



# the RECORDER

EAST BRUNSWICK  JEWISH CENTER

MARCH 2023

ADAR - NISAN

VOLUME # 130



## 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

|      |           |
|------|-----------|
| 3/3  | 5:30 p.m. |
| 3/10 | 5:35 p.m. |
| 3/17 | 6:00 p.m. |
| 3/24 | 6:00 p.m. |
| 3/31 | 6:00 p.m. |

Saturday Mornings  
9:30 a.m.

MARCH 4  
Tetzaveh

MARCH 11  
Ki Tasa

MARCH 18  
Vayakhel-Pekudei

MARCH 25  
Vayikra

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Men's Club Contact  
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Rhonda Gold

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Ken Gerson & Taryn Webber

Chairperson, Special  
Circumstances  
Marilyn Friedes

Social Action  
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Director of The Center for  
Early Learning  
Lynda Perel

Calendar  
Taryn Webber

Board of Education Chair  
Jamie Wasserman

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## UPCOMING DATES

FOR LINKS TO SERVICES, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS, PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBPAGE AT [WWW.EBJC.ORG](http://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](http://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](mailto:madelinef18@gmail.com)

### HAZAK

#### March 16, Thursday, Noon Luncheon

Musician Eric Lipper returns!

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Ever on the search for interesting programming, please note some of the events that will be offered this month (the rest can be found on page 6): On March 1 we have the Sisterhood Book Club discussion of "The Ritual Bath"; on March 2 we will have the program "Who Wrote the Torah?"; on March 5 we will have both PURIMPALOOZA 2023 and the East Brunswick Jewish Community Annual Passover Wine Tasting. On March 12 we will "Travel the Jewish World Virtually" and visit The Old Jewish Quarter of London. On March 15 Sisterhood is hosting an event "Create a Vision Board" and on March 16 there will be a session of the Winter 2023 Mini Education Series led by Rabbi Pivo on the Book of Ruth.

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:

Deena & Yigal Oren on the birth of their granddaughter, Naya  
Lynda & Elliott Perel on the marriage of their son, Sam, to Jamie

## THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

Terri Silverman on the loss of her mother, Alice Kaplan  
Ethan Miner on the loss of his mother, Myra Toby Zalk

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*MAZEL TOV TO OUR VERY OWN  
CANTOR LARRY BRANDSPIEGEL  
WHO IS BECOMING THE NEXT  
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EDUCATORS ASSEMBLY!!*



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[donothrowitaway.com](http://donothrowitaway.com)

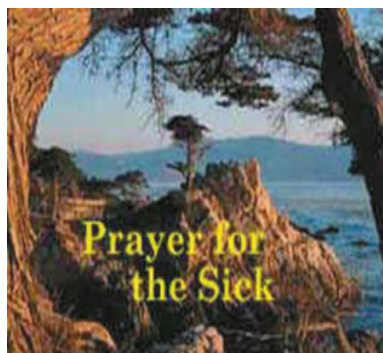


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### **HevraTehillim - a "Psalm Fellowship"**

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](mailto: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  
Pamela J. Donner, P.A.**

100 Perrine Road  
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Tel: (732) 316-0900  
[www.paacnj.com](http://www.paacnj.com)



*Links and information on all programs can be found on the [ebjc.org](http://ebjc.org) homepage*

**Wednesday, March 1 @ 7:30PM**

**Sisterhood Book Club discussion**

Sara Ullman will lead a discussion of Faye Kellerman's *"The Ritual Bath"*. Join us via Zoom. Link will be sent the day before.

**Thursday, March 2 @ 8:30PM**

**Who Wrote the Torah?**

Join us for a discussion about who wrote the Torah with Dr. Richard Elliott Friedman. Registration is required.

**Friday, March 3 @5:30PM**

**Shabbat Across America**

Join us for services, followed by dinner, Zmirot and an ice cream bar. Registration is required.

**Sunday, March 5 @10AM-1PM**

**PURIMPALOOZA 2023**

Come join the fun and celebrate Purim here at EBJC! Fun activities for all ages. Registration is required.

**Sunday, March 5 @11AM-2PM**

**East Brunswick Jewish Community Annual Passover Wine Tasting**

More than 100 wines will be available for tasting and ordering.

**Tuesday, March 7 @5PM**

**Chair Yoga - Free Trial Class**

Registration is required.

**Wednesday, March 8 @7PM**

**Cooks Corner - Hosted by Rhoda Cohen on Zoom**

Session 1 - Gadgets and Kitchen Collectibles with Shareable Memories. Registration is required.

**Sunday, March 12 @1PM**

**Travel the Jewish World Virtually**

"The Old Jewish Quarter of London" with Stephen Burstin. Registration is required.

**Wednesday, March 15 @7:30PM**

**Create a Vision Board**

First Lady Carol Goldberg will lead us in creating a collage representing you and your aspirations, and things that are important to you. Mothers and daughters (ages 10+) are welcome. Please bring your own magazine cutouts to complete this project. Cost is \$18. Please mail checks to EBJC, attention to Sisterhood on the envelope. RSVP by March 10 to Cindi Jacobs at 732-690-2743.

**Thursday, March 16 @7PM**

**Winter 2023 Mini Education Series led by Rabbi Pivo**

Book of Ruth, Megillat Ruth

**Sunday, March 19, 10AM**

**JNF Love of Israel Brunch**

Registration is required.

**Friday, March 31**

**Sisterhood's Annual Torah Fund Event**

Join us for services, Shabbat dinner and Oneg. Registration is required..

**Thursday, April 20 @8:30PM**

**The Power Worshippers**

Join us for a timely and engaging discussion with Katherine Stewart, author of "The Power Worshippers". Registration is required.

# RABBINIC REFLECTIONS

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On the evening of March 6th and the morning of the 7th, we will read megillat Esther as part of our annual Purim observances. The story of Esther, Mordecai and Haman can be understood on many levels, but the one I find most meaningful is the partnership between Esther and Mordecai, two very different kinds of Jews. On many occasions in the megillah, Mordecai is called "Mordecai the Jew." His identity is clear to all, so much so that when he refuses to bow down to Haman, the latter sees it as a clear representation of Jewish otherness, a brush with which he paints an unflattering portrait of the Jews as a whole. Esther, on the other hand, is referred to by only her name. In addition, Esther enters a beauty contest with non-Jews in Persia, is picked by Achashverosh to be his queen, and serves as monarch without anyone being aware she is Jewish. It is only when she stands up for her people, and publicly identifies with them, that she is able to exert the influence that saves them from destruction. Without Mordecai,

Esther would not have risen to a position of influence; without Esther, redemption from violence may not have happened.

Each one of us is a Mordecai or an Esther. There are times when our identity as Jews is front and center, when our Jewishness is the primary attribute. At other times our Jewish identity is below the surface, unknown to others but always there, the inner spark of connection to Jewish, belief, behavior and belonging waiting to be fanned into flame. But without either of these kinds of Jews, or phases in our personal Jewishness, we would not continue to exist as a people. Neither is more important than the other; neither claims more authority or legitimacy than the other as real Jews. The observant and the secular Jew, the Jew of any modern movement, the Sefardic, Ashkenazi, Greek, Ethiopian, Romaniot...you get the picture. Each has its particular flavor, and each adds to the vibrancy of klal Yisrael, the entirety of the Jewish community.

Here at EBJC we also have our Mordecais and Esthers. Some of us come to the building regularly, some less frequently and some hardly at all. There are members who give a great deal of time or financial support to the shul, and some who do not or cannot. Some attend only religious services; others prefer educational and social gatherings. All our members are vital to the survival and future growth of the synagogue, and meeting the various needs of all our

members is of great importance to me.

Whether you are a Mordecai or an Esther, or alternate between them day to day, your participation in all aspects of synagogue life are crucial. Help to create a community marked by civility, understanding and real compassion as we look toward the future where every EBJC member feels affirmed in their own Jewish identity and also affirms the sometimes very different identity of fellow congregants. We need both Mordecai and Esther to ensure our future.

Rabbi Jeff Pivo





We are about to celebrate the holiday of Purim. With that comes fun, noise, and some adult beverages. We are commanded to listen to the Megillah being read and enjoy ourselves while doing so.

We know that Esther and Mordekhai are the heroes of the story, and of course, Haman is, without a doubt, the villain. We know what he did, but we do not get much of a chance to really hear from him or get his full take on the events. Here is a story that could be told if we listen to Haman tell it!

"What did you expect? If you read the Book of Esther, of course you are going to get Esther's side of the story. The truth is the whole thing was a terrible mistake. I cannot believe they decided to hang me.

The problem started way back when Ahashverosh became king and appointed me his second in command. Unfortunately, that was the last smart thing the king ever did. Did you ever try working for a boss who was really...well, stupid? I had to take care of everything in the kingdom, from

choosing his clothes, to collecting taxes, to making all the laws. Sure, he put his seal on the proclamations, but all the decisions were totally mine. I was under so much pressure. I was not sleeping nights.

Then along comes this Mordekhai character. Suddenly, the King takes a real liking to him. Just because the guy saves his life, is it necessary to make such a big deal? Anyway, all I heard from the king day and night, night, and day, was "Mordekhai this," "Mordecai that." How would you feel after you had given the best years of your life to serving someone, and suddenly you find that he seems to prefer some outsider?

What choice did I have? Sure, I got the king to sign a proclamation to get rid of the Jews, but the only Jew I knew was Mordekhai. I mean everybody is entitled to get rid of one enemy in life. How was I supposed to know there were thousands of Jews and that the queen was one of them? The truth is, I did like Esther. Had I known, I never would have done anything to hurt her...really.

Look at it from my side. They really were not very nice to me. First King Ahashverosh tricked me into leading Mordecai around on a horse, then Queen Esther tricked me into coming to her house for what I thought would be a lovely dinner. Boy, was I wrong.

So, it was the gallows—the same one I built for Mordecai. You would think at least they would have given me a little peace and

quiet on my last night, but all my wife kept saying was "I told you so." She never wanted me to go into politics. She wanted me to become a doctor. Maybe I should have.

So, I ask you, was this fair? Each year, Jews yell and scream when they hear my name. They blame me for everything bad that ever happened to them. You would think they would be a little thankful that I gave them this holiday of Purim. But the truth is, I do not care. At least I am famous.

Just remember to think of me whenever you chomp down on one of those yummy Hamantaschen."

So, how do you think you would tell the story if you were wearing Haman's hat? Have a wonderfully fun Purim.

~Cantor Larry I. Brandspiegel



# FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I am just coming off of a high from a wonderful weekend at EBJC. We had Dueling Pianos on Saturday night, World Wide Wrap early Sunday morning, and Sunday Hazak brunch with John Kenrick presenting “Mel Brooks – It’s Good To Be King”. We were busy like it was 2019!!! Old times, right?

125 people came to Dueling Pianos, 65 came to Hazak and World Wide Wrap had standing room only. WHAT??? Never mind that on Monday, I could barely walk (well, I could walk but it was more of a shuffle). If you came to ANY of these events, I hope you saw what I saw...We’re Back Baby!!

The positive feedback was astounding which made the exhaustion well worth it. Can I bill the synagogue for a relaxing massage? Botox?

We are going to try to work on this momentum. I think people saw what can be done with a little bit of effort. Our committee for Dueling Pianos was made up of only 4 people. On the day we needed to slice and dice and platter the food, we had a few

volunteers, some not even associated with EBJC, come and help. If you were impressed by the food, the atmosphere, the decorations...remember...four people!!

We are now looking into having more events, fun and social and not necessarily fundraisers. Suggestions we’ve received are a Murder Mystery Night, a Mentalist come and perform, Gift Card Bingo, Casino Night, etc. We’ve already had several people step up and say they’d help with the next event. Woo Hoo! I’m in heaven!

As I am writing this, the dance floor in the ballroom is being replaced with a beautiful new floor. In order to preserve this floor for the future, all dancers will require a hovercraft (just kidding). The electrician will be moving the outlets from the middle of the walls to closer to the floor. He will also add additional outlets and a new breaker box by the dairy kitchen for the coffee makers and hot plates. No more tripping breakers! Once that is done, the sheetrock will go up. We are looking at new, more modern wall sconces to replace the ones currently in the ballroom. Lastly, the walls will be spackled, primed, and painted. We’re hoping this will all be done and finished by April/May the latest. As much as we’d love to replace the carpeting and ceiling tiles, this will have to wait as we do not have the funds to cover the anticipated \$25,000 cost, but with the dance floor, walls and sconces replaced, the room will

look magnificent! So, book your event now!

Today, as I sit in my office typing this, Yael Shudrich-Kabilou is having an art exhibit in our lobby and hallway. What a wonderful thing to exhibit the talent of one of our members. If you have an opportunity, stop by and check out her artwork. It will be on display for a while. We are always willing to show off the talent of our members. Feel free to share with us!

I’m going to have to end this article because as I sit in my office surrounded by many of the leftovers from this weekend, I am eating Twizzlers which may not be the healthiest dinner choice. Tasty, but not healthy.

So, my friends, I leave you with this...take a lesson from this past weekend. Come join us as we strive to bring social and fun events back to EBJC. Join us for a Friday family night Shabbat dinner. Join us for the Gala (June 11) which will be at Eagle’s Landing Day Camp (not your typical Gala) – a fun morning for the entire family! As you can see, we’re “thinking outside the box”. Who does a Gala at a Day Camp? WE DO!

May you be well,

Ellen

# FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



I always look forward to March. The days start getting warmer and longer. Spring is just around the corner and so is Purim. Purim is a wonderful and joyous celebration. It is certainly a reminder to all of us that it only takes one brave person to change the course of history for many people.

I hope that many of you will participate in our Purim celebrations. EBJC together with Temple B'nai Shalom will be sponsoring a big PURIMPALOOZA right here at the East Brunswick Jewish Center on Sunday morning, March 5 from 10 AM to 1 PM. You can sign up for tickets on the EBJC website. Don't forget that as part of the festivities, the Mitzvah Corps will be hosting their annual Wine Tasting Event and will be taking wine and liquor orders for Passover. All proceeds go to Yasher LaChayal, so it's

both an enjoyable time AND a mitzvah, too.

We will, of course, have our Megillah reading on Monday evening, March 6! It is a wonderful opportunity for families and friends to gather together and I guarantee that it will be a fun evening. I hope to see you there.

I am writing this article just after returning from our wonderful Dueling Pianos program. It was not only a successful fundraiser, but we were able to bring out almost 120 people who sang, danced, ate and drank the night away, and everyone had a good time. It is obvious that we are now in the post covid era, and it's time for us to return to EBJC and become a true "Center" for Jewish life in East Brunswick, not only for Hebrew School and services, but a place to socialize and celebrate and gather together once again.

We are talking about doing more events and welcome suggestions or perhaps a few volunteers to help with the next event. I promise, we won't make you sign a long-term contract. Please contact me or the office if you'd like to help us out.

Finally, I will tell you that there is much going on here, including our Rabbi Search

Committee which is leaving no stone unturned to find us our next spiritual leader. It is but one example of what really goes on here, where we have a lot of members who are working behind the scenes to guarantee a good future for EBJC. I appreciate their hard work and I hope that you do, too.

HAPPY PURIM!!

Steve Wohl  
EBJC Co-President

# SISTERHOOD



Hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Tu B'Shevat and Purim. There's nothing like holidays to bring families together. Sisterhood's annual Purim Mishloach Manot campaign was a huge success this year. We exceeded our proceeds from 2022! We thank all those who supported this project by ordering baskets. You have demonstrated your commitment to EBJC, as our Purim campaign is our biggest fundraiser that helps us meet our financial obligation to the shul.

Much gratitude to the loyal volunteers who delivered the baskets and brought the joy of Purim directly to all of our congregants' homes.

Yasher Koach to Margot Julis and Cindy Rabinowitz, Mishloach Manot co-chairs, who do such a superb job of carrying out this important mitzvah.



## ***This Past Month--***

We had a fun-filled month, starting on Thursday, February 16, with Part 2 of Rabbi Pivo's Winter Education Miniseries Women of the Megillot. We discussed the Book of Esther, right in time for Purim. There is still one remaining session, which will focus on Ruth—Thursday, March 16. Please join us, whether or not you have attended up until now. You are still welcome.

On Wednesday, March 1, our quarterly Sisterhood Book Club reviewed The Ritual Bath, a scathing mystery, number 1 in the iconic Decker/Lazarus detective series by popular author Faye Kellerman. If you loved this one, there are approximately 26 more books to explore in the series.

Our next book selection is being led by Carol Landa on Thursday, June 1. We will be discussing An Orphan in History by Paul Cowan, a secular Jew who explores his roots in his thirties and comes to embrace his Jewish heritage. 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.

## ***On the Horizon--***

On Wednesday, March 15 we are delving into a unique craft project, led by one of our EBJC "first ladies," Carol Goldberg. Carol will teach us how to create vision boards. If you are not familiar, a vision board is a collage that represents in words and images some of the wishes/goals of its designer. This exercise will be both engaging and inspiring, and only costs \$18. Here are some examples of vision boards.



Our 2022-2023 Torah Fund Campaign—Chazak V'Ematz—is going strong. We are currently at 94 percent of our goal! 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 demonstrate your support.

Our annual Torah Fund event 2023 features the return of our popular Friday night dinner celebration. Please join us on Friday, March 31, as we hear from a speaker who has benefited from Torah Fund and pay tribute to a special Sisterhood member.

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This year, Sisterhood joins with East Brunswick Hadassah for a festive Shabbat on Saturday, May 6 (Parshat Emor) in the sanctuary. Contact Gloria Jaslow at glorichi@aol.com to get involved. Both Hebrew and English parts are available.

**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 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. And Yasher Koach to Cindy for participating in Purim Palooza this year.

As you begin to prepare for Passover, keep in mind the beautiful message of our beloved spring holiday—the supreme importance of freedom.

Warm regards,

Sara Ullman  
Immediate Past Sisterhood  
Co-President



# MEN'S CLUB

Shalom:

Men's Club has information on all of our upcoming activities at our web page at [ebjc.org/mens-club](http://ebjc.org/mens-club). Please go to this page anytime for information about upcoming Men's Club events.

On Shabbat, March 25, Men's Club hosts our annual Men's Club Shabbat. Please contact Ken Gerson ([kgerson7@gmail.com](mailto:kgerson7@gmail.com)) if you would like to participate in the service or go to [ebjc.org/MCshabbat](http://ebjc.org/MCshabbat) for more information.

Please be on the lookout for additional information details about an annual event Shoah to be held at EBJC at 2 pm on April 16 sponsored by the Kesler/Reed family in memory of Michael Kesler.

Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC), our international organization, is hosting its biennial convention in Philadelphia from June 29 to July 2. The convention is an informative and fun event for all in attendance. Financial subsidies are available for those attending. For information go to <https://www.fjmc.org/biennial-convention> or speak to any of our co-presidents.

Men's Club facilitated posting lawn signs welcoming all to EBJC. These signs are part of a joint FJMC and WLJC inclusion program. Additional signs have been added by EBJC emphasizing all Jews are welcome at EBJC's wide range of services (traditional, egalitarian, in person and online). You can see the signs at [tinyurl.com/FJMCsigns](http://tinyurl.com/FJMCsigns).

We had a successful and well-attended Keshet discussion including Keshet students and families with Michelle Weinfeld, discussing her new book, "From Generation to Generation: A Memoir of Food, Family, and Identity in the Aftermath of the Shoah." The book is available at bookstores and Amazon.



Men's Club hosted the annual World Wide Wrap on Feb. 12, in conjunction with Men's Clubs across the U.S., and including a Super Bowl Trivia quiz and related prizes, since it was held on Super Bowl Sunday. It was well-attended and included participation of Keshet students and their families. Men's Club loves doing events including our younger members. Please let us know if you have suggested programs appropriate for our younger members and their families.

You have already received your Yom HaShoah candle package delivered in conjunction with Sisterhood's Mishloach Manot deliveries. Yom HaShoah begins on the evening of April 17. Please help us commemorate this unfortunate event so it will not be forgotten.



Men's Club will donate part of our proceeds to Holocaust education efforts.

Men's Club raised \$160 through the sale of the Entertainment Book. These funds have been donated to the Youth Commission to fund youth programming.

Pickleball remains indoors in the EBJC Activity Center starting at 1:45 pm on Fridays. Contact Joel Greengarten at [jgg998@comcast.net](mailto:jgg998@comcast.net) for more information. EBJC and MC want to thank Steven and Leora Meller and Champion Sports of Marlboro for their generous contribution in getting indoor pickleball at EBJC started.

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](mailto:mensclub@ebjc.org)



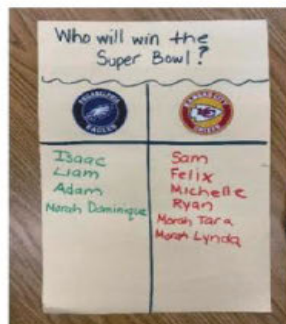
# CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING



February has been filled with so many incredible celebrations. We have celebrated birthdays of both preschoolers and presidents, the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, and more!



We also learned about Groundhog day and the Super bowl this month! We made predictions on the outcomes of these special events too!



# KESHER AND YOUTH GROUPS



*Hello Keshet and Youth Families,*

*I cannot believe it is March already. The year is flying by. This month we celebrate Purim and after that we begin our preparations for Passover.*

*On Sunday, March 5th, we will have our Purim Palooza at 10am. Our special committee has been working hard to prepare a great morning of fun, games, music, wine for the adults, and more.*

*Then on Monday evening, March 6th at 6:45pm, we will have our Purim service and Megillah reading. There is always a Purim costume contest so feel free to dress up in your best costume. In fact, feel free to come to the Palooza in your costume as well to heighten the festive mood.*

*Shabbat morning, March 11th is Youth Shabbat. Come support our young leaders as they help lead services that morning in the sanctuary.*

*March 22nd is Youth Night with Chaverim and Kadima at 6:15pm and USY at 7:30pm.*

*On Sunday, March 26th, we will learn all about Passover with Passover Stations. I am looking for some help from parents that day, so please contact me if you are able to assist.*

*Finally, looking ahead to Passover, we will NOT have Keshet classes during Passover. Therefore, we are closed on April 2, 5, 9 and 12.*

*The fun continues, so you do not want to miss any of it. Please contact me with any questions by emailing me at [cantorlarry@ebjc.org](mailto:cantorlarry@ebjc.org).*

*~Cantor Larry*

# ADULT EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

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

## AVAILABLE CLASSES

### PARSHAT HASHAVUAH CLASS (ZOOM)

Fridays | 11 a.m.

Join us for Rabbi Pivo's Friday morning class at 11 a.m. where we study the weekly parshah prior to Shabbat. Reflecting on the Chumash and ancient and modern commentaries, we discuss the roots of our ancient culture and the timeless values of the Jewish people.

### GENESIS SCIENCE CLASS 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.

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](mailto: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, Thursdays | 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

**March 16** Thursday, Noon Luncheon  
Musician Eric Lipper returns!

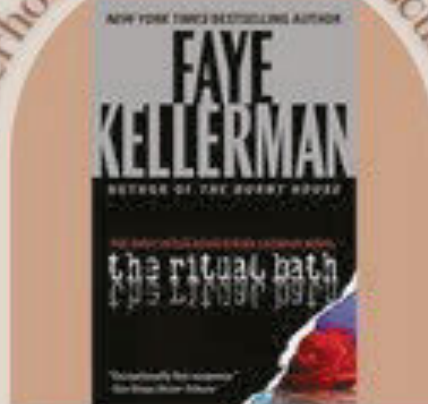
**HEBREW READING CLASS AND MAH JONG  
ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**



# Sisterhood

All are welcome on Wednesday, March 1

## Sisterhood Book Club Discussion



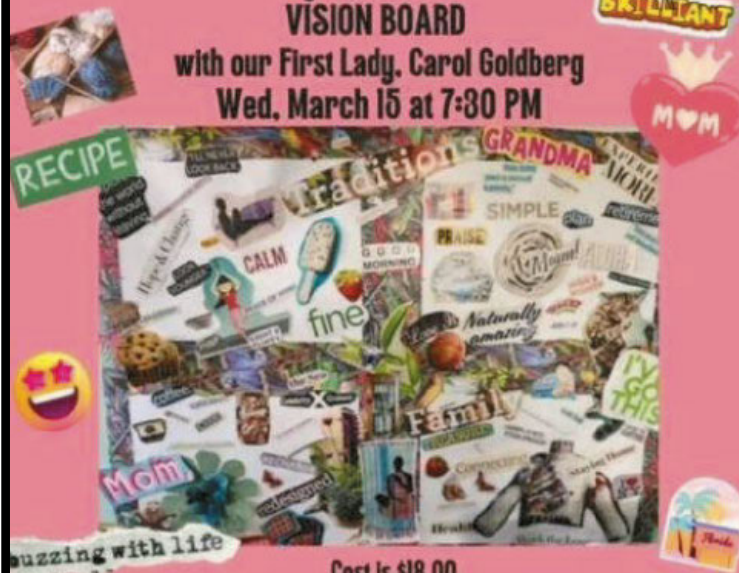
A woman at a remote yeshiva in California is raped. As Detective Pete Decker investigates the crime, he finds the only one willing to speak to him is Rina Lazarus, the "Mikveh Lady". Rina helps Peter to navigate the maze of Jewish laws and eventually find the culprit.

JOIN US ON ZOOM AT 7:30 PM

LINK PROVIDED 24 HOURS PRIOR TO DISCUSSION

Questions? Contact: Sara Ullman  
sarajuli366@gmail.com

East Brunswick Jewish Center's Sisterhood invites  
you to make a  
**VISION BOARD**  
with our First Lady, Carol Goldberg  
Wed, March 15 at 7:30 PM



Cost is \$18.00

Please bring magazine cut outs to create a collage representing  
you, your aspirations, and things that are important to you.

Mothers and daughters ages 10+ are welcome and encouraged to come!



RSVP by March 10  
to Cindi Jacobs at 732-690-2743

Checks made out to EBJC Sisterhood & mailed to  
EBJC, 511 Ryders Lane, Attn: Sisterhood crafts event  
(on envelope, to arrive by 3/10/23)



EAST BRUNSWICK JEWISH CENTER



# Who Wrote The Torah?

Thursday 3/2/23 @ 8:30 PM - Zoom

Please join us for a discussion about Who Wrote  
The Torah with Dr. Richard Elliott Friedman

ALL are welcome. To receive a Zoom link,  
register at: [ebjc.org/WhoWroteTorah](http://ebjc.org/WhoWroteTorah)

The Torah contains the first prose writing on earth. Before that there was only poetry. If it is factual, it is the first history ever written. If it is fiction, then it is the first novel. But either way it is the first. What moved a single Jewish writer to invent this new kind of text 3,000 years ago? And what moved him or her to write these particular stories: why go all the way back to creation? Why include so many stories of brothers killing brothers? Did the author just invent the stories, or learn them from past generations, or rewrite them from songs and poetry? Above all, who were these first writers on earth who gave us the Torah?



Dr. Richard Elliott Friedman, Ann & Jay Davis Professor of Jewish Studies  
Emeritus, University of Georgia, Katzin Professor of Jewish Civilization  
Emeritus, University of California, San Diego

Richard Elliott Friedman is one of the premier bible scholars in the country. He earned his doctorate at Harvard and was a visiting fellow at Oxford and Cambridge, a Senior Fellow of the American Schools of Oriental Research in Jerusalem, and a Visiting Professor at the University of Haifa. He is the Ann & Jay Davis Professor of Jewish Studies Emeritus at the University of Georgia and the Katzin Professor of Jewish Civilization Emeritus of the University of California, San Diego. He is the author of Commentary on the Torah, The Exodus, The Disappearance of God, The Hidden Book in the Bible, The Bible with Sources Revealed, The Bible Now, The Exile and Biblical Narrative, and the bestselling Who Wrote the Bible? He was a consultant for the Dreamworks film "The Prince of Egypt," for Alice Hoffman's The Dovekeepers, and for NBC, A&E, PBS, and Nova.

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.



# SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA



**MARCH 3, 2023**  
**Services at 5:30pm**  
**Followed by Dinner,**  
**Zmirot & Ice Cream**  
**Bar**

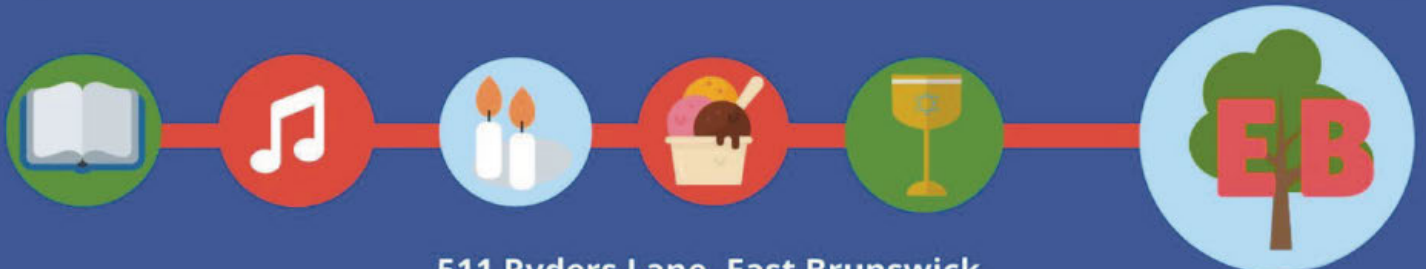
Please join us, and hundreds of other Jews across the community, to participate in Shabbat Across America.

The program includes an evening service, a discussion on different Shabbat traditions, songs, dinner and desserts.

EBJC Chefs will prepare a dinner menu to include: butternut squash soup, fish, pasta, salads, vegetables and dessert!

\$20/adult, \$10/ages 5-12, age 5 or under are free,  
\$54/family with 2 kids. More than 2 kids, call for pricing.  
(732) 257-7070 x5 for Ellen

**RSVP by Tuesday, February 28 @ 12noon**  
**[ebjc.org/Shabbat-Across-America](http://ebjc.org/Shabbat-Across-America)**



511 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick



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פורים  
(שמח)

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ADULTS!!

FUN  
FOR  
ALL  
AGES!!!

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MAKE AND  
TAKE

COSTUME  
CONTEST!  
CREATIVITY  
COUNTS!

Sunday, March 5th  
10 AM - 1 PM  
EBJC  
511 Ryders Lane

CHECK OR CASH  
ACCEPTED FOR  
REGISTRATION

CASH ONLY AT THE  
DOOR

**Admission**  
If registered  
online by Feb.  
24:

Family: \$36  
Individual: \$10

**Admission at  
the door:**  
\$15 per person

DJ

KARAOKE

GAMES

FOOD

PHOTO BOOTH

CRAFTS

AND SO MUCH MORE!!

\*All children MUST be accompanied by  
an adult. This is NOT a drop-off event.

HAPPY  
PURIM





The East Brunswick  
Jewish Community  
Presents its Annual  
**Passover  
Wine Tasting**

**Sunday, March 5th**

**11:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Location: EBJC Ballroom**

**MORE THAN 100 WINES  
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR  
TASTING AND ORDERING**

**NET PROCEEDS FROM WINE SALES BENEFIT YASHAR LACHAYAL**



**After this free trial class, our goal is to offer Chair Yoga here at EBJC as an 8 week series.**

**Sessions will be one hour, once a week and will cost \$45 for the series.**

**A minimum of 6 participants is necessary to book the series.**



## FREE CHAIR YOGA CLASS

---

Chair yoga is a gentle and accessible form of yoga that uses a chair for seated poses and also for balancing poses while standing.

A great place to start practicing yoga to increase your strength, explore movement in the body, boost your mood and reduce stress.

Options are given to personalize the practice for YOU.

Sponsored by

East Brunswick Jewish Center  
511 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816  
732-257-7070 x5

Instructor :  
Krystal Loughlin

To Register:  
[www.ebjc.org/chairyoga](http://www.ebjc.org/chairyoga)

Tuesday  
March 7, 2023  
5pm

OPEN TO THE  
ENTIRE  
COMMUNITY



We want you to join the  
**C.I.A.**  
**(Common Interest Activities)**

Open to EBJC congregants and members of our community.  
We'll connect through shared interests and get together for activities  
on Zoom, in-person, or a combination of Zoom and in-person.

This program is being launched by EBJC's Membership Committee.



**COOKS CORNER...Hosted by Rhoda Cohen via Zoom**

Join other foodies to explore everything there is to love about cooking, including useful kitchen gadgets, food hacks, favorite cookbooks and new recipes!

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 7pm

**Gadgets and Kitchen Collectibles with Shareable Memories**

- Participants will be asked to select one of their favorite gadgets and share a memory associated with it
- I will show a variety of useful and fun gadgets
- Demo spaetzle maker. Recipe will be emailed the following day

Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 7pm

**Cook Along - Tofu Stir Fry with Endless Vegetables**

- Recipe and supply list will be provided in advance to all those who have registered.

Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 7pm

**Holiday Food Demo - Blintzes for Shavuot**

- Recipe will be emailed the following day

Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 7pm

**Spices and Herbs - Fresh, Frozen or Dried**

- Creating special blends in your kitchen vs buying prepared mixes.
- Demo and recipes

**Registration is required to attend: [www.EBJC.org/CooksCorner](http://www.EBJC.org/CooksCorner)**

C.I.A. @ EBJC is new for all of us, and it is FREE to sign up. If you would like to lead an activity, are interested in learning about other C.I.A. happenings at EBJC, or have an idea for a different program, let us know!

If you have any questions please contact:  
Ken Gerson at [kgerson7@gmail.com](mailto:kgerson7@gmail.com) or  
Rhoda Cohen at [rhodacohen2@gmail.com](mailto:rhodacohen2@gmail.com)





# 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](http://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.





# "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



**TORAH FUND**  
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM  
CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

**East Brunswick Jewish Center**

invites you to attend

**Sisterhood's Annual Torah Fund Event**

**Friday March 31, 2023**

**Service, Shabbat Dinner and Oneg**

where we continue to raise critical funds for JTS



Recognizing Our 2023 Sisterhood Honoree

**Sara Ullman**

for her tireless hours of volunteer work to  
support EBJC Sisterhood...our unsung hero

**Guest Speaker TBA**

The theme for this year's campaign is:

**Chazak v'Emetz - Be Strong and Courageous.**

A minimum donation of \$18 to Torah Fund is also required to attend. If you have not made a donation this year, please include a check, made out to 'Torah Fund' and mail to: EBJC Sisterhood, 511 Ryders Lane, EB, NJ 08816.

**Save The Date**  
**More details to be shared soon!**

Torah Fund Sponsorship Levels

\_\_\_ Keter Kavod \$5,000

\_\_\_ Scholarship Patron \$2,500

\_\_\_ Patron \$1,200

\_\_\_ Associate Patron \$600

\_\_\_ Guardian \$300

\_\_\_ Benefactor \$180

\_\_\_ Other, \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact Anne Kroll at [selectivemedia@comcast.net](mailto:selectivemedia@comcast.net) or 732-735-1616.



EAST BRUNSWICK JEWISH CENTER

DONATION LIST WAS MADE AS OF AND INCLUDING FEBRUARY 19. IF YOU MADE A DONATION AFTER THIS DATE, IT WILL BE IN NEXT MONTH'S RECORDER.

## ALIYAH

Carol & Judah Landa in memory of Abraham Tzvi Landa

Marla & Martin Genee

Helene & Ken Gerson

Madeline & Joel Frances

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

## CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Joannie and Jerry Weinfeld in honor of Michelle's amazing presentation

Robyn and Alex Zernitsky & Family for Robyn's dad's good health.

## GENERAL DONATIONS

Shirley & Bruce Sommers in memory of Neal Yolin

Myra Lee Cohen in memory of Alice Kaplan

Inge Gross in memory of Alice Kaplan

Madeline & Joel Frances in memory of Alice Kaplan

Taryn & Seth Webber wishing Mazel Tov to The Oren Family on the birth of their granddaughter

Gail Rubin in memory of Sidney Weiss

Shirley & Bruce Sommers wishing Mazel Tov to the Orens on the birth of their granddaughter

Madeline & Joel Frances wishing Mazel Tov to Yigal and Deena Oren on the birth of their granddaughter, Naya

Gail Rubin in honor of Macaria Pelofsky being youth of the year

Gail Rubin wishing Mazel Tov to Lynda and Elliott Perel on the aufruf of their son, Sam, and his fiancée, Jamie

Ellen & Robert Botwin wishing Mazel Tov to Yigal and Deena Oren on the birth of their first granddaughter, Naya

Meredith & Marc Pearl in memory of Alice Kaplan

Sheila & Joseph Behrman in honor of Joseph's birthday

Helaine & Joe Goldman in memory of Stan Rubin, Paul Weissler and Allen Bachenheimer

Renee Weissman wishing Mazel Tov to Deena and Yigal Oren and best wishes for their new granddaughter, Naya

Susan & Edward Pilcer in memory of Alice Kaplan

Gail Rubin in memory of Paul Weissman

Donna & Larry Danzig wishing Mazel Tov to Shirley and Arthur Wachtel on the birth of their new granddaughter, Stella Betty

Donna & Larry Danzig wishing Mazel Tov to Sheldon & Diana Horowitz on the birth of their new granddaughter, Adina Eve

Sara & Steven Ullman in honor of Deena and Yigal Oren becoming grandparents with the birth of their new granddaughter

Arlene & Stanley Ferman in memory of Sidney Weiss

Laura & Joel Leizer in memory of Stanley Rubin

Leora & Stephen Meller in memory of Alice Kaplan

## YAHREZEIT

Martin Hecht in memory of Michael Hecht and Arthur Herberg

Myra & Paul Rose in memory of Barbara Dombeck and Esther Crawford

Basya & Alexander Ekshtayn in memory of Yakov Eckstein

Donna Guskind in memory Eugene Guskind

Rhoda Cohen in memory of Frieda Rahn

Leslie & Mark Foladare in memory of Mollie Foladare and Leo Sulzbacher

Margot & David Julis in memory of Norman Leive and Stuart Alan Julis

Marilyn & Albert Friedes in memory of Ethel Shor and Louis Shor

Sara & Steven Ullman in memory of Mayer Hirsh Ettner

Lois Ledner in memory of Hyman Genee

Beth & Michael Belzer in memory of Aron Belzer

Madeline & Joel Frances in memory of Isaac Frances, Jilda Frances and Bessie Adam

Rebecca & Charles Breverman in memory of Sophia Izenzon Breverman

Elissa & Philip Smith in memory of Rabbi Philip Book

Naomi Weiss in memory of Hilde Levi Reinhold

Yvette & Asher Yama in memory of Mordechai Yama and Michael Schlusel

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Rochelle & Sorin Weissman in memory of Sylvia Friedman and Samuel H. Friedman

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Meredith & Marc Pearl in memory of Samuel Pearl

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Rosalyn Goldstein in memory of Thelma Goldstein and Jeffrey Goldstein

Valerie & Ronald Levenberg in memory of Solomon Scharf

Cheryl Kolber in memory of Allan Kolber

Roberta & Paul Solomon in memory of Joseph Einhorn

Renee Weissman in memory of Yoninah Fractor

Marsha & Philip Schiffman in memory of Harry Schnipper

Elyse & Jeffrey Herman in memory of Harry Herman

Mindy & Lloyd Shepetin in memory of Ruth Shepetin

Donna & Larry Danzig in memory of Oscar Trager and Muriel Trager

Martin Hecht in memory of Blanche Herberg

Sharlene Harris & David Libowsky in memory of Cora Libowsky

Anita & Herman Price in memory of Harriet Beckman

Brenda & Irwin Goldman in memory of Aaron A. Gorlin

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Elissa Smilowitz in memory of Hector Smilowitz

Roberta & Paul Solomon in memory of Nathan Solomon

Irwin Steinlight in memory of Irene Steinlight

Lory Pelofsky in memory of Bertha Pelofsky

Bonnie & Lawrence Solomon in memory of Bernard Solomon

Myra & Paul Rose in memory of Roslyn Rose

Annette Verona in memory of Tillie Friedman and Minnie Verona

Cindy & Eric Rabinowitz in memory of Howard Leska and Sarah Celia Holodetz

Pearl & Robert Horn in memory of Bessie Horenstein

Fran Katz in memory of Samuel Kleinman

Rhoda Cohen in memory of Rabbi Herman Cohen

Laura & Larry Brandspiegel in memory of Harry Puter, Leah Puter and Sol Brandspiegel

Gerri & Jan Lewis in memory of Carol Sue Thau

Joseph Wofchuck in memory of Pauline Wofchuck

Ilene & Charles Flug in memory of Regina Flug

Carol & Judah Landa in memory of Dwight Summers and Deborah Summers

Sheila & Bernard Solomon in memory of Nettie Cohen and Dora Solomon

Myra Feldman in memory of Fred Feldman

Sally Neadle in memory of Dexter Neadle

## KIDDUSH

Carol & Judah Landa in memory of Dwight and Deborah Summers

Jules Plafker in memory of Roxsene on her first Yahrzeit

Marla & Martin Genée in memory of Rose Goldman and Ian Bruce Goldman

Leora & Steven Meller

Helene & Ken Gerson

Sara & Steven Ullman in honor of their son Marc's 35th birthday

Gail & Neil Kosher in honor of Gail reading Torah

Dov & Barbara Pollak in honor of their daughter Aviva's birthday

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

T



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East Brunswick Jewish Center

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