The SCOOP

The Happenings of Congregation Beth Israel

August 2023

This month, most of us are savoring the official end of the summer season.

Did you make it to the beach? Better hurry. Did you take that long weekend getaway yet? Now's the time to seize the opportunity.

Yet, August is also the time to start preparing for Rosh Hashanah, which begins on the evening of September 15.

We're not suggesting that you start baking round, raisin-filled challahs, or begin cooking your briskets quite yet. But rather spiritually preparing in the weeks leading up to the holiday. During the month of Elul, take some time to reflect on the past year. What are the good things you did? What are the things you wish you could have done better? This is like a "spiritual report card" of your actions.

If you know you've hurt someone or made a mistake, try apologizing to make things right again. It's also essential to forgive others, especially since none of us are perfect. Take a moment each day to be thankful for the good things in your life, like family, friends, and experiences.

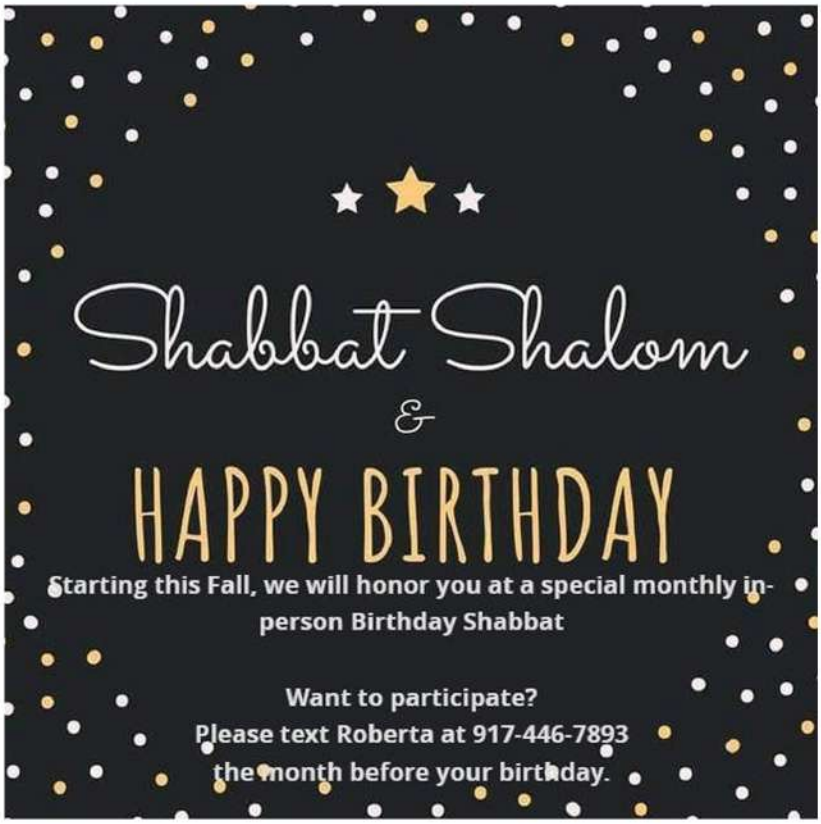
Remember, Rosh Hashanah is about new beginnings and a fresh start. It's a chance to be a better version of yourself and to grow spiritually. Enjoy the journey and, while you're at it, celebrate the sweetness of the upcoming New Year with a burst of symbolism. Partake in the age-old tradition of eating pomegranates. In this season of reflection and renewal, we should savor the seeds of this luscious fruit (believed to contain 613 seeds). It reminds us of our commitment to uphold the 613 commandments while embracing the guidance of the Torah throughout the year ahead. The pomegranate's abundance of seeds symbolizes our hopes for a prosperous and fruitful year (see our delicious pomegranate-inspired recipe below).

One more High-Holiday prep reminder: Now that you have received the Ritual Committee mailing which includes your yearly dues invoice, Book of Life, and Holiday Ticket forms (with submission deadlines), please be sure to plan accordingly and promptly. And don't forget to encourage your unaffiliated friends and family to consider joining us for the High Holidays.

Have a Happy & Healthy August.

The CBI Editorial Team

[Try this for a refreshing and summery entree]



The Rabbi Speaks

Dear friends,

Summer is always that time of year that conjures up memories of childhood. The beaches visited, the lazy afternoons spent playing with friends, ice cream truck jingles, baseball games, and running to shelter from pelting thunderstorms. Most of us have pleasant memories of these times, and we need to be grateful for that.

Those memories are very enjoyable for us and are the foundation of a normal familial and societal system. We are supposed to have carefree childhoods, and that makes for healthy adults.

But we all know that while we live lives of relative privilege and take those things for granted for our children and grandchildren, there are many who don't have that opportunity—both domestically and internationally.

We all are familiar with the images of Ukrainian children suffering because they are being bombarded on a daily or weekly basis, with the traumatic uncertainty that their city or home might be the next target of the Russian military. And we also know that there are many children in this country who, for one reason or another, do not have the carefree summer experiences and memories that most of us in our community do.

Given that our job on this earth is to make it a better one than we found it, we have some responsibility in trying to make that change.

But "how?" I hear you ask.

This time of year in the Jewish calendar is when we also remember the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem—our collective, Jewish "childhood" memories"—which the Rabbis tell us was destroyed because of "baseless hatred," which means being unkind and petty for no reason at all other than the cruel pleasure it might, on the basest of levels, sometimes give us.

The world will only become a more habitable and pleasant place to live when we all engage in the opposite behavior: "baseless love," meaning to be loving and kind for no reason at all other than, well, just to be more loving to our fellow human beings. Try it; it's addicting after you get the hang of it. If we have pleasant memories of our childhoods, let's pass those loving feelings along to the next person, thereby ensuring that, eventually, all children will be able to experience those feelings because the world is a more compassionate and less hateful place.

Here's to a more loving rest of the summer, and I, together with Allie, look forward to seeing you during the High Holiday season.

Rabbi Abe

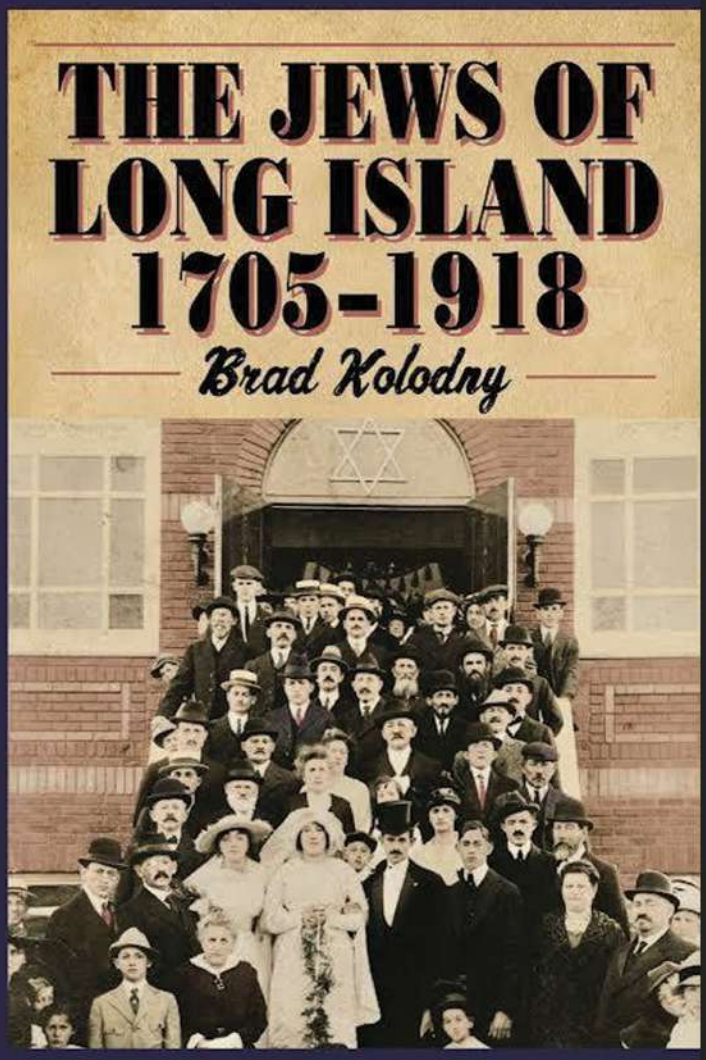
Upcoming Events

Join us for a fascinating lecture about the historic trek of Jews to Long Island

Brunch Social to follow

SUNDAY
SEPT 10
11 am

PRESENTATION BY AUTHOR BRAD KOLODNY



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"A WELL-ILLUSTRATED AND PAINSTAKINGLY RESEARCHED CHRONICLE THAT TEACHES US MORE THAN WE HAVE EVER KNOWN BEFORE ABOUT THE EARLY JEWS OF LONG ISLAND."

-JONATHAN D. SARNA

Professor of American Jewish History Brandeis University & Chief Historian Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History

Books available for sale and signing following the presentation

To attend, you must RSVP on the CBI Website by September 1

cbi Presents

congregation beth israel

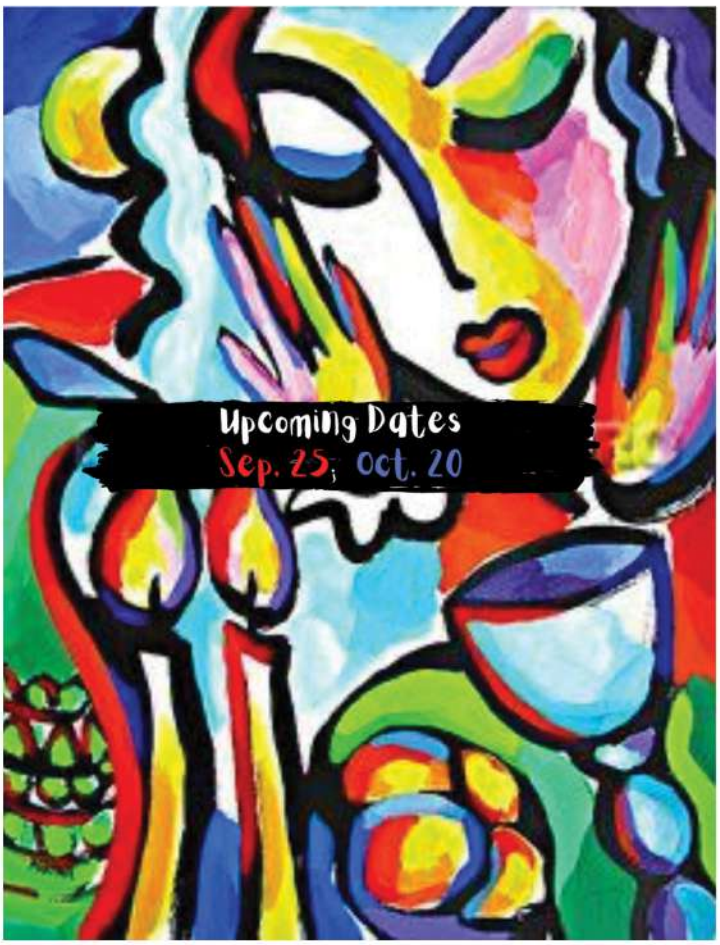
BACK TO JEWISH SCHOOL

WITH RABBI ABE

August Schedule: 8/9 & 8/23

Wednesday at 8 PM

On Zoom by clicking here



Musical Kabbalat Shabbat @CBI

Join us these Friday nights

August 28 (Zoom)

September 25

October 20

@7:30 PM

Oneg to follow services

Registration required by the Tuesday prior on our website homepage

www.cbicg.org

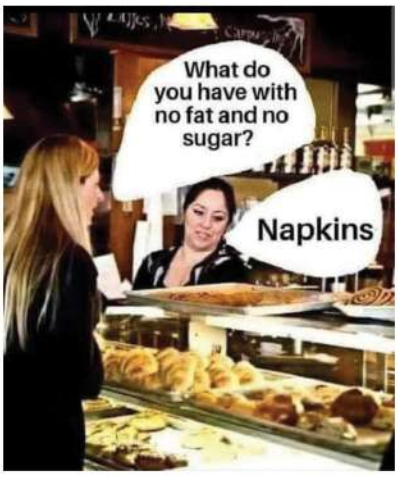
Bring a friend and family

Do you enjoy our Shabbat lunch following our service? What about our dessert Onegs following Kabbalat Shabbat?

Sponsor or contribute toward a Kiddush or Oneg today to celebrate a Simcha or to remember a loved one.

For more information, call 917-446-7983

A big thank you to **Alan Mantis** for sponsoring a "dairy" Kiddush on July 8 and **Stan Rothman** for sponsoring a Kiddush on July 22.



Come on, laugh a little!

Calling All Green-Thumbed Congregants

Seeking volunteers to help beautify our property in time for the high holidays. This gardening project is spearheaded by our in-house horticulture expert, Laura Weill. To join this late-August effort, please contact Laura at lauweill@gmail.com by August 3.

Bagels and beverages will be served courtesy of the Rothschilds

CBI Game Day: MAHJONG
Every Tuesday @noon at CBI
All Levels Welcome
Cover: $5
Bring your lunch and friends
RSVP by Monday to
Judi Slatsky at
jels244@aol.com or
917-575-5443

CLOTHING
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CBI Clothing & Housewares Drop Box
Get rid of your clutter and help CBI with your donations
Drop box located in CBI's parking lot.

August Yahrzeits

- David J. Atlas 8/2
- George Baker 8/4
- Pearl Gottlieb 8/5
- Harry G. Levin 8/5
- Alexander Goldberg 8/6
- Saul Steinger 8/6
- Max Weisman 8/6
- Lee Louzin 8/7
- Bella Wolff 8/11
- Isidor Becker 8/14
- Doris Schachter 8/15
- Paul Rossman 8/18
- Milton Levine 8/19
- Abe Janvey 8/20
- Ruth Guberman 8/21
- Rose Shulman 8/21
- Gayla Louzin 8/22
- Albert Etterman 8/24
- Pauline K. Levin 8/27
- Gertrude Stone 8/28
- Samuel Etterman 8/30
- Anna Ullmann 8/30
- David H. Isacson 8/31

In Memoriam & Yahrzeit Donations

Natalie Krauss (to thank Rabbi Abe and the congregation for the love and friendship shown to Eli Sobolik)

Sondra Bernstein (in memory of my father, David Volin)

Tilda Lovinger (Yahrzeit of my father, Samuel Herscovicci)

Muriel Levine (for the Yahrzeit of my mother, Anna Shillet, in appreciation of my synagogue friends who celebrated my 99th birthday, and a donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund)

Marianne Baker (at the Yahrzeit of my husband, George Baker, and my mother, Gertrude Stone)

General Contributions

Alan M Mantis (a sponsored Kiddush)

Marianne Baker (a sponsored Kiddush)

Promote Your Business

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

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