

The Bulletin



CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL

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

April-June 2023

CELEBRATE
Passover at CBI


HAPPY
PASSOVER



In case you missed it on <https://cbi-nj.org>,

See Our Passover Guide on pages 6 and 7!

April Service Times, Candle Lighting

Friday, March 31

6:00 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
6:00-7:00 pm – In Person Kabbalat Shabbat
7:02 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, April 1

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Service
7:49 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, April 7

6:00 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
6:00-7:00 pm – In Person Kabbalat Shabbat
7:09 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, April 8

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Service
7:56 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, April 14

6:00 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
6:00-7:00 pm – In Person Kabbalat Shabbat
7:17 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, April 15 - Shabbat K'tanim

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Service
8:04 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, April 21

Bat Mitzvah Shabbat Dinner
6:00 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
6:00-7:00 pm – In Person Kabbalat Shabbat
7:24 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, April 22

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Service
8:11 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, April 28 - Shabbat Shelanu

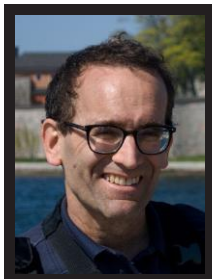
6:00 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
6:00-7:00 pm – In Person Kabbalat Shabbat
7:32 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, April 29

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Service
8:19 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Letter from the President

By Jamey Potechin



As we go through the yearly cycle of torah reading, it is noteworthy that lack of water is a consistent problem, not surprising given how hot and dry it is in Israel. Not so for us in New Jersey and especially in Millburn. It seems that we can even manufacture our own water problems as we did with a sprinkler failure in early February. My heartfelt thanks to the Millburn Fire Department for responding quickly

when sprinkler water tripped our smoke alarm and for turning off the sprinkler system to prevent further damage. We were able to continue with programming with almost no interruption despite extensive damage to the cantor's office and water damage in the multi-purpose room, hallway and library. Thanks also to the many volunteers who helped us clear the damaged areas on the day after the flood and to Rabbi Julie for working around the damaged areas to keep our preschool programming intact. Finally, a huge yasher koach to Jamie Beneroff, our "Flood Czar." Through his capable leadership and tireless work to get our building restored, we are mostly put back together with repaired walls, new flooring and all new furniture in the cantor's office. Under Steven Rod's direction, we are taking advantage of this opportunity to clear out items that were cluttering our storage room and redesigning our library as a combined library/meeting space.

While caring for our building is important, we are most concerned with caring for our people and making sure that we are safe. As I noted in my letter to the congregation about our increased security fee, we have increased our armed guard coverage to include the core hours for our preschool. Under the leadership of Nik Minocha and Jamie Beneroff on our facilities committee, we are getting ready to award the first contracts for our current Homeland Security grant. These contracts will add more coverage and improved cameras to our video surveillance, create safe zones inside the building with bullet-proof glass and install a lock down system that can be used to quickly secure these safe zones. Meanwhile, our security committee continues to develop emergency procedures and plans for training for staff and congregants.

It is hard to believe that we first entered the Covid pandemic over three years ago and we are just starting to feel normal again. While we learned new skills, especially how to stay connected on-line, there is no substitute for meeting together in person and enjoying each other's company. Accordingly, our spring fundraiser this year is Cocktails & Comedy, a fun-filled social event that we hope you can attend. Join us for cocktails and conversation with friends, a pub-style meal that will

continued on page 12

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL
INVITES YOU TO

Cocktails & Comedy

An evening to benefit
Congregation B'nai Israel

SATURDAY
MAY 13
7:00PM

FEATURING
JOEL CHASNOFF

Jewish Humor Redefined!



Please RSVP and support CBI!

May Service Times, Candle Lighting

Friday, May 5 - USY Shabbat

6:00 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
6:00-7:00 pm – In Person Kabbalat Shabbat
7:39 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, May 6 - Shabbat K'tanim

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Service
8:26 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, May 12

6:00 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
6:00-7:00 pm – In Person Kabbalat Shabbat
7:46 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, May 13

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Service
8:33 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after
Cocktails and Comedy

Friday, May 19

6:00 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
6:00-7:00 pm – In Person Kabbalat Shabbat
7:53 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, May 20

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Service
8:40 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Friday, May 26

6:00 pm – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat
6:00-7:00 pm – In Person Kabbalat Shabbat
7:59 pm – Light Candles

Saturday, May 27 - Shabbat K'tanim

9:30 am – Shabbat Morning Service
8:46 pm – Shabbat concludes at or after

Letter from the Rabbi

By Rabbi Ari Isenberg



Dear Congregants,

For three years in a row, our Passover seders looked like mere shadows of what they had once been. Now, with vaccines, other therapeutics, and the gradual transformation of Covid-19 from epidemic to endemic, we look forward to enjoying this year's seders in a way that resembles the seders of several

years ago. We will rekindle our families' customs and traditions, gathering with confidence and in health, with friends and in large numbers.

As we do, it behooves us to retain the sensation of isolation we all felt during the pandemic. After all, there are still those among us who may be alone for the seders. From the infirmed with limited mobility to the exhausted parents of newborns; the immuno-compromised to the recent widower. If we force ourselves to look to our left and right, what we discover is that not everyone in our midst will have the luxury of a table full of guests and loved ones for Passover.

This is the responsibility that comes with freedom. Embracing our joy, celebrating our blessings, while being ever-attuned to those who are not feeling such joy.

As we recite "Next Year in Jerusalem", we must also think of our brothers and sisters in Israel. History proves that our fate in the Diaspora is invariably tied to what happens in that land. What can we do during this season of deliverance to help bring unity to the citizens of the State of Israel and the people of its land? How can we use our voices and influence to fortify the bonds of our commonality? Divisions sewed among our people only serve those who wish us harm. We must come together to preserve our liberal-democratic homeland. This affects each one of us.

May this Festival of Freedom grant us blessing, health, light, and hope.

Chag Sameach.
Rabbi Ari Isenberg

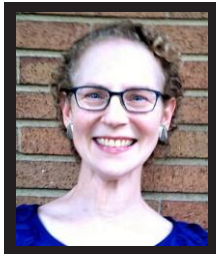


To contact Rabbi Isenberg,
email him at rabbi@cbi-nj.org



Musical Notes

By Cantor Lorna Wallach



Within our CBI community, it is inspiring to see the multiple ways that so many of our members feel a connection to Israel and show support. Whether it's through involvement in AIPAC, JNF, Hadassah, donating to Israeli charities such as Leket Israel, FIDE, Magen David Adom,

United Hatzalah (and to numerous other worthy organizations!), participating in the Arava Institute bike ride (with the Desert Dawgs), visiting Israel with Federation's mission this summer, taking a family trip to Israel or going there on a teen tour, buying Israeli bonds, or staying informed about current events in Israel, the important thing, as we celebrate the State of Israel's 75th anniversary, is to be connected! One of the ways that I have always felt connected to Israel is through the music of Israel. Long before Spotify, as a child and young adult I enjoyed learning Israeli folk songs from the music teachers and song leaders at my synagogue's Religious School and at Camp Ramah Berkshires.

A very special highlight for me from my many trips to Israel was the opportunity to participate in an "authentic" Israeli *Erev Shirah*. On a family trip in 2005, we stayed in the Guest House of Kibbutz Ma'agan, located at the southern-most point of the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee). This magnificent place, though not fancy, welcomes foreign tourists, but mostly caters to vacationing Israelis. After the communal style buffet breakfast, they give you a schedule, which is only available in Hebrew, of the daily events and activities at the facility, and I believe it was "*besheret*" (meant to be!) that on the second of the 3 nights we stayed there, the evening "activity" was an *Erev Shirah* (literally "An Evening of Song"). We sat on the shore of the Kinneret, under a perfectly clear summer night sky, and as the flames of the Medurah (campfire) danced and reflected off of the water, a

group of 40 – 50 people sang (okay, I cried and sang) for over an hour. Dudu, the song leader, played his guitar, while an *Oleh* from Russia, accompanied him on the accordion, as we sang through many songs from 60 years of Statehood (they were kind enough to have the words of the songs shown on a screen to encourage singing along!). I had read about and heard stories of the phenomenon of Israelis sitting around a campfire singing, while a *Finjan* (special coffee pot) was being passed around so for me, to witness it, with my children sitting beside me, was like a dream come true!

What are the ways you feel connected to Israel? I'd love to hear your personal stories.

A song that was popular in Israel in the 1970's, "*Lo nafsik lashir*," (written by C. Chefer and D.Zeltzer) says that no matter how bad things may get, even if the cost of fuel to drive from Tel-Aviv to a nearby town costs as much as a flight to Japan, we will not stop singing. The last verse says, "What can we do? This is our beloved country and things will get better." I've always admired the optimism and faith of the Israeli people, especially during difficult times. Even if we don't live there, Israel is still our homeland and the least we can do is to sing about all there is to be proud of in Israel, and make our voices of support and hope louder than the voices of hate and despair.

Cantor Lorna Wallach



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

PASSOVER GUIDE 5783 / 2023

Matchmaker, Matchmaker...

Do you have room to welcome a guest at your seder?
Would you like to be a guest at someone's seder table?
Our Clergy team would love the opportunity to match you up, so don't delay:
Contact Joi Noel (jnoel@cbi-nj.org)
or by phone ext. 120

Leading a Seder? Key Tips

The Haggadah is not meant to be a script that is followed word for word but rather an anthology of resources that allows each leader to create a ritual of learning, telling, questioning, and reciting tailored to the ages, stages, personalities, and dispositions around the table. Here are some links that might be helpful in creating a basic outline for the evening:

[Kveller - How to Prepare a Seder \(hosting, food, and practical concerns\)](#)

[My Jewish Learning - How to Conduct a Seder \(order, ritual, figuring out the Jewish pieces\)](#)

[Congregation B'nai Jeshurun - For the Small or Solo Seder](#)

Selling Chametz

Since ownership of chametz is not allowed during the holiday, ideally any chametz in one's possession would be given away or destroyed before the holiday begins. Since this often represents a financial hardship and/or needless waste, the practice arose for people to store away their chametz before Pesach and arrange to sell it for the duration of the holiday.

To have your chametz sold, email rabbi@cbi-nj.org with the following information:

- The address of your primary residence
- Any secondary home where you may have chametz stored

We're happy to secure the sale on your behalf.

Charity for Passover Goods (*Ma'ot Chittim*)

It is customary to give *Ma'ot Chittim*, charity for the Passover needs of the poor. We urge anyone who is able to be generous this year to consider making a contribution. Donations will be directed to the Metro area's Ma'ot Chittim Fund as well as to Leket Israel, and can be channeled through Rabbi Isenberg's Discretionary Fund:

Online donations can be made at <https://cbi-nj.org/online-tribute-form/>

Please select the option "Rabbi's Discretionary Fund" and write "Ma'ot Chittim" in the description box.

You can also mail a check into CBI, and earmark it for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Ma'ot Chittim.

Poetry Corner

Bedikat chametz in the toddler house by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, Velveteen Rabbi

What does it mean to remove chametz when my cupboard overflows with toddler-friendly goldfish and mini-muffins?

If there is any chametz I do not know about -- odds are good there are stale O's in the crevices of the car seat, but the rest of our leaven is in plain sight, soft whole-wheat awaiting jam's unfurling -- that I have not seen or removed, I disown it. That part of the formula at least still works. An invisible line: between his english muffins, his toasted bread and my boxes of matzah, waiting.

Even if I don't light a candle, Ribbono shel Olam, help me to sweep the crumbs from even the ill-tended corners of my heart. The too-sour puffery of ego, the impulse in me that needs to be in charge, needs to be right, needs to be praised.

The part of me that forgets the daily importance of prayer and kindness.

I disown it.

I declare it to be nothing as ownerless as the dust of the earth.

PASSover GUide 5783 / 2023_(continued)

Chametz For Thought

Spirituality of Passover Cleaning, by Rabbi G. Milgram

"There is a paradox in the search for chametz. It is intended to commemorate the haste with which the Israelites leave Egypt; because of this the dough didn't have time to rise and became flat bread, symbolized by matzah. Yet, it is the lack of haste and the increased attention to the detail of removing the chametz that is the focus of the practice."

important dates

(usual CBI passwords in effect; call our office if you are unsure of our login passwords)

Wednesday, April 5th, 7:30 am	Minyan on Zoom with Siyyum for Firstborn • Latest chametz 10:50am • First Seder. No evening services	On Zoom Zoom Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793
Thursday, April 6th, 9:30 am	Festival Services • Second Seder. No evening services	In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793
Friday, April 7th, 9:30 am	Festival Services	In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793
Friday, April 7th, 6:00 pm	Ma'ariv for Shabbat	On Zoom Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Saturday, April 8th, 9:30 am	Shabbat Morning Services	In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793
Sunday, April 9th, 7:30 am & 8:00 pm	Morning/Evening Minyan, Chol Ha'Moed	On Zoom Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Monday, April 10th, 7:30 am & 8:00 pm	Morning/Evening Minyan, Chol Ha'Moed	On Zoom Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Tuesday, April 11th, 7:30 am & 8:00 pm	Morning/Evening Minyan, Chol Ha'Moed	On Zoom Morning Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793 Evening Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Wednesday, April 12th, 9:30 am	Festival Services	In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793
Wednesday, April 12th, 8:00 pm	Festival Ma'ariv	On Zoom Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144
Thursday, April 13th, 9:30 am	Festival Services, with Yizkor	In person, Zoom, and Youtube Live Meeting ID: 861-1042-1793
Thursday, April 13th, 8:00 pm **Chametz may be eaten after 9:00 pm	Evening Minyan	On Zoom Meeting ID: 837-8380-5144

The Complete Rabbinical Assembly Passover Guide is Here:

<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/pesah-guide-5783-2.28.23.pdf>

From the director of Congregational Learning

By Rabbi Julie Schwarzwald



I am writing this from the Jewish Educators Assembly conference, this year in Long Island. The JEA is the Conservative movement's professional organization for education directors (like the RA for rabbis and the CA for cantors). This year's theme was "Tradition. Transition. Change." As the pandemic

now becomes endemic, it no longer holds center stage for educators. We spent the week learning from and with a variety of amazing presenters and taking time for ourselves to share and learn and plan for the future. We met with Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal in person and Rabbi Brad Artson over Zoom. We talked about interfaith families with Dr. Keren McGinity, USCJ Interfaith Specialist. We heard from Dr. Dean Bell, President and CEO of Spertus Learning, about vulnerability and resilience; and from Dr. Samantha Vinokor-Meinrath, The Jewish Education Project's Senior Director of Knowledge, Ideas and Learning about Modern Anti-Semitism and Jewish Peoplehood. There were breakout sessions from Keshet and Gender Equity in Hiring Project and Moving Traditions and IsraelLINK.

I am humbled to have been named a Conservative Jewish Educator, "to recognize educators who have achieved the highest professional standards of our organization and to encourage ongoing learning, growth, and development." (You will see the initials CJE after my name in my signature!) And I am continuing to serve on the National Board in the position of Early Childhood Liaison. At this point, virtually all synagogue education directors have responsibilities for providing programming for families with young children (Tot Shabbat, High Holiday services, etc.). And an increasing number of us are serving as dual directors. I am excited at the opportunity to find new ways to support others new to these roles and to collaborate with those who have been doing it longer than I have. What a tremendously energizing (and exhausting!) week! I am so grateful to CBI for providing the Professional Development funding that makes it possible.

Once Purim is over, we know it is a quick trip to Pesach and then the end of the school year. Be sure to save the dates below, and watch your emails and social media for up-to-date information.

CBiP

Registration is underway for both camp and school for next year. Our numbers have grown this year, and many of our families are extending their days and hours for the rest of this year. We had a great time at all of our Purim Parties!

We are offering a spring session of Tkiya Wee Jam for adults and children ages 0-5 on Thursdays at 9:30 am - all are welcome! And we have begun welcoming families into the school again to celebrate birthdays and Shabbat with us.

April 3-7 Closed for Spring Break
April 10-11 Noon Dismissal (no lunch) for Hol Hamoed Pesach
April 12-13 Closed for Pesach
May 26 Closed for Shavuot
May 29 Closed for Memorial Day
June 15 Graduation/Closing Ceremony - Noon Dismissal

BBRS

Registration for next school year will launch sometime in April. We plan to make it as simple as possible, with an almost automatic re-enrollment. If you have friends or neighbors who are looking for individualized Jewish learning, please let us know. They do NOT have to be CBI members to attend BBRS!

April 2-15 Closed for Spring Break and Pesach
April 16 Resume regular BBRS schedule
April 29 Shabbat Shelanu
April 30 No BBRS
May 5 BBRS Kabbalat Shabbat
May 13 Shabbat Shelanu
May 14 & 16 No BBRS
May 21 BBRS Closing Ceremony

TiCHoN

Tichon grades 8-10 continues to explore Jewish Identity as it relates to various topics. The last session will be on May 9.

Tichon grades 10-12 are invited to Rabbi Ari & Gila Isenberg's house for BRUNCH and a celebration of Israel's 75th on Sunday, April 30, 9:30-10:45 am.

And we will bid a fond farewell to all of our 12th graders during Kabbalat Shabbat services on June 2.

Rabbi Julie Schwarzwald

YOUTH GROUPS

Chaverim and Kadima (grades 3 through 8) had a blast at Funplex on Sunday, March 12! This trip was funded by the Burk-Mendlovitz Youth Fund.

CHAVErIM

April 18

May 9

June 5 Youth Group Shabbat

KADIMA

April 16

April 25

May 2

June 5 Youth Group Shabbat

USY

April 20

April 27

May 5 Youth Group Shabbat

May 11

May 24 Elections

June 1

Greetings from USY! As Purim has come to a close, we thought it would be a great time to update the congregation on how our year as a chapter has been. From tikkun olam events to fall festivities, there's a lot to cover—buckle up!

Our chapter has always tried to focus on charity and

fundraising opportunities, and this year was no different. Our tikkun olam goals were met and exceeded, in no small part thanks to generous donations from the congregation itself. We had an exciting merchandise auction as well, with all kinds of cool clothes from years past up for grabs. During one of our tikkun olam events, we made blankets and menstrual health kits to donate to those in need. However we can, we do our best to make the world around us a better place.

When we aren't meeting fundraising goals, USY has plenty of other activities to offer. This fall, we went on our annual apple and pumpkin picking trip, relishing some great weather and company. This February, the weather got colder and the plot got thicker as we hosted our very own murder mystery dinner—and don't worry, we found the killer! From decorating cupcakes to making delicious pizzas, we always like to have some culinary fun. When we learn about Israel, we go all out with a scavenger hunt and tasty Israeli snacks. And don't forget the games! A year of USY would never be complete without game nights spent playing Scattergories, our favorite game in recent memory. There's just nothing like it. Our chapter as a whole has been fantastic this year, with great attendance and enthusiasm. We have an increasing regional presence in the chapter and hope to spread Millburn USY's spirit around Hagalil. Thanks for reading!

Seth Abrams
MillbUSY President

**CELEBRATE
ISRAEL
PARADE**

**SUNDAY
JUNE 4**

Israel @ 75: Hagiga B'Yisrael

March with CBI in the NYC Celebrate Israel Parade

Bus will leave CBI late morning and return late afternoon
ALL ages are welcome ~ perfect for families!**CBI Bagel Breakfast & Poster Making**

Before the parade, come for a "schmear" and poster making fun for the whole family ~ whether you go to the parade or not!

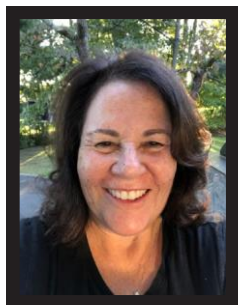


We will find out our leaving and returning times as we get closer, but typically we leave in the late morning and return about 4-5 hours later. The parade route is only 2 miles and easily walkable by all ages. Your registration fee of \$18 per person (\$54 family max) includes bagel breakfast, parade t-shirt, bottled water, and bus ride. Or come just for the bagel breakfast and poster making (\$6 per family - \$18 family max).

REGISTER HERE: www.tinyurl.com/israelparade2023For more information, contact Rabbi Julie, rabbijulie@cbi-nj.org or Dan Dovdavyan, dandov@yahoo.com**CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL**160 Millburn Avenue ~ Millburn, NJ 07041
www.cbi-nj.org ~ 973-379-3811

SiSTeRHood'S MeSSAGe

By Lisa Friedman, Sisterhood President



Dear Friends,

We have just gathered together in our cherished tradition for Sisterhood Shabbat. The warmth and exuberance demonstrated during our Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning services by so many Sisterhood participants was both inspirational and beautiful.

Masterfully led by Co-chairs Miriam Linver and Jody Reich, everything was simply perfect. We were:

- elevated by an original poem written by Hope Atlas.
- moved by the chanting and singing of new and traditional melodies.
- touched by the beautiful flowers donated by past Sisterhood Presidents in Linda Lakin's memory.
- inspired by our many Torah readers, prayer leaders, D'var Torah speakers, with so many women growing and stretching to develop skills and refine others.
- roused by the spirited and fun performance of the Sisterhood players, especially the appearance made by "Prince". Shout out to Meryl Hubscher, Ruth Novick and Laurie Kavowras for their creativity!
- appreciative of the Israeli theme evident in the beautiful program designed by Alia Covell, decorations created by Lisa Erlich, delicious Israeli food organized by Laurie Kavowras, Sharon Richmond and Karen Tucker.
- grateful for the assistance of our ushers, Gabbai, and our CBI staff for all of their behind the scenes help.
- exhilarated by those that led services so wonderfully and all those that supported and celebrated together.

We are especially grateful for the many efforts of Cantor Wallach and Rabbi Isenberg who tirelessly supported and encouraged every participant. Cantor Wallach even suggested the creative idea for all of us to wear blue and white. Thank you for everything.

Our unbelievably talented co-chairs, Miriam Linver and Jody Reich managed Sisterhood Shabbat with grace, leadership, kindness and aplomb. Our services were seamless and beautiful due to Miriam and Jody's many,

many efforts. Yasher Koach to Miriam and Jody!

With Much Appreciation,

Lisa Friedman

Sisterhood President

Friedman139@aol.com

Here are a few of the many words from our CBI community that highlight the spirit of Sisterhood Shabbat.

"I have always loved being part of Sisterhood Shabbat and it was wonderful to be in person again".

"Everything was seamless and you involved so many people. Very impressive. A wonderful sisterhood Shabbat."

"I am so proud and inspired by what you accomplished! Incredible participation! It was a great example and reminder of what makes CBI special!"

It was wonderful to see so many participants and such ruach.

What a joyous day!

Our women made us proud and you made it happen.

We could feel the energy among the attendees and the enthusiasm and pride on the part of the Sisterhood members."

"It was a memorable Shabbat, full of joy and the warmth of community ties."

"Felt the energy of our women shining and supporting each other."

"It was a very uplifting and meaningful experience to be part of Sisterhood Shabbat."

Please enjoy the poem written by Hope Atlas, which was read during Sisterhood Shabbat:

Israel

Israel Dreams shared and realized.
Israel our home,
The Jewish people's homeland.
Let us share our love with generations to
come,
L'dor V'dor.
Let our love blossom into a beautiful
flower,
each petal telling a story, a memory:
Our people's story.
Our love for Israel.

Come sing the Sh'ma! Let
all hear your powerful
gentle voice,
singing with conviction:
Your song of unity and faith.
The colors of our emotions blend.
Our tears shift tone, depth.
Our strength and
self-determination
defy our enemies.
Our faith is a journey:
Beginnings, endings,
twisted turns.
A maze of
Prayers,
songs,
fellowship.
Israel is our family.
You are family. copyright ©

2023Hope Atlas



Enjoy delicious challah each week and support
CBI Preschool!

Challah is delivered to CBI each week by
Wednesday and sent home with your child or
available for pick up. Many varieties available;
only \$102 for the weeks of February 3-June 16!



To order: bit.ly/cbichallah

Have questions? Contact Rabbi Julie,
RabbiJulie@cbi-nj.org or 973-262-3717



Shabbat Youth Programs are open to all CBI families and friends from near and
far! Please email RabbiJulie@cbi-nj.org to register.

SHABBAT K'TANIM: Saturday
mornings, 11:00-11:45 am.
Join Rabbi Ari and Gila
Isenberg and Rabbi Julie for
a 45-minute family service
followed by lunch for all.

BIM BAM SHABBAT: Friday
afternoons, 4:30-5:00 pm. A
special Shabbat experience
with Rabbi Julie, Cantor
Wallach, and Rabbi Isenberg
just for 0-5 year olds and
their adult companions,
usually followed by dinner.

APRIL

15 Shabbat K'tanim
21 Bim Bam Shabbat
22 Shabbat K'tanim

MAY

5 Bim Bam Shabbat
6 Shabbat K'tanim
27 Shabbat K'tanim

MeN'S CLUB

By David Touger and Craig Rothman,
Men's Club Co-Presidents



David Touger and Craig Rothman

We are just coming off an amazing Men's Club Shabbat. We had over 150 members at our Friday night dinner, from our youngest to our oldest and all ages in between. It was a wonderful night of eating, singing and a moving prayer service. Shabbat morning we had over 80 people at services, and to enjoy our delicious luncheon. For all those who attended - thank you for coming! And for those of you who missed it, hope to see you at our next event on Sunday, April 16th at 10:00AM for the Men's Club Annual Paid up breakfast in memory of Howard Greenwald, Juan Katz and Jose Kesselman. We are thrilled to welcome our guest speaker, Eric Holtz, of Westchester County, the developer and coach of the miraculous Israeli Olympic Baseball Team, 2021. A former baseball player, including a stint with Israel's Bet Shemish Blue Sox, he fulfilled a lifelong dream of bringing Israeli baseball to the world stage. His talk will reveal the many obstacles

to doing this. After all, he needed a roster of 30 accomplished Jewish baseball players from the professional ranks and the Israeli government to agree. Coach Holtz guides us through that process through an incredible motivational David vs. Goliath monologue. His story is one of never giving up and his overriding love for Israel. This program is free for Men's Club members and \$5.00 for everyone else. So come on down Sunday morning and get yourself a great breakfast and hear a wonderful exciting speaker.

Sunday, April 16th is also Opening Day of our Men's Club Softball season (don't worry the game will be over before the breakfast). Our team is gearing up to get ready to go out and enjoy another successful season. If you have interest in playing or know someone who does just contact Craig or myself and we will be happy to get you all the information you will need. We have a lot of fun, win or lose, so get in touch and sign up! All games are Sunday mornings at 9:00AM, and are played on fields located in Livingston. Games take about an hour to play.

We look forward to seeing you at all upcoming Men's Club events may all of you go from strength to strength.

David Touger,
dtouger@aol.com
Craig Rothman
craig231rothman@gmail.com
Men's Club Co-Presidents

President

continued from page 12

serve as our seudah shlishit (the third festive meal for shabbat), entertainment by a great Jewish comedian, a Havdallah service to close out Shabbat and dessert to cap off the evening. It promises to be a great evening and I hope to see you on May 13! Even if you cannot attend, I hope you can donate to this important fundraiser.

As others have done before us, we will be called upon to help build CBI's future. The 100th anniversary committee is busy planning for our extended celebration of our centennial. We plan to make this a major fundraiser that is similar to capital campaigns of the past with a goal of paying down our mortgage and easing pressure on our annual budget. Please also consider legacy giving and

joining our Legacy Circle. I'd like to acknowledge a major donation we recently received from the charitable remainder trust for Lawrence and Judith Churgin. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we are deeply grateful for this gift and we appreciate the commitment to CBI. As we build on the energy in our preschool and welcome new families to CBI, we continue to rely on the support of our established members to keep our community strong.

Looking forward to good times together,

Jamey Potechin



To contact Jamey Potechin,
email him at cbipresident@cbi-nj.org



THE MUSIC OF THE KADDISH

WITH LEN HAUSMAN

APRIL 3RD AND 10TH

9:30-10:30 AM

Kaddish is the most frequently recited prayer in all of Jewish liturgy punctuating every service, up to 13 times daily! Yet it is the prayer most closely associated with death and mourning. In these two classes we will learn about the music of Kaddish, both in its traditional liturgical functions, and as focus of non-liturgical musical settings from the Renaissance to the 21st century.



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 4-session module we will be celebrating Israel's 75th birthday as we focus on the birth of the State of Israel and its first decade. We will review song lyrics in translation as we explore their context and meaning. The Hebrew text will be available and we will learn some key Hebrew words in the lyrics. 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.

Meeting ID for BOTH CLASSES: 846 976 70924 // Call office for PW



Shabbat Soulcial

Dinner. Prayer. Singing. Fun.

Community SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, April 21

Bim Bam Shabbat for Young Families at 5:30 p.m.

Community Shabbat Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

One Seating for All – Pizza, Pasta & Salad!

Kid-friendly, vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options.

Yom Hashoah Presentation at 6:45 p.m.

Lilli Finkler will present slides of her mother's paintings reflecting her memories of life in Europe before, during and after the Shoah

Kabbalat Shabbat Yaldeinu b'Yachad Service at 7:30 p.m.

In Sanctuary & on Zoom with our Yaldeinu Families

Dessert Oneg following Service

NO COST ... but we need you to register by Monday, April 17

Go to cbi-nj.org to RSVP!

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

A generous donor has underwritten the cost of this Shabbat Dinner.

If you have an upcoming simcha, a birthday, an anniversary, a graduation or any life cycle event, please consider sponsoring a future Shabbat dinner, so that we can continue to offer them free of charge to the entire CBI community.

Groups of families can join to sponsor a dinner together. Please contact Henry Bloom at hdbloom@hotmail.com.



CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL

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



Commemoration of

Yom Ha'atzmaut / Israel Independence Day
Yom HaZikaron / Israel Memorial Day

Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Followed by Ma'ariv Service and Dessert Reception

Can We Fall in Love Again?

Israeli and American Jews Finding New Connections
The Promise and Perils of Relations between Israel and Diaspora Jewry

special presentation with

Rabbi Naamah Kelman & Elan Ezrachi, PhD



Elan Ezrachi and Naamah Kelman are a husband-and-wife team. Together and separately they cover a wide range of contemporary Jewish and Israeli issues. Based in Jerusalem, they have been involved for more than 40 years as professionals and lay people in critical areas of Jewish life.

Naamah, the Dean of Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, is the first woman to be ordained as rabbi in Israel (1992) and one of the leaders of the Israeli Reform movement. Elan, the founding CEO of Masa – Israel Journey, is an educational specialist in the area of Jewish peoplehood, and the author of *Awakened Dream – 50 Years of Complex Unification of Jerusalem* (in Hebrew). He currently teaches at the University of Haifa.



Have your (cheese) Cake and Eat it Too!

Thursday, May 25th 7:00 – 10:00 pm

Explore Food's importance in Jewish culture, identity, and ritual.

Save the date for our

Tikkun Leil Shavout (Evening of Learning)

If you're interested in leading a short lesson, contact Susan Gordon at
gordonsusancbi@gmail.com

iSRAeL AFFAIRS

By Joe Tenenbaum



Some News Concerning israel

As I wrote in my last report the composition of the new Israeli government has created a complicated situation. As I write this, there have been demonstrations against the government for 11 weeks running, with the size of the demonstrations continuing to grow. The focus of the demonstrations appears to be a set of Judicial reforms which the Coalition (the government) has proposed. The stated purpose of these reforms is to alter the balance of power between the Legislative branch (the Knesset and the Government) and the Judiciary.

I have struggled to understand why these reforms have created such a huge firestorm, but I think I am close to understanding it. I have spent some time trying to figure out why the intensity of this battle is so fierce. I've talked to some people when I was in Israel; I've read articles and listened to a lot of podcasts.

Since the 1990's the Israeli Supreme Court has begun to review government policies and Knesset legislation and has sometimes ruled that the procedures or laws are illegal. This government is trying to realign the power structure by increasing the government's ability to choose judges, and by creating a power within the Knesset to override Supreme Court rulings.

I believe on the surface that establishing written rules defining the power of the courts is a step forward – the Israeli situation is complicated by the fact that the country has never agreed to a constitution, or established a procedure to define what rules can be used by the court to challenge government actions and legislation.

However, the initial proposals leave the courts with reduced powers, and leave the Knesset with few written restraints. This shift is frightening to many in the opposition, and many members of the public who do not support the government are disturbed by extreme proposals and statements by prominent ministers. They worry that without a strong Court system, there will be no restraints on the government and that this will harm Israel and its democratic ideals.

But the supporters of the changes know that they just won an election; that they have had issues with the unrestrained

power of the courts for many years, and do not see the need to yield policy goals to accommodate those who just lost the election.

Add in stubbornness on both sides, a reluctance to negotiate and the result is the current situation. Out of respect for the future of the State of Israel, I hope that our friends can understand that constitutional issues of this type should be developed together, to restore balance to the government system, but also to define limits to address concerns of the opposition.

I am sure it's more complicated than this, but I hope I have helped you understand both sides of the issues.

our Next Trip to israel

If you've been reading my columns, you know that Nancy and I have been making a lot of trips to Israel (particularly since the Corona restrictions have been eased, and then lifted).

But our next trip will be different.

We have all the approvals from the government of Israel, and with our next trip, we will become citizens of the Jewish State of Israel.

This is great on a personal level, and on a spiritual and historical level.

Personally we are thrilled to be able to spend so much time with our daughter Stephanie, and her family in Israel: Barak, Shaked, Noga and Adar. The time we have spent in Zichron Ya'akov the last two years, have convinced us that living in the same town with our grandchildren and becoming a part of their everyday life will positively affect the children, their parents and us. And we look forward to building a new life in this great town.

To me, the history and the power of living in a Jewish state is also so exciting. Jews have waited over 2000 years for an opportunity to live in our historical homeland and I believe that this is a completion of a dream of ancestors we never knew, and some that we did know. I particularly believe that this fulfills the ideals which my grandmother Celia Kritzler was honoring when she planted a tree in Israel through the JNF tree fund in honor of my birth over 70 years ago, when the State of Israel was still so new.

I think back to the first time I travelled to Israel in 2003, on a trip co-sponsored by CBI and the Ziv Tzedakah fund. I

travelled with Stephanie, and with my mother, Joie Tenenbaum. I am so grateful to Rabbi Bayar, to Naomi Eisenberger and to Danny Siegel who led that first trip.

I've learned a lot as we have gone through the Aliyah process. Feel free to contact me and I will gladly share with you what I have learned. If you, or members of your family are interested in Aliyah, or if you just want to hear about it. Let's talk.

A book recommendation, and an event to attend

I recently purchased a wonderful book about Israel, Israel 201. The book is written by two Israeli comedians who made Aliyah from the United States, Joel Chasnoff and Benji Lovitt. The book is not a book about policy or about conflict but about living in Israel. It is not principally a funny book, but it has its moments (particularly the chapter about mangled Hebrew phrases).

I found the book and began reading it before I realized the Joel Chasnoff will be appearing at CBI as the headliner of the Cocktails and Comedy Benefit on May 13.

I encourage you to read the book, and to attend the event.

israel Affairs Committee

We continue to seek volunteers to help lead the way as CBI returns to more in person pro-Israel activities – including the Celebrate Israel Parade, being held this year on June 4 in NYC.

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, call 973-768-7440 or email him at TenenbaumJ@AOL.com

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Isobel Kahn

Honoring the Yahrzeit of your loved one is as important to you as it is for the CBI clergy and administrative team. if you have noticed an error with your Yahrzeit records, please reach out to Joi Noel at Jnoel@cbi-nj.org or by phone at 973-379-3811.

TRIBUTE THROUGH FEBRUARY 2023

If you wish to send a tribute please call the main office at 973-379-3811 ext.112 or email: jleberg@cbi-nj.org.

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 ☞ Carol & Bob Marcus
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 ☞ Sharon Richman
The Lakin Family - In memory of Linda Lakin
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Henry Bloom & Helaine Ettinger - In honor of your 30th anniversary
 ☞ Margot Cohane
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Karen Tucker
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 ☞ Dan Dovdavy
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 ☞ Howard Kessler
Dan Dovdavy - In memory of Michael Dovdavy
 ☞ Melissa & Eric Kanter
Dan Dovdavy - In memory of Michael Dovdavy
 ☞ Roz & Jed Buck
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Kenny & Laurie Kavowras - In Memory of Mona Lee Kavowras
 ☞ The Wining Family
Leslie & Barry Dashefsky - Thank you for leading a meaningful minyan
 ☞ Terry Hofflich
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 ☞ The Kanarek family
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Rahel Lubow - In Memory of Dr. Michael Cahn
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 ☞ Ellie Garry & family

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Cantor Wallach - Thank you for being with us during our time of need
 ☞ The Dovdavy Family

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In Memory of Rose Kaplan (mother)
 ☞ Elayne Feig

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 ☞ Lori & Larry Pitkowski

Cantor Wallach - Thank you for your inspiring invocation at Millburn Township Swearing In
 ☞ Michael Cohen

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 ☞ Ellen Garber

Sue Turk - In Memory of Mike Turk
 ☞ Harriet & Paul Klein

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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.

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