

The Bulletin



CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL

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

December 2019



Annual

Chanukah Dinner Dance

Sunday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m.

Dancing - Celebrating - Door Prizes

Honoring
Men's Club 2019 Man of the Year
David Touger

Festive Holiday Dining

Prepared by CBI Chefs Extraordinaire

Featuring Fantastic Music Entertainment

Soulfege

Millburn High School's
Student-led A
Cappella Group



B'nai Jazz

Merging Jewish Roots
and Classic Jazz

Reservation Deadline Sunday, December 8

Please RSVP to Invitation in eMail

Admission \$50 per person (\$60 after December 8th)

Sign up online! <http://tinyurl.com/chanukahdinner2019>

For more information, please contact:

Michael Jurist at michael.jurist@verizon.net, or Jonathan Schor at jschor@gmail.com or
Mike Slifer at mikeslifer@verizon.net

December Service Times, Candle Lighting, Minyan

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

Additional Shabbat Programs:

Friday, Dec. 6

8:15 pm – Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, Dec. 7

9:00 am – Shabbat Services / Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca May
10:30 am – Family Shabbat Services

Friday, Dec. 13

6:00 pm – Shir Shabbat Service
6:45 pm – Congregational Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, Dec. 14

9:00 am – Shabbat Services / Bar Mitzvah of Milo Weiss
10:30 am – Bim Bam Shabbat
10:45 am – Shabbat Journeyer's Minyan
11:00 am – Yaldeinu Services

Friday, Dec. 20

8:15 pm – Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, Dec. 21

9:00 am – Shabbat Services / Bar Mitzvah of Simon Richter

Friday, Dec. 27

8:15 pm – Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday, Dec. 28

9:00 am – Shabbat Services

Please check www.cbi-nj.org for any changes to schedule.

Candle Lighting

Dec. 6	4:11 PM
Dec. 13	4:12 PM
Dec. 20	4:14 PM
Dec. 27	4:18 PM

Mincha/Havdallah

Dec. 7	4:11/5:26 PM
Dec. 14	4:12/5:27 PM
Dec. 21	4:14/5:29 PM
Dec. 28	4:18/5:33 PM

Minyan Rotation

Dec. 1 – Dec. 6	Lakin – Lindauer
Dec. 8 – Dec. 13	Lipp – McCafferty
Dec. 15 – Dec. 20	Meiler – Neger
Dec. 22 – Dec. 27	Noval – Podhoretz
Dec. 29 – Jan. 3	Popolow – 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.

Rabbi's Musings

By Rabbi Paul Resnick



I am writing this article 100 days into my tenure here at CBI as your rabbi. I continue to learn about, and be inspired by the life of CBI. There is a lot that goes on here. I no longer feel like the new kid on the block! I know there are still many folks to get to know and folks to get to know better, I feel a part of the CBI family. Thank you for that welcome.

We have celebrated many *b'nai mitzvah* and still have a good number to be at this year. My *kitah zayin* class has 17 students enrolled. I continue to learn from them. In fact, I did the project of the cards with the word ME in the center which I did with the congregation over the *Yamim Noraim*. I asked them what would be 1-2 of their most important changes they would like to see in this year that informs them, that affects them directly. And I learned. I learned that even in 7th grade for the most part, they want to sleep more. They say they are up too late, that school starts too early. That there is a lot of homework. And some said they want to spend more time with their families. I would guess that adults at CBI might have the same answers.

I was impressed that they are self-reflective and realize the importance of family and that they want more family time. Such a core issue as Jews, I hope that we can all learn from our teens and spend more time with our families.

I continue to learn from the *b'nai mitzvah* as we study their *parshiyot* together. They feel a strong connection to their Judaism. Many, not all, attend Jewish camps which only support and nurture those connections. Each *drash* has taught us some important Torah.

And in my tenure here, I have also learned about communal organizations which strengthen and support what we do here at CBI. Metro-West Federation is a powerhouse. I must receive several emails a week from different supporting arms of Federation. From workshops on inclusion or how to engage inter-married families, to consult on security and marketing, Federation is a force to be reckoned with. They were helpful in getting NJ grants for security and a major grant from Homeland Security which will make our facility a safer one to be in.

I have had dialogues with each of my Conservative colleagues over the past several weeks. I am planning to do a repeat of giving out honey cakes around Hanukkah and give out *Hanukkah gelt*. There is a good sense of community within the CBI walls and from the surrounding community.

I invite you to be a part of it all. In addition to services at the shul, and my weekly class on Thursdays, every other week I take Torah to the Community and teach at LIV Breads on Tuesday mornings, every other week. And of course, I am always available to meet, study, talk, have a cup of tea or take a walk. Just let us know when are where is good for you. clergyoffice@cbi-nj.org

Rabbi Paul Resnick



To contact Rabbi Resnick,
email him at rabbiresnick@cbi-nj.org



Musical Notes

By Cantor Lorna Wallach



In the Jewish tradition, light and candles have great significance. Light is a powerful spiritual metaphor; it is one of the enduring symbols for G-d in our sacred texts. The Eitz Hayim Chumash (p. 503) offers a beautiful commentary on the lighting of the menorah in the Tabernacle and the Eternal Light which adorns the ark of every synagogue: "Why has light been such a favorite symbol of G-d? Perhaps because light itself cannot be seen. We become aware of its presence when it enables us to see other things. Similarly, we cannot see G-d, but we become aware of G-d's presence when we see the beauty of the world, when we experience love and the goodness of our fellow human beings".

Nearly all of our holidays, including Shabbat, involve the lighting of candles. But while each of the other holidays have additional rituals and observances, the lighting of the candles on Chanukah is the only celebration unique to the holiday. The Rabbis ordained that we should light the Hanukkah menorah each night in order to publicize the miracle of Hanukkah. 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 Hanukkah 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 Hanukkah 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 Hanukkah 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 Tzedakah, Chesed (kindness) and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world).

This year, let us all remember that by lighting the Hanukkah 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 Hanukkah celebration!

If you are intrigued by the symbolism of light in Judaism and want to explore the uses of light and lamps in our sacred texts, observances and liturgy, please come to one, two or all three of the classes I will be teaching on this topic (Mondays, 9:30 – 10:30am on Dec. 2, 9 and 16).

Lorna Wallach



To contact Cantor Wallach,
email her at cbicantor@cbi-nj.org

In The Community

Condolences to:

Lois Dyer on the passing of her mother.

Refuah Shleima to:

Gerry Eisenberger, Meryl Hubscher, Frieda Ostrowsky, June Fastow, Shirley Ehrich, Laurie Weinberg & Lenore May.

Mazel Tov to:

Debbie and Alex Marcus on son Judah's Bar Mitzvah.

Carol and Robert Marcus on grandson Judah's Bar Mitzvah.

Lisa and Corey Biller on daughter Eliana's Bat Mitzvah.

Mariela Markelis Dybner and Ari Dybner on daughter Sara's Bat Mitzvah.

December 2019 Yahrzeit Donors

Sydell Weiner	Lenore May
Neysa Friedland	Elliott Schabbes
Deborah Less	Deena Bernhaut
Inez Ehrenkranz	Ellen Zall
David Jacobs	Stacey Thornton
Jacqueline Gershman	Steven Rod
Jane Warach	Irinia Polonsky
Neil Yaris	Linda Sotnick
Helene Moehlman	Daniel Baer
Herbert Sabin	Stuart Rod
Thelma Leff	Ellen Eichler
Ellen Garber	Robin Mintz
	Susan Turk

President's Message

By Mariela Markelis Dybner



While ours is a religion and a congregation steeped in tradition, it is important to continue to innovate in order to meet the changing needs of our members and the world around us. We need to take time to reflect on what we are doing well as a community and where we may want to dedicate more of our efforts. To

that end, and as a result of ongoing conversations with our clergy, staff and congregants, I would like to announce the establishment (and re-establishment) of three committees.

The Environmental Concerns Committee will be an arm of the Facilities Committee, which is led by Nik Minocha. This committee will be tasked with establishing green protocols and procedures for CBI, such as recycling, waste reduction, use of our solar panels, and other synagogue efforts to act as stewards for our environment.

The Security Committee will also function as a subcommittee of the Facilities Committee. The lay leaders involved will help develop measures to improve and optimize security at CBI, including by overseeing the expenditures that have been approved to make our building a harder target, backed by a grant from the US Department of Homeland Security, and by instituting guidelines regarding use of security personnel.

This committee will work closely with Harvey Brenner, who has been instrumental in spearheading these efforts thus far.

Our Hearts and Hands Committee has been reestablished under the leadership of Dan Richter. Dan has prioritized CBI's Tikkun Olam projects and has focused on fighting hunger in our community. Organization of this ongoing hunger initiative and the mitzvah portion of our MLK day celebration will be the initial imperative of our reinvigorated Hearts and Hands Committee.

I hope you are as excited about these new committees as I am and will lend your time and energy to these worthy goals. Please let me or the committee chairs know if you or someone you know would like to be involved.

Marielaw Markelis Dybner



The year is coming to a close and if you'd like to take advantage of year-end tax savings, be sure to make your donations and/or payments to Congregation Bnai Israel on or before December 31, 2019.

For your convenience, CBI accepts checks, ACH funds transfers, gifts of appreciated stocks and credit cards.

Contact Executive Director, Harvey Brenner at 973-379-3811 x 118 or hbrenner@cbi-nj.org, for ACH or stock transfer information.

HANUKKAH HAPPENINGS - 2019

Monday, Dec. 23rd - 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Entire CBI community is welcome. Candle Lighting - PLEASE bring your own *menorah* - candles supplied, Singing and a light supper with donuts. Followed by *Build Your Own Dreidel* and a *Dreidel Spin Off* with Fun Prizes! RSVP please by December 18th to clergyoffice@cbi-nj.org and let us know how many folks are attending. Watch your email for more details.

Thursday, Dec. 26th - 7:15 PM

Candle Lighting - PLEASE bring your own *menorah* - candles supplied - singing and donuts with wine and spiked/unspiked hot apple cider. Followed by *Ma'ariv*.

RSVP please by December 18th to clergyoffice@cbi-nj.org and let us know how many folks are attending.



Beineynu

By Harvey Brenner, Executive Director

As many of you know, I am the Senior Vice President of NAASE, The North American Association of Synagogue Executives, the international organization of Conservative synagogue professionals.



One of my tasks over the past year or two, has been to develop a “Code of Ethics” that reflects the changing workplace environment and also incorporates contemporary changes in how we interact with each other in our shuls, at our conferences and study groups, with our colleagues, subordinates, superiors, members and clergy.

It took the better part of a year for 5 or 6 of us to research similar ‘faith-based’, peer organizations and then draft, rework, revise, and legally review a document that would be reflective of the highest ideals of synagogue management attainable and be unanimously supported and embraced by our membership.

Little did I know while working on this project that there would come a time when a member’s conduct would come under the scrutiny of our Ethics Committee, and that I would be required to chair an investigation into the serious allegations of gross mis-conduct.

Unlike our biblical *shofeit* (judge) King Solomon, I feel singularly unqualified and uncomfortable in the presiding over this assigned inquiry. I’ve known the alleged perpetrator for nearly a dozen years and I have always found his conduct to be exemplary, above reproach and totally professional. His demeanor and interactions with both male and female colleagues have been extraordinary, carrying him to positions of leadership within the organization and yet, do we ever truly ‘know’ someone inside and out?

I am not looking forward to, over the next few months, conducting this exploration, but as it says in *Pirkei Avot*, the “Sayings of our Ancestors”, in a somewhat different context, “If not me, who? If not now, when?” So, if I am truly to lead this organization as its next president (beginning in about 15 months) shouldn’t I be willing to “lead by example” and undertake an assignment that is

both difficult and distasteful? The answer, of course, is yes! *Hineni!* Here I am!

Our synagogues must always remain sanctuaries to those who seek comfort, shelter and safety. The environment we create, foster and nurture must be supportive and inclusive. We cannot allow any one individual to wield his or her authority in manner that is either juxtaposed to these core values or places them in jeopardy. While the events in question were neither a part of this individual’s congregational work or involved his shul or its members, it does reflect upon our organization, and as such, requires immediate and thorough investigation and a sagely conclusion. I hope we’re up to the task.

L’hitraot,

Harvey M. Brenner, FSA, FTA



To contact Harvey Brenner,
email him at hbrenner@cbi-nj.org



Chants of Light Holy Writ Gets Lit!

Sunday, December 15th at 5PM

Join our chanting circle 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, warmth and delight!

And with words taken from the Hebrew Bible you will also gain new insight!!

All with light musical accompaniment to our singing and chanting.

The intention of chanting is to awaken the divine in our hearts.

It can soothe the mind and at the very least is simply fun to do!

No prior knowledge of Hebrew or singing ability necessary ...

only a willingness to join in spiritual community.



CHINESE SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, December 13

Shir Shabbat Service at 6:00 p.m.

a sweet Shabbat Service - only service of the evening

Dinner at 6:45 p.m.

followed by dessert and singing



Chinese Food Shabbat Dinner

Plus Challah // Dessert // Beverages

Kid-friendly, vegetarian and gluten-free options ... please let us know!

NO COST ... but we need you to register by December 9.

RSVP online at www.cbi-nj.org.

Or, call the synagogue office at 973-379-3811.

Thank you to a generous congregant for sponsoring this Congregational Shabbat Dinner.

If you are interested in sponsoring a future Shabbat Dinner – on your own to commemorate a special occasion, with friends, your neighborhood, BBRS class – please contact Harvey Brenner in the synagogue office or Henry Bloom at hdbloom@hotmail.com.



160 Millburn Avenue
Millburn, NJ 07041
973-379-3811 www.cbi-nj.org

B'NAI MITZVAH



Rebecca May December 7, 2019

Rebecca is in the 7th grade at Golda Och Academy. She went to pre-school at HGECC. She attended Hebrew school at CBI before going to Golda Och in the 4th grade. Rebecca enjoys taking different forms of art classes, and enjoys using the skills she learns to make things for her family and friends. She also enjoys playing with her pets.

For her Bat Mitzvah Project Rebecca raised funds for The Blue Dragon. The Blue Dragon is a charity that helps Vietnamese young adults obtain a better way of life. For more information on this wonderful organization go to their web page.

Rebecca is proud to share this simcha with her mother Lenore May and her uncle Daniel May. She would also like to thank Rabbi Litwin for helping her with her Hebrew for Golda Och Academy. Special thanks to Cantor Wallach and Rabbi Resnick for their help in preparing for this special day.



Milo Weiss December 14, 2019

Milo is a 7th grader at Millburn Middle School and a student at Congregation B'Nai Israel's Hebrew School. Milo is a graduate of CBI's preschool and a member of Kadima. Milo is a big fan of skiing, tennis, bike riding and also enjoys video games and YouTube. At school he is part of the annual school play, and plays trombone in the band. He loves summer camp, and has attended Camp Young Judea Sprout Lake for the past three summers.

For his Mitzvah Project, Milo is continuing his volunteering at the SHIP soup kitchen, through CBI's AAA program for helping the hungry in our community. Milo has been preparing and serving food for the needy for several years. In addition, on display on the bimah at his bar mitzvah will be baskets of food he's donating to support two important organizations, one to help the hungry through Jewish Family Services, and the other benefiting the Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program that provides care to Holocaust survivors.

Milo is excited to be celebrating his bar mitzvah with his parents, Judy and Jerry Weiss, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Milo thanks everyone that helped him prepare for this special day, most especially Paula Touger, Cantor Wallach and Rabbi Resnick.



Simon Richter December 21, 2019

Simon is a 7th grade student at Millburn Middle School. He enjoys playing the trumpet, playing games with friends such as Magic the Gathering and Overwatch, and playing hockey with the middle school team. While doing the above, homework, and/or household chores, there is one thing Simon can always be found doing: whistling.

For his bar mitzvah project, Simon has chosen to raise money for the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies and their Israel Ride program. The institute brings together Israeli Jews and Arabs as well as students from the Middle East, United States, and other parts of the world to learn how to solve today's most pressing environmental challenges, a cause close to Simon's heart.

Simon is grateful for the generous, kind, expert tutoring and guidance he has received from tutor Paula Touger, Cantor Lorna Wallach, Rabbi Resnick, and the staff of BBRS.

Hedwig Gruenewald Early Childhood Center (HGECC)

By Rochelle Baron, Director

This month, one of the children's favorites for sure, offers many fun activities for everyone!

On December 15 HGECC will host a Hanukkah family workshop where we'll do a craft, sing songs, hear stories and share a yummy snack together. This activity, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, is suitable for children between 2 and 5 years old accompanied by an adult.

On December 18 children and their families will join together for our school-wide Hanukkah party which is always lots of fun. On December 19, our friends from The Living Legacy will be here doing the Olive Press program where we'll explore how we get the oil to light a Hanukkah menorah. In the classrooms the kids will be busy with many Hanukkah-related activities which adds to the excitement.

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 a daily basis our classrooms continue to be beehives of activity as the kids are busy at their 'work'. It brings to mind a poem by Anita Wadley named "Just Playing" where she states the benefits of everything that occupies children in an early-childhood classroom environment. A child building with blocks is learning about balance and shapes. Another who is completely covered in paint while working on a project is exploring his/her creativity. Someone else working on a puzzle or manipulative game is learning how to solve problems and concentration. So many different aspects of learning! Albert Einstein once said "Play is the highest form of research" and our HGECC students are busy in their 'laboratories' working on this concept each and every day. Who knows where these paths will lead them in the future??

Happy Hanukkah from all of us to all of you!

Rochelle



To contact Rochelle Baron,
email her at HGECC@cbi-nj.org

DCL Drash

By Rabbi Julie Schwarzwald, Director of Congregational Learning

I hate changing the clocks. Hate it. Personally, I would stay on Daylight Saving Time all year round. I don't care if it's dark when I drive to work. I'm going to work. To sit in an office. I want the light when I go home (although some weeks, it is a rare day when I leave CBI before dark!). I dislike the cold, too.

I'm the crazy one who embraces 90-degree days and happily drives home with the convertible top down when the temperature approaches 100 degrees. So here we are, approaching December. Dark. Cold. Ready for pajamas at 5:00 pm. Hunkering down at home. Drowning my sorrows in chocolate, comfort food, and wine.

And then, just as we are approaching the shortest days of the year, Hanukkah arrives - holiday of light, celebrated with the consumption of every fried food imaginable and chocolate gelt. It's like a miracle! Miracles are definitely the topic of the holiday.

When our children are young, we teach that Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days because that one cruse of pure oil miraculously lasted for eight days, allowing enough time for new oil to be made for the Menorah in the Temple. Later, we teach that the miracle of Hanukkah was the military victory



of the Maccabees over the mighty Syrian-Greek army. We might share the midrash that George Washington asked a Jewish colonial soldier about his lighting of Hanukkah candles and adapted the guerrilla tactics of the Maccabees for use by the Continental Army against the British Redcoats. When our children are even older, we talk about the length of Hanukkah resulting from the Jews belatedly celebrating Sukkot in the rededicated Temple, since they were denied the opportunity to observe the holiday in Tishrei. And with our teens, we discuss the background of the Hasmoneans, the miracle of their preservation of Judaism against the Hellenization assimilation occurring under the Syrian-Greeks, and introduce the various factions in our history. However we teach it, at whatever age, there is room to speak of miracles.

Miracles lead to gratitude, for what we have been given. And so, it is fitting that as American Jews, we have the opportunity to give thanks for all we have been given for freedom of worship in the United States during Thanksgiving, followed a short time later by gratitude for the many miracles of Hanukkah. Both holidays give light, both physical and spiritual, in this dark season.

From my family to yours, with gratitude for miracles great

Continued on page 11

Sisterhood's Message

By Jennifer Glick and Sharon Richman, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Jennifer Glick & Sharon Richman

As we write this month's Sisterhood Message, we are fresh off the heels of this year's Sisterhood Membership Kick Off Event. With almost 80 members attending, we stand in awe of the enthusiasm and talents of so many of our members. We would be remiss if we didn't send a special shout out to Lisa Ehrlich for spearheading the lovely event and Rachel Benjamin for designing beautiful centerpieces. Thanks also to Melissa Zarin for leading a fun (and competitive) few rounds of trivia questioning. Thank you to all of our volunteers and all of you who donated your talents and/or nudged your favorite local businesses to contribute an impressive array of silent auction items.

Thank you also to Sara Sherman for leading this Fall's Bookends. We always look forward to and appreciate her well researched and insightful book discussions. And thank you to Rabbi Resnick for his detailed and thought-provoking Rosh Chodesh. We are sure that the many women present would agree that we barely scratched the surface of this discussion.

One of our very favorite things about being co-presidents of this organization is the ability to learn from our other "sisters" and increase our knowledge of Jewish traditions. For instance, as Hanukkah is approaching this month, one of us just learned that many Jews celebrate the holiday by traditionally eating dairy food; this came as a big surprise to Jennifer (ok, she admits it was her) and her brisket and latkes-eating family. Apparently, this dietary tradition stems from Judith's sneaking into the Assyrian camp and feeding General Holofernes cheese so that he would become thirsty and fall into a stupor. While he was asleep, Judith decapitated Holofernes, thereby inspiring the Israelites to push back the Assyrian army. While it is a quite gruesome scenario, as visualized in the well-

known Gentileschi painting, "Judith Slaying Holofernes," there is something appealing about this story for its refreshingly feminist view of Hanukkah (It's not just about Judah the Maccabee) and its insight into a particular food tradition for the holiday. Whether you eat blintzes or go meat heavy like the Glicks, we wish all of you a joyous and peaceful festival season.

And, if you are looking for Hanukkah gifts, we encourage you to check out the Sisterhood Gift Shop. We have many beautiful mezzuzahs, jewelry, menorahs, toys and, of course, candles. Ilisa Perlman is our dedicated volunteer (thank you Ilisa) 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, just to be safe, please contact Ilisa at ilisaperlman@verizon.net to arrange to meet with her.

Since our summer annual game staycation has become so popular, we decided to introduce a winter version. So, on December 18th we are having a Ladies Night and playing Bingo! For more information and to sign up, please contact Susan Stern at Hazelstorm1016@aol.com

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 13 and 14, 2019. Please reach out to Michelle Daniel at michellefdaniel@gmail.com or Chaya Cohen at chayacohen@gmail.com to let them know that you would like to participate. You will not want to miss out on one of the most meaningful and enjoyable Sisterhood events of the year. There is something for everyone!

Upcoming Events:

Mah Jongg	December 11th
Knit and Knosh	December 17th

Jennifer Glick and Sharon Richman
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

SUPPORT CONSERVATIVE/MASORTI JUDAISM



Buy Tefillin

And help promote Jewish Pluralism in Israel

"וְקִשְׁרָתָם לְאוֹת עַל יָדָךְ וְהָיוּ לְטֹטְפֹת בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ"

One set of Tefillin costs \$255
(plus \$25 shipping per set)

**If you order 5 sets or more –
no shipping costs**

www.masorti.org.il/tefillin



DCL Drash

continued from page 8

and small, Happy Thanksgiving and *Chag Urim Sameach!*

* * * * *

BBRS students have been very busy these past months. We hosted Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael from Springfield for Sukkot programming and discovered new friends and camp friends and neighbors. We are looking forward to going there for our Hanukkah celebration on December 15. Kitot Hey and Vav/5th and 6th Grades learned about life on the Lower East Side at the turn of the 20th century on a field trip to The Tenement Museum. Kitot Gan-Dalet/ Kindergarten through 4th Grades will enjoy a special Family Workshop on December 8, making their own Havdalah sets. Our Shabbat programming is growing, and students are enjoying the chance to lead prayers for their families. Kitah Hey has begun small-group prayer learning on Tuesday afternoons in "Sulam Tefillah." Our Better Together Legacy Heritage intergenerational program matching teens with "adults of wisdom and experience" has begun with 12 pairs learning about one another. Teens will ultimately produce videos about vignettes from the seniors' lives that will be shared on our new Instagram account (find us at CBIMillburn to follow!).

To everyone who came to the Unkosher Comedy Show with The Bible Players and supported our BBRS fundraiser.

תודה רבה A VERY SPECIAL TODAH
Thank You RABBAH to Men's Club who
donated all of the food and drink
for the evening - and special
mention to Jonathan Schor, Alex
Marcus, and Daniel Richter who were wonderful planners and
cooks. Thanks to Debbie Marcus who helped shop.

Thank you to our Sponsors:

Aravah: Rachel and Eric Manne

Lulav: Pam & Rich Chassen, Hope & Glenn Atlas, Carol & Bob Marcus, Amy & Larry Dantus, Debbie & Alex Marcus

ANOTHER VERY SPECIAL TODAH RABBAH to our amazing PA leader Rachel Manne for coordinating food for so many activities during Sukkot - and to Irina Super for shopping for all of it.

Rabbi Julie Schwarzwald



To contact Rabbi Schwarzwald,
email her at rabbijulie@cbi-nj.org

**CELEBRATE
HANUKKAH**

with
gifts
of
**ISRAEL
BONDS**

BOND WITH A NATION
OF LIMITLESS POTENTIAL
israelbonds.com

ISRAELBONDS

Development Corporation for Israel
David Brown, Registered Representative
Livingston, NJ 07039
david.brown@israelbonds.com
973.712.1404

This is not an offering, which can be made only by prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully before investing to fully evaluate the risks associated with investing in Israel bonds. Member FINRA.
Vector dreidels and menorah: iStock



Come to our Hanukkah Family Workshop!
(suitable for children between 2 and 5 years old)

When: Sunday, December 15, 2019

Time: 10:00am to 11:00am

Where: Congregation B'nai Israel, HGECC wing

What: Crafts, stories, songs and refreshments

**This event is for everyone with young children in the
CBI community. We hope you can join us!**

RSVP to hgecc@cbi-nj.org or call the HGECC office (973-379-4040) by December 9, 2019

_____ **Child's Name**
_____ **Name of adult(s) accompanying child**
_____ **Total number attending**
_____ **Cell phone contact number**

MEN'S CLUB MINUTE

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

Welcome to the December edition of MMM. We hope that everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday! Mazal Tov to Debbie, Alex, and the entire Marcus family on



Alex Marcus



Jonathan Schor

Judah's Bar-Mitzvah. Hopefully we can get Judah into the rotation for participation in Men's Club Shabbat (March 20-21st). We know that he has the family history to become a future Men's Club President.

Preparations are well underway for the Annual Chanukah Dinner Dance honoring Man of the Year David Touger. The dinner is always a great time featuring great food, music and fun. Please join us in honoring our resident chef and former CBI President for all that he does for the community. Don't let the fact that he is an avid Mets fan stop you from coming to the dinner. We are truly an inclusive community. Invitations were sent via Evite to your email. Please RSVP online at www.tinyurl.com/chanukahdinner2019. Tribute journal ads can be placed online or sent in to the synagogue office. Please see the ad in this month's bulletin for details.

A few reminders for upcoming events:

- 1) Men's Club Shabbat – March 20-21 – Planning is already underway. It is one of the signature events of the year. Promising a meaningful service, good food, and the annual cholent contest. If you are interested in participating please let me know at jschor@gmail.com.
- 2) Men's Club Basketball – Monday and Wednesday at Hartshorn School
- 3) Axe Throwing – Stay tuned for more information about this new Axe-citing event this spring

Alex Marcus & Jonathan Schor
Co-Presidents

LET'S HAVE DINNER TOGETHER!

Our monthly Congregational dinners are popular and fun!

Thank you to several generous congregants for sponsoring the Congregational Shabbat Dinners for the enjoyment of our community.

If you are interested in sponsoring a future Shabbat Dinner – on your own to commemorate a special occasion, with friends, your neighborhood, BBRS class, etc. – please contact Harvey Brenner in the synagogue office or Henry Bloom at hdbloom@hotmail.com



We are delighted to welcome the following new and returning members who have joined our CBI family over the past months of 2019!

Glen & Hope Atlas
Rich & Pam Chassen

Alexy & Milena Gashkevich
(Daniella & Leighton)
Bryan & Leila Marcovici
(Vivienne, Isaac & Mirren)
Naomi Panzer
Bernard & Tina Rabbino
Gene & Irina Super
(Isabella & Nicolette)

Teens in Israel Column

NEW to our bulletin, will be *Letters from Israel*. A periodic letter from one of our congregants studying or living in Israel for an extended period of time. Zach Marcus has written the inaugural letter for us. He is taking a GAP year at Yeshiva Sha'arei Mevasseret Tzion. He is the son of Debbie and Alex Marcus.

I am currently spending a post-high school gap year at Yeshiva Sha'arei Mevasseret Tzion, an all-boys Yeshiva right outside of Yerushalyim. In the past two months, I have been learning Jewish texts, have travelled around the country either on *tiyulim* or with my friends, and have made great friendships with other boys there as well as great relationships with the *rebbeim*.

I wasn't always planning to take a gap year before college, but when I was introduced to the concept, I was intrigued. After years of standard education, and with many more to come later, I saw value in taking one year to grow as a person, and to strengthen my connection with God and Judaism. While one can definitely improve themselves in college, being in an environment where everyone is aspiring to be a better person, as well as not having as many outside pressures, creates a great experience for maturity and growth. But this is especially true in Eretz Yisrael, the Holy Land, where Judaism is a core value and the Western Wall is just a bus ride away.

I too questioned the point in traveling across the planet for something that could in theory be done at home, but the surrounding environment and the exposure to Judaism as a lifestyle makes it much easier to become motivated. For my learning, the Yeshiva has eight hours of structured learning every weekday, with Friday, Shabbat, and Tuesday afternoon off as breaks.

The primary text is Talmud, the oral tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation which offers insight to God's infinite wisdom. When learned in-depth, it really teaches the learner how to think critically and apply concepts, as the text offers wondrous insights if one reads deeper into it. In the afternoon I learn Tanya, a *sefer* written by the *Alter Rebbe* as a guide to Judaism relating to the soul,

mitzvot, and our connection to God. In the remaining time, I learn smaller *Mussar* books (like Lonely Man of Faith), study *Tanach* and Halacha, and have meaningful conversations about Judaism and its many complexities. The *rebbeim* are always around to help us, to meet with us, and to be role models as we pursue the person we want to become. They are all dedicated to helping us and want to see us grow and be happy.

In addition to the learning, we travel around the country, whether it be a fun water hike and rafting in the Golan, a backpacking trip in the Negev, or building sukkahs for the elderly in Yerushalyim. *Chesed* is definitely a key component of the program, as there are many organized *chesed* trips as well as opportunities to give time to many wonderful causes.

On Tuesday afternoons, I have been going to *Shalva* to help and play with special needs kids, and it has been a great experience for me and everyone else who has gone. During my free time, I have also traveled with friends to *Ein Gedi*, Tel Aviv, and around Yerushalyim. The guys are amazing, all coming here motivated to learn and grow, and I have become close with many of them as well. They come mainly from the tri-state area but also from places like Los Angeles, Miami, and Baltimore (and people from Canada, Arizona, and Georgia). The friends I meet and have fun with this year will be my friends forever, as the bond of being in Israel together will make us inseparable.

On weekends, I have spent Shabbat in many places around the country like *Ashdod*, *Efrat*, and *Modiin*, and I have also stayed in Yeshiva and had great times with friends from the Yeshiva and friends from high school who will come for the weekend. The High Holidays were also a transformative time, and being in the Jewish State for the hardest and most important days of the year is a very positive and powerful experience. Add in an intramural basketball league, hanging out late in the dorms, and lots of food, and I have had an amazing experience so far. Going to Israel for the year was definitely a great opportunity for me, and I definitely recommend it to anyone who wants a year to grow as a person and as a Jew.



Zach Marcus - extreme right, hiking in Israel with his Mevasseret friends

Friday Morning Minyan-aire Promote Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

On Friday morning, November 6, 2019, minyan attendees flanked breakfast sponsors Nancy and Michael Weinstein, longtime and returning members to CBI.

Michael is a pancreatic cancer survivor and to help promote Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, the Weinstains sponsored a "Purple Breakfast" where everyone wore purple and 'loaded up on carbs' (including French toast with purple

berry sauce and even a purple bagel!) in preparation for the following Sunday's Walk for the Cure.

CBI was well-represented in "Michael's Purple Army" and the group helped the cancer association break all fundraising records, topping over \$500,000 in donations!

Yascher Koach to Michael, Nancy and all the CBI participants!



CBI Gala Celebration

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday Evening

March 7, 2020

at

Congregation B'nai Israel

Details to Come Soon!



Gala Committee Co-Chairs
Ruth Novick and David Touger

Guests of Honor

Miriam Linver and Matt Askin
Roz and Jonathan Engel
Lori and Adam Katzman

Please contact ruthkirshner@yahoo.com if you are interested in being a part of the planning committee!

ISRAEL AFFAIRS

By Joe Tenenbaum



Israel "Current" Events

From last month's article:

My article here is only monthly, so perhaps trying to make people aware of Israel current events seems problematic. However, this year is very special. We have only a few different phrases which have been valid all year. There is another election coming soon. There may be another election coming soon. An election was recently completed, but we cannot yet tell who will be offered the chance to form a government. The President has selected [Netanyahu / Gantz / Lieberman / Lapid / Shaked / Sa'ar] to form a government, but it is hard to see if he will be able to create a majority government.

There you have it. As I write this in mid-October we still do not know if the Prime Minister will have a new term, or if Israel will have a new Prime Minister, or if instead Israel will have a new election. Tune in next month for an update to this complex process.

One month later, and discussion centers around the possibility of a third election. Perhaps by the time you receive this, there will be a new government. But my question about a third election is this: Do you (all) really expect the third election to yield significantly different results than the first two? And if not, is it really worth having another election? Before having another election, I would hope that a major player or two would make changes to the choices so that an alternate result might be expected.

Next choice – If there is no new government by March 10, 2020, I propose a time honored approach to choosing a leader – have a drawing !! (March 10 is Purim !)

5780 Israel Bond Appeal

If you did not pledge a bond purchase during the holidays, you can still purchase bonds directly from the Israel Bond Office by calling David Brown at (973) 712-1404. Be sure to mention that you are a member of CBI Millburn.

Think of purchasing bonds as gifts, particularly in honor of Bar and Mitzvah celebrations. A mitzvah bond will mature in five years from the date it is purchased, which can be perfect time for use either for a gap year in Israel, or the beginning of college in the United States. The message of an Israel Bonds is as valuable as the financial value – nothing says support for the State of Israel like lending money to the State to help it thrive. And a five year bond purchased now will still be helping Israel when she reaches her 75th Anniversary (coming up in 2023).

2020 AIPAC Policy Conference March 1-3, 2020

Next year's Policy Conference will be held Sunday March 1 – Tuesday, March 3, and once again there will be a Shabbaton the weekend before. I hope that you noticed the poster inviting congregants to join Rabbi Resnick as part of the CBI AIPAC delegation this year. It is so important that we continue to attend in greater numbers, both from CBI, and from other congregations. Consider attending not only with your children (high school and older) but maybe with your parents, your siblings, or your good friends.

While this year's Presidential candidates have projected a wider spectrum of proposals related to the US Israel relationship than usual, the focus of AIPAC must remain on Congress. Bi-partisan support for the US Israel relationship is the keystone of all that AIPAC does. This concept is being challenged by both sides in our current environment and it is essential that Democrats and Republicans come together in Washington to demonstrate that this relationship is stronger than our partisan divide. Make plans to be part of our CBI delegation.

Tell us about your Israel experience!

Please consider sharing your Israel travel plans with me (TenenbaumJ@AOL.com). We love to recognize travelers to Israel on the Shabbat prior to their trip, or to recognize them after their return. In addition, we encourage you to share a report from your trip with the community (see below). One more thing – It will help us a lot if we can maintain a list of students and others who are on extended stays in Israel – maybe even to

encourage visits among our travelers and our families who are there.

Please consider sharing your Israel experience with the CBI Community. Describe your trip, or your activity in 200 to 300 words, and I will include it in a future article here in the CBI Bulletin. Let me know if you are interested in sharing.

Missing Soldiers and non-combatants

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

Guy Hever Yehuda Katz Zvi Feldman

There are also two non-combatant Israelis being held by Hamas in Gaza:

Avera Mangistu Hisham al Sayed

Joe Tenenbaum



To contact Joe Tenenbaum,
email him at TenenbaumJ@AOL.com



**CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL**

160 Millburn Avenue
Millburn, NJ 07041

YALDEINU
for families with special needs

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 an experience designed to be participatory, joyous, and relaxed!

The service is approximately 45 minutes long and led by a special needs educator. The attendees 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. Youth over the age of 13 have the experience of being called up for an aliyah. It is a warm, nurturing, supportive environment for the youth and their families. Synagogue membership is not required for attendance, and all programs are held at CBI.

Saturday, December 14	11:00-11:45 am	Shabbat morning
Saturday, January 11	11:00-11:45 am	Shabbat morning
Saturday, February 8	11:00-11:45 am	Shabbat morning
Saturday, March 14	7:15-8:15 pm	Havdalah service
Saturday, April 18	11:00-11:45 am	Shabbat morning
Saturday, May 9	11:00-11:45 am	Shabbat morning
Saturday, June 6	11:00-11:45 am	Shabbat morning

Any questions? Please contact Beth Giladi at bethhg@gmail.com or Rabbi Julie Schwarzwald, Director of Congregational Learning, at rabbijulie@cbi-nj.org or 973-379-1134.

**DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!**

Please note, the deadline for the DECEMBER 2019 bulletin is NOVEMBER 8. 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.

EDITION	DUE DATE FOR MATERIALS
JAN	13-Dec
FEB	10-Jan
MAR	14-Feb
APR	13-Mar
MAY	13-Apr
JUN	8-May

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.

Synagogue Fund

The Skinder Family - In memory of Sandy Skinder.

❖ Charlotte Adler Wernick

Brendzel Family - In memory of Michael Brendzel

❖ Carol & Bob Marcus

Cogan Family - In memory of Seth

❖ Frances Licht

Henry Brendzel - In memory of Michael Brendzel

❖ Wendy & Hank Kaplowitz

Cantor's Music Fund

Cantor Wallach & Choir - In honor of Cantor Wallach and Choir!

❖ Charlotte Wernick

Cantor Wallach - In honor of our grandchildren's B'Nai Mitzvah's

❖ Malka & Rami Almog

Barbara Ismail - Congratulations on the birth of your grandson

❖ Emel Tambor

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Rabbi Paul Resnick - In honor of our grandchildren's B'Nai Mitzvah's

❖ Malka & Rami Almog

Phyllis S. Magid Adult Forum Fund

Lois Dyer - In memory of your mother

❖ Deena Bernhaut

Blanch Bayar Religious School Fund

Judah Marcus - Mazel Tov on your Bar Mitzvah

❖ Susan Kashan

Hedwig Gruenewald Early Childhood Center Fund

Dybner Family - In honor of Sarah's B'Nai Mitzvah

❖ Neil & Jane Yaris

Burk-Mendlovitz Youth Fund

Henry Brendzel - In memory of Michael Brendzel

❖ Kopel & Renee Burk

Sue & Charles Shapiro - Mazel Tov on your honor!

❖ Julie Schwarzwald & Howard Bochner

Carol & Bob Marcus - Mazel Tov on Judah's Bar Mitzvah

❖ Renee & Kopel Burk

Hannah Blum Cogan USY-Kadima Fund

Sandy & Barry Cogan & Family - In memory of Seth Cogan

❖ Amy & Larry Dantus

Paula Touger - In honor of our grandchildren's B'Nai Mitzvah's

❖ Malka & Rami Almog

Dr. Max Gruenewald Adult Education Fund

Marion & Murray Mohl - Mazel Tov on your honor!

❖ Julie Schwarzwald & Howard Bochner

Lois Dyer - In memory of your mother.

❖ Wendy & Hank Kaplowitz

Take advantage of year end tax benefits by making full or substantial payments of your CBI obligations.

CBI now accepts checks, ACH transfers, appreciated stock donations and credit card payments.



Harriet F. Klein, J.S.C. (Ret.)
Arbitration, Mediation & Dispute Resolution

200 Campus Drive, Florham Park, NJ 07932
 973.624.0800 main
 973.735.5744 direct
 973.624.0808 fax
 harriet.klein@wilsonelser.com

wilsonelser.com

Roni W. Chasin, Realtor®

Sales Associate
 ABR®, SFR®, CRS®

Prominent Properties
 Sotheby's International Realty
 555 Millburn Ave.
 Short Hills, NJ 07078
 t 973.376.8188 f 973.376.8155
 c 973.202.2591
 roni.chasin@sothebysrealty.com
 prominentproperties.com

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.



MASON GOLDBERG
 Owner/Director

73 East Valley Brook Road Mason@meadowbrookdaycamp.com
 Long Valley, New Jersey 07853 TEL: (908) 876-3429

www.meadowbrookdaycamp.com

Short-Term Rehabilitation Center
 Skilled Long-Term Nursing Care ♦ Memory Care
 Hospice & Palliative Care ♦ Respite Stays
 Medical Transportation Services

1155 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ 07052
Call for a Tour Today: 973-400-3307
 www.DaughtersofIsrael.org



Daughters of Israel
 Plafsky Cooperman
 family campus family building

Rich Kantor

125 Park Avenue
 Madison, NJ 07940
 (973) 377-8990
 Fax (973) 377-8995

317 South Avenue West
 Westfield, NJ 07090
 (908) 789-8600
 Fax (908) 789-8609

RichLFH@verizon.net



Stairlifts • Ramps • Barrier Free Bath •
 Liftchairs • Vehicle Modification
 www.LivingFreeHome.com

HEMOCARE AMERICA
 Healthcare Products for Every Physical Need



GUIDANCE4LEARNING
ACADEMIC GUIDANCE IN YOUR HOME
 GRADES 6-12

TIME MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATION, STUDY SKILL
 IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHOOL STRATEGIES
 EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING SKILLS

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
M.A. COUNSELING, MBA

ELLIE GARRY, SHORT HILLS, NJ
 EGARRY@GUIDANCE4LEARNING.COM

973.289.0679
 GUIDANCE4LEARNING.COM

BUNCHERS HARDWARE
MAPLEWOOD LOCK AND KEY

Hardware
 Locksmith Service
 Windows Repaired
 Handyman Service

320 Millburn Avenue
 Millburn, NJ 07041

Phone: 973-376-0776
 Phone: 973-763-3092

Maria's Cleaning Service



Homes/Offices/Moving In or Out
Top Quality Cleaning Service

Reference Available from CBI Member
 973-714-7694

973-444-5847 (Maria's direct line)

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL
160 MILLBURN AVENUE
MILLBURN, NEW JERSEY 07041
(973) 379-3811 • WWW.CBI-NJ.ORG

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit# 417
Union, NJ

Return Service Requested



Visit us at www.cbi-nj.org
Follow us at <http://www.facebook.com/cbi.nj>

MISSION STATEMENT

Congregation B'nai Israel is a center of Jewish life where we come together in a warm and welcoming environment.

We are...

- Rooted in Conservative traditional Jewish values, Torah, our connections to each other, our community, spirituality and Israel • Committed to creating a place where everyone feels comfortable and engaged, and is encouraged to participate • An inclusive, family-friendly, multi-generational, egalitarian congregation that pursues lifelong fulfillment through education, observance and social action • Present and supportive of one another whether celebrating life's joys or sharing its sorrows • Distinguished by passionate professional and lay leadership.

Congregation B'nai Israel is dedicated to inspiring current and future generations to experience rich Jewish lives.

Congregation B'nai Israel (973) 379-3811

Paul Resnick, Interim Rabbi
Lorna Wallach, Cantor
Steven Bayar, Rabbi Emeritus
Harvey M. Brenner, FSA, FTA, Executive Director

Education

Rochelle Baron, Director, Early Childhood Center
Rabbi Julie Schwarzwald, Director of Congregational Learning

Youth and Adult Programming

USY & Kadima - Aly Greenstein
Chaverim - Michael Greenstein
Adult Forum - Lois Dyer

Officers

Mariela Markelis Dybner, President
Jamey Potechin, 1st Vice President
Henry Bloom, 2nd Vice President
Dan Dovdavyan, 3rd Vice President
David Ehrlich, Treasurer
Robert Brauer, Financial Secretary
Susan Gordon, Secretary