



the RECORDER

EAST BRUNSWICK JEWISH CENTER

APRIL 2021

NISAN-IYYAR 5781

VOLUME # 109



SHABBAT SERVICES

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

Friday Evenings
4/2 6:00pm
4/9 6:00pm
4/16 6:00pm
4/23 6:00pm
4/30 6:00pm

Saturday Mornings
10:00am

APRIL 3
Pesach

APRIL 10
Shmini

APRIL 17
Tazria-Metzora

APRIL 24
Achrei Mot-Kedoshim

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Men's Club President
Howard Jacobs

Youth Commission
Rhonda Gold

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Ken Gerson & Taryn Webber

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Circumstances
Marilyn Friedes

Community Outreach
Eric Rabinowitz

Director of The Center for
Early Learning
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Joannie Weinfeld

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Jamie Wasserman

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UPCOMING DATES

AS OF THIS WRITING, OUR PHYSICIAN'S COMMITTEE AND LAY LEADERS ARE MAKING PLANS TO SLOWLY BEGIN IN-PERSON SERVICES FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES OF THE CDC AND LEGAL LIMITS OF ATTENDANCE. WHEN WE ARE SET TO BEGIN, WE WILL DO SO WITH FULL UNDERSTANDING OF EVERYONE'S COMFORT LEVEL AND CONCERNS FOR HEALTH. MORE INFORMATION AND EMAILS WILL BE SENT WHEN WE ARE READY TO START WELCOMING OUR COMMUNITY BACK INTO THE SHUL. FOR THOSE THAT STILL WISH TO ZOOM SERVICES, WE WILL NOT BE STOPPING THIS WHEN WE OPEN OUR DOORS AT THIS TIME.

FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION REGARDING SERVICES, EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND CLASSES, PLEASE GO TO WWW.EBJC.ORG/ONLINE-EVENTS. THIS IS WHERE YOU WILL FIND ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW. WHEN IN DOUBT, YOU MAY ALWAYS CALL THE OFFICE FOR SERVICE TIMES AND INFORMATION OR ELLEN BOTWIN FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL PROGRAMS.

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 have been negatively impacted by COVID and are having trouble paying your dues, please let us know! It gives us no pleasure having to call a member to find out why they are in arrears only to find out that they've been out of work and are struggling. First, we are a source to come to. We have resources and methods to help you. Secondly, we will work with you to either work out a payment plan, reduce your dues to make sure that paying your EBJC membership dues does not become a burden when you are having trouble supporting your family!

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. April 7th and April 11th we have a virtual tour of Budapest and Vienna, April 21st The Kosher 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.



APRIL 2021

Executive Board 4/5
(Zoom)

Board of Directors 4/19
(Zoom)

Genesis Science 4/5, 12,
19, 26 (Zoom)

**Parshat Hashavuah with
Rabbi Pivo** 4/2, 9, 16, 23,
30 (Zoom)

Lunch and Learn 4/7, 14,
21, 28 (Zoom)

Talmud Class 4/7, 14, 21,
28 (Zoom)

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS MAZEL TOV TO:

Bonni Holz on the birth of her granddaughter, Madison Paige, to Ellen and Matthew Hold

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

Scott Seidman on the loss of his mother, Lola Seidman

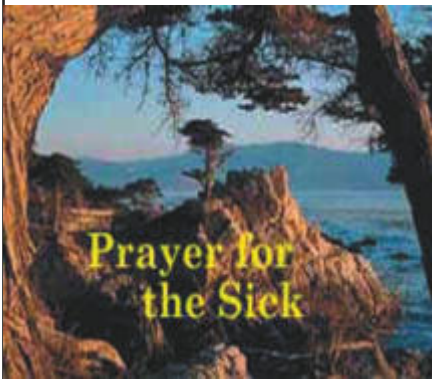
Elissa Smilowitz on the loss of her father, Bernard Koplik

Amy Weiss on the loss of her father, Alan Lager

The family and friends of Norma Schaff

THE CONGREGATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

Jeff Shulman



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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Andrew Cerame
732-586-7525
Andrew@donothrowitaway.com
donothrowitaway.com

Dear Friends,

As of March 15 I will no longer be a resident of East Brunswick. I will leave this town and my EBJC community with over 50 years of memories of friends and family that my beloved Raymond, z"l, and I built together. EBJC will forever be my shul and you will all have a special place in my heart forever. I know that through the leadership of our clergy, Rabbi Pivo and Cantor Larry, and our co-presidents Bob Salston and Steve Zeidweg, along with the board of directors and office staff, this institution will continue to flourish. With much gratitude for all that you have meant to me and my family. You can always reach me via email or phone at

adela7.sasson@gmail.com 733-754-7429

Love,

Adela

I would like to thank all those who contributed to Lox, Stock, and Deli, made and sent food for my family and I, and those who donated in honor of me for the last few months while I was going through treatment. I am great-full and appreciate it that I have an EBJC family who did this for my family and I. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Gail Kosher

B'NOT MITZVAH



Dear EBJC family,

For our B'Not Mitzvah projects we are collecting from two different organizations. The Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick is in need of grocery gift cards and pre packaged snacks. The Pajama Program is the other organization in need. They need new pajama sets in all sizes - newborn through adult as well as new

bedtime books. If you would like to contribute to our Mitzvah projects, there is a bin outside of the main entrance of the synagogue. All donations are truly appreciated and will be collected throughout the month.

Thank you,

Sarah and Susanne Kaplan

RABBINIC REFLECTIONS



During this last year of pandemic we saw an interesting shift in the public sphere. A movement to remove statues, flags, and other symbols of the Confederacy suddenly picked up momentum, and all over the country those symbols rapidly started being removed. And once they started coming down, they came down fast. This is not a new issue; for many years representations of the losing side in the Civil War had been the subject of protests, small and large. What changed was not what we knew about them, but rather the number of people who now spoke openly and passionately against the continued use of Confederate iconography, and the feebleness of the arguments for maintaining those symbols. That change in public opinion marked an inflection point in how the country saw itself, and in practically no time many or most Confederate symbols were removed from public spaces.

At the same time, in the

religious sphere, synagogues and other houses of worship were experimenting with ways to keep their members connected during a quarantine. Lacking the ability to meet in person, many shuls opted for online gatherings in order to maintain services, classes, and meetings. The technology was already there, but synagogues had not considered using it, some for religious reasons and some because they lacked the impetus to explore the option. After all, who would want to attend services online? Now that we are a Zoom nation, out of necessity, and the current pandemic begins winding down, I wonder if our shared quarantine has thrown light on subjects that we did not have reasons to discuss before.

Most immediately, the question of whether to continue use of Zoom or another technology on Shabbat and Yom Tov after the emergency has passed will be our first concern. But soon enough we will need to discuss a broader issue of Jewish identity: If we do continue to use such technologies on Shabbat and Yom Tov, can we, as Conservative Jews, continue to claim to be a movement bound by Jewish law? Many of our members, and perhaps the vast majority, do not keep kosher outside their homes, travel by automobile on Shabbat and Yom Tov (and not just to religious services) and, in general, do not see themselves as being bound by

halakha, Jewish law. The question now is whether our experience during the pandemic has made us more aware of the disconnect between our movement's values at the clergy level and the way Conservative Jews actually lead their lives. That disconnect was already present, but now seems like a glaring and public conflict between symbols and values. As with the Confederate statues, we may have reached an inflection point, where we suddenly start to notice how out of sync our Conservative values are with the realities of Jewish lives.

I invite your responses and ideas, as our Religious Committee advises our clergy on how best to live out our Jewish values within the walls of EBJC. The synagogue symbolizes our identities as Conservative Jews. Should we behave more traditionally there than in our individual lives? Or should our practices reflect how our members actually behave? Is there a difference between a halakhic approach and a traditional one? I look forward to many interesting conversations on these issues as we come out of Pesakh and out of the pandemic into what may be a very different Jewish world.

Rabbi Jeff Pivo

FROM CANTOR LARRY



Cantor's Corner

A couple weeks after Pesah, we will enter the new month of Iyar, in which we will commemorate Yom Hazikaron or Israel's Memorial Day, as well as celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut or Israel's Independence Day. Jewish people all over the world have a sense of pride about the Jewish State, the Land of Israel. As Jewish people, we should be proud of the accomplishments that our brothers and sisters and the land have made over the last century.

One great accomplishment is the established language of Hebrew. Although Hebrew has been in existence as a written and biblical language, the modern language of Hebrew has only begun to blossom. The following is taken from a no-longer published newsletter that I found most interesting (Levanah Monthly, 1993).

"How would you feel if you woke up one morning to hear your parents speaking to you in a foreign language? You might think that your parents were

playing a joke on you. Most probably they would be. But in 1881, a man named Eliezer Yitzhak Perelman married his childhood friend, Deborah Jonas, and did almost the same thing. They decided to come to Eretz Yisrael (or Palestine as it was called then) to live. When they arrived, he took a Hebrew name-Eliezer Ben Yehuda. He informed his wife that from that day on, only Hebrew would be spoken in their home. Fortunately for him, Deborah agreed.

That was easier said than done. Hebrew was a Biblical language that was still read and studied, but not spoken. There were no words for even simple things like sidewalks and electricity.

When Eliezer Ben Yehuda arrived in Israel, he heard people speaking many languages, including Turkish, French, German, Yiddish and Arabic, but not Hebrew. Ben-Yehuda felt strongly that Hebrew should be the language of the Jewish people in the Jewish homeland. He convinced one of the most important schools, the Alliance School, to allow him to teach in Hebrew. He started a Hebrew newspaper, and put together the first modern Hebrew dictionary. Ben Yehuda had to create new words from ancient ones. For example, he needed a Hebrew word for "train." So, he used the root for "riding and animal," resh, kaf, vet, and created the word Rakevet. Everywhere he went he insisted on Hebrew.

Eliezer Ben Yehuda succeeded. In 1919, the British High commissioner (who then ruled "Palestine") declared Hebrew one of the three official languages of the country along with Arabic and English. Eliezer died in 1921. People recognized the important contribution he had made and called him "the Father of Modern Hebrew." Many streets in Israel have been named for Eliezer ben Yehuda. In Jerusalem, BenYehuda Street is a walkway, where many tourists shop. While one hears English, French, Spanish, Russian and other languages on Ben Yehuda Street, the "Father of Modern Hebrew" would be happy to know that the one language they all share in common is Hebrew. Todah, thank you, Eliezer Ben Yehuda, for making your dream come true.

May the holy language we speak, bring words of wisdom, comfort and peace for us and the entire world.

On behalf of my wife, Laura, my children, Samantha, Avi, Heather, and Jeremy, I wish you and your families a wonderful beginning to the Spring season.

Cantor Larry I. Brandspiegel

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Any one will tell you that moving is one of the most stressful things you can endure. As an adult, I've done it twice and now I'm in the middle of getting ready to move for the third time. There comes a point where the house becomes too large. It's not that the house grew....we shrunk! It's true that my kids and grandkids come over often and the extra space is really nice (especially when all 8 of them sleep over), but I don't know that I need to pay the high taxes, electric and water bills just for that! My grandchildren don't want me to move (ages 5,4,3 and infant) but that's more of a fear that I'm going to throw away or lose their toys! I've been getting ready to move for two years. I've donated, recycled, given away items that no longer served a purpose in my life. It actually feels good to purge, sort of like going on a diet and losing 50 lbs..... only not! I've gotten rid of serving platters (I don't plan on entertaining for large groups any more), furniture, small appliances, chairs, desks, bookcases... you name it. I

just don't want it anymore. Even with that, I look around and feel that I still have too much. Once the stager comes, I'm sure I'll be purging much more. EBJC will be the beneficiary of three or four beautiful conference room tables, picnic tables, executive desks, etc. Makes me feel good that this will be put to good use.

My real estate agent tells me my house will "sell itself". Let's hope so because I just don't have the energy. I don't even know when I will find the time to look for a house. I may be homeless for a while (I've assured my children I will not be moving in with them). However, I guess now is the time to sell as I've witnessed many of my friends sell their homes in less than a week, most in a day or two and all of them bid up by upwards of \$20K!. Yes, it's stressful, but new possibilities open and I look forward to not having to clean a 3,800 square foot home.

I guess you can say the same is true for EBJC. We find ourselves in a building that is more than what we need and there is far more upside to selling the school wing than downside. Although I cannot speak to where we are with the sale to Netivot (not because I'm withholding information, but because I do not sit on those executive sessions), I can say that when we sell it and to whomever we sell it, we will be much better off. Will we be swimming in money and be able to never charge dues again? Probably

not, but we'll be on much stronger financial footing and our mortgage will be paid off (which will be a blessing). Of course specifics have to be worked out as we will be sharing the common areas including the playground and parking lot. We've been good neighbors for seven years, so I anticipate that if the sale goes through, we will continue to be good neighbors.

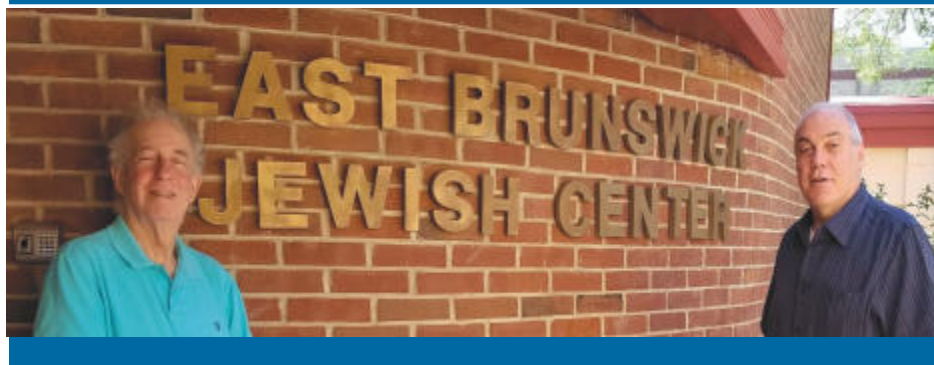
I'm sure there will be another congregational meeting once everything is settled. Questions you may have will be answered and we will be able to move forward strengthened and renewed.

Meanwhile, as I start to pack things away (apparently when showing a house, it has to look as if no one lives there), I sincerely hope that this will be the last move I have to make. The amount of effort and time is overwhelming.

I look forward to seeing everyone in person sooner rather than later. With the warmer weather coming and with more and more of us receiving the vaccine, I hope that we will soon all be dining together in the ballroom, enjoying a Shabbat meal.

Be well,
Ellen

FROM OUR PRESIDENTS



"As I've always said, the future lies ahead." Paul Paulson, American comedian.

Over the past year, most of our Recorder articles involved the Covid-19 pandemic and our synagogue's responses to the challenges that the pandemic imposed upon us. As vaccine rollouts have increased and cases seem to be declining, we now want to focus our attention on the post pandemic future.

By the time you are reading this article, we will have held in-person services on Purim, on the first and last days of Pesach, and on several Shabbatot when there was a Bar or Bat Mitzvah taking place. We have been following the advice of our Covid-19 physician advisory committee to determine when it would be safe to increase the number of in-person services, classes, and meetings. The committee has been meeting regularly, and we will be updating our recommendations as the medical situation permits. At the time of this writing, Middlesex County is still considered a high-risk area. Although Governor Murphy has begun easing restrictions in New Jersey, our primary concern has always been ensuring the safety of our members, clergy, and staff. We will be moving cautiously, but hope, with God's blessing, to be back to the new normal as soon as possible.

Our Religious Committee will soon be discussing how this new normal will look. One of our major concerns will be whether we will continue streaming our services once the emergency of the pandemic is behind us. We have come to realize that there has been great benefit in streaming our services over Zoom, especially for our older or infirm congregants who otherwise might not be able to attend our services in person. We also realize that some in the congregation would be uncomfortable if we continue this practice since we have not previously streamed our services on Shabbat and Jewish holidays. The Law Committee of the Conservative Movement is currently developing a tshuvah, (a religious opinion) concerning the streaming of services. Rabbi Pivo and the committee are interested in your opinion on this issue. You may email your comments to Bob Salston (bobs@ebjc.net). He will forward your thoughts to Rabbi Pivo and the committee.

In June, we will be holding our annual Gala. By the time of the publication of this issue of the Recorder, you will have received information about this event. We will be honoring Gail and Neil Kosher and Carol and Judah Landa. These honorees have volunteered their time in service to this synagogue over many years. Gail is a past president

and has continued to remain active in our Sisterhood. Neil is a past president of the congregation, and he will be completing his term as our treasurer. He is also one of our shofar blowers on Rosh Ha Shannah and Yom Kippur. Carol is currently serving on our Executive Board as our recording secretary and is a member of our Religious Committee. She had also led our Junior Congregation tot services and has always made herself available for various tasks including numbering the seats in the Activity Center for High Holiday services. Judah has, for many years taught two recurring adult education classes, Science and the Bible as well as a Talmud class. He has also been a regular Torah reader on Shabbat and holidays. Kol ha kavod to our honorees.

In the coming months, we will continue to have programs over Zoom and Grab and Go Dinners which have been very popular to our members. Thanks to our Executive Director, Ellen Botwin, who has coordinated these events.

May Hashem continue to bless this wonderful kahal.

Bob Salston
Steve Zeidwerg
Co-Presidents, EBJC

SISTERHOOD



The month of April features two days of remembrance that are very special and meaningful to the Jewish people. These days represent where we have been, what we have accomplished, and what we can envision for our future.

Yom Hashoah, this year commemorated on Thursday, April 8, is a solemn recognition of the pain and suffering that is all too recent. Last month Sisterhood and Men's Club presented a remarkable movie called *The Windermere Children*. Even if you think you've learned everything about the Holocaust and its aftermath, take a look at this film. You will never forget it. After the war, the British government hosted over 700 juvenile Holocaust survivors at a retreat near beautiful Lake Windermere. The youth, physically and psychologically traumatized, spent four months trying to recover from their horrific experiences with the help of compassionate professionals including a Rabbi, art therapist, and athletic coach, among others. At the end of the film, the real-life survivors who were depicted, now in their 90s, explained how the retreat helped them heal and continue onto productive lives. It is a triumphant tale of the human spirit, its resilience and strength. So, too, are we moved and honored to count Holocaust survivors among our congregants. May they live and be well for many years. Let us never forget.

"It's Clear to me that one can't be Jewish without Israel"—Elie Wiesel

Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, falls on Thursday, April 15—tax day to some, but so much more to Jews around the world. Who doesn't recall their very first impression of Israel?

The breathtaking views, the smells of the market, the burning sense in your soul that this was somewhere, finally, that you BELONGED as a Jew. We celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of Israel and fervently wish for its peace and prosperity.

This Past Month--

Our annual Torah Fund event on Sunday, March 21, was a resounding success. We are grateful to Dr. Laura Brandspiegel who shared her experiences as a student at the Jewish Theological Society. Thank you to Rabbi Pivo who delivered an insightful d'var Torah and to all the Sisterhood members who generously donated to Torah Fund. As we know, by supporting Torah Fund we are contributing to the education of Rabbis, Cantors, educators, and lay leaders within the Conservative/Masorti Movement. It is no less than an investment in the future of Conservative principle and tradition.

Even during the pandemic, our Sisterhood members' dedication to Torah Fund proved steadfast. We raised over \$4,000, exceeding our goal. That is a noteworthy achievement at any time, but especially during this past year. We are proud of our loyalty to this most deserving cause.

Sisterhood's Eishet Chayil (Woman of Valor) has distinguished herself as one of our most beloved members—our friend, GAIL KOSHER. We were so delighted to honor Gail for her kindness, her devotion to Sisterhood and EBJC, and her decades of acclaimed service to the synagogue. Gail has served Sisterhood in the positions of Membership VP and Sisterhood president. But more than that, she is a cherished wife, mother, sister, friend, and community member. The large attendance at the Torah Fund event is testament to how highly Gail is regarded. Mazel tov Gail. You truly epitomize an Eishet Chayil.

On the Horizon--

The next selection for the Sisterhood Book Club is "And The Bride Closed the Door" by the late Ronit Matalon. This contemporary Israeli novella, published in 2016 and translated from Hebrew, is a comic look at present Israeli society through the lens of a bride who locks herself in her bedroom refusing to marry. Mark your calendars—the next discussion is Thursday, May 6. We have welcomed a few good suggestions for future book selections and we encourage more. Please send your ideas to Sara Ullman at sarajull366@gmail.com.

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.

There are only a few months remaining before the new fiscal year begins. This is the time to start thinking about what you would like YOUR role in Sisterhood to be during 2021-2022.

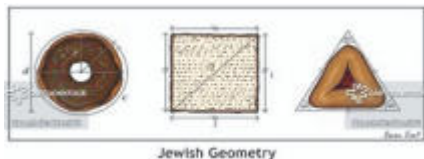
Perhaps you have been on the sidelines and are now ready to plunge in. Perhaps you have not had a formal position but are now prepared to take on that challenge. Don't hesitate—we would welcome you with open arms.

There are many opportunities to become more active in Sisterhood, whether chairing a program or event, leading a committee, or tackling a leadership role. We are always available to discuss the possibilities, answer your questions, or candidly address your concerns. We hope to hear from you.

In friendship,

Cindi Jacobs/Sara Ullman

Sisterhood Co-Presidents



PURIM 2021, A HOLIDAY REVIEW

We are all enjoying Pesach, so who wants to talk about Purim? Well, Sisterhood does!! Purim was very different this year as far as the Shalach Manot Program... from planning, ordering, packing, and delivering, as is everything that we do in 2021! We hope that you enjoyed the change in goodies in the bags this year. For the first time, the Men's Club "Yellow Candle" bags were delivered along with the Shalach Manot (Don't forget to light your candle on Thurs. evening, April 8). These creative changes could not have happened without our dedicated team of volunteers!

To sum it up....Yashar Koach and thank you to all our volunteers who delivered to every member of our EBJC family (in the immediate area) in the snow and slush, and to Cindy Rabinowitz and Margot Julis for their hard work and dedication to the success of this annual Program.



SISTERHOOD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS EVEN VIRTUALLY!!

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 is 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!

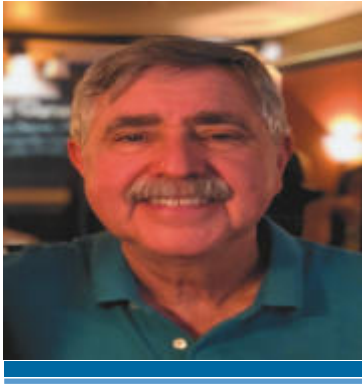
Contact Cindy Rollman 908-812-6713

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 you read this, we have just lived through Passover, re-experiencing our deliverance from slavery to freedom. While we know how that story played out – after leaving Egypt there were many more high points (receiving the 10 Commandments at Mt. Sinai) mixed with trials and tribulations before we ultimately arrived in our land. At this point we are leaving a difficult winter of isolation, sickness, and national challenges and it feels like we are on a good trajectory with effective vaccines and better weather ahead of us. Hopefully EBJC will reopen soon (maybe before you even read this!) and we will be able to greet each other in person rather than on Zoom. But just as there were challenges in the wilderness, we may face additional issues before we finally put this pandemic behind us. While we may have to continue to be patient, I am sure we will eventually get back to something more normal. In any event, right now it's SPRING!



During March, to prepare for Passover, we had a Pre-Passover (Virtual) Lunch with our clergy. Rabbi Pivo and Cantor Larry gave us suggestions on how to spice up our seders with new ways to carry out our traditional rituals and sing the songs. This event has been popular in the past few years and we had another great session this year. Our thanks to Rabbi and Cantor for giving us the means to make our seders more inspiring!

Also during March, Men's Club and Sisterhood teamed up to put on a movie night on Saturday night watching and discussing *The Windermere Children*. We had over 50 devices logged in, and figure that about 75 people participated in this program. The film was based on a true story of children who survived the Holocaust and then moved to and assimilated into English society, not without effort, and not without bumps along the way. Our thanks to Jody Harkavy who suggested this and did the heavy lifting to make this happen!



Of the many things that we have done differently this year, one of the things was how we distributed the Yellow Candles to commemorate Yom Hashoah.

While Yom Hashoah is not until after Passover (April 7, to be precise), because of the way Passover came out this year (first

and last days on Sundays) we would have distributed the candles just a few weeks after Sisterhood distributed Shaloch Manot for Purim. Rather than ask people to do two different distributions a few weeks apart, this year we combined the two efforts.

The feedback we received from those who do the work was extremely positive, and we will probably do it the same way next year. Men's Club has received many contributions for the Yellow Candles from members of the congregation – thanks so much for your donations! This year the Men's Club intends to give a portion of the funds raised from Yellow Candles to The Holocaust Resource Center at Rutgers University. We believe it is important to keep the younger generations aware of the Holocaust and continue to understand prejudice of any form to prevent anything like this from ever happening again. Any who have not yet donated can make a contribution at ebjc.org/candles. Thanks so much for your generosity to this worthy cause!



On April 24, we will be having our annual Men's Club Shabbat. Members of the club will be leading the different parts of the service. If you want to participate, please reach out to Ken Gerson. (cont.)

MEN'S CLUB

We will be selling challah and cake from Zaydies (for Friday pickup), and we will be staying around after the community shout-out to share a glass of something and to schmooze, just as if we were at a kiddish inside the synagogue. Please plan to join us!

In the next few months, Men's Club will be working with Rabbi Pivo to offer a 3-month class on Jewish ethics. Judaism is the religion of ethical monotheism, yet many of us (and I include myself here) are only familiar with Jewish ethics at the level of one liners such as "don't do to unto others what is hateful unto you". Life is often more complicated than that. Rabbi Pivo will lead us through selected parts of Pirkei Avot at

greater depth so that we can understand Jewish ethics at a deeper level. The classes will be at 8:30 PM on April 15th, May 13th, and June 17th. Please plan to join us for what should be a remarkably interesting experience.

Finally, we all give money to support EBJC. And we are all going through the process of paying our taxes. But despite recent changes in the tax laws, there are ways we can contribute to EBJC while saving on our taxes. We are working with Marty Davidoff to put on a program with several ways that we can donate to EBJC in a tax advantaged way. Please see Tidbits for the precise date and time.

So in spite of today's challenges, Men's Club continues to be very active. We provide interesting Jewish events for the community and pathways for our members to strengthen our relationships with each other. We are always open to new ideas for activities, events or programs that would be compelling 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

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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As I write this article, we are preparing for Passover and Spring is just around the corner. The end of the pandemic, after a long hard year, seems to be in sight. The fact that it is a year, makes it feel like a TV movie where someone was missing for a year and came back to a world where the time did not pass. We can pick up at the exact time and place where time stopped for so many. But it is Spring, a time of hope and renewal so it is apropos that the reset starts now.

As part of the Membership Committee, I hope that we helped to make this year easier. The programs we ran and the grab and go meals were all meant to help stave off the isolation and give you some sustenance because you, are our members, our family. One thing that we learned is that with zoom you can reach a larger audience and offer more programs. It is our plan to continue to offer these programs for as long as you want to watch them. Please look out for the emails and read the Recorder for any upcoming events.

With that being said, there is nothing like being together and that hopefully is around the corner. For now, it is the job of our committee to

relearn what that will look like for upcoming membership events. It is a task we look forward to and will surely enjoy.

If anyone has any ideas they would like us to consider, we are always open to suggestions. We are also always open to have you join us for a moment, a month or a year. We wish everyone a happy, healthy and meaningful Passover holiday.

Hollie Cerame

Membership Committee



UPCOMING MEMBERSHIPS EVENTS

JOIN US FOR FLAVORFUL MEALS AND DYNAMIC PROGRAMS

Sun/4/1 - Fannie Brice: Funny Girl

Sun/4/11 - Tour of Budapest and Vienna/part two

Fri/4/16 - Grab & Go Shabbos Dinner: Fred & Murray's Deli

Fri/4/16 - Rabbi + Cantor's Song, Stories & Shabbat Shmooz

Sun/4/18 - Israeli Food Tour

Sun/4/25 - Joseph Pulitzer a voice of the people

Wed/4/28 - Tour of Argentina pre and post WWII/part one

For details about any of the programs, please visit EBJC.org.
PLEASE support local kosher restaurants during this difficult time.
Grab-n-Go menus will be shared during the week prior to pick-up.



APRIL/2021

CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING



The Center for Early Learning @ EBJC

We had a blast celebrating Purim



Registration now open for our 2021-22 school year.
Go to our Facebook group for registration information.
@Center for Early Learning or contact Lynda Perel at
Lperel@ebjc.org

KESHER AND YOUTH GROUPS



Hello Keshet Families and Youth,

Pesach is just concluding and I can't believe how fast the weeks are flying by for this school year. I want to thank the Teaching Team and all of our families for the support, patience, and devotion to our Keshet program. We truly have done something special through these difficult times. I look forward to continuing the learning and with Gd's help coming back together, in-person, very soon.

During this month of April, we resume classes after the Passover break on Wednesday, April 7th. There will also be a Keshet High School session that evening. We will be doing something fun to celebrate Yom Haatzmaut on Wednesday, April 14th. On Friday night, April 16th, we will have Youth Shabbat, where much of our regular Friday night service (6pm on Zoom) will be led by our USYers and Kadimans. The next day, Shabbat morning, April 17th, at 11am, we will have ZOOMNATION 2: RELAUNCH, a Shabbat B'yachad "Like" family service which will include congregations from across the country. This was a wonderful Shabbat morning service back in January, and we expect this one to be the same if not better!

For those who read my "Cantor's" article, here is a nice educational piece and a way of increasing our usage of the Hebrew language. The following is a list of words and terms you can use:

Shalom: Hello/Goodbye/Peace.

Ken: Yes.

Lo: No.

Mah Shlomkha/Mah Shlomekh: How are you? (masculine/feminine)

Todah: Thank You.

Todah Rabah: Thank you very much.

B'va'ka'sha: You are welcome.

Efo Hasherutim: Where are the bathrooms?

Atah Haver Sheli: You are my friend.

B'hatz'la'ha: Good luck.

Of course, this is just a very small selection of words; however, we must all start somewhere. In celebration of Israel's birthday/Independence Day, why not use some of them?

As always, if you have any questions, please email 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

PARSHAT HASHAVUAH CLASS (ZOOM)

Fridays | 11 a.m.

Join us for Rabbi Pivo's Friday morning class at 11 a.m. where we study the weekly parshah prior to Shabbat. 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:

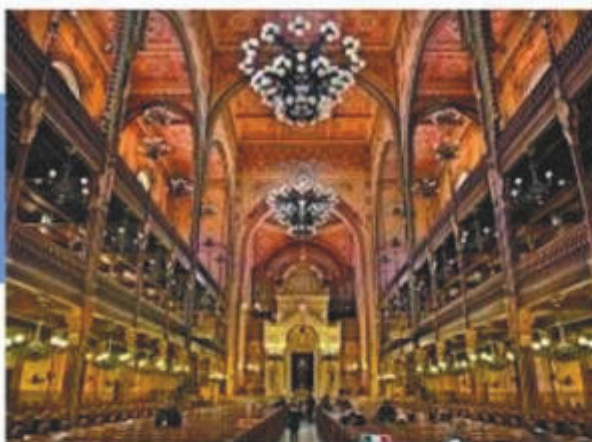
Mondays | 8:00 p.m.

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.



Budapest and Vienna... In the Footsteps of Herzl

These two capitals of the Austro-Hungarian Empire boasted thriving, creative, successful, and influential Jewish communities, which reached unprecedented heights during the Fin de Siecle era.

This two-part session will explore the incredible achievements of the Jewish community in these two beautiful cities, explore the complex search for identity in the 50 years leading up to World War II, will grapple with two very different stories of how anti-Jewish policies and the Shoah developed, and will discuss Jewish life post-1945.

Sundays March 7 and April 11 @ 1PM EST
This is a two-part series on Zoom

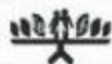
Mike Hollander was born in Canada and made Aliyah in 1988. He has an MA in Jewish-Christian Relations and is a registered tour guide. He has led groups from Federations, Birthright, Interfaith groups, political groups, congregational trips, families, adults and even the rich and famous like Bono. His areas of expertise include history, politics, Middle Eastern and interfaith studies.



Program Co-Sponsors:

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register at:**

www.ebjc.org/footsteps-of-Hertzl

Fee covers both weeks of this series



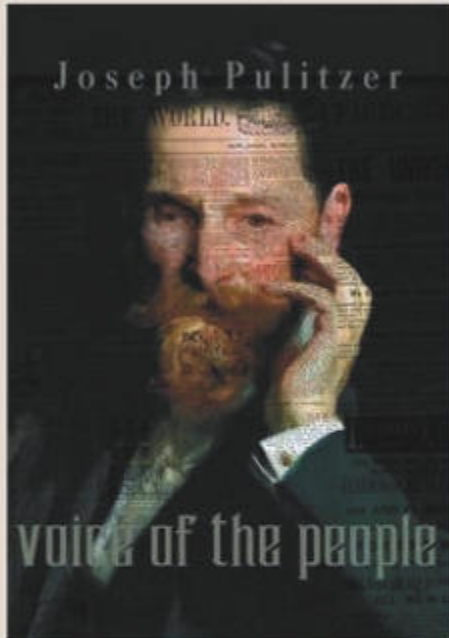
Film and Q&A

Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People



Watch movie anytime between
Tuesday, April 20 - Sunday, April 25

Join us for a Q&A with film director, writer and producer Oren Rudavsky on Zoom: **Sunday, April 25 at 3:00 PM EST***



Explore the life and legacy of Joseph Pulitzer, the father of modern journalism, in Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People.

A Jewish immigrant from Hungary, Joseph Pulitzer began as a gifted journalist before becoming a successful publisher and businessman. He was famous in his own time for his outspoken and cantankerous editorial voice and his newspapers' striking illustrations, visual style, national circulation and financial success.

Against the context of America's explosive growth as a world force during the Gilded Age, Pulitzer emerged as the country's first media titan, reshaping the newspaper to bear witness to and even propel that transformation. Joseph Pulitzer championed what he regarded as the sacred role of the free press in democracy.

*Q&A will air live across the country. Time listed is Eastern Standard Time.

RSVP: www.ebjc.org/joseph-pulitzer

Donation of \$5.00 per zoom device

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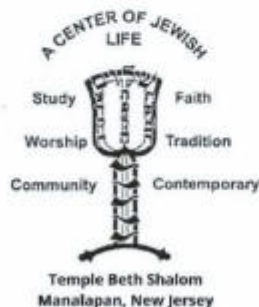
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Sunday, April 18, 1:00pm EST

Register at www.ebjc.org/israel-food-tour to receive link information.

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Leah Beker for ZoomNation

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Howard & Cindi Jacobs in honor of Marty and Beth Hoffman on the engagement of their daughter, Deanna, to Garrett Lichtman

Howard & Cindi Jacobs in honor of the birth of Sherryl and Mickey Kaufman's grandson, Elemér Jack Kaufman

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Neal & Joyce Leavitt wishing a speedy recovery to Jon Rivlin

Neal & Joyce Leavitt wishing a speedy recover to their granddaughter, Annie Eisner

Richard & Cindy Rollman in honor of the engagement of Marty and Beth Hoffman's daughter, Deanna

Marc & Meri Pearl in honor of EBJC's Unsung Heroes - Craig Berger, Sherry Stein and Deanna Hoffman

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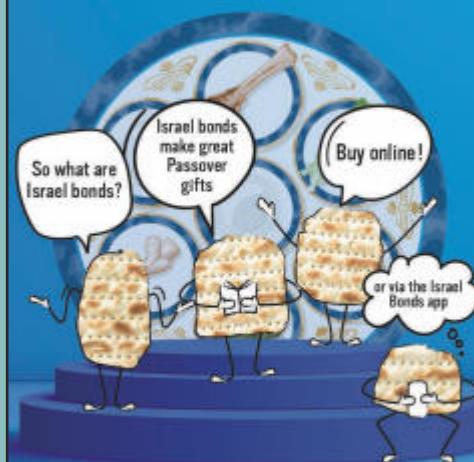
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