

The Bulletin



CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL

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

January/February 2021

Congregation B'nai Israel presents... A conversation on racial justice Where is racism? What should we do?

MLK Day—Monday January 18, 2021—2:00 to 3:30 PM

Join the Zoom meeting: Go to www.zoom.com

Meeting ID 816-0435-1899// Passcode CBI

Dial in (929) 436-2866

Equality in
schools

Hiring & promotion

Red lining

Criminal
Justice



CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL

January-February Service Times, Candle Lighting

Additional Shabbat Programs:

Friday, January 1

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
4:23 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, January 2

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
5:10 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, January 8

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
4:29 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, January 9

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
5:16 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, January 15

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
4:37 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, January 16

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
5:24 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, January 22

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
4:45 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, January 23

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
11:30 am – Shabbat Mishpacha ZOOMNATION
Junior Congregation
5:32 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, January 29

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
4:45 pm – Shir Shabbat family Service
4:54 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, January 30

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
5:41 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, February 5

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
5:02 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, February 6

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
5:49 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after
Special Event: Bar Mitzvah of Sam Kanarek

Tu Bi'Shevat: A Call to Environmental Action

By Rabbi Ari Isenberg



Here in New Jersey, we're still knee deep (well, ankle deep at least) in snow. But in Israel, most of the winter rains have passed and the spring fruits are on the cusp of ripening. Tu Bi'Shevat celebrates agriculture, renewal, the earth's bounty, and - fundamentally - our responsibility toward the environment. We are called upon to plant, plant, and just when you think you're done, plant some more.

I'm reminded of a terrific poem by Danny Siegel. Here it is:

The Tree and the Mashiach (The Messiah)

*No matter what reasonable people
or foaming enthusiastic youth tells you:
that this messiah or that messiah is imminent – plant!*

The Mashiach is in no rush.

*When you have planted down the last clods of dirt
And watered your pines, your cedars,
your gum trees and cypresses,
he will still be wherever he is supposed to be,
and more than happy to admire the sapling with you.*

Messiahs don't come to uproot things . . .

The value Judaism places on the preservation of our environment is clear. Yet, when we look around us, the challenge of reversing global warming is enormous.

Many of you know the Exodus story. In the story, Moses asks Pharaoh to release the Children of Israel from slavery, but Pharaoh refuses; soon Moses is forced to bring ten plagues upon that ancient nation. Moses turns the waters of the Nile into blood; then Pharaoh calls upon his sorcerers, who easily duplicate this feat. Moses then brings the plague of frogs; then Pharaoh's sorcerers cause frogs to appear as well. And so it continues. On and on for 10 plagues. What was the difference between their equally destructive acts? The difference between the plagues brought forth by God through Moses and those of the sorcerers was this: Moses could reverse the plagues. Pharaoh's sorcerers could produce plagues, but they had no ability to revoke them.

It takes no talent to bring about a plague, to cause destruction, to tear up a forest or protected natural site. But it takes enormous courage and faith to eradicate a plague, to bring about healing, to heal wounds and destruction, to preserve and protect our climate, and to reverse bad habits and bad choices.

Perhaps we have an environmental mess on our hands, but we can heal it. Or, to emulate Moses, we can reverse the plague. As winter thaws and turns to spring, let's consider our role as the earth's caretakers.

Rabbi Ari Isenberg



To contact Rabbi Isenberg,
email him at rabbi@cbi-nj.org



Musical Notes

By Cantor Lorna Wallach



Bless Those in Need of Healing...

Of the many challenges and stresses brought about by this world-wide pandemic, I have come to realize that with the virus being a primary and constant topic, both in the media and even in my personal conversations, for these past nine –plus months, on a daily basis, I have thought about illness and how many people are dying from the virus. I have to believe I'm not the only one experiencing this sadness and heaviness. I try as best as I can to balance this out with feeling gratitude and with finding silver linings, but another thing I have found that has brought me comfort has been saying the *Mi Sheberach* prayer for healing together with other members of our CBI community. We pray for those stricken with the coronavirus and also for all those who are in need of healing. We each of course could (and I'm sure do) say our own prayers for those we know who are sick, but I sense so much support and caring as we each listen to the names of the individuals that each of us recites during the *Mi Sheberach* prayer. There's a power in prayer, but also in praying with a community. We each contribute to the power of holding up each other's spirit to help us bear whatever we have to bear.

Judaism recognizes that the human body is a very complicated organism, and that its continued health requires that all the many parts of the body work together properly. Thus, in one of the first blessings of the day that is traditionally said upon awakening, we bless G-d for the intricate design of our bodies. Prayers for healing, then, come when one of those body parts no longer works correctly.

Jewish liturgy provides opportunities for prayers of healing, although none of them are elaborate. The earliest prayer for healing is in the Torah, Numbers 12:13, when Moshe cries out the 5 word plea, "*El Na, Refa Na La*," (G-d, Please heal her), when his sister Miriam is stricken with leprosy. During the weekday Amidah, the 8th blessing is a general prayer for health, followed by time for personal prayer for one who is ill. Although it is not customary to have petitionary prayers on Shabbat, asking God's blessings for those facing illness and the healers who help them, has come to be a part of Shabbat services. Many congregations, including ours, sing the beautiful "*Mi Sheberach*" song by Debbie Friedman and Drorah Setel when we pray for healing.

To me, one of the most significant concepts in the *Mi Sheberach* prayer is that we not only pray for a healing of the body (*Refu'at Haguf*) but also (and first!) for the healing of the soul (*Refu'at Hanefesh*). A comment on this in *Siddur Lev Shalem* (page 173) says that "Healing may be different than 'cure.' Healing is a process that concerns not only the physical aspect of our reality, but our mental, emotional and spiritual state as well. We pray, in part, for inner peace, calm and a cessation of torment and suffering."

As bystanders and witnesses to suffering, when we feel powerless and afraid, let us come together, to find hope and inspiration, in a prayer for healing.

Bless those in need of healing with *Refuah Shleima* (complete healing) and give strength to those who treat and care for them.



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

Lorna Wallach

January-February Service Times, Candle Lighting

Additional Shabbat Programs:

Friday, February 12

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
5:11 pm – Light Candles
Yaldeinu-B'Yachad, a Friday Service for All!

Saturday, February 13

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
5:00 pm - Mincha & Havdalah on Zoom only
5:58 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after
Special Event: Mincha Bar Mitzvah of Eric Hilzenrath

Friday, February 19

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
5:19 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, February 20

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
6:06 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Thursday, February 25

TBD – Megillah Reading & Purim Festivities

Friday, February 26

7:30 am – Megillah Reading & Shacharit
5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
5:27 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, February 27

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
6:14 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after
6:30 pm – BBRS/CBI Havdalah & Purim Party

Friday, March 5

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
5:35 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, March 6

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
6:22 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

President's Message

By Mariela Markelis Dybner



I hope and trust that you have enjoyed the lights of Hanukkah and the warmth of our CBI community in these winter months. Thank you to Nan Greenwald, Lisa Biller and their army of volunteer drivers for the wonderful Hanukkah presents as well as Steve Finkler who created streamlined delivery routes. Kol ha-kavod to Rabbi Isenberg, Cantor Wallach and Rabbi Julie for the

innovative Hanukkah celebrations in person, in cars and online.

As we rejoice in the end of 2020 and the long-awaited arrival of the secular new year with the promise of vaccines, we must recommit ourselves to stay the course and prioritize the health and safety of our members, staff and clergy, while fulfilling our mission to enrich Jewish lives. To that end, I am happy to announce that we have further enhanced our HVAC system with the addition of UV light/air purifiers to a number of our HVAC units, largely made possible by a grant from the Health Foundation of New Jersey. This, in addition to the improved filtration and increased outdoor air we instituted in the fall, will work to further purify the inside air in our sanctuary and social hall. Thanks go to Nik Minocha of our Facilities Committee and Harvey Brenner for securing these improvements. Our COVID-19 protocols, including social distancing, mask mandates, plexiglass partitions, advance sign ups and screenings, all designed and implemented by Steve Brown and the Reopening Committee, remain fully in place. We continue to develop our technology to enhance the experience of those who choose to participate in our services by Zoom or Livestream.

Our new Diversity and Inclusion Committee has exciting plans for the coming months. On January 18 at 2pm, join us on Zoom for an MLK Day Conversation on Racism, appropriate for adults and teens and spearheaded by Dan Richter and Rachel Benjamin. We are also participating in the United Synagogue's Race-Consciousness Training Series on four Thursday nights in January. Please let the front office or Daniel Richter know if you would like to take part in these offerings. We have signed up for an 18-month long partnership with the education and training team of Keshet, a group for LGBTQ equality in Jewish life. A dedicated group from the D&I Committee along with clergy and lay leadership have completed our self assessment with regard to our programming, policies, and culture and are making strides towards greater LGBTQ awareness and equality at CBI. Looking ahead, the committee is planning a Yaldenu B'Yachad service for Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday, February 12. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the whole community to come together and welcome Shabbat with our families with special needs. The D&I Committee is in the midst of coordinating heightened inclusion of our interfaith households; if you are interested in joining these efforts, please get in touch with Dan Richter and let him know.

I wish you and your loved ones a good, safe and healthy start to what will surely be a better year for us all.

B'shalom,

Mariela Markelis Dybner



To contact Mariela Markelis Dybner,
email her at president@cbi-nj.org

Yahrzeit Donors From October 22, 2020

Marion & Murray Mohl
Ira & Jacqueline Kopito
Flo Ellen Maslow
Richard Maslow
Richard Meth
David Jacobs
Jacqueline Gershman
Elliott Schabbes
Neil Yaris
Scott Horowitz
Ronnie Armuth
Erika Maurer
Alia Covell
The Kanter Family
Daniel Baer

Neysa Friedland
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Sandra Nash
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Deena Bernhaut
Ellen Garber
Linda Sotnick
Ellen Eichler
Bernie Eichler
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Gloria Gottlieb
Linda & Bill Glasofer
Neysa Friedland
Leila Schott
Helene Moehlman
Shirley Ehrich
Gloria Segel

Beineynu

By Harvey Brenner, Executive Director

I'm writing this article after having spent yesterday in balmy 60-degree temperatures, preparing my home for the coming winter, while at the same time, girding for a potential blizzard later on in the week!

Weather is a fascinating subject and has kept mankind guessing for eons.

When my son was younger, he was enthralled with weather; terrified of thunder and lightning on one hand and mesmerized by cloud formations on the other. My wife, Faith, and I often thought he'd be the next 'Frank Field' or 'Lonnie Quinn'. In fact, we'd joke, what better job to have than a TV weatherman (because you can be wrong most of the time and still get a raise!). Instead, he's involved in healthcare and just became an E.M.T.

Our liturgy, in fact, separates the year based upon the weather with the invocation, "you, who causes the winds to blow and the rain to fall" (from Shemini Atzeret to Pesach, roughly October to April). Additionally, we bifurcate the year with two lines added to the Amidah, "send your blessing upon the earth" (in the Spring and Summer) and, "send dew and rain as your blessing upon the earth" (during the Winter). You see, we need dew, rain and sun for crops to grow and fields to be fertile.

So too, could one draw the parallel between self-fulfillment and self-growth and the spiritual, emotional and educational nourishment necessary to do so. CBI, even in the darkest hours of winter is planning many enriching virtual, in-person and remote experiences for members of all ages. The veritable cornucopia of options is limited only by your ability to schedule services, classes, musical programs and such into your calendar.

Our CBI emails and web calendar are great resources to find out "what's happening" in the days or weeks ahead and we encourage you to participate fully in all that we have to offer.

Since we are a 'kehillah kedoshah' (a holy community) we care about you and are here to help if you find you are experiencing stresses and strains that seem too much to handle. Our wonderful clergy can offer pastoral care as well as other forms of assistance. Additionally, our Caring Committee can assist in other community related contacts



and can even arrange for a ride to a doctor, a trip to the supermarket or other mundane yet necessary tasks.

Our office staff is available to assist you whether in person, on the phone or via email; all you need do is ask and we'll do the very best we can to help.

Wishing you a safe, healthy and happy New Year of 2021.

L'hitraot!

Harvey M. Brenner, FSA, FTA



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



Tu B'Shevat Chanting Circle

Join us on Zoom

Sunday, January 24th at 5PM

for our inspirational Hebrew chant and song circle with musical accompaniment.

In general, traditional Judaism has been skittish about making too much of Mother Nature, fearing a slippery slope toward pagan worship. In the 16th century the Kabbalists of Safed, having no such fear, created the Tu B'shevat seder and ever since we are more comfortable sacralizing nature, especially on the coming holiday (January 28th!) of Tu B'shevat. Accordingly, this month's theme centers on the magnificence of the natural world as reflected in our liturgy and in the Hebrew Bible.

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.

B'NAI MITZVAH



Sam Kanarek February 6, 2021

Sam is a 7th grader at Millburn Middle School, enjoying the hybrid learning model and (relatively) later wake-up calls. Sam started attending nursery school at CBI in the twos program and has been a proud and vocal member of the CBI community ever since. Indeed, he can be heard davening on many a Shabbat with ruach during services. Sam also embodies that Jewish spirit during rowdy song sessions at URJ Camp Harlam, where he has been a proud second-generation camper for the past four summers.

Sam is active in his Boy Scout troop and is an avid skier, runner and cyclist (including riding on Zwift during the cold winter months with the CBI crew). He has vast Hess truck and Lego Architecture collections and can be found reading about Star Wars arcana late into the night.

Wanting to share his love of books with the world, Sam is running a children's book drive for his Bar Mitzvah project. Children's books can be brought to the CBI lobby for donation. Donated books will be distributed to the CBI Nursery School and the Starlet Academy (a nursery school in an under-privileged neighborhood in Paterson, NJ). Monetary donations can be directed to Room to Read, a non-profit focused on children's literacy in Asia and Africa.

Sam is thrilled to share his simcha with his parents, Stacy Thompson & David Kanarek, his sister, Maddie, his grandparents, Faye & Allan Thompson and Ann & Jack Kanarek, and his extended family and friends. Sam is grateful for all of the guidance and assistance from Cantor Wallach, Rabbi Eisenberg and Rabbi Julie throughout this process and for preparing him for this special day. Sam would also like to thank the entire CBI community for being part of his Jewish education and his journey to adulthood. He can't wait to join the minyan!



Eric Hilzenrath February 13, 2021 (Mincha - Zoom only)

Eric Hilzenrath is a seventh grader at Millburn Middle School. He enjoys tennis and baseball and is a huge Star Wars fanatic.

Eric loves to read, play chess and wants to design sports cars when he grows up. He loves summer camp, and has attended Camp Nock-A-Mixon since he was seven years old.

Sharing in this simcha are Eric's parents, Sydney and Ed Hilzenrath, and his sisters Madeline and Eva. Special thanks to Rabbi Julie, Cantor Wallach and Rabbi Iseberg for helping to prepare Eric for his Bar Mitzvah.

In The Community

Refuah Shleima to:

Judy Fredman, Gloria Saltzman, Layla Dov Broderick, Naomi Eisenberger, Harold Weiner and Rav Marc Messing.

Mazel Tov to:

Rabbi Paul and Martha Resnick on becoming 'first time' grandparents (to a baby girl) born to parents Alana & Joey Resnick.

Sara and Michael Kotlarz on Alexandra becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Caryn and Lawrence Jasinover on son Spencer becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Adam and Lisa Goldberg, on their daughter Abigail's Bat Mitzvah

David and Alexis Benbassat, on their daughter Alyssa's Bat Mitzvah

Rabbi Resnick on the birth of his grandson, to parents Rena and Ilan Sherman.

Amy and Josh Reiter on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Samantha.

Linda and Donald Lakin on the birth of their first grandchild, Miriam Devorah, born to Samantha Lakin and Ben Sacks.

Mindy and Aaron Tucker, who were featured speakers at the

JNF Breakfast for Israel 2020 on Dec 1st.

Howard Kessler on the B'not

Mitzvah of his granddaughters this Shabbat.

Rozlyn and Jonathan Engel on the Auf Ruf this Shabbat for their son Ezra and his fiancée, Zoe Kemperecos.

Hanna Keselman on celebrating her 90th birthday.

Condolences to:

Boaz Kimelman on the death of his father, Avraham Kimelman (z"l).

Cynthia (and Matthew) Goodman on the recent passing of her mother.

Welcome to:

New Members, Rachel and Jason Wininger.

DCL's Drash

By Rabbi Julie Schwarzwald, Director of Congregational Learning

At the Reboot 21 Online Symposium, the Jewish Educators Assembly will be honoring **Ilana Tenebaum** and the Jewish Youth Directors Association will be honoring **Aly Greenstein** for their extraordinary impact on the youth at CBI. Ilana has taught in the preschool for 35 years and in the religious school for 25 years. Ilana is always ready to integrate and adapt new education practices, and she rises to whatever challenge is put before her, especially this year with the increased use of technology. Aly is in her 14th year as CBI's youth group advisor where she has helped hundreds of teens develop leadership skills while keeping our chapters engaged in regional and international programming.



Ilana and Aly will be honored on Sunday night, January 24, at 7:00 pm as we kick off the conference programming with our Honoree Event and concert featuring Eliana Light. I am proud to serve on the national board of the JEA and excited for this winter conference. If anyone would like to make a donation in honor of Ilana or Aly, it can be made to CBI or to the JEA at this link: <https://www.jewisheducators.org/reboot-21-sponsorship/>

CBIP

Our preschool continues to grow! The 2-year-old class is now full with 8 children and our 3s/PreK has 7 children. Current students are adding more days and extending their time, with 5 children now staying in the afternoons. We continue to receive inquiries about transitional 2s programs we hope to offer in the spring, camp, and next fall. Most importantly, our families and staff are committed to keeping everyone healthy and safe. We are so grateful for all of their support and consideration for the whole community.

As I write this, we are in the midst of Hanukkah. The 3s/PreK class made latkes that were enjoyed by all, we had a whole school, distanced celebration in the multi-purpose room, and gave each family a gift bag including gelt, dreidels, a craft, and instructions for several variations on the dreidel game. All of our students are recognizing the Hebrew words that begin each blessing, and the simple change of the last word for lighting candles on Shabbat or Hanukkah.

Our amazing teachers continue to embrace the

“opportunities” provided by the pandemic protocols to teach outside as much as possible and find creative ways to continue to provide our robust early childhood curriculum within the current constraints.

BBRS

BBRS enjoyed a variety of Hanukah programming: in person with our car decorating contest, online for candle lighting together, and playing virtual dreidel and Hanukah games online. Each child received a gift bag from BBRS also.

In the winter months ahead, we plan to continue our in-person and online Sunday morning choices as much as possible. We will adapt and be flexible with everyone as needed, and any family who needs to be online for a week or two because they are quarantining is easily able to join our online group for those sessions.

Individual Hebrew/Tefillah lessons are progressing well, with impressive progress being made by our students. This model also allows our students who have begun b'nai mitzvah lessons to use their time to work on specific prayers or Torah/Haftarah reading under the guidance of Cantor Wallach.

TEENS

Our Madrichim program is in full swing, with 10 active teens helping with BBRS. Five are returning high school students, and we are fortunate to have 5 engaged 8th graders. All have been active in helping with technology support for online classes and office help as needed. We are so grateful for their commitment!

Tichon is off to a terrific start, with over 20 teens enjoying a monthly discussion with Rabbi Isenberg on a variety of topics. In November, we learned about Mizrahi Jews, the holiday of Sigd, and some of our own biases as mostly Ashkenazi Jews. In December, Rabbi Isenberg shared the true story (or stories!) of Hanukah and talked about why the myth of the oil persists. Our Tichon teens are going to be creating a Purim spiel next, to present to CBI as part of our Purim festivities!

Better Together teens shared pictures and stories with our adults of wisdom and experience in November and December. The use of Zoom breakout rooms allows for

Continued on page 12

Sisterhood's Message

By Jennifer Glick and Sharon Richman, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Jennifer Glick & Sharon Richman

Who can believe that it is 2021? We are looking back on the events that Sisterhood had in the Fall. They were fantastic. We started with our Kickoff/Installation when we installed our new Board and then had a Laughing Yoga session. We also enjoyed a program on Five Keys to Naturally Boosting Your Immunity. We had our first Bookends of the year facilitated by Sara Sherman. Of course, Marion Mohl and Ann Spector have continued to host Knit and Knosh. We had our first Rosh Chodesh event of the year: Rabbi Isenberg gave a very well attended and interesting discussion on "Radio in Israel and Its Role in the Formation of a National Identity." Thanks go to Wendy Kaplowitz for arranging the evening.

We celebrated Hanukkah with two exciting programs and in addition, a Holiday Boutique. Tina Burk organized the virtual Holiday Boutique with local artists. Leslie McCafferty designed an amazing website to support the virtual Boutique. There were beautiful pieces to purchase. Twenty percent of the proceeds went to Sisterhood. Wendy Kaplowitz facilitated our second very creative Rosh Chodesh event of the year: Sisterhood members shared their special Menorahs and their unique stories. On the weekend of December 11th/12th we came together for our first virtual Sisterhood Shabbat facilitated by Chaya Cohen and Miriam Linver. What a joy! Many women participated and enjoyed their parts in the service. Kudos to Chaya and Miriam for making this an enriching experience.

I want to remind you to participate in our ongoing Virtual Tea to support Torah Fund. Torah Fund strengthens Jewish education by supporting scholarships and programming at Conservative Institutions. Donations of any amount are appreciated but for a donation of \$180 or above you become a benefactor and

receive a beautiful pin. Please send all donations to Sandy Panzer at 975 Harding Road, Elizabeth, NJ 07028. We are also planning a special speaker to celebrate Torah Fund.

Looking ahead, we continue to enjoy our monthly Knit and Knosh. No matter whether virtual or in-person, Marion (marionmohl@aol.com or 908-273-81570) and Ann (annspector@msn.com or 973-868-029) continue to host these monthly get togethers. The next Knit and Knosh will be held on January 19th. In January we plan to begin virtual Canasta and Mah Jongg. This will be a chance for players to be randomly matched with foursomes. What better way to make new friends and gamemates!

With so much time on our hands we are looking to expand Bookends to every other month. In addition to our very own facilitators Sara Sherman and Jennifer Glick, we have two authors at CBI who would like to share their books. Look for the email letting you know the CBI authors and titles that will be discussed.

Another program that is in the planning stages is a chance to discover your family history. Who knows - you may begin a journey of self exploration. An evening of Jewish genealogy is in your future!

On January 14th our very own Ilene Klein will teach a challah baking class. You can contact Ilene at 973-879-8932 if you have any questions. Just think you can make your own challah for Friday night Shabbat. We will resend the ingredients and recipe for those that may have missed it. Please put the ingredients on your next shopping list. Can't wait for us to bake together.

We wish all of you a happy and healthy 2021. While we hope you are enjoying the various virtual activities that our fabulous Board has arranged over the past 9 months, we are optimistic that we will be able to be together in person again at some point in the future.

As always if you have an idea for a program that you think Sisterhood members would enjoy please let us know and we can make it happen. Jennifer is at glickcorwin@msn.com and Sharon can be reached at sjschmerz@gmail.com.

Jennifer Glick and Sharon Richman
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Congregation B'nai Israel presents...

Yaldeinu B'Yachad

A CBI-Wide Kabbalat Shabbat & Ma'ariv Service with Yaldeinu

We'll follow an on screen siddur. (All are welcome to supplement private prayer with Sim Shalom)

Friday February 12, 2021—5:30 PM

Join the Zoom meeting: Go to zoom.com
Meeting ID 348-098-365/ Passcode CBI



Questions? Contact Beth Giladi at
bethhg@gmail.com or

Dan Richter at Daniel.richter@verizon.net



ISRAEL AFFAIRS

By Joe Tenenbaum



Time stopped for a lot of activities on March 13, 2020 as the day when CBI halted many of its regular activities. On that day, I submitted an article for the April Bulletin which reported on the March 2020 AIPAC Policy Conference.

In retrospect, that conference (and perhaps also the CBI Gala, held on March 14) were the last regular type events held before we all became aware of the need to limit our times together, and begin a new type of living. At that time, we did not know what would develop – the way in which various electronic tools would allow us to begin using new ways to pray, learn and socialize together.

First, I want to share with you a remembrance of what CBI did at the AIPAC Policy Conference. Below is my report on the Policy Conference, held just on the cusp of the Covid-19 outbreak.

2020 AIPAC Policy Conference March 1-3, 2020



As you can see above, CBI had a good representation at the 2020 AIPAC Policy Conference. While the picture is a little small, we will eventually display a poster in the CBI lobby which will allow you to inspect our delegation more carefully. Realize that this is not the entire CBI delegation. Because AIPAC has so many choices for delegates to attend, it is nearly impossible to get the

entire team together for one picture. This is the official AIPAC delegation picture. Other informal pictures are available on the CBI Facebook page.

One important scheduling conflict to mention was that this picture was taken while the teenage members of our delegation were at a mandatory session as part of the program of the Federation of Greater Metrowest to encourage (and subsidize) their attendance. The picture below shows four CBI Teens who attended: Seth Abrams, Kobe Cohen, Alana Good, and Lexi Abrams.



I would like to thank Rabbi Resnick for his team building and leadership of the delegation. His idea to improve our cell phone communications and to host a Sunday evening get-together provided an enhanced level of togetherness for the CBI delegation. [Added note: I can also tell you that Rabbi Isenberg came to visit with CBI delegates a few times – that also helped bring us together as a delegation]

I hope that we will have a chance to tell you more about the Conference. As always, it provided opportunities for leaders of both parties, and administration officials to share with us their thoughts on the US Israel relationship. And New Jersey had a very prominent role in this Conference. We were the only state from which both US Senators spoke. You can view these speeches, and most of the rest of the Conference at AIPACpolicyconference.org.

You should know that three Democratic Presidential candidates spoke at the Conference – Mayor Michael

Blomberg in person, and Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Amy Klobuchar by video.

AIPAC, 2021

AIPAC decided early that there will not be a Policy Conference in 2021 where we can all go to Washington, to be together in person, to learn and to discuss important issues with our Congressional representatives.

Having said that, I assure you that AIPAC is still following the developments in Israel, in the Middle East, and in the United States government. I encourage you to visit the AIPAC website AIPAC.org to find out about alternative events which will occur to help strengthen the US Israel relationship during 2021.

Taste Israeli Wine

January 13, 20 and 27

Lifelong Learning and CBI Israel Affairs Committee present a special 3-week Israeli wine tasting series. On Wednesday evenings, January 13, 20, and 27, beginning after evening minyan, Steve Kerbel will guide us as we open two bottles, a white and a red, and learn about the wines, the winemakers, the wineries and the wine growing regions of Israel. An Israeli wine enthusiast for 35 years, Steve has visited over 130 of Israel's more than 320 wineries, from wineries in the basements of apartment buildings (the Katamon Winery in the San Simon neighborhood of Jerusalem) to the Golan Heights.

You may choose to purchase the full set of 6 bottles, or just those you prefer, or to join us online and drink your beverage of choice!

Kosherwine.com is offering these wines to Congregation B'nai Israel at a discount; the total price for the 6 bottles is around \$150, including shipping (where permitted in the continental United States) but not including sales tax. It usually takes a few days (2-4) for the wine to arrive (it's shipped from the greater NY area), but shippers have been predicting delays during the holiday season. Additionally, the Kosherwine.com warehouse will be closing for renovations the week of January 10, so it's best to order early. Click here for the ordering link. You may also purchase additional bottles and get a 5% discount if you enter the coupon code KITSTEVE at checkout. ORDER YOUR WINES SOON - AND REGISTER WITH RABBI JULIE FOR ZOOM LINK!

Tell us about your Israel or pro-Israel experience

We realize most travel between the US and Israel has stopped – but I know a few people have still made the trip. We would love to hear about these Covid-era experiences. We want this column to be a source of inspiration from and for all members of our community.

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



DCL's Drash

continued from page 7

smaller groupings and more intimate sharing. Since we met on November 22, the small groups also talked about the assassination of JFK and what similar moments of national impact have been experienced by today's teens. "Where were you when...?"

LIFELONG LEARNING

Lifelong learning classes will continue online via Zoom. After wonderful Monday Music Modules, we begin in January with more sessions of our popular Jewish Art course. Thursdays with the Rabbi continue with the JTS program, "The Ethical Life: Jewish Values in an Age of Choice."

It's not too late to join our evening programs! Check the website for details on our Israeli Wine Tasting series on

Wednesday evenings, January 13-27, and please join us for the learning even if you decide not to purchase the wines. Save the date for Tuesday, March 16 in the evening to talk with Bobbi Kwall about Remix Judaism: Pre-serv-ing Tra-di-tion in a Diverse World (she will also have a session on Monday morning, March 22).

Talmud Class with Rabbi Akiba Lubow continues on Monday evenings, with openings for anyone interested in beginning a study of Talmud, or deepening their existing knowledge. Journeyer's Minyan is a monthly Sunday brunch learning and discussion opportunity. Chanting Circle with Len Hausman continues monthly on Sundays.

Kol tuv, all the best,

Rabbi Julie

973-262-3717



To contact Rabbi Julie,
email her at RabbiJulie@cbi-nj.org



Adult Forum "Lunch & Learn"
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Our programs are open to all- bring friends!

JANUARY 2021



Hello Adult Forum Members,

Looking above at our logo, it makes me realize how much I miss being with all of you listening to interesting speakers, watching new films and sharing delicious deli lunches. I hope that we will be able to get together again in the near future, and perhaps even take a trip!

We are pleased to let you know that Rabbi Isenberg will be presenting a program for us on January 21st at 1:00 PM. His talk is titled *Tu Bi'Shevat: The Agricultural New Year in the Jewish Calendar*. He will discuss what Judaism teaches us about our planet, the agricultural world, and our need to care for the environment. If you have not yet had the opportunity to meet or hear from our new Rabbi, this will be a wonderful opportunity to get to know him. Please join us on Zoom for what promises to be an informative program. The Zoom link connection will be forthcoming. Remember, our programs are open to all, so do invite your friends to attend and share the link information with them. You can keep informed about the many virtual goings on at the temple by accessing the web site.

Sending you all my best wishes for a peaceful, healthy and happy 2021.

Fondly,

Lois

DONATIONS FROM OCTOBER 22, 2020

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

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The Kimelman Family - In memory of Avraham Kimelman

❖ Anonymous

The Kimelman Family - In memory of Avraham Kimelman

❖ Carol & Judy Churgin

CBI - In honor of Hannah's Bat Mitzvah

❖ Larry & Lenette Talpins

Harvey & Faith Brenner - In honor of the birth of your new grandson

❖ Merna Most

Renee & Kopel Burk - In honor of your granddaughter's upcoming wedding

❖ Merna Most

CBI

❖ Leila Schott

Cantor's Music Fund

Boaz Kimelman - In memory of your father Avraham Kimelman

❖ Michael & Nancy Weinstein

Cantor Wallach - In honor of Hannah's Bat Mitzvah

❖ Larry & Lenette Talpins

Cantor Wallach - Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness

❖ The Wenik Family

The Jasinover Family - In honor of Spencer's Bar Mitzvah

❖ The Wenik Family

Cantor Wallach - In appreciation of uplifting spiritual singing and leadership

❖ Flo Ellen & Richard Maslow

Cantor Wallach - In appreciation for baby naming of Miriam Devorah

❖ Samantha Lakin & Ben Sacks

Cantor Wallach - In appreciation of the beautiful & spiritual naming of Miriam Devorah

❖ The Lakin Family

Cantor Wallach - In appreciation for all your help and guidance for Alyssa's Bat Mitzvah

❖ The Benbassat Family

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Rabbi Isenberg - In memory of my father, Terry Covell

❖ Alia Covell

Rabbi Isenberg - In honor of Hannah's Bat Mitzvah

❖ Larry & Lenette Talpins

Rabbi Isenberg - Thank you for support to Abigail for her Bat Mitzvah

❖ The Goldberg family

Rabbi Isenberg

❖ Vladimir & Inna Kaplun

Rabbi Isenberg - In appreciation for all your help and guidance for Alyssa's Bat Mitzvah

❖ The Benbassat Family

Hedwig Gruenewald Early Childhood Center Fund

Adam & Lisa Goldberg - In honor of Abigail's Bat Mitzvah

❖ The Dovdavany Family

HGEEC - Donation to Rochelle's Friends Garden

❖ Merna Most

Burk-Mendlovitz Youth Fund

Gerry & Naomi Eisenberger - In honor of your granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah

❖ Renee & Kopel Burk

Max Alper Prayer Book Fund

Bill & Linda Glasofer - In honor of your 50th Wedding Anniversary

❖ Bob & Carol Marcus



VIRTUAL PURIM

is coming to CBI

THURSDAY EVENING 2/25

AND FRIDAY MORNING 2/26

Details to follow shortly





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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

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

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Rabbi Julie Schwarzwald, Director of
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