The SCOOP

The Happenings of Congregation Beth Israel
November 2020

Given that Thanksgiving seems to be everyone's favorite holiday, and since this year presents more challenges than in years past, we asked some of our congregants to remind us that gratitude is always in order. So here it is:

THANKSGIVING IN OUR CONGREGANTS' OWN WORDS

"My earliest recollection of Thanksgiving goes back many years to when I was a very young child. In those days, this holiday was celebrated more like Halloween. Everyone, adults and children alike, wore masks and dressed in costumes. We children would go door to door asking, "anything for Thanksgiving?" We've come a long way from those joyful days. Today, November 2020, because of Covid-19, many of us by choice or necessity will be celebrating this holiday alone in our own home instead of sharing with family or friends. Nevertheless, I will be thankful for something most important and meaningful to me: the fact that thank God, so far, my family has managed to avoid becoming sick with this dread disease now in our midst. I hope and pray that in the near future this virus will be a "thing of the past," and all of us will have a tremendous reason to be thankful."

Muriel Levine, Hempstead, NY

"In a year most challenging for all of us, Thanksgiving gives me an extra chance to give thanks for all of us seeing the sun rise and set each day, a chance to be appreciative of those we have lost, and most grateful for our lives, family, and friends."

Rob Rothschild, East Meadow, NY

"Thanksgiving was always my very favorite holiday. My Mom would make a Thanksgiving meal every time I came home from college as it always evoked wonderful thoughts and food. This year is most difficult...not knowing if I should see my family as it always presents some risk. Hard decisions of what to celebrate and where. But I feel blessed as we are all safe and well. Happy Thanksgiving."

Lynn Sevan, East Meadow, NY

"The art of rendering thanks or expressing gratitude for favors or mercies" is the Webster's definition of Thanksgiving. My personal definition, especially during this very difficult time in our history, is to delegate every single day, not only the date appearing on our November calendar, as a Thanksgiving Day...a date to pray for those that have less than I do, a day to thank God for the blessings that have been bestowed upon us, and a day to pray for the opportunity to survive this Pandemic and restore a sense of normalcy to all our lives."

Lina Newman, Indian Land, S.C.

Join Us For Shabbat

Please join us every Shabbat at 10 AM as we sing our way through the Shabbat prayers and listen to the Torah chanted by Rabbi Abe as well as to his insightful sermons. You can do it in person in the sanctuary (masks required), or on Zoom.

Either way, we'd like you to feel welcome in a spirit of togetherness and spirituality.

If you have any ideas about anything you'd like added to the services, please email Rabbi Abe.

See you there, and Shabbat Shalom

SAVE-THE-DATE

Congratulations to our October BIG WINNERS **Laura Levy and Ellen Rothman!**

By popular demand, BINGO will be a monthly CBI fundraising event. The next game-day will take place on **November 23, 2020 at 5:00 PM** (will conclude by 6:30 PM). **RSVP by November 15** by contacting Lina at linanewman26@gmail.com or 704-773-3901.

Hosted by Lina & Michael Newman; all supplies will be sent to you upon registering and paying the $18 game fee. You, of course, are welcome to buy additional bingo cards. Ask Lina for more info.

The Rabbi Speaks

There's an old cliche that gets thrown around, which is "when it rains, it pours." I usually try to avoid cliches to try to sound original, but today—perhaps out of laziness, perhaps because I feel it fits just so—that's the phrase I'm going to use when I look back at the last two-three months.

With the confluence of several storms of preparing for a “Zoom” High Holiday service as rabbi, cantor, and music arranger; preparing for my wedding and then getting married late last month—and all of that in the throes of Covid-19—I can now finally say that I feel like life has gotten back to normal for me as a married man—only, we are still in the middle of this cursed pandemic.

No matter, we/I will forge onward in trying to make CBI as warm a congregation as possible, and make it a place where you all can feel welcome and a place to recharge your spiritual batteries each week—or more than that, if you’d like. Whether on Zoom or otherwise, I am here for you.

We are planning on many new exciting programs, and I ask that you take advantage of it.

My Wednesday class at noon is back, as well as a weekly musical session. We plan on dipping our foot into Friday night musical Shabbat services, as well as Saturday night Havdalah jam sessions. We plan on trying to open up our synagogue to a younger demographic with happy hours and single nights (on zoom, for now). Everything is on the table to make our house of warmth and prayer open to all.

Please look at the calendar on the website to keep abreast of all of this, and please keep up your social media presence on our Facebook and Instagram pages. The more you are there, the more your family and friends will know about us.

Our Zoom address for all of our events and services is https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8437536779.

I look forward to seeing you all soon, and remember to stay safe and be kind. Right now, more than anything, the world needs compassion and love, so why not add your version to the mix?

With warm and toasty blessings of gratitude for this Thanksgiving season,
Rabbi Abe

The President's Corner

Dear CBI Family,

It’s been a rough year. The pandemic has taken its toll but as we put the high holidays behind us, we’d like to share some good news.

They did it!

Our dear Rabbi Abe and his beloved Allie tied the knot. It was not the large party originally planned, but it still had all the important loving elements nevertheless. On behalf of the congregation, I want to congratulate them and wish them a lifetime filled with love, good health, and happiness.

Certainly, it was not an easy task for Rabbi Abe to plan and execute the high holiday services this year. I cannot imagine the stress of planning a wedding at the same time. We thank him for his dedication. If you have not had the opportunity to meet Allie, we hope you will soon. You will love her. She shares many of the wonderful attributes Rabbi Abe has and it’s clear why they make a great couple. We hope that next year we can all be together in the sanctuary for the high holidays.

As you know, it’s been a financially difficult year for CBI. Although congregant Lina Newman now lives in South Carolina she came to us with an idea to raise some money and play virtual BINGO, which we did last month. It was a lot of fun and we hope to do it again soon. Thank you, Lina. If any other congregants have any other ideas on how to virtually fundraise, please let me know.

This month when you celebrate Thanksgiving, let's all be grateful for what we have rather than what we are missing. Brighter days are definitely ahead.

Warm wishes,
Dr. Richard Krauss

Simchas to Celebrate Fundraiser

Who doesn't love being remembered on their birthday or anniversary?

Let members and friends of our CBI community feel good by sending them a personalized greeting for their celebratory occasions.

For a $2 donation (per name), we'll do all the work. You won't have to make a trip to buy a card or even buy stamps. Let us know who you would like to acknowledge by selecting names from the Simcha list below and mail your list to CBI, along with the total amount due for this fundraiser. Your name and good wishes will be included in the greeting mailed to them.

Please make your selections and send your written list and payment by November 20, so we can start preparing the greetings.

Mail to: Cong. Beth Israel
141 Hilton Avenue
Cathedral Gardens, NY 11550
Attn: Marianne Baker or Ronnie Liebman

Your support of this fundraising program is appreciated.

November Birthdays

- Aileen Goldberg
- Suellen Agulnick
- Robert Rothschild
- Robert Weinstein
- Robin Krauss
- Judi Slatsky

November Anniversaries

- Rosemarie & Al Murray
- Robin & Richie Krauss
- Lorraine & Allen Albert
- Angela & Abe Sabbas
- Susan & Bernie Drexler

December Birthdays

- Alan Mantis
- Steven Krull
- Larry Rossman
- Bianca Susnovski
- Ellen Rothman
- Marsha Mandel
- Lorraine Albert
- Rosemarie Murray
- Lina Newman
- Susan Bass

December Anniversary

- Joanne & Samuel Levant

November Yahrzeits

- Jeffrey Friedman 11-01
- Paul Slatsky 11-04
- Sylvia Mishket 11-07
- Alfred Drexler 11-07
- George Broder 11-09
- Nathan Kerner 11-09
- Irving Lashen 11-10
- Buddy Schoenfeld 11-11
- Jack Rothstein 11-17
- Rebecca Janvey 11-18
- Samuel Kantor 11-19
- Edward Alexander 11-20
- Beatrice Brass 11-22
- Leon Benedict 11-23
- Hal Friedman 11-24
- Abraham Levit 11-25
- Ruth Goldberg 11-27
- Rachel Gutman 11-27
- Yetta Ginsberg 11-29
- Evelyn Hollander 11-30

Contributions

In Memoriam & Yahrzeits

Henrietta Levit: (for the Yahrzeits of my two brothers, Elias and Joseph Schutzman)
Marianne Baker: (for the Yahrzeit of Leon Benedict)
Marcia & Robert Levine: (Yizkor donation)
Sylvia Rubin: (Yizkor donation)

Mazel Tov, Thanks & Wellwishers

Gloria Moss: (to congratulate Rabbi Abe and the entire congregation for the beautiful services via zoom
Muriel Levine: (to wish both Alan Mantis and Al Murray a complete recovery)
Linda & Steven Krull: (Shanah Tova, wishing all a sweeter year ahead)
Susan & Bernie Drexler: (in appreciation of Rabbi Abe and his team for the beautiful and meaningful webinar High Holy Day services)
Linda & Steven Krull: Mazel Tov to Rabbi Abe & Allie
Marianne Baker: (to thank Lynn Sevan for the Sukkot event)

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Roberta Bouer

Thanks

A big shout-out to Lynn Sevan for organizing and sponsoring a most beautiful Sukkot luncheon. On the first day of Sukkot, we were all treated to Deli sandwiches which we ate in the safe outdoors, steps away from the pop-up Sukah which Lynn also sponsored. May her generosity inspire us all.

Chai חי Club

Our Chai Club is a newly-formed club that supports CBI. It works by donating $18 on the 18th of each month starting this November. You can contribute online or send a check to CBI. Activities for Chai Club members will start as soon as the pandemic allows. Contact Ronnie Liebman at 516-781-8630 for all the details.

Join the Club with our inaugural members:

Lynn Sevan

Ronnie Liebman

Lina Newman

Promote Your Business

Looking to promote your business, professional services, or the opening of a new venture?

Consider supporting our synagogue by advertising in our monthly newsletter.

Please contact Lina Newman at linanewman26@gmail.com or 704-773-3901 for more info.

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