



the RECORDER

EAST BRUNSWICK  JEWISH CENTER

JANUARY 2023

TEVET - SHEVAT

VOLUME # 128



SHABBAT SERVICES

Services are currently being held in-person and on Zoom at the following times. To join the stream GO TO DROP DOWN MENU - LINKS TO SERVICES AND MINYANIM.

Friday Evenings

1/6	4:25 p.m.
1/13	4:35 p.m.
1/20	4:40 p.m.
1/27	4:50 p.m.

Saturday Mornings
9:30 a.m.

JANUARY 7
Vayechi

JANUARY 14
Shemot

JANUARY 21
Vaera

JANUARY 28
Bo

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UPCOMING DATES

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 Kesef, PO Box 418, Montvale, NJ 07645.
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 are experiencing difficulty paying your dues or if you'd like to pay on a specific schedule, please call Ellen at 732-257-7070 x5. We are always here for you and are happy to help in any way we can.

SHABBAT SERVICES

Shabbat services are in-person (also offered via Zoom). Friday evening service times can be found on the cover of the Recorder as well as on the EBJC website calendar, and Saturday morning services are at 9:30 a.m. The link to join can be found on our website at ebjc.org/online-events

OFFICE HOURS

The office is currently staffed Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Fridays from 9 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

January 12, Thursday, Noon Luncheon - Linda Kenyon returns as Eleanor Roosevelt!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Ever on the search for interesting programming, please note the following events: On January 8th we have our Unsung Heroes breakfast, Men's Club annual blood drive and the 7th annual Wine & Food experience. On January 12th we have part 2 of the FilmShul series: "From the Catskills with Love" and on January 29th we have part 2 of the Travel Series: "The Anne Frank House in Amsterdam".

Most of our 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 and descriptions for all programs will be in Tidbits and on the EBJC website homepage.



THE CONGREGATION CONGRATULATES:

Shirley and Arthur Wachtel on the birth of their granddaughter, Stella Betty
Dorna Silverman and Steve Weinberg on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Yehuda Meir Weinmartin
David Libowsky on being named Men's Club Man of the Year
Jessica Miner on being named Men's Club Youth of the Year
Macaria Pelofsky on being named Men's Club Youth of the Year
Gail and Gary Appelbaum on the birth of their granddaughter, Gemma Blake
Rachel & Dan Rozett on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noam

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

Gail Rubin on the loss of her husband, Stanley Rubin
Jill Rubin on the loss of her father, Stanley Rubin
Mindy Kleinberg on the loss of her father, Stanley Rubin
Moshe Weiss on the loss of his wife, Hanna

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students and teachers!*



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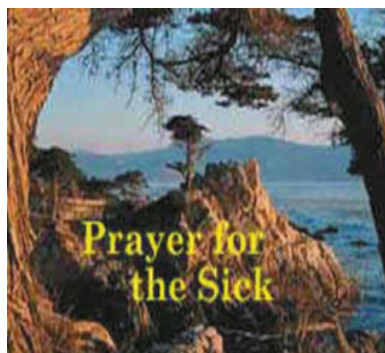


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HevraTehillim - a "Psalm Fellowship"

Join us for a healing prayer circle for EBJC members, as we recite from the Book of Psalms in English and Hebrew. We gather each week to chant psalms together to pray for the sick and ask for their healing. 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.

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
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100 Perrine Road
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Tel: (732) 316-0900
www.paacnj.com



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

January 8, 9:30am - Men's Club will be sponsoring a breakfast to honor our Unsung Heroes. This year's heroes are Cheryl Decker and Nicole Cavalli. This event is free, but registration is requested.

January 8th, 8am - 2:30pm - Men's Club will be sponsoring our annual EBJC Blood Drive. Giving blood literally saves lives, so giving blood is a real mitzvah.

January 8th, 6:00pm - The 7th Annual Wine and Food Experience is once again a live event. Enjoy some fine wines, a sumptuous buffet and live entertainment by Ashley Blaker.

January 12th, 8:30pm - FilmShul 3-Part Series. Part 2 - "From the Catskills with Love"

January 29th, 1:00pm - This six part series takes us all over the Jewish World. Part 2 will be "The Anne Frank House in Amsterdam".

HAZAK DATES FOR THE YEAR

Programs will be announced

January 12	Thursday, Noon Luncheon - Linda Kenyon returns as Eleanor Roosevelt!
February 12	Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Brunch - John Kenrick - Mel Brooks - Who Knew, Right?
March 16	Thursday, Noon Luncheon
April 20	Thursday - Noon Luncheon
May 18	Thursday - Noon Luncheon
June 15	Thursday, 6:00 p.m. Dinner - Larry Wolfert returns with his talk on Joan Rivers - Rude, Obnoxious and Funny!

Hazak is sponsored by Jewish Family Services of Middlesex, and Federation in the Heart of New Jersey. Speakers and entertainment is provided at no charge by East Brunswick Jewish Center

RABBINIC REFLECTIONS



A recent Pew study suggests that the era of a Christian majority in America is rapidly approaching. Attendance at religious services is plummeting, as is affiliation with a house of worship, particularly among young adults (sound familiar?) Pew suggests that self-identified Christians will be less than 50% of the population, perhaps as soon as the year 2040. The drop-off in religious affiliation is a huge concern for Jews directly: If our own young people do not join synagogues, there will soon be few synagogues left. But another question must also be asked: Is the diminishment of American Christianity good for the Jews?

On one level, it is tempting to say yes. Jews have suffered under Christian majorities for centuries, in many lands. As the majority religion, the church as an institution and individual Christians often made life difficult for Jews. So we would be excused for feeling some kind of relief that the Christian era may be passing, that the suffering that

Jews associate with it will also pass.

We must resist such thinking. For one thing, we could easily imagine an alternative history in which Christianity never existed, where some other majority religious system (Roman paganism, Zoroastrianism, Islam) was just as widespread and influential. Would Jews have suffered less throughout history? I would suspect not. More to the point, despite our history of tears, and the current rise of antisemitic incidents here and abroad, there are more Jews now than in the time of King David, and Jews have been accepted into all fields of human endeavor, many times excelling in circles where we were previously excluded. In some ways, there has never been a better time to be a Jew, and part of the reason for that is the great change in how Christianity has come to view Judaism over the last 70 years.

Simply put, most mainstream American Christians understand that non-Christians are equal citizens, with equal rights. Attitudes toward Jews have shifted both above, in official Christian theological circles, and below, in the attitudes of the average Christian. They may still believe ardently in their own tradition, but they do so less and at the expense of competing beliefs. Having served on interfaith councils in three different communities, I can tell you that despite theological differences, most Christian clergy are fully supportive of the Jews, of

Israel, and of Judaism. There is some concern that a weaker American Christianity may lead to a weakened sense of respect for Jews.

But perhaps the coming multicultural era will also be a time of growth for Judaism. As the majority religious culture wanes, maybe there will be more space to make the case for a vibrant and expanding Jewish community. If even the reality of a majority religion itself fades, and America becomes “majority minority” religiously and ethnically, this may be a time of great flowering for American Jews. We already see that non-practicing Christians are very much interested in marrying Jews (and vice versa); perhaps it is time to map out how to capture some of that good will to the advantage of Judaism. Is it too much to hope that Jews become, if not a majority, a much larger minority in America? What would that mean for issues of justice, of fairness, of inclusiveness? Let’s think big: If one of five Americans were Jewish, how would that affect the nation, and how would it affect our Jewish religion and culture?

In some ways, the coming demographic changes will challenge us as Jews. But if we approach these changes with good will, and even with a joyous affirmation of Jewish life, the outcome may yet be one that is very good indeed for the Jews.

Rabbi Jeff Pivo



There are times when nothing goes exactly as one had anticipated. There are times when one must make a sacrifice for the betterment of all, as opposed to personal gain. There are times when one must act, as opposed to waiting to see what may be handed to them.

There is a story that I read about not taking the easy way in life and assuming that things will just happen. Better to take on the responsibility to ensure things happen for the best of the situation and what will be the best for everyone.

"The Garden of Eden had everything. Bears and monkeys, fish and butterflies, everything. Even the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were there. Nothing ever died in the garden, so of course nothing was ever born to replace it. The Garden of Eden had everything, but everything was always just the same.

One day, Adam and Eve came upon a crack in the big wall that surrounded the garden. Looking through the crack, they saw that in the brown dust outside the garden a tomato plant was

growing. At first, they could hardly recognize it. In the garden, all the tomato plants were tall and full and green with many big red tomatoes on each stem. What they saw through the crack in the wall was a puny and shriveled up little thing with just one tiny green tomato barely hanging on to one of the stems.

Every day, Adam and Eve would come to the crack and peep through to see how the only thing growing outside the Garden of Eden was doing. One day the little tomato plant drooped over and turned brown.

Adam looked at Eve and said, 'It never looked good, but now it looks worse.' Eve looked at Adam and said, 'Whatever could have happened to it?'

They sat there for a long time, peeping through the crack in the wall at the little tomato plant that had drooped over and turned brown.

After a long while, Gd spoke to them saying, 'The tomato plant is dead.' Adam and Eve cried. They asked Gd, 'Why did it have to die? Nothing dies here in the garden.' But Gd would not answer this question no matter how many times they asked.

So, they became angry at Gd. They demanded that Gd let them out of the Garden of Eden so they could take care of the tomato plant. Gd said to them, 'You can leave, but you can not come back.'

Well, Adam and Eve got up and walked right out of the garden

and right over to the little tomato plant that had drooped over and turned brown. Inside the garden nothing needed help, and even though outside the garden everything needed help, they were not sorry that they could not return.

Adam picked up the tiny green tomato and Eve planted it in the brown dust. For many days they watered the ground, kept the weeds away, and waited.

Then it happened! A green shoot poked up through the dusty ground, and in a few days it became a tomato plant! Full and green with many big red tomatoes on each stem!

In the days that followed, when the man and the woman looked at the strong new tomato plant, they would also think of the scraggly little plant they had once peeked at through the crack in the wall. It was a funny feeling. They were happy and sad at the very same time."

Sometimes we must look beyond the small cracks and see the bigger picture of what needs to be done. It is not about what "I" need, rather it should always be about what "we" need. It is about making decisions that affect more than just our own lives, but also the lives around us.

Together, we can grow into a big, ripe, beautiful, and caring community.

Cantor Larry I. Brandspiegel

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



For close to 35 years, my family has been going to Orlando and spending a week or two in our time share, Vistana. In the early years, we took my mom and Rob's mom and we visited the parks, swam, and enjoyed the getaway. We never felt we had to be in the parks every day. As we came every year, there was no need to make everyone miserable. 35 years ago, the park passes were good forever. You could get a 5-day hopper and use it over 3 or more years! We visited Disney, Sea World and then Universal. Every year the parks grew, adding new sections to entice park goers. Every year the parks, especially Disney, got more and more expensive. They took away the passes that were good forever. They stopped selling a one-day park hopper. Parking fees kept going up. The lines for each popular ride became a wait of 1 or two hours! They had to invent entertainment while waiting on line so that you wouldn't want to kill everyone. Then they invented the Fast Pass. For free, you could stand at a kiosk and get up to four fast passes. This gave you the ability to scoot right on the ride and eliminate the wait on four of your favorite rides. Then, two years ago, they started charging for the fast pass...\$20.00 each, I think. So, a family of four not only has to pay \$2,000 just to enter the park,

they now have to pay another \$80 just to be able to get on some rides or attractions! Disney pretty much charges for everything now. Things that were free 30 years ago you now have to pay to do or see. Disney actually issued a warning...if you can't be nice, don't come. Well, I think when people are pushed to their limits, they have difficulty being nice. I no longer go to the parks. I've had enough. My kids may go... but I don't. Even though I'd love to experience the parks through the eyes of my grandchildren, I just can't do it. I'm annoyed with Disney. I'm annoyed with their Greed. Do they do good on occasion? Yes, I'm aware...but the millions that visit their parks are asked to fork over thousands of dollars for just a few days in the park. I'd rather go on a Mediterranean cruise. It's about the same price. I'm lucky we got to experience the Disney parks in the earlier years when it was more family oriented and less greedy.

Let's circle back to EBJC. I have been here for a bit over 7 years. Granted, we're not a theme park with rides and attractions on a Disney scale, but what a bargain we are compared to Disney! Our "entrance" fee hasn't gone up in four years and most of the "attractions" are included even though that entrance fee doesn't cover the expenses of running EBJC. So, yes, there are times we do charge for an event or a dinner and yes, donations into the EBJC "park" are greatly appreciated, but never mandated. And we do one thing that Disney doesn't do... offer discounted rates for those that want to come, would love to enjoy our events, but can't afford it. 25% of our members receive discounted membership. We don't ask for proof of earnings; we don't make you fill out dozens of forms. We accept you at your word

and welcome you with open arms! Can you imagine going to the Disney site and asking for a discount because the entrance fee is just unaffordable? I don't think so.

We all make choices as to where our hard-earned dollars are spent. My decision not to spend it on Disney is a choice. My decision to belong to a synagogue is a choice. I have very strong feelings about supporting Jewish institutions and especially local synagogues. Synagogues are struggling to "reinvent themselves". How do you attract young families who feel they do not need a spiritual or social connection? How do you create a dues model that is "voluntary" or based on income or what one "feels" is the right amount? How do you do this while trying to keep the doors open? Salaries still need to be paid, utilities still need to be paid, maintenance and upkeep on aging buildings is costly...what do you do? There are no simple answers to these questions. We have to keep trying to involve our community and remind our members of how special they are to us. We have to reach out and engage. If you have ideas or thoughts as to how to sustain our shul, let us know. We are always exploring and seeking to improve. We want you safely back in our building. We want you involved! Share your thoughts. Give me a call. I am always open to exploring new ways and methods of keeping our community together!

May you be well,
Ellen

FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



Happy New Year!

It has always fascinated me that after the celebrations that accompany New Year's Eve, many people use the New Year as an opportunity for self-improvement. They make all kinds of resolutions for the New Year. Gym memberships spike during this time, but very often the zeal and commitment is short lived. After a few weeks, many of us throw in the proverbial towel and revert to our old habits. Goals are not always easy to achieve. But despite that, we continue to at least try, even if some of us wait until next January to make another effort.

Many people have asked me what I expected to accomplish by being the co-president of EBJC. I have always said that I just wanted to make the place better, a center that we can all be proud of.

Although we still have many challenges, I feel that we are moving in the right direction. The Executive Board has been indispensable in giving me and Jack advice and direction as we move forward. Still, I cannot stress enough the

importance of having all members of the congregation supporting us, not only financially, but supporting our programs, activities and religious services.

The East Brunswick Jewish Center is not a campus or building. It is a kahal, a community of people, who believe in Jewish values, Jewish peoplehood, and Jewish religious practice as essential parts of our lives. As I said on Yom Kippur, it is about people. We are nothing without people.

So, if you still haven't made a New Year's resolution, or you want to add on another one, how about improving yourself physically, or spiritually or both. Yes, we have Jazzercise, Israeli Dance and an active Pickleball club in EBJC. We also have programs for every age category. We have ongoing classes covering many aspects of Judaism and Jewish life. And yes, we have services every day of the week. On Shabbat, our Rabbi and Cantor enlighten and enrich the services.

Make 2023 the year that YOU make the resolution, not only to be a member, but to be an active participant.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Steve Wohl
Co-president

SISTERHOOD



New Year/New You, right? Well, one important resolution is to strengthen your ties to the community, and Sisterhood is the perfect way to get involved. We offer lots of opportunities to reacquaint with old friends and meet new ones. Plus, you will reap the benefits of giving of yourself.

There is still time to join Sisterhood and become part of an active 86-member-strong fellowship of wonderful women. Simply send your check for \$36, made out to EBJC Sisterhood, to the synagogue, attention Cindy Rabinowitz. A gift of Sisterhood membership is also the perfect way to honor a special woman in your life—mother, daughter, friend, aunt, niece, cousin, or neighbor—they will all thank you for your thoughtfulness.

On the Horizon--

Our next Book Club selection is the first in the iconic Decker/Lazarus mystery series by Faye Kellerman. Join us in reading *The Ritual Bath* to learn how this popular series began. "Detective Peter Decker of the LAPD is stunned when he gets the report. Someone has shattered the sanctuary of a remote yeshiva community in the California hills with an unimaginable crime." Are you

intrigued? Please join us at our next (Spring) meeting date to be announced.

Don't forget to email Sara Ullman at sarajull366@gmail.com if you have future books in mind, or if you'd like to lead one of our sessions. Carol Landa has graciously agreed to headline an upcoming group; details to follow.

Rabbi Pivo's popular Winter Education Miniseries returns with a new theme—Women of the Megilot. Hear the engaging stories of Esther, Ruth, and others, and learn their distinct legacies. Join us Thursdays January 19, February 16, and March 16 at 7 pm.

Sunday, January 15, 2023—In-person bagels and shmears Book and Author Breakfast in partnership with Congregation Beth Ohr Sisterhood in Old Bridge. Hear from author Debra Green about her exciting new novel *The Convention of Wives*, which scored the #1 position on Amazon's list of upcoming Jewish historical fiction. RSVP to Lisa Mason at Folfy4@gmail.com. Optional \$5 couvert, or sponsor the event for \$10.



Sunday, January 29, 2023—Special event, co-sponsored by Men's Club and Keshet, featuring debut author Michelle Weinfeld, an offspring of EBJC. Michelle has written a fascinating new book, *Generation to Generation*,



profiling her grandfather's Holocaust experience. Brunch is included. Please join us.

Our 2022-2023 Torah Fund Campaign—Chazak V'Ematz—is going strong. We are currently at 82 percent of our goal and are performing better than we did at this same time last year. We are so grateful to those who have already demonstrated their steadfast dedication to this cause.

Torah Fund celebrates its triumphant 80th anniversary this year. Please support the education of our future Conservative Jewish leaders by donating generously. In recognition of its 80th anniversary, Torah Fund offers the opportunity to upgrade your usual contribution with a "Plus \$80" option to mark this milestone and maximize the benefit of your donation.

Please contact Torah Fund Chair Anne Kroll at selectivemedia@comcast.net to make a Torah Fund pledge and earmark your support.

And stay tuned for details about our upcoming spectacular Torah Fund event this spring. Who will be our 2023 Eshet Chayil (Woman of Valor)?

PURCHASING SCRIP IS AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT SISTERHOOD! We currently have gift cards on hand to Shoprite, Acme and Lox, Stock and Deli. We extend our sincere thanks to those congregants who regularly purchase these gift cards. Contact Cheryl Decker at 732-257-7070.

Check out our Sisterhood Judaica Shop for all your needs—tallisim, kiddush cups, mezuzot, religious

SISTERHOOD

jewelry, head coverings....the list goes on and on. The shop is the perfect source for housewarming, bar/bat mitzvah, and baby gifts. If you have something special in mind, we can probably order it for you. Contact Cindy Rollman at cinpepper1@aol.com.

As we embark on a new secular year, we extend heartfelt best wishes to all our Sisterhood members, fellow congregants, clergy, staff, and friends

of EBJC. May 2023 bring good health and fulfillment to all.

Warm regards,

Sara Ullman

Immediate Past Sisterhood
Co-President



TORAH FUND

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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Announcing

Our 2022-2023 Chazak v'Ematz Campaign

Be Strong and Courageous

We summon strength and fortitude in these changing times to continue to make an important impact at our global Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher education: Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Schechter Institutes, Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano and Zacharias Frankel College.

Your generosity helps provide essential scholarships and programs to train future leaders of the Jewish community. Torah Fund helps develop future rabbis, cantors, educators, synagogue administrators, social workers, scholars, researchers, lay leaders and others.

When you support Torah Fund, you help educate students in New York, Los Angeles, Israel, Latin America and Europe—and you align with those who value knowledge, learning and providing the future generation with relevant skills to enrich the Jewish people.

Visit www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund

This pin symbolizes the story of the Israelites preparing to enter the Promised Land, when the leadership transitions from Moses to Joshua. The Israelites and Joshua are instructed to "be strong and courageous" (Deuteronomy 31:6, 7, 23; Joshua 1:6, 7, 9, 18). The 5783 Torah Fund pin represents 80 years of ever-increasing strength of Torah Fund.



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Questions?

Please call Anne Kroll at 732-735-1616
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Please make checks payable to Torah Fund
and send to Anne Kroll

20 Buckingham Drive
East Brunswick, NJ 08816

**Thanking you in advance for your meaningful donation
in ensuring the education of future Jewish Leaders!**

Please add \$80 to your contribution in honor of the Torah Fund 80th anniversary.

The dedicated philanthropy of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Torah Fund supports scholarships and programs in the worldwide Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher Jewish learning.

TORAH FUND

3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027
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www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund • torahfund@jtsa.edu

MEN'S CLUB

Shalom:

Men's Club has information on all of our upcoming activities at our web page at ebjc.org/mens-club. Please see this page anytime for information about our upcoming events.

Men's Club recently hosted a fascinating Zoom session about the Ritchie Boys, German Jews who helped the U.S. WW II war effort by using their German fluency to spy on the Nazis. Inge Gross's husband was a Ritchie Boy. For a replay link, contact Howard Jacobs at howardjacobs@ebjc.org.

On Dec. 11 Men's Club honored David Libowsky as our Man of the Year and Jessica Miner and Macaria Pelofsky as Youths of the Year. Our congratulations and thanks to all three for their commitment to EBJC.



Men's Club's annual **Blood Drive** is being held on Sun., Jan. 8 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at EBJC. Please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/EBJCblood2023>. Advance signups are encouraged but not required.

Also on Jan. 8 at 9:30 am we have our annual **Unsung Heroes** program honoring Cheryl Decker and Nicole Cavalli, the people who keep EBJC running. Free breakfast included. Please RSVP at <https://www.ebjc.org/heroes>.



On Sun., Jan. 29 our own Michelle Weinfeld will discuss her new book, "From Generation to Generation: A Memoir of Food, Family, and Identity in the Aftermath of the Shoah." It is available on Amazon. For more info, please go to <https://ebjc.org/generation>.

On Sun., Feb. 12 (Super Bowl Sunday) Men's Club hosts our annual World Wide Wrap. Please look for more info in coming weeks or at <https://www.ebjc.org/world-wide-wrap>.

Yom HaShoa starts on the evening of April 17. Please let us know if you can assist with our annual Yellow Candle distribution in memory of this tragic event.

Pickleball has moved indoors into the EBJC Activity Center starting at 1:45 pm on Fridays. Contact Joel Greengarten at jgg998@comcast.net for more

information. All are welcome to participate. EBJC and the MC want to thank Steven and Leora Meller and Champion Sports of Marlboro for their generous contribution in getting indoor pickleball at EBJC started. There are also other Common Interest Activities (C.I.A.) available cosponsored by Men's Club: hiking, cooking, gardening and biking. Please contact Ken Gerson (kgerson7@gmail.com) for more info.

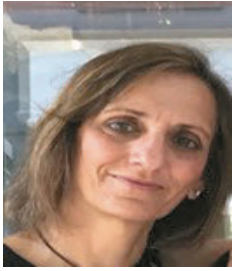
Don't forget about our Entertainment App coupon offering. To sign-up, please go to mensclub@ebjc.org and look for the link. For more details, contact Lloyd Shepetin at leshepetin@aol.com.

We are always interested in new ideas for activities for our membership. We are especially interested in sponsoring events of interest to members with children. Please let us know if you have any ideas for events. We would like to hear your ideas and make them a reality.

Men's Club looks forward to seeing you at our upcoming activities. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to get involved.

Marty Hoffman, Arthur Fliegelman, Howard Jacobs and Neil Kosher
mensclub@ebjc.org

CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING



One little, two little,
three little candles..
On my Hanukkah
menorah! The Gozalm
class is feeling the
Hanukkah spirit!



The Tziporim class spent as
much time as they could
outside! It will probably be a
while before it is warm
enough to play outside again.



The Parparim class has
also enjoyed getting ready
for Hanukkah! They have
been super busy making
special Hanukkah gifts for
their families!

KESHER AND YOUTH GROUPS



Hello Keshet and Youth Families,

This month of January brings with it the beginning of the second half of the year. How time flies!

We resume classes after the winter break on Wednesday, January 4th. As with all months, there are special days with a celebration or commemoration. We will not have classes on Sunday, January 15th in honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend.

We will have our Chaverim, Kadima, and USY Youth Night on Wednesday, January 18th. If your children are not involved, please encourage them to attend. We have wonderful social programming for our kids to be surrounded by their Jewish friends. Our future Jewish youth and programs are dependent upon all of our youth's participation.

We will have a Friday night Family Service on January 28th at 7pm. I encourage all our families to attend. We not only sing through the prayers, but we also have wonderful discussions. Once again, this is a strong part of our children's learning and a way for all our families to connect, particularly on Shabbat.

At the end of the month, on Sunday morning, January 29th, we will have a wonderful opportunity for our parents, and the students of the Vav and Zayin classes (6th and 7th grades). We will be joining with our Men's Club, Sisterhood, and the congregation to hear one of our own, Michelle Weinfeld, speak about her newly published book. Michelle wrote this book about her grandfather's life through the Holocaust from a grandchild's lens. There will be more information forthcoming about the breakfast and talk. Please RSVP when the information comes out. This is sure to be an enlightening program. More so, it is a way for our children to connect, so that we really can insure the concept of "Never Again," particularly with what is happening in the world today.

There is so much more to come. Always look for emails and information about upcoming programs and events. EBJC is here for you, and we need all of you to be here for EBJC.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at cantorlarry@ebjc.org.

~Cantor Larry

From our Youth Advisor, Erin Kaplan.....

East Brunswick Jewish Center's three youth groups, including Chaverim (4th to 5th grade), Kadima (6th to 8th grade), and USY (9th to 12th grade) came together on November 16 for the annual EBJC/EBUSY Thanksgiving/ Social Action Tikkun Olam (SATO) event. This included 4 Chaverim, 6 Kadima, and 9 USY members, totaling 19 participants.

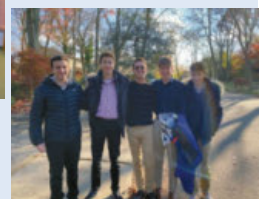
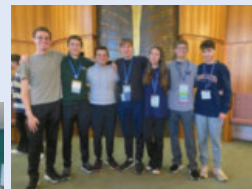
USYers led a dynamic event involving three mitzvah projects. Participants brought cash donations for Make a Wish Foundation (they raised \$63), wrote Hanukkah cards to send to the Jewish Soldiers Project (they made 24 cards), and bagged toiletries for Jewish Family Services of Middlesex County (24 filled gallon-sized ziplock bags).

Participants enjoyed pizza and listening to a speech given by USY leaders about the meaning behind the USY "pillar" of SATO as well as the impact the nonprofit organizations featured in the mitzvah project do for the community. It was beautiful seeing the three groups work together.

From USYer, Ophir Filhar

On November 16, EBUSY (East Brunswick USY chapter) had our Thanksgiving back event, where our goal was to help give back to our community. During this event we packed toiletries for the JFS (Jewish Family Services). The JFS helps older people, gives mental health assistance, gives food insecurity services, and does basic needs assistance. Toiletries fall under the basic needs category. We also wrote cards for soldiers, thanking them for their service.

On November 19, several USY regions, including Hagalil (New Jersey) hosted a regional convention in West Orange, New Jersey. This Shabbaton lasted from Friday afternoon until Sunday. During the convention, teens joined together in prayer, learned about their Jewish identity, and had a lot of fun while doing it. Throughout the weekend there were several "Sichot"(conversations), as well as ruach and slouch, where the teens sang Jewish songs together.



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 WITH DR. JUDAH LANDA

Mondays | 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. 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. 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 WITH DR. JUDAH LANDA

Wednesdays | 8:30 p.m. Via Zoom

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. 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 howardjacobs@ebjc.org 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

January 12, Thursday, Noon Luncheon - Linda Kenyon returns as Eleanor Roosevelt!

HEBREW READING CLASS AND MAH JONG ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Travel the Jewish World Virtually With Us



Sunday, December 11 @ 7:30 PM
The Jewish Community of Japan
with Jerry Rosenberg

Sunday, January 29 @ 1:00 PM
The Anne Frank House in Amsterdam
with Aaron Peterer

Sunday, March 12 @ 1:00 PM
The Old Jewish Quarter of London
with Stephen Burstin

Sunday, April 16 @ 12:00 PM
A Virtual Tour of Yad Vashem
with Yohai Cohen

Sunday, May 21 @ 12:30 PM
A Live Walking Tour of Jewish Berlin
with Yoav and Natalie Sapir

Sunday, June 11 @ 12:00 PM
A Live Walking Tour of Jewish Amsterdam
with Ian David Wagenhuis



Registration is required to attend.

www.ebjc.org/travel-series

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.

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



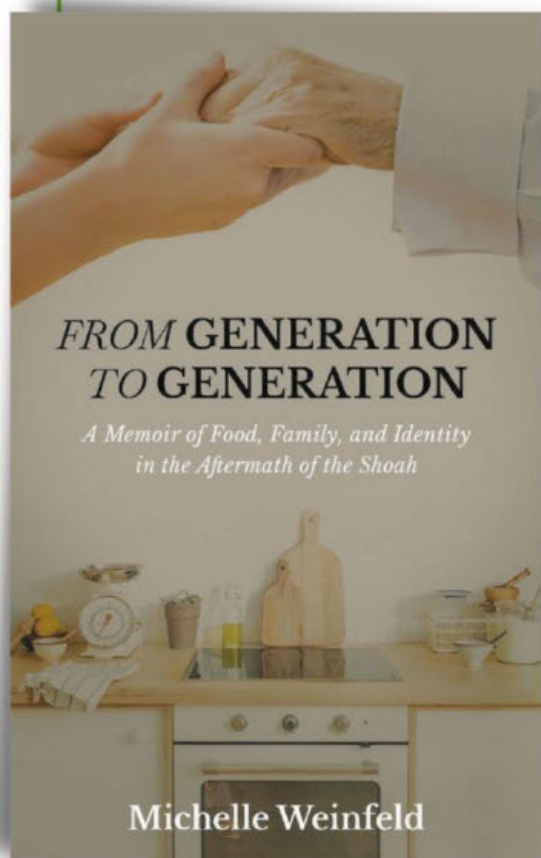
East Brunswick Jewish Center's
Sisterhood, Men's Club and Keshar
invite you to a bagel breakfast
featuring our own

Michelle Weinfeld

discussing her new book

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

*A Memoir of Food, Family and Identity
in the Aftermath of the Shoah*



**Sunday, January 29
at 9:30 AM**

- ALL are invited, including Keshar parents and friends.
- 6th-7th graders will attend with their class.
- Books will be available for purchase.
- This event is FREE but donations are always welcome and appreciated.

Must RSVP by January 22

Register at:

ebjc.org/generation



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Join us as we host
Shake Rattle & Roll Dueling Pianos
**DUELING PIANOS IS A CONCERT,
COMEDY SHOW AND
CABARET ALL ROLLED INTO ONE!**

**NEW
DATE
2/11/23**

This is an all-request, rock-and-roll party where YOU pick the playlist! Two top piano entertainers, mixing music, comedy and audience interaction in a singalong, laugh-along, dance along show! It's everything from Billy Joel to Bon Jovi, Britney Spears to Bruno Mars!



Nothing is off limits from pop rock, country, hip-hop, Broadway, hairbands, punk rock, disco, standards - if you can hum it, we can play it!



Saturday, February 11 at 8:00 PM

\$60 pp. RSVP by 2/6/23

**Includes: Lavish dairy charcuterie boards
(featuring fruit, vegetables, cheese & crackers, nuts and more)
Exquisite desserts – Candy bar – Wine, beer & coffee**



Register at: www.ebjc.org/dueling-pianos

*Shake Rattle and Roll Dueling Pianos is NYC's
premiere dueling pianos show!*



Join us for our 2nd 3-Part Series on Jewish Hollywood

www.ebjc.org/New-Series-Filmshul

Nov 29 @ 8:30pm Super Funny Jewish Men

Quick with one-liners! Precise with physical comedy! Able to tell hilarious stories in a single routine! Funny Jewish men have made us laugh for years, from vaudeville, radio, the Borscht Belt and nightclubs through TV, records, movies and more. Meet the pros, incl: Jack Benny, George Burns, Milton Berle, Henny Youngman, Don Rickles, Jack E. Leonard, Rodney Dangerfield, Lenny Bruce, Mel & Woody + contemporary voices Albert Brooks, Jerry Seinfeld, Gilbert Gottfried, Jon Stewart, Sacha Baron Cohen, & yes, Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky. All are pioneers, distinctive, and seriously funny.

Jan 12 @ 8:30pm From the Catskills with Love

The now mostly shuttered summer resorts of Southeastern New York's Catskill Mountains — Grossinger's, Kutsher's, the Raleigh, the Concord, the Pines and others — provided the formative years for many prominent Jewish comedy stars for a number of decades up through the 1970s. Discover the origins of the region that came to be known as the Borscht Belt and how such youngsters as Woody Allen, Shelley Berman, Totie Fields, Milton Berle, Jack E. Leonard, Joan Rivers, Jerry Lewis, Betty Garrett, Danny Kaye and Myron Cohen left their audiences in stitches. Plus, we take a look at the movies inspired by the "Jewish Alps."

Feb 2 @ 8:30pm WWII & Hollywood's Jewish Question

The Production Code in 1934, the Great Depression, the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany and a general growth in anti-Semitism didn't bode well for the Hollywood studio moguls, Jewish men like Louis B. Mayer, Harry Cohn, Jack Warner and others who virtually created Hollywood. The moguls tried to ignore the rise of Nazism, even as they continued distributing films in Germany up until the war broke out and not making an anti-Nazi film until 1940. With World War II & Hollywood's Jewish Question, we look at how the Jewish moguls reacted--and failed to react--to what was happening in Europe in the 1930s, and how they proceeded through the war and its subsequent years.

Meet your program hosts Irv & Lawrence...

Irv Slifkin has had a lifelong love for movies and popular culture. A native Philadelphian, Irv teaches film and journalism classes at Temple University and Rowan College. He is the author of the books *Filmadelphia: A Celebration of a City's Movies* and *Groovy Movies: Far-Out Films of the Psychedelic Era*. In addition to writing for such publications as the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Chicago Tribune* and *Los Angeles Times*, Irv has lectured on film and popular culture, in person and on Zoom, for libraries, organizations and Jewish institutions throughout NJ and PA.



Laurence Lerman saw Alfred Hitchcock's *North by Northwest* when he was 13 yrs old and that's all it took. He has worked with MGM, Sony, Music Box Films, Cohen Media, Sterling Productions and Kino International, where he helped launch the home entertainment division. He has been writing about film and video for 30+ years for such outlets as *Variety*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The Morning Call* and *Video Business Magazine*, where he served as a Senior Editor for 15 yrs. He is the co-founder and editor-in-chief of *DiscDish.com*, a popular Blu-ray and DVD website offering reviews, news and interviews.

➡ ➡ ➡ To receive a Zoom link, register at: ebjc.org/New-Series-Filmshul

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.

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



PARTNERS IN JEWISH PROGRAMMING EAST BRUNSWICK JEWISH CENTER

"Jewish History from Biblical Times to the Present"

An Eight-Part Zoom Series

To receive Zoom links, please register through your local synagogue/organization.



Thursday, September 15 @8:30 PM

Gary Rendsburg, Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies and History,
Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History, Rutgers University
"In Search of Ancient Israel: Historical Roots of the Biblical Narrative"



Thursday, October 6 @ 8:30 PM

Carol Meyers, Mary Grace Wilson Professor Emerita of Religious Studies,
Duke University
"Women as Ritual Experts in Ancient Israel"



Thursday, November 10 @ 8:30 PM

Jodi Magness, Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in
Early Judaism, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
"Masada: Last Stronghold of the Jewish Resistance against Rome"



Thursday, December 15 @ 8:30 PM

Steven Fraade, Director of Graduate Studies, Mark Taper Professor of
the History of Judaism, Yale University
"An Introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls"



Thursday, January 26 @ 8:30 PM

Nina Caputo, Associate Professor and Associate Chair,
Department of History, University of Florida
"The Barcelona Disputation of 1263"



Thursday, February 16 @ 8:30 PM

Magda Teter, Professor of Jewish History and the Shvidler Chair of
Jewish Studies, Fordham University
"Blood Libel: On the Trail of an Anti-Semitic Myth"



Thursday, March 16 @ 8:30 PM

Sarah Abrevaya Stein, Professor of History, Viterbi Family Chair in
Mediterranean Jewish Studies, Sady and Ludwig Kahn Director,
Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies, UCLA
"Sephardic Experiences of the Holocaust"



Thursday, April 27 @ 8:30 PM

Avinoam Patt, Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies and Director of the
Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life, University of Connecticut
"Awake My People: Antisemitism and the Jewish Encounter with Modernity"

These programs are free for all!

A donation to your synagogue's Adult Education program is always welcome.



Participating Organizations: Adath Shalom, Parsippany, NJ; 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; Ezra-Habonim - The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, Skokie, IL; Highland Park Conservative Temple - Congregation Anshe Emeth, Highland Park, NJ; JCC of Long Beach Island, NJ; JCC of Paramus - Congregation Beth Tikvah, Paramus, NJ; Jewish Federation of Ventura County, CA; Temple Beth-El, Poughkeepsie, NY; Temple Israel, Albany, NY

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Laura & Joel Leizer in
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memory of Milton
Weissman

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appreciation of
mishebeirach prayers

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memory of Stanley Rubin

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in memory of Stanley
Rubin

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in memory of Rochelle
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memory of Stanley Rubin

Amy & William Schafer in
memory of Stanley Rubin

Michelle & Jerry Cheslow
in memory of Roy Levi

Rebecca & Charles
Breverman wishing
Mazel Tov to Rita Sason
on the birth of her
grandson, Hudson
Theodore

Madeline & Joel Frances
wishing Mazel Tov to
Rita Sason on the birth
of her grandson, Hudson
Theodore

Taryn & Seth Webber
wishing Mazel Tov to
Rita Sason on the birth
of her grandson

Rosanne Kleinman in
memory of Roy Levi

Sheila & Joseph
Behrman in appreciation
of mishebeirach prayers

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Rita Sason on the birth
of her new grandson

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Stella Betty

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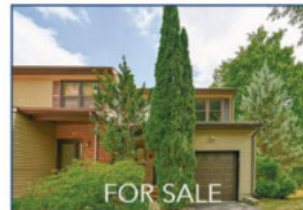
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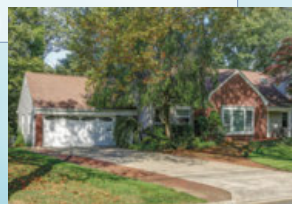
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