

EAST BRUNSWICK



JEWISH CENTER

RECORDER

SHEVAT - ADAR I 5779

FEBRUARY 2019; VOL 87

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE EBJC GALA

60 Years and Fabulous!



Join us as we honor

Rabbi Jeff Pivo & Cantor Larry Brandspiegel

our dynamic duo

who have invigorated EBJC and are propelling us
forward to the next fantastic 60 years.

Ad Mea V'Esrim (עד מאה ועשרים), live long and prosper.

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Mincha 7:05

Havdallah 8:05

Dinner & Celebration immediately following services.

Eat, Drink, and Laugh with Modi

EBJC welcomes Modi, voted "One of the Top 10 Comedians in NYC" by The Hollywood Reporter and Back Stage Magazine. Modi appears regularly at Caroline's on Broadway and The Comedy Cellar and has been featured on Comedy Central, E! and HBO.

Join us for an evening filled with fun and celebration!

RSVP by March 29, 2019

Cocktail Attire

SHABBAT SERVICES

MISHPATIM

Friday, February 1- 4:55 pm

Saturday, February 2- 9:30 am & 4:55 pm

TERUMAH

Friday, February 8- 5:05 pm

Saturday, February 9- 9:30 am & 5:05 pm

TETZAVEH

Friday, February 15 - 5:15 pm

Saturday, February 16- 9:30 am & 5:15 pm

KI TISA

Friday, February 22- 5:20 pm

Saturday, February 27- 9:30 am & 5:20 pm

SHEKALIM

Friday, March 1- 5:30 pm

Saturday, March 2 - 9:30 am & 5:30 pm

Jeremy Leventhal Bar Mitzvah

CANDLELIGHTING

2/1 4:58 pm

2/8 5:06 pm

2/15 5:15 pm

2/22 5:23 pm

3/1 5:31 pm

PRIMARY CONTACTS

Tel: 732-257-7070

Rabbi Jeff Pivo - Rabbipivo@ebjc.org

Deena Oren & Eric Pelofsky,

Co-Presidents - Presidents@ebjc.net

Ellen Botwin, Executive Director -

Ebotwin@ebjc.org

Cantor Larry Brandspiegel, Education

Director - Cantorlarry@ebjc.org

Cheryl Decker, Office Administrator -

C.decker@ebjc.org

511 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Tel: 732-257-7070 Fax: 732-257-9630 www.ebjc.org

FEBRUARY 2019

SAVE THE DATE (Dates subject to change)

Board of Directors 2/20
Board of Ed 2/27
Executive Board 2/6
Genesis Science 2/4, 11, 18, 25
Hebrew Class 2/7, 14, 21, 28
Israeli Dance 2/4, 11, 18, 25
Mah Jongg 2/4, 11, 18, 25
Talmud Class 2/6, 13, 20, 27
Youth Commission 2/27
Membership Committee

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

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

www.ebjc.org

February 2019

2/2 - Gale Dillman Farewell Shabbat
2/2 - New Era Family Karaoke Night
2/3 - World Wide Wrap
2/6 - Girls' Night Out, Pallet Painting Party
2/8 - Sisterhood and Men's Club Kabbalat Shabbat with Mayor Cohen
2/18 - Hazak Lunch
2/22-23 - USY Senior Shabbaton
2/24 - Israel Program
2/28 - Shabbat Across America Challah Bake

March 2019

3/1 - Shabbat Across America Dinner
3/6 - Sisterhood Mosaic Night
3/8 - Sisterhood Torah Fund Dinner and Service
3/9 - New Era Pinot Palette
3/17 - Purim Carnival
3/24 - Hazak Brunch
3/27 - Sisterhood "On the Chocolate Trail" with B'nai Tikvah
3/28 - Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo
3/30 - Volunteer Shabbat

April 2019

4/4 - Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo
4/6 - Gala
4/15 - Hazak Lunch
4/20 - Congregational Pesach Seder
4/27 - Mimouna Celebration (Israeli/Sephardic)

May 2019

5/1 - Yom HaShoah Program
5/2 - Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo
5/3 - Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Dinner
5/8 - Yom Ha'Zikron/Hom Ha'atzmaut Program
5/16 - Hazak Dinner
5/18 - Sisterhood Egalitarian Shabbat Service
5/19 - Mah Jong Tournament

June 2019

6/1 - Grandparents Shabbat
6/2 - Celebrate Israel Parade
6/9 - Shavuot - "Sisterhood Presents" Jewish Women Program
6/14 - Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Dinner
6/18 - Congregational Meeting
6/23 - Hazak Brunch

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Margot Julis, Sara Ullman Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Arthur Fliegelman and Sheldon Horowitz,
Men's Club Presidents

Rhonda Gold, Youth Commission

Ken Gerson, Membership Committee

Joe Behrman, Chairperson, Special Circumstances

Hollie Cerame, Social Action/Fundraising

Lynda Perel, Director of The Center for Early Learning

Joannie Weinfeld, Calendar

Jamie Wasserman and Brooke Rudolph, Board of
Education Co-Chairs

If you have problems at EBJC that are not getting
adequately resolved, please call Ellen Botwin, x5
[\(732\) 257-7070](tel:7322577070)

RECORDER STAFF

Stefani Kovler, *Administrative Assistant*

Vicki & Marty Nathanson, Madeline Frances

Deborah A. Berger, *Graphic Designer (Recorder
Redesign)*

David Kosher

Rabbinic Reflections



Having recently observed Tu Bishvat, and our connection with the trees, fruits, and other produce of the land of Israel, we look ahead to the holidays of spring. Like Tu Bishvat, they occur at particular times of the year which are appropriate to their meaning. Purim and Pesakh

have to happen when they do, but in seven of every 19 years, there is a twist in getting there.

On the Shabbat morning of February 2nd we announce the new Jewish month of Adar. In most years, this means that Purim is a few weeks away and then, four weeks later, Pesakh. But this year, and in every Jewish leap year, we add an entire second month of Adar to the calendar. It doesn't have its own name; in such years we simply have first Adar and second Adar. This is the mechanism that pushes Pesakh back into the spring where it belongs, as well as the next High Holidays, which are pushed later into the fall. All of this is necessary in order to compensate for the days "lost" each month in Judaism's lunar calendar. Following the phases of the moon, each Jewish month has either 29 or 30 days, meaning the holidays are always slowly regressing farther back. If there were no calendrical correction, Pesakh would eventually be in the winter, and the High Holidays would be in the spring.

Purim and Pesakh have specific calendar dates on which they are observed. The book of Esther records that Purim is to be celebrated on the 14th of Adar, and the Torah marks the 15th of Nisan as the date of the Exodus from Egypt. We observe these holidays on the dates that the events they commemorate originally took place. The dates are not negotiable. But even without the extra Adar of

the leap year, those dates would still occur; why do we need to also fix them in their season?

In his brief yet bottomless book "The Sabbath", Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote that too often we are enslaved to the products of technical civilization. Engrossed with the things we have made, with the cleverness of our creations, we follow the pagan idea that value is rooted in things. But true meaning, he writes, resides not in things but in time. Shabbat is his primary example, when we consciously liberate ourselves from the world and experience time, free from buying, selling, making or destroying, the things of the world. Similarly, the Jewish holidays occur at particular points in time, and it is those particular times that gives them their meaning. It is not merely that the Exodus happened to occur in the spring, but rather that God willed it to happen then; not only how it did, but when it did. Events do not give meaning to time, Heschel writes; rather, time gives meaning to events. God acts not in the pagan realm of randomness but in the monotheistic realm of purposeful decision, of a caring and planned intervention into time.

Pesakh, in particular, must be a spring holiday. Its agricultural focus, its connection to the earth and the field, to the rebirth of nature, is the same time that the Israelites were reborn in history. That is not accidental. God took us out of slavery at a time that gave this explicit meaning to Pesakh, so that we would understand its meaning as God's will. And so we must keep Pesakh, and all the other holidays, for similar reasons, in their seasonal positions. When they occur is a deep and meaningful feature of what they celebrate. As we look forward to Purim and Pesakh, we should remember their placement in the spring in terms of their time, and of how that time provides them much of their meaning.

Rabbi Jeff Pivo

Presidents' Report

We are Sixty and Fabulous...We've only Just Begun!

We will be honoring Rabbi Pivo and Cantor Larry, our dynamic duo, at our 2019 Gala. They have invigorated EBJC and are propelling us forward to the next fantastic 60 years.

EAST BRUNSWICK JEWISH CENTER *60 Years and Fabulous!* SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019



Ad Mea V'Esim (עד מאה ועשרים), live long and prosper (until 120)

This is our biggest fundraiser event of the year and we intend on making it a big success. We will be creating a full-size ad journal as a great way to honor our clergy who are making a wonderful shul even more wonderful. Eric and I are calling on all members, especially those who own businesses, to participate in this great advertising vehicle to benefit EBJC and your business. It is a win win and our most successful way of increasing our revenue and holding our membership dues. This is your shul, it must have doors open, staff to cater to our needs, electricity to heat and light our way, a truck to plow snow from our paths, and clergy to warm our hearts, serve our membership, and instill spirituality and the love of God in our souls. EBJC is here to serve God and the community. EBJC is grounded in three pillars of Judaism. As Shimon Hatzadik said, Pirkei Avot 1:2 the world stands on three pillars: Torah, Avodah and G'milut Hasadim. Torah - study, learning and being better Jews; Avodah (literally translated work) - worship, service and prayer; and G'milut Hasadim - doing good deeds, being kind to others. Let's make sure EBJC continues these important missions here, for us, for our children and for our grandchildren.

We will have an amazing comedian, Modi, (We hear he brings people to tears) as the main attraction at the gala. It will be dinner and a show, without the hassle of going to Manhattan, with friends and family, celebrating our community and our professional spiritual leadership. Invite your friends and your family to join ours. It's going to be **fabulous!**

Executive Director



I speak to the women reading this article. I want to share my frustration with women's sizing. So, what's with this One Size Fits All? Are we supposed to be happy that now the clothing industry has become politically correct and have it as One Size Fits Most? Really? So

what's most? If you're a size 2 will it fit you? If you're a 16 will it fit? Give us a break! Then there's vanity sizing and real sizing. Did you even know there was something called vanity sizing?

Apparently years ago, the industry determined that women couldn't handle the actual size we were, so they created "vanity sizing". Did you know that Lucille Ball was a size 12? That's the size she was while filming I Love Lucy. That meant that Ethel was a size 14. In vanity size, Lucy would have been a 6 and Ethel an 8...maybe even smaller. So I guess the industry decided that as we got larger, we couldn't handle being a size 20 (which would be a 12) or size 24 (which would be a 16). But here's the kicker...vanity sizing only comes into play for regular clothing. Try shopping for a formal gown! For some reason, vanity sizing doesn't come into play here. So if you wear a size 12, be prepared to try on an 18 or even a 20! OMG! The stress alone would make you want to storm out of the store! I suggest putting on blinders and threatening the store dressers with death if they even attempt to tell you the sizes they are getting for you! I do think, however that this may be slowly changing.

Men don't have this issue. Their size is actually listed on the clothing...slacks have waist and length. Shirts have neck and arm length and although it isn't perfect, it is certainly easier. Yes there are different fits such as an athletic fit or "husky" but the sizing is what it's always been.

Can you imagine if women's clothing was sized by waist, hips and length? That's right...women have hips and a tush. Men, for the most part don't. What women would go into the store and say... give me those cute jeans in a 33" waist, 45" hip and 30" length? Not too many. When I was much younger, my first job was with Avis Car Leasing in Manhattan and I remember the man I worked for, Thomas Powell, going crazy. He just couldn't understand it. He dreaded having to buy his wife clothing. Jewelry usually won out!

That brings me back to synagogues. One size does not fit all

or most. Let's look at East Brunswick township... we have a reform synagogue, a conservative synagogue, an orthodox synagogue, a Torah Links and a Chabad. Wow, talk about your choices! We're always on the search for the perfect synagogue. I don't know if that exists. Synagogues have to work hard to make all of their members happy. Leadership and Clergy have to compromise and accommodate while keeping within the framework of their religious beliefs. It is not easy. It's a fine line trying to keep your current membership happy while trying to attract new families. One is not more important than the other...like the song goes... make new friends and keep the old, one is silver and the other gold. Same goes for members.

Choosing a synagogue is a big decision. It has to feel comfortable. It has to feel like home. You have to connect with the Rabbi and leadership. The bottom line is that when a new family calls or comes to services, we don't pounce on them to join. We welcome them. We invite them to events and Kiddush. We make room for them at our table. I always tell new families that choosing a synagogue is a personal decision. I would like to think they appreciate not being "pushed" to join.

Synagogues are created and made by people. People are flawed and imperfect. We may share the same goals and desire for the success of the synagogue, but perhaps perceive differently how this should be accomplished. It's human to have a difference of opinion. So the next time you don't agree with something or you feel slighted by a member or leadership, say something, but say it with kindness. I can share with you that although there are those that disagree with me and have done so quite verbally, I do not believe there is a vicious or malicious person in this synagogue. It's because we care so deeply...and ultimately that really isn't a bad thing.

Thank you all for caring,

Ellen

Be a part of Shabbat Across America



Friday March 1

Traditional Service 5:15 Followed by dinner 6:30

Family Service 8:00 Followed by desert

Join us for an evening of praying, singing, eating and schmoozing

RSVP for dinner by February 22

\$20 per adult \$10 ages 5-13 Under 5 free

to RSVP call EBJC @ 732-257-7070

Co-sponsored by Men's Club and Membership

for info contact Ken @ kgerson7@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor

Our family would like to thank Rabbi Pivo and the entire EBJC community for their support following the death of my mother, Bessie Streisand. Rabbi Pivo, who led the funeral service, was always there for us, lending emotional comfort to me, my brother, and sister throughout the entire period from Mom's death to the end of shiva.

Ken and Judy Streisand and family

Dear EBJC,

Thank you so much for your visits, phone calls, cards, your participation in "minyanim", and your kind efforts to help during this difficult time. The many stories you shared with me about your relationships with Harvey were most comforting and brought happy smiles.

Wishing you all a healthy and peaceful 2019.

Debby Waldman and Family

The Congregation Extends

CONDOLENCES TO:

Elana Finklestein and family on the passing of her mother Mildred B. Gershen
Sally Neadle on the passing of her husband, Dexter Neadle

MAZEL TOV TO:

Cindy and Rick Rollman on the birth of their grandson Henry Shay Frenkel and to their daughter and son-in-law Lauren and Lenny Frenkel
Risa and Philip Hines on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jacob Hines
Eugene Foladare who has been honored by American Legions Post 522
Adela and Raymond Sasson on their retirement
Mazel Tov to the Rabinowitz and Wachtel families on the Oscar nomination for best Adapted Screenplay for David and Charlie
Margot and David Julis on the birth of their grandson, Carson Bruce and to their daughter and son-in-law, Becky and Josh Geske

Social Action

Food is always needed. Please include granola bars.

The social action room has moved to the electrical room just outside the
Ballroom entrance by the synagogue

Save the Date!

Friday Night Fun Dinners and Shabbat –
February 8: with Mayor Cohen
March 1st: Shabbat Across America
May 3rd: Blue Jean Shabbat and BBQ
June 14th: Tiki Bar Shabbat with Chinese Food

Gala - April 6th at 7:30pm - Annual Gala featuring comedian, Modi, honoring Rabbi Pivo and Cantor Larry. This years theme is 60 and fabulous!! Bring your friends, this evening will keep you in stitches!

Community Events!

An 80 Year Old Perspective from Two Holocaust Survivors - Holocaust survivors of Kristalnacht, Eugene and Ruth Gottlieb, East Brunswick residents, will discuss their perspective and experiences at the East Brunswick Public Library, Tues. Feb 12, 7 pm. As immigrants to America, they had to absorb the revelations that family members had been lost, as well as adjust to a country with its new language and culture.

Annual Progressive Dinner - Hadassah of East Brunswick is sponsoring its Annual Progressive Dinner, Saturday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m. Beginning with hors d'oeuvres for all guests, the party will then proceed to various homes for delicious main courses. The joyous evening will culminate with guests joining together at a home for gourmet desserts and beverages! Couvert is \$118 per couple or \$59 a person. RSVP by Feb. 15 or call Anne at 732-613-8687. Proceeds to benefit the Extraordinary Works of Hadassah.



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DECORATIONS:

Ten Customized Centerpieces, Sign in Book or Board & Place Cards

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

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Hospitality Baskets
Posters & Collages
Table Names & Numbers
Jewish New Year Cards
and More!



The Center for Early Learning



Lynda Perel



The Center for Early Learning @ EBJC

511 Ryders Lane . East Brunswick NJ 08816. 732.257.7070

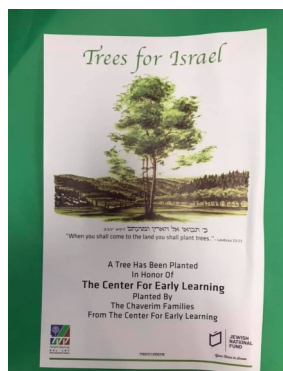
The Center for Early Learning celebrated Tu B'shevat



We cut up fruit for our Tu B'shevat seder



We made mitzvah trees and planted parsley that will be ready for Passover!



We planted a tree in Israel in honor of our class!

WE CAN'T WAIT FOR PURIM!



All Toddlers with Caregivers

Please join us for

TODDLER FUN

(ages 12-24 mo.)



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

\$10 per class
At EBJC

Arts & Crafts

Dancing

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Singing



Contact Lynda Perel – Preschool Director

732-257-7070

lperel@ebjc.org



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Cantor Larry



Hello again everyone,

I hope everyone is staying safe and warm this winter season.

Our Keshet and Youth programs are doing wonderfully. There is a lot of Ruah and participation. It is truly wonderful to see the excitement from all of the students and participants.

As always, please remember to check your calendars, emails, and Facebook page for upcoming events, announcements, and great

pictures.

Also, if you have not already done so, sign up for our new TEXT MESSAGING system (especially with snowy weather already happening).

Shabbat School and Shabbat B'Yachad Family Service: The next Shabbat School and Shabbat B'Yachad Family Service will be Shabbat, February 23rd (10am). We want every child and parent to attend to give everyone the best Shabbat morning experience possible.

NEW:TOT SHABBAT for little people and their adult friends (Toddlers through Kindergarten). The next one is on Shabbat, February 23rd (11am). Please tell your friends.

Service Attendance is a very important component in our Keshet curriculum. Every student has an attendance card that can be found in a small box in the lobby. When you have attended a Friday night, Shabbat morning, holiday, or weekday service please pull your name card. We are keeping record each week. Great attendance will come with a reward.

Upcoming dates:

Hebrew High School - next session is on Wednesday, February 6th and Wednesday, February 20th.

YOUTH NIGHT - next program is on Wednesday, February 13th.

[Chaverim & Kadima 6:15pm & USY 7:45pm]

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

Please share with your friends all the new and wonderful activities happening at Keshet, USY, Kadima and Chaverim, as well as all of the programs being offered at EBJC. It truly is a place for everyone and for everything!

I look forward to learning with all of you! ~ Cantor Larry

I love stories and when I find a story worth telling, I love to share it. Since the upcoming month of Adar I is an additional month in the calendar, due to this year being a leap year, it allows me to focus once again on Shabbat. Shabbat has so much beauty, warmth and pleasure, yet we sometimes take it for granted since it occurs every week.

So here is a story to remind us of Shabbat, and a little music to boast:

Once in a far-away place lived a group of Jews. Their village was surrounded by a forest on one side, mountains on two sides, and a dangerous river on the fourth side. For thousands of years, no one had entered from the outside world.

One day a stranger miraculously appeared. You can imagine the joy with which the people greeted him. They took the stranger in and begged him to tell them of what life was like "out there."

As the week wore on, the stranger saw no signs of preparation for Shabbat, and he questioned his hosts. To his great surprise, he discovered that these Jews had never heard of Shabbat!

So the stranger began to describe Shabbat in detail. He spoke of the food, the time with family and friends, the synagogue, and the wonderful rituals for observing the day. The Jews in the community were enchanted with the stranger's words - especially a young girl named Sarah. She had listened to every word the stranger had spoken.

"How can we get Shabbat?" the townspeople asked (echoing Sarah's very thoughts). "It is not difficult," replied the stranger, "but first you will need to bring the Shabbat Queen from heaven." How do we do that? the people thought. They turned to ask the stranger, but he had disappeared.

The townspeople began to make plans for bringing the Shabbat Queen. They thought of building a ladder up to heaven. Someone else suggested sending the local rabbi up in a rocket ship. They tried these ideas and many more - but they all ended in failure. The people argued and argued. Sarah tried to help because she so wanted to have Shabbat, but the adults kept sending her away.

Days and nights passed. When the last plan (making a giant net and throwing it up to heaven) totally unraveled, Sarah felt she was going to cry. To keep herself from crying, she began to hum a melody. And the strangest thing happened. As she walked by people arguing (and blaming one another for not having Shabbat), the tune was so catchy that they stopped arguing and began to hum along. Soon, in place of the arguing and yelling, all one could hear were the beautiful and calming sounds of that melody.

The notes of the song twisted and turned and wound their way up to heaven and wrapped themselves around the Sabbath Queen, gently tugging her down to the village.

That week and forever after, the villagers welcomed the Shabbat Queen with peace and harmony and Sarah's beautiful melody.

On behalf of my family, I wish you a continued warm and safe winter season.

~ Cantor Larry

Youth Programming

DATES FOR EBJC TEEN + CHAVERIM PROGRAMS 2018/2019

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

DATE	TEEN PROGRAM
Oct 3	Hebrew High
10	USY
17	Hebrew High
24	Kadima / USY
Nov 4	Kadima: Artist-in-residence USY
14	Hebrew High
28	Kadima / USY
Dec 5	Kadima / USY
12	Hebrew High
16	Kadima / USY
19	Hebrew High
Jan 2	Hebrew High
6	USY
9	Hebrew High
16	Kadima / USY
29	USY
Feb 6	Hebrew High
13	Kadima / USY
20	Hebrew High
27	Kadima / USY
Mar 6	Hebrew High
8-9	Youth Shabbat
17	Purim Carnival
20	Megillah Reading
27	Kadima / USY
Apr 3	Hebrew High
10	Kadima / USY
28	USY
May 1	Hebrew High: last class
8	Kadima / USY / Yom HaZikaron - Ha'Atzmaut
15	Kadima - end of year BBQ
22	USY Elections
31	USY Board Installation & Dinner

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

CANTOR LARRY is our Director of Education.

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

KADIMA & USY

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

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

USY: 9th-12th graders.
Wednesday programs are 7:45-9:00PM; Sunday programs vary

CHAVERIM is for 4th and 5th graders. This group meets monthly on WEDNESDAYS, from 6:15-7:30 pm, following Keshar

Chaverim Youth Co-Leaders: Amanda Gold and Joe Weiss



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

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

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

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



EAST BRUNSWICK JEWISH CENTER



Sisterhood



The perfect remedy for the isolation of Winter, with its chill and early darkness, is to join your Sisters for one of our spectacular events. Our membership now boasts **133 delightful women** of all ages, interests, and Judaic affinity and expression. Sisterhood is like our own exquisite mosaic.

We offer so many opportunities for friendship, bonding, and celebration. We warmly welcome your participation.

Here's a look at what we've enjoyed and what new adventures lie ahead:

Recent Events—

*On January 31st, Sisterhood and Men's Club presented a fascinating documentary, **"Cuba's Forgotten Jewels,"** featuring Jews who fled to Cuba following the Holocaust. After the movie, EBJC Co-President Deena Oren led a discussion describing the present-day Jewish community in Cuba. This was an enlightening educational experience for all who attended.

*Earlier this month, on Friday evening, February 8th, we once again welcomed **East Brunswick Mayor Brad Cohen** to headline our **Kabbalat Shabbat** service and dinner. Mayor Cohen brought us up-to-date on all the upcoming plans for our beloved town.

Looking Forward to—

***Wednesday, March 6—Join us for Mosaic Night!** This promises to be a fun-filled, creative evening for men, women, and children 12 years and older. Design a gorgeous keepsake—including chais and hamsas—that you will be proud to display in your home. Pre-registration is required.

***Friday, March 8—Our Annual Torah Fund Dinner and Service.** Which deserving Sisterhood member will be honored as our Eshet Chayil? (Woman of Valor). Since Torah Fund proceeds support the educational institutions of the Conservative Movement, we are honored to hear success stories of the graduates of these schools. Come hear our own Rabbi Pivo share an account of his years as a student at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. We bet there will be fascinating anecdotes awaiting us!

There's still time to contribute to this worthy project. Contact our extraordinary Torah Fund chair Jody Bramson at Jlbrams@aol.com to purchase this year's stunning polished black Torah Fund pin, featuring the insignia "Atid," meaning "Future." Or donate at any level to get involved.

***Wednesday, March 27—On the Chocolate Trail—**EBJC Sisterhood joins with the women of Congregation B'nai Tikvah in North Brunswick for a fascinating journey through the Jewish history of chocolate. Rabbi Deborah Prinz, author of [On the Chocolate Trail](#), draws from her world travels on the trail of chocolate to describe the role of religions in the trade, retail and manufacture of chocolate since it was introduced to Europeans. The evening includes dessert, wine, and chocolate sampling, along with book signing by Rabbi Prinz. How can you resist?

And Don't Forget—

*Rabbi Pivo's adult education series **"Torah, Time and Tefillah"** continues every Thursday evening after Minyan. Still to be examined—an overview of the sacred books that grew up around Torah—Torah commentaries, Mishna, Talmud, Siddur, and Machzor. Sample this comprehensive, interactive class to find out how much you can learn.

Please remember to read each Friday's Tidbits email blast to learn de-

tails of upcoming events

PURIM IS ALMOST HERE! And we have exciting news—this year we offer online ordering and payment of shalach manot. Please use the link provided in the Purim letters that were sent out via email or go to HappyPurim.com to place your order. Not ready for online ordering? No problem. You can still mail in your order/payment with the paper form. Shalach manot baskets will be delivered beginning **Sunday, 3/17/19.**

Maj Jong Anyone?—Are you seeking a fun activity to challenge your mind? Did your Mom or Aunt play Maj Jong but you just never learned the game? Do you wax nostalgic about hearing shouts of "Crack/Bam" emanating from the kitchen of the home you grew up in? You're not alone. Lots of us have heard about Maj Jong all of our lives, but never got around to playing. Don't fret...

Sisterhood sponsors a Maj Jong game every Monday evening at 7 P.M., and it's NOT JUST FOR EXPERIENCED PLAYERS. You can drop in any time, and one of the ladies will gladly coach you on all the fine points of the game. You will only observe at first, of course, but in no time you'll be part of the game!

Calling All Bibliophiles—We are hoping to launch a Sisterhood book club this spring. We would plan to meet on a "seasonal" basis, approximately every three months, allowing plenty of time to finish reading. The selections would be based on reading lists from the Jewish Book Council, as well as member recommendations. Although each book will have some Jewish thematic element, we will not be solely focused on historical fiction. We will include fiction, as well as nonfiction, biographies, and maybe even cookbooks!

There are some details still to be determined, and we'd like your input. When would you like to meet?—weekday evening, Saturday after kiddush, Sunday morn, Sunday evening? Where would you like to meet?—at synagogue, or would you be more comfortable rotating through members' homes?

Please email Sara—tranquil77@aol.com to indicate your interest and provide your preferences to the questions above. Look forward to hearing from everyone.

Join our Kiddush Team— Can you spare a few hours each week to shop and/or prepare for our lauded Shabbat Kiddush spread? Shopping lists are issued on Tuesday, and shopping must be completed by Thursday evening. If you'd rather donate your time for food prep, join us Friday morning at 10 A.M. in the dairy kitchen. Contact Sylvia Halpern-smhalpern15@gmail.com or Jodi Harkavy-jbharkavy@comcast.net to get involved.

Sisterhood is an integral component of EBJC, and we value YOUR CONTRIBUTION. We proudly carry on the legacy and tradition of our shul, while addressing the diverse pursuits of modern women. Please keep in touch so that TOGETHER we can make Sisterhood YOURS.

Warm regards,

Margot Julis

magoo1211@comcast.net

Sara Ullman

tranquil77@aol.com

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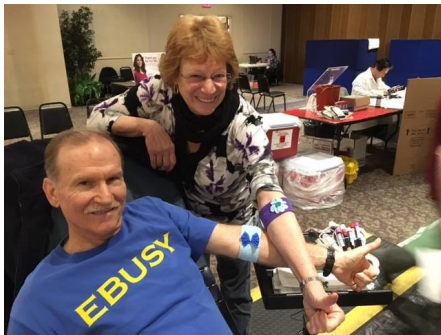


Men's Club is continuing another busy year with a focus on expanding our reach to include younger families.

Men's Club and Sisterhood members had a great time at our Dec. 15 comedy

night.

Our blood drive was a great success with 50 units of blood donated, up 50% from 2018's drive. A special thanks to Ron Berger for coordinating this drive and all those who donated. It is a very important mitzvah for all of us.



On Jan. 31 we hosted a movie night with Sisterhood on Cuba's Forgotten Jewels with a discussion by Deena Oren afterwards.

Our **World Wide Wrap** is on Sun., Feb. 3 at 8:15 am when we join our Men's Clubs colleagues around the world observing the mitzvah of Tefillin. Rabbi Pivo will be speaking at a breakfast program after services. All are welcome to attend services and the breakfast program.

Our second **Kabbalat Shabbat with Mayor Cohen** is Feb. 8. Services start at 6 pm with dinner at 7 pm. Please sign up at ebjc.org/kabbalat.

On March 1 EBJC will be participating for the first time in the nationwide **Shabbat Across America** program. Please be on the lookout for additional information about this program in the coming weeks.

Yom Hashoah begins on the evening of May 1 and as always, EBJC's Men's Club will be distributing yellow candles in commemoration of this tragedy. If you can assist in distributing candles, please contact us at mensclub@ebjc.net.



On May 11 we will be hosting **Men's Club Shabbat**. Please let us know if you would like a part in this program. We welcome all male members of EBJC to participate in this program.

Men's Club will be hosting our first ever **Family Shavuot Weekend** starting Friday, June 7 to June 10 at NJY Camps in Milford, PA. Families of all ages, from young children to grandparents will have a great time at this weekend while still fully observing the holiday. Please stay tuned for more information in coming weeks.

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

While we already have a busy calendar, we are always seeking ideas for new and interesting events. You are welcome to join the fun in arranging our programming. Do you have an idea for an event or activity? Attend any Board meeting and share your idea. Our next two are on Feb. 11 and March 11 at EBJC at 8:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

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

Shalom,
Arthur Fliegelman and Sheldon Horowitz

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60 Years and Fabulous Gala Details at-a-glance

- Saturday, April 6, 2019
- Honoring our very own Rabbi Jeff Pivo and Cantor Larry Brandspiegel
- Mincha at 7:05pm and Havdallah at 8:05pm in the sanctuary
- Dinner and drinks will be served in the ballroom following services
- Stand-up Comedian, MODI, will entertain gala attendees
- Dessert will be served following the show
- Invitations to be mailed early February



MODI

Voted one of the top 10 comedians in NYC by the Hollywood Reporter and BackStage, MODI is one of the comedy circuit's most sought after performers.

MODI has been featured on HBO, CBS, NBC, ABC, Comedy Central, Howard Stern and E! Entertainment. MODI has received rave reviews in the New York Times, Time Out NY and the New York Post.

Born in Israel, MODI moved to the US when he was seven. After college, MODI worked as an investment banker and had no plans to become a stand up comedian. But one open mic changed everything.

According to the LA Times, MODI is "versatile and quick on his feet. He can read an audience in a beat and improvise so nimbly that he keeps any audience, regardless of age, race and gender, laughing."

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE EBJC GALA

60 Years and Fabulous!

◆◆◆◆◆
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Rabbi Jeff Piva & Cantor Larry Brandspiegel
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Saturday, April 6, 2019

Mincha 7:05

Havdallah 8:05

Dinner & Celebration immediately following services.

Eat, Drink, and Laugh with Modi

EBJC welcomes Modi, voted "One of the Top 10 Comedians in NYC" by The Hollywood Reporter and Back Stage Magazine. Modi appears regularly at Caroline's on Broadway and The Comedy Cellar and has been featured on Comedy Central, E! and HBO.

Everyone will enjoy a great evening of celebration and laughter!

RSVP by March 29, 2019

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EVERYONE is invited and encouraged to attend evening services starting at 7:05pm. RSVP card is only necessary to attend the 60 Years & Fabulous Gala following Havdallah and to support EBJC by making a donation. Thank you!

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Words from Veterans Shabbat

Veteran's Day Shabbat was a great success. We are so very proud of our veterans and their families. To those that spoke - thank you.

*Sherryl Kaufman - father Jack Widowsky US Army Air Corps navigator
Lillian Deutch- Army Nurse and father and husband served
Mordy Bermann - IDF, Special Infantry Force
Joe Behrman - US Army, specialist 4th Class
Arnie Jabin - son's Josh and Chris US serviceman
Joel Weisberg - rank E5
Ronnie Shuali - IDF Sergeant
Michael Slepian
Roz Zell - husband US serviceman*

The accounts of Mordy Bermann and Joe Behrman were printed in the December 2018 Recorder.

Apologies to Sherryl Kaufman who did not have her account published in prior Recorders. Attached is her speech about her father, Jack Widowsky.

I would like to thank the congregation for the opportunity to speak, as the proud daughter of an American hero, a WWII veteran and a part of what Tom Brokaw called the Greatest Generation. My dad, Jack Widowsky, passed away in March. He was a second lieutenant in the Army Air Corp, the predecessor of the Air Force, and served on both atomic bombing missions. At the time of his passing at age 95 ½, he was the second to last survivor of the squadron that had dropped both atomic bombs on Japan.

The first I heard of Dad's role was when I was in the 3rd grade, and we were assigned to find out what our parents did in the war.

On December 7, 1941, a day that President Roosevelt would call a "date which will live in infamy," Dad was 19, a high school graduate, and had just entered the workforce. Pearl Harbor had been bombed by Japan. Almost 2500 Americans lost their lives, and over 1000 were injured. The US was now at War.

Dad enlisted on October 22, 1942 and was called to active duty in January of 1943. He was one of approximately 500,000 Jewish men and women enlisted in the Armed Services, and one of about 280,000 from New Jersey.

Dad trained in Atlantic City, where, in his words, he spent the winter of '42-'43 pounding the pavements and doing push-ups and sit ups; Nashville, Tennessee; Fairmount, Nebraska; the University of Vermont; and Selman Field, Louisiana, where he graduated from one of two navigation schools in the country.

In 1944, Colonel Paul Tibbets, Jr., an experienced veteran of European bomber operations, had received orders to prepare a new unit to fly the first atomic bombing missions against Germany or Japan.

During the war, scientists were working feverishly on the Manhattan Project to develop an atomic bomb capability. The work resulted in both a uranium and a plutonium weapon.

On July 16, 1945 the first nuclear device ever was detonated in the Trinity Test over the New

Mexico desert.

Tibbets assembled a carefully picked crew called the 509th Composite Group, a self-contained unit with an extensive cadre of support personnel. Their training ground was in the Utah desert, on the Nevada border near the Utah salt mines, in the small town of Wendover. Dad was part of the 393rd bomb squadron of the 509th composite group.

Only Tibbets knew their highly classified mission, and the group was strictly segregated from the other units. According to Dad, they knew they were training for something special that would end the war, but they did not know what it was. In fact, they were on a "need to know" basis. Dad told me that someone in the group spoke about the group and was promptly kicked out of the unit.

By 1944, the southwest Pacific was largely under Allied control. The Mariana Islands were a valuable asset, since they were close enough to Japan for the new, technologically advanced B-29 bombers to reach the mainland. Troops constructed airfields in preparation for air strikes on Japan itself including Tinian in the Northern Marianas.

The 509th arrived on Tinian in June of 1945 and went through an intensive training regimen.

They trained on fifteen B-29s, all with specific, iconic names and nose art to match. Some examples were Straight Flush, Full House, Necessary Evil. My Dad's training plane was called "Top Secret."

HIROSHIMA

On August 6, in a shroud of secrecy, the B-29 bomber plane Enola Gay took off from Tinian's North Field. On that fateful day, Dad's group, with him as Navigator, was assigned to a plane called The Big Stink (not his usual plane Top Secret). His plane flew to, and stayed on Iwo Jima, as the backup plane to the Enola Gay, should it run into trouble. As we know, the Enola Gay fulfilled its mission by dropping the first wartime atomic bomb, and returned victoriously to Tinian. Dad returned with the crew of Big Stink. He told us many times that his crew missed the beer and hot dog celebration for a successful mission. He and the others only learned what had happened over Hiroshima from President Truman's announcement.

NAGASAKI

The bombing of Hiroshima did not bring the desired results of surrender by the Japanese. The US prepared for its second secret attack on August 9, 1945.

The world knows that the second city that was bombed was Nagasaki. In fact, the mission became familiarly known as the Nagasaki mission. However, most people do not know the part of history leading up to that bombing.

The original target was not Nagasaki, but Kokura, a city on the northern part of the island of Kyushu.

Dad was the navigator on the plane known as Laggin' Dragon, one of two advance reconnaissance weather planes. The plane carrying the second atomic bomb, the world's first plutonium bomb, was named Bockscar. Clouds covered the arms factory target in Kokuro on that fateful day. The radar scope on Bockscar was locked

on to Kokura, but the orders were to drop the bomb only on visual identification of the target.

Bockscar gave up on Kokura after passing over it three times. The crew was prepared for the flash of an atomic explosion with special goggles and went on to its secondary target, Nagasaki, which was also partly obscured by clouds, but not quite enough to prevent a visual identification of the backup target.

The plutonium bomb was the most powerful blast the world had ever seen, significantly more so than the one three days earlier when a uranium bomb destroyed Hiroshima.

Ironically, before the planned attack on Aug. 9, Kokura was also the backup target on Aug. 6. So - if Hiroshima had been clouded over, the first atomic bomb would have been dropped on Kokura.

A few years ago, the Weather Channel produced a program called "**When Weather Changed History**". Dad was interviewed for the segment about how weather indeed changed history in WW2 by changing the target of the second atomic bombing.

For the past 25 or so years, Dad made it his mission to do his part to keep the memory of America's role in WW2 and the importance of the atomic missions alive.

He attended reunions of the 509th in military site cities throughout the US, such as Oak Ridge TN, Albuquerque NM, Wichita KN, Washington DC, a reunion in 1998 in Tinian, Air Shows throughout the Northeast. (Reading, PA, and Greenwood Lake and Teterboro Airport in NJ). In the past few years when it became difficult for him to travel, he spoke at local groups such as the Jewish War Veterans, at local Memorial and Veteran's Day events, and Canal Walk Adult Community in Somerset, just two months before his passing. He was slated to be the Grand Marshal in the 2018 Memorial Day parade in Somerset.

He made it his mission to dispel, when challenged, any notions that the atomic bombings were wrong. He was so proud to report to us after an event that people had come over to him to thank him for his service and his part in saving the life of a father, a brother, a fiancé, by avoiding an American invasion of the Japanese mainland, where it was estimated that 400,000 - 800,000 American servicemen would have perished.

Dad was interviewed by the Rutgers Oral History Project (and was posthumously honored by them in April), and the Atomic Heritage Foundation, (*Voices of the Manhattan Project*).

His mission to educate as many people as possible had been fulfilled.

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The Kagal Family
Raphael Sason
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The Wohl Family
Thelma Zalewicz

Words from Sephardic Shabbat

During Shabbat on January 25 and 26, EBJC held Sephardic Shabbat honoring Uziel Sason and Raymond and Adela Sasson. A number of individuals spoke during that Shabbat and their speeches are included here. Unfortunately, due to time and space constraints, some speeches could not be included in this issue and will be printed in next month's Recorder.

Matt Kaufman:

Decades ago I was sitting in Shul and I did not know who it was, but some young guy was davening. His melodic Middle Eastern "twang" made me close my eyes and float over dessert sands. It was beautiful!

Little did I know that this young guy with the haunting nusach was Uziel Sason. At the time, I did not know that he was from Turkey, that he had Chief Rabbis in his family, that his father was a master cabinet/furniture maker who passed his skills along to his boys. Nor did I know his beautiful wife nor the pure joys he had in his life along with the true sorrow that helped to make him the man he was.

We all saw the twinkle in his eyes and the smile across his lips that will always live with us. Some of us were lucky enough to work beside him and learn from him in his shop and to see the vast amount of knowledge he picked up from his father and along his journeys from the east coast to the Midwest and back again. Some knew that his work was part of displays in museums and aristocratic homes and hugely successful businesses around the country. And some are lucky enough to have a piece of his work, his art, in our homes.

Some of us kvelled along with him when the Rabbi said, "Uzi, what page?" and we got Mizmor L'Dovid or the "Toot-toot" song right during Seudat Shleesheet. How much fun and joy and goota n'shoma

did he add to our lives? It is immeasurable.

Uziel, ever the good friend and teacher, taught us how to say goodbye as well. When Uziel knew his physical time with us was drawing to an end, he reached out to many, in-person or by phone, to say, "I love you!" or simply, "Goodbye." His act, let us know that he knew what was happening and that those of us who loved him would know as well.

Uziel, we miss you and will not forget what you have done to make our lives brighter and more wonderful-and there is no place for a, "b'lee nedder," after this oath.

Rita Sason:

I want to thank the Rabbi, Cantor, Committee and Synagogue staff for organizing this Sephardic Shabbat Friday night service and meal as a tribute to Uziel.

Uziel saw EBJC as his second home. He found his connection adding an important spiritual connection to his life. Morning minyan, Gabi on Torah reading days, or giving "helpful" suggestions to those leading services. Several people have come up to tell me when they were reading Torah for the first time, or at their Bar Mitzvah, Uziel would remind them to read slowly and savor the words. His words continue to be on their minds when they are reading to this day.

Uziel also enjoyed his role as the "artist in residence". There are the projects that you can see throughout the building. The stain glass windows in the lobby, in the Beit Midrash, or the pennies in remem-

brance for the children who of the Holocaust, are examples. But Uziel had his hand in other projects. Whenever there was an artistic project within the Synagogue Uziel would be consulted for his artist and craftsman skills. Where to place something, the design of a plaque, font or lighting, he would assist in the design.

Uziel saw EBJC as his home. He thought the hooks outside of the men's room were not ecstatically pleasing, so he took it down and made a new one. He thought the velvet cover on the cart that held the wine and challah was getting dirty, so he took it home, cleaned it and made a Plexiglas cover to protect the cloth.

His presence can be seen and felt throughout the Synagogue. People coming out today shows that his presence is continued to be felt at EBJC

Thank you for all that you did to make Sephardic Shabbat a success.

Jack Silverman:

Shabbat Shalom

Before I begin speaking about Raymond and Adela I would just like to say a word about Uziel Sasson whose memory we honored last night. I was truly blessed to share my Gabbai duties with him for over 10 years. He was a mensch in every sense of the word, quiet and unassuming. He had a joy that was infectious and calmness that had an air of Kavanah about it. He commanded your respect because that's exactly what he gave you. I was blessed to call him a partner but, more importantly a friend. I truly cherished that he always called me by my Hebrew name Yaakov Yisroel ben Tzvi. May his name be for a blessing and his Neshama have an Aliyah.

Where does one begin to speak about Raymond and Adela Sasson. We all know them through Raymond's work for the shul and Adela's work for Israel Bonds. But, that's not what I want to speak about. I want to speak of a young man who didn't know a soul in this community who had recently lost his mother and had a baby only 10 days later. If you hadn't guessed it was me. Raymond would look out for me every Sunday morning when I would come for Minyan to say Kaddish. In those days, on Sunday, we had breakfast after minyan which included bagels, cream cheese and sometimes scrambled eggs and of course coffee and orange juice. Raymond saw that I didn't drink coffee but only orange juice. Each week he'd say to me "Chochim sit, here's your juice". He made space for me and looked out for me. When my daughter Laura, was older, she'd come with me and he'd do the same for her. Raymond along with the other men who were long time members made me feel comfortable and I began to think of EBJC as my home.

Adela made an even bigger impact, for it was she, who invited Terri, Laura, and myself to one of their Shabbat dinners. If you have never eaten at Adela's Shabbat table well, then you haven't eaten. Most important about that dinner she connected with Laura who was shy and introverted. She got her to come out of her shell. To this day we still talk about it. In fact, if Adela is willing, I know another little girl who could use her touch, my granddaughter Sydney.

You see that's the thing about our relationship with the Sasson family, it spans generations just like they have spanned generations of the EBJC family.

This week's parsha Yitro tells us about how Yitro advised Moshe to have a structure in ministering to the people lest he wear himself out. He was really teaching Moshe about leadership. Well, Raymond and Adela have been leaders in our community for so many years. They have been quiet, unassuming and humble about it but, looking

out for us in their way. Their way of life is an example to us all. Raymond through his work in the shul and the cemetery and Adela through her work with Israel Bonds. On the scene, but not overtaking it. They do it with conviction, dignity and with grace. They have been role models for me and for everyone in our community.

We learn in the Talmud Tractate Shabbos 127a about reward for certain actions:

These are the precepts whose fruits a person enjoys in This World but whose principal remains intact for him in the World to come.* They are: honor due a father and mother, acts of kindness, early attendance at the house of study morning and evening, hospitality to guests, visiting the sick, providing for a bride, escorting the dead, absorption in prayer, bringing peace between man and his fellow- and the study of Torah is equivalent to them all.

This could have been written with them in mind.

Raymond and Adela are the very embodiment of our ancestors Avraham and Sarah. They welcome all to their home and their hand is stretched out in friendship. That is why we honor them here today. It's not their retirement from work but for the honor they bring by their presence in our community and for the grace and dignity which they bring to it.

It has truly been my honor to speak of them and what they mean to the community as well as what they mean to me and my family. Kol Hakavod to them both. May they both live to 120 and continue to be a beacon of light to our community.

Alexandra McManus:

Good Morning, I would like to thank you Rabbi Pivo and the committee for allowing me to speak on behalf of Israel Bonds on this special occasion. My name is Alexandra McManus and I'd like to start off by reading you a letter from Israel Maimon, President & CEO of Israel Bonds written to Adela upon her retirement.

For those who know Adela, these words only touch the surface of who she really is. I've worked at Israel Bonds for 20 years. When you've spent 20 years doing anything it becomes part of you and the people you associate with on a daily basis are not just co-workers they are friends that become family. We started working together in the same office in 2007 when she came to work in Livingston. I was so happy that she decided to come to Livingston but I knew the drive would be challenging especially on snowy winter days but selfishly I needed her to be part of the staff again. Even though she was new to our office, she soon became our anchor and our rock. She was the go to person who would never tell you no and would complete each task with ease and add her own very special flair known as what we called "boutique". As time passed, our friendship grew and I learned more about her and her wonderful family. The stories about her life in Columbia and Raymond growing up in the Sudan. I never got tired of hearing about their 3 beautiful daughters and those amazing grandchildren.

Our Mondays usually consisted of a review of the weekend...what did you cook and who did you have over for Shabbat dinner, how's the family with a breakdown of each grandchild that might include a text, email or photo or video. There were discussions of recipes of dishes made and often times a sampling of those exquisite dishes. She spoiled our office with theme lunches that she would prepare and bring in for us. One we all remember was hotdog day. We actually were just reminiscing about that meal the other day. So just in case you didn't know you are greatly missed and not just for your wonderful food.

(continued on page 28)

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Words from Sephardic Shabbat (cont.)

One thing that always stood out was her and Raymond's complete dedication and love for their family. They marvel at all of their accomplishments especially the grandchildren. I've always told her that they are the example of you and Raymond. You both set high standards, ethics, and morals which were instilled in Joanna, Nadine and Leslie that they then passed on to their children. You and Raymond set the path. L'dor vador. You are community leaders, you selflessly give of your time, you are always there to give a helping hand no matter what. I believe the word to describe you both is Mensch. With your steadfast commitment to Israel, the Jewish Community and Israel Bonds, Adela and Raymond Mazel Tov on this well-deserved honor.

Adela Sasson:

It is an honor for Raymond and me to be standing here this morning accepting this honor. Thank you Rabbi Pivo, Deena, Eric and all who were involved in deciding that we were deserving of this honor.

Two Saturdays ago, during kiddush, talking with Myra Feldman, she asked me if we were going to speak. "Speak?" I said. "Are we supposed to?"

On our way home I said to Raymond, are we supposed to say something when we are being honored. He said..

I don't know, what do you think,

I said maybe yes, and then in my mind I was already thinking of what I may want to say so, I said to Raymond,

"Do you mind if I speak?" He said "go ahead".

So here I am,

"Did you prepare your remarks?" asked Raymond.

"I have something in mind".

"Are you going to print them".

"I Probably will".

"Can I see them".

"Not sure I am going to print anything, I think I will just speak".

"Not sure you should do it that way".

And this went on for a couple of days, and you will see now why I did not want to share my remarks with Raymond. Never in a million years would he have allowed me to say what I am about to share with you.

First of all, What am I doing here?

I grew up in Bogota, Colombia in a very traditional and observant family, in a totally Ashkenazi environment. So what am I doing accepting an honor at a Sephardic Shabbat?. Well, I married Raymond, and our traditions began to intermingle. We did not replace leicach with baklava, we added. We did not replace gefilte fish with kibbeh, we added, we did not replace kreplach with sambusak, we added, and, so we created new traditions, colorful and meaningful, we embraced them and love them, our scope expanded and became richer in so many ways.

Again, I am asking what am I doing here, when Raymond is the one that deserves this honor. I am grateful that the congregation has chosen to recognize the work that Raymond has done for the shul and the EBJC community.

Since the time we joined EBJC Raymond was determined to make

sure that his was going to be the place where we would be at home in terms of fulfilling our spiritual needs, and where our children would get a solid Jewish education.

He has served this synagogue in almost every capacity, some of them for more than one term. He was treasurer, he was chairman of the board of ed, he was chairman of the religious committee, he was chairman of ways a means, he was involved in planning and was a member of the committee for every event the shul would have. In fulfilling his obligations for whatever task, he committed to do, there were always the additional tasks that he would perform on a daily basis that did not fall into any specific category.

Yes, I am going to be in trouble for saying all these things, but while I am at it, and with your indulgence I will go on for a few more minutes.

When Raymond started working as the Financial administrator, it was never a 9 to 5 job. Raymond was always in the shul at 6 AM or earlier, and never home before 10 to 7. Yes, I don't know why, but 10 to 7 that was the magic hour, but then there were the nightly minyans, the board meetings, seldom coming back home before 10 or 11.

He truly gave his heart and soul to the EBJC community and to any tasks he undertook.

However, I have to tell you, it was not a one-way street..... we in turn received back ten-fold the heart and soul of the EBJC community. When we first joined, we did not know anybody, we were new in the community, people we saw were just faces, and then we put names to these faces, and these faces became friends, and these friends became family, truly family in the full sense of the word. Teachers and Sassons were a merge, and I don't know if Raymond was happier for getting Jeremy as his son in law or getting Freddy as his mehtuten. (still debating, sorry Jeremy)We rejoiced and celebrated together with our EBJC family and friends, we consoled and were here for each other in times of need. Together we forged a place where we were able to instill in our children a sense of community, a sense of responsibility, the importance of tradition and tzedakah, the importance of Tikun olam. they saw by example what it meant to be a community, lessons that they have taken to heart and now they are builders, again in the full sense of the word, and active members in their own respective communities, whether in Toronto, Chicago or Tenafly, or in Israel where our grandson is a lone soldier. Our children have instilled in their own children the lesson learned here at EBJC, enhancing their lives as well.

L'dor V'dor.

Lo Alecha hamalach leegmor – V'lo ata ben choreen - Li'hi ba tel mee mena

"It is not your responsibility to finish the work, but neither are you free to desist from it" - Pirke Avot

So we continue

Just one more thing, last night we paid tribute to the memory of a dear friend and esteemed member of the EBJC community. Uziel Sason. Z'l He left us way too early..... Rita, Rebecca, Judy and Debra I know you are aware of the love and respect we all had for Uziel. We pray that his memory continues to be a blessing for all of you and also for all of us at EBJC. We miss him every time we are in shul and look to the right of our pew.

Thank you, Toda Raba, shukra, and gracias to all

Hazak U Baruch

Shabbat Shalom



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ANNUAL TORAH FUND SERVICE AND DINNER FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019 6:00 PM

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enters its second century, Torah Fund begins its 77th year, and the State of Israel enters its 71st year. We look forward with joy to our future together with you, our sisterhood members and supporters of Torah Fund

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In addition, *as always*, we honor a member who gives her heart and soul to our Sisterhood and to the Synagogue.

DETAILS AND RSVP INFORMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING!!

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

Hazak

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

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

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

Tentative dates for programs are as follows:

February 18 , 2019 Monday Lunch 12:00

March 24, 2019 Sunday Brunch 10:30

April 15, 2019 Monday Lunch 12:00

May 16, 2019 Thursday Dinner 6:00

June 23, 2019 Sunday Brunch 10:30

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

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