

the RECORDER

EAST BRUNSWICK



JEWISH CENTER

MAY 2021

IYYAR - SIVAN 5781

VOLUME # 110



SHABBAT SERVICES

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

Friday Evenings 6:00pm 5/7 5/14 6:00pm 5/21 6:00pm 5/28 6:00pm

Saturday Mornings 10:00am

MAY 1 **Emor**

8 YAM Behar-Bechukotai

MAY 15 Bamidbar

MAY 22 Nasso

MAY 29 Beha'alotcha

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Chairperson, Special Circumstances
Marilyn Friedes

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UPCOMING DATES

AS OF THIS WRITING, OUR PHYSICIAN'S COMMITTEE AND LAY LEADERS ARE MAKING PLANS TO SLOWLY BEGIN IN-PERSON SERVICES FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES OF THE CDC AND LEGAL LIMITS OF ATTENDANCE. WHEN WE ARE SET TO BEGIN, WE WILL DO SO WITH FULL UNDERSTANDING OF EVERYONE'S COMFORT LEVEL AND CONCERNS FOR HEALTH. MORE INFORMATION AND EMAILS WILL BE SENT WHEN WE ARE READY TO START WELCOMING OUR COMMUNITY BACK INTO THE SHUL. FOR THOSE THAT STILL WISH TO ZOOM SERVICES, WE WILL NOT BE STOPPING THIS WHEN WE OPEN OUR DOORS AT THIS TIME.

FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION REGARDING SERVICES, EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND CLASSES, PLEASE GO TO WWW.EBJC.ORG/ONLINE-EVENTS. THIS IS WHERE YOU WILL FIND ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW. WHEN IN DOUBT, YOU MAY ALWAYS CALL THE OFFICE FOR SERVICE TIMES AND INFORMATION OR ELLEN BOTWIN FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL PROGRAMS.

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 Montvale. When sending checks to Kesef, you MUST clearly state what the payment is for and where it is to be allocated on your account. 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 have been negatively impacted by COVID and are having trouble paying your dues, please let us know! It gives us no pleasure having to call a member to find out why they are in arrears only to find out that they've been out of work and are struggling. First, we are a source to come to. We have resources and methods to help you. Secondly, we will work with you to either work out a payment plan, reduce your dues to make sure that paying your EBJC membership dues does not become a burden when you are having trouble supporting your family!

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. On May 5th we will have the 2nd session in the series "Tour of Argentina", On May 13th there will be a "NY Tenement Tour". Looking ahead to June, on June 3rd we will have the program "Jewish Life in Morocco" and on June 10th we will have "Debbie Friedman as Liturgist, Composer and Musician". Programs we are working on include Professor Victor Asai will discuss the pros and cons - "West Bank: Stay or go?", on June 24th . We will have a comedic look at the "Culinary History of Jews in America" discussing the creation of the Delicatessen and two part series: Kassow will discuss his book and documentary "Who will write our History" followed with a Tour of the Warsaw Museum (dates TBA). 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. Details for all programs will be in Tidbits and on the EBJC website.



MAY 2021

Executive Board 5/3 (Zoom)

Board of Directors 5/17 (Zoom)

Genesis Science 5/3, 10, 17, 24, 31 (Zoom)

Parshat Hashavuah with Rabbi Pivo 5/7,14, 21, 28 (Zoom)

Lunch and Learn 5/5, 12, 19, 26 (Zoom)

Talmud Class 5/5, 12, 19, 26 (Zoom)

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS MAZEL TOV TO:

Andrew & Andrea Kaplan on the B'not Mitzvah of their daughters, Sarah and Susanne
Adam & Lauren Altman on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Carson
Richard & Lynne Drachtman on the engagement of their son, Craig, to Blaine Schoen
Jon & Iris Wininger on the birth of their grandson, Jim Andrew, son of Jason and Rachel Wininger
Ira & Karen Rosen on the engagement of their son, Brian, to Kyle Bogdan
Marty Hecht on the birth of his granddaughter, Mila Hecht, to his daughter, Lanna Hecht

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

Lisa Pivo on the loss of her father, Henry Bittmann

Muriel Goldman on the loss of her husband, Edward Goldman

Marc Blatteis on the loss of his mother, Linda Blatteis

Daniel Kraft on the loss of his father, Martin Kraft

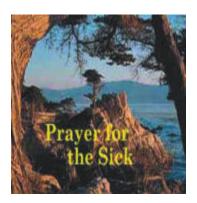
Anita Price on the loss of her sister, Jean Rossner

Pearl Horn on the loss of her sister, Jean Rossner

Michelle Cheslow on the loss of her mother, Ida Surevsky

Lenny Stein on the loss of his father, Mike Stein

Deena Oren on the loss of her father, Zvi Abells



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 selectivemedia@comcast.net, where a list will be kept.

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

BAR MITZVAH



My name is Carson Altman, and I am in seventh grade at Hammarskjold Middle School. My Bar Mitzvah is on May 8, 2021 and I am excited to celebrate this joyous time with family and friends, the community, virtually and in person. To help during the pandemic and to honor my Bar Mitzvah, I volunteered as often as needed to make snack packs for Elijah's Promise. Elijah's Promise is a soup kitchen in New Brunswick serving almost 700 meals a day and over 110,000 meals a year to individuals who would otherwise go hungry. My snack packs helped kids

less fortunate have a fun and healthy snack during remote learning. When I am not focusing on school, I play tackle football, soccer, play with my brothers and friends and run my EBay sports cards page. I look forward to getting things back to normal and celebrating my Bar Mitzvah with you.







RABBINIC REFLECTIONS



This year we will observe Shavuot (May 17th-18th), commemorating the giving of the Torah at Sinai, as we did last year, with Cantor and I teaching online prior to the beginning of the holiday followed by master teachers from our movement providing online study through the evening to a national audience. For those whose practice is not to use the internet on Yom Tov, please join me and Cantor before sunset: for those who use the internet, feel free to continue your studies for Tikkun Leil Shavuot into the evening hours.

That choice of experiences - to Zoom or not to Zoom - is a new one. It is one of the many changes of practice that the pandemic has forced us to confront this year. I have come to see this in our age as an inflection point in Jewish history, one as potentially important as the fall of the Temple, the expulsion from Spain, the Shoah, and the declaration of Israeli statehood in terms of its impact on Jewish life. For Conservative

Jews, in the legal and cultural middle of the spectrum of American Judaism, the post-pandemic world is a challenge to be met through a deep consideration of our future as a people. It is a Sinai moment.

For our ancestors, the witnesses to the revelation on the mountain, the presence of God, almost literally face to face, was sufficient to affirm the import of that moment. Shavuot was a peak experience to them (pun intended), the moment when the suffering of Egypt, the escape from slavery, and the journey into the unknown reoriented the people toward a new and very different future. The prospect was intimidating, and they never really conquered their fears. Focused on the day to day worries about food and the leadership, when the time came for them to grasp the land, the inheritance God promised to Abraham, they faltered. God sentenced them to a generational holding pattern, until a new generation arose to fulfill their destiny.

This Shavuot, there will be much to consider during the late night study of Tikkun Leil Shavuot. Synagogues all over America will be seeking answers to the pandemic's challenges. We must choose whether we are the generation of the Exodus or the generation that entered the Promised Land. Will hanging onto past practices sentence us to the same fate as the

Exodus generation, wandering in circles as time leaves us behind? Will the changes we consider lead us away from traditional practices and even traditional values? Is ours still a halakhic movement or simply a traditional one? Much will depend upon the choices we make at EBJC and around the Conservative movement nationally. Our decisions will echo for generations. This is our Sinai moment and we should rise to it with the same sense of anticipation. seriousness of purpose, and faith that marked that first national inflection point at Sinai.

Rabbi Jeff Pivo

FROM CANTOR LARRY



Cantor's Corner

Numbers play an important role in our everyday lives. Although I was not a great math student, I like certain numeric equations, such as Gematria or Jewish Numerology. However, during this time of the year, my focus on numbers points me in the direction of the time period between the second day of Passover until Shavuot.

During this time frame, we are obligated to count the days called the Omer.

"You shall count for yourselves -- from the day after the Shabbat, from the day when you bring the Omer of the waving -- seven Shabbats, they shall be complete. Until the day after the seventh Shabbat you shall count, fifty days... (Leviticus 23:15-16)"

"You shall count for yourselves seven weeks, from when the sickle is first put to the standing crop shall you begin counting seven weeks. Then you will observe the Festival of Shavuot for the LORD, your God. (Deuteronomy 16:9-10)"

According to the Torah, we are obligated to count the days from Passover to Shavuot. This period is known as the Counting of the Omer. An omer is a unit of measure. From the second day of Passover, during the time of the Temple, an omer of grain was cut down and brought to the Temple as an offering. This offering was referred to as the Omer.

Every night, from the second night of Passover to the night before Shavuot, we recite a special brakha to count the Omer in both weeks and days. So, on the 18th day, a person says, "Today is eighteen days, which is two weeks and four days of the Omer."

The counting reminds us of the link between Passover, which commemorates the Exodus, and Shavuot, which commemorates the giving of the Torah.

The 49 days of the Omer is considered a time of partial mourning so weddings, parties, and dinners with dancing are not conducted in memory of a plague during the lifetime of Rabbi Akiba. Haircuts during this time are also forbidden. The 33rd day of the Omer (the eighteenth of lyar) is a minor holiday commemorating a break in the plague. The holiday is known as Lag Ba'Omer. The mourning practices of the Omer period are lifted on that date. The word "Lag" is actually a number, referring to the number 33 in Hebrew, as if you were to call the Fourth of July "IV July" (IV being 4 in

Roman numerals).

There was at one time a dispute as to when the counting should begin. The Pharisees believed that God gave Moses the oral tradition along with the actual written Torah. According to the oral Torah, the word "Shabbat" in Leviticus referred to the first day of Passover, which is a "Shabbat" in the sense that no work is permitted on the day. In this view, held by most Jews today, the counting begins on the second night of Passover. The Sadducees rejected the idea of an oral Torah and believed that the word "Shabbat" referred to the Shabbat during the week of Pesach, so the counting would always begin on the Saturday night during Passover. The Sadducees no longer exist today, so we do not follow that ruling.

May our counting of the Omer this year be a counting that will bring us closer to God and to a time of complete happiness and peace.

On behalf of my family, have a good counting, and may our days be filled with blessings, including the greatest blessing of receiving the Torah all over again on Shavuot.

Cantor Larry I. Brandspiegel

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In the continuing saga of trying to move and get the house ready...What a job it is. I have lived in West Windsor for 27 years in a 3,800 square foot house with five bedrooms and 3.5 baths. A few short years after moving in, my husband closed his office and brought everything down to the dungeon (some people call it a basement) where it remained pretty much untouched until now! The basement is roughly the size of the entire house! For the last year, I have been addressing his hoard, cleaning out, selling, and donating... a monumental task. My next step is to have Andrew from "Don't Throw it Away" come and haul away the rest of the stuff my husband "couldn't part with" even though he hasn't looked at the items in 25 years. That's not to say that I didn't address my "stuff". Although I had nothing near what he had, I still needed to go through closets, drawers, and bins to determine what I really wanted to keep. It's amazing that when you look at something with a more critical eye, you realize you don't really need it. Giving things

away and selling my stuff is not difficult for me. I actually am happy other people can use the stuff! I guess when you have a large house, keeping stuff instead of getting rid of it isn't that big of a deal because you have the room! Wherever I wind up, I know I won't have the room and very few items posed a "difficult decision" for me. You'd be amazed at what other people will buy and as long as the price is very reasonable, you'll get buyers! Getting rid of clutter is like losing weight... well...sort of.

What's so crazy is how the real estate agents try to make vour house look like no one lives there! Are people stupid? Only one item in the shower, so I chose the liquid soap (I guess people don't like to know that you wash your hair). Nothing on top of the vanity (I guess no one brushes their teeth). Nothing on the counter tops in the kitchen (goodbye Kurig, goodbye blender, goodbye toaster oven). When my house is finally ready to list (weeks away) it will look like a Stepford Wife lives there.

I'm not 100% sure of where I'm going, but most likely to one of the 55+ places in Monroe. Right now, there are not that many available and when one does become available, it's scooped up and bid up immediately. I may be homeless.

What does this have to do with EBJC? Well, you'd be surprised. Storage at EBJC is not easily found. When the Synagogue was built and

when the additional wings were built, no one considered storage! I think that's because men build Synagogues...yes I know that's sexist, but if women built Synagogues, there'd be closets all over the place (and extra stalls in the bathrooms). In the past year, we have completely decluttered the building! Some items we were able to sell and make a little bit of money for EBJC, some we were able to give away and some had to be trashed. With the emptying of rooms, we were then able to clean them thoroughly! When we reopen, everything will have a fresh, clean, sanitized, decluttered appearance!

I truly look forward to the day we can all gather again. I miss the socialization, I miss the schmoozing, I miss the office visits...I miss you!

May you all be well, Ellen

FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



We usually collaborate on our Recorder articles, but this month, I (Bob Salston) will be writing this solo.

We have begun taking some preliminary, or perhaps, experimental steps, as it were, on opening our synagogue. Most recently, we held two in-person services on the first and last days of Pesach. We were able to maintain appropriate social distancing. and, of course, everyone wore masks. There have been no reported cases of Covid-19 in any attendee of our inperson services since the first of this year. What is striking, and understandable, is that there is not a huge groundswell of enthusiasm for attending services in person. Slightly more than fifty people signed up for the last day of Pesach, when Yizkor prayers were recited, and fewer than fifty people attended. Two possible explanations can account for this lack of enthusiasm. Perhaps people have gotten accustomed to praying at home on Zoom and find this a very comfortable way of praying while still feeling part of a community. But I think the greater reason is that people are still cautious about spending time with a crowd of people indoors, especially when singing will take place. After all, Middlesex County is currently at an extremely high risk of exposure to Covid-19. To paraphrase the memorable line from Field of Dreams, if we reopen the shul, will people come?

My belief is that when people feel comfortable, they will return to shul. And one important way of achieving that comfort level is for a significant proportion of our congregation to be vaccinated against Covid-19. We have not taken a survey to determine the rate of vaccination in our congregation, but I assume that there are congregants who feel skittish about getting a new vaccine. As a pediatrician, I deal with vaccine hesitancy almost every day in my

practice. Most of those hesitant people are not crazy ideologues, but people who are legitimately concerned about what they see and hear in the media and on social networks. My approach is to acknowledge the difficulty in absorbing all the different opinions that they are exposed to, and then to give a brief review of what I, as a medical professional, believe.

So I wish to address some of the common concerns about the Covid-19 vaccine that some of you are worried about.

How can we trust a vaccine that is so new and that was rushed through the approval process? These vaccines were developed in record time. But the technology is not new. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are mRNA vaccines. The technology has been around for over 10 years, although this is the first time it has been used in a vaccine. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is an Adenovirus vaccine, a technology that has been used in both an Ebola virus vaccine as well as other Covid-19 vaccines worldwide. Although these vaccines have received emergency use authorizations from the Food and Drug Administration, they were all tested in controlled medical trials. Most vaccine side effects become known within the first few weeks of testing. All the trials of the vaccines currently in use were tested over several months. And there has also been post-approval surveillance. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, at the time of this writing, has been paused by the FDA because of the development of serious blood clotting cases in six patients. Keep in mind that over 7 million doses of this vaccine have been administered, and only 6 cases of serious blood clots have been reported. And over 180 million doses of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines have been used with almost no major side effects reported.

What about the possibility of longterm side effects such as a vaccine causing sterility? As mentioned previously, most vaccine side effects become apparent shortly after testing. We won't know the full story for years, but there is no reason to believe that any of these vaccines will cause sterility. Although we cannot address long-term complications of vaccines, we already know some of the longterm side effects of a Covid-19 infection, which can affect multiple body systems and have caused prolonged problems in some, as well as, the death of over 500,000 of our fellow citizens. Remember, in every decision we make, we must evaluate the risk versus the benefit of that decision. We do this subconsciously every day when we do the most dangerous activity in our daily lives, riding in an automobile. We do everything we can to mitigate the risk by driving safe cars with air bags, wearing seat belts, and attempting to drive safely. But the risk is still there. We drive because the benefits of mobility far outweigh the risk of serious injury or death. So, too, with Covid-19 vaccines.

I'll end with a reminiscence. I just celebrated my 70th birthday in February. I have memories of the Polio pandemic of the 1950s. I can remember the fear my parents had of that disease. I remember schoolmates wearing braces on their legs and walking with crutches because they were crippled by Polio. And I remember lining up in school, when I was in Kindergarten, to get my Polio vaccine doses. There was very little vaccine hesitancy when it came to Polio. Let's not hesitate to get the Covid-19 vaccine either.

Be safe, stay healthy, and continue to wear a mask!

Robert Salston, MD, FAAP Co-President EBJC

SISTERHOOD



Although the Jewish mother has been much maligned in our popular culture, there is no one more devoted, caring, kind, generous, and hard-working than every Jewish mother we know. Looking for the busiest person in the room who will still cheerfully offer to help you out? We'll show you a Jewish mother.

We wish a day of love, joy, and appreciation to the exquisite group of Jewish mothers who comprise our Sisterhood. And we extend that reverence to the daughters, sisters, aunts, nieces, and female cousins who have been the heart and soul of our families.

And if you are lucky enough to still have a mother—CHERISH HER—today and always. Happy Mother's Day!

The holiday of Shavuot is not the most widely celebrated of our festivals, but in many ways it is the most meaningful. At its core is the giving of the Torah, the essence of Judaism. What could be more profound than a holiday in which our ancestors were bestowed with such a magnificent gift? According to Isaac Meir Alter, "The giving of the Torah happened at one specific time, but the receiving of Torah happens all the time, in every generation."

There are so many beautiful traditions associated with Shavuot—the recitation of the Megillah Ruth, the all-night study session, and the celebration of Spring greenery. And to add a little spark to the occasion, we recently learned that Israelis have water fights on Shavuot, tossing water balloons or spraying water "guns".

Chag Sameach Shavuot. Wishing all the most joyous of Holidays.

This Past Month--

Our Torah Fund campaign was a triumphant success this past year, thanks to our supporters—old and new! With Gail Kosher as our Eishet Chayil/Woman of Valor, we impressively exceeded our goal. The final Torah Fund sum was over \$6,000 against a goal of \$3,800. We extend heartfelt gratitude to our magnificent Torah Fund chair, Jody Bramson.

All those who contributed to this campaign can be proud that they have invested in the future of Conservative Judaism. Please see the special page in this Recorder for the full list of 2021 donors. Torah Fund supports the education of the beloved leaders of our communities—Rabbis, Cantors, educators, camp directors, administrators, and lay leaders who will shape the Conservative/ Masorti Movement in the years to come. And this influence is not just local, but worldwide at all the Conservative institutions of higher learning. Yasher Koach to all, and we look forward to next year.

The Sisterhood Book Club met on Thursday, May 6 to discuss "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. We had an interesting conversation about the true meaning of this enigmatic book. The next selection is the highly acclaimed international bestseller, "The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem" by Sarit Yishai-Levi, recommended enthusiastically by several congregants. The book covers three generations of women in Jerusalem from the 1900s to the 1970s. All of the women experience challenges in their romantic relationships. The next meeting date to be determined—probably sometime in August. If you have a book you'd like to share as a group, please send your suggestion to Sara Ullman at sarajull366@gmail.com.

On the Horizon—

Join us for our annual Sisterhood Shabbat on Saturday, May 29. We will celebrate Shabbat in unity and rejoice in the warmth, intelligence, and talent of our Sisterhood members who will lead prayers, chant Torah, and comment on the weekly parsha. Parts are still available. Please contact Gloria Jaslow at glorichi@aol.com to join this special event.

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.

Spring is now in full bloom with its promise of renewal. The trees are lush, the flowers colorful, and our spirits soaring.

The isolation of the past year is slowly but steadily improving and there is much to look forward to.

If this pandemic has taught us anything, it's the precious value of community in our lives. Thank goodness that Zoom kept us together virtually, but nothing can substitute for the simple joy of meeting up with old friends, exchanging smiles and stories, and expressing ourselves through human contact rather than screens.

We look forward with intense anticipation to seeing everyone in person again soon.

All the best until then,
Cindi Jacobs/Sara Ullman
Sisterhood Co-Presidents



SISTERHOOD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS EVEN VIRTUALLY!!

The Sisterhood Judaica Shop is your source for beautiful giftware, books, candles, head coverings, children's items and more. Since shopping in person is not an option right now, if you see an item online, contact our Judaica Shop managers and they will assist you in your purchase.

Browse the beautiful collection of gifts, home furnishings and Judaica for all occasions online.

If you don't see what you are looking for, our Managers will get it for you. Contact Cindy Rollman 908-812-6713 or Caroline Steinberg 732-735-6641

Gift cards is an easy way to help the Sisterhood raise funds by purchasing gifts for ShopRite, ACME, Lox, Stock & Deli or Giddy's. We all have to grocery shop during the Pandemic and you are going to spend the money there ANYWAY!!! What could be easier?

Contact Judy Klotzkin 732-390-6140 or scrip@ebjc.net

Bimah Baskets – for any Simcha...A "virtual" beautiful basket with food items will be placed on the Bimah prior to Shabbat. A card will let your guests know that a donation has been made in honor of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child. You can also order a Bimah Basket for ANY occasion you'd like!

Contact Cindy Rollman 908-812-6713

JNF Trees – to purchase trees-Contact: Diana Horowitz 732-390-9058

Cards, Tributes & Tree of Life - Contact: Bernice Bellows-732-254-4103; Beth Belzer 732-238-7925

Torah Fund – Contact Jody Bramson – 732-390-5166 jlbrams@aol.com

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



In Honor of Gail Kosher The EBJC Sisterhood, through Torah Fund, Extends a Heartfelt Thank You to our Supporters:

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Beth Belzer

Karen Blivaiss

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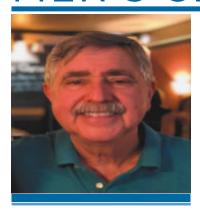
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MEN'S CLUB



Shalom!

Life can be confusing! With respect to the pandemic, we know where we've been, but we don't know what the next several months will bring. Lots of us are getting vaccinated and that is a good thing. But the virulence of the new variants is such that the overall infection rates in New Jersey are going up, rather than down. So while we should be getting safer, it doesn't feel that way. Everyone is making different decisions on what activities to participate in and what not to risk yet. I'm confident that we will ultimately resume some sort of normal existence, but the next few months promise to be muddled and fraught.

COVID, of course, is a symbol for life in general. There are frequently conflicting choices we can make with what may sound like good reasons for each choice. Should we see our friends or should we be cautious? Do we go out and live or do we save for a tomorrow that may never come? Our Jewish tradition certainly has something to teach us about what choices we should make in our lives. Our sages have been thinking about life's mysteries for thousands of years and have considered every angle of just about all of life's fundamental questions. Men's Club has reached out to Rabbi Pivo and is sponsoring his mini-course in Jewish Ethics that began in April and is running once a month through June. While not focusing on COVID per se, Rabbi is turning to Pirkey Avot to consider such questions as "what does God want from us?" We may not be able to tell you when to book your next vacation,

but what you learn may be more important!

The beginning of April marked Yom Hashoah and our annual Yellow Candle program. Men's Club received many contributions for the Yellow Candles from members of the congregation – we are greatly moved by your generosity! This year the Men's Club is giving a portion of the funds raised from Yellow Candles to The Herbert and Leonard Littman Families Holocaust Resource Center at Rutgers University, whose mission is to teach future generations about the Holocaust. We believe it is important to keep our youth aware of the Holocaust and continue to address prejudice of any form to prevent anything like this from ever happening again. Thanks so much for your support of this worthy cause!

Also in April, Men's Club hosted our annual Men's Club Shabbat. I want to thank Ken Gerson who invested incredible energy to coordinate this event which involved many participants. And, of course, I want to thank all the members of the club who participated (see ebjc.org/mcshabbat for a full list) as well as the Rabbi and the Cantor who helped facilitate the event. We also staved after the service for a virtual "L'Chaim" and had a good schmooze. While it wasn't as good as being back at EBJC physically, we at least kept the tradition going. Hopefully, we will be back next year.

At the end of April, EBJC Men's Club, in conjunction with the Jewish Sports Heritage Association, presented the movie "On the Map", an uplifting and exciting story about an Israeli basketball team that won the European Cup in 1977. The popularity of this program indicates that people in EBJC are interested in both Israel and sports, and Men's Club is happy to make such programs available to our community. Thanks to Rick Rollman for bringing this movie to our attention!

Men's Club has been thinking about a trip to the lower east side of Manhattan for years, but for years things just didn't work out. Then COVID hit. This year, we are sponsoring the Membership Committee's virtual tour of the tenements on May 13. It should provide us with an eye opening view of the lives of many of our ancestors who lived there. Please sign up at ebjc.org/tenements

Finally, as members of EBJC, we all want to support our congregation. And as citizens of our country, we are all going through the process of paying our taxes. Of course, nobody LIKES to pay taxes. On May 20th at 8:30PM Marty Davidoff will discuss several ways to give money to charities like EBJC while saving money on your taxes. Please see Tidbits or go to ebjc.org/taxes for more information on how to attend.

Clearly, in spite of the challenges during this last year, 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 to each other, to our congregation, and to our tradition. That is the real motivation for everything we do. 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

The Membership Committee continues to plan programs of interest to all segments of our Shul. In addition, we are bringing our local kosher restaurants added revenue as well as showcasing their delicious food selection, all reasonably priced, at a time when they are seeing a restricted number of patrons. The owners have expressed their gratitude to us and we have relayed our Shul's "thanks" to them from our members. Please check the EBJC website for programs and "Grab and Go" restaurant dates.

Upcoming Zoom programs and "Grab and Go" dinners from the end of April until the end of May include:

Sunday, April 25- Joseph Pulitzer-A Voice of the People- 3:00pm Zoom

Wednesday, April 28- Virtual Tour of Argentina, Part 1-7:00pm Zoom

Wednesday, May 5- Virtual Tour of Argentina, Part 2- 7:00pm Zoom

Thursday, May 13- NY Tenement Museum Tour, Co-Sponsoring with Men's Club, 7:30pm Zoom

Sunday, May 16- "Grab and Go" Dinner- China Lee

In addition, there are several upcoming fascinating programs that we are working to schedule including:

West Bank: Stay or Go

True Colors: Jews of Color

Samuel Kassow: Author will discuss his book and documentary, "Who Will Write Our History".

Part 2 of this program will be a tour of the Warsaw Museum.

I want to give a Yasher Koach to Ellen Botwin, who has spearheaded the establishment of a consortium of 22 synagogues which has enabled us to present so many interesting and timely programs on the Zoom format, at a very reasonable cost to each synagogue. Most of our programs are FREE to participants. We do gladly accept donations to continue these ventures.

Please check the EBJC website for any additions or updates to our schedule.

Of course, we are always looking for new ideas for programs of interest to our members and welcome your suggestions, comments or criticisms.

Rick Rollman

Member, Membership Committee

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On the Kibbutz we milked a cow and picked

On the Kibbutz we milked a cow and picked oranges from the tree

We ate snacks in a café in Tel Aviv



Registration now open for our 2021-22 school year.
Go to our Facebook group for registration information.
@Center for Early Learning or contact Lynda Perel at Lperel@ebjc.org



We put notes on the Kotel



KESHER AND YOUTH GROUPS







Hello Kesher Families and Youth,

We have almost reached the end of the Kesher school year and youth programs to break for the summer. It has been an interesting 2020 and 2021. The new learning via Zoom posed a new approach to learning and a hybrid way of teaching. I do look forward to getting back to a full in-person experience in September. I pray that we will reach that time in good health and opportunity. I want to thank the Teaching Team for doing great things this year given the challenges. Most of all, I want to thank you, our families, for working through the challenges and helping to partner in the learning experience of your children's Jewish education.

I am thankful for our Youth programs, and to Erin, our youth advisor, as well as all the kids who helped create great events. We have always been an award-winning chapter, and seeing how things went this year just proves why we were and are above even silver or gold.

Registration is open for the 2021-2022 year. Please take the opportunity to register now for Kesher, Chaverim, Kadima, and USY. The earlier we have your registration, the more efficient we can be in our planning for the next season.

As always, if you have any questions, 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

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 (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.



Join us for a Virtual Tour of the

Tenement Museum, NYC

Learn about the experiences of immigrants and migrants, and the fundamental role they play in defining our national identity.

During a live, online interactive event, a
Tenement Museum Educator will share stories of
immigrant families who lived in our historic
buildings using video, audio recordings, images,
historical documents, and photographs.

May 13th at 7:30 PM Register at: ebjc.org/tenement

We'll learn about the Rogarshevskys, a Jewish American family from Lithuania who moved to the Lower East Side. The parents, Fannie and Abraham, raised six children in 97 Orchard Street, balancing work, family, and their religious faith during the 1910s.

This tour will consider the difficulties of factory work through the experiences of the family's teenage daughters, and learn about labor unions, working conditions, and the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory.

Just like an on-site building tour, a Tenement Museum Educator will virtually guide you through their home and discuss how the family balanced their traditions with working outside the home at garment factories across the city.

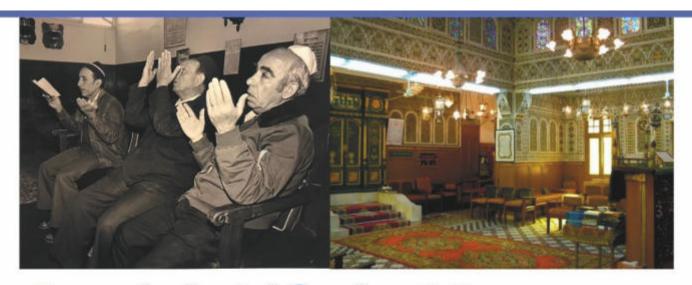
This program is free. A donation of any amount to our Membership/Programming committee will help us continue offering informative and entertaining programs to our community.





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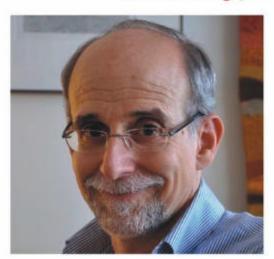


Jewish Life in Morocco

An Intimate Introduction

Learn about the past, present and future of the Jewish community in Morocco based on Dr. Roy Mittleman's forty years of travelling to, studying and teaching about the community.

Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 8:00 PM



Roy Mittelman is the director of the Jewish Studies Program at the City College of New York. Dr. Mittelman received his BA from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Masters and Religion from PhD University. Dr. Mittelman's research focuses on Muslim-Jewish relations in Morocco.

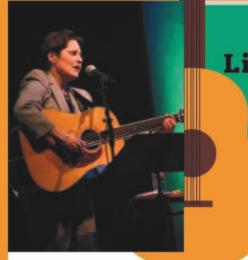
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Please register at www.ebjc.org/Argentina-Morocco A Zoom link will be sent to registrants. Questions? Contact EBotwin@ebjc.org (732) 257-7070

This program is free for everyone. A donation to our Membership/Programming committee would be appreciated.





"Debbie Friedman as Liturgist, Composer, and Musician" with Prof. Judah Cohen, Indiana University

Understanding Debbie Friedman and her music means to understand the major liturgical and societal changes taking place in American Jewish life in the second half of the twentieth century.

In this presentation, we will explore Debbie Friedman's career in ways that have rarely been addressed before: as a commissioned synagogue composer-in-residence, a collaborator in new Jewish rituals, a polished musician, and a part of liturgical and educational reform efforts in the 1970s and 1980s. Along the way, we'll see how some of her best-known songs came to be, sometimes in unexpected ways.

Judah M. Cohen is the Lou & Sybil Mervis Professor of Jewish Culture and Associate Professor of Musicology at Indiana University. His research addresses Jewish liturgical music, musical theater, popular music, and opera.

Thursday, June 10, 2021 8:00PM Zoom

Register at ebjc.org/DebbieFriedmanMusic

A Zoom link with be sent to participants Ellen Botwin 732-257-7070 x5 or ebotwin@ebjc.org





Program Co-Sponsors:

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Professor Cohen

This a free event.

A donation in any amount would be welcome and appreciated to offset the cost of this program.

Thank you!

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