



the RECORDER

EAST BRUNSWICK  JEWISH CENTER

MAY 2023

IYAR - SIVAN

VOLUME # 132



SHABBAT SERVICES

Services are currently being held in-person and on Zoom at the following times. To join the stream GO TO DROP DOWN MENU - LINKS TO SERVICES AND MINYANIM.

Friday Evenings

5/5	6:00 p.m.
5/12	6:00 p.m.
5/19	6:00 p.m.
5/26	6:00 p.m.

Saturday Mornings 9:30 a.m.

MAY 6
Emor

MAY 13
Behar-Bechukotai

MAY 20
Bamidbar

MAY 27
Shavuot

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UPCOMING DATES

SAVE THE DATE!!!

INTO THE WOODS GALA

JUNE 11, 2023

AT EAGLE'S LANDING DAY CAMP

10:00AM-12:45PM

HONORING LORY & ARNIE (POSTHUMOUSLY) PELOFSKY
AND BARBARA & DOV POLLAK

FOR LINKS TO SERVICES, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS, PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBPAGE AT WWW.EBJC.ORG. THE DROPDOWN MENU FOR SERVICES, HAZAK, MEMBERSHIP, PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS WILL TAKE YOU TO ALL OF THE PAGES TO REGISTER.

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

PLEASE NOTE:

ONLY checks made out to EBJC go to Kesef, PO Box 418, Montvale, NJ 07645.

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

Sisterhood, Men's Club, Mitzvah Corps, all discretionary funds, 613 event, Pavilion donations all go to 511 Ryders Lane. When sending any form with a payment, those should be mailed to 511 Ryders Lane as well.

FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH:

TROUBLE PAYING DUES

If you are experiencing difficulty paying your dues or if you'd like to pay on a specific schedule, please call Ellen at 732-257-7070 x5. We are always here for you and are happy to help in any way we can.

SHABBAT SERVICES

Shabbat services are in-person (also offered via Zoom). Friday evening service times can be found on the cover of the Recorder as well as on the EBJC website calendar, and Saturday morning services are at 9:30 a.m. The link to join can be found on our website at ebjc.org/online-events

OFFICE HOURS

The office is currently staffed Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. and on Fridays from 9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Bikur Cholim would like to reach out to our congregation during this difficult time. If you would like a friendly call or know someone who might need a friendly call from a member of the Bikur Cholim committee, please contact Madeline Frances at (732) 254-2783 or email madelinef18@gmail.com

HAZAK

May 18, Thursday - Noon Luncheon - TBA

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Ever on the search for interesting programming, please note the following programs for this month: On May 17 we have session 3 of Cooks Corner - Holiday food demo of blintzes for Shavuot. Registration is required. On May 18 we have our monthly Hazak program and luncheon. On May 19 we have a Yom Yerushalayim Dinner & Services with a special Israeli menu - Vegan and Chicken Schwarma, Roasted Potatoes, Jerusalem Noodle Kugel, Israeli Desserts & More! On May 21 we have part 5 of the Travel the Jewish World Virtually Series - "A Live Walking Tour of Jewish Berlin" and on May 24 we have Shavuot Cook & Sing - Sephardic Style on Zoom where you will learn how to make cheese bourekas with special guest Sarah Aroeste, while singing related and festive songs. Registration is required.

More information on these programs can be found on page 6.

Most of our programs are free to our community. If you can, a donation in any amount is always appreciated so that we may continue to bring you these programs and events. Details and descriptions for all programs will be in Tidbits and on the EBJC website homepage.



THE CONGREGATION CONGRATULATES:

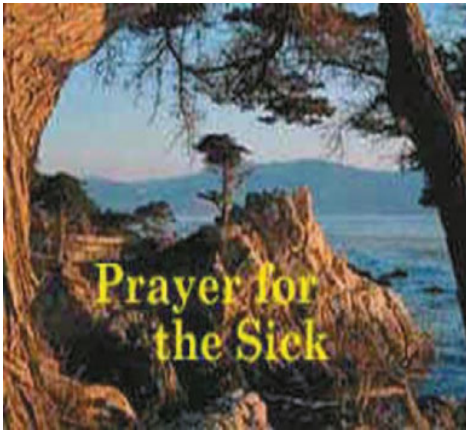
Yael & Moti Shudrich on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Adi
Lisa & Ethan Miner of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Liana
Fran and Joel Greengarten on the birth of their grandson, Harlan Beau

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

Al Friedes on the loss of his sister, Ruth Friedes Landy

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the community for their tremendous support while I was observing the shiva for my father. Further, it was greatly appreciated that we were able to have daily minyons during Sheloshim.

*Thank you.
Dave Mandell*



HevraTehillim - a "Psalm Fellowship"

Join us for a healing prayer circle for EBJC members, as we recite from the Book of Psalms in English and Hebrew. We gather each week to chant psalms together to pray for the sick and ask for their healing. All are welcome to join the Zoom meeting on Tuesday evenings from 8:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Please send in the name of the person you will be praying for to: selectivemedia@comcast.net, where a list will be kept.

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



Dear Sisterhood Members and Fellow Congregants,

There are no words to adequately describe how flattered, humbled, and grateful I was to be chosen as this year's Torah Fund honoree.

Due to all those who worked diligently behind the scenes, the entire evening was truly beautiful—the delicious dinner and dessert, the spirited Kabbalat Shabbat service, the inspiring speech by Rabbi Marcelle Hohl, the touching presentation, and the exquisite Woman of Valor plaque. Special thanks to Anne Kroll and Gloria Jaslow for coordinating the event, to Margot Julis for bestowing the honor, to Cantor Larry, and to all my “sisters” and friends who participated in the service.

Sisterhood extends heartfelt thanks to all who have demonstrated their support of Conservative Jewish education by donating to Torah Fund. Those of you who designated that gift in my honor: you have my eternal gratitude for making such a gracious and generous gesture.

May our beloved congregation continue to serve as a source of spirituality, community, and pride, and may we all go from strength to strength and look forward to many more *simchas* together.

Sincerely,

Sara Ullman

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**



Links and information on all programs can be found on the ebjc.org homepage

Wednesday, May 17 @ 7PM

Cooks Corner

Session 3 - Holiday food demo - blintzes for Shavuot. Registration required

Thursday, May 18 @12PM

Hazak

Program TBD

Friday, May 19

Save the date for Yom Yerushalayim Dinner & Services. Special Israeli menu - Vegan and Chicken Swarma, Roasted Potatoes, Jerusalem Noodle Kugel, Israeli Desserts & More!

Sunday, May 21 @ 12:30 PM

Travel the Jewish World Virtually

Part 5 - "A Live Walking Tour of Jewish Berlin"

Wednesday, May 24 @ 8:30PM

Shavuot Cook & Sing - Sephardic Style on Zoom

Learn how to make cheese bourekas with special guest Sarah Aroeste, while singing related and festive songs. Registration is required.

Sunday, June 11 @10AM - 12:45PM

Into the Woods Gala at Eagles Landing Day Camp

More information to follow soon!

Planning a Simcha? Need a Party Planner? Decorator?

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EAST BRUNSWICK JEWISH CENTER'S INTO THE WOODS GALA



HONORING
LORY & ARNIE (POSTHUMOUSLY) PELOFSKY
AND
DOV & BARBARA POLLAK
SUNDAY JUNE 11, 2023
10:00 AM – 12:45 PM
FAMILY FRIENDLY BRUNCH



RABBINIC REFLECTIONS



importantly, inclusion. As we make this change, we claim the identity of a mainstream Conservative synagogue. We look ahead, yet remain grounded in Jewish practice, law, and ethics.

Shavuot will be observed on May 25-26 this year, and as we reimagine our responsibilities to God and each other, we pray for the wisdom and understanding required to truly merit the name of a Jewish Center, a place where all Jews can feel affirmed in their faith and included in Judaism's sacred covenant. A teaching that has been a constant in my life are the final words of Pirkei Avot: l'fum tza'arah, agra, "The reward is commensurate with the effort." It teaches us that there is no moving forward without struggle, and that toil is the measure of our success. For at least the last six years, we have toiled in the field of Torah together, and I have been rewarded with its bountiful produce.

As my tenure as rabbi reaches its conclusion, I want to again express my gratitude to those who have served as President, on the Board, or in any volunteer capacity over the last six years. Your participation shows the dedication that will continue to be required to thrive in the next chapter of the congregation's life. I also thank our wonderful staff

and, with no offense to others, thank particularly Cantor Larry. Over the last five years, I could not have asked for a better partner, sounding board, or friend. Nothing we have accomplished as a shul could have been done without him.

With hopes of future joy and learning,

Rabbi Jeff Pivo

Each spring, as our attention shifts from Passover to Shavuot, the current Jewish year begins to take focus. Having symbolically left the pressures of the past, we look ahead with hope and anticipation to Sinai, to see who we are becoming. The celebration of Shavuot and the memory of God giving the Torah to the Israelites serves not only as a reminder of our origins, but as a symbol of what we continue to strive for. The journey from Mitzrayim to Sinai represents a break with the past, in order to be worthy of a new future.

At EBJC, that has meant leaving behind certain practices, most notably in the shift to egalitarian practice, in order to establish new principles rooted in gender equality, the standards of our movement, the will of the majority of our members, and most



There are forty-nine days between Passover and Shavuot. We count the days from freedom, as we celebrate the Exodus from Egypt, to the time we came to Mount Sinai to receive the Torah.

However, this time frame, known as the Omer, has even more meaning. Much attention is spent looking at the time of Rabbi Akiba.

Rabbi Akiba was the great scholar and teacher who supported the Bar Kochba rebellion against Rome. The Romans wanted to conquer the "Jewish spirit," as well as the Jewish nation, so the Roman emperor Hadrian did not allow the observance of Shabbat. He closed all the schools and academies, and made it a crime to teach Torah. Any rabbi caught teaching Torah was put to death. Why did Hadrian do this? He knew that it was not enough to

defeat the Jewish army. He needed to stop all learning as well, since the strength of the Jewish people was, and is, its tradition and its law.

The Talmud tells us that when the Romans forbade the study of Torah, Rabbi Akiba, of course, did not obey. When asked by a friend how he could be so brave as to endanger his life just for the sake of study, Rabbi Akiba answered him by telling the story of the fox and the fish.

'One day, a fox was walking by the edge of the river and saw a fish darting back and forth in the water. "What are you running from?" the fox asked the fish. "From the nets of the fishermen," the fish responded. "Then why don't you come up on the shore and stay with me?" said the fox. "Here you will be safe from the fishermen's nets." "How foolish you are," said the fish to the fox. "If I am not safe in the water, the only place a fish can breathe, how much greater would the danger be were I to come up on land!"

Rabbi Akiba then said to his friend, "The same is true for the Jewish people. It may be dangerous to study Torah, but the Torah is our life, and without

it we would be like a fish out of water. If we leave the Torah, then surely all will be lost!"

May our counting of the Omer truly count towards the important things in life. May the Torah be our continuous guide throughout our lives.

~Cantor Larry I. Brandspiegel

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



My daughter recently told us that she was pregnant with her third child. She announced this at the Passover seder in my home. How she announced this was interesting...Her 5-year-old was wearing a T-shirt that said "oldest". Her two-year-old was wearing a T-shirt that said "Youngest (which was crossed out and underneath it said... Middle)". And my daughter was wearing a T-Shirt that said "Youngest (with an arrow facing down)". I got it immediately... I can't begin to tell you how long it took the other 18 people to catch on! People don't pay attention. I kept looking at my guests/family and was amazed that no one read the T-Shirts! They were color coordinated and had words on them...easy to read words!!

Oh well, eventually people caught on and everyone was happy to have another addition to the family. I certainly was! The more the merrier! This will make #5 grandchild for me (Baruch Hashem) and I am pleased as punch! There is nothing more delicious. She's due in October... stay tuned.

Two weekends ago, I came to EBJC Shabbat services (during Pesach) because Cantor Larry had a family Torah commissioned and is housing it at EBJC. His entire family came and each had an honor to read from the Torah. It was warm, it was heartfelt and it was nicely attended. Cantor Larry spoke from the heart about his home at EBJC and I would be amazed if there was anyone sitting in the pews or standing in the back who didn't feel the love.

This is what EBJC is. If you have not come to services lately, you should make the effort. As much as we wish Rabbi Pivo well and hope that he can make it to services, we are blessed that Cantor Larry has been able to lead us in prayer and keep Shabbat special. As many of you know, I have worked with Cantor Larry for 20 out of the 23 years I have known him. Two of his three children went to the Preschool where I ran the office. I was there when Cantor Larry came into the synagogue announcing, after Laura gave birth, that "he made a boy" (don't get offended...it was funny). I was at Jeremy's bris. When my children got engaged and then married, there was no question as to who would officiate. Both wanted Larry and I must say that having someone officiate at your children's wedding, who knows them since they were young, makes a huge difference!

Larry and I created "Bubbe and Zaidy" for the pre-schoolers and then brought it to the "adult" program at Beth El. We cracked each other up so much so that

there were times we were hysterical with tears running down our faces (good thing we appreciate our own humor). We wrote songs for the children, we used Bubbe and Zaidy puppets. We did this for years! At the time, neither one of us was a bubbe or a zaidy...Now we are! Or as Larry reminded me...I was a bit closer to being a bubbe than he was to being a zaidy...okay, okay, I get it...I'm older!!

Larry keeps pushing me to bring the Bubbe and Zaidy program to EBJC and I've been reluctant because my memories of doing this with him for the kids and families at Beth El are very special to me and I think I'm afraid if it isn't well received at EBJC, it will tarnish my memories. That's probably silly of me and Larry is working on getting me to say yes. So...stay tuned!

On just a short note, and in closing...HAVE YOU SEEN THE BALLROOM??? The sheetrock is up and the spackling is almost done. Soon it will be painted and the new sconces will go up. There will be new wood floorboards and new wood framing. With the moveable wall and new dance floor, the room will be beautiful and rent-ready for parties and events! Spread the word.

May you all be well,

Ellen

FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



A Great Miracle Happened Here!!
...It takes a Village!!...What a Team!!!

Today we are overjoyed at the good news that Cantor Larry has accepted the position to be our spiritual leader for the upcoming year.

Our congregation has experienced Cantor Larry wearing so many hats (kippas). Whether leading services, delivering sermons, conducting classes, observing him work with our children, High Holiday services, we know the good Cantor is a winner.

In the short term we will be hiring personnel for Keshar and for the youth programs, allowing our Spiritual Leader to concentrate on his new position.

The journey we took to get here reminds me of so many bible

stories. When Rabbi Pivo announced he would be stepping down, a search committee was formed. Bob Salston unselfishly offered to chair, and with the input from the Co-Presidents, put together a group of members representing different viewpoints, as well as age and family makeup (those with young children, those with children in Keshar). A detailed application needed to be prepared. Once our application is (was) posted we wait for an applicant to apply.

Upon receipt of an application the committee would evaluate the potential candidate. If the committee thought there were some qualities that warranted an initial phone interview, one would be arranged. From there, discussions and an evaluation would take place. Our Search Committee worked hard and objectively to find the right person. The Search Committee could not find a candidate they were comfortable with who could lead us into the future. As the Search Committee reported back to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, it became apparent how difficult this task is. During all of this, Cantor Larry spoke with the leadership about his willingness to step up.

The rest is history. All of us are overjoyed with our good fortune.

A giant thanks to Bob Salston and the Search Committee for working as hard and diligently as they did.

So, a new page in the history of EBJC is being written...and it is a great one. We all happily look forward to our oh so bright future.

Jack Goldberg
Co - President, EBJC

SISTERHOOD



As Memorial Day approaches at the end of this month, know that American Jews do serve their country. According to Moment Magazine, there were 56 fallen Jewish heroes of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The website of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History in Washington, DC has profiles of Jewish Medal of Honor recipients, going back to Benjamin Levy of the Civil War. This year, why not venture beyond the picnics and barbecues and spend a few minutes reading one of these stories. You will be filled with pride for your fellow Jews.

This Past Month—

On Sunday, April 23, Sisterhood co-sponsored a fun and informative program called *Medical Mishegas*. EBJC's own premier physicians—Drs. Laura Brandspiegel, Ira Merkel, and Bob Salston—addressed the prevailing medical myths and misconceptions. We all learned a lot and had a terrific time, including a delicious breakfast. How lucky we are to have so much medical wisdom in one congregation. The following Sunday morning, April 30, we were treated to an outstanding multi-media presentation by Rabbi Ron Isaacs, featuring the music of the late legendary musician Leonard Cohen. Cohen has been called a poet and is often compared to Bob Dylan due to the expanse of his talent. Thank you to Rabbi Isaacs for his insight on this fascinating topic.

This year, Sisterhood joined with East Brunswick Hadassah for a special Shabbat on Saturday, May 6, highlighting the impressive skills of the women from both groups. This was a very successful partnership, as the morning was both festive and meaningful. Many thanks to Gloria Jaslow, Liz Salston, Carol Landa, Deena Oren, and Barbara Pollak for organizing this event, including a sumptuous kiddush. Let's do this again!

On the Horizon--

Our next book selection is being led by Carol Landa on Thursday, June 1. Join us as we review An Orphan in History by Paul Cowan, a secular Jew who decides to explore and eventually embrace his Jewish roots.

Thank you to those who have emailed me (Sara Ullman at sarajull366@gmail.com) with suggestions for future books. If you loved a book with a Jewish theme, why not consider leading one of our sessions. Guidance will be provided.



PURCHASING SCRIP IS AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT SISTERHOOD! We currently have gift cards on hand to Shoprite, Acme and Lox, Stock and Deli. We extend our sincere thanks to those congregants

who regularly purchase these gift cards. Contact Cheryl Decker at 732-257-7070.

Check out our Sisterhood Judaica Shop for all your needs—tallisim, kiddush cups, mezuzot, religious jewelry, head coverings....the list goes on and on. Why not consider the Judaica Shop for a unique Mother's Day gift?. If you have something special in mind, we can probably order it for you. Contact Cindy Rollman at cinpepper1@aol.com.

This Mother's Day, we salute all the beautiful Moms who are such an integral part of EBJC, and that includes grandmothers and aunts. Mothers form the foundation of families; they are the glue that cements relationships and keeps everything running smoothly.

Although Jewish mothers have gotten a "bad rap" in the media, they are among the kindest, wisest, and hardest-working women we know.

Happy
Mother's
Day!



Warm regards,

Sara Ullman, Immediate Past Sisterhood President

MEN'S CLUB



Shalom:

Men's Club has information on all upcoming activities at our web page at <https://ebjc.org/mens-club>. Please go there for current information about upcoming events. For information on our open board meetings, please go to the EBJC calendar; all interested are welcome to attend.

We are now near the end of our annual programming. We had a full slate, consisting of both annual programs, like the Sukkah Hop and L'Shana Tova, and new programs, such as Jews of Italy. We are now assembling a 2023-2024 Board and scheduling programs for the coming year. All interested are welcome to join us. Please contact any of us (or email us at mensclub@ebjc.org) if you would like to find out more and join us in this important endeavor.

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

co-presidents.

On Wednesday, June 21 at 6pm EBJC's own David Julis will be installed as the President of the Northern NJ Region (NNJR) of FJMC right here at EBJC. All are welcome to attend this important event. Details and signup information will be coming soon.

Pickleball has moved back outdoors to the Dunhams Corner courts on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. All are welcome; no RSVP is required. Please contact Joel Greengarten (jgg998@comcast.net) for more information.



Please check upcoming Tidbits or our web page for details on future hikes.



On April 16, Men's Club co-sponsored "The Jews of Italy", focusing on the Jews of Italy before the Holocaust. The program included a presentation, followed by music and dancing and was cosponsored by the Kesler/Reed family in memory of

Michael Kesler and the East Brunswick Library. Over 250 people attended, and it was very well received. Our thanks to Carol Landa, who worked hard to coordinate this event

We hope you participated in our annual Yom HaShoah remembrance program. Men's Club donates a portion of the program's proceeds to Holocaust education efforts. Donations are still gratefully accepted.



On April 23, Men's Club co-sponsored a "Medical Mishegas" with three EBJC's leading physicians, Drs. Brandspiegel, Salston and Merkel.

We are always interested in new ideas for membership activities. We are especially interested in sponsoring events of interest to members with children. Please let us know if you have any suggested events. We would love to hear your ideas and make them a reality.

Men's Club looks forward to seeing you at future activities. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to get involved.

Marty Hoffman, Arthur Fliegelman, Howard Jacobs and Neil Kosher

MEN'S CLUB

The annual Men's Club Shabbat, which was held on March 25th, was very well attended, and gave opportunities to members of our Men's Club to participate in all aspects of the service from Davening to Leyning Torah. Yasher Koach to all the participants.

The following D'var Torah was given by David Julis, Past Men's Club President and Incoming NNJR-FJMC President.

Shabbat Shalom.

When I was given the opportunity to deliver the D'var Torah for this year's Men's Club Shabbat, I eagerly accepted the invitation. All of you who know me well, know that I love to hear myself talk, so how could I resist? Of course, this was before I had read the Parsha. Having done so, I then found myself in a bit of a quandary given that it consists of a set of instructions regarding sacrifices, offerings, and the process for the consecration of Aaron and his sons as priests without too much of a message that I could find to apply in a world without the tabernacle or the temple. So, I thought, that's okay, I'll focus on the Haftorah which normally takes the words of the Torah, applies them to the teachings of the prophets and leaves us with an uplifting message. Of course, I hadn't read the Haftorah either, so, I didn't know we would be hearing from Isaiah as to why we were all doomed. At least that's the way it looks on the surface. Then I realized that the things to take away this week are applicable in so many ways to the activities of the Men's Club. If you look at the message of Isaiah, what were the people doing wrong at the time that the sacrifices and offerings were still being made? It's that they were all doing physical acts but weren't feeling the purpose of them in their hearts. Isaiah is warning his people that strict observance of ritual is not all that G-d commands. It's imperative that the ritual not supersede the generosity of the heart and the genuine gratitude for all we do have. And, again, so much of this is why your Men's Club does what it does.

We are an integral part of our EBJC community, our Northern New Jersey Region – which represents twenty-seven Men's Clubs throughout New Jersey and Staten Island. And our International organization, the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs – which represents over two hundred Men's Clubs throughout the United States, Canada, Israel, India, and Uganda. Together, we strive to increase the level of Jewish observance, participation in synagogue life, and brotherhood among our members. And we, all of us here, not just the Men's Club members, are fulfilling G-d's ultimate commandments to love and support one another. We may not get everything right in our observance, but we can do better at we do, especially in our hearts. Which brings me to what I also wanted to talk about today. The Men's Club is involved in many initiatives and activities, of which many of you are familiar with – Worldwide Wrap, Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program and Yad Shel Chai, to name a few. But one of the newest initiatives which was created as a joint effort between Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs and Women's League of Conservative Judaism, is the Inclusion Initiative.

As you walked into the synagogue this morning, I'm sure you saw the signs outside our entrance that say, "You Are Welcome Here". The mission statement for this initiative is "We believe that all individuals are made in God's Image, B'tzelem Elohim. Our goal is that Men's Clubs, Women's League Affiliates, and synagogues will create an environment that makes all underserved communities feel welcomed and embraced in the Jewish community."

These underserved communities are –

- Individuals with mental and/or physical health challenges
- Jews of color
- LGBTQIA+ individuals
- Non-traditional families

Examples of inclusion can be found throughout Jewish texts. In Nevi'im it is written, "For my House shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." As Jews we have an obligation to open spaces so that each person can find their place. In Pirkei Avot, Ben Azzai teaches "do not despise any man, and do not discriminate against anything, for there is not a man that has not his hour and there is not a thing that has not its place." Each individual has their strengths – their hour – and we are to never doubt that those strengths will have their time to shine.

The Talmud teaches, "All of Israel is responsible for one another." Everyone is an equal member of our community, both the stranger – the disabled, the neurodiverse and all those who are marginalized. It is our responsibility to include and recognize everyone's membership and to never do anything to exclude, to push them out and tell them, through our actions and inactions, that they are not welcome, that they don't belong.

As we prepare for the holiday of Pesach and the Seder, we can look to the Haggadah and clearly see the message of inclusion. When we read about the four sons, we see that each son is labeled, not always in a positive note. The Haggadah teaches us to address each child in a different manner according to that child's strength.

Let us take the message from the Haggadah and integrate it throughout the year and our lives. Not stereotyping but truly accepting each person as they are and including every person in K'lal Yisrael.

CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING



The kids at CEL
had the best
time celebrating
the story of
Passover



We had our very
own seder that
was led by Morah
Lynda and Cantor
Larry. They acted
out scenes from
the Haggadah and
we sang some of
our favorite
Pesach songs.



KESHER AND YOUTH GROUPS



Hello Keshet Families and Youth,

We have almost reached the end of another Keshet school year and youth programs, as we are about to break for the summer. There are five sessions left: May 3, 7, 10, 17, and 21. There are no Keshet classes on May 14th because we want everyone to celebrate Mother's Day with the family. On May 17th, we will have our final Youth Night. Finally, on May 21st we will celebrate the end of the school year by dismissing a little early at 11am and we will be giving the kids a special treat as we have done in the past.

I want to thank the Teaching Team for doing great things this year. I also want to thank all of you for partnering with EBJC to give your children the opportunity to learn and grow Jewishly in the classroom and socially during youth programs.

I want to thank Erin, our youth advisor, as well as all the kids who helped create great events.

I want to thank Jamie Wasserman and the School Committee for all of the encouragement and assistance throughout the year. I want to thank Rhonda Gold for her tenure as the Youth Committee chairperson and for all of her hard work, as well as the entire committee.

We will begin registration for the 2023-2024 school year in the next month or so. Please take the opportunity to register early and get it done before we get too deep into summer vacations. 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.

~Cantor Larry

COMMON INTEREST ACTIVITIES (C.I.A.)

Tofu stir-fry with endless vegetables garnished with sesame seeds and accompanied by homemade hot mustard



From this.....to this!

It was my pleasure to participate in Rhoda Cohen's "Cooks Corner" class on Wednesday, April 19. All participants were emailed the recipe in advance so that those who wished to cook along with Rhoda (which I did) could do so. Our goal was to make a yummy tofu stir-fry dish with an incredible array of fresh vegetables. Rhoda first demonstrated how to prepare the extra-firm tofu. She then showed us vegetables that she purchased from "H Mart" in Edison (where the old Topps store used to be located on Route 27). She used Japanese eggplant, lotus root, red and yellow peppers, green onions, celery, asparagus, zucchini, carrots, bok choy, broccoli, cauliflower, snap peas, and snow peas to name a few. The result was a bouquet of amazing colors and textures topped by a tasty sauce of sesame oil, soy sauce, garlic, and ginger – and garnished with sesame seeds and unsalted peanuts. Her unique knowledge of preparation and cooking tips were valuable and most enjoyable. I can't wait to serve this yummy meal for dinner tomorrow night. Thank you, Rhoda, and your sous-chef, Carol Landa, for your effort and for bringing us this wonderful class. We are grateful to have such caring, talented members of our community at EBJC.

Review submitted by Shirley Sommers

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE NEXT SESSION OF COOKS CORNER ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 17 AT 7PM. THAT CLASS WILL FEATURE "A HOLIDAY FOOD DEMO - BLINTZES FOR SHAVUOT" REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

ADULT EDUCATION & ACTIVITIES

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

AVAILABLE CLASSES

PARSHAT HASHAVUAH CLASS (ZOOM)

Fridays | 11 a.m.

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

GENESIS SCIENCE CLASS WITH DR. JUDAH LANDA

Mondays | 8:30 p.m. via Zoom.

This class combines a rigorous textual analysis of the biblical verses with knowledge from external sources, including history, science, linguistics and archeology. We meet every Monday evening at 8:30 pm for about one hour (virtually on TEAMS these days, perhaps will go hybrid again). After more than 15 years of continuous study, having started at the beginning of the Book of Genesis and completed the entire Pentateuch, the Books of Joshua, Judges and I Samuel, we are currently (November 2022) making our way thru **II Samuel** (King David).

TALMUD CLASS WITH DR. JUDAH LANDA

Wednesdays | 8:30 p.m. Via Zoom

This class brings to life the voices, discussions and debates of our sages as they formulated Jewish Law based on the traditions and foundational texts received from ancient times. We meet every Wednesday evening at 8:30 pm for about one hour (virtually on TEAMS these days, perhaps will go hybrid again). Currently we are studying tractate **Megillah** via the Artscroll English translation and commentary.

LUNCH AND LEARN (ZOOM)

Wednesdays | 12 p.m.

Join Rabbi Pivo weekly for these sessions that are always engaging and well attended.

MONROE LUNCH AND LEARN

Thursdays | 12 p.m.

Once a month we meet with Cantor Larry in the homes of various congregants. These sessions have been very interesting and well attended. Please call Howard Jacobs at 732-402-2273 or at howardjacobs@ebjc.org for details on upcoming dates, to get on our Monroe mailing list, with questions and to reserve your spot.

ISRAELI DANCE

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Mondays | 7 p.m.

Intermediate/Advanced:

Mondays | 8 p.m.

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Class days are 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/23, 5/30, 6/6, 6/13 and 6/20. Drop ins welcome at \$8 per class.

Sign up at ebjc.org/chairyoga

HAZAK

Thursday, May 18 - 12pm luncheon

TBD

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



SHAVUOT COOK & SING – SEPHARDIC STYLE! *Learn to make cheese bourekas with Special Guest: Sarah Aroeste May 24 @ 8:30PM on Zoom*



Sarah Aroeste is an international Ladino singer/songwriter, author and speaker. She will teach us how to make the iconic cheese bureka while singing related and festive Ladino songs in this interactive workshop highlighting the Sephardic experience from past to present. Recipe will be sent prior to the program

Inspired by her family's roots in N. Macedonia and Greece, Sarah Aroeste is determined to bring Sephardic culture to new audiences. Since 2001, Aroeste has toured the globe presenting traditional and original Ladino songs with her unique blend of Balkan sounds, pop, and jazz.

She has recorded eight albums, including the first bilingual Ladino/English holiday album Together/Endjuntos. Sarah is currently co-directing her newest initiative, Savor: A Sephardic Music & Food Experience, which unites Sephardic song and cuisine in multi-sensory platforms.

RSVP: WWW.EBJC.ORG/SHAVUOT2023

This program is free and all are welcome to attend. Donations to EBJC are greatly appreciated and help us continue offering special programs like this one. Registration is required to attend.

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Sunday, January 29 @ 1:00 PM
The Anne Frank House in Amsterdam
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Sunday, March 12 @ 1:00 PM
The Old Jewish Quarter of London
with Stephen Burstin



Sunday, April 16 @ 12:00 PM
A Virtual Tour of Yad Vashem
with Yohai Cohen



Sunday, May 21 @ 12:30 PM
A Live Walking Tour of Jewish Berlin
with Yoav and Natalie Sapir

Sunday, June 11 @ 12:00 PM
A Live Walking Tour of Jewish Amsterdam
with Ian David Wagenhuis



Registration is required to attend.

www.ebjc.org/travel-series

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