

THE Menorah

N E W S L E T T E R

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A Message From Our Rabbi

by Rabbi Debra Orenstein

TELL ME YOUR STORY

In the last few weeks, several people asked to come and speak with me about their Jewish journeys. One actually used that language: would I meet her for breakfast so that she could tell me about her Jewish journey? The most important meal of the day and the most important conversation of the day, combined? Wonderful!



In Rabbinical School, I took a class entitled Spiritual Autobiography. Among other assignments and approaches, we read Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's writings and biography, entering as deeply and mindfully as we could into his story. Then, each student wrote an "autobiography" - as Heschel. We read and were amazed by each other's work. How differently each of us told the story!

Recently, I was speaking with a Bat Mitzvah student about the figures in her Torah portion. While some of them could be labeled "powerful," she noted that each of them could tell a story of victimhood, too. And even the most victimized character had a great deal of power, when you mined the story for all its meanings and subtleties.

I was impressed to see a 13-year-old reach this understanding. It takes most of us many more years than that to accept that everyone has a complex story to tell - of both empowerment and disempowerment.

Heschel's father died when he was 9. He fled Poland just six weeks before the Nazi invasion. His mother and three of his sisters died in the Holocaust. He was given a haven by American Jewish seminaries (first HUC and then JTS), but sometimes mocked and certainly never fully appreciated for his gifts. He died of pneumonia after venturing out in the bitter cold to visit an imprisoned colleague. Depressing, no?

Yet Heschel, as we all know, had extraordinary relationships - with his beloved wife, Sylvia; with his daughter, Susannah, who, following in her father's footsteps, became a theologian; with friends, including Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and with generations of students. He taught at Union Theological Seminary (a Christian Seminary), as well as Jewish Theological Seminary. The Christians understood and esteemed him more during his lifetime. He influenced Presidents and heads of state, and made an impact in the media. He was a moving force in the civil rights and anti-war movements. The visit that brought on his final illness was to a colleague who had been protesting the Vietnam war. Heschel left a priceless legacy of wisdom and good deeds. Uplifting, yes?

It is important to tell our stories, and it is important to consider *how* we tell our stories.

My son, Emmett, recently had an assignment to write a personal narrative. The hardest part for him was choosing the topic. He lamented that hardly anything he could remember rose to the level of interest or importance that he deemed necessary for an autobiographical essay. As a mom, I could think of dozens of exciting and special moments - even moments of Divine providence, but sometimes it's hard to see these in your own life. That is one reason why it is so important to share our stories with one another.

Emmett's dilemma reminded me of an essay my brother wrote at age 9 (forty years ago), about his "boring" summer vacation. My mother saved the essay, which includes the lines: "I hardly did anything except go to Russia, Vienna, and Israel. In Russia, my sisters ate bread and water, and I ate nothing."

My parents took my siblings and me to visit refusniks. We smuggled in books, saw the Bolshoi Ballet, and were followed by the KGB. We then traveled with a group of Russian Jews who had received their exit visas, through Vienna, to Israel, where they kissed the tarmac at Ben Gurion airport. Even at the time, I would not have called that boring. In fairness, however, food was scarce in Moscow and (at the time) Leningrad. My

CANTOR'S CORNER

by Cantor Lenny Mandel

Vayechal elohim bayom hashvi'i melachto asher asah. Vayishbot bayom hashvi'i ... And on the seventh day G-d had finished His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day ...



Shabbes, Shabbat, the Sabbath no matter what you call it, it's the day G-d sat back, looked at the all that He created, and exhaled. Yet it seems that many of you just keep holding your breaths on Shabbat.

Friday night services were always CBI's forte and we'd get a minimum of 30 people every week; that's not the case now. We're not pointing fingers because of the smallish turnouts we get on Friday nights as there's no blame here. People have moved away, or gotten older and find driving at night difficult, some have been taken from us and a major factor in the decline of attendance at services is that the demographics of our synagogue have changed. We have lots of new families with lots of kids, and Friday night is a night to either stay at home or go out for a family dinner.

I think that's a great idea, and if you have that dinner early, you can still make it to Shul and unwind as part of the CBI community, as part of the CBI family.

I'm not asking you to have a Challah in your home and make a Motzi, nor am I asking you to pour some wine and say Borey Pri HaGafen on Friday nights although doing both of those prayers would be fabulous and not only bring some Shabbes into your homes, but teach your kids that Shabbes (no matter what else you do that day) is a special day. If for that reason only, it's worth the five minutes.

In 2009 we began our Casual Shabbat services, and our sanctuary overflowed; now we do about eight a year. I love writing them and more than that LOVE

watching our sanctuary fill up with our congregants from ages 6 to 86.

Jeans, Tye Dye T-shirts, funny hats, or baseball gear. All of us singing together, no, praying together although it's not the musical formulae that our ancestors knew.

To quote some lines from Martha and the Vandellas:

"All we need is music, sweet music.

There'll be music everywhere.

There'll be swinging and swaying ...,

Oh, it doesn't matter what you wear,

Just as long as you are there.

So come on, every guy, grab a girl.

Everywhere around the world..."

Y'all know that I hate dirges and many of you smile as I pound my shtender (lectern) quickening the beat of our prayers.

You have some ideas for casual Shabbat services? Bring 'em to me. I'll be more than happy to create a service based on them.

Sheryl Silver and I have been talking about how to get more tushies in CBI's seats since she was our president, and when we spoke last week she made a fabulous comment, that I will paraphrase.

Make CBI your home on Shabbat, because your being there makes it so much more special. So think about it. Have dinner earlier, spend an hour with your CBI family, take that time once a week to sit back and unwind with no distractions: no TV, no computer, no work.

(tune of –"We Need a Little X-mas")

'Cause we need a little Shabbes,

Every week a Shabbes,

sit around the table, eat soup with a kneidel in it....

love to have you Shabbes, Every week a Shabbes.

rest and relaxation now.

If G-d worked six days, and He's G-d, and He exhaled, you should too!

THE Menorah

NEWSLETTER
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53 Palisade Ave., Emerson, NJ 07630

Temple Office: (201) 265-2272
Rabbi Debra Orenstein (201) 265-2272
Cantor Lenny Mandel (973) 325-1778
Cantor Emeritus Sidney Derner
Temple Fax (201) 265-0971
Temple Website www.bisrael.com
Temple E-Mail office@bisrael.com

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Articles due 5th of preceding month. E-mail articles to Menorah@bisrael.com. Questions? Call 201-768-9661.

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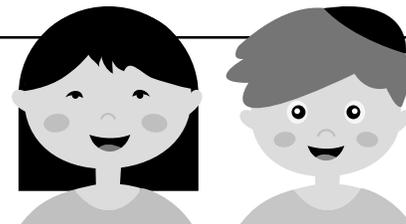
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The Principal's Pen

by Karen Weiss, Principal

Lori Cohen, Emily Perlman, & Samantha Segal, Education Co-Chairs



Shalom from the Education Committee. On Sunday November 1st The Dalet class had their first kehillah session and the topic was Mitzvot, or commandments. They were exposed to different charities and organizations that help people and children here and in Israel. They learned how to become active participants in their Jewish community. The morning was enjoyed by all!

We are still riding high from the wonderful Chanukah concert and shopping event on **November 15**. We hope you enjoyed it too. It is hard to believe that Chanukah is upon us. As the Dalet class learned, central among the tenets of Judaism is the concept of Tzedakah. This time of year affords many opportunities for the children of the Religious School to engage in different areas of charity. We also encourage you to participate in an act of Tzedakah. Give of your time by volunteering to be a class parent. Give money to people who may not have enough to purchase clothing, food, books, and other essentials. Give a hand to your community who may need you to make a minyan on Friday night, Saturday morning, or Sunday morning. Here are some important dates and reminders, and, added bonus, they all involve the opportunity for you to perform Tzedakah.

- On **Friday, December 4** All Hey student are required to attend Erev Shabbat services at **7:30pm**.
- **Saturday, December 5** at **5pm** will be a very special Havdalah service. All Prozdor students and their families are required to attend, but all are welcome and encouraged

to attend!

- **Tuesday, December 8 at 5:30pm** is the Night of Giving Chanukah program followed by candle lighting immediately following Hebrew school. All are invited to attend this very special and spiritually uplifting event.
- On **Saturday, December 12** from **10am to 11am** Shabbat services will be at the Jewish Home for Assisted Living in River Vale. This is a required service for all Dalet and Hey class students, but if you have never attended a service at JHAL you should consider attending. Your presence is a true act of Tzedakah.
- On **Sunday, December 20** from **11am to 11:30am** we will have PARENT VISITATION-All parents are invited to their student's class to visit and observe from 11:00am-11:30am.

While Religious School will be on Winter Break from **Sunday December 27-Sunday January 3, 2016**, resuming on **Tuesday, January 5**, we would like you to mark your calendars now for a few important events in January. **Sunday, January 10** will be Parent meeting #2. Our principal Karen Weiss will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about your child's religious education. We also have a special event scheduled for **Sunday, January 17 at 9:30am** when our very own Israel Tripsters will give a presentation to whole school following Sunday morning minyan. There are many more events to come. Please check your religious school calendar and the Shul Schmooz for reminders. We look forward to seeing you in the Religious School wing!

RABBI/from page 1

brother contracted giardia and lost ten pounds.

What is the story of *your* Jewish journey? Your biography includes the "obviously" Jewish parts (like Hebrew School and Passover seders and trips to Israel) and the parts that may be less-obviously Jewish – e.g., perhaps your social activism, like Heschel's, is based in a prophetic sense of right and wrong; or your career choice of law stemmed from a values- and Torah-based commitment to justice; or maybe your love of music helps you connect to Spirit.

Where is the power in your story? Where is the grace of God in your story? Where is community in your story?

One midrash tells the story of two friends who crossed the Sea of Reeds at the time of the

Exodus. Looking down, they complained about the mud they had to slog through, and how it seeped into their sandals and stained the bottom of their robes. They were so busy complaining to each other about the muck, the crowds, and the weather, that they never looked up to see the walls of water that towered above them on either side. The miracle was right there, but they didn't witness it, and so they reached the other side, wondering what all the fuss was about.

Before *we* cross over to the other side, let's look up, see the miracles, and tell the full and true story of our journeys.

In the meantime, if you are available for breakfast and want to share your Jewish journey, I would love to meet with you.

QUESTION:

How do you spell the upcoming holiday of lights? Try to see how many different ways it is spelled in all the places it's mentioned in this issue!

SISTERS IN THE HOOD

by Andrea Collier & Tracy Ganbarg, Sisterhood Co-Chairs

In October, many of us participated in The Great Big Challah Bake sponsored by WIZO and Jewish Journeys, to benefit



programs in Israel for survivors of domestic violence and for children. Over 1,000 women came together in one room to make challah together. It was quite an experience and a lot of fun.

We all went home with two challahs to bake, and they were quite delicious!

Our Pink Shabbat was a wonderful service that provided education on the particular genetic risks Jewish women may have for breast and ovarian cancer, and how it affects families. We also heard inspirational poems and prayers, and even got to do a little yoga! Thank you to Rabbi Orenstein and Cantor Mandel for helping with the service, and to all the ladies who participated.

Coming up on **Thursday, December 3rd**, we are all becoming artists at Fauxtime Design in Closter. This event will be held from 7-9pm. We hope to see many of you there for a fun evening. It's a great way to relax, make new friends and get creative.

Don't forget your Sisterhood membership dues if you have not already sent them in. We are counting on you!

Have a wonderful Chanukah and winter break!

SISTERHOOD AND 'ONE BOOK ONE COMMUNITY' SPECIAL EVENT

As part of our partnership with the One Book One Community synagogue leadership initiative of the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey we will be welcoming Dr. Sylvia Orenstein, mother of our beloved rabbi, who will be speaking at CBI on **Sunday, December 20, 2015, 3 PM – 4:30 PM**

about the Rebirth of the Jews of Russia. She will talk about her trips to the former Soviet Union, beginning in 1959, when she met the first Russian Jew to request an exit visa, and then continue through encounters in 1972, 1982, 1983 [as the interpreter for the Jewish Publishers at the Book Fair in

Moscow], 1990 [as delegate to the first Conference on Law and Economic Development co-sponsored by the American Bar Association and the Ministry of Justice of the Soviet Union], and 1993 [as part of a team to set up a Ramah Camp, 30 kilometers outside of the capital]. During all these trips,

Dr. Orenstein was privileged to get to know the remarkable Jews of Russia in their struggle to be free to practice their heritage. Of course, as is our CBI tradition Russian desserts will be served and will be accompanied by music familiar to our brethren and sisters in the Soviet Union.

RITUAL

by Audrey Bida, Judy Schoenfeld & Joyce Schreiber, Ritual Co-Chairs



The weather outside may be chilly, but the climate inside B'nai Israel is as warm and inviting as ever. We look forward to your support of our Hey class, **Friday December 4**, when they will be called upon to lead the Erev Shabbat service at 7:30pm.



Thursday, December 3, 1:00pm – 2:00pm LUNCH AND LEARN with Rabbi Orenstein. **"MY PRAYER BOOK"** Learn the history of the prayers and how the prayer book developed. Question and explore the theology that is recorded and reflected in our siddur. We will also study the Talmud Tractate Berechot,



blessings, to learn more about Rabbinic perspective on prayer. *Please bring a dairy or pareve lunch.*

Saturday evening, December 5, at 5:00pm Rabbi Orenstein will lead a "Pajama Havdalah" for our 7 and under children and their parents. Saying farewell to Shabbat with the beautiful Havdalah candles and the scent of spices is a wonderful way to welcome the new week. Rabbi Orenstein will also engage the children, (and adults) in special stories

and songs. What would any event be without delicious snacks? Kids (and adults) are invited to come in your PJs or a robe and bring a favorite stuffed animal.

Sunday evening, December 6, we light our first Chanukah candle. Hebrew School will have a special Chanukah program along with Chanukah candle lighting on **Tuesday, December 8 at 5:30pm.**

Friday evening, December 11, 6:30pm is our annual CHANUKAH DINNER sponsored by Men's Club. Come hungry! Chanukah songs and games will add to the festivities, followed by services at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 12, 10:00am – 11:00am we will all meet at the Jewish Home For Assisted Living, 685 Westwood Avenue for services with the Residents. The Dalet and Hey class will assist the Rabbi during these services. A lovely Kiddush provided by the Home will be served after services. It is a nice time to mingle with the residence.

Saturday, December 19: Come be part of *a Shabbat Experience Service*, where Rabbi Orenstein will introduce us to a **"Mystical Shabbat"**. Read more about this special Shabbat in another section of the Menorah.

We wish everyone a Happy Chanukah!

The President's Pen

by Nancy Passow, President

*"Light one candle for the Maccabee children -- With thanks their light didn't die;
Light one candle for the pain they endured -- When their right to exist was denied;
Don't let the light go out -- It's lasted for so many years!;
Don't let the light go out! -- Let it shine through our love and our tears."*

"Light One Candle" by Peter Yarrow
(Peter, Paul, & Mary)

I'm writing this just after my return from our trip to Israel, so "Light One Candle" resonates for so many reasons, not just that we celebrate Chanukah this month. Being in Israel, seeing that it is a real place with real people, and seeing places that we learned about in Bible stories, is amazing. We saw archaeological sites from the Hasmonean era (that era started with the Maccabees). Not to mention seeing all of the olive trees – where that precious olive oil came from. You will be seeing lots about our trip to Israel, but I want to share just a few thoughts.



It took me a very long time to visit Israel – my first trip was this past January, for a cousin's wedding. And I returned a mere ten months later for the CBI trip. Not sure when my next trip will be, but there is already a list of things we didn't get to do

on the last trip. It's hard to put into words how I feel about Israel. By no means is Israel perfect. When I was in Israel in January, my daughter and I attended Shabbat morning services at the Conservative Synagogue. I was given an aliyah and, when I went up, I told the Rabbi it was my first time in Israel. He looked at me and said, "What took so long? Welcome home." And, yes, I did feel like I was home. When you see the soldiers – who are so young – you feel a sense of pride, mixed with apprehension for them. They are determined to keep Israel safe for all Jews, to make sure that the light never goes out.

Plan to spend some time at CBI this December. Our Adult Ed "Lunch & Learn" focusing on the prayer book, is **Thursday, December 3**, from 1pm to 2pm. Hey Class is leading the Erev Shabbat service on **Friday, December 4**. CBI will be celebrating Chanukah and giving on **Tuesday, December 8**, with the Hebrew School (and anyone else who can be there), and on **Friday, December 11**, for our annual Chanukah Dinner (sponsored by Men's Club). The first Share and Care Shabbat at JHAL in River Vale, NJ, is on **Saturday, December 12**. Significant Seniors are meeting on **Thursday, December 17**, at 1:30pm. Mystical Shabbat is **Saturday, December 19**. And of course there are Sunday minyans and bagel breakfasts, more Friday night Erev Shabbat services, and Saturday morning Shabbat services. Join us – don't let the light go out, keep the flame burning at CBI for our community and for Israel.

GREETINGS FROM THE CBI MEN'S CLUB

by Dave Bloom & David Gordon, Men's Club Co-Chairs

Thanks to all who joined us for our annual NFL Chinese Food dinner. A great time was had by all.

CBI celebrates Chanukah with our annual dinner on Friday, December 11 starting at 6:30PM. The evening will feature songs, games, and lots-a-latkes - a wonderful time for the whole family. Bring Bubbe and Zayde, your cousins from Great Neck, and your neighbors! Dreidels supplied!

For more information, to join or volunteer, contact David & Dave at mensclub.chair@bisrael.com.



Kehillah

By Ella Glastein and Harlee Hayden

On November 1, 2015, we arrived at the JCC in Paramus for a program called Kehillah. There were 6th graders from other temples there too. We would like to share with you what we learned about different mitzvah programs.

The students who shared their stories taught us about what they did as a mitzvah project. They really explained what being a part of the Jewish community is all about. The Jewish community is important to young adults, like us, so we can learn the importance of being a Jew.

The class we were in included learning about The Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association, (INTRA). This program is for people who have mental or emotional disabilities. It allows them to ride horses. It shows them how to have personal strength and to have some fun even while riding animals. We watched a video that showed us how kids and adults with disabilities can be distracted from what they can't do in life. There was one girl in the video who has cerebral palsy. She really stood out to us. She couldn't keep herself up with good posture unless she was in her wheelchair. After a couple of lessons of horseback riding she was able to keep herself up in the saddle on the horse.

Another part of the program we did was called Tshmu Shabbats. Ross, our teacher, talked all about examples of Tzedakah and Chesed. Giving Tzedakah means to raise money or give your own money to people or countries in need. Chesed is when you give your time not your money to people who need help, or to those who have disabilities, so that they get to have some fun with those who support them. An example of giving Tzedakah is when my family and I set up a lemonade stand. With the money we raised, we gave it to our Hebrew school for them to send it to a temple located in Israel that was in need of supplies. An example

KEHILLAH/continued on page 8



FOCUS ON ISRAEL

WINTER WONDERLAND

Despite the wave of terror activities taking place in Israel and often because of those activities, tourists continue to flock to Israel in support of the country.

There are lots of events that draw people to Israel during the winter months. Here are a few happenings just for December!

Between the cities of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv sits the smaller city of Modi'in which is believed to have been the home of our Chanukah heroes, the Maccabees. It is here that the annual Chanukah Torch Relay begins. People line the road from Modi'in to the Old City of Jerusalem passing a burning torch from hand to hand until it reaches the giant *chanukia* (Chanukah menorah) at the *Kotel* (Western Wall). During this season, the traditional foods of the holiday include latkes, *sufganiot* (fried doughnuts filled with jelly or other more exotic fillings), fried honey puffs, *svinge* (Moroccan fritter) and chocolate gelt. So grab a doughnut and stroll through various neighborhoods with twinkling lights of menorahs in the windows. Save the diet for another time.

You can work off some calories at the northern tip of Israel. If enough snow falls Mount Hermon is the only place to ski in Israel. It rises 9,230 feet above sea level and has a vertical drop of 1,552 feet. Tubing and sledding are also fun activities to take part in.

For a less physical activity, head to the Hula Valley. The bulk of 30,000 cranes wintering in the Galilee touch down there

from November into December. Twenty percent of the world's population of rare white-headed ducks land by the reservoirs of the Judean Plains. Later in the winter cranes, white pelicans, herons and thousands of water birds, songbirds and birds of prey can be spotted. Have you heard about the flock of blue-cheeked bee-eaters that appeared near the Negev desert recently after not being seen in 50 years? So if you're into bird-watching, winters in Israel are a real treat.

Since 1976 a musical and social event has been taking place biannually on the grounds of Kibbutz Ginosar on the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee). The Jacob's Ladder Festival is a bluegrass, folk, country, blues and Irish music of the world extravaganza. This is the Kibbutz that was home to Matt Silver while he served in the IDF, where Guy Boyland z"l grew up and where our Tripsters stayed for a couple of days during their tour.

Hamshushalayim takes place every weekend in December in Jerusalem. Street theater, night tours and musical performances are all part of the fun. Museums, theaters, galleries, hotels and restaurants offer special deals. A walk through the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens is a light spectacular.

So if you prefer the cooler weather, head to Israel over the next few months. The beaches are still a pleasure, the biking and hiking is amazing and the Israelis will be so excited to see you.

FACILITIES NEWS *Facility Co-Chairs: Renee & Warren Kuperinsky*

CBI is using "Free Trade" Coffee to support Rabbi Debra Orenstein's initiative to utilize products that do not use slave/child labor. Please let us know how you are enjoying the coffee. Also, please make every effort to support this initiative by purchasing products that are labeled "Free Trade"-specifically products such as coffee or chocolate. SAC is following this approach as well, and incorporating "Free Trade" items for all of their events. Look for "Free Trade" clearly marked on these products which can be purchased at Fairway, Trader Joes and Whole Foods as well as online.

We would like to express our appreciation to Arlene and Don Fultonberg for their tireless dedication on Sunday mornings by helping to set-up/clean-up for

Sunday Bagel breakfasts. Also, thank-you to Beth Liepmann who continues to take care of the ordering of bagels for breakfast and other food related tasks. In addition, we would like to thank Bruce Sonkin for being our resident shopper. Thank-you to Joan Zelman for helping out while we were in Israel.

Thank-you to Education Co-Chairs-Samantha Segal, Emily Perlman and Lori Cohen for organizing Hebrew school families to set-up for Minyan Bagel Breakfasts.

Thank-you to the following families who have helped out so far: Segal, Moran, Fischbein, Herzog, Tenzer, Perlman, Nasjletti, Roznitsky, DeMilia, Breslaw and Weinstein families.

Ask the Clergy

[aka Dear (R)Abbi]

The names of the letter writers are fictional, but all the questions are real.

Answers this month by “Dear (R)Abbi, Debra Orenstein

What is the difference between the Menorah and the Hanukiah?

—*Wondering in Woodcliff Lake*

The original Menorah is the seven-branched candelabrum, made of pure gold, that was prepared for use in the ancient Temple, according to biblical instructions. (The CBI logo is an artistic rendering of this seven-branched Menorah, designed by artist and founding member, Hal Abrams.)

The Menorah was lit with pure, pressed olive oil. You can get away with inferior quality olive oil when using it for light (as opposed to food), but the Torah asks us to use the best for the Temple. The midrash teaches that Jews are like both the oil and the Menorah. We are like olives in that the best can come out of us when we are pressed. Also, all our branches (movements and individual expressions) are part of a single piece – which is pure gold. I, for one, feel that way about the Jewish community.

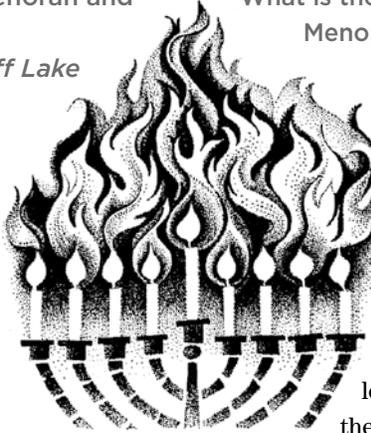
When Antiochus and the Syrian Greeks looted and vandalized the Temple in Jerusalem, they destroyed the cache of purified oil, which typically takes 8 days to make. The Maccabees found only enough pure oil to last one day. However, as the Talmud reports, the oil miraculously lasted eight days. In commemoration of that, they developed a special Hanukah Menorah with nine candles – one candle for each day, plus one “helper” candle, called the shamash, used to light the others.

Colloquially, the Hanukah Menorah is sometimes just called a “menorah.” But it is more properly called a “Hanukiah” or “Hanukah Menorah.”

What is the proper way to light the Hanukah Menorah?

—*Curious in Closter*

Place it in a window or other visible spot in order to “publicize the miracle” of the oil. As you face the Hanukiah, put in the candles from right to left (e.g., on the first night, there will be only one candle on the far right) – just as Hebrew is read and written from right to left. Light the newest candle first, to give it honor (so that you light from left to right). Begin lighting only after you say the first blessing.



Why do we say two blessings on the first night and only two on the other nights?

—*Hungry (for Latkes) in Hillsdale*

The third prayer is the Shehecheyanu, which marks new milestones, including things we have not done in at least a year. It states: “Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, Sovereign of time and space, who has given us life, and sustained us, and enabled us to reach this time. “ Every Jewish holiday celebration includes a Shehecheyanu on the first day. A traditional Haggadah will note that you say Shehecheyanu at the first seder, but not at the second seder. We recite Shehecheyanu on Kol Nidrei, at the beginning of Yom Kippur.

You might also have a reason to say a Shehecheyanu on other Hanukah nights. For example, we will recite it on Tuesday evening December 8, at our CBI Candlelighting and Night of Giving. The unique gathering will merit that special blessing. Please join us!

Please join Sisterhood for a fun Paint and Wine night on **Thursday December 3**, 7pm-9pm at Faux Time Design, 241 Herbert St., Closter, NJ. Cost is \$30 which includes the painting, and we will bring our own snacks and wine. Please RSVP to Sisterhood.chair@bisrael.com. Hope to see everyone there!

SAVE THE DATE!

Comedy Night Returns on Saturday Night,
February 27
(Snow Date: February 28)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
& TELL YOUR FRIENDS!



And you can become a sponsor of the evening's fun!
(more details to follow)

SAC EXCHANGE

by Jill Blum & Judy Newell, Co-Chairs
Renee Kuperinsky, Chair Emeritus

As part of the annual "Mitzvah Day" sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey where area synagogues and other Jewish groups do good deeds throughout Bergen County, the Social Action Committee of Congregation B'nai Israel in Emerson entertained veterans residing at the Veteran's Home in Paramus. Depicted are members of the Social Action Committee and Rabbi Debra Orenstein from Congregation B'nai Israel in Emerson, as well as other participants from the membership.



1. Renee Kuperinsky, Judy Newell, Jill Blum, Rabbi Orenstein 2. Victoria Pasher and Emmett Weisz 3. Gabe Green 4. Lisa Pollack and Charlotte Milchman 5. Hannah Mathilda Weisz and Brielle Schneider

KEHILLAH/continued from page 5

of Chesed is holding the door open for someone or picking up something on the ground that somebody dropped.

During our time in the class, volunteers came to speak to us. One boy named Robbie told us that for his mitzvah project, he participated in a program every Thursday. He said he packaged foods of all kinds in boxes and shipped them to the less fortunate who can't find food for themselves.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Position: Trustee
Name: Meryl Kutzin
Where did you grow up? Edison, NJ
Which High School did you attend? J.P. Stevens HS
Where did you go to college? Glassboro State
What is (was) your profession? Marketing

and production of garments

Where do you live currently? Old Tappan (Woodland Park)

What is your spouse's name? Larry

Do you have children? If so, what are their names and ages? Jared 33 and Evan 30 and Melissa and Lauren (daughters-in-law) and a woman never tells her true age! lol

How long have you been a member of CBI? More years that I can count! Let's see 25 ish

Did you hold any other Board positions before your current one?

Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, President

The thing I like most about CBI is... The way I feel when I walk in and feel as if I'm with family. From day one we felt like we belonged to a special group of people and still do today.

Any other thoughts you would like to add about yourself? I love to travel but in the end I really love coming back home!

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Position: Trustee
Name: Sheryl Silver
Where did you grow up? Bronx, NY
Which High School did you attend? Christopher Columbus HS - Bronx
Where did you go to college? Iona College & Rutgers

What is (was) your profession? Currently a Realtor. Previously a Research Scientist and Graphic Artist

Where do you live currently? Paramus, NJ

What is your spouse's name? David Silver

Do you have children? If so, what are their names and ages? Benjamin - 27, Matthew - 23

How long have you been a member of CBI? 19 years

Did you hold any other Board positions before your current one?

Membership, B'nai Mitzvah Co-ordinator, Vice President, President

The thing I like most about CBI is... The warmth and sense of community.

Any other thoughts you would like to add about yourself? I've been a member of the CBI board for 14 years. I know that my connection to the temple became so much stronger when I joined the board and for that I will be forever grateful!

The Kehillah program was such an interesting program to us, and we would like to continue sharing this idea of Kehillah with many other younger congregants in the temple. This program made us better Jewish people and gave us a better perspective of what our mitzvah projects would be about. In conclusion, this Kehillah program was so cool. We were able to see what a Jewish person does in their life. These mentors taught us that no matter if you are a Bar or Bat Mitzvah yet or not, being Jewish is still part of your lives. Thank you!

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Position: Trustee
Name: Gary Schwinder
Where did you grow up? Fairlawn, NJ
Which High School did you attend? Fairlawn High School
Where did you go to college? Fairleigh

Dickenson University

What is (was) your profession? Owner of Promomentum - promotional products agency in Oradell

Where do you live currently? Emerson

What is your spouse's name? Idelle Schwinder

Do you have children? If so, what are their names and ages? Eric, 38- Medical Research for VA in Washington; Meredith, 35 - Associate Creative Director for NYC ad agency

How long have you been a member of CBI? 30 years

Did you hold any other Board positions before your current one? Menorah Editor, Men's Club President, Ways & Means Chair, House & Grounds Chair, President

The thing I like most about CBI is... My temple "family of members"

Any other thoughts you would like to add about yourself? My father was an active shul goer when I was young. I was not. I wish he had lived long enough to see me take such an active role at CBI. Coincidentally, the very first temple my family belonged to when I grew up in Fairlawn was Congregation B'ni Israel! So my affinity for Congregation B'nai Israel in Emerson was B'Shert!

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Position: Trustee
Name: David Spatz
Where did you grow up? Bronx and Spring Valley
Which High School did you attend? Ramapo Senior High School
Where did you go to college? SUNY Binghamton

and NYU

What is (was) your profession? Planning Consultant

Where do you live currently? Harrington Park

What is your spouse's name? Linda

Do you have children? If so, what are their names and ages? Hana (30) and Alex (24)

How long have you been a member of CBI? 17 years

Did you hold any other Board positions before your current one?

Financial Secretary, House & Grounds & Ritual Committees; Vice President; President

The thing I like most about CBI is... It feels like family.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Position: Trustee
Name: Naomi Weinberg
Where did you grow up? Rye, New York
Which High School did you attend? Rye High School
Where did you go to college? Union College,

Schenectady, New York

What is (was) your profession? Attorney (for 9 years). I also created watercolor greeting cards and taught art classes.

Where do you live currently? River Vale

What is your spouse's name? Bruce Weinberg

Do you have children? If so, what are their names and ages? Eric, age 24; Jason, age 21

How long have you been a member of CBI? Since 1999

Did you hold any other Board positions before your current one? President (2010-2012); Vice President, Membership Chairperson, Education Co-Chairperson, Youth Group Liaison

The thing I like most about CBI is... CBI is a place filled with people, fellow Jews, who are warm, supportive, and special friends, that will always be there for me. Our clergy leads us and me in meaningful prayer, brings new and creative ways to enjoy services, and are approachable, caring, and both incredibly insightful and knowledgeable.

Any other thoughts you would like to add about yourself? I very much enjoy photography as well as sketching & watercolors.

Pay Your Dues in Full By December 31 to Avoid Increase!

REMINDER: Dues must be paid in full by **December 31** to take advantage of the lowest rate within your membership category!

This year we moved to a new membership rate structure with three tiers based on when full payment is received. You pay the lowest rate if you are paid in full by **December 31st**. You move to the second tier rate if paid in full by **April 1st**, the date we expect all dues to be paid in full. After April 1st there is a third, higher tier.

All members were initially billed at the lowest (**December 31st**) rate. If your dues are NOT paid in full by **December 31st**, you will see an adjustment on your **December 31st** statement to the second tier rate. NOTE -- those members on special rate plans are not affected.

Contact the Financial Secretary, Peter Reiff, at financial.secretary@bisrael.com if you have any questions.

Have you sent in your KOL NIDRE APPEAL pledge or donation? IT'S NEVER TOO LATE!

Simply email: cbi.appeal@gmail.com with your pledge
OR -- send in your pledge card

OR -- send in your check and get your tax deduction
in by the December 31st!

ALL FUNDS SUPPORT CBI
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

Services for Every Age & Shabbat Lunch

Guests are welcome. There is no charge for lunch.

10:00 am - Learning Service (Dalet & Hey)

These services, open and suitable for all community members, are required for Dalet and Hey families. As families prepare for their b'nai mitzvah, these services are an opportunity to learn more about Shabbat and to gain experience and comfort with Shabbat liturgy. Questions are always encouraged!

10:30 am - 8-11 Club Service (Aleph, Bet, & Gimmel)

It's not a slurpee (7-11), and it's not an emergency (9-11). It's a Shabbat Morning Service designed for 8-11 year olds. In January, the hosts for this service will be Wasserman family. Please join us!

10:30 am - Young Family Service (Prozdor)

This service is for children ages 7 and under and their families. Audrey Bida and Judy Schoenfeld, early childhood educators and CBI Ritual Committee volunteers, lead songs and prayers, tell stories, use props and puppets, and create Shabbat-friendly art projects.

Lunch

Stay afterwards for an oneg and a complimentary lunch of pizza, salads, and ice cream.

Birthdays

If you have a child(ren) attending with winter birthday(s), kindly let us know, so that we can celebrate during services and prepare a small gift. Contact ritual.chair@bisrael.com.

RSVP's

Advance notice about birthdays and attendance at lunch are very appreciated. Contact Marie in the CBI office: office@bisrael.com, 201-265-2272.

SAVE THE DATES FOR FUTURE SERVICES:

8-11 Club: **April 2** and **May 7, 2016**

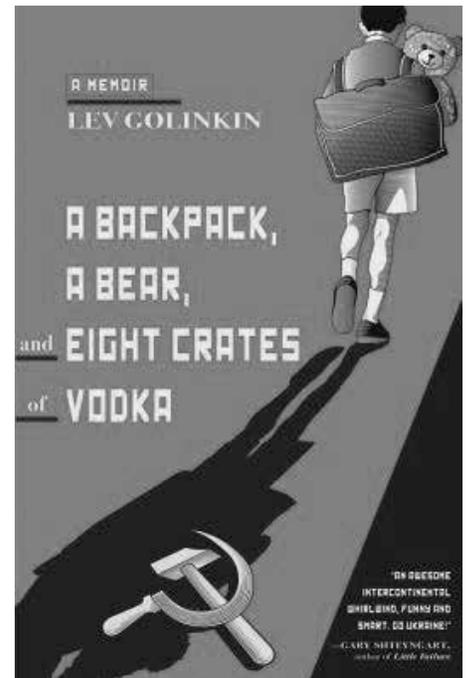
Young Family: **March 11, April 2,** and **May 7, 2016**

Dalet-Hey Learning: **April 2** and **May 7, 2016**

One Book One Community Event in partnership with the



Sunday, December 20, 2015,
3pm - 4:30pm
53 Palisade Avenue,
Emerson NJ, 201 265 2272



Please join us for an informative and compelling conversation with Sylvia Orenstein, a lawyer and professor of Russian history. She will tell us about her experiences traveling to the USSR from the 1950's to 90's when she smuggled in Jewish items, and centering on the treatment of those attempting to leave.

Traditional Jewish music & book-themed home-made desserts will follow.

***Free and open
the community!***

COME JOIN US

Tuesday December 8, 2015

(the 3rd night of Hannukkah) from 5:30pm - 7pm

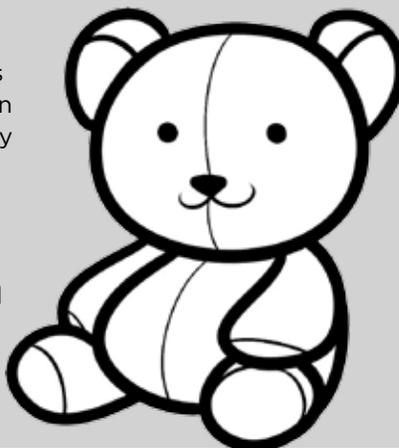
Bears of Bergenfield

They collect gently loved stuffed animals and toys and fly them to Israel for children of all faiths who have been traumatized by war and illness.

WE WILL CELEBRATE TOGETHER

With a time for candle lighting and blessings, latkes and apple sauce, as well as make cards for hospitalized kids reinforcing the idea of giving to others.

RSVP to the Temple Office at office@bisrael.com or 201-265-2272



Notes from the Rabbi

A MULTI-GENERATIONAL TRIP TO ISRAEL WITH CBI

CBI just completed our first community TRIP TO ISRAEL in over a decade, and it was an amazing experience! The group that came back was so lit up by a community experience of Israel that we already want to plan our NEXT TRIP. The plan is to make this a MULTI-GENERATION TRIP, for parents with younger kids, and including grandparents and singles and couples of all ages, too. We are considering a SUMMER 2017 trip. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Rabbi (rabbi@bisrael.com) or Robin Pierce, of our Focus on Israel Committee (robin.pierce@bisrael.com).

Thank You For A Wonderful Shabbos

Thanks to Judy Schoenfeld and Audrey Bida, service leaders of our Family Service, for leading all the services for children ages 7 and under at our synagogue. In addition to serving on our Ritual Committee, Judy and Audrey, who are both early childhood educators, do this service for the community. Judy and Bernard even buy the pizza, salads, and ice cream for the joint lunch afterwards with our 8-11 Service, Sanctuary Learning Service, and Family Service. Todah Rabbah!

Thank you to Pam Zisner, who made calls to all our fall birthday children, to let them know about our in-shul celebration of birthdays. Todah Rabbah!

Thanks also to our 8-11 host family, the Rosenthals, and to our 8-11 service leader family, the Weisz-Orensteins.

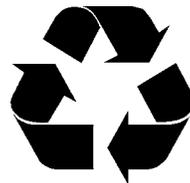
Our next **Shabbat Morning Service for every age** will take place on **January 9**. Please save the date!

A SHABBAT EXPERIENCE: MYSTICAL SHABBAT

On **Saturday, December 19**, we will enjoy one of the occasional "Shabbat Experience" services – this one with a mystical theme. Come and learn about some of the Kabbalistic elements in the service. During the course of the traditional Shabbat service, we will discuss and experiment with mystical practices and approaches, including *deveykut* (embracing the Divine), *hitbodedut* (privacy within community), *dumiah* (silence & focused concentration), *yichud* (unification), *niggun* (wordless melodies & chanting), and more! Join us for something different. We pray that you will discover a new tool or idea to enhance your life and spirit!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF OUR GREEN TEAM?

Maybe you noticed our kiddish cup recycling bin (decorated by last year's Bet Class). Or maybe you noticed the three-tiered bins in our classrooms, labeled RESPECT (for documents with God's name in Hebrew, which are buried in a Jewish cemetery), REUSE (for paper that has writing on only one side), and RECYCLE (for paper without God's name that has been used on two sides). We are committed to doing our part in the mitzvah of *shemirat ha'adamah* – protecting the earth.



Are you interested in serving on a Task Force to review options and make suggestions to our board about how to make our synagogue and our world greener? If so, please contact Rabbi Orenstein at rabbi@bisrael.com. Teens are encouraged to apply for a spot on our Green Team!

SLAVERY IN THE NEWS

Did you know?

- **January 11** is New Jersey Anti-Trafficking Day
- CBI is a member organization of the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Visit njhumantrafficking.org.
- CBI recently began using only fair-trade coffee and will be supplying fair-trade chocolate gelt to our Hebrew School. Enjoy the goodies guilt-free!
- Human trafficking is embedded in our society and even in our daily purchases. Search the TED Talk of Noy Thrupkaew to learn more.
- **Knowthechain.org** can help you determine the supply chain for common products and popular companies.

CBI Members Networking To Find Work & Lend Support

Do you know of a good job? Are you, or is your company, hiring? Or would you like to find new work? CBI members are interested in networking. Do you want to participate? Can you help? Please contact our President, Nancy Passow, at president@bisrael.com to let her know if you are interested.

Adult Education — Bringing Israel Home

We are planning a series on Israel as seen through books, movies, history, and memoir. Is there a particular topic you would like to see covered? Do you have a special interest or expertise in Israel that you would like to share? To make suggestions or participate, please contact Rabbi Debra Orenstein at rabbi@bisrael.com or 201-265-2272.

PARENTING DISCUSSION GROUP

We hope the over-sized type got your attention.

The headline announces an adult education series geared – but certainly not limited – to parents and parenting issues from a spiritual perspective.

Schedule OVERLOAD:

Spiritual Conversations – with a parenting focus

Sunday, January 24 • 10am-11:15am

Grab coffee and a bagel and let's meet in the center classroom between kitchen and sanctuary

One popular radio show calls parenting “the longest, shortest time.” Parents are immersed in tasks that both seem to go on forever and, simultaneously, to speed by. Though this time of life is often “crazy/busy” – it is also deep.

Parenting and grandparenting raise all the most profound spiritual issues: What are my values? What is the most important thing to pass on? What is the balance between acceptance and instruction - how can I nurture and support? When must I direct and set standards? What kind of person do I need to be, so that I can guide the next generation to be their best selves?

We all know that busier does not necessarily mean more productive or happier. Yet, most of us continue to be busier than we would like. Books have been written about our “over-scheduled” children. Yet, we want the best (most?) for them – sports, music, other extra-curriculars, holiday celebrations, religious instruction, and, of course, time to play and “just be a kid.”

Come join the Rabbi, CBI parents, and all others who have an interest in these topics, for a spiritual conversation about priorities, balance, and Jewish perspectives on time well-spent – for our kids and for ourselves.

Preparing for the TOUGH conversations:

Spiritual Conversations – with a parenting focus

Sunday, March 13 • 10am-11:15am

Grab coffee and a bagel and let's meet in the center classroom between kitchen and sanctuary

Every once in a while, you have the opportunity – and responsibility – to have a truly profound talk with your kids. They will ask you important questions. Some of these can't be anticipated, but a great many can be contemplated in advance. If you are going to answer your kids or grandkids meaningfully, you can't answer “off the top of your head” – but rather from the depths of your soul.

Where do babies come from? Why does everyone have to die? Why doesn't God still talk to people the way it says in the Torah? Are we rich? Why do Jews marry other Jews, and do I have to, when I grow up? Could there ever be another Holocaust? Why do good people suffer? Why do some people hurt other people so much? What is wrong about pre-marital sex? Why don't we invite that homeless man to come and live with us?

These are all real questions, asked in the past by real kids in our congregation – either of their parents or of our clergy.

This Spiritual Conversation opportunity is geared toward preparing for the tough questions. We will explore our own answers. Then, when the inquiries and opportunities arise, we will not be taken by surprise.

Come join the Rabbi, CBI parents, and all others who have an interest in a spiritual conversation about some of the most important spiritual conversations of our lives.

For questions, suggestions, and RSVP's please contact **Debbie Maron** at dmaron13@hotmail.com

GREAT CHALLAH BAKE

Members of Congregation B'nai Israel in Emerson were among the over 1,200 women and girls who recently attended the “Great Challah Bake,” sponsored by many area congregations and in support of the Women's International Zionist Organization (“WIZO”). Monies for attendance that evening went to support the many social welfare efforts of WIZO in Israel. WIZO is a non-profit organization of members in over 50 countries working together to improve the lives of women, children, and the elderly living in Israel.

Part of WIZO'S mission statement states:

WIZO operates over 800 social welfare projects including child care centers, schools, shelters for battered women, homes for girls in distress and programs providing services for the elderly. As a non-political international movement, WIZO is dedicated to the advancement of status of women, the betterment of family and community welfare and the encouragement of Jewish education around the world. At every age WIZO nourishes the body, comforts the soul, educates the mind and empowers the individual.



ATTENTION 6TH - 8TH GRADE FAMILIES!

YOUTH GROUP PLANNING UNDERWAY
CBI is participating once again with 3 area
temples in a Kadima youth program!

SOCIAL GET-TOGETHERS – MITZVOT –
with and without JEWISH THEMES
And we need YOUR PARTIPATION and
YOUR HELP!

The goal is to offer both monthly local and
regional programs. And, CBI will be host-
ing some local programs, so we especially
need your attendance!

For more info, to share ideas, and to
find a way to help out, contact Naomi at
naomi.weinberg@bisrael.com
Check your inboxes for more details.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL FAMILIES!

The USY youth group for
9th - 12th graders is back!
CBI has again joined with 3 area temples!

SOCIAL GET-TOGETHERS – MITZVOT –
with and without JEWISH THEMES
And we need YOUR PARTIPATION and
YOUR HELP!

The goal is to offer both monthly local and
regional programs. And, CBI will be host-
ing some local programs, so we especially
need your attendance!

For more info, to share ideas, and to
find a way to help out, contact Naomi at
naomi.weinberg@bisrael.com
Check your inboxes for more details.



GOT GENTLY USED SHOES?

Start cleaning out your closets and start looking under your
bed for gently used shoes then BRING THEM TO CBI!

The large "Shoe Box" for your donations is in the lobby.

[No UGGs, snow or ski boots, flip flops, rollerblades or
ice skates & no holes in the soles, please]

CBI raises money for each box we fill up and we provide shoes
for those who can use them.

ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO GIVE YOU DONATIONS, TOO!



Congregation B'nai Israel has partnered with Community Recycling and their ShoeBox Recycling
program from now through the spring! Together we are on a mission to help promote the importance
of shoe recycling while raising funds to help support CBI.

PARTICIPATING IS SIMPLE

We are collecting gently used shoes for reuse, meaning all the shoes we recycle as a group are
destined for another home. From South America and Africa to areas right here in the United States, our
ShoeBox Recycling efforts will go to help people and communities in over 50 countries...and will keep
usable shoes out of our local landfills. Every pair you recycle means extra funds for us, less landfill waste and
the potential to connect us to a SoleMate!

For more information contact waysandmeans.chair@bisrael.com and check out
Community Recycling online at www.communityrecycling.biz

**ALL
YOU (MAYBE) CAN EAT
SPONSORS NEEDED**



**FRIDAY NIGHT ONEG
SHABBAT KIDDUSH
SUNDAY MINYAN**

AVAILABLE DECEMBER 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016*

*SOME DATES MAY NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE

REGULARLY \$170 PER SPONSOR DATE

book before Dec 31,2015

AND WE'LL SLASH THE PRICE

\$143.21 PER DATE**

Book 2 or more dates and we'll reduce it to **\$123.45/date**

**SPECIAL RATES DO NOT APPLY TO BAR/BAT MITZVAH FAMILIES.

CONTACT MERYL.KUTZIN@BISRAEL.COM OR 201-906-0224

OR THE TEMPLE OFFICE

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

T: 201-265-2227 E: OFFICE@BISRAEL.COM

Tripster Update

Shalom Chaverim!

The Tripsters have been busy since our return from our incredible trip to Israel, and we have some special plans in the works to share our experiences with you.

Please keep your calendar open for the announcement date when we present our memories of this special time with the membership. We will also talk to the Hebrew School students and answer their questions on Sunday, January 17 at 9:30am. And feel free to ask any of us about our trip – there's so much we'd like to share with you, and you'll hear the excitement in our voices as we do!

There will also be a collection of our thoughts in an upcoming Menorah, so keep a lookout for that as well.

Thanks again to all the travelers, to Rabbi Orenstein for enriching our experience, and to Robin Pierce for her work in making this happen for us.

CHOOSE YOUR STORE....
AND SUPPORT THE TEMPLE
FOOD STORE GIFT CARDS FOR SALE



SWAP YOUR CASH FOR A FOOD STORE GIFT CARD AND THE TEMPLE MAKES 5%
IT COSTS YOU NOTHING!!!

IT'S EASY, IT'S QUICK AND IT'S A MONEY MAKER FOR CBI!
SEE MARIE IN THE OFFICE FOR YOUR GIFT CARDS.

P.S. THEY MAKE GREAT HANNUKKA GIFTS FOR KIDS, PARENTS AND FRIENDS.

CBI POLO SHIRT
BACK BY REQUEST AND POPULAR DEMAND!

REMAINING INVENTORY

PRICE SLASHED TO

\$12.00 OR 2 FOR \$20.00!!

GET THEM WHILE THEY LAST

SIZES: Men: Medium - 2X Women: Small - XL

POLO SHIRTS IN STOCK IN THE GIFT SHOP!!!!

65/35 poly/cotton blend, 5.5 oz. Soft touch pique Polo shirt.
Banded sleeves, straight bottom, side vents and tag free label.
Wrinkle resistance with curl free collar. White CBI logo.

colors available:



For more info contact office@bisrael.com or meryl.kutzin@bisrael.com

LETTERS

Dear Rabbi Debra,

Just wanted to thank you for such a wonderfully meaningful trip to Israel. You and everyone made me and Arlene feel so welcome. We truly enjoyed every minute.

Best regards,
Linda Landskowsky

Dear Rabbi,

I just wanted to say that I had a fantastic time in Israel thanks to you and the others from CBI. You made me feel welcome.

Hopefully we'll meet again. Thanks again for making the trip so special.

Best regards,
Arlene Ginsburg

Dear Rabbi Debra,

I hope you recovered from our flight back to NJ. Renee and I just want to thank you for organizing and being a part of a very special time in our lives.

Understanding and experiencing Israel with members and friends from CBI was just great. I feel we have learned much about our heritage and faith from Israel, you, and David (who was the best tour guide ever!!) We will both relish the memories of this wonderful Israeli tour.

Thank you,
The Kuperinskys

Dear Rabbi Orenstein, Cantor Mandel, and fellow congregants,

I would once again like to take the opportunity to thank the Congregation for the very generous and thoughtful gift basket filled with delicious treats. I have already begun enjoying as I was hungry this evening for a snack.

I cannot begin to say how much the support and generosity of the congregation had meant to me. As I am facing the pain and frustration of physical rehabilitation, it is extremely powerful to be able to focus on the love and support one has. Without these, the daily fight would be near impossible.

Once again, thank you for the delicious treat basket. I will certainly enjoy it and reflect on the the congregation's prayer and support after hard days of physical rehabilitation.

Joyce Schreiber

Hello Rabbi and fellow Tripsters,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of my fellow venturers, and particularly those of you from CBI, for welcoming this New Englander in as part of your entourage. I thank Rabbi Orenstein for welcoming me in the

first instance when I signed on for the trip, and everyone else for making me feel part of the family. Thank you for the opportunity to share this amazing experience.

Fellow venturers, CBI and beyond, if you ever find that you will be in the Boston-Providence area, feel free to connect with me in Foxboro. May you all go from strength to strength.

L'hitraot,
Marvin Wolfert

Dear Rabbi Orenstein,

What an incredible trip to Israel! Traveling with you and our extended CBI family was a once in a lifetime experience for us. We were so blessed to have you enrich our understanding of every place we went, and everything we did. What a special time!

Love,
Ellen and Dave

To all the CBI "Marie's"

Whether it was a few minutes, a few hours, a day, whatever you did to make the office run smoothly while I was gone - Thank you.

To all of my CBI family - thank you for letting me take the time to enjoy that wonderful trip to Israel. As many of you may have heard, I learned more about "rocks" than I expected. But overall, the trip was great,

And to prove I was paying attention.

Toda!
Marie

Dear Rabbi Orenstein, Cantor Mandel, and fellow congregants,

Lying here in bed it is hard to find the right words to express the gratitude I feel, as well as the family feels, for the outpouring of love, prayers, support, and true generosity of the B'nai Israel family since my accident. There has never been a moment we have felt alone.

From the first night as I waited scared and in excruciating pain for surgery praying with Rabbi Orenstein by my side, I have felt continuous prayer, love, and support from the all at Congregation B'nai Israel. The visits, calls, and e-mails from Cantor/Rabbi Mandel, board members, and many congregants have kept my spirits from plummeting as the pain of the surgeries/injuries and the reality of the months of recovery ahead settles in. Among many things, I have had the opportunity to laugh, cry, pray, recite Shabbat prayers, feel comfort in knowing my family is enjoying a

wonderful Shabbat dinner together during this difficult time, occupy my mind with great games of Words with Friends, and have support in planning for my rehabilitation thanks to my Congregation B'nai Israel family. There are just too many acts of kindness and love from so many B'nai Israel family members to even begin listing.

At this time, it could be easy to get stuck in the pain, frustration, anger, and "why me". Though many moments have passed where these feelings rush in, remembering all that I have and am receiving from family, friends, my B'nai Israel family, and co-workers gives me incredible reason and strength to fight. For this I feel incredible gratitude.

The road ahead is very long, but I know I will not be walking it alone. Please accept this as a thank you for the ALL the amazing generosity of the Congregation B'nai Israel family, including the Shabbat meal. I look forward to the day I can join in prayer.

Joyce Schreiber

Dear CBI,

What a surprise! I want to thank the board for honoring me with the Sid Derner Volunteer Award. The truth is "It's fun working in the kitchen"! Working with Beth and Bea was a joy. You never know if you need to put the coffee on, or if there's enough lox out!

CBI is my extended family. The acquaintances and friendships I have made over the years make me feel like I belong to something special - CBI is something 'very special'.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,
Joan Zelman

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flower arrangement. They really brightened up my day and I am continuing to enjoy them. I look forward to being back with you, and participating in the wonderful experience of CBI.

I am so fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful group.

Shana Tova!

Judy Schoenfeld

To my CBI family,

Thank you so much for choosing me for the Volunteer of the Year award. It was so very much appreciated, and I'm so glad to be a member of this special community!

Sincerely,
Beth Liepmann

DECEMBER 2015

Candle Lighting Times: **4:** 4:10 **11:** 4:10 **18:** 4:12 **25:** 4:15

Kislev-Tevet 5776

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
		4pm Hebrew School 1	7:30pm Board meeting 2	1pm Adult Ed/My Prayerbook 3	7:30pm Hey Class Erev Shabbat services 4	10am Shabbat morning service 5 5pm Prozdor students Havdalah service
9am Hebrew School 6 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast Chanukah: 1 Candle	Chanukah: 2 Candle 7	4pm Hebrew School 8 5:30pm Night of Giving Chanukah Program Chanukah: 3 Candle	Chanukah: 4 Candle 9	Chanukah: 5 Candle 10	6:30pm Chanukah Dinner 11 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service Chanukah: 6 Candle	10am Dalet and Hey Shabbat services Jewish Home for Assisted 12 Chanukah: 7 Candle
9am Hebrew School 13 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast Chanukah: 8 Candle	14	4pm Hebrew School 15	16	1:30pm Significant Seniors 17	8pm Erev Shabbat Service 18	10am Shabbat morning service 19
9am Hebrew School 20 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 11am Hebrew School Parents Visitation 3pm One Book, One Community at CBI	21	4pm Hebrew School 22	23	24	8pm Erev Shabbat Service 25	10am Shabbat morning service 26
No Hebrew School 27 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast	28	No Hebrew School 29	30	31		

JANUARY 2016

Candle Lighting Times: **1:** 4:20 **8:** 4:27 **15:** 4:34 **22:** 4:42 **29:** 4:51

Tevet-Shevat 5776

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					8pm Erev Shabbat Service 1	10am Shabbat morning service 2 6pm Pajama Havdalah
No Hebrew School 3 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast	4	4pm Hebrew School 5	7:30pm Board meeting 6	7	8pm Erev Shabbat Service 8	10am Shabbat morning service 9
9am Hebrew School 10 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 11:30 Hebrew School Parents' Meeting	11	4pm Hebrew School 12	13	14	7:30pm Freedom Shabbat Erev Shabbat services 15	10am Shabbat morning service 16
9am Hebrew School 17 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 9:30am Tripsters presentation to Hebrew School	18	4pm Hebrew School 19	20	21	7:30pm Gimmel Class Erev Shabbat services 22	10am Share & Care Shabbat morning service at JHAL 23
9am Hebrew School 24 9am Minyan & Bagel Bkfst 9am Dalet Kehillah Program 10am Tu B'shvat Workshop	25	4pm Hebrew School 26	27	28	8pm Erev Shabbat Service 29	10am Hey Class Shabbat morning service 30
9am Hebrew School 31 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast						

FUNDS

ETERNAL LIGHT FUND

TO: Eileen Weinstein
 Condolences on the passing of your beloved husband, David
 FROM: Marvin & Linda Rosengart

TO: Emily & Michael Robins
 Condolences on the passing of your mom, Andrea Fox
 FROM: Bruce & Ellen Sonkin

GOOD & WELFARE FUND

TO: Moshe and Rashella Roznitsky
 Mazel Tov on Oren's Bar Mitzvah
 FROM: Ellen & David Michelson

TO: Larry & Meryl Kutzin
 Welcome to the neighborhood. We are so happy to have you down here with us. Lots of good luck and happiness.
 FROM: Ellen & David Michelson

TO: Kenneth Joelson
 In memory of Karen Joelson
 FROM: Meryl & Larry Kutzin

TO: Pamela Haber & Benjamin Joelson
 In memory of Karen Joelson
 FROM: Meryl & Larry Kutzin

TO: Robin Pierce
 Thank you for all your efforts in making our first ever CBI congregational trip to Israel a reality. It was incredible!
 FROM: Ellen and Dave Michelson

TO: Joyce Schreiber
 Wishes for a speedy and complete recovery
 FROM: Idelle and Gary Schwinder
 Louise Reich and Michael Stern

Meryl and Larry Kutzin
 Lori and Steven Cohen
 Lynn and Peter Reiff
 Cathy and David Gordon
 Emily and Scott Perlman
 Sheryl and Dave Silver
 Meryl and Joe Rosenthal
 Jaime Kreiman
 Tracy and Peter Ganbarg
 Carol and Daniel Aferiat
 Judy Samuels and David Green
 Nancy and Michael Passow
 Linda and David Spatz
 Jodie Paulin
 Naomi and Bruce Weinberg
 Judy and Bernie Schoenfeld
 Andrea and Jay Collier
 Ellen and Dave Michelson

GET WELL FUND

TO: Judy Schoenfeld
 Hope you get better soon.
 FROM: Naomi & Bruce Weinberg

TO: Steve Ingram
 Best wishes for a speedy recovery
 FROM: Joan & Steven Zelman

GENERAL DONATION

TO: CBI & Naomi Weinberg
 Loved the High Holiday service. Great job everyone. In honor of Naomi Weinberg's talk. Wishing you all happy days.
 FROM: Aviva Orenstein

TO: CBI
 In honor of our grandson Ryan Corring's Bar Mitzvah
 FROM: Lois & Ira Grumet

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Yahrzeit Donation made by Sondra Glazer in loving memory of Ron Glazer

YAHRZEIT DONATIONS

Sondra Glazer in loving memory of Ron Glazer Ruth & Peter Hirschel in loving memory of Hilda Katz
 Robert & Pam Zisner in loving memory of family who have passed at the time of Yiskor
 Bruce & Ellen Sonkin in loving memory of Bruce's father, Jack Sonkin
 Bruce & Ellen Sonkin in loving memory of Bruce's grandmother, Lillie Wellins
 Inez & Nicholas Dubner in loving memory of family who have passed at the time of Yiskor
 Morty Klibinoff in loving memory of Betty Klibinoff
 Harold & Judy Abrams in loving memory of Abraham Weitzman
 Edward & Sheila Faerber in loving memory of Samuel R. Krakow
 Muriel Zirkin in loving memory of family who have passed at the time of Yiskor
 Maurice & Robin Rosenberg in loving memory of Sarah Rosenberg
 Jerrold & Sherrie Ratner in loving memory of Albert Heller
 Steven Zelman in loving memory of Sylvia Zelman

A BIG THANK YOU

to the following for sponsoring a Friday Night Oneg,
 Shabbat Kiddush or a Sunday morning breakfast

Henry and Johanna Ross	Friday	10.23.15	In honor of our twin granddaughters
Jared and Danielle Goldberger	Saturday	11.21.15	Baby Naming Juliette Page
David and Robin Wexler	Sunday	12.23.15	
Donna and Les Kaufman	Sunday	1.10.16	Honor of warmer weather in Florida



Get Well Soon!

Joyce Schreiber
 Cantor Sid Derner

DECEMBER YAHRZEITS

Ruth Beldner	19 Kislev	12/01/15
Anita Lois Lipshultz	19 Kislev	12/01/15
Ruth Rosch	20 Kislev	12/02/15
Murry Schwinder	21 Kislev	12/03/15
Rose Stahl	22 Kislev	12/04/15
Herbert J. Sperber	23 Kislev	12/05/15
David Kligman	24 Kislev	12/06/15
Shirley Margolies	24 Kislev	12/06/15
Stanley Kuttler	25 Kislev	12/07/15
Simon Gorfinkiel	26 Kislev	12/08/15
Murray Siegel	26 Kislev	12/08/15
Lottie Rosenberg	28 Kislev	12/10/15
Morey E Wollin	28 Kislev	12/10/15
Jack Sender	28 Kislev	12/10/15
Harry Lipshultz	28 Kislev	12/10/15
Morris Meinhard	29 Kislev	12/11/15
Mollie Rockaway	30 Kislev	12/12/15
Alex Morris Pollack	30 Kislev	12/12/15
Beatrice Reiff	1 Tevet	12/13/15
Joseph Wiener	2 Tevet	12/14/15
Louis Glatzer	2 Tevet	12/14/15
Elly Hirschel	2 Tevet	12/14/15
Richard Katz	2 Tevet	12/14/15
Irving J Kratchman	3 Tevet	12/15/15
Adam Jonathan Braverman	4 Tevet	12/16/15
Hadassah Eckstein	5 Tevet	12/17/15
Mordechai Kleiner	6 Tevet	12/18/15
Helen S. Lanceit	7 Tevet	12/19/15
Robert Kargauer	8 Tevet	12/20/15
Emil Eben	9 Tevet	12/21/15
Meyer Federman	9 Tevet	12/21/15
Isidore Parnes	9 Tevet	12/21/15
Lawrence S Greenberg	9 Tevet	12/21/15
Joseph Simkins	9 Tevet	12/21/15
Morris Cohen	11 Tevet	12/23/15
Judith Kuklin	11 Tevet	12/23/15
Sophia Ross	11 Tevet	12/23/15
Edward Nelkin	12 Tevet	12/24/15
Seymour "Cy" Blank	12 Tevet	12/24/15
Shirley Greenblatt	12 Tevet	12/24/15
Mary Wigotsky	13 Tevet	12/25/15
Milton Cohen	13 Tevet	12/25/15
Irma Fultonberg	13 Tevet	12/25/15
Michael R. Nanus	13 Tevet	12/25/15
Edgar Seymour Zorn	15 Tevet	12/27/15
Lena Silverberg	16 Tevet	12/28/15
Louis Jaffe	17 Tevet	12/29/15
Max L Tauber	18 Tevet	12/30/15
Rose Weitzman	18 Tevet	12/30/15
Aron Garth Abrams	18 Tevet	12/30/15
William Matuson	19 Tevet	12/31/15

TEMPLE SERVICES

Yahrzeit/Memorial Plaques

A reminder card is mailed every year prior to the yearzeit anniversary. Plaques are displayed on the sanctuary walls.

\$240

Email Lynn Reiff at memorial.coordinator@bisrael.com

Tree of Life Leaves

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- **ETERNAL LIGHT FUND** for memorials
- **IRVING RIEKES MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND** for all occasions. Funds used to maintain garden behind temple.
- **GET WELL FUND**
- **CANTOR SID DERNER BUILDING FUND** for all occasions. Funds used for existing building needs.
- **GOOD & WELFARE FUND**
- **SOCIAL ACTION FUND** to help those in need
- **BERNICE'S KITCHEN FUND** for all occasions, in memory of Bernice Kuperinsky. Funds used for kitchen equipment.
- **THE RABBI JEHIEL ORENSTEIN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FUND**
In memory of Rabbi Jehiel. Funds scholars-in-residence, teacher development, and other educational needs of the synagogue.
- **RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND**
Contributions made will benefit organizations, members, causes, and/or purchases at the discretion of the Rabbi
- **CANTOR DISCRETIONARY FUND**
Contributions made will benefit organizations, members, causes, and/or purchases at the discretion of the Cantor

Prayer Book Fund

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