



the RECORDER

EAST BRUNSWICK  JEWISH CENTER

FEBRUARY 2021

SHEVAT—ADAR 5781

VOLUME # 107



SHABBAT SERVICES

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

Friday Evenings
2/5 4:55pm
2/12 5:05pm
2/19 5:10pm
2/26 5:20pm

Saturday Mornings
10:00am

FEBRUARY 6
Yitro

FEBRUARY 13
Mishpatim

FEBRUARY 20
Terumah

FEBRUARY 27
Tetzaveh

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Cynthia Jacobs

Men's Club President

Howard Jacobs

Youth Commission

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Membership Committee

Ken Gerson

Chairperson, Special Circumstances

Marilyn Friedes

Community Outreach

Eric Rabinowitz

Director of The Center for Early Learning

Lynda Perel, Director

Calendar

Joannie Weinfeld

Board of Education Chair

Jamie Wasserman

WHAT'S INSIDE

03 Announcements

06 Rabbinic Reflections

07 From Cantor Larry

08 Executive Director

09 From our Presidents

10 Sisterhood

12 Men's Club

13 Membership Committee

14 Center for Early Learning

15 Keshet

16 Adult Education

22 Donations

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 CO-PRESIDENTS:

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

RECORDER STAFF

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Margot Julis

Barbara Pollak
Sara Ullman

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. When sending any form with a payment, those should be mailed to 511 Ryders Lane as well.

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. Our events can also be found on the Membership page. Also, look for updates from the Rabbi, Cantor, and Co-Presidents 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 the following events. February 10th Dinner in Paris, February 21st we bring back Robyn Helzner for the Bridge to the Balkans, February 28th Gary the Great - Purim program for the family, March 7th and April 11th we have a virtual tour of Budapest and Vienna, March 21st The Koshers Capone's - all you ever wanted to know about the Jewish Mafia, and April 25th Joseph Pulitzer - a discussion on the Documentary "A Voice for the People". All details will be in Tidbits 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.



FEBRUARY 2021

Board of Directors 2/15
(Zoom)

Executive Board 2/1
(Zoom)

Genesis Science 2/1, 8, 15,
22 (Zoom)

**Parshat Hashavuah with
Rabbi Pivo** 2/5, 19, 26
(Zoom)

Lunch and Learn 2/3, 10,
17, 24 (Zoom)

Talmud Class 2/3, 10, 17, 24
(Zoom)

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS MAZEL TOV TO:

Jordan Feldman on being named EBJC's "Man of the Year"

Reese Feldman on being named EBJC's "Youth of the Year"

Gloria and Alan Nadler on the birth of their granddaughter, Sadie Elle, to their son and daughter-in-law, Jordan and Maya Nadler

Maureen Richardson on the birth of her grandson, Zev Wolf, son of Yael and David Zvi Kalman, little brother to Avriel, Shula and Tori

Carole & Stephen Schneider on the birth of their granddaughter, Marlee Rivka, to Rachel and Joe Fine

Cindi and Howard Jacobs on the engagement of their daughter, Katherine Jacobs to Alex Nelson

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

Naomi Weinberger on the loss of her husband, Joseph Weinberger

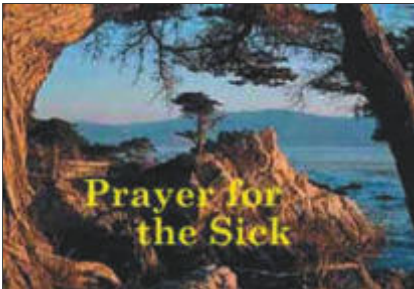
Mitchell Markson on the loss of his mother, Madelyn Markson

David Libowsky on the loss of his mother, Cora Libowsky

Laura Haskel on the loss of her brother, Marcelo Visheisky

THE CONGREGATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

Jordan, Jill, Isabel, Jacob and Joshua Matthews



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.



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To the Clergy, office staff, and my extended EBJC family.

I would like to thank everyone for the tributes, donations, kind thoughts and shared memories of my Mom. Circumstances beyond my control prohibited me from mourning in the usual manner. In spite of that many of you came forward to help me. My family and I are very thankful to be part of this Shul. I hope we can all celebrate many Simchot together very soon.

Elissa Smith & family

To All Congregants,

**Thank you for your support of our annual blood drive. We collected 48 units of blood which will help 144 individuals.
Every life saved is a great Mitzvah.
Thanks again.**

**Ronald E. Berger
Howard Jacobs**

**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.**

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RABBINIC REFLECTIONS



There is no sillier Jewish holiday than Purim. Maybe this year, that is exactly the emotional mode we need to inhabit, if just for one day. Our silliness - through costumes, jokes, pranks, drinking - are a way to rise above the otherwise drab days of late winter during a pandemic. It will give us a chance to sing out at a time when singing might otherwise be far from our minds. We will celebrate Purim, a date that marks our salvation from danger, with laughter and song, reminding ourselves that like previous times of danger, this one too will soon end. If Shabbat is a taste of the World to Come, perhaps the joys of Purim can be a taste of the year to come.

Rabbi Jeff Pivo

At the end of this month (the evening of February 25th), with Jews around the world, we will celebrate Purim. It was just this time last year when the pandemic began to spread; the megillah reading was our last large public event before quarantine. Our Purim rituals will be different this year than the past, with Zoom being the main method of participation. But even a scaled back observance in this difficult time begs the question: How can we celebrate at a time like this? By Purim it is possible that a half million Americans will have died from Covid, the economy will still be a mess, and many people will remain out of work, underfed, or otherwise in crisis.

Celebrating Purim this year might seem counterintuitive, but in fact I will claim that we need it more this year than ever. When we recall the dangers that hovered over Mordecai, Esther, and the Jews of ancient Persia, or any of the many periods of Jewish suffering, we remember that our ancestors continued to observe the Jewish holiday cycle. Through wars, pogroms, and even during the Shoah, Jewish suffering was given meaning through the continuity of the holidays. We may not be able to celebrate as loudly, or all be together for Purim as in the past, but it can still provide the emotional release that it has always has, brightening even our darkest days.

FROM CANTOR LARRY



Cantor's Corner:

The holiday of Purim will occur this month, and in the Hebrew calendar on the 14th day of Adar.

One of the great questions that is asked on Purim is why God's name is not mentioned in Megillath Esther, the story of Esther. In fact, there are two books in the entire T'NaKh, or the Bible, that do not mention God's name. The other book is Song of Songs.

One reason that is given for the omission of God's name in the story of Purim is that the story was written on a scroll in the form of a letter; therefore, for fear of mishandling this letter, God's name was omitted.

The Rabbis interpret hidden names of God within the story. For example, some interpret each time the term of king or Hamelech is found, it is a hidden meaning for God. There are also a number of times in the story that the letters of God's name (yud, heh, vav, heh) are formed through an acrostic. For example, in chapter 1 sentence 20, the four words of Hee V'khol Hanashim Yitnu, when read backwards, each first letter forms God's name.

Ron Isaacs writes that the word Y'hudim spelled Yud, Heh, Vav, Dalet, Yud, Mem is spelled with an extra Yud, before the Mem, six times in the

Megillah. Isaacs explains that there is an interpretation that the double Yud is referring to one of the abbreviations for God's name.

During the time of Esther, the Jews found themselves in need of God's help, pretty much the same as today. If we try hard enough to search within, just as they did during the miracle of Purim, we, too, can find God.

On behalf of my wife, Laura, my children, Samantha, Avi, Heather, and Jeremy, I wish you and your families a month of happiness, joy, and good health.

Larry I. Brandspiegel

Cantor / Director of Education

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Next month will be one full year since the pandemic started and I am stunned that we are still unable to go to a movie, a show, have dinner with friends in a home or in a restaurant and gather for family/friend events. Weddings that were postponed to early 2021 are being postponed yet again! It's very sad and disheartening. Yes, there is now a vaccine and yes, the medical profession has gotten better at learning how to treat the virus, but one year??? I'm guessing this is unprecedented. As of this writing there are still countries, states and cities that are in lockdown. This has had a horrible effect on our economy and our mental health.

At the start of the pandemic when everyone was told to stay home, we took advantage of the time; we cleaned out our closets, we emptied drawers, we undertook all of the little jobs we put off for lack of time. Well, now we had the time. We decluttered our houses and made them cleaner than ever before. We figured we had a good 2-4 weeks to accomplish these tasks!

Fast forward 11 months... online shopping has become a skill. Those empty closets and drawers?? Filled again with new purchases from Amazon, eBay

and whatever site that appealed to us or was having a "clearance" sale. We made up for our inability to go out, by shopping! Online shopping increased by 18% to 710 billion dollars (that's Billion with a B) over last year and in the first quarter of the pandemic, by 31%! WOW!

I was not part of that percentage. I purchased one pair of jeans in the past 11 months for myself. I went to Shoprite and Costco because I like to pick out my own food and fruit and I use coupons. I don't stand next to anyone hovering over a specific item that I may want. I'll just wait or go back to that aisle later. I don't go down every aisle. I get what I need and check out...then I reward myself with a Dunkin Donuts Iced coffee! For me, my Shoprite shopping experience hasn't changed other than that I now wear a mask and occasionally walk right past people I know because I can't see their face!

I have to commend the Membership Committee for making a commitment to the kosher restaurants in our area to help them survive and stay open. The Grab n' Go dinners have been a huge success. Starting off with 25 – 30 meals, we now average 70 – 90 meals for the restaurants. Some restaurants are more popular than others, but this is just a matter of food preference. The committee is doing what it set out to do... support our local kosher restaurants and keep them open. This is not a fundraiser for the committee or EBJC. The restaurants are very grateful for the opportunity and work with the committee to offer good food that is individually wrapped for each family.

My daughter, who has been on maternity leave, returned to work

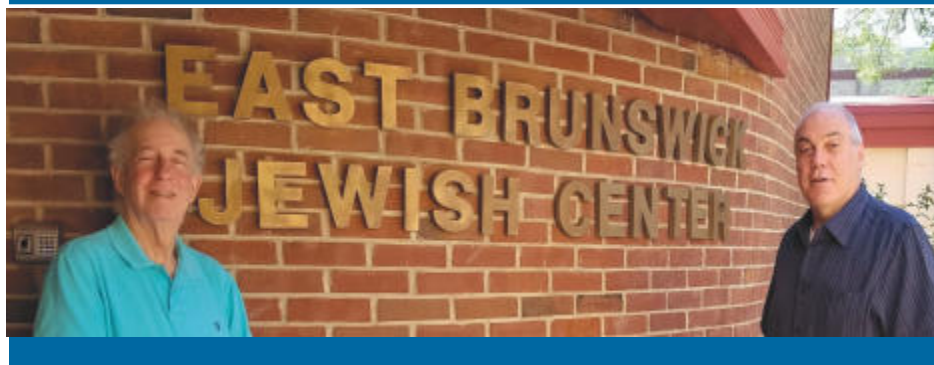
on New Year's Eve. She's a Cardiac Intensive Care nurse at St. Francis in Trenton and I am concerned. Luckily, she has not had any COVID patients, but there are a couple of patients with COVID on her floor. She has a three year old and a four month old. Makes me nervous, but she's no different than any other essential care worker who has to take care of others while making sure they protect their families and keep them safe. I am always available to help out with those delicious little girls.

It's now 5:50 PM and I'm getting ready to start the Zoom "Dinner in Paris" Program with my Consortium of Synagogues. If you have been participating in any of these programs, I certainly hope you've been enjoying them. We will continue to find interesting and entertaining programs for you. We are aware that come May, when the weather improves, most of you will be eager to get out and enjoy the fresh air and outdoors. Our Zoom programs may slow down and we may switch to some outdoor activities as long as it is safe for everyone. Just know that you, our community, is always foremost on our minds. We want to keep you involved and engaged. If you have an idea for a program or an event, feel free to share it with me. My door is always open (literally and figuratively) and it is always my pleasure to speak with you!

Be well,

Ellen

FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



Last March , we ended our Recorder article with the following paragraph:

As February leads into March and the weather gets warmer, we look forward to the Purim Carnival with the knowledge that Pesach and Spring are not too far away. Let's celebrate some of the great things this synagogue does. May we go from strength to strength.

Who could have guessed that the world, in a matter of weeks, would be turned topsy turvey. Words such as pandemic, social distancing, and Covid would become household words or that our households would also become our offices, our homes, and even our sanctuary. Our Purim carnival had the lowest attendance in memory as people began to understand the danger of public gatherings. Our services on Erev Purim likewise had a significantly lower attendance. We did not realize that those Purim services would be the last services held in our sanctuary until August. We, therefore, are not going to be so naïve as to make any predictions about the next few months, but we know that the pandemic has

not, and will not, put an end to our community.

As Purim 5781 approaches and the pandemic continues to surge, we realized that there could not be a Purim carnival this year, one further disappointment to the youth of our community. Our Executive Director, Ellen Botwin, has arranged for a child-oriented program. We have booked a magician to perform on Zoom, in conjunction with other local synagogues. There has been a charge for attending the Purim Carnival in the past, but we felt that this year the magic show would be free of charge so that our young people could participate in some of the joy of this chag without any financial burden on any of our families.

Likewise, our clergy, along with our Religious Committee, have begun planning for Purim services. At the time of this writing (mid January), the details have not been finalized, but we are working on ways to make sure that all in our community who wish to hear the words of the Megillah will be able to do so, definitely on Zoom and possibly in person (pandemic conditions permitting). Although there will be less schtick this year, we

do have some surprises in store for you. And our Sisterhood will, of course, continue to distribute Mashloach Manot baskets as in previous years.

This year has taught us how to adapt our religious services under extraordinary circumstances. As more Covid-19 vaccines are approved and as they become more widely available, we will begin to plan on the reopening of our synagogue. One great lesson we have learned from this plague is that our community has very strong bonds. Streamed services may very well have some place in our post-pandemic normal, but what we really hope for is to be able to schmooze with all of you in person at Kiddush.

B'Shalom,

Bob Salston and Steve Zeidweg

Co-Presidents, EBJC

SISTERHOOD



Don't let the winter doldrums dampen your spirit! Sisterhood has the perfect antidote to the dark, drab weather—a bevy of exciting programs to suit every taste.

Anyone who has attended a class taught by Rabbi Pivo knows that he is a dynamic teacher who clearly enjoys sharing his vast knowledge and wise perspective with his congregants. If you've missed the first session of Rabbi's educational series, *Women of the Bible—NO WORRIES*—join us next time. Session 2 on February 17 is a profile of two more exceptional Jewish women—Deborah and Ya'el: *Women as Prophet and Warrior*. The third class is on March 17—*Ruth: The First Jew By Choice*. All are welcome.

On January 27, we hosted an upbeat and meaningful Tu B'Shevat seder alongside Men's Club. Many thanks to our beloved couple, Sharlene Harris Libowsky and David Libowsky for leading this wonderful event.

Our Sisterhood Book Club meeting on February 4 featured an engaging discussion on a timely subject. The *Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl* by Marra B. Gad was a fascinating memoir about the devastating biases Marra faced throughout her upbringing including some from members of her own heritage. Thanks to all who participated in this forum and offered their views. If you have your own book club suggestions featuring a Jewish

theme or you would like to lead one of our meetings, please email your ideas to Sara Ullman at sarajull366@gmail.com.

This year's membership campaign has been very successful; we have surpassed last year's total and now have 126 members! We are so proud of this accomplishment as it demonstrates that the women of our shul still have a dynamic connection, even during a pandemic. We continue to welcome additional members. Dues are still only \$36 and by joining, you affirm your support not just for Sisterhood but for EBJC as the foundation of our Jewish identity. Since Sisterhood contributes annually to EBJC, a strong Sisterhood ensures a robust shul! This year when we cannot be physically together, it is more important than ever to reinforce our commitment to each other and to the powerful bond that EBJC provides. Please send your check to Membership VP, Cindy Rabinowitz.

PURIM is here! Everyone should have received their Mishloach Manot order forms. If you haven't already, RUSH to place your order. The strict order deadline is February 7! This year we feature some new items to surprise and delight our congregants. Please contact the co-presidents, Cindy Rabinowitz or Margot Julis to volunteer to deliver the Purim bags and spread the joy of the holiday.

Exciting news from our Torah Fund Campaign 2020-2021. The wait is over! PINS HAVE ARRIVED! Now those of us who are staunch supporters of Torah Fund can proudly display our steadfast commitment with this lovely piece of jewelry. 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 welcomed and encouraged! Contact Jody Bramson at JLBrams@aol.com or 732-991-8410 to make your donation and arrange pick-up. Our annual Torah Fund event is scheduled for Sunday, March 21; a festive pick-up brunch, featuring our own Dr. Laura Brandspiegel as our special keynote speaker.

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 know, the jubilant holiday of Purim begins at the end of February. While we celebrate, let's take a moment to recall and appreciate that it was a valiant JEWISH WOMAN at the center of this triumphant story—Esther, a true heroine and profile in courage.

Chag Sameach,
Cindi Jacobs/Sara Ullman
Sisterhood Co-Presidents



**PURIM IS ALMOST HERE!
DID YOU PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR
MISHLOACH MANOT FROM SISTERHOOD???
THE DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH**

Purim will be here before we know it and Sisterhood would like to help you fulfill the mitzvah of Mishloach Manot (sending holiday food baskets to family, friends and neighbors).

STOP AND ANSWER THIS FIRST QUESTION!!

Did you know that sending your Shalach Manot order is a way of demonstrating support for Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year?

THEN STOP AND ANSWER THIS QUESTION!!

Did you receive your order form via the mail and/or online?

IF YOU ANSWERED YES, THEN ANSWER THIS QUESTION:

Did you complete your order form (on paper or online) and send it in?

IF YOU ANSWERED NO, THEN YOU NEED TO KNOW:

The deadline for ordering is Sunday, February 7, 2021

IF YOU DIDN'T RECEIVE AN ORDER FORM, PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY!!! (OR FOR ANY QUESTIONS)

Margot Julis 732-390-1245/magooj1211@comcast.net or
Sara Ullman 732-249-4737/tranquil77@aol.com

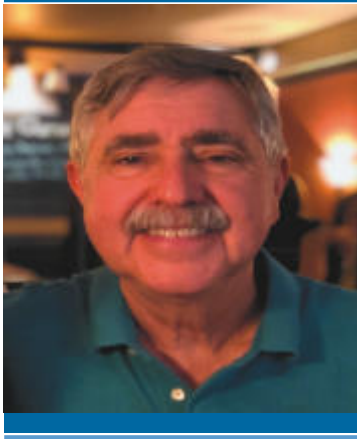
Sincerely wishing all our fellow congregants a joyous Holiday. Chag Sameach Purim!

Margot Julis, Administrator

Cindy Rabinowitz, Chair

Sara Ullman & Cindi Jacobs, Co-Presidents

MEN'S CLUB



Shalom!

Well, we continue to live during interesting times! In addition to our political transition, we are going through a very remarkable transition in our public health situation. While we are in a very serious surge of the virus and many people are being hospitalized and dying, we have begun the vaccination process, which has the promise of getting us back to something closer to normal. We pray that the rollout happens quickly, and that the vaccines work well on the new variants of the virus!



During January, Men's Club was involved in three different programs. First, on January 10, in spite of the virus,

we held our annual blood drive. This is very obviously a huge mitzvah, as blood very literally saves the lives of people who need it. Since the EBJC ballroom was not available for this purpose, our chair for this event, Ron Berger, worked with NJ Blood Services to look for an alternative venue. He was able to secure the use of the Brunswick Square Mall. Surprisingly (at least to me!) the turnout for this event was much

better than it has been over the last several years. We had 56 people sign up this year and collected 48 units of blood, about 20% MORE than last year. Yasher Koach to Ron for pulling off this successful drive, to Hollie Ceramie, who has been working with different East Brunswick houses of worship to encourage them to commit to a blood drive this year, and to all those who made phone calls asking people to give. Especially, our thanks are due to those who donated blood!

Normally we have an "unsung heroes" program on the day of the blood drive, partly to attract people to the site of the drive. This year our program was held a few days later and on Zoom. The heroes we celebrated this year were health care workers, who put themselves at risk to keep us safe. In particular, we honored Sherry Stein, Administrative Director, Hospital Based Providers, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital; Deanna Hoffman, Physician Assistant, CityMD in NYC; and Craig Berger of the Milltown Rescue Squad. Their stories were both inspiring, riveting and heartbreaking. They, and all their colleagues deserve our thanks and our prayers.

Finally, at the end of January, Men's Club and Sisterhood had a joint Tu B'Shevat Seder hosted by David Libowsky and Sharlene

Harris. It was wonderful to celebrate Tu B'Shevat with a participatory virtual seder that was informative, creative, spiritual and delicious! Thanks to Sharlene Harris and Dave Libowsky for organizing and leading and to all of you who participated. Looking forward to repeating this event next year in person!

In February, we are planning to have our annual World Wide Wrap on the same day we usually have it, Superbowl Sunday – 2/7. Given that it will be virtual, we are looking into doing it with other Men's Clubs in the Northern New Jersey Region. We are also planning to have a program with Diane Lang later in February. Diane is an author, very popular instructor at OLLIRU, therapist, and positive living expert. She will discuss with us how to think positively in order to take advantage of our current situation. More information and precise logistics will be available, as always, on Tidbits and via email.

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

What is the Membership committee and who are its members?

We sit next to you at shul or appear on Zoom meetings and programs. We are you, but the difference is that we are charged with the huge task of increasing and retaining our membership.

But what we do can be done by all of our members and actually, you have a better chance than any member of our committee to get new life blood into our Shul. Please consider joining our committee and/or volunteer to help handing out the Grab and Go meals. Contact either Taryn Webber at tkwebber4@gmail.com or Ken Gerson at kgerson7@gmail.com, if interested.

We are the ones, along with Ellen, our Executive Director, who try to plan the most interesting Zoom programming that we possibly can to keep you engaged in Shul activities and promote (needed now more than ever!) a variety of classes on subjects we feel are of interest to you all.

We also have been checking on our elderly members by calling them periodically to make sure that they are well and that their needs for getting an adequate supply of pharmaceuticals and food are kept current. Why? Because that's what family does for one another. EBJC is one big family and would like to see our family cared for and grow.

So if you have a friend that may be in need and can't help themselves, let us know and we'll take it from there.

Hopefully, by the time you read this the virus vaccine will be available to all of our members. As the year 2020 has finally come to a close, and we look forward now with hope and optimism, we want to take this opportunity to wish you all a year filled with only good things- good times as you soon reconnect with family and friends, success in all your endeavors, much prosperity and most certainly, peace and good health.

Keep safe and be of good spirits.

Bruce Sommers

Membership Committee Member

CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING



The Center for Early Learning @ EBJC

Our students came back to school on January 4 ready and excited for 2021!



Every morning we
Daven and say our
morning prayers.



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

KESHER AND YOUTH GROUPS



Dear Keshet and Youth Families,

I am so proud of the way our kids continue to push through these difficult times and the way they are learning. They have been engaging in the best ways possible via our Zoom remote learning platform and partial in-person time together. This year has not been easy. It is a different and new approach to absorbing material which already presents a challenge in learning about Judaism, since it can sometimes be so unfamiliar to many of us. However, our Teaching Team has worked hard to develop themselves and the curriculum that is presented by them to give our students opportunities to learn new things. The same holds true for our Chaverim, Kadima and USY programs where Erin has come up with some great ways to engage our youth in fun and meaningful activities.

As we tackle the challenges of this year, we continue to program and create activities in the best way possible. Keshet classes continue as usual. Youth Night this month will be on February 17th. Purim will be different and we are still working out some of the details. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have a carnival this year. However, we will have a magician via remote platform on Sunday, February 28th.

For our Keshet High School, we have two sessions scheduled. One on February 10th and the other on the 24th. On February 10th, we will have a special presentation delivered by our own Reese Feldman. Please join in to support Reese and benefit from a great session.

As always, if you have any questions about our Keshet or Youth programs, feel free to contact me at cantorlarry@ebjc.org.

*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.

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Program co-hosted by:

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Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford, CT
East Brunswick Jewish Center, NJ
Federation of Ventura County, CA
Highland Park Conservative Temple/Congregation Anshe Emeth, NJ
Temple Israel of Albany, NY

Questions? Call Ellen Botwin 732-257-7070x5 or send email to: ebotwin@ebjc.org

Sunday 2/21/21
7:00PM EST

RSVP by 12:00 noon
February 21st to receive
the Zoom link.

Register at:
www.ebjc.org/Bridge-to-the-Balkans

There is no charge for this program.

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YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY WILL ENJOY THIS SHOW!

REGISTER BY 2/26 AT WWW.EBJC.ORG/GARY-THE-GREAT



A donation of any amount to our Membership-Programming committee will help us continue offering entertaining, stimulating and informative programs to our community.

Partnering Organizations: Congregation Beth Israel, CT - East Brunswick Jewish Center, NJ - Highland Park Conservative Temple/Congregation Anshe Emeth, NJ - Temple Bnai Shalom, NJ - Young Israel of East Brunswick, NJ





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EBJC is hosting a raffle

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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

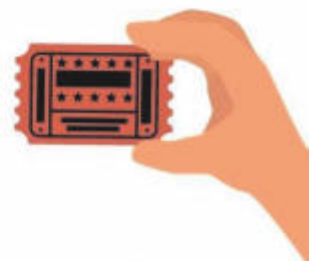
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Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

____ # of Tickets you want to purchase at \$100 each



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!

Questions? Contact Jody Bramson at JLBrams@aol.com or 732-991-8410

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*Community Outreach Opportunities

*Fundraising

*Personal Development Opportunities

*Membership in Women's League

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**

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BEST TIME OF DAY TO CONTACT YOU. _____

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Alan & Gloria Nadler on the birth of their granddaughter, Sadie Elle

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Ira & Elisa Merkel in appreciation of the wonderful virtual programming

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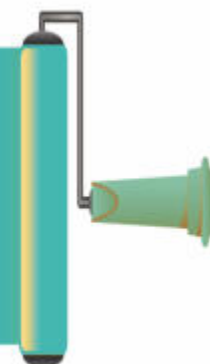
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