

# T H E Menorah

N E W S L E T T E R

*The Official News Bulletin of Congregation B'nai Israel*

February 2012

www.bisrael.com

Shevat-Adar 5772

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR RABBI

### A MIRACLE IS WORTH CELEBRATING – AND PROTECTING

As I write this column, we are approaching Tu Bishvat, the New Year for Trees. Trees have a beauty and utility all their own. It's no accident that Torah is called the tree of life. It offers shelter and habitat. It provides for -- and is provided for by -- those who take up residence in it. It draws from deep roots. It inclines itself toward the Light. It contains seeds for future generations. It gives sweet, nourishing fruit.

I am sure you remember the children's book, *The Giving Tree*. Trees, like some people, give freely and completely. They don't discriminate and say, "this many bushels of apples, but no more for you." They don't ask if you will be wasteful or respectful. Their shade, their wood, their fruit is simply available.

This Tu Bishvat, as part of the Westwood Area Interfaith Food drive, we are collecting non-perishable produce from trees (dried fruits, canned fruits, nuts, nut butters, etc.) for local food pantries. We are "making like a tree" -- planting ourselves firmly in community, giving freely to all in need. We began the collection in January and will continue it through April 1, to extend the mitzvah.

In addition, on Tu Bishvat, we are



launching a more concerted recycling effort. You will find "mitzvah boxes" (otherwise known as recycling boxes) throughout the building. We are also distributing information on local recycling efforts and encouraging a "greener" congregation. Everyone coming to synagogue on Sunday, February 5 -- the day of our Tu Bishvat workshop for families -- is encouraged to wear green, as a symbol and reminder of the Jewish commitment to be God's stewards of creation.

People often say that a great tragedy is, literally, unfathomable. You can't possibly compute the loss of six million Jews in the Holocaust, but you can begin to understand the story of one survivor.

The same is true of great miracles. They are, literally, unfathomable. You can't possibly assimilate the reality of Creation, but you can begin to appreciate a tree.

I got special dispensation to give away one of my husband, Craig's, trade secrets. When Craig teaches screen writing, he asks the students, on the very first day of the semester, to write -- in any form -- for twenty-five minutes about a tree. Take a moment now, and think: What would you write about? A tree from your childhood? A tree you saw at a national park, or read about in a poem? A sapling on a snow-covered ridge?

The exercise reveals not just writing style, but individuality, passions, and dispositions of mind and spirit. No one is indifferent to a tree. Each tree is unique, each memory or vision of a tree is unique, and trees bring out the unique, signature voice in each student.

It is so easy to take trees for granted. In the leafy suburbs, in a country with plenty of water, they are everywhere. But when we pay attention, we easily see what miracles they are. And then -- again, when we pay attention -- we see what miracles we, who see and tend them, can become.

This Tu Bishvat, may we witness, enjoy, and safeguard many miracles.

*Rabbi Debra Orenstein*

# CANTOR'S CORNER

**T**was the first night of Chanukah  
and all through the Shtetl,  
Everybody was frielach, even babies in  
their craytl...Ok, I tried.

On the first night of Chanukah, the family would gather in my zeide's (my dad's dad) apartment. Eyes closed, his long white beard and payes swayed as my zeide shokled back and forth, chanting the Brachot. His menorah was pewter and filled with oil, and my dad's eyes would fill with tears watching his father chant. He remembered the day when the Nazis marched into their apartment in Vienna and took him away. He wondered if he'd ever see his parents again.

Zeide would hand out silver dollars to us while we all sang Maoz Tzur and Haneyrot Halalu (We light these lights for the miracles and the wonders, for the redemption and the battles that you made for our forefathers in those days at this season), and then all the cousins would play dreidel and eat my Bubbie's latkes. Wayne is named for my zeide, whose name was Wolf (Volvish-Yiddish, Ze'ev-Hebrew).

After my grandparents died, we'd gather in my parents' apartment on the first night of Chanukah. I would hold Wayne in my arms and watch my dad's eyes fill with tears looking at his grandson, a grandson that he thought he would never live to see.

We'd sing all the same songs, get Chanukah gelt, eat my mother's fantastic latkes (mom is truly one of the great latke makers of all time) and dad would hold Wayne, singing softly and sweetly: Ay lu lu lu lu. It was the lullaby that he sang to me.

The first night of Chanukah this year,

we all gathered at Wayne and Stacie's home: my mom, her friend Milton, Shelly, Dylan, Ari, Spencer and I. It was the day of the plane crash on route 287, traffic was horrific everywhere and Wayne was late getting home. Shelly (who makes great reservations for dinner but, like my mom, is also one of the great latkes makers of all time) and I chopped up potatoes and onions, added matzoh meal, and then Shelly stood over a hot frying pan making the latkes. It's almost impossible to wait with that glorious 'latkedik' aroma, so we nibbled on latkes before dinner.

Wayne walked in and a huge smile crossed his lips as he smelled the latkes cooking. He walked over, uncovered the paper towels, and began to munch. A beautiful, hand blown, glass Menorah sat on the island in the middle of the kitchen, the Shammes and one chamber filled with blue colored oil. Spencer was in Wayne's arms, Dylan, Ari and Stacie next to him and the rest of us standing around them as we all chanted the Brachot.

I watched Wayne swaying as he chanted. It was all of us, my zeide, my dad, me and my son, and tears filled my eyes making me stop in the middle of the third blessing. We sang all the same songs, ate latkes with dinner (whatever was left), played dreidel, and all I could think was:

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

May the light of the Chanukah  
candles illuminate your lives for a  
glorious year.

*Cantor Lenny Mandel*



|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
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| Rabbi Debra Orenstein | (201) 265-2272         |
| Cantor Lenny Mandel   | (973) 325-1778         |
| Cantor Emeritus       | Sidney Derner          |
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**MENORAH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**  
Articles due 5th of preceding month. E-mail articles to  
Menorah@bisrael.com. Questions? Call 201-768-9661.

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# RITUAL

**S**halom!

Inspiring melodies and words of courage highlighted our Freedom Shabbat on January 13. Our Rabbi, Cantor, and guest speakers honored the lives of Martin Luther King and Rabbi Abraham Heschel in a program we will long remember. With many CBI members continuing the celebration at Zion Lutheran Church on Sunday, January 15, we all got a true sense of community.

But now it's February. Happy Ground Hog's Day! and let's look at another month of wonderful activities for all our CBI families.

On Friday evening, February 3, the Aleph class will lead us in prayer. It will surely give us all a time to "kvell" with their families as we see how much they've learned in such a short time.

February 10 at 7:30pm, come ready to warm up at our "Beach Party" Casual Shabbat. Rabbi Orenstein and Cantor Mandel are sure to shake off the February chill.

After minyan on Sunday morning, February 12, join Rabbi Orenstein and Cantor Mandel for a workshop on both following and leading a service. It will also provide an introduction to the reading of the Torah. Learn about your clergy's pet peeves and best practices regarding synagogue worship. There will be break-out sessions.

On Saturday morning, February 21 at 10:45am, the Young Family

Shabbat will honor the Torah portion, Yitro. CBI Hebrew School students will present an original book, Yitro: A Jewish Hero, that they wrote with Rabbi Orenstein. Older children (7-11) will present the story to the younger set (infants through age 6), with parents and grandparents proudly watching. As always, February Birthdays will be celebrated and our lunch of pizza, ice cream and salads will be offered.

Our Inter-Generational Drumming Circle will be held Erev Shabbat, February 24. Come experience this unique and delightful way to express ourselves in prayer through the leadership of Rabbi Orenstein.

And consider coming to Shabbat Morning Services, 10:00 -11:30am every Saturday. It's another way to get a true sense of community, helping to make a minyan for those in our CBI family reciting Kaddish. But you also receive enlightenment through our Rabbi's interpretation of the Torah Partia as we celebrate the Shabbat together and uphold our most sacred tradition.

*See you in Shul!*

*Judy Schoenfeld and Linda Spatz*

*Ritual Co-chairs*



## WOODMONT DAY CAMP

Affiliated with the Bergen County YJCC welcomes the Bergen County Jewish community

Woodmont Day Camp is the Bergen County YJCC's summer camp for children entering grade one and up. Woodmont offers special incentives to the Jewish community:

- \$500 "Happy Camper" discount for new Woodmont campers.
- 10% of camp fees deposited into a "Kehillah Family Account." Money in this account may be applied, at your direction, to programs, dues or memberships within the Jewish community.

*Woodmont is located on 50 beautiful acres in New City, New York, about 20 minutes from the YJCC. The camp features swimming pools, ball fields, tennis courts, trails and other outdoor facilities. The bucolic atmosphere combined with exciting activities and a supportive vibe make for life-long memories. Door-to-door transportation, lunch, fruit break, snack and towel service are provided. For more information about Woodmont Day Camp, go to [www.woodmontdaycamp.com](http://www.woodmontdaycamp.com) or contact **Wendy Fox** at the YJCC at (201) 666-6610, ext. 5820 or camp owners/directors **Ilisha and Sam Borek** at (845) 638-0700.*



## SAVE THE DATE

### WINE TASTING & GAMES NIGHT FOR GROWN UPS!

**Saturday, March 3rd at 7:00pm**

Join us for a winter night out -- play some board games, have some snacks and desserts, and yes, taste some wine!

**Order your Passover wines now!**

Wines will be supplied by Queen Ann Wines of Teaneck - the largest supplier of Kosher wines in New Jersey. There will be 30 different wines to choose from (yes there are 30 different Kosher wines) and 15% of all proceeds go to CBI.

**The cost for the evening is \$7 per person.**

**Bring your favorite board games, mah jong, etc.**

**RSVP to Joe Rosenthal by March 1st at [rosenthal55@yahoo.com](mailto:rosenthal55@yahoo.com) or pay at the door. JOIN US!**

*Look forward to a great night!*



## The Principal's Pen

Shalom Chaverim,

We had an impressive semester with lots of learning, practicing prayers and preparations for Bar Mitzvah celebrations. We concluded the period with a beautiful

Chanukah party filled with blessings, songs and a knowledge quiz about the holiday. We were impressed with the students understanding of the history and background of Chanukah. They became such "mavens"; we have so much to "kvell" about.

Report cards were mailed during our winter break. The students worked hard and it shows in their grades. We look forward to continued success and progress – especially with the computers in place. The computer programs are an additional enrichment to our curriculum.

I continue to teach and especially enjoy Evrit B'evrit, which is teaching Hebrew, in Hebrew, without the use of English. I see it as a challenge for both myself and the students. I feel that the students learn more vocabulary and Hebrew comprehension while gaining a greater appreciation for the Hebrew language.

This year, the school's Mitzvah Project is sending money to a homeless Israeli boy, so he will be able to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah. Our students are very excited to help and we have already collected a few hundred dollars. If you would like to help with this wonderful cause, please send your contribution to the Hebrew School. We will greatly appreciate it.

We are celebrating the holiday of Tu B'eshvat, the birthday of the trees. The Torah commands us to take care of the world and keep it clean and beautiful for future generations. In Israel, students go to a field and plant trees as a class project. The Torah tells us that the first thing you should do when you come to Israel is plant a tree. This is a great Mitzvah. We can support Israel by sending money for people in Israel to plant saplings. It is an important holiday for the whole world to celebrate, so we can have a world full of trees.

We hope and pray for peace in Israel and in the world.

*Le'hitraot,  
Zahava Gall*



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

We want to thank everyone again who helped with the Chanukah workshop. Thanks to our principal, Zahava, and teachers (Carmelle, Debbie, Jeff, & Sarit) for their fun workshops (we didn't finish them on the day of the magic show, but enjoyed continuing them the following week), and to Rabbi Orenstein for inviting Seth Dale for the great magic show. Thankd to Michele and Jill for shopping and Idelle, Gary, & George for preparing the latkes. Everyone enjoyed the treats!

**The TuBishvat workshop is on Sunday, February 5.** Please join us to learn more about this holiday and help plant trees.

**The Purim carnival is on Sunday, March 4.** We need volunteers before, during and after the carnival – shoppers for food, people to setup the games, cooks, people to work the games, clean-up, etc. Let us know what you'd

like to help with – or just let us know you want to help and we'll find a job for you!! It's always a fun day for the entire family!

We continue to have services where the classes assist in leading prayers from the bimah. The Dalet and Hey classes did a great job this past month. **The class service for Aleph students is Friday, February 3 at 7:30pm; the Bet and Gimmel service is on Friday, March 2 at 7:30pm.** We welcome all families to attend these services and support our students, even if it's not your child's grade.

The Dalet and Hey Learning Services are required for all Dalet and Hey students. (All families are invited to attend these services.) These services cover the Shabbat prayers and focus on a different part of the service each month. On the same day, there is also a Young Families service for families

with children ages 10 and under. **The next Dalet and Hey Learning Service / Family Shabbat Service is Saturday, February 11** (focusing on Amidah and Musaf) **and again on Saturday, March 17** (choreography and prayers for taking out the Torah and returning it to the ark and the how's and why's of Torah and Haftorah reading).

As a reminder, there is no Hebrew School on Sunday, February 19, or Tuesday, February 21.

Please come to Sunday morning minyan with your children and then stay for a bagel. The kids do enjoy seeing their parents in temple and it is a nice way to start the day. We welcome the ideas of all the parents in our Hebrew school.

*Val Weinstein & Lori Aisenman  
Education Co-Chairs*

# President's Pen

*Can anyone actually predict  
what the future will bring?  
We know our calendar is full  
during the winter and the spring!*

Groundhog Day is February 2. We have all heard about the prediction powers of Pennsylvania groundhog, "Punxsutawney Phil." It's simple: if Phil sees his shadow, he heads back into his hole, and winter continues for another six weeks. No sun – no shadow – and we look forward to an early spring.

Well, for those unaware, my birthday is Groundhog Day. For years, people have asked me if I saw MY shadow when I woke up in the morning, as if I had the power to say if winter would be over soon. So, I have decided to consider if perhaps I have developed an ability (like Phil) to predict the future. Please take a moment and allow me to test my "special skills" and do some prognosticating. Rather than contemplate the weather, I will make a few predictions about what will happen at Congregation B'nai Israel:

- #1: February 11 will be when we (finally) enjoy our **annual Progressive Dinner**, sponsored by Sisterhood and Men's Club!
- #2: We will have many chances to learn through workshops and classes in February and March and, in addition to evenings, there will be morning sessions, too!
- #3: Many people will bake hundreds of delicious hamantaschen, enjoy a Purim Shpiel and Purim Carnival, and have a wonderful time!
- #4: Hebrew School families, other members, and non-members will experience holiday workshops for Tu B'Shevat and Passover.

- #5: We will have a fabulous spring event! (Details need to be clarified before I can reveal them.)
- #6: We will celebrate holidays and recall those lost during the Holocaust as we gather at programs for Yom HaShoah and Yom HaAtzmaut in May.
- #7: I predict another **BEATLES SHABBAT on May 4!** Baseball, Beach, and Adon Olam Casual Shabbat services will also fill some Friday evenings with fun and special melodies.
- #8: We will recognize the achievements of our Hebrew School students at class-led services, kvell at Bar and Bat Mitzvah services, and congratulate our children as they attend the annual graduation and moving up ceremony.
- #9: We will have a delightful "Installation Celebration" filled with fun and music as we welcome our NEW slate of officers in June!

I apologize if my predictions are incomplete or lack detail. I am sure that we'll also do many mitzvot with Social Action and for Israel, and we will gather at Drumming Circles, weekend and Jewish Home Assisted Living services, at a picnic, and more.

Some of you probably think that I don't have any fortune-telling abilities. After all, each of you can get this information by visiting the calendar page of our website ([www.bisrael.com](http://www.bisrael.com)) and reading the weekly *Shul Shmooz*. I confess, it would be fun if being born on February 2 gave me some special powers. However, I can predict with 100% certainty that I will see you at CBI in the future – and we will enjoy each other's company and share experiences.

*Naomi Weinberg,  
President*

## ADULT SINGERS

We need adult singers for programs coming up including our installation, so if you can sing, please get in touch with Cantor Lenny Mandel  
[cantor@bisrael.com](mailto:cantor@bisrael.com)  
(201) 618-0716



## After School Academy for Advanced Studies in Mathematics, Science, Arts and Technology @ Schechter

**Open to all 5th-8th graders**

Courses Offered Mondays or Tuesdays, February – April, 2012  
The After School Academy for Advanced Studies in Mathematics, Science, Arts and Technology @ Schechter (The After School Academy) returns this February through April with a variety of course offerings .

Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County, 275 McKinley Avenue, New Milford, NJ 07646. (Group and organizational discounts are available.) For more information about the After School Academy, including all course offerings and registration form, visit [www.sdsbergen.org/asa/](http://www.sdsbergen.org/asa/), or call **201-262-9898 x220**

# SISTERS IN THE HOOD

Sisterhood started January by cooking for about thirty women and children at Shelter Our Sisters. It was wonderful to “do good” and have fun doing it. Thank you to our shoppers (including Donna Kaufman, Susan Kushner, Judy Newell, and Deborah Shapiro); our cooks and bakers (including Victoria Pasher, Carolyn Ginsberg, Jill and Jacqui Blum, Susan Kushner, Carol Aferiat, Jayne Rubinfeld, Sara Robinson, Gilda Natko, Deborah Shapiro, Ilene Yashpeh, Beth Liepmann, Robyn Abrams, Tracy Ganbarg, and Renee Kuperinsky); and our drivers (including Sara Robinson and Jayne Rubinfeld)! We especially thank our special donors who helped pay for the food. Later in the month, we did some cooking for ourselves as our honorary member, Warren Kuperinsky, taught us how to make rugelach (thank you, Warren!) Book club met at Lisa Pollack’s home for a lively discussion of *Three Junes* by Julia Glass. The month ended with a very special Rosh Chodesh service with the theme “A Woman’s Light Within.” Many thanks to Shelly Birnbaum and Rabbi Orenstein for planning and leading this lovely event.

Please join us for the Progressive Dinner on Saturday, February 11, starting at the Temple at 6:30pm. This is Men’s Club and

Sisterhood’s big fundraiser and always a lot of fun. It’s a great way to meet others. If you’d like to host, let Lisa Pollack know as soon as possible at [sisterhoodlp@bisrael.com](mailto:sisterhoodlp@bisrael.com). On Sunday, February 26, after minyan and bagel breakfast, we’re having a mahjong class, led by Belinda Howard. Please let Belinda know if you can come ([bdhh@optonline.net](mailto:bdhh@optonline.net)).

There are exciting events coming in March. On March 13, as part of the “One Book, One Community” program focused on *My Father’s Paradise*, Rabbi Orenstein will present “Aramaic as a Living Language” at the Westwood Library. Sisterhood will be hosting and providing refreshments – contact Nancy ([sisterhoodnp@bisrael.com](mailto:sisterhoodnp@bisrael.com)) if you’d like to help out. As always, keep an eye on the *Shul Shmooz* and the website for updates and changes. Don’t forget to submit your membership form; new CBI members are free (but we still need your contact information)! Let us know if there is a special program you’d like to run or have us run. It is *your* Sisterhood – join us!

Lisa Pollack, Audra Bida & Nancy Passow  
Sisterhood Co-Chairs

## ADULT EDUCATION SERIES: Contemporary Issues and Hot Topics

Congregation B’Nai Israel and led by Rabbi Orenstein

• **Saturday, February 4, 6:45pm**  
(*Snow date: Saturday, February 11*)  
**SWEET TASTES OF TORAH III:  
A COMMUNITY NIGHT OF  
LEARNING** Rabbi Orenstein will be among the teachers leading various 1-hour classes. After a Havdalah service, attendees will have the opportunity to attend sessions covering a wide range of topics. The program will be held at the Fair Lawn Jewish Center. Cost and class descriptions to be provided. Questions? Contact Nickie Falk, coordinator, 201-652-1687; [sweettastesoftorah@gmail.com](mailto:sweettastesoftorah@gmail.com)

• **Thursday mornings from  
10:45 am to 12 noon, February 9 & 16,  
March 1 & 8 (special Purim edition)**  
**ETHICS OF THE ANCESTORS**

• **Sunday, February 12, 9:45 am - 11:30 am**  
**Tuesday, February 28, 7:30 pm-9:15 pm**  
**SYNAGOGUE SKILLS WORKSHOP**  
Led by Rabbi Orenstein and Cantor Mandel

• **Tuesday, March 13, 7:00pm**  
(*to be held at the Westwood Public  
Library*)  
**ARAMAIC AS A LIVING LANGUAGE**  
Rabbi Orenstein will discuss the legacy of Aramaic and its significance in the book, *My Father’s Paradise*

• **Wednesday, March 20, 7:30pm**  
**SEDER SOLUTIONS** Interactive workshop to learn to engage people of all ages for a meaningful & enjoyable Passover Seder.

## Mazel Tov

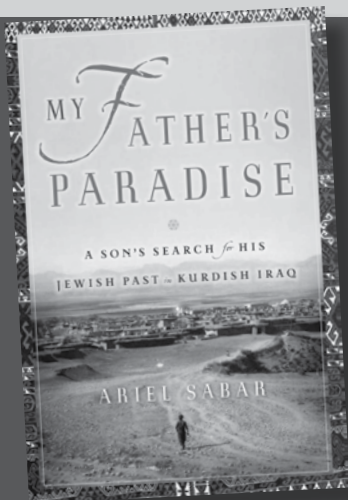
To Beth and George Liepman  
on the engagement of their son  
Jonathan to Amondine!



## Get Well Wishes

Lauren Tancer

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL in Emerson,  
in Cooperation with the WESTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY  
*Presents*



## "ARAMAIC AS A LIVING LANGUAGE"

**Where: Westwood Public Library  
49 Park Avenue, Westwood, NJ**

**When: March 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**

The popular book *My Father's Paradise* by Ariel Sabar is the starting point for a talk by Rabbi Debra Orenstein on "Aramaic as a Living Language." Yona Sabar was raised in an idyllic Jewish enclave in Kurdistan Iraq called Zakho. It was a corner of the world so isolated that he grew up speaking the ancient Aramaic of Jesus. In this memoir, his son, Ariel, writes about what it was like for his father -- and for him -- to bridge two worlds. Rabbi Orenstein will explore the legacy of Aramaic, a language dear to both Christians and Jews. Jesus spoke it; the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament) and the Talmud include it; Jews and some Christians use it in prayer still today. English speakers are usually unaware that they already know some words and phrases in -- or derived from -- Aramaic. Can the language itself be a bridge between past and present? The talk will incorporate a lesson in basic Aramaic and its connections to both Hebrew and English. (One need not have read the book to enjoy the evening's program.)

Rabbi Debra Orenstein is the spiritual leader of Congregation B'nai Israel in Emerson and the author of five books, including *Lifecycles 2: Jewish Women on Biblical Themes in Contemporary Life*. She taught Bible and Rabbinics at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles before "repatriating" back to her home state of New Jersey

*Followed by dessert & coffee provided by the  
Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Israel.*

For additional information please contact the  
Congregation B'nai Israel Office at: **201-265-2272** or **[bnaioffice@bisrael.com](mailto:bnaioffice@bisrael.com)**

# SAC EXCHANGE

On Sunday, December 18th, the Social Action Committee visited the Paramus Veterans Home to celebrate Chanukah. We met a number of veterans, along with some of their family members, in the home's chapel. Rabbi Orenstein explained the meaning of the holiday and the proper way to light a menorah, and led us in song and dance.

Stories were shared about memories of past Chanukahs and each of the residents was given a gift bag that included dreidels and gelt. We want to thank Ellen Michelson, Andrea Collier, Carol Ann Aferiat, Victoria Pasher and the Rabbi for participating and making the event a success.

The Westwood area Interfaith Food Drive is currently in

progress. CBI has joined in this important effort to help replenish area food pantries after the holidays, when supplies typically dwindle and the need is greater than ever. CBI is collecting fruit and nut products (non-perishable items), including canned fruit, dried fruit and fruit roll-ups, nuts and peanut butter. Please place items in the bin located in the lobby. CBI volunteers are scheduled to deliver donated items to the food pantry in Hillsdale every week. The food drive will continue until April 1. We need everyone's participation to help make this food drive a success!

*Co-Chairs*

*Judy Newell & Renee Kurpinsky*



Congregation B'nai Israel is proud to participate in

## The Interfaith Food Drive

**Beginning Friday January 13th thru April 1st**

in honor of Tu Bishvat, the New Year for Trees

CBI will be collecting non-perishable fruit and nut products, such as canned fruit, dried fruit, peanut butter, & other nut butters

A collection container will be in the lobby

***Please help out with this very worthy cause***

**Contact Rabbi Debra Orenstein at 201-265-2272**

**Renee Kuperinsky [socialactionrk@bisrael.com](mailto:socialactionrk@bisrael.com)**

**Judy Newell [socialactionjn@bisrael.com](mailto:socialactionjn@bisrael.com)**

**53 Palisade Avenue, Emerson NJ 07630**



## It's In The Mail

(...and due by February 3, 2012)

Your user-friendly Mishloach Manot (Purim Basket) form should soon be in your mail. Purim is a cheerful time of general good feeling for one another. Sending Purim baskets of goodies is a wonderful tradition. Ask your kids whom they would like to send a basket to so they can feel good about participating in this mitzvah. You can order extra baskets for friends and family outside of B'nai Israel

and help your kids deliver them, too.

But please don't delay in filling out the form. Every member whose name you check off will receive a basket with your name on the card as a sender. If you don't want to deal with the form, you can send a check to Congregation B'nai Israel for \$165 and your name will be on a basket to EVERYONE in our temple family. It's that simple!

However you choose to do it, participation is the key. The Mishloach Manot program has become a major fundraiser for our synagogue, so please participate wholeheartedly!

Return forms and checks ASAP – the committee has lots of preparing to do. If you can help, please e-mail Robin Pierce at [vprp@bisrael.com](mailto:vprp@bisrael.com). We have lots of fun getting this project together, so don't hesitate to join in. Due to popular demand, we will again be baking our own delicious hamantaschen! Any amount of time you can help out is appreciated.

If you have any questions, contact Robin Pierce at [vprp@bisrael.com](mailto:vprp@bisrael.com)



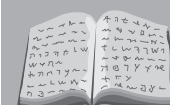
*Sisterhood Prepares Dinner for Shelter Our Sisters*



*A Magical Hannukah! with many surprises!*

## TU BISHVAT WORKSHOP & CELEBRATION

On **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH**, from 10 am-11:30 am, our Hebrew School and any and all families who wish to join us will be celebrating Tu Bishvat, the New Year for Trees. We will learn, sing, and planting saplings - both for families to take home and for our synagogue property. We are excited to welcome guests for this fun day of interactive learning. However, we need RSVP's from everyone who is not currently in the Hebrew School to be sure we have enough saplings and fruit snacks for all. Kindly contact Marie in the Temple office: 201-265-2272.



### SIDDUR DEDICATION

Evan Kutzin and Lauren Cywinski  
dedicate a Siddur in memory of  
Harry Wechsler

# Progressive Dinner

Come to our most popular event – an opportunity to reconnect with old Friends and make new ones!

Co-sponsored by Sisterhood and Men's Club

**Saturday, February 11, 2012**

Begin at the Temple, at 6:30 pm, with a lovely Havdalah service, appetizers, and drinks;  
Followed by a delicious dairy or Fish dinner at a designated home  
(your host's names and directions to their home will be given out at Temple).  
We join together, again, For dessert.

## Progressive Dinner '12

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I/we can host \_\_\_\_\_ (no charge)

I/we can host dessert \_\_\_\_\_ (no charge)

I/we want to join the fun at \$36 per person \_\_\_\_\_ # of people attending X \$36.00 **TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know if you are allergic to cats or dogs (some hosts share their homes with them) or have food allergies.  
(Hosts, please let us know if you do share your home with any furkids.)

Please send payment to **Lisa Pollack** at 69 Belmar Street, Demarest, NJ 07627 or contact her at [sisterhoodlp@bisrael.com](mailto:sisterhoodlp@bisrael.com) or **201-750-0546**. We hope that you will join us!

# THE MENORAH MENSCH

The Menorah Mensch has been thinking about how this community got it's start. Recently there was a meeting at CBI of longer term members. You know. People who have been members for a long time and some from the beginning! The Mensch couldn't be there but I hear everyone had a great time and there we so many stories I just had to talk to some of the people who were there.

So the Mensch went to see Judy and Hal Abrams. Founding members of CBI. Can you believe they have documents that go way back to the beginning? Hal designed our beautiful Menorah logo – it's contemporary, full of meaning and really does reflect our congregation. Hal explained to the Mensch that he didn't want to use a "standard" logo or a Star of David or realistic menorah in the logo because he wanted it to reflect who we were and who we are. And after all these years it still does its job.

It turns out that CBI got it's start with a bet between two Emerson residents – that there were less than 25 Jewish families in town. Suddenly things were in motion with the first meeting held in the home of a founding member in Emerson. There were 8 women present at the meeting. At this first meeting it was decided that the group was going to need a leader who was knowledgeable in all religious aspects – thank you Bunny for volunteering your husband Sid. At this and many meetings to follow, discussions of how to start having local Shabbat services, what denomination the group would embrace and how to establish membership were just a few of the issues the group addressed. It's hard to imagine, right? A small group of people get together and think they can form a congregation? But the Mensch is so happy they pursued this idea. Look where we are today!

In the coming months the Mensch will be visiting with other of our longer term members to hear more stories and share them with you. If you have any early CBI stories you want to share, just leave a note in the Menorah Newsletter mailbox or give it to Marie. The Mensch is always looking for good material.



## SAVE THE DATE

### MARCH 18, 2012

**CBI is going to NYC to see the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at the Discovery Center**

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL SISTERHOOD PRESENTS...



**Another day to learn and play Mah Jong with Belinda Howard at the synagogue**

**Sunday, February 26, 2012  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**COST: \$5 a person for non-sisterhood members; Sisterhood members are free!**

**Tasty snacks will be served.**

**Bring your friends.**

RSVP to **Belinda Howard,**  
**4 Auricchio Ave., Emerson, NJ 07630,**  
**bdhh@optonline.net, 201-261-2136**

## Learn Mah Jong 2012

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- I'm a beginner coming to learn
- I know how to play a little
- I can bring a mahjong set
- I can bring mahjong cards (how many? \_\_\_\_\_)
- I can bring a bridge table
- Enclosed is \$5.00.

# FEBRUARY 2012

Candle Lighting Times: **3:** 4:57 **10:** 5:06 **17:** 5:14 **24:** 5:23

Shevat-Adar 5772

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY    | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY                     | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   |
|---|-----------|---|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
|   |           |   | 7:30pm Board Meeting <b>1</b> | <b>2</b>   | 7:30pm Aleph class leads service <b>3</b>   | 10am Shabbat Morning Services <b>4</b><br>6:45pm Sweet Taste of Torah, Fair Lawn<br>Parashat Beshalach                             |
| 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>5</b><br>9am Hebrew School<br>10am Tu Bshvat Family Workshop  | <b>6</b>  | 4pm Hebrew School <b>7</b>                                      | Tu B Shvat <b>8</b>           | 10:45am Adult Ed.- Ethics of the Ancestors <b>9</b>  | 7:30pm Casual Beach Shabbat Service <b>10</b>   | 10am Dalet/Hey Learning service <b>11</b><br>10:45am Family Shabbat program + lunch<br>6:30pm Progressive Dinner<br>Parashat Yitro |
| 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>12</b><br>9am Hebrew School<br>9:45am Synagogue Skills Workshop<br>10am Kehillah Event (Dalet students) | <b>13</b> | 4pm Hebrew School <b>14</b>                                     | <b>15</b>                     | 10:45am Adult Ed.- Ethics of the Ancestors <b>16</b> | 8pm Erev Shabbat Service <b>17</b>  | 10am Shabbat Morning Service <b>18</b><br>Shabbat Shekalim<br>Parashat Mishpatim   |
| 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>19</b><br>10am Hamantaschen Baking for Shalach Manot Bags<br>No Hebrew School                           | <b>20</b> | No Hebrew School <b>21</b>                                      | <b>22</b>                     | <b>23</b>  | 7pm Inter-Generational Drumming Circle <b>24</b><br>8pm Erev Shabbat Service<br>Rosh Chodesh Adar | 10am Shabbat Morning Service <b>25</b><br>Parashat Parashat Terumah  |
| 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>26</b><br>9am Hebrew School<br>10am Mah Jong Lesson with Sisterhood                                     | <b>27</b> | 4pm Hebrew School <b>28</b><br>7:30pm Synagogue Skills Workshop | <b>29</b>                     |  |   |  |

# MARCH 2012

Candle Lighting Times: **2:** 5:31 **9:** 5:39 **16:** 6:46 **23:** 6:54 **30:** 7:01

Adar I-Adar II 5772

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY    | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|--|-----------|---|--|--|--|---|
|  |           |   |  | 10:45am Adult Ed. <b>1</b>                                   | 7:30pm Bet & Gimmel Erev Shabbat service <b>2</b>                            | 10am Shabbat Morning Services <b>3</b><br>7pm Wine Tasting & Adults Game Night<br>Parashat Tetzaveh                               |
| 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>4</b><br>9am Hebrew School<br>11:30am Purim Carnival   | <b>5</b>  | No Hebrew School <b>6</b>   | 7pm Purim Shpiel & Megillah Reading <b>7</b><br>Ta anit Esther | 10:45am Adult Ed.- Ethics of the Ancestors <b>8</b><br>Purim | 8pm Erev Shabbat Service <b>9</b><br>Shushan Purim                           | 10am Jewish Home Assisted Living services <b>10</b><br>Parashat Ki Tisa   |
| 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>11</b><br>9am Hebrew School  | <b>12</b> | 4pm Hebrew School <b>13</b><br>7pm Rabbi Orenstein leads topic Aramaic as a Living Language at Westwood Free Public Library | 7:30pm Board Meeting <b>14</b>                                 | 10:45am Adult Ed.- Ethics of the Ancestors <b>15</b>         | 8pm Erev Shabbat Service <b>16</b>   | 10am Dalet/Hey Learning Service <b>17</b><br>10:45am Family Shabbat program + lunch<br>Shabbat Parah<br>Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei |
| 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>18</b><br>9am Hebrew School<br>10am Kehillah Event<br>2pm Temple Trip to See Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit in NYC | <b>19</b> | 4pm Hebrew School <b>20</b><br>7:30pm Adult Education-Seder Solutions   | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b>  | 7pm Inter-Generational Drumming Circle <b>23</b><br>8pm Erev Shabbat Service | 10am Shabbat Morning Service <b>24</b><br>Shabbat HaChodesh<br>Parashat Vayikra   |
| 9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>25</b><br>9am Hebrew School<br>10am Passover Family Fun Workshop   | <b>26</b> | 4pm Hebrew School <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b>  | 7pm One Book, One Community Temple Emeth, Teaneck <b>29</b>  | 6:30pm Hot Dog Dinner <b>30</b><br>7:30pm Baseball Casual Shabbat Service    | 10am Shabbat Morning Service <b>31</b><br>Shabbat HaGadol<br>Parashat Tzav  |

# LETTERS

**Dear Congregants,**

Thank you for planting a tree in Mom's memory. She enjoyed her time in your company and took comfort in your friendship. We all miss her kindness and intelligence. We are grateful for the friendship and consideration that you have shown us and our family.

Aron, Laura, Jerry & Michael Richman

**Dear Executive Board,**

Thank you so much for your donation to the Jewish National Fund for a tree planted in memory of my mother.

We also appreciate all of the support that the Temple showed us during this difficult tie.

Sharon & Allen Neuhaus

**Dear President Naomi Weinberg and Fellow CBI congregants,**

Congregation B'nei Israel has again shown how much they love and care about their members. I deeply appreciate all the calls, cards, lovely flowers, and the beautiful basket you sent during my illness.

Don and I are indeed fortunate to be part of this warm, supportive family. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,  
Arlene Fultonberg

**Dear CBI Executive Board and Congregation,**

Thank you so much for the tree planted in memory of my moteh'ah and for all of your warm thoughts and support. You have once again demonstrated why we have been part of the CBI family for 44 years.

Don Segal and Family

**Dear Members of CBI,**

I wanted to let you know that my son, Jake, and I distributed all the hats, gloves and scarves collected for his Bar Mitzvah project. We went to the Hillsdale Food Pantry on Monday night Dec 12th and then again on the 19th since we didn't give out all the items on the first night. Jake was great in helping to keep things moving in an orderly fashion, assisting people in making their selections, bagging items and explaining to clients the reason/purpose for his project and the extra treats people received on each night. The head of the Pantry was very thankful for the items given to the clients who were also quite appreciative.

Thanks for all the announcements and support of the project which enabled us to get about seven boxes of things for toddlers, women/girls and men/boys.

Sincerely,  
Carol Aferiat

# FUNDS

**ETERNAL LIGHT FUND**

TO: Marcia Schloesser  
Condolences on the loss of your Mother,  
Dorothy Bodner Greenberg  
FROM: Donna & Les Kaufman,

TO: Renee Kuperinsky & Family  
Condolences on the loss of your Father,  
Simon Gorfinkiel  
FROM: Allen & Sharon Neuhaus

TO: Sharon Neuhaus & Family  
Condolences on the loss of your beloved  
Mother, Pauline Levine  
FROM: Seymour & Harriet Turk, Sandy &  
Francine Kaplan, Carol Saperstein,

**IRVING REIKES MEMORIAL GARDEN**

TO: Renee Kuperinsky & Family  
Condolences on the loss of your Father,  
Simon Gorfinkiel  
FROM: Nancy & Michael Passow

**FREYDA FUND**

TO: Daniel & Carol Ann Aferiat  
Mazel Tov on Jake's Bar Mitzvah  
FROM: Seymour & Harriet Turk

TO: Daniel & Laurie Levine  
Mazel Tov on your daughter, Rachel's marriage  
FROM: Seymour & Harriet Turk

TO: Daniel & Laurie Levine  
Mazel Tov on your daughter, Rachel's  
marriage to Nathan Green  
FROM: Idelle & Gary Schwinder

**GOOD & WELFARE**

TO: Marcia Schloesser  
Condolences on the loss of your Mother,  
Dorothy Bodner Greenberg  
FROM: Larry & Meryl Kutzin

TO: Renee Kuperinsky & Family  
Condolences on the loss of your Father,  
Simon Gorfinkiel  
FROM: Larry & Meryl Kutzin

**GENERAL FUND**

TO: Beth & George Liepman  
Mazel Tov on Jonathan's engagement  
FROM: Ellen & Dave Michelson, Bruce  
& Ellen Sonkin, Lisa Pollack & Mark &  
Charlotte Milchman

**GET WELL FUND**

TO: Ann Sugarman  
Get Well and feel better soon after your  
recent surgery  
FROM: Allen & Sharon Neuhaus

TO: Bruce Kasper  
Best wishes for a speedy recovery  
FROM: The Board of Trustees

**SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

TO: Renee Kuperinsky & Family  
Condolences on the loss of your Father,  
Simon Gorfinkiel  
FROM: Naomi & Bruce Weinberg, Bruce &  
Ellen Sonkin, Les & Donna Kaufman, Joan  
& Steve Zelman, Vivian Holzer & Mitchell  
Ignatoff, Lori & Scott Yoselow, Judy & Howard  
Newell, Ellen Breger & David Meinhard,  
Lisa Pollack & Mark & Charlotte Milchman,  
Arlene & Donald Fultonberg, David & Ellen  
Michelson, Sheryl & David Silver, Susan &  
Marty Casper, Goni & David Vardi

**DONATIONS IN MEMORY**

Don & Fern Segal in memory of Moe Segal  
Dan & Phyllis Kirschner in memory of  
Herman Kirschner

# FEBRUARY YAHRZEITS

|                      |           |          |
|----------------------|-----------|----------|
| Belle M Ivry         | Shevat 9  | 02/02/12 |
| Sophie H. Eben       | Shevat 9  | 02/02/12 |
| Jean Robbins         | Shevat 10 | 02/03/12 |
| Sol Bressler         | Shevat 10 | 02/03/12 |
| Irving Weinstein     | Shevat 10 | 02/03/12 |
| Barbara Goldner Meer | Shevat 10 | 02/03/12 |
| Daniel Lieberman     | Shevat 11 | 02/04/12 |
| Maynard L Green      | Shevat 11 | 02/04/12 |
| Shirley Breger       | Shevat 11 | 02/04/12 |
| Karl Heller          | Shevat 13 | 02/06/12 |
| Douglas Wallach      | Shevat 14 | 02/07/12 |
| Daniel J Spooner     | Shevat 16 | 02/09/12 |
| Newman Berlinger     | Shevat 16 | 02/09/12 |
| Samuel S Mirkin      | Shevat 16 | 02/09/12 |
| Herbert E Klein      | Shevat 17 | 02/10/12 |
| Daniel Reikes        | Shevat 17 | 02/10/12 |
| Frieda Brown         | Shevat 18 | 02/11/12 |
| Sylvia Lobell        | Shevat 19 | 02/12/12 |
| Louis Rothman        | Shevat 20 | 02/13/12 |
| Ruth Lazarus         | Shevat 20 | 02/13/12 |
| Meyer Bergman        | Shevat 20 | 02/13/12 |
| Bessie Schneider     | Shevat 21 | 02/14/12 |
| Mae Krieger          | Shevat 21 | 02/14/12 |
| Bessie G Gotfrid     | Shevat 22 | 02/15/12 |
| Edward Sommers       | Shevat 22 | 02/15/12 |
| Harry Epstein        | Shevat 22 | 02/15/12 |
| Israel Gluckstern    | Shevat 23 | 02/16/12 |
| Josef Wegner         | Shevat 23 | 02/16/12 |
| Milton Zirl          | Shevat 23 | 02/16/12 |
| Joseph Rubin         | Shevat 24 | 02/17/12 |
| Samuel Weinstein     | Shevat 24 | 02/17/12 |
| Phyllis Crowne       | Shevat 27 | 02/20/12 |
| Theodore Stern       | Shevat 28 | 02/21/12 |
| Lawrence Trager      | Shevat 30 | 02/23/12 |
| Bertha Weil          | Adar II 1 | 02/24/12 |
| Milton Kutzin        | Adar 2    | 02/25/12 |
| Irwin Ross           | Adar II 2 | 02/25/12 |
| Louis Buller         | Adar 3    | 02/26/12 |
| Paul A Fox           | Adar II 4 | 02/27/12 |
| Evelyn Schlem        | Adar II 4 | 02/27/12 |
| Gerald Brown         | Adar II 5 | 02/28/12 |
| Sidney Baum          | Adar II 6 | 02/29/12 |

# TEMPLE SERVICES

## YAHRZEIT/MEMORIAL PLAQUES

**\$200**

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

Call Paula Javits at 201-265-6559

## TREE OF LIFE LEAVES

**\$126**

Commemorate special occasions or honor someone special with a leaf displayed on our lobby walls.

Call Bob Greenblatt at 201-265-5777

## SENTIMENT CARDS

**\$7.50 minimum**

We'll send a beautiful card to express your sentiments. Choose from one of the following funds:

Call Bruce & Ellen Sonkin at 201-358-0129 or e-mail fundcards@bisrael.com

- **FREYDA FUND** for all occasions, in memory of the good deeds of Freyda "Fran" Klein

- **ETERNAL LIGHT FUND** for memorials

- **IRVING RIEKES MEMORIAL**

**GARDEN FUND** for all occasions.

Funds used to maintain garden behind temple.

- **GET WELL FUND**

- **CANTOR SID DERNER BUILDING FUND** for all occasions. Funds used for existing building needs.

- **GOOD & WELFARE FUND**

- **SOCIAL ACTION FUND** to help those in need

- **BERNICE'S KITCHEN FUND** for all occasions, in memory of Bernice Kuperinsky. Funds used for kitchen equipment.

## PRAYER BOOK FUND

Contact Barry Bluestein at

Book plate dedications for all occasions.

201-782-0969

## JUDAICA GIFT SHOP

Contact Meryl Kutzin at

Located in the temple lobby.

201-664-0684 or e-mail mkutzin@qtbras.com

## SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS

May be purchased in \$50 increments.

A major fundraiser that can be used at any Fairway, Shop Rite, Stop and Shop. Temple earns \$5 on every \$100 gift card.

Contact Idelle Schwinder at 201-265-7281

## PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Contact Bruce Kasper at

Let your neighbors know about our shul.

201-664-2175

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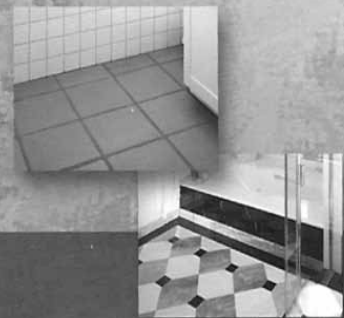
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