

THE Menorah

N E W S L E T T E R

February 2017 • www.bisrael.com • Shevat-Adar I 5777

Cantor's Corner

by Rabbi Cantor Lenny Mandel

I agonized over what to write about this month. Then I went to the board meeting Wednesday night and I knew what I was going to write about: Congregation B'Nai Israel.



So I'm at the meeting looking around at the members of our board and I couldn't help but smile: so many young faces, so many board members who've been members of CBI for six years or less.

Synagogues all around the world are experiencing tough times. Congregants get older and can't get to shul, some move away, some die, may their memories be for a blessing, and some just don't feel the need to be members anymore or don't want to be involved.

The world changes every minute, and with that so does the way we live our lives. We don't live in a shtetl anymore, we follow our own paths when it comes to the way we live our Jewish lives, and truth be told, that's how the liberal Jewish movements came to be anyway.

The laugh that Rabbi Kiel and I always had (and now Rabbi Orenstein and I have): "we're orthodox clergy in a conservative synagogue, with reform congregants."

It wasn't meant as denigration by any means. It's that we all stretch our observance of Jewish law and tradition until it meets our individual needs.

CBI is aware of that and even though we are a conservative synagogue, we try to make sure that

your needs are met while maintaining our religious traditions. We are the tree that bends in the wind but doesn't break.

The members of the board and our trustees are committed to keeping CBI alive, and many have been involved for decades, but the younger members know that our future, and the future of the generations to come depends on their strength, their passion and their dedication to our, no, your, no--THEIR synagogue.

From April 2009 through June 30, 2010 I was alone on the bimah and had the incredible privilege of sharing our bimah, our pulpit, with Rabbi Andre Unger for the High Holidays.

Beyond our conversations about the services, he asked about our shul and I told him, with the greatest pride, that we were a very haimish congregation.

After the holidays were over he told me that I lied to him; I was devastated. I never lied to him (my personal joke is that I'm the greatest BS'er in the world, but I never lie). "What did I lie about?" I asked.

"You're not a haimish shul," he replied. "You're a family!"

Boy was he right, and boy is he still right! We are a family, and as such we try our darndest to make sure that we stay that way.

To quote (somewhat) Sister Sledge: We are family, I got my brothers & sisters with me. We are family, Get up everybody and sing.

Thank you, every one of you, for being a part of this incredible family. Remember, how you get involved with CBI depends on you, and CBI depends on you getting involved.

About 800 years ago in France, a *Prayer For Our Community* was written. Allow me, please, to cull the relevant pieces of that prayer:

May He who blessed our ancestors...bless this entire congregation, ... along with those who ... establish synagogues for prayer, ... who enter them to pray, ... who give funds for heat and light, and wine for Kiddush and Havdalah, bread to the wayfarer and charity to the poor, and all who devotedly involve themselves with the needs of this community ... May the Holy One Praised be He reward them; may He remove sickness from them, heal them, and forgive their sins. May He bless them by prospering all their worthy endeavors, as well as those of the entire people Israel. And let us say: Amen.

The President's Pen

by Nancy Passow, President

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."

– Barbara Winkler

In the cold and darkness of February, true gardeners are busy perusing the latest garden catalogs (in hand or online), dreaming of spring. Part of the fun, when winter is over and spring finally arrives, is walking around my garden to see what survived – there are always surprises. The only good thing about February is that it's short (I know it's only a few days, but still . . .) This month we celebrate Tu B'Shevat – the birthday of the trees. Yes, it is still winter, but as the days grow longer, the sap in the trees is starting to move and the miracle of spring is underway.

There are many good reasons to come to CBI in February – our children will be leading and participating in services (Hey class, along with the Dalet class, on **Saturday, February 4**, plus an 8-11 service and young family service; Gimmel class on **Friday, February 10**, and Bet Class on **Saturday, February 25**). Outside of CBI, the North Jersey Board of Rabbis is hosting "Sweet Tastes of Torah" at Temple Beth Rishon, 585 Russell Avenue, Wyckoff, NJ, on **Saturday, February 11, at 6:30 pm**. This year's theme is based on two special circumstances that coincide that

particular day: Shabbat Shira (the annual time when we read the "Song of the Red Sea" from the Torah) and Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees. That morning, CBI will be visiting the Jewish Home for Assisted Living for our monthly Share & Care Shabbat.

When you are next in the sanctuary, take a look at our new Memorial Board. It was installed at the end of December – thank you to all of our donors and to Gary Schwinder who oversaw the fabrication and installation of the board. This is actually one of those bittersweet things – I'm really happy we have our new Memorial Board installed so that our CBI families can continue to remember their loved ones. But there is still the sadness associated with why we needed a new Memorial Board.

You may have noticed that some of the activities I promised in my January column were either cancelled or rescheduled. These things happen. That is why it's important to read the Shmooz every week and/or check the online calendar. Also, if you haven't updated your phone number for the phone blasts we send out, please let me know.

While looking at the February calendar, I noticed something very special. Monday, February 20, is President's Day. Wow – a whole day for me!! (I know, I know, it's not really for me, but I can dream, can't I?)

Stay warm, come and see us at CBI. Remember, the end of February gets better – the month of Adar starts on February 27 – a time of fun and laughter and that much closer to spring.



THE Menorah

NEWSLETTER
The Official News Bulletin of Congregation B'nai Israel

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MENORAH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

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

TEMPLE OFFICERS 2015-2016

Refer to www.bisrael.com for officer e-mails.

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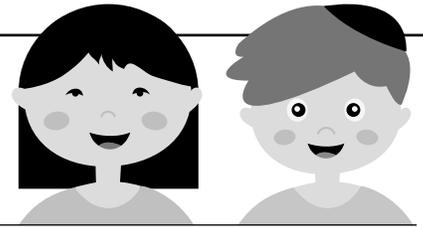
Please "LIKE" us on FACEBOOK.

Search on FACEBOOK for Congregation B'nai Israel, Emerson. Keep up to date on all the events and news of our shul!

The Principal's Pen

by Karen Weiss, Principal

Lori Cohen, Emily Perlman, & Karen Tenzer, Education Co-Chairs



Shalom from the Education Committee! Although we are writing this at the turn of the year, by the time you read this article 2016 will be a distant memory, and you will most likely be settled into 2017. One of the highlights of January 2017 was the lovely Erev Shabbat service during which the Bet Class received their Bar/Bat Mitzvah dates. This night is always special, as it sets off the excitement and anticipation surrounding the culminating event of one's Hebrew School education. We are looking forward to celebrating with the Bet class in the year 2020—only a few short years away!



We hope you were able to join us on **Sunday, January 29 at 10:00 a.m.** for our second Parent Meeting of the year. We discussed our biggest fundraiser, the Purim Carnival, which is an all hands on deck event. This year our Purim celebration will be spectacular, with the Purim Shpiel, Megillah Reading, and Carnival all taking place on one date—**Sunday, March 12**. Please mark your calendars for this special celebration of our fun and festive holiday. While Purim is not until March, it is never too early to start planning. We have food to purchase, games

to build, prizes to procure, and much, much more. We want you to get involved to show your children that it takes a village to build a Hebrew School community. We need you, the parents, to get involved in order to make this day a success. Please, please, please let us know how you are interested in helping by contacting **education.chair@bisrael.com**.

Remember that it's important to check the on-line calendar (bisrael.com) for any updates to the schedule that was mailed out in September. There are required services for all grades, and your child's attendance and participation are vital parts of the learning process. Remember, before you know it, it will be their turn to lead the entire service - shouldn't they get a little practice before then?

Finally, our teachers work hard with your children every week, teaching them letters, vowel sounds, prayers, and more. But we thank you for *your* help with all matters pertaining to your child's Jewish education. By coming to the Shabbat services with your child, attending Sunday minyan service, reviewing Hebrew letters and words, you are a vital link in your child's journey to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah and an adult member of our CBI community. Together, we make a great team!

We hope to see you in the Hebrew School wing.

SISTERS IN THE HOOD

by Beth Leipmann & Joan Zelman, Sisterhood Co-Chairs

WINTER IS HERE! In spite of cold snowy weather Sisterhood cooked up a delicious meal for The Center for Hope and Safety (formerly Shelter Our Sisters). We had lots of fun in the kitchen and learned new cooking techniques. We had wonderful homemade desserts made by Emily Perlman, Judy Schoenfeld, Jamie Kreiman and Beth Liepmann. Naomi Weinberg and Susan Kushner were our shoppers extraordinaire. Thanks to Linda Shapiro, Ellen Michelson, Shelly Saperstein, Marsha Fleischner, Donna Kaufmann, Carol Aferiat, Meryl Kutzin and the Sisterhood Book Club for their generous donations that made it all possible. But most of all, we want to thank Warren Kuperinsky and Susan Kushner for helping us cook up a storm. The women truly appreciated it.



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.

RITUAL

by Audrey Bida, Judy Schoenfeld & Jay Weinstein, Ritual Co-Chairs



We have just completed our first full month of winter. We had wonderful Shabbat services led by Rabbi/Cantor Mandel. Freedom Shabbat, commemorating Reverend Martin Luther King and Abraham Joshua Heschel, was especially moving. During our Many Ages and Stages Shabbat Morning, we relived the story of Joseph's reunion with his brothers and discussed the meaning of forgiveness.

We look forward to your joining us for our next Many Ages and Stages Shabbat on **Saturday, February 4th**. The Learning Service, which is held in the Sanctuary at 10:00 am with Rabbi/Cantor Mandel, welcomes all congregants

and friends. Please remember this is a compulsory service for Dalet and Hey families. Our 8-11 Club is geared towards families and friends with children of those ages. They meet in the Hebrew School wing from 10:30 am - 11:30 am. Our Young Family Service is designed for families with children 7 and under. We meet in the library, also from 10:30 am - 11:30

am. This service is led by Judy Schoenfeld and Audrey Bida. Tu B'Shevat, the holiday of the trees will be celebrated on this Shabbat. As always we will have prayers, songs and a Shabbat friendly craft. Outside friends are welcome to all services. At the conclusion of the Services we will have an extended Kiddush of Pizza, Salads, Ice-Cream and Cookies, and any February Birthdays will be celebrated. It is very helpful if you could **RSVP by February 1** to ritual@bisrael.com. And please let us know if your child has food allergies. Our Gimmel Class will proudly display their ability to lead Friday night Services at 7:30 pm on **Erev Shabbat, February 10**. We will be back at the Jewish Home for Assisted Living, located at 685 Westwood Ave. River Vale, NJ, **Shabbat morning, February 18**. Services are from 10:00 am - 11:00 am followed by a lovely Kiddush provided by the Home. Children are encouraged to attend. They brighten up the day for the residents. We will have the opportunity to participate in Services led by our Bet Class on **Shabbat morning, February 25 at 10:00 am**.

Wishing you a Happy February, and see you in Shul!



FOCUS ON ISRAEL

WATER TO GROW THE LAND

How is it that a country like Israel can cope with such a diverse landscape - dry deserts, farming valleys, mountains and mesas, rolling hills, modern and ancient cities, growing industries - in such a small land mass...? A lot of her success can be attributed to a tremendous innovation which was developed by Simcha Blass, and shared with the world. He invented "drip irrigation".

Originally from Warsaw, Poland, Mr. Blass came to Palestine in the late 1920's. As an engineer, he thought about the land, and struggled with how to help it become rich beyond the undeveloped, desolate, space which was primarily barren and had failed to produce anything of value. He recognized then the dilemma the rest of the world has only recently begun to come to grips with, which is the limit of our natural resources. How can we make the most out of what is available to us?

In the early 1930's, Mr. Blass apparently stumbled on a tree said to be growing without available water. Upon digging into the root system, he found a pocket of water

captured underground, which was providing the water the tree needed to survive. Recognizing that this water was being stored, and sucked out only as needed, he came up with the idea of just dripping water slowly into fields of crops.

We have all driven by a neighborhood farm, or through rural crop areas, throughout the US and have seen irrigation water sprayed into the air. One cannot help but wonder how much of that water just evaporates into the warm air and is lost to the crops. Blass invented a rubber tubing that would slowly and steadily release the water through larger and larger passageways, utilizing friction to maintain a steady flow of moisture. By 1965, Kibbutz Hatzerim, a company that still exists today, helped to develop a new irrigation industry, called Netafim, (Hebrew for droplets.)

Israel blooms, and has shared her techniques with many other nations. No matter how arid a climate is, or how little water they have, this Israeli innovation has increased crop production all over the world.

Ask the Clergy

[aka Dear (R)Abbi]

This month answered by Rabbi Cantor Lenny Mandel

Given how central the Shema prayer is to Jewish worship for both men and women, why does the V'ahavtah include instructions for wearing t'fillin (and you shall bind them as a sign upon your hands, and they shall be for frontlets between your eyes), which, historically, only men were allowed to do?

The answer is a bit more complicated than you would think.

The *Shema* is an affirmation of Judaism and a declaration of faith in one God. The obligation to recite the *Shema* is separate from the obligation to pray, and a Jew is obligated to say *Shema* in the morning and at night (Deut. 6:7).

Like many other prayers, in Orthodox Judaism there are time constraints as to when the Shema may be recited, and women, in the Orthodox tradition, are actually exempt from saying the Shema (or any other prayer bound by time constraints) as the specific times when it is allowed to be recited may interfere with her duties as a woman (I figure this should bother a bunch of you).

Even though women are exempt from the Shema reading, it is good for every woman to recite the first two verses every day ("Shema Yisrael" and "Baruch Shem") in order to accept the Yoke of the Kingdom of Heaven upon themselves.

Conservative Judaism believes that women are just as obligated to recite the Shema at the same times as the men.

There are two cute stories (BOTH TRUE) about women

and tefilin.

Our son Wayne broke his leg during the first week of camp in the summer of 1988. Shelly, our friends Alan and Teri Litman, and I drove up to Maine from Brooklyn on July 4th, picked him up, turned around and drove home. He was home on his Hebrew 13th birth date, which was a Thursday, and the Torah is read during morning minyan.

The whole family came to shul (a Conservative shul in South Orange, NJ – the sister shul to Rabbi Debra's dad's shul) and my dad, Wayne and I put on tefilin. A woman sat down near my dad, donned a tallit and began putting tefilin on. The double – no – triple take my dad did was priceless, and the 'WTH' look he gave me still makes me smile.

The 2nd story is about Rabbi Debra (sorry for outing you, Rabbi). When the Jewish Theological Seminary began admitting women, RDO was on her way. We can only imagine what her grades were (do they give higher than a 5.8 cum?), her credentials were beyond impeccable, and she went for the interview.

At one point the interviewer asked if she put on tefilin every day.

She looked at him and asked: "Do you ask the men the same question?" According to RDO, that question would kill her chances for admission. "Men," he answered, "are *chiyuvim* (have an absolute requirement)." "I understand that," RDO replied, "but do you ask them?"

Pay It Forward. The CBI Capital Campaign.

On April 5, 2017, Congregation B'nai Israel will embark upon a six-month capital campaign. The monies raised will be used to pay off the temple's mortgage as well as make vital repairs, improvements and upgrades to CBI. The campaign's theme is **L'dor V'dor**, which means from 'Generation to Generation.' CBI is a multi-generational temple. Our recent *All Together on an Autumn Night* event demonstrated how ALL congregants - irrespective of age or generation or length of membership - joined together in a truly beautiful way. This coming together is what our campaign is about - to ensure

that our temple is one that is financially sound and viable for years to come, and we all must do our part to make this a reality.

We already have members who have generously made significant pledges with the understanding that these will be matched by the congregation. Over the next few weeks, the subcommittee formed to lead this effort will reach out and provide full information, and be available to answer questions. As 2017 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of CBI, we are excited to rally around this milestone and make our campaign a huge success!

HEBREW SCHOOL CHANUKAH PROGRAM



Chanukah book fair in library



Chanukah performance of 'A Confused Chanukah'



'A Confused Chanukah'

We need sponsors for Friday Oneg, Shabbat Kiddush and Sunday Minyan Breakfast for February and March.



February and March Sponsorship SALE!
Act fast, not many dates available!

**\$56.78 for ONE sponsorship
Or TWO for \$100.00**



Wow prices like this will never be seen again!
Contact Meryl.kutzin@bisrael.com to reserve your date

A BIG THANK YOU

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

Jayne Rubinfeld and Richard Waldron	Saturday	January 7	In honor of their 38th Anniversary
Evan & Lauren Kutzin	Sunday	January 29	In honor of Lauren's birthday
Carol Aferiat	Sunday	January 29	In honor of Carol's birthday
Renee & Barry Schiffmann	Saturday	February 4	In honor of the Aufruf for their son, Seth's, upcoming wedding to Jaime Cosloy (daughter of Steve Cosloy and Sisalee Hecht)
Jayne Rubinfeld and Richard Waldron	Sunday	February 12	In honor of Cory Waldron's engagement to Hilary Eisenberg

☆ CHANUKAH MEMORIES ☆

Our Menorahs and dreidels are packed up until next year, but our memories of Chanukah spent with loved ones remain fresh in our hearts. Rabbi/Cantor Mandel expressed this so poignantly in a recent Facebook posting:

“On the first night of Chanukah the family would gather in my zeide’s apartment. Eyes closed, his long white beard and payes swayed as he shokled back and forth chanting the Brachot. His menorah was pewter and filled with oil, and my dad’s eyes would fill with tears watching his father. He remembered the day when the Nazis marched into their apartment in Vienna and took my dad away. He wondered if he’d ever see his parents again. Zeide would hand out silver dollars to us while we all sang Maoz Tzur (Rock Of Ages) and Haneyrot. Wayne is named for my zeide whose name was Wolf (Volvish-Yiddish, Ze’ev-Hebrew).

After my grandparents died we’d gather in my parents’ apartment on the first night of Chanukah. I would hold Wayne in my arms and watch my dad’s eyes fill with tears looking at his grandson: a grandson that he thought he would never live to see. We’d sing all the same songs, get Chanukah gelt, eat my mother’s fantastic latkes, and my dad would hold Wayne, singing softly and sweetly: Ay lu lu lu lu. It was the lullaby that he sang to me.

The first night of Chanukah 5 years ago we all gathered at Wayne and Stacie’s home: my mom Z’L, her friend Milton, Shelly, Dylan, Ari, Spencer and me. I watched Wayne swaying as he chanted the Brachot. It was all of us - my zeide, my dad, me, my son, and his sons, and tears filled my eyes making me stop in the middle of the third blessing. We sang all the same songs, ate latkes with dinner, played dreidel and all I could think was:

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheynu Melech HaOlam,
She’Hechyanu, V’Kia’ manu, V’Higiyanu lazman hazeh.*

This year was no different. Wayne, Stacie & the boys came to our house for the 1st night of Chanukah. The bridge table was set with five chanukiot: my dad’s, my zeide’s, two that Wayne made as a child and one from Israel. All seven of us chanted the blessings together as the boys each lit the candles. Maoz Tzur and Oh Chanukah Oh Chanukah ended our vigil around the table. Wayne and I laughed recalling my mom singing all the verses to Maoz Tzur alone, loud and strong, her pronunciation that of a German Jew. It’s another GREAT Chanukah memory. A smile crossed my lips hearing the voices of the next generation of Mandels chanting the blessings, and illuminating the night with the lights of Chanukah, the lights of hope, freedom and peace.

Blessed art Thou oh Lord, King of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us and brought us to this day.”

If you have memories, and/or pictures, from a special Chanukah celebrated by your family in the past, and are willing to share that with our CBI community, please forward them to me at menorah@bisrael.com. I will incorporate these in the 2017 December Menorah issue, and hopefully they will help inspire us all as we light candles next Chanukah.

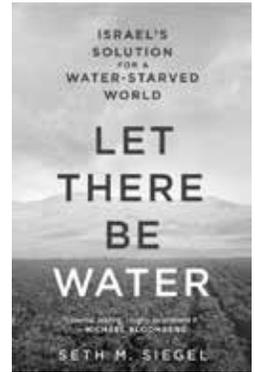
Ellen Michelson

A ONE BOOK ONE COMMUNITY EVENT Sunday, March 26, 2 pm - 4 pm

Let There Be Water – in Israel and New Jersey

Do you know where our water comes from in northern NJ? How similar and different is it to Israel’s water supply? How might climate changes affect water supply here and throughout the world?

Find out answers to these and other questions from Dr. Mike Passow, Congregation B’nai Israel member, Adjunct Associate Research Scientist at Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, and a national leader in the field of Earth Science Education. He will discuss this year’s OBOC book, *Let There Be Water* and how it compares with water supply and disposal here in New Jersey. See images of our region’s water sources taken from a kayak. Even if you haven’t read the book, you’ll be glad you joined us.



**Refreshments will follow! Free and open the community!
at Congregation B’nai Israel, 53 Palisades Ave.,
Emerson, NJ**

In partnership with



Notes from the Editor

Greetings from Ellen Michelson, your Menorah Editor. As you read through this month’s issue, please remember that the Menorah is not only a forum for you to stay informed about CBI events and activities, but also one where you, as a member, are invited to participate. There are two opportunities for you to have a voice in future issues.

‘Members’ Musings’ can be submitted for any topic that you would like to write about and share with our CBI community – it could be to express how you felt at your child’s Bar or Bat Mitzvah or wedding, or perhaps reflections on a trip you were on with a Judaic theme, or maybe a book or movie you want to recommend to the membership.

‘Ask the Clergy’ is a chance to submit a question about Jewish practice or rituals to be answered in writing by Rabbi/ Cantor Mandel (or Rabbi Debra when she returns from her Sabbatical). Was there a service you attended with a prayer or Torah portion you wanted to know more about? Did you attend a function at another synagogue with some part of the service that may have been conducted differently than we do at CBI? Do you have a family member or a friend who is not Jewish, and may have asked a question you didn’t feel you knew the answer to? If there’s something you’ve been wondering about, chances are other congregants have also wondered about the same thing. **‘Ask the Clergy’** is an easy way to elicit a thoughtful answer from our clergy, and the submission is **always** anonymous, so ask away!

Submissions can be sent to me at Menorah@bisrael.com, and I’ll be happy to include them in an upcoming issue.

BLASTS FROM THE PAST!

Another fun cartoon from Dan Kirschner

JUST TRYING TO DRUM UP SOME BUSINESS FOR
THE TREE OF LIFE!

SO.... JOIN THE BAND WAGON AND FALL IN STEP
LIKE SO MANY OTHER MEMBERS HAVE.

DON'T FORGET - LEAVES CAN COMMEMORATE:
BAR/BAT MITZVAHS, WEDDINGS, BIRTHS,
ANNIVERSARYS, HONORIALS, MEMORIALS,
THANK YOUS ETC. ETC.

IT IS A LASTING TOKEN AND KEPT IN THE
PRICE RANGE OF ALL. (THIS WE WILL CONTINUE
TO DO IN SPITE OF RAMPAGING INFLATION)

WE WILL ALSO SEND AN APPROPRIATE CARD OF
NOTIFICATION OF YOUR PURCHASE - SHOULD YOU
DESIRE IT.

TO JOIN THE BAND WAGON IS A SIMPLE PRO-
CEDURE - JUST SEND A CHECK TO DAN
KIRSCHNER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25.00. HIS
ADDRESS IS 10 DOGWOOD LANE IN EMERSON
DIR: CALL HIM AT 262-1690

IF YOU DESIRE ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION.
THANK YOU!



Looks like Dan Kirschner's Marching Band is warming up for the Superbowl! So follow the leader to the Tree Of Life and add a leaf of your own! Contact Bob Greenblatt at 201-265-5777.

**JOIN 6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADER &
9TH-12TH GRADERS - YOUTH GROUPS ON
Sunday, February 12th as we go to**



Bumper Cars - XD Dark Ride - Electric Go Karts

Foam Frenzy - Lazer Runner - Free Fall

Super Twister - Skyscraper - 4D Theatre



The bus will leave at 1:15 pm from
JCC-Paramus/Congregation Beth Tikvah and will return at 5:30 pm
304 East Midland Ave, Paramus • (201) 262-7691

\$20 for FLIPPER USY and Kadima members, \$30 non-members

Admission includes snacks and all attractions plus 14 Arcade Credits.
The Funplex has more than 100 of the latest "high tech" video and
redemption games of skill.

Registration Required by February 6th!

CBI's



**The laughs return on
Saturday,
March 18, 2017!
Time: 8pm - 11pm
Place: CBI**

**SAVE THE DATE!
Mark Your Calendars NOW!**

Laughs Will be Provided by:

BILL ERVOLINO Columnist & features writer since 1990 for The Record. Bill has appeared at Bananas, Don't Tell Mama's, The Producers Club, & opened for Pat Cooper at Bergen PAC. He's been on TV's Today.

BUDDY FITZPATRICK An actor & comedian who's appeared on Comedy Central's Stand & Deliver, A & E, and more. Buddy has opened in theaters for Joan Rivers many times, as well as The Doobie Brothers & The Beach Boys.

TOM Mc TIERNAN NY Newsday calls Tom "One of the sharpest comedians in NY." Tom's performed on Showtime Comedy Network, TV's Make Me Laugh, AXS TV, at AC's Borgata, and in Las Vegas. He's opened in theaters for Tom Jones, Engelbert Humperdinck, John Pinette & Blood, Sweat & Tears.

Tickets: \$50 per person; \$55 per person after February 12 and at the door.

Senior CBI Members \$40 per person (no deadline).

Other Details: 50/50 raffle, snacks, adult beverages included

Make checks payable to Congregation B'nai Israel, noting it is for 2017 Comedy Night and give to Marie

**Open seating or reserve your table for 10 now (prepaid only) by contacting
Meryl Rosenthal@meryl.rosenthal@bisrael.com**

Spread the word. Invite your friends!

Watch for a flyer in the CBI lobby with additional details.

LETTERS

Dear CBI board and CBI family,
Thank you so much for your support during and after my father's funeral. Rabbi Orenstein and Cantor Mandel, I appreciate the touching graveside service you conducted for my father. Your words were true, wise and thoughtful.

CBI -Thank you for the lovely basket and tree planted in Israel. Congregation B'nai Israel is a wonderful, warm and loving shul. I'm happy to be a member, to share good times and bad. It means a lot to me and my family.

Shalom,
Lori Yoselow & family, Mitchell Crowne
(my brother) and family.

Dear CBI Board,
Thank you for the lovely gift basket. We

appreciate your support and comforting words at this difficult time.

Sincerely,
The Rich Samuels and family

Dear CBI Board,
Thank you so much for the generous and thoughtful Chanukah gift. Wishing everyone a very Happy Chanukah.

Best regards,
Karen Weiss

To the Board at CBI
I wish to thank you for the fruit basket sent to me while I was hospitalized. Still recovering, slowly, but expectedly. It was still very reassuring to know that my CBI family was thinking of me. Unfortunately, I was unable to eat, but Ellen made sure

to tell me how delicious it was! I hope to back to my regular schedule and activities by January.

All my best wishes and many thanks.
Bruce Sonkin

A Circle of Five Trees has been planted in celebration of my CBI Family, wishing you all a very Happy Hanukkah with my best wishes for 2017!

Planted with love by Marie Shust

Dear CBI Board,
Thank you for your good thoughts and wishes following my recent surgery. The basket of goodies I received was greatly appreciated, and enjoyed.

Sincerely,
Harvey Meer

Interfaith Outreach

Mark your calendars to participate in our next interfaith event with Peace Islands, which will be held on **Sunday, March 19 at 2 pm.** We will gather in the back of

the sanctuary to view, and then discuss, the documentary film **'BESA – The Promise'**.

This film weaves together a story of WWII through the journey of two men. One is Norman Gershman, a renowned Jewish-American photographer determined to document first person accounts of the Albanian Muslims who rescued Jews during the Holocaust. The other is Rexhep Hoxha, a Muslim Albanian, who must fulfill the promise made to a

Jewish family his father rescued during the Holocaust, and return to them a set of Hebrew books they had to leave behind.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore a little known

story of an intersection between Jewish and Muslim Europe during this historic time. This

film was originally shown at the JCC in Tenafly for Yom HaShoah, 2015, and we have been fortunate enough to have obtained a copy for our interfaith program.

Please let me know if you plan on attending, either by email at ellen.michelson@bisrael.com, or by phone at 201-967-0141.

Ellen Michelson



Sweet Taste of Torah

The North Jersey Board of Rabbis invites you to participate in Sweet Tastes of Torah, a community-wide evening of study, music, and celebration, on **Saturday, February 11.** It will be held at Temple Beth Rishon, 585 Russell Avenue, Wyckoff, NJ.

This year's theme is based on two special circumstances that coincide that particular day: Shabbat Shira (the annual time when we read the "Song of the Red Sea" from the Torah) and Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees. Rabbis from all across Northern New Jersey will teach and lead sessions based on music and trees, texts about ecology and the environment, as well as the experience of song, poetry, and music in the Jewish experience. They may include Biblical and Rabbinic texts, modern poetry and song lyrics, experiential views of fruit -- from the kitchen or the sukkah -- to seeing the beauty in the world as reflected in the "leaves" of books and the cycles of the natural world.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The evening begins with a group Havdalah ceremony. Following the two periods of classes (at 7:30 and 8:40), there will be a reception featuring fruits and nuts commonly associated with the mystics' Tu Bishvat Seder. For more information and to register, go to <http://sweettastesoftorah.weebly.com>.

FEBRUARY 2017

Candle Lighting Times: **3:** 4:58 **10:** 5:07 **17:** 5:15 **24:** 5:24

Shevat-Adar I 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			7:30pm Board meeting 1	2	8pm Erev Shabbat Service 3	10am Dalet/Hey Class Shabbat morning serv. 10:30am 8-11 service 10:30am Young Family Service Kiddush sponsored by Renee and Barry Schiffmann Parsha Bo 4
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 9am Hebrew School 5	6	4pm Hebrew School 7	8	9	7:30pm Gimmel Class Erev Shabbat services 10	10am Shabbat morning service 6:30pm Sweet Tastes of Torah Parsha Beshalach 11
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 9am Bagel Breakfast sponsored by Jayne Rubinfeld and Richard Waldron 9am Hebrew School 1:15pm Kadima Program 12	13	4pm Hebrew School 14	15	16	8pm Erev Shabbat Service 17	10am Share & Care Shabbat Service at JHAL Parsha Yitro 18
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast No Hebrew School 19	20	No Hebrew School 21	22	23	8pm Erev Shabbat Service 24	10am Bet Class Shabbat morning service Parsha Mishpatim 25
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 9am Hebrew School 9:30am Bagel breakfast sponsored by the Van Gyzen family 26	27	4pm Hebrew School 28				

MARCH 2017

Candle Lighting Times: **3:** 5:32 **10:** 5:40 **17:** 6:47 **24:** 6:55

31: 7:02

Adar I-Adar II 5777

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			7:30pm Board meeting 1	2	8pm Erev Shabbat Service 9pm Oneg sponsored by the Van Gyzen family 3	10am Shabbat morning service 3:30pm Max Van Gyzen Bar Mitzvah Parsha Terumah 4
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 9am Hebrew School 10am Hey class Heritage Fair 5	6	4pm Hebrew School 7	8	9	8pm Erev Shabbat Service 10	10am Shabbat morning service Parsha Tetzaveh 11
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 9am Hebrew School 9:30am Purim Shpiel/Megillah Reading 10:30am Purim Carnival 12	13	4pm Hebrew School 14	15	16	8pm Erev Shabbat Service 17	10am Gimmel Class Shabbat morning service Parsha Ki Tasa 8pm Comedy Night 18
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 9am Hebrew School 9am Kehillah for 6th graders (Dalet) 2pm Interfaith movie- 'BESA' 19	20	No Hebrew School 21	22	23	7:30pm Bet Class Erev Shabbat services 24	10am Share & Care Shabbat Service at JHAL with Aleph Class Parsha Vayakhel-Pekudei 25
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 9am Hebrew School 9:30am Bagel breakfast sponsored by the Dubin family 2pm One Book One Community at CBI: Let There Be Water 26	27	4pm Hebrew School 28	29	30	8pm Erev Shabbat Service 9:30pm Oneg sponsored by the Dubin family 31	

FUNDS

ETERNAL LIGHT FUND

TO: Dorothy Cohn & family
Condolences on the passing of your beloved mother, Rashel Meer
FROM: Leslie Davies, Gail Fridling, Joseph Fridling

TO: Harvey Meer & family
Condolences on the passing of your beloved mother, Rashel Meer
FROM: Dorothy & Linda Sion, Salim & Eleanor Dallal, Renee & Warren Kuperinsky

TO: Lori Yoselow & family
Condolences on the passing of your beloved father, Ronald Crowne
FROM: Ruth & Peter Hirschel, Renee & Warren Kuperinsky

TO: Richard Samuels & family
Condolences on the passing of your beloved father Stuart Samuels
FROM: Les & Donna Kaufman, Marvin & Linda Rosengart, Beth & George Liepmann, Natalie Kandik, Kurz Krieger Foundation Inc.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

TO: Toby Breslaw
Condolences on the passing of your beloved mother, Sue Ann Cohen
FROM: Paul & Andrea Wasserman

TO: Rabbi Debra Orenstein & family
May this season of light fill your heart & home with happiness
FROM: Hattie Segal

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

TO: Toby Breslaw
Condolences on the passing of your beloved mother, Sue Ann Cohen
FROM: Paul & Andrea Wasserman

FREYDA FUND

TO: Arlene & Don Fultonberg
Congratulations and all best wishes on your new home
FROM: Bruce & Ellen Sonkin

GOOD & WELFARE FUND

TO: Idelle & Gary Schwinder
In appreciation of your kindness
FROM: Irwin & Vivienne Levenson,

TO: Arlene & Don Fultonberg
Mazel Tov. Wishing you lots of happiness and joy in your new home
FROM: Renee & Warren Kuperinsky

TO: Idelle & Gary Schwinder
Mazel tov on Eric and Amanda's wedding
FROM: Ellen & David Michelson, Steven &

Joan Zelman

TO: Richard Samuels & family
Condolences on the passing of your beloved father Stuart Samuels
FROM: Susan & Marty Casper, Allen & Sharon Neuhaus, Steven & Joan Zelman

TO: Alisa & Jody DeMilia
Mazel Tov on Daniel's Bar Mitzvah
FROM: Beth & George Liepmann

BERNICE'S KITCHEN FUND

TO: Arlene & Don Fultonberg
Congratulations and all best wishes on your new home
FROM: Beth & George Liepmann

GET WELL FUND

TO: Bruce Sonkin
Wishing you a full & speedy recovery
FROM: Steven & Joan Zelman, Marie Shust, Warren & Renee Kuperinsky

TO: Jeff Weiss
Best wishes for your continued recovery
FROM: Beth & George Liepmann

GENERAL FUND

TO: Amelia Welter
Congratulations on your Bat Mitzvah
FROM: Marvin & Carol Medow

TO: Richard Samuels and family
Condolences on the passing of your beloved father Stuart Samuels
FROM: Linda and Steve Shapiro

YAHREZEIT DONATIONS

Karen Tenzer in loving memory of
Lawrence J. Liebowitz
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Bruce's grandmother, Lillie Wellins-Caplan

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Richard Lipshultz in loving memory of Harry Lipshultz
Barbara Glueck in loving memory of Irwin Echtman
Clara Sperber in loving memory of Herbert J. Sperber
Phyllis Kirschner in loving memory of my beloved mother Eleanor Thaler

Mazel Tov

Bill Lazarus on the birth of his twin granddaughters, Maya Sloane and Leah Reese Lazarus

Cathy and Bob Brintz on the birth of their grandson, Charles Dylan Brintz

Belinda Hecht on the marriage of her son Glenn to Jenna Simon, daughter of Irwin and Julie Simon

Sisalee Hecht and Stephen Cosloy on the marriage of their daughter Jamie to Seth Schiffmann

Gertrude Hecht on the marriage of her grandson Glenn Howard to Jenna Simon, and her granddaughter Jamie Cosloy to Seth Schiffmann

Jackie and Allen Millstein on the marriage of their son Zach to Tracey

Jayne Rubenfeld and Richard Waldron on their son, Cory Waldron's, engagement to Hilary Eisenberg

Linda and David Spatz on the engagement of their daughter Hana to Jonathan

Alex Spatz, son of Linda and David Spatz, for receiving his Masters of Science in City and Regional Planning from the Pratt Institute, School of Architecture.



Get Well Soon!

Harvey Meer
Cherry Clarke
Joyce Schreiber
Warren Kuperinsky

FEBRUARY YAHRZEITS

Samuel Kuklin	5 Shevat	02/01/17
Anshel Fishman	6 Shevat	02/02/17
Rose Heller	6 Shevat	02/02/17
Melvin Kreiman	7 Shevat	02/03/17
Lotte Luft	7 Shevat	02/03/17
Lena Weingarten	7 Shevat	02/03/17
Belle M Ivry	9 Shevat	02/05/17
Sophie H. Eben	9 Shevat	02/05/17
Sol Bressler	10 Shevat	02/06/17
Barbara Goldner Meer	10 Shevat	02/06/17
Jean Robbins	10 Shevat	02/06/17
Irving Weinstein	10 Shevat	02/06/17
Shirley Breger	11 Shevat	02/07/17
Maynard L Green	11 Shevat	02/07/17
Daniel Lieberman	11 Shevat	02/07/17
Karl Heller	13 Shevat	02/09/17
Douglas Wallach	14 Shevat	02/10/17
Newman Berlinger	16 Shevat	02/12/17
Samuel S Mirkin	16 Shevat	02/12/17
Daniel J Spooner	16 Shevat	02/12/17
Herbert E Klein	17 Shevat	02/13/17
Daniel Reikes	17 Shevat	02/13/17
Frieda Brown	18 Shevat	02/14/17
Daniel M. Kirschner	19 Shevat	02/15/17
Sylvia Lobell	19 Shevat	02/15/17
Meyer Bergman	20 Shevat	02/16/17
Ruth Lazarus	20 Shevat	02/16/17
Louis Rothman	20 Shevat	02/16/17
Mae Krieger	21 Shevat	02/17/17
Bessie Schneider	21 Shevat	02/17/17
Harry Epstein	22 Shevat	02/18/17
Bessie G Gotfrid	22 Shevat	02/18/17
Edward Sommers	22 Shevat	02/18/17
Israel Gluckstern	23 Shevat	02/19/17
Josef Wegner	23 Shevat	02/19/17
Milton Zirl	23 Shevat	02/19/17
Joseph Rubin	24 Shevat	02/20/17
Samuel Weinstein	24 Shevat	02/20/17
Phyllis Crowne	27 Shevat	02/23/17
Theodore Stern	28 Shevat	02/24/17
Lawrence Trager	30 Shevat	02/26/17
Bertha Weil	1 Adar II	02/27/17
Milton Kutzin	2 Adar	02/28/17
Irwin Ross	2 Adar II	02/28/17

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- **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**
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- **CANTOR DISCRETIONARY FUND**
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