The SCOOP

The Happenings of Congregation Beth Israel

November 2022

Is it really already November?

It seems like August was just yesterday when Rabbi Abe and the Ritual Committee were finalizing the details for our High Holiday services and Sukkot festival.

But here we are, getting into the thick of Autumn, with the upcoming Thanksgiving celebration nearing. I don't know about you, but I feel there's much to be thankful for this year at CBI.

All of our recent holiday, Friday night, and Shabbat services have been beautifully inspirational thanks to Rabbi Abe--and were nicely attended, by many, too.

But upon further observation, I noticed something else very wonderful happening more than ever before. Our weekly and festival kiddushes and onegs were not merely about the food (though the offerings have been pretty tempting!); Our members and guests were really connecting as a community and building relationships with one another.

If you couldn't attend any of these special gatherings, you really missed out on this special CBI camaraderie.

Our Cider in the Sukkah and Shabbat Lunch in the Sukkah afforded members--old and new--the opportunity to really get to know one another on a deeper level by sharing personal anecdotes and stories, which created a fun, boisterous vibe.

At a recent Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg, the secret talents of our members were uncovered during a lively conversation over chocolate-dipped pretzels and hot tea. Did you know that among our congregants are professional musicians, fine artists, musical theater performers, and even a stand-up comic? Well, we don't know these things unless we talk!

If you haven't been able to make it to one of these social gatherings yet, you are encouraged to join us the next time to get in on this warm CBI fellowship.

I am truly grateful for all of this positive response, the addition of participating new faces who are enriching our community, and our devoted and loyal regulars.

When you gather around your holiday table this Thanksgiving to dig into the turkey and delicious stuffing, take a moment to reflect on what you're grateful for: I hope that your gratitude and appreciation extend to our beloved CBI.

Wishing you an abundance of blessings this Thanksgiving.

Warmly
Roberta Bouer

CBI Volunteers

The Sukkah decorations were repurposed from our High Holiday flowers

The Team (L to R): Howard Weill; Rob Rothschild; Rolando Ramos; Rabbi Abe; Isaac Baruch

Howard soars to new heights

Maritza does her design thing

Rob & Isaac compare notes on geometry and wind velocity

Rabbi Abe hauling Secach as Rob looks on

Masterbuilder, Isaac, connects the dots

CBI Volunteers Step Up to Put Up... (the sukkah, that is).

On a crisp Friday morning, between Yom Kippur and Sukkot, a team of 7 and their agile Rabbi, gathered to build a beautiful Sukkah. Those that were there during Sukkot enjoyed the fruits of their labor, along with special festival treats.

Special thanks to Laura Weill, for her green thumb handiwork, as she spruced up our garden and plantings surrounding the Sukkah, with the assistance of Maritza Garcia.

In true form, Roberta Bouer assisted to make sure all got done professionally and beautifully.

A New Twist for Your Holiday Sweet Potatoes

Sweet Potato Pecan Kugel for Your Thanksgiving (or Shabbat)Table

Click on the photo for the delicious recipe

THE CORNER

Our dear member, Howard Weill, writes about discovering his roots during his recent bike tour in France with his wife, Laura.

Roots – Alsatian Style

By Howard Weill

My grandfather, Charles Weill, came to America (NYC) in 1898 with his first wife, and two young sons, ages 3 and 1. He was 26 years old, and the ship's manifest listed his residence as Krautersheim, the capital of sauerkraut, and his occupation as butcher. This is all I knew about my grandfather, who died in 1942, 11 years before I was born. My older brother is named after him.

My father, who was born in 1920, and his sister, born in 1918, didn't talk very much about their father, or his history. Maybe it was just not done at that time. I did know that my grandfather's first wife died at some point after arriving in New York. My grandfather remarried in 1917, and my grandmother gave birth to my father and his sister. The two half-brothers from the first marriage were 23 and 25 years older than my father, so I don't think there was much of a bond there.

As soon as I knew Laura and I would be resuming our annual bike vacations in Europe this year, after our last one in Croatia in 2019, I knew it had to be Alsace. The terrain was amazing, with vineyards and cornfields everywhere, and small villages and ancient castles dotting the landscape. Alsace is in the northeast part of France, near Germany and Switzerland. We biked for 6 days throughout the region and covered around 150 miles, ending up in Strasbourg, a city of about 300,000 with approximately 14,000 Jews still living there.

We were able to book a private tour of the region starting in Strasbourg, after our biking had ended. The guide, who I had emailed weeks earlier said he would try to find information about my grandfather, making no promises that he would succeed. He presented me with the following documents: my grandfather's birth certificate from 1872 (he was born in Ribeauville, not Krautersheim), his marriage certificate from 1895, and the birth certificate of his first son. He also had census information that allowed us to visit Rue des Juifs, the street of the Jews, in Krautersheim, where my grandfather lived.

He also provided a family tree that dates back to 1729. I feel blessed to understand more about where I came from.

Alsace is well known as a region that constantly went back and forth from German to French control; it is French now. It was German when my grandfather lived there, and 1898 was a relatively calm period in terms of the lack of war. I can only guess that a 26-year-old man with two young sons came to America for economic reasons, but maybe more research can answer this question.

If you'd like to contribute something compelling to the Scoop, please send it to info@cbicg.org for review for consideration. Word limit: 400

The Rabbi Speaks

Dear Congregants and Friends,

Well, the beautiful month of Tishrei is over, that month with all those beautiful festivals, and we are heading into the month on the polar opposite—one with no holidays at all. Many of you, I'm sure, are glad that things will be quieting down a little bit—I know I am. The past month has been one of much planning and much preparing and much writing and much playing—music that is.

The new month in the Jewish calendar is referred to as MarCheshvan (or Cheshvan, for short), which means bitter Cheshvan, precisely because there are no holidays in it. This is, at least, the lore that's been spread amongst the Jewish people for many centuries. In a more accurate way, though, the word actually refers to the fact that it's the eighth month from the month of Nissan--the month in which Passover is. The Jewish months' history goes all the way to ancient Babylonia and is connected to the Akkadian language, and Mar Cheshvan actually is a way of saying that it's a precise month in the year, namely the eighth (depending on where you are counting from).

I don't write this all to confuse you but only to indicate the rich history and culture that is Judaism, and it behooves us all to learn about it and to know as much as we can about its history and scholarship which we all call our heritage.

To that end, I am starting up, as in the past couple of years our weekly Torah classes/adult education going back to Jewish school on Wednesday evenings at 8 p.m. on Zoom (see flyer below). We are starting the class an hour later this time, so, perhaps, more people will be able to attend. If that time doesn't work, we can go back to the previous time at 7 p.m.

Besides it allowing us to get to know each other in a different setting other than through davening, music, and kiddush, it allows us to learn and to ask questions. All the things that you ever wanted to know about Judaism are on the table. You can ask whatever you want, and I will try to answer. All I ask is that your questions be for the sake of learning.

Last year, we tried this system where everyone sent in questions they always wanted to know about Judaism and we tried to answer them. I'd like to try that again, so if you have any questions, please send them to me.

I might also go through the Siddur and Prayer service in depth so we can all know what we are doing each week in a more comprehensive way. And some other things.

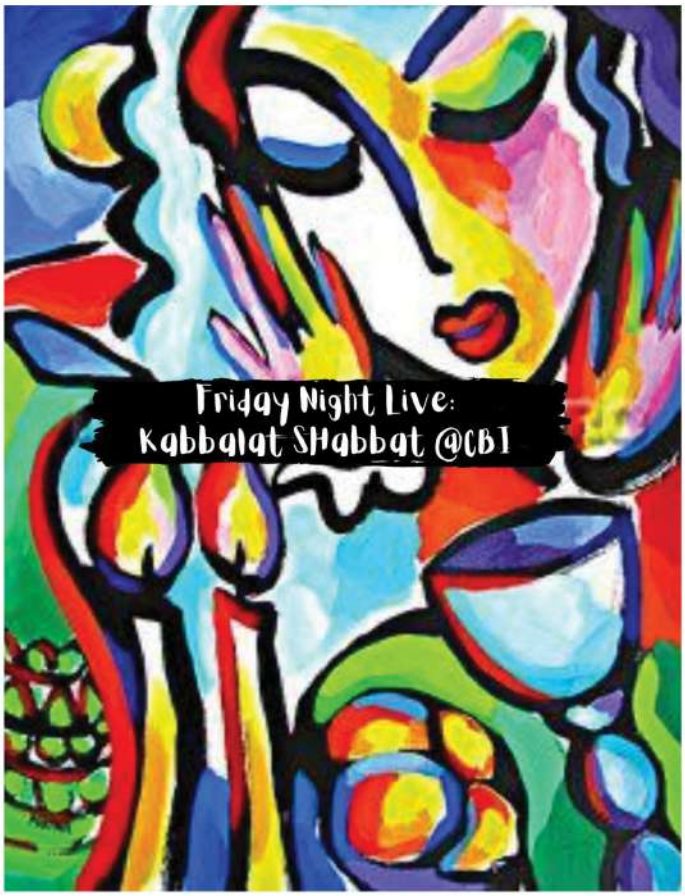
Let us become not only a connected and loving community but also an educated one. We will all be better off for it.

I look forward to guiding you on that journey.

I wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving.

Warmly
Rabbi Abe

Upcoming Events



Musical Kabbalat Shabbat @CBI

Join us these Friday nights

November 18

December 23

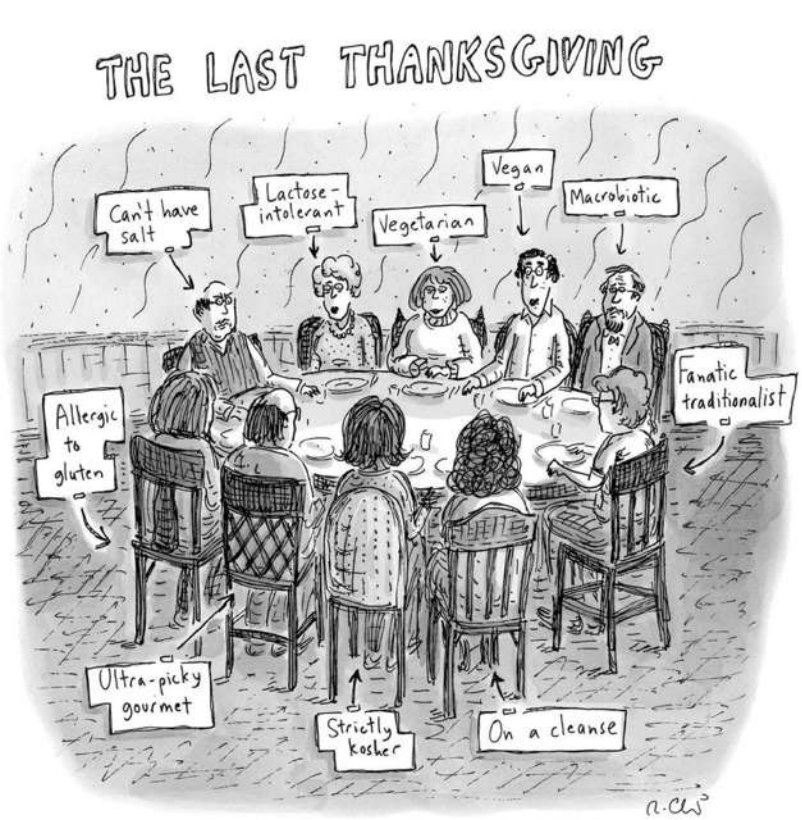
January 20

@7:30 PM

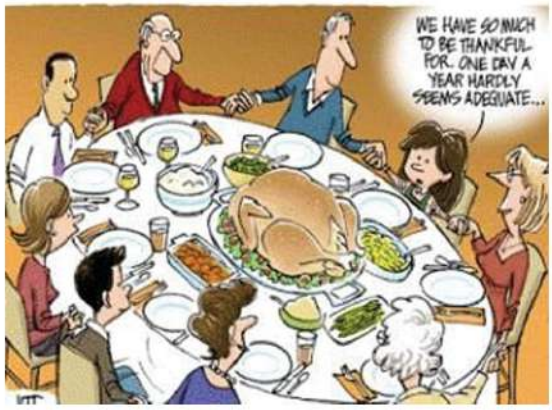
Oneg to follow services

Registration required by the Wednesday prior by clicking here or calling 917.446.7983

Bring a friend and family



Lighten Up!



Laugh a Little!

November Yahrzeits

- Lena Gerber 11-01
- Bruce Schoenfeld 11-02
- Celis Roth Stein 11-04
- Jeffrey Friedman 11-08
- Fay Meyerowitz 11-11
- Paul Slatsky 11-11
- Sylvia Mishket 11-14
- Alfred Drexler 11-14
- George Broder 11-16
- Nathan Kerner 11-16
- Irving Lashen 11-17
- Buddy Schoenfeld 11-18
- Ronnie K Liebman 11-19
- Rebecca Janvey 11-26
- Edward Alexander 11-28
- Beatrice Brass 11-30

Contributions

In Memoriam & Yahrzeits

Abraham Sabbas (for the Yartzeit of my sister, Anna Ullmann)

Irene & Richard Sloan (In memory of Robin Krauss)

Nancy and Terry Goldsmith (the Yartzeits of Samuel Etterman and our son, Jeffrey Evan Goldsmith)

Alan Mantis (in memory of Bruce Janvey)

Marianne Baker (in memory of Bruce Janvey)

Ilene & Robert Rothschild (yahrzeit of Beatrice Brass and Yizkor)

General Donations

Lorraine Albert (The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund)

Lorraine Glanzer (The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund)

EJ Borrrack and Blair Flicker (The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Estate of Maurice Siidmarc (latest portion of bequest)

Alan Glassman (wishing all of CBI a happy and healthy new year)

Lynn Sevan (Refuah Shelemah for my daughter, Danit Sibovitz)

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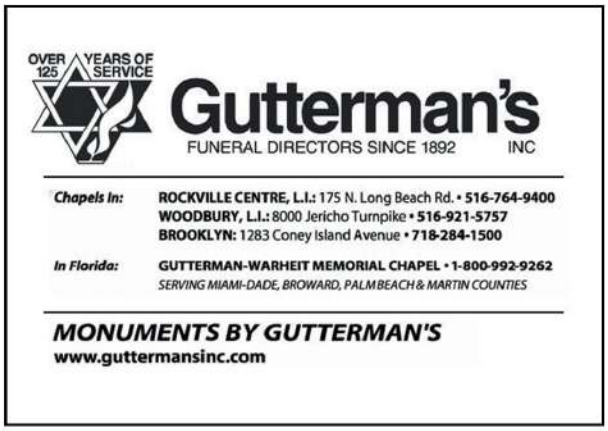
Consider supporting our synagogue

by advertising in our monthly newsletter.

Please reach out to info@cbicg.org

or 516-489-1818 for more info.



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

141 Hilton Avenue
Cathedral Gardens, NY 11550
(516) 489-1818
info@cbicg.org
http://www.cbicg.com/