

# the RECORDER



」 JEWISH CENTER

### FEBRUARY 2022

SHEVAT - ADAR 1 5782

**VOLUME # 118** 



#### SHABBAT SERVICES

Services are currently being held on Zoom only at the following timés. To join the stream, visit ebjc.org/online-events

#### Friday Evenings

2/4 5:00 p.m. 2/11 5:10 p.m. 2/18 5:15 p.m. 2/25 5:25 p.m.

#### Saturday Mornings 10:00 a.m.

(when Zoom only, 9:30 when in-person starts again)

**FEBRUARY 5** Terumah

FEBRUARY 12 Tetzaveh

FEBRUARY 19 Ki Tisa

**FEBRUARY 26** Vayakhel

#### **PRIMARY CONTACTS**

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# STAFF & CONTACTS

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Men's Club President Howard Jacobs & Steve Harkavy

Youth Commission Rhonda Gold

Membership Committee Ken Gerson & Taryn Webber

Chairperson, Special Circumstances Marilyn Friedes

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Board of Education Chair Jamie Wasserman

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#### WHAT'S INSIDE

03 Announcements

06 Save the Dates

07 Rabbinic Reflections

08 From Cantor Larry

09 Executive Director

10 From our Presidents

11 Sisterhood

13 Men's Club

14 Center for Early Learning

15 Kesher

16 Adult Education & Activities

**26** Donations

#### **UPCOMING DATES**

AS OF THIS WRITING, WE HAVE MOVED ALL SERVICES BACK TO ZOOM ONLY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO BRINGING BACK IN-PERSON SERVICES, AND WILL DO SO WHEN IT IS DETERMINED TO BE SAFE. PLEASE CONTINUE TO READ TIDBITS AND THE RECORDER, AND GO TO WWW.EBJC.ORG FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

FOR LINKS TO SERVICES, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS, PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBPAGE AT WWW.EBJC.ORG. THE DROPDOWN MENU FOR SERVICES, HAZAK, MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS WILL TAKE YOU TO ALL OF THE PAGES TO REGISTER.

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. When sending any form with a payment, those should be mailed to 511 Ryders Lane as well.

#### FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH:

#### TROUBLE PAYING DUES

If you have been negatively impacted by COVID and are having trouble paying your dues, please let us know! It gives us no pleasure having to call a member to find out why they are in arrears only to find out that they've been out of work and are struggling. First, we are a source to come to. We have resources and methods to help you. Secondly, we will work with you to either work out a payment plan, reduce your dues to make sure that paying your EBJC membership dues does not become a burden when you are having trouble supporting your family!

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#### **SHABBAT SERVICES**

Shabbat services are currently back to being 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.

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

The office is staffed Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

#### **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.

#### **HAZAK**

We are anticipating having our Hazak brunch on Sunday, February 6th at 10:00 a.m. Our program will be "the Antiques Roadshow" and National Estate Jewelers will be the presenters. As part of the program, you may bring one item for evaluation. Additionally, if you'd like to sell odds and end pieces of gold jewelry (or any gold jewelry), they will weigh the gold and make a very competitive offer to you.

#### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

We are diligently working to continue engaging and entertaining our community! Ever on the search for interesting programming, please note the following events: On February 6th we will take a look with Mike Hollander at Sephardic Spain. On February 10 we have the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire: Out Of Tragedy Comes Social Justice and on February 27 we will have Sarah Aroeste - Ladino Music From Yesterday To Today. Most of these programs are free to our community. If you can, a donation in any amount is always appreciated so that we may continue to bring you these programs and events. Details for all programs will be in Tidbits and on the EBJC website.

#### THE CONGREGATION CONGRATULATES:

Doug & Karen Slater on the B'nai Mitzvah of their grandsons, Maxwell Ray and Jake Slater

USY Advisor Erin Kaplan on her recent engagement

Gerald & Elaine Silver on the birth of their granddaughter, Eli Sheva Silver

Jordan & Jill Matthews on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jacob

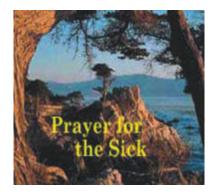
Dave & Lois Mandell on the birth of their grandson, Marshall Jackson Kaplan

#### THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

Jodi Harkavy on the loss of her father, William David Binn
Family and friends of Gerald Gitlitz
Michael Belzer on the loss of his father, Aron Belzer
Diana Horowitz on the loss of her sister, Barbara Shipnuck
Jerry Weinfeld on the loss of his mother, Ruth Weinfeld
Renee Weissman on the loss of her sister, Corinne Ezraty
Lenny Stein on the loss of his mother, Jennie Stein







We have begun a "Psalm Fellowship," which gathers each week to chant psalms together to pray for the sick and ask for their healing.

Join us for a healing prayer circle for EBJC members as we recite from the Book of Psalms in English and Hebrew. All are welcome to join the Zoom meeting on Tuesday evenings from 8:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Please send in the name of the person you will be praying for to: 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 Tel: (732) 316-0900 www.paacnj.com



#### **SAVE THESE DATES!**

Links and information on all programs can be found on the ebjc.org homepage

# Saturday, February 1 @ 8:30 PM Jews in the American Theater

Learn how Jews reshaped American Theater for the past 150 years!

#### Sunday, February 6 @ 1:00 PM

"The Golden Age of Jewish Life in Sepharad/Spain – Guide for the Perplexed" – A Virtual Historical Tour with Mike Hollander

Join Mike Hollander as he takes us on a tour through Sephardic Spain and it's rich Jewish history.

#### Wednesday, February 9 @ 7:00 PM

#### Rabbi Pivo's Winter Education Mini-Series Session 2

The theme of this session will be "Keeping the Peace with our Family".

#### Thursday, February 10 @ 8:30 PM

#### "THE TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FACTORY FIRE: Out of Tragedy Comes Social Justice"

On the first day of Spring in 1911, a terrible fire broke out in Manhattan's garment district. When it ended, half an hour later, 146 workers, mostly young immigrant Jewish women, were dead. This horror capping years of worker protests against intolerable conditions propelled a powerful coalition to enact factory safety legislation that would become a model for the Nation.

#### Thursday, February 27 @5:00 PM

#### Sarah Aroeste - Ladino Music From Yesterday To Today

Learn the rich history of Ladino music through song and storytelling.

#### Thursday March 3 @ 8:30 PM

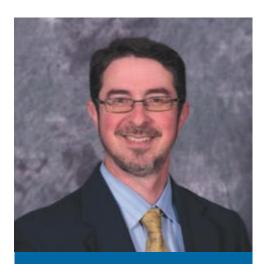
#### American Judaism: Past, Present & Future

Jonathan Sarna - An Old Faith in the New World: The History of American Judaism"

# Welcome to Holsten Service! We are conveniently located on South Main Street in Milltown and are proud to have served the Middlesex County area for over 45 years. We provide a variety of automotive repair work, towing and flatbed services, and opportunities to purchase classic and antique used cars. For more information, please call us at (732)-246-2250 or visit https://holstenservice.com DANCAR HOLSTEN SERVICE LLC.



# RABBINIC REFLECTIONS



Context is everything. What was once negligible can become primary; what was once primary can fall into disuse. Attitudes change, and with the rise of social media, they do so more rapidly than ever. The current Jewish American context is that 70% of non-Orthodox Jews intermarry. That was not the case fifty years ago, but it is now, and the statistics are unlikely to change. Given that reality, we need to adjust to our current context, living up to our vaunted "warm and welcoming" self-image with concrete acts.

In partnership with the Long Range who wish to participate in a Planning Committee, our lay leadership, and our clergy, EBJC will now announce the life cycle events of family members who are not Jewish, which is to say the weddings and births of intermarried couples. This is in line with the practice of nearly all other Conservative synagogues and is, in my view, the proper value for our

time. When a wedding or birth occurs, we should be happy for those families, and perhaps calls of congratulations will even have a positive effect on how the family views EBJC, and Judaism generally. In addition, in rabbinic law, that which is certain takes precedence over that which is doubtful. In this case, the certainty of our member families' feeling included in communal announcements takes precedence over the doubtful possibility of such announcements undermining the community. The context of Intermarriage has changed, and we must recognize and act upon that reality.

As always, feel free to contact me at the office with any questions about this change in policy. Our shul has made a number of changes over the past few years, and I know that some of our members oppose them. On balance, I believe we are headed in the right direction, on the road to becoming truly inclusive of those traditional Jewish life, and those who are willing to support it.

Rabbi Jeff Pivo

# FROM CANTOR LARRY



Did you ever hear the saying, "If you think you're alone, you're not." Well, it is true. Many times, many of us think that we are alone, not technically on the physical side (I would hope you would realize if someone is actually standing next to you or near you in a room, even during Covid), but on the spiritual side.

I was speaking with a friend of mine who asked me about Hagbbah.

Apparently, my friend was invited to a Bar Mitzvah and was given the honor of Hagbbah (actually it is supposed to be called Hagbbahah). My friend, a non-observant, non-synagogue attending, very secular Jew, did not understand the word or the honor that he was being given. I explained that the honor he was to receive is a great honor, and that it is the honor for lifting the Torah when the reading is complete. This he understood. In essence, it was not the honor that he was misunderstanding, but it was the terminology.

Many of us walk into a setting, listen to a service, a speaker, or a presentation, and walk out saying, "I didn't understand a word." This is the case far too often in a synagogue, especially if there is a language barrier. So, what does one do? Well, the first is to begin to come to services more often. Okay, so this may be a ploy to get more people in the door on a regular basis; however, my intention is more to teach the jargon.

There are so many terms that we use in any given service, and many of us

do not take the time to say, what is or was that?

Here are a few terms to list: Davening: Davening is the act of prayer. This is a Yiddish word and not Hebrew speech. We tend to use many Yiddish phrases in Shul (by the way, Shul is Yiddish too). Layning: this is the act of reading Torah (again, another Yiddish word). Hag Sameah: Happy Holiday. Ba'al T'filah: the lay person who may lead a service. A professional person who leads the service is the Hazzan or Cantor (that is me). Ba'al Kriah: the person who reads the Torah, not to be confused with Ba'al T'kiah, the person who blows the Shofar (the musical instrument we blow on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year). Okay, I think we get the point.

There are many terms which are important to know, but too many to list in this article. However, do not be afraid to ask. After all, you are not alone.

And some more food for thought. Here is some information on the importance and instructions of having an Aliyah to the Torah.

It is a great honor to receive an Aliyah to the Torah. Whether it is on a Torah reading Weekday or on the Shabbat, the procedure for having an Aliyah to the Torah is the same.

A person is called up by their full Hebrew name followed by the word 'ben', if you are a man, or 'bat', if you are a woman, and then your father and/or mother's Hebrew name. Traditionally, the father's name is given before the mother's name. You come up on the Bima on the right side of the Torah (meaning the left set of stairs as you face the Bima). You approach the Torah and the person who will be reading the Torah will point to the first word that is going to be read. If you are wearing a Talit, take the corner of the Talit, or if you are not wearing a Talit, take a Siddur or the Torah wrap, and touch the column just outside where the word in the Torah that the reader is pointing to. Kiss the Talit, Siddur, or wrap, and then take

hold of the handles of the Torah. Roll the handles towards each other: however, keep them open slightly. Continue to hold on to the handles and begin to recite the blessing: Bar'khu Et Adonai Ham'vorakh. The congregation will respond with Barukh Adonai Ham'vorakh L'olam Vaed. Repeat the line the congregation just said and then continue with the blessing...Barukh Attah Adonai. Elohenu Melekh Ha'olam. Asher Bakhar Banu Mikol Ha'amim, V'natan Lanu Et Torato, Barukh Attah Adonai, Noten Hatorah. At this point, allow the Torah to be open, but continue to hold the right handle as the reader is reading the scroll. At the conclusion of the reading, follow the same guidelines as when you began by touching the Torah with your Talit, kissing it, and this time, close the rollers together, hold on, and recite the second blessing: Barukh Attah Adonai, Elohenu Melekh Ha'olam, Asher Natan Lanu Torat Emet, V'kha'ye Olam Natah B'to'khe'nu, Barukh Attah Adonai, Noten Hatorah. At this time, step alongside the Gabbai (the Torah watcher) on the left (this is the custom at EBJC, other congregations may have you step to the right.). The next person is now called to the Torah to do exactly as you just did. You remain there until the concluding blessing of that person. After he or she has recited their final Torah blessing, you may walk off the Bima (going towards the left of the Torah and down the other side of stairs). Before walking away, there is a custom to shake hands (not during Covid) with the clergy, the president, and anyone else who may be on the Bima at the time. On the way back to your seat, others may extend their hand to you, wishing you a Yeeshar Koah (some will say Yasher Koah or Hazak U'varukh), which means strength to you, to which you may reply, Baruch Tee'yeh, and blessings to you.

On behalf of my family, have a good and word filled season.

-Cantor Larry I. Brandspiegel

# FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I love to travel. I love exploring and going places I've never been before. Doesn't have to be exotic. just different and new! This past almost two years has truly put a damper on my ability to go and explore, but it didn't stop me all together. My son is in the Navy, so if he can't get away to see me, I will go to him. Luckily he's always been stationed somewhere along the east coast. His latest posting (which will end soon and then on to another base) is in Rhode Island. This past summer I also went on my annual trip with my cousins (female) to the Hamptons. We didn't go in the summer of 2020 because at that time we were in the height of the pandemic. I think we've been going away together for 25 years. It's very special to me.

Rob and I are frequent Marriott guests. We have a timeshare that was purchased by Marriott. So now, with exchanging the timeshare for points, we are at one of the highest levels in the Marriott Rewards program. My husband keeps on top of this because, honestly, you need a Master's Degree to understand the nuances to attain and remain at that level!!

In May, my close friend's daughter is getting married...in Israel! So, we're going (I hope). Several of us from NJ are going. I haven't been to Israel since my early 20's (a good 20 years ago:) and boy oh boy did I

experience sticker shock at the cost again the day before or day of the of the flights! Full disclosure, I wasn't looking at economy. I don't need Rob who had major open heart surgery last year to get an embolism or blood clot. So, we opted for business class where the seats fold down and they may actually give you a meal. The cost was about \$7,000!! Oy! So, we decided to use points...Marriott points. It took 2.64 million points to convert to 880,000 United Airlines miles. Luckily we had mega points and were able to use them. Once in Israel, my friend arranged for all transportation and a 7 day tour (for which we are each paying...we can't expect her to do this). Unfortunately, I doubt the hotels will be Marriott's or Sheraton's, but I am really looking forward to it.

Getting back to the hotels...have you noticed in the showers that the hot is always cold and the cold is always hot? Why is that? How does that work? I am going to make up a statistic, but it is based upon experience (my experience, obviously). I would say 75% of the time that I stay in a hotel, the plate with the label (hot, cold) on the shower is backwards. At this point, I just automatically assume that the hot is cold and the cold is hot. I have a higher chance of not freezing or scalding myself. I cannot possibly be the only one that noticed this.

But what's the problem with paying attention to detail when the plate is put on the wall? It's not a plumbing issue, it's a reading issue. Oh well, it's just a teeny pet peeve.

Paying attention to detail is important. When the consortium was formed to offer programs and events to our communities, we paid attention to detail. Even though the zoom link may be provided in the confirmation email (when you register), I always send out the link

event for two reasons...first to remind you about the program and second so that you don't have to hunt and search in your emails to find that link.

When making a decision to replace the roof, we got several quotes, weighed the options and the pros and cons and chose a company. I have to thank Charlie Breverman who came several times before we contracted the company and afterwards to make sure everything was done correctly for our specific roof. That's attention to detail.

We're now in the process of getting quotes to replace the broken accordion wall between the sanctuary and ballroom. Weighing again the pros and cons of a panel wall vs. curtains. It's not always about the money. We want to do what's best for EBJC, for how we use the building, the sanctuary and ballroom. Once a decision is made, I assure you it will be because we paid attention to detail and made the best decision for EBJC.

Of course mistakes can be made. no one is perfect. But the goal is perfection. The goal is to never make a mistake. Just know that when a decision is made for EBJC, it is always with its best interest at heart for the building, for the staff, for the members and for our community!

May you all be well,

Ellen

# FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



Welcome to a Covid New Year!!!

It looks like we are starting this year almost like we started last year - the ugly Covid head is out there. I am reminded of the phrase we all hear on local newscasts when there is extreme weather in the area. "Always check in on your neighbors and loved ones to make sure they are OK" - certainly good advise. At EBJC we try to follow this advice. Did you know that we offer the following services (all being administered by fellow members)?

- We will go shopping for you whether a large or small order. While many members are hesitant to go into a supermarket, or go out in this weather, members are invited to take part in the EBJC Shop- at-Home Service.
- Our virtual Friendly Visitor program - this is a successful program whereby our volunteer staff makes scheduled phone calls, just to check in and chat. As we all are experiencing, being inside if you wish to utilize the above or know of a fellow member. please call the office - after all that's what a community neighbor does.

Additionally, let us all try to check out the Recorder and the website

for an unbelievable array of activities. When you peruse the list, you will note how it varies. We are trying to offer something for Jewish Tour of Rome

and found it mesmerizing. Coming up in the in future; Sephardic Spain and Jewish Venice.

For those into film and entertainment we offer for your consideration: An upcoming Jewish Film series, as well as a lecture on Jews in American Theatre. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire promises to be a thought provoking evening....and let us not forget Ms. Lanie Kazan - live and in person (via Zoom) on Sunday 1/30. For more info on all these programs, please check out our website.

On an academic level are the ongoing weekly programs offered by Rabbi Pivo as well Judah Landa. We are fortunate to have both of these scholars leading classes. Of course Sisterhood and Men's Club have their own programs and activities. So check out the Recorder and the Website.....I would like to think there is something for everyone.

Turning to our membership, please read Rabbi Pivo's column all the time can be tedious. So, in this addition. I am proud that EBJC is taking positive steps to make us more welcoming to the ever changing Jewish world. We are following concepts and rulings that have been approved by our governing body, United Synagogue of America. We realize that the family unit, as

previously defined, no longer can be the only family unit we recognize. For us to be truly welcoming we must strive to open our doors (Covid permitting) as wide as possible and permissible everyone. I viewed the under the Rabbi's and United Synagogue's guidance.

> For 2022, let us all strive to be ever mindful of our fellow members, their families and any new members to be the most welcoming we can. Best wishes for a healthy secular year.

Jack Goldberg Co-President, EBJC

# SISTERHOOD



Yes, it's dark and dreary outside, but Sisterhood is your source of warmth and light this winter. We can rekindle old friendships, make new ones, learn, grow, and celebrate together.

#### This Past Month—

We launched our 3-part Winter Education Series on January12 with a compelling discussion led by Rabbi Pivo. The topic was Jewish Imagination. If you missed it, don't fret-there are two more engaging sessions coming up. Join us on February 9 at 7 pm, when Rabbi Pivo will speak about "Keeping the Peace with Our Family," exploring the concept of Shalom Bayit. How can we translate this ideal into our modern family life? The final installment, on March 23, features an "Ask the Rabbi" format. This is your chance to address all the questions about Judaism that have been on vour mind.

#### On the Horizon—

Later this month Sisterhood Book Club meets for our quarterly discussion, scheduled for Thursday, February 17. Our selection is the memoir of a renowned actress. Tovah Feldshuh. The book is entitled, Lilyville: Mother, Daughter, and Other Roles I've Played. Feldshuh is perhaps most famous for her onewoman show portraving Israeli Prime Minister Gold Meir in "Golda's Balcony." Yet, she has also starred in dozens of plays and television series, including a recurring role on "Law and Order." Last month Feldshuh starred in another solo performance,

this time as Dr. Ruth Westheimer in "Becoming Dr. Ruth" at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in lower Manhattan. Join us as we discuss Feldshuh's stellar career and how her difficult relationship with her mother shaped her future. If you have a book you'd like to share as a group for a future meeting, please send your suggestion to Sara Ullman at sarajull366@gmail.com.

Believe it or not, Purim is right around the corner! By now, you should have all received an invitation to participate in Sisterhood's annual Shalach Manot campaign. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we are hoping that everyone will take part. Please let us help you fulfill the mitzvah of bestowing gifts on your family, friends, neighbors, and fellow congregants for this joyous holiday. We also need volunteers to deliver the gift bags, which can be picked up on Sunday, March 13. Please indicate your willingness to deliver on the Purim form.

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Those who are not familiar with Women's League's Torah Fund campaign—take note: It is one of the most worthy causes for those who wish to protect the long-term continuity of Conservative Judaism. It is an investment in our future! Torah Fund supports the education of the leaders in our community-Rabbis, Cantors, Teachers, Administrators, Social Workers—the very fabric of Jewish life. The current B'YACHAD campaign is underway, and we are already at more than 80 percent of our goal! Your meaningful donation can take us all the way.

If you did not purchase a pin last year, please consider doing so now with a donation of \$180. If you already have last year's pin, you can purchase one as a gift for an important woman in your life. OR you can choose from an inventory of

beautiful prior pins instead. Please contact our awesome Torah Fund Chair Anne Kroll at selectivemedia@comcast.net.

We are proud to announce our spring Torah Fund event—join us for this annual celebration of our dedication to the Conservative Movement of Judaism. We are sincerely hoping that this will be an in-person festive brunch on Sunday, June 12. Who will be this year's keynote speaker? Who will be named our 2022 Torah Fund honoree? Stay tuned for the upcoming details.

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Our always highly anticipated Sisterhood Shabbat is scheduled for Saturday, May 7. We encourage everyone to participate by accepting a part—either English or Hebrew—in the service. This involvement will reap benefits for both you and the congregation. Contact Ritual VP Gloria Jaslow at glorichi@aol.com for more details.

PURCHASING SCRIP IS AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT SISTERHOOD! We have replenished our supply of gift cards, so they are ready for pickup. Cards are 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.

We look forward to seeing you, whether virtually, or in-person, at the many exciting programs and events we have planned to transition from winter into spring.

Stay warm and sunny,

Cindi Jacobs/Sara Ullman Sisterhood Co-Presidents











#### **PURIM IS ALMOST HERE!!**

EBJC SISTERHOOD MISHLOACH MANOT PROGRAM
INFORMATION HAS ARRIVED IN YOUR MAILBOX AND EMAIL!

IF YOU DIDN'T RECEIVE YOUR ORDER FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO FULFULL THE MITZVAH OF MISHLOACH MANOT (SENDING HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS TO FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS), CALL US TODAY! ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY FEBURARY 27<sup>TH.</sup>



#### **Ouestions?** Contact:

- Margot Julis 732-390-1245/magooj1211@comcast.net
  Cindy Rabinowitz 908-307-5768/cindy.rabinowitz@comcast.net
- Sara Ullman 732-249-4737/tranquil77@aol.com



#### 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 is 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 the EBJC Office 732-257-7070
- 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 order a Bimah Basket for ANY occasion you'd like!
  - o 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 Anne Kroll 732-735-1616 selectivemedia@comcast.net

# MEN'S CLUB



Shalom!

When I became a manager at AT&T, there was a big effort to teach us how to plan large multi-organizational projects. Clearly, if you are trying to run an effort that involves hundreds of people spread out over many locations, you need to have a plan that explains to everyone what they need to do and when they need to do it. As I took on the role of Men's Club president for the second time in the spring of 2020, I figured that I knew the job, having done it once before, and we had this notion of putting together an EBJC calendar for the vear, where all of the arms of the shul would coordinate their events for the year. Well, there is an old saying "Man plans, and God laughs." Events sometimes prevent our best plans from playing out the way we intend. Covid made putting together a yearlong plan for the congregation difficult last year. As vaccines hit the scene, we all figured that this year would be less chaotic and more predictable. Well, that turned out not to be true either.

During January, we had planned a blood drive and a breakfast for our unsung heroes. Both events had to be rescheduled for various reasons. It was the NJ Blood Services organization who asked to reschedule our blood drive due to staffing problems. And we figured that with the surge in Covid cases, attendance at our Unsung Heroes breakfast would be less than we would like. We will reschedule that as well, at a time when the cases come down from where they are now. We thank our honorees, Ellen

Botwin, Executive Director, Cheryl Decker, Accounts Administrator, and Nicole Cavalli, Office Administrator, for their patience! Both of these events will happen, but at this time we're not sure when.

One event that we WERE able to pull off was a talk by Alan Brodman, who taught for many years at East Brunswick High School, running such programs as "We the People" and the Model UN. While we did not have a breakfast. Alan was able to speak on his experiences at the high school via Zoom about "How to Create Better Citizens." Given the political climate of unease that exists in the US right now, clearly this is a topic that was of interest. The talk was attended not just by current members of EBJC, but also by an alumnus of Alan's program. Alan concluded with suggestions on how WE ALL can be better citizens. We thank him for all his efforts on behalf of our society, as well as his taking the time to share his thoughts with us, and we thank Rick Rollman for proposing this event.

On February 13, which is Super Bowl Sunday, we are looking forward to our annual World Wide Wrap. At this point we are planning to participate in a virtual program with our regional Men's Club, NNRJ. More logistical details will be made available as we get closer to the event. Who knows – maybe the numbers will come down by then, EBJC will reopen, and we will be able to meet in person! More details will be made available on Tidbits as we get closer to the event.



It may not be commonly known, but Men's Club runs several sports programs – softball and basketball. While our basketball program took a recess for Covid during January, it should be back in business by the time that you are reading this. We typically play twice a week, on Wednesday evenings at 7, and Sunday mornings at 8:30. If you are interested in playing basketball, please reach out to Lloyd Shepetin at leshepetin@aol.com to learn more.

We are always open to new ideas for activities, events or programs that would be compelling to people at EBJC. We are in the process of taking a survey of men at EBJC (both members and non-members) to better understand their needs and interests so that we can better serve the community. Please feel free to let us know your suggestions, and please plan to join us at our events. While we encourage membership in Men's Club, being a member will not be a prerequisite to your participation in any of our events.

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

Steve Harkavy
Howard Jacobs
Co-Presidents, EBJC Men's Club

# **CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING**





#### Tu B'Shevat Fun

We planted parsley for Tu B'Shevat









We had a Tu B'Shevat Seder







We planted a tree in Israel and made a family tree of own



# KESHER AND YOUTH GROUPS







Hello Kesher and Youth Families,

It seems that we are going backwards rather than forward with our learning and gatherings. This past month, we were forced to have remote learning. My hope is that we are going to put that behind us and get back to good old fashion learning and fun.

During this month of February, we will have a regular schedule. I am not going to put in the dates of upcoming events, such as, Shabbat B'yachad, as at the time I am writing this article things are not quite clear as to our in-person gatherings.

However, please keep an eye out for emails and Remind.com messages for information. Also, since Covid began, we have been able to Zoom our services on Shabbat morning. If you are unable to attend in person, this is a great way to view the service via Zoom and practice the prayers with your children. This type of practice will not only help with Hebrew learning, but it will also help with learning the order and flow of a Shabbat service, which is ultimately what your child will need to learn for his or her Bar or Bat Mitzvah, not to mention helpful for the adults as well.

Our Youth groups are also programming for both in person and remote programs.

Remember, keeping everyone safe is our main priority next to good Jewish learning.

One date that I will remind everyone about is that there are NO Kesher classes on Sunday, February 20th for Presidents Weekend.

If you have any questions, please email me at cantorlarry@ebjc.org.

-Cantor Larry

# ADULT EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

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

#### PARSHAT HASHAVUAH CLASS (ZOOM)

Fridays | 11 a.m.

Join us for Rabbi Pivo's Friday morning class at 11 a.m. where we study the weekly parshah prior to Shabbat. 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.

#### COFFEE WITH RABBI PIVO (ZOOM)

Mondays | 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Join Rabbi for a freewheeling discussion of whatever is on your mind. What's doing with you, how are you holding up, etc. plus any Jewish questions that might come up

#### **LUNCH AND LEARN (ZOOM)**

Wednesdays | 12 p.m.

Join Rabbi Pivo weekly for these sessions that are always engaging and well attended.

#### MONROE LUNCH AND LEARN

Thursdays | 12 p.m.

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.

#### **ISRAELI DANCE**

Beginners:

Mondays | 7 p.m.

Intermediate/Advanced:

Mondays | 8 p.m.

Come and stay for as long as you can! \$12.00 per session fee.

#### **JAZZERCIZE**

Mondays & Wednesdays | 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. \$20 single class

\$160 for 10 classes

\$65/month for unlimited live and livestream classes each month (best value and most popular)

#### **HAZAK**

We are anticipating having our Hazak brunch on Sunday, February 6th at 10:00 a.m. Our program will be "the Antiques Roadshow" and National Estate Jewelers will be the presenters. As part of the program, you may bring one item for evaluation. Additionally, if you'd like to sell odds and end pieces of gold jewelry (or any gold jewelry), they will weigh the gold and make a very competitive offer to you.

#### RE\*NEW ~~~ RE\*FRESH ~~~ RE\*JUVENATE ~~~ RE\*ENERGIZE



#### 2021-2022

#### RE\*TURN TO SISTERHOOD



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\*Community Outreach Opportunities

\*Personal Development Opportunities

\*Networking Opportunities

\*Fundraising

\*Membership in Women's League

Our Membership Drive for 2021-2022 is underway.

Dues did not go up! It's just \$36 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

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ADDRESS		
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#### TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN 2021-2022 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) ... PART II



Wearing this pin signifies the triumph of Sisterhood members working together yearround 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 74th anniversary, Torah Fund embarks on its 80th 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, 2022 is available.) Your workplace is also eligible to make a matching contribution.

Due to pandemic delays, the B'Yachad campaign, along with its signature pin, is extended for another year. If you didn't purchase a pin last year, here's your chance! If you did, why not order another as a meaningful gift? Or, choose from a selection of past pins you might have missed. And remember to wear your favorite Torah Fund pin to stand proudly as a sponsor and supporter of Conservative Judaism.

Please make checks payable to Torah Fund, and either mail them to, or drop them off at, 20 Buckingham Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816.

Questions? Contact Anne Kroll at selectivemedia@comcast.net or 732-735-1616

# Wiesenthal Government Advocacy Internship

be INSPIRED to assume RESPONSIBILITY for the future



Applications are now open for the Simon Wiesenthal Center's 2022 Summer Government Advocacy Internship. Students selected for this highly competitive program will be introduced to the mechanics of the state and municipal government, politics, grassroots activism and advocacy. The program is based in New York City and open to all college and graduate-level students.



#### Wiesenthal Government Advocacy interns will:

- Receive hands-on experience through internship placements in the offices of local & state legislators and governmental agencies.
- Participate in weekly intensive workshops with elected officials, top lobbyists, coalition builders, and high-level Jewish communal leaders to develop the skills necessary to become effective activists.
- Be partnered with mentors who shape front-line policy decisions to gain insight and guidance from an insider perspective.
- Receive a stipend of \$1,500 upon completion of the program.

#### **DEADLINE TO APPLY: MARCH 15, 2022**

The 2022 program will take all necessary COVID precautions and will run virtually if determined necessary

To apply please go to: wiesenthal.com/internship

For more information or to have an application forwarded to you, please contact the Eastern Director, Michael Cohen at mcohen@wiesenthal.com
or call 212-697-1180





# Rabbi Pivo's Winter Education Mini-Series

# All classes will be taught by Rabbi Pivo

- Session 1: Jewish Imagination
   January 12, 2022 at 7:00pm
- Session 2: Keeping the Peace with our Family February 9, 2022 at 7:00pm
- Session 3: Ask the Rabbi
   March 23, 2022 at 7:00pm

All are invited.

Zoom Link will be posted on

EBJC.org





# "The Golden Age of Jewish Life in Sepharad/Spain - Guide for the Perplexed"

For centuries, the Jewish community of Spain was one the world's most significant. Its creative achievements in the arts, sciences, literature, medicine, diplomacy, etc. were unprecedented for a Diaspora community, largely because of the interaction and integration of the Jewish community in Muslim Spain. All this ended during the same year that Columbus set sail to discover America. What is the legacy of this important community? We will visit some of the more important Jewish centers, including Córdoba, birthplace of Maimonides, Granada, home of the beautiful AlHambra Palace, where Ferdinand and Isabel issued their expulsion order, as well as the beautiful synagogues of Toledo. The presentation will also touch upon the complexity of minority/majority relations, the tension between integration and assimilation, and celebrating the rich legacy of Sephardic Jewry.

# Sunday, February 6, 2022 @ 1pm EST, Zoom

Mike Hollander was born in Canada and made Aliyah in 1988. He has an MA in Jewish-Christian Relations and is a registered tour guide. He has led groups from Federations, Birthright, Interfaith groups, political groups, congregational trips, families, adults and even the rich and famous like Bono. His areas of expertise include history, politics, Middle Eastern and interfaith studies.



Program Co-Sponsors:

Columbia Jewish Congregation, Columbia, MD
Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford, CT
Congregation Torat-El, Oakhurst, NJ
East Brunswick Jewish Center, East Brunswick, NJ
Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT
HPCT - CAE, Highland Park, NJ
Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism, Houston, TX
JCC of Paramus-Congregation Beth Tikvah, Paramus, NJ

This program is free and all are welcome to attend.

Donations to EBJC are greatly appreciated and help us to continue offering special programs like this one.

Registration is required to attend.

Register at: EBJC.org/Spain





# "The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire: Out of Tragedy Comes Social Justice"

On the first day of spring in 1911, a terrible fire broke out in Manhattan's Garment District. When it ended, half an hour later, 146 workers, mostly young immigrant Jewish women, were dead. This horror capping years of worker protests against intolerable conditions propelled a powerful coalition New Yorkers to enact factory safety legislation that would become a model for the nation.

### Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 8:30PM EST



Professor Pamela Nadell holds the Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women's and Gender History at American University where she directs the Jewish Studies Program and received the university's highest award, Scholar/Teacher of the Year. Her books include "Women Who Would Be Rabbis: A History of Women's Ordination, 1889-1985". A past president of the Association for Jewish Studies and the recipient of the American Jewish Historical Society's Lee Max Friedman Award for distinguished service, her consulting work for museums includes the National Museum of American Jewish History and the Library of Congress.

Program Co-Sponsors:
Columbia Jewish Congregation, Columbia, MD
Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford, CT
Congregation Torat-El, Oakhurst, NJ
East Brunswick Jewish Center, East Brunswick, NJ
Ezra-Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, Skokie, IL
Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism, Houston, TX
Jewish Federation of Ventura County, Ventura, CA
Temple Beth Shalom, Manalapan, NJ
Temple Israel, Albany, NY

This program is free and all are welcome to attend.

Donations to EBJC are greatly appreciated and help us continue offering special programs like this one.

Registration is required to attend.

Register at: EBJC.org/Triangle

EAST BRUNSWICK JEWISH CENTER

# Ladino Music from Yesterday to Today: A Virtual Presentation by Sarah Aroeste



Come along on a virtual journey as we learn about Ladino culture and history with this talented singer, songwriter, educator and storyteller, Sarah Aroeste.

Inspired by her family's Sephardic roots in Macedonia and Greece, Sarah has spent the last two decades bringing her contemporary style of original and traditional Ladino music to audiences around the world.

She works tirelessly to Ladino music alive for a new generation. Her musical style combines traditional Mediterranean Sephardic sounds with contemporary influences such as rock, pop, and jazz. To date, she has released seven recording, more recently an all-Ladino Hanukkah CD (Hanuká! 2021)

Through her artful performance on music, Sarah will show you how Ladino culture has existed and transformed from the 15th century until today. It is sure to be meaningful and joyful way to spend your late afternoon.

# Sunday, February 27, 2022 at 5:00pm

This program is free and all are welcome to attend.

Donations to EBJC are greatly appreciated and help us continue offering special programs like this one.

Registration is required to attend.

Register at:

EBJC.org/Ladino

This program is co-sponsored by participating members of a consortium of Jewish organizations, nationwide.







**A Three-Part Series** 

To receive your Zoom link register at: EBJC.org/American-Judaism

### Thursday, March 3 @ 8:30 PM ET Jonathan Sarna, Brandeis University,

"An Old faith in the New World: The History of American Judaism"

A lively presentation on American Judaism from 1654 to the present by the acclaimed scholar who wrote the bestselling book on the subject, American Judaism: A History. Beginning in the colonial era, Sarna recounts the dynamic story of people struggling to be Americans and Jews. He shows how each generation of American Jews has had to wrestle anew with the question of whether its own children and grandchildren will remain Jewish. Bringing the story down to the present, he illustrates how the past can both inform and inspire.

### Thursday, March 31 @ 8:30 PM ET Lila Corwin Berman, Temple University,

"American Jews & White Supremacy: The Present Dilemmas of an Unstable History"

Over the last five years, Americans have reckoned anew with the history of this country's racism and what that history requires from the present. In this talk, Professor Lila Corwin Berman asks how American Jews fit—or do not fit—in these often painful and polarizing conversations. She argues that older debates about whether Jews were "white," should be supplanted by newer efforts to ask how whiteness organizes power and when and how Jews have been included in or excluded from that racialized system of American power.

### Sunday, May 22 @ 1:00 PM ET Samuel Heilman, Emeritus CUNY Graduate Center, Queens College,

"The American Jewish Present and What it Indicates About the Future: A Sociologist's View"

Professor Heilman will offer a perspective on American Jewry, its numbers, its politics, its family dynamics, its religiosity, and its attachments (or lack thereof) to Israel and speculate about where each of these is likely to go in the years ahead.

Participating Organizations: B'nai Shalom, West Orange NJ; Columbia Jewish Congregation, Columbia MD; Congregation Best Israel, West Hartford, CT; East Brunswick Jewish Center, East Brunswick, NJ; Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT; Ezra-Habonim - The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, Skokie, IL; Highland Park Conservative Temple - Congregation Anshe Emeth, Highland Park, NJ; JCC of Paramus - Congregation Beth Tikvah, Paramus, NJ; Temple Israel, Albany, NY

## This program is free and all are welcome to attend.

Donations to EBJC are greatly appreciated and help us continue offering special programs like this one. Registration is required to attend. Register at:

EBJC.org/American-Judaism

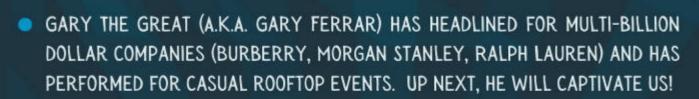


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This program is co-sponsored by participating members of a consortium of Jewish organizations, nationwide.





FEBRUARY 2022

**25** 

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Robert & Liz Salston in honor of Jack Zeidwerg being named Men's Club Youth of the Year

Howard & Cindi Jacibs in memory of William David Binn

Howard & Cindi Jacobs wishing Mazel Tov to Jody and Phil Bramson on the birth of their grandson, Milo William Howard & Cindi Jacobs wishing Mazel Tov to Jacob and Larisa Waxelbaum on the birth of their daughter, Maia Cora

David & Margot Julis in memory of William David Binn

Dov & Barbara Pollak in memory of William David Binn

Adela Sasson in memory of Sol Falchuk

Yigal & Deena Oren in memory of Aron Belzer

Yigal & Deena Oren in memory of William David Binn

David & Margot Julis wishing Mazel Tov to Gerald and Elaine Silver on the birth of their granddaughter, Eli Sheva Silver

Dov & Barbara Pollak in honor of the birth of Gerald and Elaine Silver's granddaughter, Eli Sheva Silver

Yigal & Deena Oren in honor of Ellen Botwin

Dov & Barbara Pollak in memory of Barbara Shipnuck

Jon & Iris Wininger in honor of Shoshana and Jon Rivlin on the B'not Mitzvah of their granddaughters, Charlotte and Lily

Dov & Barbara Pollak in memory of Ruth Weinfeld

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Howard & Cindi Jacobs wishing Mazel Tov to Gerry and Elaine Silver on the birth of their granddaughter, Eli Sheva Silver

Howard & Cindi Jacobs in memory of Barbara Shipnuck

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David Zeidwerg in honor of Alan Brodman

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