

# The Bulletin



CONGREGATION  
B'NAI ISRAEL

Congregation B'nai Israel, Elizabeth, NJ - Affiliated 1992

December 2018



## Congregation B'nai Israel L'Dor V'Dor Speaker Series

### Religion and State in Israel Perspectives from an Israeli

a morning with

## Amit Stern

Community *Shaliach* at Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest

**Sunday, December 2**

**Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.**

**Presentation at 9:30 a.m.**



Amit Stern will talk about religious pluralism in Israel from an historical and political point of view, its effect on relations with the Jewish community in the US and his projections for the near future. He will also share his own story of being considered single in the eyes of Israel, even though he had a *Halachic* wedding.

Greater MetroWest Federation Community *Shaliach*, Amit Stern, 35, came to NJ from Jerusalem with his family to oversee the *Mishlach* (delegation of *rishonim* and *shlichim*) and work throughout the community. He holds a B.Ed. and

teaching certificate in history and bible studies from Kibbutzim College of Education and a bachelor's-of-law degree from Hebrew University of

Jerusalem. His extensive experience in Jewish education includes serving as Israel national director of Noam, the Masorti (Conservative) youth movement, and various positions in the Israeli Scouts.



**Admission is Free // Open to the Community**

This program is sponsored by Lifelong Learning and Israel Affairs committees of CBI.

Congregation B'nai Israel // 160 Millburn Avenue Millburn, NJ 07041 // [www.cbj-nj.org](http://www.cbj-nj.org)

## December Shabbat Services

Kabbalat Shabbat 8:15 pm  
Shabbat Services 9:00 am

### Additional Shabbat Programs:

#### Saturday, December 1

10:30 am – Bim Bam Shabbat Services

#### Saturday, December 15

10:30 am – Family Shabbat Services

10:45 am – Shabbat Journeys Minyan

11:00 am – Bim Bam Story Time

#### Saturday, December 22

11:00 am – Bim Bam Minyan Circle

#### Saturday, December 29

11:00 am – Yaldeinu Services

Please check [www.cbi-nj.org](http://www.cbi-nj.org) for any changes to schedule.

## Candle Lighting

December 7	4:11 pm
December 14	4:12 pm
December 21	4:15 pm
December 28	4:19 pm

## Mincha/Havdallah

December 1	4:18 pm/5:20 pm
December 8	4:18 pm/5:19 pm
December 15	4:20 pm/5:20 pm
December 22	4:22 pm/5:23 pm
December 29	4:26 pm/5:28 pm

## Minyan Rotation

11/25-12/1	Kessler - Krauss
12/2-12/8	Lakin - Lindauer
12/9-12/15	Lipp-McCafferty
12/16-12/22	McGarr - Negar
12/23 -12/29	Nesson - Plump
12/30 - 1/5	Podhoretz - Renner

This is a reminder that you are scheduled on the Minyan Rotation List for this month. **We urge you to make every effort to attend minyan, the times are listed below.**

#### Morning Minyan

7:10 am Mon. & Thurs.  
7:15 am Tues., Wed. & Fri.  
8:00 am Sun.

#### Evening Minyan

8:00 pm Sun.-Thur.

## FROM THE RABBI'S DEN

By Rabbi Steven Bayar



**C**hanukah is upon us. Of all the holidays of the year, the holiday of lights is one of the most popular and most challenging. How could a holiday that bestows presents upon our children and grandchildren be anything but loved by the recipients? Yet, how do we adults who bestow these presents access the message of religious freedom and rebellion against tyranny for our families? How do we make the lighting of the candles (or oil) a ritual which is more than the preamble for opening one or more gifts?

On a larger stage, isn't this the question we face as Jews in the United States? We expend so much energy making the programs and rituals enjoyable that we often despair at how we can also make them meaningful? Too often "fun" replaces "meaningful" because "meaningful" is not always fun.

It's the difference between enjoying the Passover Seder because of the entertainment acumen of the hosts and being challenged with existential questions during the seder that cause us pause and make us think about who and how we are, in what direction we are going and what our ultimate goals should be.

That is not to say that enjoyment should not be a foundational value for what we practice. But enjoyment should lead to meaning or, perhaps more appropriately; enjoyment can accompany meaning.

No matter where we go as a community in Millburn or as an eternal people - these questions will stay with us. Indeed, they have been our constant companions from the time of Abraham. There may be many different answers and the solutions differ with time and location - but as long as this challenge remains with us - we will remain vigilant and vital in our building and maintaining community. It is only when surrender one for the other that we will lose both.



To contact Rabbi Bayar,  
email him at [cbirabbi@cbi-nj.org](mailto:cbirabbi@cbi-nj.org)

**Steven Bayar**

## LET'S HAVE DINNER TOGETHER!

This year we are planning monthly Shabbat dinners to bring the CBI Community together and we're looking for additional sponsors.

*To become a sponsor:*

Contact Harvey Brenner ([hbrenner@cbi-nj.org](mailto:hbrenner@cbi-nj.org)) in the CBI office for more information.



## MUSICAL NOTES

By Cantor Lorna Wallach

### THE LIGHTS OF CHANUKAH

Every year during Chanukah I watch the candles burn on my Hanukkiyah and with each additional candle, by the eighth night I am completely mesmerized by the lights. The Rabbis ordained that we should light the Chanukah menorah each night in order to publicize the miracle of Chanukah. Interestingly, the light of the candles is not to be used for any other purpose (like illuminating a room in order to see). But the original reason for marking the holiday with light is uncertain. From the Books of Maccabees we know that they burned incense on the altar and lit the lamps on the menorah when they rededicated the Temple; however, the well-known story of the miraculous cruse of oil does not appear in the Books of Maccabees nor in the Mishnah, but only in the Talmud.

So why do we celebrate Chanukah with light? Rabbi Jose, in the Talmud (Megillah 24b), says, "I was long perplexed by the following verse: 'And you shall grope at noonday as the blind gropes in darkness [Deut. 28:29]'. What difference does it make to a blind man whether it is dark or light? Once I was walking on a pitch-black night when I saw a blind man walking with a torch in his hands. I asked him: 'Why do you carry the torch?' He replied: 'As long as the torch is in my hand, people can see me and aid me.'" From this, we can derive deeper meaning about the Chanukah candles. They not only remind us of what happened 2000 years ago in the Temple, but they also represent the light of the human spirit and the light of the Divine presence in our lives. The Chanukah menorah reminds us that no matter how dark life may be, there always remains a source of light inside us. Each of us can brighten up the lives of others through acts of Tzedakkah, Chesed (kindness) and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world).

This teaching I found from Rabbi Rachel Cowan gave me a new insight about the Chanukah lights: "The opportunity for spirituality implicit in the Chanukah story is made explicit in a beautiful text from Proverbs that links the lighting of candles to the search for spirit: "The human spirit is God's candle" (Proverbs 27:20). It is our spirit that brings light into the world—the light of love, compassion, truth and justice. To the extent that we do the very Jewish work of cultivating these inner qualities, we can bring more light into the world and feel a deeper connection to that which is holy."

This year, let us all remember that by lighting the Chanukah menorah, we ignite the flame within ourselves, and we can use that spark to light up the lives of others. Wishing you a joyous and meaningful Chanukah celebration!



Lorna Wallach



To contact Cantor Wallach,  
email her at [cbicantor@cbi-nj.org](mailto:cbicantor@cbi-nj.org)

## In The Community

### Mazel Tov to:

Lee Dranikoff & family on Abby's Bat Mitzvah

Miri & Adam Forster on Ari's Bar Mitzvah

Wendy & Hank Kaplowitz on being honored by Israeli Bonds

Karen Tucker on 50 years at CBI

### Condolences to:

Robin Mintz on the passing of her father, Bernard Norman Hochberg

Karen Sendyk on the passing of her mother, Shirley Finkelstein

Beth Giladi & Jo Ann Horowitz on the passing of their brother, Alan Mark Horowitz

Michelle Retik on the passing of her mother, Marian Chalpin

## December 2018 Yahrzeit Donors

Ronnie Armuth  
Arlene Bartfeld  
Deena Bernhaut  
Stuart Brod  
Irwin & Judith Buncher  
Inez Ehrenkranz  
Ann Eisenstadt  
Marvin Fish  
Barbara Fulop  
Jacqueline Gershman  
Linca Glasofer  
Gloria Gottlieb  
Scott & Sheryl Horowitz  
David Jacobs  
Lisa Jacobs

Eric & Melissa Kanter  
Sanford Kingsly  
Thelma Leff  
Flo Ellen Maslow  
Erika Maurer  
Leslie McCafferty  
Marion & Murray Mohl  
Frieda Ostrowsky  
Sandy Panzer  
Irina Polonsky  
Elliot Schabbes  
Rose & Michael Solomon  
Stacey Thornton  
Susan Turk  
Neil Yaris

## President's Message

By Mariela Dybner, CBI President



The last month at CBI has been shaped by the horrific tragedy of the attack on the Tree of Life congregation in Pittsburgh. The deadliest anti-Semitic assault in U.S. history has influenced how we have come together as a community and how we position ourselves to counter these threats.

On Sunday, October 28, the morning after the attack, we held a vigil to honor the memory of those lost and to pray for the injured. As they were our special guests for the weekend, Pizmon, the Jewish a cappella group of Columbia, Barnard and the Jewish Theological Seminary, lent their voices to help us in our healing. The following Shabbat, CBI participated in the nationwide effort that was Solidarity Shabbat, showing that we would not be deterred in our faith. We continue to mourn the lives that were taken at the Tree of Life and refuse to let anti-Semitic violence rob us of our sense of identity, our communal worship and our place in this country.

We have redoubled our efforts for the safety and security of our congregation. Prior to the attack in Pittsburgh, our Executive Director Harvey Brenner aided by our Facilities Committee, obtained a \$10,000 grant from the State of New Jersey to increase our security personnel presence and a \$150,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to harden our physical facility against a violent attack. After participating in numerous security discussions both internally and externally, we have decided to have armed personnel guarding the building both for Shabbat morning services and Sunday morning

religious school. We are currently assessing the ongoing cost for this added security measure and will address the need for increased funds in the coming months. Additionally, we are taking steps to make necessary changes to our building with the use of the funds from the Homeland Security grant. While I cannot disclose all the details, you may notice some of the changes taking effect.

December is a busy month for us at CBI. On Sunday morning December 2, we will be welcoming Amit Stern, our community Shaliach, who will be speaking on Religion and State in Israel, Perspectives from an Israeli, as part of our L'Dor V'Dor Speaker Series. Come to hear our speaker and stop by the Sisterhood Gift Shop and its Chanukah Boutique. You and your family are invited to a Winter Chanukah Shabbat Dinner on December 7; the cost has been underwritten by a generous donor, but RSVP's are needed to ensure that there will be food for all. Please join us as we honor Man of the Year Dan Richter at the annual Men's Club Hanukkah Dinner Dance on December 9. As always, it will be a fun-filled night of friendship and camaraderie, and, if I know Dan, many Star Wars references. On Tuesday, December 18, Sisterhood will host its Knit & Knosh (and needlecraft) Group at 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. The next night, Wednesday, December 19, Sisterhood will host one of its very famous Mah Jongg Nights at 7:30 p.m.

May the warmth and light of the Hanukkah lights fill your home with joy!

Mariela Markelis Dybner



To contact Mariela Dybner,  
email her at [president@cbi-nj.org](mailto:president@cbi-nj.org)

### CBI Sisterhood Presents Mah Jongg Nights



Play your game or join a new one  
Refresh your skills or perfect them

Learners Table Available

Most of All - Have Fun!

RSVP: Helene Moehlman, [shmoehlman@yahoo.com](mailto:shmoehlman@yahoo.com) or Call 201-341-2059  
Let me know if you would like to play at the Learners Table  
Free for Sisterhood members, \$5.00 for non-members

Plan Ahead, All Wednesday's at 7:30pm:

December 19  
January 16  
February 13  
March 13  
April 10  
May 15



### CBI Chanting Circle

Join us in the Chapel on **Sunday, December 16th, at 5 PM**  
as we mark the approach of the winter solstice. Our  
chants and songs on the theme of **Light will chase the  
darkness away and bring in joy and warmth! There will be  
light musical accompaniment to our singing  
and chanting.**

**Be prepared to sing your heart open, soothe your mind,  
and let your spirit soar!**

**No prior knowledge of Hebrew or singing ability  
necessary . . . only a willingness to join in  
spiritual community.**

Contact [lenhausman@msn.com](mailto:lenhausman@msn.com) for more info.



## Beineynu

By Harvey Brenner, Executive Director

Proactive? Prophetic? Just plain lucky?

Call it what you will, but compared to many other 'faith-based' organizations, we're better prepared than most when it comes to security.

With the recent events in Pittsburgh still fresh in our minds, renewed vigor and resources are being committed by religious organizations of all faiths and denominations to ensure that their doors remain open and welcoming, yet their premises and worshippers are kept safe and secure.

Fortunately (and this is why I asked the opening three questions: proactive; prophetic or just plain lucky?) at my suggestion and advice, the board and officers initiated a series of actions, long before Congregation Etz Chayim's tragedy, to help protect our congregation members, staff and visitors from harm.

We applied for and received a \$10,000 Homeland Security 'Pilot Program' Grant to provide and test the benefits of having uniformed security guards for the next several months. Shabbatot, holiday services, special events and school days may all be part of our schedule of coverage. A visible, armed presence is a known deterrent to many persons who might do us harm.

Additionally, we also applied for and were awarded a nearly \$150,000, Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative/ Non-Profit Grant that will permit us to 'harden' our facility. With items like improved access controls at the building entrances, more external security lighting and cameras, security bollards, planters and security window films, we'll be better able to detect and deter potential threats to our community's well-being.

Lastly, in October, I attended a full day workshop taught by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in New York City, where we learned how to develop a strategic plan specific to our community's needs and our facility's unique features if, God Forbid, we ever are confronted with an active shooter (or other imminent, potential threat).

Over the next few months the senior staff and clergy will develop that plan in coordination with our Millburn Police Department, NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, our contracted security guard firm (K Street Group) and selected congregational lay leaders so that no matter what activity, time of day or day of the week, trained personnel will be on site to handle an emergency as it develops).

As I wrote in my February column earlier this year, currently, there is no known active threat to the American Jewish community generally, or to the Millburn area in particular. That doesn't mean we should relax our guard. Rather, we should be aware of the following two stratagems:



### **"IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!"**

That's the motto made famous by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of NYC, but it could very well pertain to any shul in these troubled times. With the recent tragic events of Sandy Hook, Paris and San Bernardino, CA, (now add in Parkland, Las Vegas and Pittsburgh) it reminds us that we must continue to be vigilant and alert to potential threats while still maintaining a warm, welcoming congregation.

If you think something or someone doesn't look quite right, let us know. Tell an officer, clergy or staff member or use your cell to call 911 if you can't find one of us. Please don't assume that someone else will or has notified us. In this case, redundancy is a very good thing!

### **"RUN-HIDE-FIGHT"**

In the very unlikely event that there ever is an active threat on our premises:

**RUN** (run as far away as fast as you can) and avoid danger, then call 911.

**HIDE** (if you can't run, find a hiding place away from doors and windows) and do not reveal yourself until police search the premises and find you.

**FIGHT** this is your last resort when you have no other alternative (and your life is absolutely in jeopardy). Fight like your life depends upon it! (Historically, 16% of all active intruder situations are ended by just such citizen action.)

**B"H**, we will never know such violence in our towns, homes, or shul but should the worst happen, these few short slogans, put into practice, may save our lives.

We must not allow our fears to rule our behavior or actions. We must continue to live our lives in as normal a fashion as possible. To give in to those fears and prejudices makes the terrorists the winners and every one of us a loser. But we must be alert to our surroundings and understand how to protect ourselves should the worst occur.

I'm neither an alarmist nor a 'Pollyanna'. I'm a realist who is tasked with learning all he can about securing our community and our members. The best phrase I learned at the Active Shooter workshop was, ***"Nothing happened today on my watch!"***

Let us hope that our community never knows the pain and loss of Pittsburgh, Sandy Hook, Parkland, Las Vegas, Paris or San Bernardino. May *HaShem* continue to bless us with peace and freedom!

L'hitraot!

Harvey M. Brenner, FSA, FTA



To contact Harvey Brenner,  
email him at [hbrenner@cbi-nj.org](mailto:hbrenner@cbi-nj.org)

## Update from the Rabbinical Search Committee

By Jonathan Engel and Lisa Biller, Co-Chairs

The search committee spent the spring and summer conducting a survey of congregational preferences in its new rabbi, and conducting focus groups to flesh out these preferences at a more granular level. Informed by these studies, the committee filled out the extensive Rabbinical Assembly congregational questionnaire, and posted the position over the summer. We are currently receiving expressions of interest and resumes. We will close the search later this Fall and begin to sift through

the applicants for first-round (Skype) interviews. We hope to be able to bring 3-4 outstanding candidates to the synagogue in the early months of 2019 to meet with the committee and congregants, lead services, deliver divrei Torah, and impress us with their leadership, fitness, and kavanah

Jonathan Engel and Lisa Biller,  
Co-chairs

## YALDEINU is Back!

**Yaldeinu** ("Our Children") is the name of our congregation's outreach to families with children or young adults with special needs. We have prepared liturgy and designed an experience to be participatory, joyous, and relaxed!

The service is approximately 1 hour long and led by Rabbi Cece Beyer. We use a special prayer book and the children/young adults are encouraged not only to participate but to lead as well as they can.

The service is held in the Chapel and there is a Torah service. Children/Young Adults over the age of 13 have

the experience of being called up for an *aliyah*. It is a warm, nurturing, supportive environment for the participants and their families.

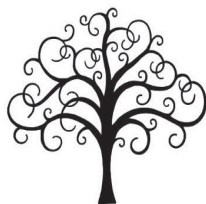
Following the service, everyone is invited to join the congregation in our festive, weekly Shabbat kiddush in the Social Hall.

Dates for the next few months are:

2018 - October 27, November 24, December 29

2019 - January 26

11:00-12:00pm



### Shabbat Journeymen's Minyan If it's not a "minyan," what is it?

Among the wonderful programs that we have at CBI, one of our hidden gems is our Shabbat Journeymen's Minyan (SJM). Once a month, SJM is an opportunity for congregants to get together on Shabbat morning to discuss and explore a topic related to Jewish life. Since the discussions are lay-led, the choice of topic is up to

the person leading the discussion. It can be something that relates to the weekly Torah portion, the liturgy, religious holidays or whatever topic the leader chooses.

Our next SJM will be on  
**Saturday, December 15 at 10:45 a.m.**  
*Len Hausman will be presenting*  
**The Generally Unknown and Surprising Story of  
How December 25<sup>th</sup> Became Christmas  
(And yes, there is a Jewish Angle!)**

Please join us in Room 205 (upstairs in the school wing) for a stimulating hour of learning and discussion.

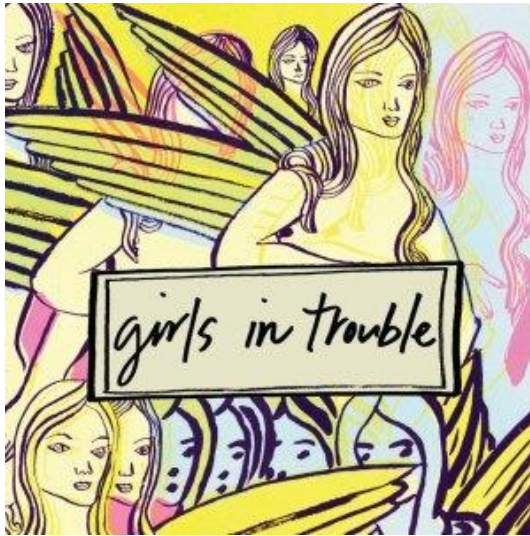
**All are welcome!**

**DON'T MISS  
THE DEADLINE!**

Please note, the deadline for the January 2019 bulletin is December 3. Information contained in the bulletin each month is time sensitive. We appreciate your cooperation in order to ensure that the Bulletin reaches everyone by the beginning of each month.

Space permitting, we will do our best to include your item(s), and we reserve the right to edit your submission. Please submit all material to [CBIbulletin@cbi-nj.org](mailto:CBIbulletin@cbi-nj.org).

Deadline	Edition
3-Dec	JANUARY
4-Jan	FEBRUARY
1-Feb	MARCH
4-Mar	APRIL
29-Mar	MAY
29-Apr	JUNE
31-May	JULY



# GIRLS IN TROUBLE

## WITH RABBI CECELIA BEYER

Girls in Trouble is a series of in-depth study sessions about women in Torah through art and music. Learn how stories of women in Torah reflect the complexity of our own lives, and how art can help us deepen our connections to these ancient texts.

Each unit follows a woman character through Biblical story, Rabbinic interpretations, visual art, and a Girls in Trouble song. While the curriculum is *about* women, this class is not just *for* women. All genders are welcome in this exploration of midrash and Jewish text. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Come join us on a journey into the world of women in Torah!



Rabbi Cecelia Beyer ("Rabbi Cece") most recently served as the Associate Rabbi, Education Director, and Director of Liturgical Arts at Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael in Springfield. She has also served as the Assistant Rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom in Roslyn Heights, New York. Rabbi Cece was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary in May 2010, where she pursued a concentration in sacred music as part of her studies.



Wednesday Afternoons

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

*Nine Sessions*

December 5, 12 & 19

January 2, 16, 23 & 30

February 6 & 13

FREE for  
CBI Members

\*\*\*\*

\$75 for  
Community Friends

To register,  
please contact:  
Rabbi Sharon Litwin  
Director of  
Congregational Learning

[slitwin@cbi-nj.org](mailto:slitwin@cbi-nj.org)  
(973) 379-1134

CONGREGATION  
B'NAI ISRAEL

160 Millburn Avenue  
Millburn, NJ 07041

[www.cbi-nj.org](http://www.cbi-nj.org)

## Hedwig Gruenewald Early Childhood Center (HGECC)

By Rochelle Baron, Director

The turkey is finished and now it's time for potato latkes! Chanukah is one of our favorite holidays and we are looking forward to all of the fun that comes with this special time. Many activities are planned for the kids as we learn about the holiday and light the hanukkiah in class each day. Our tzedakah proceeds for December will go towards purchasing toys for the South Orange/Maplewood Parenting Center as we have done for the past several years. It is a tangible way for the children to see what their contributions can do and how it can help other children experience the joys of the season.

On Sunday, December 2, we will host a young family Chanukah program from 10:00am to 11:00am in the preschool wing. The event is open to all CBI families and is geared towards children between two and five years old. We'll make a holiday keepsake, hear stories, sing songs and share some yummy snacks. Pre-registration is necessary—hope to see you there!



On another note, we had our first 'harvest' from our school garden! The kids remembered that we planted lots of small plants in the spring—impatiens, watermelon, cucumber, squash, and cantaloupe. The 'thing' that grew was yellow, green and orange and the size of a baseball. What was this? Many opinions were offered up and when we finally cut it open we discovered a whitish ring and seeds in the center—we grew a cucumber!! Alas, after we tried small pieces of it we determined it tasted terrible but we were so proud of our horticultural skills. We are already talking about what our garden will contain next year, and hopefully produce more stuff, this time with better results.

All of us wish all of you a happy and healthy Chanukah!

Rochelle



To contact Rochelle Baron,  
email her at [HGECC@cbi-nj.org](mailto:HGECC@cbi-nj.org)

## Blanche Bayer Religious School (BBRS)

By Rabbi Sharon Litwin, Director of Congregational Learning

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN BBRS Students and Parents for our best Chanukah celebration ever! Parents, Grandparents, Siblings, Cousins, Friends and especially all members of the CBI Community...**



Join Architect Stephen Schwartz, the founder of Building Blocks Workshops to build the world's tallest Menorah out of Legos!

As I learned from Sandy Wasserman's Blog on the Times of Israel website, "Public menorah displays for Chanukah date back to the mid-70s in the US, with the first public menorah in 1974 in Philadelphia and then another much, much larger one in 1975 in San Francisco, both part of the CHABAD movement. In more recent times families, synagogues, and communities have begun to build oversized menorahs with children's participation. Whether this is a manifestation of an attempt to build and create a

large holiday decoration at least equal in size to the Christmas trees we see around us is a moot point. It's enough to happily proclaim: "We are Jews. It's Chanukah! This is fun! This menorah, this 'Hanukkiah' is ours and we are proud of it and ourselves."



**Sunday, December 9, 2018**

**9am-11am**

**Followed by Latkes sponsored by the CBI Men's Club at 11:00am**

Best wishes for a joyful and light filled Chanukah!

Rabbi Sharon Litwin



To contact Rabbi Sharon Litwin,  
email her at [slitwin@cbi-nj.org](mailto:slitwin@cbi-nj.org)



## Sisterhood's Message

By Laurie Kavowras and Ruth Novick



Laurie Kavowras



Ruth Novick

As co-presidents of an organization that is made up of vibrant, hard-working, intelligent and dedicated women, we are always interested in looking at Judaism from a feminist perspective. Most of the heroes of the stories of the Torah are just that – heroes. But there are many heroines, as well, though many of them are not as readily recognized as their male counterparts. And so it is with the Chanukah story. Ask anyone who the major players in that story are and they will quickly rattle off Judah Maccabee, his father Matthias, and of course the bad guy, Antiochus. But what about Judith? Turns out she played a pretty important role in the story. Judith went to the enemy camp, pretending to be sympathetic to the invaders' cause. She used her beauty to lure Holofernes, an enthusiastic general, into his tent, made him thirsty by plying him with cheese and then got him drunk on wine. When he fell asleep, Judith murdered him with his own sword and cut off his head. The severed head was displayed on the walls of the city, terrifying the enemy army who panicked and retreated. And then there is Hannah, Judah's sister. She watched each of her seven children be tortured and executed for failing to follow Antiochus' orders to bow down to idols, even encouraging her youngest child to become a martyr. She died immediately after. Because of the bravery and religious convictions of Judith and Hannah, women have felt a special affinity to Chanukah. To honor them, there is a custom that women refrain from working while the Chanukah candles are lit. If

only we could find a way to keep them lit longer!

Sisterhood also honors Judith and Hannah with its Rosh Chodesh program scheduled for December 6. We are so fortunate that our very own Lisa Lisser, an accomplished Jewish educator, will lead a discussion on Chanukah and Civil Discourse.

To RSVP or for more information, please contact Wendy Kaplowitz at 908-964-0127 or [wendy.kaplowitz@verizon.net](mailto:wendy.kaplowitz@verizon.net).

Still looking for Chanukah gifts? Look no further than the Sisterhood Gift Shop. We have a large stock of mezzuzzas, jewelry, menorahs, toys and more. We have non-religious items, as well. Looking to purchase a tallit? We have gorgeous tallitot for men and women. Ilisa Perlman stands at the helm of the gift shop and she or her team would be thrilled to help you with your purchases. The shop is open most Sunday mornings when BBRS is in session but if you need to arrange another time to make a purchase, please reach out to Ilisa at [ilisaperlman@verizon.net](mailto:ilisaperlman@verizon.net).

Finally, in order to give people as much time as possible to prepare, we are filling the spots for participation in Sisterhood Shabbat, which will be March 1 and 2, 2019. If we have somehow missed reaching out to you, please accept our apology and reach out to Michelle Daniel at [michelledaniel@gmail.com](mailto:michelledaniel@gmail.com) or Chaya Cohen at [chayacohen@gmail.com](mailto:chayacohen@gmail.com) to let them know that you'd like to do something. There is something for everyone!

### Upcoming Events:

*"Chanukah and Civil Discourse"* Thursday, Dec. 6  
*Mah Jongg* Wednesday, Dec. 19

Laurie Kavowras and Ruth Novick



# Chanukah and Civil Discourse

**What the story behind Chanukah can teach us  
about today.**

**A TALK BY**

**LISA LISSER, M.A.R.E.**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, AT 6:30 PM**

**DINNER COST \$18**

**Vegetarian or Gluten Free option available upon request.**

**Please RSVP to Wendy Kaplowitz at 908 964 0127 or  
wendy.kaplowitz@verizon.net by December 1st.**

**Please send checks made out to Sisterhood, to the Synagogue prior  
to the event.**

## MEN'S CLUB MINUTE

By Jonathan Schor & Alex Marcus,  
Men's Club Co-Presidents

Wishing you all a  
*Frelichen Chanukah!!!*

Sunday December 9th is the annual Men's Club Chanukah Party. 6:30 PM at CBI. Friends, Food, Music, Raffles. Join us to celebrate and honor our own Dan Richter!!!



Jonathan Schor



Alex Marcus

Looking forward, Shabbat Yitro (Shevet 20 / January 25-26), is MEN'S CLUB SHABBAT!! Again we will be entertained (and educated) by the famous Parsha Players!

And of course, Kiddush will feature this 5th Annual Men's Club Cholent Contest. Come enjoy a variety of cholents - new recipes and old standards - and vote for your favorite and see who wins this year's coveted Men's Club Cholent Kiddush Cup.

As always, Men's Club Shabbat is a great opportunity to learn a new skill or freshen up on an old one. Please let us know how you would like to participate!

### MLKb'Shvat

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day Men's Club will be participating in CBI's Mitzvah Day.

Please join us, and the whole community, as there will be Mitzvah opportunities for all tastes. And don't forget it is also Tu B'Shvat. First we had Thanksgivingakkah and now we have MLKb'Shvat!

March 2nd we are going to the theatre, to see "My Very Own British Invasion" a world premiere musical featuring songs from the 60's.

Also on the Men's Club schedule is weekly basketball, Monday & Wednesday, at Hartshorn School.

Please contact us at [CBImensclubmillburn@gmail.com](mailto:CBImensclubmillburn@gmail.com)

Jonathan Schor & Alex Marcus

**NEW JERSEY'S #1 PARTY SHOWCASE**  
**Planning a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Wedding, Sweet 16 or Party?**  
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Meet over **25** Exciting Vendors!

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**Sun. January 6, 2019**  
**11:00-2:00 PM**  
Congregation B'nai Israel  
160 Millburn Ave, Millburn, NJ

**REGISTER ONLINE** **partyshowcases.com** **REGISTER ONLINE**  
**908-665-4165**

Photo by Sweet Dreams Studio

**JOIN US FOR A DAY OF  
LEARNING AND GIVING**

**Monday  
January 21, 2019**

**ANNUAL COMMUNITY WIDE  
MLK MITZVAH DAY**

Mitzvah Day is a wonderful opportunity to learn about and support various charitable groups in our community and Israel.  
This COMMUNITY-WIDE event is open to ALL!  
There will be hands-on mitzvot for everyone!

**CONGREGATION  
B'NAI ISRAEL**

Organized by Hearts and Hands Committee and our  
Director of Congregational Learning, Rabbi Sharon Litwin.



## BAT MITZVAH



### Shira Radin

December 1, 2018 (P.M.)

Shira is a seventh grader at Millburn Middle School. She loves singing, musical theater, field hockey, and animals -- especially her cat JJ. She reads everything from non-fiction to mysteries to graphic novels, and tends an ever-expanding World in Minecraft. Whether at school or at Camp Starlight or in the theater or just hanging out with friends, Shira makes the day brighter with her spirit, infectious smile, and wonderful sense of humor.

Shira's Mitzvah project stems from visiting Israel this year with her parents, where she learned about the joys and challenges of her Jewish heritage and about Israeli life. She visited the Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association, which treats children and adults of all religious and ethnic backgrounds suffering from different illnesses. She hopes everyone will make a small contribution to INTRA through The Good People's Fund to help continue this important mission.

Shira is happy to be sharing this simcha with her loving parents Amy and Mitchell Radin and siblings Molly and Jared who preceded her to the bimah at B'nai Israel, and with her family and friends. Shira sends a special thank you to Cantor Wallach and Rabbi Bayar for their support through the years and for their guidance and encouragement in helping her to prepare for her Bat Mitzvah.



## Free Preschool Playtime

Drop-In Open Play at Congregation B'nai Israel

Open to the Community

**Who:** Toddlers 15 months to 2 years old (accompanied by an adult)

**When:** Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Dates:** December 12, 19 January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30



Activity Centers

Music

Use of indoor/outdoor playgrounds



For more information or to RSVP, please contact  
Rochelle Baron at 973-379-4040 or [hgecc@cbi-nj.org](mailto:hgecc@cbi-nj.org)

160 Millburn Avenue, Millburn, NJ 07041



## Calling All Knitters, Crocheters or Wannabees

Please join us for the

**Sisterhood Knit & Knosh (and needlecraft) Group**

### 2018-19 Schedule

**Tuesday Evenings at 7:30 p.m. in Youth Lounge**

February 26	December 18	January 29
May 28	March 19	April 23
	June 25	

Bring your own supplies. Any kind of needlecraft is great.

Want to learn - we'll have yarn. You bring needles.

Work on your project or stitch for a cause.

An opportunity to share patterns and provide support

RSVP: Marion Mohl [marionmohl@aol.com](mailto:marionmohl@aol.com) 908-273-8157

Ann Spector [annspector@msn.com](mailto:annspector@msn.com) 973-868-0329

Want to learn, are experienced, or just want to schmooze, come to our monthly informal gathering. Light refreshments.







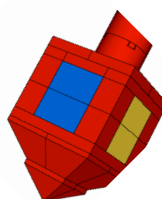
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and parents for our best Hanukkah  
celebration ever as we build the...

# ***WORLD'S TALLEST LEGO MENORAH!***



Parents, Grandparents,  
Siblings, Cousins, Friends, and  
especially members of the  
CBI Community!

***SUNDAY  
12/9***



***9:00-  
11:00***

Followed by latkes sponsored by the  
CBI Men's Club at 11:00AM!





*Annual*  
***Hannukah Dinner Dance***

**Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

*Dancing - Celebrating - Door Prizes*

*Honoring*  
Men's Club 2018 Man of the Year  
***Dan Richter***

*Festive Holiday Dining*

Prepared by CBI Chefs Extraordinaire

*Featuring Fantastic Musical Entertainment*

**Reservation Deadline November 29<sup>th</sup>**

Please RSVP to Evite arriving soon via email

Admission \$50 per person (\$60 after November 29<sup>th</sup>)

Sign up online! <http://tinyurl.com/chanukahdinner2018>

**For more information, please contact:**

Michael Jurist at [michael.jurist@verizon.net](mailto:michael.jurist@verizon.net), or Jonathan Schor at [jschor@gmail.com](mailto:jschor@gmail.com) or  
Mike Slifer at [mikeslifer@verizon.net](mailto:mikeslifer@verizon.net)





**Adult Forum "Lunch & Learn"**  
Congregation B'nai Israel  
160 Millburn Avenue, Millburn, NJ 07041  
Our programs are open to all- bring friends!

#### DECEMBER EVENTS

Lunch begins at 12:30 p.m. The program begins at 1:00 p.m.

**Thursday, December 6 CBI, CANTOR'S CONCERT** Come listen to Cantor Wallach celebrate the joyful sounds of Chanukah with us. The Cantor will have you humming along with her presentation of Chanukah tunes and other melodies both new and familiar. She also weaves an entertaining informative narrative to accompany her beautiful voice. Come join us for a wonderful afternoon of music and Make a Joyful Noise!

**Thursday, December 20 Screen *Three Identical Strangers* at CBI** Watch the true story of Identical triplets who are separated at birth and adopted by three different families. Years later, their amazing reunion becomes a global sensation but also unearths an unimaginable secret that has radical repercussions. Join us to watch this saga unfold.

Sandwich choices are: Turkey, Corned Beef, Roast Beef, Pastrami, Tuna Fish, or Egg Salad. **YOU MAY PAY AT THE DOOR. CONTACT LOIS at 973-533-1809 to place your lunch order by the Wednesday afternoon preceding the program.** The cost is \$10 for Adult Forum members & partners and \$12 for non-members. If you are coming for the program only, there is no charge, but please call to let me know that you will be attending.

**IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, Please call the temple 973-379-3811**

**Wishing you all a Chag Sameach**

## Sisterhood Shabbat **And You** Perfect Together

**Mothers, Daughters, Grandmothers, Granddaughters, Sisters,  
Aunts, Cousins**

Feel the warmth of joining with your lady Friends  
Leading Friday Evening, Shabbat Morning Prayers

**You** Will Make Sisterhood Shabbat So **Special**

On Friday, March 1, & Saturday, March 2, 2019

Co-chairwomen Michelle Daniel or Chaya Cohen will answer with Joy

### **Your Call To Volunteer**

For an English or Hebrew, Singing or Reading Prayer

Michelle Daniel – 973-258-1245

michellefdaniels@gmail.com

Chaya Cohen - 908-654-8580

chayacohen@gmail.com

## ISRAEL AFFAIRS

By Joe Tenenbaum



### **I hope you were able to attend our Israel Bond Brunch on November 4!**

The Israel Bond Brunch held on November 4, 2018 was very special to me for several reasons. Holding a brunch to promote Israel Bonds is something that CBI had not done for decades (since before Nancy and I became members – back in the early 80s). This bond event was also special to me because I had never been so involved in planning an event like this, and we had to plan quickly as the event was being held so shortly after the high holidays. It was also special because CBI was able to honor Wendy and Hank Kaplowitz, relatively recent members of our community, but a couple which have had been major contributors to Jewish Life and to Support of Israel for many years. Tribute speeches by Rabbi Bayar and by Hank and Wendy's daughter, Rabbi Tracy Kaplowitz highlighted the event. And the responses by Wendy and Hank each demonstrated the attitudes and beliefs which have endeared them to us, their gratitude for the award, and the good humor with which both are blessed.

We were also excited to hear Shahar Azani, Executive Director of StandWithUs, North East Region give a dynamic speech about how we can help support Israel not just by reacting to her enemies' attacks, but by emphasizing her positive history and accomplishments.

Over 90 people attended the event, and sales of Bonds for our community more than doubled from recent years.

I want to thank so many of you who helped make this event a success.

First, I want to thank David Brown, and the staff of Metro New Jersey Israel Bonds who came forward with the idea that we should try a different approach this year. I am not always looking for ways to change and the gentle push from David started this on its way.

I would like thank Harvey Brenner, who was part of the first meeting with David, and who helped guide this event from beginning to end. His knowledge of how to make things happen and particularly his expertise in the kitchen helped power this event. H&H Catering, the informal alliance of Harvey with Howard Kessler prepared and presented this wonderful meal, with the help of Barbara Brown.

Mariela Dybner and the leadership of the Congregation were supportive from the start, and David Good particularly helped with the publicity and the repetition of the publicity which is required in our community. (Dear Friends – how

much easier things are when we all RSVP early!!)

The event committee which assisted Nancy and me in planning this event deserve special mention:

Henry Bloom, Barbara Brown, Dan Dovdavyan, Barbara and David Gelband, Howard Kessler and Janet Slifer. Special thanks also to Dan and Janet who also took part in the program and to Mike Slifer who took some wonderful pictures. (I hope some of them are included in this Bulletin).

We offered the community an opportunity to become sponsors of this event, and we want to thank each of these individuals and families here. We did not have complete information when we printed our programs, so I want to be sure that all of you are thanked:

Chaya and Ira Cohen

Zandra Gratz

The Kaplowitz and Boxer families

Matt Askin and Miriam Linver

Carol and Bob Marcus

Nancy and Joseph Tenenbaum

Ellen Zall

CBI Morning Minyan Fund

Thank you also to our clergy, Rabbi Bayar and Cantor Wallach who participated in the program.

Finally, thank you to everyone who participated by purchasing Israel Bonds in honor of Wendy and Hank.

Even now, if you wish to purchase bonds in their honor, it can be done – by calling David Brown at 973-712-1404.

### **Religious Pluralism in Israel**

**On Sunday morning December 2, Amit Stern will be at CBI to discuss religious pluralism in Israel.**

Amit is an Israeli who is spending two years in the United States as part of the Shlichim (Emissary) program sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest. The purpose of their work here is to build relationships with Americans and help strengthen the relationship between people in Israel and people in our MetroWestCommunity. The December 2 event is sponsored by CBI Adult Learning.

### **CBI Israel Affairs Committee**

If you would like to work on a committee which will actively plan and assist all arms of the Congregation to support Israel, please contact me at TenenbaumJ@AOL.com. For those of you who prefer telephones, please call me at 973 768 7440. The Israel Bond Brunch was a great start to the year. We are



looking for more ways to encourage our community to learn about Israel's accomplishments and challenges, to support a strong US Israel relationship. Please volunteer.

### **2019 AIPAC Policy Conference      March 24-26, 2019**

You should plan on attending the 2019 Policy Conference. The experience is priceless, so putting this on your calendar now for you (and the students in your family) to attend will be a life altering experience. Next year we will again have a supply of discounted registrations, so if you wish to save on your experience, please let me know. However, I guarantee you that going, even at full price, is worth the expense. I look forward to working with congregants who have experienced the wonder and excitement of the Policy Conference to help share the event with more of you.

This year's conference will be a special opportunity for members of our New Jersey communities to meet with our new Members of Congress to demonstrate to them the

importance to us of a strong US Israel relationship. Help us assure a large CBI delegation to show how important this is to us.

### **Missing Soldiers and non-combatants**

We must continue to pray for the remaining soldiers to return home:

**Guy Hever   Zachary Baumel   Avi Feldman**

There are also two non-combatant Israelis being held by Hamas in Gaza: (When I added these last month, there was talk that they might be released soon – unfortunately that has not yet happened).

**Avera Mangistu   Hisham al Sayed**



To contact Joe Tenenbaum,  
email him at [TenenbaumJ@AOL.com](mailto:TenenbaumJ@AOL.com)

**Joe Tenenbaum**



*L to R: Wendy, Hank and family.*



*L to R: Joe Tenenbaum, Hank & Wendy,  
Mariela Markelis Dybner*

## DONATIONS

If you wish to send a tribute please call the main office at 973-379-3811 ext.111 or email: [dcoscia@cbi-nj.org](mailto:dcoscia@cbi-nj.org).

### Synagogue Fund

Miriam Linver - In memory of your grandmother, Betty

❖ Meryl Hubscher

Risa & Evan Wasserman - Congratulations on your daughter engagement

❖ Deena Bernhaut

Karen Tucker - Congratulations on 50 years at CBI

❖ Nancy & Allan Sloan

Hank & Wendy Kaplowitz - Mazel Tov on being honored by Israeli Bond

❖ Abbe Esocoff Zimmerman

Tree of Life Congregation - In memory of those that perished

❖ Abbe Esocoff Zimmerman

Hank & Wendy Kaplowitz - Mazel Tov on being honored by Israeli Bonds

❖ Amy Dantus

Robin Mintz - Our most sincere condolences at this sad time

❖ Carol & Bob Marcus

Joann Horowitz & Beth Giladi - Our condolences on the loss of your brother

❖ Moehlman Family

Robin Mintz - We are so sorry for your loss

❖ Linda & Ross Silver

Karen Sendyk - We are so sorry for your loss

❖ Linda & Ross Silver

Karen Tucker - Congratulations on your 50th year at CBI

❖ Nancy & Allan Sloan

Karen Sendyk - Our deepest condolences on the loss of your mother, Shirley Finklestein. We are all thinking of you, Hank, Asher & Jesse at this time, may her memory be for a blessing

❖ The Klausner Family

### Rabbi's Fund

Michelle Retick - May your mothers memory be a blessing. Our hearts, thoughts, & prayers are with you & the family

❖ Karen & Mickey Kahn

Miles Winkler - Prayers for a complete recovery

❖ Lillian Bressman

Rita & Joann Horowitz & Beth Giladi - Sorry to hear of your loss

❖ Leila Schott

Robin & Al Mintz & Family - We are sending our deepest sympathy on the passing of your beloved father & grandfather, Bernard Love Mickey, Karen & Family

❖ Karen & Mickey Kahn & Family

### Cantor's Fund

Karen Tucker - IHO your 50th year as a CBI Congregant

❖ Terry Hofflich

Beth Giladi & Joann Horowitz - IMO your beloved brother, Alan

❖ Thelma Leff

Wendy & Hank Kaplowitz - In honor of your being honored by Israel Bonds

❖ Linda & Bill Glasofer

### Phyllis S. Magid Adult Forum Fund

Wendy & Hank Kaplowitz - Yasher Koach on all of your good works

❖ Lois Dyer

### Hedwig Gruenewald Early Childhood Center Fund

Beth Giladi - We're thinking of you & sending lots of love

❖ Yaris Family

Mr & Mrs. Charles Levine - Mazel Tov on becoming great-grandparents

❖ Sandy Haimoff

Michelle Retik & Family - I am so sorry to hear about your mothers passing. May her memory be for a blessing.

❖ Rochelle Baron

### Burk-Mendlovitz Youth Fund

Kopel Burk - Mazel Tov on your milestone birthday!

❖ Claire & Aaron Nierenberg

Karen Tucker - How lucky we are that your parents chose B'Nai Israel--- and how lucky we are to have you for a friend. Thank for everything you do- much love Renee & Kopel

❖ Renee & Kopel Burk

Daniel Richter - So glad to see you back in Shul & best wishes for return to good health

❖ Renee & Kopel Burk

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Contact **Harvey Brenner** at (973) 379-3811 x 118 or [hbrenner@cbi-nj.org](mailto:hbrenner@cbi-nj.org) for more information about advertising in **The Bulletin**.



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Reaching in to its members and reaching out to the community, Congregation B'nai Israel is a traditional, inclusive, egalitarian, multigenerational community. Characterized by a unique blend of high energy in a low key, warm and welcoming environment, CBI is a place where congregants come together to pursue religious fulfillment, diversified programming and social and community leadership.

**Congregation B'nai Israel (973) 379-3811**

Steven Bayar, Rabbi  
Lorna Wallach, Cantor  
Harvey M. Brenner, FSA, FTA, Executive Director

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