

The Bulletin



**CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL**

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

March/April 2021

WINE & MAGIC

Sunday, March 14 @ 7:30 p.m.

PRIVATE PERFORMANCE

Featuring world class illusionist

DAVID MINKIN

For CBI friends AND family, near & far!

“Two thumbs up”
ANNE HATHAWAY

“... absolutely phenomenal”
ROB REINER

“LA’s best magical
date night!”
LA WEEKLY



“...you did a masterful job!”
LIONEL RICHIE

“...the greatest thing I’ve
ever seen!”
JOHNNY DEPP

“... the best magic
I’ve ever seen!”
PINK

David Minkin performs in the homes of celebrities like Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp, and internationally for brands like Google and Microsoft. His top-rated live show in Los Angeles is the longest running one man show in California. David has starred in the TV series Magic Outlaws on Travel Channel, and in the award-winning documentary Magicians: Life in the Impossible.

RSVP by March 12 using the invitation sent by email or contact Elizabeth Cohen at 973-432-9672 (cell) or Wine&Magic@cbi-nj.org

For more information, please refer to the emailed invitation.

March Service Times, Candle Lighting

Additional Shabbat Programs:

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
6:30 - 7:30 PM – BBR/S/ CBI Havdalah Party

Friday, March 12

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
5:43 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, March 13

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
10:00 - 10:45 am – Shabbat MishpachaYouth/
Family Service
6:30 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after
7:15 - 8:15 pm – Yaldeinu

Friday, March 19

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
6:50 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, March 20

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
7:37 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, March 26

5:30 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
6:58 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, March 27

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
7:45 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after
First Night Seder Match Program
Available.
Passover - First Seder

Come to our Seder

By Rabbi Ari Isenberg



Born and raised in Montreal, I sometimes turn to one of Montreal's great poets (or, prophets) for words of wisdom. Leonard Cohen famously wrote, "There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." One of the many symbolic rituals during the Passover Seder is the breaking of the middle matzah into two pieces. We take the larger broken piece and hide it, for later on it will become the *afikoman* as the youngest members of our households race to find it. It's a fun, jovial moment, yet its meaning is profound. I recall

once learning that it is often a form of brokenness that sends us on a journey. To be sure, the Israelites - after enduring hundreds of years of slavery - were broken, depleted, and it was in such a state that they journeyed to liberation. Could it be that acknowledging the brokenness in our lives is the first step in launching ourselves on a journey to wholeness?

This will be the second successive Passover when many of us feel a sense of loss, sadness, brokenness, and isolation due to the lingering pandemic. Recognizing and accepting this reality, we will not only ensure that we remain safe and healthy, we will also journey together toward a better day, a day of liberation, a day of inoculation, a day of health and safety. The Passover story reminds us that the brokenness is as much a part of the story as is liberation. It's ok to acknowledge it and to feel it.

Still, there is what to celebrate this Passover - the blessing of family and friends, even those from whom we remain physically apart. The blessing of technology that allows us to remain connected in unexpectedly meaningful ways. The blessing of health, at a time when so many are suffering. The blessing of being part of a Jewish tradition that constantly reshapes itself to fit the ever-changing realities of the moment.

In this newsletter, you'll find details about the many programs that our clergy and education teams are holding on and around Passover. They include singing with Cantor Wallach, a full day of Passover learning for every age demographic, a parking lot fire pit to burn your chametz, and for the very first time, a special offering on the second night of Passover:

Rabbi Ari & Gila Isenberg invite you (yes, you!) to join them in their home, at their table, for the Second Seder.

On Sunday, March 28th, at 7:30pm, Gila and I invite you to join us on Zoom for the Second Seder. Whether you're setting a table for 1 or for 10, it would be our honor to host you online as we conduct the Second Seder.

RSVP by contacting Joi, our Clergy Administrator, either by calling the synagogue office or by email, jnoel@cbi-nj.org

Chag Sameach,

Rabbi Ari Isenberg



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



Musical Notes

By Cantor Lorna Wallach



I must admit that every year just after Purim, I start to get that anxious feeling in my stomach as I anticipate getting ready for Passover! It's hard to not get caught up in making cleaning the house, food shopping and cooking for Passover the main focus of how we prepare for the holiday. It takes a lot of work to get ready for Passover! For many, the physical tasks that we engage in become part of the religious and spiritual experience of Passover, but for others, it is difficult to reach a point of joy, hope and renewal during this season, and all the more so during a Pandemic which we've been dealing with for over a year.

In an article that I had read related to Passover, Rabbi Daniel Nevins examined the circumstances that allowed Moses to be able to sing and to celebrate when the Israelites left Egypt. Rabbi Nevins says that once the people believed in God and showed confidence in Moses, they gave him the confidence and strength that he needed to be able to sing and to rejoice. In contrast, we see examples in the Torah that when the Israelites refused to listen to Moses, he became tongue-tied and more aware of his disability. Rabbi Nevins takes this concept a step further in applying it to our prophets. A prophet, he says, draws strength from the people. This is the meaning of Deuteronomy 18:15, "the Lord your God shall raise a prophet *from your midst* like me—to him shall you listen." A prophet needs the support of the community in order to do his work.

While I'm no prophet, and I don't dare compare myself to a leader such as Moses, I thought about how this relates to my life, and probably also to many of us. I will struggle like many of you during this Passover season, especially after this difficult and challenging year, to better understand what it really means to be in a period of redemption; to free myself of the negative influences in my life and to let go of whatever I feel is holding me back. However, not unlike Moses, I have gotten so much strength and support from this wonderful community, even via Zoom, that I **am** able to focus on singing (to God) and rejoicing, rather than on the challenges that I and all of us have faced and will continue to face. It is my hope and prayer that as we celebrate *z'man cheiruteinu* (our time of freedom) this Passover and that, going forward, we as a community will give one another the strength and support that each of us needs to lift our voices in song to God and to rejoice.

Michael, Shira and Joshua join me in wishing all of you a Hag Pesach Same'ach! May your Pesach celebration, in whatever way it takes place this year, be filled with joy, meaning and hope!

Lorna Wallach



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

April Service Times, Candle Lighting

Additional Shabbat Programs:

Friday, April 2

6:00 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
7:05 pm – Shir Shabbat family Service

Saturday, April 3

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
7:52 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, April 9

6:00 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
7:13 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, April 10

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
9:30 am – Live Stream: 1st Anniversary of Bar
Mitzvah of Jacob Weiner
8:00 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, April 16

6:00 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
7:20 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, April 17

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
4:45 - 5:30 pm – Shir Shabbat Family Service
8:07 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, April 23

6:00 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
7:27 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, April 24

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
9:30 am – Live Stream
Bar Mitzvah Lev Waxman
10:00 - 10:45 AM – Shabbat Mishpacha Youth/
Family Service
11:00 - 11:45 AM – Yaldeinu
8:14 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, April 30

6:00 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
7:34 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, May 1

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Gathering
4:45 pm – Mincha - Bat Mitzvah of
Hannah Talpins
8:21 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

President's Message

By Mariela Markelis Dybner



Surveying the blanket of snow that has covered our neighborhood for weeks, it seems impossible that we are preparing for the coming of spring. As the snow melts and the first buds emerge, our thoughts naturally go to all things green. If your green thoughts include helping CBI become more environmentally conscious, Henry Bloom and our newly established Alliance for Sustainability

would love to hear from you (hdbloom@hotmail.com).

After our multi-faceted and joyful celebration of Purim with our outdoor, socially-distanced Carnival, Megillah readings and annual *Mishloach Manot*, we turn our attention to the early spring events-- our Evening of Magic fundraiser and Passover.

On the evening of March 14, you are invited to participate in what will surely be a night of celebration and mystery as we come together virtually to be mesmerized by the acclaimed David Minkin and support our beloved CBI. David Minkin is the latest in a long line of distinguished Jewish magicians from Harry Houdini to David Copperfield; his magic has been enjoyed worldwide and by Hollywood celebrities including Millburn native Anne Hathaway! We'll create our own magic that night as we raise funds for CBI's ongoing needs. Many thanks to Elizabeth Cohen and her amazing committee of volunteers for planning this exciting and important event.

Although we would all love to be celebrating Passover in person with our friends and families, this year will mark the second round of virtual seders for many at CBI. Our clergy and senior staff have been hard at work planning educational and uplifting

programming to help invigorate our Pesach. On Tuesday, March 23, we will be having a CBI-wide Day of Learning to put us in the right mindset as we prepare for the holiday. Please let us know if you would like to participate in our virtual seder match for the first seder on Saturday night, March 27th and whether you would like to be a "host" or "guest". Rabbi Isenberg and Gila will be hosting the entire community as they open their home as a virtual seder on the second night of Passover, March 28. Details will be forthcoming for this amazing celebration!

Warm up with Shabbat dinner! We have partnered with Richard Landau of Bite of Heaven catering to provide pickup Kosher Shabbat dinners on a monthly basis. The first dinner was for February 19 and incredibly popular. Until we can gather under the same roof, we can enjoy Kabbalat Shabbat services, followed by dinner prepared by Richard and be together in spirit and senses. Please look to our weekly announcements for the upcoming Shabbat dinner dates.

Finally, keep your eyes open for a brand-new look for CBI-- online, that is. Our new website is under development as we look to improve our communications with our membership and position ourselves for growth as prospective members first meet us electronically.

May you and yours stay safe and healthy and have a sweet Pesach!

B'shalom,

Mariela Markelis Dybner



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

Yahrzeit Donors, December 2020–January 2021

Sondra Sabin
Lisa Lesser
FloEllen Maslow
Rosalie Farber
Linda/Bill Glasofer
Jaqueline Gershman
Lenore May
Gloria Segel
Terry Hofflich
Howard Kessler
Ronnie Armuth
Amy/Mitchell Radin
Peta Siegal
Erika Mauer

Marion/Murray Mohl
Helene Moehlman
Gary Dubro
Robert Fulop
Sally Shotkin
Roberta Rabin
Robert Kandall
Sydell Weiner
Harriet Klein
Lois Kleiner
Susan Margulies
Selma Friedman
Robert Warach
Donald Lakin

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Deena Bernhaut
Samuel Estreicher
Allan & Nancy Sloan
Richard Cohen
Elayne Feig
Susan Turk
Gary Tiplitz
Michael Turk
Sanford Kingsly
Jacqueline Gershman
Andrew & Laina Fallek

Peta Siegal
Linda Sotnick
Jerome Cook
Owen & Carol Kirsch
Paul Rosenberg
Shirley Malamut-Judd
Carol & Judy Chugrin
Linda Glasofer
Charlotte Wernick
Murray Mohl
Ann Eisenstodt

Beineynu

By Harvey Brenner, Executive Director

As many of you may remember, my birthday comes along in April. As I shared with you in a prior column, I remember countless ‘celebrations’ when my birthday would fall on Pesach and my cake choices would be limited to “sponge cake” or “strawberry shortcake”, neither of which I eat today as an adult. Thankfully, this year, that’s not the case; my birthday comes a few days after the holiday.



Birthdays are funny things; I enjoy having one a year (because that means I’m still around to have one) but they no longer have the same importance they had when I was a kid. For those of you with young children or grandchildren, you know exactly what I’m talking about. For those little kids, there is almost nothing that meets or exceeds the joy of having another birthday. A party with friends and family, lots of gifts, a great cake, ad infinitum, all beyond comparison! And then, strangely, something happens and we stop counting the days, hours and minutes leading up to “the great event”. It becomes just another day unless it’s a ‘special’ one with a ‘zero’ at the end of it.

Not so, for Planet Earth. Each spring, as the snow melts and the temperatures rise, the earth renews itself. Trees go from barren and brown, to budding and green. Forsythia, irises and tulips dot the landscapes of many a suburban home as the sun shines brighter, warmer and higher in the sky.

We’re blessed that even in a tumultuous year like the past 12 months have been, we are still here, still together and still able to share in the joys of this rebirth. Our community is different for sure, but still vibrant and strong and supportive.

We pivoted quickly from a full-service, in person shul to a mostly virtual community that meets daily and weekly in the ‘ethernet’. It’s not perfect, but in many ways has opened us up to increased accessibility as nobody has to drive to CBI in bad weather, at night, or if you’re a bit under the weather. Through the magic of Zoom and Youtube, we’re still able to meet through services and programs so that we can share life’s joys and sorrows together as a “*kehillah kedoshah*”, a “holy community”.

As we celebrate the holidays of Purim and Pesach, let us remember how fortunate we are to be a part of this vibrant place and vow to take advantage of all the virtual programs and offerings being scheduled. Throughout the ages, there have always been those who have risen up against us, tried to annihilate or enslave us, but through the strength of our communities, we have persevered and even thrived. May this trying time of Covid-19 be no different from those trials and tribulations and may *Hashem* give us the health, determination and strength to see this battle through as well. *Keyn y’hee ratzon!*

Harvey M. Brenner, FSA, FTA



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



The Song of Songs in Song!

**Join us on Zoom
Sunday, March 21st at 5PM
for our annual CBI Song of Songs themed
Hebrew chant and song circle with
musical accompaniment.**

In preparation for Passover when it is read in the synagogue we will be exploring selected passages from the Song of Songs set to beautiful, compelling, yet easy to sing melodies. There are more musical settings for the Shir than any other Biblical text.

Come find out why!

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.

BAR MITZVAH



Lev Waxman April 24, 2021

Lev is a seventh grader at Millburn Middle School. He enjoys spending time with his friends and family and his puppy Karla.

Sharing in this simcha are his parents, Daphna and Ian, his sisters Noa and Maya, his grandparents Sandra and Harold Waxman, his Savta and Saba Gary and Rachel Abrams, and all his aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Lev would like to thank Cantor Wallach and everyone in the CBI Community for their help and support in preparation for this day.



Join the CBI Alliance for Sustainability!

In response to the increasing challenges facing the environment, it's time for CBI to do its part to preserve and protect the natural world. We'll be focusing on environmental sustainability through a Jewish lens, exploring how essential Jewish teachings can inform our pursuit of a healthy and just world. We hope to involve all members of the CBI community from preschoolers to seniors. We'll be evaluating what we can do as a community and as individuals to integrate a commitment to sustainability into our lives in order to be true partners in the ongoing work of *Tikkun Olam*. We invite you to be part of it!

For more information contact Henry Bloom at hdbloom@hotmail.com

DCL's Drash

By Rabbi Julie Schwarzwald, Director of Congregational Learning

It's on all of our minds: the one-year anniversary of the pandemic and our initial lockdown. I am reflecting on lessons learned and embracing opportunities for positive change. As anxious as we all are to resume our in-person activities with family, friends, and community, we have each discovered ways to maintain connection with the blessing of technology. The opportunities created to learn from and with anyone, anywhere, anytime is something that should be preserved and continue to be enhanced as we go forward.



We have rediscovered the blessing of family, whether through the presence of those in our household or the absence of those farther away. I think that when we can once again hug those we have not been able to for a year, we will appreciate it all the more. For many of us, this has been a time for resetting priorities, of valuing down time (as hard as it is to find when work and home have blended so completely). Hopefully, we have all learned to have forgiveness for ourselves when we can't do it all. And understanding for our children as they strive to continue their education in less than optimal circumstances. We must appreciate their resilience this year and all the moments when they have risen to the challenges.

Like most of us, I have enhanced my tech skills in all sorts of unexpected ways, and been blessed to have so many colleagues around the world to learn from and with as we all search for the best ways to create the best education possible for our individual communities. With each new professional development conference, the experience has been enhanced by new ways to connect during and between workshops and to find the joy in social programming, even when we so miss being together in person. A blessing of this year has been the ability to "attend" conferences that would otherwise be beyond my ability. In December I "went" to Limmud UK and in February I was able to "attend" Songleader Boot Camp, two opportunities that have long been on my wish list and were only possible in current circumstances.

As we begin to plan for next year, I am considering which education changes and opportunities are valuable to continue. This has been a most amazing year (in all meanings!) and a time of deep reflection about what is most important and where to focus our energies. I can't

wait to see what evolves in the year to come.

BBRS

It's hard to believe that we are already programming for Purim, Pesach, and the Yomim—and thinking about planning for next year! We are looking forward to warmer weather opportunities to be together outside for family workshops. In the meantime, our regular school schedule continues. On Tuesdays, the entire school joins online together for tefillah and then each grade heads into a breakout room. Kitah Zayin/7th grade has the pleasure of learning with Rabbi Isenberg as they discuss each week's Torah portion and how it relates to us today. Kitah Vav/6th grade is well on their way to mastering Torah trope with Cantor Wallach. Our middle grades enjoy playing Kahoot as they learn about each upcoming holiday and integrating their Sunday learning. Our youngest students are enjoying following Hebrew commands to sit, stand, jump, run, spin in their Hebrew Through Movement program. Our online madrichim are amazing as they support teachers and students with technology and help lead lessons.

YOUTH GROUPS

Aly and Mike Greenstein have our youth groups well in hand as they plan innovative online programming. Our MillbUSY Board is thinking creatively about ways to be safely in person as much as possible, while also bringing exciting ideas to the Zoom screen. Kadima and Chaverim have enjoyed picking up their supply bags each week to supplement their online programs.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Adult education completed another module of Jewish Art with participants from across the country. This session included an incredible conversation with CBI's own Hanna Keselman about her art. It can be viewed [here](#).

Our spring Monday Morning Modules include another session with Len Hausman on The History of the State of Israel Through Its Music (February 22-March 15), followed by Songs of the Spring Season with Cantor Wallach (April 5-19), and The Female Halachic Voice in Israel: Contemporary Jewish Responsa Authored by the Masorti Movement's Female Rabbinic Leaders in Israel with Rabbi Isenberg (April 26-May 10).

As part of our overall CBI pre-Pesach programming, Cantor Wallach also presents Haggadah Hits: A Musical

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Sisterhood's Message

By Jennifer Glick and Sharon Richman, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Jennifer Glick & Sharon Richman

We are probably repeating the refrain of most articles in this bulletin when we observe that this month marks a year since we entered into this strange reality of the pandemic. In fact, when we look back at last March's bulletin, we see a list of activities that were ultimately cancelled - Sisterhood Shabbat, cooking lessons, Knit and Knosh, Canasta, Mah Jongg, Bookends, Zumba and a trip to "Jewish" Newark. True, this list of "would have beens" makes us somewhat melancholy when we reflect on the loss of these in-person activities and connections. Yet, we can't help but be proud of how we have all adapted to this new reality, switched gears and figured out other ways to see each other while being educated and entertained. Most recently, we had the opportunity to interact with our very own local author Barbara Ismail. We talked about her background living and studying in Malaysia and the crime mystery series she published based on that experience. It was a cold night with the threat of snow and over 20 of us logged on to zoom with Barbara from the comfort of our own homes. If that isn't making lemonade out of lemons, we don't know what is.

So, until we can be together in person, we will continue to offer curated programs that we hope our members will find stimulating and worthwhile. January and February, always the coldest months, were particularly chock full of programs, including a wonderful challah baking class led by Ilene Klein. Huge thank you to Ilene. We can't wait to have you teaching

us again. Also, in February we will have had a fascinating two-night genealogy workshop. Special thanks to Susan Stern for working with Rabbi Scott Kalmikoff to bring us this very special program. Lisa Friedman and Ruth Kirshner Novick have started organizing online canasta and mah jongg games. Please join us, but be warned that playing these online games can become addictive. The next game night is planned for March 11th. But please look for emails with specifics as we get closer to this date. Please contact Lisa (friedman139@aol.com) or Ruth (ruthkirshner@yahoo.com) with any questions.

And please take advantage of these winter nights to - The Weight of Ink by Rachel Kadish. It is a hefty read, see-sawing between London in the 17th century and the early years of the 21st century. How fortunate for us that on March 24th we have Sara Sherman to once again help us make sense of the varied and dense intellectual puzzles included in this masterful novel.

Fittingly, while we could not visit Newark last Spring, on April 7th we will be virtually visiting four historically significant synagogues in the Midwest and learning about the German Jewish architect who designed them, as led by the author of a recent book on this subject. The end of April brings us to Tel Aviv for an **exciting and unique** virtual tour of that city's burgeoning graffiti art scene. Please mark your calendars for April 28th and look forward to more information via email.

With Passover just around the corner think about the Sisterhood Gift Shop for some of your Passover needs. We have so many lovely items to choose from. Contact Sharon at sjschmerz@gmail.com to arrange a convenient appointment.

We invite you to participate and enjoy any and all of these programs.

Jennifer Glick and Sharon Richman
Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Oliver Watts

David Spacht and Shari Astalos – Pre School: Leo Spacht

Alex Bennett and Samantha Bennett – Pre School: Hailey Bennett

Liron Lerman and Dora Leibu – Pre School: Martha Lerman

Alex Goldman and Sarah O'Holla – Pre School: Polly Goldman

Tim Van Harn and Erica Van Harn – Pre School: Naomi Van Harn

Brian Jacoby and Suzanne Shane Jacoby – Pre School: Joseph "Joe" Jacoby

MEN'S CLUB

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

As I listened to Parshat Yitro last week, I couldn't shake from my head, The Men's Club Parsha Players from a couple years past teaching me about Yitro's visit to the Children of Israel. I

think many of us are missing life as we knew it, and now would have been Men's Club Shabbat Season. David's Friday night dinner, dozens of men leading, reading, participating as well as the scent of the cholent wafting through the social hall... but fear not, Men's Club Shabbat is not over, just postponed. Currently it is planned for Shabbat Korach (2 Tammuz / June 12). Parshat Korach is an oldie but goodie, so mark your calendars!



Alex Marcus



Jonathan Schor

More immediately, look out for the Men's Club Passover wine sale. A great way to fill your four cups and support Men's Club. See the flyer enclosed in the bulletin for more information or order online at www.tinyurl.com/passoverwine2021

Just after Passover is Yom HaShoah, holocaust remembrance day. As is traditional, Men's Club will make available Yellow Memorial Candles for pickup at CBI. As part of this effort, Men's Club is again raising money for Blue Card which supports needy holocaust survivors. Look out the email for more information or go to www.tinyurl.com/yellowcandle2021 as a way to donate.

And the days are getting longer, so that means play ball! Men's Club Softball! Anyone interested please contact Craig Rothman craig231rothman@gmail.com

Alex Marcus & Jonathan Schor
Co-Presidents

They Care to Keep It Please Help Them Afford It CBI Passover Food Drive 2021

CBI, in partnership with the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA), will be collecting Passover food items through March 12th to help local New Jersey Families celebrate the Holiday

1 Purchase Any of The Following Kosher Passover Items

1. Chocolate Bars and Lollipops for Kids
2. Potato Chip Bags (Individual Size)
3. Craisins or Dried Apricots

* all items must have Kosher for Passover hechsher



2 Drop items off to CBI Lobby by No Later Than Friday March 12th



 CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL In partnership with

 JRA JEWISH RELIEF AGENCY

CBI MEN'S CLUB PASSOVER WINE SALE



Order your Passover Wine at Discount Prices!
Have it Delivered to Your Home in Time for Your Seder!



Great Selection from Israel, California, Italy and more!

See the entire selection and order all wine on-line at:
<http://tinyurl.com/passoverwine2021>

Pay online with a credit card or mail check to:

**Congregation B'nai Israel
Attn: Men's Club Wine Sale
160 Millburn Avenue
Millburn, NJ 07041**

**Orders must be received by March 17th
Your order will be delivered to your house before the first Seder.**

**Direct any questions to Jonathan Schor at cbimensclubmillburn@gmail.com
or (516) 978-1705**

DCL's Drash

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Preparation for Passover on Tuesdays at noon (March 16-23).

On Tuesday, March 16 we have a special evening program designed for families with minor children. Bobbi Kwall will talk about her book *Remix Judaism: Preserving Tradition in a Diverse World*, and how to make meaning and add Judaism to your life without worrying about doing "everything." Bobbi will also hold a Monday Morning Module session on March 22 designed for the rest of us!

CBIP

The preschool is thrilled to continue welcoming new students each month! We have also opened registration for our summer 2021 Mini- Camp (running June 28-August 6) and for next school year (details at www.cbipreschool.com).

We have welcomed families to join us via Zoom and the SMARTBoard for birthday and Shabbat celebrations. Preschool students brought in tzedakah money to plant four trees in Israel as part of our Tu BiShvat celebration. We are looking forward to our Purim and Passover celebrations.

Children are enjoying playing in the snow on the playgrounds, "painting" the snow, learning about the properties of ice, and embracing winter outside as they learn through play (sshh, don't tell them they're learning!). Teachers are adept at helping them in and out of snow pants, hats, mittens, and coats!

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"
Congregation B'nai Israel
160 Millburn Avenue, Millburn, NJ 07041

Our programs are open to all—invite your friends to Zoom with us

March Event

Thursday, March 11th at 1:00 pm

Join us to Zoom B'nai Israel congregant Marvin Fish when he discusses the wisdom of England's late Chief Rabbi, Lord Jonathan Sachs. In addition to being a world-renowned Orthodox rabbi, Rabbi Sachs was an intellectual giant, prolific author, and a member of the House of Lords. His works touched not only on religion, but also on philosophy, economics and psychology. Through his works he taught us how to live a more meaningful Jewish life.

Marvin Fish is a retired attorney and has been a member of CBI for 78 years. He confesses a near addiction to the wisdom and scholarship of Lord Rabbi Sachs.

Please email Lois at Penzoe1@comcast.net, call 973-533-1809 for the Zoom link, or check the temple announcements. Until we can meet again in person, I wish you good health and happiness.

ZISSEN PESACH TO ALL



THE STORY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL THROUGH ITS MUSIC
WITH LEN HAUSMAN

Music is an ideal way to learn about a country's history and culture. In our next module we will be focusing on the fourth and fifth periods of immigration (1924-1939) that led to the State of Israel. During these years the bare bones of the state that was to be began to develop music and sinew and a new Hebrew culture took root. We will learn about this pioneering generation through the music that tells their story. We will listen to their songs, which often included lyrics from Israel's poets.

Each song presented will be accompanied by a commentary that includes the story behind the song. We will review song lyrics in translation as we explore their context and meaning. We will approach the lyrics as we would a poem, looking for their resonance and allusions. The Hebrew text will be available and we will learn some key Hebrew words in the lyrics.

We will be listening mostly to original versions of these songs, but also at times to updated versions. We will gain knowledge of leading vocalists and groups so that we become familiar with a "Who's Who" in the history of Israeli song.



Monday Mornings
9:30-10:30 a.m.
Four Sessions

February 22, March 1,
March 8, March 15
2021

Via Zoom!

All Are Welcome!

To register,
 please contact:
Rabbi Julie Schwarzwald
 Director of
 Congregational Learning

rabbijulie@cbi-nj.org
 (973) 262-3717

ABOUT THE CLASS LEADER
 Len Hausman has had an interest in the music of Israel since his youth. He completed a year of training in Israel toward being a teacher in the diaspora, sponsored by the World Zionist Organization. He has enjoyed teaching on a range of subjects over the years at CBI's Shabbat Journeymen's Minyan and other venues. Professionally, Len is a psychologist with practices in Greenwich Village, New York and locally.

ISRAEL AFFAIRS

By Joe Tenenbaum



Thank You and Mazel Tov, Sammy

I want to congratulate Sammy Reiter for her Bat Mitzvah project which raised funds for the Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel. Sammy had a wonderful experience with her Bat Mitzvah at the Robinson

Arch (Southern wall), where egalitarian prayer is permitted and encouraged, and decided to support pluralism in Israel through this organization. If you wish to do the same, the organization can be found at Masorti.org. You can sign up for a newsletter there, donate to the organization or just learn about what they are doing. I notice that the movement has published a new Siddur for use in Israel, consistent with Conservative values. Thank you, Sammy.

I am happy to publicize any Israel related Bar of Bat Mitzvah projects – just let me know about the project, and I will try to help.

Follow AIPAC online, and Plan for 2022 Policy Conference (I hope)

So, March has gone by, and none of us traveled to Washington D.C. to visit our Congressional representatives, and to tell them how important a strong US Israel relationship is to all of us. Because of the work we have done in the past, they already know about our commitments, but it is important to stay on top of these issues, no matter what the obstacles.

So, I visited the AIPAC website – (AIPAC.org) and found the following six key issues, and three legislative initiatives:

The Key Issues are not new:

- ✓ Supporting Security Assistance to Israel
- ✓ Strengthening the US Israel Relationship
- ✓ Promoting Peace
- ✓ Countering Iran's Nuclear Ambition
- ✓ Combatting Terrorism
- ✓ Opposing Anti-Israel Discrimination

To accomplish these goals, AIPAC highlights its support for three legislative initiatives:

- **Support Assistance to Israel:** support \$3.3 billion

in security assistance and \$500 million for cooperative defense programs in fiscal year 2022.

- **Support Israel's Pursuit of Peace:** support a strong U.S.-Israel relationship, encourage other Arab states to normalize relations with Israel, and press the Palestinians to return to peace negotiations.
- **Support a Broad New Deal with Iran:** support negotiations with Iran, backed by strong economic and diplomatic pressure, to achieve a broad new deal with Iran that addresses its nuclear program, ballistic missiles and regional aggression.

No date has been announced for Policy Conference 2022, and we do not know what else might change for this event in a Post-Corona world. In the meantime, it is important to pay attention to the US Israel relationship and support policies and actions which can help support Israel and bring peace to the region.

AIPAC is not just about political persuasion - there is a lot of education about the US and Israel which you can receive by associating with this organization (or by just looking over their shoulder at aipac.org)

Arava Institute

If you are still at home as you read this, which I assume many will be, now is a good time to think about the great outdoors, the worldwide environment, and what Israel is doing to improve the health of safety of the world. (According to its website, arava.org)

The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies is a leading environmental studies and research institute in the Middle East. It houses accredited academic programs, research centers, and international cooperation initiatives focusing on a range of environmental concerns and challenges.

With a student body comprised of Jordanians, Palestinians, Israelis, and participants from around the world, the Arava Institute offers students an exceptional opportunity to learn from leading professionals while forming friendships and developing skills that enable them to lead the region and the world in solving today's most

pressing environmental challenges.

Here, **the idea that nature knows no political borders is more than a belief. It is a fact, a curriculum, and a way of life.**

Every year, the Arava Institute sponsors an Israel (Bicycle) Ride to raise funds to support its work and to bring its riders closer to the Land of Israel. The ride, which usually occurs in October, covers five days, beginning in Jerusalem and finishing in Eilat. There are several options available based on how much riding a participant wants to do: from riding the full distance, to riding half, and touring half, to a non-riding, all touring option. If you think you might be interested in participating, please contact Brett Cohen, Dan Richter or David Touger.

Because the Arava Institute focuses on Environmental Issues, reviewing their work may also be essential to CBI's new sustainability committee. Israel is a leader in protecting its environment, the Arava Institute is a leader in Israel.

Israeli Dinner April 16 (to be confirmed)

As part of CBI's celebration of Israel Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzmaut) we are planning a Shabbat Dinner with an Israeli theme and Israeli menu. We expect that this dinner will be available for pick up from the synagogue as part of the CBI Family dinner program. The details are subject to further planning and confirmation, so keep an eye out for more details. This year Yom HaZikaron (Israel Memorial Day) is on April 13-14, and Yom Ha'atzmaut is on April 14-15.

Leket Israel, a National Food Bank

Speaking of food, I want to mention an organization in Israel which focuses on providing nutritious food to people who have limited access to a healthy diet. From its website, I share the following description of Leket Israel:

Leket Israel, the National Food Bank, is the leading food rescue organization in Israel. Unique among all other organizations that serve the poor in Israel and food banks worldwide, Leket Israel's sole focus is rescuing healthy, surplus food and delivering it to those in need through partner nonprofit organizations.

I know that our year of Corona has affected all of us, but some much more severely than others, including physically, mentally and financially. If you are in a position now where you can help, I recommend this as one organization you should consider.

For more information, visit Leket.org

Tell us about your Israel or pro-Israel experience!

I am hoping that I will write my next Bulletin article from Israel. Things being as they are, we of course do not know, but if our personal health, and the travel authorities in Israel and the United State are amenable, we will end our involuntary travel boycott of Israel.

This month, I have shared with you some Israeli organizations, and pro-Israel organizations. If you are working with an organization, and you would like to share some information about it with our CBI community, please let me know (TenenbaumJ@AOL.com).

And as always, if you or family members want to report on an Israel experience, please do so.

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



Passover

Check your emails and the CBI web-calendar for our full Passover schedules

DONATIONS FROM FEBRUARY 22, 2021

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

- Joe Magid & Family - In memory of your father, Manny
❖ Carol & Bob Marcus
- Samantha Neier - In memory of your father, Marty
❖ Wendy & Myron Rosenberg
- Whitney Neier - In memory of your father, Marty
❖ Wendy & Myron Rosenberg
- Carolee Kass - In memory of your mother, Edna Schultz
❖ Wendy & Myron Rosenberg
- Joe Magid & Family - In memory of your father, Manny
❖ Roni & Mark Chasin
- Cantor Lorna Wallach - Thank you for keeping us singing during these challenging times
❖ Jody & Russell Reich
- Roz & Jonathan Engel - In honor of Ezra's wedding
❖ Steven & Helene Moehlman
- The Kimelman Family - In memory of your father, Avraham Kimelman
❖ Sally Shotkin
- Alia Covell - In memory of Skippy
❖ Deborah & Fred Smith
- Michael Brief - In memory of your father Louis
❖ Warren Schabbes
- The Engel Family - In honor of the wedding of Ezra & Zoe
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- Janet (Goldin) Rubin - In memory of your mother, Estelle Rubin
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- ### Cantor's Music Fund
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❖ Steven & Helene Moehlman
- Penny Klein - In memory of your beloved mother, Muriel Siragher
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❖ Sharon & Mark Richman
- Galit Kierkut - In memory of your mother, Esther Kierkut
❖ The Hubscher-Griff Family
- Penny Klein - In memory of your beloved mother, Muriel Siragher
❖ Diana Bensoul
- Cantor Wallach - Thank you
❖ Barry & Leslie Dashefsky
- Cantor Wallach - In recognition of leadership for loss of her mother
❖ Penny Klein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

- Penny & Arthur Klein & Family - In memory of your beloved mother, Muriel Siragher
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- In memory of her father, Isadore Kaplan
❖ Elayne Feig
- Michael Brief - In memory of your father Louis
❖ Elliott Schabbes

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❖ Anonymous
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❖ Gerald & Selma Krevans

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❖ The Dovdavany Family

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- Stacy Thompson & David Kanarek - In honor of Sam's Bar Mitzvah
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- Ilana Tenenbaum - In honor of recognition by Jewish Ed. Assembly
❖ The Daniel Family

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- Aly Greenstein - In honor of recognition by Jewish Youth Dir. Ass.
❖ The Daniel Family

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