EAST BRUNSWICK



RECORDER

TEVET - SHEVAT 5779

JANUARY 2019; VOL 86



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



SHABBAT SERVICES

VAERA

Friday, January 4 - 4:25 pm Saturday, January 5 - 9:30 am & 4:25pm

RΩ

Friday, January 11– 4:30 pm Saturday, January 12– 9:30 am & 4:30 pm

BESHALACH

Friday, January 18 – 4:40 pm Saturday, January 19- 9:30 am & 4:40 pm Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Hines

YITRO

Friday, January 25 - 4:45 pm Saturday, January 26 - 9:30 am & 4:45 pm

MISHPATIM

Friday, February 1- 4:55 pm Saturday, February 2- 9:30 am & 4:55 pm

CANDLELIGHTING

1/4 4:26 pm **1/11** 4:33 pm **1/18** 4:41 pm **1/25** 4:49 pm **2/1** 4:58 pm

PRIMARY CONTACTS

C.decker@ebjc.org

Tel: 732-257-7070

Rabbi Jeff Pivo - Rabbipivo@ebjc.org

Deena Oren & Eric Pelofsky,

Co-Presidents - Presidents@ebjc.net

Ellen Botwin, Executive Director
Ebotwin@ebjc.org

Cantor Larry Brandspiegel, Education

Director - Cantorlarry@ebjc.org

Cheryl Decker, Bookkeeping -

JANUARY 2019

Board of Directors 1/9, 16

Board of Ed 1/23

Executive Board 1/9

Genesis Science 1/7, 14, 21, 28

Hebrew Class 1/3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Israeli Dance 1/7, 14, 21, 28

Mah Jong 1/7, 14, 21, 28

Talmud Class 1/2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Youth Commission 1/23

Membership Committee

East Brunswick Jewish Center

511 Ryders Lane, E Brunswick, NJ 08816

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

www.ebjc.org

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Margot Julis, Sara Ullman Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Arthur Fliegelman and Sheldon Horowitz, Men's Club Presidents

Rhonda Gold, Youth Commission

Cantor Larry Brandspiegel, Education/ and Youth Director

Joe Behrman, Chairperson, Special Circumstances

Hollie Cerame, Social Action/Fundraising

Lynda Perel, Director of The Center for Early Learning

Joannie Weinfeld, Calendar

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

RECORDER STAFF

Stefani Kovler, Administration

Vicki & Marty Nathanson, Madeline Frances

Deborah A. Berger, Graphic Designer (Recorder Redesign)

David Kosher

SAVE THE DATE (Dates subject to change)

January 2019

1/10 - Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo

1/11 - Shabbat Family Dairy Dinner

1/12 - Mitzvah Corps 3rd Annual Wine, Liquor & Food Experience

1/13 - Men's Club Blood Drive

1/14 - Hazak Lunch

1/17 - Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo

1/24 - Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo

1/25 - Sephardic Shabbat Dinner honoring Uziel Sason

1/26 - Sephardic Shabbat honoring Adela and Raymond Sasson

1/27 - Men's Club Giants Brunch with Billy Taylor

1/31 - Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo

1/31 - Sisterhood and Men's Club Film Festival

February 2019

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

3/2 - Shabbat Across America Volunteer Shabbat

3/8 - Sisterhood Torah Fund Dinner and Service

3/9 - New Era Pinot Palette

3/17 - Purim Carnival

3/23 - Purim Ball

3/24 - Hazak Brunch

3/27 - Sisterhood "On the Chocolate Trail" with B'nai Tikvah

3/28 - Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo

April 2019

4/4 - Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo

4/6 - Comedy Night with Modi

4/15 - Hazak Lunch

4/20 - Congregational Pesach Seder

May 2019

5/1 - Yom HaShoah Program

5/2 - Sisterhood Education Series with Rabbi Pivo

5/3 - Friday Night Kabbalah Shabbat Service and Dinner

5/5 - 60's Sock Hop Gala & Torah Fund Brunch

5/8 - Yom Ha'Zikron/Hom Ha'atzmaut Program

5/16 - Hazak Dinner

5/18 - Sisterhood Egalitarian Shabbat Service

5/19 - Mah Jong Tournament

June 2019

6/1 - Grandparents Shabbat

6/2 - Celebrate Israel Parade

6/9 - Shavuot - "Sisterhood Presents" Jewish Women Program

6/14 - Friday Night Kabbalah Shabbat Service and Dinner

6/18 - Congregational Meeting

6/23 - Hazak Brunch

Rabbinic Reflections



The last year and a half have been heady times at EBJC: A new rabbi, a new cantor/educator, new office staff, the expansion of egalitarian services to every Shabbat morning, outreach to

our constituents in Monroe, and a new mahzor have transformed our communal life. Simultaneously, we have begun to address many of the structural needs of our campus and our business: paving the parking lot, improved accounting and data procedures, and a comprehensive overhaul of our security system. There will be other changes to come, bringing our shul into the mainstream of consider making a meaningful gift that the Conservative movement and making will help rejuvenate our synagogue for it possible for us to meet a broad array of Jewish needs. Having engaged in all of these changes and improvements, we are ready to implement a bold new phase in improving our facilities: the creation of the Grand Pavilion.

Over the past year, our leadership has been planning the redesign and refurbishment of the sanctuary wing of the building, from bimah to bimah. This area, which will now be known as the Grand Pavilion, will be restructured so that the sanctuary and beit midrash will be able to accomodate our two styles of worship over the High Holidays. The entire wing will be refur-

bished to improve our experiences, and will now feature a movable wall which will enable us to partition the Kroll Ballroom into smaller spaces during the year for multipurpose use. We have already gotten interest from caterers who would like to partner with us in the future to revamp our kitchens and bathrooms (those are not part of the current project).

Now that the plans have been worked out with architects and structural engineers, we are ready to build. But in order to do so, the entire EBJC community needs to come together to fund this project. Our leadership has committed to going forward only once funds have been procured, and to use funds raised only for this project. In order to complete the Grand Pavilion, we are now asking that every EBJC family another generation. A small working group is arranging parlor meetings, private visits and phone solicitations during January and February, so expect a call. This is our opportunity to ensure the future of our shul by matching the blessings of our new staff, new practices, and new procedures, with a new set of spaces that will bring us pride and attention from the entire East Brunswick community. Now is the time!

Rabbi Jeff Pivo

Presidents' Report



In December, we held a Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) course designed to help prepare in case of an active shooter situation and for other public acts of violence. The attend-

ance and response of the membership was very positive. Members learned that it is imperative to get as far away as possible from the location of violence and only if not possible, then it is better to find cover. Only try to defend yourself as a last resort. Please watch emails for upcoming congregational meetings in late January or early February, on a Sunday afternoon, to summarize the active shooter training given by the EBPD and show how our new security system enhancements and procedures will be implemented and integrated with the CRASE objectives.

We have installed the electronic key combination lock on the front door of the synagogue. If you do not yet know the combination, please call the office; they will verify that you are a member and tell you the code. Please share it only with other members. If you know of non-members that need access (e.g. Mah Jongg, Israeli Dancing), please have them speak with the organizer of their activity who has been instructed by Steve Zeidwerg on how to share the information with their attendees. Please DO NOT send the code via email. as we know all emails are not secure. For those that prefer not to use electronic codes on Shabbat; the Rabbi approved a mechanical code combination lock on the outside door next to the bridal room. The code is the same as when it was on the front door. The security guard has been instructed not to let people in, as he does not know our members. Registration for personal codes and fingerprint access is forthcoming.

The Grand Pavilion project update: The Board of Directors has approved a dedicated bank account which has been opened. Actual work will not begin unless all funds are secured. Our first major

donor has agreed to have the money go towards the architectural plans, structural engineer and permits as these are necessary to move forward. Rabbi Pivo has assembled a fundraising team consisting of four members. Watch for parlor meetings in the month of January. Steve Zeidwerg, VP of Operations, has volunteered to run the project, while Hayley Migdal, Financial Secretary, will oversee the bank account. The Board of Directors will receive monthly reports on the progress. This creates proper controls.

We will be holding a dinner in memory of Uziel Sason on Jan 25th with a Sepharadi Shabbat catering and services. On Jan 26th, Shabbat morning, we will honor Adela and Raymond Sasson on their retirement. On February 2nd we will be saying an emotional thank you to Gale Dillman. Please join us in celebrating these individuals and their contributions to EBJC.



We are sixty 60 and Fabulous...We've Only Just Begun!

We will be honoring Rabbi Pivo and Cantor Larry, our dynamic duo that have invigorated EBJC and are propelling us forward to the next fantastic 60 years. Ad Mea V'Esrim (עד מאה ועשרים, until 120), live long and prosper.

Deena Oren Eric Pelofsky Co-Presidents

Executive Director



plete misunderstanding of the situation, comment or environ-

New Jersey? Well, if you go by the TV show, The Jersey phyte, an infant, and in the beginning... an interloper. Shore, we're all a bunch of drunken, loud, losers. If Yes, it's a strong word, but not everyone wanted me you go by driving down the turnpike passing through here or saw the need for an Executive Director. I really Elizabeth, we're an overcrowded, fume filled communi- hope that has changed and I'm guessing since you are ty. But what is the truth? There's a modicum of truth all fairly nice to me, that it has changed. But the job to both statements above, but let me tell you what I that I have is difficult because everyone perceives it see...

right, cows. I live 5 minutes away from Lee's Turkey for financials (gulp, yes)? Am I human resources (often, Farm where there are acres of peach, nectarine and yes)? I guess I could go on, but you get the picture. The apple trees, fields of strawberries, peas, corn, carrots truth is, I'm sort of the equivalent of the chief operating ripe for the picking (when in season) and live turkey's officer of a large company. I oversee almost everything gobbling away. I also pass by a sheep farm on the way but cannot possibly physically do it all. So I understand to work. Yup, sheep. On occasion, a sheep or two will it when members come to me to ask me to do things escape and I will see them meandering down the road. that realistically, is not really my job, but they figure I'll Last week, the traffic stopped as a police officer and know who to give it to. I hope that if I ask you to please two civilians were "herding" the sheep back into their give it to Cheryl, Stefani or someone else to do, you pen or corral or whatever you call a place where sheep won't get annoyed and think I'm shirking my responsilive. Often on my drive home and certainly where I live, bilities. I'm not. It's just that the amount of responsibilthere are deer on the road. Heck, I live across the ities I have can sometimes be overwhelming and I abstreet from Mercer County Park... the deer live on my solutely must delegate. It's either that or I take one of lawn, and eat my plants and shrubs. I won't go out the rooms in the rug wing and turn it into a bedroom! barefoot to let my toes twinkle in the grass because I'm not fond of deer poop.

many people, especially not of New Jersey, aren't some introspective work on my perceptions. Never aware of.

In speaking of perception, what is your perception of EBJC? Is it based upon a deep involvement and knowledge of the leadership and clergy? Is it based May you all be well, upon coming to services every week and davening at Minyan? Is it based on coming only to High Holy Day services and nothing else? Is it based upon coming to social events? Or, if you're not a member, is it based

Perception is everything. The on hearsay and rumor? Or is it based upon things that way we perceive things may happened 10 years ago? I would imagine if you poll 50 dictate the way we react to a people, you'll get quite a few different responses as to situation or a comment or even what EBJC is and/or isn't. And they all would not be an environment. It may not be wrong completely because depending upon your level correct and it may be a com- of involvement, you perceive things differently.

ment, but it is what it is. First, I understand that I am a newcomer to EBJC. I'm So let's take New Jersey. How do outsiders perceive here only a bit over 3 years. That makes me a neodifferently. Am I an executive secretary (sort of)? An office manager (yup)? What are my responsibilities? Does the buck stop with me (sometimes)? Am I the When I drive to work, I pass by a farm of cows. That's chief operating officer (you betcha)? Am I responsible

So...perception...the good thing is that perceptions can change. The bad thing is that until they're changed, it So, that's a large part of New Jersey too. The part that can be damaging or hurtful or painful. I'm trying to do hurts to be open minded. Try this with your EBJC perceptions...especially those negative ones. You may be quite pleasantly surprised.

Ellen

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

Wine for Sale!

WINE FOR SALE ALL YEAR ROUND

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Rabbi Pivo and EBJC Friends,

Thank you for your many cards, calls, and visits during my recuperation. It's always good to be thought of when things are looking down.

Your best wishes and thoughts are always welcome.

Fran Shafer

The Congregation Extends

CONDOLENCES TO:

Arnold Pelofsky on the passing of his Aunt, Anne Steinhart

Hal Buchberg on the passing of his ex wife, Sandra Solzberg Buchberg

Ken Streisand on the passing of his mother, Bessie Streisand

The Krieger Family on the loss of Sid Krieger, long time member and brother of Leo Krieger.

Roxanne, Jay and the entire Lopatin family on the loss of Roxanne's father, "Cy" Rubin.

Debby Waldman on the loss of her husband, Cantor Harvey Waldman

MAZEL TOV TO:

Amy and Steven Schonfeld on the arrival of their newest grandson, Lenny Miles Schonfeld, son of Sarah and Evan Schonfeld.

Karen and Doug Slater on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Sammie Jordan Ray.

Joel and Laura Leizer on the birth of their grandson, Jace Robert Feingold

Cantor Larry and Laura Brandspiegel on the engagement of their daughter, Samantha Brandspiegel to Avi Sinoff.

Cantor Larry on receiving his Honorary Doctorate from the Jewish Educators Assembly and the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Howard and Amy Cohen and Steven and Florence Winter on the birth of their granddaughter, Julia Maya Winter.

Mindy and Joseph Shapiro on the marriage of their son, Eric Shapiro to Lauren Gibberman

Social Action

Food is always needed. Please include granola bars.

The social action room is moving...look out for its new location

Save the Date!

Monroe Lunch and Learn - Monday, January 14 at 12 pm. Graciously hosted at the home of Doris and Steve Entin in Stonebridge. Cost for lunch is \$9 and will be collected at the meeting.

Sephardic Shabbat - January 25 and 26. Friday night Sephardic Shabbat dinner honoring Uziel Sason and Saturday Sephardic Shabbat and Kiddush honoring Adela and Raymond Sasson

Men's Club Blood Drive - EBJC's annual blood drive will be held on January 13, 2019, from 8:30 to 2:30. To sign up, or for more information, please go to ebjc.org/blood. Email howard_jacobs@ebjc.net if you have any questions. Remember, giving blood saves lives, and there is no bigger mitzvah than saving a life!

Community Events!

Empowering our Kids - Sunday, February 24 9am-noon. Program to help students in grades 5-8 learn what to say or do when either they or someone they witness is harassed for being Jewish. Will take place at Neve Shalom, Metuchen. There is no charge. To register, please email Education@NeveShalom.net or call 732-548-2238 x 13 with the ages of the children and the number of adults attending .



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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

Another successful Hanukkah party! With guitar in hand, the Rabbi along with our Chaverim entertained our parents. Thank you to the Mitzvah Corps for suppling the latkes from Jerusalem Pizza. They were delicious!













CEL would like to wish you a Happy New Year!



All Toddlers with Caregivers

Please join us for

TODDLER FUN

(ages 12-24 mo.)

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

Arts & Crafts

Dancing

Singing



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



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



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Cantor Larry



Hi everyone,

I want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. I hope that the winter months are only cold on the outside, but your hearts and minds are filled with warmth on the inside, particularly with good learning, good family, and good friends.

Our Kesher and Youth programs continue to grow and our programs continue to expand.

Always remember to check your calendars, emails, and Facebook page for upcoming

events, announcements, and great pictures.

- The next Shabbat School and Shabbat B'Yachad Family Service, as well as Tot Shabbat, will be on Shabbat, February 5th. We want every child and parent to attend in order to give everyone the best possible Shabbat morning experience.
- THE NEW TOT SHABBAT started last month and is being led by our Kesher music teacher, Samantha Ivins. This wonderful Shabbat experience is for little people (Toddlers through Kindergarten) and their adult friends. The next Tot Shabbat is on Shabbat, January 5th at 11am.
- Service Attendance is a very important component in our Kesher curriculum. Every student has an attendance card that can be found in a small box in the lobby. When you have attended a Friday night, Shabbat morning, holiday, or weekday service, please pull your name card. We are keeping record each week. Great attendance will come with a
- We are still looking into creating a new Jr. Congregation service. Please keep an eye out for more information.
- Wednesday, January 2nd and 9th is Hebrew High School.
- Wednesday, January 16th is Youth Night for Chaverim, Kadima, and USY.
- Kesher will not have classes on Sunday, January 6th since there is Shabbat School on January 5th. There will be no classes on Sunday, January 20th for Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Just an added note that I will be attending the Jewish Educators Assembly Conference in Baltimore, MD from Sunday, January 27th through Thursday, January 31st. I look forward to writing about my experience in an upcoming Recorder. I know that our Teaching Team will have our school running in Cantor Larry I. Brandspiegel good shape while I am away that week.

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 Kesher, 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!

Here are a few of my thoughts with the approaching holiday of Tu Bish'vat.

With the secular New Year upon us, we find ourselves making those hard to keep New Year's resolutions. During this month of January, we will enter the new Hebrew month of Sh'vat. During the month of Sh'vat, we celebrate Tu Bish'vat or Jewish Arbor Day. However, there is more to understand about this holiday than just about the trees. Tu Bish'vat is an opportunity to make New Year's resolutions that will not only affect yourself, but the world too.

We worry about taking care of the earth, but that has not always been the case. For hundreds and thousands of years, most people took what they needed from the earth without thinking about the results. Yet, the Torah gave us specific ways in which we should treat God's world.

In the Book of Deuteronomy, the Torah states that when we go to war against another nation, we may not destroy the fruit trees. The fruit trees cannot be touched because they are necessary to feed people.

The Rabbis saw this law as a Mitzvah or commandment and applied it to other situations as well. The Mitzvah is called "Bal Tash-heet" which means do not destroy. Not only should we try to protect our environment, but the Talmud tells us that we should not needlessly destroy things people make. "Whoever breaks vases or tears clothing or destroys a building, or clogs up a fountain, or does away with food in a destructive manner, breaks the law against destroying (Bal Tash-heet)."

The Rabbis interpreted Bal Tash-heet to mean that one could not even shift the course of a stream, if by doing so would cause a tree to dry up and die.

The Rabbis of old would have approved of our modern techniques of recycling. By following the Mitzvah of Bal Tashheet, we can leave the world in as good or better shape than we found it.

The Rabbis thought the trees were so important that according to the Talmud, Jews are not supposed to live in a city that does not have trees. If a person planted a tree, but the tree hadn't yet borne fruit, the person was excused from going to war.

Rabbi Yohanan Ben Zakkai said: "If you should be standing ready to plant a tree when the Mashiah or Messiah comes, first finish planting the tree, then go and greet the Messiah."

So make a real resolution this year. Make it a point to do just one more Mitzvah related to the environment. Not only will you be saving the world now, but you will be creating a safe world for generations to come.

Youth Programming

DATESFOR

- 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	V
	29	USY	
Feb	6	Hebrew High C	ANTOR LARRY is a
	13	Kadima / USY	For information abo
	20	Hebrew High	Chaverim Youth Gr
	27	Kadima / USY	or send an email to
Mar	6	Hebrew High	
	8-9	Youth Shabbat	KADIMA & USY
	17	Purim Carnival	For more inf
	20	5	contact Erin
	27	Kadima / USY	and USY Adv
Apr	3	Hebrew High	ErinKaplan31
	10	Kadima / USY	Vadima, 4th
	28	USY	Kadima: 6th, graders.
May	1	Hebrew High: last class	Programs ar
	8	Kadima / USY / Yom HaZika	iron -
		Ha'Atzmaut	USY: 9th-12t
	15	Kadima - end of year BBQ	Wednesday p
	00	LIOV EL .:	/ . T.J - 7. UUP IV

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

our Director of Education.

out the Hebrew High program and/or roup, please call him at 732.257.7070 x3 o CantorLarry@ebjc.org.

formation, please Kaplan, Kadima visor: 190@gmail.com

, 7th & 8th re 6:15-7:45PM

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

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

Chaverim Youth Co-Leaders: Amanda Gold and Joe Weiss



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MODI

One of the comedy circuit's hottest comedians, Modi appears regularly at NYC's comedy clubs including Cároline's on Broadway, The Comedy Cellar and more. He recently had the honor of being named "One of the Top 10 Comedians in NYC" by The Hollywood Reportér as well as Back Stage Magazine. According to Variety, MODI delivers a "naturally funny performance with a tremendous amount of energy."

Saturday, April 6 \$60 per person

Includes catered dessert bar and wine after the show.

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\$180 for two
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d'oeuvre before show,
preferred seating and wine
and dessert bar after the
show.

Sisterhood



A New Year signifies volved. new beginnings-a reclaimed opportunity to prioritize your goals and the allocation of your time. If you haven't already joined Sisterhood, this is the perfect time to take that important step. Joining Sisterhood demonstrates your

commitment to both EBJC and the continuity of Jewish heritage, faith, and tradition.

We are a diverse group, and we want to include YOU and the unique qualities you offer. Now, more than ever, with anti-Semitism on the rise in an uncertain world, we need the support of all the fabulous women in our shul. As others have stated, we are stronger TOGETHER. Please help us meet our goal of 100% membership.

Last month we enjoyed a fun-filled **Evening of Laughs and Libations** on Saturday, December 15th. This event, in conjunction with Men's Club. featured Al Kustanowitz of Jewish Humor Central, who entertained us with a multimedia presentation of Jewish comedy.

Rabbi Pivo's adult education series "Torah, Time and Tefillah" is going strong! Stop in any Thursday evening after minyan to check out how much you can learn. Now that we have tackled the five books of Moses that comprise the Torah, we will be moving onto Torah in its wider sense—an overview of the sacred books that grew up around Torah. We will examine Torah commentaries, Mishna, Talmud, siddur, and machor, among others.

The two-year curriculum can culminate in bar/bat mitzvah for those who wish. If you'd like to check out the syllabus, the entire outline for the two-year course is available online. And you can join at any time, or just visit those classes that interest you most.

2019 ushers in a host of exciting adventures! Here are some programs and events that are on the horizon:

*Thursday, January 31-Movie Night with Men's Club featuring Cuba's Forgotten Jewels (details to follow)

*Friday, February 11-Kabbalat Shabbat in partnership with Men's Club, headlined by Mayor Brad Cohen of East Brunswick

*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 in-

*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?

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

When is the last time you took a glance at our impressive Sisterhood Judaica shop? Why schlep to Highland Park or Brooklyn for all your needs, or order them online, when you can find whatever you imagine in our very own boutique? The gift shop stocks everything, from candles and Jewish-themed toys, to challah covers, kippahs, women's headpieces, menorahs, seder plates, and more. The selection and design are exceptional. And if it's not there, we will order it for you! You'll find the perfect items AND benefit Sisterhood! So it's a win-win for all.

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

It is our sincerest wish that 2019 holds the promise of good health, peace, and contentment for all the families in our congregation, and for the global Jewish community. May the precious values of Judaism remain close to our hearts and inform how we treat our relatives, friends, neighbors, and fellow EBJC members each day.

"She opens her mouth with wisdom and the law of kindness is on her tongue."—Eshet Chayil, Proverbs

Warm regards and Happy New Year,

Margot Julis magoo1211@comcast.net

Sara Ullman tranquil77@aol.com



3Uccess & Opportunit



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

EBJC's first Hannukah Family Sweetheart Dance was a success with 70

people attending. A number of non-EBJC families also attended. The dance got a front page photograph in the Sentinel along with other photos. Children, parents and grandparents, all had loads of fun.



We plan to host another family oriented event in the spring, so please be on the outlook for information about it. If you have an idea for a family friendly program, please let us know. We will be happy to assist in bringing your idea to fruition.

Men's Club and Sisterhood members had a fun time at our Dec. 15 Comedy night.

On Sun., Jan. 13 Men's Club hosts an all day Blood Drive. Please sign up for the Blood Drive at ebic.org/blood or call Ron Berger at (732) 545-0793 and do a life saving mitzvah.

Our annual Giants Brunch is Sun., Jan. 27 at 11 am with Billy Taylor. Cost for adults before Jan. 20 is \$20. Signups are at ebjc.org/taylor.

The World Wide Wrap will be on Sun., Feb. 3 at 8:15 am when we join our Men's Clubs colleagues around the world observing the mitzvah of Tefillin.

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



Find out more about

Men's Club and our coming events at ebjc.org/ under-our-roof-2/mens-club

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

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

February 18, 2019 Monday Lunch 12:00

March 24, 2019 Sunday Brunch 10:30

April 15, 2019 Monday Lunch 12:00

May 16, 2019 Thursday Dinner 6:00

June 23, 2019 Sunday Brunch 10:30

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

Please RSVP to 732-257-7070!

Mitzvah Corps

The EBJC Mitzvah Corps invites you to our Wine, Liquor and Food Experience

In Support of Yashar LaChayal – Straight to the Soldier



Saturday January 12, 2019

8:30 pm to 11:30 pm







Over 100 Wines, Single Malt Scotches and Bourbons to taste and order Food will be catered by Holy Schnitzel of Staten Island Kosher Supervision on Premises

> Cost per person: \$55.00 General Admission \$90.00 Sponsor Admission

Sponsor admission entitles you to 8:00 pm entry with access to 24 higher end wines not available at the general tasting plus a raffle ticket to win one of four higher end wines.

Funds raised will benefit the Ari & Sari Horowitz Fund and will be used to provide food for needy soldiers at Pesach

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



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!





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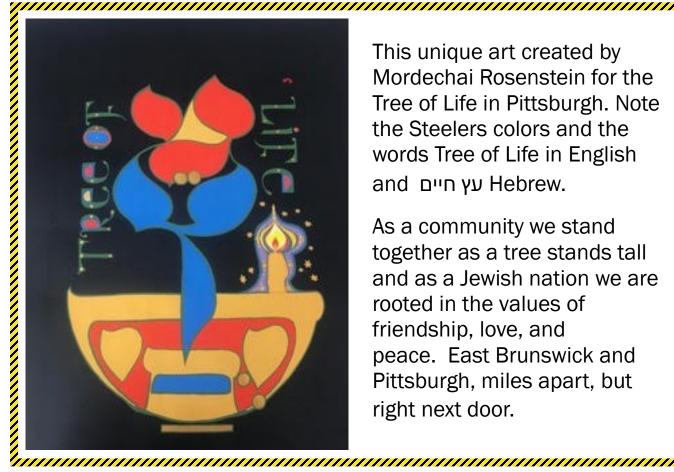
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This unique art created by Mordechai Rosenstein for the Tree of Life in Pittsburgh. Note the Steelers colors and the words Tree of Life in English and עץ חיים Hebrew.

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Phyllis Kravetz and Sandra Kravetz For the good health and *Mi Sheberakh* prayers that have been recited for their sister, Elaine.

Joannie and Jerry Weinfeld & Family In honor of the Engagement of Samantha Brandspiegel to Avi Sinoff.

GENERAL DONATIONS

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For more information contact

Marci Zeidwerg: mlz629@gmail.com or Debbie Friedman: debandlou01@yahoo.com

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

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

The campaign is also eligible for matching funds.

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



EBJC Tot Shabbat



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11am-12pm followed by Kiddush

TOT SHABBAT DATES

December 8, 2018

January 5, 2019

February 23, 2019

March 16, 2019

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

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