on Zoom, or, perhaps, daven alone. In fact, we have often struggled to achieve a minyan when davening indoors. The membership has given the administration and the clergy a clear message that they are concerned about their own personal safety. This is in accordance with the Jewish principle of P'kuach Nefesh, literally, saving a soul, but more broadly meaning that protecting life takes precedence over almost all other commandments. Thus, as the number of cases in our

community continues to increase, we have decided again to suspend in-person services until we deem it safe to resume them.

Although we are disappointed by these circumstances, we would like to focus on some of the positive aspects of the current situation, vis a vis EBJC as well as the larger community. When we originally closed our shul in March, we were pleasantly surprised not only by the attendance at our remote services, but also by the participation of so many of our members who read Torah and Haftara at home. We celebrated several B'nai Mitzvot online and connected with each other after services at our virtual Kiddush chat. We have often noticed that there was more social interaction on Zoom than at our in-person services where social distancing was the norm (and we are very proud of the way our community followed our safety guidelines). So we are now assured that our members can and will stay connected as we weather this new storm.

In regard to the larger community, it is evident that Covid fatigue has set in. But we are in a much better place now than we were in early March. The medical community has learned how to treat this disease, and, baruch Ha Shem, mortality is significantly lower than it was at the onset of this scourge. Several medical treatments have shown promise, and additionally, as you all know, it appears that one or even several vaccines will be approved in the very near future. To paraphrase Winston Churchill during World War II, "Now this is not the end. It [might] not even [be] the beginning of the end. But it is the end of the beginning." As the Festival of Lights draws near, we pray that a new miracle of Hanukkah occurs, and that we defeat this current enemy as in the days of the Maccabees. May you and all whom you love have a joyous Hanukkah.

Hinei Ma Tov U'ma Na'im,
Shevet Achim Gam
Yachad. How beautiful it is for
friends and family to gather
together.

It is an honor for us to serve
this wonderful community.

Bob Salston
Steve Zeidweg
Co-Presidents

SISTERHOOD



"A candle is a small thing. But one candle can light another. And see how its own light increases, as a candle gives its flame to the other. You are such a light."—Moshe Davis

It's hard to believe that Hanukkah has arrived. The holiday, which literally means "dedication," is a reminder of all that is glorious in the world. This year, with darkness surrounding us since March, the spark of flames inspires hope toward a better tomorrow.

Just as the candles are all embedded in a row within the Hanukkah, symbolizing strength and equality, so it is among the women of Sisterhood. We stand individually, yet collectively we support each other, creating a beautiful mosaic of backgrounds, faith, and fellowship.

Join us to lend YOUR VOICE to the chorus of vital women at EBJC.

Here are some ways to get started:

****Our Sisterhood Membership Campaign for 2020-2021 is in full swing. We thank the 100+ "sisters" who have already demonstrated their loyalty and commitment by renewing their membership, still for only \$36. Why wait? Now is the time to join and enjoy the full benefits of Sisterhood. Since Sisterhood contributes annually to EBJC, a strong Sisterhood ensures a solid shul! Please send your check to Membership VP Cindy Rabinowitz today.**

****Torah Fund 2020-2021 Campaign is energetic as ever. This year's theme--B'YACHAD(Together)—recognizes the joint efforts of Sisterhood volunteers across the U.S. and Canada. The Torah Fund supports the Conservative education of clergy, administrators, and lay leaders within our Movement.**

Donations of any amount are welcome! Contact Jody Bramson at JLBrams@aol.com or 732-991-8410 to do your part. Although the pins are delayed this year due to the pandemic, our commitment to Torah Fund remains steadfast.

The past month we have bonded over the following programs/events—

Wednesday, December 11—Sisterhood Book Club Discussion—We shared a lively conversation about the engaging novel, "Saving Sophie" by Ronald Balson. Full of international intrigue, plot twists, embezzlement, and kidnapping, the book took us on a wild adventure. Plus, we all learned a great deal about the history of Israel and the complex foundation of Jewish-Arab relations.

Our next book selection is "The Color of Love: a Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl" by Marra Gad, scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2021. This is a fascinating memoir about a mixed-race Jewish woman who, after 15 years of estrangement from her racist great-aunt, helps bring the older woman home when she descends into Alzheimers. Given the racial unrest that has marked our nation over the past several months, this memoir is especially timely.

Avid readers—you can have a say in future book choices! Should it be fiction/mystery/non-fiction? Have you read a book that you can't stop thinking and talking about? All we ask is that the book includes some Jewish thematic element. Please send your suggestions to Sara Ullman at tranquil77@aol.com.

Thursday, December 3—How Do You Define Yourself—Jew, American, or Humanist?

Jodi Harkavy led a spirited forum on the core element of our self-image. We examined what perspective is most prominent in our lives, and how this notion has evolved over the course of our maturing years.

On the Horizon--

Monthly Winter Education Series—Wednesday evenings January through March 2021—Rabbi Pivo paints a captivating portrait of Women of the Bible.

January 20—The Relationship Between Men and Women—The Case of Eve

February 17—Deborah and Ya'el: Women as Prophet and Warrior

March 17—Ruth: The First Jew By Choice

Join us for one class, two classes, or the full series. All are welcome.

PURCHASING SCRIP IS AN EASY WAY TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SISTERHOOD THROUGH THESE TRYING TIMES! We have gift cards available to Shoprite, Acme, and Lox, Stock and Deli. Most of us are still patronizing these stores, so why not help out Sisterhood in the process. Contact Cheryl Decker at 732-257-7070.

As we light the Hanukkah candles for 5781, beginning on Friday evening, December 11, may they ignite the spirit of healing in each of us and enable us to "re-dedicate" our minds and our spirits toward the richness of Judaism.

Wishing everyone the most joyous of holidays—filled with good health, peace, and contentment.

Fondly,

Sara Ullman
tranquil77@aol.com
732-261-0591

Cindi Jacobs
cindi_jacobs17@yahoo.com
732-690-2743



SISTERHOOD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

- **The Sisterhood Judaica Shop** is your source for beautiful giftware, books, candles, head coverings, children's items and more. **Since shopping in person is not an option right now, if you see an item online, contact our Judaica Shop managers and they will assist you in your purchase.**

Browse the beautiful collection of gifts, home furnishings and Judaica for all occasions online.

If you don't see what you are looking for, our Managers will get it for you.

Contact Cindy Rollman 908-812-6713 or Caroline Steinberg 732-735-6641

- **Gift cards** are an easy way to help the Sisterhood raise funds by purchasing gifts for ShopRite, ACME, Lox, Stock & Deli or Giddy's. **We all have to grocery shop during the Pandemic and you are going to spend the money there ANYWAY!!! What could be easier?**

Contact Judy Klotzkin 732-390-6140 or scrip@ebjc.net

- **Bimah Baskets** – for any Simcha...A “virtual” beautiful basket with food items will be placed on the Bimah prior to Shabbat. A card will let your guests know that a donation has been made in honor of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child. You can also order a Bimah Basket for ANY occasion you'd like!

Contact Cindy Rollman 908-812-6713

- **JNF Trees** – to purchase trees-Contact: Diana Horowitz 732-390-9058
- **Cards, Tributes & Tree of Life** - Contact: Bernice Bellows-732-254-4103; Beth Belzer 732-238-7925
- **Torah Fund** – Contact Jody Bramson – 732-390-5166 jlbrams@aol.com



PURIM PLANNING IS UNDER WAY!!!

EBJC SISTERHOOD MISHLOACH MANOT PROGRAM IS COMING TO YOUR MAIL-BOX AND EMAIL SOON!

KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR THE FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO FULFILL THE MITZVAH OF MISHLOACH MANOT (SENDING HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS TO FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS)

Questions? Contact:

Cindy Rabinowitz 732-390-9781/cindy.rabinowitz@comcast.net

Margot Julis 732-390-1245/magooj1211@comcast.net



MEN'S CLUB



Shalom!

As I write this, it's just before Thanksgiving, and Covid cases are on the rise. We're hearing warnings from various officials on how bad things are going to get. Thanksgiving has been a very important tradition in my family, with relatives getting together each year for a large dinner for as far back as I can remember. While different people are making different decisions with respect to Covid, in my family we put our Thanksgiving tradition on pause, hopefully for just one year. We are not happy about this, but we are able to communicate with our loved ones via electronic means; we plan to Zoom with lots of relatives while we eat our turkey. While it's second best, we appreciate that we at least have that!

For Thanksgiving, Men's Club again sold desserts from Zadies. We thank those who participated for their support of this ongoing program. As is appropriate for Thanksgiving, we are using a part of the proceeds to feed those who are hungry. Your patronage of this effort is definitely a mitzvah. These sales are the brainchild of David Julis, and he and Margot do almost all the work. We thank David for making this happen - he always wants to do the right thing! Of course, our Energizer bunnies are planning another sale in conjunction with Hanukkah. Details will be sent out in emails as they become available.

During November, Men's Club also distributed Yellow Candles for Kristallnacht. We hope you used the candle to remember those caught up in that tragedy. This effort was led by Marty Hoffman, and we are appreciative of his efforts, as well as the work done by all who distributed the candles. We also thank those who gave tzedakah in memory of those lost in the Shoah. (If you haven't yet, you can still give tzedakah in their memory at ebjc.org/candles.) Men's Club will be directing those funds to support the survivors of the Holocaust, as well as fighting antisemitism in our own day and age.

On November 15 we ran a virtual breakfast with an exciting discussion of the Israeli high tech startup scene by Israelis who are part of it all. We featured three speakers who discussed their personal experiences in starting companies in the fields of pharmaceutical and digital health, retail and marketing, privacy technology, and autonomous checkouts. Assaf Gedalia is pictured here - he is founder and CEO of a company named WalkOut that is working to change the way consumers shop in the physical world by replacing manual barcode scanning with a vision based system that mounts on top of existing carts and baskets. Fascinating!



Of particular interest to me is why Israel is a leader in this space. Everyone wants to get in on the growth in high tech - how come Israel has been able to pull it off so

successfully, completely out of proportion to its small size? Part of the reason is the culture, another part are incentives and structures set up by the government, and part is that Israel is investing more than most per capita in research and development. We owe many thanks to Mark Foladare and Deena Oren who worked hard to organize the presentation. We are posting the talks and the recording of the event on ebjc.org/startups. If you did not participate in the event, you might want to take a look.

As I announced in this space last month, our Man of the Year and Youth of the Year honorees this year are a well deserving father and daughter team, Jordan Feldman and Reece Feldman! There will be a virtual dinner honoring them on December 20. There is also an ad journal in which you can congratulate them. Details on how to order the dinner as well as how to place a congratulatory message in the journal can be found on ebjc.org/MOY.

In addition to all these virtual events, we were planning a real flesh and blood event: on January 10 we were also planning our annual blood drive. However, as I write this, EBJC is returning to "virtual only" mode, and our ability to use the ballroom for an in-person blood drive in January seems unlikely. We will probably reschedule the drive for a time when the virus is more under control. Stay tuned!

We are always open to new ideas for activities, events or programs that would be of interest to people at EBJC. Please feel free to let me know your ideas, and please plan to join us at our events.

Thank you for your interest in Men's Club, and thanks for being part of the EBJC community!

Howard Jacobs

President, EBJC Men's Club

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As I write this article on the Sunday after our National Election, I pray that all are well and hopefully our Covid case numbers are receding, locally, nationally, and internationally. We all miss the “good old days” of 2019 when we were able to pray together in person and fully engage in meaningful social interactions. All the while, the Membership Committee has been hard at work holding biweekly Zoom meetings. Our goal is to bring a wide range of content to our synagogue family as well as trying to attract new members, all while putting the health and safety of everyone first.

November 7th was our annual Veterans’ Shabbat, spearheaded by Bruce Sommers who always chairs this event as it is personally dear to him. This program featured Veterans of the IDF and the US Army who participated in and fielded questions from seven teenagers. Yasher Koach, Bruce.

Ellen Botwin has been very successfully collaborating with a consortium of six synagogues to present programs on a Zoom Format. These monthly programs are scheduled to begin in January 2021. As soon as the dates and topics are finalized, they will be shared with our membership in Tidbits and the Recorder. The programs are varied and will appeal to a wide

range of ages and interests. Sharing the speakers with other synagogues keeps our per member cost very reasonable, which is a very important goal for us.

Membership has also been collaborating and coordinating with Men’s Club and Sisterhood to ensure that dates of programs do not conflict with their program offerings. All programs are open to everyone.

Finally, Membership began spearheading a Kosher meal pickup at EBJC. This program occurs approximately every three weeks and was started to support our local Kosher restaurants during these challenging times. The restaurants have then the opportunity to showcase their offerings, while making EBJC a “one stop shopping” site for delicious Kosher meals. On December 3rd, for Election Day, we featured a delicious pick up meal from Giddys. On Friday, November 20th we had Fred and Murray’s deli deliver to EBJC. On December 13th, we will have Jerusalem Pizza delivering, coinciding with Menorah Lighting at EBJC. Mark your calendars for Friday, January 8th when Bridge Restaurant will deliver our Shabbat meal and January 29th when China Lee will deliver to EBJC. Please also check the weekly Tidbits for the dates to RSVP and make payment to reserve your meal. Any

updates or changes and the announcement of future dates in 2021 can also be found in Tidbits.

Our committee is always looking for suggestions, feedback and volunteers to join us in developing inviting and inclusive programming that will enhance the EBJC community. Feel free to contact our chairs or members if you’re able to help in any way. Our committee chairs are Taryn Webber (tkwebber4@gmail.com) and Ken Gerson (kgerson7@gmail.com).

Best wishes to all!

Rick Rollman
Member,
Membership Committee

Members: Karen Rosen,
Hollie Cerame, Rhoda Cohen,
Bruce Sommers, Ken Gerson,
Taryn Webber

KESHER AND YOUTH GROUPS



Dear Keshet Families:

Almost 1/3 of the school year is complete. There are still months of learning and fun to come. We continue to learn through our hybrid model and hope that everyone stays safe and well. We remain in-person on the days when each of our classes has class in-person, and of course, always have the Zoom on.

Unfortunately, we do not have much of any extra curricular activities going on. However, with Hanukkah coming, we will hopefully have an outdoor Hanukkah lighting on Wednesday, December 16th at 5:45pm. We also have a Youth Night that evening. Please look for more information via email.

We will have a Shabbat B'yachad Family Service via Zoom on Shabbat morning, December 19th at 11:45am. Please see the website for the link.

Also, at the end of the month, we will have our winter break. There will be no classes on Wednesday, December 23, Sunday, December 27, Wednesday, December 30, and Sunday, January 3.

And looking ahead, the next Youth Night is January 6.

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to me at cantorlarry@ebjc.org.

I wish you and your family a Happy Hanukkah and a wonderful 2021 New Year.

Larry I. Brandspiegel
Cantor/Director of Education

TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN 2020-2021

LET'S KEEP IT GOING...

The Torah Fund Campaign invites dedicated women to ensure the future Conservative Jewish education of our cherished community leaders—rabbis, cantors, educators, administrators, and lay leaders

This Year's Theme - B'Yachad (Together)



Wearing this pin signifies the triumph of Sisterhood members working together year-round to make important contributions to the Jewish community through their volunteer efforts at synagogues across the United States and Canada.

Each of us is one small nugget of gold, but together our unique gifts reflect the light inside us and help each other shine. Together we celebrate our shared yerushah (heritage) as proud Jewish women affiliated with the Conservative/Masorti Movement. Join us!

As Women's League for Conservative Judaism enters its second century, and the State of Israel approaches its 73rd anniversary, Torah Fund embarks on its 79th year. We look forward with joy to our future together with you, our Torah Fund supporters.

Any contribution is greatly appreciated! With a donation of \$180 you become a benefactor and acquire this beautiful pin. (Payment plan through May 1, 2021 is available.) Your workplace is also eligible to make a matching contribution.

Order your pin today and receive it in time to usher in the New Year.



An Official Statement From:

Barbara Ezring, International Torah Fund Chair, Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Lisa Paule, Torah Fund Director, Jewish Theological Seminary

At this time, the Torah Fund office and JTS remain closed. We cannot send printed materials or pins yet. We will keep you informed about changes and as soon as it is safe for our staff to return to the Torah Fund office, we will begin the process of distributing the B'Yachad pins and greeting cards. Please, continue to wear the beautiful Chesed pin.

ADULT EDUCATION

EBJC offers a full range of adult courses designed for all interests and at various days and times. If you want to learn something that is not currently offered, let us know!

AVAILABLE CLASSES

SHABBAT MORNING CLASS

Saturdays | 9 a.m.

Join us for Rabbi Pivo's Saturday morning class at 9 am, where we study the weekly parshah prior to Shabbat services. Reflecting on the Chumash and ancient and modern commentaries, we discuss the roots of our ancient culture and the timeless values of the Jewish people.

GENESIS SCIENCE CLASS (STREAMING)

Mondays | 8:30 p.m. in the library

This class combines a rigorous textual analysis of the biblical verses with knowledge from external sources, including history, science, linguistics and archeology. We meet every Monday evening at 8:30 pm for about one hour in the library at EBJC. After more than 12 years, having started from the beginning of Genesis, we are currently in the middle of Deuteronomy. The plan is to proceed in order through the other books of the Hebrew Bible.

TALMUD CLASS (STREAMING)

Wednesdays | 8:30 p.m. in the library

This class brings to life the voices, discussions and debates of our sages as they formulated Jewish Law based on the traditions and foundational texts received from ancient times. We meet every Wednesday evening at 8:30 pm for about one hour in the EBJC library. Currently we are studying tractate Kiddushin which concerns the laws of marriage.

LUNCH AND LEARN (STREAMING)

Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Room 8

Monroe Lunch and Learn

Once a month we meet with Rabbi Pivo in the homes of various congregants. These sessions have been very interesting and well attended. Please call Howard Jacobs at 732-402-2273 or at howard_jacobs@ebjc.net for details on upcoming dates, to get on our Monroe mailing list, with questions and to reserve your spot.

HEBREW READING CLASS (CANCELLED)

Thursdays | 7 p.m.

Focus is on parsha and biblical understanding. A small donation of \$10.00 for four sessions is requested. For additional information about the class, please contact Ora Rotblum at orarotblum@yahoo.com or 732-390-0314.

ISRAELI DANCE (CANCELLED)

Beginners:

Mondays | 7:00 p.m.

Intermediate/Advanced:

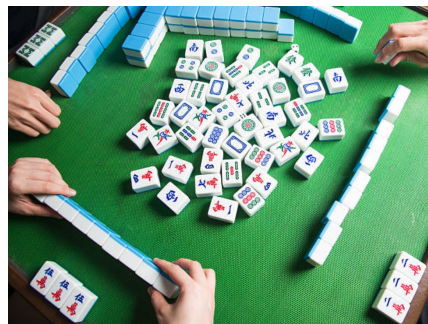
Mondays | 8:00 p.m.

Come and stay for as long as you can! \$10.00 per session fee.

MAH JONG GAMES (CANCELLED)

Mondays | 7 p.m. | Room 9

Come and join us for friendly Mah Jong games! All levels, including experienced as well as beginners, who will be eagerly taught, are welcome.



RE*NEW~~~ RE*FRESH~~~ RE*JUVENATE~~~ RE*ENERGIZE



***** RETURN TO SISTERHOOD *****

A STRONG SYNAGOGUE DEPENDS ON A STRONG SISTERHOOD-WHY???

Even through this PANDEMIC, Sisterhood is STILL responsible for contributing approximately \$15,000 annually to the Synagogue. This includes the operating expenses, Kiddush (when we are back together again), Scholarships, USY, and Kadima.

**WE KNOW SISTERHOOD NEEDS TO BE RELEVANT TO YOUR LIFE:
IT IS! THROUGH ZOOM, WE WILL HAVE PROGRAMMING!**

*Education, Social & Cultural Programming

*Networking Opportunities

*Community Outreach Opportunities

*Fundraising

*Personal Development Opportunities

*Membership in Women's League

Our Membership Drive for 2020-21 is under way.

Dues did not go up! It's just \$36.00 to join!

Need more info?

Contact Cindy Rabinowitz, VP of Membership. cindy.rabinowitz@comcast.net or 908-307-5768.

**Please make your \$36.00 check payable to EBJC Sisterhood
and mail it to Cindy. 17 Starr Rd., East Brunswick, NJ 08816**

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____ CELL PHONE # (IF DIFFERENT) _____

BEST TIME OF DAY TO CONTACT YOU. _____

It's a mitzvah...when someone cooks for you!

We each NEED to support local kosher restaurants during this difficult time.

Save the dates below for Grab-n-Go Dinners.

Grab-n-Go menus will be shared in the week prior to pick-up.

Sunday, December 13 **Chanukah!** - Jerusalem Pizza

Friday, January 8 - The Bridge

Sunday, January 31 - China Lee



On November 7th EBJC hosted an event with Tovah Feldshuh – Up Close and Personal. 350 people watched as Tovah performed, answered questions and shared her experiences. It was a wonderful evening that garnered rave reviews from EBJC members and our partners. She mentioned her mom (who lived to over 103) who was a very strong influence in her life and the book she recently wrote called Lilyville as a memoir from her mother's perspective. Many asked how they could get the book (through the chat). Lilyville is available for pre-order at Amazon, Target and Barnes&Noble. As an added attraction, Tovah will personally sign and write a short note on a bookplate for you (personal book signing appearances have obviously stopped temporarily).

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY JANUARY 3, 2021 6:00 PM

EAST BRUNSWICK JEWISH COMMUNITY

5TH ANNUAL WINE AND FOOD EXPERIENCE

JOIN FELLOW CONGREGANTS AND FRIENDS VIA ZOOM IN
SUPPORT OF THE YASHER LaCHAYAL

ARI AND SARI HOROWITZ Z"l PASSOVER FUND FOR NEEDY
SOLDIERS

THE EVENING BEGINS WITH A MEAL CATERED BY GIDDY'S
INCLUDING A .375ML BOTTLE OF WINE. AS WE EAT AND ENJOY OUR
WINE, WE WILL WATCH A VIDEO WHICH WILL EDUCATE US ABOUT
THE WINES THAT ARE PAIRED WITH OUR MEAL. THE VIDEO
CONTINUES WITH A PRESENTATION ABOUT YASHER LaCHAYAL,
ITS HISTORY AND THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY THE
ORGANIZATION. THE VIDEO CONCLUDES WITH A PERFORMANCE
BY SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST RAV SHLOMO KATZ, A
CONTEMPORARY ISRAELI SINGER, WHO WAS BORN IN NEW
JERSEY.

WATCH YOUR EMAIL AND THE WEEKLY TIDBITS FOR A FLYER WITH
ALL OF THE SIGNUP DETAILS

EBJC *Comedy, Anyone?* **YOU READ MY MIND!**

Support EBJC
this season by
supporting
programs like
this--No joke!



Comedian Joel Chasnoff
and
Mentalist-Magician Jason Suran
team up for an all-star hour of virtual entertainment!

JOKES, MIND READING, LAUGHTER, MAGIC...

**THIS HILARIOUS AND
RIVETING SESSION
HAS IT ALL.**



Joel Chasnoff

Is a stand-up comedian who's
performed at more than 1,000 Jewish
events worldwide, and author of the
memoir "The 188th Crybaby Brigade."
More at www.joelchasnoff.com



Jason Suran

Is a world renowned mentalist and
magician who's appeared on NBC,
performed for the Philadelphia 76ers
basketball team, and played Carnegie
Hall. More at www.jasonsuran.com

Please join EBJC
on the 6th night of
Chanukah
for this family-
friendly program

**Tuesday,
December 15
8:00 pm Zoom**

**Register for \$18/pp (\$54/family max)
www.EBJC.org and click on 'events'
or call 732-257-7070**

Partnering Organizations:
Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple
Congregation Torat El

Highland Park Conservative Temple/ Congregation Anshe Emeth
Jewish Community Center of Paramus/ Congregation Beth Tikvah



DONATIONS

DONATION LIST WAS MADE AS OF AND INCLUDING NOVEMBER 18—IF YOU MADE A DONATION AFTER THIS DATE, IT WILL BE IN NEXT MONTH'S RECORDER.

ALIYAH

Jeff & Sara Blivaiss

David & Karen Blivaiss

Asher & Yvette Yama

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Robert & Liz Salston

Inge Gross

Michael & Gabriella Sleppin

Howard & Gladys Sommers

Fred & Norma Teicher

Jon & Iris Wininger

Jill Rubin

Laurence Epstein

Michael & Judith Salant

Adela Sasson

David & Aviva Levine

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

David & Karen Blivaiss in appreciation

Larry & Helen-Ann Epstein for the wonderful work being done

Larry & Helen-Ann Epstein for the great programs ahead

Carol & Neil Tendler and family

GENERAL DONATIONS

Cheryl Kolber

Neil & Joyce Leavitt in honor of Annie Eisner reaching 100 day milestone since her bone marrow transplant

Neil & Joyce Leavitt in memory of Naomi Weinberger's mother

Edward Ledner in memory of Lillie Genee

Arthur & Joan Okun in appreciation of Misheberach prayers

William & Amy Schafer in memory of Albert Garbuz

Neal & Joyce Leavitt in memory of Dr. Barry Schrager's brother, Joel

Theresa Seidler in memory of Judi Salant's mother

Herman & Anita Price

Barry & Gloria Jaslow Mazel Tov to Cindy and Eric Rabinowitz on the marriage of Jodi to Trevor

Theresa Seidler in memory of Diane Perkel's mother, Ida Rose

Miriam Cohen

David & Margot Julis in memory of Sheldon Silver

David & Barbara Blumenthal in memory of Albert Garbuz

YAHARZEIT

Jerome Pliskin in memory of Roz Pliskin

Sherry Keller in memory of Max Keller and Stanley Keller

Sally Neadle in memory of Anne Golembe

The Wittlins in memory of Ronald Warner and Judah Lieb Singer

Michael & Judi Salant in memory of Philip Salant

Bracha Rosenberg in memory of Daniel Rosenberg

Karen Krieger in memory of Lois Lynne Krieger

Kenneth & Judith Streisand in memory of Ruth Rothman

Mark & Leslie Foladare in memory of Eugene Foladare, Hanna Taussig and Elsa Sulzbacher

Fran Katz in memory of Bella Kleinman

David & Margot Julis in memory of Marcus Julis

Reina Schuldiner in memory of Arthur Schuldiner

Robert & Marlene Miller in memory of Edith Egna

Peter & Susan Frankel

Howard & Barbara Sorkin in memory of Jerry Sorkin and Sam Zeidweg

Steven & Sara Ullman in memory of Lillian Ullman

DONATIONS

YAHARZEIT (CONT.)

Phillip & Susan Ben-Zvi in memory of Samuel Ben-Zvi

Martin & Marla Genee in memory of Fannie Genee, Israel Goldman, Lillie Genee, Anna Greenblatt and Sarah Goldman

Gerald & Elaine Silver in memory of Philip Silver

Alexander & Rita Ryslik in memory of Irina Zaslavskaya

Theresa Seidler in memory of Florence Sherman

Joseph & Mindy Shapiro in memory of Ezra Safdia

Asher & Yvette Yama in memory of Esther Schlusel

Neil & Gail Kosher in memory of Shirley Kosher

Gary & June Miller in memory of Joseph Miller

Rosanne Kleinman in memory of Randi Susan Kleinman and Pearl Efros

Zeena Kelberg in memory of Larry Kelberg

Arnold & Michele Jabin in memory of Rose Berkowitz

Steven & Bernice Bellows in memory of Bertha Speier

Gary & Gail Appelbaum in memory of Seymour Mann

Rosalyn Zell in memory of Alan Lewis Zell PhD

Jack & Ilana Levitt in memory of Gilda Levitt

Allen Bachenheimer in memory of Beatrice Shapiro

Kenneth & Helene Gerson in memory of Ilse Stiefel

Ira & Elise Merkel in memory of Sara Toubine and Freda Riell

Bob & Lynn Levine in memory of Joseph Salman

Larry & Donna Danzig in memory of Oscar Trager

Barry & Gloria Jaslow in memory of Lena Wolk

Donna Guskind in memory of Louis Slotnick

Joel & Fran Shafer in memory of Sam Harris, Shaul-Saki Oster, Lillian Proscia and Irving Mitnick

Paul & Renee Weissman in memory of Daniel Barnestein

Steven & Florence Winter in memory of Sophie Golden Stein

Steven & Leora Meller in memory of Bernard Meller



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