

# T H E Menorah

N E W S L E T T E R

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

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www.bisrael.com

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR RABBI

*Dear Friends,*

This month, I want to introduce you to a brave young man with a moving story. His name is Tomer, and some of your children have already “met” him via the web. Let me explain.

Our Hey students have the honor of choosing where to send the tzedakah money raised by the Hebrew School from January to June. After exploring the mitzvah of tzedakah, and a range of options, they have chosen as their cause Orr Shalom Foster Homes in Israel. Specifically, the Hey class wants to raise money to enable a child there to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. That’s where Tomer comes in. Through the good work of Orr Shalom, he had his Bar Mitzvah and is living a good and safe life. His letter speaks for itself.

*My name is Tomer. I am now 16 years old and I have lived in an Orr Shalom Therapeutic Family Group Home since I was removed from my family when I was six. My parents weren’t able to look after me because they were not well themselves. I remember when I was very young, my parents were hardly at home and I was left on my own a*



**ORR SHALOM**  
For Children and Youth at Risk (cc)

*lot. I was always hungry and, one day, some people found me looking for food in the garbage. That is when I went to live in an Orr Shalom Home.*

*There are 24 Orr Shalom Homes in Israel. Each cares for up to 11 children aged 6-18, who cannot live with their families. Each Home has a married couple as house parents, as well as a psychologist and social worker, and a tutor who helps us catch up with our school work.*

*I couldn’t believe it at first – there was breakfast, lunch and dinner. It was clean and nice. My new parents, David and Ella, taught me to brush my teeth, wash my face, have showers, and count to ten – things my real parents never did. Because I felt so out of place, I would hit other children and teachers when I first came. But Orr Shalom helped me and taught me.*

*In my Orr Shalom home, I now really feel at home. I share a room with another boy who is an orphan and we are like brothers.*

*I still see my biological parents sometimes and am encouraged to have a good relationship with them, but I totally understand why it’s better for me in an Orr Shalom home.*

*Orr Shalom has done everything for me. They made sure that I had a warm, loving home with caring parents. They helped me catch up in school. They helped me overcome my violence and make friends with other children my age. They helped me learn to play guitar, which I love, and join a soccer club. They are helping me think about what I am going to do when I leave school. They have been real parents to me.*

*They were the ones who gave me a Bar Mitzvah. I saw all my friends having amazing bar mitzvahs with their family and friends. They were learning to read Torah, having parties and getting presents. I was upset because I knew that my biological parents couldn’t make me a bar mitzvah, but I shouldn’t have worried. Orr Shalom had already thought about it. They gave me an amazing bar mitzvah that I will remember for the rest of my life.*

*Orr Shalom found a tutor to teach me how to read Torah. They bought me special clothes and organized a lovely ceremony and*

*RABBI/Continued on page 3*

# CANTOR'S CORNER

Amos Kamil and I were on the Lee Leonard TV show, touting his new play, *The FlameKeeper*, which I was co-starring in. The piece was full of philosophy and quoted Spinoza, Descartes and the like.

Amos answered a question: "There's Fackenheim who would have..."

The show ended; Amos' phone rang. It was Madeline, his wife.

"Fackenheim?" she said sarcastically. "Fackenheim? Good one, Amos. That oughta put tons of tushies into the seats." We laughed about it for years, and we still bring it up when things aren't working out.

Well, there's a new Fackenheim in my life – except, unlike Emil Fackenheim, a noted Jewish philosopher and Reform rabbi who researched the relationship of the Jews with God, mine evokes images of history, enchantment and maybe even magic: Ocracoke, on the Outer Banks of North Carolina!

I couldn't wait to see the wild horses that roam free on the Outer Banks, or Kitty Hawk and the replica of the Wright brothers' plane. But Ocracoke, one of the most remote islands in the Outer Banks, only reached by public ferries, private boat, or private plane, was the place I wanted to see most, although I don't know what my fascination with it was. Sounds of "Shiver me timbers," "Yo, ho, ho and a bottle of rum," and images of "Treasure Island" ran through my brain as we drove down from Kitty Hawk early Friday morning. Blackbeard was killed there in 1718, and legend has it he's buried somewhere on the island, as is some of his treasure.

Beautiful beaches, lighthouses and

homes lined both sides of the road, as we traveled down the slender spit of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. We'd been on the road over two and a half hours in blazing heat when we saw the arrows to the ferry. There was a 90-minute wait, but a 15-minute boat ride with cool ocean breezes brought us to Ocracoke Island, and I gunned the Morgan and boogied into the town of Ocracoke.

We sat drinking and eating, overlooking the ocean. "What does one do here?" I asked our waitress. She smiled. "There are a couple of ghost tours," she said, "but they're more fun at night. If you drove around the town, that's about it." Shelly was more than a little upset, but she calmly asked if I planned on heading back to the ferry right after lunch; it wasn't really a question.

There was no line at the ferry. We boogied back to Kitty Hawk, went for a swim and then to dinner. "What did you do today?" a man sitting next to us asked. "We went to Ocracoke," I answered. He smiled, and said: "Ok, now you can say you've been there, and you never have to go back!" Shelly smiled as well and then smacked me.

Back in my office the following week, my friend Hal Lefsky asked about the trip. When I mentioned the Ocracoke story, he laughed and also asked why.

The images of eye patches, dueling sabers and men walking the plank were a wonderful fantasy. But now, whenever I do something that Shelly (or Hal) thinks is a mistake, they don't tell me sarcastically that Fackenheim will put more tushies in seats. They ask me about Ocracoke.

*Cantor Lenny Mandel*



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**MENORAH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**  
Articles due 5th of preceding month. E-mail articles to [Menorah@bisrael.com](mailto:Menorah@bisrael.com). Questions? Call 201-768-9661.

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# RITUAL

Ritual sponsored many events in December, but none was a bigger hit than our Broadway Shabbat. We put on our happy faces and sang with a lot of heart to tunes from our favorite Broadway shows: *Music Man*, *Oklahoma*, *Hello Dolly*, *The King and I*, *My Fair Lady*, and *South Pacific*, to name a few. It seemed like an "Impossible Dream" to revisit all these wonderful show tunes in one evening. What fun we all had with Cantor Mandel leading us in song.

On December 10, we once again held our Shabbat service at the Jewish Home for Assisted Living. How lovely it was for the young and old to participate in this beautiful service led by Rabbi Orenstein. On Friday, December 16, we were treated to an Erev Shabbat sermon from Father Rhodes of the Westwood Grace Episcopal Church, as part of a pulpit exchange with Rabbi Orenstein. In turn, Rabbi Orenstein then delivered a sermon at Father Rhodes church on Sunday, the 18th. Both sermons were inspiring and demonstrated that righteousness is a common bond shared by people of different faiths.

Family Shabbat was held on December 17. We explored the Chanukah story and learned an important message from both this and our Young Families Torah Service: those who defend the right

to be different are heroes. We had a very meaningful discussion, followed by a delicious lunch.

As we enter the cold, dreary months of winter, we hope that you will warm and enlighten your soul by joining us in our many other Ritual sponsored events. January 13 will be our Freedom Shabbat service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, so be prepared for an inspiring tribute. Mark your calendars for our monthly visit to the Jewish Home for Assisted Living on January 14. We invite those of you with young children to come join us on January 21, for our regular Family Shabbat, and our Pajama Havdalah on January 28, which proved to be very popular last year.

The Ritual Committee is beginning a new ritual: we will be extending invitations to those of you remembering loved ones, to have an aliyah or honor at a Shabbat morning service. We hope that you will choose to commemorate your loved one's *yahrzeit* in this way.

Looking forward to seeing you at this month's events.

Judy Schoenfeld and Linda Spatz  
Ritual Co-chairs



## SAVE THE DATE - INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TU BISHVAT WORKSHOP & CELEBRATION



On Sunday, February 5, 10 -11:30am, 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 plant 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

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP NEW DATE!



Wednesday,  
January 18 at  
8:00pm

RABBI/Continued from page 1

*reception in my honor. I couldn't believe it. They invited all my friends from school and from my soccer club, as well as the neighbors. Of course, my House Parents, David and Ella, and everyone in the Orr Shalom home came to celebrate. They even invited my biological parents and some of my aunts and uncles and cousins, who I hadn't seen for ages, which meant so much to me. It was the most significant day of my life – I still can't believe that Orr Shalom did so much for me. My House Parents spoke about how much they love me and how much I had*

*changed from the angry, lonely six-year old I had been when I first came. They spoke about how proud they are of me and how they know that I will succeed in my life. The whole Bar Mitzvah made me feel really special and helped me grow up and connect to my Jewish heritage.*

*Now I am 16 and doing well. My grades are pretty good, I have a lot of friends and I volunteer in the firefighters – I really want to give back to the community that gave so much to me.*

*If you can help other Orr Shalom children*

*to have a bar or bat mitzvah, please do. Having a bar mitzvah was just so important to me – it really made me feel loved and wanted, and connected to my Jewish roots, like every other Jewish kid my age.*

I look forward, with you, to helping our kids help other kids like Tomer. You can learn more and get involved by asking a Hey student or by visiting [www.orr-shalom.org.il/en/](http://www.orr-shalom.org.il/en/)

Rabbi Debra Orenstein



## The Principal's Pen

Shalom Chaverim,

We had a wonderful Kabbalat Shabbat on December 2. The Bet and Gimmel classes joined the congregation at Friday night services. The students sang the blessings and prayers beautifully. Their participation was full of meaning and "ruach." Yeshar koach to them all.

As your principal, one of the best "nachot" is when I walk into a classroom and a student asks me a question about history or Hebrew. You can see how interested they are in learning. I was so impressed with the Hey class: after I asked them to prepare two lines in the Ashrai prayer, they prepared the whole page. Kol-Hakavod to them. It is a gift when one wants to learn. We should all be very proud of our students.

Our staff is just as wonderful. On that note, it gives me a great pleasure to let Morah Carmelle and Morah Sarit introduce themselves on the right. On behalf of the Hebrew school community, I wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

*Le'hitraot,  
Zahava*

*My name is Sarit Levi and I am Israeli by birth. I came to America 22 years ago and met my husband Oded here. I have four children – my daughter Moria is 19 and currently in the Israeli Army. My son Ori is 16 and loves to play soccer. Noffar is 14 and she also loves to play soccer. They both play on Fair Lawn HS soccer teams. My youngest child is Omer; she is just 5 and is in kindergarten at the Solomon Schechter school in Oakland, where I have taught for the past 11 years in the Pre-K class. This year, I teach first grade and kindergarten and truly love it. This is my second year teaching Hebrew School and I look forward to a really exciting year with your children.*

*I'm Carmelle Aronovits and am pleased to be teaching Hebrew to the Bet, Gimmel and Dalet classes. Teaching Hebrew has been a passion of mine for the last 15 years. My experience here has been positive and fulfilling, mainly thanks to the constructive guidance and support of our principal, Zahava. The warm and supportive atmosphere we enjoy here has been a source of encouragement and motivation. I have a Master's degree in linguistics, which I also teach at Montclair State. I'm from Israel and my husband and I have three children and five grandchildren.*



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

This year has been going by so fast. Chanukah is over and we want to thank everyone for joining us for the Chanukah Workshop. (Special thanks to our shoppers too!) Thank you to Rabbi Orenstein for inviting Seth Dale for the magic show. A special thanks to our school principal, Zahava, and Morah Carmelle, Morah Debbie, Moreh Jeff, and Morah Sarit for preparing and conducting the Chanukah workshop.

Looking forward, **Parent Visitation to the Hebrew School will be on Sunday, January 29.** This is an opportunity for you to visit the Hebrew school and observe your child's class. Details will be emailed to all families.

Also, Purim is not too far off. This year,

**the Purim Carnival will be on Sunday, March 4.** It's always a fun day! We are looking for volunteers to help with the carnival -- before the carnival or on the day of the carnival. We need shoppers for food, people to setup the games, cooks, people to work the games, etc. Let us know if you'd like to help out and we'll find a job for you!!

Class services are scheduled throughout the year. These services give your children an opportunity to lead prayers (as a class) from the bimah. The Bet & Gimmel classes had their service in December and did a great job assisting the Rabbi and Cantor with leading the prayers. On **Friday, January 6, is the Dalet & Hey class service** and on **Friday,**

**February 3, is the Aleph class service.** We encourage all families to attend these services to support our students, even if it's not your child's grade.

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. Please join the education committee or send an email at [educationvw@bisrael.com](mailto:educationvw@bisrael.com) or [educationla@bisrael.com](mailto:educationla@bisrael.com).

*Val Weinstein & Lori Aisenman  
Education Co-Chairs*

# President's Pen

*Numbers are involved in all that we do  
Counting exact change or commuting a mile or few  
“What time is it?” and “Am I late?” are part of each day  
Even turning to a page number at CBI to pray*

Numbers. Our lives are filled with them. I confess, as I thought about a topic for this month's "President's Pen," I wasn't drawn to a particular theme. The article was due in early December, but I was instead focused on what seemed to be dozens of programs going at CBI all at once. Then, while at the gym, I had a moment I actually wasn't thinking about temple. I looked at the mileage numbers on the bicycle I was pedaling, and it hit me. Numbers are everywhere – whether “dialing” a cell phone, tracking football scores, changing TV channels, or counting our blessings, it's all there.

How will I connect this with B'nai Israel? It's not through mystical numerology. I simply realized numbers factor into my life at temple, too. I pay a shiva call, and I take a mental note that we have 10 adults for a minyan. We have to pay for tree work after snow in October, we watch our membership numbers grow, and we estimate how many bagels or hot dogs to order for Sundays or BBQs. And, yes, more recently, those big numbers are in our heads -- \$30,000 and \$60,000 -- new goals at CBI.

By the time you read this article, our “Membership Program Matching Campaign” is well underway. You've received the mailings and reminders. It's simple to do the math. You contribute a number of dollars. Our generous donor will match that amount, doubling

your donation. You can just write a check (that's always wonderful) but you can also become a sponsor of specific programs by donating at least 1/3 of the amount listed. If you wish, you can be acknowledged on all flyers, etc. as a sponsoring individual or family.

And, we now have a new challenge from another donor: If we reach \$30,000 in membership donations, this donor will donate \$20,000. Now, more than ever, we need to reach our \$30,000 goal, so that the two matches will give us a total of \$80,000! Great numbers to aim for, yes?

How many different types of programs do we offer? Even I don't know that number. Check out each issue of the Menorah and weekly Shul Shmooz. Visit our website ([www.bisrael.com](http://www.bisrael.com)), and print out every “Monthly Happenings Flyer.” Then you'll see a smorgasbord of programs to choose from. Try 1! Try 2! Try more! (There are those numbers again!)

Hopefully by now you have considered a number that will work for your donation to CBI. We ask that you make the number as high as you can handle. But know that whatever the number, your contributions are appreciated and will enable CBI to continue to offer meaningful programs you enjoy. ONE thing I can say for sure – No one at CBI is just a number. You all matter. We want to meet your needs. To do this, we always seek your support -- personally by attending and helping -- and now by sending in your donation, too.

*Looking forward to “adding” more wonderful memories,  
Naomi Weinberg, President*

## COOKING CLASS & SISTERHOOD MEETING



**Sunday, January 22, 2012**

Join your sisters in the Temple Kitchen  
Learn to make rugelach with Warren

Come for Minyan, Stay for Bagels and we will start cooking at 10:00 a.m. We will be making rugelach while exchanging ideas and lively conversation (Recipes will be distributed at the meeting)

Free for sisterhood members, \$5.00 for non-members. Contact Lisa @ 201-750-0546 or [sisterhoodlp@bisrael.com](mailto:sisterhoodlp@bisrael.com) if you are coming.

## **MATCHING CAMPAIGN CONTINUES!** **And we have the chance to raise even MORE!**

The original challenge: an anonymous donor would match every dollar the rest of us donated (up to \$30,000). So, we could raise up to **\$60,000**.

### ***BUT NOW THERE'S MORE!***

Another donor has challenged us to not rest until we reach that \$30,000 mark:  
**MAKE IT TO \$30,000 - AND THIS DONOR WILL GIVE US ANOTHER \$20,000**

We have a shot at raising a much-needed \$80,000 to pay for the sorts of programs that make it so wonderful to belong to this shul, like the Beatles Shabbat and the Progressive Dinner.

But we only have until **January 13th** to raise the \$30,000, so get your checkbooks out now!!

Make checks payable to CBI and mail to the office.  
Sorry, no billing or pledges for this campaign.)

Questions? Contact Chairperson Meryl Kutzin: [trusteemk@bisrael.com](mailto:trusteemk@bisrael.com)  
Don't wait - **DONATE NOW!**

# SISTERS IN THE HOOD

Welcome to 2012! To finish 2011, Sisterhood worked off our Thanksgiving dinners with a Nia exercise class with a Chanukah twist. Everyone had fun shopping at the annual Chanukah Boutique – a big thanks to Lori Yoselow for making it a success! Book club enjoyed discussing *Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon; many thanks to Sheila Weber for hosting! If you're not on the Book Club e-mail list, contact Lisa Pollack (sisterhoodlp@bisrael.com) to learn the details about the January meeting.

We're starting January by helping some women (and their families) in need. Sisterhood will be **cooking for Shelter Our Sisters on Sunday, January 8**, at 1pm. Help is needed shopping, cooking, etc. See the flyer for details, and let Lisa Pollack know if you can help. We're hoping some of our newer members will join us for a chance to schmooze while doing good. Sisterhood will be cooking for themselves on **Sunday, January 22, as our honorary member, Warren Kuperinsky, teaches us how to make rugelach.** Cooking class will be at 10:00am (after minyan and bagels); cost is free to Sisterhood members, \$5.00 for non-members (donations always gladly accepted). Sisterhood ends the month with something very special – **a Rosh Chodesh service on Tuesday,**

**January 24, at 7:30pm**, with the theme "A Woman's Light Within." Sisterhood members, family, and friends are invited to celebrate Rosh Chodesh and the Shabbat candle-lighting experience, followed by dessert and beverages. Bring a head covering (scarf) and two candlesticks (there will be extra candlesticks and candles available). Please let Shelly Birnbaum know if you can attend (201-767-5395 or shellybirnbaumcpa@yahoo.com). Plan on joining us for the **Progressive Dinner, now scheduled for February 4, 2012** (snow date: February 11) -- we still need Sisterhood and Men's Club members for the Progressive Dinner planning committee. If you're interested, send an e-mail to Lisa (sisterhoodlp@bisrael.com). This is Men's Club/Sisterhood's big fundraiser and always a lot of fun. Also in February, we're having a mahjong class. 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*



The book, *Start-up Nation*, details the entrepreneurial culture that has driven tiny Israel to become one of the world's leading centers of technology innovation. So it's only natural for the "Focus" to go digital and introduce you to some websites that are founts of information about Israel. These and more will be listed on the CBI website, so visit often at [www.bisrael.com](http://www.bisrael.com).

**standwithus.com** – Stand With Us is a non-profit international organization that believes education is the road to peace in the Middle East. Visit their site for articles and information.

**israelguidedog.org** – Israel Guide Dog Center For Blind improves the quality of life for blind people by providing them with safe mobility and independence through the

faithful assistance of guide dogs. Check out this site for Mitzvah projects, to sponsor a puppy, and to read inspiring stories.

**jnf.org** – The Jewish National Fund is a 109-year old organization that has become a global environmental leader. Yes, they do more than plant trees! Visit their website to find out more.

**goisrael.com** – Israel Ministry of Tourism. Whether you're planning a vacation or not, visit this site to discover the wonders of Israel.

**aipac.org** – The American Israel Public Affairs Committee is America's leading pro-Israel lobby. AIPAC works with Democrats, Republicans and independents to enact public policy that strengthens the U.S.-Israel relationship. Read about political, defense and legislative issues on this site.

Have you found an interesting website about Israel? We would love to hear about it. Forward it to [vprp@bisrael.com](mailto:vprp@bisrael.com) or [trusteejk@bisrael.com](mailto:trusteejk@bisrael.com).

# GREETINGS FROM THE CBI MEN'S CLUB

**Monday Night Football** was a roaring success: 17 congregants gathered to watch the Giants get overrun as the Saints came marching in. Everybody had a great time (well, except for how the game turned out for the diehard Giants fans) consuming food and drink.



**Chanukah Dinner** – On December 23, we helped celebrate the Festival of Lights with our traditional “home-cooked” dinner at the shul. This was the unofficial beginning of the winter break and the dinner provided a perfect segue into the holiday period. Our thanks to everybody who helped to make this meal one of the highlights of CBI’s year.

**NFL Playoffs and Chinese food.** The ever popular NFL championship/Chinese food event will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2012. Come enjoy the company of good friends, good football, some board games and, of course, good Chinese food! This event is open to all friends and family members. Please RSVP to David Gordon at [cbimensclub@bisrael.com](mailto:cbimensclub@bisrael.com) to confirm attendance and let me know if you would like to help set up. Watch the Shul Shmooz after the holidays for information on start time, cost of the Chinese food, and menu options.

*David Gordon*



## Sisterhood is getting ready to cook up another Mitzvah!

Once again, we’re going to prepare a meal for Shelter our Sisters

Join us at Congregation B’nai Israel  
 Sunday, January 8, 2012 from 1pm– 4pm Or help out another way (see below!)

Call, e-mail, or mail responses and questions to Lisa Pollack at (201) 750-0546 or [sisterhoodlp@bisrael.com](mailto:sisterhoodlp@bisrael.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail (Important) \_\_\_\_\_

**I CAN** (check all that apply)

- Shop for ingredients and deliver to CBI on January 8 by 11:00 a.m. please.
- Prepare a salad, side dish or dessert at home and bring to CBI on January 8 by 11:00 a.m. please!

Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

- Chop, stir, cook and kibbitz from 1pm-4pm on January 8.
- Help deliver the meal to the Shelter in Teaneck between 4:30pm and 5:30pm on January 8.
- Are you available to drive?     Yes     No
- Help pay for the meal by writing a check to Congregation B’nai Israel.

Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# SAC EXCHANGE

SAC extends a very Happy New Year to our CBI family!! We appreciate the donations received from Hebrew school children and families for Elisha's Baskets: baskets assembled with all fixin's to provide a hearty Thanksgiving dinner for families in need. Special thanks to the children who made beautiful Thanksgiving cards that were included in the baskets: Ethan Silver, Alec & Ryan Corring, Steffani Aisenman and Josh Kropp. Also included were supermarket gift cards donated by Linda Spatz to benefit Westwood Social Services food drive. SAC appreciates the efforts of the following individuals who helped assemble and decorate the baskets: Lori Aisenman and her mother, Marian Bluestein, Susan Kushner, Victoria Pasher, and Paula Javits.

Efforts to collect shoes for Mitzvah Days Soles4Souls drive was very successful: CBI donated 129 pairs of shoes. A special thank-you to everyone who donated shoes, and to Susan Kushner, Charlotte Milchman, Gilda Natko, Naomi Natko and Victoria Pasher, who helped count and bag shoes.

On December 18th, SAC participated in bringing Chanukah to the residents of the Veterans Memorial Home in Paramus and supported Latkes for Love, a fundraiser to help families who have seriously ill children and to benefit pediatric cancer research.

From January 13 to April 1, 2012 CBI will be participating in a multi-organizational, interfaith food drive, sponsored by the Pascack Valley Clergy Council. Our shul is collecting non-perishable fruits and nut products in honor of Tu Bishvat, to help replenish shelves in local food pantries after the holidays, when the need is greater than ever. Collection bins will be located in the lobby and volunteers are being sought to deliver items to a designated drop-off center in Hillsdale. Please contact Marie in the CBI office at 201-265-2272, if you are available to deliver products.

—Co-Chairs

Judy Newell & Renee Kurpinsky



Hebrew school students brought in goodies and helped assemble Elisha baskets



SAC members made Elisha Thanksgiving baskets Westwood Social Services food drive



SAC volunteers prepared dinner for residents at the Housing, Health, and Human Services Center in Hackensack

## THANK YOU

to Warren Kuperinsky  
for making our  
Sunday morning bagel  
breakfasts even more  
scrumptious by donating  
a toaster to our kitchen!

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## MEMBERSHIP MEET AND GREET GATHERING WITH RABBI ORENSTEIN

Continuing our series of “Meet and Greet” gatherings with Rabbi Orenstein, membership brought together a group of our most tenured members on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The get-together included a Havdallah service and cocktail hour at the temple and was attended by more than a dozen families. The format included questions prepared by Rabbi Orenstein and Andrea Collier, delving into the birth of Congregation B’nai Israel and some of the early challenges.

Many of the early families originally lived near the temple and near each other in Emerson. In fact, many still live in close proximity to the temple. The group discussion centered on the formation of the temple, with the first planning meetings in local schools and the first services in a local church. A major point of contention in the early days was the adoption of egalitarianism, which took a number of years to achieve and only occurred after the turnover of several of our original rabbis.

Special thanks to Judy Abrams, Harriette Turk, and Paula Javits for their insights and contributions as we prepared for this evening, and to all those who participated in the event and discussions.

In attendance were former temple presidents Gus Eben and Ed Faerber as well as more recent president Sheryl Silver and current President Naomi Weinberg. In summation, the event was a reunion that brought the group full circle with regards to their spiritual past, culminating in outward vocal support of the direction of the temple under the leadership of Rabbi Orenstein.

Additional meet-and-greets are being planned and, hopefully, we will include as many of our membership in these intimate settings as we can over time.

## ★ CELEBRATE FREEDOM ★

On the Friday before Martin Luther King Day,  
**January 13, at 7:30pm**

Come for our now-annual “Freedom Shabbat” –  
a traditional Friday night service with a distinctively spiritual flavor

With a main sermon by Rev. Barry R. Miller  
of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church

The Freedom Weekend continues on Sunday, January 14 at 4pm  
with an interfaith Martin Luther King service  
at Zion Lutheran Church in Westwood

★ Watch the Shul Shmooz for details. ★

# 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 4, 2012**  
(snow date 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** or **201-750-0546**. We hope that you will join us!



## A Woman's Light Within

**Rabbi Debra Orenstein &  
CBI Sisterhood**

Invite female members, family, and friends to celebrate  
Rosh Chodesh & Shabbat candle lighting experience

**Tuesday, January 24, 2012**

at 7:30 PM

**Congregation B'nai Israel  
53 Palisade Avenue, Emerson, NJ**

Followed by dessert & coffee  
Bring a head covering (scarf) and two candlestick  
holders – if not available –  
we have extras!

Please RSVP to **Shelly Birnbaum** at  
**201-767-5395** or  
**shellybirnbaumcpa@yahoo.com**  
or **Audrey Bida** at **201-664-1659** or  
**sisterhoodab@bisrael.com**

## Join the Inter-faith Effort to Allay Hunger

Many people remember the “less fortunate” during Chanukah and Christmas, but food pantries have extra needs in the months right after the holidays, when more people are low on food and cash (having spent money on the holidays) and fewer people who have resources are thinking about giving. The Pascack Valley Clergy Council is sponsoring a food drive across all its affiliated churches and synagogues. Each organization will collect one type of food, to ensure that there is a balance of foods available in local pantries.

Our synagogue is collecting **NON-PERISHABLE FRUIT AND NUT PRODUCTS** (dried fruits, canned fruits, nuts, nut butters, juices in containers that do not need to be refrigerated) in honor of Tu Bishvat, the holiday for trees. The start date for the campaign is our Martin Luther King Freedom Shabbat service on January 13. The end date for this campaign will be just before Passover on **Sunday, April 1**.

If you can transport items ONCE during this twelve-week period, please contact Marie in the CBI office: **201-265-2272**. She will co-ordinate with you for pick-up, let you know where in Hillsdale to drop off the food, and ensure that we have 12 volunteers, one for each week of the collection period.

## ADULT EDUCATION SERIES: Contemporary Issues and Hot Topics

Congregation B’Nai Israel and led by Rabbi Orenstein

### • Thursday, January 19, 7:30 pm

#### JEWISH PILGRIMAGE CLASS

On Thursday, January 19, 2012, Rabbi Orenstein will lead a one-night-only class and discussion on Jewish pilgrimage. Jews love to travel. We have been the wandering Jews both by force (through exile) and by choice. In ancient times, Jews traveled long distances to reach Jerusalem three times each year. What meaning does pilgrimage have for us today? As we contemplate CBI trips, retreats, and travels, we will discuss the history and contemporary relevance of Jewish travel. Participants are invited (though certainly not required) to bring up to five of their favorite travel photos or other memorabilia to share. There is no charge for this class. However, please bring non-perishable fruit or nut products (dried or canned fruits and nuts or juice in boxes or bottles that do not require

refrigeration) for our Interfaith Food Drive, so that we can donate to local food pantries.

### • Thursday mornings from

#### 10:45 am to 12 noon

#### ETHICS OF THE ANCESTORS

On Thursday, January 19, 2012, The initial 5 sessions will be held on: Feb. 9, February 16, March 1, March 8 (special Purim edition), March 15.

This new, daytime class will read the Pirkei Avot section of the Mishnah, sometimes translated as “Ethics of the Fathers” or “Ethics of the Ancestors.” The wisdom and favorite sayings of ancient rabbis were originally gathered together as an instructional manual for young rabbis, so that they could become good teachers, fair judges, and better human beings. Many of the sayings are well-known

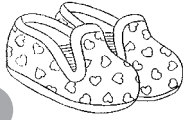
quotations in and beyond Jewish life. Hillel famously asked in Ethics, “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am [only] for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?” The goal of the class is to read the text thoughtfully enough to apply it to contemporary ethics - in politics and society and for ourselves.

### • Sunday, February 12, 9:45 am - 11:30 am

#### Tuesday, February 28, 7:30 pm-9:15 pm

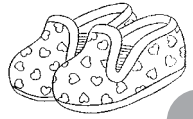
#### SYNAGOGUE SKILLS WORKSHOP

Enhance your skills and understanding; learn to follow or lead a service; participate in an introduction to Torah reading. Learn the “pet peeves” and best practices of our clergy in relation to synagogue worship. This workshop will be offered twice. There will be break-out sessions, so you can benefit from attending either time, or both times.



# HEY KIDS!

## COME JOIN US FOR A PAJAMA HAVDALAH



**Saturday, January 28, 4:30 pm-6:00pm**

Children up to age seven, along with their parents, grandparents, and siblings, are welcome at our Pajama Havdalah at CBI. Kids are invited to come in their jammies and to bring their favorite bedtime toy, as well as their pillow. We will enjoy ending the week with the Havdalah ritual, just as families end each day with bedtime rituals. Some favorite bed-time and midnight snacks will be served. Please bring a non-perishable fruit or nut item to be donated to local food pantries. The event is free of charge, but RSVPs are appreciated to the Temple office at **201-265-2272**.

## BI'S MONTHLY FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICES & LUNCH



On the third Saturday of the month, families gather at CBI for prayer, song, learning, conversation, and birthday celebrations.

**10:00 am in the sanctuary:** This month's **Learning Service** is for adult members of all ages and will also integrate our Dalet and Hey Hebrew School families as part of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation. It is a complete Shabbat morning service, with focus on a particular part of the service. We devote time during the service for questions and discussion about both the prayers and the Torah portion.

**10:45 am in the library:** Our Young Families Service is geared toward families with children 10 and under, with separate "Torah Story" times for children 6-10 and children 5 and under. Our theme for "Torah Story" throughout the year is "heroes," and the lesson for this month is "heroes step in to help others." We will tell the story of Moses, who overcame many obstacles when he stepped in to help the Jewish people. Children born in January will be honored during the service. Please RSVP to Judy Schoenfeld at [bschoenfeld33@aol.com](mailto:bschoenfeld33@aol.com) if your child will attend and has a birthday this month.

**11:40 am in the sanctuary:** The Young Families Service joins the Learning Service for the final prayers of Aleynu and Adon Olam.

**11:45 am in the social hall:** Please join us for a Shabbat lunch, featuring pizza, salads, cookies, and ice cream. There is no fee, but RSVP's are appreciated to Marie in the Temple office at **201-265-2272**.



## Purim? Already? Mark Your Calendars! Help Us Prepare!

### WHEN

**Feb 19 and 20, Feb 26-March 1**

### WHY

**Feb 19,** we will be baking 1700 yummy hamantaschen

**Feb 20,** we will need to bag (and eat the broken) hamantaschen.

**Feb 26-March 1,** we will pack up 250 Purim gift packages (Mishloach Manot)

### WHERE

At CBI's Bernice's Kitchen and the back of the social hall

### WHO

**YOU!!** Led by our own Master Chef Warren Kuperinsky.

No previous baking or packing experience necessary!! Just a desire to help and have fun. More details to follow or contact **Robin Pierce** at [vprp@bisrael.com](mailto:vprp@bisrael.com)

# JANUARY 2012

Candle Lighting Times: **6:** 4:25 **13:** 4:32 **20:** 4:40 **27:** 4:48

Tevet-Shevat 5772

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
No Hebrew School <b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	4pm Hebrew School <b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	Asara B'Tevet <b>5</b>	8pm Dalet & Hey Erev Shabbat service <b>6</b>	10am Shabbat Morning Services Parashat Vayechi <b>7</b>
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast 9am Hebrew School 10am Kehillah Event (Dalet students) 1pm Sisterhood Cooks for Shelter Our Sister <b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	4pm Hebrew School <b>10</b>	7:30pm Board Meeting 8pm General Meeting <b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	7:30pm Casual FREEDOM Shabbat Service <b>13</b>	10am Jewish Home Assisted Living services Parashat Shemot <b>14</b>
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>15</b> 9am Hebrew School	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday <b>16</b>	4pm Hebrew School <b>17</b>	7pm Executive Board Meeting 8pm General Membership Meeting <b>18</b>	7:30pm Adult Ed - Jewish Pilgrimage <b>19</b>	8pm Erev Shabbat Service <b>20</b>	10am Dalet/Hey Learning Service 10:45am Family Shabbat program + lunch Parashat Vaera <b>21</b>
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>22</b> 9am Hebrew School 10am Kehillah Event 2:30pm NFL Conference+ Kosher Chinese Food with Men's Club	<b>23</b>	4pm Hebrew School <b>24</b> 7:30pm Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh service	1st of Sh'vat, 5772 <b>25</b>	Chanukah: 3 Candles <b>26</b>	7pm Inter-Generational Drumming Circle 8pm Erev Shabbat Service <b>27</b>	10am Shabbat Morning Service 4:30pm Pajama Havdallah Parashat Bo <b>28</b>
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>29</b> 9am Hebrew School 10am Parent Visitation to Hebrew School	<b>30</b>	4pm Hebrew School <b>31</b>				

# 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 service <b>3</b>	10am Shabbat Morning Services 6:45pm Sweet Tastes of Torah Parashat Beshalach <b>4</b>
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>5</b> 9am Hebrew School 10am Tu Bishvat 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 10:45am Family Shabbat program + lunch Parashat Yitro <b>11</b>
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>12</b> 9am Hebrew School 10am Kehillah Event (Dalet students)	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday <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 Shabbat Shekalim Parashat Mishpatim <b>18</b>
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>19</b> 10am Hamantaschen Baking for Shalach Manot Bags No Hebrew School	<b>20</b>	No Hebrew School <b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	7pm Inter-Generational Drumming Circle 8pm Erev Shabbat Service Rosh Chodesh Adar <b>24</b>	10am Shabbat Morning Service Parashat Parashat Terumah <b>25</b>
9am Minyan & Bagel Breakfast <b>26</b> 9am Hebrew School	<b>27</b>	4pm Hebrew School <b>28</b>	<b>29</b>			

## LETTERS

I want to thank the Congregation for the donation to the Jew National Fund in my mother Betty Richman's memory. I also want to thank the Congregation for the support you provided to my parents over the years and for being such a supportive and caring community.

Sincerely, Laura Richman

**To Congregation B'nai Israel,**

Thank you so much for the beautiful gift basket. It was very thoughtful and it brightened my day.

Love, Cherry

**Dear Congregation B'nai Israel,**

As we head into 2012, and I look back on this past year, there are so many memories, most are good, some very sad, but all of them make me so very glad that I am a part of the CBI family.

So to you, my extended family, I wish all the best for 2012. May your hearts be filled with love and laughter.

La chaim,  
Marie

## Mazel Tov

To Stu and Fran Lieberman on the birth and bris of their grandson.

To Rabbi Debra Orenstein, invited to teach at the Rabbinic Training Institute



### Get Well Wishes

Arlene Fultonberg    Joe Rosenthal  
Howard Koval        Cherry Clarke  
Bruce Kasper        Susan Hertzberg

## FUNDS

### ETERNAL LIGHT FUND

TO: Hanna Wechsler and Family

In loving memory of your husband and father, Harry Wechsler

FROM: Ira & Carol Grodin

TO: Jill, Lenny, Jacklin, & Andrew Fromer  
Heartfelt condolences on the loss of Lillian Hoffman

FROM: David & Ellen Michelson

TO: The Family of Betty Richman  
In memory of your beloved Betty  
FROM: Seymour & Harriet Turk, Ellen & David Michelson, Lorraine Schlarman

TO: Sharon Neuhaus & Family  
Condolences on the loss of your beloved Mother, Pauline Levine  
FROM: Bruce & Ellen Sonkin, Natalie Radin, Edward & Sheila Faerber, Fern & Donald Segal, Goni & David Vardi, Doris & Harry Albirt, Amy & Richard Kargauer, Susan & Martin Casper, Joan & Gus Eben, Ellen & David Michelson, Joan & Steven Zelman, Harvey Meer & Family, Linda and Marvin Rosengart, Donna & Les Kaufman, Naomi & Bruce Weinberg, Carol & Ira Grodin, Shelly & Marc Saperstein, Cathy & Bob Brintz & Family, Hanna Wechsler, Jerry & Peggy Fond, Robin & Fred Pierce, Ken & Connie Klein

### IRVING REIKES MEMORIAL GARDEN

In Loving memory of Grandmother Lillie Wellins Caplan

FROM: Bruce Sonkin

TO: The Family of Betty Richman  
In memory of your beloved Betty  
FROM: Jayne Rubenfeld

TO: Sharon Neuhaus & Family  
Condolences on the loss of your beloved Mother, Pauline Levine  
FROM: Bunny & Sid Derner

### FREYDA FUND

TO: Meryl & Bryan Effron  
Thank you for a lovely Oneg and congratulations on Jake's Bar Mitzvah  
FROM: Seymour & Harriet Turk

TO: The Tancer Family  
Thank you for a lovely Oneg and Mazel Tov on Lauren's Bat Mitzvah  
FROM: Seymour & Harriet Turk

### GOOD & WELFARE

TO: Charlotte Milchman  
Congratulations on being chosen Volunteer of the Year  
FROM: Jayne Rubenfeld

TO: Arlene Fultonberg  
Get Well Soon  
FROM: Bruce & Naomi Weinberg

TO: Arlene Fultonberg  
Wishing you a full and speedy recovery  
FROM: Ellen & David Michelson

TO: Sharon Neuhaus & Family  
Condolences on the loss of your beloved Mother, Pauline Levine  
FROM: Meryl & Larry Kutzin, Sheryl & David Silver, Idelle, Gary, Meredith & Eric Schwinder

### GOOD & WELFARE

TO: Judy Newell  
Happy Birthday, Mom  
FROM: Your daughter, Marla Fialko

TO: Laurie & Dan Levine  
Mazel Tov on the marriage of your daughter, Rachel to Nathan Green  
FROM: Bruce & Naomi Weinberg

TO: Fran & Stuart Lieberman  
Congratulations on the birth of your Grandson, Jonah  
FROM: Allen & Sharon Neuhaus

# JANUARY YAHRZEITS

Mordechai Kleiner	Tevet 6	01/01/12
Helen S. Lanceit	Tevet 7	01/02/12
Robert Kargauer	Tevet 8	01/03/12
Emil Eben	Tevet 9	01/04/12
Meyer Federman	Tevet 9	01/04/12
Isidore Parnes	Tevet 9	01/04/12
Lawrence S. Greenberg	Tevet 9	01/04/12
Joseph Simkins	Tevet 9	01/04/12
Morris Cohen	Tevet 11	01/06/12
Judith Kuklin	Tevet 11	01/06/12
Sophia Ross	Tevet 11	01/06/12
Edward Nelkin	Tevet 12	01/07/12
Mary Vigotsky	Tevet 13	01/08/12
Milton Cohen	Tevet 13	01/08/12
Irma Fultonberg	Tevet 13	01/08/12
Edgar Seymour Zorn	Tevet 15	01/10/12
Lena Silverberg	Tevet 16	01/11/12
Louis Jaffe	Tevet 17	01/12/12
Max L Tauber	Tevet 18	01/13/12
Rose Weitzman	Tevet 18	01/13/12
Aron Garth Abrams	Tevet 18	01/13/12
William Matuson	Tevet 19	01/14/12
Murray Hecht	Tevet 20	01/15/12
Claire Reigelhaupt	Tevet 21	01/16/12
Julius Jena	Tevet 21	01/16/12
Claire Riegelhaupt	Tevet 21	01/16/12
Julius Jena	Tevet 21	01/16/12
Natalie Friedman	Tevet 22	01/17/12
Robyn L. Bonadonna	Tevet 24	01/19/12
Esta Falkin	Tevet 25	01/20/12
Samuel Schwalbe	Tevet 25	01/20/12
Stanley Kater	Tevet 25	01/20/12
Marjorie Anne Nelkin	Tevet 27	01/22/12
Mark Terr Radin	Tevet 27	01/22/12
Ernst Brunell	Tevet 27	01/22/12
Aaron Kihn	Tevet 29	01/24/12
Bernard Fabricant	Tevet 29	01/24/12
Edith Stein	Shevat 1	01/25/12
Isaac Saad	Shevat 1	01/25/12
Carl Boltuch	Shevat 2	01/26/12
William Siegel	Shevat 3	01/27/12
Fred Weinberg	Shevat 3	01/27/12
Samuel Silbert	Shevat 4	01/28/12
Samuel Kulkin	Shevat 5	01/29/12
Anshel Fishman	Shevat 6	01/30/12
Rose Heller	Shevat 6	01/31/12
Melvin Kreiman	Shevat 7	01/31/12
Lotte Luft	Shevat 7	01/31/12

# TEMPLE SERVICES

## Yahrzeit/Memorial Plaques

**\$200**

A reminder card is mailed every year prior to the yearzeit 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

## Facilities Rental

For rates call Bea Spitzer at

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201-358-2593, Beth Liepmann at 201-666-3576 or Joan Zelman at 201-265-0367

## Menorah Newsletter Advertising

For rates email Judy Samuels and David Green at menorah@bisrael.com

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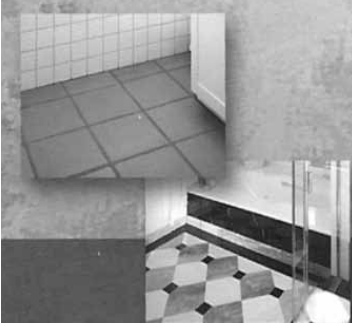
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