



the RECORDER

EAST BRUNSWICK JEWISH CENTER

JULY-AUGUST 2023

TAMMUZ - AV - ELUL

VOLUME # 134



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

8/4	6:00 p.m.
8/11	6:00 p.m.
8/18	6:00 p.m.
8/25	6:00 p.m.

Saturday Mornings 9:30 a.m.

AUGUST 5
Eikev

AUGUST 12
Re'eh

AUGUST 19
Shoftim

AUGUST 26
Ki Teitzei

PRIMARY CONTACTS

Rabbi/Cantor &
Education Director
Rabbi/Cantor
Larry Brandspiegel
Cantorlarry@ebjc.org

Co-Presidents
Jack Goldberg &
Steve Wohl

jgoldberg1948@gmail.com
weaverwohl@aol.com

Executive Director
Ellen Botwin
ebotwin@ebjc.org

Director of the Center for
Early Learning
Lynda Perel
lperel@ebjc.org

Accounts Administrator
Cheryl Decker
C.decker@ebjc.org

Office Administrator
Nicole Cavalli
nicolec@ebjc.org

STAFF & CONTACTS

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Sisterhood Contact
Cindi Jacobs

Men's Club Contact
Howard Jacobs

Youth Commission
Rhonda Gold

Membership Committee
Ken Gerson & Taryn Webber

Chairperson, Special
Circumstances
Marilyn Friedes

Social Action
Hollie Cerame

Director of The Center for
Early Learning
Lynda Perel

Calendar
Taryn Webber

Board of Education Chair
Jamie Wasserman

RECORDER STAFF

Nicole Cavalli

PROOFERS

Madeline Frances

Sara Ullman

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UPCOMING DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2023.

WE WILL BE HAVING A SPECIAL KIDDUSH HONORING CANTOR
LARRY AS HE BECOMES OUR RABBI AND SPIRITUAL LEADER

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.

When sending a check to Kesef, please remember to write the check to EBJC and not Kesef!

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.- 3 p.m. and on Fridays from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

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

September 21, 6pm - Our first Hazak gathering for the year. Our official opening act, Carla Virola, will again entertain us with her wonderful energy and voice!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Ever on the search for interesting programming, please note the following programs for this month: On August 8th Sisterhood is hosting a Game Day.

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:

Leora & Steven Meller on the aufruf of their son, Max

Helene & Ken Gerson on the marriage of their daughter, Jacqueline, to Sam

Liz & Bob Salston on the birth of their granddaughter, Isabella Riley

Lory Pelofsky on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Goni Shai

Sharlene Harris and David Libowsky on the engagement of their son, David Margulis, to Jackie

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

The friends of Michael Schneiderman

Lou Friedman on the loss of his mother, Sheila Alexander Friedman

Liz Salston on the loss of her mother, Rosalie "Ricki" Marks

I would like to thank Deena, Carol and the entire Gala Committee for the OUTSTANDING event they created to honor Barbara & Dov Pollak, Arnie z"l Pelofsky and me, Lory.

The event was humbling with all the support from committee, organization, friends and family.

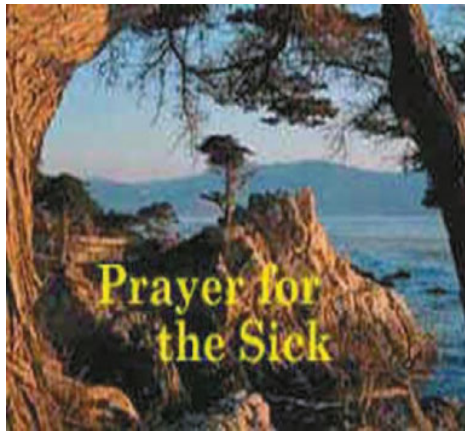
The food was great! The choice of location was spectacular, and even the weather cooperated. It was a wonderful atmosphere where everyone could schmooze, eat and drink, participate in a variety of activities and enjoy the outdoors.

It is always with NACHAS that Arnie and I could say that four Generations of Pelofskys have been actively involved with EBJC, including Debbie, Shelley, Eric and their children.

Thank you, again.

Loretta and Arnie z"l Pelofsky





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.

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

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

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

100 Perrine Road
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

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

2023/5784 HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

SELICHOT

Saturday, September 9

Program at EBJC	8:30 pm
Followed by Selichot prayers	

ROSH HASHANAH

Friday, September 15

Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:45 pm
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Saturday, September 16

Shacharit	8:30 am
Family Service – Preschool, Gan-Bet (K-2nd)	9:45 am
Family Service – Gimel – Zayin (3rd-7th)	9:45 am
Mincha, Study, and Ma'ariv at EBJC	6:45 pm

Sunday, September 17

Shacharit	8:30 am
Family Services– Preschool, Gan-Bet (K-2nd)	9:45 am
Family Service – Gimel – Zayin (3rd-7th)	9:45 am
Mincha/Tashlich at Civic Center Pond (includes special Shofar Blowing)	5:00 pm
Ma'ariv at EBJC	7:45 pm

YOM KIPPUR

Sunday, September 24

Mincha	6:00 pm
Kol Nidrei/Ma'ariv	6:15 pm

Monday, September 25

Shacharit	9:00 am
Family Service – Preschool, Gan-Bet (K-2nd)	9:45 am
Family Service – Gimel – Zayin (3rd-7th)	9:45 am
Yizkor Memorial Prayers	Approx. 12 noon
Mincha	5:10 pm
Ne'ilah and Ma'ariv immediately following Mincha	
Shofar blast ends fast	7:35 pm

SUKKOT

Friday, September 29

Erev Sukkot	
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:25 pm

Saturday, September 30

1st Day Sukkot	
Shacharit	9:30 am
Mincha/Study/Ma'ariv	6:15 pm

Sunday, October 1

2nd Day Sukkot	
Shacharit	9:30 am
Sukkah Hop/Picnic following services	
Mincha/Study/Ma'ariv	6:15 pm
Havdalah	7:23 pm

SHEMINI ATZERET

Friday, October 6

Sukkot VII/Hoshana Rabbah	7:00 am
Mincha/Ma'ariv	6:10 pm

Saturday, October 7

Shemini Atzeret

Shacharit	9:30 am
Yizkor Memorial Prayers	Approx 11:00 am
Recitation of the full Kohelet following Kiddush	
Mincha	6:15 pm
Quiz 'n Candy	6:30 pm
Scrolla Rolla/Ma'ariv/Hakafot	7:15 pm

SIMCHAT TORAH

Sunday, October 8

Shacharit	9:30 am
with Hakafot and dancing	
Mincha/Study/Ma'ariv	6:15 pm



YIZKOR BOOK LISTING

FAMILY NAME _____

NAME OF LOVED ONE _____

NAME OF LOVED ONE _____

NAME OF LOVED ONE _____

NAME OF LOVED ONE _____

NAME OF LOVED ONE _____

NAME OF LOVED ONE _____

NAME OF LOVED ONE _____

NAME OF LOVED ONE _____

NAME OF LOVED ONE _____

Please check yes if we should keep your listing the same as it was last year. YES _____

Submission Deadline is: **September 11th**

Email completed form to: ebjcmitzvahcorps@comcast.net

Please make check payable to the EBJC Mitzvah Corps

SEND CHECK TO EBJC MITZVAH CORPS C/O MARTY GENE 39 SULLIVAN WAY EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ 08816

NAME _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE # _____

CHECK AMOUNT \$ _____



DATES for 2023 – 2024

SEPTEMBER 21 – DINNER – 6:00 p.m.
CARLA VIROLA IS OUR OPENING ACT!

OCTOBER 12 – LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER 16 – LUNCHEON

DECEMBER 14 – LUNCHEON – CHANUKAH

JANUARY 18 – LUNCHEON

FEBURARY 18 – SUNDAY BRUNCH

MARCH 14 – LUNCHEON

APRIL 18 – LUNCHEON

MAY 23 – LUNCHEON

JUNE 20 – DINNER – 6:00 p.m.

PUT THE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Planning a Simcha? Need a Party Planner? Decorator?

TOTAL party
Call Dori 732.723.3555
Email: Dori@Total-Party.com
www.Total-Party.com
[www.Facebook.com/TotalPartyLLC](https://www.facebook.com/TotalPartyLLC)

Event & Balloon Décor
Balloon Sculptures & Centerpieces
Invitations & Custom Stationery
Custom Seating Cards & Sign-in Boards
Favors & Candle Lighting Ceremonies
And even More!



WE ARE THRILLED TO OFFER THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS

Mark your Calendars!

“What Jews Think” Speaker Series (All programs Thursday evenings @ 8:30 PM ET)

November 2 – Dr. Yaniv Feller (Wesleyan University), **“Does Judaism Have Dogmas?”**

January 4 – Dr. Eitan Fishbane (Jewish Theological Seminary), **“Ideas of God in Jewish Mysticism”**

February 8 – Dr. Eugene Sheppard (Brandeis University), **“Theodor Herzl’s Political Zionism in an Age of Empire, Nationalism, and the Problem of Anti-Semitism”**

February 29 – Rabbi Haim Rechnittzer (Hebrew Union College), **“What is Judaism? – The Dispute Between Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig”**

March 14 – Dr. Michah Gottlieb (New York University), **“A Rabbinic Debate about Slavery on the Eve of the Civil War”**

April 11 – Dr. Andrea Dara Cooper (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), **“Jewish Philosophy and Feminism”**

May 9 – Dr. Shira Billet (Jewish Theological Seminary), **“How Jewish Philosophers Think about Troubling Traditions”**

Date TBA – Dr. Susanna Heschel (Dartmouth College), **“The Teachings and Legacy of Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel”** (This program will probably be in late May/early June)

“Jewish Virtual Travel” Series (All programs Sundays at 1:00 PM ET)

November 19 – Abel Hernandez Eskenazi, **Jewish Cuba**

December 17 – Evan Kapros, **Jewish Greece**

January 7 – Louise Szczerb, **Jewish Egypt**

January 28 – Ron Gomes Casseres, **Jewish Curacao**

February 25 – Gloria Ribeiro, **Jewish Portugal**

March 10 – Alan Niku, **Jewish Iran**

These are some of the many programs we will be offering through our Partnership in Jewish Programming which began at the start of the pandemic. Your continued support of these programs both by attending and by your donations have helped us to continue and maintain a high level of programming. Thank you all so much.

RABBI/CANTOR'S CORNER



In August of 2018, I came to EBJC to be the Cantor and Director of Education. Since that time, I have enjoyed the opportunity to sing with everyone, learn with everyone, and make wonderful friendships.

I am thankful to have worked side by side with Rabbi Pivo, who was a wonderful working partner and friend. He was encouraging and supportive. I wish him only the best of good health.

Now that I have become EBJC's Spiritual Leader, I look forward to the next chapters in both my own life and in the life of the EBJC Family.

As the premiere Conservative congregation in East Brunswick, we have so much to offer our community. We have something for everyone. And if someone thinks we do not, we will make every effort to start something new so that no one will feel left out. It takes a lot of hard work, just like in any family. Everyone needs to be there for each other and help out where and when we can.

As a synagogue, we need to be better at helping to insure that we have prayer services, not only for those needing to say Kaddish for a lost loved one, but for anyone needing an opportunity to connect to Gd through prayer. Of course, there are many ways to connect with Gd, but communal prayer is one of the most

common ways. Also, starting in September, we will be offering multiple types of services. There will be Traditional or Non-egalitarian services during weekday mornings, Shabbat mornings, and holidays. We will have Egalitarian services during some of the evenings and also on Shabbat and Holiday mornings. We will have Family style learning services for parents, children, and anyone who wants to attend at least once a month. Of course, on the High Holidays, we will have Tot programs for children through 2nd grade and also a service for children and parents who are in grades 3 and up.

We are looking for volunteers to help lead any of these services, which include prayers, Torah and Haftarah readings, sermons, Bima sitting, and more. We can train anyone on any of these things, and gladly accept the help and assistance.

I will be holding a variety of classes both in-person and on Zoom. Classes will include weekly Torah portion sessions, selective learning, such as Pirke Avot or Ethics of Our Ancestors, the Prayer service structure, the Mysteries of Torah (Codes), and more.

Speaking of classes, our Keshet program will be enhanced through our interim Director of Education, Justin Hirsch. Justin knows many of our families as he is a "local" to our area and comes with a plethora of ideas and passions to boost our program. I also have had some great discussions this past year about the need to help kids with special needs or disabilities. I look forward to helping to create programs to give anyone who wants the opportunity to learn and study a place in which that can happen.

In addition, our youth programs, Chaverim, Kadima and USY are going strong. These are great ways for our kids to stay connected to other Jewish

children and not only learn together, but also socialize together with fun activities. Justin will also be working with Erin Kaplan, our Youth Advisor, to boost these programs.

One more educational venture that we will be starting is a partnership with B'nai Shalom. Rabbi Eisenkramer and I will be creating High School classes for the 8th and 9th graders to take place twice a month. We will have the kids meet once a month at B'nai Shalom and once a month at EBJC. There will be interesting classes for the students in these grades, and a wonderful way to connect with kids from both sides of Cranbury Road.

There are many people in our congregation who need a call or a visit, and I will be trying to meet and speak with them. However, it is always wonderful when others can help, as even a phone call can boost a person's spirit.

With our newly renovated Kroll Ballroom, people can feel great about having a simha in-house. So, we want to get back to having many of those s'mahot here to celebrate weddings, B'ne Mitzvah, baby namings, and perhaps a Sweet 16 or even an Eagle Scout ceremony.

In the coming months, I look forward to meeting with the various arms of the synagogue to help work on more programs that will bring more people into our community, and better yet, bring more people together.

Join me in my new journey. When we do it alone, we remain alone; however, when we walk side by side, others can join all around us.

~Rabbi/Cantor Larry I. Brandspiegel

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I have worked in Synagogue life for 29 years and there isn't much I haven't seen or heard. To be an executive director you need, to some extent, have thick skin. A sensitive executive director would last a couple of months. I believe many of you have no idea of what I do and what my responsibilities are. Some think I may be a glorified executive secretary (NOT!). I'm going to try to explain it to you. Think of a Chief Operating Officer of any firm. That might clear things up as a start.

I answer to the Board of Directors and the President(s). I work for them, and therefore, I work for you. When I was hired, they presented me with a four-page job description – I kid you not. It pretty much covered every aspect of running the shul. With time, things change and evolve. Additionally, every two years there is a new Board. Different people do things differently. Some may be more involved, some less and I have to adjust accordingly.

I work on financials with the Treasurer and Financial Secretary. The day-to-day financials are handled by Cheryl with input from me. I do payroll twice a month (funny thing about employees is that they expect to be paid). I manage the staff (not clergy). I help Lynda with the preschool, not because it's in my job description (the preschool is not in my job description), but because I managed a Jewish preschool for 17 years and I am very familiar with what makes for a successful preschool. Lynda will often

bounce things off me and is always appreciative and very kind.

I am responsible for renting out the building (other than the gym which is Lloyd Shepetin's domain and he does a FANTASTIC job). I show the building and the possible rooms available and try to get additional income for EBJC. Building upkeep and maintenance also fall under my domain and responsibilities. Dov Pollak has the overall responsibility of helping with getting quotes (we need three quotes for every large job), and prioritizing work that needs to be done. I work with Jose identifying what needs to be done, how it should be handled and time frames for repairs. We have an aging building that is in need of a new roof, not to mention a new sewer system for the front bathrooms, and air conditioning needs...just to mention a few! This can easily take up 30% of my time.

I am also responsible for trying to get new members. This is difficult. For this, you really need a committee. We have a wonderful membership committee whose members are dedicated and work very well together, but they are spread thin. I can tell you that when a prospective member calls, I am the first one to speak to them. I do my best to engage them. I don't immediately start talking about dues and money (even when that's the first question). I invite them to services. I invite them to a dinner (no charge). I invite them to see what they are "buying". Money is never the first thing you talk about.

I have an extensive background in fundraising, membership and programming. When the pandemic started, volunteers were not coming into the building and we had to find a way to involve our members. So, I started doing a lot of programming. I formed a partnership, or consortium, now called Partners in Jewish Programming. This was not a part of my job description, but necessary, and I believe is very successful.

I run our Hazak program for seniors. Again, not part of my job description, but something EBJC did not offer and I felt we were lacking. So with the help of Liz Salston and Lory Pelofsky, and the partnership of Jewish Family Services and Federation, we formed Hazak which has grown and has offered many wonderful programs for the past 6 years.

I have also run several fundraisers, not because it is my job (running fundraisers is not in my job description, but overseeing them is), but because we didn't have enough volunteers and we needed to raise money. This is one area in which we are lacking. We need volunteers, committee members and people to help. No one is asking for a two-year commitment. One event, one job...it is very doable!

I can go on, but I hope you get an idea of the extensive nature of my job and my responsibilities. The next time someone asks or questions what I do...perhaps you can tell them. It is not a job that garners accolades. My job is to make the volunteers, the staff and the members shine. I hope I do that. I do it because I love what I do. I love Judaism, our people and our traditions. I believe in synagogue life. I believe in supporting the shul even if you only attend 3 days a year. I know that my closest friends came from my shul. Some remain members, and some don't, but we've remained close friends and I have my shul to thank for that. It's what you make of it.

Thank you for reading my articles and for the many kind comments.

May you be well,

Ellen

FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



step up to the plate. We should not be relying on the office staff or Ellen to get involved in the many activities we have. One of the attributes of EBJC is all of the organizations, clubs, arms of the shul that we have going here. This is a giant factor that makes us who we are - but you know this already.

and to heed the call that is so often heard.....'we need a few volunteers to assist.'

Jack Goldberg
EBJC Co-President

New Year's Resolutions.....!!!

Summertime and the livin' is easy.....as I write this, we are all in the middle of summer and hopefully relaxing. Our shul might slow down a tad from all the activities that take place during the rest of the year, but we are still here coordinating the day-to-day activities and planning for September and beyond - which leads me to the title of this essay...New Year's Resolutions.

And now, it is time for 'the ask' - yes, Steve and I are respectfully asking all who can, please volunteer with any of the many arms and activities we have! There are many instances where we are in need of members volunteering when a physical presence is required - whether it is helping out an event, stuffing envelopes and assisting with mailings, helping with the set-up of the weekly kiddish, overseeing an event etc., etc., etc. WE NEED YOU!!

As you read this, please notice all the activities and organizations within EBJC. All of these events/activities are taking place with volunteers who so generously give their time and

So, as we move into 5784 and the High Holydays approach, let us all try and make it our EBJC resolution to embrace volunteerism and step to help

SISTERHOOD



With July comes the start of the new EBJC Sisterhood fiscal year. We are delighted to be able to retain our principal Board members and thank them sincerely for all the hard work they have invested over the past year.

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to our beloved Rabbi Pivo, who was such a devoted friend to Sisterhood and such a positive influence on our members. We thank Rabbi Pivo for his steadfast support of women in synagogue life. And we are grateful for the many classes he taught that enriched our knowledge and understanding of ancient texts. May Rabbi Pivo be blessed with G-d's grace and remain strong.

Our annual Membership campaign begins anew. You should have all received the 2023-2024 membership flyer. This year's Paid-Up Membership event is scheduled for Thursday evening, October 12 at 6 pm. We hope every woman in our congregation finds a compelling reason to join Sisterhood. As we all favor our own paths toward Jewish connection, Sisterhood offers something for everyone. Join us whether your interest is ritual, education, or the warmth of friendship with your fellow congregants.

Mazel tov to David Julis, who has assumed the role of Region President for the Jewish Federation of Men's Clubs. Many of us attended his installation, held at EBJC, on June 21. We are so proud of David and wish him the very best as he leads the Region with his usual blend of energy, humor, and wisdom.

This Past Month—

On Wednesday, June 28 Immediate Past President Cindi Jacobs welcomed our Sisterhood Board into her home for a relaxing summer get-together of review and planning. Thank you Cindi. Although we don't have a formal Sisterhood president, we are all working diligently to make this an outstanding year.

On the Horizon—

On Wednesday, August 9, Sisterhood will be hosting an outdoor "Sisterhood Games Day", at the home of Anne Kroll. Gather your favorite games—cards, mah jongg, Scrabble—you name it—and your favorite companions for an enjoyable afternoon, beginning at 1:30 pm. Bring your own card tables and chairs. Refreshments will be served, and all are welcome, free of charge. Drop off your new or gently used costume jewelry at the home of Liz Salston. We will be holding a fun auction/swap meet.



Our next Book Club selection is a historical fiction novel with a unique theme. The book is called *The Thread Collectors* by Shauna J. Edwards and Alyson Richman. This compelling story focuses on a black woman in New Orleans and a Jewish woman in New York, both of whom are fighting for the cause of freedom and Union victory through messages in their needlework during the Civil War. Thank you to Janice Saferstein for bringing this book to our attention. Next discussion is Thursday, August 31.

We're grateful to those who have emailed me (Sara Ullman at



saraajull366@gmail.com) with suggestions for future books. If you loved a book with a Jewish theme, fiction or non-fiction, why not consider leading one of our Sessions? Guidance will be provided.

Our annual Torah Fund campaign is off to a great start. As always, we hope you will support the education of Conservative Judaism's future leaders by donating. This year's theme is Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Ba'Zeh, "All the people of Israel are responsible for one another." EBJC will be hosting the Garden State Region Torah Fund on Wednesday, November 1. Attractive new pins will be available soon.

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

The NEW Women's League calendar diaries FOR 2023-2024 are now available at \$12 each. Filled with many bonus features, such as special prayers, the calendar diary makes a terrific novel hostess gift to bring to New Year celebrations.

Check out our Sisterhood Judaica Shop for all your needs—tallisim, kiddush cups, mezuzot, religious jewelry, head coverings....the list goes on and on. If you have something special in mind, we can probably order it for you. Contact Cindy Rollman at cinpepper1@aol.com.

If being a part of Sisterhood has been a positive experience for you, please spread the word. We NEED you as our ambassadors in the community. Let your neighbors, friends, and family know how Sisterhood has enhanced your life, so that they can reap the benefits of membership, as you have.

Wishing you peace and contentment over the summer,

Sara Ullman, Immediate Past Sisterhood President

MEN'S CLUB



The six undersigned EBJC Men's Club members attended the 2023 Federation of Jewish Men's Club's biennial convention in Philadelphia. This convention was attended by over 400 men and women from the U.S. and Canada.

The purpose of the convention was to enhance the ability of local Men's Clubs to better support their synagogue, community and the world at large as well as learn and have fun.

Program Highlights included:

- An address by Rabbi Jeff Myers of the Tree of Life synagogue of Pittsburgh. Not one sound was heard in the audience while he spoke. In addition, also being a Hazzan, he sang the 23rd Psalm during the Cantor's concert which he prefaced by saying he indeed "walked out of the valley of the shadow of death." It is hard to imagine a more moving moment than that. Tree of Life has a fundraising campaign to build a memorial and museum to remember this American tragedy. You can find out more at <https://www.rememberrebuildrenew.org/>.
- Dr. Yizhar Hess, Vice Chairman of the World Zionist Organization, who spoke about the importance of active participation in the WZO by members of the Conservative/Masorti movement. A family membership costs \$54 a year and entitles you to join in vital WZO elections. You can join at <https://www.mercazusa.org/support-us/membership/>.
- Rakafet Ginsburg, CEO of Masorti Israel, discussed the growth of the Masorti movement in Israel, especially among Sabras (native born Israelis) seeking an alternative between orthodoxy and secularism.
- Supporting the Ugandan Abayudaya Jews both in Uganda and assistance in making Aliyah. You can find out more at <https://fjmc.org/abayudaya-support>.
- The expansion of the FJMC long running Keruv Outreach program to additional underserved communities such as Jews of Color, LGBTQIA+ individuals and those with disabilities. This is in addition to the long effort to support the enhanced involvement of interfaith families in Jewish life.
- Program Fair and Torch Awards Ceremony where clubs highlighted successful programs that can be leveraged by other clubs.
- On Saturday night a cantorial concert with songs in Hebrew and English to inspire and entertain all the participants. Highlights included Hallelujah, You Raise Me Up, and The Impossible Dream, all sung as solos by individual cantors, and Yerushalayim Shel Zahav, which was the grand finale performed by all the cantors.
- Ways that Men's Clubs can better support their local communities and improve their outreach and operations.
- Delicious, hearty meals – all lunches and dinners ended with spirited benching that included waving of "ruach rags," an FJMC Convention tradition.

While we believe that EBJC has always had an effective Men's Club, we also know we can always improve. The FJMC convention gave us lots of fresh ideas regarding how we can improve and better serve the EBJC community. In addition, we also personally had an inspiring time and lots of fun.

In addition to this biennial convention, our local Northern New Jersey Region (NNJR) offers during the off year a regional Retreat in conjunction with 3 other nearby FJMC regions on July 7-9, 2024. Please look out for more information about this event during the Spring 2024.

Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you would like to know more about our convention or Men's Club.

Arthur Fliegelman, Steven Harkavy, Marty Hoffman, David Julis, Dave Libowsky and David Mandell
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Dues did not go up! It's just \$36 to join!

Need more info?

Contact Cindy Rabinowitz, VP of Membership.

Cindy.Rabinowitz@comcast.net or 908-307-5768

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

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KESHER AND YOUTH GROUPS



Hello Keshet Families and Youth,

I am looking forward to having Justin Hirsch begin his new position here at EBJC as the Interim Director of Education. He will come with great ideas for our Keshet and Youth programs.

Please look out for emails and in the weekly Tidbits to register your children for Keshet and the youth programs.

Please note that Keshet classes will begin on Sunday, September 10th and the first Youth Night will be on Wednesday, September 13th. More information will be forthcoming, including a calendar of classes and events for the year.

Although I am turning over my role as Director of Education to Justin Hirsch, I am happy to answer questions. My email remains cantorlarry@ebjc.org.

~Rabbi/Cantor Larry

ADULT EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

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

AVAILABLE CLASSES

PARSHAT HASHAVUAH CLASS (ZOOM)

Fridays | 11 a.m. (on Summer hiatus)

Join us for this 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 (virtually on TEAMS these days, perhaps will go hybrid again). After more than 15 years of continuous study, having started at the beginning of the Book of Genesis and completed the entire Pentateuch, the Books of Joshua, Judges and I Samuel, we are currently (November 2022) making our way thru **II Samuel** (King David).

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 (virtually on TEAMS these days, perhaps will go hybrid again). Currently we are studying tractate **Megillah** via the Artscroll English translation and commentary.

LUNCH AND LEARN (ZOOM)

Wednesdays | 12 p.m.

Classes are temporarily on-hold.

MONROE LUNCH AND LEARN

Thursdays | 12 p.m.

Once a month we meet with Cantor Larry 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.

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HAZAK

September 21, 6 p.m.

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