

the KECORDER

EAST BRUNSWICK



JEWISH CENTER

MARCH 2021

ADAR—NISAN 5781

VOLUME # 108



SHABBAT SERVICES

Services being held online at the following times. To join the stream, viśit ebjc.org/online-events

Friday Evenings 5:30pm 3/5 5:40 pm 3/12 3/19 6:00pm 3/26 6:00pm

Saturday Mornings 10:00am

MARCH 6 Ki Tisa

MARCH 13 Vavakhel-Pekudei

MARCH 20 Vayikra

MARCH 27 Tzav

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UPCOMING DATES

AS OF THIS WRITING, WE HAVE MOVED ALL SERVICES BACK TO ZOOM ONLY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO BRINGING BACK IN-PERSON SHABBAT SERVICES, BUT WE WILL NOT UNTIL IT IS DETERMINED SAFE TO DO SO, AND ALL OF THE LOGISTICS FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CONGREGANTS AND CLERGY HAVE BEEN DETERMINED. PLEASE CONTINUE TO READ TIDBITS AND THE RECORDER AND GO TO WWW.EBJC.ORG FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

ONLINE SERVICES AND EVENTS—EBJC.ORG/ONLINE-EVENTS UPDATES FROM THE RABBI, CANTOR, ELLEN BOTWIN, AND COPRESIDENTS:

RABBI PIVO—EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-RABBI-PIVO CANTOR LARRY—EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-CANTOR-LARRY CO-PRESIDENTS

ROBERT SALSTON—EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-ROBERT-SALSTON

STEVE ZEIDWERG—EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-STEVE-ZEIDWERG

ELLEN BOTWIN - EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-ELLEN-BOTWIN

If you have problems at EBJC that are not getting adequately resolved, please call Ellen Botwin at (732) 257-7070

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE:

ONLY checks made out to EBJC go to Montvale. 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 having trouble paying dues, please reach out to Marilyn Friedes at marilynfriedes@mac.com. We are committed to helping our families remain a part of the EBJC community when the need arises.

SHABBAT SERVICES

Shabbat services are currently being offered via Zoom only. Please check the cover of the Recorder or the weekly Tidbits for Friday evening service times. Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. . The link to join will be found 15 minutes before services begin on our website at ebjc.org/services.

ONLINE EVENTS AND UPDATES

Go to the Online Events page under the Events tab on our website, or go to ebjc.org/online-events, to stay up-to-date on events being held online during the quarantine. Our events can also be found on the Membership page. Also, look for updates from the Rabbi, Cantor, and Co-Presidents under the Clergy and Lay Leaders tab.

OFFICE HOURS

The office is staffed Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.; however, the office is currently closed to visitors.

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.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

We are diligently working to continue engaging and entertaining our community! Ever on the search for interesting programming, please note the following events. March 7th and April 11th we have a virtual tour of Budapest and Vienna, March 21st The Kosher Capone's - all you ever wanted to know about the Jewish Mafia, and April 25th Joseph Pulitzer - a discussion on the Documentary "A Voice for the People". All details will be in Tidbits and on our webpage under Events! Most of these 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.



MARCH 2021

Executive Board 3/1 (Zoom)

Board of Directors 3/15 (Zoom)

Genesis Science 3/1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (Zoom)

Parshat Hashavuah with Rabbi Pivo 3/5, 12, 19, 26 (Zoom)

Lunch and Learn 3/3, 10, 17, 24, 31 (Zoom)

Talmud Class 3/3, 10, 17, 24, 31 (Zoom)

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS MAZEL TOV TO:

Dan & Samara Kraft on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Chloe

Jeremy & Malka Erlich on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Aiden

Ken & Helene Gerson on their daughter, Jacqueline, earning her Ph.D. in Ecology from Duke University

Mickey & Sherryl Kaufman on the birth of their grandson, Elemér Jack Kaufman, to Alex and Marci Kaufman. Elemér Jack joins big brothers Aaron Solomon and Casey Ryder

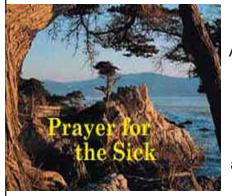
Marty & Beth Hoffman on the engagement on their daughter, Deanna, to Garrett Lichtman

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

Judy Klotzkin on the loss of her good friend, Jerry Pliskin

The family and friends of Gloria Silverstein

Bob Levine on the loss of his sister, Lorraine Flaer



We have begun a "Psalm Fellowship," which gathers each week to chant psalms together to pray for the sick and ask for their healing.

Anne Kroll will be chairing and leading a healing prayer circle for EBJC members reciting from the Book of Psalms in English. Barbara Pollak and Deena Oren will co-lead in Hebrew. All are welcomed to join the Zoom meeting on Tuesday evenings from 8:30PM to 9PM. All are welcomed to send in the name of the person they will be praying for to my email address, selectivemedia@comcast.net, where a list will be kept.

Emails are sent out each Monday with the Zoom meeting information





BAR MITZVAH



Hello EBJC family! I have been studying very hard for my Bar Mitzvah and happy to be able to celebrate virtually with family and friends, despite the worldwide pandemic and trying times we are experiencing. To me, my Bar Mitzvah isn't just reading out of the Torah for the first time, it also means I am becoming a Jewish man in my community. I believe that means that I must contribute in my own way, so I have been preparing letters of gratitude for local healthcare workers with photos to brighten their days. You can help me do more by contributing notes of appreciation, encouragement and love to the health care workers who have been there for those in need through these difficult times. I don't know how they do what they do, and it would mean so much to me to do something special

Embracing the Jewish ideals of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and *gemilut hasadim* (acts of loving kindness), I embarked on a social action project to let our health care workers know that we appreciate everything they do for us.

for them

That they are our heroes!

If you would like to join me in my efforts, please email your note of thanks to our healthcare workers, to my mom at mmerlich@hotmail.com. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Love, Aiden Erlich

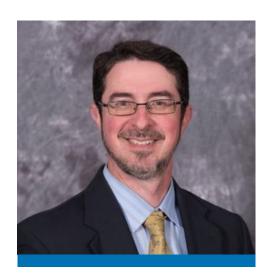
Pediatric and Adolescent Associates of Central New Jersey, L.L.C.

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

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RABBINIC REFLECTIONS



The Meaning of Matzah

Pesakh is the most important holiday in the Torah. Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur are mentioned briefly (though not by those names), the other harvest festivals Sukkot and Shavuot are discussed, but nothing really compares with the amount of attention Pesakh receives. The reason is obvious: Pesakh recalls our flight from Mitzrayim, our transformation from a slave people to a free nation, one that was on its way to living a sanctified life in a sacred land.

What Pesakh shares with other Jewish holidays is the ritualization of its themes through food, and the food that represents Pesakh is matzah. For eight days we refrain from eating leavened bread, typically the most basic of foods, and instead eat unleavened matzah. This dramatic shift in what we eat is a constant reminder of what is missing from our diet during Pesakh: hametz (leaven). In fact, the removal of hametz is

so central to the experience of Pesakh that we work for days or weeks prior to the holiday to clean our homes of it, sell any hametz that remains in our possession, ritually search for and then burn some of it just prior to Pesakh and, finally, maintain our homes as nonhametz zones for the rest of the week. It takes a great deal of effort to fulfill that level of commitment to Jewish law, but most Jews make that effort. It is critical that we remember why we do, so that we don't become enslaved to the very rituals that commemorate our freedom

There are two main reasons for our zeal in removing hametz from our diets during Pesakh. First, we do so as a remembrance of the haste with which our ancestors fled Mitzrayim. I don't know how many Israelites were awake and just getting started baking bread in the middle of the night when the final plaque hit Mitzravim. but the symbol of haste is the key to our practice: They fled more quickly than the time it would take for bread to rise. Escape from slavery does not come easily or without danger; when it comes, we need to be ready to go at a moment's notice. By avoiding all hametz during Pesakh, we remember the speed of our delivery that night and the precariousness of the entire endeavor; had they not fled immediately, we might not now be Jews.

The second reason for the fervor our hametz removal is the symbol of purging ourselves of any impurities that accompany us when we are redeemed from slavery, whether the actual bonds of slavery in Mitzrayim or the psychological bonds of addiction, character flaws, unhealthy relationships and the like. Making a clean break from the past means leaving behind even the smallest hint of what had enslaved us, symbolized by omitting even the smallest particle of hametz in our diets and in our homes.

The meaning of matzah is found not in what it is but in what it lacks. We avoid hametz for eight days to remember the speed of the escape from slavery, of taking the opportunity to liberate ourselves while we can, and to attempt to leave behind those remnants of our slavery which may still cling to us. We eat matzah to remember their liberation and our own.

Chag kasher v'same'akh,

Rabbi Jeff Pivo

FROM CANTOR LARRY



In some fashion or another, most Jews celebrate Passover. The Seder is the most celebrated Jewish ritual in whatever way it is done. From the traditional 4-9 hour Seder to the meal-only Seder, Jewish people around the world are celebrating.

Last year, as well as this year, we are obviously faced with an unprecedented challenge that has made and continues to make the "traditional" less than traditional.

Here is an interesting story that I read that conveys this celebratory time.

Rabbi Levi Yitzchak conducted what he thought was a great Seder. But, as he sat thinking about his Seder, he heard a voice that said, "Your Seder was pretty good but Hayyim the water carrier's Seder was better." Rabbi Levi Yitzchak all but ran to their house. He knocked on the door and asked for Hayyim. Hayyim's wife said that he drank too much yesterday. Rabbi Levi

Yitzchak sent two of his hassiddim to wake the sleeping Hayyim. Hayyim, supported by the two men, was brought before Rabbi Levi Yitzchak.

The Rabbi asked the water carrier, "What did you meditate on as you gathered and burned the hametz (leaven)?" Hayyim said, "I looked in every corner, gathered it together, but I forgot to burn it. It is all still in a corner."

The Rabbi asked, "How did you prepare for your Seder?" The water carrier looked at his shoes and said, "I've heard that you are not allowed to drink brandy during Passover, so I drank enough brandy to last eight days. I fell asleep."

Then the Rabbi asked, "And how did you celebrate your Seder?" "My wife woke me up and yelled at me to start, I said, 'I am an ignorant man who is the son of an ignorant man. I don't know how to celebrate the Seder, but this much I know: Our ancestors were once slaves in the land of the Egyptians and God took us out. Now that we are enslaved again, I know that God will lead us to freedom. Then we ate the egg, some matzah and drank some wine. I lifted up my cup and said, "God I lift this cup to You, please lean down and make us free. Then I fell asleep."

Rabbi Levi Yitzhak said quietly, "That was an amazing Seder." (Martin Buber, Tales of the Hassiddim). In whatever way you choose to celebrate, please remember that it is a celebration, a time to rejoice and be with family, no matter where and no matter how

On behalf of my family, we wish you a good, filling and celebratory Passover.

Larry I. Brandspiegel
Cantor/Director of Education

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I take my granddaughter, Sayona, to our preschool 3 days a week. She's three and a half and either talks or sings for the entire 35-40 minute ride. Six or so months ago while driving to preschool, I was clearing my throat and she asked if I was okay (she's an unusually compassionate little girl). I told her I was fine, but that I had a "frog" in my throat to which she responded, "Safta (actually she calls me Fasta which is a step up from previously calling me Pasta), you don't have a frog, it's a bunny!" And with that one remark, "Bunny" was born. For a few weeks, Bunny lived in the car with us. Sayona spoke to Bunny, she held Bunny and I created a voice for Bunny. Then she decided to create "Monster", Bunny's friend. So now I had to create a voice for Monster and she talks to them as we drive to school. Since then, she has created more imaginary friends that live in my car...Mommy Bunny, Baby Bunny, and Daddy Bunny. Keeping track of the voices, for which I have created all different ones, is getting a bit hairy. When she is speaking

to Bunny and I answer as Monster, she'll say..."No, Monster, I'm talking to Bunny!" OY! If she's talking to one of her friends and I'm not paying attention, she'll say..."Fasta, why isn't Mommy Bunny answering me?" OY again! She knows, somehow, that these "friends" are only around when I am around, so whenever we're together, depending upon how busy she is, she'll start talking to one of them and I have to be alert! Does this count as me having multiple personalities???

These past 12 months have been most challenging for all of us and maybe having multiple personalities helps because then you always have "visitors"! I miss the constant goings and comings of people in the synagogue. I miss our gatherings, our services, and our parties. Truthfully, I do not miss the 8:30 PM meetings! Meeting at 8:30 PM in the building meant I didn't get home, sometimes until midnight! Now, through Zoom, when the meeting is over...I'm HOME! One of the few plusses (I'm going to lobby to keep the meetings on Zoom).

I have a very unique perspective on what's happening at EBJC. The more you engage and involve yourself, the more you feel connected. When I speak to a member who feels unconnected, I ask... have you attended any Zoom services? Have you joined in any of the classes the Rabbi and Cantor are offering? Do you participate in any of the many programs membership has

scheduled? When the answer to all of these questions is no, then it is no wonder that they feel unconnected. It's not for lack of trying on our part. We're doing everything we can to keep everyone engaged, connected, involved, and entertained. Our membership committee is in the process of forming a "compassionate seniors" phone chain where volunteer seniors call and reach out to other seniors in our community just to see how they are doing. We are also in the process of targeting other groups that may be in need of "connection" so that we can reach out to them and help in any way possible. We're here, but sometimes we need you to meet us halfway. There are 370 families in our community and we want them all to feel connected, but a handful of people can only do so much. If you think you'd like to offer a helping hand, let me know... we can use the help.

Meanwhile, as we go through our 2nd Pesach with COVID restrictions, I wish you all a happy, healthy Chag and hope that next year (exactly what I said in last year's article), we will truly be together!

May you all be well, Ellen

FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



As the holiday of Pesach, the season of our freedom, is fast approaching. This year, we will not only be celebrating our freedom from slavery, from the oppressive labor instilled upon our ancestors by the wicked Pharaoh, but also will be anticipating the release of our bondage from the Covid-19 pandemic. As this article goes to press in February, it is already clear that cases have been rapidly declining, and vaccination rates have been increasing. It has been predicted that by the end of the summer, any person in the United States who wishes to have a vaccine will be able to receive one. Although we do not currently know the effect that newer, more contagious virus strains will have on the number of cases, we truly believe that life will return to a new normal in the not-too-distant future. I want to address what implications this will have for EBJC.

Several congregants have asked when our synagogue will again be open for in-person services. Our lay leadership, along with our clergy have begun considering this question. As some may know, we have been dipping our toes into the water of reopening over the past few months. We have celebrated several B'nai Mitzvah with a very limited number of people attending in person, socially distanced, of course, and wearing masks. This has enabled us to allow a once in

normal manner. By the time that this article has been published. we will have held Erev Purim services in person, enabling the reading of Megilat Esther from a kosher scroll as well as reciting the traditional Mourner's Kaddish. We are hoping to also hold inperson services for the Yom Tovim of Pesach as well. This raises the question of why we have not yet decided to reopen the synagogue for daily and Shabbat services. Although this might, on its surface, seem inconsistent, there is some logic to this decision. Our guiding principle has always been maintaining the safety of our members and clergy. Every time we gather people in person, we acknowledge and accept a certain amount of risk. We mitigate this risk by limiting attendance, segregating our clergy behind plexiglass on the bimah, and separating family units well beyond the six feet limit suggested by the Centers for Disease Control. We are willing to take this risk because of the special nature of those occasions. But we are not yet willing to take that risk on a daily or even a weekly basis. This decision has been guided by our committee of physicians who have been providing expert advice to our community. This committee has judged that until the nature of the mutant virus strains is known and until a

a lifetime event to occur in a more

significant number of our community have been vaccinated, it would not be prudent to change our current practice. This committee will be meeting regularly to update its recommendations when more data is available.

There has also been concern about whether we will continue to stream our services once the pandemic is over. When we first decided to stream our services one year ago, we followed the guidelines of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly. That committee acknowledged that under extraordinary circumstances, certain leniencies could be accepted. We have learned over the past year that there was much positive benefit to our streaming of services. As we have mentioned on numerous occasions, it has helped us to maintain our sense of community at a time when many of our members felt isolated. It has also enabled those who are infirm and could not normally attend services to participate from home. Over the next few months, our Religious Committee will be holding discussions and advising the clergy and administration on whether to continue this practice. We will, of course, keep the congregaton apprised of all decisions.

We want to wish everyone a chag kasher v'sameach, a kosher and happy Pesach. We pray and hope that you and all whom you love remain safe and healthy.

Bob Salston and Steve Zeidwerg Co-Presidents, EBJC

SISTERHOOD



The end of March ushers in the holiday that to many is the highlight of the Jewish calendar—not Rosh Hashanah or Hanukkah--but glorious Passover. According to the Pew Research study several years ago, 70 percent of Jews said they had participated in a Seder, while only 23 percent attended religious services. Why does Passover hold such wonder for so many of us? Is it that it coincides with Spring and the promise of renewal? Is it the universal theme of redemption? Yes. all that, but above all, Passover touches us so deeply because of its personal nature. The Haggadah instructs us to consider the story as though it happened directly to us and of course, through our ancestors, it DID.

As we plan, clean, and cook for Passover, let's review the past month and look ahead to a wonderful array of upcoming programs and events.

Our annual Shalach Manot campaign for Purim was a resounding success, surpassing last year's figures. We are gratified that the health crisis couldn't deter our loyal supporters. Sisterhood sincerely thanks all the congregants who consistently participate in our biggest fundraiser and thereby contribute to its success.

The Shalach Manot project is expertly led by two of the hardest-working members of our group, Margot Julis and Cindy Rabinowitz. We owe you so much gratitude for this and everything else!

A HUGE thank you is also extended to those who delivered the bags. We hope it was a joyous holiday for all, and that the lovely Shalach Manot gifts enhanced your celebrations.

Who says there's nothing to do on a

Saturday evening anymore? We tested that theory by hosting a terrific movie night on March 6 in conjunction with Men's Club. The Windermere Children presented a new aspect of post-Holocaust history with the poignant story of a group of traumatized juvenile Holocaust survivors who were part of a rehabilitation program near beautiful Lake Windermere in England.

Rabbi Pivo's winter education series, Women of the Bible, concludes on March 17 with the fascinating profile of Ruth: The First Jew By Choice. We are so grateful to Rabbi Pivo for the wisdom and perspective he shared during these classes. We hope he will return soon!

This year's Torah Fund Campaign 2020-2021 will wrap up on a high note—our festive and meaningful annual Torah Fund event. We waited a long time for the pins to arrive, but when they did, the pins were an awesome surprise, even more lovely in person than the photos had suggested. This year's theme, B'YACHAD (Together), recognizes the joint efforts of Sisterhood volunteers across the U.S. and Canada. The Torah Fund supports the Conservative education of clergy, administrators, and lay leaders within our Movement. Donations of any amount are welcomed and encouraged! Contact Jody Bramson at JLBrams@aol.com or 732-991-8410 to make your donation and arrange pick-up.

Our annual Torah Fund event (on Zoom) is scheduled for Sunday, March 21 with a delicious pick-up brunch featuring our own Dr. Laura Brandspiegel as our special keynote speaker. Please see the flyer and register your attendance. DON'T MISS OUR MEMORABLE TRIBUTE TO SISTERHOOD'S WOMAN OF VALOR (Eshet Chayil) for 2021. Hint: she is one of our most beloved members.

The next selection for the Sisterhood Book Club is "And The Bride Closed the Door" by the late Ronit Matalon. This contemporary Israeli novella, published in 2016, and translated from Hebrew, is a comic look at present Israeli society through the lens of a bride who locks herself in her bedroom refusing to marry. The date for this discussion is tentatively scheduled for May 6. We have welcomed a few good suggestions for future book selections, and we encourage more. Please send your ideas to Sara Ullman at sarajull366@gmail.com.

Our membership numbers are outstanding-129 members at last count—higher than last year! We are so proud of this accomplishment, as it demonstrates that the women of our shul still have a dynamic connection even during a pandemic. We continue to welcome additional members. Dues are still only \$36 and by joining, you affirm your support not just for Sisterhood but for EBJC as the foundation of our Jewish identity. Since Sisterhood contributes annually to EBJC, a strong Sisterhood ensures a robust shul! This year when we cannot be physically together, it is more important than ever to reinforce our commitment to each other and to the powerful bond that EBJC provides. Please send your check to Membership VP Cindy Rabinowitz.---

PURCHASING SCRIP IS AN EASY WAY TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SISTERHOOD THROUGH THESE TRYING TIMES! We have gift cards available to Shoprite, Acme, and Lox, Stock and Deli. Most of us are still patronizing these stores, so why not help out Sisterhood in the process. Contact Cheryl Decker at 732-257-7070.

As the first signs of spring emerge, we look forward to a new season of fellowship and rewarding shared experiences.

Wishing all our cherished Sisterhood members, neighbors, and congregants a heartwarming Pesach, filled with the joy of family, food, and learning. NEXT YEAR TOGETHER IN PERSON!

Warm regards,

Cindi Jacobs/Sara Ullman Sisterhood Co-Presidents

MEN'S CLUB



Shalom!

Purim has passed, so that means Passover is right around the corner! Passover is a holiday where we reenact and reexperience a key passage in our history, connecting us to our heritage. At the same time, in our family celebrations, we connect to future generations. The symbols (many of them, anyway), are easy to understand. While keeping to the letter of law requires much preparation and effort, and many don't like the taste of matzos, curiously Passover is one of the most widely observed Jewish holidays.

Passover marked a profound transition from slavery to freedom. This year, at this time, we hopefully are going through a transition as well with the COVID vaccine becoming more available. We pray that the worst of the pandemic is now behind us. But this past year was full of unpleasant surprises and an easy return to life the way it was BC (Before COVID) may not happen so quickly. Just as the ancient Israelites had to figure out how to adapt to their new circumstances, we will have to be



open to possibilities while we figure out how best to proceed one day at a time. Do we need to add a mask to our seder plate?

During February, Men's Club sponsored two events. On Superbowl Sunday we had our annual World Wide Wrap where people across the world get together on the same date to put on tefillin. This year we participated over Zoom with 125 people in the Northern New Jersey Region of Men's Club. A side benefit of this event was that we got to see our old friend. Rabbi Julie Schwarzwald, who gave a passionate presentation on why to wear tefillin. I thought it was a good experience.

We also had a discussion led by Diane Lang on "How to Navigate the New Normal." Diane is an author, very popular instructor at OLLIRU, therapist, and positive living expert. Diane led us to understand that we are dealing with constant changes that have us all grappling with a new way of life. It is safe to say we are in uncharted territory. Despite all the challenges we are facing, we CAN refocus and shift our lives to be more rewarding, but we have to open to the opportunities. The talk was well received by those who attended.

Finally during February, we teamed up with Sisterhood so that we distributed our Yellow Candles along with the Purim Shalach Manot. While the Yellow Candle really isn't needed until Yom HaShoah in early April, because of the way Passover comes out this year, we would have delivered the Yellow Candles only a few weeks after Purim. Delivering them together saved many hours of time on the part of those volunteers who make these deliveries. We will talk

more about the Yellow Candles next month.

Continuing in the spirit of cooperation with Sisterhood, during March Men's Club and Sisterhood are teaming up to put on a movie night on Saturday night, March 6. (It's on Zoom - you will have to bring your own popcorn...) We will be watching and discussing The Windermere Children. It promises to be a great night – please see the website (ebjc.org/windermere) for more information on how to attend. Also, on March 14 at 1PM, we are planning a Pre-Passover (Virtual) Lunch with our clergy. Please join us as Rabbi Pivo and Cantor Larry give us suggestions on how to spice up our seders! This event has been popular in the past few years and we look forward to another great session this year. Please look in Tidbits and the website for how to participate as we get closer to the date.

In upcoming months, we are also planning Men's Club Shabbat on April 24, and a course on Jewish Ethics with Rabbi Pivo that will meet once a month during April, May and June. So in spite of today's challenges, Men's Club continues to be very active. We provide interesting Jewish events for the community, and pathways for our members to strengthen our relationships with each other. We are always open to new ideas for activities, events or programs that would be compelling to people at EBJC. Please feel free to let me know your suggestions, and please plan to join us at our events.

Thank you for your interest in Men's Club and thanks for being part of the EBJC community!

Howard Jacobs

President, EBJC Men's Club

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By the time this edition of the Recorder gets circulated, we will be two months into the new year, hoping 2021 is the year we turn the corner after a devastating 2020 in so many ways. There is reason for much optimism as several vaccines have already been approved by the FDA, another on the way, and millions of additional vaccines have been purchased for the general public, among other things.

In these precarious times, the Membership Committee is trying to play a pivotal role in engaging members and non-members alike with a variety of Zoom programs along with our Men's Club and Sisterhood. In addition, Membership has been helping support local kosher restaurants with Grab and Go meals approximately every three weeks. The Grab and Go meals also enable our members to safely pick the meals up at EBJC vs. at the restaurants themselves. With every event, between 50 and typically ordered each time. This 90 meals are is a big financial help to these establishments and the owners are very appreciative of all our efforts.

Our Committee has been fortunate (thanks to Ellen Botwin!) to be able to offer the Zoom programs at either no cost or nominal cost (donations are welcomed to cover any expenses), thanks to a consortium of other Synagogues who partner with us. Last week Rabbi Funnye, who is African- American, spoke about race relations and his experiences as a black Jew to a Zoom audience of well over 300 people, one third of who were EBJC members. This was followed by a question-and-answer session. Another program we held in February featured Robyn Helzner's Bridge to The Balkans.

There are a number of other programs scheduled in the coming months which we think will be enjoyed by all. Please watch for the flyers and announcements in Tidbits!

Membership is also taking an active role in assisting those members who are unable to purchase groceries or pharmaceuticals directly, by either going to the stores for them, and then delivering them, or asking one of several Synagogue volunteers to perform the mitzvah. Let us know if you need any help during these difficult times.

Membership is here for you! We are in this together! So if there are any programs you are interested in, or if you can help with a program or handing out meals on a given Friday or Sunday, or you need help getting groceries, please contact either Taryn Webber at tkwebber4@gmail.com or Ken Gerson at kgerson7@gmail.com.

Taryn Webber Ken Gerson

Co-Chairs Membership Committee

CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING





The Center for Early Learning @ EBJC

We celebrated Tu B'Shevat















We planted parsley, made our own trees, had a Seder, and planted a tree in Israel in honor of our school!

If you know anyone interested in our school, please have them contact Lynda Perel @ Lperel@ebjc.org or call 732 257 7070

KESHER AND YOUTH GROUPS







Hello Kesher Families and Youth,

It is hard to believe that we are already in the month of March. We went through the holiday of Purim and we are on our way to celebrating Pesah. The year is flying by.

We have almost a full month of classes on Sundays and Wednesdays. However, we will have our Passover break from Sunday, March 28th through Sunday, April 4th (we will have our last day of classes in March on Wednesday, March 24th and resume classes on Wednesday, April 7th).

We will have Shabbat B'yachad on Shabbat morning, March 13th at 11:30am.

We will have a special Zoom Model Seder on Sunday, March 21st. More information about obtaining supplies and how to participate will be forthcoming.

Youth Night for Chaverim, Kadima, and USY this month will be on Wednesday, March 10th. Looking ahead, Youth Shabbat will be via Zoom on Friday night, April 16th at 6pm.

Finally, a little tidbit for your Passover celebration...

At the beginning of the Passover Seder, we are instructed to take the middle matzah, break it in half, put half aside (hide it), and then use it for the Afikoman, the dessert, nearing the conclusion of the Seder.

Some people allow the children to hide it, while the adults search for it, hence, a reward is given to the children for its return. Some households will have the adult hide the Afikoman and the children will search for it, hence, a reward is given to the children for it being found. Somehow, the kids always seem to make out pretty well.

Alas, the Afikoman must be eaten by midnight, so that the Seder will go on and everyone can go to sleep, which is usually pretty easy after eating all the food and drinking the wine.

Afikoman is a Greek word and we think it means dessert. However, some say that the word has an Aramaic meaning and that it was "afiko man", meaning "take away the food." Obviously, we had enough. Others said it was "afiko neima", meaning "go to sleep". I think most of us will vote for the latter.

As always, if you have any question please email me at cantorlarry@ebjc.org.

Larry I. Brandspiegel
Cantor/Director of Education

ADULT EDUCATION

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

SHABBAT MORNING CLASS Saturdays | 9 a.m.

Join us for Rabbi Pivo's Saturday morning class at 9 am where we study the weekly parshah prior to Shabbat services. 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 (STREAMING) Mondays | 8:30 p.m. in the library

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 in the library at EBJC. After more than 12 years, having started from the beginning of Genesis, we are currently in the middle of Deuteronomy. The plan is to proceed in order through the other books of the Hebrew Bible.

TALMUD CLASS (STREAMING)

Wednesdays | 8:30 p.m. in the library
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 in the EBJC library. Currently we
are studying tractate Kiddushin which
concerns the laws of marriage.

LUNCH AND LEARN (STREAMING) Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Room 8 Monroe Lunch and Learn

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 howard_jacobs@ebjc.net for details on upcoming dates, to get on our Monroe mailing list, with questions and to reserve your spot.

HEBREW READING CLASS (CANCELLED) Thursdays | 7 p.m.

Focus is on parsha and biblical understanding. A small donation of \$10.00 for four sessions is requested. For additional information about the class, please contact Ora Rotblum at orarotblum@yahoo.com or 732-390-0314.

ISRAELI DANCE (CANCELLED)

Beginners: Mondays | 7:00 p.m.

Intermediate/Advanced:

Mondays | 8:00 p.m.

Come and stay for as long as you can! \$10.00 per session fee.

MAH JONG GAMES (CANCELLED)

Mondays | 7 p.m. | Room 9 Come and join us for friendly Mah Jong games! All levels, including experienced as well as beginners, who will be eagerly taught, are welcome.





Budapest and Vienna... In the Footsteps of Herzl

These two capitals of the Austro-Hungarian Empire boasted thriving, creative, successful, and influential Jewish communities, which reached unprecedented heights during the Fin de Siecle era.

This two-part session will explore the incredible achievements of the Jewish community in these two beautiful cities, explore the complex search for identity in the 50 years leading up to World War II, will grapple with two very different stories of how anti-Jewish policies and the Shoah developed, and will discuss Jewish life post-1945.

Sundays March 7 and April 11 @ 1PM EST This is a two-part series on Zoom

Mike Hollander was born in Canada and made Aliyah in 1988. He has an MA in Jewish-Christian Relations and is a registered tour guide. He has led groups from Federations, Birthright, Interfaith groups, political groups, congregational trips, families, adults and even the rich and famous like Bono. His areas of expertise include history, politics, Middle Eastern and interfaith studies.



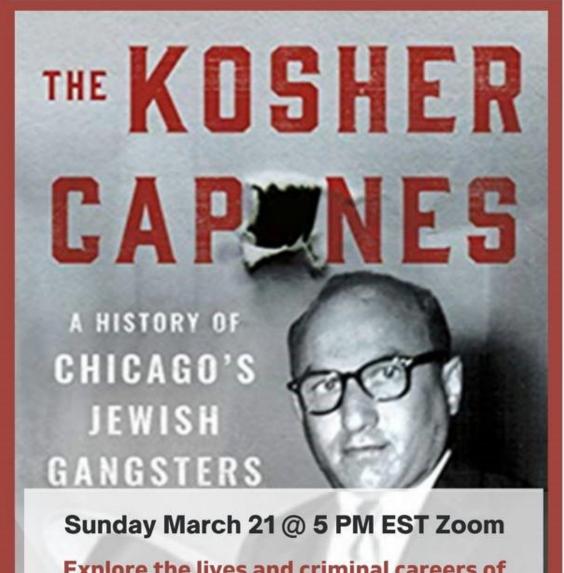
Program Co-Sponsors:

Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford, CT Congregation Torat-El, Oakhurst, NJ East Brunswick Jewish Center, East Brunswick, NJ Highland Park Conservative Temple, Highland Park, NJ Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism, Houston, TX JCC of Paramus-Congregation Beth Tikvah, Paramus, NJ \$5 per Zoom device

To receive your Zoom link,

register at:
www.ebjc.org/footsteps-of-Hertzl
Fee covers both weeks of this series





Explore the lives and criminal careers of "Zuckie the Bookie" Zuckerman, last of the West Side Jewish bosses and Lenny Patrick, head of the Syndicates "Jewish wing"

Join Author Joe Kraus for a fascinating in-depth look inside a hidden society and the men who ran Chicago's Jewish criminal community for more than 60 years.

FREE EVENT! A donation of any amount to our Membership-Programming committee will help us continue offering entertaining, stimulating and informative programs to our community.

Register to attend at www.ebjc.org/Kosher-Capones











Jewish Community Center of Paramu Congregation Beth Tikvah



Reading
The Kosher
Capones is
encouraged,
but is not
required to
participate in
this program.

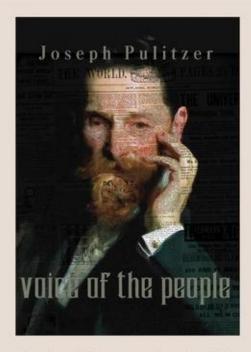


Film and Q&A Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People

Watch movie anytime between Tuesday, April 20 - Sunday, April 25



Join us for a Q&A with film director, writer and producer Oren Rudavsky on Zoom: Sunday, April 25 at 3:00 PM EST*



Explore the life and legacy of Joseph Pulitzer, the father of modern journalism, in Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People.

A Jewish immigrant from Hungary, Joseph Pulitzer began as a gifted journalist before becoming a successful publisher and businessman. He was famous in his own time for his outspoken and cantankerous editorial voice and his newspapers' striking illustrations, visual style, national circulation and financial success.

Against the context of America's explosive growth as a world force during the Gilded Age, Pulitzer emerged as the country's first media titan, reshaping the newspaper to bear witness to and even propel that transformation. Joseph Pulitzer championed what he regarded as the sacred role of the free press in democracy.

*Q&A will air live across the country. Time listed is Eastern Standard Time.

RSVP: www.ebjc.org/joseph-pulitzer

Donation of \$5.00 per zoom device

Partnering Congregations:























Men's Club Virtual Pre-Passover Lunch

Add some spice to your seder! Rabbi Pivo and Cantor Larry will share some ideas on how to make your Seder even more special this year.



Sunday, March 14, 1:00 PM

This free event is open to everyone in the EBJC community.

Please register at ebjc.org/lunch to receive the Zoom link.



Soon we'll only be eating Matzos!

Let's share a bagel while we still have the opportunity...



UPCOMING MEMBERSHIPS EVENTS JOIN US FOR FLAVORFUL MEALS AND DYNAMIC PROGRAMS



TBA - Pinot and Painting



March 7 - Virtual Tour of Budapest & Vienna, Part 1



March 21 - The Kosher Capones: All about the Jewish Gangsters

Thursday, March 25 - Grab & Go Dinner: Giddy's Pre-Pesach Chometz-Fest



PLEASE support local kosher restaurants during this difficult time. Grab-n-Go menus will be shared in the week prior to pick-up.





TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN 2020-2021 LET'S KEEP IT GOING...

The Torah Fund Campaign invites dedicated women to ensure the future Conservative Jewish education of our cherished community leaders—rabbis, cantors, educators, administrators, and lay leaders

This Year's Theme - B'Yachad (Together)



Wearing this pin signifies the triumph of Sisterhood members working together year-round to make important contributions to the Jewish community through their volunteer efforts at synagogues across the United States and Canada. Each of us is one small nugget of gold, but together our unique gifts reflect the light inside us and help each other shine. Together we celebrate our shared yerushah (heritage) as proud Jewish women affiliated with the Conservative/Masorti Movement. Join us!

As Women's League for Conservative Judaism enters its second century, and the State of Israel approaches its 73rd anniversary, Torah Fund embarks on its 79th year. We look forward with joy to our future together with you, our Torah Fund supporters.

Any contribution is greatly appreciated! With a donation of \$180 you become a benefactor and acquire this beautiful pin. (Payment plan through May 1, 2021 is available.) Your workplace is also eligible to make a matching contribution.

Order your pin today!

Questions? Contact Jody Bramson at <u>JLBrams@aol.com</u> or 732-991-8410

RE*NEW~~~ RE*FRESH~~~ RE*JUVENATE~~~ RE*ENERGIZE



***** RETURN TO SISTERHOOD ******

A STRONG SYNAGOGUE DEPENDS ON A STRONG SISTERHOOD~WHY???

Even through this PANDEMIC, Sisterhood is STILL responsible for contributing approximately \$15,000 annually to the Synagogue. This includes the operating expenses, Kiddush (when we are back together again), Scholarships, USY, and Kadima.

WE KNOW SISTERHOOD NEEDS TO BE RELEVANT TO YOUR LIFE: IT IS! THROUGH ZOOM, WE WILL HAVE PROGRAMMING!

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*Education	SOCIAL	X- (IIIIIII III III III II II II II II II	Programming
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*Networking Opportunities

*Fundraising

*Membership in Women's League

Our Membership Drive for 2020-21 is under way. Dues did not go up! It's just \$36.00 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

NAME	EMAIL	
ADDRESS		
PHONE #	CELL PHONE # (IF DIFFERENT)	
BEST TIME OF DA	Y TO CONTACT YOU	

^{*}Community Outreach Opportunities

^{*}Personal Development Opportunities

DONATIONS

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.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

EBJC Men's Club in memory of Hal Buchberg

Judy Bauer in memory of Hal Buchberg

The Chaimowitz Family Circle in memory of Cora Libowsky

David & Aviva Levine

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Arthur & Janet Fliegelman

Elizabeth Copelovich

GENERAL DONATIONS

Dov & Barbara Pollak in memory of Marcelo Visheisky

Dov & Barbara Pollak in memory of Cora Libowsky

Arthur & Joan Okun

Bracha Rosenberg

Amy Goldman in honor of the 70th birthday of Robert Salston

Bruce & Shirley Sommers in memory of Cora Libowsky

David & Margot Julis in honor of Sara and Scott Alter on the birth of their grandson, Lavi, to their son, Hirsch, and daughter-in-law, Neta

David & Margot Julis in honor of Howard and Cindi Jacobs on the engagement of their daughter, Katherine Jacobs, to Alex Nelson

David & Margot Julis in memory of Cora Libowsky

David & Karen Blivaiss -Mazel Tov to Maureen Richardson on the birth of your new grandson, Zev Wolf

Barry & Gloria Jaslow in memory of Cora Libowsky

Richard & Cindy Rollman in memory of Cora Libowsky

Doug & Karen Slater in memory of Helen Book

Doug & Karen Slater in honor of Jack Silverman's retirement

David Libowsky & Sharlene Harris in memory of Sheldon Silver Jerry & Joannie Weinfeld in memory of Cora Libowsky

Richard & Cindy Rollman in honor of the marriage of Sarah Julis to Matt Dasaro

Richard & Cindy Rollman in honor of Howard Jacobs' birthday

David & Margot Julis in memory of Jerry Pliskin

Dov & Barbara Pollak in honor of Maureen Richardson's new grandson, Zev Wolf, son of Yael and David Zvi Kalman

Mickey & Sherryl Kaufman in honor of the engagement of Cindi and Howie Jacobs' daughter, Katherine Jacobs, to Alex Nelson

Harvey & Donna Goldschmidt in honor of Gail Kosher

Gary & June Miller in honor of Katherine Gerson receiving her Ph.D.

Eric & Cindy Rabinowitz in memory of Howard Leska

Barry & Gloria Jaslow in memory of Cora Libowsky

Lory Pelofsky in honor of the marriage of Sarah Julis to Matt Dasaro Arthur & Janet Fliegelman in memory of Olga Fliegelman

Paula Reiss in memory of Cora Libowsky

William and Amy Schafer - Mazel Tov to Gloria and Alan Nadler on the birth of their granddaughter, Sadie File

Jeffrey & Hildy Zonis in honor of Michal Shmuel

Richard & Cindy Rollman in honor of the birth of Sherryl and Mickey Kaufman's grandson

Yigal & Deena Oren in honor of their birthdays

Robert Kohn in memory of Cora Libowsky

Deborah Parsowith in memory of Cora Libowsky

Paula Reiss in memory of Cora Libowsky

Philip & Linda Schmidt in memory of Albert Garbuz

Joseph& Sheila Behrman in memory of Jerome Pliskin

YAHRZEIT

Dennis and Norma Schaff in memory of Phillip Schaff

DONATIONS

YAHRZEIT (cont.)

Martin & Marla Genee in memory of Hyman Genee, Ian Bruce Goldman, Samuel Greenblatt and Rose Goldman

Gary & Rochelle Bennett in memory of Harriet Felsenstein and Harry Gerstman

Martin Hecht in memory of Blanche Herberg

Rosalyn Goldstein in memory of Jeffrey Goldstein and Thelma Goldstein

Phillip & Susan Ben-Zvi in memory of Anna Ben-Zvi

David & Lois Mandell in memory of Doris Mandell

Carl & Hillary Cresci in memory of Aaron Cresci

David & Margot Julis in memory of Marcus Julis

Edward & Carol Kantner in memory of Rose Alfond, Henry Kantner and Harriet Mack

Jeffrey & Elysa Herman in memory of Harry Herman

Steven & Amy Schonfeld in memory of Harriet and Jerry Rothman

Adela Sasson in memory of Jelusha Stern Marc & Meredith Pearl in memory of Samuel Pearl

Inge Gross in memory of Alan Beer

Harvey & Donna Goldschmidt in memory of Bertha Ritzen and Gisela Goldschmidt

Reina Schuldiner in memory of Ida Goren

Phillip & Susan Ben-Zvi in memory of Max Grossberg

Neil & Amy Weiss in memory of Bruce Lager

Robert & Gloria Feldman in memory of Renya Sieger

Joseph & Sheila Behrman in memory of Hiram Behrman

David & Claire Rosenthal in loving memory of Pearl S. Rosenthal

Gary & Rochelle Bennett in memory of Pauline Gerstman

George & Susan Karp in memory of Bella Karp

Joan Bramson in memory of Robert Bramson

Gary & Gail Appelbaum in memory of Lisa Mann and Cary Krell

Martin & Beth Hoffman in memory of Marvin Aronowitz

Robert & Marlene Miller in memory of Siebeth Egna and Gerald (Jerry) Martin Miller

Elissa Smilowitz in memory of Hector Smilowitz

Steven & Florence Winter in memory of Alexander Stein

Jonathan & Rhonda Gold in memory of Arlene Berliner

Sorin & Rochelle Weissman in memory of Samuel Friedman

Bernard & Sheila Solomon in memory of Dora Solomon

Paul & Myra Rose in memory of Roslyn Rose

Bernice Manheim

Robert & Pearl Horn in memory of Bessie Horenstein

Paul & Renee Weissman in memory of Yoninah Fractor

Cheryl Kolber in memory of Allan Kolber

Larry & Donna Danzig in memory of Muriel Trager

Edward and Lois Ledner in memory of Hyman Genee

Charles & Rebecca Breverman in memory of Sophia Izenson Breverman

Gerald & Sarina Feldman

THE FOLLOWING
PEOPLE HAVE MADE
DONATIONS IN
APPRECIATION OF
THE PROGRAMS
EBJC HAS BEEN
OFFERING

OFFERING Ira & Elise Merkel Inge Gross David & Meredith Brown Grigory Levyash David & Barbara Blumenthal Sara Monheir-Peress Gary & June Miller Jack & Carol Goldberg Edward & Susan Pilcer Robert & Liz Salston Sasha & Marsha Eisenberg Stanley & Gail Rubin Joel & Madeline Frances Sandra Schwartz Eric & Evelyn Erenrich Barbara Kurlan Michael & Marian Gross Jules & Roxsene Plafker Deborah & Louis Freidman David & Gwen Botwinick Mickey & Sherryl Kaufman Ruth Brandspiegel Judy Klotzkin Thelma Zalewitz Leonard Seader Ronald Berger Martin & Marla Genee Yigal & Deena Oren Charles & Rebecca Breverman Doug & Karen Slater Bernard & Sheila Solomon



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