The SCOOP

The Happenings of Congregation Beth Israel

December 2024 | כסלו תשפ"ה

This Chanukah, let's talk about light—the kind we kindle on the menorah and the kind we carry in our hearts. Sure, the world feels heavy right now. Between political arguments that ruin family dinners, the rising tide of antisemitism, and the ongoing war in Israel, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. But Chanukah reminds us that even a tiny flame can pierce the deepest darkness.

Start small. Call a friend or family member you've been avoiding because of a political disagreement. Not to debate—just to connect. It's amazing how warmth can grow when we focus on shared humanity instead of differences.

Second, take action. Donate to a cause that supports Jewish communities or aids those impacted by the war. Acts of giving create sparks of hope—not just for others but for you too.

And lastly, embrace joy. Whether it's a game of dreidel, frying up latkes, or just watching the candles burn, allow yourself to feel the peace and resilience Chanukah celebrates.

Darkness will always exist, but Chanukah teaches us to be the light. One flame, one act of kindness, one moment of connection at a time—we have the power to brighten the world.

Join us at CBI on December 28th as we celebrate Chanukah with fun and games, laughter and joy, and good food and friends.

The CBI Team

congregation beth israel

TURN OFF YOUR DEVICE

DURING OUR SERVICES AND EVENTS

The Rabbi Speaks

Dear friends,

As I write this note, the ceasefire document in Lebanon is barely dry. The pundits are discussing whether it will hold, and things are still very precarious. The hope is, of course, that it does and that all the 60,000 people who were displaced since October 7, 2023, can return to the North of Israel without the threat of being bombarded by Hezbollah rockets on a daily basis.

Being at war with its neighbors reminds us of the holiday of Hanukkah which we will be celebrating this coming month. While the holiday is about the physical wars in ancient Israel, it was also about the spiritual war of one nation trying to stamp out the spiritual legacy of Israel, and of Israel fighting back, declaring that that would not happen.

We are seeing echoes of that today.

Israel wants nothing more than peace with its neighbors, allowing all the countries around it to flower, to share its technologies with them, and to celebrate their own religions and cultures—as we can see from the religious freedoms the minority communities in Israel can exercise today and for the past quarter of a century. The enemies they are fighting, on the other hand, want Israel, with all of its history and cultural and religious significance, to just disappear.

A recent article I read highlighted this, where a writer pointed out the difference between two funerals that took place on the same day. The first was that of a 23-year-old member of the IDF who was shot at on October 7, 2023, but who just died a few days ago.

The funeral was one of mourning and memories, where all of his friends and family highlighted the character of this beautiful soul. Concurrently, hardly a mention was made of the enemy that killed him and who put his family through so much pain, and neither was there any call for vengeance or vindictiveness; Israel, at the end of the day, doesn't want revenge—it wants peace and prosperity.

When the writer got home from that funeral, he watched a broadcast of the funeral of a Hezbollah commander, and he noted that all that was mentioned there were calls for vengeance and "death to America and Israel."

As we celebrate the Festival of Lights this coming year, let us all hope that this aspiration for light and illumination that is the hallmark of Israel and the Jewish nation, spread to the enemies of Israel as well so that each of the people living in the land and around the land can celebrate one another.

As Allie and I embark on the gift of parenthood and witness a beautiful soul who daily only inspires light and illumination in our souls, that message rings that much truer in our lives today.

Let light and inspiration illuminate our/your lives. Let the hate be gone.

Please join us on December 15 as we celebrate the ritual of the Pidyon Haben and welcome Ezra Joshua into another facet of Jewish life. Please RSVP as soon as you can (see flyer below). I look forward to seeing you there.

Warmly,
Rabbi Abe (and Allie)

Upcoming Events

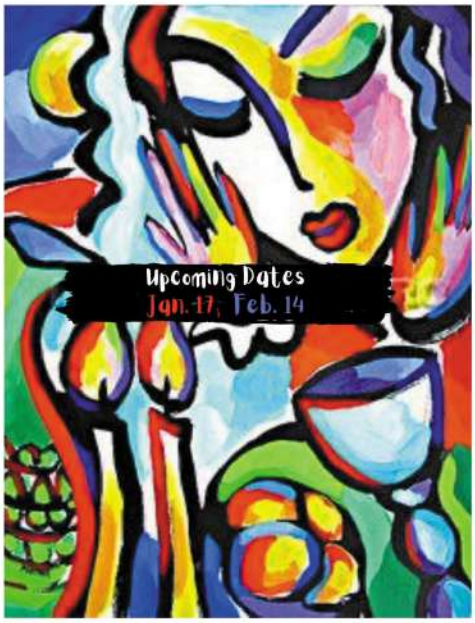
YOU ARE INVITED TO THE **PIDYON HABEN** OF

EZRA JOSHUA LEBOVIC

JOIN RABBI ABE & ALLIE AS THEY WELCOME THEIR DEAR SON INTO THE WORLD OF THIS UNIQUE JEWISH RITUAL

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 15
12 NOON

RSVP REQUIRED by DECEMBER 6 by clicking here



Musical Kabbalat Shabbat @CBI

Join us these Friday nights

December 20

January 17

February 14

@7:30 PM

Oneg to follow services

Bring your friends and family

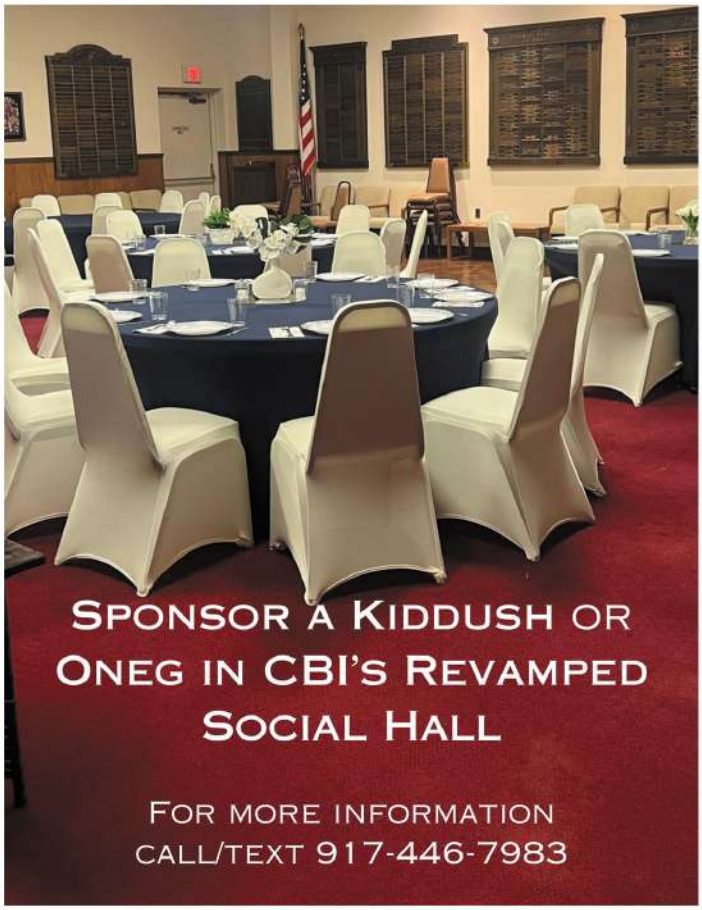
cbi

cbi Presents

BACK TO JEWISH SCHOOL

WITH RABBI ABE

Wednesdays @ 8 PM
On Zoom by clicking here



A BIG thank you to:

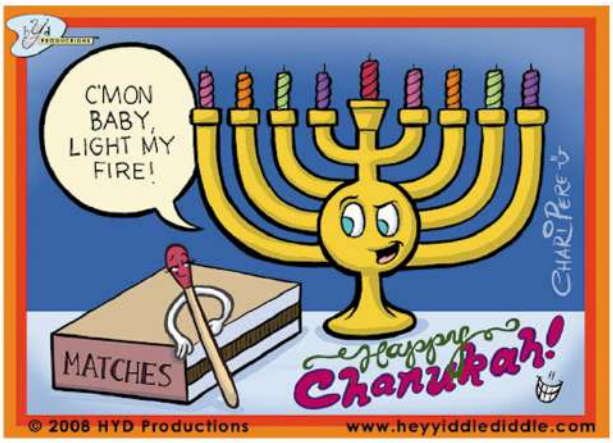
Susan Bass and Alan Glassman
for sponsoring the Kiddush on Nov. 2 to celebrate the congregation.

Mindy Leeper
for preparing a delicious Kiddush on Nov. 9

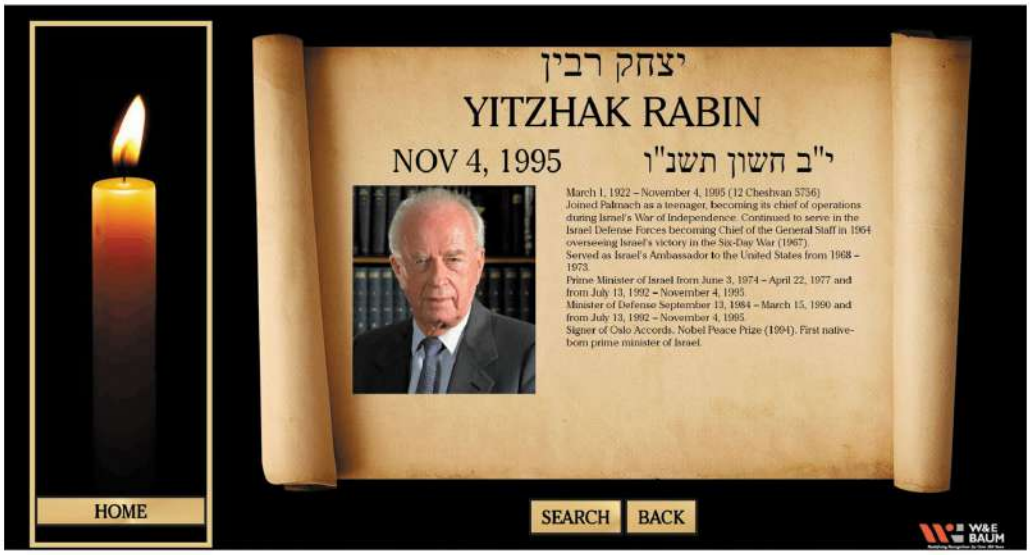
Amy & Larry Rossman
for celebrating their granddaughter, Zoe's, baby naming on Nov. 16 and for sponsoring the kiddush afterward

Laura & Howard Weill
for sponsoring the Oneg on Nov. 22 in honor of their 49th wedding anniversary and to celebrate their dear friend, Rob Rothschild's, birthday

Dana & Kevin Brandes
for sponsoring the kiddush on Nov 30 in honor of their daughter, Rachel's, graduation from medical school



Come on, laugh a bit.
It will do you good— and
then some.



Honor the memory of your loved one on CBI's Digital Memorial Board

Share a bio, photo, or anecdote as shown above
(Click here to see the board online)

For more info, please contact Marianne Baker at 516-486-5140

December Yahrzeits

Rebecca Janvey	12-3	Rachel Gutman	12-12
Beatrice Brass	12-7	Yetta Ginsberg	12-14
Leon Benedict	12-8	Max Miljoner	12-17
Hal Friedman	12-9	Nissim Reboh	12-18
Ruth Goldberg	12-12	Sadie Zaum	12-23
		Miriam Pollack	12-28

In Memoriam & Yahrzeit Donations

Ilene & Robert Rothschild (yahrtzeit)

Donations

Kevin Brandes (to thank the many CBIers who wished me well following my hand surgery)

Marianne Baker (To thank Susie Bouer Rothbaum who manages the kitchen for Alberta)

Vicki & Kenny Goldberg (a special general donation)

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 reach out to info@cbicg.org
or 516-489-1818 for more info.

OVER 125 YEARS OF SERVICE

Gutterman's
FUNERAL DIRECTORS SINCE 1892 INC

Chapels In: **ROCKVILLE CENTRE, L.I.:** 175 N. Long Beach Rd. • **516-764-9400**
WOODBURY, L.I.: 8000 Jericho Turnpike • **516-921-5757**
BROOKLYN: 1283 Coney Island Avenue • **718-284-1500**

In Florida: **GUTTERMAN-WARHEIT MEMORIAL CHAPEL • 1-800-992-9262**
SERVING MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, PALM BEACH & MARTIN COUNTIES

MONUMENTS BY GUTTERMAN'S
www.guttermansinc.com

STAR OF DAVID
MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.

"Because in the end, everything matters"

1236 Wellwood Avenue, West Babylon, NY 11704

631-454-9600 866-95-SHALOM

www.starofdavidmemorialchapels.com

Douglas Elliman EST. 1911
REAL ESTATE

ELISA ROSEN
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

Direct: 516.327.6204 Cell: 917.613.2614
Fax: 516.354.5442
Elisa.Rosen@elliman.com
www.Elliman.com

---

kw GREATER NASSAU
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY

Luis E. Robayo
NYS Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
Certified Construction Project Manager

Residential & Commercial Specialist

516.263.8033 cell
516.873.7100 office
RobayoHomesBuildings@kw.com
RobayoHomesBuildings.kw.com
KELLER WILLIAMS® GREATER NASSAU
400 GARDEN CITY PLAZA SUITE 438
GARDEN CITY, NY 11530
Each office is independently owned and operated.

CLOUT WMB
A Division of Cliffco. Inc.

Luis Robayo
Wholesale Account Executive

O: 516.408.7300 x305
C: 516.263.8033
Toll Free: 844.477.3111

LRobayo@Cloutwmb.com
70 Charles Lindbergh Blvd, Suite 200
Uniondale, NY 11553
cloutwmb.com
MBA

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

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