

the KECORDER

EAST BRUNSWICK



」 JEWISH CENTER

JANUARY 2021

TEVET—SHEVAT 5781

VOLUME # 106



SHABBAT SERVICES

Services being held online at the following times. To join the stream, viśit ebjc.org/online-events

Friday Evenings 4:20pm 1/1 1/8 4:30pm 1/15 4:35pm 1/22 4:45pm 1/29 4:50pm

Saturday Mornings 10:00am

JANUARY 2 Vayechi

JANUARY 9 Shemot

JANUARY 16 Vaera

JANUARY 23 Во

JANUARY 30 Beshalach

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Men's Club President Howard Jacobs

Youth Commission Rhonda Gold

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UPCOMING DATES

AS OF THIS WRITING, WE HAVE MOVED ALL SERVICES BACK TO ZOOM ONLY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO BRINGING BACK IN-PERSON SHABBAT SERVICES, BUT WE WILL NOT UNTIL IT IS DETERMINED SAFE TO DO SO, AND ALL OF THE LOGISTICS FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CONGREGANTS AND CLERGY HAVE BEEN DETERMINED. PLEASE CONTINUE TO READ TIDBITS AND THE RECORDER AND GO TO WWW.EBJC.ORG FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

ONLINE SERVICES AND EVENTS—EBJC.ORG/ONLINE-EVENTS UPDATES FROM THE RABBI, CANTOR, ELLEN BOTWIN, AND COPRESIDENTS:

RABBI PIVO—EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-RABBI-PIVO CANTOR LARRY—EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-CANTOR-LARRY CO-PRESIDENTS

ROBERT SALSTON—EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-ROBERT-SALSTON

STEVE ZEIDWERG—EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-STEVE-ZEIDWERG

ELLEN BOTWIN - EBJC.ORG/UPDATES-FROM-ELLEN-BOTWIN

If you have problems at EBJC that are not getting adequately resolved, please call Ellen Botwin at (732) 257-7070

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE:

ONLY checks made out to EBJC go to Montvale. Sisterhood, Men's Club, Mitzvah Corps, all discretionary funds, 613 event, Pavilion donations all go to 511 Ryders Lane.

FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH:

TROUBLE PAYING DUES

If you are having trouble paying dues, please reach out to Marilyn Friedes at marilynfriedes@mac.com. We are committed to helping our families remain a part of the EBJC community when the need arises.

SHABBAT SERVICES

Shabbat services are currently being offered via Zoom only. Please check the cover of the Recorder or the weekly Tidbits for Friday evening service times. Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. . The link to join will be found 15 minutes before services begin on our website at ebjc.org/services.

ONLINE EVENTS AND UPDATES

Go to the Online Events page under the Events tab on our website, or go to ebjc.org/online-events, to stay up to date on events being held online during the quarantine. Also look for updates from the Rabbi, Cantor, and copresidents under the Clergy and Lay Leaders tab.

OFFICE HOURS

The office is staffed Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.; however, the office is currently closed to visitors.

ZOOM HELP

For those of you who are having difficulty using Zoom or the Zoom update, please let us know. We will be happy to give you a call and walk you through it. Just call: 732-257-7070 x1 and leave a message. Someone will get back to you.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Bikur Cholim would like to reach out to our congregation during this difficult time. If you would like a friendly call or know someone who might need a friendly call from a member of the Bikur Cholim committee, please contact Madeline Frances at (732) 254-2783 or email madelinef18@gmail.com.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

We are diligently working to continue engaging and entertaining our community! Ever on the search for interesting programming, please note that on January 3rd we have The Beatles' Jewish Connection, January 10th Dinner in Paris, January 31st a Discussion on Racism and Bigotry lead by Rabbi Funnye, a community leader and African American Rabbi, February 21st we bring back Robyn Helzner for the Bridge to the Balkans, March 7th and April 11th we have a virtual tour of Budapest and Vienna and are currently working on an interesting program on the Kosher Capone's (Jewish Gangsters). All details will be in Tidbits, the Recorder and on our webpage under Events! Most of these programs are free to our community. If you can, a donation in any amount is always appreciated so that we may continue to bring you these programs and events.



JANUARY 2021

Board of Directors 1/18 (Zoom)

Executive Board 1/4 (Zoom)

Genesis Science 1/4, 11, 18. 25 (Zoom)

Parshat Hashavuah with Rabbi Pivo 1/1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (Zoom)

Lunch and Learn 1/6, 13, 20, 27(Zoom)

Talmud Class 1/6, 13, 20, 27 (Zoom)

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS MAZEL TOV TO:

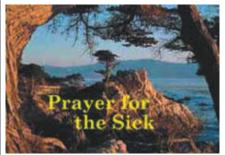
Randy and Steve Solomon on the birth of their grandson Benjamin Vail, to Dorie & Dr. Michael Tobias

Sara and Scott Alter on the birth of their grandson Lavi, to their son Hirsch and daughter-in-law Neta Alter

Sheila and Bernie Solomon on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Aiden Matthew Wilton
Dmitry and Julia Khavich on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Elizabeth
Marc and Melanie Blatteis on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Molly

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

Helene Gerson on the loss of her father, Philip Monheit
The family and friends of Hal Buchberg
Elissa Smith on the loss of her mother, Helen Book
Elaine Schwartz on the loss of her brother, Lawrence Anixt



We have begun a "Psalm Fellowship," which gathers each week to chant psalms together to pray for the sick and ask for their healing.

Anne Kroll will be chairing and leading a healing prayer circle for EBJC members reciting from the Book of Psalms in English. Barbara Pollak and Deena Oren will co-lead in Hebrew. All are welcomed to join the Zoom meeting on Tuesday evenings from 8:30PM to 9PM. All are welcomed to send in the name of the person they will be praying for to my email address, selectivemedia@comcast.net, where a list will be kept.

Emails are sent out each Monday with the Zoom meeting information.





It's a mitzvah...when someone cooks for you!

We each NEED to support local kosher restaurants during this difficult time.

Save the dates below for Grab-n-Go Dinners.

Grab-n-Go menus will be shared in the week prior to pick-up.



Friday, January 8 - Classical Caterers/Evan Sunday, January 31 - China Lee Friday, February 19 - The Bridge

Pediatric and Adolescent Associates of Central New Jersey, L.L.C.

Dr. Robert S. Salston Dr. Jeffrey P. Herman Dr. Henry T. Shih Dr. Maheswari Arumugam Pamela J. Donner, P.A.

100 Perrine Road Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Tel: (732) 316-0900 www.paacnj.com



RABBINIC REFLECTIONS



Over the past fifty years or so, Judaism and other religions have faced a difficult challenge: modern societies' evolution away from obligations. To be a good citizen, or a good Jew, traditionally meant that we each subscribed to a set of binding actions within families. communities, and in our relationship with God. Through the late part of the twentieth century and into the twenty first, we have drifted from feelings of obligation. In their place many moderns have elevated individualism, placing the self and personal liberty above other values.

For Jews, the loss of feelings of obligation feels particularly acute, as doing what is expected of us has been central to Jewish law and living, no less the sense of our Jewish selves, for thousands of years. Each winter, the minor holiday of Tu b'Shevat provides an opportunity to re-center our actions, with an eye toward our obligations to

the community and to the future. It is the holiday which marked the maturity of fruit trees in the ancient period, which would be subject to tithing. Those tithes, in turn, supported the work of the priests and the Temple in Jerusalem, making it possible for everyone in the community to take part in what we might term the religious economy. By tithing their fruit trees, Jews acknowledged their personal obligations to the continued operation of the Temple.

In rabbinic lore, a well known midrash establishes the standard of planting fruit trees even if, as in the case of the carob tree, no produce will come to fruition until many years later, perhaps not even in the lifetime of the one who plants it. Despite the possibility of not gaining any benefit personally from these trees. the sages understood that just as carob trees were in the world when we came into it. it is our responsibility to make sure they are here when others follow us.

Obligation is at the center of how Jews are to understand their place in the world. We emphasize our responsibilities to others, rather than what is due to us from them. That value is sometimes in direct conflict with modern sensibilities, but it is a crucial counterweight to a society that feels ever more centered on the individual. It is in fulfilling our obligation to others that we

live up to the standards of our sacred texts and our sages' words. Being a Jew means planting for a future that will bear more fruit than we consume.

Rabbi Jeff Pivo

O6 JANUARY 2021

FROM CANTOR LARRY



Following the holiday of Hanukkah, which fell early this season, I began to reflect on the secular holiday of the New Year. I began to think of what changes will be applied to the 2021 New Year. Although many of my wants and wishes have already been asked for and some put into place since the Jewish New Year back in September; nonetheless, I feel that there are many new beginnings that take place in any given year. With every beginning, we must be thankful for all that is good. We celebrate the end of reaching a goal and begin to work on the next set of priorities and adventures.

One of the important blessings that we recite when we enter a new phase is the blessing of the Sheheheyanu. Normally, this blessing is recited on seventeen occasions in the year. It is translated as: "Praised are You, God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has granted us life and sustenance and permitted us to reach this festive occasion." It is recited when tasting fruit for the first

time in the season, when putting on a new garment, when moving into a new house, when lighting the first Hanukkah candle, when the Shofar is sounded on Rosh Hashanah, the first day the Lulav and Etrog are used on Sukkot, before reading the Megillah on Purim, and it forms part of the Kiddush for festivals, except the last two nights of Pesah.

Sheheheyanu is omitted on the last two nights of Pesah, commemorating the crossing of the Red Sea, in order to stress the idea that we must not rejoice over the misfortunes that befell our foes. Similarly, only half-Hallel is recited on the last six days of Pesach, in keeping with the following tradition: When the Egyptians were drowning in the Red Sea, God restrained the angels from singing and praising, saying: "How can you sing while my creatures are drowning,, in the sea?" (Megillah 10b). It all goes back to the biblical warning which says: "Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, do not exult when he is overthrown..." (Proverbs 24:17-18).

The Sheheheyanu blessing is not recited at a Brit Milah (circumcision ceremony) festivity because of the "pain" involved to the child circumcised. Nor is it recited at the first counting of the Omer, which brings to mind the tragic events con-

nected with the Sefirah period between Pesah and Shavuot. Otherwise, it is used on all happy occasions.

May the occasion of the "2021" New Year be one to fulfill the blessing of the Sheheheyanu. May we all be blessed with a future that is filled with global health, happiness, and, above all, peace.

On behalf of my wife, Laura, and my children, I wish all of you a happy and joyous 2021 New Year.

Larry I. Brandspiegel
Cantor / Director of Education

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It's December as I write this and almost unbelievable that we have been suffering through this pandemic and shut down for 9 months and counting! I could have had a baby (ha, who am I kidding?)! Between the pandemic and the election, I think everyone will be happy to see the year 2020 in the rear view mirror. We can only hope and pray that 2021 brings us better days.

As we await an impending snowstorm, I am grateful that I have a decently stocked pantry and fridge. I'm not shopping for milk and bread... but then again, I was never one to "stock up" before a storm. I always had enough. Maybe that's because I'm the child of a depression-era mom. What's fascinating to me is my son and daughter's generation...minimalists! Do you know how upsetting it is that they want NOTHING from my home? Honestly, it's frustrating. Not that I want them to clutter their homes with my stuff, but can't they take something???

I have wonderful serving platters that they don't want. I have beautiful artwork that

they don't want. I have collectibles like Lladro that they don't want. Where did I go wrong? When speaking to friends, I've discovered that this is a generational thing. None of the children want their parents' stuff! So what do we do with it? I'm planning to downsize at some point. Some of the things I want the kids to take have real value, but that seems to be of no interest to them.

So, I've become a Facebook Marketplace, Poshmark and LetGo seller. Just what I never wanted...another job! Some items I'm happy to donate, but some...not so much. I also have a basement full of vintage Atari stuff. Who knew there was such a market for this? I listed that I had vintage Atari stuff for sale and in one day got 137 responses! I was overwhelmed.

Now that I've become a maven in selling my stuff, if my children change their minds and want any of it, they can have it...for a price!

It seems that everything has a price and different things appeal to different people. That's why, when you look at the EBJC website, you'll see all different programs and events, and classes being offered virtually. Different strokes for different folks. Maybe you miss traveling... our virtual tours of Paris, Vienna, Budapest and the Balkans will fit the bill. Maybe you like something more stimulating...the conversation with Rabbi Funnye, an African-American Rabbi may be right

up your alley. Something Lighter? Maybe the Jews and the Beatles! Something fun and interactive? Maybe Pinot and Painting is it for you or a cooking/baking class with New Era! Want to learn something... take a class with the Rabbi, Cantor or Judah! There's something for everybody and most of these classes are free. We have been asking for a donation in any amount, because even though there is no charge for the program, we do still have to pay the presenter. If you simply wish to pray...we're here...we're zooming services on Friday night and Saturday as well as daily minyanim.

For those of you who think nothing is happening because the building is closed, I beg to differ. We are busier than ever; we're just seeing each other virtually instead of in person and this too shall come to pass.

I wish you all continued good health and hope to see you in 2021!

Be well,

Fllen

FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



As we ring in the new year of 2021, we gladly say good-bye (or some may say good riddance) to 2020, a year we will never forget. But as we reflect on the year of the Corona virus pandemic, we would like to illuminate some of the ways that we at EBJC made the year, not only bearable, but also made us proud to be part of our kahal.

As the year began, we found ourselves on firm financial footing, meeting our budget objectives through the first quarter of the year. Kudos to our financial team: treasurer, Neil Kosher, and financial secretary, Haley Migdal, for preparing the budget. And thank you to our membership for supporting EBJC with timely dues payments and contributions.

On the night of February 22nd, we held our annual Gala, honoring East Brunswick Mayor and EBJC member, Dr. Brad Cohen. The event was a rousing success; attendance was a sellout, and we raised over \$40,000 for our synagogue. Thank you to our Gala chairs, Margo and David Julis, Executive Vice-President Joannie Weinfeld, and our Gala committee for organizing and bringing to fruition such an enjoyable event.

Who would have realized then that less than three weeks after the Gala, we would be shutting down our inperson activities due to the pandemic? We are grateful that we had a committee of physicians in our community to help guide us through some of the difficult early decisions to lock down the shul. Thanks to Drs. Laura Brandspiegel, Richard Drachtman, Lou Friedman, Jules Plafker, and Phil Schiffman for their

medical advice, and to our legal counsel, David Libowsky for his legal expertise. We were among the first group of local synagogues to close our doors, but we did not close out our community. As you all know, less than 24 hours after making the decision to close, we were streaming services to our community. Our attendance at our online services has been phenomenal, and our membership has participated in these services from home. We were able to stay connected, and in some ways, this connection during a time of lockdown has strengthened our community. And even though our services were only online, we managed to celebrate several B'nai Mitzvot with guests tuning in from as far away as Argentina and Israel.

When the pandemic waned in the summer, we were able to hold inperson services on Shabbat, the High Holidays, and the Chagim, and we were even able to hold outdoor Hakafot on Simchat Torah!

The pandemic has brought out some of the best in our community. Many members have volunteered to go grocery shopping for those, who due to age or underlying medical conditions, did not feel safe to do the shopping themselves. Our Membership Committee has made and continues to make calls to our membership to check in on them and to see if there is anything that EBJC can do for them.

There have been multiple classes available online. Judah Landa has continued to teach his Science and the Bible and Talmud classes via Zoom. Both Cantor Larry and Rabbi Pivo teach regularly as well. Members of our Sisterhood have

held baking demonstrations. And our Kesher and preschool programs have operated online as well as in person.

EBJC has hosted several entertaining programs in the past few months, all of which have been streamed on Zoom. In October, Robyn Helzner gave a program on the Jews of China. November brought us an evening with Tova Feldshuh, the actress best known for portraying Golda Meir in Golda's Balcony on Broadway. And on the sixth night of Hanukkah, we had a family program featuring a comedian and a mentalist. Something for everyone.

Perhaps the best news of 2020 has been the pending sale of part of our property to Yeshiva Ateres Shlomo. When the sale closes, EBJC will retire all our debt and will have an endowment of \$1 million dollars which will secure our financial stability for the foreseeable future.

We do not want to ignore or downplay the misery of 2020 caused by COVID-19. Members of our kahal have lost loved ones to or have suffered from this horrible illness. But Judaism is essentially an optimistic religion. After Hashem completed His creation, He looked at his worked and He said, "ki tov," He saw that it was good. We look back at the challenges of this past year and our community's responses to it, and we also say, ki tov.

We pray that with the arrival of vaccines and our continued vigilance with mask wearing and social distancing, we can look forward to returning to a more normal world.

In the words of Psalm 84, "... [may we all continue] to go from strength to strength".

B'Shalom
Bob Salston
Steve Zeidwerg
Co-Presidents

SISTERHOOD



Wow! We made it to a New Year. Considering the challenges presented during the previous nine months, this is no small accomplishment.

We can't wait to usher in 2021! This year, even more than those past, represents a new beginning—a clean slate on which to build a promising future. We are committed to lifting the doom and gloom.

Despite the hurdles of 2020, Sisterhood remained steadfast in its mission to unite and empower the beautiful mosaic of women in our synagogue. We continued to offer a variety of programs to appeal to different interests, and to ensure that our special connection endured.

This past summer and fall, we hosted Zoom sessions focused on—creative projects during the pandemic, books on anti-Semitism (non-fiction) and an international kidnapping plot (fiction), the museum exhibit of the exquisite handbag designs of a Holocaust survivor, an author forum, and an engaging discussion on our prominent cultural identity. In each case, we shared our opinions, spirituality, and perspective, all contributing to a deeper bond.

We will continue to unite on Zoom as long as necessary. And even though Zoom has its irritations—background noise, delays in muting/unmuting, participants speaking over each other—no one can deny that it has been an absolute blessing.

So we have much to be grateful for. Why not make it part of your New Year's resolution to renew your membership in Sisterhood or join us for the very first time. Either way, you are lending your support to 115 strong women who have already made the commitment, and we will welcome you with open arms. Dues

are still only \$36. Since Sisterhood contributes annually to EBJC, a powerful Sisterhood ensures a robust shul! Please send your check to Membership VP Cindy Rabinowitz today.

The Torah Fund 2020-2021 Campaign is energetic as ever. This year's theme--B'YACHAD (Together) -recognizes the joint efforts of Sisterhood volunteers across the U.S. and Canada. The Torah Fund supports the Conservative education of clergy, administrators, and lay leaders within our movement. Donations of any amount are welcome! We are reminded that "..it's about the JEWERY. not the JEWELRY". Yet, we all love our Torah Fund pins, and are eager to show them off. They are finally expected to arrive by mid-January! Contact Jody Bramson at JLBrams@aol.com or 732-991-8410 to make your donation and arrange pick-up. WATCH FOR NOTICE OF OUR ANNUAL TORAH FUND **EVENT IN MARCH!**

ON THE HORIZON--

Monthly Winter Education Series— Wednesday evenings January through March 2021—Rabbi Pivo paints a captivating portrait of Women of the Bible.

January 20—<u>The Relationship</u>
<u>Between Men and Women—The</u>
Case of Eve

February 17-<u>Deborah and Ya'el:</u> Women as Prophet and Warrior

March 17—Ruth: The First Jew By Choice

Join us for one class, two classes, or the full series. All are welcome.

SPECIAL FESTIVE TU B'SHEVAT SEDER ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021. CHECK YOUR WEEKLY TIDBITS FOR ALL THE DETAILS!

Our next Sisterhood Book Club selection is <u>The Color of Love: a</u> <u>Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl</u> by Marra B. Gad, scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2021. This is a fascinating memoir about a mixed-race Jewish woman who, after 15 years of estrangement from her racist great aunt, helps bring the older woman home when she descends into Alzheimer's. Given the racial unrest that has recently arisen in our country, this book seems especially timely.

Avid readers—you can have a say in future book choices! Should it be fiction/mystery/non-fiction? Have you read a book that you can't stop thinking and talking about? All we ask is that the book includes some Jewish thematic element. Please send your suggestions to Sara Ullman at sarajull366@gmail.com

PURIM is almost upon us. Check your email/mailbox for 2021 Shalach Manot order forms. Sisterhood will help you fulfill the mitzvah of gifting family, friends, and neighbors in celebration of this joyous holiday. Our Shalach Manot campaign is Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year; please participate by promptly placing your orders. And don't forget to sign up to deliver the gift bags by checking the appropriate box on the form!

PURCHASING SCRIP IS AN EASY WAY TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SISTERHOOD THROUGH THESE TRYING TIMES! We have gift cards available to Shoprite, Acme, and Lox, Stock and Deli. Most of us are still patronizing these stores, so why not help out Sisterhood in the process. Contact Cheryl Decker at 732-257-7070.

As we embark on our journey through 2021, let's vow to keep faith, community, and kindness as our guiding principles. Nothing has and will continue to sustain us as successfully as our bonds to each other.

In Sisterly Friendship,
Cindi Jacobs/Sara Ullman
Sisterhood Co-Presidents









PURIM PLANNING IS UNDER WAY!!!

EBJC SISTERHOOD MISHLOACH MANOT MAILING WILL BE COMING TO YOUR EMAIL AND MAILBOX WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS AND RESPOND RIGHT AWAY SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT. FULFILLING THE MITZVAH OF MISHLOAN MANOT (SENDING HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS TO FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS) IS SO EASY WHEN YOU LET SISTERHOOD TAKE CARE OF IT FOR YOU!

Questions? Contact:

Cindy Rabinowitz 732-390-9781/cindy.rabinowitz@comcast.net

Margot Julis 732-390-1245/magooj1211@comcast.net

Sara Ullman 732-249-4737/tranquil77@aol.com

SISTERHOOD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



• The Sisterhood Judaica Shop is your source for beautiful giftware, books, candles, head coverings, children's items and more. Since shopping in person is not an option right now, if you see an item online, contact our Judaica Shop managers and they will assist you in your purchase.

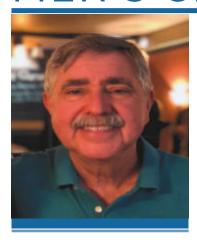
Browse the beautiful collection of gifts, home furnishings and Judaica for all occasions online. If you don't see what you are looking for, our Managers will get it for you. Contact Cindy Rollman 908-812-6713 or Caroline Steinberg 732-735-6641

• **Gift cards** are an easy way to help the Sisterhood raise funds by purchasing gifts for ShopRite, ACME, Lox, Stock & Deli or Giddy's. **We all have to grocery shop during the Pandemic and you are going to spend the money there ANYWAY!!! What could be easier?**

Contact Judy Klotzkin 732-390-6140 or scrip@ebjc.net

- Bimah Baskets for any Simcha...A "virtual" beautiful basket with food items will be placed on the Bimah prior to Shabbat. A card will let your guests know that a donation has been made in honor of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child. You can also order a Bimah Basket for ANY occasion you'd like! Contact Cindy Rollman 908-812-6713
- **JNF Trees** to purchase trees-Contact: Diana Horowitz 732-390-9058
- Cards, Tributes & Tree of Life Contact: Bernice Bellows-732-254-4103; Beth Belzer 732-238-7925
- Torah Fund Contact Jody Bramson 732-390-5166 jlbrams@aol.com

MEN'S CLUB



Shalom!

As we settle in for the winter, and as we shelter in place because of the health situation, EBJC's Men's Club remains as active as ever. We are doing things virtually, rather than in person for now, but we're continuing to meet electronically and discuss issues that are important to our community.

During December we had a program on the mental health aspects of this year's not-normal situation. Dr. Allen Weg shared with us his thoughts on how to deal with anxiety and the other negative emotional impacts that result from being physically, if not electronically, sequestered. We really appreciated his thoughts.



Thank you to Jordan Feldman for suggesting this program and setting it up!

Speaking of Jordan, another program that we enjoyed during December was our annual Man of the Year / Youth of the Year dinner. This is a tradition which brings attention to those who contribute to our community, and in the process helps bind us all more tightly together. This year we honored the father/daughter team of Jordan and Reese Feldman. We thank them for their involvement in EBJC and all

that they bring to us and the Jewish people. If you are interested, you can go to ebjc.org/MOY for a link to a recording of the program. We also appreciate the work of Dave Mandell and Steve Harkavy who helped to organize the program and bring it to reality under very unusual circumstances. And we express our gratitude to Rabbi Pivo, Cantor Larry, Sisterhood, Mitzvah Corps, and many members of Men's Club who placed journal ads to honor Jordan and Reese. Kol Hakavod to all who contributed in different ways to making this happen!

In January we normally run a blood drive at EBJC, and in conjunction host a program to honor our unsung heroes. Given that our building is closed due to the pandemic, this all became harder this year. Ron Berger was able to get creative and secure the East Brunswick Mall as an alternate venue for the blood drive on January 10. Thanks Ron for your initiative on this important project! If you are able to donate, please do - saving lives is always a mitzvah, and this year because of the dislocations brought about by the virus, the need for blood is greater than ever. And on the evening of 1/14, we are honoring our unsung heroes. This year, our heroes are the health care workers who are working tirelessly to get us through this crisis. We will have 3 people stand in to represent those who work in the health care fields: Sherry Stein, the administrative director of Hospital Based Providers, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital; Deanna Hoffman, a physician assistant at CityMD in NYC, and; Craig Berger of the Milltown Rescue Squad. Please join us to hear their stories and to thank them for what they and their colleagues are doing for all of us.

Tu B'Shvat this coming year starts on the evening of January 27. This year we plan to co-sponsor a Tu B'Shvat seder with Sisterhood. Please see Tidbits and emails for more information as we get closer to the event.

A new program that our national Men's Club organization (FJMC) has

brought to us this year is Wine on the Vine (WOTV). For more than a century, people around the world have been planting trees in Israel, as a sign of support, as a way of connecting and to help the country grow. Wine on the Vine continues this tradition by planting grapevines in our homeland. For \$18, you may plant a vine at one of Israel's leading wineries. Vines are tax-deductible and may be dedicated to a friend or a loved one for any occasion. To learn more about WOTV, and for directions on how to order a vine, please go to ebjc.org/WOTV. And if you want to buy wine from these Israeli wineries, you can purchase them from the EBJC Mitzvah Corps by going to ebjc.org/mitzvah-corps and downloading their current wine



We have several additional programs planned for February, including our annual World Wide Wrap on February 7, and a game of poker for the afternoon of February 21. More details on these events will be made available via Tidbits and email as we get closer to them. We are always open to new ideas for activities, events or programs that would be of interest to people at EBJC. Please feel free to let me know your suggestions, and please plan to join us at our events.

Thank you for your interest in Men's Club and thanks for being part of the EBJC community!

Howard Jacobs

President, EBJC Men's Club

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Many of you are not familiar with the Membership committee and all of our functions. We not only initiate new programs for our current EBJC members to enjoy with the help of Ellen Botwin, but we also try to reach the larger Jewish community to attract new members to become part of our family. Granted it's been a little challenging of late as we cannot spend time together physically, however we have offered, and will continue to offer, unique programs via Zoom.

Please come travel with us virtually as we plan to offer programs taking us to faraway lands such as The Balkans, Budapest and Vienna. Experience learning about the life of Joseph Pulitzer in addition to the Kosher Capones. Spend an enjoyable virtual evening participating in Pinot and Paint over the Zoom platform.

Our grab and go meals have been a huge success as we support our local kosher restaurants, while making it easy for our members to pick up their meals in the EBJC parking lot. For example, we had 70 delicious meals ordered and delivered from Fred and Murry's! Thank you to those of you who have supported the grab and go dinners and be sure to look out for information regarding upcoming meals from different restaurants in the near future.

The membership committee welcomes new ideas from our EBJC members. We

are always looking for volunteers to help with established programs, as well as new members to join our committee. Feel free to reach out to any of us with any questions or comments. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Until we can see each other again, stay safe and healthy, and please tune into some of our programs!

Hope everyone had a Happy Hanukkah.

Karen Rosen

Member of the Membership Committee along with Hollie Cerame, Rhoda Cohen, Rick Rollman, Bruce Sommers and our Co-Chairs,

Ken Gerson (kgerson7@gmail.com) and

Taryn Webber (tkwebber4@gmail.com)

CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING





The Center for Early Learning @ EBJC

Our students at CEL have had a blast celebrating Thanksgiving and Hanukkah! We would like to wish you a Happy & Healthy New Year!







We dressed up and had a delicious Thanksgiving feast!









We made Hanukkah decorations!

We sang our favorite Hanukkah songs!



We played with driedels







If you know anyone interested in our school, please have them contact Lynda Perel @ Lperel@ebjc.org or call 732 257 7070

CHALLAH SALE!!



Enjoy delicious challah while supporting The Center for Early Learning at the same time!

Our challah is freshly baked and delivered weekly from Zadie's Kosher Bakery.



Buy a plain challah for 12 weeks \$52
 Buy a whole wheat challah for 12 weeks \$55
 January 8, 2021 - March 26, 2021

I would lik	e to buy
	_ 12 weeks of a plain challah for \$52
	_ 12 weeks of a whole wheat challah for \$55
Name:	

Checks payable to EBJC - THANKS FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT!

KESHER AND YOUTH GROUPS







Dear Kesher Families:

As we enter the new secular year, I personally look forward to returning with the hope of in-person learning. However, since it is only a hope, I pray that we continue to study and learn together in our new style of hybrid learning. In actuality, there have been some benefits to hybrid and remote learning. For many adults, more people are able to attend the classes offered through EBJC. For our students, sometimes getting to the building with working parents can be tough. Our new approach provides the opportunity to be together, even when not physically together.

We have a few sessions off this month. The first is Sunday, January 3rd, due to the New Year closings. We will also be off on Sunday, January 17th, for Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. Otherwise, we are full of learning and Youth Programming this month. I ask you to check your calendars, emails, and Facebook accounts for announcements about all events.

For the past fifteen years I have been a member of the Jewish Educators Assembly. Quickly, I became close with many of my colleagues, and then was asked to serve on the national board of the JEA. I have come up the ranks and am currently serving as a Vice President of the organization. This year, I was awarded the recognition of being a Conservative Jewish Educator, a specific title granted by the JEA for years of service to Jewish education. I am humbled to have received this recognition, along with the honorary doctorate that was given to me a couple of years ago.

At the end of this month, the JEA will hold its annual conference remotely. There will be online learning sessions, speakers, and a virtual gala. A lot of hard work has gone into the conference thus far. Conservative Jewish educators benefit from the learning and professional advancement that the JEA offers. Truly, this organization is close to my heart. Within the tenet of Tzedakah, if you should choose to honor me, my colleagues, or the JEA in general with a donation of any amount, I along with all of the JEA members would be very grateful.

One more amazing event to share with all of you. On Shabbat morning, January 23rd at 11am, there will be a service via Zoom called Zoom Nation Shabbat. This will be a Shabbat Zoom service for families from across the United States. A concept I proposed with a few of my colleagues. There will be about six of my colleagues, including me, helping to lead this service. We are looking forward to seeing so many faces from around the country. Please join and show EBJC's strength in our numbers. Information and the link will be sent via email in our usual announcements.

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to me at cantorlarry@ebjc.org. I wish you and your family a wonderful 2021 New Year.

Larry I. Brandspiegel
Cantor/Director of Education

ADULT EDUCATION

EBJC offers a full range of adult courses designed for all interests and at various days and times. If you want to learn something that is not currently offered, let us know!

AVAILABLE CLASSES

SHABBAT MORNING CLASS

Saturdays | 9 a.m.

Join us for Rabbi Pivo's Saturday morning class at 9 am, where we study the weekly parshah prior to Shabbat services. Reflecting on the Chumash and ancient and modern commentaries, we discuss the roots of our ancient culture and the timeless values of the Jewish people.

GENESIS SCIENCE CLASS (STREAMING) Mondays | 8:30 p.m. in the library

This class combines a rigorous textual analysis of the biblical verses with knowledge from external sources, including history, science, linguistics and archeology. We meet every Monday evening at 8:30 pm for about one hour in the library at EBJC. After more than 12 years, having started from the beginning of Genesis, we are currently in the middle of Deuteronomy. The plan is to proceed in order through the other books of the Hebrew Bible.

TALMUD CLASS (STREAMING)

Wednesdays | 8:30 p.m. in the library
This class brings to life the voices,
discussions and debates of our sages as
they formulated Jewish Law based on the
traditions and foundational texts received
from ancient times. We meet every
Wednesday evening at 8:30 pm for about
one hour in the EBJC library. Currently we
are studying tractate Kiddushin which
concerns the laws of marriage.

LUNCH AND LEARN (STREAMING) Wednesdays | 12 p.m. | Room 8 Monroe Lunch and Learn

Once a month we meet with Rabbi Pivo in the homes of various congregants. These sessions have been very interesting and well attended. Please call Howard Jacobs at 732-402-2273 or at howard_jacobs@ebjc.net for details on upcoming dates, to get on our Monroe mailing list, with questions and to reserve your spot.

HEBREW READING CLASS (CANCELLED) Thursdays | 7 p.m.

Focus is on parsha and biblical understanding. A small donation of \$10.00 for four sessions is requested. For additional information about the class, please contact Ora Rotblum at orarotblum@yahoo.com or 732-390-0314.

ISRAELI DANCE (CANCELLED)

Beginners:

Mondays | 7:00 p.m.

Intermediate/Advanced: Mondays | 8:00 p.m.

Come and stay for as long as you can! \$10.00 per session fee.

MAH JONG GAMES (CANCELLED)

Mondays | 7 p.m. | Room 9

Come and join us for friendly Mah Jong games! All levels, including experienced as well as beginners, who will be eagerly taught, are welcome.

HAPPENINGS AT EAST BRUNSWICK JEWISH CENTER

Sunday, January 3 at 6:30 p.m.

5th Annual Jewish Community Wine and Food Experience. Please check your emails and weekly Tidbits for event specifics and registration information.

Sunday, January 10

On January 10, we are planning to conduct our annual blood drive. Given that EBJC is locked down because of the pandemic, we are holding the drive this year in the East Brunswick Mall. It is the highest mitzvah to save a life, and donating blood saves lives. If you can give, please save the date and call Ron Berger to sign up at 732-545-0793.

Sunday, January 10 at 6:30 p.m.Dinner in Paris – A Virtual Tour of Paris

Thursday, January 14 at 8:30 p.m.

On January 14 at 8:30 p.m. we are going to have this year's Unsung Heroes program. This year's heroes will consist of health care workers who have worked tirelessly to keep us healthy during the pandemic. Please save the date and stay tuned for more information.

Wednesday, January 27

Sisterhood Tu B'shvat Seder with Men's Club

Sunday, January 31 at 5:00 p.m. A CONVERSATION ABOUT RACE

With Rabbi Capers Funnye

Rabbi Funnye will speak about race and race relations from the unique perspective of being a black Jewish rabbi and community leader. There is no charge for this event.

Wednesday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m.
Class with Rabbi Pivo – Women of the Bible

Sunday, February 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Robyn Helzner returns to discuss "Bridge to the Balkans", a Jewish tour of the Balkans with music, video and slides.

Thursday, March 4

Sisterhood event - discussion of the film "The Windermere Children"

Sunday, March 7 Virtual Tour of Vienna

Sunday, April 11 Virtual Tour of Budapest



Join us for "Dinner in Paris"

A Virtual Tour through Paris and Her History

Participants will experience the history of the Jewish community in Paris with stories from Holocaust survivors and their families, Rabbis, and Jewish friends in Paris.

Among the sites to be visited are:

Le Marais (main Jewish neighborhood) - Place de Vosges Hotel de Sully - Synagogue Hector Guimard, the oldest synagogue in Paris - Musee Carnavalet - SHOAH Holocaust Memorial Museum - and much more!

For those who wish to accompany the tour with an authentic Parisian meal, recipes and a bibliography will be provided to advance registrants!



Sunday, January 10, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

There is no charge for this program. A donation of any amount to our Membership/Programming committee will help us continue offering entertaining, stimulating and informative programs to our community.

Born and raised in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Karen Reb Rudel grew up with the aspiration to be a comedian, a musician, or both... She went on to study drama at Temple University in Philadelphia and played in a series of bands. From the age of 30 until she got married, Karen was back and forth between Paris and Philadelphia, working on musical projects and touring (including being the flautist and singer in a Reggae band in Paris). One day her parents came to visit her and Karen, having learned a lot about Paris, was showing them around when her mother exclaimed, "Karen, you would make a great tour guide!" That was the light bulb moment, and as the French say, voila!











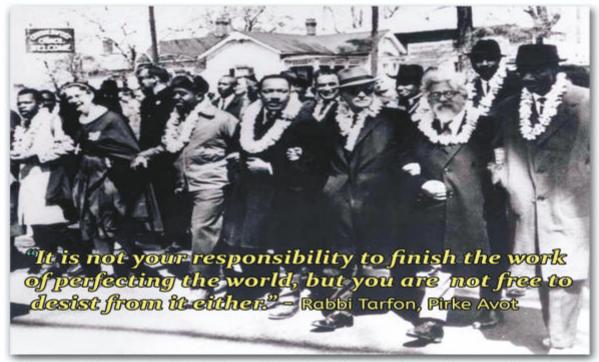
To register, go to: www.ebjc.org/Dinner-in-Paris

Program hosted by Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford, CT Questions? Problems? Call Ellen Botwin 732-257-7070x5 or email at ebotwin@ebic.org.

Co-Sponsors:

The Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford, CT Congregation Torat El, Oakhurst, NJ East Brunswick Jewish Center, East Brunswick, NJ

THERE IS STILL WORK TO BE DONE



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. & Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST RACISM: Building Our Common Heritage



Dr. Bernice A. King

Daughter of
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Dr. Susannah Heschel

Daughter of
Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel



Rabbi Capers Funnye Jr.

Chief Rabbi,
Int'l, Israelite Board of Rabbis

Sunday, January 24, 2021, 3pm PST, 5pm CST, 6pm EST

Link to Register:TogetherAgainst RacismNM.org

This program is generously sponsered by Jewish Federation of New Mexico



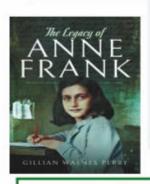
In Recognition of International Holocaust Remembrance Day

The Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County

Welcomes from England (Via Zoom)

Gillian Walnes Perry MBE

Co-founder and Honorary Vice President of the Anne Frank Trust UK





Tuesday January 26, 2021 1:30PM VIA ZOOM

"The Surprising Global Legacy of Anne Frank"

AN INSPIRATIONAL AND TIMELY TAKE ON THE WELL KNOWN ANNE FRANK STORY

Gillian Perry will speak about her remarkable book "The Legacy of Anne Frank" which explores Anne Frank's story through a new lens. Learn how a Jewish girl's experiences in the Holocaust have had a redemptive and healing effect in some of the world's most turbulent and violent regions. Find out how Anne Frank has given young people in some of the poorest and most challenging regions aspiration and hope for their own futures.

Gillian will relate fascinating stories about spending a night at the Academy Awards with the heroic helper of the Anne Frank family and how Audrey Hepburn became involved in her charity.

Registration Fee: FREE

TO REGISTER: Go to the JCC website at www.jccmc.org and Click on Register for Programs or call the JCC Front Desk at 732-494-3232 Monday — Friday 7am-5pm.

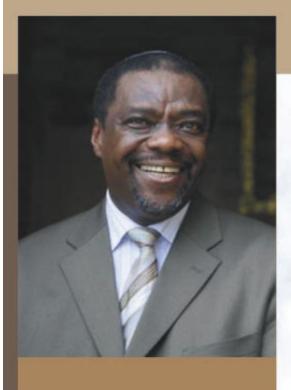
PLEASE NOTE THAT REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE 12PM ON January 26th, THE DAY OF THE ZOOM PRESENTATION. ONCE REGISTRATION IS COMPLETE YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZOOM INVITATION FROM: Esther Fendrick (efendrick@jccmc.org).



Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County 1775 Oak Tree Road, Edison, NJ, 08820 Tel.732.494.3232 www.jccmc.org







A Conversation About Race with Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Jr.

Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Jr. is Chief Rabbi of the International Israelite Board of Rabbis. In addition, he is rabbi and spiritual leader of Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation in Chicago and a long-time member of the Chicago Board of Rabbis.

Rabbi Funnye is on the board of Kulanu, which supports isolated, emerging, and returning Jewish communities around the globe.

Perhaps he is best known as the rabbi-cousin of Michelle Obama.

Rabbi Funnye earned a Bachelor of Arts in Hebrew Literature and rabbinic ordination from the Israelite Board of Rabbis, Inc., Queens, NY. He also earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Jewish Studies and Master of Science in Human Service Administration from Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago, Illinois.

Rabbi Funnye will speak to our synagogue community about race and racial justice from his own perspective as a Black Jew and communal leader.

Sunday, January 31st

5:00PM Zoom

There is no charge for this program but donations are greatly appreciated. Register on the Events drop down tab at: www.ebjc.org/rabbi-funnye. Everyone is invited to attend.



Partnering Synagogues:

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It's a great time to test your luck and support EBJC!



Winning big here means shrinking your dues!

First prize: \$1,800 off your 2021-2022 dues

(or free if your dues are less)

Second prize: \$900 off dues

Third prize: \$450 off dues

Raffle drawing will be held at our Congregational meeting on February 22nd and you do not need to be present to win.

Tickets are \$100 each and only 118 tickets will be sold.

Minimum of 50 tickets must be sold to hold the raffle.

Questions? Contact Ellen Botwin at 732-257-7070 x5 or ebotwin@ebjc.org

Here's my raffle ticket because I gotta be in it to win it!!!

Name: Phone Number:	
Email:	11000
# of Tickets you want to purchase at \$100 each	EAST BRUNSWICK JEWISH CENTER

Please cut at the dotted line and return completed raffle ticket and payment to EBJC on/before 2/15/2021

TORAH FUND CAMPAIGN 2020-2021 LET'S KEEP IT GOING...

The Torah Fund Campaign invites dedicated women to ensure the future Conservative Jewish education of our cherished community leaders—rabbis, cantors, educators, administrators, and lay leaders

This Year's Theme - B'Yachad (Together)



Wearing this pin signifies the triumph of Sisterhood members working together year-round to make important contributions to the Jewish community through their volunteer efforts at synagogues across the United States and Canada. Each of us is one small nugget of gold, but together our unique gifts reflect the light inside us and help each other shine. Together we celebrate our shared yerushah (heritage) as proud Jewish women affiliated with the Conservative/Masorti Movement. Join us!

As Women's League for Conservative Judaism enters its second century, and the State of Israel approaches its 73rd anniversary, Torah Fund embarks on its 79th year. We look forward with joy to our future together with you, our Torah Fund supporters.

Any contribution is greatly appreciated! With a donation of \$180 you become a benefactor and acquire this beautiful pin. (Payment plan through May 1, 2021 is available.) Your workplace is also eligible to make a matching contribution.

Order your pin today and receive it in time to usher in the New Year.



An Official Statement From:

Barbara Ezring, International Torah Fund Chair, Women's League for Conservative Judaism Lisa Paule, Torah Fund Director, Jewish Theological Seminary

At this time, the Torah Fund office and JTS remain closed. We cannot send printed materials or pins yet. We will keep you informed about changes and as soon as it is safe for our staff to return to the Torah Fund office, we will begin the process of distributing the B'Yachad pins and greeting cards. Please, continue to wear the beautiful Chesed pin.

RE*NEW~~~ RE*FRESH~~~ RE*JUVENATE~~~ RE*ENERGIZE



***** RETURN TO SISTERHOOD ******

A STRONG SYNAGOGUE DEPENDS ON A STRONG SISTERHOOD~WHY???

Even through this PANDEMIC, Sisterhood is STILL responsible for contributing approximately \$15,000 annually to the Synagogue. This includes the operating expenses, Kiddush (when we are back together again), Scholarships, USY, and Kadima.

WE KNOW SISTERHOOD NEEDS TO BE RELEVANT TO YOUR LIFE: IT IS! THROUGH ZOOM, WE WILL HAVE PROGRAMMING!

*Education	Social	& Cultural	Programming	

Our Membership Drive for 2020-21 is under way. Dues did not go up! It's just \$36.00 to join!

Need more info?

Contact Cindy Rabinowitz, VP of Membership. cindy.rabinowitz@comcast.net or 908-307-5768.

Please make your \$36.00 check payable to EBJC Sisterhood and mail it to Cindy. 17 Starr Rd., East Brunswick, NJ 08816

NAME	EMAIL
ADDRESS	
PHONE #	CELL PHONE # (IF DIFFERENT)
BEST TIME OF DA	Y TO CONTACT YOU

^{*}Community Outreach Opportunities

^{*}Personal Development Opportunities

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^{*}Membership in Women's League

DONATIONS

DONATION LIST WAS MADE AS OF AND INCLUDING DECEMBER 20—IF YOU MADE A DONATION AFTER THIS DATE, IT WILL BE IN NEXT MONTH'S RECORDER.

ALIYAH

Joel & Madeline Frances

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jan Gurvitch

Warren Streisand in honor of Maurice and Bessie Streisand

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Barbara Kurlan in honor of the first anniversary of Avi and Samantha Sinoff (Cantor Larry's children)

Gloria & Alan Nadler and family for the support during their Shiva

Bernard & Sheila Solomon

GENERAL DONATIONS

Richard & Cindy Rollman in memory of Sheldon Silver and Philip Monheit Richard & Cindy Rollman in honor of Alan Brodman and wishing him a speedy recover

Myra Lee Cohen in memory of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

Judy Klotzkin & Jerry Pliskin in memory of Renee Wittlin

David & Margot Julis in memory of Philip Monheit

Adela Sasson in memory of Albert Garbuz

Bernard & Sheila Solomon in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Aiden Matthew Wilton

Dov & Barbara Pollak in honor of Sara and Scott Alter's new grandson, Lavi

Dov & Barbara Pollak in memory of Philip Monheit and Sheldon Silver

Christopher Robbins in honor of Jack Silverman's retirement

Judy Klotzkin to good health

Sylvia Cohen in honor of Joel & Fran Shafer's move to a new home

Edna Sharff in memory of Renee Wittlin

Eric & Cindy
Rabinowitz: Thank you
Adrian and Anne Kroll
and David Himelman
for your history of doing
what is best for the
East Brunswick Jewish
Center community,
donating your services,
time, and passion. It
does not go unnoticed
and it is greatly
appreciated!

Neal & Joyce Leavitt in memory of their parents, Herbert Ratner and Ethel Leavitt

Joan Bramson in memory of Renee Wittlin

Joan Bramson in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Bernie & Sheila Solomon's grandson, Aiden

Joseph & Mindy Shapiro in honor of Marci Zeidwerg

D & A Nussbaum in honor of Rabbi and Cantor

Gloria Sapiro Schwartz in memory of Ann Breitman

Jeremy & Janice Saferstein in memory of Robert Bramson and Stanley Hersh Dov & Barbara Pollak in memory of Helen Book

William & Amy Schafer in memory of Helen Book

David & Karen Blivaiss: Mazel Tov to Anne and Matt Kaufman in honor of your 50th anniversary

Steven & Leora Meller in memory of Helen Book

Steven & Maury Wohl

Jeremy & Janice Saferstein in memory of Sidney Stein, Grace Saferstein, Helen Rothbart and Jack Saferstein

YAHRZEIT

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Steven & Gail Lustbader in memory of Albert Daniel Warhoftig

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Gerald & Elaine Silver in memory of Hyman Yones

Allen Bachenheimer in memory of Berta Hahn

DONATIONS

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Roy & Linda Levi in memory of Else Levi

Phyllis Stern in memory of Mollie Shapiro

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of Shulem Boruch
Tugendreich

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nce upon a time a long, long time ago, in a far-away place, actually, not that far, lived a Camel and his best friend, Fox.





Written By Michael Kaufman | Illustrations by Lorraine Dey

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